

report a rare case of allergic contact dermatitis caused by a bracelet made of Sissoo wood (*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.).

Case Report

A 23-year-old woman presented with an acute eczematous lesion on her left forearm (Fig. 1) after having worn a bracelet (Fig. 2) made from *Dalbergia sissoo* that she had bought in a local store. It was the third time she had worn the bracelet. Patch tests with GEIDAC (Spanish Investigation Group for the Study of Contact Dermatitis and Cutaneous Allergy) baseline series were applied on his

back in Finn Chambers® together with sawdust obtained from the bracelet in pet. at 10%. Readings were performed on D2 and D4 according to International Contact Dermatitis Research Group (ICDRG) criteria. Positive reactions were shown to *Myroxylon perei* and colophonium (D2+ and D4+) and the sawdust (D2+ and D4+ +). Ten controls were negative. A diagnosis of allergic contact dermatitis caused by *D.sissoo* was made.

Discussion

Allergic contact dermatitis caused by finished wooden products outside of the work environment is infrequent. As in occupational cases, woods that have most often been

An unusual case of contact dermatitis caused by wooden bracelets

Contact Dermatitis 2009; 61: 351–352

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Key words: contact dermatitis; *Dalbergia sissoo*; exotic woods.

Occupational contact dermatitis in woodworkers following exposure to exotic woods is well-known (1). Non-occupational cases are infrequent. We



Fig. 1. Erythema, oedema and blistering on the forearm of the patient just after she had worn a *Dalbergia sissoo* bracelet



Fig. 2. Detailed view of the bracelet

described as responsible for these infrequent cases are those known as 'exotic' woods from tropical trees. *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. (Indian rosewood, Sheesham) is an exotic hardwood belonging to the family of *Leguminosae-Papilionaceae*. The tree grows in Asia (India, Nepal, and Pakistan). Its wood is popular and used to manufacture items such as: objects of art, jewellery, desk accessories, knife handles, and musical instruments. Such products are entering the middle European and North American markets.

The heartwood of these species of trees contains sensitizing quinones, a class of neoflavanoids, named dalbergiones (2). Each member of the genera *Dalbergia* has an individual profile of dalbergiones. As specific commercial preparations of the allergens are unavailable as, tests with sawdust in 10% pet. are required. Dalbergiones are chemically related to terpenes. Because *Myroxylon pereira* contains terpenoids, we speculated that there may be cross-reactivity between dalbergiones and some constituents of *Myroxylon pereira* (3), which could explain the (+) reaction in our patient.

To our knowledge, this is the first report of contact dermatitis to jewels made of sissoo wood; there will be other cases like our patient, as these woods are highly sensitizing.

References

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