

## **Abstract:**

Fungi are common in the eyes of animals that can cause disease in appropriate conditions and cause many problems for the animals as well as the production industry. Corneal fungal infection can also be caused by trauma to the epithelial barrier and by the entry of opportunistic fungi into the corneal collagen-rich stroma.

This study was conducted to evaluate the fungal flora of camel's eye in Zabol province. Samples were taken from 50 camels in two groups based on sex and age. At the end, 44 camels (88%) were infected with seven genera and three species of fungi. Isolates included *Aspergillus fumigatus* with 11 cases (22%), *Penicillium* with nine cases (18%), *Aspergillus flavus* with eight cases (16%), *Mucor* with six cases (12%), *Aspergillus niger* and *Rhizopus* each with three cases (6%), *Cladosporium* with two cases (4%) and *Absidia* and *Trichophyton* with one case (2%). Results showed that although the rate of infection was higher in camels older than 2 years (68.18%), statistical analysis of data did not show a significant relationship between age and sex with the percentage of isolated fungi ( $p > 0.5$ ).

Also, the results showed that fungal isolates in male camels were higher than female but significant difference between them was not observed ( $P = 0.11$ ).

The results of this study indicate that the specific climate conditions of the region can have an impact on the abundance of ocular fungi, especially wild desert animals.

**Keywords:** fungal isolates, Conjunctiva, camel, Zabol Province



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# **Evaluation of fungal isolates from Conjunctiva in healthy camels**

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