
PREFACE

This three-volume Encyclopedic Handbook of mycotoxic fungi, mycotoxins, and mycotoxicoses assembles information on the fungi, their toxic metabolites, and the diseases associated with them. Well-documented mycotoxicoses are discussed, and comment is made on less well-known disease syndromes suspected to have a mycotoxic origin. There are 11 countries represented by 46 contributing authors. This affirms the international scope and nature of the mycotoxin problem, and emphasizes the importance of specific disease syndromes in certain locales, while suggesting that mycotoxic fungi known to cause disease in one country may be present in another with only negligible impact on animals and man. From such information, we infer that the factors responsible for the production and consumption of toxic compounds probably are controllable through a shift in agricultural procedures or food processing, marketing, shipping, and storage practices. These approaches are well-documented and generally recognized as effective ways to eliminate mycotoxin problems. Less often considered is the contribution to control of the problem by changing current production methods.

This Handbook has been designed to afford an effective introduction to, and review of, the complex field of mycotoxicology. We were especially concerned that the research scientist, practicing veterinarian, and physician as well as individuals responsible for the production and safeguarding of our food supply be able to locate readily pertinent information about the subject. The book is therefore organized into sections on mycotoxic fungi, specific toxins, affected animal species, and is extensively cross-referenced.

The Handbook collates information pertaining to the identification and manipula-

tion of mycotoxic fungi, chemistry of toxic compounds, and their physical and chemical properties. Methods of their extraction, isolation, and identification are defined. Metabolism of the toxins and their effect on man, domestic and laboratory animals, poultry, aquatic species, and plants is described. In addition, gross and cellular pathology, as well as possible control or treatment of the diseases they cause, are discussed in detail.

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