



Isolation of *Trichophyton concentricum* from chronic cutaneous lesions in patients from the Solomon Islands

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Résumé en anglais	<p><i>Tinea imbricata</i>, also known as 'Tokelau', is an uncommon superficial mycosis caused by the anthropophilic dermatophyte <i>Trichophyton concentricum</i>. Cutaneous lesions appear characteristically as scaly and concentric rings that may cover all parts of the body. Often acquired in childhood, <i>tinea imbricata</i> is a chronic disease and lichenification is extremely common due to pruritus. The dermatophytosis mainly occurs in the South Pacific, but also in some regions of Southeast Asia and Central or South America. <i>Tinea imbricata</i> usually affects people living in primitive and isolated conditions. Mycological analysis is required for the diagnosis. The epidemiological and mycological study reported here took place in the Solomon Islands from June–September 2006. Skin scrapings were collected from 29 Melanesian patients (aged 8 months to 58 years) with chronic cutaneous lesions and were analysed mycologically in the Laboratory of Parasitology and Mycology of Angers University Hospital (France). Ten patients showed very evocative lesions with a positive direct examination, but <i>T. concentricum</i> was only isolated from three patients. Identification of the strains was confirmed by sequencing of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions. With the increase in international travel, one cannot disregard that this very rare species may be isolated by mycologists in temperate areas from patients coming from endemic foci.</p>
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Liens

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