

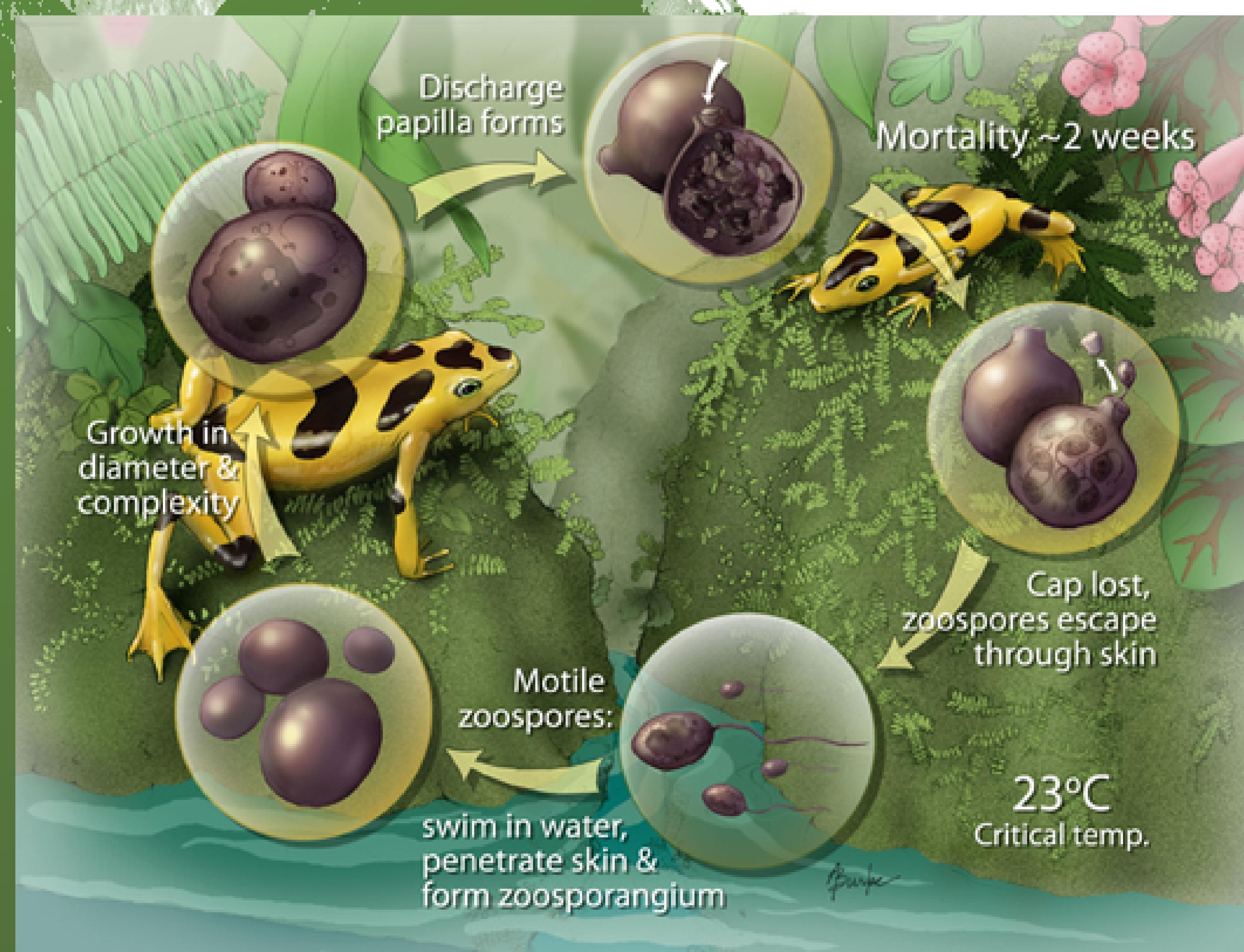
Underwater Heroes: Finding a Chytrid Antagonist

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Purpose:

Chytrid fungus is a large and extremely represented clade of fungi. Chytrids can be identified by their single-celled life cycle, and the characteristic flagella as part of their form. One species of Chytrid, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, poses a significant health risk to amphibian populations around the world. It alone is responsible for hundreds of species-level extinctions, and currently threatens the global amphibian population.

Because Chytrid fungus is so ubiquitous, it can be difficult to prevent the disease from spreading. The discovery of a non-threatening fungus that controls Chytrid population would be a vital first step towards protecting global amphibian diversity.

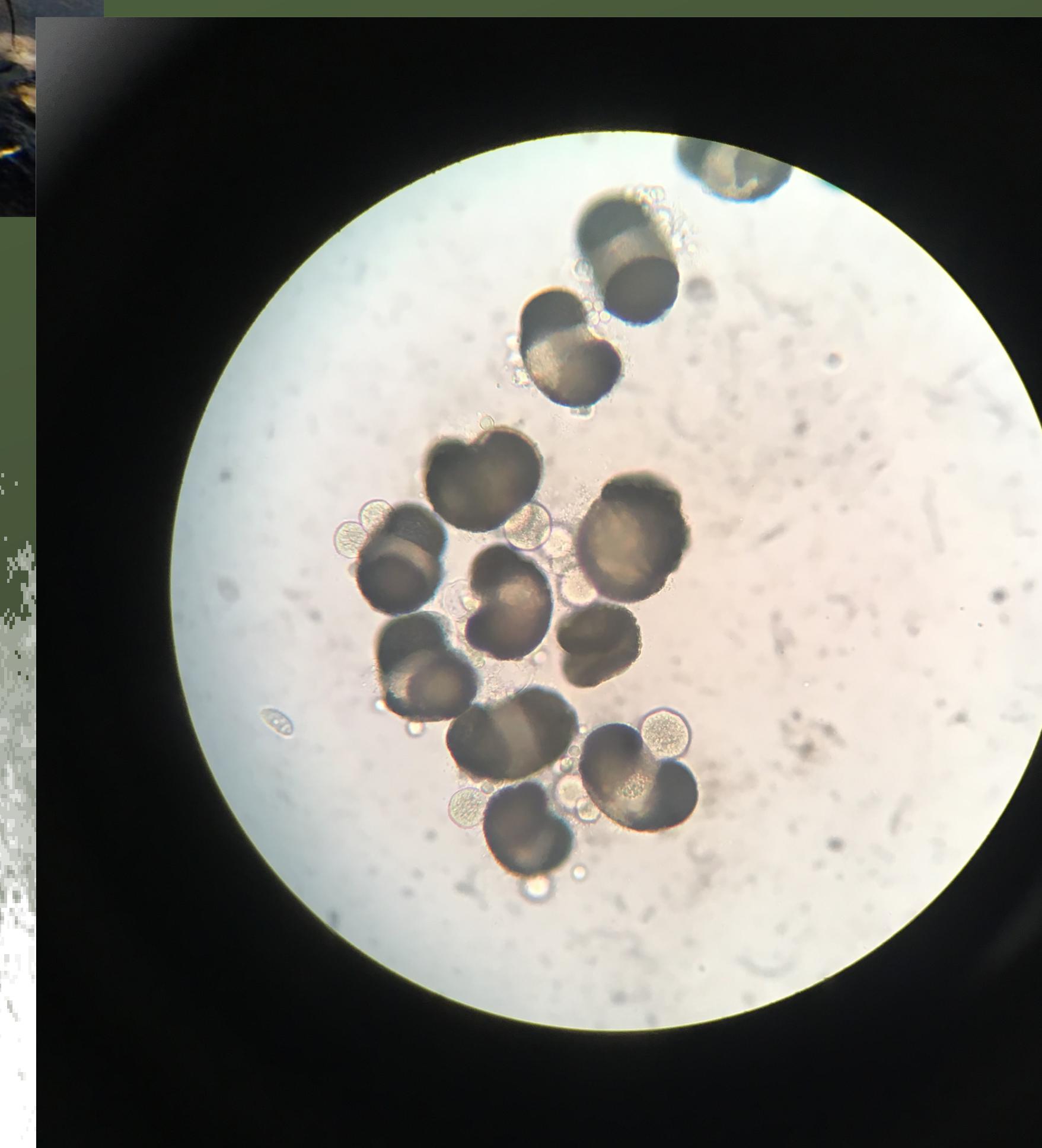


Question:

Are any local, culturable, aquatic fungi antagonistic to chytrid fungus?

Future Research:

- Begin with better established chytrid cultures
- Culture chytrids using liquid agar rather than Distilled Water



Analysis:

- Chytrid fungus is slower growing compared to competing aquatic organisms i.e. Oomycetes
- Pure chytrid culture used was not robust enough to compete against established microbe communities used for testing.
- Pine pollen is an effective bait for chytrid, but poor growth medium.
- Chytrids are notoriously difficult to culture.