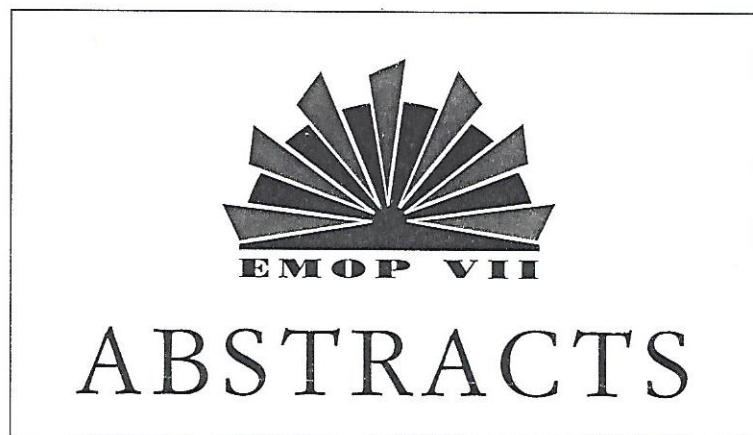


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HUMAN DEMODECOSIS: PREVALENCE OF *DEMODEX BREVIS* AKBULATOVA IN SUBJECTS WITH SEBORRHOEIC ALOPECIA

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Principato et al. (1995,1996) have recently demonstrated that scalp demodecosis in subjects suffering from seborrhoeic alopecia is a recurrent condition and that *Demodex brevis* and *Demodex folliculorum* act as carriers of bacteria. In the human alopecic scalp *D. folliculorum* and *D. brevis* can be found, associated in the pilosebaceous components, respectively at the level of the hair follicles and of the sebaceous glands. Reported herein is the result of a survey carried out on 46 subjects positive for scalp demodecosis: n.18 were affected by heavy seborrhoeic alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII of Hamilton's scale (1951), n.13 were affected by seborrhoeic alopecia of type V and n.15 showed a light loss of hair and an anomalous sebaceous hypersecretion (alopecia of the types III,IV). From this study it resulted that: 1) in subjects with alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII, *D.brevis* was the prevailing species (from 80% to 100% of the parasite population); 2) in subjects with alopecia of type V, two different situations were revealed in relation to the age of the individuals: a) in those up to 22/25 years old, *D. brevis* was always prevailing; b) in those 40 years old or more, *D. folliculorum* was prevailing or the two species were present with very low and similar percentages; 3) Two situations were present also in subjects with a light loss of hair (alopecia of the types III,IV): a) in those aged 18/22, one of two species prevailed on the other; b) those in an age range of 35-45 years showed the prevalence of *D. folliculorum*. After some years' study on the evolution of this parasitosis in some subjects with different parasitic prevalences, we can emphasise that seborrhoeic alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII is reached only when in the scalp *D. brevis* is originally prevailing, whereas when *D. folliculorum* is prevailing, hair is thinning or is lost only partially. This datum can be of great interest to reveal precociously the evolution of seborrhoeic alopecia in young people starting losing their hair. Mites of *Demodex* genus are not the only cause of seborrhoeic alopecia, but certainly they represent an important element in the pathogenic process leading to the complete loss of hair. Even if the seborrhoeic alopecia is, as commonly believed, of genetic origin, the role of *D. brevis* could be at least to make that hereditary process heavier and complete.