

# Effect of Water Salinity on Some Blood Parameters of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)

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**Abstract:** This study was conducted to investigate the effect of high salinity on the blood parameters of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) which gradually exposed to salt concentrations of 5, 10 and 15g/liter, as well as tap water (control 0.1g/liter). 80 fish were randomly distributed to four salinity treatments with 2 replicates /treatment (10 fish / replicate) at average weight of  $15 \pm 3$  g to study the effect of salinity on the blood parameters, which included packed cells volume(PCV), red blood cells (RBC), white blood cells (WBC) and hemoglobin (Hb). Results showed an increase in the (PCV) to 36.17, 40.15 to and 45.30% when the salinity increased to 5, 10 and 15g/l respectively, compared with the control treatment (33.14%). Hb reached 13.34, 14.56 and 15.80 mg/100 ml at the concentration of 5, 10 and 15 respectively, compared with the control treatment (12.15 mg/100ml). RBC reached  $2.80, 2.93$  and  $3.1 \times 10^6$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup> respectively, in comparison with control (0.1 g/l), while the WBC increased to 12.88, 15.23 and  $10.55 \times 10^3$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup> when the salt concentrations were 5, 10 and 15g/l respectively, compared with control ( $10.44 \times 10^3$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>).

**Keywords:** Salinity, Blood Parameters, *Cyprinus carpio*

## 1. Introduction

Aquaculture plays an important role in solving the famine and malnutrition crisis over the world through the provision of fish and other aquatic organisms that rich in protein, vitamins, minerals and amino acids. The rapid development of aquaculture in the world has led to produce more than 123 species of fish in intensive culture and non-intensive systems, so in order to achieve good growth rates in aquaculture have to be fish of good health and resistance to disease, as well as the availability of good water quality [1]. The quality and quantity of feed is not enough to get a high production of fish, as the environmental conditions are also have a vital role in order to get a large production. Salinity is one of these factors are very important with temperature and oxygen and have a direct impact on fish growth [2].

Iraqi inland water is exposing to continuous rise in salinity levels currently due to several reasons, including the scarcity of water releases of Tigris and Euphrates rivers and the impact of salt water drain that entering Iraq, besides drying of large areas of the marshes and the lack of rain [3]. The salinity of the marshes water in southern region of Iraq ranged from 2.20 to 3.82g/l and is rising rapidly[4], as well

as increasing of evaporation rates due to rising of the temperatures and global warming rates.

Any disorder in fish environment such as changes in the concentrations of salinity is representing a major factor in the imbalance of the internal stability (Homeostasis), so fish need many of the physiological responses for a return to stability as they were before exposure to the stressor factor [5]. First effect of salinity appeared on fish through the influencing of osmoregulation process as an effect of take or loss of ions in high or low salinity in order to maintain the ions concentration and liquids inside the body via the functions of the organs that responsible for osmoregulation (gills, kidney and intestine) that blood is the most sensitive for the changes in salinity. This study was conducted to investigate the effect of high salinity on some blood factors (percentage of haematocrit and hemoglobin concentration).

## 2. Materials and Methods

A total of 80 common carp at average weight of  $15 \pm 3$  g were distributed on four different salinity treatments (0.1, 5, 10 and 15g/l) and tested in two replicates for each salinity treatment. Fish were acclimated to the laboratory conditions for 3 weeks before the experiment started, fish were not fed

for 24 h before they were transferred to experimental tank. There were 10 fish in each tank, fed on a diet with 31% protein content (table 1) at a ratio of 4% of body weight, twice a day.

**Table 1.** Chemical analysis of diet %.

protein	31 ± 0.9
Fat	9.0 ± 0.2
Moisture	8.66 ± 0.21
ash	11.4 ± 1.2
fiber	40.88 ± 0.12

Salt concentrations were prepared by dissolution of specific weight of salt in liter of tap water, and fish were exposed to gradual salt concentration of 5, 10 and 15g/l. while the tap water concentration (0.1g/l) was represented control treatment. Standard haematological analysis procedures described by [6] were employed in the assessment of the various blood parameters, Hemoglobin (Hb) was done by the cyanomethaemoglobin method packed cells volume (PCV) by micro haematocrit method, the account number of

**Table 2.** Blood concentrations of PCV, Hb and RBC and WBC in different salt concentrations of common carp (values ± standard error).

Salinity g/l	PCV %	Hb gm/100ml	Red blood cells 10 <sup>6</sup> ×mm <sup>3</sup>	White blood cells 10 <sup>3</sup> ×mm <sup>3</sup>
0.1	0.97 ± 33.14c	0.25 ± 12.15b	0.04 ± 2.80c	0.01 ± 10.44c
5	2.84 ± 36.17c	0.52 ± 13.34b	0.06 ± 2.87b	0.02 ± 12.88b
10	3.34 ± 40.15b	14.56 ± 1.64a	0.03 ± 2.93a	0.01 ± 15.23a
15	5.41 ± 45.30a	0.68 ± 15.80a	0.11 ± 3.1a	0.03 ± 10.55c

Different letters refer to significant differences between treatments

## 4. Discussion

Blood measurements have been considered an important parameters for the healthy status for any organisms. Fish exposed to the stress will be suffer a physiological changes so as to preserve the consistence and body stability, where the increase of PCV result from to losing of much quantity of water because of the difference between the internal and external environment ions concentrations. which led to get out the water as a result of osmosis pressure and then increasing the percentage of PCV. The increase of RBC may be resulted by the increase of oxygen consumption owing to the increase of energy requirement. Besides, RBC have an important role to transfer the oxygen, while the increase in WBC may be related to immunity reaction because of raising the cortisol hormone that is responsible for organizing the osmosis in salt water or might be the transferring of WBC throughout the body as existing of factor leading to facilitate the infection of fish with diseases, moreover, the increase in hemoglobin is leading to increase in RBC as hemoglobin regarded as protein carried by RBC and having a role in respiration.

It has been noticed there is a fluctuation in PCV of common carp that gradually being transferred to different salt concentrations. The increase in water salinity is actually accompanied with the increase in PCV, >where this increase could be result from the loose of a quantity of water from the blood owing to osmosis differences between the blood and the external environment [9]. This increase could be

red and white blood cells were assessed by the method of [7]. Statistical analysis system [8] and completely random design were used to analyze the data of experiment.

## 3. Results

Table 2 showed a significant increase in blood haematocrit (PCV), hemoglobin (Hb), red blood cells (RBC) and white blood cells (WBC), when the salt concentrations gradually rose to 5, 10 and 15g/l. The results of the statistical analysis showed non- significant differences ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) in haematocrit between the control treatments and the concentration of 5g/l, while there were significant differences ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) between the concentrations of 10 and 15g/l. As well as in hemoglobin there was non-significant difference between the control and 5g/l., in the red blood cells, there were a significant differences between control treatment and other treatments in the experiment, while there were non-significant differences ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) between 10 and 15g/liter. In the white blood cells, there was a significant difference between all treatments.

attributed to the increase in the numbers of RBC as a reaction to overcome the rising demand for the oxygen consumption resulted from increasing of metabolism and ultimately lead to increasing in PCV [9]. This explanation might be the suitable one for explaining reasons of raise in PCV with the increasing of salt concentration as that indicated by the results of the current study. This raise is timed with the increase of oxygen consumption rate to satisfy for responding the additional energy requirements under conditions of salt stress for carrying out the osmoregulation. The increase in hemoglobin concentrations has been considered as a vital indicator for any environmental change [10]. The increase in concentration of hemoglobin might be as a result of being exposed to the salt. The white blood cells were decreased in 15g/l salt concentration, that is may be attributed to the salt stress that led to reduction in numbers of WBCs and fish's immunity minimizing.

The blood parameters in fish have reflected its healthy state and have given the physiological responses to the factors as a result of the effect of environmental factors [11]. [12] revealed that any change in blood criteria has been considered as part of preliminary response for stress, so long as the salinity considered as a stressor factor, actually it leads to either increase or decrease in of blood parameters. Thus the alter in blood parameters refers to keep away of fish the from balance and considered as physiological endeavor to get back to the internal stability after exposing to different salt concentrations [13]. This might have led to occurring

changes in of oxygen consumption rate and energy consumed and change in ions transfer across gills via increasing the blood factors that working as an intermediate for achieving the increase in oxygen and transferring ions across blood [14]. The increase in RBC are mostly ensued from spleen that is responsible for generating these cells that got swollen owing to stress and works on increasing RBC and hemoglobin as a physiological reaction for increasing in salt [15]. The RBC in fish have the ability to get shrinkage and swelling depending on the salt surrounded the fish [16] moreover, the increase in RBC and PCV might be caused by the differences in water quantity in blood or it could be interpreted that the high salinity increased the number of RBC for meeting the increasing request on oxygen consumption sufficiently for consuming additional energy during oxidation against osmoses and ionic stress that ultimately leading to increasing the size of PCV and hemoglobin concentration. where the relationship between RBC and PCV is a positive one [17]. The increase in hemoglobin has conformed with results of [18] when exposing the common carp to high concentrations of NaCl, and agree with results of [19] when exposing *Carassius auratus* to high and low temperature that being considered as a stress factor. it has been obtained the same results in the experience of [20] on common carp when exposed to low temperature. These results have conformed to many studies, [21] has mentioned that the gradually transfer of grass Carp *Ctenopharyngodon idella* to the salt concentrations of 4, 8, 12 g/l led to increasing PCV [22] has referred that the sudden transfer for *Barbus sharpeyi* to salts 10.9, 12.5 g/l and gradual transfer to the salt 7.1, 9.1 and 10.9 g/l led to increase the PCV, referring that the increase of environment salinity caused increasing in taking Sodium by RBC that being formed a hyposmotic environment, in comparison with the external environment, causing swelling the in RBC, which reflected on increasing of PCV and plasma dryness [23]. [24] noticed an increase in the PCV of *Acanthopagrus latus* when exposed to different salt concentrations after 24 hours of exposure, the main reasons are related to the lose water from blood owing to increasing in osmosis differences between the blood and external environment. [25] has reached to the same result and given reasons for increasing PCV in the first stages of acclimation to the salt water that are related to the change in water content in the blood owing to the change in salinity of environment. The water has been relatively lost in high salinities and as a result to the increase of to the increase water swelling for compensation, the values get back to its preliminary levels [9] have recorded increase in PCV during the first stage of transfer the fish of *Acipenser naccarii* to the salt concentration of salt 35 g/l, but after 21 days got back to its preliminary values. It has been noticed increase in PCV cells in the fish *Pomacanthus imperator* that being transferred to the salt 15.22 g/l in comparison with the sea water salt of 33 g/l [26]. Both researchers have ascribed this change in PCV to the change in numbers and size of RBC or to the change in size of Plasma owing to drinking salt water

depending on the fish species [27]. The results got different with other studies [28] have found that the PCV in the fish of *Chinook salmon* gets decreased with increasing salt and the reduction was significant at salt concentration of 20, 28 g/l, it amounted 32% in comparison with water (41%), while [29] noticed that the transfer of *Liza abu* to salt 7 g/l has not yet caused differences in values of PCV in comparison with the fish existing in fresh water, where the value of PCV amounted 37.67% at salinity 7 g/l by compared with fresh water 35.17%, while the transferring to the salt 15 g/l resulted in reduction in PCV (21.6%). The increase in WBC in the current study with increasing in salts concentrations up to 5, 10 and 15 g/l. could be attributed to the increase of WBC immigration across plasma [30] It could have been also interpreted the increase in RBC and WBC as an immunity reaction owing to the fish expose to the stress due to the internal effect of cortisol and growth hormones and return to the balance state of ions and water and getting the fish back to the state of internal stability. This conform to the results of [31] on canal catfish, that transferred from its environment where salt reached to 12 gm/l it to the laboratory where the fish have been gradually exposed to salt ranging from 2 g/l to 34.0 g/l for 7 days. the increase in salt concentrations resulted in increasing WBCs and RBC. The increase in concentration of hemoglobin and PCV for common carp in this study was similar to results of [32] who has exposed grass carp to the different salt concentrations, while [33] in his study on Tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* where he used salt concentrations of fresh water, 5, 10 and 15 g/l. on adult fish, he noticed the effect of salt on metabolism and blood aspects he found the effect of salt on blood characteristics has been more larger in the young fish than in fingerlings. The increase has occurred in each of RBCs and WBC, hemoglobin and PCV.

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