

Handbook of Toxic Fungal Metabolites

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Preface

The science of mycotoxicology had its advent with the discovery of aflatoxin in the early 1960s in England. Since that time, interest and research on the aflatoxins and mycotoxins in general have steadily intensified. The result has been an ever-increasing awareness of the potential danger of these secondary metabolites to human and animal health.

The evaluation of the role and extent of mycotoxin contamination in food and feed requires the isolation of the toxic principle(s) from a suspect commodity or from cultures of fungi isolated from the suspected material. This handbook has been compiled with the aid of numerous individuals for the purpose of facilitating the identification of known or related mycotoxins. The book provides investigators in the field with a comprehensive accumulation of chemical, physical, spectral, and biological data on toxic fungal metabolites and related chemicals that would otherwise be widely scattered throughout the literature. Since mycotoxins represent a wide diversity of chemical species, the book will be particularly useful to other scientists interested in some aspect of a particular chemical species or related species other than its toxic nature.

The presentation, where possible, of actual copies of UV, IR, ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, and mass spectra greatly facilitates the spectral identification of known mycotoxins or related metabolites by both chemists and researchers not knowledgeable in the interpretation of spectral data.

The handbook has been divided into twenty-one sections. Members were placed into sections on the basis of chemical relationships. The last four groups are the exception. These could not be placed into any group based on chemical considerations and, therefore, three groups were devised according to the genus most likely to produce them: *Aspergillus* toxins, *Penicillium* toxins, and *Fusarium* toxins. The final section contains metabolites that could not be classified under the aforementioned categories.

The handbook is oriented primarily toward fungal metabolites that elicit a toxic response in vertebrate animals; however, it does contain metabolites

that show little or no known acute toxicity. The latter are included because of their chemical or close biosynthetic relationship to a toxin or group of toxins.

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Spectral Format

Samples and/or copies of the various spectra were solicited from various individuals and we are grateful to those who responded to our request. Copies of spectra received from individuals were traced and photographed, otherwise spectra were photographed directly from an original black-ink recording on blank chart paper.

UV spectra of samples were taken with a Beckman model DB-G* recording spectrophotometer in methanol solution unless otherwise indicated. The recorder speed was 2.54 cm per minute. Spectra were calibrated with a holmium oxide standard.

IR spectra of samples were obtained with a Perkin-Elmer model 257 recording spectrophotometer equipped with a $3\times$ beam condenser and baseline attenuator. Unless otherwise indicated, samples for analysis were prepared as a mull or as a thin film on a KBr window.

Mass spectra were obtained from individuals or institutions when possible. Mass spectra of collected samples were obtained on an A.E.I. MS-902 double focus instrument. Electron-impact spectra were run at 70 eV with an accelerating voltage of 8000 volts and a source temperature between 175° and 200°C. Chemical-ionization spectra were obtained on the same model instrument fitted with an S.R.I.C. chemical-ionization source. Positive ion spectra were recorded using isobutane as the ionizing reagent gas at ≈ 1 torr source pressure and source temperature at 175°–200°C.

Criteria for purity of samples were based on TLC analyses and correlation of the spectral data with those reported in the literature.

The appropriate reference scale with TMS at 0 ppm was added at the bottom of each NMR spectrum. For most of the ^1H spectra, a standard 10 ppm display

*Mention of a trademark, proprietary product, or vendor does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products or vendors that may also be suitable.

is used. Many of the compounds contain peaks outside this range, and these peaks are recorded with an offset baseline above the normal 10 ppm spectrum at the left side of the chart. For spectra for which there is no scale for this portion of the spectrum, one can determine the offset by observing where the spectrum is located with respect to the 10 ppm scale. For example, a recording between 8 and 10 ppm corresponds to a sweep between 10 and 12 ppm and a recording between 7 and 10 ppm corresponds to a sweep between 10 and 13 ppm, etc.

An attempt has been made to assign as many of the ^1H spectra as possible using known trends and comparison among similar compounds. Assignments of specific protons are presented above each spectrum assigned.

The ^{13}C spectra presented are those obtained with proton noise decoupling using the Fourier transform technique. Chemical shifts are reported relative to internal TMS using the convention that downfield shifts are assigned positive ppm values. For D_2O soluble samples, dioxane was used as the internal reference, and the chemical shifts were converted to the TMS scale using the conversion factor of 67.4 ppm. In a few cases for which long-term accumulation was required, no reference was added and the chemical shifts were referenced to the solvent peaks and later converted to the TMS scale using 77.0 ppm for CDCl_3 and 40.4 ppm for DMSO. Sufficient numbers of pulses were accumulated to provide adequate signal-to-noise ratios.

The assignment of chemical shifts of each ^{13}C spectrum is presented above each spectrum. Assignments are based on single frequency off-resonance decoupling results, comparison with related compounds, and data reported in the literature. The results of the single frequency off-resonance decoupling spectra are reported along with the chemical shifts as s, d, t, q for quaternary, methine, methylene, or methyl carbons, respectively. In a few cases, no sample was available and spectra were traced; therefore, no single frequency off-resonance decoupling results are available. These spectra were not assigned unless a sufficient number of spectra of related compounds were available.

The ^1H spectra in this collection were obtained on either Varian HA-100 or XL-100-12 spectrometers or a JEOL PFT-100 spectrometer using 5 mm sample tubes. The XL-100-12 spectrometer was equipped with the Varian 620-L disk data system, and the PFT-100 spectrometer with the JEOL EC-100 disk data system. TMS was used as an internal lock on the HA-100 instrument, whereas the deuterium resonance from the deuterated solvent provided the lock signal on the XL-100-12 and PFT-100 instruments. For samples run in the Fourier transform mode, standard operating conditions were a 90° pulse with a repetition time of 4.0 seconds using 8K data points.

^{13}C spectra were obtained with PFT-100 and XL-100-12 instruments using 10, 5, and 1.7 mm sample tubes, depending on the amount of sample available. The deuterium resonance from the deuterated solvent provided the lock signal and TMS was used as an internal reference in most cases. All samples were

run in the Fourier transform mode and standard operating conditions were a pulse angle of 30° with a repetition of 3.0 seconds using 8K data points. An exponential weighting factor of -1 was applied to the free induction decay before Fourier transformation. Sweep widths of either 5000 Hz or 6250 Hz were used, depending on the type of carbonyl carbons present in the compound. Peak positions and calculated chemical shifts were obtained from computer printouts and the chemical shifts are accurate to ± 0.1 ppm.

Most samples were run in CDCl_3 and/or DMSO. As a general rule, the solubility of the compound in question was first checked in CDCl_3 . When the compound was not sufficiently soluble in CDCl_3 alone, a few drops of DMSO was added. At this point, if the compound was not sufficiently soluble, the CDCl_3 was removed and the compound was dissolved in DMSO. In a few cases, the solubility of the compound in either D_2O or acetone was known and spectra were obtained in these solvents. For most compounds, the ^{13}C spectrum was obtained first and the ^1H spectrum was obtained on the same sample. Despite our best efforts, many of the ^1H spectra obtained in DMSO show a peak for H_2O absorbed from the atmosphere during the interval between sample preparation and determination of the spectrum.

Contents

Preface / ix

Acknowledgments / xi

Spectral Format / xv

- 1** **The Aflatoxins** / 1
- 2** **Sterigmatocystins** / 67
- 3** **Versicolorin Group** / 94
- 4** **Ochratoxins** / 128
- 5** **The Trichothecenes** / 152

- 6 The Cytochalasins / 264**
- 7 Rubratoxins / 344**
- 8 Tremorgen Group / 355**
- 9 Toxic Lactones / 510**
- 10 Roquefortines / 527**
- 11 Epipolythiopiperazine-3,6-diones / 569**
- 12 Alternaria Toxins / 614**
- 13 Secalonic Acids / 646**
- 14 The Malformins / 670**
- 15 *Penicillium islandicum* Toxins / 683**

16 **Sweet Potato Toxins / 716**

17 **Viridiol Group / 738**

18 **Aspergillus Toxins / 753**

19 **Penicillium Toxins / 823**

20 **Fusarium Toxins / 893**

21 **Miscellaneous Toxins / 911**

Molecular Formula Index / 925

Molecular Weight Index / 927

Compound Index / 929

Microorganism/Plant Source Index / 933

167-68

B1

The Aflatoxins

The aflatoxin group, notably aflatoxin B₁, has had the most profound impact on the development of the science of mycotoxicology. Their discovery in 1960 as the cause of "Turkey X" disease and subsequent implication in other mycotoxicoses has had the effect of stimulating an interest in and an awareness of other possible mycotoxin problems.

The four naturally occurring aflatoxins, B₁, B₂, G₁, and G₂, are acutely toxic and carcinogenic metabolites produced exclusively by *Aspergillus flavus* and the closely related fungus *A. parasiticus*. Other members of the group are derived from these four as metabolic products of microbial or animal systems (such as M₁, M₂, P₁, Q₁, and aflatoxicol) or produced spontaneously in response to the chemical environment (such as B_{2a}, G_{2a}, and D₁).

The aflatoxins are highly fluorescent, highly oxygenated, heterocyclic compounds characterized by dihydrodifurano or tetrahydrodifurano moieties fused to a substituted coumarin moiety. Aflatoxin B₁ is the most prevalent naturally occurring, acutely toxic, and carcinogenic member of the group.

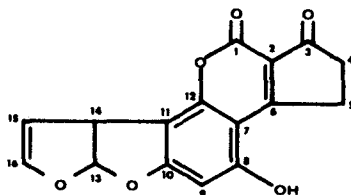
Although the toxicology of the aflatoxins varies considerably among species and with regard to age, sex, and nutrition, the primary organ affected is the liver. Gross clinical signs are growth retardation and weight loss due to reduced feed intake and efficiency, followed by severe tenesmus a few days before death. Postmortem examination may show fatty infiltration of the liver, liver fibrosis, ascites, visceral edema, bile duct proliferation, and hepatic carcinoma, depending on species involved. The ability of aflatoxin B₁ to induce liver carcinoma varies considerably with species. Trout and ducklings are very susceptible, but most animal species appear less prone to aflatoxin-induced hepatic carcinoma.

More subtle effects of aflatoxin ingestion are breakdown in the immune response and synergism or antagonism with various vitamins.

Several excellent reviews and at least one book which discuss various aspects of the aflatoxins are available.^{2,10,11,24,50}

The importance of the aflatoxins in mycotoxicoses of animals and man cannot be overemphasized or underestimated.

Aflatoxin group	Molecular weight	Molecular formula
Aflatoxin P ₁	298.0477	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ O ₆
Aflatoxin D ₁	286.0841	C ₁₆ H ₁₄ O ₅
Parasiticol (aflatoxin B ₃)	302.0790	C ₁₆ H ₁₄ O ₆
Aflatoxin B ₁	312.0633	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ O ₆
Aflatoxin Q ₁	328.0582	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ O ₇
Aflatoxin G ₁	328.0582	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ O ₇
Aflatoxin M ₁	328.0582	C ₁₇ H ₁₂ O ₇
Aflatoxin B ₂	314.0750	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₆
Aflatoxicol A	314.0790	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₆
Aflatoxicol B	314.0790	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₆
Aflatoxin G ₂	330.0739	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₇
Aflatoxin M ₂	330.0739	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₇
Aflatoxin B _{2a}	330.0739	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₇
Aflatoxin G _{2a}	346.0688	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₈
Aflatoxicol O-ethyl ether A	342.1103	C ₁₉ H ₁₈ O ₆
Aflatoxicol O-ethyl ether B	342.1103	C ₁₉ H ₁₈ O ₆



<i>Common name</i> ²⁰	Aflatoxin P ₁
<i>Molecular weight</i>	298.0477
<i>Molecular formula</i>	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ O ₆
<i>General characteristics</i> ^{6,20}	Pale yellow needles from methanol–benzene–hexane, mp >320°C [α] _D ²⁰ –574° (C = 0.08 in methanol)
<i>UV data</i> ⁶	λ _{max} ^{EtOH} nm (ε): 226(20,400), 267(11,200), 342(14,900), 362(15,400), and 425(2,500)
<i>Source</i> ⁶	Aflatoxin P ₁ is the principal urinary metabolite of aflatoxin B ₁ in rhesus monkeys. It occurred in the urine in unconjugated (3%), sulfate (10%), and glucuronide (50%) forms.
<i>Toxicity data</i> ⁶	In a mouse bioassay using IP injection, aflatoxin P ₁ showed considerably less toxicity than aflatoxin B ₁ . At a dosage of 100 mg/kg, no mortalities were observed; at 150 mg/kg there were 2 mortalities in 15 animals; and at 200 mg/kg, no mortalities occurred. Aflatoxin B ₁ in the same assay had an LD ₅₀ of 9.5 mg/kg.