

DNA analysis

Swab

Analysis date:
10/10-2022

EXAMPLE

Overall assessment



- 1

A

Based on the analysis results, the occurrence and composition of mould species is normal. In other words, there is no sign that the indoor climate is affected by hidden damage from damp.
- 2

C

Based on the analysis results, there is an abnormal composition of mould species in the building. This is probably due to indoor growth of mould or naturally occurring outdoor species built up in the dust.
- 3

D

Based on the analysis results, there is an elevated level of mould in the building and an abnormal composition of mould species, which indicates previous or current occurrence of damp-damaged structures.
- 4

E

Based on the analysis results, there is a very high level of mould in the building and an abnormal composition of mould species with high levels of damp indicators, which is most likely due to the presence of damp-damaged structures.
- 5

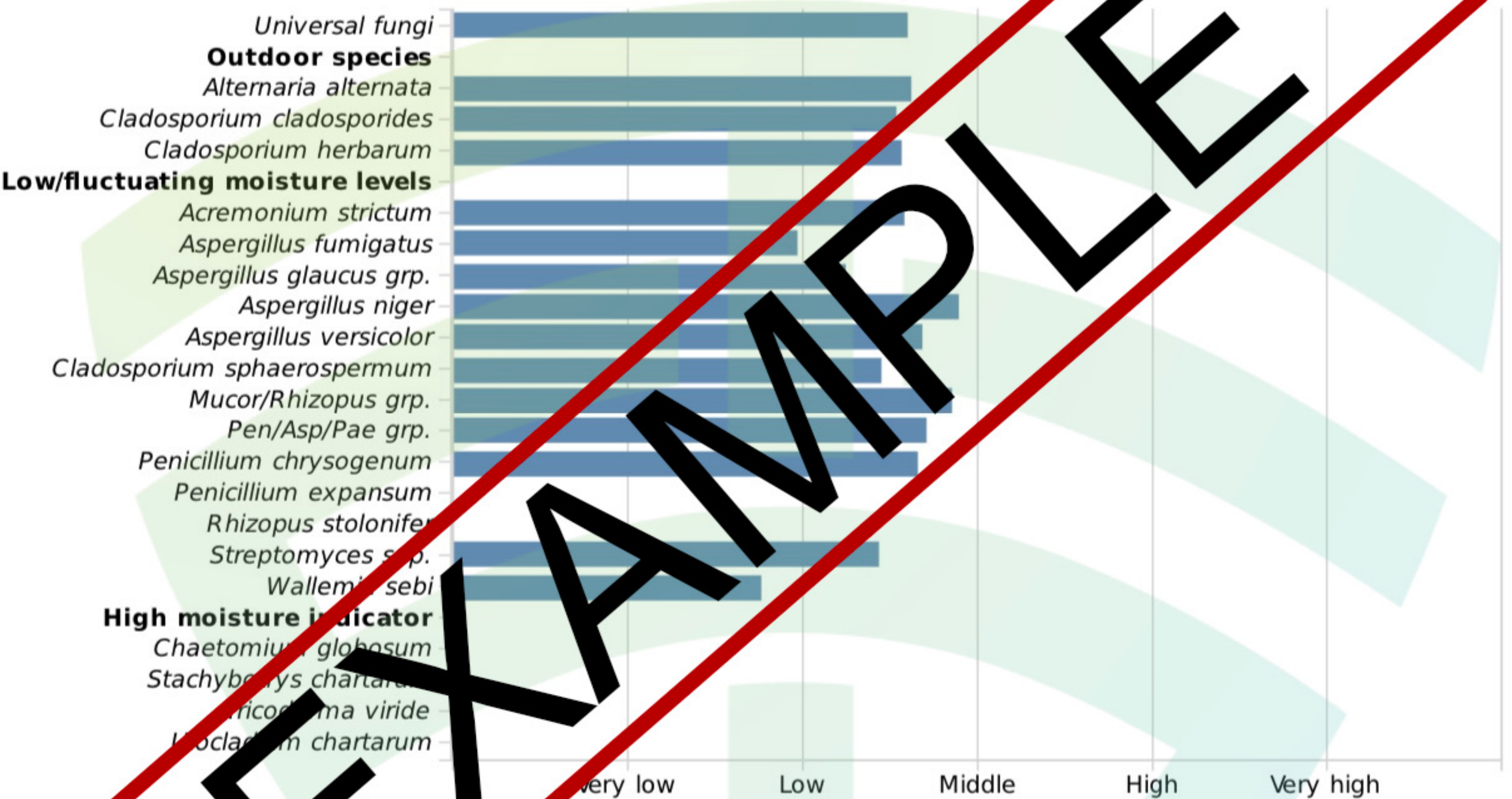
F

Based on the analysis results, there is an extremely high level of mould in the building and an abnormal composition of mould species with very high levels of damp indicators, which is most likely due to the presence of damage from damp. This condition is affecting the indoor climate.



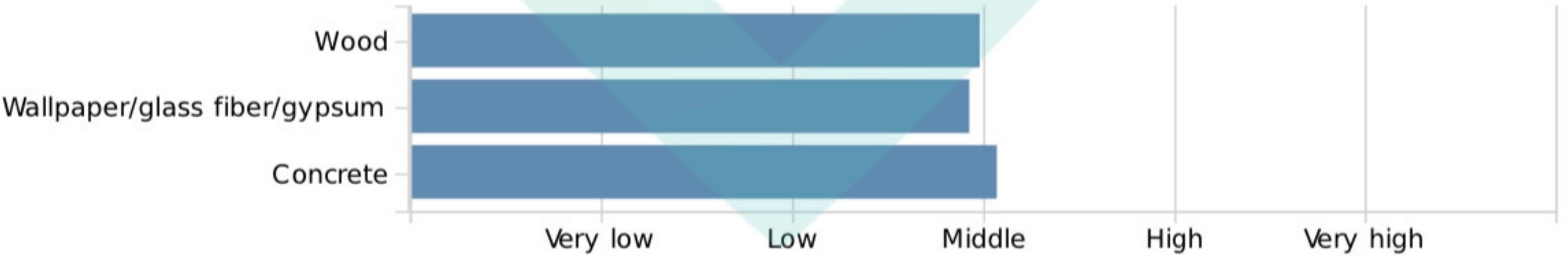
Based on the analysis results, the occurrence and composition of mould species is normal. In other words, there is no sign that the indoor climate is affected by hidden damage from damp.

Weighted distribution



Materials

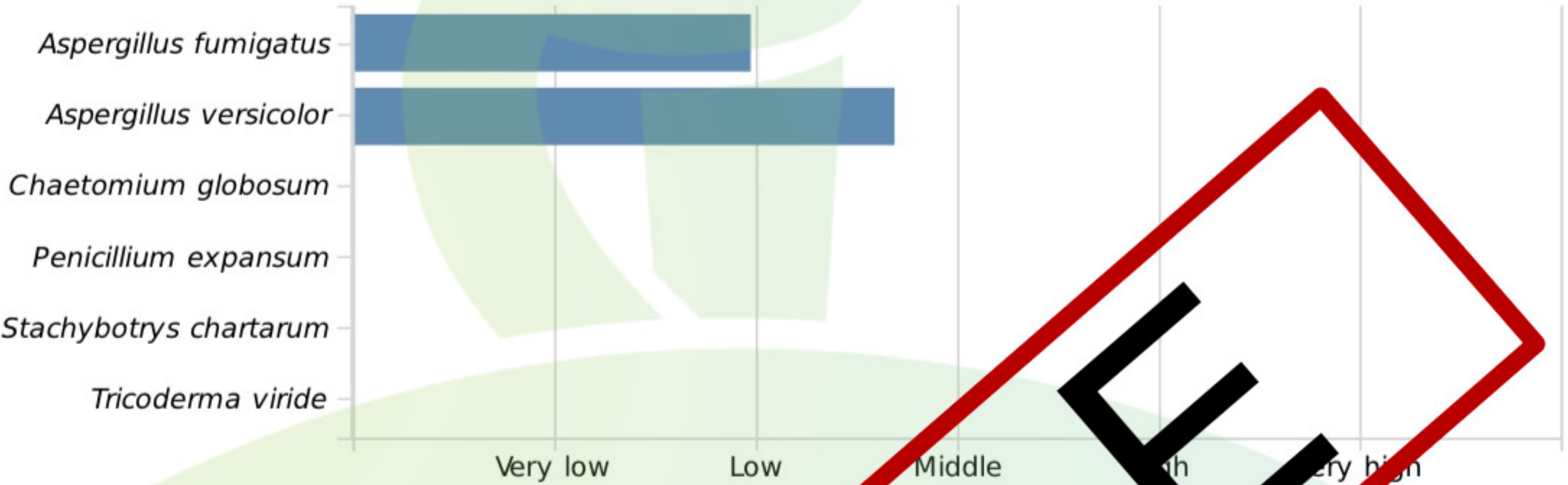
Mould species have different preferred habitats, which means that the composition of species in the sample can indicate which materials are likely being attacked,



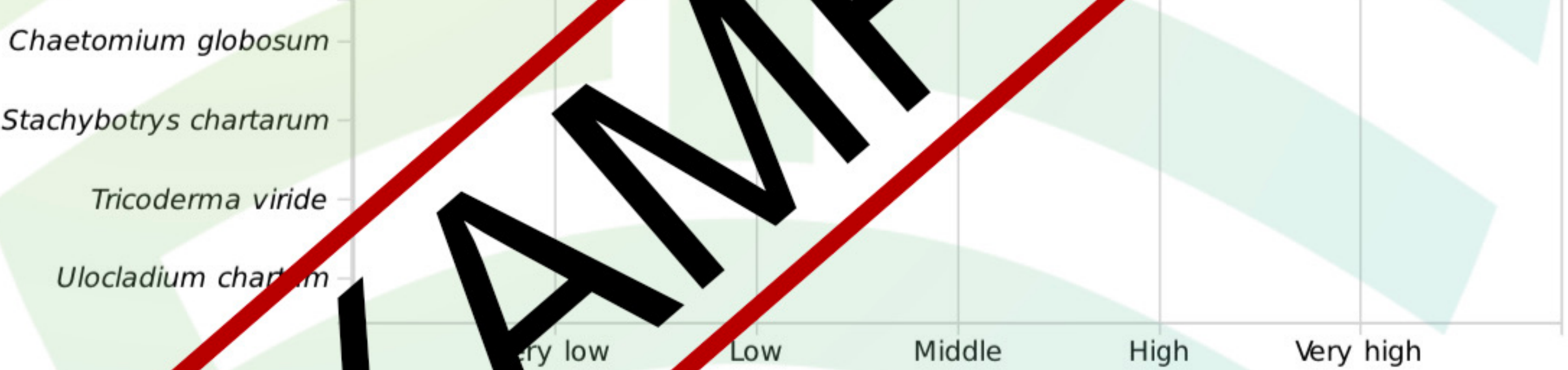
Biologically active mould

A number of mould species can produce toxins called mycotoxins, which are believed to affect the immune system and cause discomfort to users of the buildings in which they grow. These mould species are called specially biologically active (mould) species (SBAS).

Whether the moulds produce mycotoxins depends on the conditions they grow in, e.g. materials and humidity levels (often with long-term and strong moisture absorption).



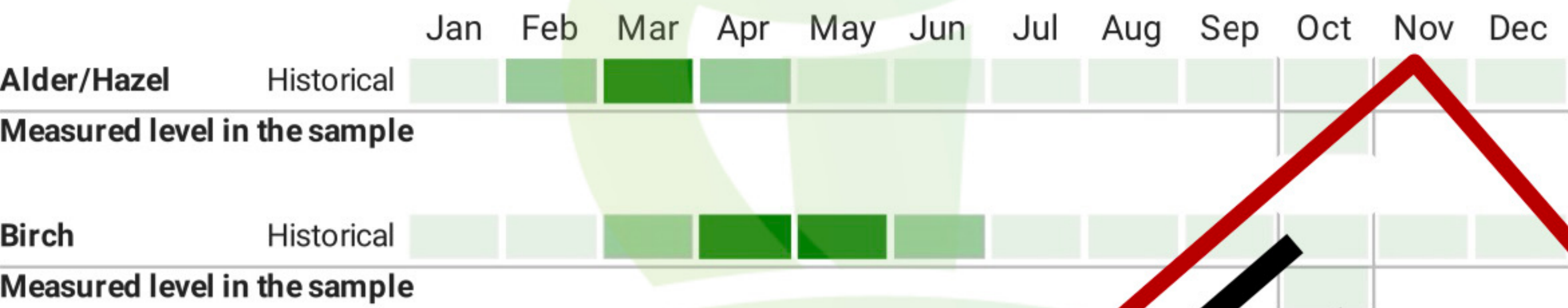
Moulds at high humidity levels



Pollen for determining age of dust

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Historical

The diagram shows when the individual groups of pollen are found in the outdoor air and deposited indoors in the dust.

Measured

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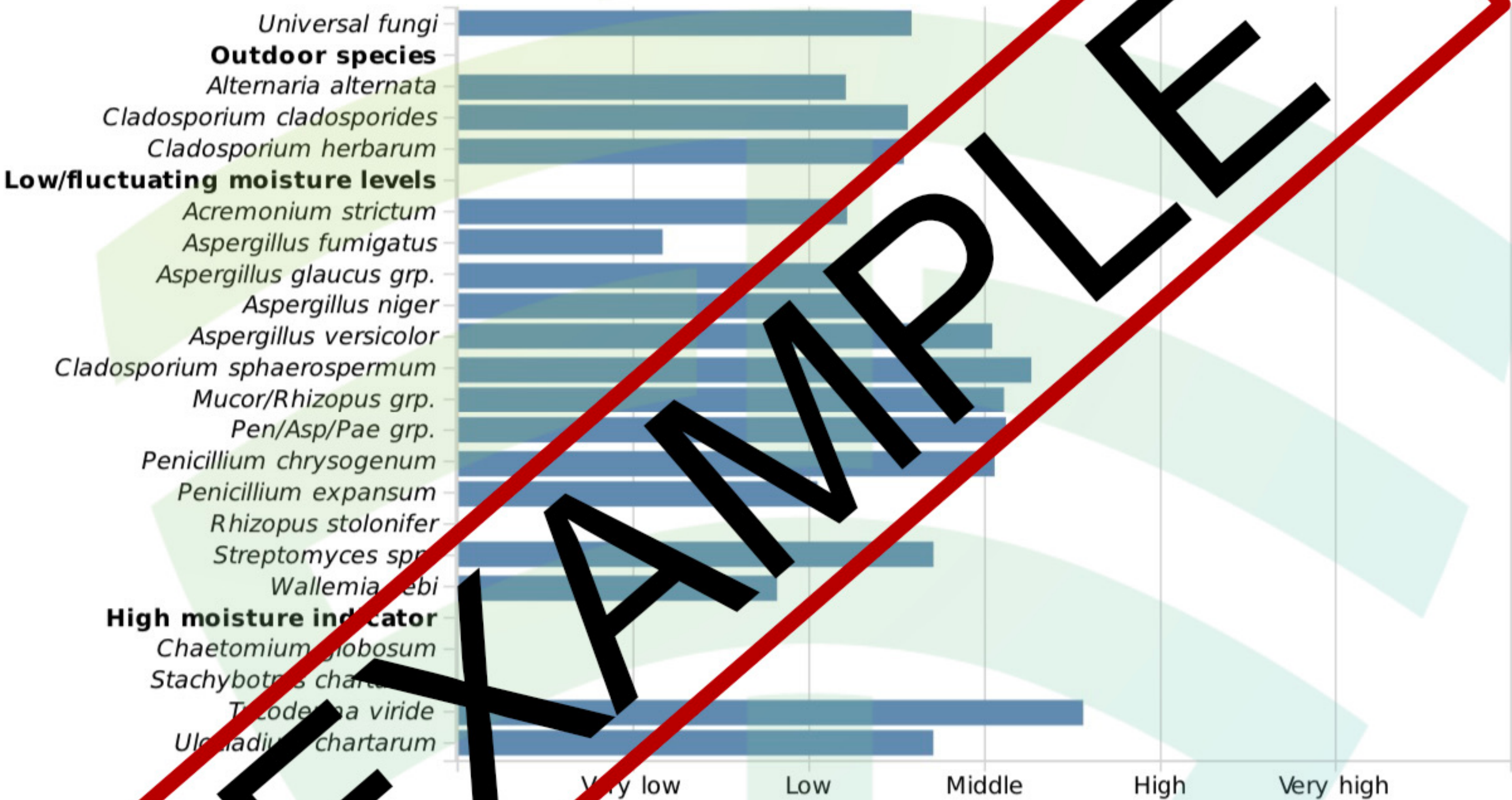
Species/group	Species/group	
Universal fungi	Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	70
Acremonium strictum	Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	1.410
Alternaria alternata	Penicillium chrysogenum	7
Aspergillus fumigatus	Penicillium expansum	0
Aspergillus clavatus grp.	Rhizopus stolonifer	0
Aspergillus niger	Stachybotrys chartarum	0
Aspergillus versicolor	Streptomyces spp.	135
Chaetomium globosum	Trichoderma viride	0
Cladosporium cladosporioides	Ulocladium chartarum	0
Cladosporium herbarum	Wallemia sebi	10
Cladosporium sphaerospermum		

Spore equivalents calculated on the basis of standard curves for the individual species



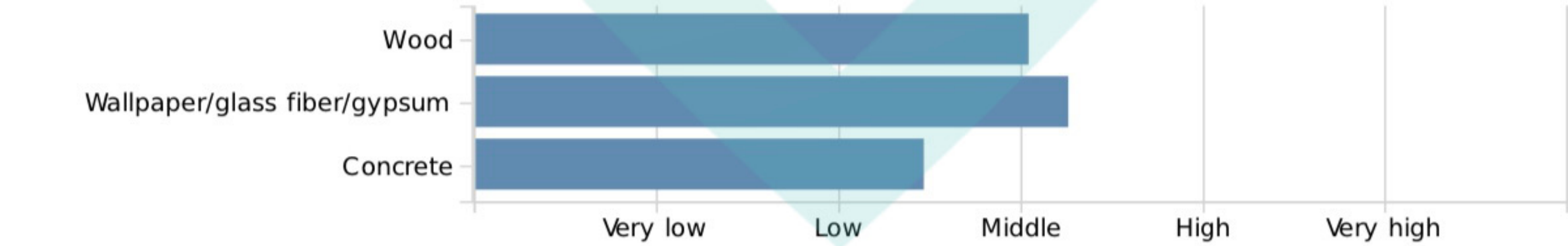
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Weighted distribution



Materials

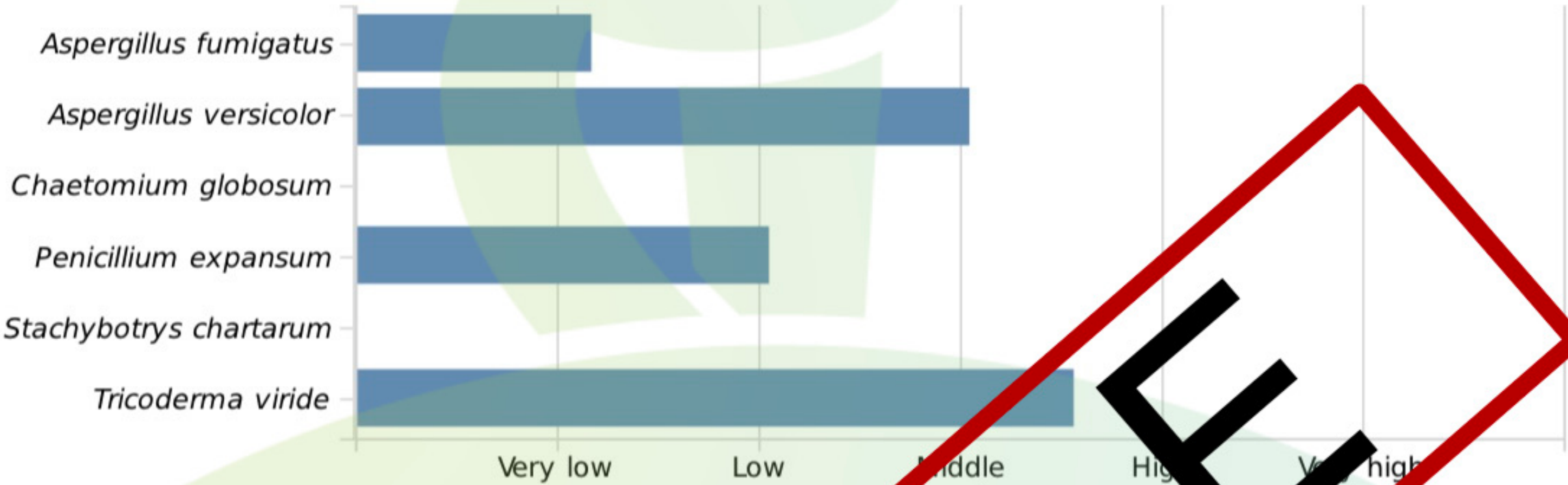
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Whether the moulds produce mycotoxins depends on the conditions they grow in, e.g. materials and humidity levels (often with long-term and strong moisture absorption).



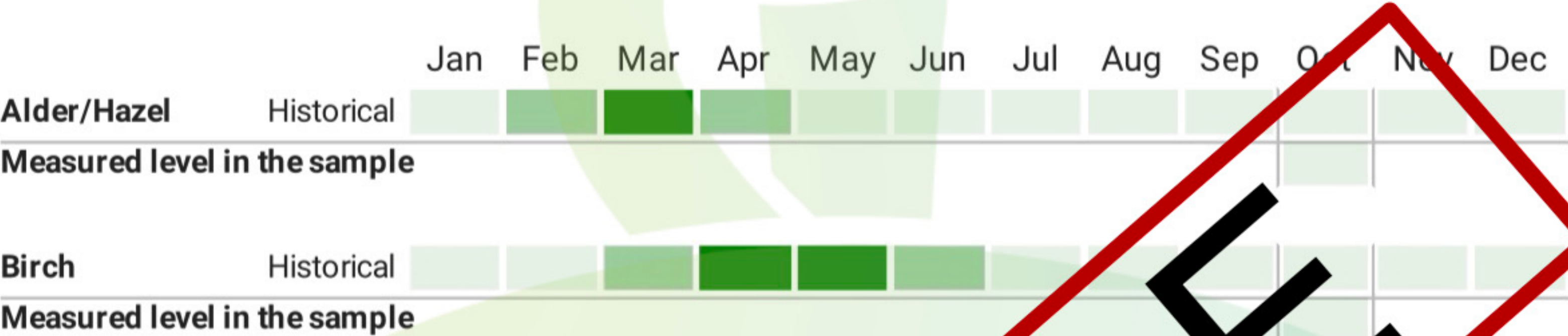
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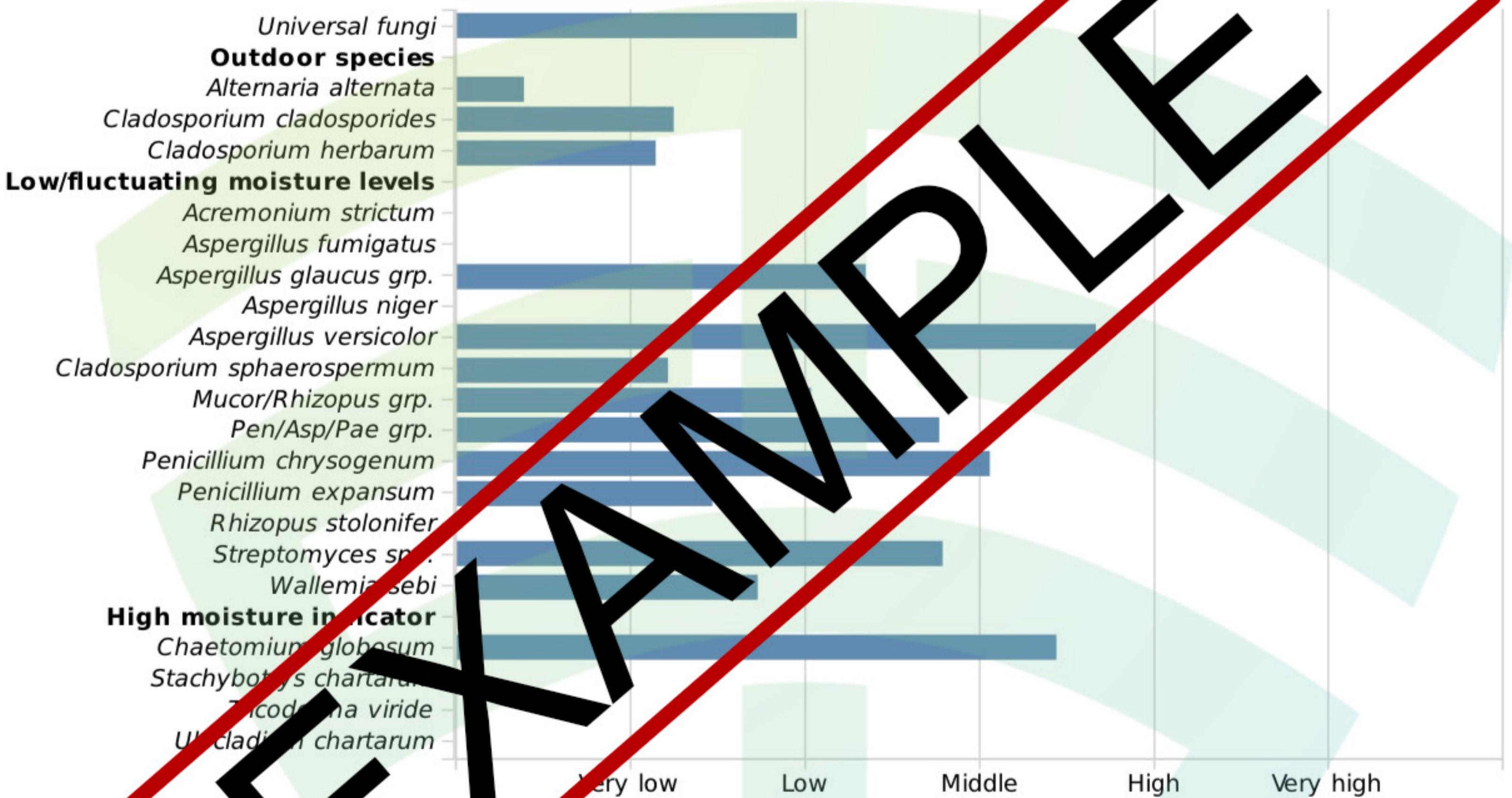
Species/group		Species/group	
Universal fungi	20.744	Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	127
Acremonium strictum	8	Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	3.640
Alternaria alternata	5	Penicillium chrysogenum	17
Aspergillus fumigatus	3	Penicillium expansum	2
Aspergillus glaucus grp.	3	Rhizopus stolonifer	0
Aspergillus niger	3	Stachybotrys chartarum	0
Aspergillus versicolor	326	Streptomyces spp.	252
Chaetomium globosum	0	Trichoderma viride	36
Cladosporium cladosporoides	1.800	Ulocladium chartarum	1
Cladosporium herbarum	5.121	Wallemia sebi	12
Cladosporium sphaerospermum	1.813		

Spore equivalents calculated on the basis of standard curves for the individual species



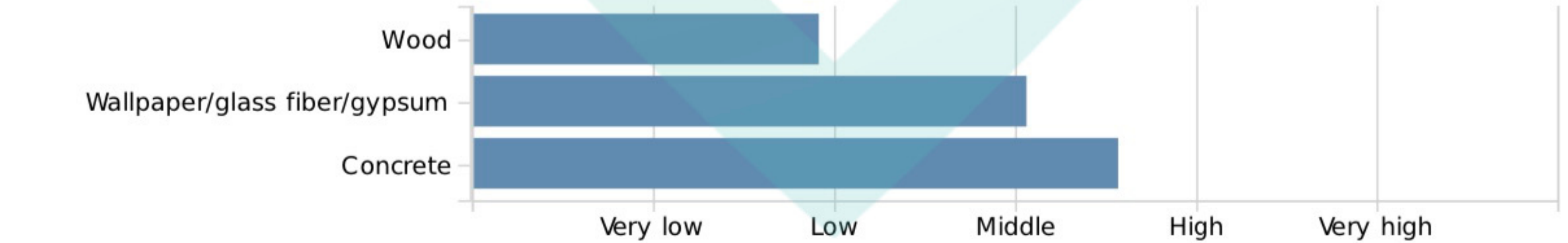
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Weighted distribution



Materials

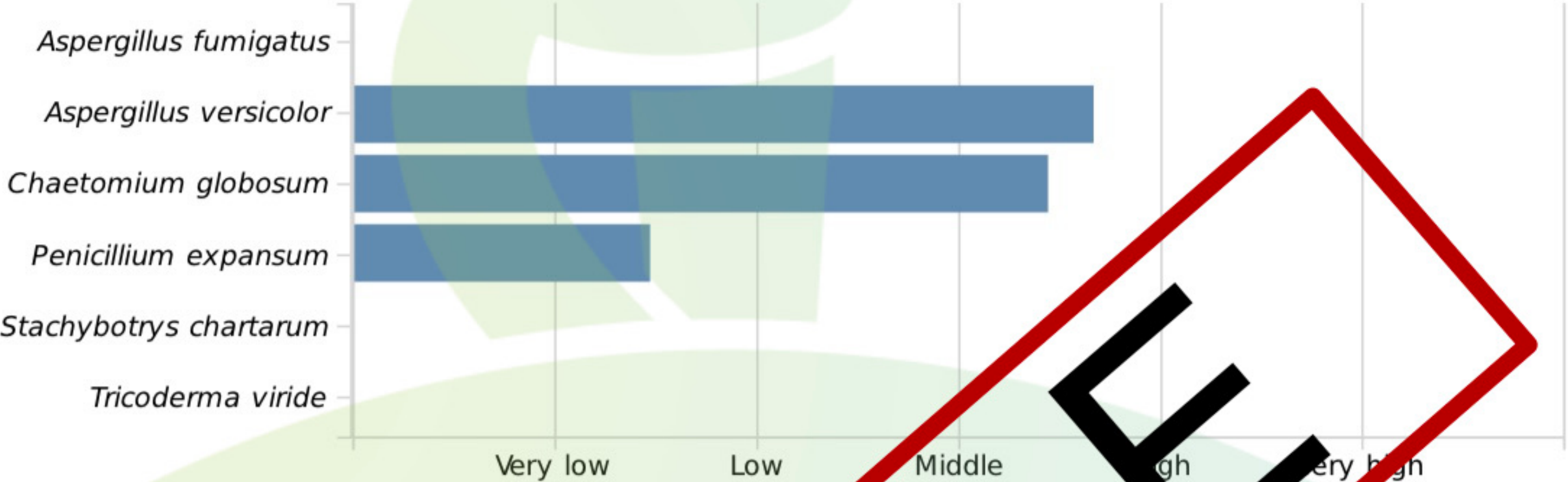
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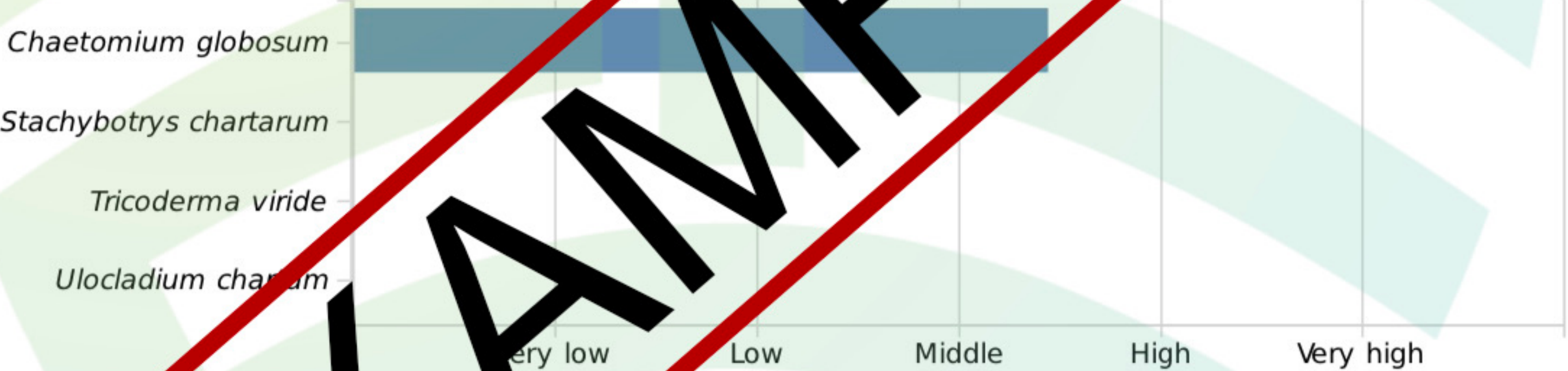
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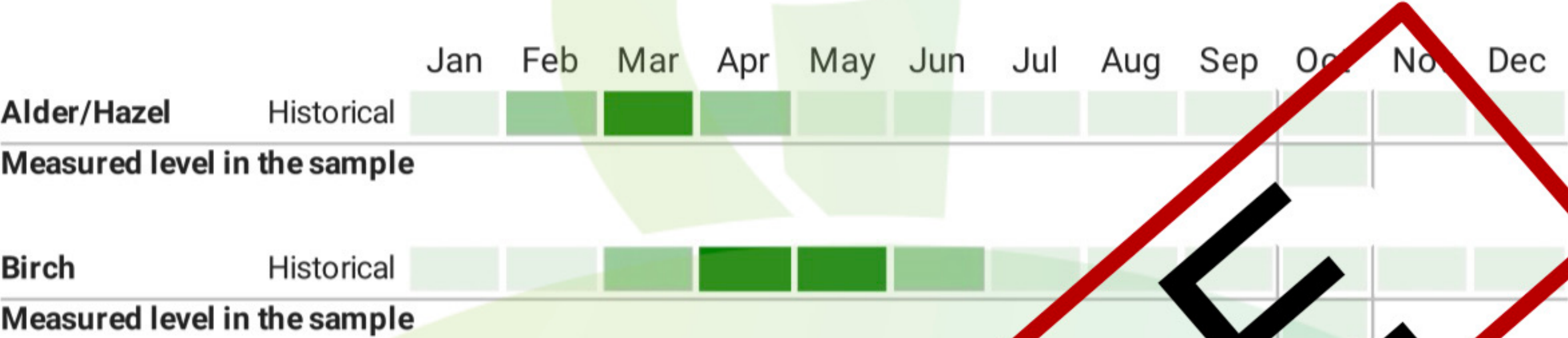
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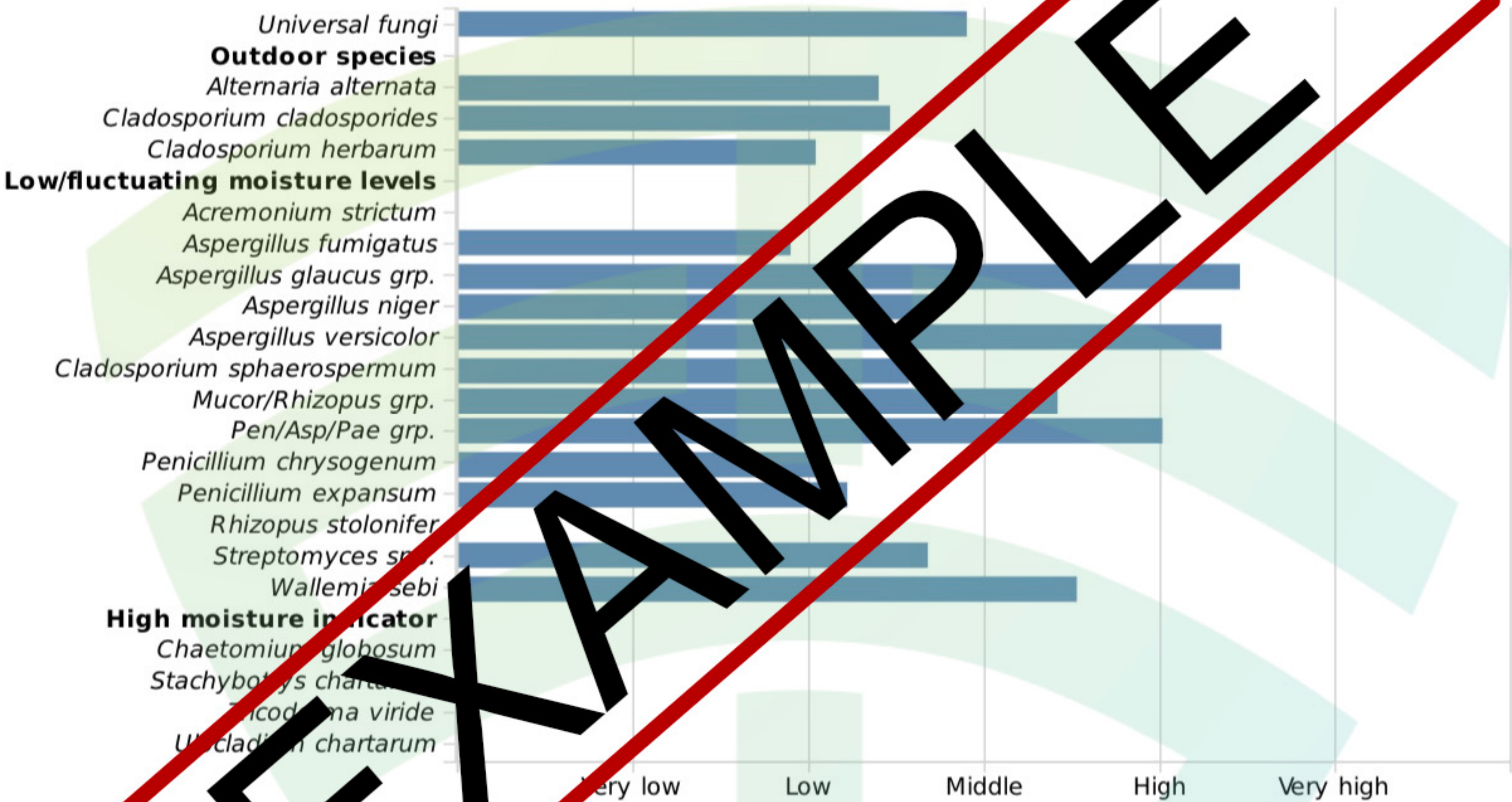
Species/group	Species group	
Universal fungi	Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	11
Acremonium strictum	Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	1.620
Alternaria alternata	Penicillium chrysogenum	17
Aspergillus fumigatus	Penicillium expansum	1
Aspergillus glaucus grp.	Rhizopus stolonifer	0
Aspergillus niger	Stachybotrys chartarum	0
Aspergillus versicolor	Streptomyces spp.	303
Chaetomium globosum	Tricoderma viride	0
Cladosporium cladosporides	Ulocladium chartarum	0
Cladosporium herbarum	Wallemia sebi	10
Cladosporium sphaerospermum		

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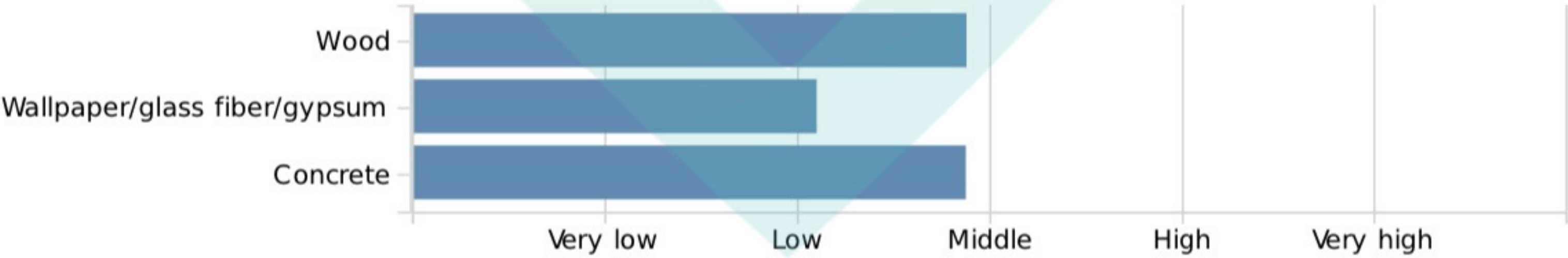
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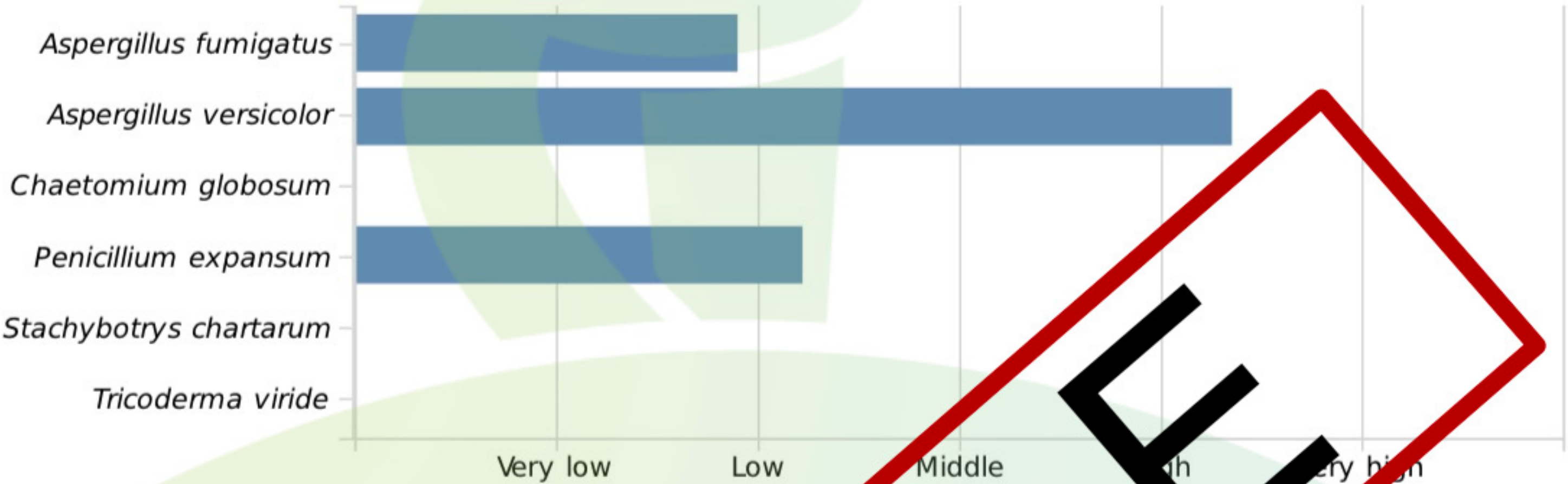
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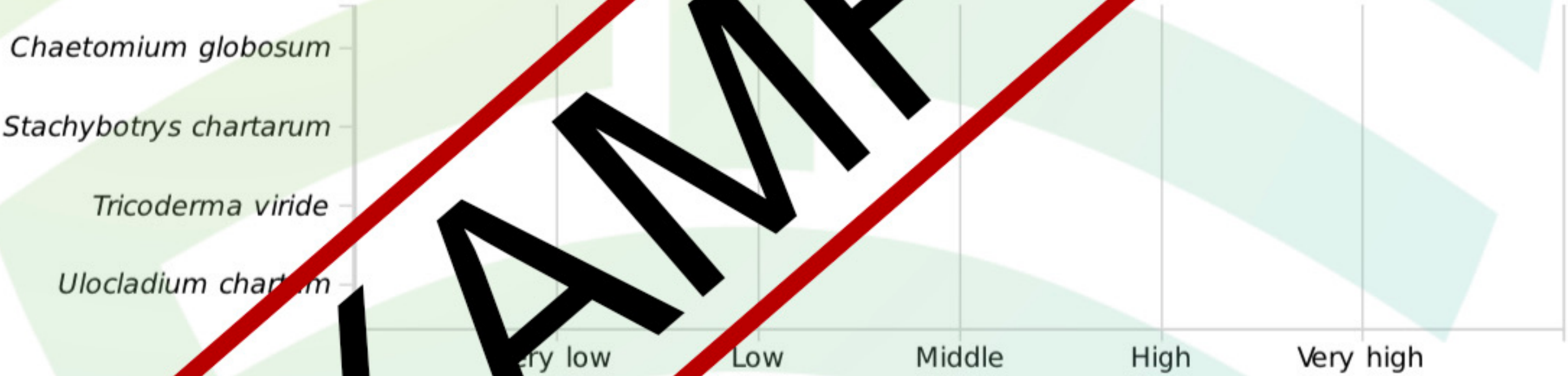
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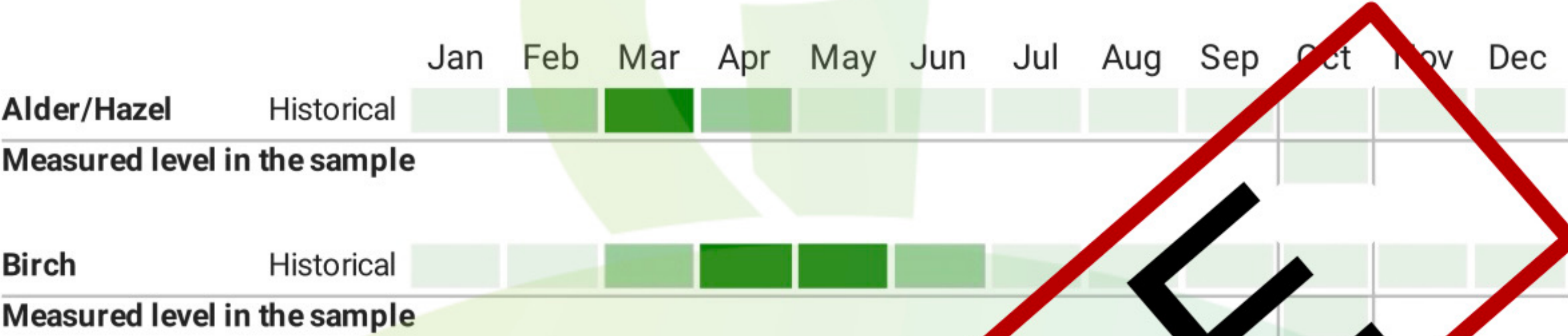
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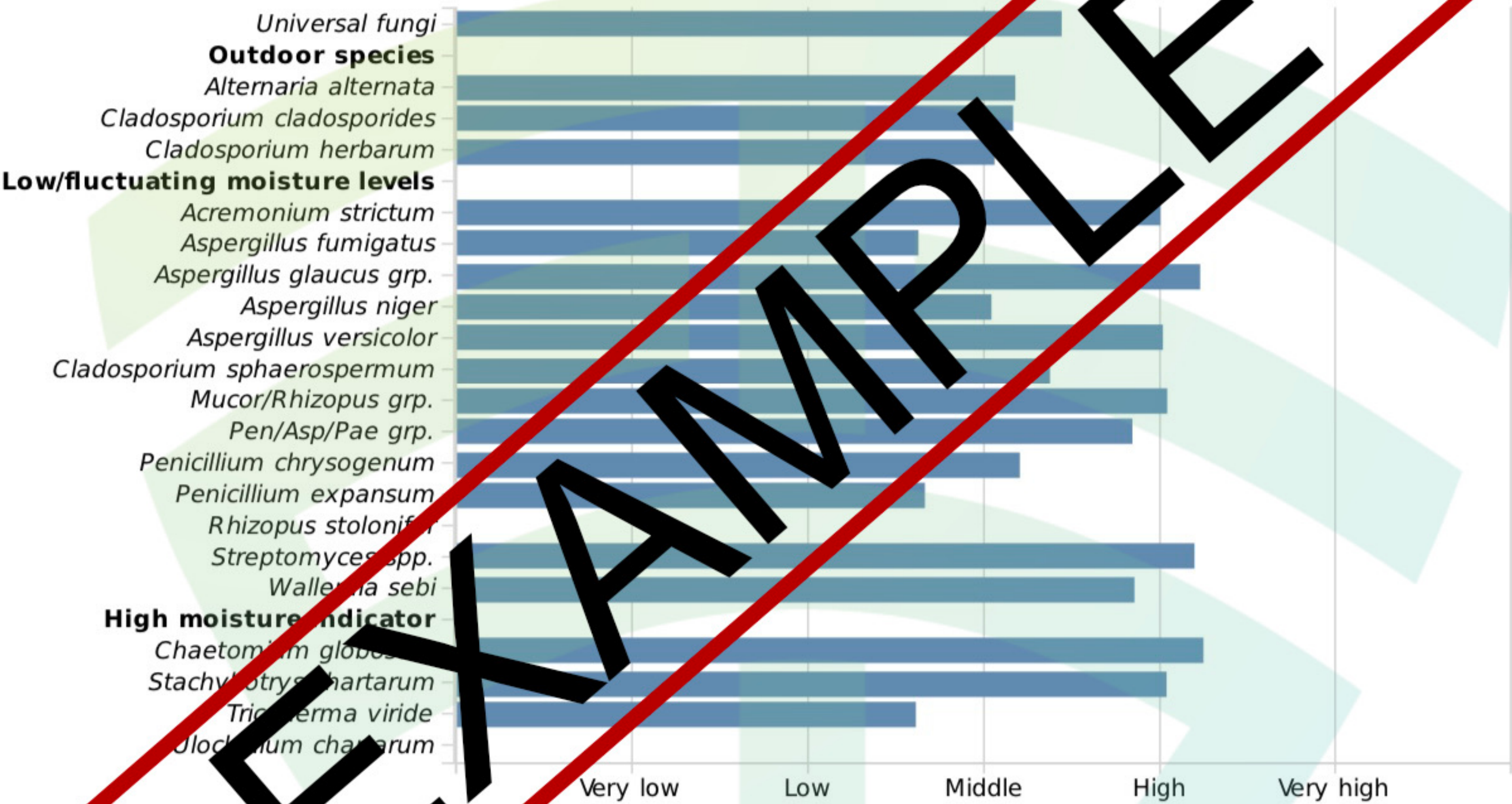
Species/group		Species/group	
Universal fungi	43.149	Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	257
Acremonium strictum	1.0	Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	28.406
Alternaria alternata	7	Penicillium chrysogenum	2
Aspergillus fumigatus	16	Penicillium expansum	3
Aspergillus glaucus grp.	566	Rhizopus stolonifer	0
Aspergillus niger	8	Stachybotrys chartarum	0
Aspergillus versicolor	6.668	Streptomyces spp.	234
Chaetomium globosum	0	Trichoderma viride	0
Cladosporium cladosporoides	1.430	Ulocladium chartarum	0
Cladosporium herbarum	1.619	Wallemia sebi	595
Cladosporium sphaerospermum	367		

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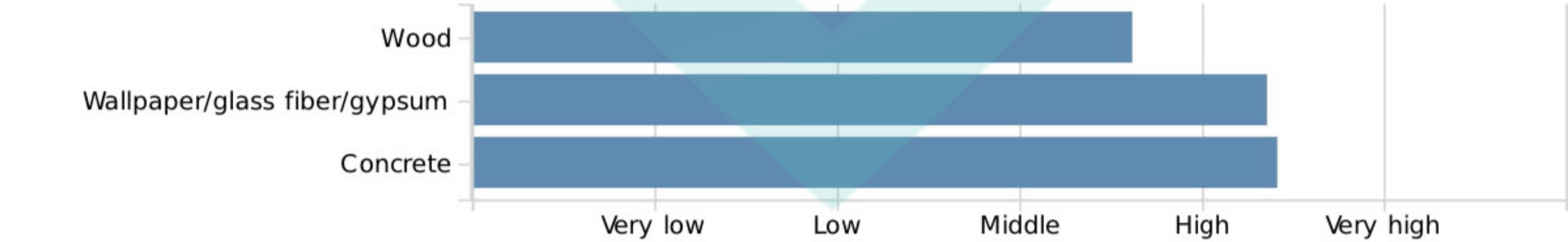
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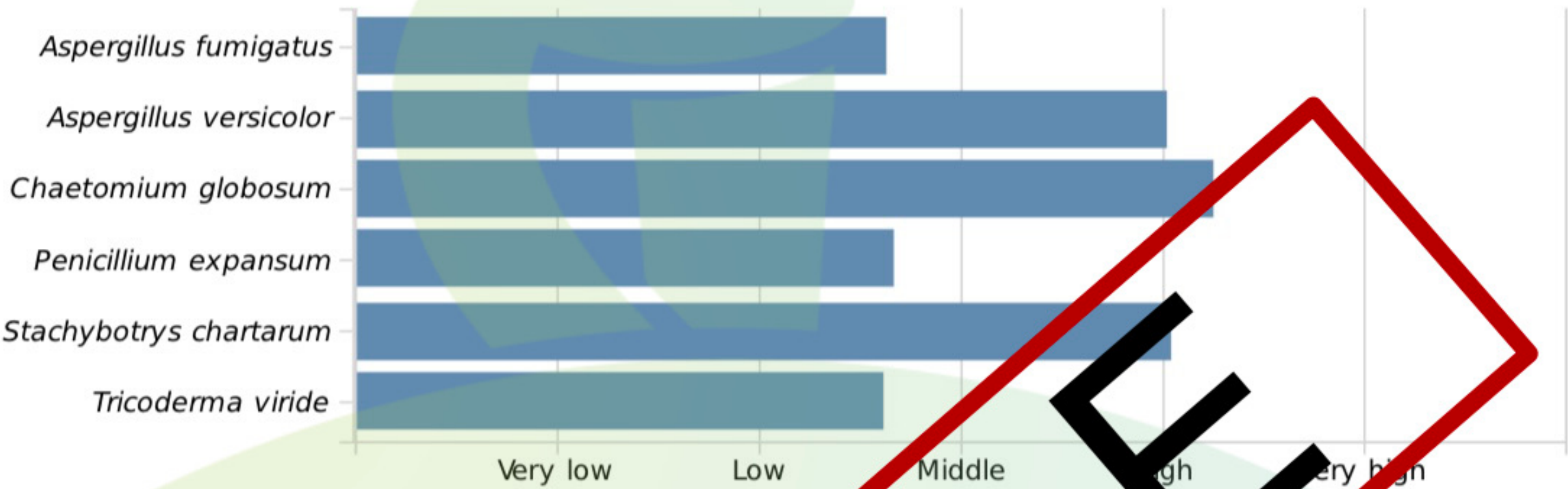
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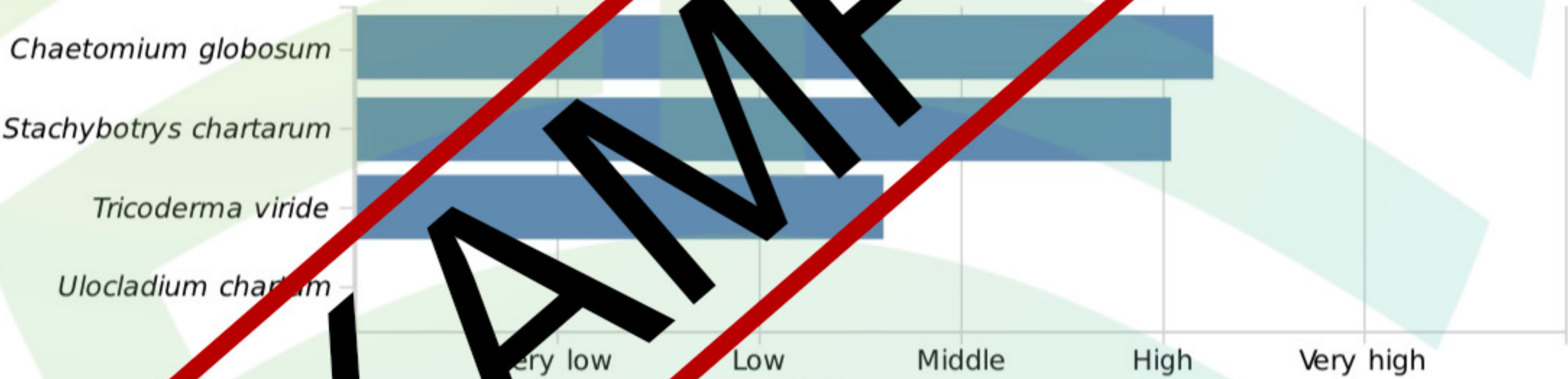
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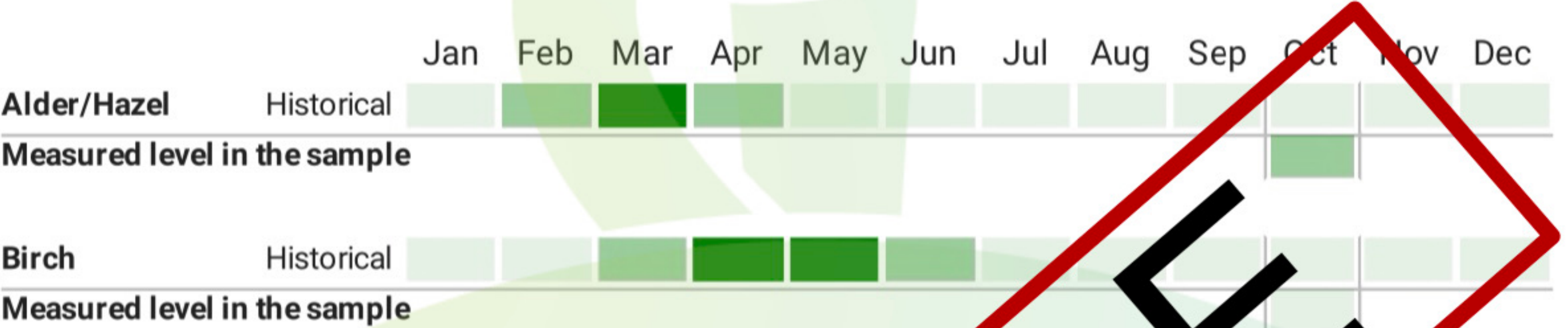
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Species/group		Species/group	
Universal fungi	150.24	Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	1.098
Acremonium strictum	49	Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	19.279
Alternaria alternata	45	Penicillium chrysogenum	24
Aspergillus fumigatus	84	Penicillium expansum	9
Aspergillus glaucus grp.	338	Rhizopus stolonifer	0
Aspergillus niger	19	Stachybotrys chartarum	27
Aspergillus versicolor	3.079	Streptomyces spp.	7.842
Chaetomium globosum	88	Tricoderma viride	4
Cladosporium cladosporoides	7.232	Ulocladium chartarum	0
Cladosporium herbarum	17.018	Wallemia sebi	1.273
Cladosporium sphaerospermum	2.342		

Spore equivalents calculated on the basis of standard curves for the individual species

Appendix

Overview

	1	2	3	4	5
Universal fungi	21.620	20.774	4.876	43.019	150.104
Outdoor species					
Alternaria alternata	12	5	0	7	43
Cladosporium cladosporides	1.692	1.800	87	1.430	7.232
Cladosporium herbarum	5.442	5.121	207	1.519	17.018
Low/fluctuating moisture levels					
Acremonium strictum	19	8	0	0	497
Aspergillus fumigatus	18	3	0	10	84
Aspergillus glaucus grp.	3	3	4	566	338
Aspergillus niger	13	0	0	8	19
Aspergillus versicolor	143	326	1.208	6.668	3.079
Cladosporium sphaerospermum	278	1.813	16	367	2.342
Mucor/Rhizopus grp.	15	127	11	257	1.098
Pen/Asp/Pae grp.	410	3.610	1.620	28.406	19.279
Penicillium chrysogenum	7	17	17	2	24
Penicillium expansum	0	2	1	3	9
Rhizopus stolonifer	0	0	0	0	0
Streptomyces spp.	135	252	303	234	7.842
Walleria sebi	10	12	10	595	1.273
High moisture indicator					
Chaetomium globosum	0	0	14	0	88
Stachybotrys chartarum	0	0	0	0	27
Trichoderma viride	0	36	0	0	4
Ulocladium chartarum	0	1	0	0	0

General information

Please note that MRSI cannot under any circumstances be held liable for the consultant's comments in the report, either directly or indirectly.

MRSI does not carry out quality assurance on the consultant's comments or review these in any way, which means that any questions, remarks, objections etc. that you may have relating to the consultant's comments must be directed to the consultant.

Analysis explanation

The DNA analysis shows the total amount of biological material for 24 species/groups of mould, bacteria and pollen, which was present in the site where the sample was taken.

The analysis result should always be seen as part of a humidity/indoor climate study and must be judged together with other observations and measurements. The assessment and the wider procedure is always the responsibility of the investigator.

Whether people who are exposed to mould experience discomfort or develop symptoms depends on several factors, and therefore it is not possible to set a lower threshold for when there is a health hazard. However, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that an attack on mould in buildings and the material affected is removed and the source of the damp is eliminated.

qPCR method

The qPCR method is used in medical science and the technology is also used by the police to solve crimes where traces of DNA have been left at the scene of a crime.

In this method, the organisms from the sample are washed and the DNA is cleaned and re-formed. The relevant DNA sequences are detected by excitation using lasers. The total number of mould spores/bacteria is calculated by comparison with DNA standards. Since every DNA code is unique to each individual organism, the species and total number can be calculated. Using this precise method, you can quickly learn how many indicator organisms are present in the sample.

Assessment

The assessment given here, requires that the sample has been taken correctly in accordance with the instructions.

In the overall assessment of the result, not only is the total number of mould and bacteria found in the sample taken into consideration, so too is the composition and the relationship between the individual species. Some mould is found naturally in all homes, but other mould occurs in large amounts in connection with damp related damage to buildings. This means that some types of mould have significant impact in small amounts, while others have less impact in high amounts. The assessment of the likelihood that there is hidden mould growth in the building and whether it has any harmful effects is based on objective, fully-tested criteria by comparing it with data from more than 10,000 samples from buildings with or without damage.

NB: The rating (A-F) that is given in this report, is an indication of the likelihood that hidden moulds growth exists where the sample was taken, and not whether staying in the building is hazardous to your health.

Information about the species

A MRSI DNA analysis tests for the presence of and amount of a total of 21 species of mould and bacteria. The method makes it possible to differentiate between naturally occurring mould spores that are present in outside dust and spores from e.g. possible damage from damp. Since mould species have differing requirements with respect to the type of material they grow on and with respect to temperature and humidity levels, the composition of species in some cases is used to assess the type of damage and its location. Some general information about different mould and bacteria species is provided below.

Universal fungi

Universal fungi states the total amount of mould spores in the sample. In most buildings the majority of mould spores comes from outdoor air, and therefore the amount can be very high without there being evidence of damp in the building in question. The amount will also vary a great deal seasonally, with high levels during summer and autumn months and very low levels during winter months. It is therefore necessary to compare the total amount of mould spores with the other species/groups in order to assess whether there is mould growth in the building.

A

Acremonium strictum

Acremonium strictum is found naturally in soil and in dead plant material and can therefore occur naturally in small amounts indoors. However, a large amount of spores in house dust is evidence of indoor growth, which can occur on for example, concrete, plaster, damp wallpaper or woodwork.

Alternaria alternata

This fungus occurs worldwide and survives itself primarily by decomposing dead organic matter. Spores from *Alternaria alternata* are spread in the air during the summer months and will therefore occur naturally indoors in limited amounts. The House Test DNA analysis uses the spores to assess the age of the dust. In rare cases, the fungus can grow in buildings and produce large quantities of spores, which can be very problematic for people who are allergic to spores.

Aspergillus fumigatus

Aspergillus fumigatus like most other *Aspergillus* species, thrives in relatively high temperatures, which makes humid and heated homes ideal locations for growth. *Aspergillus fumigatus* is one of the few moulds that is potentially pathogenic for people with weakened immune systems, e.g. people who have had organ transplants and AIDS patients, since it can invade lung tissue (aspergillosis). The mould can also produce several different mycotoxins, which may cause discomfort and allergic reactions. It should be noted that *Aspergillus fumigatus* also occurs naturally in outdoor air and only rarely causes serious problems.

Aspergillus glaucus grp.

This is a collection of different *Aspergillus* species, which primarily occur naturally in warm regions. In homes they can be found on food, in carpets and on plasterboard walls. The *Aspergillus glaucus* species require lower humidity than other moulds; therefore, when many *Aspergillus glaucus* spores are present and none of the more humid-dependent moulds, this can be a sign of damage from damp without high humidity levels.

Aspergillus niger

Aspergillus niger is a frequently occurring fungus, both outdoors and in homes. It forms large colonies, which are often found on vegetables and fruit, but can also grow in soil from potted plants and on building materials. It thrives in high temperatures and at lower humidity levels compared to some other moulds, and can therefore grow where there is only minor damage from damp. *Aspergillus niger* can be pathogenic for people with weakened immune systems.

Aspergillus versicolor

Aspergillus versicolor is one of the least demanding fungi in terms of growth conditions and is therefore widespread throughout the world, from Arctic regions to the Dead Sea and it is also among the most common fungus found in damp buildings, where it only needs a slightly higher level of humidity to grow. Spores from *Aspergillus versicolor* are found naturally in small amounts in dry buildings, while very high levels can occur in buildings that are damaged by damp.

C

Chaetomium globosum

This fast-growing fungus requires high humidity and is often found on concrete and material that contains cellulose, e.g. wallpaper and wood. It is only present in low levels in outdoor air and therefore even a small amount of spores in the dust sample is a strong indication that the building has been damaged from damp or there is ongoing damage from damp. *Chaetomium globosum* can produce mycetozoa, which are suspected of causing discomfort to people who stay in buildings that are damaged from damp.

Cladosporium cladosporioides

Spores from *Cladosporium cladosporioides* occur in huge amounts in outdoor air, especially during the summer months and in early autumn, and there will naturally be spores from this mould in the building's dust, which can be used to assess the age of the dust. However, *Cladosporium cladosporioides* can also grow indoors and will thrive at lower temperatures and varying humidity, e.g. in a roof space with a leaky roof, or in a location that has alternating wet and dry weather, which provides the ideal growth conditions.

Cladosporium herbarum

Cladosporium herbarum spores are the most populous of fungal spores in outdoor air and can cause allergic reactions during the summer and autumn months, when its activity is highest. *Cladosporium herbarum* is found in wallpaper, woodwork and elsewhere in humid homes. See also *Cladosporium cladosporioides*.

Cladosporium sphaerospermum

Cladosporium sphaerospermum occurs naturally in outdoor air, but can also grow in homes, e.g. on wallpaper, plasterboard walls, painted surfaces and wood, where it requires less humidity than most moulds. See also *Cladosporium cladosporioides*.

M

***Mucor/rhizopus* grp.**

Mucor/rhizopus grp. is a large group of moulds that contains several thousand species. Despite this, only a few spores are found in dust in buildings that do not have humidity problems. They generally require a high level of humidity to grow indoors, where they can be found on concrete, wood, carpets and elsewhere.

P

Pen/Asp/Pae grp.

This large group contains all of the fungi from the genus *Penicillium*, *Aspergillus* and *Paecilomyces*. Spores from these fungi occur naturally in outdoor air; consequently they are deposited in dust in buildings that do not have humidity problems. However, when there is damage from damp they are some of the first moulds to grow and can quickly release large quantities of spores into the indoor climate. Several species can grow in relatively low humidity levels.

Penicillium chrysogenum

Penicillium chrysogenum is well-known because it produces the antibiotic penicillin, which is toxic to bacteria but not to people, making it ideal for treating certain bacterial infections. However, *Penicillium chrysogenum* can also produce mycotoxins and cause allergic reactions, so this mould can be very problematic in homes. This mould is found in small quantities in outdoor air and in large quantities in dust in homes and therefore is a strong indication that the indoor climate is affected by damage from damp with mould. *Penicillium chrysogenum* can grow in low temperatures and humidity levels compared to most moulds.

Penicillium expansum

Penicillium expansum often grows on fruit, where it can produce mycotoxins and spoil the food. In buildings, it frequently grows on woodwork and because of its ability to produce mycotoxins, it is suspected of causing discomfort in people who occupy buildings where it grows. *Penicillium expansum* requires relatively high levels of humidity to thrive.

R

Rhizopus stolonifer

Rhizopus stolonifer is a fast-growing mould, which often thrives on bread and fruit, and at high humidity levels and high temperatures. Large amounts of spores in dust can therefore indicate there is damage on the inside of insulation or there is a burst hot water pipe.

S

Stachybotrys chartarum

Stachybotrys chartarum can produce mycotoxins and it is presumed to be responsible for some of the discomfort experienced by people who occupy humid buildings. The species grows on plasterboard in particular and requires a sustained and high level of humidity over a longer period of time, typically in connection with old damage from damp and from extensive damage from damp. *Stachybotrys chartarum* spores are heavy and in contrast to most other fungal spores, they do not spread very efficiently in the air. If they are found in a dust sample, the sample was probably taken very close to the location where there is damage. The spores are only present in very low levels in outdoor air and therefore even a very small amount of spores will be a strong indication that the indoor climate is affected by damp.

Streptomyces spp.

Streptomyces spp. is not a mould but a group of bacteria that are primarily found in soil, where they release substances that give soil its earthy odour. *Streptomyces spp.* frequently occurs in connection with damp in floor structures and in concrete elements on the ground, but it can also find its way into dust via contamination, e.g. from dogs or cats bringing dirt into the home. *Streptomyces spp.* is able to produce a large number of organic compounds, some of which can degrade the indoor climate and cause discomfort.

T

Trichoderma viride

In nature, this mould lives on dead trees and in the soil, where it can attack other fungus. It can grow in buildings on materials that contain wood where there is damage with high humidity and ideally in high temperatures. If there is water damage, it can grow very fast, and only a few spores in the dust indicates damage from damp.

U

Ulocladium chartarum

Ulocladium chartarum grows relatively rarely in buildings, even when there is damage from damp. However, at high levels of humidity and over a long period of time, it can grow on e.g. wood, wallpaper and plasterboard. The outdoor level is very low, so even a few spores in the dust indicates a humidity problem.

W

Wallemia sebi

Wallemia sebi is very difficult to identify using traditional methods but the HouseTest DNA method has shown that it is one of the most frequently occurring moulds in damp-damaged buildings. Even in dry buildings you will generally find a small amount of *Wallemia sebi*, which comes from outdoor air, but if there is indoor growth the number of spores can increase dramatically and cause discomfort to allergy sufferers. The spores are also very small and are presumed to be able to penetrate deep into the respiratory passages. *Wallemia sebi* can grow in relatively low humidity levels.

EXAMPLE