MICOTOXINES IMPLICATIONS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND DETERMINATION POSSIBILITIES

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Mycotoxicosis is human and animal diseases produced by mycotoxins that arrive in organisms in the step of food and fodder administration. The ingestion of food containing mycotoxins, the toxic products of microscopic fungi (moulds), may have serious adverse health effects in humans and animal. Occasionally, occupational exposure to airborne mycotoxins may also occur. The occurrence of mycotoxins in foodstuffs depends on their formation by specific strains of fungi and is influenced by environmental factors such as humidity and temperature. Thus, mycotoxin contamination of foodstuffs may vary with geographical conditions, production and storage methods, and also with the type of food, since some food products are more suitable substrates for fungal growth than others.

The present paper present some of the implications of the presence of aflatoxins and ochratoxins in different organisms and some of their possible determination methods.

Analytical techniques have been developed for the identification and quantitative determination of ochratoxin and aflatoxin levels in the μg/kg range.