

**Title** Mycoflora of pomegranate fruits.  
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#### **Abstract**

Juice made from raw materials highly contaminated by filamentous fungi are a risk for consumer health. The basic purpose of this research was to study the mycobiota of pomegranate fruits in the post-harvest period and determine the specific and dominating species of filamentous fungi. During the years 2005-2007 we studied more than 300 samples of pomegranate fruits from Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Pomegranate often is contaminated by *Penicillium* species from the sections *Monoverticillata* and *Biverticillata*, among which *P. implicatum* Biourge and *P. variable* Sopp are the most typical pathogenic species. The basic route of contamination of fruits with *P. implicatum* and other species are the stamens, with further penetration of micromycetes into the fruit. This species is characterised by high growth rate on a substrate, and in most cases in a fruit there is monopoly development of this species with contamination index =1. Contamination of pomegranates with this fungus was not found to depend on the variety, climato-geographical conditions or country of origin.