

Animal Health Research Institute,
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BACTERIOLOGICAL STUDY ON SOME CANNED FISH IN BOHAIRA PROVINCE

(With 6 Tables)

By

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دراسة بكتريولوجية على بعض الأسماك المعلبة بمحافظة البحيرة

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أجريت هذه الرسالة علي ١٠٥ عينة عشوائية من منتجات الأسماك المعلبة شملت ٣٠ تونة و ٢٥ من كل من السالمون والسردين والأنشوجة تم جمعها من أماكن مختلفة من محافظة البحيرة وبعد الفحص الظاهري تم إجراء الفحوص البكتريولوجية والكيميائية أوضحت الفحوص البكتريولوجية أن نسبة توجد البكتريا الهوائية ٥٣.٣، ٦٠، ٥٢ و ٣٦% في كل من التونة والسالمون والسردين والأنشوجة وكان متوسط العد البكتيري $10 \times 7.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 4.6 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.62 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 2.62 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5.9 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.63 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5.3 \pm 10$ علي التوالي. وكانت نسبة تواجد العصيات القولونية ١٠، ١٢، ٤ و ١٢% في كل من التونة والسالمون والسردين والأنشوجة ومتوسطات العد البكتيري لها $10 \times 3.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 3.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 4.5 \pm 10$ و 10×4 و $10 \times 8.3 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.5 \pm 10$ في المعلبات المذكورة علي التوالي. أما عن المكورات العنقودية فقد تواجدت بنسبة ٣٦.٦، ٤٤، ٢٨ و ٢٠% في نفس المعلبات ومتوسطات العد البكتيري لها كان $10 \times 1.33 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5.9 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.83 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 7.5 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.79 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 7.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.64 \pm 10$ و 10×8 علي التوالي. كان تواجد العصيات الهوائية المكونة للأبواغ ٢٠، ٢٤، ٢٠ و ٢٨% في كل من التونة والسالمون والسردين والأنشوجة واختلفت متوسطات العد البكتيري بين العينات الغير معاملة حرارياً والمعاملة حرارياً في ٨٠°م لمدة ٣/١ ساعة فكانت في الأولي $10 \times 1.4 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 6.4 \pm 10$ و 10×8 و $10 \times 3.3 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 9.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 4 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5.4 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.7 \pm 10$ بينما في المعاملة حرارياً فكان المتوسطات $10 \times 7.29 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 2.28 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 1.43 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 9.2 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 3.3 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 5.57 \pm 10$ و $10 \times 0.99 \pm 10$ في التونة والسالمون والسردين والأنشوجة هذا وقد تم إجراء التحليل الإحصائي لجميع العينات. تم التصنيف البيوكيميائي للعزول المختلفة في العصيات القولونية تم عزل الكليسيلا الرئوية نوع اوزاني وكذلك الانتيروباكتري نوع ايروجينيس ونوع الانتر ميديا كما تم عزل ثلاث معزولات من عصيات السودوموناس ايروجينوسا عرضياً أما في المكورات العنقودية فقد تم عزل المكورات العنقودية الزهبيه والمكورات العنقودية القشرية بنسب مختلفة. تم تصنيف العصيات المكونة للأبواغ الهوائية في المعلبات المختلفة وكانت في التونة من أنواع مارينس وسيركولانس وبوميلس ولينكيفورمس ومايكويدس وميجاتيريم وستيرثيرموفيلسي وفي السالمون تم عزل أنواع ماكواريم ومارينس وفي السردين تم عزل نوع مايكويدز ومانبيز

وميجاتيريم وفى عينات الأنشوجة تم عزل نوع البوميلس والمارينز ومايكوبدز وماكوريم وليكتيفورمس بمعدلات عزل مختلفة وقد تم مناقشة الأهمية الصحية للأنواع المختلفة. تم قياس نسبة النيتروجين القاعدي المتصاعد وكان بمتوسطات تواجد 39.82 ± 2.54 ، 46.02 ± 1.77 ، 65.26 ± 4.63 و 33.24 ± 1.91 في كل من التونة والسالمون السردين والأنشوجة علي التوالي هذا وقد تمت مناقشة النتائج واثـر المعزولات البكتيرية علي الصحة العامة والاشتراطات الصحية إضافة إلي المقترحات اللازمة لتحسين الصورة الميكروبية والكيميائية لتلك المنتجات السمكية المعلبة.

SUMMARY

105 random sample of canned fishes included (30 tuna, 25 of each salmon, sardine and anchovies) were collected from different localities and retailed shops in Al-Bohaira province. Samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examinations. The aerobic bacteria were detected in 53.3, 60, 52 and 36% of tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively with mean values of $2.16 \times 10^2 \pm 7.2 \times 10$, $4.6 \times 10^2 \pm 1.62 \times 10$, $2.62 \times 10^2 \pm 5.9 \times 10$ and $1.63 \times 10^2 \pm 5.3 \times 10$ /g, respectively of same products. Coliformes could be detected in 10, 12, 4 and 12 % with mean values of $1.57 \times 10^2 \pm 3.2 \times 10$, $3.2 \times 10^2 \pm 4.5 \times 10$, 4×10 , $8.3 \times 10 \pm 1.5 \times 10$ for tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. The mean counts for staphylococci were $1.33 \times 10^2 \pm 5.9 \times 10$, $1.83 \times 10^2 \pm 7.5 \times 10$, $1.79 \times 10^2 \pm 7.2 \times 10$, $8 \times 10 \pm 1.6 \times 10$ respectively. The biochemical identification of the gained isolates revealed only 10 isolates of coliforms in all samples (9.5 %) included *Klebsiella pneumoniae sub ozaenae*, *Enterobaeter aerogens* and *Enterobacter intermedium* in incidences 3.8, 4.8 and 0.1 % respectively. Three isolates of *Psudomonals aeruginosa* were detected in tuna. Staphylococci were detected in 36.6, 44, 28 and 20 % in tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epedermidis* were detected with variable incidence. Bacillus spp. were detected in heat treated samples and non heat treated in variable incidences. Its mean counts varied from crude unheated treated samples and those heat treated at 80 c for 1/3 hour. In the first it were $1.4 \times 10^2 \pm 6.4 \times 10$, $8 \times 10 \pm 3.3 \times 10$, $9.2 \times 10 \pm 4 \times 10$ and $5.4 \times 10 \pm 1.7 \times 10$ while in heat treated it were $7.29 \times 10 \pm 2.28 \times 10$, $1.43 \times 10^2 \pm 5 \times 10$, $9.2 \times 10 \pm 3.3 \times 10$ and $5.57 \times 10 \pm 0.99 \times 10$, in tuna salmon sardine and anchovies respectively The identification of isolates revealed in tuna *Bacillus lichniforms*, *Bacillus. mycoides*, *Bacillus migatarium* and *Bacillus sterothermophilus* in salmon. *Bacillus miquerium*, *Bacillus marins* and *Bacillus migatarium* in sardine *Bacillus mycoides*, *Bacillus*

marins and *Bacillus pumilus*, *marines*, *mycoides*, *muquaruim* and *Bacillus lichniforms* in variable incidences among heat treated and non heat treated samples. The total volatile nitrogen base were estimated as indicator for the quality of the tissue protein. The mean values were 39.82 ± 2.54 , 46.02 ± 1.77 , 65.26 ± 4.63 and $33.24 \pm 1. \pm$ in tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. Public health hazards and recommended measures to improve the quality and the recommended measures for improving canned fish products were discussed.

Key words: Canned fish, tuna, sardine, salmon, anchovies

INTRODUCTION

Fish canning industry become well established in Egypt as widely distributed under different market names. The used fish must be first quality frozen, fresh or chilled (Badr, 1982; Akande *et al.*, 1990 and Fava, 1996). Sea foods are low acid foods and have slow rate of heat penetration so are difficult to heat processed. Besides, products such as fish packed in oil must undergo a more severe thermal process than the same food products with different formulation in order to account for the protective effect of oil (Ababouch *et al.*, 1986 and NFPA, 1982).

National academy of science (1985) stated that fish, mollusks and crustaceans acquired pathogenic micro-organisms or toxins from the natural aquatic environment from sewage contaminated harvesting areas and from contamination by workers, utensils and equipment during harvesting, processing and preparation. In addition, Bryan (1988) claimed that, the causes of bacterial foodborne illness transmitted by fish could be attributed to fishing from polluted waters, improper practices of strict sanitation procedures in fishing vesicles, processing plants and storage facilities as well as diseased food handlers

Schwab *et al.* (1982) found that the aerobic plate count, *E coli* and *Staph. aureus* counts were the useful indicators to evaluate faulty processing and /or handling practice.

Bacillus species are ubiquitous in nature, some species are of importance in spoilage of heat treated foods. Five species have been recognized as causative organisms of food poisoning including *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus lichniforms* and *Bacillus sphericus*. Other members of *Bacillus* spp. may also be associated with food poisoning, diarrhea and emetic types are predominant symptoms (Cilbert *et al.*, 1981; Robert *et al.*, 1996 and Faille *et al.*, 2002)

Total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) was served only as an indicator of spoilage and did not correlate with storage period (Barile *et al.*, 1985). On the other hand, Srikar *et al.* (1993) found that TVB-N increased throughout the period of storage, indicating deterioration in the quality of the tissue protein. Also they observed that the lower TVB-N content in products stored at 2.5° C may be attributed to the slow rate of hydrolyses. The aim of this study was to investigate and evaluate the bacteriological quality of some canned fish namely tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies through the aerobic bacterial count, detection and isolation of coliforms, staphylococci and *Bacillus* spp with studying the public health importance as well as the recommended measures for improving the quality of canned fish.

MATERIALS and METHODS

105 random samples of canned fishes included 30 tuna, 25 of each salmon, sardine and anchovies were collected from different localities, retail shops and supermarkets in Al-Bohaira province. Samples were dispatched directly to the laboratory with minimum of delay where they prepared and examined chemically and bacteriologically

Preparation of samples for bacteriological examination were done according to A.P.H.A. (1985)

Bacteriological examination:

The prepared samples were subjected to the following examinations.

- 1- Aerobic plate count (APC) according to APHA (1992)
- 2- Coliform count using Most Probable Number (MPN) according to A.O.A.C.(1975)
- 3-*Staphylococcus aureus* count was carried according to Baird Parker (1962)
- 4-Enumeration of aerobic spore former according to APHA (1985)
- 5-Enumeration of aerobic spore former of heat treated samples according to APHA (1985)
- 6- Identification of isolates was done according to Willis (1977); Macfadian (1980) and Kreg and Holt (1984).

Chemical examination:

Total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) was carried according to FAO (1992)

Table 1: Statistical analytical results of aerobic plate, coliforms, staphylococci and *Bacillus* spp. (c.f.u. /gm) of the examined canned fish.

Product	Counted group	Positive		Minimum	Maximum	Mean + s E
		N	%			
Tuna	A PC	16	53.3	2 x 10	1 x 10 ³	2.16 x 10 ² ± 7.2 x 10
	Coliform	3	10	1.2 x 10 ²	2.2 x 10 ²	1.57 x 10 ² ± 3.2 x 10
	<i>Staph</i>	11	36.6	2 x 10	6.8 x 10 ²	1.33 x 10 ² ± 5.9 x 10
	B.c. unH	6	20	1 x 10	3.7 x 10 ²	1.4 x 10 ² ± 6.4 x 10
	B.c H	7	23.3	2 x 10	2 x 10 ²	7.29 x 10 ± 2.28 x 10
Salmon	APC	15	60	1.6 x 10	2.50 x 10 ³	4.6 x 10 ² ± 1.62 x 10 ²
	Coliform	3	12	2.3 x 10	3.7 x 10 ²	3.2 x 10 ² ± 4.5 x 10
	<i>Staph.</i>	11	44	4 x 10	5.6 x 10 ²	1.83 x 10 ² ± 7.5 x 10
	B.c.unH	6	24	2 x 10	2.2 x 10 ²	8x 10 ± 3.3 x 10
	B.c. H	6	24	3 x 10	3.5 x 10 ²	1.43 x 10 ² ± 5x 10
Sardine	APC	13	52	3 x 10	7.2 x 10 ²	2.62 x 10 ² + 5.9 x 10
	Coliform	1	4	4 x 10	4 x 10	4 x 10
	<i>Staph</i>	7	28	3 x 10	5.8 x 10 ²	1.79 x 10 ² ± 7.2 x 10
	B.c. unH	5	20	2 x 10	2.5 x 10 ²	9.2 x 10 ± 4 x 10
	B.c H	5	20	4 x 10	2.1 x 10 ²	9.2 x 10 ± 3.3 ± 10
Anchovies	APC	9	36	4 x 10	5.6 x 10 ²	1.63 x 10 ² ± 5.3 x 10
	Coliform	3	12	6 x 10	1.1 x 10 ²	8.3 x 10 ± 1.5 x 10
	<i>Staph.</i>	5	20	2 x 10	1.2 x 10 ²	8 x 10 ± 1.64 x 10
	B.c. unH	5	20	3 x 10	1.2 x 10 ²	5.4 x 10 ± 1.7 x 10
	B.c. H	7	28	3 x 10	1 x 10 ²	5.57 x 10 ± 0.99 x 10

B.C .un H : *Bacillus cereus* of unheated sample

BC H : *Bacillus cereus* of heated samples

Table 2: Means and standard error for aerobic plate count, coliforms, staphylococci and *Bacillus* spp. of the examined fish.

	APC	Coliforme	Staph.	B.C un heat	B.C Heat
Tuna	2.16x10 ² ± 7.2x10 ^A	153x10 ² ±32x10 ^B	1.33x10 ² ±59x10 ^A	1.4x10 ² 64x10 ^A	729x10±2.28x10 ^A
Salmon	4.6X10 ² ±1.62X10 ^{2A}	32x10 ² ±45x10 ^A	1.83x10 ² ±75x10 ^A	8x10±33x10 ^A	143x10±5x10 ^A
Sardine	2.6x10 ² ± 5.9 x 10 ^A	4x10 ^B	1.79x10 ² ±72x10 ^A	9.2x10±4x10 ^A	92x10±3.3x10 ^A
Anchovies	1.63x10 ² ±53x10 ^A	83x10±15x10 ^B	8x10±1.64x10 ^A	54x10±1.7x10 ^A	557x10±0.99x10 ^A

B.C un H : *Bacillus cereus* unheated count.

B.C H : *Bacillus cereus* heated count.

* Counts : Calculated as Mean + Standard Error

* Means : with the same letters (A, B are not significantly different (P < 0.01)

Table 3: Incidence of the identified Gram-ve bacilli isolates

isolate product	Total	Positive		<i>Kleb. Pneum. ozaenae</i>		<i>Enterob. aerogrmes.</i>		<i>Enterob. intermed.</i>	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tuna	30	3	10	2	6.6	1	3.3	-	-
Salmon	25	3	12	1	4	2	8	-	-
Sardine	25	1	4	-	-	1	4	-	-
Anchovies	25	3	12	1	4	1	4	1	4
Total	105	10	9.05	4	3.8	5	4.8	1	0.9

Table 4: Incidence of the identified staphylococci isolates.

isolate product	No	Positive		Distribution					
		N	%	<i>Staph aureus</i>		<i>Stph epidermidis</i>		<i>Staph saproph.</i>	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Tuna	30	11	36.6	8	26.6	3	10%	-	-
Salmon	25	12	48	9	36	2	8%	1	4
Sardine	25	7	24	3	12	3	10	1	4
An	25	5	20	3	12	2	8		
Total	105	35		23		10		2	

Table 5: Incidence of identified *Bacillus* spp. isolated from the examined tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies.

Table 6: The statistical analytical results of total volatile basic nitrogen (T.V. B- N) / 100g of the examined canned fish.

Product	N	Min	Max	Mean \pm SE
Tuna	30	16.13	63.12	39.82 \pm 2.54 ^A
Salmon	25	31.22	65.19	46.02 \pm 1.77 ^B
Sardine	25	32.13	126.19	65.26 \pm 4.63 ^{CB}
Anchovies	25	16.13	52.18	33.24 \pm 1.910 ^C

Means in the same letter do not differ significantly at $p = 0.001$

DISCUSSION

The results in Tables (1, 2) denoted the bacterial counts in different canned fish products under investigations. The incidence of aerobic plate count was 53.3, 60.52 and 36 % for tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively with means of $2.16 \times 10^2 \pm 7.2 \times 10$, $4.6 \times 10^2 \pm 1.62 \times 10^2$, $2.62 \times 10^2 \pm 5.9 \times 10$ and $1.63 \times 10^2 \pm 5.3 \times 10$ respectively. These results are nearly similar to that recorded by Davidson *et al.* (1981) who reported that 63 % of cans conducive to microbial survival. Higher results were recorded by Ababouch *et al.* (1986) who claimed that canned fishes packed in oil more are susceptible for holding bacterial contamination due to the fat protection effect which minimizes the thermal effects on preprocessing bacterial loads. Lower incidence was recorded by Paterno and Gopez (1970) who claimed 21.53 % of the examined locally canned food after incubation at 55°C contained viable organisms. Foster *et al.* (1977) recorded higher count for fish fillets, flounder fillets and salmon when ranged from 3.5×10^3 to 9.3×10^4 / gm. The lower count in our study could be attributed to the fat and oil protection effects through thermal processing of canned fishes as claimed by NFPA (1982) and Ababouch, *et al.* (1986). Our results were in accordance with Akande, *et al.* (1990) who claimed that total viable counts of canned tuna were generally low as ranged from 1.5×10^2 to 3.5×10^2 .

Table (2) denoted that there were no significance variation between the different studied products that could be turned to the lower count of aerobic plate count

Coliform as recorded in Tables (1&2) for tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies could be detected in 10, 12, 4 and 12 % respectively. These results abroached to the results of Silverman *et al.*, (1964) on frozen fillets as 19 % of samples were positive. The mean values of coliforms were $1.57 \times 10^2 \pm 3.2 \times 10$, $3.2 \times 10^2 \pm 4.5 \times 10$, 4×10 and $8.3 \times$

$10 \pm 1.5 \times 10$ in tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. Salmon yield significant variation that could be turned to the spices and additives. The presence of coliforms is an index of hygienic quality of fish and shellfish originated from environmental sources and low sanitary precautions during production. and processing (Freeman, 1960; Silvermen, *et al.* 1964; El-Morshedy *et al.*, 1981 and A.O.A.C., 1975). Table (3) denotes the identified coliform isolates from different examined canned fishes. *Enterobacter* species including *Enterobacter aerogens* (4.8 %) and *Enterobacter intermedium* (1%) are the predominant followed by *Klebsiella pneumoniae sub ozanae* (3.8 %). The summated coliforms in canned fish products were 9.5 %. These results are in accordance with Mousa (1986) who could isolate *Enterobacter* spp, *Klebsiella* spp in addition *Proteus* spp and *Citrobacter* as coliform contaminant of fishes. Our results agreed also with Nambiar (1980) who concluded that coliform exceed 4.5 %. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were accidentally isolated only 3 isolates were detected in Tuna (2) and one in salmon. The presence of *Pseudomonas* occur in proceeded beyond the 3rd day of storage.

Table (1) denoted the frequency of staphylococci isolated from tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies which were 36.6, 44, 28 and 20 % respectively with mean values of $1.33 \times 10^2 - \pm 5.9 \times 10$, $1.83 \times 10^2 \pm 7.5 \times 10$, $1.79 \times 10^2 \pm 7.2 \times 10$ and $8 \times 10 \pm 1.6 \times 10$. Table (2) showed no significance variation between the different products. The identification of the gained isolates revealed 26.6, 36, 12 and 12 % *Staphylococcus aureus* in each of tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. These results agreed with Lawson (1970) who recorded that *Staphylococcus aureus* was rarely recovered from freshly caught fish, but after handling and processing reached from 10 – 30 %. Moreover, presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* is useful indicator to evaluate faulty processing and / or handling practice.

Concerning aerobic sporeformers they were present in 26.6, 24, 20 and 28 % with means of $1.4 \times 10^2 \pm 6.4 \times 10$, $8 \times 10 \pm 3.3 \times 10$, $9.2 \times 10 \pm 4 \times 10$ and $5.4 \times 10 \pm 1.7 \times 10$ in unheated samples, $7.29 \times 10 \pm 2.28 \times 10$, $1.43 \times 10^2 \pm 5 \times 10$, $9.2 \times 10 \pm 3.3$ and $5.57 \times 10 \pm 0.99 \times 10$ in heat treated tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. Statistically, there were no significance variations between products at $p > 0.01$. These results agreed with Ababoush *et al.* (1986) who found 28 % of canned fishes contained typical under processing spoilage organisms pure culture of aerobic and anaerobic spore former bacilli. Lower results were recorded by Pavlov (1989) who found 16 % in canned meat. The

incidence in anchovies could be attributed to the use of solar salts which may be rich with *Bacillus* species as recorded by Shewan, (1971). Higher incidence was recorded by Davidson *et al.* (1981) who claimed that, 63 % of high protein food products such as fish are very conducive to microbial survival. Also they found pure cultures of aerobic and anaerobic spore forming bacilli. Lowest count of aerobic spore former was detected by Khalaf and Marth (1984). It was 2×10^6 / gm for cans of sardine and tuna in U.S supermarkets. The sources of contamination as recorded by National Academy of Science (1985) in fishes could be attributed to natural aquatic environment from sewage, contaminated harvesting areas and from contamination by workers, utensils and equipment during harvesting, processing distribution and food preparation. Table (5) declared the identified aerobic spore forming bacilli in all the examined canned fishes in tuna 23 were recovered. 47.7 % were isolated from un-heat treated and 52.3% from heat treated samples. These isolates were *Bacillus marinus* 4 (17.2 %), 1(4.3 %) *Bacillus. circulans*. 2 (8.6 %) *Bacillus Pumilus* 4 (17.2) % *Bacillus lichniforms*, 5 21.0% *Bacillus. mycoides* 3 *Bacillus migatarium* 2 and *Bacillus. mequarium* out of 25 sample from heated and unheated samples. Sardine yielded 10 isolates 2 *Bacillus marinus* 4 *Bacillus mycoides*. 4 *Bacillus migatarium*. Finally anchovies yielded 19 isolates (6 *Bacillus marinus*, 2 *Bacillus pumilis*, 5 *Bacillus lichniformes*, 3 *Bacillus mycoides* and 3 *Bacillus maquarium*). These results agreed with Herson and Hulland (1980). In addition Rodel and Lucle (1990) reported that storage with inadequate refrigeration of commercially pasteurized sealed cans caused spoilage of product where *Bacillus lichniforms* and *Bacillus subtilis* frequently isolated. Many of the gained isolates were recorded as food poisoning organisms as recorded by Hadlock (1983).

Table (6) shows the statistical analytical results of total volatile basic nitrogen (T.V.B.– N / 100 gm) of the examined tuna, salmon sardine and anchovies the minimal values were 16.13, 31.22, 32.13, 16.13 respectively the maximal reached 63.12, 65.19, 126.19 and 52.18 /100gm respectively. The component of T.V. B- N found in small quantities in fresh fish flesh as increased with time of storage as correlation between increase spoilage proceeds and increase fishy odor. The mean values of TVB–N as in Table (6) were 39.82 ± 2.54 , 46.02 ± 1077 . 65.26 ± 4.63 and 33.24 ± 1.91 in tuna, salmon, sardine and anchovies respectively. These results agreed with El–Wakeil *et al.* (1975) who found an increase in both T V B N from 17.2 in fresh fish to 18.4, 44,75, 120, 13 176.8 and 115 mg / 100g in salted fishes stored for 0,30, 60, 90 and 120 days respectively .In

additions El-Sharnouby *et al.*, (1989) found an increase in TV B- N from 28.44 up to 81067 mg % in finished product of salt cured gray mullet while in fresh fish increased from 20.75 mg % to 121.2 mg % in salted cured conman crap. The statistical analysis revealed significant decrease in anchovies than other products. These results are in accordance with Hernandez - Herrero (1997) who supposed that, a part of T.V.B. N content diffused into the brine with other nitrogen fractions. Our gained results are within limit of acceptance as Connell (1990) who reported that the content of TVBN used as indicator for estimating the freshness of lean fish and suggested that 200 mg / 100gm are the maximal limit for marine fish.

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