

Effect of neem oil on the adenohipophysys of *Glossogobius giuris*

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Abstract

The adenohipophysys of the fish *G. giuris* histopathology was observed during post spawning phase, on treatment with sub lethal concentrations of Neem oil (0.05 ppm, 0.25 ppm and 0.5 ppm) for 24, 48, 72 and 96 hrs intervals. The results of the present study showed PRL cells were spherical or ovoid, the nuclei were found beneath the nuclear membrane. Cells were partially granular. The RPD of the pituitary PRL cells became small and their nuclei were frequently pycnotic with diffused chromatin material. GTH cells were completely vacuolated and appeared oval or spherical in shape. The fishes at higher concentration of neem oil showed signs of degranulation and vacuolization. Intercellular spaces became conspicuous. The nuclear diameter decreases, cells were small and densely granulated cytoplasm. Most of the cells in the RPD undergone degranulation. GTH cells became totally degranulated, appearance of vacuolization, large intercellular spaces were observed due to coalition of small vacuoles. The various stages of degranulation which were distributed sparsely. A reduction in the number and diameter of the gonadotrophs indicate possible reduction in release of gonadotroph hormone.

Keywords: Neem oil, *G. giuris*, prolactin (PRL) and gonadotrophs (GTH)

1. Introduction

Neem has been used worldwide in traditional medicine for various therapeutic purposes, antibacterial, antifungal and antifertility properties (Jegade and Fagbenro, 2007)^[13]. Sinna and Riai (1985) reported that in Rhesus monkey and human, spermatozoa became totally immobile in 30 seconds of contact with undiluted neem oil. In vivo studies showed that intravaginal application of neem oil prior to coitus can prevent pregnancy (Sinha *et al.*, 1984)^[25]. The neem extracts can affect aquatic organisms including fish and tadpoles. Patnaik *et al.*, (1987) observed that higher larval mortality of *Crocidolomia binotalis* with neem oil for laboratory condition. Azam (1991)^[3] reported that neem oil causes more than 80 percent larval mortality of *Liriomyza trifolii* in cucumbers. Shanmugapriyan and Kingsly (2001)^[1] reported that neem oil at 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 % of concentration was effective on third instar larvae of *Earias vitteila* than in the fourth and fifth instars. Antifertility effect of neem oil has also been studied and suggested to be a novel method of contraception (Upadhyay *et al.*, 1990 and 1994, Kaushic *et al.*, 1995)^[15, 29]. Oral administration of aqueous extract of neem leaf also shows antifertility effect in mice (Despande *et al.*, 1980)^[6]. Purified neem seed extract (praneem) has also been demonstrated to abrogate pregnancy in both baboons and bonnet monkeys, when administered orally (Mukherjee *et al.*, 1996)^[16]. Neem is a member of the Meliaceae family. Among the herbal pesticide, neem oil considered to be an important pesticide in controlling pests and insects (Kraus *et al.*, 1995, Devakumar *et al.*, 1996)^[7]. The effect of neem oil and its products on fishes have been studied by Temitope *et al.*, (2008)^[28]. Kumarantunga *et al.*, (1989), on mosquitoes (Fredros *et al.*, 2007, Rao *et al.*, 1992, on rats Upadhyay *et al.*, 1993, Omkar *et al.*, 1997, B.P. Kale 2003, Majumdar 1998, Masood *et al.*, 2008)^[8, 5, 15, 18, 4]. Neem oil shows toxicity of fish like tilapia and carp (Jacobson, 1995)^[10], in rats and rabbits (Gandhi *et al.*, 1988), in humans (Jacobson 1995, Singh *et al.*, 1985)^[10, 26]. Neem leaf exhibits oral

toxicity in mice (Kanungo, 1996)^[14], showing signs of ill health and discomfort, gastrointestinal spasms, apathy, hypothermia and terminal convulsions, leading to death. Neem leaf extract when administered for 48 days in albinorats causes decrease in sperm count, sperm mobility, probably due to androgen deficiency (Aladakatti *et al.*, 2001)^[1], Stinkbug *podisusnigripinus* (Zanuncio, J., Mourão, S., Martínez, L. *et al.*, 2016). Hence, the present investigation, histopathological studies in the adenohipophysys (Gonadotrophs and prolactin secreting cells) *Glossogobius giuris* has been made during post spawning phase.

2. Material and Methods

The fresh water gobiid fish *Glossogobius giuris* (HAM) were randomly collected in and around Bangalore using cast and gillnets (10 mm). The fishes were brought alive to the laboratory and were kept in 50 L aquaria containing aerated tap water and acclimated in laboratory conditions for 15 days prior to using them in experiments. They were kept under natural photoperiod and room temperature of 26 ± 4 °C and were fed daily with earth worms. These fishes were treated with 0.1% potassium permanganate solution for 15 min to get rid of dermal infections. The large and sexually mature female fishes were used in this study. Females were identified externally by the presence of urinogenital papillae. The body length and weight of each fishes were recorded. The female fish weighing about 20-50 g and length 110 to 220 mm were selected for the study adenohipophysys of *Glossogobius giuris*. The pesticide neem oil was dissolved in acetone and then added to test water to obtain the desired concentration. The stock solution of 1 mg/L is prepared and the desired concentration is obtained by adopting the dilution technique outlined by APHA (1995). The acclimated fishes were divided into three experimental groups of six fishes each. The first three groups of fishes are placed in 0.05, 0.25 and 0.5 ppm of neem oil, while fourth group kept in fresh water (control). Six fishes in each concentration in 10 L

capacity glass trough. For all experiments the acclimated Fishes were starved for 24 hr prior to their exposure to neem oil use in experiment and were not fed during the course of the experiment (Dalela *et al.*, 1971). The water was changed on alternate days and the concentration of pesticide was maintained.

The pesticide treated fishes (24, 48, 72 and 96 hr) were sacrificed by decapitation and pituitary along with brain are fixed in different fixatives. Serial sagittal sections were cut 5 to 6 μ and stained for staining techniques as for the pituitary staining.

3. Result

3.1 Control

Prolactin (PRL) cells were spherical or ovoid, the nuclei were found beneath the nuclear membrane. Cells were partially granular. The cell nuclear diameter ($2.86 \pm 0.22\mu$). Gonadotrophin (GTH) cells were completely vacuolated and appeared oval or spherical in shape. The cytoplasm contain less number of granules (nuclear diameter: $3.39 \pm 0.30\mu$)

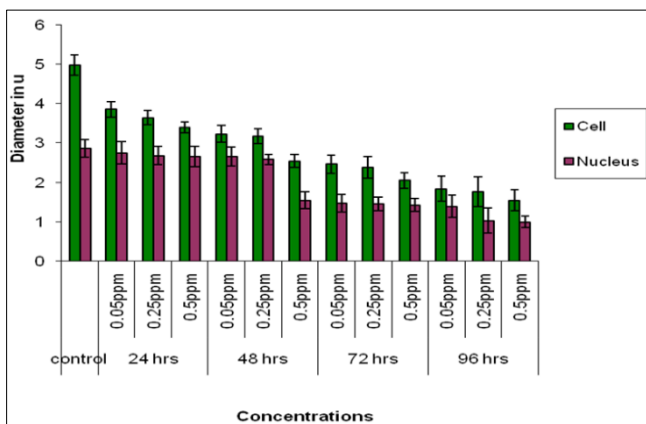
3.2 Treated

When the fishes were treated with 0.05 ppm of neem oil for 24 hrs, PRL cells showed smaller cells and their nuclei frequently pycnotic with diffused granulated cells. The nuclear diameter decreased when compared to that of control ($2.75\pm 0.28\mu$). Fishes exposure to 0.05 ppm neem oil for 24 hrs, GTH cells showed, cytoplasm was less number of granular cells. The cytoplasmic region was degranulation. The nuclear diameter decreases.

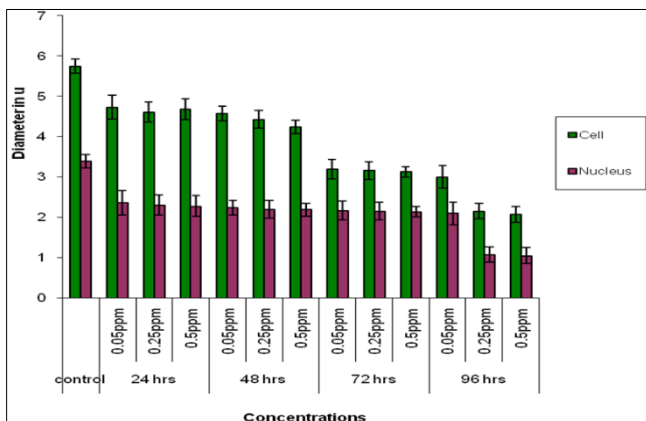
The PRL cells exposed to 0.25 ppm of neem oil for 24 hrs, the cytoplasm of PRL cells in the RPD region showed degranulation with vesicular fluid. The cellular and nuclear diameter are recorded and presented in the table – 23. Exposure of fishes to 0.25 ppm of neem oil for 24 hrs, GTH cells showed slightly increased the degeneration of granulated cells in the cytoplasm of the basophils. In the fishes treated with 0.5 ppm of neem oil for 24 hrs, showed signs of degranulation and vacuolization. Intercellular spaces became conspicuous. The nuclear diameter decreases when compared to the control ($3.79 \pm 0.14 \mu$). On treatment of the fish with neem oil for 24 hrs exposure to 0.5 ppm of neem oil exhibited degranulated and a few vacuoles were found towards the central region. When the fishes were treated with 0.05 ppm of neem oil for 48 hrs, PRL cells showed various stages of degranulation consequently; most of the cells had undergone degranulation and showed vacuoles. 48 hrs treatment of 0.05 ppm of neem oil caused vasculization and degranulation posses small spherical nuclei ($2.24 \pm 0.21\mu$) and showed chromatin material in the nucleoplasm. Number of vacuoles also increased. Exposure of fishes to 0.25 ppm of neem oil for 48 hrs, PRL cells cytoplasm undergone degranulation, the cells are destructured and there was no clear boundaries. Neem oil treatment with 0.25 ppm for 48 hrs, GTH cells exhibited nuclei became smaller containing lesser chromatin material. Appearance of vacuolization. There was reduction in the nuclear diameter ($2.20 \pm 0.18\mu$). In the RPD of the pituitary at 48 hrs of treatment with 0.5 ppm of neem oil, PRL cells became smaller and their nuclei were frequently pycnotic. 48 hrs treatment with 0.5 ppm of neem oil, GTH cells exhibited more vasculization and decreases the cell and nuclear diameter ($2.19 \pm 0.27\mu$), the cells of the region arranged loosely, degranulation found towards periphery of the cell.

Fishes exposure to 0.05 ppm of neem oil for 72 hrs, PRL cells had heavy degranulations. Large intercellular spaces were observed along with a few blood vessels. The nuclear diameter decreased. The PPD of the pituitary at 72 hrs of treatment with 0.05 ppm of neem oil, the GTH cells were degranulated and showed reduction in the nuclear diameter ($2.17 \pm 0.35\mu$) when compared to control. Neem oil treatment with 0.25 ppm for 72 hrs, PRL cells showed nuclei and chromatin material were not distinct. The nuclear diameter decreased ($1.45 \pm 0.17\mu$) when compared to control. Exposure of fishes to 0.25 ppm of neem oil, GTH cells exhibited cells are clearly visible with degranulated with indistinct cell boundaries. The nuclei are small with prominent nucleoli. When fishes exposure to 0.5 ppm of neem oil for 72 hrs PRL cells were small and densely granulated cytoplasm. Most of the cells in the RPD undergone degranulation. Nuclear diameter decreases ($1.43 \pm 0.16\mu$). The PPD of the pituitary, 0.5 ppm of neem oil for 72 hrs, GTH cells appeared degranulated in higher concentration of neem oil cells were inconspicuous. On treatment of the fish with 0.05 ppm of neem oil for 96 hrs, PRL cells exhibited intercellular spaces became conspicuous and cellular disturbances were noted. There was an increase in the quantity of degranulated cells.

Treatment with 0.05 ppm of neem oil for 96 hrs, GTH cells of PPD decreased in size gradually and the cells were loosely arranged. Intercellular spaces had towards the central region of the gland. The RPD of the pituitary at 96 hrs of 0.25 ppm of neem oil, PRL cells had large number of vacuoles with degranulated cells, the nuclear diameter ($1.33 \pm 0.32\mu$). 96



Graph 1: Effect of neem oil on PRL cells and nuclear diameter of gobiid fish *G. giuris* during post spawning phase



Graph 2: Effect of neem oil on GTH cells and nuclear diameter of gobiid fish *G. giuris* during post spawning phase

hrs treatments with 0.25 ppm of neem oil, GTH cells contain large number of degranulated cells. There was a significant decrease in the size of nuclei ($1.08 \pm 0.27\mu$). The RPD of the pituitary at 0.5ppm of neem oil for 96 hrs, PRL cells became small and their nuclei were frequently pycnotic with diffused chromatin material. Treatment with 0.5 ppm of neem oil for 96 hrs, GTH cells became totally degranulated, appearance of vacuolization. Large intercellular spaces were observed due to coalition of small vacuoles. The nuclear diameter decreases. ($1.05 \pm 0.11 \mu$).

4. Discussion

During the post-spawning period of *G. giuris* (January to February) the GTH cells exhibited maximum vacuolization. This coincided with increase in the number of atretic follicles and oogonial proliferations in the ovary. This phenomenon suggests that lower content of gonadotropin in the basophils, with a simultaneous increase in the circulation is responsible for the development of oocytes in *G. giuris*. Rai (1966a)^[22] who worked on Tor (barbus) tor also reported that extensive depletion of cyanophils was accompanied by an increase in the number of atretic follicles and oogonial proliferations in the ovaries. Saxena (1980)^[27] suggested that the resumption of the degranulation and degeneration process in the cytoplasm of the basophils take place during the late post spawning period in *G. giuris*. Similar degenerating changes have been described in the pituitary of *Salmo gairdnerii* (Robertson and Wexler, 1962a), *Onchorhynchus* (Robertson and exler 1962 b) and *Tor (Barbus) tor* (Rai, 1966b)^[24]. The decrease in the amount of gonadotropin in the hypophysis of the spent fish resulted in the formation of corpora atretica. Neem oil has interfered with maturation and growth of the follicles in the ovary which has also been showed by the microscopic sections of the ovary in which the number of follicles decreases (Masood Ahmed *et al.* 2009. Mukherjee *et al.* (1996 and 1999)^[16]. Talwar *et al.* (1997) reported a contraceptive effect during early post implantation period as they observed the complete resorption of embryos in Wistar rats after oral administration of the NIM-76, a pure active fraction of neem seeds.

The present study on prolactin cells in *G. giuris* exposed to different concentrations of neem oil (0.05 to 0.5 ppm) for an interval of 24, 48, 72 and 96 hrs showed marked cytological changes. In 24-96 hrs treated fish prolactin cells showed degranulation and vacuolization in the cytoplasm and conspicuous intercellular spaces. These cellular disturbances in the RPD may be directly related to increase in the concentration of neem oil. This suggests an acute stress response, since prolactin is known to be released under stress condition. Similar observations have been made by Jagadeesh and Sahai, (1986 and 1988) in *M. vittatus* and *H. fossilis*.

5. References

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