Aspergillus aculeatinus (new species) in chronic human dacryocystitis: The first report on its pathogenic role

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**ABSTRACT**

Reports of *Aspergillus* spp. causing dacryocystitis are rare. We report a case of chronic dacryocystitis in an adult, with the following features – fungal mycelia in the lacrimal sac contents, neutrophil and mononuclear cell infiltration with fibrosis in the excised lacrimal sac, without mycelial invasion of the wall. The fungal colony in pure culture on Sabouraud agar, derived from the sac contents, had a dark brown-black surface, with yellow pigmentation on the reverse. Septate mycelia bearing globose vesicles, uniseriate, oval sterigmata and spherical echinulate spores were seen on slide culture. Multilocus sequence analysis of benA, CaM and ITS partial genes identified it as *A. aculeatinus*. It was first reported, in 2008, as a contaminant of coffee beans in Thailand and described as a new uniseriate species within *Aspergillus* Sect. *Nigri*. This is, as far as we are aware, the first report of *A. aculeatinus* in a pathogenic role. (*J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents* 2011;29:89-97.)

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