

# Easy and rapid screening method to detect the resistance to terbinafine in dermatophytes

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# Introduction

- Dermatophytes=Filamentous fungi
- Dermatophytosis= *ring worm*
- Infect the skin, hair and nails
- Most common causes of skin disease (20-25% population).
- **Anthropophilic, zoophilic or geophilic**
- Clinical presentation depends of immunological response of the host and the **dermatophyte species**



20-25%  
→ Superficial  
mycosis

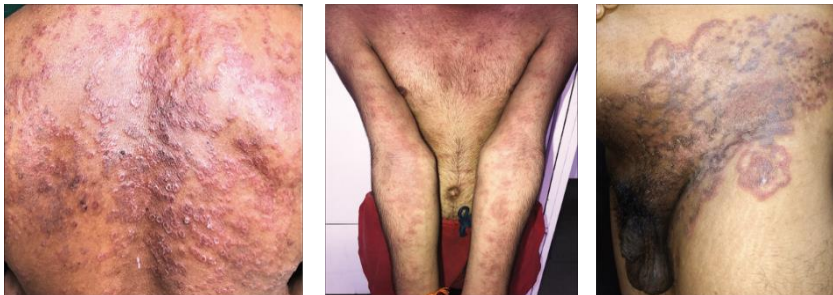


Mostly dermatophytes

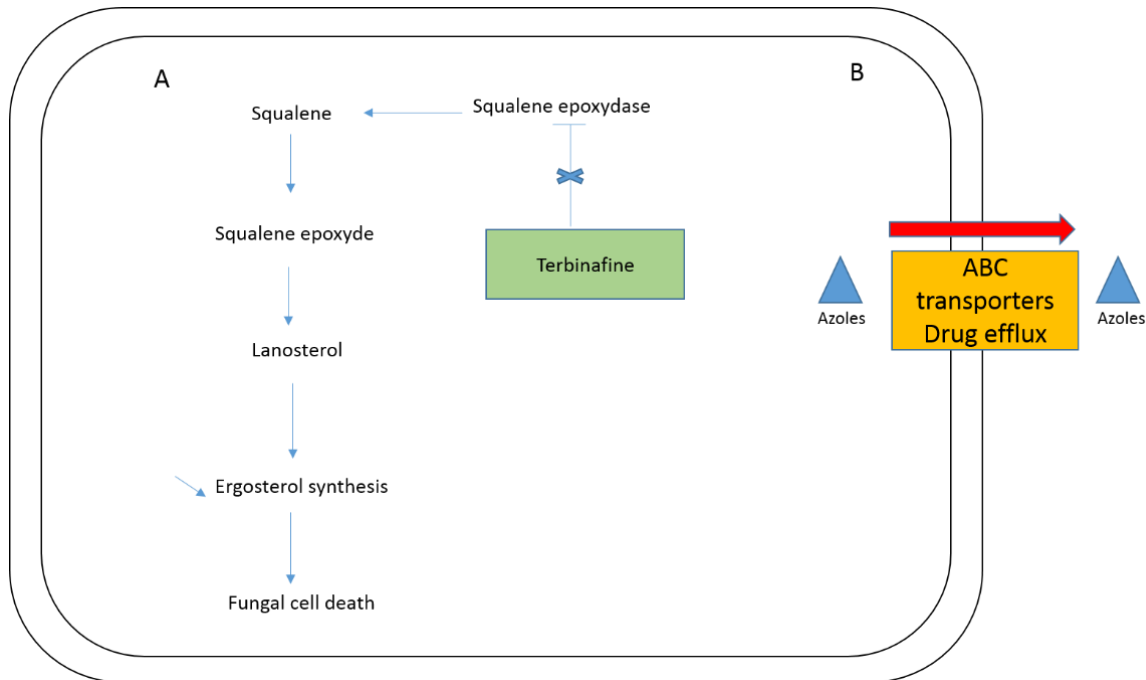


# Terbinafine resistance

- Terbinafine resistant dermatophytoses caused by *Trichophyton rubrum* (*T. rubrum*) or *Trichophyton indotineae* (*T. indotineae*) → global public health issue
- Phenomenon spreading and particularly important in endemic areas such as India
- Extended dermatophytoses difficult to treat

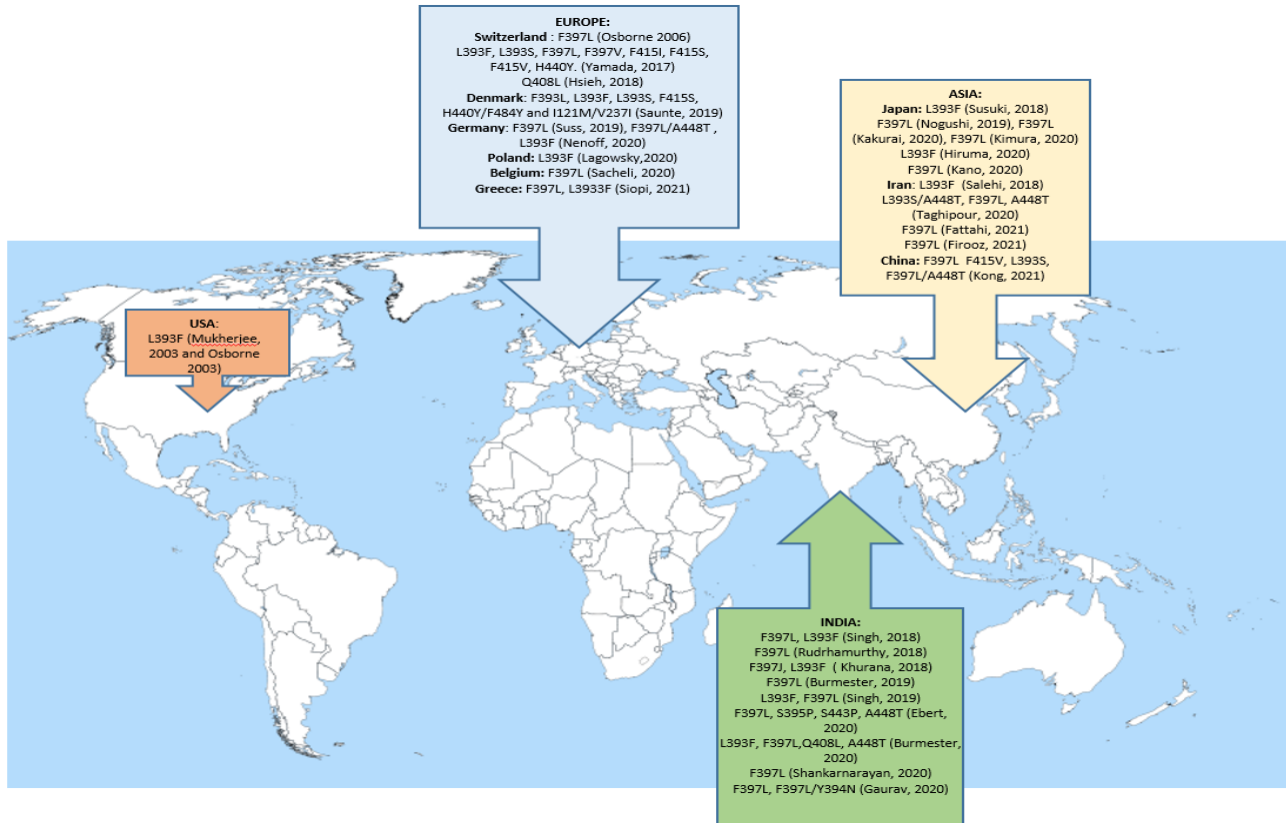


# Terbinafine resistance



Sacheli et al, 2021, *J. of Fungi*

# SQLE mutations

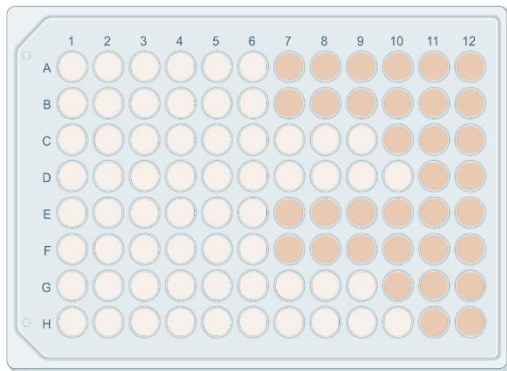


Sacheli et al, 2021, *J. of Fungi*

5 strains with F397L and 1 strain with L393F substitution at **CHU of Liège**

# Aim of the study

- Design a rapid method for the screening of resistances to terbinafine in dermatophytes
- Preceding confirmations tests
  - Eucast E.Def.11.0
  - SQLE PCR/sequencing



[Download](#) [Graphics](#)  
**unnamed protein product**  
 Sequence ID: **Query\_455905** Length: **93** Number of Matches: **1**

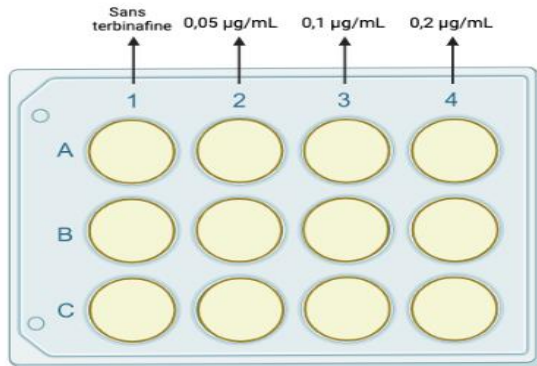
Range 1: 1 to 93 [Graphics](#) [Next Match](#) [Previous Match](#)

| Score         | Expect  | Method                       | Identities | Positives  | Gaps     |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 186 bits(473) | 6e-64   | Compositional matrix adjust. | 92/93(99%) | 92/93(98%) | 0/93(0%) |
| Query 323     | MFLGDSLNMRRHPLTGGGMTVAFNDVLLRNLLSPEAVPDLSDTKLVLRKQLSKFHWQRKSL |                              |            |            | 382      |
| sbjct 1       | MFLGDSLNMRRHPLTGGGMTVAFNDVLLRNLLSPEAVPDLSDTKLVLRKQLSKFHWQRKSL |                              |            |            | 60       |
| Query 383     | ISVINILAQSLYSFLAGGKHMFSLEPLLVSQY                              |                              |            |            | 415      |
| sbjct 61      | ISVINILAQSLYSFLAGGKHMFSLEPLLVSQY                              |                              |            |            | 93       |

# Procedure

## Agar plates preparation

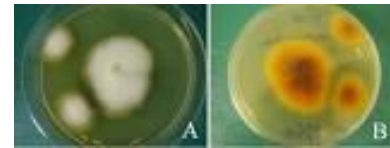
- **Medium** : Sabouraud dextrose medium + 1.5% agar + 0/0.05/0.1/0.2 µg/ml TERB
- Make a dermatophyte suspension of 0.5 McFarland
- 25µl of the suspension in each well
- Incubation for 4 days, at 30 °C



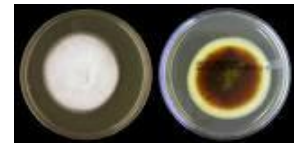
➔ R suspected if culture growth  
+++ at least in well 0.1µg/ml

## Strains selected

- 35 *T. rubrum*/*T. indotineae* strains tested (Arendrup et al, JAC 2020)
  - 15 resistant to TERB
  - 20 susceptible to TERB

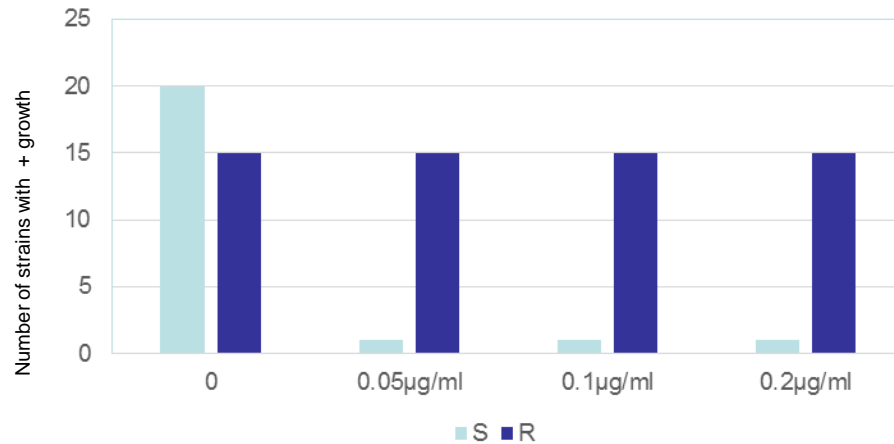


*T. indotineae* (Kano et al, 2020)



*T. rubrum* (Mokobi, 2021)

# Results



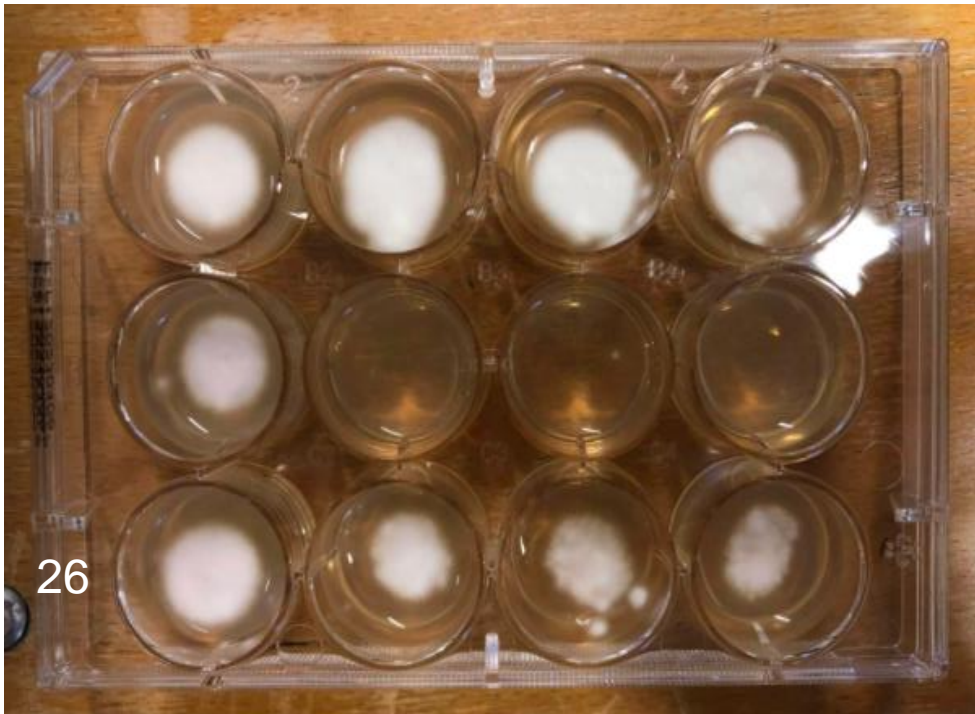
Sensitivity : 100 %  
Specificity : 95 %

⇒ False positive : strain n° 26 (MIC : 0,06 µg/mL, SQLE WT by WGS)

⇒ Increasing N° of false positive with longer incubation



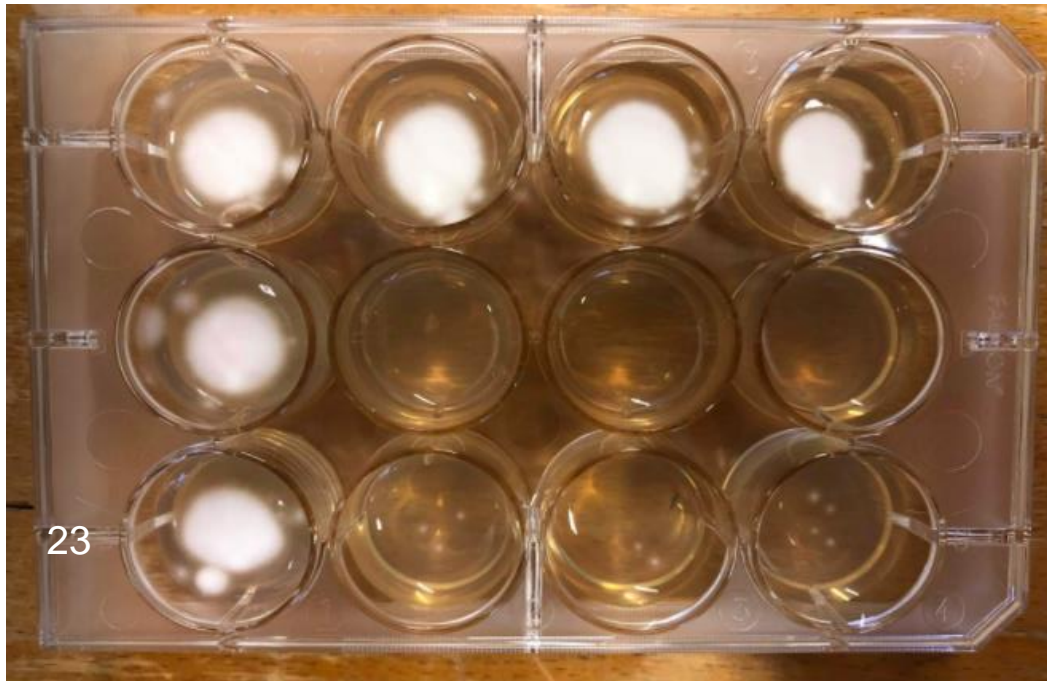
# Lack of specificity



⇒ False positive : strain n° 26 (MIC : 0,06  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , SQLE WT by WGS)

# Residual growth not considered +

- Small colonies but growth in surface < 50% of the positive CTRL →  
NEGATIVE



# Discussion screening method

## Positive points



- Easy to use
- Rapid results in 4 days
- Not expensive
- Sensitivity 100 %

## Negative points



- Less specificity
- MICs are not precisely determined

# Proposed algorithm

Screening method on all  
*T. indotineae/rubrum*



*If positive growth on well*  
*0.1 µg/ml TERB → Microdilution*  
*Eucast E.Def.11.0*



*If MIC >0.1 µg/ml → SQLE*  
*PCR/sequencing*

→ Overview of the occurrence of TERB R in your laboratory  
**AND** switch to alternative treatment if necessary

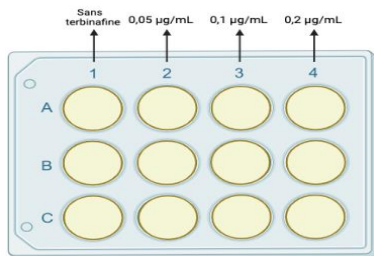
# Alternative therapies

| Dermatophyte species                   | Clinical presentation                  | Alternative therapy   | Reference                  |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>               | Disseminated tinea corporis            | <b>Itraconazole</b> 200mg/day for 2-3 weeks +topical eberconazole | Hsieh et al, 2019 (17)     |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes</i>               | Tinea, corporis, tinea cruris          | Itraconazole +ciclopirox  | Burmester et al, 2019 (14) |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | Extended tinea corporis                | Topical miconazole and later ciclopirox                           | Suss et al, 2019 (25)      |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes/interdigitale</i> | Extensive tinea corporis               | Itraconazole 100mg/day and topical luliconazole                   | Kimura et al, 2020 (35)    |
| <i>T. interdigitale</i>                | Extensive tinea corporis               | Itraconazole 100mg/day  | Kakurai et al, 2020 (34)   |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | 29 cases of tinea corporis             | Recommended Itraconazole 200mg/day for 4-8 weeks                  | Nenoff et al, 2020 (26)    |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | Extended tinea corporis from the groin | <b>Voriconazole</b> 200mg/day                                     | Fattahi et al, 2021 (38)   |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | Tinea pedis                            | 2 successive <b>itraconazole pulse therapy</b>                    | Fattahi et al, 2021 (38)   |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | Extended tinea corporis from the groin | Itraconazole 100mg/day for 4 weeks                                | Fattahi et al, 2021 (38)   |
| <i>T. mentagrophytes VIII</i>          | Extended tinea corporis from the groin | Voriconazole 200mg/day  | Fattahi et al, 2021(38)    |

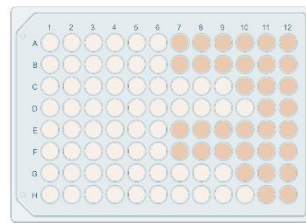
Sacheli et al, 2021, *J. of Fungi*

# Terbinafine resistance national study 2022

- **Sciensano** will send an information email to all Belgian labs
- All Belgian laboratories can send to the NRC (CHU Liège), all strains of *T.indotinaeae/mentagrophytes/interdigitale* isolated from skin (Excl. foot skin) between 1st April 2022-April 2023
- Phenotypical and genotypical characterisation of R to TERB in all received strains



Screening method



Eucast E.Def.11.0



SQL mutations

**Don't hesitate to participate!**

Thank you for your attention



Team « Mycoses »

**CHU Liège**  
**HAYETTE MP**  
**ADJETEY C.**  
**DARFOUF R.**  
**LEGRAS Q.**  
**SACHELI R.**  
**SCHYNS M.**

