

6th International Congress on Aerobiology
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PREVALENCE OF AIRBORNE BASIDIOSPORES ALLERGENS IN SAUDI ARABIA

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In order to investigate the impact of airborne allergens and to formulate a diagnostic profile for allergens in Saudi Arabia, aerobiological studies at three major but geographically different centres, were conducted using Burkard volumetric 7-day Recording Spore Traps. The sites varied from agricultural and horticultural in nature to mountainous region, hill resort and coastal area.

In addition to various airborne pollen and deuteromycetous spores at all sites, a considerable concentration of coloured basidiospores were recorded. These basidiospores constituted upto 17% of the total air spora in Gizan (a coastal town), 8% in Taif (a hill resort) and 4% in Hail (an agricultural region). The mean concentration level rose to 1×10^3 basidiospores m^{-3} of air in October and 9×10^2 m^{-3} in November in the coastal site of Gizan. Maximum concentration level of basidiospores in Gizan, Taif and Hail exceeded 6×10^3 m^{-3} , 1.39×10^3 m^{-3} and 6.1×10^2 m^{-3} of air respectively. The data clearly indicate a higher maximum level both in coastal and mountainous region. Airborne basidiospores have never been reported from Saudi Arabia and due to lack of this information, no basidiospores extracts has ever been included in the routine diagnostic test profile in the region.

The study reports for the first time, the prevalence of airborne basidiospores and their possible role in the etiology of respiratory allergic diseases in Saudi Arabia.

Name and mailing address of the Author who will present the paper (please print or type)

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