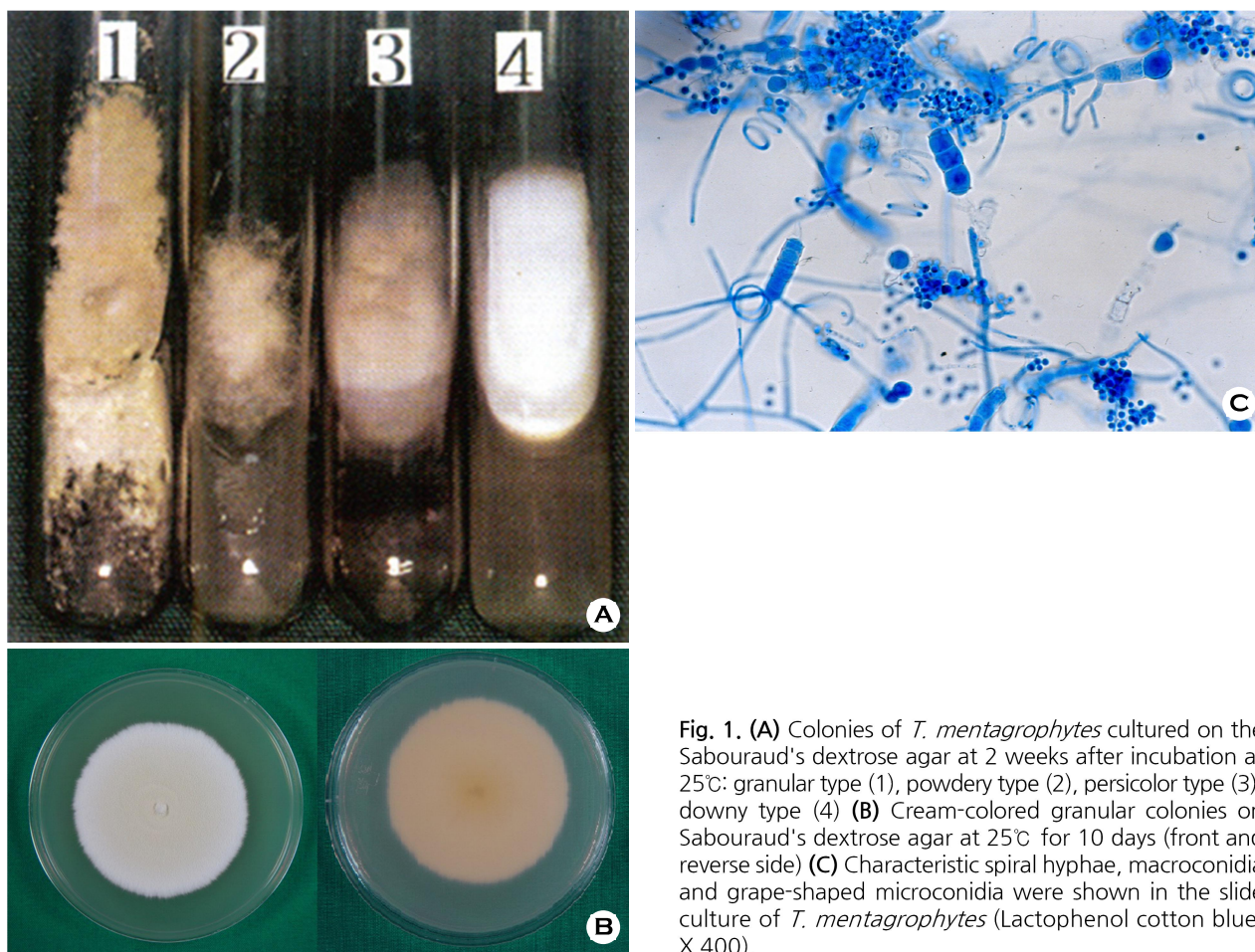


## Macroscopic and Microscopic Findings of *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*

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**Fig. 1.** (A) Colonies of *T. mentagrophytes* cultured on the Sabouraud's dextrose agar at 2 weeks after incubation at 25°C: granular type (1), powdery type (2), persicolor type (3), downy type (4) (B) Cream-colored granular colonies on Sabouraud's dextrose agar at 25°C for 10 days (front and reverse side) (C) Characteristic spiral hyphae, macroconidia and grape-shaped microconidia were shown in the slide culture of *T. mentagrophytes* (Lactophenol cotton blue, X 400).

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*Trichophyton (T.) mentagrophytes* species are common causative pathogens for human and animal dermatophytoses with variable morphology, ecologic and genetic backgrounds<sup>1,2</sup>. *T. mentagrophytes* causes tinea pedis, tinea unguium, and highly contagious tinea corporis and tinea capitis in human and tinea barbae is the classic form that presents mild to severe pustular folliculitis<sup>3</sup>. Anthrophilic strains of *T. mentagrophytes* are *T. mentagrophytes* var. *interdigitale*, *T. mentagrophytes* var. *nodulare*, *T. mentagrophytes* var. *goetzii*, and zoophilic strains of *T. mentagrophytes* are *T. mentagrophytes* var. *mentagrophytes*, *T. mentagrophytes* var. *granulosum* (rodents), *T. mentagrophytes* var. *erinacei* (hedgehog), *T. mentagrophytes* var. *quinckeanum* (mice and camels)<sup>2</sup>.

The colonies of *T. mentagrophytes* are variable, and divided into four subtypes; granular type, powdery type, persicolor type, downy type (Fig. 1A). Anthrophilic isolates having a downy, powdery or fluffy texture, while zoophilic isolated was more granular in morphology (Fig. 1B). The reverse side of colony shows various color from yellow to reddish brown (Fig. 1B). Microscopic morphology of *T. mentagrophytes* shows microconidia are spherical to pyriform and macroconidia show cigar to club shaped (Fig. 1C). Macroconidia have a smooth wall and between 3 to 8 septated cells and spiral or coiled hyphae may be presents<sup>1</sup>. Macroscopic morphology and microscopic examination may help identification

of species, although it can be distinguished more accurately by using molecular biological analysis<sup>2,3</sup>.

**Key Words:** Morphology, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In relation to this article, I declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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