

Hawaiian volcanic influences on nontuberculous mycobacteria



Hypotheses:

- Acidic volcanic soils and water provide niches that foster growth of NTM already in the environment.
- NTM laden ash can be inhaled into the lungs resulting in infection.

Methods:

- Cultured water biofilm, soil, and ash samples collected from Kilauea Volcano.
- Performed analyses to determine if there are relationships between the NTM identified and the environment.

Preliminary Findings:

- A diverse array of NTM were cultured from the Kilauea environment.
- Characteristics of Kilauea's environment may be influencing the presence of NTM.

Examples of Sampling Sites

