

TITLE: KERATOMYCOSIS CAUSED BY *Candida albicans* IN TOUCAN: A CASE REPORT

AUTHORS: VIANNA, M. V. M.; JANSEN, M. G. S.; OLIVEIRA, A. A.; COUTINHO, L.O.; MELO, D. A.; TAVARES, R. D. O.; BASTOS, I. P. B.; BARUEL, C. V.; ABREU, D. P. B.; BARONI, F. A.

INSTITUTION: UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL RURAL DO RIO DE JANEIRO (RODOVIA BR 465, KM 7, S/N, ZONA RURAL DE SEROPÉDICA, RJ, CEP 23890-000).

ABSTRACT:

Keratomycosis are corneal infections caused by fungus from the conjunctival microbiota or from the environment, following trauma or preexisting bacterial infection. The aim of this study was to report a case of keratomycosis in toucan caused by *Candida albicans*. On March 2017 a Toucan, Toco breed, 4 months old, was attended by the Ophthalmology Service of the Veterinary Hospital of the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro. The animal presented a mild blepharospasm, central superficial neovascularization on the corneal axis and a solution of continuity with exposure of the anterior stroma to the left eye, characterizing a superficial stromal ulcerative keratitis process. The treatment was instituted with ciprofloxacin-based eye drops every 8 hours and Maxican 0.2% each 24 hours for 3 days. The solution of continuity of corneal surface was collected with sterile swab for bacterial and fungal identification, as well as to antimicrobial susceptibility test. The sample was inoculated in Blood Agar, Azide Blood Agar and Sabouraud Dextrose Agar, at 37° C. A generous growth of white, cream, shiny and high convex colonies in two days was observed. The microscopy of the colonies revealed only yeast purple-blue cells whit the Gram-stain, and a microscopy of the colonies that emerged on Sabouraud medium showed pseudohyphae with blastoconidia. To identify, the yeast was inoculated in CHROMagar Candida® medium, the auxanogram test and also to the Candfast® system, which revealed respectively green color, and the last two tests presented an assimilatory profile compatible with the *Candida albicans* specie. This species is part of the normal microbiota of birds but is considered as an opportunistic pathogen. There are not reports of keratomycosis in birds. Patient returned for reassessment with 15 days and was observed reduction of the lesion. Keratomycosis regressed without antifungal treatment, reinforcing opportunistic characteristic of the agent. After 21 days the lesion presented healing.

Keywords: yeast, birds, microbiota, ophthalmology