Global Fungus Infections Caused by Climate Change, Says Study

Three unrelated strains of Candida Auris have emerged on three different continents simultaneously, and a new study says rising temperatures due to climate change are to blame. Dr. Arturo Casadevall from Johns Hopkins University is one of the study's authors, and according to him,

The argument that we are making based on comparison to other close relative fungi is that as the climate has gotten warmer, some of these organisms, including Candida auris, have adapted to the higher temperature, and as they adapt, they break through human's protective temperatures…What this study suggests is this is the beginning of fungi adapting to higher temperatures, and we are going to have more and more problems as the century goes on…"

Why This Is Scary

C. auris came to the medical world's attention in 2009, and it has proven to be a particularly troublesome microbe. It often occurs with other infections, leading to the fungus being misidentified and mistreated. C. auris also displays multi-drug resistance and outbreaks usually happen in a healthcare setting like a hospital.

Silent and Deadly

In all the noise about climate change, it's easy to forget that we aren't the only organism that will be forever altered by the changes to the Earth's climate. It would be a mistake to forget that, especially when you realize how much more

easily bacteria and fungus will be able to adapt. Candida auris is a new kind of infection, one that’s immune to our usual antifungals, difficult to properly detect, and can be transmitted through person to person contact. This fungus is a new, scary plague, and it won’t be the last.

Sources:

- *Deadly Fungal Infection Emerged Because of Global Warming, Study Says* – Time
- *On the Emergence of Candida auris: Climate Change, Azoles, Swamps, and Birds* – American Society for Microbiology
- *Rise of Candida auris blamed on global warming* – Science Daily