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Macroscopic Findings of *Talaromyces scorteus*

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Talaromyces scorteus is a species of the genus *Talaromyces*, family Trichocomaceae, order Eurotiales, class Eurotiomycetes, division Ascomycota[1]. The genus *Talaromyces* was described by Benjamin in 1955 as a sexual state of *Penicillium* that produces soft walled ascomata covered with interwoven hyphae[3]. It is a mold in the environment and a yeast in the tissues at 37℃[2]. The yeast divides by septation and not budding in contrast to most other dimorphic fungi[3]. It is endemic in rural areas in most South Eastern Asian countries[1].

On Saboraud Dextrose Agar after incubation at 25℃ for 2 weeks, *T. scorteus* colonies mature rapidly and are flat, white colored, and texture ranges from wooly to cottony. The colonies become "Mugwort" color to dark green colored with age (Fig. 1A). The color of the colony is white initially but darkens to dark green with maturity on the reverse side (Fig. 1B). There was no exudates and soluble pigment.

This specimen came from patient who is diagnosed malassezia folliculitis. To identify the exact strain of fungus, sequencing was performed with internal transcribed spacer region isolated from the colonies. This sequence was 100% identical with *T. scorteus*. Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) search showed that the most similar strain was *T. scorteus*.

Talaromyces species are commonly considered nonpatho-

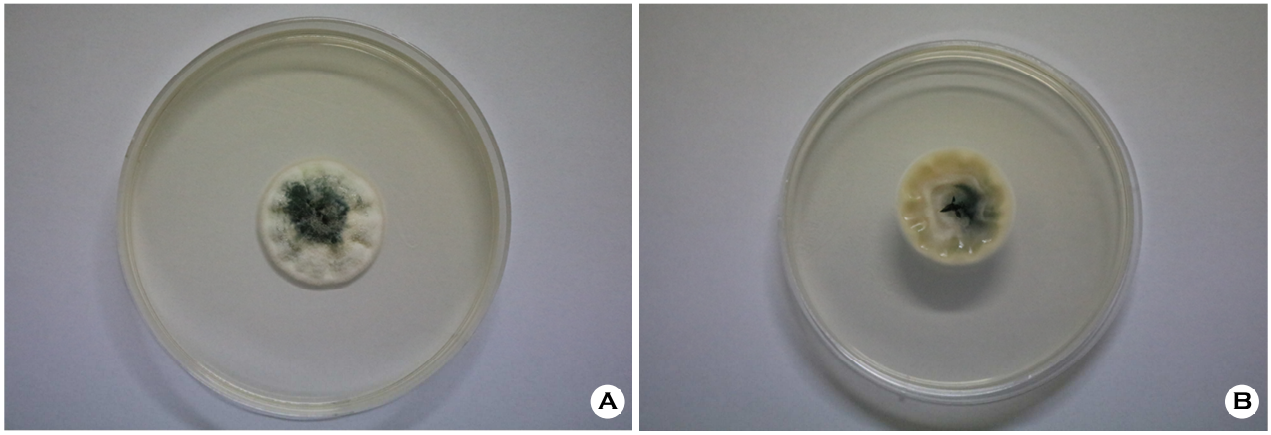

Fig. 1. (A) On Saboraud Dextrose Agar after incubation at 25℃ for 2 weeks, *T. scorteus* colonies mature rapidly and are flat, white colored, and texture ranges from wooly to cottony. (B) The color of the colony is white initially but darkens to dark green with maturity on the reverse side.

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genic laboratory contaminants that are widely found in nature[1]. If these fungi were shown on patient's specimen, several cultures and exact identification should be done.

Key Words: Laboratory contaminants, *Talaromyces scorteus*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In relation to this article, we declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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