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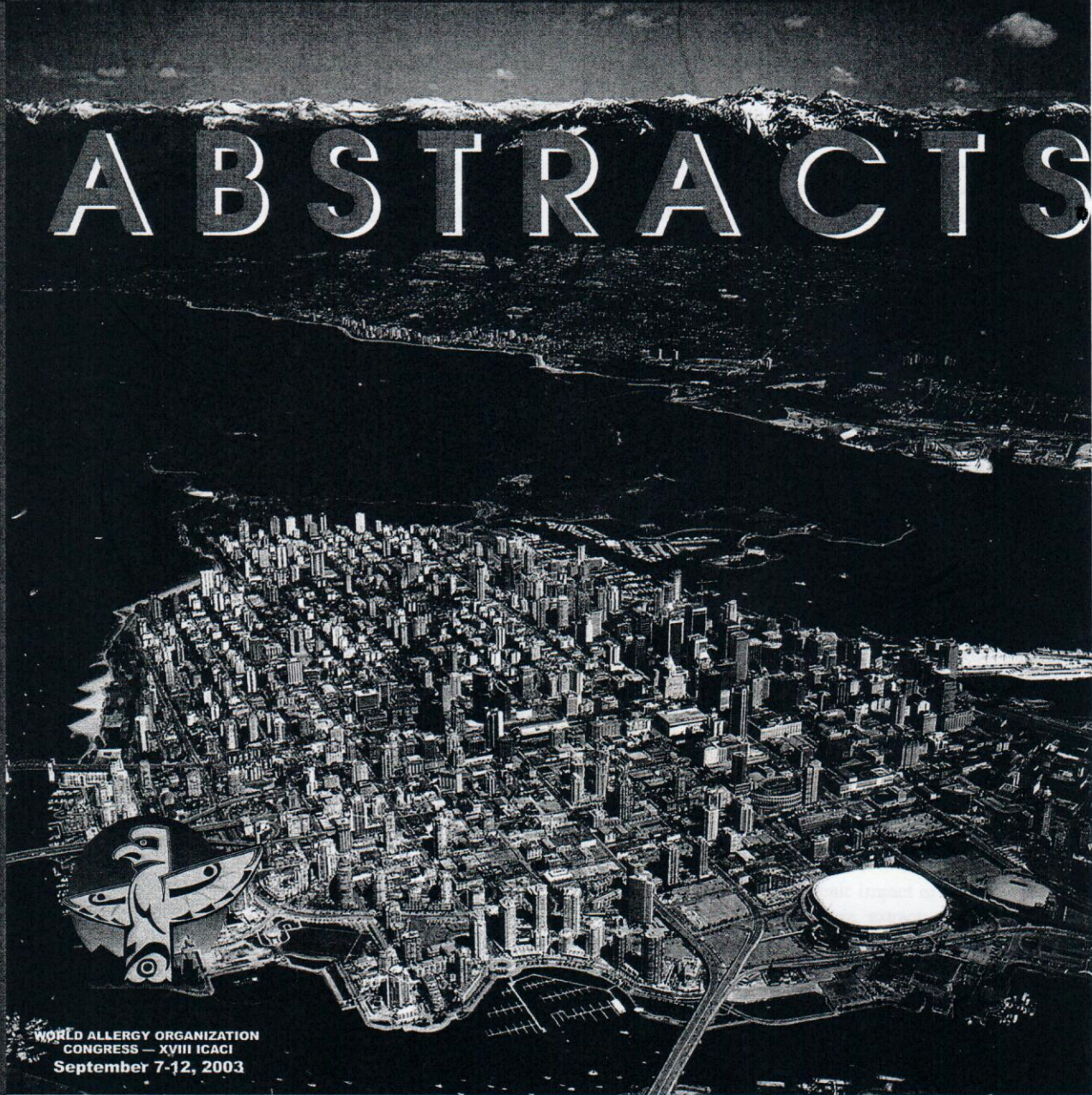
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ABSTRACTS



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***Prosopis* allergy: diagnostic impact with commercial allergen kits**

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In order to investigate the allergenic impact of *Prosopis* pollen in susceptible individuals in Saudi Arabia, extracts of both indigenous and imported pollen were prepared in buffered saline pH 8.0 and compared with commercially available allergenic extracts using SDS-PAGE, 2D GEL, FPLC and western blotting. The results exhibited a marked variation in the proteins profile showing different molecular weights. Indigenous *P. juliflora* (mesquite) displayed prominent protein bands at 30, 33 and 35 kDa while commercial mesquite, obtained from two sources (G & N), exhibited bands at 24, 88 and 97 kDa and 34, 78 and 97 kDa respectively. The 2D gel analysis showed variations among the species themselves. Preliminary result using western blotting with positive sera

(RAST Class IV) revealed that the indigenous pollen extract was more reactive than the imported ones. There appear to be some confusion over the taxonomic identity of the species of this genus showing *P. glandulosa* as a synonym of *P. juliflora* or vice versa. The study indicates that there are molecular variations not only within *Prosopis* commercial extracts but also between these extracts and commercially available raw pollen indicating differences in their source and origin. Therefore, diagnostic inaccuracy may result in conducting SPT with various commercial mesquite extracts. Naming of species on bottles as well as application of indigenous *Prosopis* allergenic extracts are suggested.

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