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Antigenotoxic effect of turmeric powder extract curcumin against chromium trioxide induced genotoxicity in fish *Channa punctatus*

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Abstract

Curcumin is a yellow colour main polyphenolic compound which is isolated from dry rhizome of the plant *Curcuma longa* (family Zingiberaceae). The present study was designed to evaluate the antigenotoxicity activity of curcumin against chromium induced micronuclei induction in fish *Channa punctatus*. After 15 days acclimatization, the fish were divided in six groups. In group III the induction of micronuclei increased significantly ($p < 0.05$), when this group was exposed with only $LC_{50}/10$ (7.89mg/l) of chromium in comparison to group I for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr. In groups IV, V and VI the increased induction of micronuclei were found reduced after simultaneous exposure of curcumin along with chromium in comparison to group I and group II. The outcome of this study shows that curcumin is a good antigenotoxic agent against chromium in time and dose dependent manner for fish *C. punctatus*. The finding of our study is also useful for aquaculture because curcumin is an excellent genoprotective agent against chromium toxicity.

Keywords: Chromium, curcumin, micronuclei, *C. punctatus*

1. Introduction

Chromium (Cr) is one of the most abundant heavy metal in the earth's crust and it is widely used by human in different manufacturing industries, mostly in leather tanning and wood treatment, it enters the aquatic environment through effluents discharged from printing industries, dyeing, electroplating, textiles, tanneries, pharmaceutical industries and photographic industries. In surface water naturally chromium content occurs 1-10 $\mu\text{g/l}$ [1]. In the environment, mostly chromium is found in two valence states; Cr (III) and Cr (VI) out of which Cr (VI) is a highly toxic form because it rapidly crosses cell membrane and reduced to Cr (III) which complexes with intracellular macromolecules, genetic material and is ultimately responsible for the toxic and mutagenic capacities of chromium [2, 3, 4]. The fish is most suitable bioindicators because they occupy high trophic level in aquatic food chains [5]. For study of genotoxicity, fishes are mostly used as important genetic model due to aquatic pollution [6], because they are highly sensitive to minor alteration in their habitat [7, 8]. In present investigation fresh water fish *C. punctatus*, (Order-Perciformes, Family-Channidae) commonly known as Spotted Snakehead was selected because it has many important ecotoxicological characteristics such as wide distribution, easily available throughout year, easy handle and maintain in laboratory, survive at room temperature and commercial importance make this fish an excellent model for study of environmental toxicology [9]. Toxic effects of Cr (VI) induced DNA-protein cross-links resulting in genotoxic effects and also associated with intensification of free radical processes in aquatic organism. Many researchers have reported that due to the accumulation of chromium and its compounds lead to DNA damage through DNA single and double-strand breaks resulting in micronuclei, sister chromatids exchanges, chromosomal aberrations and DNA adduct formation as well as alterations in DNA replication & transcription [10, 11]. Many methods were used to study the genotoxicity in Fish like Micronuclei assay, CAT and Comet assay. Among all the assays, micronuclei assay has been broadly used for detection of aneugenic and clastogenic effects of harmful chemicals because it is formed at the cell division in anaphase stage when whole chromosome or fragment of chromosome breaks due to the lack of centromere. At present, interest is being given to the traditional India ethnomedicine due to their perceived fewer side effects, low price, easy and accessible to everyone [12]. Among these ethnomedicine *Curcuma longa* (curcuma or turmeric) is a herbaceous, monocotyledonous, rhizomatous, perennial plant which belongs to the ginger

Family (Zingiberaceae) and widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of China, India, and South East Asia [13]. At present nearly all over the world including India, turmeric is mostly used in food as dietary spice, coloring agent and in food industry as additive, flavoring and preservative [14, 15]. The most active major photochemical of turmeric is curcumin which is an orange yellow crystalline powder, insoluble in water [16] and have multiple pharmacological properties such as antioxidant [17, 18, 19, 20], antimicrobial [21, 22], anti-inflammatory [23, 24], antiviral [25, 26], and anti-carcinogenic [27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32]. Due to the antioxidant properties of curcumin *in vivo* exposure studies does not suggest genotoxicity or clastogenicity, investigated on the basis of micronuclei [33], chromosome aberrations [34, 35], and recombination assays [36]. Corona-Rivera *et al* [37] reported that *in vivo* study shows protective effect of curcumin against copper which induce genotoxicity in terms of micronuclei assay and comet in Balb-C mice. In human cultured lymphocyte cell Shafaghati *et al* [38] also reported protective effect of curcumin against 131-iodine induced micronuclei induction. Therefore, in the present study an attempt was made to explore mitigating potential of curcumin against chromium induced alterations in freshwater teleostean fish, *C. punctatus* in terms of Micronucleus assay to evaluate cytogenetic damage.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Experimental animals and acclimatization: In the present investigation Live and healthy specimens of a common pond Murrel fresh water fish, *C. punctatus* (10-12 cm in length and 40-50gm an average weight) family: Channidae, were purchased from the local fish market and transported to the laboratory in the appropriately aerated plastic tank. The specimens were transferred in a big glass aquarium and wash with tap water followed by with 0.05% potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) for 2 minutes to avoid dermal infection. The specimens were acclimatized to the laboratory conditions for 15 days, before they were used for experiments. During acclimatization, fish were maintained in all optimal conditions, according to APHA *et al* [39]. The fish were fed with highly nutritious aquarium food (OPTIMUM, produced & transported by Bangsaothong district, Thailand, its nutritional combination is 3% crude fat, 4% crude fiber, 10% moisture max and 28% crude protein), minced Goat liver and boiled egg. The fecal matter and other waste materials were siphoned out daily from aquaria to reduce the content of ammonia in the water.

2.2 Test chemicals: Chromium trioxide Batch NO: T-8371997, Mfg. Date: 03/2013, were purchased from Sisco Research Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. and Giemsa Batch No 39382/01 was obtained from Qualigens Fine Chemicals of Glaxo India Limited (Mumbai). Curcumin Batch No: 5883165, Mfg. Date: 01/2016 was also purchased from SRL. All other used chemical were of analytical grade.

2.3 Determination of LC₅₀ of Chromium trioxide: The value of 96 h-LC₅₀/10 of chromium trioxide was determined by using Trimmed Spearman-Kärber Method [40].

2.4 Experimental design: After 15 days, acclimatized fish were divided into six groups having 12 fishes in each group. The I group serves as control without any treatment, group II and group III were treated separately with polyphenolic compound curcumin (3mg/l) and sub lethal test concentration of chromium trioxide (LC₅₀/10, 7.89mg/l) for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr respectively. Groups IV, V and VI fishes were

treated with sub lethal test concentrations of LC₅₀/10 of chromium trioxide (7.89mg/l) along with three different concentrations of curcumin 1mg/l, 2mg/l, and 3mg/l for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr. After stipulated duration, three fishes of each treated group and control were utilized on each sampling day for Micronuclei assay.

2.5 Micronuclei assay: On each sampling day peripheral blood sample was taken with 1 ml heparinized syringe by heart puncture and immediately make a thin smear on pre-cleaned slide with the help of a clean glass slide. After fixation in absolute methanol for 5-10 min, the slides were air dried for at least 1hr at room temperature. After air drying the slides were stained with May-Grunewald's solution I & II for 3-6 min and washed with D.D water and dried. Finally, slides were stained with 6-10% Giemsa stain in phosphate buffer for 30 min and thoroughly washed with D.D water for removing all Giemsa particles. Then the slides are air dried overnight at room temperature in a dust and moisture free environment. For preparation of permanent slide, the slides are mounted with DPX and air dire over a hot plate at 60 °C for overnight.

2.6 Scoring of micronuclei: Overnight air dried permanent slides mounted with DPX are observed under oil immersion microscope (Nikon Corporation K 12432) using eyepiece 40X and objective lens of 100X. At the time of micronuclei scoring under the microscope a drop of immersion oil was used and micronuclei were identified according to the criteria described by Fenech *et al* [41]. Minimum 1000 cells were scored for each specimen slide. Small, ovoid or circular, non-refractive, not exceeding 1/3 part of the main nucleus diameter, chromatin bodies clearly separate from main nucleus, same color as the main nucleus were examined as micronucleus [42].

2.7 Calculation of scoring micronuclei

$$\text{MNi (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of observed cells with micronucleus}}{\text{Total no. of observed cells}} \times 100$$

3. Result

The observed frequency of MN induction in erythrocytes of fresh water fish *C. punctatus* after exposure of sub lethal test concentrations of chromium trioxide (LC₅₀/10; 7.89mg/l) along with three concentrations of curcumin for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr are summarized in given Table 1. Therefore in comparison to control the frequency of micronuclei induction is significantly increased ($p > 0.05$) in group III treated with sub lethal test concentration of chromium (LC₅₀/10, 7.89mg/l) after all exposed periods. While the reduced frequency of micronuclei induction was observed in simultaneous exposed with curcumin alongwith chromium (LC₅₀/10, 7.89 mg/l) in group IV, V and VI (1mg/l, 2mg/l and 3mg/l) for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr are presented in Table 1. However, fishes of group II exposed with highest selected dose of curcumin, does not induced any genotoxic effect itself. Thus, the selected dose of curcumin is safe against chromium trioxide for fish *C. punctatus*. The increased frequency of micronuclei induction, induced by chromium trioxide was noted as 1.15±0.09, 1.29±0.05, 1.43±0.12, and 1.66±0.17 after 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr, respectively. In comparison to control, in group II (Cur, 3mg/l), observed frequency of micronuclei was found 0.25±0.20, 0.28±0.25, 0.29±0.20 and 0.29±0.1 after 24hr, 48hr, 72hr, and 96hr and respectively. However, in comparison to alone exposed group III (LC₅₀/10 of Cr,

7.89mg/l), frequency of micronuclei was found reduced in simultaneously exposed with curcumin (1mg/l, 2mg/l and 3mg/l) in group IV, V and VI after 24hr-96hr. The reduced micronuclei profile in group IV, V and VI (1mg/l, 2mg/l and 3mg/l) with chromium trioxide were recorded as 0.83±0.11, 0.76±0.05, 0.73±0.05 (24hr), 1.02±0.22, 0.96±0.19, 0.93±0.05, (48hr), 1.26±0.26, 1.12±0.14, 1.06±0.10 (72hr) and 0.83±0.11, 1.32±0.06, 1.21±0.11 at (96hr) respectively. In

our result the maximum frequency of MN induction was observed after 96hr (1.66±0.17) in group III and minimum frequency after 24hr (1.15±0.09). Thus, the result of present finding showed that the main polyphenolic compound of *C. longa*, curcumin is an excellent antigenotoxic agent against chromium trioxide which effectively reduced the toxicity of chromium in fish *C. punctatus*.

Table 1: Induction of Micronuclei frequency in peripheral erythrocytes of fresh water fish *C. punctatus* after exposure of Chromium with Turmeric Powder Extract Curcumin.

Experiment-al Groups	Concentration (mg/l)	Exposure Days	Total No of Count Cells	Total No of Cells Count With Micronuclei	Frequency of MN Mean(%)±S.D
Group I	Control	24	3024	8	0.26±0.06
		48	3023	9	0.29±0.10
		72	3018	9	0.29±0.17
		96	3010	9	0.29±0.26
Group II	Curcumin (3mg/l)	24	3063	8	0.25±0.20
		48	3057	9	0.28±0.25
		72	3033	9	0.29±0.20
		96	3036	9	0.29±0.17
Group III	96 h-LC ₅₀ /10 of CTO (7.89mg/l)	24	3104	36	1.15±0.09
		48	3071	40	1.29±0.05
		72	3071	44	1.43±0.12
		96	3061	51	1.66±0.17
Group IV	96 h-LC ₅₀ /10 (7.89mg/l) of CTO +1mg/l Curcumin	24	3091	26	0.83±0.11
		48	3096	32	1.02±0.22
		72	3074	39	1.26±0.26
		96	3080	46	1.49±0.25
Group V	96 h-LC ₅₀ /10 (7.89mg/l) of CTO+2mg/l Curcumin	24	3116	24	0.76±0.05
		48	3093	30	0.96±0.19
		72	3097	36	1.12±0.14
		96	3092	41	1.32±0.06
Group VI	96 h-LC ₅₀ /10 (7.89mg/l) of CTO+3mg/l of Curcumin	24	3108	23	0.73±0.05
		48	3110	28	0.93±0.05
		72	3102	35	1.06±0.10
		96	3115	38	1.21±0.11

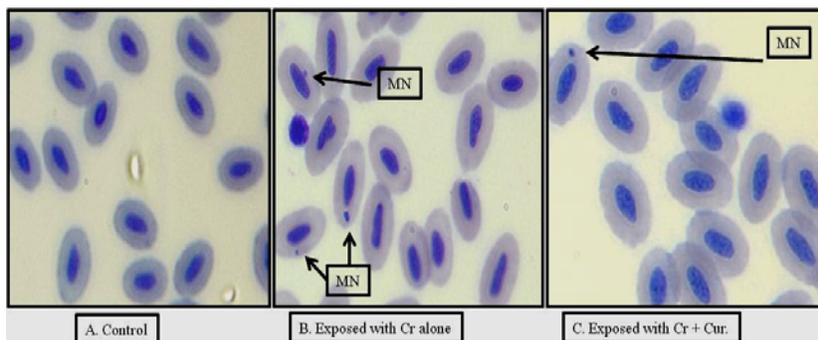


Fig 1: Shows genetic effect of chromium trioxide in erythrocytes of fish *C. punctatus*: A, Control, B, Increased frequency of micronucleus after exposure of highest alone dose of chromium trioxide C, Reduced frequency of micronucleus after exposure of alone dose of Turmeric Powder Extract Curcumin.

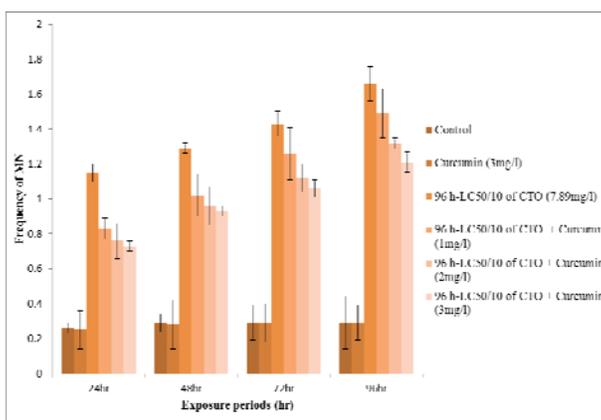


Fig 2: The frequency of Micronuclei induction induced by Chromium trioxide in erythrocytes of fresh water fish *C. punctatus* at different exposure period.

4. Discussion

In our environment, aquatic ecosystem is the major sink of industrial and agricultural pollutants, including those from vehicle traffic emissions and discharges of different heavy metals from different industrial areas is the major cause of aquatic pollution and their toxic role was reported a few hundred years ago. In respect to the genotoxicity mechanism of different heavy metals, there is some controversy [43]. In aquatic organisms, the role of these heavy metals may be related to the accumulation of free DNA-damaging radicals, aneugenic actions and clastogenic processor simultaneously to clastogenic [44, 45]. Among these heavy metals chromium is also responsible for inducing frequency of micronuclei induction in time and dose dependent manner in fishes and other vertebrates. In the present investigation fresh water fish, *C. punctatus* was exposed to alone sub lethal test concentration of chromium trioxide (LC₅₀/10; 7.89mg/l) for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr. The highest frequencies of micronuclei induction were recorded in peripheral erythrocytes of fish after 96hr (1.66+0.17) in group III and lowest after 24hr (1.15+0.09). Thus, the present study shows that chromium is responsible for inducing micronuclei formation in fish erythrocyte of *C. punctatus*. In same experimental model Yadav and Trivedi [46] also reported that the number of micronuclei frequencies increased after exposure of heavy metal at 96 h. Similarly, work also reported by de Lemos *et al* [47] that the number of micronuclei decreased after exposure of chromium at 21 days. Therefore, in another study, the genotoxic activity of chromium was observed in cell lines of Medaka fin assessing chromosome damage and double strand of DNA breaks in a dose dependent manner [48]. This work is also supported by Ahmed *et al* [49] in term of micronuclei induction in freshwater fish stinging catfish, *H. fossilis* after exposure of different test concentrations of Cr (VI) at different time duration. Curcumin is a yellow, natural, insoluble in water, lipid-soluble, hydrophobic, polyphenol, phytochemical which is extracted from *C. longa* with no discernible toxicity for any organism [50]. Somparn *et al* [51] reported its antioxidant properties and its protective nature for tissues. Curcumin also act as a scavenger of oxygen free radicals and endogenous antioxidant enzymes such as glutathione transferase, superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase and catalase [52]. For a longer time in Chinese medicine and Asian medicines it has been used as a therapeutic agent and dietary supplement by peoples in all over world [53]. In the present study when experimental group IV, V and VI were exposed with chromium trioxide (LC₅₀/10; 7.89mg/l) and simultaneous exposed with curcumin (1mg/l, 2mg/l, and 3mg/l) for 24hr, 48hr, 72hr and 96hr. The frequencies of micronuclei induction were recorded minimum in comparison to alone exposed group III with sub lethal test concentration of chromium trioxide (LC₅₀/10; 7.89mg/l) in time dependent manner. The antioxidant properties of curcumin such as hepato protection, cardiac protection, and anti-inflammatory protection has been also observed by Naik *et al* [54] and Prakobwong *et al* [55]. Same protective effect of curcumin in bone marrow cells of Albino Rats also reported by Bishnoi *et al* [56], Ali *et al* [57], in terms of chromosomal aberration and micronuclei assay after exposed with fried potatoes chips and roasted bread in dose and time dependent manner. In another study, Corona-Rivera *et al* [58] also reported the antioxidant properties of curcumin in dose dependent manner against copper induced genotoxicity in 4-6- week-old male Balb-C mice in term of micronuclei and comet. Curcumin is also reported in addition

to anticancerous potential, anti-mutagenic agent, anti-inflammatory and as a good antioxidant agent. *In vivo* and *in vitro* condition, curcumin is act as anticlastogenic agent by Anto *et al* [59]. According to Polasa *et al* [60] curcumin shows protective effect in lymphocyte cells of human blood against B (a) P induced DNA damage. However, when bone marrow cells of mice acutely treated with curcumin shows weakly clastogenic [61]. So, in dose dependent manner curcumin shows both effects as genotoxicity and antigenotoxicity in HepG2 cells [62].

5. Conclusion

The present investigation indicates that curcumin is highly antioxidant compound of *C. longa*. It reduced the increased frequency of micronuclei induction in peripheral erythrocytes of fish *C. punctatus* against chromium trioxide after different exposure period. Its ameliorative effect may be beneficial for aquaculture because it act as antigenotoxic agent against chromium discharge effluents in water.

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