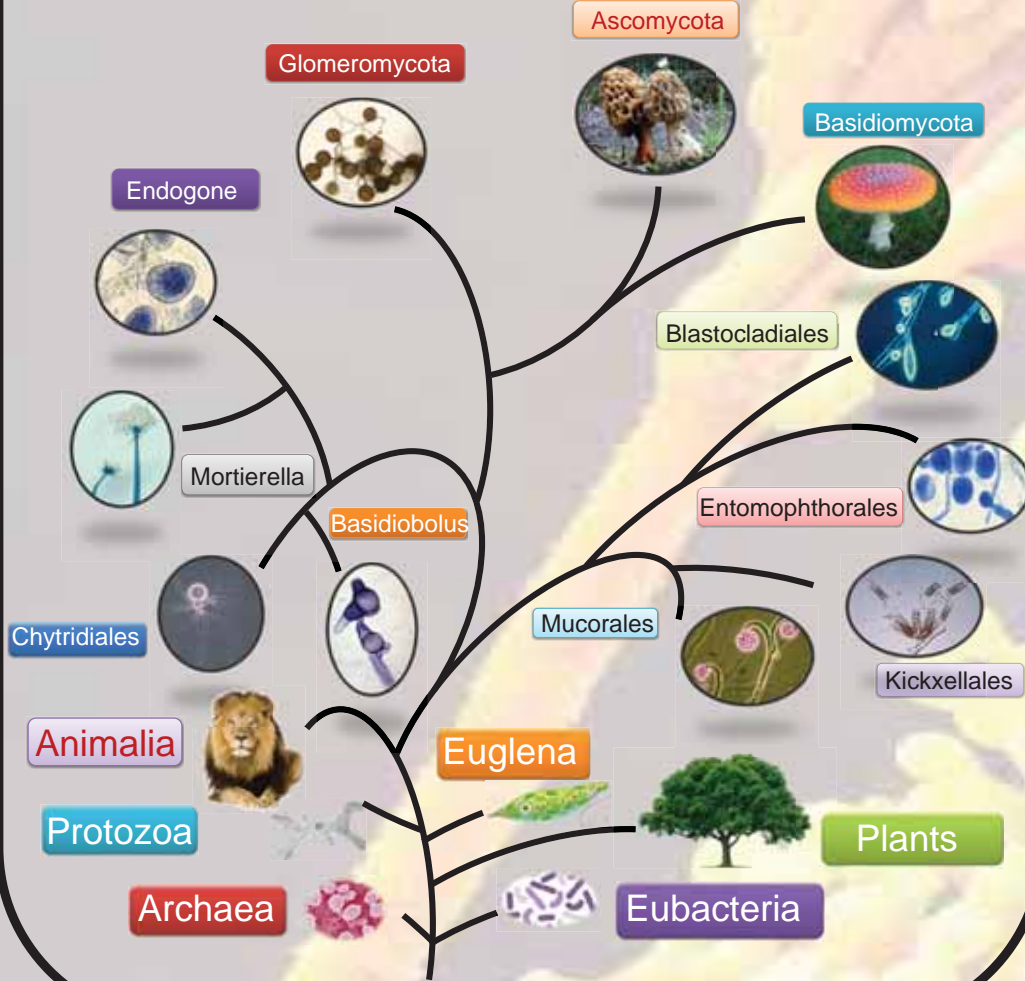


# FUNGAL EVOLUTION: A SURPRISING ORIGIN

With over **5 million** estimated species, the fungi constitute staggering **25%** of the **global biomass**, a profound reflection of their ecological importance

## Looks Can be Deceptive

Despite their morphological resemblance with the plants, molecular phylogenetic analysis unravelled the common ancestry between fungi and animals



## Antibiotics: Evolutionary Arms Race

*Penicillium notatum* produces penicillin that kills the bacteria competing for nutritional resources.



Evolution drives the arms race between the competitors. Resultantly, fungus have evolved several chemical warfare. Antibiotics are one such chemical arsenal, which humans have exploited to treat infectious diseases



Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin



## Evolving Danger

*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, a fungus, causes skin infection in amphibians, threatening their population to extinction



Olson et al., 2013. Plos One.



*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, causing skin infections to the amphibians



*Fusarium oxysporum* causes rust in banana crops world wide

