

Carta al Director

Role of *Geotrichum candidum* in canine oral ulcers

Dear Sir,

Geotrichum candidum, a ubiquitous fungus, is the etiologic agent of geotrichosis in man and animals. The fungus is rarely involved in the pathogenesis of disease. However, *Geotrichum candidum* is occasionally described as a potential pathogen in immunocompromised hosts. The present report delineates the occurrence and etiologic significance of *G. candidum* in oral ulcers of a 2-month-old female German Shepherd pup who was fed on raw cow's milk through a plastic bottle. The temperature, respiration and pulse were normal. There was no indication of any pulmonary and systemic involvement. Gram's stained smears from the scrapings of oral lesions revealed many elongated, irregularly branched, septate hyphal filaments morphologically compatible with *G. candidum*. The repeated oral swabs on two occasions from ulcers when inoculated on Pal's sunflower seed medium [1] and Sabouraud medium at 30 °C showed heavy and pure growth of the fungus. No other microorganism grew on nutrient agar, brain heart infusion medium and blood agar at 37 °C. Topical application of 1% solution of gentian violet on the oral lesions for 14 days showed good clinical response. No systemic antifungal therapy was attempted. In order to establish the source of the infection, a sample of milk from the plastic bottle was examined for *G. candidum*. The culture of milk on Pal's sunflower seed agar revealed luxuriant growth of *G. candidum* at 30 °C. The microscopic morphology of all isolates in Narayan stain [2] showed the presence of anthroconidia and true hyphae and the absence of blastoconidia. It is very likely that the pup would have acquired the infection from the contaminated milk. It is therefore, advised that raw milk should not be given to pet animals. This appears to be the first published report on canine stomatitis due to *G. candidum* from India.

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1. Pal M. First report of isolation of *Cryptococcus neoformans* var *neoformans* from avian excreta in Katmandu, Nepal. Rev Iberoam Micol 1997; 14: 181-183.
2. Pal M. Efficacy of Narayan stain for morphological studies of moulds, yeasts and algae. Rev Iberoam Micol 2004; 21: 219.