

The first survey of geophilic dermatophyte species conducted in the Lesser Antilles showed *Microsporum gypseum* to be the only dermatophyte present in Barbadian soil. This finding supported even further the global ubiquity of the dermatophyte.

There was an absence of other common geophilic species e.g. *Microsporum cookei* and *Trichophyton ajelloi* although a soil enrichment technique was used to aid recovery. Reasons put forward for their absence were edaphic factors and a certain degree of soil homogeneity due to a coral cap covering almost the entire bed rock of the island.

A survey of zoophilic species revealed a low level of dermatophyte infection among the animal population, *Microsporum canis* being the predominant animal pathogen. Larger animals were found to be rarely infected by dermatophytes, whereas smaller animals, especially cats and dogs, appeared to be more susceptible.

The results of a simian survey indicated that these animals were not carriers of dermatophytes and therefore could play no role in the spread of dermatophytes in nature.

The predominant anthropophilic dermatophyte species isolated were *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* and *Epidermophyton floccosum*.

*T. mentagrophytes* appeared to be the main causal agent of athlete's foot, a prevalent mycosis among well-shod individuals. Residents in rural areas were more free from dermatophyte infections than those in urban areas.

There were no isolations of the non-dermatophyte *Hendersonula toruloidea*.

No dermatophytes were recovered from the bath-floors of public conveniences and beach facilities. The absence of wooden slats and regular maintenance of these facilities were some reasons put forward for non-recovery although it is still possible that dermatophytes may be carried on these floors.

The few species encountered and the low incidence of infection among man and animals did not suggest that dermatophytes were a public health problem at the time of study.