

Copper sulphate induced changes in scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption of fresh water prawn, *Macrobrachium lamarrei* (Crustacea- Decapoda)

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Abstract: Fresh water prawns, *Macrobrachium lamarrei* were subjected to acute concentration, 0.304 mg/l (96h LC₅₀) of Copper sulphate to evaluate its effects on scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption rate. Scaphognathite oscillations showed initial increase after 24h, thereafter significantly ($t = 9.24$; $P < 0.001$) decreased up to 72h and finally tend to increase after 96h but remained below the controls where as oxygen consumption showed continuous decreasing trend through out the experiment up to 96h ($t = 16.53$; $P < 0.001$) than control ones. Possible interaction of copper in relation to respiration of these economically important crustaceans has been discussed.

Keywords: *Macrobrachium lamarrei*, Scaphognathite oscillations, Oxygen consumption, Copper sulphate

INTRODUCTION

Heavy metal pollution is one of the serious problems of fresh water bodies which are highly vulnerable to natural and anthropogenic interferences than comparatively stable marine ecosystem (Sanders, 1997). Due to some properties like high solubility, long half life period, non bio-degradable nature and tendency of bioaccumulation and bio-magnification they cause deleterious effects on aquatic flora and fauna as well as directly or indirectly affect human health (Chopra *et al.*, 2009).

Among heavy metals, Copper is a reddish metal that occurs naturally in rocks, soil, water, sediment and air ; enters in environment by various natural and industrial processes. It is an essential element for all known organisms including humans and other vertebrates for normal biological functions of many proteins and enzymes necessary for growth and development (Liu *et al.*, 1990 and Mandez *et al.*, 2001). Copper is also used to eradicate filamentous algae as well as to reduce phytoplankton in aquaculture ponds and become highly toxic to aquatic organisms when present in higher concentrations (Sorensen, 1991; and Chen and Lin, 2001). Toxic effect of copper and other heavy metals are mostly investigated in fishes (Tasi, 1979 ; RamanRao and Ramamurthi, 1987; Gill *et al.*, 1988; Varghese *et al.*, 1992; Pane *et al.*, 2003; Drastichova *et al.*, 2004; Sindal *et al.*, 2004; Prashanath *et al.*, 2005 and Svecevičius, 2005) but crustaceans despite having high economic and medicinal value are less documented (Chinnayya, 1971; Lodhi *et al.*, 2006; Sharma and Shukla, 2006; Li-Na, *et al.* 2007 ; Yang *et al.* 2007 ;

Jadhav and Ambrose, 2007; and Lodhi ,2009).

The present work was undertaken to evaluate the effects of copper sulphate on scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption of fresh water prawn, *Macrobrachium lamarrei* (Crustacea – Decapoda), a potential animal for freshwater aquaculture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fresh water prawns, *Macrobrachium lamarrei* (H. Milne Edward) were collected from river Gomti, Lucknow (U. P.) – India, with the help of local fisherman and brought to the laboratory (N- 26° 49' 55" E- 80° 55' 58") in large plastic containers. The animals were maintained in glass aquaria of 20 liter capacity, in dechlorinated water having physico-chemical characteristics as follows: pH - 7.6 ± 0.2 , Temperature - 26.0 ± 2.0 °C, D.O. - 7.0 ± 0.1 mg/l, Hardness - 298 ± 2.5 mg/L, Alkalinity - 65 ± 4.5 mg/l (APHA, 1998). Stock solution of Copper sulphate [CuSO₄.5H₂O, AR Grade molecular weight 249.68 gm/mole, manufactured by - Qualikems fine chemicals Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 110060 India] was prepared by dissolving weighed amount of salt in double distilled water. Two drops of Glacial acetic acid was added to prevent the precipitation.

Adult inter-moult staged *M. lamarrei* (Average length – 4.86 ± 0.55 cm, weight – 1.107 ± 0.26 gm.) were being utilized in experiments after 5-7 days acclimation to laboratory conditions. Acute exposure was carried out on predetermined 96h LC₅₀ values (0.304mg/lit; 95% confidence limits: lower -0.304 mg/lit; upper 0.380 mg/lit.; Lodhi *et al.*, 2006). One aquarium containing diluent water

only served as control for each set. Feeding was suspended 24h before during acute exposure and through out experiment. Continuous air supply was provided with the help of air diffusers and aerators in both control as well as experimental aquaria. Experiment was carried out according to guidelines of APHA (1998) and scaphognathite oscillations were recorded under stereoscopic dissecting binocular microscope with the help of stop watch from both control and experimental animals. The respiratory rate was determined by hourly monitoring of dissolve oxygen contents according to Winkler’s method (APHA, 1998). The oxygen consumption rate was calculated as oxygen consumed (mg/l)/gm body weight/h. Experiment was replicated thrice and data were subjected to statistical analysis for student” t” test and “ANOVA” using MINITAB software on PC.

RESULTS

Copper sulphate induced marked alterations in scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption of freshwater prawn, *M. lamarrei* and data are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2. Scaphognathite oscillations were found increased (253.8 ± 4.59) than the controls (247.7 ± 2.85) after 24 h of exposure. Thereafter a decline was noticed after 48h (227 ± 4.34) and 72h exposure (210 ± 1.97) than the controls (248.7 ± 3.33 and 245.6 ± 3.26). Scaphognathite oscillations further tend to increase up to 96h (231.1 ± 2.42) but remained below the controls (246.1 ± 4.30). The difference between means of control and the test animals were moderately significant ($t = 3.04$; $P < 0.01$) after 96h; significant ($t = 3.96$; $P < 0.05$) after 48h and highly significant ($t = 9.24$; $P < 0.001$) after 72h while were non-significant ($t = 1.13$; $P > 0.01$) after 24h exposure. The overall fluctuations in scaphognathite oscillations were non-significant ($f = 0.17$; $P > 0.5$) in controls while significant ($f = 25.73$; $P < 0.001$) in experimental animals. Experimental prawns showed continuous declining trend in oxygen consumption (0.4152 ± 0.008 , 0.3677 ± 0.0012 , 0.3189 ± 0.0089 , 0.2825 ± 0.0062 mg/l/gm. body weight/h) through out the experiment (24, 48, 72 and 96 h exposure) than control ones. The differences between means of the control and experimental animals were non-significant ($t = 2.71$; $P > 0.05$) after 24h while moderately significant ($t = 3.86$; $P < 0.05$; $t = 10.14$; $P < 0.01$) after 48 and 72h respectively and highly significant ($t = 16.53$; $P < 0.001$) after 96h exposure. The overall fluctuations in oxygen consumption of controls were non-significant ($f = 4.41$; $P > 0.01$) while highly significant ($f = 44.74$; $P < 0.001$) in experimental group.

DISCUSSION

Present study revealed that Copper caused marked alterations in scaphognathite oscillations and continuous decrease in oxygen consumption in freshwater prawn,

Table 1. Effect of Copper sulphate on Scaphognathite oscillations in *Macrobrachium lamarrei*.

Duration of Exposure	Scaphognathite oscillations/min (Mean±S.E)	
	Control	Exposed
24h	247.7±2.85	253.8±4.59 ^{NS}
48h	248.7±3.33	227±4.34*
72h	245.6±3.26	210±1.97***
96h	246.1±4.30	231.1±2.42**

Values are Mean ± S.E; N=10; *, **, *** and NS denotes differences in means to be significant at $P < 0.05$, $P < 0.01$, $P < 0.001$ and non-significant respectively.

M. lamarrei through out the experiment. The initial increase in scaphognathite oscillations was noticed after 24h exposure followed by continuous decreasing trend observed up to 72h exposure than controls. Scaphognathite oscillations again shoot up after 72h exposure but remained below than control after 96h exposure of copper sulphate. Initial increase of scaphognathite oscillations may be due to avoidance reaction followed by hypoxia due to metal induced irritation and coagulation of mucous on gill surface (Burba, 1999). It is well known that metals precipitate mucous which forms thick coat on gill surface causing asphyxiation on one hand and prevents further entry of metals in gills on other hands (Plonka and Neff, 1969). The decrease in scaphognathite oscillations in later stage of experiment may be due to altered carbohydrate metabolism (Radhakrishnaiah and Bussapa, 1986) or due to alterations in muscle fibers operating scaphognathite (Schultz and Kennedy, 1977). The decrease in scaphognathite oscillations may also be result of some neurological impairment. Inhibition of Acetyl cholinesterase activity, an enzyme responsible for synaptic transmission, is well reported in Crayfish after cadmium and lead exposure (Devi and Fingerma, 1995), may also be true for altered scaphognathite oscillations in *M. lamarrei*. Almost similar alterations in ventilatory structures have been reported in fishes (Drastichova *et al.*, 2004; Sindal *et al.*, 2004; Prashanath *et al.*, 2005 and Svecevièus, 2005) and in other invertebrates (Pane *et al.*, 2003 ; Sen *et al.*, 2008 and Tiwari, 2009) after exposure of various metal compounds. Changes in oxygen consumption rate are a good index to measure altered metabolic activity in organisms exposed to various toxicants in surrounding medium. Continuous decrease in oxygen consumption, as observed in present study has also been reported in various crustaceans (Bubel, 1976; Chinnaya, 1971; Ghate and Mulherker, 1979; Jadhav and Ambrose, 2007; Papathanasiou and King, 1983; Reddy and Venugopal, 1993; Ketpadung and Tangkrock, 2006; Siddiqui and Siddiqui, 2007 and Sen *et al.*, 2008) and in other invertebrates (Kumarasamy and

Table 2. Effect of Copper sulphate on oxygen consumption in *Macrobrachium lamarrei*.

Duration of exposure	Rate of oxygen consumption (mg/l)/gm body weight/h	
	Control	Exposed
24h	0.4384±0.0026	0.4152±0.0081 ^{NS}
48h	0.4225±0.0081	0.3677±0.0012*
72h	0.4201±0.0046	0.3189±0.0089**
96h	0.4090±0.0038	0.2825±0.0062***

Values are Mean ± S.E; N=10; *, **, *** and NS denotes differences in means to be significant at P<0.05, P<0.01, P<0.001 and non-significant respectively.

Karthikeyan, 1999). Similar effects have also been reported in fishes (Hiltibran, 1971; Singh and Singh, 1979; RamanRao and Ramamurthi, 1987; Gill *et al.*, 1988). Reduced oxygen consumption may be due to precipitated mucous coating on gill surface resulting in asphyxiation. The physiological, histological and ultra structural studies have shown that metal ion interferes in respiration by disrupting the structure of gill cells as result of cytotoxic effect (Jones, 1975; Gill *et al.*, 1988; Li-Na, *et al.*, 2007 and Yang *et al.*, 2007). Mitochondrial damage and reduction in ability to synthesize the ATP in gills as reported in *Palaemon serratus* (Papathanasiou and King, 1983) after exposure of heavy metals may also be a reason for reduced oxygen consumption in *M. lamarrei*. It is evident from present findings that metallic pollutants, particularly copper exert adverse effects on scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption of freshwater prawn, *M. lamarrei*. Scaphognathite oscillations and oxygen consumption rate can be used as monitoring tools to asses worsening status of aquatic bodies in reference to metallic pollution, which is of global concern now days.

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