

Short Communication

Contact dermatitis due to *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino

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Case Report

A 28-year-old housewife, with no previous history of dermatitis, presented with acute asymmetric, purpuric, edematous and erythematous lesions on the face, chest, wrists, hands and legs (Fig. 1). A biopsy specimen from a leg lesion showed edema of the papillary dermis and a superficial perivascular infiltrate of lymphocytes and eosinophils. 10 days earlier, she had cut back the leaves and stems of *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino (Fig. 2). The patient was treated with oral corticosteroid and showed complete resolution in a month.

Patch tests with both leaf and stem of *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino were positive and a flare-up simultaneously appeared on a previous severely affected region.



Fig. 1. Asymmetric, purpuric, edematous erythema on the legs.



Fig. 2. *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino.

Discussion

Dendropanox trifidus Makino (family Araliaceae, syn. *Gilibertia trifida* Makino) is a species found only in Japan and is distributed in its western part (1, 2). The Japanese name for the plant is *kakuremino*, because the leaves of the plant resemble *kakuremino*, an old-style Japanese raincoat made from straw. The plant is com-

monly grown in gardens and sometimes used for flower arrangements. It is known to cause allergic contact dermatitis (3–5). Recently, Oka et al. (6) reported that the major allergen of *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino was cis-9, 17-octadecadiene-12, 14-diyne-1, 16-diol, and that it did not cross-react with urushiol.

The patient had touched the plant 10 days earlier. Since then she had never touched it again before the rash developed. We thus speculate that she had been sensitized to *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino on this occasion and that the eruption was a spontaneous flare-up. Our case is noteworthy in that cutaneous manifestations were similar to erythema multiforme, and histological findings showed inflammatory changes only in the dermis. When a patient with an unusually severe eruption is encountered, contact dermatitis due to *Dendropanax trifidus* Makino, as well as *Rhus verniciflua* and *Ginkgo biloba*, should be considered in the differential diagnosis in Japan.

References

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