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RESEARCH ARTICLE

IMPACT OF PESTICIDE MONOCROTOPHOS ON HISTOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE LIVER OF *MYSTUS VITTATUS*

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ABSTRACT

Histopathological lesion have been studied in the liver of *Mystus vittatus* under 10, 20 and 30 days of exposure to 10% sub lethal concentration of monocrotophos (96 hr LC₅₀ : 0.025 ppm; 10% SLC-0.0025 ppm). In control cat fish, the liver was comprised of polygonal hepatocytes with centrally placed nucleus. Pesticide induced dilation of blood sinusoids, vacuolization and disintegration of cell boundaries were noticed in the 10 and 20 days of exposed fish. The complete damage of hepatocytes and loss of integrity of cell wall were noticed on 30 day of exposure.

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental protection has attracted the attention of the wide cross – section of people all over the world, which has now become a global issue amongst scientists and researchers working in this area. Unfortunately, several toxic pollutants, few are even unknown or unidentified to the biota, are being regularly introduced in large quantities into the environment, especially into the aquatic environment. Pollution of water is an important dimension of environmental degradation. The disposal of the industrial and agricultural wastes directly into the aquatic medium burdens the ecosystem and stresses the need to analyze the concentration of these substances in the medium as well as in the organisms. Pesticide pollution constitutes the most dangerous health hazard apart from creating adverse effects on fish production. Pesticides have been reported to make a revolution in the agriculture production in India by controlling pests of various crops (Matsumura, 1985). Pesticides used in pests control programmes resulted contaminate the ecosystem and enter food chains causing damaging effects on the ecosystem and non - target species (Ruvio, 1972 and Bakre et al., 1990). Toxicity data for a variety of pesticides such as organophosphate, organochlorine, carbamide and pyrethroid pesticides have been reported for number of fish species by various authors (Anees, 1975; Arunachalam and Palanichamy 1982; Arunachalam et al., 1980; Baskaran et al., 1989; Roy and Dutta Munshi, 1988;

Singh et al., 1981; Malla Reddy and Basha Mohideen, 1989; Gurusamy and Ramdoss, 2000; Sapna Shrivastava, 2002; Nisar Shaikh and Yeragi, 2004 and Visvanathan et al., 2009). In view of this in the present study the effect of sublethal concentration of monocrotophos on the liver biochemistry and histology of a freshwater teleost, *Mystus vittatus*

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The fish, *Mystus vittatus* weighing approximately 20g were collected from ponds in and around Thanjavur. They were acclimatized for 15 days in large cement tanks (temperature 28 ± 2°C; pH 8.0 ± 0.02 & DO 6.2 ± 0.4) previously washed with 1% potassium permanganate. The water was renewed every 24 hr. Stock solution of monocrotophos was prepared and the toxicity tests were conducted following method of Finney (1964). Based on the acute toxicity studies (96 h), LC₅₀ value for test fish was found to be 0.025 ppm. For histological studies, *Mystus vittatus* were reared in 10% sub lethal concentration for a period of 10, 20 and 30days. After treatment, both the control and experimental fishes were sacrificed at the end of 10, 20 and 30days. The liver tissues were removed and fixed in Bouin's fluid and then they processed adapting the usual procedure (Gurr, 1950). The sections (8µm) were stained with Haematoxylin and Eosin.

RESULTS

Histology of fish liver

In untreated, *Mystus vittatus* the liver is made up of continuous mass of hepatocytes arranged in irregular cords. The hepatic

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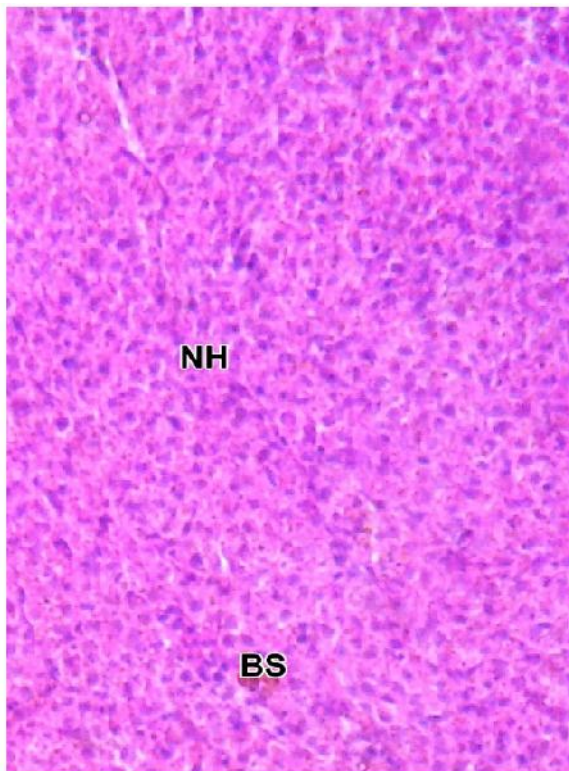


Fig. 1. control liver

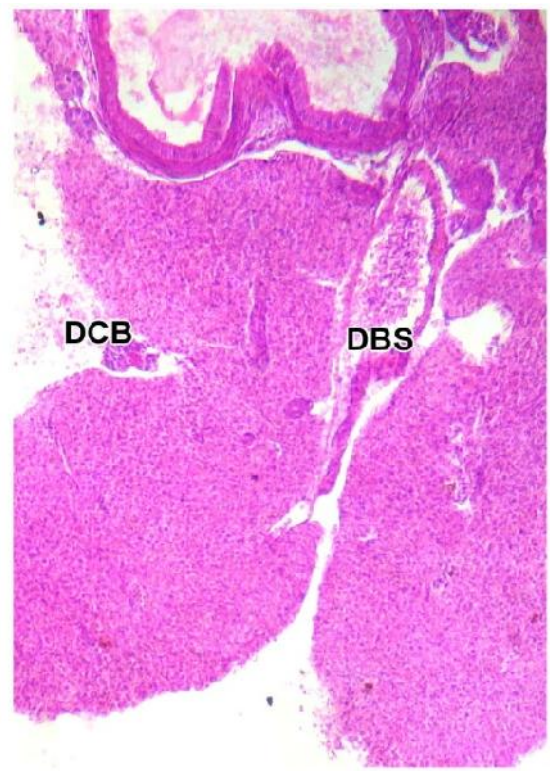


Fig. 2. 10 days treated liver

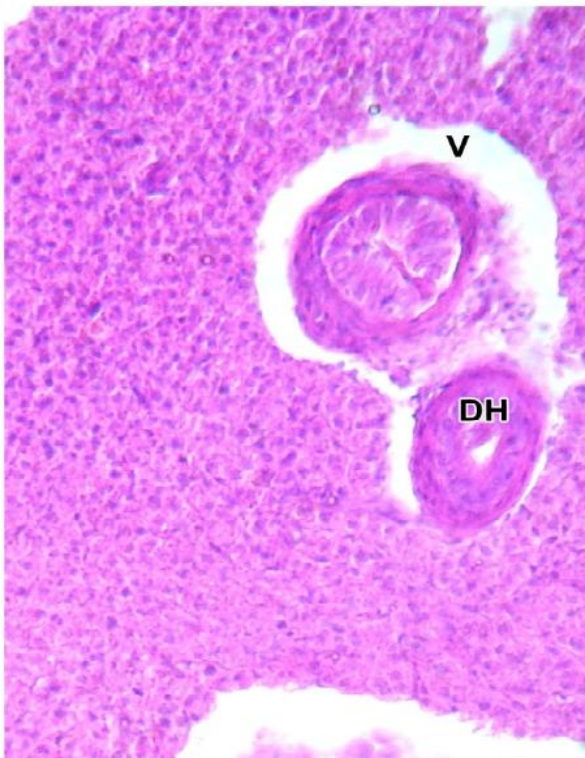


Fig. 3. 20 days treated liver

V- Vacuolization

DH- Degeneraiton of hepatocytes

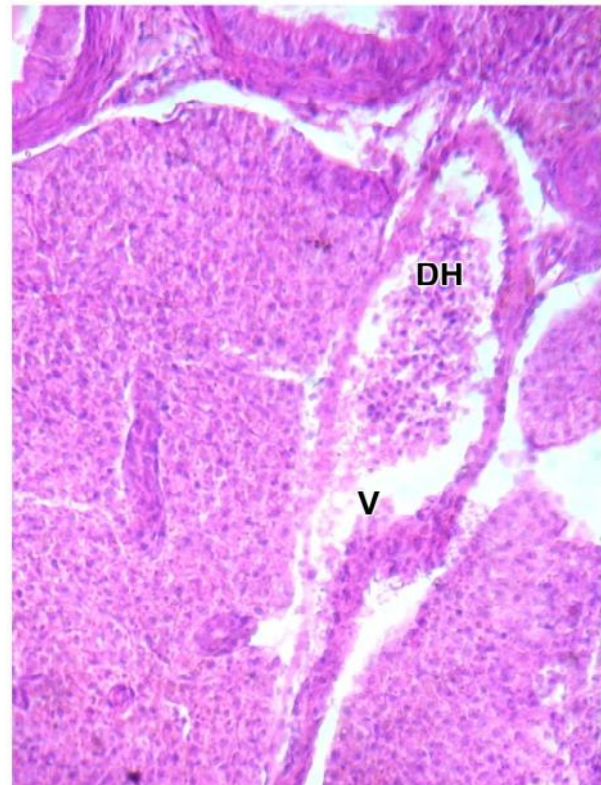


Fig. 4. 30 days treated liver

V- Vacuolization

DH- Degeneraiton of hepatocytes

cells are polygonal in shape with distinct central nuclei. A large number of blood sinusoids was also seen around the hepatocytes (Fig.1).

Pathology of liver tissue under monocrotophos toxicity

Marked toxic effects were observed at the structural and cellular level in the liver. In 10 days exposed fish, disintegration of cell boundaries and slight dilation of blood sinusoid was observed (Fig.2). After 20 days, many hepatic cells were completely damaged. Intracellular vacuolation was also apparent (Fig.3). After 30 days, damage to the hepatocytes was prominent. In most of the hepatic cells the integrity of cell wall was completely lost (Fig.4)

DISCUSSION

Morphological and histological alterations related to pesticide toxicity in the liver of fish have been studied showing that the substances cause severe damage to the liver cells (Ahamed and Srivastava, 1985; Ortiz *et al.*, 2003). Liver is an important organ of detoxification and biotransformation process and due to these reasons the hepatic cells are damaged severely. Several works have reported degenerative changes in hepatic tissue subjected to pollution by various pesticides and insecticides (Kumar and Pant, 1984; Gill *et al.*, 1990; Pandey *et al.*, 1993; Tilak *et al.*, 2005; and Sakr and Jamal Al lail, 2005). Dubale and Shah (1979) reported that *Channa punctatus* under malathion toxicity showed the degenerative changes in liver. Radhaiah and Jayantha Rao (1992) reported moderate cytoplasmic degeneration in hepatocytes, formation of vacuoles, reupture of blood vessels and picnotic nuclei in the liver of *Tilapia mossambica* exposed to fenvalerate. The liver of pesticide treated fish showed dilation of blood sinusoids, vacuolization, disintegration of cell boundaries and necrosis. The present results are in agreement with those observed by many authors who studied the effects of different pollutants of fish liver (Mohamed, 2001; Ptashynski *et al.*, 2002 and Fanta *et al.*, 2003). According to Rodrigues *et al.* (2001) the liver is an organ that frequently undergoes changes when exposed to insecticide at sublethal doses. The changes may be attributed to direct toxic effects of pollutants on hepatic cells, since the liver is the site of detoxification of all types of toxic substances (Soufy *et al.*, 2007).

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