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# Occurrence of aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> in randomly selected North African milk and cheese samples

A. M. Elgerbi, K. E. Aidoo, A. A. G. Candlish &amp; R. F. Tester

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## Abstract

Forty-nine samples of raw cow's milk and 20 samples of fresh white soft cheese were collected directly from 20 local dairy factories in the north-west of Libya and analysed for the presence of aflatoxin M<sub>1</sub> (AFM<sub>1</sub>). The samples were analysed using a high-performance liquid chromatography technique for toxin detection and quantification.

Thirty-five samples of milk and 15 samples of cheese showed concentrations of AFM<sub>1</sub> between 0.11 and 0.52 µg ml<sup>-1</sup>, with coefficients of variation of 1.53, 1.53 and 3.13. The average recoveries of 63.23, 78.14, 83.29 and 88.68%, with coefficients of variation of 1.53, 1.53 and 3.13. The average recoveries of 63.23, 78.14, 83.29 and 88.68%, with coefficients of variation of 1.53, 1.53 and 3.13.

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9.90, 4.87 and 3.79%, respectively. The concentrations of AFM<sub>1</sub> were lower in the cheese products than in the raw milk samples.

Keywords: aflatoxin M1 cheese milk immunoaffinity columns  
high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

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