

Morphological and molecular characterization of fungal contaminants of groundnut products in sokoto state, Nigeria

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Abstract

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogea* L) is an economically important crop and widely consumed in many parts of the world including Nigeria. Fungi exhibit greater species richness than most other organisms and, thus, are of significant environmental and economic importance. The fungal contaminants of groundnut products from three Agricultural zones of Sokoto state were characterized using morphological and molecular techniques; colonial morphology, cultural features, spore pigmentation, PCR and RAPD assay. Eight (8) fungal species (*Aspergillus niger*, *A. flavus*, *A. parasiticum*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium*, *Rhizopus Curvaleria* and *Mucor* species) were identified. Fungal isolates were confirmed by PCR using ITS1/ITS4, ITS1/NIG and ITS1/FLA. The findings from this study suggest that groundnut products obtained from Sokoto state are substantially contaminated with potentially mycotoxigenic fungi. Relevant quality control agencies should be reactivated to assess the quality of the Groundnut kernels from which the Groundnut cake, oil and other products are made



Biography:

Prof. Kasimu Shehu is Professor, Department of Biology Federal University Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria. Deputy Vice Chancellor of Federal University Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria. Obtained B.sc. from Botany Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto Nigeria, M.sc. Botany from University of Ibadan Nigeria and Ph. D. in Botany from Usmanu Danfodiyo university sokoto, Nigeria. Specialized on plant and Fungal biotechnology.

Speaker Publications:

1. Principles of Genetic Engineering and Recombinant DNA Technology in Plants
2. Morphological and molecular characterization of fungal contaminants of groundnut products in sokoto state, Nigeria



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