

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE SANTA MARIA
CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE
PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM FARMACOLOGIA

Érika Pase Londero

**AÇÃO DA RUTINA E OXITETRACICLINA SOBRE OS PARÂMETROS
BIOQUÍMICOS E OXIDATIVOS EM TECIDOS DE *Rhamdia quelen***

Santa Maria, RS
2017

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Dissertação apresentada ao curso de Pós-Graduação em Farmacologia, da Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM, RS), como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de **Mestre em Farmacologia.**

Orientadora: Prof^a. Dr^a. Maria Amália Pavanato
Coorientador: Prof. Dr. Bernardo Baldisserotto

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2017

Ficha catalográfica elaborada através do Programa de Geração Automática da Biblioteca Central da UFSM, com os dados fornecidos pelo(a) autor(a).

Londero, Érika Pase
Ação da rotina e oxitetraciclina sobre os parâmetros bioquímicos e oxidativos em tecidos de Rhamdia quelen / Érika Pase Londero.- 2017.
82 p.; 30 cm

Orientadora: Maria Amália Pavanato
Coorientador: Bernardo Baldisserotto
Dissertação (mestrado) - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Centro de Ciências da Saúde, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Farmacologia, RS, 2017

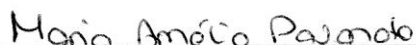
1. Antibiótico 2. Antioxidante 3. Jundiá 4. Dieta I.
Pavanato, Maria Amália II. Baldisserotto, Bernardo III.
Título.

Érika Pase Londero

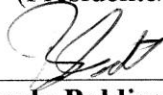
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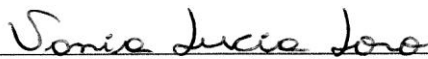
Aprovado em 23 de março de 2017:



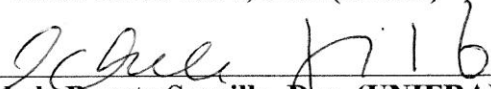
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Santa Maria, RS
2017

AGRADECIMENTOS

A conclusão desta dissertação se deve ao auxílio, compreensão e dedicação de diversas pessoas. Agradeço a todos que, de alguma forma, contribuíram com este trabalho. De uma maneira especial, agradeço:

A minha orientadora prof^a. Maria Amália Pavanato, pela confiança, atenção, disponibilidade, empenho, conhecimentos recebidos e pelo crescimento pessoal e profissional que me proporcionou nestes últimos seis anos.

Ao meu coorientador prof. Bernardo Baldisserotto pelo apoio, disponibilidade, atenção e incentivo.

Aos colegas e parceiros do LabFox, Caroline Azzolin, Giovana Ourique, Carlos Eduardo Brener, Vanessa Medeiros e Victor Barboza, pelo auxílio nos experimentos, pela partilha de conhecimentos, companheirismo, amizade e pelos momentos felizes que vivi junto a vocês.

À Tanise Pês e Etiane Saccol pela amizade e pelo auxílio em todas as etapas deste trabalho. Vocês ajudaram a desenvolver esse trabalho de maneira ímpar!

Ao prof. Paulo Bayard Dias Gonçalves, Kalyne Bertolin e Alfredo Quites Antoniazzi por abrirem as portas do BioRep e auxiliarem na produção deste trabalho.

A minha família, Carmem Londero, Auri Londero e Bruno Londero, por ser sempre meu porto seguro, por me apoiarem em todos os momentos. Meu sucesso é reflexo de vocês.

Ao Dario Ramires Jr., por ser meu namorado e companheiro, por estar ao meu lado incondicionalmente, por me incentivar a correr atrás dos meus sonhos, pelo amor, carinho e auxílio.

Às minhas amigas de longa data, Dafne, Letícia e Luísa, pela amizade e companheirismo de sempre.

A minha vó Hermelinda Londero (*in memoriam*), por sempre torcer e me incentivar a usar os estudos como forma de crescimento pessoal e profissional.

À Universidade Federal de Santa Maria e aos professores do PPG Farmacologia pela oportunidade de realização deste curso.

À Zeli Carvalho, pelo auxílio e dedicação como secretária do PPG Farmacologia.

À CAPES, pela bolsa de estudo concedida.

A todos que não foram citados, mas que me acompanharam durante esse período, meus sinceros agradecimentos!

*“Quando os ventos de mudança sopram,
umas pessoas levantam barreiras, outras
constroem moinhos de vento.”*

Érico Veríssimo

RESUMO

AÇÃO DA RUTINA E OXITETRACICLINA SOBRE OS PARÂMETROS BIOQUÍMICOS E OXIDATIVOS EM TECIDOS DE *Rhamdia quelen*

AUTORA: Érika Pase Londero
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As condições de cultivo na piscicultura podem levar a situações de estresse, contribuindo para a ocorrência de doenças infecciosas, considerada um grande desafio para o sucesso produtivo desta atividade. Desse modo, antibióticos têm sido utilizados com fins terapêuticos e para profilaxia, destacando-se a oxitetraciclina (OTC) que apresenta vantagens quanto à eficácia e economia em comparação a outros antibióticos. Porém, há uma grande preocupação no uso intensivo de antibióticos devido ao desenvolvimento de resistência antimicrobiana, além da problemática ambiental causada por esses fármacos. A necessidade por alimentos mais saudáveis tem levado à procura por produtos naturais. A rutina (RUT) incorporada na dieta pode ser uma alternativa natural para minimizar as alterações fisiológicas decorrentes do uso de antibióticos durante o cultivo, uma vez que já foi descrita sua atividade antioxidante, além de propriedades anti-inflamatórias, anticancerígenas, antibacterianas, entre outras. Assim, este trabalho teve por objetivo avaliar as implicações fisiológicas da OTC e o possível efeito protetor da RUT frente à ação deste fármaco. Para tanto, jundiás foram divididos aleatoriamente em quatro grupos e alimentados com as seguintes dietas experimentais (n=10): (1) controle; (2) dieta RUT; (3) dieta OTC; (4) dieta RUT+OTC. Após o período experimental de quatorze dias, os jundiás foram eutanasiados para coleta de amostras. Foram avaliados parâmetros hematológicos, oxidativos, metabólicos e moleculares. Observou-se com os resultados que a OTC aumentou os níveis de alanina aminotransferase (ALT), creatinina (CRE) e ureia no plasma. A RUT mostrou diminuir os níveis de ALT e CRE, quando administrada concomitantemente com a OTC. No fígado e rim cefálico, a dieta com OTC aumentou a lipoperoxidação (LPO) e oxidação de proteínas; a dieta com RUT diminuiu tais níveis na dieta RUT+OTC. As enzimas antioxidantes, superóxido dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) e glutathione-S-transferase (GST), tiveram atividades menores nos animais alimentados com dieta OTC. A RUT aumentou a atividade dessas enzimas nos animais da dieta RUT+OTC. Os níveis de glicogênio hepático foram menores e os de glicose hepática foram maiores nos animais alimentados com dieta OTC. A dieta RUT+OTC aumentou o glicogênio e diminuiu a glicose hepática. As dietas contendo OTC diminuíram a expressão do gene da prolactina na hipófise de jundiás. Estes resultados demonstram que a OTC pode ser considerada um estressor para jundiás, pois afetou parâmetros hematológicos, oxidativos, metabólicos e moleculares de maneira prejudicial ao peixe. Além disso, a RUT demonstrou ser uma opção benéfica para reverter estes parâmetros. Assim, a adição do flavonoide RUT parece ser uma alternativa menos danosa quando comparada ao uso do antibiótico OTC para a produção de jundiás.

Palavras-chave: Antibiótico. Antioxidante. Jundiá. Dieta.

ABSTRACT

EFFECT OF RUTIN AND OXYTETRACYCLINE ON BIOCHEMICAL AND OXIDATIVE PARAMETERS IN TISSUES OF *Rhamdia quelen*

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Fish farming conditions can lead to stress situations, contributing to the occurrence of infectious diseases, considered a great challenge for the productive success of this activity. Thus, antibiotics have been used for therapeutic purposes and for prophylaxis, especially oxytetracycline (OTC), which has advantages in terms of efficacy and economy compared to other antibiotics. However, there is a great concern in the intensive use of antibiotics due to the development of antimicrobial resistance, besides the environmental problems caused by these drugs. The need for healthier foods has led to the demand for natural products. Rutin (RUT) incorporated in the diet can be a natural alternative to minimize the physiological changes due to the use of antibiotics during the cultivation, once its antioxidant activity has been described, as well as anti-inflammatory, anticancer, antibacterial properties, among others. Thus, this study aimed to evaluate the physiological implications of OTC and the possible protective effect of RUT on the action of this drug. For this, silver catfish were randomly divided into four groups and fed the following experimental diets (n = 10): (1) control; (2) RUT diet; (3) OTC diet; (4) RUT+OTC diet. After the fourteen days experimental period, silver catfish were euthanized for sample. It was observed with the results that OTC increased levels of alanine aminotransferase (ALT), creatinine (CRE) and urea in plasma. RUT decreased levels of ALT and CRE when administered concomitantly with OTC. In liver and head kidney, the OTC diet increased lipid peroxidation (LPO) and protein oxidation; The RUT diet decreased such levels in the RUT+OTC diet. The antioxidant enzymes, superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), and glutathione-S-transferase (GST), had lower activity in animals fed diet with OTC. The RUT increased activity of these enzymes in the RUT+OTC diet. Hepatic glycogen levels were lower and hepatic glucose levels were higher in animals fed with OTC. The RUT+OTC diet increased hepatic glycogen and decreased hepatic glucose. Diets containing OTC decreased prolactin gene expression in the pituitary gland. These results demonstrate that OTC can be considered a stressor for silver catfish, since it affected hematological, oxidative, metabolic and molecular parameters in a way harmful to fish. In addition, RUT has proven to be a beneficial option to reverse these parameters. Thus, the addition of flavonoid RUT seems to be a less harmful alternative when compared to the use of antibiotic (OTC) to production of silver catfish.

Keywords: Antibiotic. Antioxidant. Silver catfish. Diet.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS E SIGLAS

4-EOTC	4-epi-oxitetraciclina (<i>4-epi-oxytetracycline</i>)
AA	Ácido ascórbico (<i>ascorbic acid</i>)
ALT	Aspartato transaminase (<i>aspartate transaminase</i>)
ANOVA	Análise de variância
AST	Alanina transaminase (<i>alanine transaminase</i>)
CAT	Catalase (<i>catalase</i>)
CaCO ₃	Carbonato de cálcio (<i>calcium carbonate</i>)
CHO	Colesterol total (<i>cholesterol total</i>)
CYP450	Citocromo P450
DNA	Ácido desoxirribonucleico (<i>deoxyribonucleic acid</i>)
DNase	Desoxirribonuclease (<i>deoxyribonuclease</i>)
GLU	Glicose (<i>glucose</i>)
GPx	Glutationa peroxidase (<i>glutathione peroxidase</i>)
GSH	Glutationa reduzida (<i>glutathione reduced</i>)
GST	Glutationa S-transferase (<i>glutathione S-transferase</i>)
HDL	Lipoproteína de alta densidade (<i>high-density lipoprotein cholesterol</i>)
H ₂ O ₂	Peróxido de hidrogênio (<i>hydrogen peroxide</i>)
OH [•]	Radical hidroxil
LDH	Lactato desidrogenase (<i>lactate dehydrogenase</i>)
LOOH	Hidroperóxidos lipídicos (<i>lipid hydroperoxide</i>)
LPO	Lipoperoxidação (<i>lipid peroxidation</i>)
NPSH	Tióis não proteicos (<i>non-protein thiols</i>)
O ₂	Oxigênio molecular
¹ O ₂	Oxigênio singlete
O ₂ ^{•-}	Ânion radical superóxido
OD	Dano oxidativo (<i>oxidative damage</i>)
OS	Dano oxidativo (<i>oxidative stress</i>)
OTC	Oxitetraciclina (<i>oxytetracycline</i>)
PC	Carbonilação de proteínas (<i>protein carbonyls</i>)
<i>prl</i>	Prolactina (<i>prolactin</i>)
RL	Radicais livres (<i>Free radicals</i>)

RNA	Ácido ribonucleico (<i>ribonucleic acid</i>)
ROS	Espécies reativas de nitrogênio (<i>reactive nitrogen species</i>)
RNS	Espécies reativas de oxigênio (<i>reactive oxygen species</i>)
RUT	Rutina (<i>rutin</i>)
SOD	Superóxido dismutase (<i>superoxide dismutase</i>)
<i>smtl</i>	Somatolactina (<i>somatolactin</i>)
TBARS	Substâncias que reagem ao ácido tiobarbitúrico
TRI	Triglicerídeos (<i>triglycerides</i>)
TCA	Ácido tricloroacético (<i>trichloride acetic acid</i>)
URE	Ureia (<i>urea</i>)

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1 INTRODUÇÃO

Mundialmente, a aquicultura possui grande importância econômica e o consumo de seus produtos tem crescido nas últimas décadas (HEUER et al., 2009). Na produção de peixes, as condições de cultivo podem gerar situações de estresse, as quais contribuem para a ocorrência de doenças oportunistas, consideradas grandes desafios para o sucesso produtivo na piscicultura (SEGNER et al., 2012).

A fim de melhorar a produção e evitar perdas, tem-se feito o uso de antibióticos. Esses fármacos são utilizados tanto para terapêutica quanto para a profilaxia, porém, seu uso pode levar ao desenvolvimento de resistência antimicrobiana e poluição ambiental (KÜMMERER, 2009). Os antibióticos são administrados também como promotores de crescimento (GASKINS et al., 2002), e, em alguns países, utilizados para alimentação animal em baixas doses, com o intuito de melhorar a produção e a qualidade do produto final (GASKINS et al., 2002).

Dentre as espécies de peixe cultivadas no Brasil, o jundiá (*Rhamdia quelen*), se destaca na piscicultura na região sul do país (BALDISSEROTTO, 2009). Durante a produção, o jundiá está sujeito à ação dos constantes fatores inerentes a esta prática, tal como manipulação, transporte, baixa qualidade da água e alta densidade de estocagem, que ajudam a desencadear estresse, podendo afetar o crescimento e a eficiência alimentar dos mesmos (BARCELLOS et al., 2004). Estes fatores são um desafio que deve ser superado para que a produção do jundiá se torne mais eficiente.

Tendo em vista os desafios da produção e a problemática envolvida no uso indevido de antimicrobianos na aquicultura, tem-se procurado alternativas naturais que tornem o peixe mais saudável e, por consequência o produto final seja melhor, porém, sem o desenvolvimento dos perigos e efeitos colaterais causados por tais fármacos. Compostos naturais têm sido testados, por exemplo, para estimulação do sistema imune, diminuição do estresse pela maior resistência a enfermidades que acometem os peixes (SANTOS et al., 2009).

Neste sentido, compostos bioativos vegetais têm sido amplamente estudados, como a rutina. Este flavonoide possui uma bem descrita atividade antioxidante em jundiás (PÊS et al., 2016), além de propriedades anti-inflamatórias, antitumorais, antimicrobianas, entre outras (AL-DHABI et al., 2015). Sendo assim, a rutina parece ser uma alternativa natural e menos danosa para a produção de jundiás, pois pode minimizar alterações fisiológicas decorrentes do estresse causado durante o uso de antibióticos, sem causar prejuízos.

2 OBJETIVOS

2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

Avaliar as implicações fisiológicas da administração oral de oxitetraciclina e o possível efeito protetor da dieta contendo rutina frente à ação deste fármaco.

2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

- Verificar a quantidade de compostos fenólicos nas dietas controle, rutina, oxitetraciclina e rutina + oxitetraciclina oferecidas aos jundiás;
- Avaliar parâmetros hematológicos em plasma de jundiás alimentados com dieta controle e dietas contendo rutina e/ou oxitetraciclina;
- Mensurar parâmetros metabólicos em fígado de jundiás com dietas contendo rutina e/ou oxitetraciclina;
- Determinar dano oxidativo, antioxidantes enzimáticos e não enzimáticos em fígado e rim cefálico de jundiás dos grupos citados anteriormente;
- Analisar a expressão dos gens dos hormônios prolactina e somatolactina em hipófise de jundiás alimentados com as dietas controle, rutina e/ou oxitetraciclina.

3 REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

3.1 USO DE ANTIBIÓTICOS NA AQUICULTURA

De modo geral, antibióticos são agentes quimioterápicos que inibem ou suprimem o crescimento de microrganismos, não só bactérias, mas também fungos ou protozoários (KÜMMERER, 2009). Eles podem ser produzidos a partir de microrganismos, como fungos ou bactérias, de forma sintética ou semissintética (GUARDABASSI et al., 2010). Os padrões para uso dessas substâncias são diferentes de um país para outro. Por exemplo, nos Estados Unidos, a utilização de estreptomicina é liberada na produção de frutos, porém, na Alemanha, a utilização para tal é proibida (KÜMMERER, 2008).

Doenças infecciosas são consideradas uma grande preocupação para a piscicultura por representarem potenciais riscos na produção e em perdas no estoque. Dentre as principais estratégias para o controle deste problema está o uso de antibióticos como medida terapêutica e/ou preventiva no sistema de produção (BILA; DEZOTTI, 2003). Esses fármacos são, muitas vezes, administrados por períodos de tempo pequenos, em níveis terapêuticos e por via oral (SØRUM, 2006).

O uso de antibióticos com fins profiláticos não só favorece a seleção de bactérias resistentes no ambiente aquático, mas também aumenta o risco de transferência de genes de resistência aos agentes patogênicos que infectam seres humanos e outros animais terrestres (COSTA et al., 2012). Além disso, esses fármacos são utilizados em baixas doses e adicionados a alimentos para animais, servindo como promotores de crescimento (GASKINS et al., 2002). Porém, mesmo a utilização de quantidades pequenas de antibióticos está associada com a seleção de bactérias patogênicas resistentes (KÜMMERER, 2009).

A produção de peixes possui uma característica particular: o número de agentes antimicrobianos autorizados para uso é limitado. Nos Estados Unidos, os fármacos legalmente utilizados são aprovados pelo órgão governamental ligado à Medicina Veterinária. Por exemplo, a Food and Drug Administration autorizou o uso da oxitetraciclina (OTC), florfenicol e sulfadimetoxina/ ormetoprim em ração medicamentosa para peixes (FDA, 2016).

A escolha do antibiótico mais adequado pode ser difícil, pois não há um regime terapêutico padronizado, somado à falta de dados sobre a eficácia clínica de diferentes terapias (GASTALHO et al., 2014). Na prática, o antibiótico é escolhido frequentemente por considerações como a disponibilidade do agente e o valor monetário, regulamentos e suscetibilidade bacteriana, considerações sobre a natureza da doença a ser tratada e, ainda,

pela experiência prévia de quem prescreve o fármaco (SMITH, 2008). No caso da aquicultura brasileira, não há uma legislação específica que regulamente o uso de medicamentos veterinários para peixes, o que leva ao seu uso indevido.

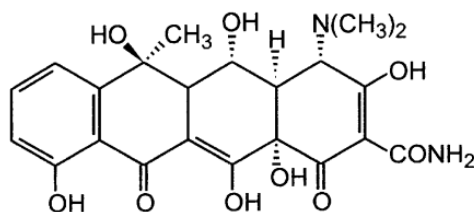
As vias de administração de antibióticos mais comuns são via oral, através de rações medicamentosas, e a adição direta na água por terapia de imersão. Ambos os métodos se mostram efetivos para peixes (HEUER et al., 2009). Porém, esses animais não metabolizam alguns desses fármacos, fazendo com que não haja absorção e ocorra sua liberação quase que completa através das fezes. Estima-se que 75% dos antibióticos utilizados na alimentação dos peixes são excretados na água (ROMERO et al., 2012). Dessa forma, pode ocorrer a contaminação de outros animais e do ambiente.

Tendo em vista a importância dos agentes antimicrobianos na aquicultura e que as consequências de seu uso inadequado sejam ainda pouco esclarecidas, faz-se necessário compreender sobre suas implicações na fisiologia de peixes.

3.1.1 Oxitetraciclina

No processo produtivo da piscicultura, um dos antibióticos mais utilizados é o cloridrato de oxitetraciclina ou oxitetraciclina (OTC) (Figura 1). É um produto metabólico de *Streptomyces rimosus* e membro da família de antibióticos das tetraciclinas. Esse grupo de antibióticos apresenta um espectro de ação amplo, sendo eficiente contra um grande número de microrganismos e, dessa forma, destaca-se seu emprego na medicina veterinária para o tratamento de diversas doenças (PEREIRA-MAIA et al., 2010). Este fármaco apresenta vantagens quanto à eficácia e baixo valor monetário quando em comparação com outros antibióticos (ELIA et al., 2014).

Figura 1- Estrutura química da oxitetraciclina.



Adaptado de: Rabølle; Spliid (2000).

A OTC é utilizada no tratamento de infecções bacterianas sistêmicas, sendo ativa contra bactérias Gram-positivas e Gram-negativas, como *Aeromonas hydrophila*, bactéria patogênica em peixes (KIRKAN et al., 2003). Esse fármaco exerce efeito antimicrobiano, pois inibe a síntese proteica, sendo primariamente bacteriostática (RIGOS et al., 2003). Essa inibição se dá através de uma ligação reversível à subunidade ribossomal 30S do ribossomo microbiano (ZOUNKOVÁ et al., 2011).

A administração da OTC pode ser por injeção, via oral ou por banho de imersão. No caso de doenças infecciosas em peixes, ela é geralmente administrada na forma de ração medicamentosa na dose de 50 e 100 mg de OTC/kg de peso corporal/dia, durante 3 a 21 dias, dependendo da classe de bactéria envolvida na infecção (TREVES-BROWN, 2000). Já segundo Lunden e Bylund (2000), a dose de OTC recomendada é de 75 mg de OTC/kg de peso corporal/dia, durante 10 dias.

O principal local de metabolização de xenobióticos, tal como a OTC, e também de expressão do citocromo P450 (CYP450) é no fígado dos peixes, apesar de outros órgãos, por exemplo, rim e brânquias serem importantes locais de metabolização também (STEGEMAN; HAHN, 1994, BARTRAM et al., 2012). CYP450 constitui uma família multigênica de hemoproteínas responsáveis pela biotransformação de xenobióticos, incluindo fármacos terapêuticos, químicos ambientais, constituintes dietéticos e esteroides endógenos e ácidos biliares (QUATTROCHI E GUZELIAN, 2001; NELSON, 2009).

A metabolização é um processo de duas fases. Fase I são reações que podem adicionar um ou mais grupos polares funcionais, como hidroxilas, aminas, sulfidrilas ou ácido carboxílico, a uma molécula externa, permitindo que a reação de Fase II possa ocorrer (BURKINA et al., 2015). A Fase I inclui oxidação, redução e hidrólise, sendo catalisada pelo CYP450 e outras enzimas associadas ao retículo endoplasmático liso, como as oxigenases que eliminam oxigênio reduzido, enzimas hidrolíticas e outras (BURKINA et al., 2015).

Se os metabólitos de Fase I forem suficientemente solúveis em água, podem ser excretados. Seguindo nas reações, os produtos da Fase II são solúveis em água, excretáveis e geralmente não possuem atividade farmacológica e toxicidade para o organismo (XU et al., 2005). A desintoxicação de Fase II envolve conjugação bioquímica, na qual enzimas do fígado anexam pequenas porções químicas como sulfato, glicina e outros aminoácidos à toxina. Assim, as reações de Fase II, tais como metilação e acetilação, terminam ou atenuam a atividade biológica desses compostos, enquanto a conjugação com a GSH protege o corpo contra moléculas quimicamente reativas ou metabólitos das mesmas (BURKINA et al., 2015).

Halling-Sørensen et al. (2002) afirmam que a OTC pode ser degradada em 4-epi-oxitetraciclina (4-EOTC), α -apooxitetraciclina, β -apo-oxitetraciclina e terrinolida, sendo a 4-EOTC um importante produto de degradação do fármaco (LE et al., 2012). Além disso, sabe-se que 73-90% de OTC pode ser degradado em solução aquosa (JIAO et al., 2008). O mesmo estudo ainda indica que o resíduo 4-EOTC pode ter a mesma ou maior toxicidade em comparação com a molécula de OTC.

A OTC possui boa penetração nos tecidos, pois se acumula em escamas, tecido ósseo, fígado, músculo, plasma, entre outros (BJÖRKLUND; BYLUND, 1990). Porém, apresenta baixa biodisponibilidade quando administrada por via oral (RIGOS et al., 2003; UENO et al., 2004). Assim, devido ao menor nível de absorção, ocorre a excreção de OTC para o ambiente externo através do trato gastrointestinal (BJÖRKLUND; BYLUND, 1990).

O uso incorreto de fármacos antimicrobianos para peixes tem sido relacionado a diversos perigos e efeitos colaterais, como imunossupressão, nefrotoxicidade, atraso do crescimento, desenvolvimento de cepas bacterianas resistentes, além dos problemas ambientais (YONAR et al., 2011). Guardiola et al. (2012) em um estudo com *Sparus aurata* L. alimentado com 4 e 8 mg OTC/g de dieta, por 7, 14 e 21 dias, mostrou que a OTC interfere negativamente nos mecanismos imunes dessa espécie. Antibióticos como a OTC, o ácido oxolínico e o florfenicol são bem relatados por induzir imunossupressão em carpa e truta arco-íris (RIJKERS et al., 1980; LUNDEN et al., 1998).

Não foram encontrados dados na literatura associando o uso de OTC e a fisiologia de jundiás.

3.2 *Rhamdia quelen*

O jundiá (Figura 2), *Rhamdia quelen* (família Heptapteridae), é uma espécie nativa da região sul do Brasil, muito encontrada nos rios do Rio Grande do Sul, e possui distribuição neotropical, do México a Argentina. Possui hábito alimentar onívoro, com tendência piscívora, alimentando-se de peixes, crustáceos, insetos, restos vegetais e detritos orgânicos (GOMES et al., 2000).

Possui boa resistência ao frio e apresenta crescimento rápido durante o verão, assim sendo capaz de suportar amplitudes térmicas de 15 a 34°C (BALDISSEROTTO; RADÜNZ NETO, 2004). O jundiá é um peixe de hábito noturno, adapta-se bem em diferentes ambientes, porém tem como habitat natural lagos e poços fundos dos rios, preferindo águas mais calmas com fundo de areia e lama junto às margens e vegetação (GOMES et al., 2000).

O jundiá se caracteriza morfologicamente por possuir boca sem dentes e corpo sem escamas, com barbilhões de forma cilíndrica e comprimento que varia proporcionalmente ao tamanho do peixe (GUEDES, 1980).

Figura 2- Exemplar de jundiá, *Rhamdia quelen*.



Fonte: Érika Pase Londero

O cultivo de peixes nativos se mostra mais vantajoso quando comparado com ao de exóticos, pois espécies nativas estão mais bem adaptadas ao clima regional (ZANIBONI FILHO, 2000). O jundiá possui boa produtividade em cativeiro, além de uma boa aceitação no mercado consumidor, pois sua carne é considerada saborosa e possui ausência de espinhos intramusculares, o que a torna bastante atraente ao consumo (CARNEIRO; MIKOS, 2005).

Porém, sua produção, assim como a de outras espécies, apresenta alguns desafios no cultivo e na produção mais eficientes. Estes problemas podem ser relacionados com o estresse provocado pelo manejo ou até mesmo pelo estabelecimento de condições propícias ao cultivo e bom desempenho no crescimento (BARCELLOS et al., 2004).

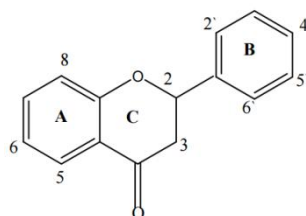
O jundiá, além de ser um peixe nativo importante para a piscicultura da região sul do Brasil, parece ser um bom modelo experimental em estudos que avaliam a adição de suplementos dietéticos. Por exemplo, Saccol et al. (2013) exploraram a adição do óleo essencial de *Lippia alba* (Mill) N. E. Brown e Pês et al. (2016) utilizaram o flavonoide rutina. Ambos trabalhos encontraram respostas positivas que auxiliam na produção da espécie, evidenciando seu potencial como modelo experimental.

3.3 FLAVONOIDES

Os flavonoides são polifenóis bioativos com baixo peso molecular (FERNANDEZ et al., 2006, HEIM et al., 2002). Possuem funções vitais para plantas, pois participam do processo de fotossíntese (CUSHNIE; LAMB, 2005). Além disso, esses compostos participam de funções de crescimento, desenvolvimento e de defesa dos vegetais contra o ataque de organismos patogênicos (DIXON; HARRISON, 1990) e estão presentes na maioria das plantas, concentrados em partes aéreas, como sementes, frutos, cascas, folhas e flores, mas também podem ser encontradas na raiz (FELDMANN, 2001).

Mais especificamente, flavonoides são metabólitos secundários, biossintetizados a partir da via dos fenilpropanoides, estruturalmente constituídos de quinze átomos de carbono arranjados em três anéis (C6-C3-C6), sendo dois anéis fenólicos substituídos (A e B) e um pirano (cadeia heterocíclica C) acoplado ao anel A (Figura 3) (DI CARLO et al., 1999). São compostos relativamente estáveis, resistindo à oxidação, altas temperaturas e moderadas variações de acidez (PETERSON; DWYER, 1998).

Figura 3- Estrutura básica de um flavonoide.



Fonte: Di Carlo et al., 1999.

As atividades bioquímicas dos flavonoides e de seus metabólitos dependem de sua estrutura química. Essas estruturas podem variar a partir de substituições, incluindo hidrogenação, malonilações, sulfatações, hidroxilações, metilações e glicosilações (MACHADO et al., 2008). Dessa forma, as principais classes de flavonoides são: flavonas, flavonóis, chalconas, auronas, flavanonas, flavanas, antocianidinas, leucoantocianidinas, proantocianidinas, isoflavonas e neoflavonóides (BRAVO, 1998).

O interesse econômico envolvido com os flavonoides é devido as suas diversas propriedades farmacológicas. Estudos anteriores revelam que esses compostos exibem uma grande ação sobre sistemas biológicos, apresentando efeito antibacteriano e antiviral (CUSHNIE; LAMB, 2005), antiulcerogênico (TAPAS et al., 2008), antioxidante (PAL et al.,

2009), antihepatotóxico (KIM et al., 2011), antihipertensivo (ALMEIDA; SUYENAGA, 2009), hipolipidêmico (SILVA et al., 2001), antiinflamatório (GUARDIA et al., 2001), entre outros. Além disso, os flavonoides aumentam a permeabilidade capilar, a inibição da exudação protéica e a migração de leucócitos (PELZER et al., 1998).

Estes efeitos podem estar relacionados às propriedades inibitórias que os flavonoides desempenham em vários sistemas enzimáticos incluindo hidrolases, isomerases, oxigenases, oxidoredutases, polimerases, fosfatases, proteínas fosfoquinases e aminoácido oxidases (FERGUSON, 2001). Cabe ressaltar que os flavonoides são uma classe de fitoquímicos que não pode ser sintetizada por animais, ocorrendo somente através da ingestão dietética (PETERSON; DWYER, 1998), por isso a importância de se entender as funções destes compostos para o seu correto uso, tanto em animais quanto em humanos.

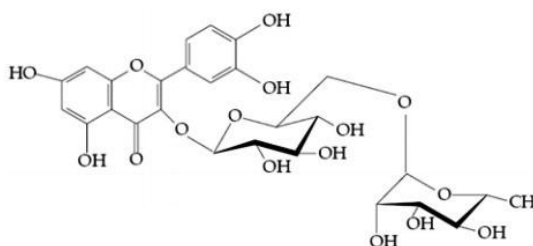
As principais fontes de flavonoides incluem frutos, como, por exemplo, uvas, cerejas, maçã, groselhas, além de frutas cítricas, entre outras, além de hortaliças, tais como pimenta, tomate, espinafre, cebola, brócolis, entre outras folhosas (BARNES et al., 2001).

3.3.1 Rutina

A rutina (RUT) pode ser encontrada em diversas fontes de alimento como, por exemplo, na uva, cebola, maçã, tomate cereja, trigo serraceno ou ainda em bebidas, como no vinho tinto e chá preto (GHARRAS, 2009). Também chamada de quercetina-3-ramnosilglicosídeo, a RUT (Figura 4) é um flavonoide da subclasse flavonol e derivada da molécula de quercetina.

De modo geral, os flavonóis possuem uma hidroxila (OH) ligada na posição 3 do anel pirano. Porém, no caso da RUT, há uma ligação glicosídica (raminose e glicose) na posição 3 deste anel aromático (YAO et al., 2004). Os glicosídeos possuem afinidade pela membrana de células epiteliais e exercem importante função quanto à absorção de compostos lipofílicos (WALLE, 2004).

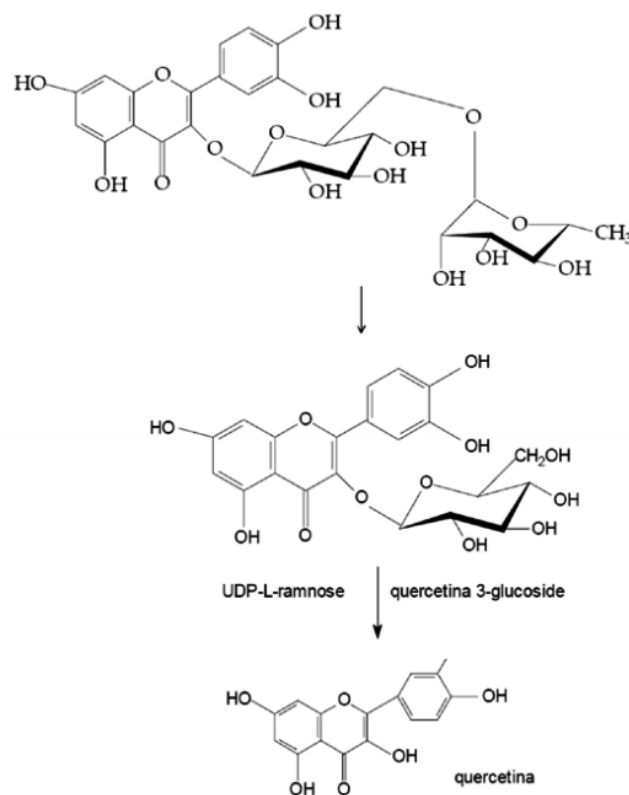
Figura 4- Estrutura química da rutina.



Fonte: Becho et al., 2009.

O intestino delgado tem dificuldade em absorver a RUT por conta dos açúcares que estão ligados a essa molécula. Porém, a RUT é completamente hidrolizada por glicosidases produzidas por enterobactérias presentes no intestino delgado. Assim, são originadas a quercetina 3-glicosídica e a quercetina aglicona (Figura 5) (WALLE, 2004). Essas moléculas resultantes apresentam maior afinidade por membranas de células epiteliais e, assim, são mais bem absorvidas e metabolizadas (MARCARINI, 2013).

Figura 5- Hidrólise da rutina.



Fonte: Manach et al., 1997.

As atividades farmacológicas da RUT têm sido bastante exploradas nos últimos anos. Patil et al. (2014) demonstrou que a RUT, em uma dose de 10 mg/kg, possui potencial quanto à atenuação da mortalidade induzida por radiação gama e danos citogenéticos em ratos *Swiss* albinos. Esses resultados podem ser atribuídos à capacidade da RUT de eliminar os radicais livres produzidos pela radiação.

A RUT também apresenta atividade antidiabética significativa, provavelmente pela sua capacidade de inibir citocinas inflamatórias. Além disso, melhora os perfis de lipídios e antioxidantes no plasma de ratos com diabetes tipo 2 induzida por estreptozotocina. Dessa

forma, a RUT pode ser considerada um modulador diabético juntamente com fármacos padrão para o tratamento da diabetes tipo 2 (NITURE et al., 2014).

A atividade antimicrobiana da RUT contra diversos tipos de bactérias vem sendo amplamente analisada. A RUT demonstrou inibir o crescimento de bactérias *Escherichia coli* (ARARUNA et al., 2012). Já a RUT presente no mel mostrou efeitos inibitórios em *Proteus vulgaris*, *Shigella sonnei* e *Klebsiella* sp. (PIMENTEL et al., 2013). Dubey et al. (2013), em um estudo com *Pseudomonas auruginosssa* e *Bacillus subtilis*, também demonstraram o efeito antibacteriano da RUT.

Quanto ao sistema imune, a RUT extraída de *Toona senensis* e administrada nas doses de 10, 20, ou 50 mg/g para camarões brancos (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) demonstrou diminuir os níveis de glicose, lactato e lipídios em resposta ao patógeno *Vibrio alginolyticus*. Além disso, as taxas de sobrevivência dos camarões brancos tratados com RUT foram maiores do que naqueles que não foram tratados (HSIEH et al., 2008).

A hepatoproteção da RUT é bastante pesquisada em animais experimentais. Khan et al. (2012) avaliaram o possível efeito protetor da RUT em lesões no fígado induzidas por tetracloreto de carbono em ratos. A administração de 50 e 70 mg/kg de RUT causou uma diminuição nos níveis de ALT, AST, fosfatase alcalina e gama-glutamil transpeptidase, demonstrando o efeito hepatoprotetor da RUT.

Um estudo de Pês et al. (2016) mostrou que, para jundiás, a suplementação dietética com 0,15 e 0,30% de RUT durante 21 dias, é benéfica, pois diminui a lipoperoxidação (LPO), aumenta a atividade das enzimas antioxidantes, como superóxido dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) e glutathione-S-transferase (GST), e também aumenta os níveis de antioxidantes não enzimáticos, como a glutathione reduzida (GSH) e o ácido ascórbico (AA) em encéfalo, brânquias, fígado, rim e músculo. Além disso, a RUT não afetou os parâmetros hematológicos, como glicose, colesterol total e triglicérides. Dessa forma, a RUT parece ser um interessante aditivo para a dieta de jundiás.

3.4 PARÂMETROS PARA ANALISAR OS EFEITOS DA RUTINA E OXITETRACICLINA

3.4.1 Parâmetros Hematológicos

Os estudos hematológicos em peixes são de interesse ecológico e fisiológico, uma vez que auxiliam na compreensão da relação entre as características sanguíneas, a filogenia, o habitat e a adaptabilidade destes no ambiente (LUNDEN et al., 1998).

Lazzari et al. (2011) afirma que parâmetros hematológicos são ferramentas importantes para o monitoramento da saúde e bem estar de peixes. Porém, a definição de valores hematológicos de referência ou ótimos é difícil, pois tais parâmetros podem ser alterados por diversos fatores, como estado nutricional, sexo, variação genética, entre outros (KORI-SIAKPERE, 1985).

Apesar de sua importância, poucos estudos tratam da saúde dos peixes por meio de aspectos hematológicos (DAL'BÓ et al., 2015). Assim, estudos que utilizem esses parâmetros para avaliar mudanças em peixes alimentados com diferentes dietas, por exemplo, são essenciais para avaliação da saúde e bem estar dos mesmos, aprimorando sua produção.

3.4.2 Parâmetros Oxidativos

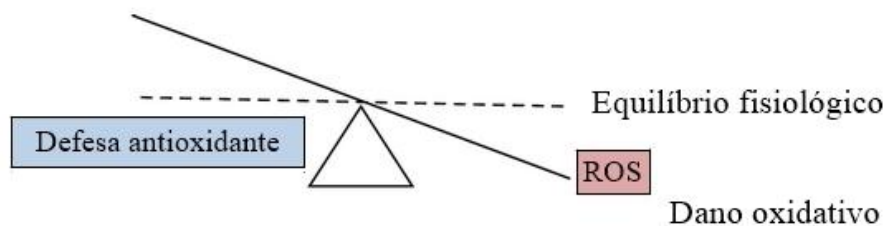
O oxigênio molecular (O_2) possui papel fundamental na evolução e sobrevivência de organismos aeróbios, incluindo os peixes (NIKINMAA, 2002). Porém, mesmo essencial à sobrevivência, pode levar a consequências deletérias para os organismos expostos a ele através do aumento da geração das espécies reativas de oxigênio (ROS). As ROS podem ser formadas em condições fisiológicas, como durante processos de oxidação biológica na respiração celular (HALLIWELL e GUTTERIDGE, 2007).

Dentre esses compostos intermediários (Figura 6) estão o ânion superóxido ($O_2^{\bullet-}$), o peróxido de hidrogênio (H_2O_2) e o radical hidroxil (OH^{\bullet}), os quais podem ser radicalares ou não radicalares. Quando apresentam pelo menos um elétron desemparelhado são denominadas radicais livres (RL). RL são definidos como qualquer espécie capaz de existir de forma independente e, por ter um ou mais elétrons não pareados no seu orbital mais externo, apresenta alta reatividade (HALLIWELL e GUTTERIDGE, 2007).

não enzimáticos atuam principalmente na supressão, eliminação ou desativação das ROS. São moléculas hidrossolúveis, como a glutathiona reduzida (GSH) e o ácido ascórbico (AA), ou lipossolúveis, como o α -tocoferol (MARTÍNEZ-ÁLVAREZ et al., 2005).

Quando existe um equilíbrio entre pró-oxidantes (ROS) e antioxidantes, pode-se dizer que os danos oxidativos são fisiológicos (JONES, 2008). No entanto, se ocorrer alguma perturbação que resulte em um desequilíbrio entre estes dois componentes e os níveis de ROS forem maiores do que os fisiologicamente aceitos, este excesso de ROS pode levar à situação chamada estresse oxidativo (OS). OS (Figura 7) é definido como dano não fisiológico macromolecular que leva a uma interrupção da sinalização redox e controle e/ou dano molecular (SIES, 2015, WELKER et al., 2013).

Figura 7- Dano oxidativo gerado pelo desequilíbrio entre a formação de ROS e as defesas antioxidantes.



Adaptado de: Poljsak et al., 2013.

Estudos anteriores demonstram que a OTC leva a situação de danos oxidativos, aumentando os níveis de LPO e diminuindo a atividade das enzimas antioxidantes em vários tecidos de truta arco-íris (YONAR et al., 2011; YONAR, 2012). Dessa forma, os parâmetros oxidativos são uma ferramenta importante para a compreensão das consequências no status redox atreladas ao uso de OTC e RUT para jundiás.

3.4.3 Parâmetros Metabólicos

Os peixes, quando são submetidos a uma condição alimentar diferente, podem passar por adaptações fisiológicas (WALKER et al., 2012). Essas adaptações podem ser avaliadas por meio de ensaios bioquímicos, como por exemplo, pelos níveis de glicogênio e glicose, os quais servem como parâmetro para avaliação do estado metabólico de tecidos em situações de estresse (CATTANI et al., 1996).

Durante situações de estresse, o nível de glicose plasmática é mantido a partir da produção hepática de glicose e, como consequência, o glicogênio hepático é utilizado (NAVARRO; GUTIÉRREZ, 1995). Além do glicogênio e da glicose, um aumento nos níveis de lactato pode indicar um acúmulo de ácido láctico como consequência do aumento da movimentação dos peixes em situações de estresse (SILVEIRA et al., 2009).

No peixe, o fígado é um órgão extremamente importante, pois controla a mobilização da glicose e tem participação no armazenamento de carboidratos endógenos, entre outras funções (VIEGAS et al., 2012). Assim, os níveis de glicogênio, glicose e lactato hepáticos são importantes indicadores de estresse a serem analisados.

3.4.4 Parâmetros Moleculares

Biomarcadores endócrinos possuem grande relevância para a saúde dos animais, pois a sinalização endócrina controla diversos processos fisiológicos essenciais, os quais possuem impacto sobre o crescimento, desenvolvimento, resposta ao estresse, reprodução e desenvolvimento de tais organismos (SCHOLZ; MAYER, 2008). A expressão dos gens de hormônios pituitários é exemplo de biomarcador endócrino.

A prolactina (*prl*) possui inúmeras funções nos peixes, como no equilíbrio hidromineral, no crescimento e desenvolvimento, na endocrinologia e metabolismo, no comportamento, na reprodução e imunorregulação e ainda na proteção (MANZON, 2001). Já a somatolactina (*smtl*), hormônio pituitário exclusivo de peixes, possui funções na maturação sexual (BENEDET et al., 2008). Porém, esse hormônio possui outros efeitos fisiológicos em teleósteos, como: função imunológica (CALDUCH-GINER et al., 1998), mobilização de energia (RAND-WEAVER et al., 1995), equilíbrio ácido-base (KAKIZAWA et al., 1996), regulação do fosfato de sódio (ZHU; THOMAS, 1995), biossíntese de esteróides gonadais (PLANAS et al., 1992) e metabolismo do cálcio (KAKIZAWA et al., 1993).

Em um estudo de Pês et al. (2016), observou-se que a suplementação da dieta de jundiás com 0,15 e 0,30% de RUT não alterou a expressão dos gens de hormônios pituitários, sugerindo que este antioxidante não atue como um fator estressor, mantendo a homeostase dos peixes.

4 MANUSCRITO

O manuscrito está disposto conforme as normas requisitadas pela revista *Journal of Experimental Biology*, o qual foi submetido para publicação.

Rutin and oxytetracycline in diets of silver catfish *Rhamdia quelen*: effects on oxidative, metabolic and molecular parameters

Running title: Rutin and oxytetracycline in fish diets

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Keywords: Oxidative damage, antioxidants, fish, antibiotics, flavonoids, diet.

Summary statement

We evaluated the effects of rutin and oxytetracycline in diet of silver catfish and showed that rutin prevented most changes in physiological parameters induced by oxytetracycline.

ABSTRACT

Antibiotics, in particular the efficient oxytetracycline, have been therapeutically and prophylactically used in aquaculture, yet the use of antibiotics can lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance and environmental problems. Antioxidants, such as the flavonoid rutin, incorporated to the diet may be a natural alternative to minimize the problems in fish physiological parameters caused by antibiotics overuse. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of diets supplemented with oxytetracycline and/or rutin in oxidative, metabolic and molecular parameters of silver catfish *Rhamdia quelen*. Oxytetracycline increased plasma alanine aminotransferase, urea and creatinine levels, increased lipoperoxidation levels and decreased antioxidant enzymes activity, decreased the content of non-enzymatic antioxidants in the liver and head kidney, decreased hepatic glycogen and increased hepatic glucose, and increased the expression of the gene encoding prolactin in the pituitary gland. Thus, oxytetracycline can be considered a stressor to silver catfish. However, rutin is able to prevent the damage induced by oxytetracycline in these animals as these parameters are maintained at values close to those of the control group. In conclusion, rutin has been proved to be a beneficial compound in supplemented feed in an oxidative and metabolic manner for silver catfish. This work shows the importance of natural compounds added to fish diet as an alternative to reduce the physiological damage caused by antibiotics.

Introduction

Antibiotics are prophylactically used in aquaculture in addition to treating piscine bacterial infections, which are triggered by depressed immune system, commonly caused by stressful production conditions, such as hypoxia, high stocking density or high nitrite and ammonia concentrations in the water. *Rhamdia quelen* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824), known as silver catfish, is a native fish from the Southern region of Brazil and presents a Neotropical distribution from Mexico to Argentina (Gomes et al., 2000). This species belongs to the Heptapteridae family and presents good productivity in captivity, yet management-related stress makes silver catfish more susceptible to diseases and leads producers to use antibiotics and agrochemicals in an attempt to improve production (Santos et al., 2009). The routes of antibiotics administration for fishes include medicated feed, however erroneous or repeated treatments may cause adverse effects to treated animals, resulting in production losses (Segner et al., 2012).

Oxytetracycline (OTC), a metabolic product of *Streptomyces rimosus* and a member of the tetracycline antibiotic family, is one of the most commonly used antibiotics in fish farming due to advantages in terms of efficacy and economy compared to other antibiotics (Oka et al., 2000). Widely used in veterinary medicine, tetracyclines have a broad spectrum of action against a large number of microorganisms responsible for various diseases (Pereira-Maia et al., 2010). This notwithstanding, antibiotics overuse leads to consequences such as immunosuppression, nephrotoxicity, development of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria and environmental problems (Yonar et al., 2011). For the treatment of fish diseases, OTC is usually administered in the diet at the dose of 50 to 100 mg.kg⁻¹ body weight per day, for 3 to 21 days, depending on the type of infection (Treves-Brown, 2000). Despite being commonly used, OTC is poorly absorbed when administered via feed, as food pellets contain metal ions that form complexes with OTC, reducing the amount of drug that will be absorbed by the intestinal tract. However, when giving fishes high doses of antibiotic, even with low availability, it will accumulate in body tissues (Rawles et al., 1997). OTC is furthermore associated with oxidative damage in rats (Pari and Gnanasoundari, 2006) and impaired immunological mechanisms in *Sparus aurata* L. (Guardiola et al., 2012).

Under these circumstances, natural and less damaging alternatives for fishes and for the environment have been studied. Previous works from our group have proposed the use of dietary supplementation with *Lippia alba* essential oil, resulting in decreased lipid peroxidation and increased antioxidant response, as well as glycogen and lactate storage in

silver catfish tissues (Saccol et al., 2013). In the same species, essential oil from *Hesperozygis ringens* possesses anesthetic and sedative properties (Toni et al., 2014) and can be used to transport these animals (Toni et al., 2015).

In this search for natural products, flavonoids have been extensively studied, as a group of naturally occurring substances with variable phenolic structures, proven to effect anti-inflammatory (Middleton, 1998), antimicrobial (Cushnie and Lamb, 2005) and antiallergic activities (Murray, 1998) (Middleton, 1998). Rutin, also known as, vitamin P or quercetin-3-rutinoside (Ghiasi et al., 2010), is a flavonoid from the flavonol-type and it is found in buckwheat, passion flower, apple, and tea (Fabjan et al., 2003). Rutin is the main form of the glycoside (the 3-Orhamnoglucoside) of quercetin, which is the most abundant flavonol in vegetables and fruits (Manach et al., 1995). It is known that rutin has several biological activities, such as antitumoral (Alonso-Castro et al., 2013), antioxidant, antiproliferative (Araújo et al. 2013), neuroprotective (Javed et al., 2012), among others. Pês et al. (2016) showed that silver catfish fed with dietary supplementation of 0.15% and 0.30% of rutin for 21 days increased the activity of antioxidant enzymes and decreased lipid damage, showing that its dietary addition can be beneficial for fishes.

Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of rutin on the possible damages caused by oxytetracycline in oxidative, metabolic and molecular parameters when incorporated to the diet of silver catfish.

Materials and methods

Fish and culture conditions

The experiment was conducted in a closed aquaculture system in the Fish Physiology Laboratory at Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM), Rio Grande do Sul (RS), Brazil. *Rhamdia quelen* (190.07 ± 25.55 g; 25.97 ± 1.09 cm) fishes were obtained from a local producer. The animals were randomly distributed in eight plastic boxes (250 L), in a total of ten fishes per box, and acclimated to the laboratory conditions for two weeks. Water parameters were checked daily (temperature, total ammonia, nitrite and dissolved oxygen) or weekly (alkalinity, total hardness and pH). The experimental protocol was approved by the Committee on Animal Experimentation of UFSM under registration number 4380290115.

Water parameters were stable during the experimental period: temperature was maintained at $20.91 \pm 0.12^{\circ}\text{C}$, pH at 7.32 ± 0.21 and dissolved oxygen at $6.15 \pm 0.08 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$. Other parameters were: alkalinity ($22.7 \pm 1.31 \text{ mg.L}^{-1} \text{ CaCO}_3$), hardness ($23.8 \pm 1.18 \text{ mg.L}^{-1} \text{ CaCO}_3$), total ammonia ($2.48 \pm 0.28 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$), non-ionized ammonia ($0.08 \pm 0.006 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$) and nitrite ($0.87 \pm 0.09 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$).

Diets and experimental design

Four diets were formulated based on the study of Pês et al. (2016). The ingredients used to prepare the diets (Table 1) were weighed and then mixed until complete homogenization. After mixing, the diets were moistened, pelleted in a meat grinder and taken to a forced air circulation oven for drying (45°C) for 24 hours. Rutin ($1.5 \text{ g.kg diet}^{-1}$) and/or oxytetracycline ($0.1 \text{ g.kg diet}^{-1}$) were added to the mixture together with rice bran. The experimental design resulted in four groups: 1) control (diet with neither antibiotic nor antioxidant); 2) rutin (RUT) diet; 3) oxytetracycline (OTC) diet; or 4) rutin plus oxytetracycline (RUT+OTC) diet. The amount of feed furnished to the animals was fixed in 3% of the biomass of each tank once a day (9 a.m.) for 14 days.

Chemicals

Rutin ($\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_{16}$) was obtained from the Sichuan Yabao Guangtai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China). Commercial form of oxytetracycline (Terramycin®) used in the experiments was obtained from Pfizer (New York, New York, United States). All the other chemicals for oxidative and metabolic analyses were obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, Missouri, United States).

Total phenolic compounds

The total phenolic compounds were determined in each diet according to the Folin–Ciocalteu procedure (Singleton et al., 1999). The absorbance of the resulting blue color was measured at

765 nm. Gallic acid was used as a standard, and the results were expressed as gallic acid equivalents (mg GAE) per 100 g of diet. The reaction was conducted in triplicate.

Sample collection

After 14 days of experimental diet, blood samples were collected from fishes and biochemical analyses were performed. Blood sampling was performed from the caudal vein with heparinized sterile syringes. Fishes were euthanized by sectioning the spinal cord and pituitary gland, liver and head kidney were removed from all the animals in the four experimental groups and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. The samples were stored at -80°C for further molecular analysis.

Plasma parameters

Blood was transferred to microcentrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 3000 ×g for 10 min to separate the plasma. All parameters were analyzed using commercial kits (Labtest, Minas Gerais, Brazil). The plasma levels of glucose (GLU), triglycerides (TRI), cholesterol (CHO), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL), creatinine (CRE) and urea (URE) were expressed as mg.dL⁻¹. Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aminotransferase (AST) were expressed as U.L⁻¹.

Oxidative parameters

Liver and head kidney were homogenized in 154 mmol.L⁻¹ KCl containing 1 mmol.L⁻¹ phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride and centrifuged at 3000 ×g for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatant fraction obtained was used for measurements of oxidative parameters. The protein content was measured (Lowry et al., 1951), and the results are reported as mg.mL⁻¹.

Measurements of pro-oxidants were estimated by assessing lipid peroxidation (LPO) levels using the thiobarbituric acid-reactive substance (TBARS) assay (Buege and Aust, 1978) at 535 nm and the results are reported as nmol.mg protein⁻¹. LPO was also measured by determining lipid hydroperoxides (LOOH) (Södergren et al., 1998) at 560 nm. The results are

reported as nmol.mg protein⁻¹. Protein oxidation was estimated by the protein carbonyls (PC) (Reznick and Packer, 1994). The absorbance of the carbonyls was measured at 360 nm and the results expressed as nmol.mg protein⁻¹.

To determine the activities of antioxidant enzymes, total superoxide dismutase (SOD) was measured spectrophotometrically at 480 nm and the results were expressed as USOD.mg protein⁻¹ (Fridovich, 1974). Catalase (CAT) activity was determined at 240 nm and expressed as $\mu\text{mol.mg protein}^{-1}.\text{min}^{-1}$ (Chance et al., 1973). GST activity was performed at 340 nm and the results were expressed as $\mu\text{mol.mg protein}^{-1}.\text{min}^{-1}$ (Habig et al., 1974).

As for non-enzymatic antioxidants, the nonprotein thiols (NPSH) content, an indirect measure of reduced glutathione (GSH), was evaluated at 412 nm (Ellman, 1959) and reported in nmol.mg protein⁻¹. The ascorbic acid (AA) was measured (Roe and Kuether, 1942) and the standard curve was prepared by using different concentrations of ascorbic acid. The slope was used to express the amount of ascorbic acid as $\mu\text{mol.mg protein}^{-1}$.

Metabolic parameters

Liver extracts were made by homogenization with 100 mg.L⁻¹ of trichloride acetic acid (TCA) 20% and centrifugation at 3000 \times g for 5 min. Supernatant was used for determination of glucose, glycogen (DuBois et al., 1956) and lactate (Harrower and Brown, 1972). The results are expressed in $\mu\text{g.mg tissue}^{-1}$.

Molecular parameters

RNA isolation, Reverse Transcription and Real Time Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR)

Total RNA from pituitary tissue was extracted using TRIzol® as per instructions of manufacturer. Quantification of RNA was performed using a Nano-Drop spectrophotometer, and the RNA purity was assessed by the 260/280 nm absorbance ratio (Thermo Scientific). RNA was treated with 0.1U DNase Amplification Grade (Invitrogen) for 15 min at 27°C, followed by DNase inactivation with 1 μl of EDTA at 65°C for 10min. Double-stranded complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized from 500 ng of total RNA with random hexamer primers using iScript cDNA Synthesis Kit (BioRad) according to the manufacturer's

instructions. Quantitative polymerase chain reactions (qPCR) were conducted in a CFX384 thermocycler (BioRad) using BRYT Green® dye and Taq DNA polymerase from GoTaq® qPCR Master Mix (Promega Corporation), with 5 ng of cDNA in 10µl. A common thermal cycling program (initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 15s and annealing/extension at 60°C for 30s) was used to amplify each transcript. Melting curve analyses were performed to verify product identity. Primers were validated by standard curves and the sequences are listed in Table 2. Reactions with a coefficient of determination (R²) higher than 0.98 and efficiency between 85 to 110% were considered optimized. Samples were run in duplicate and the results are expressed relative to *rps18* and *actb* levels. Data were then normalized to a calibrator sample using $\Delta\Delta C_q$ method as previously described (Pfaffl, 2001).

Statistical analysis

The homogeneity of the variances between groups was verified by Levene's test. The results were analyzed using a two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test followed by Tukey's test. The minimum significance level was set at 95% ($P < 0.05$). All analyses were performed using Statistica Software (StatSoft, Inc.), version 7.0. The results are presented as the mean \pm standard error (s.e.m).

Results

Total phenolic compounds

We evaluated the concentration of phenolic compounds in the four groups of fish feed used in this experiment prior to the experimental administration. Diets containing rutin showed higher concentrations of phenolic compounds when compared to control and OTC diets ($P < 0.05$) (Fig. 1).

Plasma parameters

The plasma levels of GLU, LDH, TRI, CHO, HDL and AST did not differ significantly between the groups of fishes treated with the four different groups of diets. The levels of URE were higher in fish fed with OTC diet compared to those from the RUT diet group. In addition, fish fed with OTC diet had higher ALT levels compared to all other experimental groups. The plasma levels of CRE in fish fed with OTC diet were higher than in those fed RUT or RUT+OTC diets (Table 3).

Oxidative parameters

Liver and Head kidney

Protein contents in samples of liver and head kidney from fishes treated with the four different diets did not differ among the experimental groups. The LPO levels, determined by TBARS, were the highest both in the liver and in the head kidney in fish fed OTC diet group, and this treatment group also presented higher LOOH values than fish from control and RUT groups in both tissues. The LOOH values in the liver and in the head kidney of fishes fed RUT+OTC diet was higher than those fed RUT diet and lower than fish that received OTC diet. In relation to protein damage, fish fed OTC diet showed higher PC levels than control, RUT and RUT+OTC groups (Table 4). Enzymatic activity of SOD was lower in fish fed OTC diet compared to those fed with RUT diet and higher in fish fed RUT+OTC diet than OTC diet in liver samples (Fig.2A). CAT activity was lower in fish fed OTC diet compared with control and RUT groups. Fish fed RUT+OTC diet showed lower CAT activity compared to control and RUT groups, but higher activity when compared with OTC group in liver samples (Fig. 2B) and in head kidney samples (Fig. 3A). The activity of GST was lower in the liver of fishes fed OTC diet than those fed control, RUT and RUT+OTC diets (Fig. 2C), and the same pattern of activity happens in the head kidney (Fig. 3B).

NPSH content were lower in fish fed OTC diet compared to control and RUT groups. Fish fed RUT+OTC diet showed a lower content of NPSH than those fed RUT diet, but a higher content than fish fed OTC diet, returning values close to the control diet in the liver (Fig. 4A). The AA content in liver samples was lower in fish fed OTC diet than control and RUT diets. Fish fed RUT+OTC diet presented lower AA content than fish fed these diets but higher than those fed OTC diet (Fig. 4B).

The NPSH content was lower in fish fed OTC diet compared to control, RUT and RUT+OTC diets (Fig. 5A). The AA content in the head kidney presented the same pattern of activity when compared to the liver (Fig. 5B).

Metabolic parameters

Fish fed OTC diet showed depletion of hepatic glycogen compared with other experimental groups (Fig. 6A). In contrast, fish fed OTC diet had a higher level of hepatic glucose compared to those fed RUT and RUT+OTC diets (Fig. 6B). There was no significant difference between groups for hepatic lactate (Fig. 6C).

Molecular parameters

Prolactin (*prl*) and somatolactin (*smtl*) gene expressions were evaluated by quantitative PCR in pituitary glands from control, RUT, OTC or RUT+OTC treated fishes. Prolactin relative mRNA expression was downregulated in fish fed with OTC and RUT+OTC diets when compared to fish fed with RUT diet (Fig. 7A). No differences in relative mRNA expression of somatolactin (*smtl*) in pituitary tissue (Fig. 7B) were observed at the end of the experimental period.

Discussion

Total phenolic compounds

Natural products may be an alternative to reduce the damage caused by the use of antibiotics (Pari and Gnanasoundari, 2006, Yonar et al., 2011, Yonar, 2012). Rutin, the flavonoid analyzed in this work, is a natural flavone that is derivative composed of flavonol, quercetin and disaccharide rutinose (Calabró et al., 2005). The results of our study showed that diets containing rutin had higher levels of phenolic compounds when compared to control and OTC diets. These phenolic compounds are organic aromatic compounds present in plants as secondary metabolites. They have at least one hydroxyl group attached directly to a benzene

ring (Sandhar et al., 2011). Antioxidant, hepatoprotective, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, among others properties of flavonoids, such as rutin, have been related to the presence of these phenolic compounds (Kumar and Pandey, 2013). Thus, the beneficial effects of rutin observed in the analyzed parameters can be due to the amount of phenolic compounds proven present in the diets.

Plasma parameters

ALT is a liver enzyme and when damage takes place in this tissue, a leakage of enzymes occurs from the cells that have been damaged, so ALT activity increases in plasma. Thus, it can be said that increased plasma ALT activity may indicate hepatic damage (Ikeda et al., 1986). In the present study, OTC diet was related to increased plasma ALT activity in fishes. Plasma ALT activity did not increase in fish fed RUT+OTC diet, which demonstrates the hepatoprotective capacity of rutin reported in previous studies (Khan et al., 2012, Shenbagam and Nalini, 2011).

The use of antibiotics may lead to kidney damage such as nephrotoxicity (Jose et al., 2017). CRE and URE are markers of renal function that may indicate the presence of tissue damage. We observed that the dietary administration of OTC is related to an increase in these markers in fishes, confirming that silver catfish kidney is damaged after the use of this antibiotic. The increase in plasma levels of CRE may be due to the development of glomerular insufficiency that is attributed to the increase in production of ROS (Hashish et al., 2015) in silver catfish who consumed the OTC diet. Rutin decreased CRE levels when administered concomitantly with OTC, demonstrating that it is able to bring the values of this marker of renal function close to the control values.

Oxidative parameters

Production of reactive oxygen intermediates occurs during the normal cell metabolism through partial reductions of oxygen (O_2) such as superoxide anion ($O_2^{\bullet-}$), hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), hydroxyl radical (OH^{\bullet}) and singlet oxygen (1O_2), known as reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Chance et al., 1979). ROS act as regulatory mediators in cellular signaling processes, proving their importance in low concentrations (Dröge, 2002). Oxidative damages are

physiological when there is a balance between pro-oxidants (ROS) and antioxidants parameters (Jones, 2008). However, if any disturbance leads to imbalance between these two components, ROS levels become greater than the physiologically accepted levels. This excess of ROS can lead to the situation called oxidative stress (OS). OS is defined as macromolecular non-physiological damage that leads to a disruption of redox signaling and control and/or molecular damage (Sies, 2015, Welker et al., 2013).

Oxidative damages can cause the oxidation of biomolecules, such as proteins and lipids, leading to lipoperoxidation (LPO), which causes changes in the structure and permeability of the cell membrane; DNA damage, causing mutations; and disruption of cellular homeostasis, leading to injury and even cell death (Lushchak, 2011). However, animals have strategies for cellular defense against ROS, which include enzymatic defenses such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), among others, and non-enzymatic defenses such as glutathione (GSH) (Saccol et al., 2016).

Liver

Liver has fundamental functions in the body such as processing, distribution and supply of nutrients to other tissues and organs through blood circulation. In addition, it is a detoxifying organ, reacting primarily after stress caused by toxic substances (Lehninger et al., 2002). Our results demonstrate that silver catfish fed with OTC diet increased LPO levels. LPO leads to cell membrane damage and can be caused by metals, xenobiotics, pesticides and antibiotics (Yonar, 2012). The antibiotic used in this study, OTC, inhibits mitochondrial β -oxidation causing a rupture in the respiratory chain and thus produces $O_2^{\cdot-}$. In turn, $O_2^{\cdot-}$ produces more ROS and oxidative damage occurs (Pari and Gnanasoundari, 2006).

Halling-Sørensen et al., (2002) state that OTC can be degraded into 4-epi-oxytetracycline (4-EOTC), α -apooxitetracycline, β -apo-oxytetracycline and terrinolide, and 4-EOTC is an important product of degradation (Le et al., 2012). In addition, it has been reported that 73-90% of OTC can be degraded in aqueous solution (Jiao et al., 2008). The same study further states that the 4-EOTC residue may have the same or greater toxicity compared to OTC. It is possible that damage caused by OTC in the liver of silver catfish may be due to such OTC residues in the aqueous environment since the liver is the primary site of metabolism of antibiotics.

Natural compounds have shown efficacy in improving oxidative parameters when given along with OTC. LPO levels decreased in the liver of rats injected intraperitoneally with 200 mg.kg⁻¹ OTC with concomitant administration of 50 mg.kg⁻¹ of the flavonoid naringenin orally for 15 days (Pari and Gnanasoundari, 2006). Flavonoids, such as rutin, are known for their antioxidant capacity of free radical scavengers (Pal et al., 2009). The scavenging activity is attributed to its ability to donate hydrogens. Thus, the phenolic groups of these substances are a source of hydrogen atoms available to collect free radicals (Tripoli et al., 2007) produced by the consumption of OTC. The antioxidant action of rutin may explain the decrease in hepatic LPO levels in silver catfish fed RUT.

In addition to LPO, oxidative damages (OD) can increase protein oxidation levels. ROS cause oxidative modification of proteins leading to rapid degradation (Stadtman, 1992). Protein oxidation products are widely used as biomarkers of OD in humans, but are little used as potential biomarkers in fish (Almroth et al., 2008). Our results demonstrate that dietary OTC was able to increase protein carbonyls levels in silver catfish liver. Such changes are characterized as a metal-catalyzed oxidation of proteins. Basically, cations of the redox cycle, such as Fe⁺² or Cu⁺², can bind to cationic binding sites in proteins and together with ROS, H₂O₂ for example, can transform side chain amine groups of amino acids into carbonyls (Reznick and Packer, 1994). Rutin was able to maintain PC values in RUT+OTC group close to control and RUT diets. In agreement with our results, Hort et al. (2008), demonstrated that the ethyl acetate fraction of *Cyathea phalerata* Mart., which contains rutin, administered 10, 30 or 100 mg.kg⁻¹ orally to mice with oxidative stress induced by carbon tetrachloride resulted in decreased hepatic PC levels.

Evolutionarily aerobic organisms have developed an antioxidant defense system that includes enzymatic and non-enzymatic defenses (Halliwell and Gutteridge, 2007). The enzyme SOD catalyzes the dismutation of the O₂^{•-} in O₂ and H₂O₂ and it is widely diffused in organisms that possess oxygen-metabolizing cells (Gregory et al., 1974). CAT is an enzyme found in peroxisomes and has the function of metabolizing H₂O₂ in O₂ and water (H₂O) (Yilmaz et al., 2006). Finally, GST is an enzyme with detoxification mechanism that involves conjugation with the catalytic substrate and oxidative reduction with GSH (Mannervik and Danielson, 1988).

Our results show that total SOD, CAT and GST activities were lower in liver of fishes treated only with OTC in the diet compared to RUT diet. This reduction in enzyme activities may be due to an accumulation of free radicals, as O₂^{•-} and H₂O₂, in liver of OTC-fed fish. These data are corroborated by studies of Yonar et al. (2011, 2012) showing a decrease in antioxidant

enzyme activities in rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, W. treated with OTC in diet. Administration of RUT (50 and 70 mg.kg⁻¹) increased the activities of antioxidant enzymes SOD, CAT and GST in rats with hepatic stress induced by carbon tetrachloride (Khan et al., 2012). This increase may be due to the ability of rutin to reduce the accumulation of free radicals generated during the LPO.

In addition to antioxidant protection exerted by enzymes, there are non-enzymatic endogenous antioxidants such as GSH and AA. GSH is a non-protein thiol widely present in cells and participates in the maintenance of cellular redox status. This status is the relationship between the concentration of pro-oxidants and reducing antioxidants (Forman and Dickinson, 2003). AA or vitamin C is a water-soluble antioxidant and it captures ROS as O₂^{•-} and also reactive nitrogen species (RNS) (Elliott et al., 1995).

We observed a decrease in the content of GSH and AA in the liver of silver catfish fed with diet containing only OTC. The lower levels of non-enzymatic antioxidants may be due to their great use in an attempt to reduce the amount of free radicals produced during OTC consumption, as found in experiments with administration of OTC in mice (Pari and Gnanasoundari, 2006) and fish (Yonar et al., 2011, 2012). Moreover, during the Phase II in metabolism of xenobiotics, which makes molecules such as OTC excretable, there is the conjugation of liver enzymes with GSH to protect the body against these chemically reactive compounds or their metabolites (Burkina et al., 2015). Depletion of GSH levels in liver of fish fed OTC can be explained by the metabolism of this drug in the liver of these animals.

Despite the decrease of GSH and AA by dietary OTC supplementation, RUT and RUT+OTC diets led to higher concentrations of these parameters compared to the OTC diet. An *in vitro* study with raspberry *Rubus geoides* Sm. demonstrated that phenolic compounds present in plants, such as quercetin, were able to increase GSH levels in cell culture with stress induced by H₂O₂ and methylglyoxal (Jiménez-Aspee et al., 2016). This is in accordance with our results with the dietary RUT supplementation.

Briefly, dietary OTC was able to cause oxidative damage in liver of silver catfish. This was explained by the increase in LPO and PC levels, decrease in total SOD, CAT and GST activities, as well as the decrease in GSH and AA concentrations. Dietary RUT was able to reduce the oxidative damage caused by OTC because it decreased pro-oxidant levels, increased enzymatic activity and the concentration of non-enzymatic antioxidants when given together with the antibiotic.

Head kidney

Head kidney is an organ analogous to the mammalian adrenal gland (Gallo and Civinini, 2003). In teleost fish, such as silver catfish, head kidney is a hematopoietic organ, responsible for the origin and formation of red blood cells, lymphocytes, monocytes, granulocytes and thrombocytes along with the spleen (Tavares and Moraes, 2004). In addition, it has endocrine and immune functions. Thus, it promotes important immunoendocrine interaction in both systems, acting on the production of antibodies and catecholamines (Weyts et al., 1999). Immunity in fish has been correlated with the normal structure and functioning of the cephalic kidney (Kuang et al., 2012). In the case of other vertebrates such as rats, normal kidney structure and function is partially related to oxidative status (Liu et al., 2010). Isoleucine is able to decrease TBARS and PC levels and increase the activity of antioxidant enzymes in the head kidney of juvenile Jian carp (*Cyprinus carpio* var. Jian) (Zhao et al., 2013), demonstrating that this organ may be a good indicator of oxidative changes caused by dietary additives.

Our results demonstrate that dietary OTC increased LPO levels and protein oxidation in the cephalic kidney. The contents of non-enzymatic antioxidants and enzymatic activities were lower in the head kidney of silver catfish fed OTC diet. Since this organ is susceptible to oxidative damage as much as other organs, it can be stated that the production of free radicals through the administration of OTC can impair the immune function of this organ. This loss is evidenced by increased LPO and decreased antioxidant defense. Dietary RUT decreased LPO because fish fed RUT+OTC diet showed lower TBARS and LOOH in the cephalic kidney than those fed OTC diet. The activities of CAT and GST were higher in the cephalic kidney of the fish that received RUT+OTC diet. Finally, the contents of non-enzymatic antioxidants were higher in fish fed RUT+OTC diet than the OTC diet. Previous studies have reported that dietary addition of leucine (Giri et al., 2015) and isoleucine (Zhao et al., 2013) to *Labeo rohita* fingerlings and *C. carpio* var. Jian, respectively, increased the activity of antioxidant enzymes, such as SOD and glutathione peroxidase (GPx), and decreased TBARS and PC levels. In the case of the target substance of our work, RUT extracted from *Toona sinensis* improved immunity parameters of white shrimp infected with *Vibrio alginolyticus* (Hsieh et al., 2008). In our study, dietary RUT indirectly improved immune parameters, as it improved oxidative parameters of the head kidney, which are linked to the maintenance and functioning of this organ that is part of the immune system.

Metabolic parameters

In fishes, liver controls the mobilization of glucose and participates in the storage of endogenous carbohydrates, among other functions (Viegas et al., 2012). Glucose is a nutrient that can be captured from diet, glycogen stores, or lactate and amino acids through gluconeogenesis (Felber and Golay, 1995). The most important source of energy for vertebrates and invertebrates in response to environmental stresses is glycogen metabolism (Bacca et al., 2005). During stress situations plasma glucose level is maintained from the hepatic production of glucose and, therefore, hepatic glycogen is used (Navarro and Gutiérrez, 1995). Our study showed that there was no significant difference in plasma glucose in the group that consumed the OTC stressor when compared with control, RUT and RUT+OTC diets, and that hepatic glucose increased as glycogen levels decreased in fish fed OTC. The hepatic lactate content of silver catfish was not influenced by the dietary addition of rutin or OTC.

Fishes under stress conditions use liver glycogen as a way to provide glucose thus serving as an energy source for the body to adapt to environmental changes (Iwama et al., 2004). Thus, we can infer that OTC caused undesirable changes in glucose and glycogen, and that RUT was able to minimize such changes.

Molecular parameters

The endocrine system is important to maintain the internal balance of the organism in the face of environmental changes (Laiz-Carrión et al., 2009). Previous studies have shown that somatolactin (*smtl*) and prolactin (*prl*) are related to homeostasis in several physiological processes as a response to transitions in the environment (Rand-Weaver and Kawauchi, 1992, Kaneko, 1996). *Smtl* is a pituitary hormone identified in several species of fishes (Takayama et al., 1991), but its physiological functions have not yet been fully elucidated. *Smtl* may be related to stress response, sexual maturation, calcium regulation, fat metabolism and adaptation to background environments (Kaneko, 1996). Our study demonstrated that dietary addition of rutin and/or OTC did not cause dysregulation in the expression of the gene encoding somatolactin (*smtl*). Pês et al. (2016), in a study with silver catfish fed a diet

enriched with 0.15% or 0.30% of rutin for 21 days, also showed that there was no change in the expression of pituitary *smtl*.

In fishes, prolactin participates in the regulation of water and electrolyte balance, growth and development, metabolism, behavior, reproduction, and immunoregulation and protection (Manzon, 2001). In the present study, dietary rutin by itself did not change *prl* expression in silver catfish, as observed by Pês et al. (2016) in the same species. However, we observed a downregulation in the expression of the gene encoding prolactin in fish fed with OTC and that rutin was not able to protect against this alteration.

Conclusions

We conclude that dietary oxytetracycline administration is a stress factor to silver catfish when taking into account the negative changes in metabolic, oxidative and molecular parameters. In addition, dietary rutin is able to prevent most of the damages induced by dietary oxytetracycline, proving to be a beneficial compound for fish diet. However, further investigations are needed to elucidate the mechanism of protection and the potential usefulness of RUT as a protective agent against antibiotic damages.

Competing interests

No competing interests declared.

Author contributions

E.P.L. performed all the analyses, calculations, data analysis and interpretation, participated in the design of the study and drafted the manuscript; T.S.P. and E.M.H.S. participated in experimental design, experimental procedures, analysis and in draft the writing the manuscript; K.B. performed molecular analyses, interpretation of the results and assisted in writing the manuscript; A.Q.A provided the structure for molecular experiments; B.B. and M.A.P. participated in designing the experiment, interpretation of the results and assisted in writing the manuscript.

Funding

Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) (processes number 301156/2012-3 and 406240/2015), the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) and INCT ADAPTA-CNPq-Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Amazonas.

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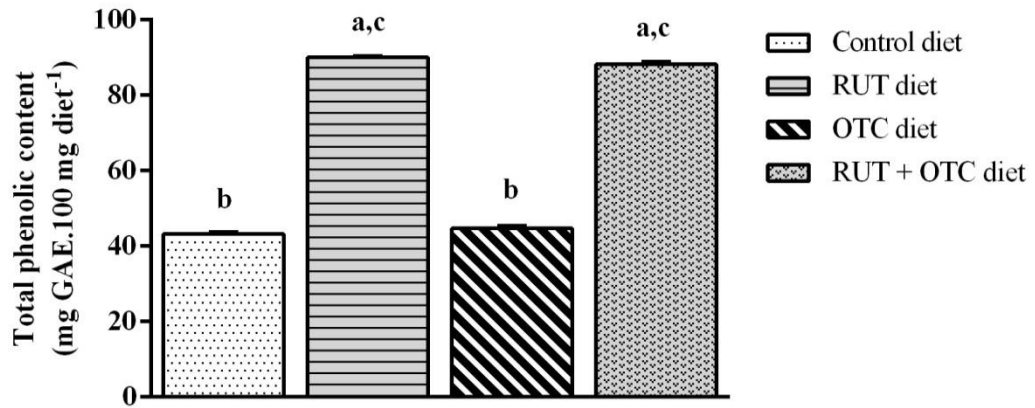
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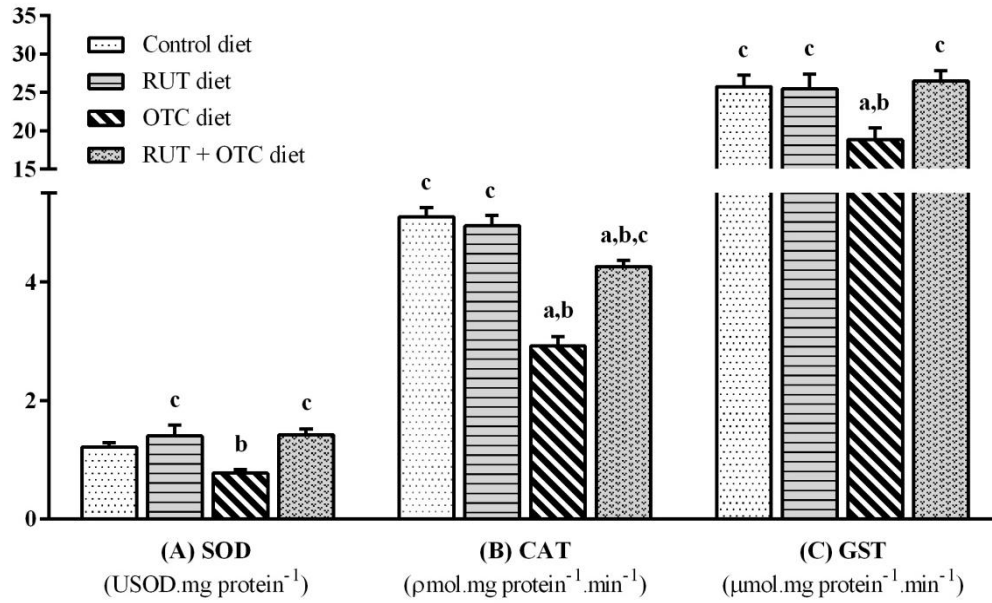
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Fig. 1. Total phenolic content of diets containing rutin (RUT) and/or oxytetracycline (OTC).



Data appear as the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 3); GAE (gallic acid equivalents). Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups ($P < 0.05$).

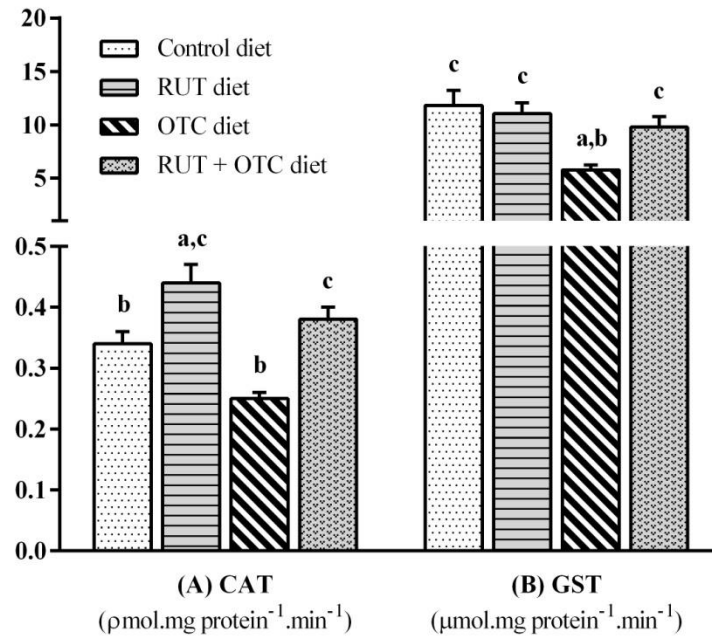
Fig. 2. Effects of rutin (RUT), oxytetracycline (OTC) or rutin and oxytetracycline (RUT+OTC) on the activities of (A) SOD, (B) CAT and (C) GST in *Rhamdia quelen* liver.



Each bar represents the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 10).

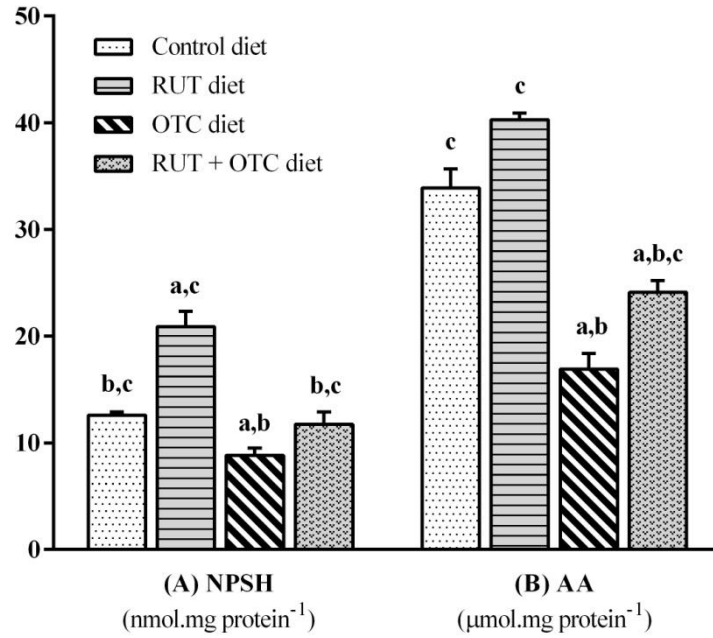
Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

Fig. 3. Effects of rutin (RUT), oxytetracycline (OTC) or rutin and oxytetracycline (RUT+OTC) on the activities of (A) CAT and (B) GST in *Rhamdia quelen* head kidney.



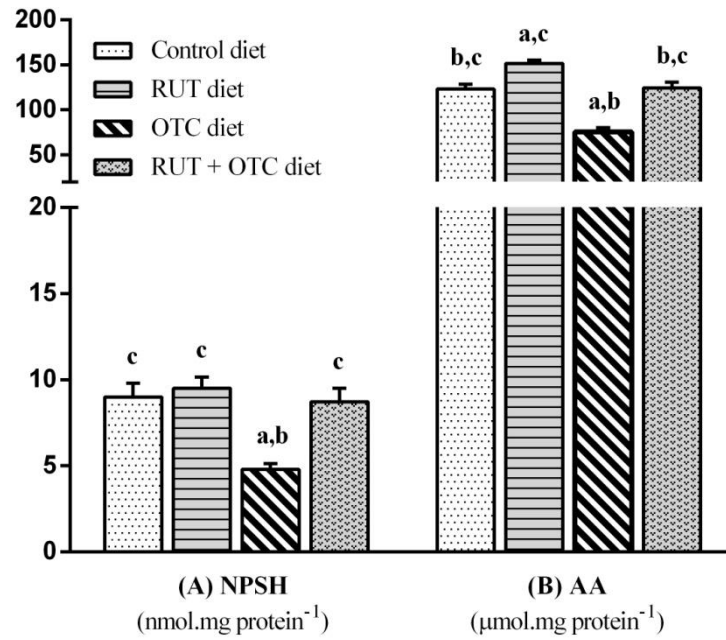
Each bar represents the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 10).
 Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

Fig. 4. Effects of (RUT), oxytetracycline (OTC) or rutin and oxytetracycline (RUT+OTC) on (A) NPSH levels and (B) AA levels in *Rhamdia quelen* liver.



Each bar represents the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 10).
 Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

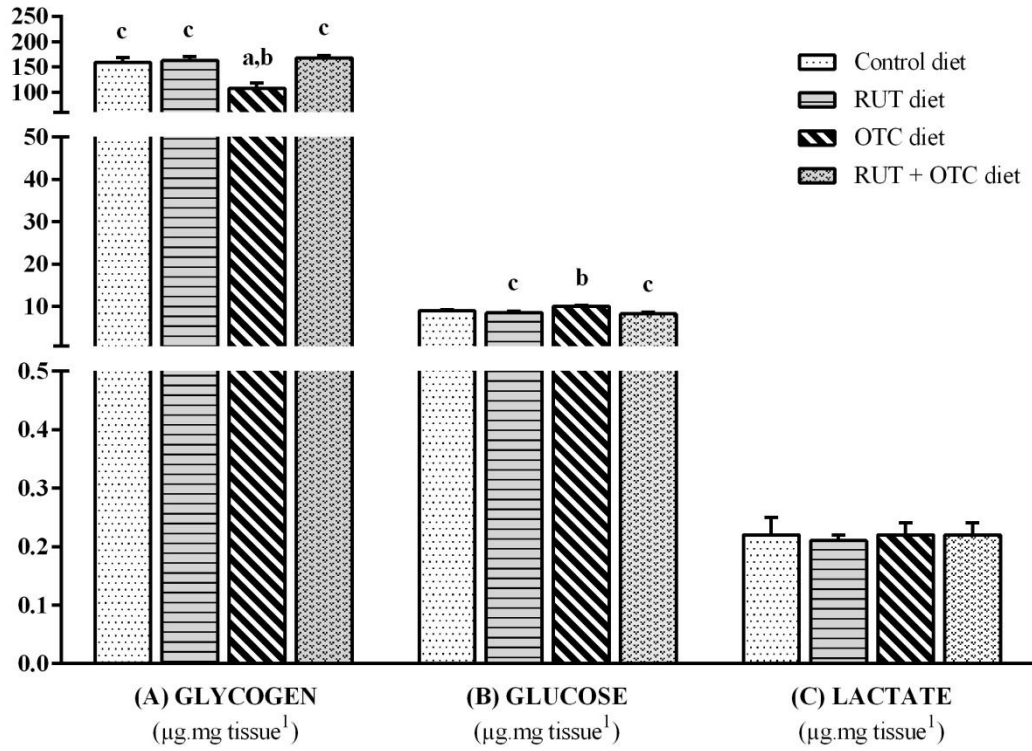
Fig. 5. Effects of rutin (RUT), oxytetracycline (OTC) or rutin and oxytetracycline (RUT+OTC) on (A) NPSH levels and (B) AA levels in *Rhamdia quelen* head kidney.



Each bar represents the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 10).

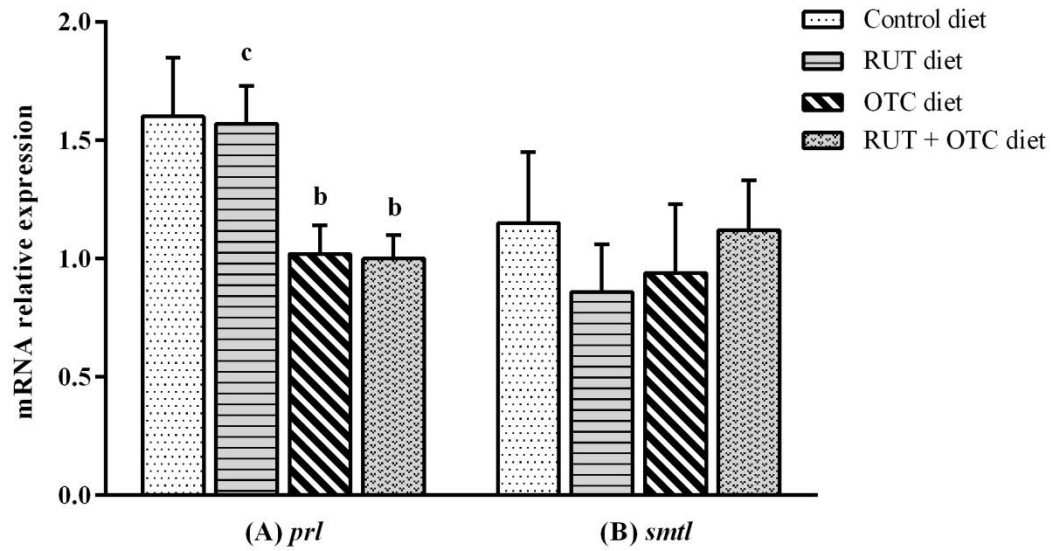
Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

Fig. 6. (A) Glycogen, (B) glucose and (C) lactate in liver of *Rhamdia quelen* fed diets containing rutin (RUT) and/or oxytetracycline (OTC).



The data appear as the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 10).
Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 7. Relative mRNA expression of (A) prolactin (*prl*) and (B) somatolactin (*smtl*) in the pituitary gland of *Rhamdia quelen* fed with diets containing rutin (RUT) and/or oxytetracycline (OTC).



The data appear as the mean \pm s.e.m (n = 8).
Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

Table 1 - Formulation (%) of the experimental diets.

Ingredients	(%)
Soybean meal	30
Meat and bone meal	35
Rice bran	12
Corn	15
Canola oil	3
Salt	1
Vitamins and minerals (premix) ^a	3
Phosphate dicalcium	1

^aVitamin and mineral mixture (security levels per kilogram of product) — folic acid: 250 mg, pantothenic acid: 5,000 mg, antioxidant: 0.60 g, biotin: 125 mg, cobalt: 25 mg, copper: 2000 mg, iron: 820 mg, iodo: 100 mg, manganese: 3750 mg, niacin: 5000 mg, selenium: 75 mg, vitamin A: 1,000,000 UI, vitamin B1: 1250 mg, vitamin B12: 3750 mcg, vitamin B2: 2500 mg, vitamin B6: 2485 mg, vitamin C: 28,000 mg, vitamin D3: 500,000 UI, vitamin E: 20,000 UI, vitamin K: 500 mg, zinc: 17,500 mg.

Table 2 – Primers sequences used in Real Time PCR based on Baldisserotto et al. (2014).

Gene	Primer sequence
<i>actb</i>	F – GCAATGCCAGGGTACATGGT R – CCACCTTCAACTCCATCATGAA
<i>rps18</i>	F – AACCAGACAAATCGCTCCAC R – CCTGCGGCTTAATTTGACTC
<i>Smtl</i>	F – CGAGGCCAGGACTTTGTTTG R – GACGCGCACAAAGTTTGAT
<i>Prl</i>	F – ACCAGAGACAGGAGCTCGTTCT R – AGCTCATGAGACCGTCCATGT

Table 3 - Hematological parameters of the silver catfish *Rhamdia quelen* fed with diets containing rutin (RUT), oxytetracycline (OTC) or a combination of both (RUT + OTC).

	Diets			
	<i>Control</i>	<i>RUT</i>	<i>OTC</i>	<i>RUT + OTC</i>
GLU	37.75 ± 6.79	24.75 ± 2.45	33.48 ± 4.37	32.84 ± 2.89
LDH	1587.97 ± 127.32	1660.05 ± 25.16	1858.96 ± 41.50	1691.86 ± 109.22
TRI	168.52 ± 15.67	134.41 ± 11.32	162.24 ± 4.82	143.47 ± 5.62
CHO	133.39 ± 23,16	142.34 ± 11.89	147.96 ± 16.67	142.23 ± 17.49
HDL	145.26 ± 13.81	149.07 ± 13.81	119.59 ± 13.45	141.90 ± 15.55
ALT	10.91 ± 1.17 ^c	13.24 ± 0.85 ^c	27.06 ± 0.86 ^{a,b}	14.66 ± 0.91 ^c
AST	24.74 ± 2.07	22.70 ± 1.30	29.51 ± 1.54	25.10 ± 1.96
CRE	0.75 ± 0.03 ^c	0.61 ± 0.05 ^c	0.96 ± 0.04 ^{a,b}	0.71 ± 0.05 ^c
URE	11.49 ± 0.82	9.98 ± 0.58 ^c	14.37 ± 0.78 ^b	12.28 ± 0.96

GLU — glucose (mg.dL⁻¹), *LDH* — lactate dehydrogenase (U.L⁻¹), *TRI* — triglycerides (mg.dL⁻¹), *CHO* — cholesterol (mg.dL⁻¹), *HDL* — high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mg.dL⁻¹), *ALT* — alanine aminotransferase (U.L⁻¹), *AST* — aspartate aminotransferase (U.L⁻¹), *CRE* — creatinine (mg.dL⁻¹), *URE* — urea (mg.dL⁻¹). Data are presented as the mean ± s.e.m. (n = 10). Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

Table 4 - Biomarkers of oxidative damage in the liver and head kidney of *Rhamdia quelen* fed with diet containing rutin (RUT) and/or oxytetracycline (OTC).

	Diets			
	<i>Control</i>	<i>RUT</i>	<i>OTC</i>	<i>RUT + OTC</i>
<i>Liver</i>				
PROTEIN	11.98 ± 0.28	12.48 ± 0.36	11.89 ± 0.49	10.84 ± 0.41
TBARS	1.24 ± 0.07 ^c	1.02 ± 0.05 ^c	1.64 ± 0.06 ^{a,b}	1.34 ± 0.05 ^c
LOOH	5.79 ± 0.40 ^c	4.19 ± 0.32 ^c	8.47 ± 0.43 ^{a,b}	6.24 ± 0.70 ^{b,c}
PC	2.09 ± 0.10 ^c	1.96 ± 0.14 ^c	2.71 ± 0.16 ^{a,b}	2.24 ± 0,07 ^c
<i>Head kidney</i>				
PROTEIN	25.15 ± 1.64	26.16 ± 1.48	23.03 ± 0.77	24.92 ± 1.69
TBARS	0.25 ± 0.02 ^c	0.24 ± 0.02 ^c	0.35 ± 0.01 ^{a,b}	0.26 ± 0.02 ^c
LOOH	1.83 ± 0.31 ^c	1.11 ± 0.17 ^c	5.87 ± 0.56 ^{a,b}	2.63 ± 0.20 ^{b,c}
PC	1.91 ± 0.15 ^c	1.95 ± 0.14 ^c	2.56 ± 0.10 ^{a,b}	2.09 ± 0.08

PROTEIN — protein content (mg.mL⁻¹), *TBARS* — thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (nmol.mg protein⁻¹), *LOOH*— lipid hydroperoxide (nmol.mg protein⁻¹) and *PC* — protein carbonyls (nmol.mg protein⁻¹). Data are presented as the mean ± s.e.m. (n = 10). Different letters in the rows indicate significant difference between groups (P < 0.05).

5 CONCLUSÕES GERAIS

- A OTC aumentou os níveis de ALT, CRE e URE no plasma, sendo que a RUT diminuiu esses níveis.

- A OTC aumentou os níveis de LPO e oxidação de proteínas, diminuiu a atividade das enzimas antioxidantes e diminuiu os níveis de antioxidantes não enzimáticos no fígado e rim cefálico. A RUT conseguiu, de modo geral, reverter esses parâmetros.

- A OTC diminuiu o glicogênio hepático e aumentou a glicose hepática. A RUT, por sua vez, aumentou as reservas de glicogênio e baixou os níveis glicêmicos.

- A OTC regulou negativamente a expressão do gene que codifica a prolactina na hipófise de jundiás.

Dessa forma, a OTC causou danos nos tecidos analisados, ao passo que a RUT demonstrou ser benéfica para jundiás, quando administrada concomitantemente com a OTC, pois conseguiu reverter, de modo geral, os parâmetros analisados.

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