

## Nutritious Attempts to Detoxify Aflatoxic Diets of Tilapia Fish 2- Clinical, Biochemical and Histological Parameters

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### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the toxic effects of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (AFB<sub>1</sub>) on mono-sex Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings and attempting to detoxify these drastic effects by using some dietary supplements. Therefore, 0.5 % of each of these supplements agents (namely, Bio-Buds-2x, chamomile flowers, aspirin and ginger) were added to 100 ppb aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> diet for fingerlings. These diets were offered 6 days a week at 3% daily of actual biomass in glass aquaria in duplicate/treatment in an indoor feeding experiment which lasted 14 weeks. The aflatoxic diet led to occurrence of some external clinical symptoms and postmortem signs of the aflatoxicated fish. Protein analysis showed remarkable variations in the number of bands and their intensity among all treatments and esterase isozyme activities were also affected. There were severe histological alterations in all tested organs (livers, kidneys, intestines and gills, except in the gonads of the treated fish). Dietary ginger inclusion alleviated aflatoxicosis symptoms by fish, since it improved all the above tested parameters of the aflatoxicated fish. Generally, the obtained results in the present study indicated that ginger was the best detoxifying agent of aflatoxin, followed by aspirin and chamomile flowers, respectively.

**Key words:** Nile tilapia - Ginger - Aspirin - Chamomile flowers-Aflatoxin

### INTRODUCTION

Mycotoxins are secondary  
metabolites produced by specific

filamentous fungi that contaminate  
agricultural commodities. They are toxic to  
humans and animals, cause significant  
reductions in the agricultural yield crop,

and cause economic losses (Gourama and Bullerman, 1995; Gqaleni *et al.*, 1996) as well as worldwide losses in condemned agricultural products and in animal and human health (CAST, 2003). Long term effects of diets containing aflatoxin are correlated with high incidence of liver disease in certain regions (Abbott, 2002). The most acutely and chronic toxic member of the aflatoxin family is AFB<sub>1</sub>. It is the most frequent of all aflatoxins in contaminated food (Kennedy *et al.*, 1998 and Hussein and Brasel, 2001). Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> is a natural hepatotoxin produced by the ubiquitous fungi *Aspergillus flavus* and *parasiticus*. Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (AFB<sub>1</sub>) is known as the most toxic it has mutagenic, carcinogenic, teratogenic and cytotoxic action. The target organ of AFB<sub>1</sub> is especially the liver (Denissenko *et al.*, 1999). Mistry *et al.* (1996 & 1997) demonstrated that AFB<sub>1</sub> stimulated the activity of the rat hepatic phosphatidylinositol kinase and the protein kinase C-the key enzymes in the cell signalling system. The stimulation of the phosphatidylinositol cycle might contribute to the activation of DNA synthesis and evoke the later toxic and carcinogenic effects of AFB<sub>1</sub>. AFB<sub>1</sub> is probably the competitive inhibitor of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase (PDE). It is believed that changes of cellular cyclic nucleotide levels may be an important way of aflatoxin action (Bonsi *et al.*, 1999).

Aquatic vertebrates of widely divergent taxa are known to suffer toxic effects of dietary AFB<sub>1</sub>. For example, dietary levels of AFB<sub>1</sub> at or below 1 µg/kg have shown to cause liver tumors in rainbow trout (Lovell, 1989). Also it has been reported that sensitivity to these toxins depends on species development temperature. Warm water species are generally less sensitive to AFB<sub>1</sub> than cold water species (Lovell, 1989).

Some scientific efforts were conducted to use dietary supplements which detoxify the drastic effects of aflatoxins on some animals such as, glucomannan (Karaman *et al.*, 2005), yeast cell wall mannanoligosaccharide (MOS) (Devegowda *et al.*, 1998), or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* which were found to have beneficial effects during mycotoxicosis (Raju and Devegowda 2000), as well as chamomile (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 1985; Soliman and Badeaa 2002 and Ibrahim, 2004), and ginger (Vimala *et al.*, 1999 and Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2002d).

Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* may represent a sensitive model for mycotoxicosis, since this fish is extremely vulnerable to toxic effects from various chemicals and poisons including aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (AFB<sub>1</sub>). Therefore, the present work aimed to study the drastic effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> on the clinical lesions and postmortem examination, biochemical studies (total protein and esterase (EST) isozyme) and

some histological alterations of the experimented fish *O. niloticus*. Also, this study was conducted to evaluate the ability of some dietary supplements, namely Bio-Buds-2x, chamomile flowers, aspirin and ginger (at a level of 0.5%) to detoxify the drastic effects of this dangerous toxin AFB<sub>1</sub> on the Nile tilapia fish for 14 weeks.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted to evaluate the ability of some dietary supplements namely Bio-Buds-2x (T<sub>3</sub>), chamomile flowers (T<sub>4</sub>), aspirin (T<sub>5</sub>), and ginger (T<sub>6</sub>) (at a level of 0.5%), to detoxify the drastic effects of this dangerous toxin AFB<sub>1</sub> on Nile tilapia fish for 14 weeks. A group of 180 mono-sex Nile tilapia *O. niloticus* fingerlings (obtained from the private fish farm at Tolombat 7, Kafr El-Sheikh), with an average initial body weights of 10g were used in this study. Fish were maintained in the aquaria for one month before the beginning of the experiment for acclimatization purpose. Twelve glass aquaria were used (60×35×40cm) each aquarium was continuously supplied with compressed air from an electric compressor. Dechlorinated tap water was used to change one third of the water in each aquarium every day. The fish were distributed into the aquaria at stocking rate of 15 fish per aquarium. The experimental treatments were tested in two aquaria for each.

A basal diet (30.38% crude protein, 8.79% ether extract, 4.40% crude fiber, 6.24% ash, 478.4 Kcal/100g DM gross energy and 63.5mg CP/Kcal GE, P/E ratio) was formulated from the local commercial ingredients (fish meal 10%, soybean meal 38%, yellow corn 35.5%, sunflower oil 4%, wheat bran 12% and vit. & min.0.5%). The basal diet was considered as a negative control (T<sub>1</sub>) whereas the aflatoxic diet (T<sub>2</sub>) was considered as a positive control. These ingredients were pressed by manufacturing machine (pellets size 1mm), they were milled and AFB<sub>1</sub> was added at a concentration of 100ppb to all diets (T<sub>2</sub>,T<sub>3</sub>,T<sub>4</sub>,T<sub>5</sub>,T<sub>6</sub>), with the exception of the control (T<sub>1</sub>). Each anti-toxin was added at a concentration of 0.5%.The ingredients and supplements were bought from the local market, aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> was produced through pellets fermentation using *Aspergillus parasiticus* NRRL 2999 according to the method described by Abdelhamid and Mahmoud (1996).

The experiment continued for 14 weeks. During the experimental period the fish were fed the experimental diets at a rate of 3% of the live body weight daily, six days a week. The diet was introduced twice daily, at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.. The amount of food was adjusted bi-weekly based on the actual body weight changes. Light was controlled by a timer to provide a 14h light: 10h dark as a daily photoperiod.

From 1<sup>st</sup> week of the experiment and through all the intervals periods, the clinical lesions and postmortem examination of the aflatoxicated fish were recorded by photo camera. However, at the end of the experiment, samples from fish muscles and livers were taken and kept in vials for biochemical examination according to El-Fadly *et al.* (1990). Muscles and livers were mixed from six fish / treatment. Two hundreds mg of fish muscles or 200 mg of fish liver were homogenized in one ml of sucrose 20% solution for total determination of protein according to Laemmli (1970) and isozyme activity according to Ahmed (1994). Also, at the end of the experiment, all fish were sacrificed and the target organs (liver, kidneys, gills, intestine and gonads) were sampled. Samples were fixed in 10% neutralized formalin solution followed by washing with tap water, then dehydrated by different grades of alcohol (70, 85, 96 and 99%). Samples were cleared by xylene and embedded in paraffin wax. The wax blocks were sectioned to six micron. The sections were stained by hematoxyline and eosin and then subjected to a histological examination according to Pearse (1968).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *1-The clinical lesions and postmortem examination*

External symptoms and postmortem signs of aflatoxicated *O. niloticus* fish were recorded from the 1<sup>st</sup>

week and continued at the different experimental intervals, which are presented in the following Figures (1-4).

The findings of the present work are in agreement with those mentioned by Hussein *et al.* (2000), Soliman *et al.* (2000) and Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 b). Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002c) confirmed that dietary inclusion of 0, 500, 1000 and 1500 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> led to a gradual decrease in survival rate in the small fish size (2g weight) by increasing dietary level of AFB<sub>1</sub>. Also, the authors added that those fed the AFB<sub>1</sub> showed (from the 5<sup>th</sup> week) cloudy eyes (which were pumped thereafter), yellow-greenish infiltrations near the gills and erosion of the caudal fins and the abdomen. Other symptoms appeared as slow-motion, lethargy, less feed acceptability and discarded scales of fish. While the large fish (30 g) reflected fins erosion and discarded scales. Also, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004d) recorded that the aflatoxin- B<sub>1</sub> caused severe external clinical lesions (protrusive eyes, abdominal distension, hardening of the body, discarding viscera, fins erosion, discarded scales, hemorrhage, discoloration of skin, abdominal shrinkage, operculum erosion and cataract) and postmortem symptoms (enlarged gall bladder and stomach, distended yellowish liver, viscera covered by a thick layer of mucus and uncharacterized liver and viscera) in the internal organs of the aflatoxicated *O. niloticus*. These signs were recorded from

the 1<sup>st</sup> week and continued throughout the experiment (8 weeks). Also, they added that all groups fed the diets containing 200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> with and without the additives died at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> week of the experiment. In the same trend, Cagauan *et al.* (2004) reported that AF led to eye opacity, cataract, blindness, lesions on the body surface, fin and tail rot, yellowing of the body surface, abnormal swimming, feeble and stationary on one place, and reduced appetite of Nile tilapia fish.

## **2- Biochemical studies**

### **2.1-Muscles total protein**

Figure (5) and Table (1) presented the banding patterns and their molecular weight against standard protein (Ladder, SM0669, Fermentas Life Sciences, 10-200 KDa). As shown from the results obtained, the highest band numbers (14) were detected in the last treatment (T<sub>6</sub>, 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>+ 0.5% ginger), the intensity of these bands was also differed. On the other hand, the lowest number (9) was detected in the fourth treatment (100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% chamomile flowers). In addition, it was noticed that, no differences among the control treatment (T<sub>1</sub>) and all treatments for bands No. 6, 11, 17, 18 and 21. With regard to bands No. 14 and 19, the results showed that no differences were detected among the control treatment (T<sub>1</sub>) and all treatments, except in the fourth treatment, since these bands were absent. It was also

noticed that the band No.7 was changed from faint to dark in the last two treatments, T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>6</sub>, while some bands were absent among different treatments, i.e. band No. 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16. Only one band with molecular size < 10 KDa (No. 20) was detected in the best treatment in this experiment, while it was absent in the control (T<sub>1</sub>) and the rest treatments. However, AFB<sub>1</sub> is known as protein depressant (Sahoo and Mukherjee, 2001), since it inhibits RNA/DNA synthesis (Lovell, 1992; Abdelhamid *et al.*, 1998, 2002 a,b&c and 2004 a,b,c&d and Abdelhamid 2000 and 2005).

### **2.2- Esterases isozyme**

Table (2) and Figure (6) represented the esterases (EST) electrophoretic banding patterns of muscle following the treatments with the tested toxin and toxin with 0.5% of either Bio-Buds-2x, chamomile flowers, aspirin and ginger. All treatments exhibited the same effects in the number of bands since they appeared nine bands, except the treatment T<sub>5</sub>, which appeared seven bands. In addition, the same effect on the bands intensity was appeared after the treatment with toxin and toxin with 0.5% of Bio-Buds-2x, except bands No.7 and 8 which were altered from dark to very dark. Also, it was noticed that the effect of T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>6</sub> treatments on EST isozymes was identical as well as untreated treatment (control, T<sub>1</sub>),



Fig. (1a): From left to right: Aflatoxicated *O. niloticus* with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> with 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x (T<sub>3</sub>), aflatoxicated diet without additives (T<sub>2</sub>) and control group (T<sub>1</sub>) showing gradual decreases in sizes of aflatoxicated fish as compared with the negative control group.



Fig. (1b): From left to right: Aflatoxicated *O. niloticus* with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> and with 0.5% chamomile flowers (T<sub>4</sub>), aspirin (T<sub>5</sub>) and ginger (T<sub>6</sub>) showing gradual decreases in sizes of aflatoxicated fish between different treatments.



Fig. (2): *O. niloticus* fed diet containing 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>), showing severe discarded scales, and dorsal and caudal fins erosion.



Fig. (3): *O. niloticus* fed diet containing 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x (T<sub>3</sub>), showing discarded scales, dark patches (discoloration), caudal fin erosion and abdominal shrinkage.



Fig. (4): Dietary aflatoxicated *O. niloticus* with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>) and with 0.5% chamomile flowers (T<sub>4</sub>), respectively. Pictures from left to right showing uncharacterized liver and all viscera of fish and the abdomen cavity was filled with heavy amounts of mucus.

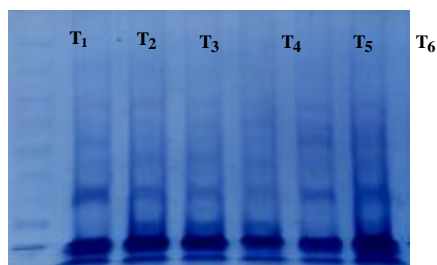


Fig. (5): Effect of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (AFB<sub>1</sub>) on muscle protein of *O. niloticus* at the end of the 14- weeks experimental feeding.

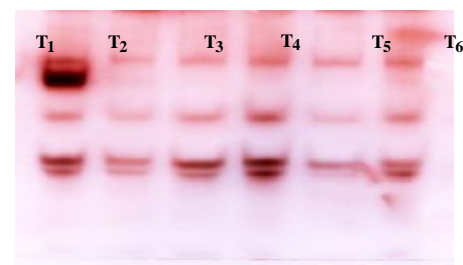


Fig. (6): Effect of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> on muscle EST isozymes of *O. niloticus* at the end of the 14- weeks experimental feeding.

# NUTRITIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DETOXYFY AFLATOXIC DIETS OF TILAPIA FISH

Table (1): *Effect of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> on muscle protein of O. niloticus at the end of the experiment.*

No of bands	M KDa	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>4</sub>	T <sub>5</sub>	T <sub>6</sub>
1	200	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	150	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	120	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	85	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	70	b	b	b	b	b	b
7	60	b	b	b	b	c	c
8	50	-	-	-	b	b	b
9	-	b	-	-	-	b	b
10	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	b	b	b	b	b	b
12	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	b	b	b	b	-	b
14	25	b	b	b	-	b	b
15	20	-	c	c	c	-	c
16	-	d	d	d	-	-	d
17	15	d	d	d	d	d	d
18	-	d	d	d	d	d	d
19	-	d	d	d	-	d	d
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	d
21	10	d	d	d	d	d	d

- =Absent    a= Very faint    b= Faint    c= Dark    d= Very dark

Table (2): *Effect of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> on muscle EST isozymes of O. niloticus after 14- weeks of treatments*

Isozymes	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>4</sub>	T <sub>5</sub>	T <sub>6</sub>
1	b	a	a	a	a	a
2	c	c	c	c	c	c
3	d	-	-	-	-	-
4	d	a	a	a	a	a
5	d	-	-	-	-	-
6	c	b	b	c	b	c
7	d	c	d	d	c	d
8	d	c	d	d	c	d
9	a	a	a	a	a	a
10	a	a	a	a	-	a
11	b	b	b	b	-	b

- =Absent    a = Very faint    b = Faint    c = Dark    d = Very dark

except bands No. 3 and 5 which were absent and bands No. 1 and 4 which were altered from faint and very dark to very faint. The lowest number of bands were detected in the five treatment, since they exhibited seven bands with different intensity. AFB<sub>1</sub> was found to be genotoxic, since it affects microsomal cytochrome P-450 isozymes in fish (Carpenter *et al.*, 1995). Different stressors also negatively affected lysozymes activity of different tissues of Nile tilapia (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006 a).

### 3-Histological effects

#### 3.1- Liver

The present histopathological findings of AFB<sub>1</sub> at 100 ppb and different sources of dietary additives in the different treatments are shown at the following Figures (7-12). The observed pathological effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> were nearly similar to those reported by Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 c) on big or small sized *O. niloticus* fish fed diets contaminated with 1500 and 1000 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>, respectively. Also, Nguyen *et al.* (2002) found similar lesions in liver of

Nile tilapia fish fed 100 mg AFB<sub>1</sub>/kg diet for 8 weeks. Hussein *et al.* (2000) and Soliman *et al.* (2000) reported similar pathological effects on Nile tilapia fish fed dietary AFB<sub>1</sub>. Recently, also Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d) reported that 100 and 200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> in the *O. niloticus* fish diets led to severe histological alterations in the liver. These alterations in the liver of the aflatoxicated fish included mild congestion, enlargement and dilatation of the blood vessels with microscopic foci of hemorrhage in the portal lobules, thickening of the lobular endings with basophilic cells, congestion of the bile ducts and widening the adjacent blood sinusoids and regularity within the hepatic lobules and some fibroblast cells were spread within abnormal blood sinusoids. The authors added that these alterations increased by increasing level of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>).

It is of interest to note that the experimented additives to diets contaminated with aflatoxin for elimination of the toxic effects reduced the pathological signs in different degrees. Addition of 0.5% ginger (T<sub>6</sub>) showed the best results, followed by 0.5% aspirin (T<sub>5</sub>) and 0.5% chamomile flowers (T<sub>4</sub>). However, adding 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x (T<sub>3</sub>) failed to improve the toxic effects of aflatoxin on hepatic histogenesis. In this respect, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d)

suggested that use of adsorbent agents (namely 1% egg shell and 2% shrimp wastes) alleviated the adverse effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> on the histopathological changes in the internal organs of the aflatoxicated fish. The positive effects of these additives (ginger or aspirin) may be due to their chemical and physical properties and/or their positive effects on immune system of fish. Ginger stimulates digestion as it influences positively the terminal enzymes of digestive process (Platel and Srinivasan, 1996 & 2000 and Ahmed and Sharma, 1997). However, aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) is known to inhibit the cyclooxygenases and enhancement of cellular immune response, or induction of apoptosis (Shiff and Rigas, 1999 and Subongkot *et al.*, 2003).

## 3.2- Kidney

The histological examination of the kidney in the experimental fish at the different treatments is shown at the following Figures (13-18). The present pathological signs of 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> diets were observed too by Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 b) on fish fed different levels of AFB<sub>1</sub> (500-2000 ppb). Also, Hussein *et al.* (2000), Soliman *et al.* (2000) and Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 c) found similar findings. Recently, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d) reported that 100 and 200ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> in the *O. niloticus* fish diets led to severe histological alterations in the kidney.

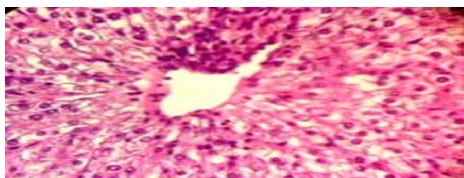


Fig. (7): Section in liver of the control *O. niloticus* ( $T_1$ , zero ppb  $AFB_1$ ) showing normal hepatic lobules with normal hepatocytes arrangement around the central vein. (X 460, H&E stains)



Fig. (8): Section in liver of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  ( $T_2$ ) showing severe congestion, enlargement of the portal vein with monocytes, fibroblast infiltration (—→) and severe congestion of the bile ducts. (—●). (X 160, H&E stains)

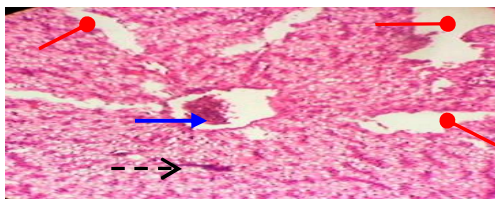


Fig. (9): Section in liver of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x ( $T_3$ ) showing mild congestion and infiltration of monocytes within the central vein (—→), blood sinusoids abnormality (—●) and mild necrosis and irregular hepatocytes within the lobules (---→). (X 160, H&E stains)

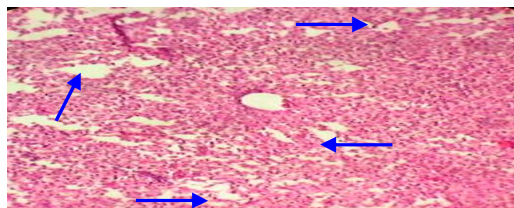


Fig. (10): Section in liver of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% chamomile flowers ( $T_4$ ) showing higher incidence of small areas of degenerated hepatocytes within the hepatic lobules (—→). (X 51.2, H&E stains)

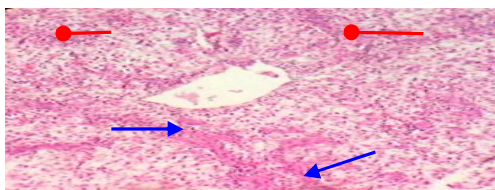


Fig. (11): Section in liver of *O. niloticus* fed on diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% aspirin ( $T_5$ ) showing normal hepatic lobular architecture with slight necrosis in hepatocytes (—→). Also, there were small areas of degenerated hepatocytes within the hepatic lobules (—●). (X 51.2, H&E stains)

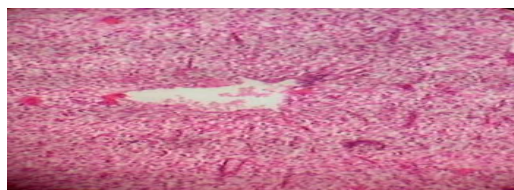


Fig. (12): Section in liver of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% Ginger ( $T_6$ ) showing normal hepatic lobules with normal hepatocytes arrangement around the central vein. (X 51.2, H&E stains)

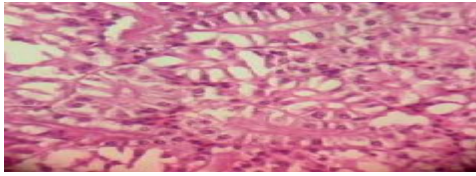


Fig. (13): Cross-section in kidney of the control *O. niloticus* ( $T_1$ ) showing normal kidney tissue and normal proximal and distal convoluted tubules of the renal cortex. (X 640, H&E stains)

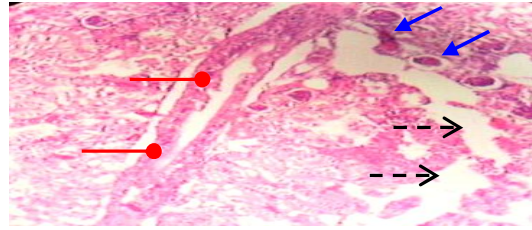


Fig. (14): Cross-section in kidney of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  ( $T_2$ ) showing renal cortex with normal mepigain corpuscles, degeneration between glomeruli (—→), and in the epithelium tissue lining the adjacent renal tubules (---→) and mild congestion with enlargement of some renal tubules within the renal medulla (—●). (X 160, H&E stains)

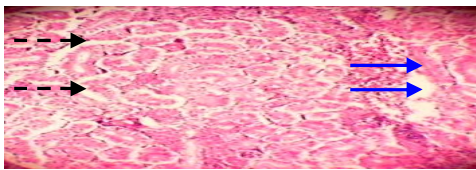


Fig. (15): Cross-section in kidney of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x ( $T_3$ ) showing mild congestion of the epithelium lining the adjacent renal tubules (---→) and infiltration of fibroblast cells in the renal medulla (—→). (X 160, H&E stains)

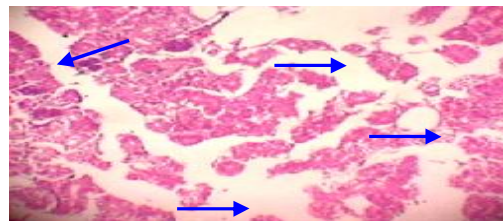


Fig. (16): Cross-section in kidney of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% chamomile flowers ( $T_4$ ) showing abnormal architecture of the renal tissue and severe degeneration of the epithelium lining the adjacent renal tubules (—→). (X 51.2, H&E stains)

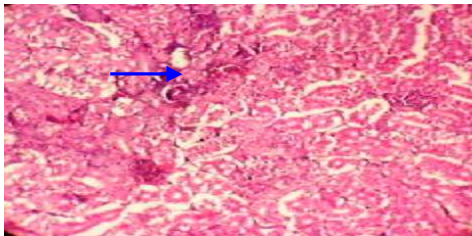


Fig. (17): Cross-section in kidney of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% aspirin ( $T_5$ ) showing nearly normal architecture of the renal tissue and intact glomeruli with slight congestion (—→). (X 51.2, H&E stains)

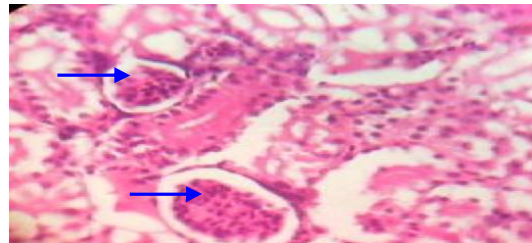


Fig. (18): Cross-section in kidney of *O. niloticus* fed the diet contaminated with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% ginger ( $T_6$ ) showing normal kidney tissue, tubules and intact glomeruli (—→). (X 640, H&E stains)

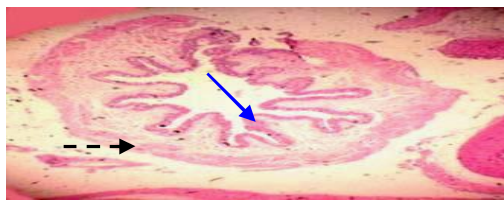
These alterations included neoplastic signs and periglomerular and peritubular cell infiltration, severe and mild congestion of the glomeruli within the renal cortex. Also, markedly degenerated and interstitial hemorrhage of the epithelium of renal tubules and chronic nephritis were seen. The authors added that these alterations increased by increasing level of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>).

Interestingly to note that the changes in histological structure of the kidney were associated with those occurred in the liver of fish in all treated groups. Some histological improvements in the kidney structure were attributed to the dietary additives especially to ginger, which are due to its chemical and physical properties and/or their positive effects on immune system (Platel and Srinivasan, 1996 & 2000 and Ahmed and Sharma, 1997). Also, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d) mentioned that using of adsorbent agents (namely 1% egg shell and 2% shrimp wastes) alleviated the adverse effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> on the histopathological changes in the internal organs of the aflatoxicated fish.

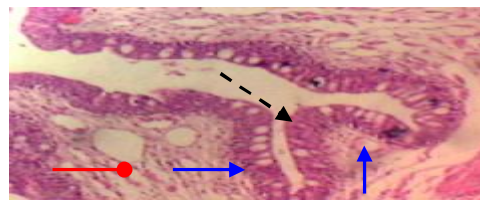
### 3.3- Intestine

The histological examination in the small intestine in the experimental fish at the different treatments is shown at the following Figures (19-25). The examined lesions in the intestine of fish as affected by AFB<sub>1</sub> are nearly similar to those obtained by Kandil *et al.* (1991) on broiler

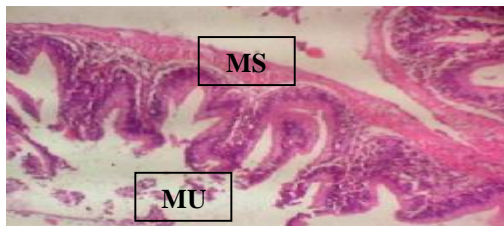
chicks fed the aflatoxicated diet 100 ppb. However, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 b) found an increase of number of goblet cells and marked inflammatory cellular infiltration with edema in intestine of Nile tilapia fish fed 500-2000 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>. The same authors found similar lesions without edema in fish fed aflatoxicated diets with 2 or 4% Biogen®. The recent observation of Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d) on *O. niloticus* fish fed diets containing 100 or 200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> included severe histological alterations in intestine. These alterations included abnormal intestinal architecture of mucosa and thickening musculosa layer, absence of mucosa layer and wider and shorter intestinal villi compared with the control. The authors added that these alterations were increased by increasing level of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (200 ppb). Moreover, they reported that using adsorbent agents (namely 1% egg shell and 2% shrimp wastes) alleviated the adverse effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> on the histopathological changes in the intestine of the aflatoxicated fish. The present histopathological findings of 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> on the intestine may affect nutrients observation within the intestine, which was associated with marked reduction in growth performance and significant changes in blood parameters of fishes fed AFB<sub>1</sub> diets as compared with the control group (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006 b). Some histological improvement in the intestine were attributed to the dietary additives, especially to ginger which may be, due to its chemical and physical



**Fig. (19):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the control diet ( $T_1$ ) showing intact intestinal layers (--->) and villi (—>). (X 160, H&E stains)



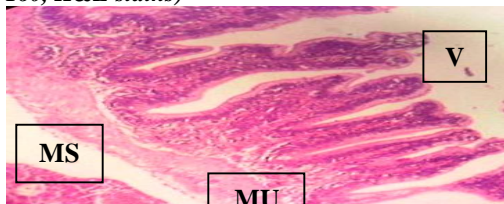
**Fig. (20):** Magnification of the previous figure (Fig. 19) showing intact and normal lamina epithelialis mucosa (--->), normal arrangement of goblet cells (—>) and normal lamina propria (—•). (X 640, H&E stains)



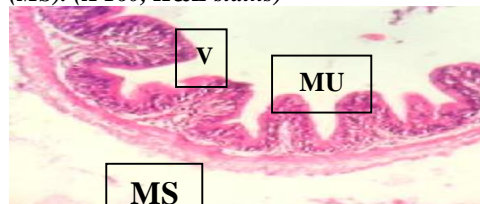
**Fig. (21):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  ( $T_2$ ) showing abnormal intestinal architecture of tunica mucosa (MU), mild breakdown on the free surfaces of the epithelium cells and thicker of tunica musculosa (MS). (X 160, H&E stains)



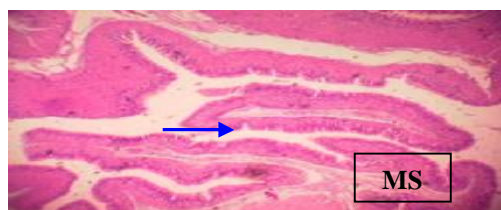
**Fig. (22):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x ( $T_3$ ) showing slight abnormality in intestinal architecture of mucosa (MU), with normal structure of the intestinal villi and thicker of tunica musculosa (MS). (X 160, H&E stains)



**Fig. (23):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% chamomile flowers ( $T_4$ ) showing undeveloped intestinal villi (V) with normal tunica musculosa (MS), mucosa (MU) and thicker of tunica submucosa. (X 160, H&E stains)



**Fig. (24):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% aspirin ( $T_5$ ) showing intact mucosa (MU) and musculosa (MS) architecture, and wide and short intestinal villi (V). (X 160, H&E stains)



**Fig. (25):** Cross-section in intestine of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb  $AFB_1$  + 0.5% ginger ( $T_6$ ) showing developed structure of the intestinal villi (—>) and normal architecture of tunica musculosa (MS) and submucosa. (X 160, H&E stains)

properties and/or their positive effects on immune system (Platel and Srinivasan, 1996 & 2000 and Ahmed and Sharma, 1997).

### 3.4- Gills

The histological examination of gills in the experimental fish at the different treatments is shown at the following Figures (26-31). The obtained pathological effects of 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> are in agreement with those reported by Abdelhamid *et al.* (2002 b) on Nile tilapia fed aflatoxicated diets with 500-2000 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>. Also, Roberts (1978) and Hussein *et al.* (2000) found similar results. Effects of addition of Bio-Buds-2x are similar to those obtained by adding 2 or 4 g/kg diet from Biogen® to AFB<sub>1</sub> diets (Abdelhamid *et al.* 2002 b). In the same respect, Abdelhamid *et al.* (2004 d) reported that 100 and 200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> in the *O. niloticus* fish diets led to severe histological alterations in gills. These alterations included congested lamellae and hyperplasia of the lining epithelial layer of the secondary lamellae, severe lesions in term of pronounced degeneration of the secondary lamellae, mild congestion and marked lesions in the epithelial layer lining the lamellae, slight inflammation within filament interstitium and slight congestion hemorrhage of the epithelial layer. The authors added that these alterations were increased by increasing the level of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (200 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub>) but using

adsorbent agents (namely 1% egg shell and 2% shrimp wastes) alleviated the adverse effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> on the histopathological changes in affected gills of the aflatoxicated fish. Based on these findings, it is of interest to note that the toxic effects of 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> on gills of fish decreased by adding 0.5% ginger (T<sub>6</sub>) and apparently were eliminated by adding 0.5% aspirin (T<sub>5</sub>) to aflatoxicated diets. The positive effects of these additives may be due to their chemical and physical properties and/or their positive effects on immune system (Platel and Srinivasan, 1996 & 2000 and Ahmed and Sharma, 1997).

### 3.5- Gonads

The histological examination of *O. niloticus* fish in this experiments is shown at the following Figures (32-34). All examined testes were not affected mainly by the treatment of AFB<sub>1</sub> but the major effects on gonads were found to be from the hormonal treatment during producing the mono-sex tilapia fish with 17 $\alpha$ - methyl testosterone in fry stage in the commercial fish hatchery. Also, it could be confirmed that from the obtained results it was observed that aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> (AFB<sub>1</sub>) led to histological changes in all tested organs of fish, except gonads. Generally, addition of aspirin and/or ginger at level 0.5% showed milder lesions on all organs, except the gonads of fish.

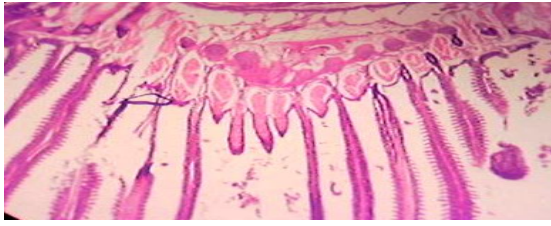


Fig. (26): Cross-section in gills of the control *O. niloticus* (T<sub>1</sub>) showing intact architecture of the lamellae. (X 160, H&E stains)

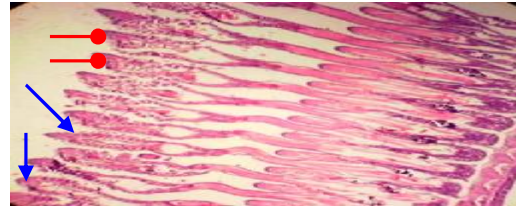


Fig. (27): Cross-section in gills of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>) showing severe lesions in term of pronounced degeneration of the primary lamellae ( →) and mild hyperplasia of the secondary lamellae ( ●). (X 160, H&E stains)

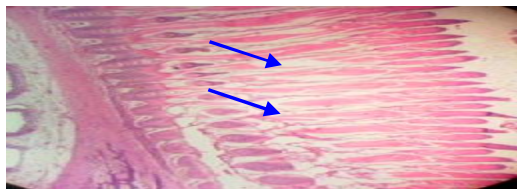


Fig. (28): Cross-section in gills of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% Bio-Buds-2x (T<sub>3</sub>) showing mild congestion and marked lesions in the epithelial layer lining the lamellae ( →). (X 51.2, H&E stains)



Fig. (29): Cross-section in gills of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% chamomile flowers (T<sub>4</sub>) showing desquamation of the epithelial layer, congestion of blood vessels in the primary lamellae ( →) and very short secondary lamellae. (X 51.2, H&E stains)

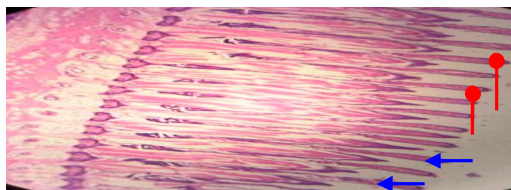


Fig. (30): Cross-section in gills of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% aspirin (T<sub>5</sub>) showing normal structure of the primary lamellae ( ●) and degeneration of the epithelial layer lining the end of secondary lamellae ( →). (X 51.2, H&E stains)

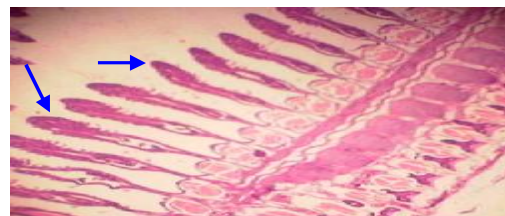
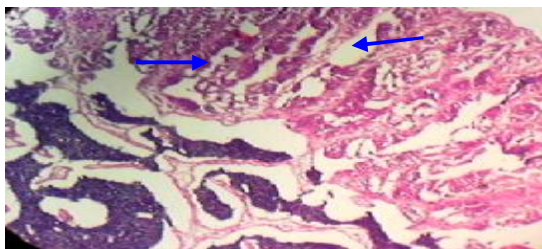
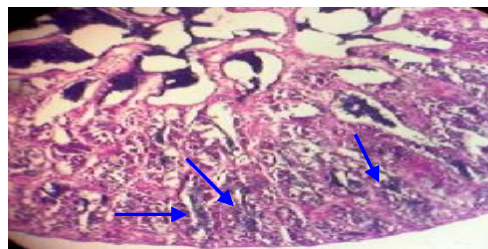


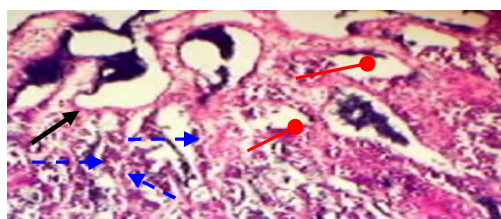
Fig. (31): Cross-section in gills of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> + 0.5% ginger (T<sub>6</sub>) showing intact lamella architecture with slight congestion hemorrhage of the epithelial layer of the primary lamellae ( →). (X 51.2, H&E stains)



**Fig. (32):** Section in testis of *O. niloticus* fed the control diet (T<sub>1</sub>) showing abnormal structure of gonad which tended to be testis with irregular seminiferous tubules ( → ). (X 160, H&E stains)



**Fig. (33):** Section in testis of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>) showing abnormal architecture of testis and degeneration of seminiferous tubules with depressing some cells intraluminally ( → ). (X 160, H&E stains)



**Fig. (34):** Section in testis of *O. niloticus* fed the contaminated diet with 100 ppb AFB<sub>1</sub> (T<sub>2</sub>) showing interrupted and breakdown of basement membrane of the seminiferous tubules ( → ), degeneration of spermatogenetic layer of some seminiferous tubules ( → ), and disappearance regions of some seminiferous tubules ( - → ). (X 640, H&E stains)

## CONCLUSIONS

From the foregoing results it could be concluded that aflatoxin contamination of fish diets caused many drastic effects on all the tested parameters. Also, AFB<sub>1</sub> is very dangerous from the view point of fish production and public health. It could be recommended for the beneficial using of 0.5% ginger and/or 0.5% aspirin is dietary additives to alleviate the toxic effects of AFB<sub>1</sub> contaminated fish diets. Also, it is a must

to conduct a lot of scientific efforts in this trend to use the medical herbs and other natural agents to detoxify the aflatoxic diets of fish. But, the wisdom still right, that prophylaxis, from toxic effects of mycotoxins especially AFB<sub>1</sub>, is more useful than treatments.

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## محاولات غذائية لإزالة سمية علائق اسماك البلطي الملوثة بالأفلاتوكسين

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٢. المعمل المركزى لبحوث الثروة السمكية - وحدة بحوث الثروة السمكية بكفر الشيخ- ج.م.ع.

٣. قسم الوراثة - كلية الزراعة - جامعة كفر الشيخ- ج.م.ع

أجريت هذه الدراسة للكشف عن التأثيرات السامة للأفلاتوكسين ب<sub>١</sub> على اصباغيات البلطي النيلي وحيد الجنس ، وكذا لمحاولة إزالة تلك الآثار السيئة باستخدام بعض الإضافات الغذائية. لذلك تم إضافة ٠.٥ % من كل من هذه المواد وهى مادة ال Bio-Buds-2x ، زهر البابونج ، الأسبرين و الجنزبيل لعلائق أسماك البلطي النيلي الملوثة بالأفلاتوكسين ب<sub>١</sub> (١٠٠ جزء فى البليون). قدمت هذه العلائق على مدار ٦ أيام فى الأسبوع بمعدل ٣ % من الكتلة الحيوية الحقيقية للأسماك فى الأحواض الزجاجية ، حيث مُثلت كل معاملة فى مكررتين (حوضين) ، وتم تغذية الأسماك على هذه العلائق لمدة ١٤ أسبوعاً. حيث أوضحت النتائج أن العلائق الملوثة بالأفلاتوكسين أدت إلى ظهور بعض العلامات المرضية الظاهرية والتشريحية على الأسماك المعاملة ، كذلك أحدثت تأثيرات سيئة على تحليل البروتين بواسطة طريقة PEGA حيث وجدت اختلافات واضحة فى عدد الحزم الناتجة وكذلك كثافتها. أما تحليل المشابهات الإنزيمية فأظهر تأثير نشاط إنزيمات الإستيريز ، و كذا سجلت النتائج تغيرات نسيجية (هستولوجية) شديدة فى كل الأعضاء المختبرة (الكبد- الكلى- الأمعاء- الخياشيم) ماعدا المناسل للأسماك المعاملة. كذلك أظهرت النتائج أن العليقة المحتوية على الجنزبيل قد خففت من تلك التأثيرات السيئة للأفلاتوكسين على الأسماك ، حيث تحسنت كل القياسات السابقة الذكر للأسماك المعاملة بالأفلاتوكسين و الجنزبيل. بصفة عامة أوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها فى هذه الدراسة الحالية أن الجنزبيل يُعد أفضل مادة مستخدمة لإزالة التأثيرات السيئة للأفلاتوكسين ب<sub>١</sub> يليها الأسبرين ثم زهر البابونج على التوالى.