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PARASITOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON CRONICAL PERIORAL  
DERMATITIS IN WOMEN CAUSED BY DEMODEX BREVIS

Principato M., Polidori G.A.

Istituto di Parassitologia, Facoltà di Medicina Veterinaria, Via  
S. Costanzo 4, 06100 Perugia, Italy.

During a parasitological survey on human demodicosis, three cases of infestation by Demodex brevis were recorded in three women's perioral region showing seborrhea, follicular dilatation and slight hypertrichosis. The three women were examined every two months for a year, removing the parasites by squeezing the dilated follicles. In the nasal and frontal regions the presence of Demodex folliculorum was also noticed. On the basis of the material removed from the skin of the perioral region, we could reconstruct the biological cycle of D. brevis, relating it to the skin pathologic state. Although the number of mites was always low, from mid-August to mid-October an increase in their number and the presence of their eggs and immature stages were observed. Between December and January, even if the number of mites had decreased significantly, rare eggs of the parasite were still noticed. From February to June only adult females of D. brevis were observed. During the mites' reproductive period, a great skin sensibility was clinically observed, characterized by a clear tendency to the formation of furuncles, a heavier greasiness and accentuation of skin furrowing. Hence, the skin look and, in our opinion, even the unusual hypertrichosis in the perioral region could be related to the presence of parasite's very active immature stages. In any case, it is to be pointed out that the perioral skin pathological state concerns nearly only women and this fact leads to seriously reflect on the host's possible ormonal influence on the anatomical distribution of these parasites.