DERMATOPHYTOSIS

FECAVA WORKING GROUP
ON ZOONOSES

1. DISEASE

Dermatophytosis

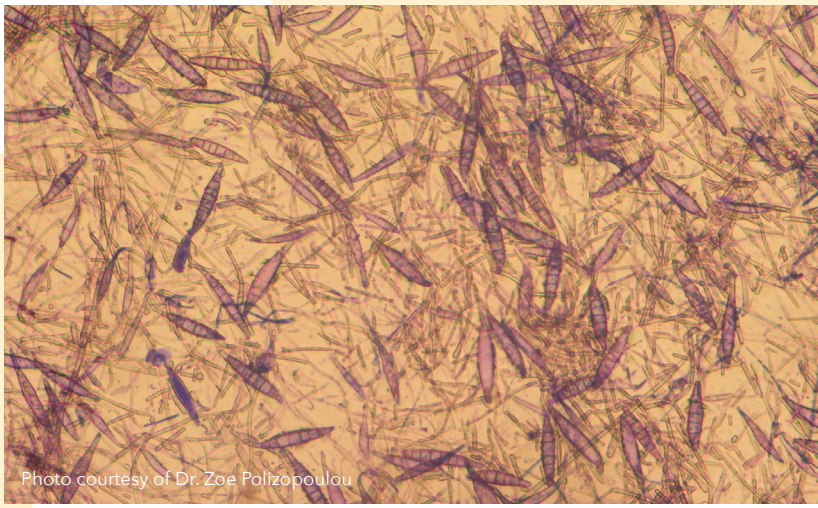

Photo courtesy of Dr. Zoe Polizopoulou

2. NAME, DEFINITION, ETIOLOGICAL SPECIES

Microsporum canis and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*

- Dermatophytosis is a highly virulent zoonotic skin disease caused by several keratinophilic fungi species (dermatophytes).
- Dermatophytes colonize and damage keratinized skin structures.
- Transmission takes place through direct contact or indirectly by contaminated environment.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ANIMAL RESERVOIRS

- Especially pets like cats, dogs, and rodents like hamsters and guinea pigs act as a reservoir for *Microsporum canis* or *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*.

4. CLINICAL SIGNS, IF THERE ARE ANY

- Hair loss
- Papules
- Scales
- Crusts
- Erythema
- Follicular plugging
- Hyperpigmentation
- Changes in nail appearance/growth

5. WAY OF TRANSMISSION TO HUMANS

- In general, by direct contact with infested companion animals like cats, dogs, guinea pigs and horses.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Zoe Polizopoulou

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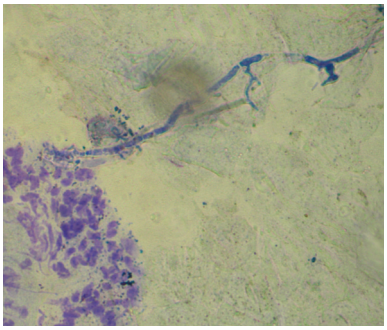
6. CLINICAL SIGNS IN HUMANS

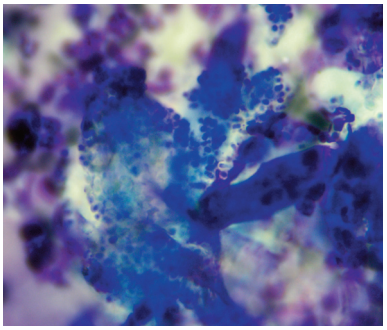
- Tinea capitis: fungal infection of the haired scalp
- Tinea corporis: fungal infection of the trunk
- Tinea pedis: fungal infection of the feet
- Tinea cruris: fungal infection of the groin area
- Tinea unguium: fungal infection of the nails

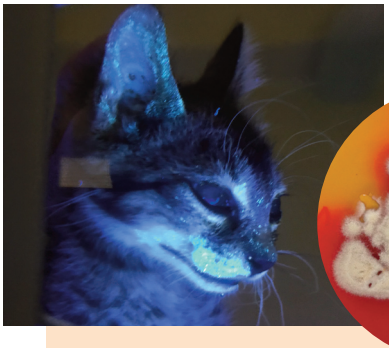
7. DIAGNOSIS IN HUMANS

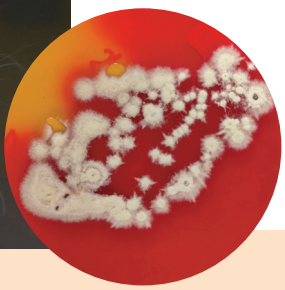
- Direct microscopic examination can detect the presence of fungi but is not able to differentiate between the dermatophyte species due to morphological similarities between different species.
- Culture microscopy
- PCR can be used for accurate identification of dermatophytes.
- Wood's lamp (fluorescence)

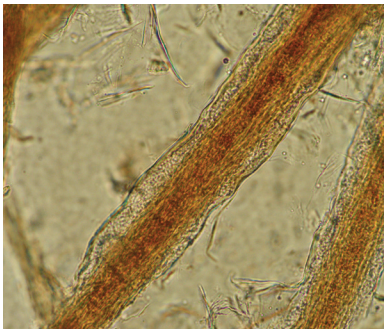
Photo courtesy of Dr. Stephan Neumann











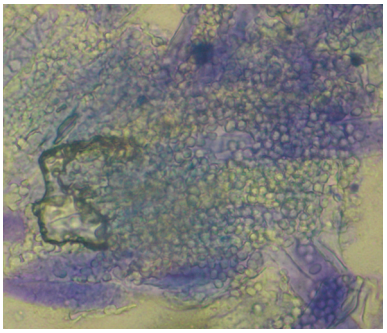


Photo courtesy of Dr. Zoe Polizopoulou

DIAGNOSIS IN ANIMALS

- Wood's lamp (fluorescence) and direct microscopic examination to prove active hair infection.
- PCR detection is useful. (However, a positive PCR does not necessarily indicate active infection since previous already treated infections will still be detectable.)

8. PREVENTION OF THE DISEASE

- Avoidance of contact with infested and stray animals.
- Environmental decontamination to prevent re-infestation.
- Vaccination for dogs, cats and horses (time-limited protection?).

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