CRITICAL SURVEY OF MEDICAL MYCOLOGY IN ROMANIAN PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC FOR THE YEARS 1952—1962

by

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The medical mycology in our country, for the last ten years, was marked by a greater interest in the study of the main problems in this vast and ever new domain of medical pathology.

We shall shortly pass through the principal aspects of our mycological activities.

FUNGUS INFECTION CAUSED BY DERMATO PHYTES (DERMATOPHYTESES)

1. Epidemiology and clinic. Many papers have been published in these years on the evolution of dermatophytes in Romania. From the analysis on their frequency in the decade of 1952—1962 ALTERAȘ & AVRAM pointed out that Microsporon Audouinii and Trichophyton violaceum are the most representative agents of tinea capitis in this country. In more than 90% of the cases these two dermatophytes attacked the scalp. In other publications the same authors remarked on the great potency of mass diffusion for Microsporon ferrugineum, Microsporon Audouinii and (in a lesser degree) for Trichophyton violaceum, showing that the most frequent epidemic foci they observed were caused by these species, especially by Microsporon ferrugineum. Concerning this dermatophyte which was mentioned by EVOLCEANU, after the second World War, AVRAM & ALTERAȘ worked out, in a large study, its epidemiology and clinic, based on the observation of a few massive outbreaks arisen in different regions of the country. The authors pointed out the great and rapid contagiousness of this fungus, as well as the polymorphism of its colonies. Concerning its position in the classification of dermatophytes, they let this problem still open.

Some data on the epidemiology and clinical manifestations of Microsporon canis in man and animal were reported by AVRAM & ALTERAȘ, who observed that the fungus infection caused by this
species over a period of 5 years represented almost 25% of all microsporosis in this city, the most numerous cases having been observed during the cold season. Microsporon canis was isolated mostly from the "common" cats, who transmitted their disease especially in women and children with whom they played.

For the first time in the country, EVOLCEANU & AVRAM noted, in 1959, the presence of Microsporon equinum (BODIN 1896), isolated from 3 horses and 2 children with microsporosis.

There have also been published some data concerning the clinical and mycological aspects of various dermatophytes. NICOLAU, EVOLCEANU & AVRAM, in a study of 42 cases of human infections caused by Trichophyton (Achorion) quinckeaneum, have mentioned the presence of this dermatophyte on the scalp and in the beard, pointing out its way of invasion (ecto-endotrix type) in the hairs and the various pictures of the clinical lesions this species may produce in man. In the same work the authors advanced the hypothesis of the probable identity of Trichophyton niveum and Trichophyton quinckeaneum. Later on, NICOLAU & AVRAM found (unknown until then) Trichophyton quinckeaneum in the aetiology of the sycosis, giving a description of two such cases they observed. Soon after, I. ALTERARŞ reported a new case of tinea capitis, of Kerion Celsi type, caused by Tr. quinckeaneum, where the parasitized hairs had a double way of invasion (the microid type and the favus type). The author mentioned that this type of fungus infection (Kerion Celsi) is not so "strange" for Tr. quinckeaneum (10 cases from 67, during this time).

Clinical and mycological investigations on a very rare species isolated in Romania — Trichophyton gallinae were made by EVOLCEANU & ALTERARŞ, who pointed out the possibility of the probable identity between this dermatophyte and its not too remote relative — Tr. quinckeaneum.

Five years ago the growing incidence of Trichophyton rubrum infection in Romania began to draw the attention of EVOLCEANU & ALTERARŞ, who published their observations concerning the polymorphism of the clinical lesions caused by this dermatophyte. The experimental trials made with the strains isolated from their cases, gave positive results only in the inoculation in the guinea-pig (the fungus penetrated also the hairs giving an endotrix type of invasion). More recently, A. AVRAM, in reporting two cases of sycosis of the beard, where Trichophyton rubrum was found, gave a critical survey of all the pilomycosis caused by this dermatophyte up to now.

The data concerning the agents of epidermophytosis are also to be mentioned here.

EVOLCEANU, ALTERARŞ & DONCIU reported their observations on 1436 cases of tinea pedis. The species most frequently isolated were: Tr. mentagrophytes — var. interdigitale (KAUFMANN-WOLF) — in 78.6% of the cases, followed by Trichophyton rubrum (12.5%), and then by Epidermophyton floccosum.