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An annotated bibliography of medical mycology in Iraq: 1962 -2021

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ABSTRACT

One of the gaps in knowledge concerning diversity of fungi in Iraq is checklists and documentation of fungal data. For a country like Iraq no updated checklists of fungi at all or any mycological bibliographic studies up till now. We decided in our newly born Iraqi Mycologists' Network to start a long road for documentation of fungi in Iraq by all available means. By screening of available sources of information (websites, dissertations, theses, journals), it was possible to figure out a range of four hundred and fifty-five articles published since 1962 in Iraq collected from various sources all dealing with some phase of medical mycology. The value of this bibliography to students, researchers and medical mycologists in Iraq and world-wide in this field is self-evident. It should be mentioned here that, although the present study will add some new data to our information concerning medical mycology in Iraq; it must be considered as a provisional one always waiting for continuous supplementation.

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Introduction

Information about medical mycology in Iraq are very huge but never been the target of any bibliographic studies before in which this one considered the pioneer. Based on the data collected from previous studies as well as information obtained from web sites, dissertations, published papers, patents, textbooks and compilations of medical mycology in Iraq previously introduced by several investigators it can be deduced that the number of references of medical mycology in Iraq up to the present time is nearly about 455.

For the ease of reference, studies were sorted out into four main groups since 1960. Studies in the last two

decades (2011-2021) are came first by accommodating 320 studies, while the two decades of 1960-1980 came at last by recording only 20 studies. Some references re-edited due to scientifically spelling mistakes and they are few. Some theses were in Arabic, and we were just translated the title. It should be mentioned here that, although the present study will add some new references to our information concerning medical mycology in Iraq, this bibliography can be considered as a provisional one that needs continuous supplementation.



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Number of Studies

The number of published and unpublished studies of medical mycology in Iraq in each decade since 1960, as recorded in our extensive survey, shows three distinct phases (Fig. 1): an ascending phase in which progress was very slow in the 1960s to 1990s, a steep phase as different types of studies and molecular identification came into general use in the 1990s to 2010s, and then sudden increase from the 2010s to the present day. The partially higher figures in the last decade reflect continuing exploration and

a number of prolific individual medical mycologists.

Data concerning medically important taxa showed that *Candida* came first be recorded 86 entries out of 455 while genus *Aspergillus* recorded 24 and genus *Penicillium* recorded 3 entries only.

This extensive survey which will add new data for the first time to our information concerning medical mycology in Iraq must be considered as a provisional one always waiting for continuous supplementation from all researchers and medical mycologists.

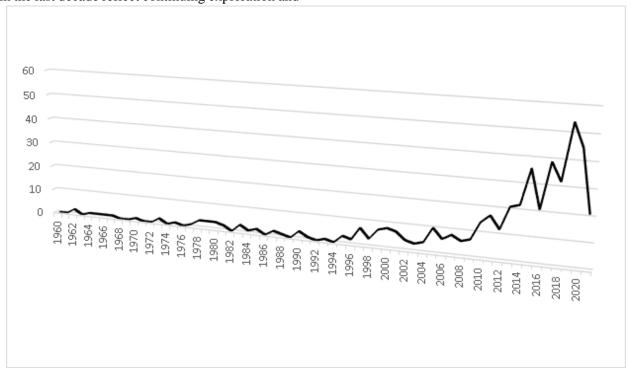


Fig 1. Numbers of newly introduced medical mycology studies in Iraq for each year from 1960 to 2021 based on data from extensive survey during this study.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Dedication

The authors dedicated this work to a strong and pure soul of **Perixan Ali Shilazi**, who passed away during preparation of this work, and she was one of the strong souls that bravely battled liver cancer for three years. Also, we dedicated this work to the Iraqi Mycologists' Network (http://fungiofegypt.com/Network/Iraq/index.html) which founded in 2021 by the last author to gather all Iraqi mycologists under such umbrella.