# PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES OF FISHES TO PAPER MILL EFFLUENT

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## **PREFACE**

At the dawn of the civilization man was oblivious of the hazardous aftermath of his exploitation of nature which stems from the pollution of air, water and land. The environmental pollution has drastically upset the balance in the ecosystem resulting in the environmental crisis in modern days. In the early phase of the civilization the disproportion between man and space was not as glaring as it is today. The population explosion accounts for such an impasse. India is the most populous country in the world next to China. Her population constitute 16% of the world population. So, time present cries for the escalation of food production in order to feed the The expansion of agriculture. multitudes of men. industries and urbanization along with a considerable hike in food production has catered to the needs of modern man. There is not an iota of doubt that modern man is enjoying a comfortable life today but, as he has lacerated nature and defied the environment, our modern civilization reels under an insolent cause which would eventually pave way to man's total annihilation. The toxic refuses of the industrial establishments released into the rivers, streams, canals and lakes prove fatal to the fishes subjecting them into various types of physiological stresses.

Fresh water aquaculture is most significant and the urgent need of the hour as it provides the protein nutrients to the teeming millions of human population. Rivers, ponds and lakes are the main habitat of fresh water and brackish water fishes .Modern pisciculture looks forward to keeping up the good health of the fishes and their interminable growth in their ecological homes. It is observed that fresh water ecosystem is highly reactive to the organic as well as the inorganic pollutants

and their presence entails the high rate of mortality of the fishes. These fishes seem to be a sensitive bioindicator of aquatic pollution and are aptly used as test species in toxicological screening of pisciculture.

Due to rapid progress made in industrilisation without adequate environmental safety measures, pollution of water bodies in India has become a common feature. Pulp, paper and board mills are some of the major industries in our country. They are generally regarded as polluting industries because of the considerable material loss into the environment. Because of high oxygen demand of pulp and paper mill effluents, direct disposal to natural waterways is no longer allowed. Therefore, many paper mills have adopted some types of primary and in some cases secondary treatment to lower the BOD and COD to remove suspended particles. All treatments however produce effluents and sludge, which ultimately must be disposed of.

The orient paper mill (OPM) located a Brajarajnagar of Orissa was one of the biggest and oldest paper mills of India. The effluents of the mill are discharged to the river Ib after some preliminary treatments. However the downstream part of the river has considerable pollution exceeding the recommended Indian standard. Keeping this in view this piece of investigation has been carried out to study the effects of paper mills waste water on some biochemical and physiological changes of the fish, *Anabas testudineus* (BLOCH).

Any change in the morphology or behaviour of fish exposed to the effluents of paper mill may be considered as significant and sensitive symptoms useful in toxicological studies. Blood is used as a sensitive index to understand the physiology of a fish under normal and stressed conditions. Scanty information is available on

haemato-biochemical changes in fish under the stress of paper mill effluent. Hence an attempt has been made here to study the haemato-biochemical changes under the stress of paper mill effluent. The liver is also a vital organ as it regulates many metabolic activities in vertebrates including fish. This is immediately affected by any kind of stress. Any bio-chemical change in liver leads to many abnormalities in the metabolic activities of the fish. Muscle plays an important role in locomotion and any kind of movement in an animal. Muscle contraction is more or less a bio-chemical phenomenon. Hence any bio-chemical alteration in muscle leads to abnormal functioning of the muscle thereby endangering the survival of the fish. Toxic materials including paper mill effluent, adversely affect the respiratory physiology of an animal, which may lead to the death of the fish.

The thesis has been divided into 8 chapters. Chapter I deal with the introductory part of the thesis. Chapters II and III deal with the physico-chemical analysis of paper mill effluent and the determination of 96 hour L C<sub>50</sub> dose of this effluent to the fish. Anabas testudineus respectively whereas chapter IV incorporates morphological and behavioural changes due to long term exposure to paper mill effluent. Chapter V deals with various aspects of the haematology of the fish under normal condition and under stress of paper mill effluent. The bio-chemical changes in blood, liver and muscle are presented in chapters VI. Chapter VII gives a picture of the changes in respiratory metabolism in the fish due to paper mill effluent toxicity. Whereas in chapter VIII bioaccumulation of some selected heavy metals in some tissues of the fish exposed to paper mill effluent has been presented.

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Z Dr. Prasanta Nanda

**Dedicated** 

to

my daughters

Ayushi and Adyasha

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