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The isolation of *Aspergillus* spp from harvested maize in three Portuguese regions

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In Portugal, maize is the cereal that involves more agriculture explorations. *Aspergillus* spp., among other species, are usually associated with this cereal, during drying and storage, making this commodity susceptible to mycotoxins (such as aflatoxins, ochratoxins, and cyclopiazonic acid). The aim of this study was to evaluate the mycotoxigenic potential of isolated *Aspergillus* strains from these maize samples and correlate it with the sampling place, the weather conditions, and local practices during drying and storage. The samples were collected between November 2008 and April 2009 in maize association of producer's facilities in Coimbra, Santarém and Portalegre. The isolated strains were divided in three distinct groups, *Aspergillus* section *Flavi*, *Aspergillus* section *Nigri* and others *Aspergillus*. The preliminary results show that there are differences between the incidence of these groups in the three sampling places, especially in Coimbra, probably due to a lower mean temperatures and higher humidity levels. These data will be presented and discussed.

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