The oat mystery - Are they gluten free?

Elisabeth Halbmayr-Jech, Romer Labs® Diagnostic GmbH

Contact: Sebastien Kowalczyk, Romer Labs® Diagnostic GmbH, Technopark 1, 3430 Tulln, Austria, <u>sebastien.kowalczyk@romerlabs.com</u>

<u>Romer Labs</u> is a leading global supplier of diagnostic kits for, among other things, the detection of various mycotoxins, allergens and pathogens. Our most recent success has been in developing a new test for multiple mycotoxins that uses only water as a solvent.

In recent years, we have also developed a gluten detection kit that uses the monoclonal antibody G12¹. This antibody **targets the 33-amino acid fragment** in wheat gluten that triggers the auto-immune reaction in celiac patients. There have been many questions concerning the suitability of oats for inclusion in a gluten-free diet. We conducted a preliminary study using different oat varieties to clarify this situation. The objectives of the study were 1) to find out if the AgraQuant® Gluten G12 ELISA test kit can detect gluten in pure oats, and 2) to see if there is a difference in the gluten level of different varieties. The results of the study were published in our Spotlights newsletter, vol. 25, which can be found here.

¹Morón, B., et al. (2008) American Society for Clinical Nutrition, 87(2): 405-414.