

WHY IS MYCETOMA A NEGLECTED DISEASE ?

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**Neglected Tropical Diseases(NTD)
are described by WHO as rare
diseases of poor populations in
poor developing countries mostly
in the tropics**

their number is 17, affect 1.4 billion persons and found in 149 countries.

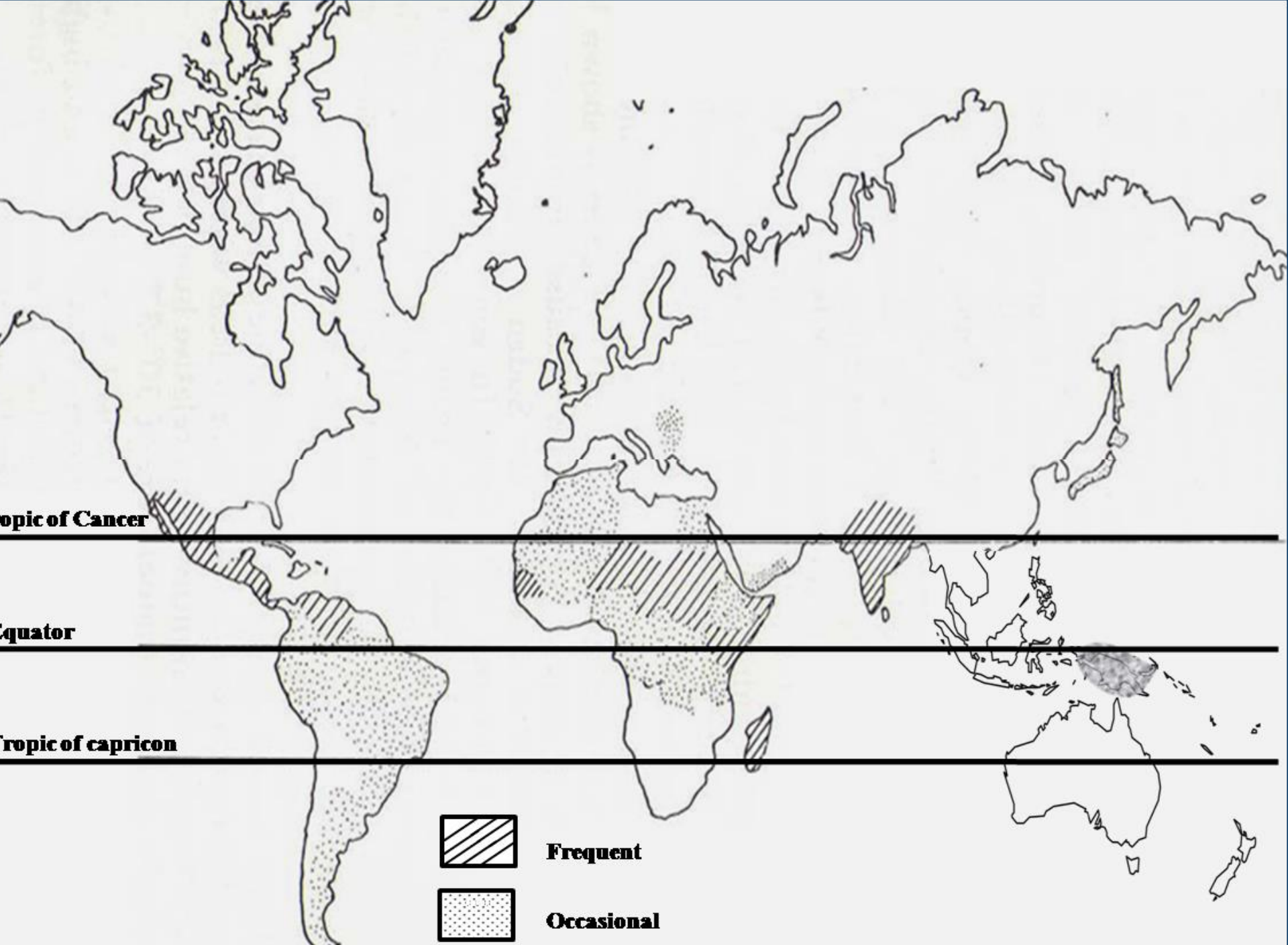
the causative organisms are bacteria, viruses, helminths and protozoa (no fungi mentioned!!).

They are neglected because patients are poor ,socially abandoned, treatment is either unavailable or quite expensive. Some of them affect small numbers of populations

Because of these conditions and neglect of governments, WHO and Philanthropic organizations volunteered to support programmes for the help of these patients in order to treat patients or eradicate the diseases.

Here in this respect it is worth mentioning and praise the role of DNDi who extends great help to Leishmaniasis and trying their best to help mycetoma patients. We raise our flag to Dr Nathalie Wourgaft who is participating in our conference.

Though the incidence of mycetoma is so far based on reported hospital cases, yet the mycetoma belt extends from Mexico and Venezuela in the West through Africa and Asia in the East up to Indonesia



These reports are from tens to hundreds of cases worldwide, while here in Sudan in the Mycetoma Research Centre (Not far from this meeting place) we have records of 7000 patients

Mycetoma is a disease of the poor, mostly cultivators and animal herders who may become unemployed after being inflicted with the disease,

Although often described a disease of the foot, mycetoma can affect any part of the body

Site	Sudan (Mahgoub & Murray ,1971) %	Senegal & former French West Africa (Rey ,1961) %	Mexico (Gonzalez – Ochoa , 1962) %
Foot	68.8	68.0	35.0
Leg	3.2	10.0	28.0
Knee	4.4	4.0	-
Thigh	2.0	3.0	-
Buttocks &	2.0	3.0	1.0





The Problem of management of this disease is late presentation of patients when the swelling is large and has progressively destroyed tissues and bones. Patients fear surgical treatment which may amount to amputation, still the preference of some doctors.

Few researchers in the 1st. Half of the 20th.century spent time in reporting cases and identifying the causative organisms.

However some immunological, serological and molecular research was reported from India, Sudan and Mexico

. Establishment of the Mycetoma project University of Khartoum, FMOH, with help from the British Overseas Development Administration and WHO in 1968 drew attention to the big numbers of patients and seriousness of the disease.

Research out of this project lead to discovery of treatment for Actinomycetoma in 1976 and partial success for eumycetoma in 1984. Similarly a reasonably reliable serological test was established.

As a continuum of medical care
and research in mycetoma, the
Mycetoma Research
Centre(MRC) was established
in 1991 in Soba University
Hospital.

Attempts at better clinical diagnosis and determining the extent of the swelling by means of MRI and quick diagnosis by Fine Needle Aspiration FNA are adopted.

**Similarly the search
continues for effective.
Safe and affordable
drugs .**









. Today there is an accumulation of knowledge, experience and above all dedication to continue efforts to find effective and affordable treatment for mycetoma.

**I hope all the above will qualify
Mycetoma to be included in the
list of Neglected Diseases
worthy of support by the
Government, WHO and
Philanthropic Organisations to
eradicate a medical and social
burden.**