

## Efficacy of use of forskolin plant extract in control of toxic effects of aflatoxicosis in food

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**Abstract:** The current study was undertaken to evaluate the efficacy of use of forskolin plant in control of the dangerous changes caused by aflatoxicosis. Forskolin has been isolated from the roots of *Coleus Forskohlii*, a plant rich in alkaloids which are considered to have a high probability of influence on the biological systems. Tannins, phlobatannins, saponins, flavonoids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides and alkaloids are active principles of *Coleus forskohlii*. Forskolin has a unique property of activating almost all hormone sensitive adenylate cyclase enzymes in a biological system. Out of 150 samples of frozen, minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn (25 of each). The obtained results revealed that aflatoxigenic moulds of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* were recovered from samples of cereals of wheat and yellow corn, respectively (72%, 12% and 60%, 16%), followed by samples of kareish cheese and frozen meat, respectively (44%, 4% and 40%, 4%). Whereas, the lowest level of isolation were detected in minced meat and raw milk, respectively (24%, 8% and 20%, 4%). The maximum levels of aflatoxins were obtained from *A. flavus* and *A.parasiticus* isolated from yellow corn and wheat, respectively (66.6%, 75% of isolates produced mean level of  $600 \pm 6.2$ ppb,  $120 \pm 8.0$  ppb in yellow corn and 66.6% of isolates produced mean level of  $300 \pm 4.5$  ppb,  $75 \pm 0.3$  in wheat). The isolates of *A. flavus* and *A.parasiticus* from frozen and minced meat were detected respectively in (50%, 100% and 66.6%, 50% with the mean level of  $10.5 \pm 1.2$  ppb,  $12 \pm 00$  ppb and  $25 \pm 0.5$  ppb,  $22 \pm 00$  ppb). On the other hand, the samples of raw milk and kareish cheese, showed a relatively lower levels of aflatoxins that produced by *A. flavus* and *A.parasiticus* which isolated from these samples. Whenever, 60, % of isolated *A. flavus* from raw milk produced mean level of aflatoxin  $13 \pm 0.3$  ppb and the *A. flavus* and *A.parasiticus* that recovered from 54.5%, 100% of kareish cheese produced  $25 \pm 2.6$  ppb and  $15 \pm 00$ ppb, respectively. For experimental evaluation the effect of forskolin against aflatoxicosis, forty rats were divided into 4 equal groups, Where, rats of the first group were given normal feed (free from mycotoxins and without any treatment) and kept as a negative control. While, rats of the other groups were given single dose of AFB<sub>1</sub> intra-peritoneal at the rate of 1.5 ppm. Then on the second day, rats of the third and fourth were dosed orally by 50 and 100 mg of forskolin for 2 weeks), while those of the second group were left without any treatment and kept as positive control. The results showed significant elevation in the liver and kidney function enzymes and decrease in concentrations of serum total protein, albumin, alpha globulin, beta globulin and gamma globulin together with A/G ratio. The serum NO level significantly increased in AF B<sub>1</sub> treated rats. Also, a significant decreased in catalase activity, GSH levels and increased TBARS levels were shown after Af treatment. However, supplementation of forskolin extract for toxicated rats with AFB<sub>1</sub> increased CAT activities and TBARS and eliminates the possibility of oxidative stress due to the administration of AF B<sub>1</sub> to rats. Histopathological changes of lung, liver, kidneys, spleen and skeletal muscle in aflatoxicated rats were discussed briefly. Receiving of forskolin to aflatoxicated rats decreased the destructive effect of AFB<sub>1</sub> in the tissues examined specially liver, where, cytoplasmic regeneration of hepatocytes was detected and had a significant improvement in all lesions appeared in most organs which represented by minimizing of histopathological and biochemical alteration. Hence, the supplementation of forskolin in food and feed is valuable in reduction of the severity of the toxicity and the histopathological and biochemical alteration produced by aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>.

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### 1. Introduction

The increased population in the world requires a parallel raise in the production of food. Some countries as Egypt had to import many food and feeds. Majority of these foods may carry the dangerous factors for human and animal health. Fungal contaminations and their toxins represent the most

significant contaminant of these foods (*Hassan et al., 2011*). Aflatoxins are a group of secondary metabolites produced by *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* in food and feed commodities (*Hassan et al., 2010*). The consumption of food contaminated with mould and their toxins induced food poisoning, hemorrhages,

hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity, dermatitis, carcinogenic, hormonal and immunosuppression effects (*Hassan et al., 2010 and 2011*). Livers characteristically are pale and enlarged as a result of aflatoxicosis, with microscopic changes including fatty change, hepatic necrosis, and biliary hyperplasia (*Hassan et al., 2010*). AFB<sub>1</sub> is also biotransformed by P450 enzymes to yield an electrophilic epoxide, which attacks the DNA to initiate hepatotoxicity and genotoxicity via oxidative damage (*Shen et al., 1996*).

Because aflatoxins contamination of food cannot be avoided, numerous detoxification strategies have been proposed to alleviate its impact. Antioxidants are compounds that can delay or inhibit the oxidation of lipids or other molecules by inhibiting the initiation or propagation of oxidizing chain reactions (*Velioglu et al., 1998*). The antioxidant activity of phenolic compounds is mainly due to their redox properties, which can play an important role in adsorbing and neutralizing free radicals, quenching singlet and triplet oxygen, or decomposing peroxides (*Osawa 2007*). In general, there are two basic categories of antioxidants, natural and synthetic. Recently, interest has increased considerably in finding naturally occurring antioxidants for use in foods or medicinal materials to replace synthetic antioxidants, which are being restricted due to their carcinogenicity (*Gülçin et al., 2004 and Hassan et al., 2011*). *World Health Organization (2003)* estimated that 80% of the world's population depends on traditional medicine for their health needs. In many developing countries, traditional herbal remedies are making a comeback as alternatives to modern medicine and the existence of traditional medicine depends on plant diversity and the related knowledge of their use as herbal medicine. Medicinal plants are important for pharmacological research and drug development, not only when constituents are used directly as therapeutic agents, but also as starting materials for the synthesis of drugs or as models for pharmacologically active compounds (*Mukherjee, 2003 ; Hassan et al., 2008; 2010 and 2011*). It is reported that forskolin plant extract is useful in the treatment of congestive heart failure, glaucoma, asthma and certain type of cancers (*Bhat et al., 1993*). In addition, it has been shown to have anti-inflammatory property (*Rupp et al., 1986*).

Therefore, this study was undertaken to screen feeds, frozen meat and raw milk for contamination with aflatoxigenic *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* and detection their ability for aflatoxin B1 production. Also, evaluation the effect of forskolin plant extracts for ameliorating the toxic effect of aflatoxins.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### Source of aflatoxigenic strains:

Out of 150 samples including frozen and minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn (25 of each), the recovered isolates of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* were selected for screening for AF. Production. The samples of feeds, meat and milk were obtained from animal's farms which had a disease problems and markets of food and subjected for mycological and mycotoxicological investigations.

### Origin of Forskolin:

It grows wild in the subtropical temperate climates as in Egypt, Arabia, Ethiopia, tropical East Africa and Brazil (*Willemse, 1985*). The plant is found mostly on the dry and barren hills. The tuberous roots of the plant produce the active principle compound (labdane diterpenoid forskolin (7 $\beta$ -Acetoxy-8, 13-epoxy-1 $\alpha$ , 6  $\beta$ , 9  $\alpha$ -trihydroxy-labd-14-ene-11-one) (*Shah et al., 1980*).

### Aflatoxins immunoaffinity columns:

Immunoaffinity columns of aflatoxins B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub> and other accessory materials for detection of mycotoxins by VICAM- flurometric methods were purchased from sigma chemical company (USA).

### Experimental animals:

Forty apparently healthy albino rats weighted (100-120 g) were housed under hygienic conventional conditions in suspended stainless steel cages. Prior to experiment rats fed on healthy basal diet free from any cause of disease. Drinking water was supplied in glass bottles, ad libitum.

### Isolation and Identification of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* :

Pure cultures of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* were obtained from selected colonies for repeated sub-culturing according to (*Smalla et al., 1998*). After incubation of plates for 3 days at 30°C, from the grown fungi, hyphal tips or single spores were transferred to test tubes containing slant PDA medium. The purified fungi were identified by the author according to (*Conner et al., 1992*).

### Cultivation and extraction of aflatoxins from isolates:

The isolated strains of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* from the present samples were used for experimental production of aflatoxins and the produced toxins were extracted and measured as methods recommended by (*Gabal et al., 1994*).

### Extraction of aflatoxins from frozen and minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn samples:

The aflatoxins were extracted and determined according to the method described by *Mazzani et al. (2001)* and *Ozaslan et al. (2011)* by using VICAM-flurometric technique .

### Extraction and Fractionation of forskolin:

Forskolin is extracted from tubers which were harvested at 75 to 85% moisture level on wet basis and stored at less than 12% moisture after drying. Tubers

mechanically dried at 40°C with tuber slice thickness of 0.5 cm and packed in polyethylene lined gunny bag retained the highest amount of forskolin. The quantification of forskolin is developed by thin layer and high performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) methods are employed (*Rajagam, 2005 and Saleem et al., 2006*).

#### Experimental design:

Forty rats were divided into 4 equal groups. Rats of the first group were given normal feed (free from mycotoxins and without any treatment) and kept as a negative control. Rats of the other groups were given single dose of AFB<sub>1</sub> intra-peritoneal at the rate of 1.5 ppm). Then on the second day rats of the third and fourth were dosed orally by 50 and 100 mg of forskolin for 2 weeks, while those of the second group were left without any treatment and kept as positive control. The period of feeding was continued for 4 weeks (*Bao, 2002*).

#### Blood samples:

At the end of the experiment, blood samples were collected from each group into small labeled dry and clean vials. The 1<sup>st</sup> were collected with anticoagulant for lysated Red blood cells (RBCs). Preparation of hemolysate according to *Tietz (1996)*. Catalase activity; lipid peroxidation as malonaldehyde (MDA) and reduced glutathione (GSH) in lysated rbc were determined according to *Aebi (1974); Okhawa et al. (1979) and Ellman (1959)*, respectively.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> blood samples were without anticoagulant in centrifuge tube, allowed to clot and then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 90 minutes for separation of serum which used to assay the biochemical parameters. The biochemical assays of serum lactic dehydrogenase (LDH) activities were determined according to methods of (*Szase et al. (1976)*), gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activities according to *Reitman and Frankel (1957)*, serum urea according to *Wybenga et al. (1971)*, serum creatinine level according to *Henry (1974)*. Serum NO levels of the cattle were measured by enzymatic Greiss reaction as *Burgner et al. (1999)*. Estimation of serum total protein and electrophoretic pattern were carried out after *SonnenWirth and Jaret (1980) and Davis (1964)*, respectively and calculated according to SynGene S. No. 17292\*14518 sme\*mpcs.

**Estimation of isoelectric focusing of plasma protein by using polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis as described by O`Farrell (1975)**

#### Histopathological examination:

Specimens were collected from the lung, liver, kidney, spleen and muscle immediately fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin. Five micron thick paraffin sections were prepared and stained with Hematoxylin

and Eosin (*Bancroft and Gamble, 2002*) and examination microscopically

#### Detection of aflatoxins residues in the internal organs:

The extraction, purification and measurement of aflatoxins residues in liver, kidney and spleen of rats after experimental work was monitored according to the method described by *Mazzani et al. (2001)* and *Ozaslan et al. (2011)*.

#### Statistical analysis:

The obtained data were computerized and analyzed for significance. Calculation of standard error and t.test according to (*SPSS 14, 2006*).

### 3. Results and Discussion

As shown in table (1) the maximum isolation of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* were recovered from samples of cereals of wheat and yellow corn (72%, 12% and 60%, 16%), followed by samples of kareish cheese and frozen meat (44%, 4% and 40%, 4%). Whereas, the lowest level of isolation were detected in minced meat and raw milk (24%, 8% and 20%, 4%) respectively.

**Table (1):** Prevalence of *A.flavus* and *A.parasiticus* species in samples of frozen and minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn.

Source of isolates	Prevalence of <i>A.flavus</i> and <i>A.parasiticus</i>			
	<i>A.flavus</i>		<i>A.parasiticus</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%
Frozen meat	10	40	1	4
Minced meat	6	24	2	8
Raw milk	5	20	1	4
Kareish chees	11	44	1	4
Yellow corn	15	60	4	16
Wheat	18	72	3	12

25 samples of each type were examined.

Nearly similar results were previously reported by *Hassan et al. (1997)* who isolated *A. flavus* and *A.parasiticus* from samples of frozen meat, chickens meat and meat products (minced meat, sausage, luncheon and kofta). They added that the highest mould count was recovered from minced meat ( $5 \times 10^2$  / g). While chicken meat and frozen meat samples showed the lowest mould count ( $3.3 \times 10^1$ ,  $4.1 \times 10^1$  / g), respectively. Whereas, *Wafia and Hassan (2000)* recovered food poisoning fungi and bacteria from some ready to eat meat meals and reported that the aflatoxins and moulds were most prevalent in foods before cooking and the heat processing of foods not sufficient to eliminate the mycotoxins and moulds. While, *Hassan et al. (2010)* revealed that the most prevalent fungi recovered from the samples of frozen meat, raw milk and poultry feed was the members of

genus aspergillus (60%, 60% and 76%) with mean of count of ( $1.6 \times 10^2 \pm 0.1$ ,  $6.0 \times 10 \pm 0.23$  and  $3 \times 10^2 \pm 1.0$ ), respectively, which were at the top of all isolated fungi. However, *A. flavus* was isolated from all kind of samples.

On the other hand, *Hassan et al.* (2007) reported that after the screening samples of meat, milk and its products for fungal contamination, yeast of *C. albicans* was recovered at the top rate of all isolated fungi, where it recovered from (75% of shawarma samples with the mean count of  $1 \times 10^3 \pm 0.3 \times 10$ ) followed by luncheon (60% with the mean count of  $2 \times 10^3 \pm 0.1 \times 10$ ), minced meat (40% with the mean count of  $3 \times 10^2 \pm 0.2 \times 10$ ). The incidence of *C. albicans* in samples of yoghurt was (62%) and soft cheese was (38%) which was higher than in raw milk (30%) with the mean of total colony count of ( $3 \times 10^3 \pm 1 \times 10$ ) in yoghurt but in soft cheese total

colony count was ( $2 \times 10^2 \pm 2.0 \times 10$ ). The isolation of these fungi in collected samples may be due to the exposure to adverse environmental factors as high temperatures and humidity during preparation, and/or storage. Direct contamination for samples itself may be occur during handling, processing and transportation which help in all ways to initiate the fungal pollution *Hassan et al.* (2004) and *El-Ahl et al.* (2006). As shown in table (2) significant levels of aflatoxin were produced by *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* isolated from collected samples, where, the maximum levels of toxin were obtained from *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* isolated from yellow corn and wheat (66.6%, 75% of isolates produced mean level of  $600 \pm 6.2$  ppb,  $120 \pm 8.0$  ppb for isolates of yellow corn and 66.6% of isolates produced mean level of  $300 \pm 4.5$  ppb,  $75 \pm 0.3$  ppb for isolates of wheat), respectively.

**Table (2):** Levels of aflatoxins produced by isolated *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* species from frozen and minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn.

Source of isolates	Levels of aflatoxins produced by (ppb)							
	A.flavus				A.parasiticus			
	Total No.	+ ve	% of +ve	Mean levels	Total No.	+ ve	% of +ve	Mean
Frozen	10	5	50	$10.5 \pm 1.2$	1	1	100	$12 \pm 00$
Minced	6	4	66.6	$25 \pm 0.5$	2	1	50	$22 \pm 00$
Raw milk	5	3	60	$13 \pm 0.3$	1	0	0	00
Kareish	11	6	54.5	$25 \pm 2.6$	1	1	100	$15 \pm 00$
Yellow	15	10	66.6	$600 \pm 6.2$	4	3	75	$120 \pm 8.0$
wheat	18	12	66.6	$300 \pm 4.5$	3	2	66.6	$75 \pm 0.3$

The isolated *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* from frozen and minced meat were detected in (50%, 100% and 66.6%, 50% with the mean level of  $10.5 \pm 1.2$  ppb,  $12 \pm 00$  ppb and  $25 \pm 0.5$  ppb,  $22 \pm 00$  ppb), respectively. On the other hand, the samples of raw milk and kareish cheese, showed a relatively lower levels of aflatoxins that produced by *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* which isolated from these samples. Wherever, (60, % of isolated *A. flavus* from raw milk produced mean level of aflatoxin  $13 \pm 0.3$  and the *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* that recovered from 54.5%, 100% of kareish cheese produced  $25 \pm 2.6$  ppb and  $15 \pm 00$  ppb) respectively.

The results in (Table,3) showed a significant levels of aflatoxins was detected in feed and food samples. The maximum mean of aflatoxins level was detected in samples of wheat and yellow corn ( $20 \pm 1.5$  and  $35 \pm 2.6$ ), respectively. Whereas, the other examined samples showed a relatively low levels of aflatoxins contamination. The significant levels of aflatoxins were also detected in other studies by isolated *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* that recovered from meat (*Wafia and Hassan, 2000*), milk (*Hassan et al., 2007*), feeds and feedstuffs (*Hassan et al.,*

*2002, 2004 and El-Ahl et al., 2006*) and from meat and milk (*Hassan et al., 2008, 2009 and 2010*).

The most important mycotoxigenic fungi are those producing aflatoxins, which are structurally similar polysubstituted coumarin. Aflatoxins are a group of secondary metabolites produced by *A. flavus* and *A. parasiticus* in food and feed commodities (*Oguz, 1997*). Aflatoxins have received greater attention than any of the other mycotoxins because of their demonstrated carcinogenic effects in susceptible animals and their acute toxic effects in human and as they are unique in being resistant to degradation under normal food processing conditions (*Hassan et al., 2004; 2009 and 2010*). This makes the selection of proper decontamination methods that will effectively decompose aflatoxins, while retaining the nutritive quality and palatability of the treated food a continuous challenge.

The results in (Table, 4) detected that aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> treatment alone caused severe liver and kidney damage in rats, as evidenced by increased serum ALT, AST, LDH and GGT activities, urea and creatinine concentrations (Table, 4). These elevations are indication of cellular leakage and loss of functional



integrity of cell membrane in liver *Eraslan et al. (2006 and Hassan et al., 2010)*. Also, it might be a marker of the activity of the nephrotic syndrome (*Awad et al., 2011*) and hepatic necrosis, thickness of bile duct and intrahepatic cholestasis (*Ncibi et al., 2008 and Hassan et al., 2010*). Also, the present study shows that serum NO level significantly increased in AFB<sub>1</sub> treated animals (Table, 4). It has been reported that elevated levels of lipid peroxidation stimulates host cells, mainly monocytes/ macrophages, to produce and release NO by induction of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) protein, resulting in cytotoxicity and DNA damage (*Shen et al., 1994 and Raso et al 2001*). The nitric oxide is naturally formed in activated macrophages and endothelial cells and is

considered as an active agent in several pathologies based on inflammation, *Ferrante et al., (2008)*.

Also, the administration of forskolin to aflatoxicated rats decreased the serum levels of ALT and AST towards their respective normal value that is an indication of stabilization of plasma membrane as well as repair of hepatic tissue damage caused by aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>, demonstrate that *forskalin extract* showed protection against AF B<sub>1</sub>-induced hepatotoxicity and nephrotoxicity due to the presence of Tannins, phlobatannins, saponins, flavonoids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides and alkaloids as (*Shankaragowda, 2000, Henderson et al., 2005 and Khatun, et al., 2010*).

**Table (3):** Levels of aflatoxins detected in frozen and minced meat, raw milk, kareish cheese, wheat and yellow corn.

Samples	Levels of aflatoxins (ppb)			
	Total No.	+ ve	% of +ve	Mean levels
Frozen meat	20	6	30	10.0±0.8
Minced meat	20	8	40	4.8±0.68
Raw milk	20	2	10	7.3±1.0
Kareish chees	20	5	25	2.5±1.6
Yellow corn	20	13	65	20±1.5
Wheat	20	15	75	35±2.6

**Table (4):** Chemoprevention of AFB<sub>1</sub>-induced hepatocarcinogenesis by Forskolin(n=10 for each group).

Parameter	Gp1	Gp2	Gp3	Gp4
AST (u/l)	46.11±4.06	90.45±7.21***	60.68±3.0*	57.32±4.1
ALT (u/l)	30.07±3.1	51.34±3.29***	43.33±3.1*	40.19±3.65
Urea (mg%)	37.48±2.17	68.86±3.79***	48.56±2.6**	40.21±2.11
Creatinin(mg)	0.66±0.05	1.14±0.06***	0.95±0.06**	0.78±0.07
LDH (u/l)	137.98±13.14	284.10±15.52***	183.53±10.82	149.42±12.5
GGT (u/l)	53.17±6.79	141.14±10.34***	93.73±9.86*	70.83±7.99
NO (u/l)	27.18±3.01	74.10±6.52***	43.53±4.12**	33.92±2.50

Significance at \*p< 0.05 \*\*p< 0.01 \*\*\*p< 0.001(ANOVA),

In present study as represented in table (5), there were a decrease in concentrations of serum total protein, albumin, alpha globulin, beta globulin and gamma globulin together with A/G ratio. AF B<sub>1</sub> is also biotransformed by P450 enzymes to yield an electrophilic epoxide, which attacks the DNA to initiate hepatotoxicity and inhibition of protein synthesis via oxidative damage (*Shen et al., 1996 and Hassan et al., 2004 ; 2009, and 2010*). Aflatoxin is an electrophilic reactivity at the carbonyl carbon atom and could conceivably adduct amines, imidazoles and sulfhydryl groups on proteins and enzyme via the Michael carbonyl condensation reaction can cause conformational changes that interfere with their function (*Lee et al., 2010 and Rawal et al., 2010*).

Aflatoxin was associated with other alterations in serum protein sub-fractions fractions (table, 5). These

include a significant increase in, beta-1 and gamma-1b globulins and a significant decrease in alpha-2, beta-1 and gamma-1a globulins. These results might be due to inflammation of liver and kidney tissues and immunosuppressive effect inhibit nearly cellular and humeral immunologic reaction induced by aflatoxin (*Tietz, 1996 and Hassan, and mogda, 2003 and Hassan et al. 1997; 2009 and 2010*). The immunotoxic activity of aflatoxin probably results from degenerative changes and cell death following necrosis and apoptosis, in combination with slow replacement of affected immune cells, due to inhibition of protein synthesis (*Al-Anati, and Petzinger, 2006*). TNF- $\alpha$ , a pleiotropic proinflammatory cytokines released from macrophages and other cell types in response to tissue

damage and evidence of hepatic necrosis (*Petersen et al., 2004 and Lomborg et al., 2008*).

Forskolin appears to exhibit potent immune system enhancement by activating macrophages and lymphocytes *Ciotonea and Cernăt (2010)*. It possesses anti-inflammatory and antioxidant actions, *González-Sánchez et al.(2006)*. Forskolin is a unique diterpene derivative of the plant *Coleus forskohlii* that acts independently of cell surface receptors to increase intracellular levels of cyclic AMP (cAMP), *Insel et al. (1982)*.

Free radical production and disturbance in redox molecular affecting certain cellular processes leading to inflammation process *Evans, (1989)*. The antioxidants have been definitively linked to anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties and they may include superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, catalase and glutathione reductase (*Lee et al., 1999*). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) and lipid peroxidation (LPO) have been considered to be main mechanisms in the toxicity of AFB<sub>1</sub> (*Sohn et al., 2004*). CAT is the main antioxidant enzyme in the body, which scavenges unwanted O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and ROOH produced by free radical. The decreased enzyme activities and increased TBARS levels produced by AFB<sub>1</sub> table (6) can be attributed to lower ability of the tissue, which cannot scavenge free radicals and prevent the action of lipid peroxidation. In present study, reduction in GSH was shown after AF treatment. GSH play a critical role in the protection of tissues from deleterious effects of activated AFB<sub>1</sub>, *Maslova and Boboriko (1990)*.

However co-supplementation of forskolin extract with AFB<sub>1</sub> (Table 6) increased CAT activities and reduced lipid peroxidation, as measured by Malondialdehyde production, and eliminates the

possibility of oxidative stress due to the administration of AFB<sub>1</sub> to rats. It is also reported that *forskolin* exhibits an appreciable amount glutathione and both of these are known to be effective in direct scavenging of a wide variety of free radicals (*Maslova and , Boboriko, 1990*). Also, GSH present in *forskalin* are potent lipid peroxidation chain-breaking agent and therefore further add to the protective role of the herbs against lipid peroxidation *Gupta, and Sharma (2011)*. Forskolin has inhibitory actions on the production of interleukins and the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory actions of forskolin are explained by an inhibitory action on macrophages, with subsequent decreases in the levels of thromboxane B2 and superoxide radicals, *González-Sánchez et al. (2006)*. From (Table, 7) it is detected that the residues of aflatoxins in the internal organs of aflatoxicated rats treated with high doses forskolin extract (100 mg) were completely eliminated. These findings was com in accord with findings of *Hassan et al. ( 2010)* who detected that the administration of dimethyl 4, 4- dimethoxy 5, 6, 5, 6-dimethylene dioxybiphenyl 2, 2- dicarboxylate (D.D.B.) in aflatoxicated rats (1.5 ppm of AFB<sub>1</sub>) resulted an improvement in the haematological picture and prevented serum biochemical changes, ameliorated, the toxic effect of aflatoxin B1 and completely eliminated the toxin residues in liver which caused hepatoprotective effect on AFB1 induced liver toxicity. Whereas, *Awaad et al.(2011)* obtained the protective effect of a Specific Combination of Mannan-Oligosaccharides and β-Glucans Extracted from Yeast Cell Wall on the health status and growth performance of ochratoxicated broiler chickens and degradation of the toxin residues in internal organs of treated chickens.

**Table (5)** Chemoprevention of AFB1-induced alteration in total protein and its electrophoresis(g/dl) by forskolin ((n=10 for each group)..

parameter \ Group	Gp1	Gp2	Gp3	Gp4
Alb	1.98±0.07	1.51±0.09*	1.81±0.05	1.84±0.09
T.alpha	1.03±0.07	0.76±0.06***	0.86±0.11	1.08±0.1
Alpha1	0.4±0.04	0.28±0.06	0.34±0.04	0.51±0.05
Alpha2	0.63±0.04	0.48±0.03*	0.52±0.07	0.57±0.09
t.beta globulin	1.51±0.06	1.51±0.08*	1.58±0.06	1.4±0.08
Beta1	0.88±0.04	1.07±0.05	1.00±0.07	0.72±0.06
Beta2	0.63±0.05	0.44±0.05	0.58±0.08	0.68±0.08
Gamma globulin	2.7±0.05	2.31±0.1	2.51±0.06	2.61±0.08
Gammal	2.29±0.08	1.66±0.06***	1.96±0.95**	2.03±0.11
Gamma2	0.41±0.04	0.65±0.04***	0.55±0.09	0.58±0.06
T.globulin	5.24±0.9	4.58±0.44***	4.95±0.12	5.09±0.27
A/G ratio	0.38±0.03	0.33±0.02	0.37±0.01	0.36±0.02
T. protein	7.22±0.23	6.09±0.33**	6.76±0.26	6.93±0.23

- Significance at \*p<0.05 \*\*p<0.01 \*\*\*p<0.001(ANOVA),

**Table (6):** Chemoprevention of AFB1-induced oxidative stress by Forskolin.

Group parameter	Gp1	Gp2	Gp3	Gp4
MAD nmole/mg Hb	8.62±0.63	14.78±1.03***	11.13±0.83	9.49±0.74
Catalase u/mg Hb	187.18±10.04	100.98±8.98***	143.17±12.02*	164.22±12.33
GSH nmole/mgHb	276.98±12.14	157.81±17.62***	198.56±16.82**	229.81±13.58

- Significance at \*p< 0.05 \*\*p< 0.01 \*\*\*p< 0.001(ANOVA),

**Table (7):** Detection of aflatoxins residues in the internal organs of rats after administration of aflatoxin alone or in combination with forskolin extract.

Organs	Levels of Af. Residues in organs of treated groups of rats(ppm)			
	Control(10)	Aflatoxicated gp (10)	Aflatoxicated +50mg fors.gp(10)	Aflatoxicated+100mg fors.gp(10)
Liver	0	1.5	1.0	0
Kidney	0	1.5	0.7	0
Spleen	0	1.5	0.5	0

Histopathological findings in all groups of rats in the present study were observed. In lung, some alveolar wall showed alternative thinning of alveolar wall associated with emphysema, while, other areas revealed thickening of interalveolar septa with macrophage infiltration (Fig.9). Some pulmonary blood vessels showed thickened wall with hemolysed blood. Similar results was previously reported by *Denli et al. (2009) and Hassan et al., 2011* ). Hepatic tissue showed preservation of hepatic cord pattern. One of the most commonly reported changes in is severe vacuolar degeneration of hepatocytes. Some hepatocytes lost their nuclei, while some had binucleation fig (1). Similar results were recorded *Denli et al. (2009) and Hassan et al. (2011)*, where, liver tissue of broiler and sheep receiving aflatoxin B1 had perilobular inflammation and vacuolar degeneration of hepatocytes, respectively. Cytoplasmic degeneration may cause organ malfunction. *Jimeno and Martins (2006)* recorded that aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>, when consumed by rodent; expression of pathogenicity can be in the form of toxic abnormalities and organ malfunction including interference with the metabolism of amino acids and vitamin B complex. *Hassan et al. (2003 and 2009)* reported that aflatoxin bind to nucleic acids and also impairs protein formation in the body. Thus, they may cause organ damage and/or cancer from prolonged exposure. Moreover, *Abou Rawash (1996)* added that cytogenetical analysis clearly indicated that chronic aflatoxicosis had a damaging effect on the nucleus in the interphase stage. *Jubb et al. (1993) and Hassan et al. (2010)* added that protein and RNA synthesis are inhibited at higher dose rats, which probably laccouts for the necrotizing effects and fatty change seen at these rats. The endothelium of central veins of aflatoxicated group was swollen suggesting that

aflatoxin B1 may have an irritative action on endothelium.

Kidney of aflatoxicated group showed Some glomeruli were atrophied while others showed moderate degree of periglomerular edema. Epithelial lining renal tubules (Proximal convoluted tubules) revealed advanced stage of granular degeneration with star-shaped lumen fig (4). Changes of renal tubules were nearly detected by *Hassan et al. (2004)* in bovine and *Arafa et al. (2006) and Hassan et al. (2010)* in goats and sheep and *Denli et al. (2009)* in hen. Some renal blood vessels engorged with hemolysed blood. In spleen, aflatoxicated group showed depletion of lymphoid cells in white pulp and congestion of splenic vessels fig. (10). Few hemosidrin pigments were observed. This related to toxic effect of AFB1 which include immunosuppression. *Hassan et al. (1997) and Yin et al. (2008)* mentioned that noticeable clinical signs on rodents include renal, spleen, liver and pulmonary congestion. In skeletal muscles, aflatoxin B1 exposure showed in our study, loss of striation, zenker necrosis in some fibers and edematous reaction (Fig.,7). That is related to the binding of its toxic metabolites to macromolecules, in particular, to nucleic acids and nucleoproteins (*Jubb et al., 1993) and Hassan et al. (2011)*). *Smith et al. (1975)* recorded that skeletal muscle showed toxic myosits in chick embryo treated with aflatoxin B1.

Treatment of aflatoxicated rats with low dose of forskolin revealed mild and focal areas of emphysema in lung. Hepatocytes showed granular degeneration with reduction of binucleation (around central vein) (Fig., 2). Vacuolar degeneration changes were more evident at area adjust to portal area. In kidneys, Moderat improvement of glomeruli appeared in less frequency of atrophied glomeruli; while renal tubules

still suffering from severe degree of granular degeneration in association with intratubular hyaline casts deposition (Fig., 5). Some renal blood vessels engorged with hemolysed blood. Demarcation of red and white pulps in spleen well observed. Few cells of skeletal muscles showed loss of striation with mild edematous reaction was observed (Fig., 8).

With high dose no marked changes were detected than treatment in lung. While, marked regeneration of hepatocytes was more detected at centrilobular area and extended peripherally. Mild granular degeneration was detected than previously described (Fig., 3). In kidneys no distinct pathological lesions in the most of glomeruli were noticed. However, few glomeruli still showing atrophy. Some epithelial lining renal tubules showed mild degree of granular degeneration (Fig., 6) with disappearance of most hyaline casts. No marked changes was detected than treatment with low doses in spleen. Muscle fibers have no pathological alteration. Receiving of forskolin, reduced the destructive effects in tissues examined. Which are represented by minimizing of histopathological alteration in the form of mild and focal areas of emphysema in lung tissues of both groups of rats received forskolin. The cytoplasmic regeneration of hepatocytes with reduction of binucleation (around central vein) with low dose, While high dose revealed marked regeneration of hepatocytes which more detected at centrilobular area and extended peripherally which noticed by mild hepatocytic degeneration (granular type instead of severe vacuolar type which previously detected). *Denli et al. (2009)* reported that cytoplasmic visualization with disseminated necrotic cells were observed in the experimental groups, chicks treated with aflatoxin and aflatoxin Detox (Adiveter, Agro-Reus, Reus, Tarragona, Spain). Whereas, *Hassan et al. (2011) and Awad et al. (2011)*, used herbal extracts and AGRIMENOS compound to decreased the

histopathological changes which occurred due mycotoxicosis. The low dose of forskolin resulted of a moderate improvement of glomeruli in less frequency of atrophied glomeruli. No distinct pathological lesion of glomeruli except few still showed atrophy with disappearance of most hyaline casts and few epithelial lining renal tubules showed mild degree of granular degeneration indicated the improvement of histopathological alteration with high dose. Well demarcation of red and white pulps of spleen indicated a good immunological response by receiving forskolin (*Shankaragowda, 2000*).

*De Souza and Shah, (1988); Bhat et al. (1993); Shankaragowda (2000) and Khatun et al. (2010)*, recorded that it is an important plant used against various disorders in indigenous systems of medicine such as antioxidant, as remedy for heart, abdominal and respiratory disorders in addition, it has been shown to have anti-inflammatory property, where forskolin in our study minimized the swollen of endothelium of central vein in liver tissue and periglomerular edema in renal tissue and decreased markedly edematous reaction in skeletal muscles caused by aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>.

**In conclusion**, the supplementation of forskolin extract in food and feed is valuable in reduction the severity of the toxicity and the histopathological alteration produced by aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>. Hence, the presence of fungi and their toxins in feed and food reflected unhygienic measure during cultivation, irrigation harvesting transportation, handling, and storage and processing of feed and food. Also, the fungal inhibitors may be added if the level of contamination over the limited level. In addition, continuous investigations for finding new safe methods for controlling the growth of fungi and mycotoxins production to keep the health of human and animals consumer are critical demand.

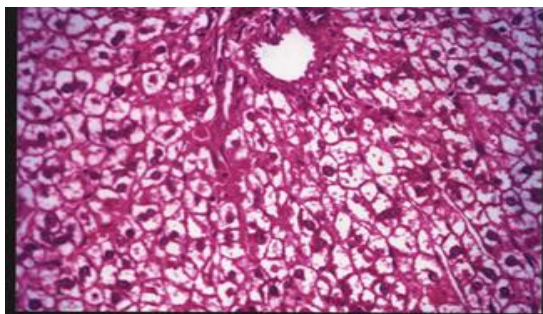


Fig. (1): Liver of aflatoxicated rats. (H & E X 400).

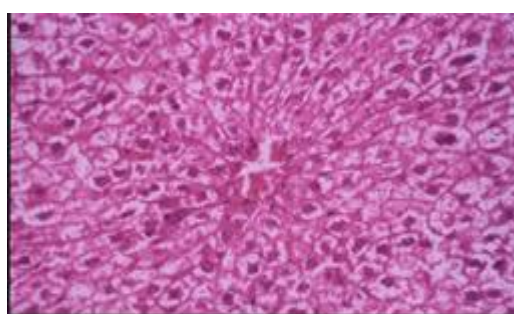


Fig. (2): Liver of rats received aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> and low dose of forskolin. (H & E X 400).



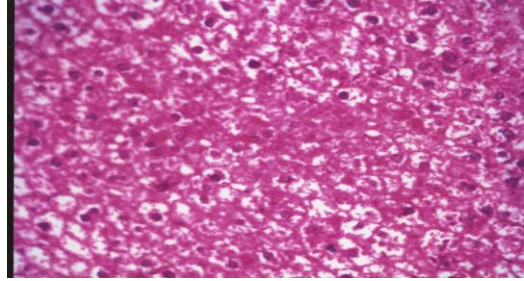


Fig. (3): Liver of rats received aflatoxin B1 and high dose of forskolin. (H & E X 400).

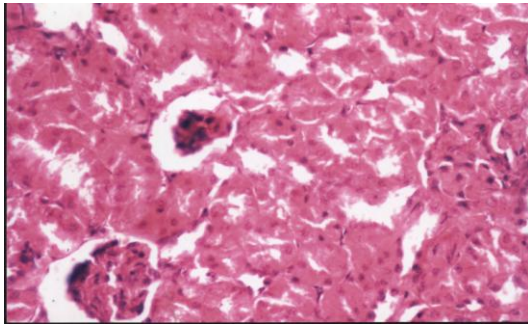


Fig. (4): Kidney of aflatoxicated rats. (H & E X 200).

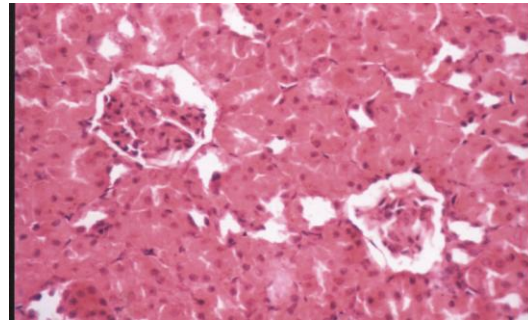


Fig. (5): Kidney of rats received aflatoxin B1 and low dose of forskolin. (H & E X 200).

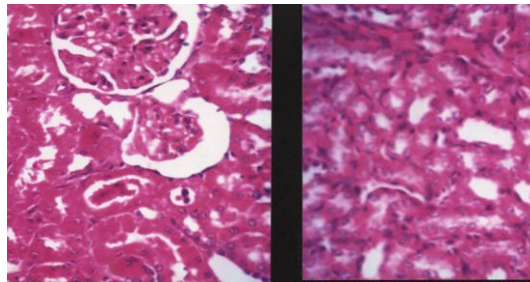


Fig. (6): Kidney of rats received aflatoxin B1 and high dose of forskolin. (H & E X 200).

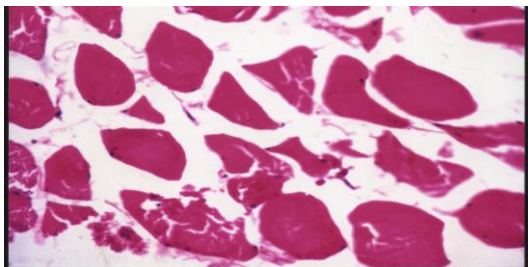


Fig. (7): skeletal muscles (cross section) of aflatoxicated rats. (H & E X 400).

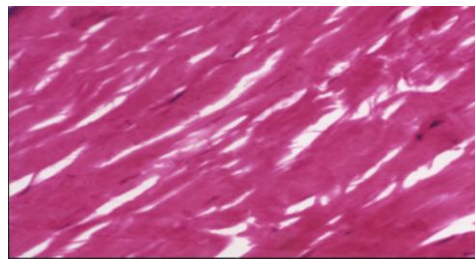


Fig. (8): Skeletal muscles of rats received aflatoxin B1 and low dose of forskolin, (H & E X 400).

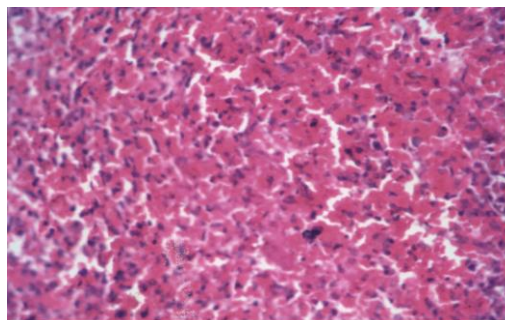
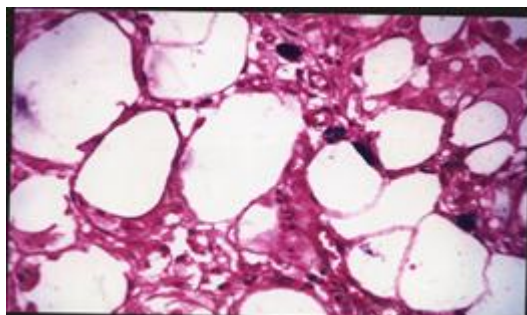


Fig. (9): Lung of aflatoxicated rats . (H & E X 400). Fig. (10): Spleen of aflatoxicated rats. (H & E X 200).

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