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Isolation of Aspergillus flavus from Arachis hypogea & its aflatoxin production

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Peanuts may be contaminated with the mold *Aspergillus flavus* which produces carcinogenic substance called aflatoxin. For these purpose fungus contaminants of peanut sample was isolated by direct plate method. Lactophenol cotton blue staining was used for the identification of *A.flavus*. *Aspergillus flavus* was inoculated into Czapek-Dox broth to measure its growth as well as aflatoxin production at different duration as 5, 10, 15 & 20 days. Then aflatoxin was detected by paper chromatography & on paper 3 spots were identified & aflatoxin production was further confirmed by Thin layer chromatography (TLC) where on TLC plate 2 spots were identified, out of which one was pink & the other was yellow which fluoresces green under UV-light & from standard table it was confirmed that it was Aflatoxin G_2 & the other was Aflatoxin B_2 . ELISA method was also performed to assess the presence of aflatoxin level in culture metabolite & then absorbance of culture metabolite was taken & it was found to be low, as compared to standard values, this indicate that aflatoxin level was low in culture metabolite.

 $K^{eywords-Aspergillus flavus, Arachis hypogea, Aflatoxin, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), thin layer chromatography (TLC)$

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