ISOLATION OF Trichophyton mentagrophytes FROM FAVUS IN A GROUSE 1

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The head and neck of a sharp-tailed grouse *(Pedioecetes phasianellus)*, collected in Washabaugh County, South Dakota, were submitted to the diagnostic laboratory for mycologic examination. Dry, yellow lesions 0.4 cm. to 1.3 cm. in diameter were observed on the skin of the neck; smaller lesions were located on the nictitating membrane. Similar lesions were observed on four other male grouse collected from the same breeding ground. Portions of the lesions cultured on Mycobiotic agar[2] incubated at room temperature produced colonies of organisms identified as *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*. This dermatophyte is considered to be an etiological agent of ringworm disease in man and animals.

Patiala (Papers on Game Res., 6: 43, 1961) reported a mycotic disease (favus) in a black-grouse *(Tetra tetrix)* population of Finland. *T. gallinae* was cultured on Sabouraud's dextrose agar inoculated with material from featherless lesions on the neck. This was the first recorded isolation of *T. gallinae* from wild fowl, although it had been recovered from chickens with favus (Beach and Halpin, J. of Agr. Res., 15: 415, 1918; King, Agr. Gaz. N.S. Wales, 57: 499-500, 1946; Londero, Fischman and Olivier, Sabouraudia, 3: 233-234, 1964), and turkeys with favus (Menges and Georg, Vet. Med., 50: 293, 1955). *Trichophyton gallopavum*, a dermatophyte similar to *T. mentagrophytes* and *T. gallinae*, has been isolated from turkeys with favus in France (Metinau, Lucais and Drouhet, Mycopath. Et. Mycolog. Appl., 30: 22-30, 1966). *Microsporum gypseum*, a geophilic dermatophyte, has been reported as a cause of favus in fowl (Londero, et al., Sabouraudia, 3: 233-234, 1964). Another geophilic dermatophyte, *T. terrestre*, was isolated from feathers of blackbirds *(Turdus merula)*, which exhibited no signs of favus (Pugh, Sabouraudia, 3: 275-278, 1964).

To our knowledge, this report is the first recorded isolation of *T. mentagrophytes* from favus in wild or domestic fowl.

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[2] Difco Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan.

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