



## ARSENIC INDUCED ALTERATIONS IN GLYCOGEN AND LIPID DURING TESTICULAR CYCLE OF A FRESHWATER SILUROID, *MYSTUS (M.) VITTATUS* (BL.)

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**ABSTRACT**

The increasing order in the glycogen and lipid content was observed during preparatory and spawning phase but decrease in these biochemical parameters was during post-spawning phase of testicular cycle in *Mystus (M.) vittatus*, a freshwater siluroid. Less significant alteration in glycogen and lipid was noticed after 15 days of exposure but highly significant decrease was observed after 30 days of exposure in SLC (Sublethal concentration) of trivalent arsenic as  $AsCl_3$ . causes for decline in these biochemical parameters have been discussed.

**KEYWORDS :** *Mystus (M.) vittatus*; Preparatory phase; Spawning phase; Post-spawning phase; Trivalent arsenic; Testicular cycle.

**INTRODUCTION**

Heavy metal pollution at present has become a serious environmental and public health hazard. It is because, the concentration of metallic pollutants released into the different section of environment from various industrial processes. These are often concentrated because of their bio-accumulative and non-biodegradable features. Heavy metals constitute a core group of aquatic pollutants (Vutukur 2003; 2005). Their high toxicity even at low concentration may exert cumulative toxic effects in a wide variety of fish fauna and other aquatic biota (Storelli et al., 2006). The introduction of heavy metals into the environment is through a wide spectrum of natural sources such as volcanic activities, erosion, and anthropogenic ones, including industrial wastes release as well as leakage. Certain metallic pollutants such as chromium, arsenic, nickel, cadmium, mercury etc exert toxic effects on living biota even at low concentration whereas zinc, manganese, copper etc. produce toxic effects on living biota only at higher concentration (Cohen et al., 2001; Karadore & Unlu, 2007; Yilmaz et al., 2010). In the aquatic environment, fishes appears to be remarkable bioindicator of arsenic toxicity (Gerhofer et al., 2001; Ghosh et al., 2007). Allen and Rana (2004) reported that toxicity of arsenical compounds depends upon species, sex, age, dose, duration of exposure, organic or inorganic form, valency state etc. Arsenic has been reported to be present in two different oxidation states (+3 and +5). Trivalent arsenic ( $As^{+3}$ ) has been observed to be more deleterious than the pentavalent arsenic (Bears et al., 2006; Ghosh et al., 2006; Kovandon et al., 2013; Shukla and Shukla, 2016, & 2017). Even though, the toxicity of arsenic (+3) in aquatic biota, particularly fishes has been enormously documented (Storelli et al., 2006, Venkatrama reddy et al., 2009; Shukla and Shukla, 2016, 2017). However, deleterious effects of trivalent arsenic on the glycogen and lipid during different phases of testicular cycle is scarce and hence present study has been undertaken.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Adult specimens of *Mystus (M.) vittatus* (Bl.) were collected from local lake having weight  $92.38 \pm 4.48$  gm during preparatory phase (January to April); Spawning phase (April to August) and post-spawning phase (September to December). They were acclimatized in laboratory tap water having pH=7.2±0.02; temperature =  $22.4 \pm 2.2^\circ C$ ; DO=  $6.2 \pm 0.52$  mg/l; hardness as  $CaCO_3$  =  $126.62 \pm 3.6$  mg/l. Analysis of physico-chemical features of tap water was made by the methods outlined by APHA (2005). Sublethal concentration of analytic grade of trivalent arsenic (11.24 mg/l) as  $AsCl_3$  was detected for long-term experimentation (15

and 30 days) as outlined by Shukla and Pandey (1988). The control and experimental media was aerated 3-5 hours daily using stone diffuser, though *Mystus (M.) vittatus* is hardy air breathing fish. 20 specimens were placed each in control and experimental media. The total glycogen and lipid in testis during preparatory, spawning and post-spawning phases were estimated by adapting the methods outlined by Kemp and Kits (1954) and Pandey et al., (1963). The data obtained in our study was statistically analyzed for significance by Student's 't' test as proposed by Fischer (1983) and a p value of 0.05 or less was noticed as significant between control and experimental group.

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

**Table 1.** Total glycogen and lipid content in mg/gm dry weight of testis during its different phases under SLC of trivalent arsenic in *Mystus (M.) vittatus*. Each value represents mean  $\pm$  SE of 5 observations.

Content	Parameters	Control	15 days exposure	% Change	30 days exposure	% Change
Preparatory	Glycogen	$20.24 \pm 0.22$	$18.64 \pm 0.18$	7.90	$16.42 \pm 0.20$	18.87
	Lipid	$60.14 \pm 1.22$	$56.26 \pm 1.34$	6.45	$52.34 \pm 1.64$	12.96
Spawning	Glycogen	$26.28 \pm 0.26$	$24.12 \pm 0.16$	8.21	$21.64 \pm 0.32$	17.65
	Lipid	$68.36 \pm 1.66$	$62.38 \pm 1.42$	8.74	$58.44 \pm 1.62$	14.51
Post-spawning	Glycogen	$12.24 \pm 0.16$	$11.36 \pm 0.12$	7.18	$10.44 \pm 0.20$	14.70
	Lipid	$36.26 \pm 1.04$	$34.18 \pm 1.02$	5.73	$32.66 \pm 1.54$	9.92

\* =  $p > 0.05$  (insignificant)\*\* =  $p < 0.05$ \*\*\* =  $p < 0.01$ \*\*\*\* =  $p < 0.001$ 

Reproductive cycle includes gonadal cycle which is a dynamic process always in state of gametogenesis. SLC of trivalent arsenic produced less significant diminution in the glycogen and lipid content during preparatory, spawning and post-spawning phases under 15 days exposure when compared to control. But clear significant decrease in glycogen and lipid content was noticed after 30 days of exposure during all the phases. From Table-1, it becomes clear that the level of glycogen and lipid in testis during its control spawning phase of testicular cycle was maximum in comparison to preparatory and post-spawning phase which clearly indicates towards the

possible supply of carbohydrate and lipid content in the form of glucose and lipid derivatives for active maturation of sperms. The increasing order of decrease in glycogen content during preparatory and spawning phases of testicular cycle of *Mystus (M.) vittatus*, a siluroid fish may be due to its enhance utilization as an immediate source to meet energy demands for maturation of testis under trivalent arsenic stress. It could also be an account of the prevalence of hypoxic or anoxic condition of the trivalent arsenic stress which generally enhances glycogen utilization in one way or other (Dezwaan and Zandee, 1973; Geetha et al., 1991; Ozretic and Ozretic, 1993; Shukla et al., 2005, 2012; Shukla and Shukla, 2011).

The diminution in the lipid content during different phases of testicular cycle of *Mystus (M.) vittatus* (Bl.), a freshwater siluroid might be partly due to its utilization in cell repair and tissue organization with the formation of lipoprotein which is salient constituent of cell membrane and cytoplasmic organelles (Harper, 1983).

Our findings may well be correlated with the observation made by Ambrose et al., (1994); Vutukuru (2003, 2005); Shukla and Shukla (2012) and confirms that long term exposure under trivalent arsenic interferes in the testicular physiology of the fishes.

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