

Images/Instrument in Dermatology/Dermatosurgery

## *Paederus* dermatitis presenting with kissing lesions in a 12-year-old boy

Krishna Deb Barman<sup>1</sup>, Pavani Gowda<sup>1</sup>, Vishal Gaurav<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India.



**\*Corresponding author:**

Vishal Gaurav,  
Department of Dermatology  
and Venereology, Maulana  
Azad Medical College,  
New Delhi, India.

mevishalgaurav@gmail.com

Received: 30 December 2024<sup>1</sup>

Accepted: 06 January 2025

Published: 06 February 2025

DOI

10.25259/CSDM\_226\_2024

Quick Response Code:



A 12-year-old boy presented with painful erythematous lesions in the left infra-axillary region and on the medial aspect of the proximal upper arm, without any systemic symptoms. The lesions appeared after the boy noticed a burning sensation in the affected areas the night before, following an outdoor activity during the rainy season. Examination revealed well-demarcated erythematous plaques with vesicles, pustules, and a central zone of dusky erythema, displaying a mirror-image distribution in the infra-axillary area and the opposing medial proximal upper arm, indicative of “kissing lesions” [Figure 1]. The boy had no history of similar episodes, insect bites, or contact with known allergens.

*Paederus* dermatitis, also known as blister beetle or Nairobi fly dermatitis, is an irritant contact dermatitis caused by exposure to the coelomic fluid of the *Paederus* beetle, which contains the potent toxin pederin. This condition is particularly common in tropical and subtropical



**Figure 1:** Well-demarcated erythematous plaques with vesicles, pustules, and a central zone of dusky erythema, displaying a mirror-image distribution in the infra-axillary area and the opposing medial proximal upper arm, indicative of “kissing lesions.”

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, transform, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

©2025 Published by Scientific Scholar on behalf of CosmoDerma

regions during the rainy season when these beetles are more active. The lesions typically present as kissing lesions in flexural areas or appear linearly elsewhere due to the crushing or rubbing of the beetle, which releases the toxin and causes dermatitis. In this case, the boy likely crushed the insect against his skin, leading to the release of pederin and subsequent dermatitis. Management involves symptomatic treatment, including topical corticosteroids and oral antihistamines. Preventive education is essential, advising patients to avoid crushing these beetles against the skin and to wash the affected area immediately if contact occurs. *Paederus* dermatitis should be considered in cases of sudden-onset erythematous and vesicular lesions during the rainy season in tropical regions.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Ethical approval:** Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

**Declaration of patient consent:** The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

**Financial support and sponsorship:** Nil.

**Conflicts of interest:** There are no conflicts of interest.

**Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation:** The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

## REFERENCE

1. Karthikeyan K, Kumar A. *Paederus* dermatitis. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol 2017;83:424-31.

**How to cite this article:** Barman KD, Gowda P, Gaurav V. *Paederus* dermatitis presenting with kissing lesions in a 12-year-old boy. *CosmoDerma*. 2025;5:21. doi: 10.25259/CSDM\_226\_2024