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IMMUNOLOGICAL ALTERATIONS IN RATS PRODUCED BY SHORT TERM HIGH-DOSE FEEDING OF PALMYRAH *(BORASSUS FLABELLIFER)* FLOUR

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A significant depression of cell mediated and humoral immune competence was previously reported in rats fed a 25% palmyrah flour diet for 7 weeks ; no depression was noted after 2 weeks.

We have examined the cell mediated immune competence (by the lympho-proliferative response as measured by the uptake of ^{3}H thymidine) of peripheral blood lymphocytes and splenic lymphocytes from rats which fed a 75% palmyrah flour diet for 2-8 days ; the animals were examined when toxic symptoms were evident.

A significant ($p < 0.5$) depression of the mitogenic response of the blood lymphocytes was detected ; the depression of the splenic lymphocytic responses was not significant ($p > 0.05$). This pattern resembles that found earlier in 7 week rats and confirms that palmyrah flour feeding could result in immunological aberrations in experimental rats.