



Occurrence of *Escherichia coli* and coliforms in processed cheese

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Abstract: One hundred and twenty samples of processed cheese representing: 60 samples of processed cheese cubes, 30 samples blocks and 30 samples spread were randomly collected from different super markets in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Behira Governorates, Egypt. Collected samples were subjected to Coliform count as well as biochemical and serological identification of the isolated strains. The results reveal the presence of Coliforms, in percentages of 25.8%. On the other hand, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) could be detected in in percentages of 2%. Only three isolated of *E. coli* could be serologically identified as *E. coli* O27. The degree of acceptability of the processed cheese samples vs Egyptian standards was determined the economic and public health significance of contamination of processed cheese products was discussed.

Key words: Coliforms, *Escherichia coli* and processed cheese.

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