

Tutkija Alexis Nathanail
Kemian ja toksikologian tutkimusyksikkö

Mycotoxins are ubiquitous organic compounds produced by fungi that may be toxic to human and animal health. Contamination of grains with mycotoxins may also result in deterioration of crop quality and reduced yields with potentially huge economic losses. Plants, as all living organisms, are equipped with natural mechanisms capable of detoxifying xenobiotics such as mycotoxins. The resulting metabolites following exposure of cereals or other plants to mycotoxins are the so-called 'masked mycotoxins' that are usually conjugated native forms of mycotoxins with glucose, sulphate, amino acids or other moieties. Masked mycotoxins have attracted significant scientific attention during the past decade in the area of mycotoxicology.

In this seminar the issue of masked mycotoxins will be addressed from various angles including formation, analysis, occurrence and toxicological significance. Additionally, information regarding Evira's research activities related to masked mycotoxins will be presented, as well as occurrence data for the first time from Finnish cereal grains.