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## BIO-P12. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AIRBORNE *ALTERNARIA* CONIDIA IN PLASENCIA AND CÁCERES

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*Introduction.* *Alternaria* airborne conidia are present in air nearly all the year. These fungi may cause relevant allergies in humans and phytopathologies in crops. This study aims to analyse the presence of *Alternaria* conidia in the air in two cities of SW Spain; Plasencia (PL) and Cáceres (CC), taking into account the meteorology. *Material and Methods.* The study was accomplished for one whole year (2016) using volumetric spore traps located at Plasencia (Virgen del Puerto Hospital) and Cáceres (School of Technology at University of Extremadura). Spearman correlation was used to compare daily data. *Results.* *Alternaria* conidia were recorded for 90 (PL) and 111 (CC) days, with sums of daily concentrations of 233 (PL) and 269 (CC). Peaks of concentration reached were 10 spores m<sup>3</sup> (PL 21/5) and 13 spores m<sup>3</sup> (CC 16/7). *Alternaria* conidia were present in all months except for February in PL. Two periods of apparition were observed, one from April to July and other during September-October. August showed a reduction in the concentration. Correlation between both places was obtained ( $r=0.382$   $p<0.001$ ). Temperature mean showed a correlation with airborne *Alternaria* conidia in both places (PL  $r=0.230$   $p<0.001$ ; CC  $r=0.326$   $p<0.001$ ). Differences were observed, PL recorded more conidia in October and CC in July. *Conclusions.* PL and CC showed low concentration of airborne *Alternaria* conidia and their seasonal patter were similar. Total conidia were higher in CC than in PL, this may not be attributed only to rain as this was 26% more abundant in PL (765.2 mm) than in CC (605.8 mm). It may be also due to the greater abundance of crops (acting as sources) surrounding CC than in PL.