

## STUDY ON TOXICITY OF LEAD CHLORIDE (PBCL<sub>2</sub>) ON *MYSTUS CAVASIUS* FROM MULA-MUTHA RIVER, PUNE

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### ABSTRACT

Heavy metals above the permissible limit are toxic to the aquatic organisms. They can accumulate in the tissues of aquatic organisms, especially in bottom-feeding fish and cause various dangerous effects which can be harmful to humans too. The present study was carried out to assess the behavioural responses and survival rate of air breathing fish *Mystus cavasius* to exposure of lead chloride. Behavioural effects are important in the assessment of risk from chemical exposure in the environment. The 96h LC<sub>50</sub> values determined using Litchfield and Wilcoxon graphical method. Various behavioural and physiological changes were observed in *M. cavasius*. Also the survival rate was seen to be decreased with increased concentration of lead chloride. Therefore it can be concluded that *Mystus cavasius* is sensitive to higher concentration of lead chloride.

**KEY WORDS :** Fish, Leadchloride, Water pollution, Heavy metal, *Mystuscavasius*

### INTRODUCTION

Pollution of different water environments with heavy metals is a matter of serious concern for human health. These toxic heavy metals are introduced into aquatic ecosystem via different routes such as industrial effluents, agricultural procedures, domestic garbage and mining activities (Merian, 1991). The heavy metals cannot be destroyed through biological degradation and have the ability to accumulate in ecosystem (G. Ambedkar and Muniyan, 2011). Therefore, these chemicals are harmful to aquatic ecosystems and consequently, to humans who are dependent on aquatic products as food sources (Bernet *et al.*, 1999). Among aquatic organisms, fish cannot escape from the detrimental effects of these pollutants, and are therefore generally considered to be the most relevant organisms for pollution monitoring in aquatic ecosystems (van der Oost *et al.*, 2003). Besides prevalence of exotic fishes, sewage and industrial pollution of river waters is the main reason for depletion of fish species (Suter, 1944). There are at least 62 species of fish in the Mula and

Mutha rivers flowing through Pune (Wagh and Ghate, 2003)

Median lethal dose (LC<sub>50</sub>) tests can measure the susceptibility and survival potential of animals to particular toxic substances such as heavy metals (Sadeghi and Imanpoor, 2015). Heavy metals at greater concentrations are toxic to aquatic animals and responsible for mortality (Naeem *et al.*, 2012) (Hedayati *et al.*, 2010). In the present study, the toxic effects of lead chloride on air breathing fish *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton-Buchanan)(Figure 1) were investigated.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Healthy adult fish *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton-Buchanan) of 38.8g (approx.) and 13.5cm (approx.) length were procured from the local fisherman of fish station: Aundh and acclimatized in 28 °C in 15L of water (aeration provided) 7 days prior to the testing. To all the fish samples commercially available food was given. The percentage survival of *M. cavasius* at various concentrations of lead chloride was determined using Litchfield and Wilcoxon graphical



**Table 3.** Behavioral and physiological Changes under the exposure of PbCl<sub>2</sub>:

Before Death (Sublethal Concentration)	After Death (LC50)
Hyperactivity	Decolouration of the body
Active air-breathing	Mouth opens
High opercular beats	Mucus thread
Jumping	Bile duct & gall bladder rupture
Fanning	Gills changes the colour to white
Tail twitching	Bleeding at the base of pectoral fin
Burst swimming	
Bleeding in gills	
Restlessness	
Nervous unconsciousness	
Mucus film formation	
Shortening of barbs	

jumping and fishes were trying to jump out of media. Body and gill colour also changes. Fishes also seemed to have nervous unconsciousness and restlessness. The main causes of death were found to be bleeding through gills, bile duct & gall bladder rupture and bleeding at the base of pectoral fin.

### CONCLUSION

Various behavioural and physiological changes were observed in *M.cavasius*. Also the survival rate was seen to be decreased with increase concentration of lead chloride (Table 2). Therefore it can be concluded that *Mystus cavasius* is sensitive to higher concentration of lead chloride.

As fishes are included in human diet and has commercial value, it is important to study the effect of such heavy metals on fish.

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