



METAL IMPURITIES IN THREE EDIBLE MUSHROOMS COLLECTED IN ABRAKA, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The level of heavy metals in three edible mushrooms (*Lentinus squarrosulus*, *Pleurotus tuberregium*, and *Psathyrella atroumbonata*) growing in the wild in Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria, was determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Cadmium and lead were not detected in the three mushrooms. Chromium was only detected, but in low concentration (0.07 mg/100 g) in *L. squarrosulus*. The level of copper ranged from 0.45 mg/100 g in *P. atroumbonata* to 0.56 mg/100 g in *L. squarrosulus*. Manganese ranged from 2.89 mg/100 g to 3.75 mg/100 g in *L. squarrosulus*. Iron ranged from 0.44 mg/100 g in *L. squarrosulus* to 1.37 mg/100 g in *P. atroumbonata*, while nickel ranged from 0.14 mg/100 g to 0.48 mg/100 g in *L. squarrosulus* and *P. tuberregium*, respectively. The levels of metals detected are higher in the pileus than in the stipe.

Key words: Heavy metals, edible mushrooms, wild mushrooms.

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