



## Screening of ochratoxin A and B contaminated in dried chili using HPLC-fluorescence and liquid-liquid extraction

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to validate a method and simultaneously screen mycotoxins, ochratoxin A (OTA) and ochratoxin B (OTB), in dried chili and dried chili powders using High performance liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection (HPLC-FLD) and liquid-liquid extraction. Diflunisal was used as an internal standard for the validation method. Linearity, average recovery, limit of quantitation (LOQ), limit of detection (LOD) and precision were established as validation parameters. The results showed that linearity in the range 0.5-100 ng/kg has  $R^2$  more than 0.9950, average recovery was 87.06–94.86%, LOQ was 0.5 and 0.75 ng/kg and LOD was 0.25 and 0.50 ng/kg for OTA and OTB, respectively, while precision was shown as Horrat's ratio with a value less than 2. Sixty-eight samples of dried chilies and dried chili powder were bought in local Chiang Mai markets during March and April 2016. The samples were extracted three times using ethyl acetate and the extract was screened for the OTA and OTB levels. It was found that only 5 samples were contaminated with both OTA and OTB, but the levels were lower than the permissible limits established by the European Union (EU), indicating that they were safe for consumers. The other samples, five dried chili powders, were contaminated with OTA at a higher level than the permissible limits established by the EU. This validated method is suitable for quantifying OTA and OTB. However, positive screening should be confirmed with solid phase extraction or another HPLC condition for confirming the OTA and OTB levels.

**Keywords:** Ochratoxin A, Ochratoxin B, Chili, HPLC-FLD.

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