

Professor David L. Hawksworth CBE

Currently an Honorary Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, a Scientific Associate at the Natural History Museum London, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Southampton and at Jilin Agricultural University in China. He was the Director of the International Mycological Institute (Kew and Egham) from 1983–1997), and subsequently a Research Professor in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, a post he held to the end of 2016.

He has had over 50 years experience in fungal identification, and this he now applies to criminal and civil forensic cases. Since 2007, his skills have been used by 12 police forces, including in 20 cases of murder, and he has appeared in an expert witness in five murder trials. He has contributed nine papers to the scientific forensic peer-reviewed literature since 2011, most co-authored with Professor Wiltshire; these include global reviews of the use of fungi in criminal and civil investigations. He also undertakes field surveys, training courses, environmental impact assessments, the preparation of specialist reports, and consultancies involving litigation, on a wide range of issues involving fungi (including lichens), including mould growths in buildings. He has given evidence as an expert witness in public enquiries, criminal courts, civil courts, and Coroner's courts.

In 1996 he was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II for services to science, and his academic qualifications include PhD (1970) and DSc (1980) degrees from the University of Leicester, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Umeå in Sweden (1996). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (1982), International Mycological Association (2018), and Linnean Society of London (1969) He is a Chartered Biologist (from 1986), was accepted as a Professional Member of the Chartered Society for Forensic Science in 2011, and is recognized as an expert by the UK National Crime Agency.

In addition, he is Honorary President of the International Mycological Association (from 1994), and has served as President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (1994-97), British Mycological Society (1990), and British Lichen Society (1986-87). His awards include the Bicentenary Medal of the Linnean Society of London (1978), Acharius Medal of the International Association for Lichenology (2002), Joseph Adolph von Arx Award of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (2011), Ainsworth Medal of the International Mycological Association (2014), and Founders' Award of the European Mycological Association (2015). He is an honorary member or fellow of various learned UK and overseas mycological societies, including the Mycological Society of America, and has served on the Council of English Nature (1996-99), and the Natural Environment Research Council's Peer Review College (2008-2012).

He was an elected Independent Member of Mole Valley District Council from 2016-2024, and was Leader of the Informal Independent Group within that Local Authority from 2018-2024.

A recognized world authority on the diversity, systematics, and ecology of fungi, especially microfungi and lichens, he is particularly known for studies and surveys of fungal diversity, and the bioindication of air pollution. He is author/co-author of over 600 scientific publications, and author/editor/co-editor of 56 books. Further, he has introduced 896 new scientific names for fungi, including 79 genera and 247 species new to science.

Involved in the editing of peer-reviewed scientific journals since 1970, including as Editor-in-Chief of *Mycological Research* and *IMA Fungus* (official journal of the International Mycological Association), and has been Editor-in-Chief of Biodiversity and Conservation since 2006.

Forensic publications include:

Hawksworth DL, Wiltshire PEJ (2025) Forensic mycology: the use of fungi in criminal investigations. In: Payne-James P, Byard RW, eds), *Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine* 2: 863-867. 3rd edn.

- Amsterdam: Elsevier. Hawksworth DL, Wiltshire PEJ (2020) Mould growths as indicators of timelines: post-mortem intervals, food and materials spoilage, and damp in buildings. *Expert Witness Journal* 30: 23–25.
- Hawksworth DL, Wiltshire PEJ, Webb JA (2016) Rarely reported fungal spores and structures: an overlooked source of probative trace evidence in criminal investigations. *Forensic Science International* 264: 41–46.
- Hawksworth DL, Wiltshire PEJ (2015) Forensic mycology: current perspectives. *Research and Reports in Forensic Medical Science* 5: 75–83.
- Wiltshire PEJ, Hawksworth DL, Webb JA, Edwards KJ (2015) Two sources and two kinds of trace evidence: enhancing the links between clothing, footwear and crime scene. *Forensic Science International* 254: 231–242.
- Wiltshire PEJ, Hawksworth DL, Edwards KJ (2015) A rapid and efficient method for evaluation of suspect testimony: palynological scanning. *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 60: 1441–1450.
- Wiltshire PEJ, Hawksworth DL, Edwards KJ (2015) Light microscopy can reveal the consumption of a mixture of psychotropic plant and fungal material in suspicious death. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* 34: 73–80.
- Wiltshire PEJ, Hawksworth DL (2014) Palynology and mycology: forensic evidence from soil, clothing, corpses, carpets, walls, and food. *Expert Witness* 1 (7): 28–31.
- Wiltshire PEJ, Hawksworth DL, Webb JA, Edwards KJ (2014). Palynology and mycology provide separate classes of probative evidence from the same forensic samples: a rape case from southern England. *Forensic Science International* 244: 186–195.
- Hawksworth DL, Wiltshire PEJ (2011) Forensic mycology: the use of fungi in criminal investigations. *Forensic Science International* 206: 1–11.
- Kelley J, Allsopp D, Hawksworth DL (1992) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the toxic gas hypothesis: microbiological studies of cot mattresses. *Journal of Human Toxicology* 11: 347–355.