

ABSTRACT BOOKLET



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Spores and Pollen Allergens in Various Regions of Saudi Arabia

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In order to investigate the nature and level of outdoor allergens as well as their impact on bronchial asthma in children, qualitative and quantitative investigation of seroallergens were conducted at several regions of the Kingdom using Burkard Volumetric sampling and diagnostic Skin Prick Test. A number of known inhalant pollen and spores allergens were recorded with regional diversity. Pollen, from weeds particularly *Amaranthus viridis*, *Chenopodium album*, *Ricinus communis*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Plantago spp.* and *Rumex spp.* were dominant pollen flora at many centres. *Cynodon dactylis*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Juripernx* and *Casuarina*, were also prevalent. *Uloclodium*, *Cladosporium*, *Alternaria*, as well as coloured basidiospores were dominant in spores category. *Aspergillus* colonies were recorded to be third commonest in Burkard sampling for agar plates. Skin Prick Tests using both local and commercial extracts were conducted in all major centres in the Kingdom. The results confirmed the sensitization of patients to a number of pollen and spores aeroallergens.

The study which continued for several years, suggests that inhalant allergens influenced by geography and climate, have clear impact on the increasing prevalence of bronchial asthma and allergic rhinitis in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.