

**Review Form 1.7**

Journal Name:	<b>European Journal of Nutrition &amp; Food Safety</b>
Manuscript Number:	<b>Ms_EJNFS_115674</b>
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>Antibiogram, Molecular Characterization and Detection of Aflatoxigenic Gene from some Species of Aspergillus in Cereals</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Original Research Article</b>

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. <b>Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</b> (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. <b>Is the title of the article suitable?</b> (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. <b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</b></p> <p>4. <b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p> <p>5. <b>Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</b></p> <p>6. <b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</b></p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>The author provides the results of the characterization of fungi isolated from cereals from Rivers State, Nigeria. <i>Aspergillus</i> species were identified to the species level by ITS sequencing and detection of the presence of the aflatoxin regulatory gene - aflR. Fungal isolates were tested for antifungal susceptibility to antimycotic drugs. The results of this study could be used for the detection and control of diseases and mycotoxin contamination caused by <i>Aspergillus</i>.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>1. Introduction 1.1 Please add the definition of Antibioqram.</p> <p>2. Materials and methods 2.1 Please clarify on the fungal species used in this study. If they were isolated in this study, please add the section on isolation of fungi in the Materials and Methods. 2.2 Why were <i>A. niger</i> included in the detection of aflatoxin gene, given that they have been known to be unable to produce aflatoxins? 2.3 Antifungal Susceptibility Testing: Please review this procedure; while the stock inoculum was made from the spore suspension, it is noted that some <i>Aspergillus</i> strains may not grow as a homogeneous suspension. Please describe the procedure for preparing the stock inoculum in detail to ensure consistency and accuracy in the testing process.</p> <p>3. Results 3.1 Please provide the results of the isolation of fungi from cereals (if performed in this study). 3.2 In the results of molecular identification, <i>Aspergillus</i> isolates showed the highest similarity with those of <i>A. flavus</i> and <i>A. niger</i> available in the database, for example, <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> strain HBF576, <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> strain AS25. However, in the abstract, it should be "Data showed that they were identified as <i>A. flavus</i> and <i>A. niger</i>" as well as throughout the manuscript. 3.3 There is a contrasting result regarding the isolate IHB. This isolate was identified as <i>A. niger</i> (Figure 1), and the PCR detection of aflR showed a negative result (Plate 2). This indicates that aflR was detected in almost all <i>A. niger</i> isolates except isolate IHB. Please clarify this discrepancy.</p>	
<p><b>Minor</b> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. <b>Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>	

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<b>Optional/General</b> comments		
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**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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