Document details

Title

Studies on the pH and protein content of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) fruits deteriorated by *Aspergillus niger*.

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Journal

Scientific Research and Essays 2009 Vol. 4 No. 3 pp. 185-187

ISSN

<u>1992-2248</u>

URL

http://www.academicjournals.org/SRE/PDF/pdf2009/Ma...

Record Number

20093095333

Abstract

Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) fruits obtained from the local market in Sango Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, were inoculated with *Aspergillus niger* from cultures grown in the laboratory and incubated under appropriate conditions of temperature and moisture to initiate infection for seven days. Extensive lesions and subsequent collapse of the tomato fruits inoculated with *A. niger* occurred within a week of incubation. The uninoculated fruits retained the bright red colour and remained firm throughout the seven days. The pH and the probable implication of the results obtained from this research work can be very useful in utilizing tomato fruits in tomato processing companies in Nigeria.

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