

Concentrations and size distributions of fungal bioaerosols in a municipal landfill

Wendy Beatriz Morgado Gamero, Margarita Del Pilar Castillo Ramirez, Alexander Parody, Amelec Jesus Vilorio Silva, Milton Henrique Arrieta Lopez, Sadhana J. Kamatkar

Abstract

The object of this research was to study the behavior of fungal bioaerosols during a sampling period of 12 months (April 2015–April 2016), in each treatment stages of a landfill located in Atlántico Department, Colombia. The fungi bioaerosol samples were collected using a Six-Stage Viable Andersen Cascade Impactor - Thermo Fisher Scientific, a vacuum pump with a flow rate of 28.3 L/min⁻¹, and ammeter KESTREL 4500 for the weather conditions. With the large amount of data obtained, a database was made in excel and analyzed using Statgraphics Centurion XVI software. The processing of data mining was carried out applying to a generalized linear regression model and Multifactorial ANOVA. Golden Surfer 11 program was used to establish the distribution of temporal and spatial mold airborne. The Variables: sampling campaign, stage, taxa, temperature and relative humidity presented a statistically significant correlation with the concentration P-value = 0. The concentrations of fungal bioaerosols varied considerably over the whole sampling period with average concentrations from $73.02 \pm 26, 75$ CFUs/m³ to 1830.38 ± 971.28 CFUs/m³. The fungal bioaerosols presented in both the coarse and fine fraction; but the fraction of 2.1–3.3 μm (stage 4) was the fraction of the dominant size in terms of higher concentration. According to the taxa identification, there was a higher prevalence of *Aspergillus*: the highest concentration corresponds to *A. fumigatus*, associated to toxins that may be cytotoxic [1, 2].

Keywords:

ANOVA, Concentration, Fungal bioaerosols, Landfill, Pre-processing data mining, Size distribution, Temporal and spatial distribution