F. Javier Cabañes*, Laura Puig, M. Rosa Bragulat, Gemma Castellá

Veterinary Mycology Group, Department of Animal Health and Anatomy, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Catalonia, Spain.

Although *M. furfur* is a common member of the human skin microbiota, it has been also reported from the skin of various animal species (1). In this study we have examined some *M. furfur* strains from birds, confirmed their identity by DNA sequencing and compared them with other *M. furfur* strains from other origins.

These strains were characterized using the current physiological identification scheme. The ability to assimilate Tween 20, Tween 40, Tween 60, Tween 80 and Cremophor EL was tested with the Tween diffusion test on SGA and yeast nitrogen base agar (YNBA) (2). With this synthetic medium a higher variability of growth profiles was observed.

Sequencing of the LSU and ITS rRNA regions and β -tubulin (BenA) genes confirmed that the lipid-dependent strains from birds belonged to the species *M. furfur* (3).

LSU sequences differences among *M. furfur* strains analysed were less than 1%, not exceeding the within-species variation generally observed to occur in *Malassezia* spp.

The phylogenetic trees of both ITS and β -tubulin sequences of *M. furfur* strains analysed revealed two strongly supported clades. One clade included strains isolated from humans and domestic animals and the other clade comprised the strains from wild animals including all the strains from birds.

In this study, we have proven that *M. furfur* can be found on a broad spectrum of animals, like wild birds held in captivity.

Future studies will probably widen even more the number of niches that are colonized by this species.

Acknowledgments
 The authors thank to the Biological Bank- Parc Zoològic de Barcelona for providing some samples from zoo animals.

1. Sugita *et al.* Epidemiology of *Malassezia*-related skin diseases. In: Boekhout T, Guého E, Mayser P, Velegraki A, eds. *Malassezia* and the Skin. Berlin: Springer, 2010: 63–119.
 2. Puig *et al.* Characterization of the species *Malassezia pachydermatis* and re-evaluation of its lipid dependence using a synthetic agar medium. PLoS One. 2017; 12: e0179148.
 3. Puig *et al.* Phenotypic and genetic diversity of *Malassezia furfur* from domestic and zoo animals. Medical Mycology 2018.