INTRODUCTION

Banana "Musa Cavendishii" is one of the most popular fruit crops in Egypt, due to its nice and palatable taste, high nutritive value (F.A.O. 1957), good physiological effects 'Ibn-El-Bettar (Anon), and availability all the year round. About half of the world's production is consumed fresh. The world area under banana and yearly production are given in Table (1) for three successive year (F.A.O. 1973).

Table 1 - World area and Production of Banana (1971-1973)

Year	Area (1000 hectar)	Production (1000 metric tons)
1971	2504	33840
1972	2511	33810
1973	2576	34978

Banana, from the economical point of view, is considered the green gold of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costarica, Panama, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras, Canary Islands, Middil of Africa, and Formosa. It ranks in Egypt the fourth of fruit crops, as it comes after citrus, graps and mango.

Most of the Egyptian bananas are produced in Kalubia, Monofia, Giza, Gharbia, Beheira, Makahlia, and Assiout Governorates.

"Hindi" is the main grown variety in Egypt, the following Table (2) shows the cultivated area and total production of banana (Hindi) in Egypt covering the period from 1969-1973 (Ministry of Agriculture, 1973).

Table 2 - Area in Feddan and Production in tons of Banana in Egypt from 1969-1973.

Year	Area in feddans	Production in tons
1969	9272	96631
1970	9413	81861
1971	10020	94644
1972	11051	108292
1973	11320	101313

Banana, has long been reputed to possess different medicinal properties as it is said to improve digestion, acts as expectorant and aids human exfretions,....etc.

This work is an attempt to study the biological characteristics of both the edible and non edible portions of banana fruit, since these have received limited attention

specially the peel. Chemical evaluation of the above mentioned components of the fruit was also carried out. The possibility of using the non edible portion as animal feed was also explored.