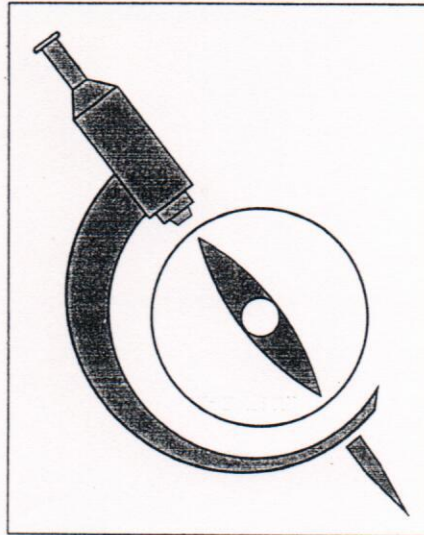


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ABSTRACTS

## AIRBORNE AND ALLERGENIC FUNGAL SPORES AT VARIOUS SITES IN SAUDI ARABIA

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In order to identify airborne allergens in the dry climate of Saudi Arabia, an aerobiological study employing Burkard volumetric spore trap at each of the 5 sites in 3 different cities was conducted for a 12 month period. The analysis revealed the presence of a large number of fungal spores, mainly of dry nature, in the outdoor air of these cities. Quantitative variations were noted between the sites. No clear seasonal patterns were seen for some generic categories at two micro-environment sites. Spores of *Cladosporium* (CLD) SPP and smuts spores dominated the air spora and along with *Alternaria* (ALT), *Ulocladium* (ULD), *Drechslera* (DRE) and *Chaetomium* (CTM) constituted the major components. Maximum concentration of CLD approach to 14000/m<sup>3</sup> of air at a humid coastal site compared to 6000/m<sup>3</sup> of air at a non-coastal central site. The former site also exhibited a comparatively higher total concentration of fungal spores. Incidentally prevalence of both asthma and rhinitis is comparatively higher at the same site. Allergenic importance of these airborne fungi in Saudi population is being determined.

The study indicates the presence of various allergenic fungal genera in concentrations exceeding their threshold level, even in the dry climate of Saudi Arabia.

## AEROBIOLOGICAL MONITORING IN GREECE (ATHENS-THESSALONIKI) AND SCREENING OF CLINIC FEATURES OF POLLINOSIS BY A NEW E.I.A METHOD "THE PROFILO TEST"

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Aerobiological and clinical investigations have been carried out in the most important Greek cities: Athens and Thessaloniki for the standardization of pollen calendars for these areas and the determination of human pathological consequences of seasonal allergic diseases.

The aerobiological sampling was done by an automatic volumetric pollen trap VPPS 2.000 for the period 1986-90 for Thessaloniki, 40° and 1987-90 for Athens 38°. Our patients have been studied by skin tests (Neo Abello Allergens) and by the Profilo IgE specific screen method (IVT Arlington, Texas).

We found that pollen of Gramineae, Urticaceae, Compositae, Chenopodiaceae, Amaranthaceae, *Olea* and *Acacia* were mainly responsible for the allergic manifestations.

We discuss the peak and the period of pollination of each allergenic plant and the different distribution of sensitization found between patients residing in Thessaloniki and Athens. Thessaloniki: Gram. 61.8%, Urtic. 25%, *Olea* 9%, Chenop. 1%, Comp. 3%, Athens: Gram. 41%, Urtic. 40%, *Olea* 14%, Chenop. 3%, Comp. 1%, *Acacia* 1%.