

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Hematological Study on Obligate Air Breathing, Fish *Channa punctatus* (Bloch) Exposed to Cythion

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been taken to analyze the effect of cythion on the hematological parameters of an air-breathing fish *Channa punctatus*. It is found that this pesticide causes a significant reduction in red blood cell count, hemoglobin content, oxygen capacity, and packed cell volume.

Keywords: Endosulfan, Fish *Channa punctatus*, hemoglobin count, packed cell volume, red blood cell count

INTRODUCTION

Pesticides are known to exhibit changes in the hematological parameter of fish which are reported to be probably responsible for changes in oxygen uptake by fish. Changes in haematological parameters has been reported in some air breathing fishes as *Channa punctatus* exposed to organophosphate insecticide (Anees 1978, Thakur and Sahai, 1993), *Channa striatus* exposed to metasytox (Natrajan 1981, 1984).^[1,2]

Besides accumulation of methaemoglobin there is causing methaemoglobinemia in blood, was reported in *Channa punctatus* challenged by sodium nitrite (Koundinya, 1946), *Serotherodon mosambicus* exposed to sevin (Manthirasalam, 1993). Through the effects of pesticides on haematological parameter of water and air breathing fishes have been extensively studied. Information on the effects of the cythion on the air-breathing fish, *C. punctatus* (Bloch), is not available, though the fish showed alterations in its bimodal respiration. Here, an attempt has been made to study the effect of sublethal (120 h lethal concentration 50 [LC₅₀]) and lethal (24 h LC 100) concentration of endosulfan on total hemoglobin (Hb) content, hematocrit erythrocyte count, mean erythrocyte Hb content, oxygen capacity, and methemoglobin content, in the blood of the air-breathing fish *C. punctatus* (Bloch).^[3]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Live specimen of *Anabas testudineus* (Bloch) was procured from local fish dealers at fish *C. punctatus* Mouna Chowk Saran (Bihar) and placed in a glass aquarium (50 L) in the laboratory for 7 days. Proper acclimatization was provided to the aquarium. In the laboratory, the fish *C. punctatus* was fed daily with a piece of goat liver. The LC₅₀ value of cythion at 96 h was determined as 1.675 mg/l. In the present work, an attempt has been made to study the toxic effect of sublethal (120 h LCO i.e 1.4 mg/L) concentration of cythion on hematological parameters of the fish.^[4]

The oxygen capacity of blood was calculated by multiplying the total Hb content with the oxygen combining power of 1.28 ml of oxygen per gram of Hb (Johansen 1970). The oxygen capacity of blood was calculated as volume percentage (vol%).^[5]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The total hematological content in the blood of control fish *C. punctatus* was estimated to be 5.81 ± 0.50 g/100 ml. Exposure of *A. testudineus* to sublethal (1.3 mg/l) and lethal (3.8 mg/l) concentrations of cythion elicited in the total Hb content of the blood. The reduced (from control level) total Hb contents estimated - 1, 3, 6, 12, 24, 48, 72, 96, and 120 h of sublethal exposure were 4.60 ± 11 mg/100 ml, 5.4a ± 0.70 g/100 ml, 5.93 ± 0.07 g/100 ml, 3.266 ± 0.04 g/100 ml,

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2.4 ± 0.20 g/100 ml, 4.4 ± 0.10 g/100 ml, 4.10 ± 0.72 g/100 ml, 4.34 ± 0.07 g/100 ml, and 2.43 ± 0.12 ml/100 ml, respectively. The hematocrit value of the blood of control Fish *C. punctatus* was $13.80 \pm 3.84\%$ which depicts highly significant changes when the fish was exposed to sublethal and LC. The erythrocyte count in the blood of control fish *C. punctatus* was estimated to be 1.04 ± 0.06 million cell/cu mm blood.

The calculated mean erythrocyte Hb content of control *A. testudineus* Fish *C. punctatus* was 44.02% which showed different magnitude of changes under sublethal and lethal of cythion concentrations. The calculated oxygen capacity (vol%) of the blood of sublethal exposed.

Fishes were 5.900, 7.21, 7.92, 4.82, 3.20, 5.44, 4.82, 5.8 and 3.20 following 1, 3, 6, 12, 24, 48, 72, 96 and 120 hours respectively. Fish *C. punctatus* showed a control metHb level of $38.72 \pm 2.79\%$ in its blood. Change in hematological parameters has been studied in fishes under different pesticide stress. Several findings however, significant elevations in erythrocyte count and Hb content were also reported in water breathing fish, *Tilapia mossambica* exposed to Sevin (Koundinya and Rammurthi,

1980, Natrajan, 1984, Goel *et al.* 1984). The pattern of change in the methemoglobin content of blood of *C. striatus* under Sevin toxicity (karuppiah, 1996) methaemoglobin is known to contain the heme in ferric (Fe⁺) state, thereby reducing its oxygen combine Ig capacity. In the present investigation, the effect of cythion resemblances with the finding of natrajan 1984 and Goel *et al.* 1984.

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