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Histological examination of meat products, for quality and adulteration screening**Raita Ștefania Mariana**

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The quality of meat products is fully and more accurately assessed when histological examination is considered in addition to physicochemical and microbiological evaluation. The histological examination of cured meat products enhances the amount of information on the quality of the raw material, by identification of the animal tissue content, helping in detecting fraud. In Romania, cured meat sausages are marketed as first quality products and target a specific consumer category, selected by the price range. This study aimed to evaluate the quality of cured meat sausage of three popular Romanian meat products producers. Thirty samples (ten from each producer) of the same cured meat sausage assortment were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin and routinely processed for paraffin embedding. Three histological sections of each sample were stained with Cajal's triple stain method, modified by Calleja's variation. Each section was examined for animal tissue types. The evaluation showed similar skeletal muscle/adipose tissue ratios for all examined samples, specific for the type of meat product under assessment. In addition to skeletal muscle tissue, adipose and connective tissues, and blood vessels, the evaluation revealed the following tissues: cartilage, nerve, glandular and bone tissue. No significant differences were noticed between the occurrence rates of undesirable tissue, between producers, but the average number of positive samples (30% for glandular tissue and 16.67% for bone tissue) exceeds the technologically unavoidable frame. These results indicate that histological examination should be considered for routine meat product quality assessment and adulteration screening.

Biography

Raita Ștefania Mariana has completed her PhD from University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania. She is Lecturer within the Veterinary Medicine Faculty of Bucharest and the Coordinator of the Histology and Embryology Discipline for the Veterinary Medicine Romanian Program and the Veterinary Medicine French Program. She has published over 60 scientific papers in reputed journals and has been involved as member of the research team, or project coordinator in numerous research grants. Her research interests lies in animal and human histology and embryology, histopathology and cytology.

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