

News Alert!!!

FIRST case report of plant fungus-caused disease in human

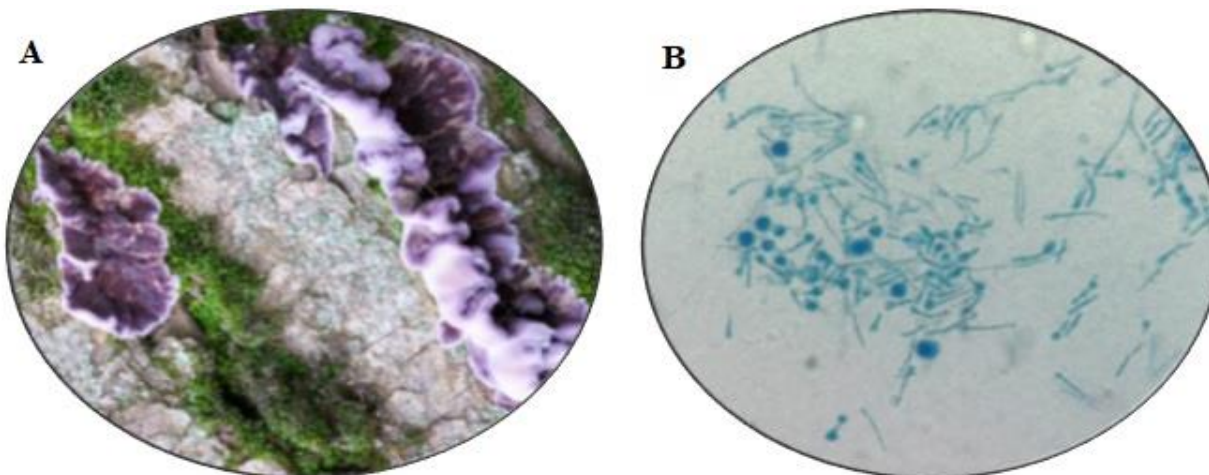


Fig A: *Chondrostereum purpureum* (Silverleaf Fungus) on the bark of a tree in the forest

Fig B: Round and tubular fungal elements shown on Lactophenol Cotton Blue mount preparation

Human infection by phytopathogens, has recently emerged. Paratracheal abscess caused by *Chondrostereum purpureum*, a plant fungus (causing silver leaf disease of plants), caused disease in a human.

A 61-year-old immunocompetent male (a plant mycologist by profession) from Kolkata, India, presented with hoarseness of voice, cough, recurrent pharyngitis, fatigue, difficulty in swallowing and anorexia, without any history of diabetes, HIV infection, renal or any chronic disease, immunosuppressive drug intake, or trauma. CT scan of the neck demonstrated the presence of a right paratracheal abscess. Conventional techniques (microscopy and culture) failed to identify the fungus. It was identified as *Chondrostereum purpureum* by **DNA sequencing**. Recurrent exposure to decaying material may be the cause of this rare infection. The infection was treated with complete drainage of the pus followed by oral voriconazole and recovered.

This case highlights the potential of environmental plant fungi to cause disease in humans and stresses the importance of molecular techniques to identify the causative fungal species.

Crossover of plant pathogen(fungi) into humans when working in close contact raised a serious alarm.

Source: Dutta S, Ray U. Paratracheal abscess by plant fungus *Chondrostereum purpureum*- first case report of human infection. *Med Mycol Case Rep.* 2023;40:30-32.