

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Volume 56. Some Naturally Occurring Substances: Food Items and Constituents, Heterocyclic Aromatic Amines and Mycotoxins. - International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 1993. 559 pp. Sw. Fr. 95.00.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has been publishing since 1971 Monographs on the carcinogenic and genotoxic risks of individual chemicals, complex mixtures or occupational exposures to humans. The objectives of the fifty-sixth Volume of the IARC Monographs was to evaluate the possible adverse effects of food toxicants. The readers of *Biologia Plantarum* will be mainly interested in the Monographs on two naturally occurring plant substances: caffeic acid and d-limonene. Caffeic acid which is naturally present in a wide range of fruits and vegetables, was judged to be possibly carcinogenic to humans. The most extensive Monograph deals with selected mycotoxins. On the basis of the data evaluated it may be concluded that naturally occurring aflatoxins (aflatoxin B1, B2, G1, G2, and M1) from naturally occurring aflatoxin-producing *Aspergillus* species are carcinogenic to humans. The other Monographs review the large body of data on the carcinogenicity of heterocyclic aromatic amines present in cooked meat and fish and the carcinogenicity and genotoxicity of various compounds presented in salted fish and pickled vegetables. The publication is appendix by a Summary Table and by Activity Profiles of genetic and related effects. The publication is available through the network of WHO Sales agents.

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IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Volume 57. Occupational Exposures of Hairdressers and Barbers and Personal Use of Hair Colourants; Some Hair Dyes, Cosmetic Colourants, Industrial Dyestuffs and Aromatic Amines. - International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 1993. 427 pp. Sw. Fr. 75.00.

The IARC Monographs are recognized as an authoritative source of information on carcinogenicity and genotoxicity of chemicals and occupational exposures. This 57th volume contains 18 Monographs on the occupational exposure of hairdressers and barbers and on the exposure of users of hair colourants. These groups are potentially exposed to over 5000 various products including solvents, propellants, methacrylates and traces of nitrosoamines. The overall evolution of the IARC experts concludes that that the occupation as a hairdresser and barber entails exposure that are probably carcinogenic. The further Monographs evaluates the carcinogenicity and mutagenicity of hair dyes (e.g. 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-5-nitrophenol and 2-nitro-para-phenylenediamine), cosmetic colourants (CI Pigment Red 53:1) and of aromatic amines (4,4'-methylene bis (2-chloroaniline), para-chloroaniline, 2,6-dimethylaniline and N,N-dimethylaniline). Each Monograph includes sections on chemical and physical data, production, use and biological data relevant to the evaluation of carcinogenicity and mutagenicity. The publication is appendix by a Summary Table of genetic effects in prokaryotes, lower eukaryotes, plants, insects and in animal and human cells *in vitro*.

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