

A Review on Environmental Mycobacteria in Iran

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Abstract

Mycobacterium genus, including pathogenic and environmental species, is called non-tuberculosis mycobacteria. In this review, we assessed the research about the frequency of non-tuberculosis mycobacteria in Iran. The analyses showed that there are 16 and 28 mycobacterial species isolated in water and soil samples, respectively. The most frequent mycobacterial species in water were *M. fortuitum* (25.4%) and *M. chelonae* (25.4%), and in soil it was *M. fortuitum* (19.7%). The most frequent species in clinical samples was *M. fortuitum*, too. The frequency of non-tuberculosis mycobacteria in various clinical samples was various, and on average 1.1% of the suspected tuberculosis clients referred to the healthcare centers have non-tuberculosis mycobacteria.

Keywords: Environmental Mycobacteria, Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria, Iran, *M. fortuitum*