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BOOK REVIEW

EGAN, H., STOLOFF, L., CASTEGNARO, M., SCOTT, P., O'NEILL, I. K., BARTSCH, H. (ed.): ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENS SELECTED METHODS OF ANALYSIS. VOL. 5. SOME MYCOTOXINS. — International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 1982, 455 pp.

A large number of turkey poults and ducklings died on British farms in 1960 as a result of consuming groundnut meal. The death of the birds was caused by the liver damage resulting from toxic metabolic products of the mold *Aspergillus flavus* which contaminated the Brazilian groundnut. This publication, published jointly by the IARC, WHO and the United Nations Environmental Programme deals with the genotoxic effects of products of fungi (named mycotoxins) and with analytical methods for their monitoring. The introductory overviews present data on the genotoxic effects of various mycotoxins, a list of mold metabolites that have been reported to produce various types of cellular damage, further data on the International Mycotoxin Check Programme and a list of maximum tolerated aflatoxin levels in foods and feeds in various countries. Several papers are concentrated on the quantitative determination of aflatoxins, the first mycotoxins that were shown to be potent genotoxic compounds. Methods of thin-layer and high-performance liquid chromatography of the mycotoxins in peanuts and cottonseeds, in milk and cheese, in feeding stuff and in animal tissue are described in detail. Other mycotoxins than aflatoxins have received less attention, but can also evoke genotoxic effects. The publication also covers the following mycotoxins: Ochratoxin A, Sterigmatocystin, Patulin, Penicillic acid, Citrinin, Trichothecenes, Mycophenolic acid, Luteoskyrin and Rubratoxin B. Data on the genotoxic effects, occurrence and methods of analysis are presented for each compound.

Providing an invaluable reference source and guide, this IARC publication is extraordinarily useful for toxicologists and those studying the genotoxic effects of naturally occurring mutagens and/or carcinogens.

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