



# **PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS**

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## MITE SENSITIVITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

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In order to determine the extrinsic allergic factor(s) in asthmatic children, 240 school children from the Central and Western regions of Saudi Arabia were skin tested with a panel of different allergens including *Dermatophagoidees* species. A total of 22 patients (31%) reacted positively to dust mites mix and 9 patients (12.7%) to *D. farinae* in the Central province while 49 patients (56.3%) reacted to *D. farinae* in the Western province. House dust samples were also collected from the two regions and immuno-chemically analysed for the presence of mite allergens. The result exhibited a contrast variation, parallel to the skin test results. The highest value of *D. farinae* (22,405 ng/8 of dust) was recorded in the Western while the lowest (108 ng/8) in the Central province. The variation is attributable to the dry (Central) and humid (Western) climate of the two regions. The study reveals higher sensitivities of Saudi children to *D. farinae* in the Western region and further supports the influence of humidity on mite concentrations.

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SCIENTIFIC AND ALLERGENIC RELATIONSHIPS  
OF "DOMESTIC MITES".

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A wide consensus is growing to use the term "Domestic Mites" in referring to those species of mites which are in close but free-living contact with man. Within this group, two major clusters can be distinguished, viz. Storage Mites and House Dust Mites. Those Storage Mites which have been reported from house dust, farm dust, and other occupational environments, are to be reckoned among Domestic Mites. The species most often referred to are *Acarus siro* and *Tyrophagus putrescentiae* of the family Acaridae, and *Leptoglyphus destructor* and *Blomia kulagini* of the Pyroglyphidae. The term House Dust Mites should be used to comprise those species of the next mite family Pyroglyphidae which have repeatedly been found to occur in the human home. Well-known species of House Dust Mites are *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*, *D. farinae*, *Leptoglyphus destructor*, and *Euroglyphus maynei*. In a comparative survey of older and more recent studies it appears that the allergenic relationships between different mite species can be described simply in terms of absence or presence of cross-allergenicity. In clinical practice it is important to assess the identity of the mite species the patient is exposed to.