

it could be considered as a mite found in dry climates, and with more widespread distribution than previously thought. An unexpectedly high number of patients (85%) had a positive skin test to *B. tropicalis*, although low to moderate cross-reactivity between *Dermatophagoides* spp. and *Blomia* spp. has been described, at least, in *in vitro* studies (4).

A previous report (5) from our group stated that 20% of patients with IgE-mediated rhinitis and/or asthma, living in the Madrid area, are sensitized to house dust mites. This means that even at low levels other factors such as individual susceptibility, biochemical characteristics of allergens, and environmental pollution, may influence this sensitization and its clinical expression (6).

Although the mite allergen levels detected in homes of asthmatic patients in Madrid seem to be generally low, it is possible that they might lead to an IgE-mediated sensitization of predisposed individuals.

*Fundación Jiménez Díaz
Servicio de Alergia
Avda. Reyes Católicos 2
28040 Madrid
Spain
Tel: + 34 91 5498 225
Fax: + 34 91 5499 498
E-mail: jsastre@fjd.es

Accepted for publication 13 September 2001
Allergy 2002; 57:58–59
Copyright © Munksgaard 2002
ISSN 0105-4538

References

1. PLATTS-MILLS TAE, VERVOLOET D, THOMAS WR, AALBERSE RC, CHAPMAN MD. Indoor Allergens and Asthma. Report of the third International workshop. Cuenca, Spain, 1995.
2. FERNANDEZ-CALDAS E, PUERTA L, MERCADO D, LOCKEY RF, CARABALLO LR. Mite fauna, Der p I, Der f I and *Blomia tropicalis* allergen levels in a tropical environment. Clin Exp Allergy 1993;23:292–297.
3. GARCIA-ROBAINA JC, ERASO E, MARTINEZ J et al. Sensitization to *Blomia kulagini* in a general population of a subtropical region of Spain (Canary Islands). Allergy 1997;52:727–731.
4. GARCIA-ROBAINA JC, ERASO E, DE LA TORRE F et al. Extracts from various mite species contain cross-reactive and noncross-reactive IgE epitopes. A RAST inhibition study. J Invest Allergol Clin Immunol 1998; 8:285–289.
5. SASTRE J, IBAÑEZ MD, LOMBARDERO M, LASO MT, LEHRER SB. Allergy to cockroach in patients with asthma and rhinitis in an urban area (Madrid). Allergy 1996;51:582–586.
6. MUNIR AKM, BJÖRKSTÉN B, EINARSSON R et al. Mite allergen in relation to home conditions and sensitization of asthmatic children from three climatic regions. Allergy 1995;50:55–64.

Allergenic pollens in south-east Spain

M. Munuera Giner, J. García Sellés

Key words: aerobiology; new types; pollen calendar; skin prick test; Spain.

● MANY of the 93 airborne pollen types found in the Murcia area occur in notably different patterns to those reported in other Spanish sites and from those shown in European calendars (4). These calendars have been used for many years as the 'classical' reference source because of the poor development of aerobiology in Spain until recently.

The particular climate in Murcia area (mean annual temperature of 16.8°C) allows many species to flower repeatedly throughout the year. That is why some pollen taxa (Fig. 1) show especially long pollen seasons which have been rarely described or, as in the case of *Phoenix* and *Artemisia*, have not been reported outside south-east Spain (1). High incidence of Chenopodiaceae-Amaranthaceae in Murcia (49.5%) is probably due to these high pollen levels. Brassicaceae is seldom referred to as an airborne pollen and usually occurs for periods not exceeding one month, but in Murcia this pollen occurs continuously for almost five months.

Of the 93 species some might have a general importance.

Certain other taxa (Fig. 1) are unusual because they bloom outside the "classical" times. *Casuarina* pollen occurs in February and June (not reported hitherto in Europe), and *Artemisia* shows an autumnal pollen season and a very important winter one that does not occur out of south-east Spain (1); these are the more interesting and noteworthy "out of season" pollen taxa.

Finally, consideration must be given to some unique pollen types (Fig. 1), which are rarely referred to as airborne or which are totally absent in other localities. Among these are *Zygophyllum* which has been reported only in the Murcia region, and which was recently identified as an allergen (4). Records of pollen levels for Caryophyllaceae are up to 37 times higher in Murcia than those referred to in Italian sites, and four times higher than those recorded in other Spanish localities.

We compared ordinary pollen skin prick test protocols of the major Murcian hospitals with protocols of several allergologists, and found that no more than seven pollen types are customarily included, namely *Artemisia* (incidence of 23.5%), Chenopodiaceae (49.5%), *Olea* (68.4%), *Parietaria* (51.0%), *Plantago* (17.9%), Poaceae (55.1%), and *Rumex* (9.7%). Yet up to 21 pollen taxa occurring in concentrations hypothetically high enough to provoke local or regional allergic disease could be systematically ignored in skin prick test protocols. Nine of them have been positively identified as allergens affecting the Murcia population: *Acer* (incidence of 10.2%), *Cupressus* (2.5%), *Mercurialis* (9.7%), *Morus* (8.7%), *Pinus* (1.0%), *Platanus* (11.2%), *Quercus* (2.5%), *Robinia* (7.6%) and recently *Zygophyllum* (15.3%). For another 12 species the incidence is still unknown: *Apiaceae*, Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, *Casuarina*, Cyperaceae, *Eucalyptus*, *Fraxinus*, *Ligustrum*, *Phoenix*, *Pistacia*, *Populus* and *Thymelaea*. All in all, we strongly recommend allergologists to consider these new types of plant pollen and evaluate the convenience of including them in the standard skin prick test. A example of the importance of considering minority pollen types is the recent discovery of *Zygophyllum* as an

airborne pollen and as an allergen affecting 15.3% of pollen-allergic patients (4).

Acknowledgments Authors thank Fundación Séneca (Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia) and FEDER for financial support throughout projects PLP/3/FS/97 and 1FD97-0898, respectively.

*Area de Botánica
Departamento Producción Agraria
ETS de Ingeniería Agronómica
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena
E-30203 Cartagena (Murcia)
Spain
Fax: + 34 68 325 435
E-mail: Manuel.Munuera@upct.es

Accepted for publication 25 September 2001
Allergy 2002; 57:59–60
Copyright © Munksgaard 2002
ISSN 0105-4538

References

1. BELCHI-HERNÁNDEZ J, MORENO-GRAU S, SÁNCHEZ-GASCÓN F et al. Sensitization to *Zygophyllum fabago* pollen. A clinical and immunologic study. *Allergy* 1998;**53**: 241–248.
2. JOHANSSON SGO, HOURIHANE J, O'B, et al. A revised nomenclature for allergy. An EAACI position statement from the EAACI nomenclature task force. *Allergy* 2001;**56**:813–824.
3. MUNUERA M, CARRIÓN JS, GARCÍA-SELLÉS J. Aerobiology of *Artemisia* airborne pollen in Murcia (SE Spain) and its relationship with weather variables: annual and intradiurnal variations for three different species. Wind vectors as a tool in determining pollen origin. *Int J Biometeorol* 1999;**43**:51–63.
4. SPIEKSM FTHM Regional European pollen calendars. In: Allergenic Pollen and Pollinosis in Europe (eds D'AMATO G, SPIEKSM FTHM, BONINI S). Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications; 1991, 49–65.

Hypersensitivity to icodextrin

G. Kanny*, P.-Y. Durand, E. Beaudouin, J. Chanliau, D.-A. Moneret-Vautrin, M. Kessler

Key words: drug adverse reaction; drug hypersensitivity; icodextrin; maculopapular eruption; peritoneal dialysis.

• The icodextrin-based dialysate has been used in France since 1997. Several cases of hypersensitivity have been reported in the literature (1–7). However, the mechanism of this reaction is not documented. We present a case report of hypersensitivity reaction due to icodextrin. This case is unique because allergologic investigations were carried out to determine the precise reaction mechanism (8).

A case initiated via peritoneum.

A 76-year-old man, with end-stage renal failure due to insulin-treated diabetes, started continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis in May 1997. Six months later, icodextrin-based dialysate was introduced for the long night dwell. A highly pruritic maculopapular skin rash appeared 10 days after first using icodextrin. The rash initially started around the exit site, then spread to the upper limbs and the

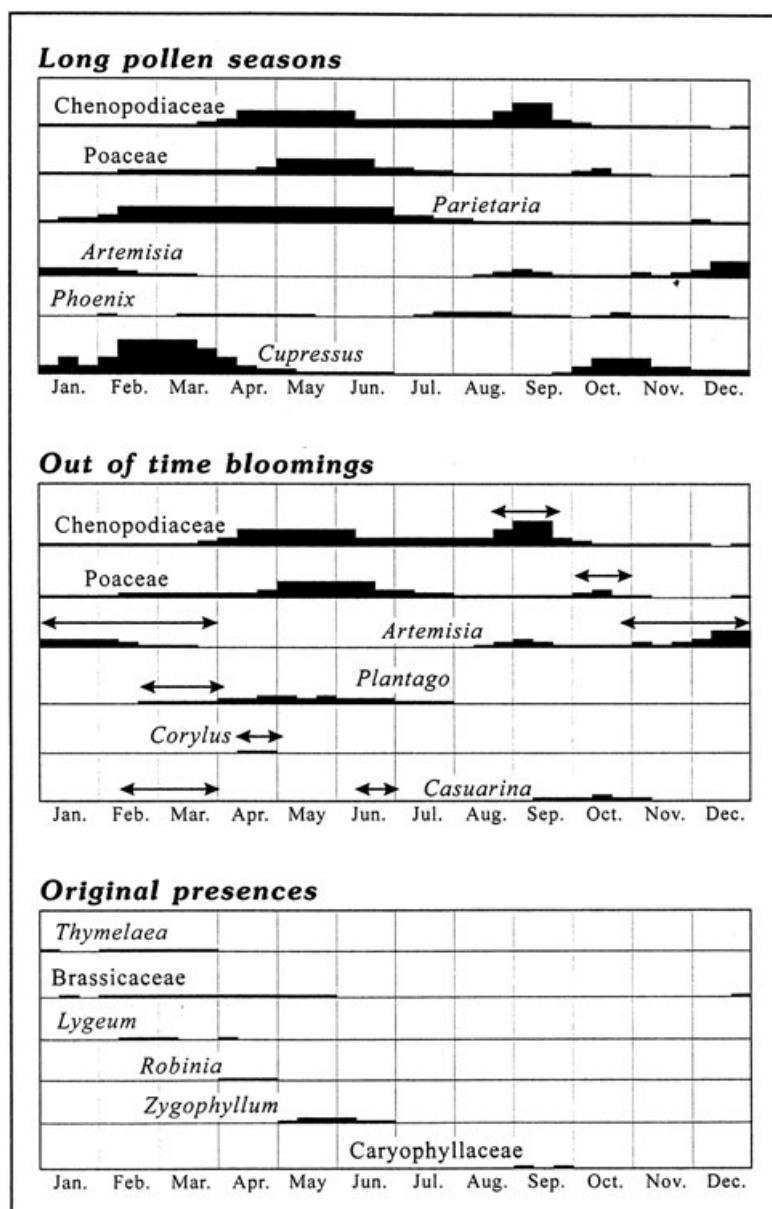


Figure 1. Partial pollen calendars for the city of Murcia. Arrows indicate the highly unseasonal blooming periods.