



Cytogenotoxic Effect Of Pesticides Induces Variability In Micronucleus And Nucleo-Cytoplasmic Abnormalities In Channa Punctatus In Vivo

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Abstract

The aquatic resource is the major part of our environment, its safety is directly related to our health. In this study, fresh water fish Channa punctatus was taken as the genotoxic test model to estimate water pollution using micronucleus (MN) assay. It has been used successfully as a mutagenic assay. The fish was exposed in vivo to three different concentrations (MC, MC/2 & MC/5) of eight pesticides (Dimethoate, Dichlorvos, chlorpyrifos and Malathion, Methyl parathion, Fenvalerate, Cypermethrin and Carbaryl) at different time periods (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 days). Peripheral blood samples smears were stained with Giemsa, MN frequencies were qualitatively analyzed. Qualitative analysis of the output recommends the rate of concentration, period, nature and mode of action of different Agro-pesticides causes varieties of micronuclei and nucleo-cytoplasmic abnormalities in live fish Channa punctatus erythrocyte as sensitive indicator for evaluation and assessment of aquatic pollution.

Key Words: cytogenetics, genotoxicity; pesticides; fish; channa punctatus, micronucleus; pollutants.

Introduction

In the modern world, humans are exposed to different genotoxic agents present in the environment [1] directly or indirectly through various medium mostly aquatic. The use of pesticides has been recognized as a vital part of agricultural practices throughout the world. Various industrial and agricultural activities increase pollution, [2,3,4,5] particularly in the aquatic environment, which is contaminated by various toxic chemicals from the discharge of waste waters and agricultural drainage [6,7]. These are responsible for multiple effects at the organisms, including human beings, and ecosystem levels, affecting organ function, reproductive status, species survival, population size and ultimately biodiversity. Among these, carcinogenic and mutagenic compounds are the most problematic as their effect may exert a damage beyond that of individual and may be active through following generations. Epizootic neoplasm has been

found in a variety of exothermic species, such as shell fish, echinoderms, jawless and bony fish [8].

Fish are excellent subjects for the study of the clastogenic, mutagenic and/or carcinogenic potential of contaminants present in water samples since they can metabolize, concentrate and store water borne pollutants [9, 10, and 11]. Since fish often respond to toxicants in a similar way to higher vertebrates, they can be used to screen for chemicals that are potentially teratogenic and carcinogenic in humans. The main application for model systems using fish is to determine the distribution and effects of chemical contaminants in the aquatic environment [12, 13] evaluated monitoring systems that use aquatic organisms to assess the genotoxicity of water in the field as well as in the laboratory.

Micronucleus assay was shown to be applicable to fresh water and marine fishes and that gill cells are more sensitive than hematopoietic cells to micronucleus inducing agents. The micronucleus test, developed by [14,15], is an in vivo and in vitro short-time screening method is widely used to detect genotoxic effects. It is one of the simplest, reliable, least expensive and rapid screening system for both clastogenic (chromosome breakage and formation of acentric fragments) and aneugenic (chromosome lagging and effects on spindle) effects [15]. Clastogenic and aneugenic agents are known to affect the spindle apparatus, and can be differentiated on the basis of the relative induced micronucleus sizes or in the presence of kinetochores [16]. The micronucleus (MN) test, one of the most popular tests of environmental genotoxicity, has served as an index of cytogenetic damage [17,18,19]. Micronuclei are cytoplasmic chromatin masses with the appearance of small nuclei that arise from chromosome fragments or from intact whole chromosomes lagging behind in the anaphase stage of cell division. Their presence in cells is a reflection of structural and/or numerical chromosomal aberrations arising during mitosis [16, 20, and 21].

The formation of morphological nuclear abnormalities (NAs) was first described in fish erythrocytes by [22] NAs, including lobbed (LB), blebbed (BL), and notched (NT) nuclei, binucleated (BN) cells and many others have been used by several authors as possible indicators of genotoxicity. Several studies have shown that erythrocytes of fish present a high frequency of micronuclei and nuclear abnormalities after exposure to different heavy metals under both field and laboratory conditions [6, 12, and 23].

For the determination of genotoxic effect in fish, the micronucleus test as well as the study of the abnormal shape of nuclei is a suitable measure with which the presence or absence of genotoxins can be detected in water. The detection of MN and NAs in fish help us to assess the status of water quality as well as the health of a particular species and any potential risk it might have after consumption [24].

Since micronucleated piscine erythrocytes have been proved to be sensitive indicators of genetic damage, the purpose of our study was to evaluate the cytogenotoxic (clastogenic or aneugenic) effects of Dimethoate, Dichlorvos, Chlorpyrifos, methyl parathion, Malathion, Fenvalerate, cypermethrin, carbaryl, organophosphorous, pyrethroid and carbamate group of insecticides in Channa punctatus live fish using the MNT [25,26,27,28].

Material Methods

Material Methods

Test animal

Specimens of *Channa punctatus* measuring about 10-12 cm collected from the local ponds and maintained in laboratory aquaria were used for seven days before treatment.

Test Chemical

Dimethoate, Dichlorvos, Chlorpyrifos, Methyl Parathion, Malathion, Fenvalerate, Cypermethrin, Carbaryl are the organophosphorous, pyrethroid and carbamate group of insecticides belongs to different trade name and manufacture bought from the local market.

Doses and route of exposure: From among the specimens acclimatized for at least a fortnight in the laboratory aquaria, only strong and active fishes were released into different aquaria containing pesticides correspond to LC50, MC, MC/2 and MC/5 doses respectively as per table-1.

Table1: List of pesticides used in the present study along with their LC50, MC, MC/2 and MC/5 concentrations.

Pesticide(Trade name)	Manufacturer	LC50(in µg/liter)	MC/2(inµg/liter)	MC/5(inµg/lite)	MC/10(inµg/lite)
Dimethoate(Rogor-30E)	Rallies India Ltd., 21, D, Sukhadev Marg, Mumbai-400001, India.	100	50	25	10
Dichlorvos(Nuvan)	Hindustan Ciba-Geigy Limited, 14.J.Tata Road, Mumbai-400020, India.	500	250	125	50
Chlorpyrifos(Tafaban-20E)	Rallies India Ltd., 21, D, Sukhadev Marg, Mumbai-400001, India.	10	5	2.5	1
Methyl Parathion (Metacid-50)	All India Medical Corporation, 185, Princess Street, P.B.No. 2398, Mumbai, India.	300	150	75	30
Malathion(Mal-Tox)	All India Medical Corporation, 8th Road, Akhand Jyoti Building,	250	125	67.5	25

	Santa Cruz East Mumbai-400020, India.				
Fenvalerate (Sumicidin)	Rallies India Ltd., 21, D, Sukhadev Marg, Mumbai-400001, India.	250	125	67.5	25
Cypermethrin(Polytren-20E)	Solar FARMA CHEM Ltd. Sordhi, Valsad, Gujarat.	10	5	2.5	1
Carbaryl (Sevin)	Rallies India Ltd., 21, D, Sukhadev Marg, Mumbai-400001, India.	250	125	67.5	25

MC represent the maximum tolerable concentration of the test compound at which number of death of animal beyond 5% was observed during the period of treatment and was determined from preliminary experiments on groups of 20 specimens in aquaria containing 100 litre of water. The test lasted for 25 days with change of water, chemical and food every alternate day. The lowest concentration leading to 50 % death after the treatment was considered as LC50 and half of this corresponds of MC. MC/2 and MC/5 represent 1/2 and 1/5 of MC. The treated specimens received an intramuscular injection of 0.02% colchicine solution at the rate of 1ml per 100 mg body weight 2 h prior to their sacrifice on completion of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 days of exposure to the test chemical.

Micronucleus Test

The smear of peripheral blood drawn from the caudal vein with a heparinized syringe, was prepared and well-dried slides were stained in 10% Giemsa solution (Stock solution diluted with Sorensen's buffer at pH 6.8) for 30 min following the method of [14] Four thousand cells per animals (1000 cells per slide) were scored for micro-nuclei and nuclear anomalies.

Results

Erythrocytes of *Channa punctatus* have a fairly large smooth centrally placed, elliptical nuclei and sizeable cytoplasm. The ratio of nucleus to cytoplasm is about 1:5. The smears of all the treated group of specimens, irrespective of the pesticides concentrations or the period of exposure examined in this study, revealed consistent variations from the above mentioned normal feature of erythrocytes in significantly high frequency than in control. These anomalies were similar to those described in earlier studies which utilized the Piscean micronucleus test [13, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39] and thus were not artifactual. In

other words, the anomalies did not result due to technical protocols followed in this study but were, in fact, produced due to action of pesticides. The following were the types of nuclear lesions and Nucleocytoplasmic Abnormalities observed in this study as [40] and other workers [41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52].

- Micronuclei

Non- refractive cytoplasmic particles with a distinct and characteristics consistent with stain intensity of the nucleus were considered as micronuclei. The size as well as location of such particles in the cytoplasm varied from cell to cell but the shape was almost round or oval in all cells examined. In majority of cells, however, they appeared as minute dot with diameter varying from 1/5 to 1/20 of the main nucleus. Furthermore, in many cells they were placed very close to the nucleus and appeared to be connected to the latter a very thin basophilic strand (fig.2.1A). Again, each affected cells usually has a single MN but cells with two or more MNs were not completely absent from the preparations (figs.1.B-C, 2. A-M , 3. A-L,4. A-G).

- Nucleocytoplasmic Anomalies
- Notched Nuclei (fig.1.D,5.B-C)

A nucleus with a well-defined slit of uniform width extending to an appreciable depth into the nucleus was considered as notched nucleus. Notches appeared to contain no nuclear material and seemed to be demarcated by the nuclear envelope.

- Blebbed Nuclei (figs.1. E-F,5.D-F)

Nuclei with relatively small evagination of the nuclear envelope were considered. As blebbed nucleus. The size of the blebs in the majority of the cells with blebbed nuclei was similar to that of the micronuclei. However, the size of different blebs varied, from cell to cell, from a slight protrusion to a slaked structure and round terminus.

- Lobed Nuclei (fig1.G,5.G-H)

Nuclei with evaginations larger than blebs were recorded as 'lobed nuclei'. In the majority of the cells, the latter appeared as cross or 'X' Shaped.

- Conical nuclei(fig.1.H-I,6-A)

In many cells nuclei assumed a cone shape due perhaps to the presence of a well-connected micronucleus near them and space in between little lightly stained.

- Budding(Fig.5.I-L,)
- Vacuolated Nuclei (fig.1. J,6.B-I)

Nuclei with definite hole (s) devoid any visible materials wear considered as vacuolated nuclei. The size, location and number of the holes, however, varied from cell to cell .

- Fragmentation((fig.1K,6.J-K)
- The vacuole formation in the nuclei might have resulted in the fragmentation.

Disintegration (fig1.L, 6. L) And ultimately to the disintegration of the nuclei in groups of specimens exposed for longer period to higher concentration (MC) of the pesticides.

- Nuclear Anomalies and Micronuclei Identification.

The consideration should be given to the various nuclear abnormalities. Such nuclear abnormalities can get confused with Micronuclei. Various nuclear abnormalities are Binucleated cells.

- Binucleated cells

(fig.1.J, 7. A-F) Presence of two nuclei within the cell which is indicative of failed cytokinesis. It was found that higher frequency of chromosomal disjunction occurs such binucleated cells than those cells with completed cytokinesis. [7]

Broken eggs or cells with nuclear buds (fig.9.E-H) They contain nuclei with a sharp constriction at one end of the nucleus. Such nuclear bud and the nucleus are usually appearing to be attached to one another. The morphology and staining properties of the nuclear bud are same as that of the nucleus; however its size may range from a quarter or less to that of the main nucleus. [8]

- Cells with condensed chromatin

A roughly striated nuclear pattern in which the aggregated chromatin is intensely stained. When chromatin aggregation is extensive the nucleus may appear to be fragmenting [8].

- Pyknotic cells

Cells characterized by a small shrunken nucleus which contains a high density of nuclear material. They may represent as an alternative mechanism of nuclear disintegration that is distinct from the process leading to the condensed chromatin and cell death stages.[7] Diler and ergine 2010

- Karyorrhectic cells

Fig- 4J,13 JCells with nuclear disintegration and the loss of integrity of the nucleus.[7] They have nuclei that are characterized by more extensive nuclear chromatin aggregation relative to condensed chromatin cells.[8]

- Karyolytic cells

fig.4. (K-L) fig. 8.K Cells in which the nucleus is completely depleted of DNA and is apparent as a ghost like image.

- Fused nucleus Fig.7. (G)
- Twisted Fig.7.(H)
- X shaped with MN Fig. 7(I-J).
- Tear drop like nuclei Fig.7.(K)
- Sickle shaped and MN Fig.7.(L)
- Pin worm Fig.8. (A)
- Saucer Fig.8(B)
- Tadpole Fig.8(C)
- kidney Fig.8(D)
- Heart Fig.8 (E - F)
- Hooked Fig.8 (H-I)
- Deformed nucleus (Irregular Shaped Nucleus) Fig.9(A-D)
- Broken egg nucleus Fig.9 (E)-(H)
- Retractor Nuclei Fig.9 (I-L)
- Condensed nuclei Fig.10 (A-K)
- Terminal nucleus Fig.10(L)
- Echinocytic nucleus Fig.11 (A-C)
- Swollen Nucleus Fig.11 (D)
- Elongated Fig.11 (E)
- Trilobed Fig.11 (F)
- Nuclear budding Fig.11 (G)-(I)
- Apoptosis Fig.4(H-J) Fig.11 (J -K)
- Necrosis Fig.11 (L)
- Hooked Nucleus 8(G-H)3
- Microcyte Fig.12 (A),13(B)
- Stomatoocyte Fig.12(B)- (C)

- Discocyte Fig.12 (D)
- Echinocyte Fig.12(E)
- Astrocyte Fig.12(F)-(G)
- Tailed cytoplasmic process Fig.12(H-K)
- Twin Cell with Cytoplasmic bridge Fig.12 (I)
- cytoplasmic bud Fig.12(J-L)
- Anisochromiasis Fig.13(A) Cytoplasmic Abnormalities(CA) pigmented periphery and a virtually colourless central region
- Fused Cell. Fig.13 (C)
- condensed chromatin lobe Fig.13 (D)- (F)
- enucleated microcyte Fig.13 (G)
- Spindle Shaped nucleus Fig.13 (H)
- Large Nucleus Fig.13 (I)
- Sickle shaped cell vacuolated bud Fig.13 (K)
- Microcyte Fig.12 (A),13(B)
- vacuolated cytoplasm Fig.13(L)
- Stomatocyte Fig.12(B-C) Slit like erythrocyte
- Discocyte Fig.12 (D) Normal erythrocyte a biconcave shape
- Echinocyte

Fig.12(E) From the Greek word echinos, meaning 'hedgehog' or 'sea urchin', in human biology and medicine, refers to a form of red blood cell that has an abnormal cell membrane characterized by many small, evenly spaced thorny projections. A more common term for these cells is burr cells

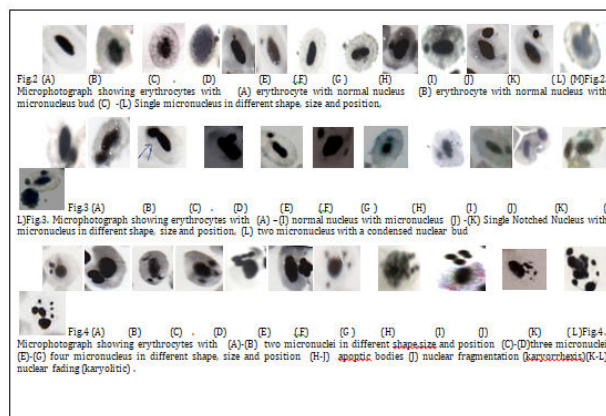
- Enucleated(EN) without nucleus 8(L)
- Nuclear bud 11(G-I)
- Nuclear bridge 5(A)
- Cell with damaged Nucleus 8(J)
- Anisochromiasia(AN): Cytoplasmic Abnormalities(CA) pigmented periphery and a virtually colourless central region 13(A)

Micronuclei and nucleocytoplasmic anomalies (Group microphotograph)



Figure 1: Microphotograph showing erythrocytes with (A) Single micronucleus, Fig. 1.(B-C) two and four micronuclei Fig.1.(D) notched nucleus Fig.1 (E-F) blebbed nucleus. Fig. 1.(G) lobed nucleus. Fig.1.(H-I) conical nuclei Fig. 1.(J) vacuolated nuclei Fig. (K) fragmented and disintegrating nucleus. Fig. (L) disintegrating nuclei in erythrocytes

Micronuclei(MN)



Nuclear –Cytoplasmic Anomalies



Find that chromosomes from micronuclei may trigger a chromosomal instability phenotype disaggregating at the mitosis following MN formation. Atrazine induced genotoxicity that could be

useful for investigating the effect of toxic blooms on wild fish populations[45]. Established a correlation between chemical composition of each compound, dose time period and mechanism of action of metabolites in different fish species of different location may cause variety of micronuclei and nuclear anomalies in fish. The frequencies rates of MN, NAs in addition to Morphologically Altered Erythrocytes(MAE) may exhibit significant variation depending upon the nature and kind of the toxic agents[2]. [44] Said the frequencies in rates of MN and NAs may vary depending on type of pollutants, their combination and time of exposure. [5] Supported influence of factors like fish species, class, dose and concentration of the pesticide and exposure time in enhancement of piscine micronucleus.

Discussion

Micronuclei are supernumerary nuclei visible by light microscopy in the cytoplasm of hematopoietic or sometimes even in actively dividing cells. Also known as “Howell-Jolly Bodies” in mammals[63], they are formed in dividing cells when acentric chromosome fragment (s) or whole chromosome lags behind during anaphase of clastogenic or aneuploidic events[65,66,67]. Although the test was originally developed and standardized using rodent bone marrow cells[15,65,68], it has been shown to work well with peripheral blood [69], meiotic cells [70], liver cells[71] etc. of rodents, red blood cells of news[72,73] and peripheral blood and kidney cells of fish [26,29,31,34,36,37,38,74]. Utility of micronucleus test as in situ indicator of biological effects in wild fish, has, however, been doubted by[28,74] for two main reasons. First, occurrence of micronuclei in extremely low frequency in the dividing cells in fish species so far investigated as compared to rodents and second, a lack of a significant correlation between the variations in nuclear morphology and the level of chemical contamination in the sediment or the bile or liver of the specimens of white croaker, *Genyonemus lineatus* [75] investigated. In sharp contrast to the observation of [75], we observed a very consistent and significant in the nuclear morphology and micronuclei in all the groups of specimens of *Channa punctatus* exposed to different pesticides as compared to the controls. We also observed a significant increase in their frequency with the increase in the concentration of the pesticides as well as the period of exposure (vide infra). This clearly suggests that the various kinds of erythrocyte nuclear lesions including micronuclei observed during this study must have originated from a genotoxic event as a result of exposure of the specimens to pesticides. A further support to our contention comes from observations of [13]. While developing suitable genotoxicity assay systems based on aquatic organisms, these authors observed high frequency of micronuclei in the gill epithelia of *Carassius* sp. (Funa) and *Zacco platypus* (Oikawa) collected from mid-stream of the river Tomio (Nova, Japan) as compared to those collected from upstream of the same river. They also observed structural chromosome aberrations as well as micronuclei in the cells of embryos *Rhodeus ocellatus* (Rose bitterling) grown in water containing trichloroethylene and

Evaluating Micronucleus Test's sensitivity in freshwater fish check changing of genome, [50, 76]. Variability in micronucleus induction with different mutagens applied to several species of fish, But here we differ with[77] using a single species with eight different agro pesticides obtained more variable Micronucleus(MN), Nuclear anomalies(NA) and Nucleo-Cytoplasmic Anomalies(NCA) [52] which is highly significant one.

Emergence of micronuclei and their effects on the fate of cells under replication stress was studied by [78] is further supported by DNA Breaks and Chromosome Pulverization from Errors in Mitosis by [79]. Many more deep study and co-relation regarding mechanism of action of mutagens, carcinogens and clastogens is essential among the workers for origin of micronucleus and nuclear anomalies in future. Hence said chromosome aberrations and micronuclei tests may prove to be powerful sensitive assays for detecting genotoxins in aquatic environment.

For the first time suggests the induction of cell death, ghost cells, cells with membrane damage and binucleated cell by cytotoxic and genotoxic effects of the *Inula viscose* leaf extracts on *Allium cepa* [80]. As a consequence of global warming [51] found frequency of erythroblasts (Ebs), erythrocytic nuclear abnormalities(ENA) and erythrocytic cellular abnormalities(ECA) were increased in response to thermal stress in common carp *Cyprinus carpio*. Comparing cellular alterations in fish exposed to ionising radiations and pesticides, [60] in order to identify micronuclei Assay as biomarker of radiation also suggested that the erythrocyte MN assay can be aptly renamed the Erythrocytic micronucleus Cytome assay(ECMNA) as it encompasses variety of biomarkers that may find application in genotoxicity. Micronuclei and Nuclear Abnormalities increases during increased days of exposure of sub lethal Karanjin obtained from seeds of plant *Pongamia pinnata* in Fish *Cyprinus carpio*[81]

Conclusion

Our study suggests, genotoxic pesticides with variation in structural organization, functional group, different mode of action and mechanism of function in same tissue of same species of fresh water live fish *Channa punctatus*(Bloch) induces variety of Micronuclei, Nuclear Nucleo Cytoplasmic Abnormalities(NCA) with respect to time period and concentration dependent which differs from [76] in different species. In the subsequent trophic level at the end point of food chain the most sufferer will be the human being through biomagnifications of mutagenic, carcinogenic, clastogenic and teratogenic pollutants[8] Hence rapid and urgent alternatives are necessary for both agricultural practices, Industrial development[82] as well as the survival of flora and fauna including human civilization in a healthy environment.

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