

# PATTERNS OF RHINOSPORIDIOSIS IN SRI LANKA: COMPARISON WITH INTERNATIONAL DATA

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**Abstract.** One hundred forty-three cases of rhinosporidiosis, confirmed by smear or biopsy, treated in two major General Hospitals in Sri Lanka over a 14 year period (1995 - 2009) were analyzed in regard to their epidemiological, clinical, clinico-pathological, immunological and microbiological features. Regional variations in incidence, age and sex distribution, bathing history, and histopathology were seen. Lacustrine waters were the commonest probable source of infection (84%). Rivers were a source of *Rhinosporidium seeberi* in Sri Lanka (11%) and domestic well water was a probable source in 5%. The epidemiological features, clinical presentations and histopathology were similar to those in other series. The antirhinosporidial antibody (mean) titers were IgM - 142.1 and IgG - 178.5, compatible with rhinosporidiosis of long duration. Mantoux positivity to PPD was found in 65% of normal Sri Lankans, by only 35% of patients with rhinosporidiosis. No outbreaks have been reported in Sri Lanka or India. No animal cases of rhinosporidiosis have been reported in Sri Lanka, although rhinosporidiosis in animals has been repeatedly documented in India.

**Key words:** human rhinosporidiosis, *R. seeberi*, epidemiology, clinico-pathology, immunological features, Sri Lanka

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