

Ring Trial – RIDASCREEN® Peanut

Validation study of five commercial ELISA test kits for the determination of peanut residues in cookie and dark chocolate

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC) coordinated an international ring trial for the validation of five peanut ELISA test kits. Thirty laboratories from sixteen European countries participated in the ring trial which was completed in December 2003.

The cookie and dark chocolate samples, used in the trial contained concentrations of 0, 2, 5, and 10 mg peanut/kg respectively.

Results of the study showed that the Veratox Neogen and the Prolisa-Prolab ELISAs tend to overestimate the peanut concentration. RIDASCREEN® Peanut (R6201) showed the best overall results for the cookie sample.

In recovery determinations RIDASCREEN® Peanut (R6201), Prolisa-Prolab and ELISA systems were found to slightly underestimate the peanut content, while Veratox Neogen strongly overestimated the peanut content.

RIDASCREEN® Peanut (R6201) has a detection limit of 2.5 ppm and therefore the percentage of false negative samples for

low concentrated samples (i.e. 2 ppm and 2.5 ppm) was higher than for the other test kits used.

R-Biopharm offers a second ELISA kit, the RIDASCREEN®FAST Peanut (R6202) which is also AOAC RI validated. This test system has a limit of detection of 1.5 ppm and is therefore better suited for low level concentrated samples. EU peanut samples were later analysed with RIDASCREEN® FAST Peanut (R6202), and showed acceptable results (see table below).

Table 1: Concentrations measured with the RIDASCREEN®FAST Peanut (R6202)

Cookie 2 ppm peanut	Dark chocolate 2.5 ppm peanut
2.3	3.5
1.8	2.6
6.4	2.8
3.2	2.4

RIDASCREEN® Peanut (R6201) and RIDASCREEN®FAST Peanut (R6202) have therefore been found to be suitable products for peanut determination in food.

RIDA®COUNT – the testcard that counts for you

A patented solution for microbiological analysis of surfaces and foodstuffs.

R-Biopharm has the answer to meet the growing demand for routine microbiological analysis – RIDA®COUNT testcards.

RIDA®COUNT testcards are coated with dry nutrient media, which is covered by a unique patented fiber coating offering unique, user-friendly applications as a direct contact slide or wipe test.

A long shelf life of up to 3 years, space-saving flat testcard format and simple handling make

RIDA®COUNT a real alternative to traditional surface testing products.

With RIDA®COUNT Total, detection of the total bacteria count on surfaces and in food samples can be carried out quickly and easily. RIDA®COUNT Total has also been validated by the AOAC – Association of Analytical Chemists (certificate no. 01101).

Additional hygiene analyses can be performed with RIDA®COUNT Coliform, E.coli, Yeast & Mold, Salmonella and S. aureus.

In contrast to traditional surface testing products, RIDA®COUNT's flexible construction means it can also be used for sampling uneven surfaces (e.g. door handles, valves etc).



New RBR-Screening Test for Detection of Ochratoxin A

R-Biopharm Rhône Ltd. has developed OCHRACARD, a simple screening test for the detection of ochratoxin A in cereals, green coffee, cocoa and dried fruit in line with current and pending legislation. The new product compliments the RBR aflatoxin tests: AFLACARD B1 and AFLACARD TOTAL.

OCHRACARD is combined with a clean up column to allow concentration and detection of ochratoxin A in a wide range of complex food matrices. After extraction and clean up of the toxin from the sample, an aliquot of the extract is analysed using the card system. The presence or absence of colour on the test port after sample application indicates ochratoxin A contamination above or below a chosen detection level.

OCHRACARD allows samples to be tested at various screening levels dependent on sample preparation and is suitable for screening commodities at the EU legislative levels. For analysis of cereals RBR have kept extraction methods and test applications consistent enabling one sample extract to be used with OCHRACARD, AFLACARD TOTAL and AFLACARD B1. Furthermore all cards can be read visually reducing the need for expensive equipment and, cards can also be retained, scanned or photocopied as a permanent record of results.

The RBR cards are suitable for use by laboratories that do not have access to an HPLC or plate reading equipment but still need to comply with European legislation.

If you are interested

in our products, please contact your local distributor for more information.

Answers to frequently asked customer queries

- The fixed expiry date of a kit is dependent on the result of the last quality test before release. The kit is then given a lot number and an expiry date on the kit package. The lot number and the corresponding „best before“ date relate to the interaction of the individual reagents included in the kit. It is quite possible for individual reagents of a test to have longer stability than that given on the kit package. However, these components should still not be used beyond the expiry date given on the kit package.
- Individual reagents from different batches of kits may be interchanged only if the same lot number for the particular individual reagent is given on the label.
- It is important to bring the tests to room temperature before performing the test procedure. The kit components should be removed from the fridge a minimum of one hour before use. We recommend that the kits should be opened and the microtitre plate should be removed out of the package. The pouch should remain sealed!
- When performing the ELISA assay ensure that the standard or sample solution is pipetted first, and then the enzyme conjugate. Since the conjugate solution is coloured, it is easier to follow the pipette steps in this sequence.
- The washing steps are very important when performing an ELISA. The microwell holder should be tapped upside down vigorously on absorbent paper (not more than three times in a row). To perform the washing steps, the analyst should firmly press the two sides of the microwell frame/holder together before tapping the plate vigorously, upside down on absorbent paper. This action should prevent the strips or wells from falling out of the holder. It is important not to leave the empty plate without fluid for long periods of time. If the plate dries out, the antibodies may be damaged which can lead to incorrect results. It is important to work uninterrupted and to follow the washing sequences exactly.
- To mix the reagents in the microtiter plate, gently shake the plate manually on the bench surface. On no account should mixing be carried out on a microtiter plate mixer during the incubation periods. Vigorous mixing while performing the assay procedure or during measurement can lead to high optical densities for some tests. The same effect is also brought about by placing the plate at higher temperatures (than room temperature) during incubation.
- It is possible to save a pipetting step by mixing the substrate and chromogen solution (two component system) before

addition to the assay (remove only as much solution as is required). The solution should then be pipetted immediately.

- The sensitivity or detection limit of an ELISA is generally the {standard 2} x the corresponding dilution factor (resulting from the corresponding sample preparation). This is only a theoretical value as the matrix and the resulting limit of quantification has not been taken into consideration.
- RIDA®SOFT Win Software has been developed by R-Biopharm for evaluating the
- RIDASCREEN® ELISA tests. This software allows quick and convenient interpretation of RIDASCREEN® ELISA results.
- If single determinations are carried out (e.g. in the RIDASCREEN®FAST mycotoxin tests), Logit/Log should be used for evaluation. On the other hand, for the evaluation of double determinations, the Cubic Spline evaluation is preferable. When carrying out a new test for the first time, double determinations should always be carried out initially as a personal check.

New Distribution Network in Eastern Europe and Austria

With effect from the 1st of July 2004 we have reorganised our distribution in Eastern Europe. Several new partners in different countries are taking over responsibility for sales and marketing as well as technical support for the RIDASCREEN® / RIDA® product lines, the Enzymatic BioAnalysis and Food Analysis test kits and the R-Biopharm Rhône products. The new point of contact at R-Biopharm for international sales in Eastern Europe is Mr. Alois Fellingner.

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For Austria, our complete product range will be distributed from the 1st of July 2004 directly from Darmstadt. Please contact Mrs. DI Christine M. Gutschelhofer for technical customer service or other questions.

The following addresses are listed also on our website www.r-biopharm.com.

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New Distribution in Canada

Effective 1st of July 2004 R-Biopharm Inc., located in Marshall, Michigan, USA is taking over responsibility for sales and marketing as well as technical support for the RIDASCREEN® / RIDA® product lines and for the Enzymatic Food Analysis test kits in Canada. A toll-free number (1-877-789-3033) has been activated to work throughout North America.

Please contact from now the following address:

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Trade Fairs and Conferences



28.09. - 01.10.2004	DVG – Deutsche Veterinärmedizinische Gesellschaft e.V. 45. Arbeitstagung des Arbeitsgebietes Lebensmittelhygiene, Garmisch-Partenkirchen / Germany <i>R-Biopharm and its product lines will be presented on the above mentioned meeting.</i>
09.11. - 12.11.2004	EuroTier, Hannover / Germany <i>R-Biopharm will present its products on the international DLG exhibition for livestock & poultry production and management with a R-Biopharm booth in hall 20 A30.</i>
10. - 12. 11.2004	Brau Beviale 2004, Nürnberg / Germany 45. European Trade Fair for the Beverage Industry Raw Materials – Technologies – Logistics – Marketing <i>R-Biopharm and its product lines will be presented on the above mentioned Trade Fair.</i>
23.11. - 26.11.2004	Expoaviga, Barcelona / Spain International Trade fair for livestock breeding technology <i>Representatives: Pablo Atlmann from R-Biopharm AG ATOM S.A. from Spain</i>

We would appreciate to welcome you.

The next R-Biopharm^{news} will be published during the IV. quarter 2004

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