Response to the article by González HP et al entitled "Ex vivo dermoscopy in demodicosis"

To the Editor: I read with interest the study titled "Ex vivo dermoscopy in demodicosis" published by Gonzales et al.[1] Ex vivo dermoscopy method is a practical imaging method that eliminates the need for a microscope to detect demodex folliculorum (DF) or demodex brevis (DB).[1] When there is more than one DF or DB in the hair follicle, it is easier to see the mites with the ex vivo dermoscopy method. In the picture shared by Gonzales et al, DF found in the follicle are shown. However, it becomes difficult to detect DF or DB with this method when there are individual or scattered demodexes. Although rare, free-floating parasites can be seen in the sample. DF or DB appear white in ex vivo dermoscopy. An inexperienced eye may not be able to distinguish DF or DB if ex vivo dermoscopy is performed on a white background. At this stage, I would like to contribute to the work of Gonzales et al.

When the sample taken from the patient is examined on a black background, not a white background, reverse contrast is obtained and relatively white DF or DB becomes more distinguishable. When we perform ex vivo dermoscopy on a black background, DF and DB scattered individually in the preparation can be easily distinguished (Figs 1 and 2). We used a black paper to create a black background. Examination of the white DF or DB mite on a black background will make ex vivo dermoscopy a more useful and practical method. Unfortunately, the possible isolation from the DF of its endosymbionts such as *Bacillus olerionius*, *Bacillus pumilus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus simplex*, and *Bacillus kroppenstaedi* cannot be done with this method.

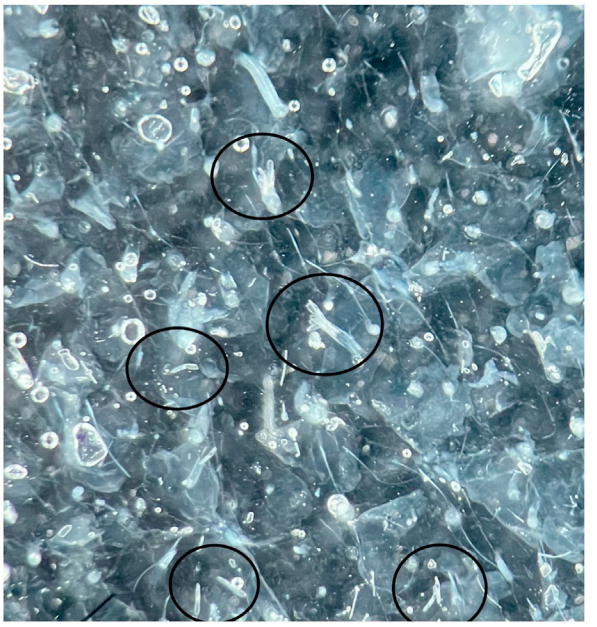

Fig 1. Demodex folliculorum observed in ex vivo dermoscopy (30× magnification) on a *black* background.

Fig 2. Demodex folliculorum observed in ex vivo dermoscopy (10× magnification) on a *black* background.

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Funding sources: None.

IRB approval status: Not applicable.

Key words: demodex; dermoscopy; mite.

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Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2023.06.060