



Title: Contamination of fresh produce by protozoan parasites: implications for public health

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Abstract:

Over the past few decades, there has been a steady increase in the demand for fresh produce thanks to their outstanding nutritional characteristics. However, along the food chain, these products can be contaminated by emerging protozoa of fecal origin, of human and/or zoonotic interest, that have been responsible of several foodborne outbreaks. These pathogens are important causes of diarrhea and/or more severe illnesses particularly in children and immunocompromised people; moreover, physicians are not completely aware of the potential consequences related to the consumption of these contaminated fresh products. The need to overcome traditional methods requires the adoption of increasingly innovative diagnostic tools, low cost, easily accessible, rapid and user-friendly, and the availability of green technologies that can decontaminate these food products, ensuring the integrity of the matrix and preserving the nutritional characteristics.

Biography

Annunziata Giangaspero graduated in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bologna and is Full Professor of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases since 1999. She is Member Diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC) and EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Parasitology. During her scientific work has made several internships abroad for training and research in different European countries and in US (up to 1 year). She was involved in several European Projects as National Coordinator of Cost Actions 811, 833, INCO project, and in the Core Group of the Cost Action FA1404. She held several positions (Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Teramo, Coordinator of the Infectious and Parasitic Diseases Unit, Member of the Academic Senate of the University of Foggia, PhD Coordinator, President of the EVPC Nomination Committee, Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Italian Society of Parasitology). She is referee of International Journals and Applications

of national and international institutions; she has been appointed as consultant to WHO on parasitic diseases and invited speaker in National and International Conferences. A. Giangaspero is author-co-author of more than 400 contributions published in refereed International Journals, Invited Chapters in books, Monograph and refereed and not referred National Journals.