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Review

Skin Reactions on Exposure to the Pine Processionary Caterpillar (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*)Manifestaciones cutÃ¡neas originadas por la oruga procesionaria del pino (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) â˜†

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Abstract

The pine processionary caterpillar is the larval form of the *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* moth. Mediterranean forests regularly suffer plagues of this insect, which has been moving north as a result of global warming. When the small urticating hairs that develop during the last 3 larval stages are shed and can become airborne. If they come in contact with skin, they can cause a variety of reactions, notably contact urticaria and papular rashes. Irritation can also occur if the hairs lodge in the mucosa of the conjunctiva or in the respiratory tract. Several cases of anaphylactic reactions have been reported in recent

years. Mechanical (irritative) mechanisms may be involved in the pathogenesis of lesions, or immunoglobulin E-mediated allergic hypersensitivity reactions may be implicated when the process is rapid, recurrent, and progressively more severe.

Resumen

La oruga procesionaria del pino es la forma larvaria del lepidÃ³ptero nocturno *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (*TP*). Supone una plaga forestal en los paÃses mediterrÃ¡neos y se estÃ¡ expandiendo hacia el norte de Europa por el calentamiento global. Durante sus tres Ãºltimos estadios larvarios presenta unos pelos urticantes de pequeÃ±o tamaÃ±o, que se desprenden con facilidad y pueden ser transportados por el viento. Estos pelos pueden producir distintas patologÃas, entre las que destaca la afectaciÃ³n cutÃ¡nea que se manifiesta fundamentalmente como urticaria de contacto y dermatitis papulosa. TambiÃ©n son capaces de clavarse e irritar la mucosa conjuntival y de penetrar en la vÃa respiratoria produciendo manifestaciones a este nivel. En los Ãºltimos aÃ±os se han descrito varios casos de reacciones anafilÃ¡cticas por este insecto.

Los mecanismos patogÃ©nicos implicados incluyen el mecÃ¡nico o irritativo y el alÃ©rgico por hipersensibilidad mediada por IgE, donde las reacciones son inmediatas, repetidas y progresivamente mÃ¡s graves.

Previous article

Next article

Keywords

Pine processionary caterpillar; *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*; Dermatitis; Urticaria

Palabras clave

Oruga procesionaria del pino; *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*; Dermatitis; Urticaria

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