

# THE EFFECT OF ORGANIC AND INORGANIC PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS ON HEMOGLOBIN, HEMATOCRIT, AND CORTISOL HORMONE OF AFRICAN CATFISH (CLARIAS GARIEPINUS)

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**THE EFFECT OF ORGANIC AND INORGANIC PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS  
ON HEMOGLOBIN, HEMATOCRIT, AND CORTISOL HORMONE  
OF AFRICAN CATFISH (*CLARIAS GARIEPINUS*)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Phenolic are compounds found in the environment which can cause fish stressed or xenobiotic. The limited information about toxicology and pathological consequences in the fish exposed to phenolic compounds needs to be studied. In this research, the African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) were injected a single dose of phenol (inorganic) and *P.crocatum* Polyphenols (organic). The animals were exposed (75% of 96 hours LC50) with phenol concentration (3 mg/kg) and *P.crocatum* Polyphenols (1.8 mg/kg). Furthermore, the hematology was measured on 3 days after injection. The metabolic effects of hemoglobin and hematocrit decreased significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) while the cortisol hormone increased ( $P<0.05$ ) in a short-term after 3 days of exposure.

**KEY WORDS**

Phenolic, *Clarias gariepinus*, *P. crocatum polyphenols*, cortisol, hemoglobin, hematocrit.

Phenolic compounds are xenobiotic compounds that affect anemia and disrupt the endocrine system and hormones (Writer *et al.*, 2010; Hori *et al.*, 2006; Awachie and Ezenwa 1998). This compound is classified as toxic chronic and immunotoxic which usually found in fish tissue (Taysse *et al.*, 1995; Mukherjee *et al.*, 1990). Phenol waste is accumulated from human activities such as the waste from industry, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture (Buikema *et al.*, 1979).

The phenol residue comes from industrial and pharmaceutical waste as well as and natural decomposition (Buikema *et al.*, 1979). Red Betel (*P. crocatum*) is one of the most aromatic plants in which the leaves contain phenolic compounds (flavonoids and tannin) and have a high phenol content (Saputra *et al.*, 2016). Phenolic compounds become a concern specifically because of its toxic effect in the water environment. However, this compound is difficult to detect due to the lack of taste and smell (Tilak *et al.*, 2007). A cytotoxic activity of red betel leaves on *Artemia* and African catfish was tested in-vivo based on the LC50 and showed that these plants have a potential of cytotoxic compounds. (Nursyam *et al.*, 2017 and Emrizal *et al.*, 2014)

The habitat of *Clarias gariepinus* is in freshwaters which have a risk to be exposed to chemicals such as phenols (James *et al.*, 2008). Nursyam *et al.*, (2017) and Ibrahem (2012) reported that in-vivo test with an injection of phenolic compounds in fish *C. gariepinus* shows abnormal signs of glucose, BUN, and ALP in the blood and necrosis of liver and kidneys. Even though there is some research on the in-vivo effect of phenolic compounds towards fish blood parameters, there is no information about the residues and effects of organic phenolic compounds from plants to the toxicity on catfish. Therefore, further research is needed to



determine the in-vivo influence of phenolic compounds of Red Betel Leaf (*Piper crocatum*) on Hemoglobin, Hematocrit, and Cortisol Hormones of African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS OF RESEARCH

**Tested Animal.** The African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) used were in the size of 12 to 15 grams. There was 20 fish/tub obtained from the Aquaculture Laboratory of Jakarta Fisheries University. The commercial feed was given twice a day at a dose of 3%. Before the experiment was carried out, the fish was adapted in a concrete tub for 1 month. The quality of DO water conservancy was 3.99-6.53 mg/l with a pH of 7.0-7.6 at 28-30°C.

**Isolation and characterization of Organic and Inorganic phenolic compounds.** The organic phenolic compounds used were obtained from the isolation of red betel leaf (*P. crocatum*) using maceration, thin layer chromatography, column chromatography, and characterized by using UV-Vis and Infrared spectrophotometers (Saputra *et al.* 2016; Bigoniya and Singh, 2014; Sundang *et al.* 2012; Vasconcelos *et al.* 2010). The inorganic phenolic compounds were obtained from the commercial chemical store.

**Sub-lethal toxicity study.** The concentration of LC50 from inorganic phenol (3 mg/kg) and organic phenolic (1.80 mg/kg) is equal to 75% of LC50-96 hours. The exposure to phenolic compounds was done for 3 days after a single injection (Saputra *et al.* 2016)

**Blood sample.** The blood was collected 3 days after exposure to phenolic compound. The blood was taken by using a 1 ml syringe on the cardinal vein and then centrifuged at 3000 rpm at 4°C for 15 minutes. The serum was separated and stored at a temperature of 5- 20°C (Saputra *et al.* 2016; Varadarajan *et al.*, 2014; Roche and Boge, 2000). The measurement of hemoglobin level was carried out by the Sahli method (Wedemeyer and Yasutake, 1977) in Hb/100ml while the hematocrit level was done by the capillary system (Anderson and Siwicki, 1995). On the other hand, the cortisol concentration plasma (Cort) was assessed by radioimmunoassay (RIA) (Foster and Dunn, 1974).

**Data analysis.** The data were analyzed by using the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with Minitab 16 for windows.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis showed that the hemoglobin after being exposed with phenolic compounds have a significantly different situation in between the 5% level of treatment, Fhit: 35.58 (P> 0.05). Based on the Figure 1, the hemoglobin rate of African catfish without treatment (control) is 13.67 Hb/100ml in which it is in line with the research from Alamanda *et al.*, (2007) that a generally healthy African catfish have a hemoglobin level ranged from 12-14 Hb/100 ml of blood.

Different conditions indicate that after the hemoglobin is injected, the phenolic compound was significantly decreased in the treatment of organic phenolic that is 7.67 Hb/100ml. In the inorganic phenolic treatment, it is shown that the hemoglobin was lower compared to the treatment of organic phenolic that is 6.67 Hb/100ml. According to Nusyam *et al.*, (2017) and Wahjuningrum *et al.*, (2008), low and high hemoglobin levels indicate that the fish might be sick or stressed. Roche and Boge (2000) stated that the increase or decrease in the plasma concentration of hemoglobin is a sign that there is interference from the cells. Harikrishnan *et al.*, (2003) also asserted that the damage in red blood cells causes a decrease in hemoglobin content.

The results of data analysis showed that the hematocrit condition after being exposed to phenolic compounds was significantly different in between treatments in the level of 5%, Fhit: 17.35 (P>0.05). Based on the Figure 2 below, the hematocrit in African catfish without treatment (control) amounts to 37 %. This is in accordance with the opinion of Bastiawan *et al.*, (1995) that the normal hematocrit of African catfish is ranged from 30.8 to 45.5%.

The inorganic phenolic treatment showed that the hematocrit value was much lower than the organic treatment which was 23.33%. This value indicates that the treatment of inorganic phenolic greatly affects the decrease in the African catfish hematocrit. Tsuzuki *et*

*al.*, (2001) stated that when the fish hematocrit is less than 22%, anemia will occur whereas if the hematocrit is greater than 60%, the fish will be in a state of stress. Anderson and Siwicki (1994) confirmed that low hematocrit can indicate the occurrence of fish contamination.

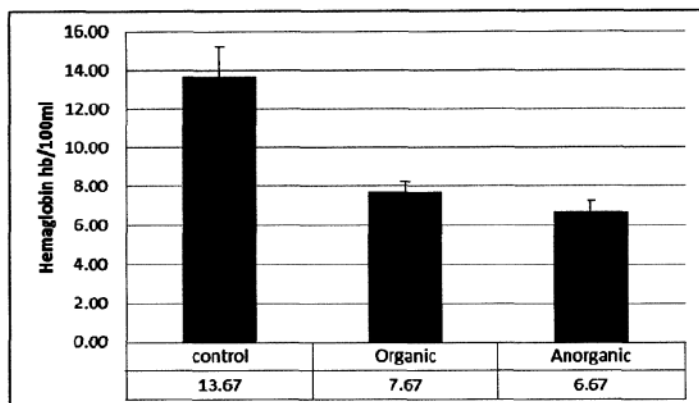


Figure 1 – The Hemoglobin of African Catfish after Organic and Inorganic Phenolic Injection

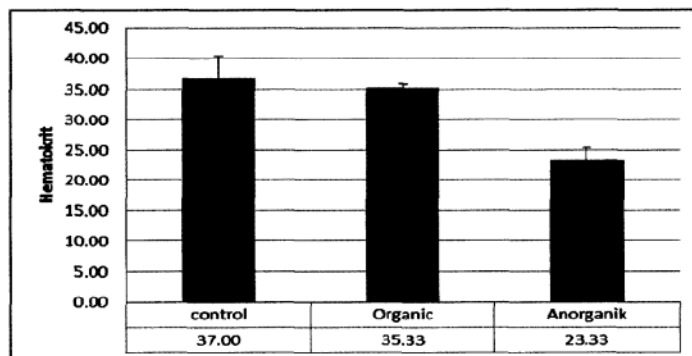


Figure 2 – The Hematocrit of African Catfish after Organic and Inorganic Phenolic Injection

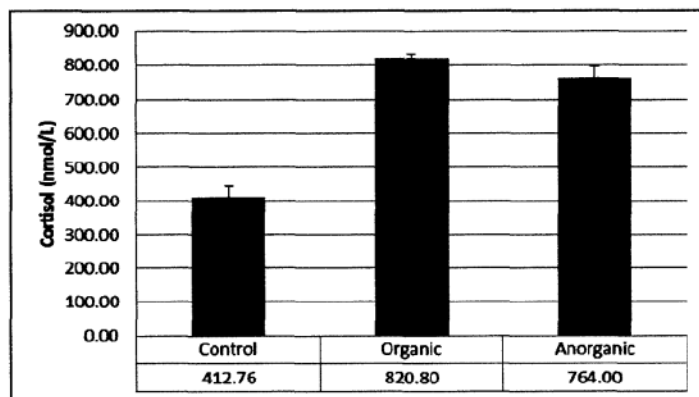


Figure 3 – Cortisol Hormone of African Catfish after Organic and Inorganic Phenolic Injection

This hormone is the result of endocrine gland secretion. The endocrine glands build the endocrine system which has the function of regulating the work of the body's physiological



processes. The value of the cortisol hormone in catfish after being injected with phenolic compounds can be seen in Figure 3.

The results showed that the cortisol hormone after being exposed to phenolic compounds was significantly different in between the treatments (5%), Fhit: 3.86 ( $P>0.05$ ). Based on the results of the study, the cortisol in African catfish without treatment (control) is 412.76 nmol/L. The increase of cortisol hormone in phenolic treatment was compared with the control, in which the increase of the hormone was 198.86% in the organic phenolic treatment and 186.09% in the inorganic phenol treatment. Roche and Boge (2000) reported that the cortisol hormone in fish treatment was increased by 185.7-218%. According to Zaki *et al.*, (2012), there was an increase in *C.gariepinus* fish cortisol after being exposed to phenol for 3 months at 32.7%.

John *et al.*, (1994) explained that the increased cortisol in phenol treatment can be associated with fish poisoning and handling. On the one hand, Roche and Boge (2000) believed that the increase in fish stressors after a single or fraction phenol injection is due to the disturbances in cells. The damage to endocrine cells in both liver and kidneys causes an abnormal biochemical blood value that one of which plays a major role in hemoglobin. Low Hb in tannin injection treatment showed that the spread of oxygen in the body of African catfish was disrupted. Barton (1987) described that a physiological stress will cause a new homeostatic condition in fish through a changing metabolism. This response to stress is controlled by the endocrine system through the release of cortisol hormones and catecholamine.

### CONCLUSION

The results from blood tests show that there is an increase in the cortisol hormone while the other parameters such as hemoglobin and hematocrit experience a decrease. This condition explains that the treatment of organic phenolic exposure is comparable to the inorganic phenol exposure. It can be seen from the changes in the blood hemoglobin and hematocrit as well as the cortisol hormones of African catfish.

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