



ART IN DERMATOLOGY

## TINEA NIGRA: STATE OF THE ART IN SERIES OF CASE WITH ATYPICAL FORMS MIMICKING MARINE ANIMALS.

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**Background:** Tinea nigra (TN) is a rare dermatomycosis caused by *Hortaea werneckii*, characterized by round or oval hyperchromic macules on the palms and soles. However, it may also manifest with atypical formats. We report five cases of TN with atypical forms mimicking marine animals.

**Observation:** We describe a series of five cases of TN affecting Caucasian children, 2-7 years old, in Santa Catarina State, Brazil. The hyperchromic, asymptomatic macules on the left palm region had atypical clinical shapes mimicking marine animals: marine molluscs, seashell, stingray, dolphin and seahorse. All presented typical dermatoscopies and the micromorphology of the cultures revealed *Hortaea werneckii*, with successful treatment with butenafine and isoconazole.

**Key message:** All the cases presented typical age group, the habit of frequenting beaches, a single hyperchromic macule (except for one bilateral case with oval lesion), suggestive dermatoscopy, confirmation by the mycological examination and successful treatment with topical antifungals. The initial lesions may be punctiform with centrifugal growths, coalescing to various forms, frequently geographical, with atypical forms being infrequently reported. We report five different formats mimicking marine animals and conclude that there are curious clinical shapes which contrast with the oval and rounded shapes often described for this rare dermatomycosis.

