

A SURVEY OF PATHOGENIC AND POTENTIALLY PATHOGENIC
FUNGI FROM PATTAYA BEACH

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ABSTRACT

Fungi causing mycosis in man are known to occur in many types of soils, but their occurrence on Pattaya beach sand not been studied to date. The search of their sources is the basis of this survey. Sand samples were taken at random from beaches of low and high swimmer-density. A total of 110 sand samples representing supratidal and intertidal zones were screened. The possible pathogenic and potentially pathogenic fungi isolated from the Pattaya beach area representing 20 species among 12 genera, including notably *Candida albicans*, *Geothrichum candidum*, *Phialophora gougerotii*, and *Nocardia asteroides*. Beach used frequently and infrequently by bather were found to be similar in their species composition.

Data from this study support other studies which suggest that areas of marine habitats may serve as reservoir of potentially pathogenic fungi. However, no dermatophytes were isolated in the 9 months collecting period.