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UNUSUAL REACTION AFTER POLLEN INGESTION. A CASE REPORT.

We report a case of 33 a year-old man, naturist, macrobiotic diet, with a history of allergic rhinoconjunctivitis and bronchial asthma since he was 8. The patient was treated with hyposensitizing therapy for 6 years (from 8 to 14) with disappearance of bronchial asthma. At present symptoms of rhinitis and conjunctivitis occur from March to September and become worse during his usual life in open air. In September 1989 the patient bought in an erboristery "dry pollen" to eat. The patient swallowed a little spoon of pollen and inhaled the pollen powder with immediate palate and lip itching, tongue swelling and dispnoea, likely symptoms of oral allergic syndrome and bronchial asthma. The symptomatology disappeared in 30 minutes without therapy. The pollen analysis showed that one of the more representative pollen was "Oak Holly" (Quercus ilex L.) a spontaneous and cultivated tree in Italy. The patient was submitted again to allergometric investigations that showed: SPT/RAST \geq ++++/3° for Oak Holly (Quercus ilex L.), grasses, plane, european lime and \geq +++/2° for pellitory, mugwort, ribwort, birch, hazel, olive. From this observation the question arises about the possibility of unusual reactions not only after inestion of Compositae (Cohen H., 1979; Bonneau J.C., 1985; Dechamp C., 1986) but also of tree pollen.