



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

A REPORT OF THREE PLEOSPORALES CUTANEOUS INFECTION, AN EXCEPTIONAL AND NOVEL FUNGUS

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Background: The Pleosporales is the largest order in the fungal class Dothideomycetes. They can be epiphytes, endophytes or parasites of living leaves or stems, hyperparasites on fungi or insects or are saprobes of dead plant stems, leaves or bark.

Observation: Herein, we report three extremely rare cases of Pleosporales cutaneous infection. They all live in rural southern Taiwan but different township. Patients all reported exposure to plants but denied minor trauma. The skin eruption had occurred for months before visiting our dermatologic clinic. The clinical manifestations were typical of the deep fungus infection but each case holds their own feature. Clinically diagnosed were suspected deep fungus infection or protothecosis before skin biopsies. The lesions were on upper extremities. The first case presented as solitary erythematous noduloplaque studded with superficial black dots. The second case, lesions presented as solitary erythematous noduloplaque and some neighboring nodulocysts on her arm. The last case presents as erythematous infiltrate patch located near the wrists. The skin biopsy revealed granulomatous inflammation. The fungi were identified via molecular sequencing, all three showed Pleosporales. All three cases received oral itraconazole. Two of them are free of diseases after months of treatment.

Key message: Pleosporales is a rare but possible infection when physicians consider deep fungus infection clinically.

