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Role of Bioaerosol in Causing Allergic Infections

Sujatha Uram¹, Dr. D.Sharada²,

¹Research Scholar, Dept. of Biotechnology, JNTUH, ²Professor Dept. of Bioinformatics Osmania University.

Abstract: Bioaerosols are particles which may be biological origin like microbes, plants, animals etc., or may be artificial like house dust, organic waste etc., Most of the bio aerosols host on humans and moist places. Size of bio aerosol particles varies from below 1 μm to 100 μm in aerodynamic diameter. Indoor bio aerosols may originate from outdoor air and indoor reservoirs. Major sources of bacteria and viruses are humans and pets-sneezing, coughing, dander and saliva. Fungi, many bacteria, protozoa, algae and green plants (pollen) are present outdoors that are induced indoors by natural or mechanical ventilation. Bio aerosols induce into human body by inhalation or by deposition on wounds. Other common health effects of Bioaerosols are Viral: infections such as Common cold, Influenza, Measles, Bronchitis, Fungal – Histoplasmosis, Coccidio mycosis and Blast mycosis and Antigens: Allergic diseases of Hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP) Allergic asthma, Rhinitis and Pergolesi's Control Strategies include -After identifying the airborne microorganisms the source can either be eliminated or its strength can be reduced. Preventive maintenance is one the most effective ways to control the aerosols indoors, immunotherapy is considered to be one of the effective treatments for patients suffering from severe allergic reactions. Airsampling² methods have been used in the present study, to understand the amount of aerosols spread in various locations in Hyderabad and also its impact studies on allergic³ patients.

Keywords: Bio aerosols, Air sampling, Allergy

I. INTRODUCTION

Allergy is hypersensitive reaction caused by many kinds of agents. These agents are called 'allergens' and the condition to which they take a human into is called as allergic condition or we simply say that the person has allergy or we may even say that the person is allergic to a particular allergen. Allergy is a hypersensitivity disorder of the immune system. Allergic reactions occur to normally harmless environmental substances known as allergens; these reactions are acquired, predictable, and rapid. Strictly, allergy is one of four forms of hypersensitivity and is called type I (or immediate) hypersensitivity. It is characterized by excessive activation of certain white blood cells called mast cells and basophils by a type of antibody known as IgE, resulting in an extreme inflammatory response. Type I Hypersensitivity is also known as immediate or anaphylactic hypersensitivity. Anaphylaxis typically produces many different symptoms over minutes or hours. (Figure 1) Symptoms typically include raised bumps on the skin (Figure 0; hives), itchiness, red face or skin (flushing), or swollen lips. Anaphylaxis can be caused by the body's response to almost any foreign substance. Common triggers include venom from insect bites or stings, foods, and medication. Foods are the most common trigger in children and young adults. Medications and insect bites and stings are more common triggers in older adults. Less common causes include physical factors, biological agents (such as semen), latex, hormonal changes, food additives (e.g. monosodium glutamate (MSG) and food coloring), and medications that are applied to the skin (topical medications). Exercise or temperature (either hot or cold) may also trigger anaphylaxis by causing tissue cells known as mast cells to release chemicals that start the allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that starts suddenly and affects many body systems. It results from the release of inflammatory mediators and cytokines from mast cells and basophiles. This release is typically associated with an immune system reaction, but may also be caused by damage to cells that are not related to an immune reaction. When anaphylaxis is caused by an immune response, immunoglobulin E (IgE) binds to the foreign material that starts the allergic reaction (the antigen). The combination of IgE bound to the antigen activates Fc & RI receptors on mast cells and basophiles. The mast cells and basophiles react by releasing inflammatory mediators such as histamine. These mediators increase the contraction of bronchial smooth muscles, causing blood vessels to widen (vasodilatation), increase the leakage of fluid from blood vessels, and depress the actions of the heart muscle. There is also an immunologic mechanism that does not rely on IgE, but it is not known if this occurs in humans. When anaphylaxis is not caused by in immune response, the reaction is due to an agent that directly damages mast cells and basophiles, causing them to release histamine and other substances that are usually associated with an allergic reaction (degranulation). Agents that can damage these cells include contrast medium for X-rays, opioids, temperature (hot or cold), and vibration. A variety of tests now exist to diagnose allergic conditions; these include testing the skin for response to know allergens or analyzing the blood for the presence and levels of allergen specific IgE. Treatments for allergies include allergens include

allergen avoidance, use of antihistamines, steroids or other oral medications, immunotherapy to desensitize the response to allergen, and targeted therapy.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In Hyderabad the research is also carried out in Kapra Lake, Safilguda Lake and Tank bund in which showed a high concentration of spores of *Alternaria*, *Aspergillus* etc., and this work was carried out by Ramachander Rao and his students in 2009. Research is carried out in Hyderabad on “Clinical approach to indoor and outdoor mold spores in causing allergy” and had found 37 types of spores of *Aspergillus*, *Alternaria*, *Tourna*, *Trachoma*’s, *Nigrospora* etc., this work was carried by Ramachander Rao and his students in 2001. In 2007 Alias As if Ali as conducted aerobiological experiments in a semi indoor environment and isolated 32 different genera of fungi. Venkata Sai Krishna (2008) attempted an analysis of fungal bio aerosol in a semi indoor type vegetable market in Malkajgiri Hyderabad and isolated 25 different fungal spore types. In 2009 several investigators have conducted experiments in different geographical locations. Kedarinath (2009) studied airborne pollen concentration in an indoor environment. Srikanth Reddy (2009) studied pollen bio aerosols in Malkajgiri. Vine Kumar attempted pollen bio aerosols analysis of Sufilguda area. Nikhil (2009) estimated the airborne pollen concentration of the Husain Sager (Tank Bund) lake. Phaninder (2009) has studied the aeromycoflora of Kara lake area and its relevance to public area, where as pollen analysis was made by Reith (2009). Vijay Krishna Kulkarni (2009) has isolated fungal aerosols from the atmosphere of popular Husainsager (Tank Bund) lake. In 2012, research was carried out in patients house on “Viable aero plankton indoors and their role in causing allergy” by Ramachander Rao and his students, and found that overall spore concentration was far higher in patients house as compared to the controls house. In a very recent study, Habeeb Ahmed and Abdul Razed (2013) have isolated a different fungal spore types from the houses of allergic patients. Lakkaraju Aparna, K. Mythili, Mr. Venkata Ratnam & Mrs. Sujatha Uram- Worked on the Air Quality Analysis in the city of Hyderabad (2015), the work was published in International Journal of Research and Innovation (IJRI).

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

To trap the bio aerosols, the following methods are usually employed -

Rotor air sampler

Culture plate exposure

Tape lifts sampling

Rotor air sampler:

Perkins (1957) developed a battery operated Rotorod sampler sampling at constant rotational speed since the efficiency of stationary impact or sampler is low and highly variable, the rotating impact or has been advantageously used. The collecting arms of this model are made up of brass having 0.159cm cross sectional area. It is in square shape and slightly bent inwards. The vertical arms are 6cm long and 4cm wide from the axis. According to Gregory (1951), this width should give more than 60-70% efficiency of deposition for 20um diameter spores at wind speed about 4m.p.h. The model employs miniature D.C motor with controlled speed of the type used for recorders. With the rods in proper position, the motor gives about 23,000rpm.

A. Collection Efficiency

The model has been tested for efficiency and it shows 85% efficiency. The sampling efficiency for particles greater than 15µm is 100%. Wind speed has little effect in the efficiency drag and load on the motor. The Rotorod tested by carter (1965) showed 60-90% efficiency. The Restored sampler is used for short period sampling up to 2 hours. The sampler is volumetric and highly efficient. The efficiency is not affected at even high wind speed.

B. Mountains medium used and its preparation

Glycerin jelly was used as the mutant, which has the best optical properties in visual examination. The composition and preparation of this are as follows

Table1: Composition of Glycerine jelly

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY
Gelatin	40gm
Glycerin	120gm
Distilled water	140ml
Phenol crystals	0.5gm

C. Scanning

The scanning of slides was done regularly after the preparation of slides. The conversion factor of the sampler is 5. For example, if the total number of fungal spores types are 20 for the total catch, the n the total number of fungal spores/m³ of air= 5*20=100/m³ of air. Assuming the taping efficiency to be 75% with the help of conversion factor, we can easily estimate the fungal spore concentration per meter cube of air. The constant factor is irrespective of locality, season and weather. All the time described in the work is given in Indian Standard Time (IST).



Figure1: Rotorod Sampler

D. Procedure

The samples were collected from the patient’s homes by using the Rotorod sampler.

Sample collection method	Duration of operation/ exposure
Rotorod sampler	30-45min

The sample were collected and then mounted and analysed under the microscope.

E. Method of sampling

The air sampler experiments were conducted by operating the Rotorod sampler in the patient’s house. The Rotorod sampler was kept at variable height of 2-4 feet from the ground level. The transparent cello tape fixed on the two arms coated with white

petroleum jelly acts as adhesive, which permits the particles from the air to stick on the surface of the tape. The tape was changed after each sampling. The slides were prepared as described earlier and mounting was done with the help of mounting medium.

F. Collection of The Sample At Different Geographical Locations

The city major public junctions were selected as peoples have been suffers from various allergies that they have reported of various allergies and the cause was at to be known even after they consulted the doctor. We felt responsible and collected the sample from city major public junctions. So that awareness can be created in they and they can avoid from getting in contact with the spore types to which they are allergic Here site 1 is represented as S1; site 2 is represented as S2; site 3 is represented as S3;site 4 is represented as S4,site5 is represented as S5,site 6 represented as S6,site7 represented as S7,site 8 represented as S8,site 9 represented as S9,site 10 represented as S10.

Sampling Sites Selected in Hyderabad city

S.No.	Site	Place
1	S1	Mahatma Gandhi Bus Stand
2	S2	Abids
3	S3	Charminar
4	S4	Uppal
5	S5	Dilsukhnagar
6	S6	RTC cross roads
7	S7	Paradise
8	S8	Panjagutta
9	S9	Ameerpet
10	S10	Kukatpally

IV. RESULTS

In the present investigation we have selected outdoor habitat for analyzing the various bio aerosol concentration. Outdoor habitats have been considered as the potential harbors of allergic material. Therefore, an attempt has been made in the present investigation to find out the role of outdoor airport in causing various allergies. Ten sites (named S1 to S10) have been selected for conducting outdoor aerobiological survey to ascertain the role of outdoor fungi and pollen in and around Hyderabad. Samples were collected from ten major junctions at regular intervals from 1st April to 30th september; altogether 180 samples were collected from the ten sites.

The fungal spores identified in the outdoor air at S1 to S10 are tabulated below

Zygomycota	Ascomycota	Basidiomycota	Deuteromycota	Others
Cunninghamella	Ascospores Didymosphaeria Melanospora Parodiella Pleospora Sordaria	Rust spore Smut Spore	Alternaria Bispora Cladosporium Circenella Curvularia Diplodia Epicoccum Haplosporella Helminthosporium Heterosporium Humicola	Hyphal Fragments Plant Trichomes Insect scales Grass pollen Parthenium pollen

			Nigrospora Papularia Periconia Pithomyces Tetracosporium Torula	
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Table-10a: Date and time of sample collection along with weather conditions at S10

S.N O	Date of Sample collected	Time of Sample collected	Temperature(C)	Humidity (%)	Rainfal l	Sky condition	Air condition
1	20-04-2014	02:05 PM	37	18	No	Clear	Calm
2	24-04-2014	01:09 PM	37	23	No	Clear	Calm
3	14-05-2014	03:20 PM	35	34	No	Clear	Calm
4	19-05-2014	02:00 PM	41	23	No	Clear	Windy
5	22-05-2014	11:50 AM	35	31	No	Clear	Calm
6	26-05-2014	12:30 PM	38	29	No	Clear	Windy
7	19-06-2014	11:30 AM	36	36	No	Clear	Calm
8	22-06-2014	12:40 PM	37	31	No	Clear	Windy
9	26-06-2014	11:45 AM	34	34	No	Clear	Windy
10	30-06-2014	12:03 PM	38	28	No	Clear	Windy
11	05-07-2014	11:15 AM	39	40	No	Clear	Calm
12	08-07-2014	11:40 AM	51	35	No	Clear	Calm
13	16-08-2014	11:50 AM	38	38	No	Clear	Windy
14	23-08-2014	11:50 AM	39	61	Yes	Cloudy	Windy
15	28-08-2014	11:45 AM	37	69	Yes	Cloudy	Windy
16	01-09-2014	12:43 PM	38	38	Yes	Cloudy	Windy
17	14-09-2014	11.34AM	35	42	No	Clear	Calm
18	18-09-2014	11.50AM	37	45	No	Cloudy	Windy

S.No	Fungal Spore Name	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Total	%
	Zygomycotina								
1	Cunninghamella	0	0	0	0	0	90	90	1
	Ascomycotina								
2	Ascospores	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	0.4
3	Didymosphaeria	0	0	0	0	0	90	90	1
4	Parodiella	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	0.4
5	Pleospora	25	45	0	0	120	65	255	3
	Basidiomycotina								
6	Rust spore	10	40	15	0	60	75	200	2.3
7	Smut spore	125	65	15	100	250	175	730	8.6
	Deuteromycotina								
8	Alternaria	105	220	270	165	210	120	1090	12.8
9	Bispora	10	25	25	25	125	80	290	3.4
10	Cladosporium	0	0	20	80	425	330	855	10.1
11	Curvularia	20	55	80	40	125	175	495	5.8
12	Diplodia	15	25	0	0	95	150	285	3.3
13	Epicoccum	10	35	35	0	50	20	150	1.7
14	Haplosporella	0	0	0	0	35	170	205	2.4
15	Helminthosporium	0	5	0	50	125	190	370	4.3
16	Humicola	5	10	25	25	100	95	260	3
17	Nigrospora	15	20	40	0	135	25	235	2.7
18	Papularia	15	15	0	0	90	110	230	2.7
19	Periconia	0	0	0	25	235	205	465	5.4
20	Pithomyces	0	0	0	10	125	50	185	2.1
21	Tetracoccosporium	0	0	0	0	20	55	75	0.8
22	Torula	0	0	0	0	35	110	145	1.7
	Others								
23	Hyphal fragment	70	175	125	70	155	185	780	9.2
24	Insect scale	20	80	50	30	10	0	190	2.2
25	Planttrichome	90	130	125	20	120	135	620	7.3
26	Grass pollen	0	20	10	0	40	20	90	1
27	Parthenium pollen	0	10	0	0	5	0	15	0.1
	Total	535	975	835	640	2690	2790	8465	
	%	6.3	11.5	9.8	7.5	31.7	32.9		100%

Figure10 A: Graphical representation of fungal spore concentration in S10 from Table 10b: Month wise variation in the concentration of fungal spores/m³ of air at S10 from April to September 2014

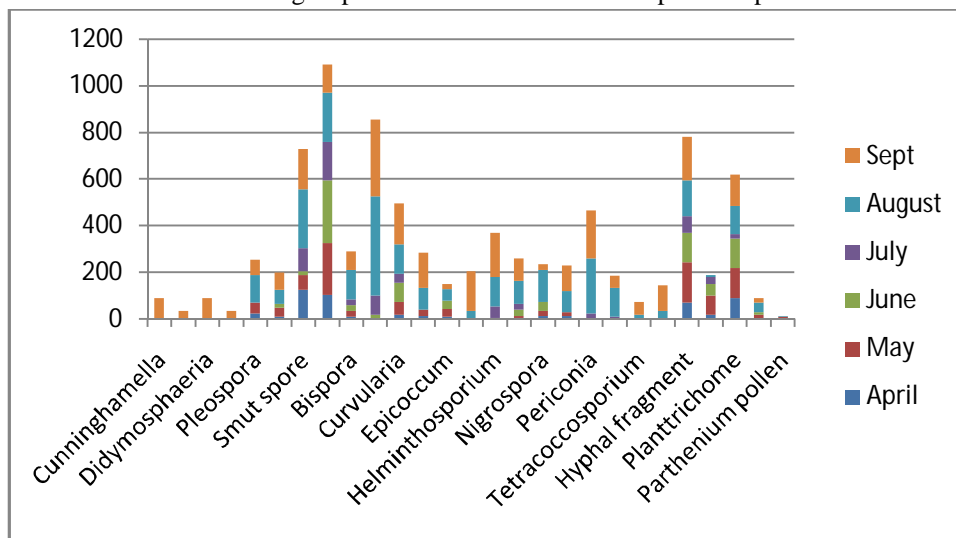
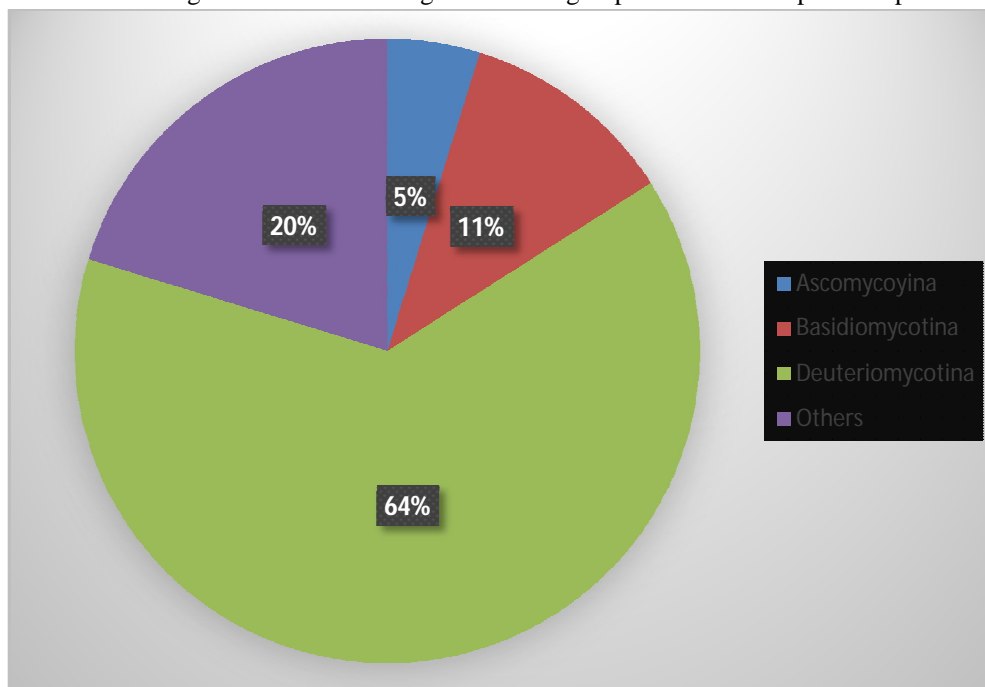


Figure10 B: Percentage contribution of fungal and other groups at S10 from April to September 2014.



V. CONCLUSION

There is a huge variation in predominance of allergens from region to region in allergic disorders with the fact that there are topographical variations in nature. In our present study air samples were obtained by using Rotorod sampler. *Alternaria* and *Cladosporium* was the most dominant spore types trapped in the air of the major junction of Hyderabad, Outdoor fungal concentrations were highest in Mahatma Gandhi bus stand, Charmer, Up pal, Dilsukhnagar while the lowest value was detected in kukatpally. From April to June, *Cladosporium* spp. was predominant in July, *Cladosporium* and *Alternaria* were equally predominant, and in August and September *Alternaria* spp. was predominant. Which are known and established allergens among fungal group which are also associated with skin allergy, Sinusitis and allergic Rhinitis.



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