

DNA fingerprinting of ten different dermatophyte species using short single primer

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Dermatophytes are a group of closely related keratinophilic fungi that can invade keratinized human and animal tissues such as skin, hair and nail causing dermatophytosis. Superficial mycoses due to dermatophyte fungi had been among the most common communicable diseases in the population so it became crucial to identify these fungi to enable appropriate diagnosis and treatment. Conventional methods used to identify dermatophytes are often lengthy and may be inconclusive because of atypical microscopic or colonial morphology. One step PCR-based approach employing the simple repetitive oligonucleotide (CAGA)₄ was used in this study as a single primer for identification of dermatophyte species. This primer managed to produce species specific profile to ten different dermatophyte species.