

CONTENTS	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
Factors affecting corn spoilage	5
Environmental factors.....	5
Storage period, temperature, water activity a(w)....	5
Moisture content and humidity.....	7
Insects.....	8
Fungi associated with corn	9
Mycotoxin	15
Major Classes of Mycotoxins	16
Aflatoxins.....	17
Fumonisin.....	19
Ochratoxin.....	20
Citrinin.....	21
Deoxynivalenol.....	22
Zearalenone.....	23
Ergot.....	25
T-2 toxin.....	26
Other important mycotoxins	27
Factors influencing infection of corn with Fungi and mycotoxin development	28
Abiotic factors	29
Environmental factors.....	29
Agricultural practices.....	30
Maize characteristics.....	30
Post harvest operations.....	32
Biotic factors	32
Storage insects.....	32
Fungal interactions.....	33

Prevention of mycotoxins in maize	33
Post-harvest control using preservatives.....	36
Strategies for the prevention and control of fungal growth and mycotoxin contamination of corn.....	37
Physical decontamination of corn.....	37
Chemical decontamination of corn.....	39
Biological decontamination of corn.....	40
Active antifungal substances from natural sources.....	41
Plant extracts.....	41
Essential oils.....	45
Phenolic compounds.....	47
MATERIAL AND METHODS	48
Materials	48
Media used for isolation of fungi.....	48
Chemicals.....	48
Kits.....	48
Thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates.....	49
Methods	49
Isolation of fungi from corn grain samples.....	49
Plant materials.....	50
Preparation of plant extract.....	50
Spore germination method.....	50
Antifungal activity assay.....	50
Production of aflatoxin by <i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	51
Detection and determination of aflatoxins.....	51
Preparation of working solution of aflatoxins.....	51
Aflatoxin extraction.....	52
Clean -up procedures.....	52

Preparation of column chromatography.....	52
Preliminary TLC.....	53
Determination of aflatoxins by HPLC.....	53
Derivatization.....	53
HPLC condition.....	54
Biological evaluation of extract.....	54
Biochemical methods.....	55
Determination of serum liver enzymes	55
Quantitative determination of serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST).....	55
Quantitative determination of serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT).....	57
Quantitative determination of serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP)..	58
Determination of serum kidney enzymes.....	60
Enzymatic determination of Urea	60
Quantitative determination of Creatinine.....	61
Quantitative determination of Uric acid.....	63
Determination of Cardiac enzymes.....	65
Determination of Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH).....	65
Determination of Creatine Kinase (CK).....	66
Determination of tumor marker.....	68
Quantitative determination of Alfa-fetoprotein (AFP) ELISA.....	68
Statistical analysis.....	71
RESULTS	72
Fungi associated with corn (<i>Zea mays-L</i>) samples.....	72
Microorganisms associated with corn grain samples.....	78
Mycotoxin production.....	82
Antifungal effects of <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> L extract.....	84

Biological evaluation of the <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> -L extract.....	88
DISCUSSION.....	108
SUMMARY.....	116
REFERENCES.....	120
ARABIC SUMMARY.....	166