

EXTRACELLULAR PEPTIDASES FROM *COCCIDIOIDES IMMITIS* (*C. POSADASII*) AND *PSEUDALLESCHERIA BOYDII*: REACTIVITY OF CULTURE FILTRATES WITH SERUM FROM PSEUDALLESCHERIOSE'S PATIENT

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C. immitis (newly *C. posadasii*) is a fungus which cause human disease (coccidioidomycosis). It is endemic in the Southwest of the EUA, where 1000,000 new cases occur annually. It is also present in Mexico, Central and South America. Human infection begins through spores inhalation by immunocompetent and immunocompromised hosts. In Brazil, cases have been described in Northeast, in armadillo hunters, and deaths are also observed. *P. boydii* is found in soil and water. It is known to cause human mycetoma and it has been described as an emergent pathogen. In this work, extracellular peptidases of both emergent human pathogens have been analysed to verify its potential use in serodiagnosis. Zymograms from *C. immitis* and *P. boydii* culture filtrates, using gelatin as substrate, demonstrated that peptidases are present at 24KDa (*C. immitis*) and 24 and 16KDa (*P. boydii*). Antigenic analysis using ELISA, showed that culture filtrate of *P. boydii* growth in Czapek medium reacted strongly with serum from patient with pseudoallescheriose (1/1600). We did not observe cross-reactivity between *P. boydii* and *C. immitis* with this serum. Antigenic studies using *C. immitis* culture filtrates and serum from patient infected with this fungus are in progress.

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