A PRELIMINAR PROTEOMIC STUDY OF THE MAIN ANTIGENIC FRACTION OF *Sporothrix schenckii*

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We had previously identified a main antigenic fraction, *Ss*CBF, on the cell wall of the dimorphic pathogenic fungus, *Sporothrix schenckii.* This complex fraction has been applied for the serodiagnosis of all clinical forms of sporotrichosis exhibiting a high sensitivity and specificity in an ELISA test. In the present work we studied the *Ss*CBF fraction by 2-D electrophoresis in order to determine the protein profile of this antigen. As *Ss*CBF is composed by a highly glycosylated component, as observed by 1-DGE, it resulted on a poor focusing. For this reason we have further purified the *Ss*CBF fraction by TCA/Acetone precipitation (*Ss*CBFppt). After this procedure we obtained an improvement on the resolution of the 2DE maps. In order to analyze if this procedure leaded to a lost of reactivity with patient's sera, we have performed a comparative ELISA assay with both preparations. There was no difference in the reactivity of either *Ss*CBF or *Ss*CBFppt with sera of patients with sporotrichosis. Furthermore, after TCA/Acetona precipitation the level of cross-reactivity with serum of patients with histoplamosis and aspergillosis decreased. We are starting an immunoproteome study to seek for specific markers within *Ss*CBFppt with a prospective diagnostic value.

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