



Presence of Mold and Ochratoxin A in Green Coffee

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Abstract: Ochratoxin is a mycotoxin which is produced mostly from two fungi, *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*. This mycotoxin is found in cereals, dried fruit, cocoa and coffee beans. A study was performed to evaluate the contamination by molds and ochratoxin A in the coffee beans. The samples are all green coffee obtained from different origin from all over the world. The detection of molds was made with inoculation in Petri dishes and the presence of Ochratoxin A was confirmed by HPLC method. Ochratoxin A is harmful to humans at levels 8 µg/kg and above, as defined by European legislation. This limit is applied in some European Countries, including Albania. The presence of molds and OTA is an indicator that shows there have been problems during the production, transportation, or warehouse conditions of green coffee. The result in this study shows the presence of *Aspergillus* in some of the samples, whereas Ochratoxine A was detected in three samples [under the limit settled by the method, 0.3 µg/kg].

Key words: *Ochratoxin A, green coffee, HPLC, Petri dishes, molds.*

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