

Toxic Impact of Selenium Dioxide on Tissue-Protein-Profiles of Edible, Fresh Water fish, *Channa punctatus* (Bloch)

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ABSTRACT

Selenium presents an interesting paradox in the field of aquatic toxicology because it is both a nutrient and a poison. Sub chronic exposure (up to 28 days) of freshwater fish, *Channa punctatus* (Bloch) to sub lethal concentration (0.5 mg/L) of Selenium dioxide resulted in record depletion in total protein in the organs like liver, gill, kidney, testis and ovary. The decline total protein in all above organs reflects an adverse influence of selenium dioxide exposure on metabolism as well as reproductive activity of the fish.

Keywords: *Channa punctatus*, Selenium dioxide, Liver, Gill, Kidney, Testis, Ovary

Introduction

Fish is an important source of food for mankind all over the world from the times immemorial. The importance of fish as source of high quality, balanced and easily digestible proteins, vitamins and polysaturated fatty acids is well understood now. Fishes are valuable sources of high grade protein and other organic products. They are most important source of animal protein and have been widely accepted as a good source of protein and other elements for the maintained of healthy body (Andrew, 2001).

Fish are the richest source of an essentially healthy diet. They are however, endangered by water borne pollutants transferred along the food chain (Hooet al.2004; Ayaset al. 2007; Kumar and Achyuthan, 2007; Shukla et al. 2007; Srivastava and Srivastava, 2008). During the past three decades there has been an increasing interest in the effect of trace elements on human health. Amongst various water pollutants, heavy metal poses a great threat to fishes. Selenium is an essential element and studies on the chemical reactivity of selenium containing compounds against peroxides and oxygen centered radicals led to the concept that selenium could be consider an

antioxidant. Selenium interactions with other elements and enzymes, homeostatic mechanism and metabolic route need further studies especially on order to understand selenium toxicity causes. In this peace of investigation on selenium acute toxicity recorded on the tissue of organs like liver, gill, kidney, testis and ovary of freshwater, edible fish, *Channa punctatus*.

Materials and Methods

Live specimens of the freshwater fish, *Channa punctatus* (Bloch) were selected for the present research work. The fish were procured for the experimental purpose from the freshwater "Rishi Lake" of Karanja lad Dist. Washim, M.S., India. They were washed with 1% KMnO₄ solution for five minutes for dermal disinfection. The fish were acclimatizing to the laboratory condition for a period of fortnight before conducting the experiment. Particularly in morning hours, fish fed on small pieces of boiled eggs, once in a day.

The 10 fish including males & females, weighing between 46-50gms were selected for the experimental work. They were maintained in separate aquaria, containing free aged tap water. as per standard methods,

the physicochemical parameters of used aged tap water were determined periodically, (APHA,1998).

To study the toxic effects of Selenium dioxide on various organs. The experiments were conducted in two phases. In the first phase of experiment are the Control/ Normal set & second phase of Experimental set, fish exposed to sub lethal concentrations of the experimental toxicant selenium dioxide were studied. 96h LC₅₀ value was calculated by Probit analysis method (Sprague, 1973), as 2.5mg /L. In second set of an experiment the fish were exposed to sublethal concentration of toxicant selenium dioxide, which was 1/5 of the 96h LC₅₀ i.e.0.5mg /L. The experiments were carried out in sub lethal concentration of toxicant selenium dioxide for a period of 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th days. Parallel sets of control fish were run simultaneously in separate aquaria. After 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th days four male and four female fish of control as well as

experimental group were weighed and sacrificed immediately by giving a blow on the head and were dissected. The tissues like liver, Gill, kidney, testis and ovary from both the control and experimental fish were removed with sharp blade & rinsed in salinewater and then blotted with filter paper to remove the blood and cell debris and are to be used for biochemical analysis. Pieces of different tissues weighing 100 gm. prepared extract each were obtained in 90% alcohol for the estimation of protein.

Result and Discussion

In the present investigation, depletion of tissue protein in the fish, *Channa punctatus* exposed to the sub lethal concentration of selenium dioxide has been observed in the organs like liver, gill, kidney and gonads. The observations of the said piece of investigation are mentioned in Table 1.

Table-1 Alterations in total protein contents (mg / 100 gm wet weight) in different tissues of the fish, *Channa punctatus*, following exposure to sub lethal concentration of Selenium dioxide.

TISSUES		EXPOSURE (DAYS)			
		7	14	21	28
Liver	Control	560.40±0.62	568.60±0.98	582.36±0.78	576.18±0.80
	Experimental	555.20±0.44 (-0.92)	511.10±0.66 (-10.11)	490.88**±0.44 (-15.70)	410.44±0.56 (-28.76)
Gill	Control	144.28±0.68	143.80±0.48	136.68±0.98	142.66±0.82
	Experimental	133.76±0.62 (-7.26)	146.44**±0.77 (+3.22)	126.24±0.48 (-7.63)	120.22±0.38 (-15.72)
Kidney	Control	222.40±0.50	221.64±0.42	224.12±0.86	226.08±0.98
	Experimental	202.12±0.86 (-9.11)	194.22±0.74 (-12.37)	170.62±0.68 (-23.87)	140.18***±0.62 (-37.99)
Testis	Control	58.16±0.83	57.80±0.78	58.36±0.93	58.44±0.48
	Experimental	54.30±0.55 (-6.63)	50.68±0.96 (-12.31)	44.12±0.59 (-24.40)	30.08±0.38 (-48.53)
Ovary	Control	311.82±0.43	310.65±0.45	311.40±0.42	310.84±0.48
	Experimental	271.32±0.38 (-12.98)	211.22**±0.33 (-32.00)	181.32±0.50±0.48 (-41.77)	166.16***±0.67 (-46.53)

- The values are mean± SD of five observations.
- Figure in parenthesis denotes percent change over control.
- *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, NS=Not Significant.

Reduced productivity of sperms and ova was observed in the goldfish, *Carassius auratus* injected with cadmium (Sangalang and O'Halloran, 1974). Earlier studies have also shown that lipid and protein concentration of vital organs like gill, liver, muscle and kidney depleted in fish, exposed to chromium (Arillo *et al.* 1982; Ambrose *et al.* 1994). Arora and Kulshrestha (1984) observed necrosis of interstitial cells and failure of spermatogenesis in fish, *Channa punctatus* exposed to carbonyl and endosulfan. Even at sub lethal concentrations, chronic effects such as decreased reproduction, reduced growth and histopathological alterations in various tissues may occur (Spear, 1981). James *et al.* (1995) observed decreased protein content in liver, muscle and gill of *Heteropneustes fossilis* exposed to copper, mercury and mixture of both. Jha and Jha (1995) observed protein depletion in liver and gonads of *Anabas testudineus* under the stress of nickel chloride. Exposure of *Cyprinus carpio* and *Cirrhinamirgala* to zinc for 60 days also result in a decline of total protein in the ovary (Dhawan and Kaur, 1997).

Nanda *et al.* (2000), also reported gradual and significant reduction in the protein contents in the tissue like muscle, intestine, kidney, liver and gill in the fish, *Heteropneustes fossilis* after chronic exposure to nickel. Sindhe *et al.* (2002), observed a decline in liver and ovarian proteins of *Notopterus notopterus* after exposure to various concentrations of cadmium chloride and mercuric chloride,

individually and in combination, for 2 months. Exposure of *Channa punctatus* to Ni for 30 days (Desai *et al.* 2002) and Zn for 15 days (Srivastava *et al.* 2002) also result in a similar decline in the liver.

According to Vutukuru (2003), the result of the present study indicated that the glycogen, total lipid and total protein concentration of liver, muscle and gill were depleted in *Labeo rohita* exposed to 96h LC₅₀ concentration of chromium.

The mean values of total proteins were significantly decreased in the exposed fish compared to control. This implicates that the bioaccumulation of heavy metals triggers the oxidative stress in the liver cells by the generation of reactive oxygen species. The defensive surface proteins antagonise the toxic radicals resulting in elimination of protein from the liver cells. The lower level of total protein in plasma, muscle and liver reflects the capacity of protein synthesis and denotes the osmolarity of the blood and liver impairments. Hence, it is a valuable indicator in the diagnosis of toxicity in fish (Rajamanickam and Muthuswamy, 2008). The decline in total proteins and total lipids is similar in both liver and ovary (Srivastava and Verma 2009).

The major findings of the study of sub lethal concentrations of selenium dioxide in the liver, gill, kidney and gonads of the freshwater, edible fish, *Channa punctatus* shows record changes in tissue protein profile. Thus the result of present investigation with toxic impact of selenium dioxide on tissue –protein profile is almost similar to those of the above investigators.

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