



Epizootic lymphangitis

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Epizootic lymphangitis

- **It is a fungal disease seen mainly in equids (horses, donkeys and mules).**
- **The most common forms of this disease are:**
 - **Ulcerative.**
 - **Suppurative.**
 - **Spreading dermatitis.**
 - **Lymphangitis**

Causes:

Fungus :*Histoplasma farciminosum*

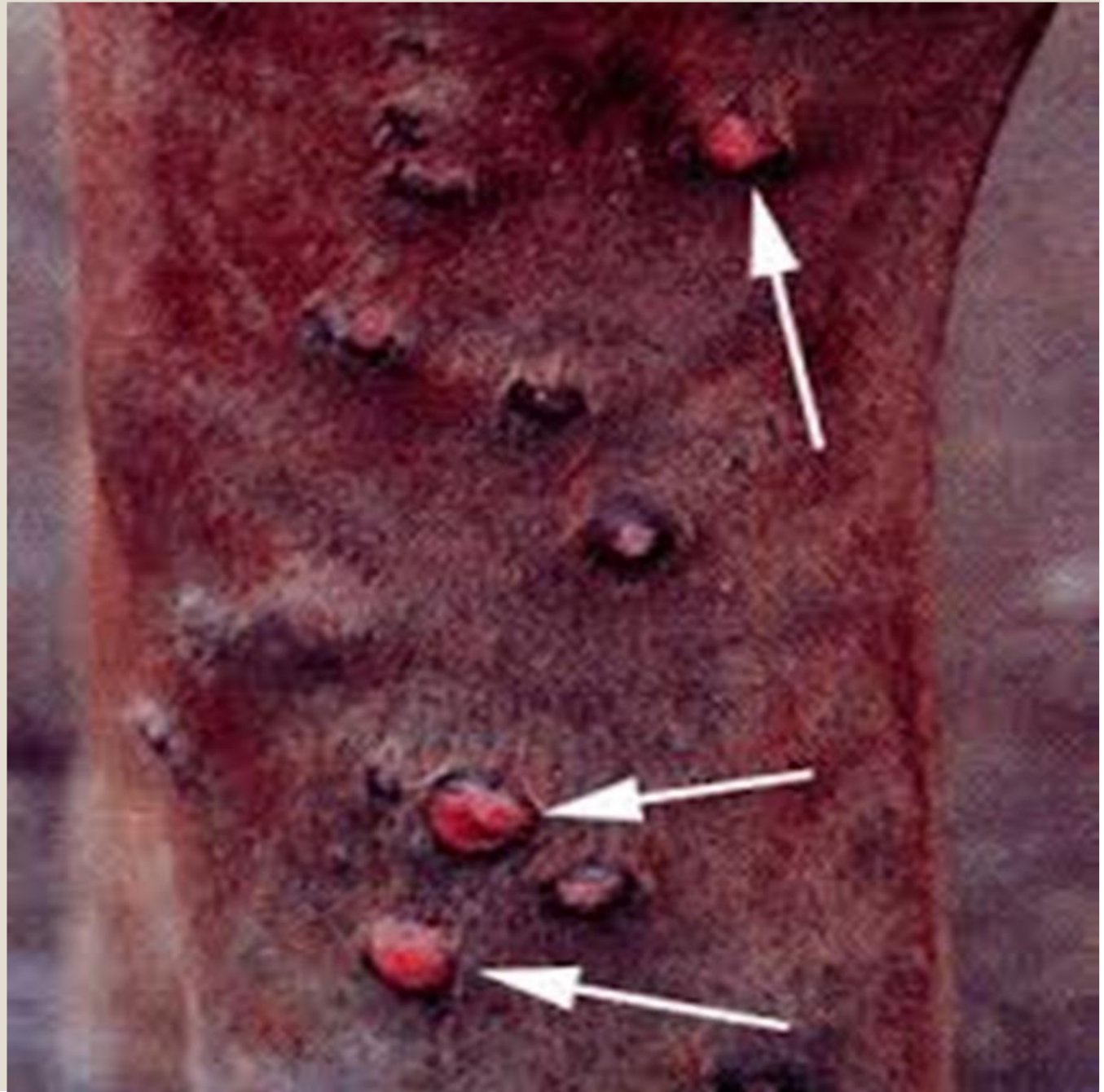


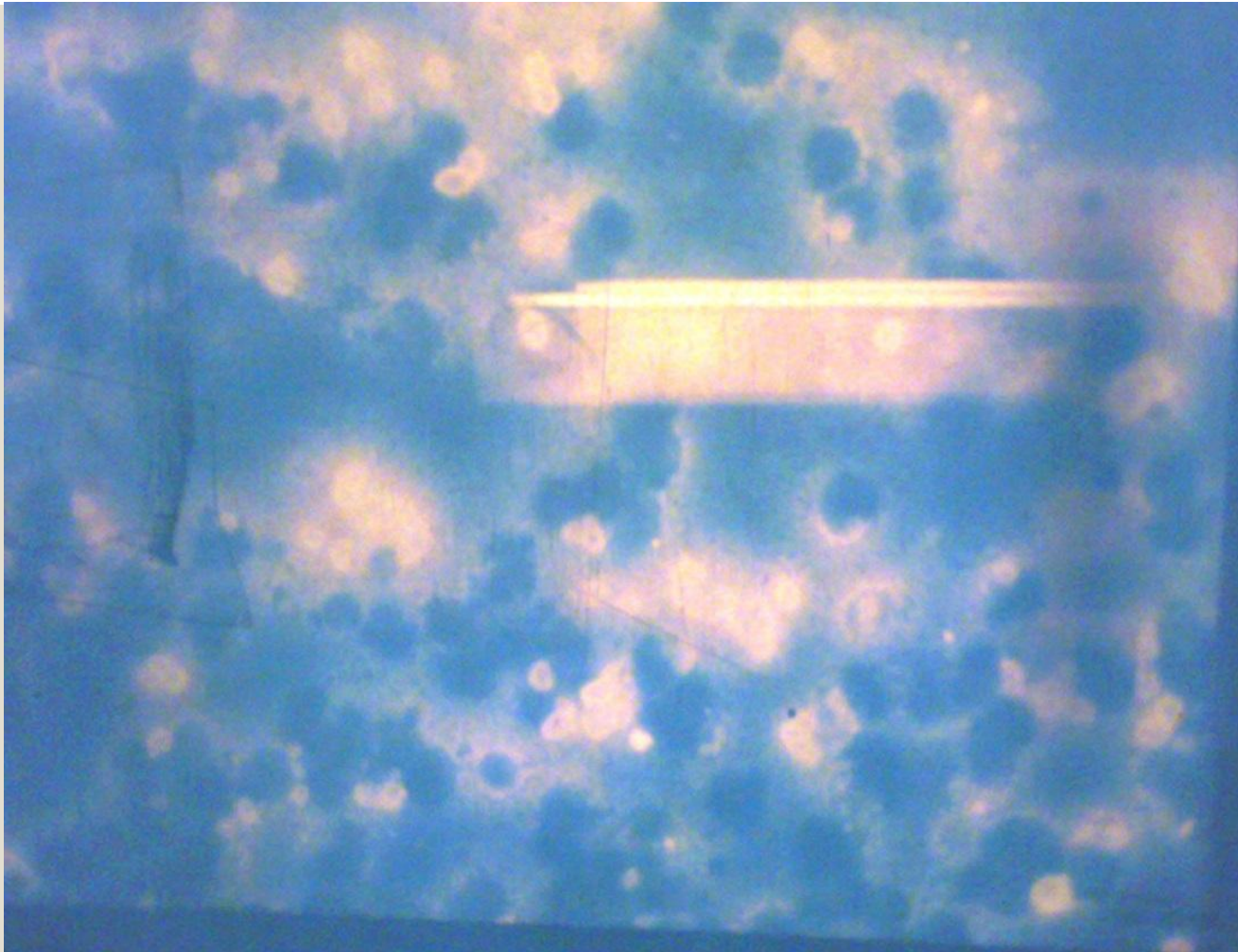
The infection also spreads along the lymphatics, causing cord-like thickening and further skin involvement.



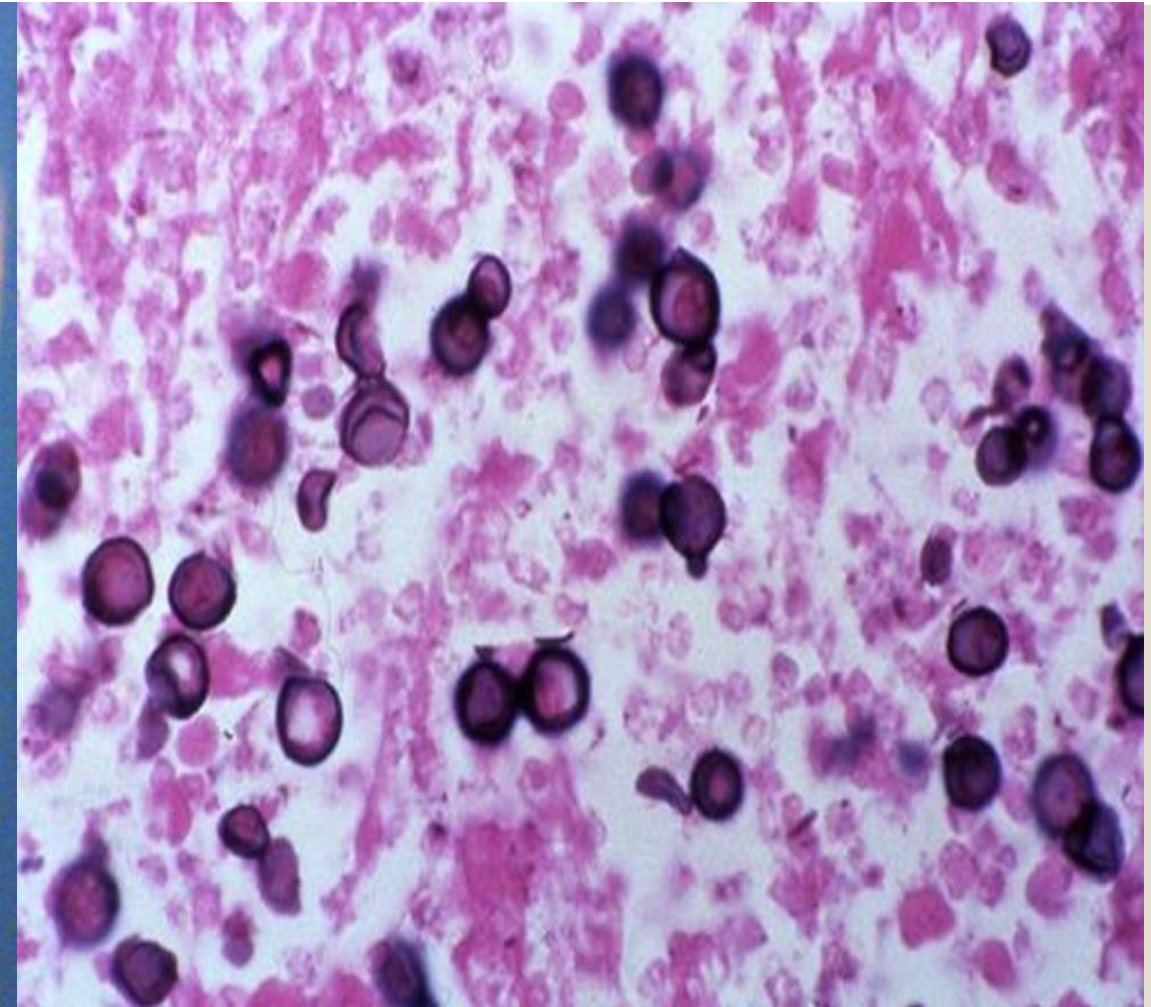
Epizootic lymphangitis (EZL) lesions on the legs

Presence of small and well circumscribed nodules





Blood smear : *Histoplasma farciminosum*

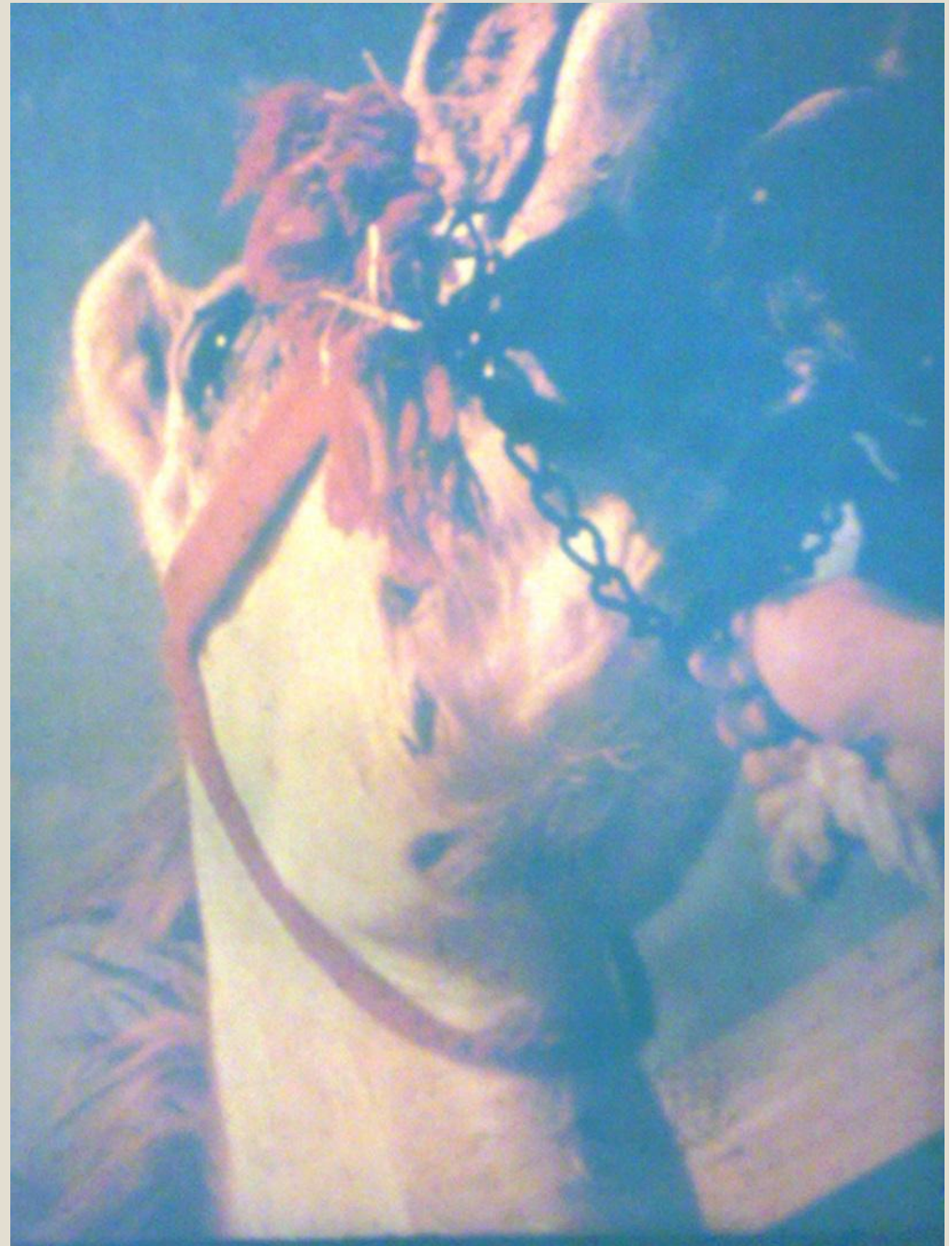


The causative agent of epizootic lymphangitis (*H. farciminosum*) stained with Gomori's Methenamine Silver (GMS) stain which stained the capsule with black color



**Skin ulceration This nodule enlarges and eventually bursts.
The surrounding skin is edematous at first, and later becomes thickened, hard and painful.**

Skin nodules





Epizootic lymphangitis: Ulceration of lymph node and formation of crater-like scar.

Epizootic lymphangitis sometimes spreads to the underlying joints and results in severe arthritis



Retrobulbar edema and increased vascular pressure. Another possible ocular sign is chemosis (conjunctival edema)



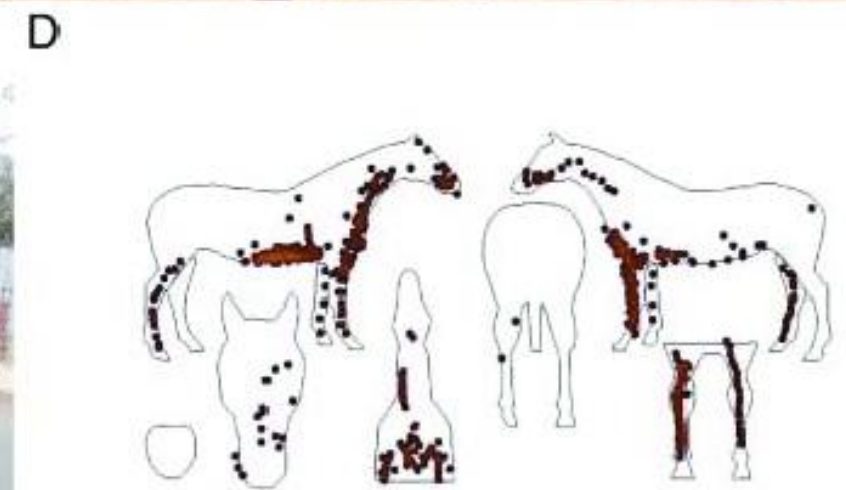
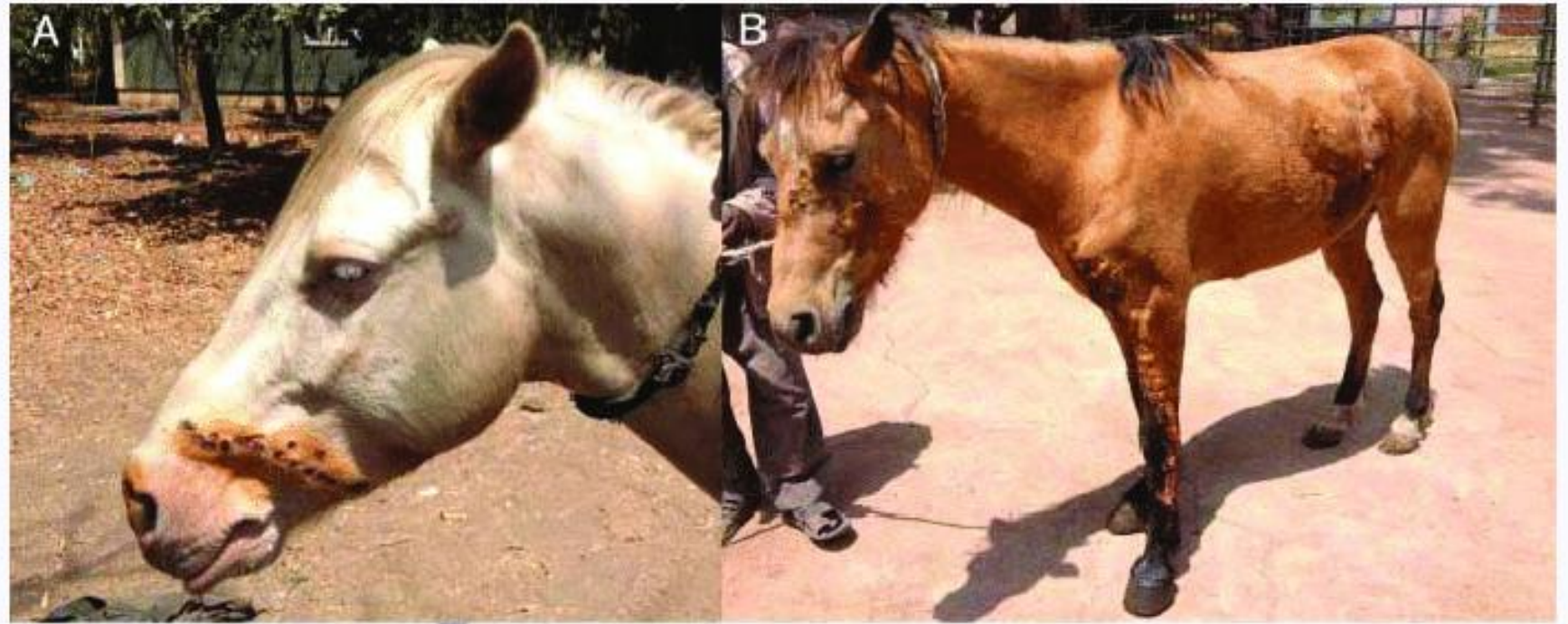
EZL lesions observed in the infected horses.

(A) Mild case, in which lesions are evident in only one body area.

(B) Moderate case, in which lesions are distributed over the left forelimb.

(C) Severe case, in which multiple coalescent nodules appear over all four limbs and extensive lesions appear on the face.

(D) Spatial distribution of cutaneous lesions of EZL



Differential diagnosis

The differential diagnosis includes :

- **The skin form of glanders (farcy)**
- **Strangles,**
- **Ulcerative lymphangitis,**
- **Sporotrichosis, cryptococcosis, sarcoids and cutaneous lymphosarcoma.**
- **Epizootic lymphangitis also resembles histoplasmosis, which is caused by *Histoplasma capsulatum*.**