

Presence of moulds during olive post harvest process in Morocco and detection of mycotoxins in the end products

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Olives and olive oil play an increasing important nutritional role not only in Mediterranean countries but also in the world, and are an essential part of what is now widely known as the « Mediterranean diet ». However, the quality of the product varies greatly from one country to the other and often from one region to the other. There is a need for technological progress through the modernisation of traditional farms or the improvement of the quality of the end products whether for table olives, olive oil or olive cake. Post harvest storage of olive in Morocco and processing in the olive oil mill was analysed and discussed indicating possible impact in the safety and the quality of the end products particularly the presence of moulds on table olives and the detection of mycotoxins such as Ochratoxin A and Aflatoxin B1 in the olive oil. The purpose of this work is to present (1) the natural mycoflora present in olive, (2) the potential of fungi to produce mycotoxins and (2) the detection of mycotoxins in olive oil.

Keywords: Olive - Olive oil - Moulds - *Aspergillus niger* - *Aspergillus flavus* - *Penicillium* - *Geotrichum* - Mycotoxin - Ochratoxin - Aflatoxin - Immunoaffinity - HPLC.

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