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**RESPOSTAS BIOQUÍMICAS EM CARPAS (*Cyprinus carpio*)
EXPOSTAS A DUAS FORMULAÇÕES COMERCIAIS DE
INSETICIDAS EM CONDIÇÕES DE LAVOURA DE ARROZ E
EM LABORATÓRIO**

TESE DE DOUTORADO

Bárbara Estevão Clasen

Santa Maria, RS, Brasil

2012

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LABORATÓRIO**

por

Bárbara Estevão Clasen

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elaborada por
Bárbara Estevão Clasen

como requisito parcial para a obtenção do grau de
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COMISSÃO EXAMINADORA

Vania Lucia Loro, Dr^a.
(Orientador – Presidente)

Adalto Bianchini, Dr. (FURG)

Maribel Antonello Rubin, Dr^a. (UFSM)

Bernardo Baldisserotto, Dr. (UFSM)

Denise dos S. Miron, Dr^a. (FURG)

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*“Eu acredito demais na sorte.
E tenho constatado que,
quanto mais duro eu trabalho,
mais sorte eu tenho.”
(Thomas Jefferson)*

RESUMO

Tese de Doutorado
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Biológicas: Bioquímica Toxicológica
Universidade Federal de Santa Maria

RESPOSTAS BIOQUÍMICAS EM CARPAS (*Cyprinus carpio*) EXPOSTAS A DUAS FORMULAÇÕES COMERCIAIS DE INSETICIDAS EM CONDIÇÕES DE LAVOURA DE ARROZ E EM LABORATÓRIO

AUTORA: BÁRBARA ESTEVÃO CLASEN

ORIENTADOR: VANIA LUCIA LORO

Data e Local da Defesa: Santa Maria, 27 de julho de 2012.

Os pesticidas são substâncias amplamente usadas na agricultura, pois os mesmos possibilitam o aumento da produtividade. Entretanto, seu uso desordenado e excessivo vem provocando diversos impactos sobre o meio ambiente. Em razão disso neste estudo investigaram-se os efeitos da exposição de carpas (*Cyprinus carpio*) aos inseticidas carbofuran (2 anos agrícolas) e fipronil (1 ano agrícola) em condição de lavoura de arroz irrigado por 7, 30 e 90 dias, bem como em condição de laboratório por 30 dias. Além de avaliações de parâmetros de crescimento e de resíduos dos pesticidas na água. A atividade SOD em fígado aumentou após 7, 30 e 90 dias de exposição a 50,0 µg/L de carbofuran sob condições de lavoura de arroz irrigado nos anos 1 e 2. Uma diminuição na atividade da CAT hepática foi observada após 30 dias de exposição em ambos os anos experimentais. Na atividade da GST em fígado ocorreu um aumento significativo após 30 dias de exposição, e uma diminuição após 7 e 90 dias em ambos os anos experimentais. Os níveis de proteína carbonil diminuíram após 90 dias no primeiro ano experimental. Durante o segundo ano experimental, os níveis de proteína carbonil foram reduzidos em todos os períodos de exposição. Em ambos os anos experimentais, os níveis de TBARS aumentaram significativamente em cérebro após todos os períodos analisados, enquanto que no fígado e músculo um aumento significativo ocorreu apenas após 30 e 90 dias de exposição. O carbofuran não influenciou significativamente o crescimento dos peixes quando comparado ao grupo controle em ambos os anos experimentais. A atividade da SOD em fígado aumentou enquanto a atividade hepática da CAT foi inibida nos períodos de 7, 30 e 90 dias de exposição ao fipronil em condições de lavoura de arroz irrigado. Não foram observadas alterações na atividade da GST em todos os períodos experimentais. O conteúdo de proteína carbonil aumentou após 30 e 90 dias de exposição, ao passo que, os níveis TBARS aumentaram em todos os tecidos analisados (músculo, fígado e cérebro) e períodos analisados. Em relação ao crescimento das carpas durante o período experimental, não foram observadas diferenças significativas nos peixes tratados com fipronil em relação ao grupo controle. Em um terceiro estudo realizaram-se avaliações em carpas expostas aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil por 30 dias em condições de laboratório. Ocorreu um aumento nos níveis de TBARS em fígado, músculo e cérebro dos peixes, assim como da carbonilação de proteínas em fígado após exposição a ambos os inseticidas testados. A atividade da CAT hepática permaneceu inalterada assim como a GST em fígado, músculo e cérebro tanto na exposição ao carbofuran como ao fipronil. O sistema antioxidante não enzimático

apresentou aumento dos níveis de GSH em fígado após exposição a ambos inseticidas, enquanto que, em músculo e cérebro não se alteraram. Assim como, demonstrou aumento nos níveis de ácido ascórbico em fígado, músculo e cérebro após exposição ao inseticida carbofuran. Após exposição ao fipronil somente ocorreu aumento dos níveis deste parâmetro em cérebro. A atividade da enzima AChE mostrou-se inibida em cérebro e músculo dos peixes após exposição a ambos os inseticidas. Os resultados obtidos nestes estudos mostram que os inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil provocam desordens em parâmetros bioquímicos nos peixes expostos em condições de campo bem como, em condições de laboratório. Evidenciou-se a ocorrência de estresse oxidativo, sem afetar na sobrevivência dos peixes, mas podendo ser prejudicial para a saúde destes.

Palavras-chave: carpa (*Cyprinus carpio*), inseticidas, estresse oxidativo, parâmetros bioquímicos

ABSTRACT

Doctoral Thesis

Pos-Graduate Program in Toxicological Biochemistry

Universidade Federal de Santa Maria

BIOCHEMICAL RESPONSES IN CARP (*Cyprinus carpio*) EXPOSED TO TWO INSECTICIDE COMMERCIAL FORMULATIONS IN RICE FIELD CONDITIONS AND IN LABORATORY

AUTHOR: BÁRBARA ESTEVÃO CLASEN

SUPERVISOR: VANIA LUCIA LORO

Date and Place of the defense: July, 27th, 2012, Santa Maria

The pesticides are substances widely used in agriculture, because it enhances productivity. However, its excessive and disordered use has caused different impacts on the environment. Therefore, this study investigated the effects in carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) exposed to carbofuran (two agricultural years) and fipronil (one agricultural years) in rice field condition for 7, 30 and 90 days, as in laboratory condition for 30 days. In addition, evaluation of growth fish parameters and pesticides concentrations in the experimental water. The SOD activity in liver increased after 7, 30 and 90 days of exposure to 50.0 µg/L of carbofuran under rice field condition in the years 1 and 2. A decrease in hepatic CAT activity was showed after 30 days of exposure in both experimental years. GST activity in liver showed a significant increase after 30 days of exposure, and decrease after 7 and 90 days in both experimental years. Protein carbonyl levels decreased after 90 days in the first experimental year. During the second experimental year the protein carbonyl levels were reduced in all the periods of exposure. In both experimental years TBARS increased significantly in the brain after all periods studied, while in liver and muscle significant increase occurred only after 30 and 90 days of exposure. The carbofuran did not affect fish growth compared to control group in both experimental years. The SOD activity in liver increased whereas the hepatic activity of CAT was inhibited at 7, 30 and 90 days of exposure to fipronil. There were no changes in GST activity in all experimental periods. The protein carbonyl levels increased after 30 and 90 days of exposure, as TBARS levels increased in all the analyzed tissues (muscle, liver and brain) and periods analyzed. Regarding the growth of carp during the experimental period, no significant differences were observed in fish treated with fipronil when compared with the control group. In a third study were performed evaluations in carp exposed to the carbofuran and fipronil for 30 days in laboratory conditions. An increased in TBARS liver, muscle and brain of fish as the protein carbonyl levels in the liver after exposure to both insecticides tested. Liver CAT activity remained unaltered, as GST in liver, muscle and brain after exposure to carbofuran fipronil. The antioxidant enzymatic system showed an increase of GSH in the liver after exposure to both insecticides, whereas in the brain and muscle are not altered. Acid ascorbic levels demonstrated increased in liver, muscle and brain after exposure to carbofuran. After exposure to fipronil this parameter were increased only in the brain. The AChE activity was inhibited in brain and muscle of fish after exposure to both insecticides. The results from these studies show that carbofuran and fipronil cause disturbances in biochemical parameters of fish exposed in rice field as in laboratory condition. These studies revealed the occurrence of oxidative stress, without affecting the survival of fish, but can be harmful to your health.

Keywords: carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), insecticides, oxidative stress, toxicological parameters.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

AChE: acetilcolinesterase
CAT: catalase
DNPH: 2,4-dinitrofenilhidrazina
EROs: espécies reativas de oxigênio
GPx: glutaciona peroxidase
GSH: glutaciona reduzida
GST: glutaciona S-transferase
H₂O₂: peróxido de hidrogênio
LPO: peroxidação lipídica
MDA: malondialdeído
TBA: ácido 2-tiobarbitúrico
TBARS: substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico
SDS: lauril sulfato de sódio ou duodecil sulfato de sódio
SNC: sistema nervoso central
SNP: sistema nervoso periférico
SOD: superóxido dismutase

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1. INTRODUÇÃO

Na atividade agrícola, é indispensável a adoção de procedimentos para obter-se o aumento da produtividade. O controle de plantas daninhas, fungos e insetos na lavoura permitem um maior rendimento por área plantada, o que geralmente é realizado através da utilização de pesticidas (IRGA, 2001). O uso de pesticidas requer uma aplicação cuidadosa da quantidade adequada, bem como exige cuidados quanto à época indicada para o uso do pesticida. Cuidados relativos a estes fatores melhoram a qualidade nas colheitas e minimizam a possibilidade de intoxicações humanas e de animais (SOSBAI, 2007).

A Comunidade Económica Europeia estabeleceu em 0,1 mg/L a concentração máxima admissível de qualquer pesticida em águas; 0,5 mg/L para a soma total de resíduos e, 1 a 3 mg/L para pesticidas presentes em águas de superfície (Aguilar et al., 1997). A quantidade de agroquímicos nos recursos hídricos varia entre regiões e depende da dosagem aplicada, das características químicas do produto e das condições ambientais durante a aplicação nas culturas agrícolas (Hubert et al., 2000). O sistema pré-germinado de arroz tem se expandido no Brasil, especialmente no Rio Grande do Sul. Neste sistema, recomenda-se a semeadura do arroz em água. O sistema pré-germinado de cultivo de arroz, associado ao manejo de lâmina contínua de irrigação e o cultivo de peixes na mesma área, é uma alternativa de uso intensivo e sustentável de áreas de várzea. Assim, os peixes permanecem em refúgios situados no campo de arroz (Marchezan et al., 2006).

O consórcio arroz-peixe tem sido reconhecido como uma opção para melhorar a produtividade em países com agricultura baseada no cultivo de arroz (Dewan, 1992; Frei et al., 2007). A adoção deste sistema arroz-peixe pelos agricultores, usando peixes como agente de controle natural de organismos parasitas, oferece uma alternativa promissora para o desenvolvimento de estratégias de gestão ecológica minimizando o uso de pesticidas em ambientes de lavoura de arroz irrigado (Halwart, 1998). A associação arroz-peixe é uma alternativa de redução de custos, pois os peixes preparam o solo para a próxima safra de arroz, reciclam matéria orgânica e consomem sementes de ervas daninhas contidas no solo. Com estas medidas, o custo de produção do arroz diminui, visto que o uso de

produtos químicos é reduzido porque os peixes se encarregam de comer insetos, vermes e ervas daninhas (Boll et al., 1999; Berg, 2001).

Alguns estudos demonstraram aumento na produção de ambos, arroz e peixe, quando o sistema de consórcio foi utilizado (Uddin et al., 2001; Frei et al., 2007). Estudos com sistema arroz-peixe na China mostram bons resultados, onde são produzidos de 150 a 300 kg/ha de peixes, com o policultivo de 3 a 5 espécies em sistema de rizipiscicultura (Mackay, 1995). Autores como Mohanty et al., (2004) relatam aumento no rendimento do arroz cultivado em sistema de rizipiscicultura na Índia de cerca de 8,0%, quando comparado ao cultivo de arroz sem peixes. Estudos realizados em Bangladesh encontraram alto rendimento máximo dos peixes de 271 kg/ha, sem utilização de fertilizantes ou alimentação suplementar aplicada (Haroon e Pittman, 1997). No Brasil, Sato (2002) relata um aumento no rendimento do arroz irrigado quando cultivado em consórcio com peixes.

Segundo Berg (2002), a dependência de pesticidas na lavoura de arroz irrigado compromete a sustentabilidade do processo produtivo. No entanto, a rizipiscicultura é uma atividade sustentável onde os peixes são criados em associação com o arroz irrigado sem o uso de pesticidas. Por ser uma atividade recente no Brasil, existem poucas informações relacionadas à toxicidade de pesticidas utilizados na cultura de arroz irrigado em peixes de interesse comercial, quando expostos a estes produtos em sistemas de consórcio arroz-peixe. A importância do estudo destes efeitos está relacionada ao fato de os humanos estarem indiretamente sujeitos aos efeitos tóxicos destes pesticidas utilizados no sistema de cultivo arroz-peixe, através da alimentação, especialmente de peixes e produtos da pesca.

Os poluentes em ambientes aquáticos afetam a saúde e a sobrevivência dos peixes (Dezfuli et al., 2003). Os agroquímicos carbofuran e fipronil, ambos inseticidas, são registrados no Brasil para o controle de insetos em diferentes culturas, entre elas nas lavouras arrozeiras (Hagood e Herbert, 2012). Com relação aos inseticidas carbamatos, organofosforados e organoclorados que são os mais utilizados pelos agricultores no Rio Grande do Sul, o fipronil (Standak[®]) tem se mostrado menos tóxico em comparação com demais os inseticidas utilizados na cultura do arroz irrigado até o momento (Clasen et al., 2012)

Fipronil (Standak[®]) é um inseticida de amplo espectro e pertence à classe dos fenilpirazóis. É um inseticida de uso crescente identificado pela Agência de Proteção

Ambiental dos EUA como uma alternativa aos compostos organofosforados (USEPA, 2002; Chiovarou e Thomas, 2008). Desde a sua introdução no mercado, para uso em práticas agrícolas, o fipronil tem sido utilizado nas culturas de arroz, milho e algodão (USEPA, 1996; Stark e Vargas, 2005). É tóxico para muitos organismos não-alvo em concentrações ambientalmente elevadas. O fipronil age por bloqueio não-competitivo dos canais de cloreto dos receptores específicos GABA (gama-aminobutírico), resultando na interrupção da sinalização neuronal (Wirth et al., 2004; Tan et al., 2008). A concentração recomendada de fipronil em lavouras de arroz no Brasil é de 150 mL/ha (dose recomendada pelo fabricante BASF S.A.).

O carbofuran (Furadan[®]), pertence à classe dos carbamatos, é inseticida, nematicida e acaricida sistêmico de amplo espectro. Pertence ao grupo de N-metil-carbamatos, age como inibidor da colinesterase. Foi recentemente proibido nos Estados Unidos e Europa devido a causar efeitos tóxicos indesejados em aves, peixes, mamíferos, insetos e invertebrados aquáticos (USEPA, 2006). Embora o carbofuran esteja sendo reavaliado pelas autoridades brasileiras, ele ainda é legalmente aplicado em todo o país. A concentração recomendada da formulação comercial contendo carbofuran para lavouras de arroz no Brasil é de 4,0 kg/ha (dose recomendada pelo fabricante FMC do Brasil Ltda.).

Estudos considerando a associação arroz-peixe com o uso de pesticidas ainda são recentes no Brasil. Neste sentido, nosso grupo de pesquisa vem estudando espécies de peixes propícias para esta associação. Trabalhos anteriores utilizaram piavas e carpas em estudos iniciais para verificar a viabilidade desta associação (Moraes et al., 2009; 2011; Cattaneo et al., 2012). A carpa húngara (*Cyprinus carpio*) é originária da Ásia Ocidental. Atualmente, é cultivada em todos os continentes, devido a sua rusticidade, resistência a diferentes temperaturas e facilidade de criação. É uma espécie onívora que se alimenta de invertebrados, plantas, algas, larvas de insetos e crustáceos, podendo alimentar-se também de pequenos peixes (Querol et al., 2005; Mabuchi et al., 2006)

A medida de enzimas antioxidantes e acetilcolinesterase é muito utilizada para verificar possíveis efeitos tóxicos em peixes dos diferentes pesticidas utilizados nas culturas (Fernández-Vega et al., 2002; Moraes et al., 2009; Toni et al., 2010; Cattaneo et al., 2011).

Entre os efeitos que os pesticidas podem causar em peixes está a formação de espécies reativas de oxigênio (EROs) e alterações em antioxidantes enzimáticos e

não-enzimáticos, o que pode causar uma situação de estresse oxidativo. Em uma situação de estresse oxidativo pode ocorrer a peroxidação lipídica e a carbonilação de proteínas (Almroth et al., 2005; Parvez e Raisuddin, 2005). Os antioxidantes enzimáticos e não enzimáticos são essenciais para manter o funcionamento das células como uma importante defesa biológica contra o estresse oxidativo. A formação de EROs pode estar associada a diferentes processos patológicos em peixes expostos a poluentes, tais como os pesticidas (Livingstone, 2001). A catalase, superóxido dismutase e glutathione S-transferase são enzimas responsáveis pela proteção das células contra as EROs. Estudos mostram que quando a atividade destas enzimas se encontra alterada em peixes, pode ser um indicativo de alterações nas defesas antioxidantes. Além disso, alguns antioxidantes podem ser usados como biomarcadores de exposição a pesticidas em peixes (Bainy et al., 1996; Li et al., 2003; Moraes et al., 2007; Ferreira et al., 2010).

Os peixes podem apresentar várias respostas à exposição a pesticidas. Segundo Oruç e Üner (1999), mudanças bioquímicas e fisiológicas em peixes dependem da espécie exposta, do tempo de exposição e também da concentração de exposição ao pesticida. As respostas podem ser demonstradas através de alterações nos parâmetros enzimáticos, fisiológicos e metabólicos (Fernández-Vega et al., 2002, Moraes et al., 2011; Oropesa et al., 2009). Dessa forma, torna-se importante estabelecer parâmetros de toxicidade para auxiliar no cultivo de peixes, como a carpa húngara, já que é uma espécie promissora no sistema de cultivo consorciado arroz-peixe devido à facilidade de cultivo e aceitação comercial. Além disso, o conhecimento dos efeitos dos inseticidas fipronil e carbofuran em peixes nos permite um melhor entendimento das respostas bioquímicas enzimáticas, não-enzimáticas e de estresse oxidativo ocorridas neste peixe, ressaltando a importância desta espécie no consumo como alimento pelos humanos. Este estudo contribuirá como importante suporte para estudos futuros, onde se abre a possibilidade de determinar limites de concentrações máximas de utilização de agroquímicos, minimizando efeitos prejudiciais ao meio ambiente, animais e saúde humana.

2. OBJETIVOS

2.1 Objetivo geral

O objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar possíveis alterações bioquímicas em carpas (*Cyprinus carpio*) expostas às formulações comerciais de dois inseticidas utilizados na lavoura de arroz irrigado: carbofuran (Furadan[®]) e fipronil (Standak[®]).

2.2 Objetivos específicos

Após exposição de carpas aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil em lavoura de arroz, determinar:

- A atividade das enzimas antioxidantes catalase (CAT) e superóxido dismutase (SOD) em fígado.
- A atividade da enzima glutathione-S-transferase (GST) em fígado.
- O possível estado de estresse oxidativo evidenciado por peroxidação lipídica, através da determinação de substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS) em cérebro, fígado e músculo e a carbonilação de proteínas em fígado.
- A influência do inseticida fipronil e carbofuran no crescimento das carpas.
- Dentre os parâmetros avaliados em carpas, os biomarcadores de exposição para estudos de biomonitoramento considerando concentrações de inseticidas utilizados nas lavouras de arroz irrigado.

Após exposição de carpas aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil em condição de laboratório, determinar:

- A atividade das enzimas antioxidantes catalase (CAT) em fígado.
- A atividade da enzima glutathione-S-transferase (GST) e a concentração glutathione reduzida (GSH) em fígado, músculo e cérebro.
- A concentração de antioxidante não-enzimático (ácido ascórbico) em fígado, músculo, e cérebro.
- O possível estresse oxidativo nos peixes através da determinação de substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS) em cérebro, fígado e músculo e a carbonilação de proteínas em fígado.

- A atividade da enzima acetilcolinesterase (AChE) em cérebro e músculo.

3. REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

3.1 Contaminação ambiental por agrotóxicos

O uso de agroquímicos nas atividades agrícolas é necessário para a proteção das plantas cultivadas, a fim de que elas expressem todo seu potencial produtivo. No entanto, o manejo inadequado dos pesticidas em áreas agrícolas pode resultar na contaminação dos recursos hídricos (Gunningham e Sinclair, 2005).

De acordo com a legislação brasileira são chamados pesticidas ou agrotóxicos os produtos ou agentes de processos físicos, químicos ou biológicos empregados com intuito de beneficiar a produção agrícola (BRASIL, 1998). Além disso, os pesticidas podem ser classificados em diferentes grupos, de acordo com a praga que atacam, sendo eles inseticidas, herbicidas, fungicidas, entre outros.

Devido ao crescimento da população, das indústrias, da ciência e da tecnologia, houve uma necessidade de uma maior demanda de produtos agrícolas, tais como inseticidas, para acompanhar e controlar principalmente o aumento da produção vegetal. Em decorrência disso, ocorreram danos aos diferentes ecossistemas devido ao desconhecimento da persistência e ação destes agentes no ambiente, ou mesmo, pela falta de planejamento de utilização dos mesmos. O uso indiscriminado de pesticidas na agricultura é uma grande causa de envenenamento no mundo, uma vez que são registrados por ano cerca de 25 milhões de casos de envenenamento por pesticidas com cerca de 20 mil mortes involuntárias. Cerca de 99% dos casos registrados ocorrem em países de terceiro mundo, onde os cuidados com aplicação e dosagem costumam ser menores (Banerjee et al., 1999; Primel et al., 2005).

Considerando a América Latina, o Brasil desponta como o maior consumidor de agrotóxicos, com um consumo estimado em 50% da quantidade comercializada nesta região. De modo geral, o consumo destes pesticidas no meio rural decresce na seguinte ordem: herbicidas > inseticidas > fungicidas. Embora os herbicidas sejam mais utilizados, em geral a toxicidade deste grupo de substâncias é inferior à dos inseticidas.

Entre as diferentes culturas, o arroz irrigado ocupa um lugar de destaque por seu “potencial de contaminação das águas superficiais com produtos químicos de

origem agrícola”. A extensa área cultivada, o elevado número de tratamentos fitossanitários efetuados ao longo do seu ciclo natural, a aplicação de alguns pesticidas de elevada toxicidade para a biota aquática e sua estreita relação com o meio hídrico são fatores preponderantes para tal classificação. Uma vez no ambiente, os pesticidas tenderão a distribuir-se pelos diferentes compartimentos ambientais (água, solo, sedimento, ar e biota) de acordo com suas propriedades físico-químicas e as características do meio (Silva e Santos, 2007). Os pesticidas podem alcançar os ecossistemas aquáticos através da aplicação intencional, deriva e escoamento superficial a partir de áreas onde ocorreram aplicações. Na água, os resíduos de pesticidas podem tanto se ligar ao material particulado em suspensão, como se depositar no sedimento do fundo ou ser absorvido por organismos como os peixes (Figura 1).

Quando chegam até os corpos d’água, os pesticidas provocam a contaminação desses locais, causando sérios danos a organismos não-alvo, incluindo os peixes, o que pode resultar em alterações significativas em determinados processos bioquímicos e fisiológicos desses animais (Mathiessen, 1995; Shweta et al., 2007). Isto ocorre porque os peixes são particularmente sensíveis a influência de pesticidas, uma vez que são capazes de absorver e reter esses xenobióticos dissolvidos na água. As alterações fisiológicas observadas em peixes não constituem apenas uma resposta às baixas concentrações ambientais de pesticidas, mas também proporcionam uma compreensão dos efeitos desses poluentes em termos biológicos e demonstram um modelo de toxicidade para vertebrados, incluindo o homem (Sancho et al., 2010).

Além da possibilidade de contaminação dos cursos de água naturais, temos os sistemas de criação de peixes, prática muito empregada na região Sul da América do Sul. Grande parte dos criadouros localiza-se próximo ou dentro de áreas de plantações agrícolas, mantendo assim um contato direto dos animais com os produtos químicos utilizados nas lavouras. Assim, a presença contínua de componentes tóxicos nas águas pode causar alterações diversas em peixes, inclusive no comportamento reprodutivo, podendo chegar até mesmo à mortalidade destes indivíduos. Um efeito em longo prazo pode culminar na extinção de espécies mais susceptíveis a esse tipo de condição ambiental (Soso et al., 2007).

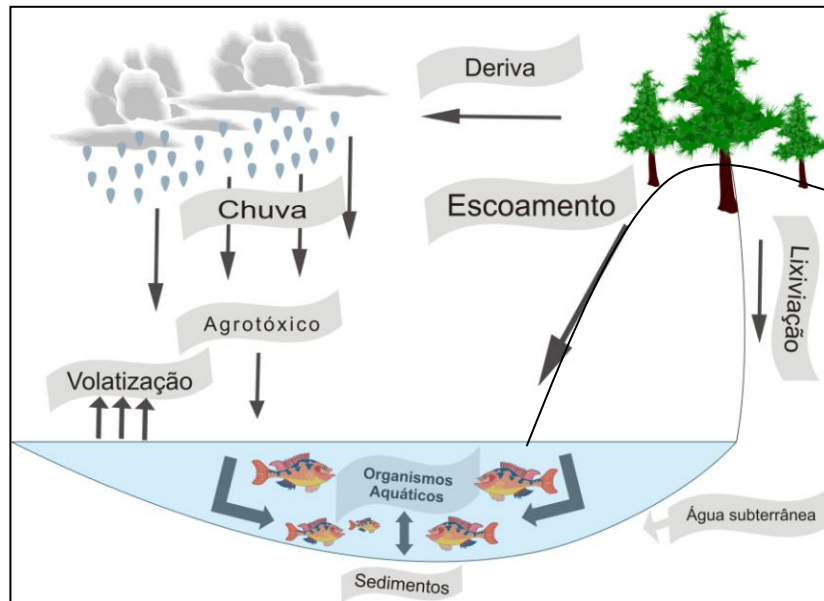


Figura 1: Movimento dos pesticidas em ecossistemas.

3.2 Inseticidas

3.2.1 Carbofuran

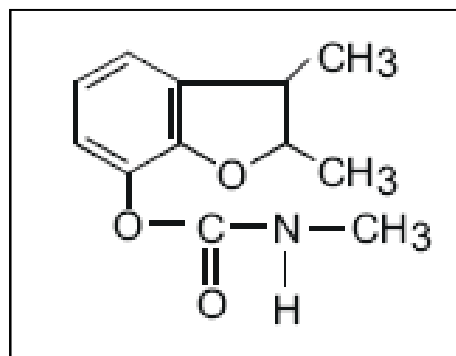


Figura 2: Estrutura química do inseticida carbofuran (Nunes et al., 2002).

Nome comum: carbofuran

Grupo Químico: carbamato

Nome químico (IUPAC): 2,3-dihidro-2,2-dimetilbenzofuran-7-metilcarbamato

Classe: inseticida, nematocida

Fórmula molecular: $C_{12}H_{15}NO_3$

Massa Molar: 221,3 g/mol

Classe toxicológica: I

Solubilidade em água: 320 mg/L (20°C)

Intervalo de segurança: 30 dias

O carbofuran (Furadan®) (Figura 2), que pertence à classe dos carbamatos, é um inseticida, nematicida e acaricida sistêmico de amplo espectro comumente usado mundialmente. Seu mecanismo de ação está ligado à transmissão sináptica, onde ele age inibindo a acetilcolinesterase. Este composto é muito tóxico para peixes e mamíferos (Mahakshmi et al., 2007; Brkić et al., 2008). Devido à sua ampla utilização na agricultura e relativa boa solubilidade em água, o carbofuran pode contaminar águas superficiais e subterrâneas e, por isso, causar toxicidade em consumidores. Os dados disponíveis mostram que o carbofuran tem sido frequentemente detectado como contaminante das águas subterrâneas na América, bem como na Europa e na Ásia ao longo das últimas duas décadas (Garcia de Llasera e Bernal-Gonzales, 2001; Campbell et al., 2004). Muitos fatores influenciam a degradação dos carbamatos. Entre eles a umidade, a temperatura, a luz e a volatilidade. Carbamatos são metabolizados por microrganismos, plantas e animais ou degradados na água e no solo, especialmente em meio alcalino (Figura 3). Sua decomposição envolve a formação de amônia, amina, dióxido de carbono, fenol e alcoóis (Nunes et al., 2002).

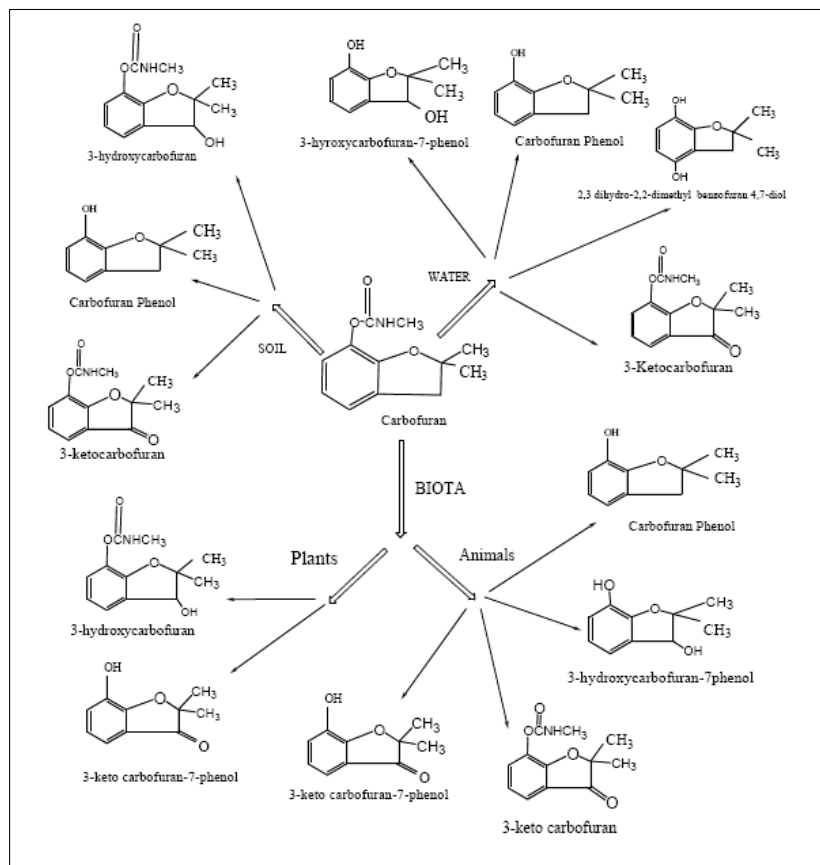


Figura 3: Metabólitos do carbofuran (Singh, 1999).

3.2.2 Fipronil

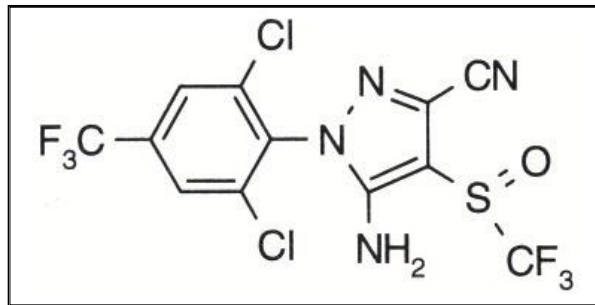


Figura 4: Estrutura química do inseticida fipronil (Bobé et al., 1998).

Nome comum: fipronil

Grupo Químico: fenil-pirazol

Nome químico (IUPAC): 5-amino-1-(2,6-dichloro- α,α,α -trifluoro-p-tolyl)-4-trifluoromethylsulfinylpyrazole-3-carbonitrile

Classe: inseticida, formicida, cupinicida

Fórmula molecular: C₁₂H₄Cl₂F₆N₄OS

Massa Molar: 473,2 g/mol

Classe toxicológica: II

Solubilidade em água: 24 mg/L (pH=5)

Intervalo de segurança: não determinado devido à modalidade de emprego.

Fipronil é um inseticida do grupo dos fenil-pirazois (Figura 4), exibe atividade neurotóxica, sendo altamente efetivo contra diversos gêneros de insetos. Estudos realizados em diversos países demonstraram que fipronil propicia um controle prolongado de insetos, o que praticamente acaba com o repasse de tratamento (USEPA, 1996; Stark e Vargas, 2005).

O ingrediente ativo do fipronil tem um modo de ação único e exclusivo, devido à especificidade e precisão do local atingido no Sistema Nervoso Central (SNC). A transmissão do impulso nervoso nas células do SNC acontece em função da diferença de concentração de íons dentro e fora dessas células. O estabelecimento do equilíbrio iônico nas células do SNC ocorre através do neurotransmissor GABA (Ácido Gama Amino Butírico), entre outros reguladores neuronais. Controlam o fluxo de íons cloreto através da membrana da célula nervosa. Pesquisas recentes mostram que o ingrediente ativo do fipronil pode modificar a ação do GABA, alterando o equilíbrio iônico nas células do SNC, com consequente morte dos insetos. O GABA é o principal neurotransmissor inibidor nos insetos, daí sua

importância na regulação da atividade do SNC (Wirth et al., 2004; Tan et al., 2008). A toxicidade do fipronil em insetos é bem documentada na literatura. No entanto, seu efeito tóxico em peixes em concentrações subletais é pouco conhecido (Faouder et al., 2007). Em meio aquático, o fipronil sofre degradação e transforma-se em outro produto, também tóxico, denominado disulfenil. Quando exposto à luz solar o disulfenil apresenta ação neurotóxica, semelhante à molécula original do fipronil. A fotólise é o caminho mais importante para a degradação do fipronil aquoso. Entretanto, a hidrólise só se tornará importante se o meio apresentar pH básico. O fipronil é estável à hidrólise em água com pH ligeiramente ácido (pH 5,0 – 6,0) a neutro (pH 7,0) sem a presença de luz (Figura 5) (Bobé et al., 1998).

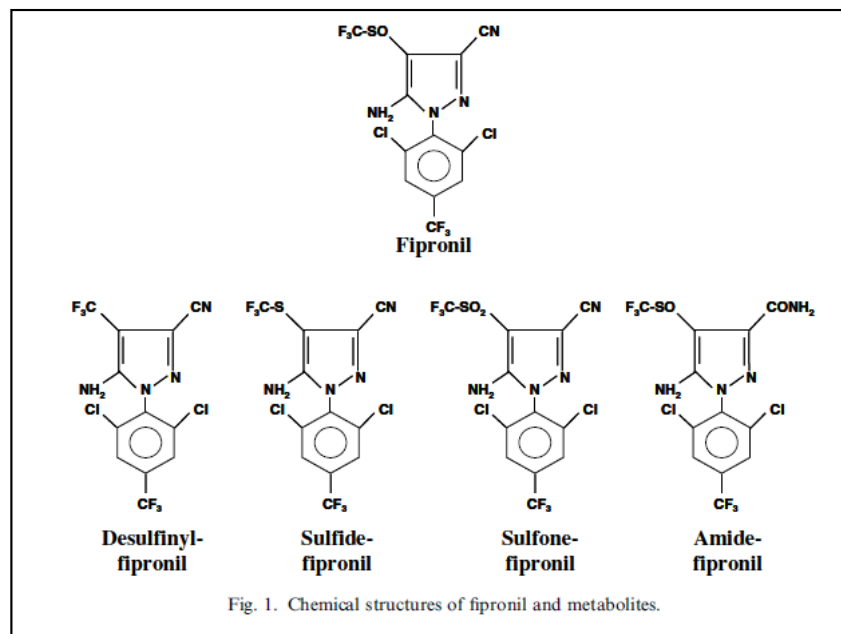


Figura 5: Fipronil e seus metabólitos (Bobé et al., 1998).

3.3 Carpa húngara (*Cyprinus carpio* L.1758)

A carpa húngara, espécie da família Cyprinidae, gênero *Cyprinus*, espécie *Cyprinus carpio* L. 1758 (Figura 6) é uma espécie exótica, de origem asiática, criada na China há mais de 2.000 anos (Castagnolli e Cyrino, 1986). Em 1887, foi trazida para a América, sendo aclimatada nos Estados Unidos. No Brasil, onde se adaptou com grande facilidade, foi introduzida no Estado de São Paulo, em 1904. Entretanto, as criações intensivas só tiveram início na década de 30 (Galli e Torloni, 1989). Seu cultivo ocorre em todos os continentes, devido a sua rusticidade, por resistirem a

grandes diferenças de temperatura e por sua facilidade de criação (Mabuchi et al., 2006).

Segundo Moreira et al (2001), as carpas, pela sua capacidade de resistir a uma ampla faixa de temperatura, são hoje animais cosmopolitas, sendo que seu crescimento ótimo se dá na temperatura média de 28°C. Seu crescimento pode ser afetado em temperaturas abaixo de 15°C. Não se reproduzem em temperaturas abaixo de 20°C e não ingerem alimentos quando a temperatura da água é inferior a 4°C (Castagnolli e Cyrino, 1986). Resistem bem às reduções do teor de oxigênio dissolvido na água, suportando até 3,2 mg/L. Porém, pára de se alimentar com nível de 2,5 mg/L e pode morrer com 0,8 mg/L (Menezes e Yancey, 1984; Galli e Torloni, 1989). É uma espécie onívora que se alimenta de invertebrados, plantas, algas, consome larvas de insetos e crustáceos, podendo alimentar-se também de pequenos peixes (Mabuchi et al., 2006).

Por ser a carpa cosmopolita, surgiram várias raças, segundo a região e o método de criação. As variedades diferem principalmente por características ligadas à forma do corpo, às escamas e ao tamanho da cabeça em relação ao corpo. A carpa húngara possui um pequeno número de escamas, sendo estas maiores que as da carpa comum, dispostas em três fileiras, na região dorsal, sobre a linha lateral e na região ventral. Apresenta crescimento precoce, uma alta relação entre altura e comprimento do corpo, podendo atingir mais de 20 kg (Moreira et al., 2001).



Figura 6: Exemplo de juvenil de carpa húngara (*Cyprinus carpio*).

3.4 Estresse oxidativo

As reações de oxidação são essenciais no metabolismo normal dos organismos aeróbicos, principalmente porque o elemento oxigênio atua como acceptor de elétron no sistema de fluxo de elétrons, sendo responsável pela geração de energia via fosforilação oxidativa (Lushchak e Bagnyukova, 2006). As EROs (espécies reativas de oxigênio) são produzidas durante a função celular normal de células aeróbicas e, além disso, elas podem ser geradas como consequência do metabolismo intracelular de compostos exógenos, levando à peroxidação lipídica, oxidação e degradação de algumas enzimas (Matés, 2000). As EROs incluem o radical anion superóxido ($O_2^{\cdot-}$), peróxido de hidrogênio (H_2O_2) e o radical hidroxila (OH^{\cdot}), sendo que estas espécies possuem alta reatividade química (Barata et al., 2005).

Atualmente, os organismos aquáticos estão continuamente sendo expostos a diversos contaminantes químicos e por isso efeitos adversos podem surgir como resposta aos diferentes mecanismos de toxicidade destes produtos (Barata et al., 2005). Uma variedade de poluentes ambientais, dentre eles os pesticidas, podem provocar um aumento na produção de radicais livres em diversos organismos aquáticos, como os peixes, e se o sistema de defesa antioxidante for ineficiente para combater as EROs, ocorre uma situação de estresse oxidativo (Üner et al., 2005; Monteiro et al., 2006). O estresse oxidativo é um fenômeno bastante complexo, que culmina com a formação elevada de EROs. Pode também ser definido como um desequilíbrio entre agentes pró-oxidantes e antioxidantes, onde a quantidade gerada do primeiro é maior, ocorrendo assim possíveis danos oxidativos (Üner et al., 2006; Almroth et al., 2008). Diversos autores já evidenciaram estresse oxidativo em peixes expostos a diferentes agrotóxicos (Sayeed et al., 2003; Bagnyukova et al., 2005; Peixoto et al., 2006; Moraes et al., 2007).

As EROs podem modificar as macromoléculas celulares, incluindo as proteínas, os lipídios e o DNA (Sies, 1993) (Figura 7). O seu ataque às proteínas pode ocasionar clivagem das ligações peptídicas, modificações nos resíduos dos aminoácidos, reações de peptídios com lipídios e com produtos da oxidação dos carboidratos, oxidação dos grupos sulfidríla e formação de proteína carbonil (Lushchak e Bagnyukova, 2006). Alguns autores têm sugerido que a dosagem de

carbonilação de proteínas em peixes pode ser usada como biomarcador complementar de estresse oxidativo (Almroth et al., 2005; Parvez e Raisuddin, 2005).

A peroxidação lipídica (LPO) causa danos importantes no sistema biológico e tem sido muito utilizada também como biomarcador de estresse oxidativo em peixes (Sayeed et al., 2003). A lipoperoxidação é o resultado da atuação dos radicais livres sobre as membranas biológicas, que são ricas em ácidos graxos poliinsaturados (Oruç e Usta, 2007). Dentre os lipídios, os ácidos graxos poliinsaturados são os mais sensíveis ao ataque das EROs. O processo de LPO influencia a fluidez da membrana e a integridade das biomoléculas associadas à membrana (Almroth et al., 2005; Lushchak e Bagnyukova, 2006). A intensidade da peroxidação lipídica pode ser avaliada de acordo com os níveis dos produtos primários ou ainda com os produtos finais da peroxidação, como por exemplo, o malondialdeído (MDA), que é expresso em substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS) (Lushchak e Bagnyukova, 2006).

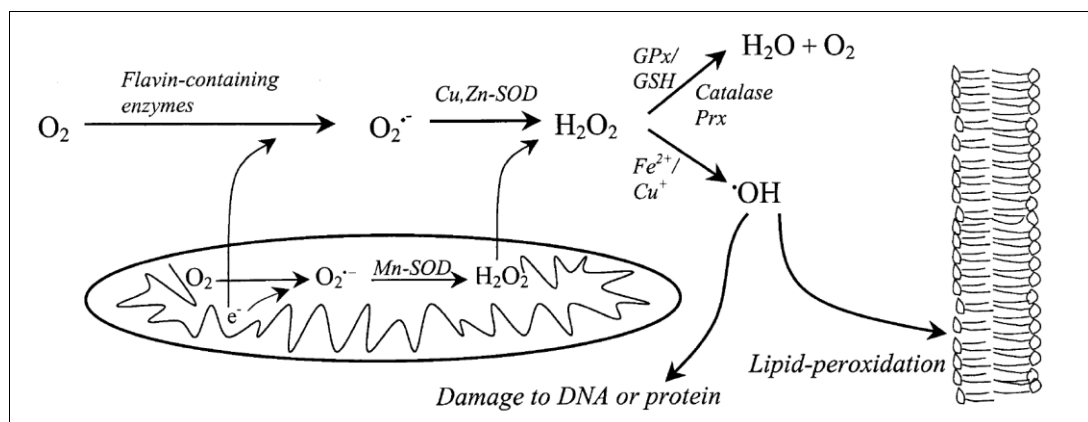


Figura 7: Efeitos das EROs sobre lipídios, proteínas e DNA (Nordberg e Arnér, 2001).

Os organismos aeróbicos possuem uma diversidade de defesas antioxidantes para proteger a célula contra os potenciais danos ocasionados pela produção de EROs. Os peixes também possuem um sistema antioxidante eficaz (Zhang et al., 2005; Trenzado et al., 2006). Porém, existem poucas informações sobre os mecanismos de defesas que neutralizam os impactos das EROs em peixes. O sistema antioxidante pode ser enzimático e não-enzimático. O não-enzimático é composto por substâncias como a glutatona, o ácido ascórbico e o tocoferol. As enzimas antioxidantes mais estudadas em organismos aquáticos são a superóxido

dismutase (SOD), a catalase (CAT) e a glutathiona peroxidase (GPx) (Figura 7). A glutathiona S-transferase (GST) é uma importante enzima na detoxificação de xenobióticos. A CAT e GPx tem papéis complementares na detoxificação do peróxido de hidrogênio, sendo que elas têm diferentes localizações celulares e moléculas alvo (Barata et al., 2005). A CAT é uma das mais importantes enzimas do sistema antioxidante. Essa enzima se localiza nos peroxissomos e é responsável pela detoxificação do H_2O_2 (Zhang et al., 2005). Quando sua atividade aparece aumentada em determinados tecidos de peixes, isso pode significar uma possível resposta compensatória do organismo a insultos oxidativos. Por sua vez, as glutathiona S-transferases incluem três famílias de enzimas (citosólica, mitocondrial e microssomal), que estão envolvidas na detoxificação de muitos xenobióticos e ainda tem um importante papel na proteção dos tecidos contra situações de estresse oxidativo. Este multicomponente enzimático possui um potente efeito protetor contra as EROs (Masella et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2005). A avaliação da GST tem sido bastante estudada em peixes como biomarcador na avaliação de impacto ambiental em peixes (Peixoto et al., 2006; Yi et al., 2007). Estudos mostram que quando a CAT e a GST apresentam aumento de suas atividades em tecidos de peixes, elas podem ser usadas como marcadores de exposição aos poluentes aquáticos como os pesticidas (Li et al., 2003, Moraes et al., 2007, Cattaneo et al., 2011).

3.5 Acetilcolinesterase

As colinesterases estão amplamente distribuídas entre os animais, desempenhando papéis importantes na neurotransmissão colinérgica central e periférica, além de funções como a hidrólise dos ésteres de colina e a detoxificação de xenobióticos (Bretaud et al., 2000; Roex et al., 2003). Existem duas famílias de colinesterases: a acetilcolinesterase (AChE; EC 3.1.1.7), que hidrolisa preferencialmente ésteres com grupamento acetil (como a acetilcolina), e a butirilcolinesterase (BChE; EC 3.1.1.8) que hidrolisa outros tipos de ésteres como a butirilcolina (Nigg e Knaak, 2000).

A AChE está presente no SNC, sistema nervoso periférico (SNP) e também nos glóbulos vermelhos do sangue. Essa enzima é responsável por catalisar a degradação da acetilcolina em colina e acetato na fenda sináptica. Chuiko (2000) mostrou que o nível da atividade específica da AChE em cérebro de peixes que

representavam a família Cyprinidae foi maior que os daquelas das famílias Percidae e Esocidae. A medida da atividade da AChE é muito utilizada para avaliar a toxicidade de contaminantes ambientais em peixes. Por exemplo, esta enzima tem sido utilizada por diferentes autores como um marcador para diagnosticar a exposição a compostos como carbamatos e organofosforados (Sancho et al., 2000). Porém, em outros estudos, verificou-se que diferentes classes de pesticidas também causaram alterações na atividade da AChE em cérebro ou músculo de peixes (Miron et al., 2005; Crestani et al., 2006; Moraes et al., 2007).

O efeito mais comum da exposição aos agrotóxicos é a inibição da atividade da AChE em peixes. A inibição de sua atividade resulta em estimulação excessiva dos nervos colinérgicos, que pode resultar em tremores, natação errática, convulsões e até mesmo a morte (Fernández-Vega et al., 2002). Dutta e Arends (2003), avaliando o inseticida endossulfan, encontraram uma inibição significativa da atividade da AChE em cérebro do peixe *Lepomis macrochirus* quando expostos por até uma semana a concentração de 1,2 µg/L do produto. Glusczak et al. (2006) mostraram que a atividade da AChE foi inibida em cérebro de piavas (*Leporinus obtusidens*) quando expostas a diferentes concentrações da formulação comercial do herbicida glifosato por um período de 96h. Em um estudo realizado no campo, em lavoura de arroz irrigado por um período de 30 dias de exposição, foi observada a inibição da atividade da enzima em cérebro de piavas, após estas serem expostas às formulações comerciais dos herbicidas clomazone e quinclorac (Moraes et al., 2007).

Estudos recentes têm demonstrado que a atividade da AChE em tecidos de peixes pode variar de acordo com a espécie, com o tempo de exposição, com a condição experimental em que o peixe se encontra e com o tipo de tóxico a qual o peixe é exposto (Miron et al., 2005; Crestani et al., 2006; Glusczak et al., 2007; Moraes et al., 2007; Fonseca et al., 2008).

4. RESULTADOS

4.1 Artigo I

Effects of the commercial formulation containing fipronil on the non-target organism
Cyprinus carpio: implications for rice-fish cultivation

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Effects of the commercial formulation containing fipronil on the non-target organism *Cyprinus carpio*: Implications for rice–fish cultivation

Bárbara Clasen^a, Vania Lucia Loro^{a,*}, Roberta Cattaneo^a, Bibiana Moraes^a, Thais Lopes^a, Luis Antonio de Avila^b, Renato Zanella^d, Geovane Boschmann Reimche^c, Bernardo Baldisserotto^a

^a Laboratório de Bioquímica Adaptativa e de Fisiologia de Peixes, Departamento de Química, Departamento de Fisiologia e Farmacologia Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), Santa Maria, RS, Brazil

^b Departamento de Fitossanidade, UFPEL, Pelotas, RS, Brazil

^c Departamento de Fitotecnia, UFSM, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil

^d LARP—Laboratório de Análises de Resíduos de Pesticidas, UFSM, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to evaluate possible toxic effects of commercial formulation containing fipronil on *Cyprinus carpio* tissues under rice field conditions. Antioxidant profile (SOD, catalase, glutathione S-transferase), oxidative stress parameters (thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances, protein carbonyl), and growth were investigated in carp exposed to fipronil under rice field conditions for 7, 30, and 90 days. Waterborne insecticide concentrations were measured and the detectable concentration of fipronil was observed up to 45 day after application. Common carp survival and growth was not affected by fipronil. Liver superoxide dismutase activity was enhanced while liver catalase activity was inhibited at 7, 30, and 90 days. Alterations were not observed in the glutathione S-transferase activity in any experimental periods. Protein carbonyl increased only after 30 and 90 days of exposure. The thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances levels were enhanced in all analyzed tissues (liver, muscle, and brain) and periods of exposure. This study demonstrates that fipronil insecticides cause alterations in the biochemical parameters in different tissues of carp without affecting the growth or the survival of the fish.

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1. Introduction

Rice–fish culture has long been recognized as an option to improve the productivity of the country's rice based agriculture (Dewan, 1992; Frei et al., 2007). Increased adoption of rice–fish farming, with fish as natural control agent of pest organisms, provides a promising alternative for the development of ecological management strategies to minimize the use of pesticide in rice field environment (Halwart, 1998). Rice–fish cultivation is an alternative cost reduction of rice crop because fish prepare the soil for the next crop of rice, recycle organic matter, and consume weed seeds contained in soil, such as red rice, rice grass, sedges, and other aquatic plants. Fish also consume insect larvae, snails, and screwworm from the root of rice (Berg, 2001). The cost of rice production decreases, since the use of chemicals is reduced because fish take charge of eating insects, worms, and weeds (Boll et al., 1999). The pre-germinated system of rice has been expanding in Brazil, especially in Rio Grande do Sul. In this

system, it is recommended to seed rice on water. The permanence of the water in the field throughout the crop cycle is responsible for weed control. Thus, the fish remain in refuges located in the rice field (Lima et al., 2006; Marchezan et al., 2006) (Fig. 1). In a number of studies an increase in the production of both rice and fish has been demonstrated when rice–fish culture is used (Lightfoot et al., 1992; Gupta et al., 1998; Uddin et al., 2001; Frei et al., 2007).

In Southern Brazil, most farmers use at least one pesticide in rice fields. Among the pesticides commonly used, fipronil is an insecticide, which was introduced in the market in 1996 showing to be less toxic compared to the insecticides used in rice culture. Fipronil is a broad-spectrum insecticide that belongs to the phenylpyrazole class of insecticides. These insecticides were recently introduced in the consumer market and are considered more selective and less damaging to ecosystems if compared with organophosphate insecticides (Ecobichon, 1996; Stark and Vargas, 2005). Fipronil is an insecticide of increasing use as it is identified by the US Environmental Protection Agency as an alternative to organophosphate compounds (US EPA, 2002b; Chiovarou and Siewicki, 2008). Since its introduction in consumer market to use in agricultural practices fipronil has been used in rice, corn,

* Corresponding author. Fax: +55 (55) 3220 8240.

E-mail addresses: vanial@smail.ufsm.br, vania.loro@gmail.com (V.L. Loro).



Fig. 1. Experimental tanks of rice crop from the Federal University of Santa Maria, RS. Arrow on A indicates the position of the cage used to expose the fish, arrow B indicates the refuge, and arrow C indicates the rice culture.

and cotton (US EPA, 1996; Stark and Vargas, 2005). Its mechanism of action involves non-competitive binding to the gamma-aminobutyric (GABA) receptor, effectively blocking the chloride channel in the nervous system, resulting in a disruption of neuron signaling and eventually the shutdown of the central nervous system (Wirth et al., 2004; Tan et al., 2008). The insecticide fipronil is adequate to advanced seed treatments applied before sowing and has an aquatic half-life of 14.5 days and in soil its half-life is of 123 days. The recommended concentration of fipronil in rice fields in Brazil is 150 mL/ha (Conelly, 2001; Grützmacher et al., 2008). In this study, we used this recommended dose that is a sublethal concentration of commercial formulation containing fipronil; thus, it does not cause death of fish. We chose this concentration of fipronil in order to observe what happens to fish when exposed in rice field conditions. However, some questions remain unclear, particularly the one linked to the effects in carps exposed to sublethal doses of fipronil. Considering that the stocking of fish in rice fields is a 2000 year old successful practice (Vromant and Chau, 2005), it is necessary to study the interaction between fish and rice to determine a minimal insecticide concentration to use in this association. At this moment, we can discuss if the use of insecticide is necessary as well as what kind of toxic effects pesticides can cause in fish. Insecticides can be responsible for causing oxidative stress in fish, since these contaminants could induce the formation of reactive species and alterations in the antioxidant system (Sayeed et al., 2003; Üner et al., 2005; Üner et al., 2006). Fish endogenous protection to oxidative stress occurs through a cellular antioxidant system, which includes enzymes, such as superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (CAT). SOD catalyzes the conversion of reactive superoxide anions (O_2^-) into yield hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), which is an important Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS). H_2O_2 is subsequently detoxified by two types of enzymes, namely, CAT and glutathione peroxidase (GPx). SOD is an antioxidant enzyme, which plays important roles in the line of defenses against oxidative stress. The elimination of excessive ROS via antioxidant enzymes, particularly SOD, is crucial for maintaining cellular homeostasis in fish (Cho et al., 2009). CAT is one of the most efficient enzymes known and has been frequently reported in toxicity studies. The function of this enzyme is to convert hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water (Matés, 2000; Atli and Canli, 2007). Another important enzyme for fish detoxification process is glutathione-S-transferase (GST). This enzyme displays defense against oxidative stress, facilitating

the nucleophilic attack of pesticides by GSH and removing the compound that otherwise would lead to toxic effects (Maran et al., 2009). Another important parameter to verify insecticide toxic effects is the measurement of carbonyl protein that is a good indicative of protein damage. However, this biomarker has been commonly used in researches on oxidative stress in humans. In addition few reports are available regarding its use in fish exposed to toxic chemicals, such as insecticides (Almroth et al., 2005; Parvez and Raisuddin, 2005). Oxidative stress frequently induces lipid peroxidation (LPO). LPO in fish could be estimated by measuring thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) and has been used as a biomarker in a large number of studies (Almroth et al., 2005; Üner et al., 2005; Oruç and Usta, 2007; Ballesteros et al., 2009). Lipid peroxidation results in the production of lipid radicals and in the subsequent formation of a complex mixture of lipid degradation products (Almroth et al., 2005).

Due to the high consumption of common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*, by humans and considering the insecticides used in agriculture practices, the possible toxic effects of these products in tissues of fish for commercial interest have become the object of our study. Common carp, a native fish of Eastern Europe and Western Asia and widely distributed in Brazil, is an omnivorous species that is fed on invertebrates, plants, algae, insect larvae, crustaceans, and small fish (Querol et al., 2005; Mabuchi et al., 2006). The integration of rice and fish is a promising alternative, which offers new opportunities to farmers. The rice–fish culture has proven to be an economically viable alternative to rice monoculture in a number of socio-economic surveys conducted in various Asian countries (Berg, 2002; Frei and Becker, 2005). Thus, considering the importance of common carp and the possible toxic effects of fipronil, the aim of this study was to examine if a sublethal concentration of fipronil under pre-germinated system of rice conditions causes oxidative stress and affect growing parameters of this species.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Chemicals

The fipronil insecticide (CAS 120068-37-3) used was an available commercial formulation (Standak[®]-BASF), containing 25% fipronil [(±)-5-amino-1-(2,6-dichloro- α - α -trifluoro-p-tolyl)-4-trifluoromethylsulfanylpyrazole-3-carbonitrile], 1-Chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (CDNB), bovine serum albumin (BSA), hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), malondialdehyde (MDA), 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA), sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH). All reagent-grade chemicals were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO).

2.2. Fish

Common carps of both genders weighting 10.0 ± 2.0 g and measuring 12.0 ± 1.0 cm total length were obtained from a commercial fish farm (RS, Brazil) without exposure to insecticides. Fish were acclimated to laboratory conditions for 10 days in tanks (250 L) containing water free from insecticides prior to the experiments. They were kept in continuously aerated water with a static system and with a natural photoperiod (12 h light/12 h dark). After acclimation fish were divided in two groups according to the description in Section 2.3. In the period of acclimation as well as in the period of exposure, fish were fed once a day with commercial fish pellets (42% crude protein, Supra, Brazil) at the proportion of 1% of the total weight of fish in each tank or parcel. The experimental protocols were authorized by the board on experimentation on animals of the Federal University of Santa Maria, reference number: 23081.013362/2009-50.

2.3. Experimental design

Fish were allocated in two groups: the control group (without insecticide) and exposure group (with insecticide). Each group composed of 45 animals distributed in three tanks (triplicate) with 15 fish per tank. The fish were exposed to initial measured concentration 0.65 mg/L of the insecticide for 7, 30, and 90 days. The

concentration of insecticide used in this experiment corresponds to the concentration recommended in Brazil for use in rice culture. The control fish were placed in tanks with separate water supply from the exposure tanks, but conditions and placing of tanks were similar for both groups. The experimental units (tanks) have refuges (side trench to shelter the fish) with a height of around 0.5 m and an outlet that connected them to two main irrigation channel ponds. The experiment was carried out in the paddy field, with the fish trapped in submersed tanks, measuring 0.30 m (diameter) \times 1.05 m (length) (Fig. 1). We used fine-mesh plastic screens at the entrances and exits of water to avoid the presence of predators. To avoid the possible presence of aerial predators we used a trained dog. Other conditions, such as climate changes, were not avoided in order to obtain a field experimental condition as real as possible. The insecticide concentration in water was monitored from day 1 until it could no longer be detected. Fipronil was analyzed by high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) using the method described by Zanella et al. (2003). During all experimental period (90 days), the average water parameters are as follows: temperature 22.5 ± 2.0 °C, pH 6.4 ± 0.2 , dissolved oxygen 4.2 ± 2.0 mg/L, non-ionized ammonia 0.8 ± 0.01 μ g/L, and nitrite 0.06 ± 0.01 mg/L. After each exposure period (7, 30, and 90 days), the fish were killed by punching the spinal cord (behind the opercula), and a sample of 5 individuals was taken from the tanks and submitted to tissue (brain, liver, and white muscle) collection.

2.4. Biochemical parameters

2.4.1. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) assay

Measurements of SOD (EC 1.15.1.1) activity were performed for liver tissue based on the inhibition of the radical superoxide reaction with adrenalin as described by Mc Cord, Fridovich (1969). In this method, SOD present in the sample competes with the detection system for radical superoxide. A unit of SOD is defined as the amount of enzyme that inhibits the rate of oxidation of adrenalin by 50%. The oxidation of adrenalin leads to the formation of the colored product, adrenochrome. SOD activity is determined by measuring the rate of adrenochrome formation, measured at 480 nm, in a reaction medium containing glycine–NaOH (50 mM, pH 10) and epinephrine (1 mM).

2.4.2. Catalase activity assay

Catalase (EC 1.11.1.6) activity was assayed spectrophotometrically (Nelson and Kiesow, 1972). Liver tissue (50 mg) was homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, and centrifuged at 10,000 g for 10 min at 4 °C. The assay mixture consisted of 2.0 mL potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), 50 μ L H₂O₂ (0.3 M) and 50 μ L homogenate. Change in H₂O₂ absorbance in 60 s was measured at 240 nm. Catalase activity was calculated and expressed in μ mol/min/mg protein.

2.4.3. Glutathione S-transferase (GST) assay

GST (EC 2.5.1.18) activity was measured in the liver using a procedure described by Habig et al. (1974) that involved CDNB as substrate. The assay mixture contained 1 mM CDNB (in ethanol), 10 mM GSH, 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.5), and 50 μ L of the tissue homogenates. Enzyme activity was calculated from the changes in absorbance at 340 nm using a molar extinction coefficient of 9.6 mM/cm. One unit GST activity was defined as the amount of enzyme required to catalyze the conjugation of 1 mol CDNB with GSH/min at 25 °C.

2.4.4. Protein carbonyl assay

The liver tissue (60 mg) was homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of 10 mM tris–HCl buffer pH 7.4 using a glass homogenizer. Protein carbonyl content was assayed by the method described by Yan et al. (1995), with some modifications. Soluble protein (1.0 mL) was reacted with 10 mM DNPH in 2 N hydrochloric acid. After incubation at room temperature for 1 h in the dark, 0.5 mL of denaturing buffer (150 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, containing SDS 3.0%), 2.0 mL of heptane (99.5%) and 2.0 mL of ethanol (99.8%) were added sequentially, vortexed for 40 s and centrifuged at 10,000g for 15 min. The protein extracted from the interface was washed twice by resuspension in ethanol/ethyl acetate (1:1), and suspended in 1 mL of denaturing buffer. The carbonyl content was then measured spectrophotometrically (Femto Scan spectrophotometer) at 370 nm. The total carbonylation was calculated using a molar extinction coefficient of 22,000 M/cm. The protein carbonyl content was expressed as nmol carbonyl/mg protein.

2.4.5. Lipid peroxidation estimation assay

Lipid peroxidation was estimated by the TBARS assay, performed by a MDA reaction with TBA, which was spectrophotometrically measured according to Buege and Aust (1978). The liver, brain (50 mg), and muscle (250 mg) tissues were homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of potassium phosphate buffer (20 mM) and thus TCA 10% and TBA 0.67% were added to adjust to a final volume of 1.0 mL. The reaction mixture was placed in a micro-centrifuge tube and incubated in hot bath for 15 min at 95 °C. After cooling, it was centrifuged at 5000 g for 15 min and

optical density was measured by spectrophotometer (Femto Scan spectrophotometer) at 532 nm TBARS levels were expressed as nmol MDA/Mg protein.

2.4.6. Protein determination

Protein was determined by the Coomassie blue method using BSA as standard. Absorbance of samples was measured at 595 nm (Bradford, 1976).

2.5. Statistical analysis

Comparison between two groups was made by the Student *t*-test, paired test. The results obtained were expressed as mean \pm standard derivation (SD). The value of $P \leq 0.05$ was considered statistically significant for all analyses ($N=15$).

3. Results

The insecticide concentration in water was monitored on days 1, 7, 14, 21, 28, 45, 60, 75, and 90 of the experiment to verify the pesticide dissipation in water. Up to 60 days residual fipronil was detected in the water (Fig. 2). The liver SOD activity was enhanced at 7 (36%), 30 (66%), and 90 (67%) days after fipronil exposure (Fig. 3). On the other hand, liver CAT activity was inhibited at 7 (41%), 30 (62%), and 90 days (94%) (Fig. 4). Alterations were not observed in glutathione-S-transferase activity of the experimental periods (Fig. 5). Protein carbonyl only increased after 30 (24%) and

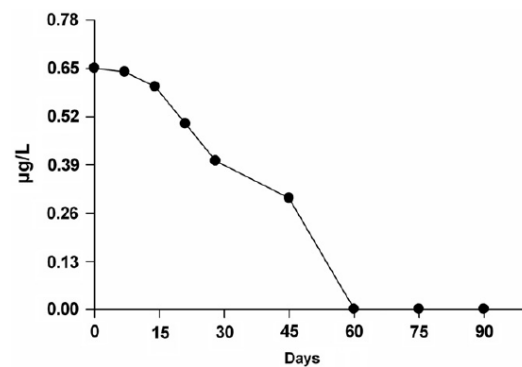


Fig. 2. Fipronil concentration (μ g/L) in water from rice field.

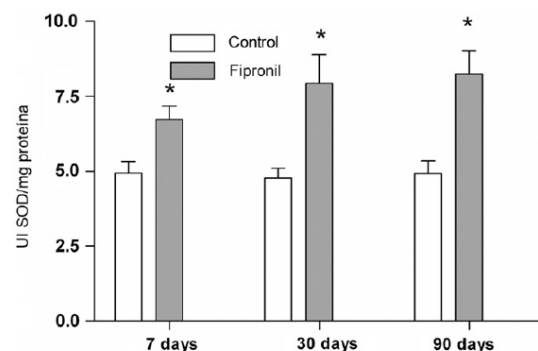


Fig. 3. Liver superoxide dismutase (SOD) in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing fipronil (0.65 μ g/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30, or 90 days. Data represent the mean \pm SD ($n=15$). * Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

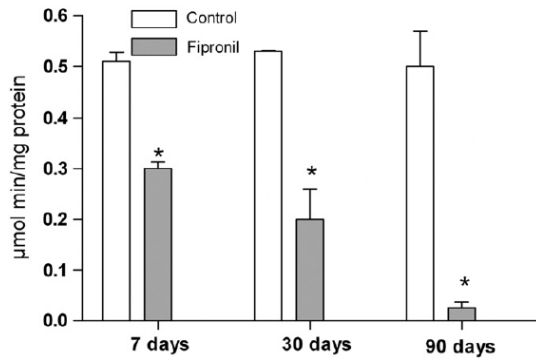


Fig. 4. Liver catalase (CAT) activity in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial insecticide containing fipronil (0.65 µg/L) in rice field condition after 7, 30, or 90 days. Data represent the mean \pm SD ($n=15$). * Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

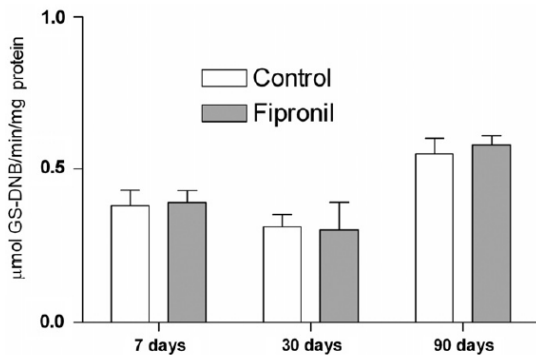


Fig. 5. Liver glutathione-S-transferase (GST) activity in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial insecticide containing fipronil (0.65 µg/L) in rice field condition after 7, 30, or 90 days. Data represent the mean \pm SD ($n=15$). * Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

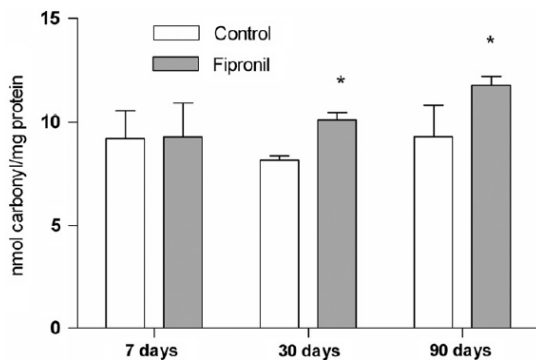


Fig. 6. Liver protein carbonyl in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing fipronil (0.65 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30, or 90 days. Data represent the mean \pm SD ($n=15$). * Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

90 (27%) days of fipronil exposure (Fig. 6). The exposure to fipronil resulted in significant TBARS level increase in fish tissues for all periods of exposure when compared with the control group

(Table 1). In the brain, a significant increase of 66% (7 days), 73% (30 days), and 68% (90 days) was verified. In the liver, TBARS enhanced significantly after 7 (32%), 30 (49%), and 90 days (50%). In the muscle, after 7, 30, and 90 days, the TBARS levels increased 2.4%, 51%, and 25%, respectively, when compared with the control group.

Common carp exposed to a commercial formulation containing fipronil showed no significant difference in survival and growth compared to control group. Overall mean of initial weight was 10.55 ± 0.8 g (control group) and 11.24 ± 0.7 g (treatment group). After 7, 30, and 90 days the weight increased in control 23.84 ± 0.6 , 107.81 ± 1.4 , and 285.47 ± 1.2 g, respectively. The fipronil treatment showed an increase of 25.9 ± 0.8 , 105.7 ± 1.0 , and 290.2 ± 1.1 g after 7, 30, and 90 days, respectively. Weight gain was not significant between treatments. The measures in the control were at 0 (10.1 ± 0.5 cm), 7 (15.3 ± 0.7 cm), 30 (22.4 ± 1.5 cm), and 90 days (32.8 ± 1.7 cm). In the treatment the measures were at 0 (11.0 ± 0.8 cm), 7 (13.1 ± 0.9 cm), 30 (20.5 ± 1.1 cm), and 90 days (30.6 ± 1.9 cm). No significant changes occurred in measures between the treatments (Table 2).

4. Discussion

The results of the present study show that the fish were tolerant to exposure to fipronil insecticide in rice field conditions as observed through the toxicological parameter evaluations. Fish are stocked in rice fields with the aim of increasing and diversifying the rice field productivity (Vromant and Chau, 2005). The association between rice and fish provides cost reduction of irrigated rice fields and provides increased income for the area. Gupta et al. (1998), in a study with carps (*Cyprinus carpio*, *Catla catla*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*) and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), found an average fish production of 233 kg/ha in the dry season and 212 kg/ha in the rainy season, and an average increase in the net benefit of 64.4% and 98.2% compared to rice monoculture, respectively.

Fipronil exposure affects antioxidant defenses of fish by alterations in SOD and CAT activities. SOD is the first enzyme to respond against free radicals and is the one that offers the greatest response to oxidative stress. SOD is considered to play a pivotal antioxidant role since it is present in all aerobic organisms (Winston and Di Giulio, 1991; Van der Oost et al., 2003). The concentration used of fipronil increased the liver SOD activity in the long-term treatment. This increase may be due to elevated levels of production of O_2^- radical caused by fipronil toxicity. Monteiro et al. (2006) showed an increase of 34% in liver SOD activity after exposure to 2 mg/L of methyl parathion insecticide. Experimental tests in vertebrates demonstrate a correlation between SOD and tolerance to oxygen toxicity (Pérez-Campo et al., 1993). The exposure to fipronil in this study seems to alter the SOD activity by increasing its activity.

CAT activity decreased in the hepatic tissue after the exposed periods. In a similar experiment, a reduction in fish liver CAT activity was also observed after prolonged exposure to clomazone and propanil (Moraes et al., 2009). Decreased CAT activity is a common response to pesticide poisoning and was also observed in the liver after 48 h of exposure to the insecticide deltamethrin (Sayeed et al., 2003). The decreased CAT activity observed in this study could be due to the flux of superoxide radicals, which have been reported to inhibit CAT activity and cause disruption in the fish antioxidant system (Monteiro et al., 2006). The decreased CAT activity in the fish liver indicates a reduced capacity to scavenge H_2O_2 produced in this tissue. The inhibition observed in this enzyme is directly linked to the development of oxidative stress in common carp tissues after prolonged exposure to fipronil.

Table 1

Lipid peroxidation measured throughout TBARS levels (nmol MDA/mg of protein) in brain, liver, and muscle of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing fipronil in rice field condition after 7, 30, and 90 days ($n=15$).

Time (days)	Brain		Liver		Muscle	
	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment
7	4.26 ± 0.6	7.09 ± 0.6*	1.8 ± 0.4	2.38 ± 0.14*	0.83 ± 0.01	0.95 ± 0.01*
30	4.185 ± 0.6	11.46 ± 0.7*	1.61 ± 0.08	2.4 ± 0.7*	0.82 ± 0.09	1.24 ± 0.20*
90	4.31 ± 0.06	15.9 ± 0.04*	1.73 ± 0.09	2.61 ± 0.29*	0.86 ± 0.12	1.08 ± 0.28*

Values were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). * Indicate significant differences from control values ($p \leq 0.05$) ($n=15$).

Table 2

Weight and measures of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing fipronil (0.65 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30, or 90 days. Data represent the mean ± SD ($n=15$).

Time (days)	Weight (g)		Measures (cm)	
	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment
0	10.55 ± 0.8	11.74 ± 0.7	10.42 ± 0.5	11.07 ± 0.8
7	24.84 ± 0.6	25.45 ± 0.8	14.31 ± 0.7	13.53 ± 0.9
30	107.81 ± 1.4	106.72 ± 1.0	22.46 ± 1.5	21.55 ± 1.1
90	285.47 ± 1.2	286.2 ± 1.1	32.34 ± 1.7	30.61 ± 1.9

Values were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). * Indicates significant differences from control values ($p \leq 0.05$) ($n=15$).

These results are in agreement with Pandey et al. (2001), Atif et al. (2005), and Ballesteros et al. (2009), who have reported reduced CAT activity after exposure to insecticide endosulfan. The decline in CAT activity may happen because of lipid peroxidation or excessive production of free radicals in tissues poisoned with pesticides. As a consequence of the imbalance between the antioxidant system and the pro-oxidant state generated by pesticide toxicity is a possible explanation for CAT alterations. Generally CAT and SOD show combined response, SOD catalyzes the dismutation of the superoxide anion radical to H₂O and H₂O₂, which is detoxified by CAT activity (Monteiro et al., 2006; Trezado et al., 2006), but in this study this association was disrupted due to fipronil poisoning.

In this research, insecticide fipronil did not affect the activity of GST. The same was observed with carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) of exposure to 20.87 µg/L of bispyribac-sodium (Toni et al., 2010). We could observe the same after 21 days when carps were exposed at 23 µg/L penoxulan (Cattaneo et al., 2010). The results of these studies suggest that GST activity is dependent on the species under study. Other factors such as a type, product concentration, and exposure time may also influence the results. The GST activity did not change when compared with the control, which seems to enhance the risk of oxidative stress since it did not increase the cell protection capacity. A possible increase in the peroxidative overload is probably an indication of GST exhaustion in phase II of the biotransformation that could be induced by a high SOD activity, as shown in this study. The lack of response of GST results when compared with control in hepatic tissue could be caused by fipronil liver intoxication as well as a result of detoxification processes. Thus, the excessive free radical production may cause an exhaustion of the enzyme and can be related to the lack of response of liver GST activities.

Protein carbonyl levels were increased after 30 and 90 days of fipronil exposure. An increase in protein carbonyl levels could be a biomarker of pesticide exposure, while a decrease in protein carbonyl levels may indicate a mild oxidation of proteins, which increases susceptibility to proteolytic degradation (Almroth et al., 2005). The results of the study are in agreement with Parvez and

Raisuddin (2005), who found increased protein carbonyl levels in the liver of spotted snakehead (*Channa punctata*) after exposure to deltamethrin, endosulfan, and paraquat. This oxidative modification of proteins is also one of the many consequences of oxidative stress caused by xenobiotic exposure in fish. Oxidative stress parameters such as TBARS were significantly increased in all tissues tested (brain, liver, and muscle) in all exposure periods (Table 1). The TBARS results indicate lipid peroxidation, generated by fipronil exposure. The brain has a high rate of ROS production; however it is highly susceptible to oxidative damage and lipid peroxidation, due to the high rate of oxidative metabolism, to the abundance of polyunsaturated fatty acids in cell membrane, and to the relatively low antioxidant defense system (Matés, 2000). Lipid peroxidation observed in this research could be a specific tissue response to long-term exposure. In literature, many hypotheses have been formulated to explain pesticide-induced lipid peroxidation, such as the response may vary depending on the tissue, fish species, duration of exposure, and the pesticide class (Oruç and Üner, 2000; Sayeed et al., 2003; Moraes et al., 2010). Moraes et al. (2007) in a similar experimental model observed that piavas (*Leporinus obtusidens*) when exposed to the herbicides clomazone and propanil for 30 days enhanced the liver and muscle TBARS levels as in the present study. These results indicated that the exposure of fish to sublethal concentrations of these pesticides causes significant changes in TBARS production in liver and muscle tissues. Our results concerning TBARS in fish exposed to insecticides are in agreement with those obtained by Isik and Celik (2008) where TBARS levels significantly increased in the liver and in the muscle of fish treated with 0.5 ppm of the insecticides methyl parathion and diazinon in 24 and 48 h. As well as in our study an increased in TBARS levels was observed in muscle after 21 days and in the brain and liver after 72 days of exposure to bispyribac-sodium herbicide (Toni et al., 2010).

Taken together, the results concerning increased protein carbonyl and TBARS at experimental periods of 30 and 90 days as well as the SOD activity after all exposure times show the development of oxidative stress in fish as a response to fipronil exposure.

5. Conclusions

In this study, the long-term exposure (90 days) may have contributed to the responses observed in fish tissues. Fipronil at rice field concentrations induces changes in toxicological parameters of common carp; however no significant alterations on the survival or growth were observed. These results show that commercial formulation containing fipronil at concentration used in rice field altered production of antioxidant enzymes (SOD, CAT), increase lipid peroxidation and protein carbonyl formation. The measurements of SOD, protein carbonyl, and TBARS can be considered biomarkers for studies concerning fipronil toxicity in carp due to alterations caused remain until 90 days after exposure.

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4.2 Manuscrito I

Oxidative stress biomarkers in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran in a rice field condition for two experimental years

Bárbara Clasen, Vania Lucia Loro, Roberta Cattaneo, Alexandra Pretto, Jossiele Leitemperger, Charlene de Menezes, Fabrícia Dalabona, Renato Zanella, Enio Marchezan.

Oxidative stress biomarkers in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran in a rice field condition for two experimental years

Bárbara Clasen^a, Vania Lucia Loro^{a*}, Roberta Cattaneo^a, Alexandra Pretto^a, Jossiele Leitemperger^a, Charlene de Menezes^a, Fabrícia Dalabona^a, Renato Zanella^b, Enio Marchesan^c

^a Laboratório de Bioquímica Adaptativa, Pós-Graduação em Bioquímica Toxicológica, Departamento de Química, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

^b LARP – Laboratório de Análises de Resíduos de Pesticidas, UFSM, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

^c Departamento de Defesa Fitossanitária, UFSM, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

Corresponding Author:

(*) Dr. Vania Lucia Loro.

Departamento de Química

Universidade Federal de Santa Maria

97105.900 - Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

Phone: 55 3220-9456

Fax: 55 (55) 3220-8240

E-mail: vania.loro@gmail.com.br

vaniluc@yahoo.com.br

Abstract

The effects of commercial formulation containing carbofuran on oxidative stress parameters were studied in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to 50.0 µg/L for 7, 30 and 90 days for two experimental years (year 1 and year 2) under rice field conditions. Liver superoxide dismutase activity was enhanced at 7, 30, and 90 days in year 1 and year 2. In both years, TBARS levels showed a significant increase in the brain, liver and muscle after exposure. The growth of the fish was not affected by insecticide. These results suggest that environmental relevant carbofuran concentration cause alterations in the biochemical parameters on carps.

Keywords: Carbamate, insecticide, rice-fish, TBARS.

The culture of irrigated rice in the pre-germinated system occupies approximately 11% of areas for this crop in Rio Grande do Sul state and is responsible for about 50% of Brazilian production (Marchezan et al. 2004). Irrigated rice fields have enormous potential for expanding the aquaculture production in rice producing countries (Frei et al. 2007). In this system, it is recommended seeding rice on water, thus, the fish remain in refuges located in the rice field. Due to the need to increase food production and at the same time increase the income of farmers, it was introduced intercrops of irrigated rice and fish. Concurrent rice–fish culture is an integrated system, which allows using scarce resources such as water and land in

a complementary way (Frei and Becker 2005). In Southern Brazil, most farmers use at least one pesticide in rice fields (Clasen et al. 2012). Most pesticides may produce serious detrimental effects on the ecosystems considering their toxic effects in non-target organisms including fish (Adhikari et al. 2004; Senger et al. 2005).

Carbofuran is a broad spectrum systemic carbamate insecticide, nematicide, and acaricide that have been recently banned in the United States and Europe because of these unwanted toxic effects in birds, fish, mammals, insects and aquatic invertebrates (USEPA 2006). Although carbofuran is being reevaluated by Brazilian authorities, it is still legally applied throughout the country. It is also used to control a coleopteran that damages irrigated rice crop in southeast Brazil (Plese 2005; Pessoa et al. 2011).

Contamination of water bodies adjacent to rice fields by carbofuran, mainly through run off, is quite possible due to its widespread use in agriculture and relatively good solubility in water (320 mg/L at 20 °C). The concentration used in this study is based on the recommended dose of commercial formulation containing carbofuran to rice fields in Brazil that is 4,0 Kg/ha (Chelinho et al. 2012). This is a sublethal concentration and was chosen to observe what happens to carp when exposed in rice field conditions. It has been shown that carbofuran concentration in irrigated rice fields in the southeast Brazil can reach maximum concentrations of 233 µg/L in laminar water (Plese 2005). Therefore, it is very important to study the effects of carbofuran in fish reared in rice-fish conditions.

Several types of environmental pollutants may cause oxidative stress in fish. Most studies have showed that carbofuran induced oxidative stress leading to the generation of free radicals with an increase of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and alteration in the antioxidant profile (Banerjee et al. 1999). Pesticides can produce ROS via several mechanisms, such as interference in electron transport in the mitochondrial membrane lipid peroxidation (Winston and Di Giulio 1991). ROS production associated with the presence of pollutants has been imputed as a possible mechanism of toxicity in aquatic organisms exposed to pesticides (Oropesa et al. 2009). Lipid peroxidation in fish has been suggested as one of the molecular mechanisms involved in pesticide-induced toxicity (Banerjee et al. 1999; Almroth et al. 2005). Biochemical perturbations resulting from oxidative stress are lipid peroxidation and protein carbonyl formation. Protein carbonyl has been used as a biomarker of pollutant exposure in fish. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) is responsible for catalyzing the conversion of the superoxide anion into hydrogen peroxide. Hydrogen peroxide degrades into water and molecular oxygen via catalase (CAT), a family of enzymes which is present mainly in peroxisomes. Another very important enzyme is glutathione-S-transferase (GST) that acts in

the process of biotransformation, catalyzing the conjugation of a variety of metabolites, including xenobiotic metabolites and lipoperoxidation products, transforming the toxic compound into a more easily excretable (Parvez and Raisuddin 2005; Monteiro et al. 2006; Atli and Canli 2007).

Little information has been reported on changes in oxidative stress parameters in fish after long-term exposure to agrochemicals such as carbofuran, particularly under rice-fish conditions. Considering the potential contaminant of pesticides used in agriculture practices and possible contamination of fish, this study aimed at examining the effects of carbofuran at environmental relevant concentrations on the oxidative stress parameters in tissues of *Cyprinus carpio*. An attempt has also been made to assess the usefulness of these parameters as biomarkers of exposure to carbofuran due to the economical importance of this freshwater fish.

Materials and methods

Cyprinus carpio (weight: 15.0 ± 2.0 g, length: 10.0 ± 3.0 cm) were obtained from a commercial fish farm (RS, Brazil). Fish were acclimated in laboratory conditions for 10 days in tanks (250 L) containing water free from insecticides prior to experiments. They were kept in continuously aerated water with a static system and with a natural photoperiod (12h light/12h dark). After acclimation period the fish were transferred to points located in rice field. Both in the period of acclimation as in the period of exposure, the fish were fed twice a day with commercial fish pellets (42% crude protein, Supra, Brazil). The experiment was conducted in rice field during the agricultural years of 20010/11 (year 1) and 2011/12 (year 2). The first experimental year (year 1) covered from December/2010 to March/2011 and the second experimental year (year 2) from December/2011 to March/2012. After acclimation, the fish were submitted to carbofuran exposure (Furadan 100 g[®] – FMC Química do Brasil Ltda (CAS 1563-66-2), containing 10% carbofuran - 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimetil-7-benzofuranyl metylcarbamate) on rice field conditions. Fish were allocated in two groups, the control group (without insecticide), and exposure group (with insecticide). Each group was composed of 45 animals distributed in three tanks (triplicate) with 15 fish per tank. The fish were exposed to initial measured concentration 50.0 µg/L of the insecticide for 7, 30 and 90 days. The concentration of insecticide used in this experiment corresponds to concentration recommended in Brazil for use in rice culture. The control fish were placed in tanks with separate water supply from the exposure tanks, but conditions and placing of tanks were similar for both groups. During the experiment in the rice paddy field, the fish were placed in

submerged tanks, measuring 1.00 m (diameter) x 1.05 m (length). We used fine-mesh plastic screens at the entrances and exits of water to avoid the presence of predators. Other conditions, such as climate changes, were not avoided in order to obtain a field experimental condition as real as possible. The following parameters were monitored during the experiments: temperature (24 ± 2.0 °C), pH (6.5 ± 0.2), dissolved oxygen (4.21 ± 2.0 mg/L), nonionized ammonia (0.8 ± 0.01 µg/L) and nitrite (0.06 ± 0.01 mg/L) of the water in the rice field. The insecticide concentration in water was monitored from the first day until it was not detected. Insecticide was analyzed by high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) using the method described by Zanella et al (2003). After each exposure period (7, 30, and 90 days), the fish were killed by punching the spinal cord (behind the opercula), and a sample of 15 individuals per treatment was taken from the tanks and submitted to tissue (brain, liver, and muscle) collection. The work and experiments were approved by the board on experimentation on Animals of the Federal University of Santa Maria, reference number: 23081.010369/2007-58.

Measurements of superoxide dismutase (EC 1.15.1.1) activity were performed for liver tissue based on the inhibition of the radical superoxide reaction with adrenalin as described by McCord and Fridovich (1969). In this method, SOD present in the sample competes with the detection system for radical superoxide. A unit of SOD is defined as the amount of enzyme that inhibits the rate of oxidation of adrenalin by 50%. The oxidation of adrenalin leads to the formation of the colored product, adrenochrome. SOD activity is determined by measuring the rate of adrenochrome formation, measured at 480 nm, in a reaction medium containing glycine-NaOH (50 mM, pH 10) and epinephrine (1 mM).

Catalase (EC 1.11.1.6) activity was assayed spectrophotometrically (Nelson and Kiesow 1972). Liver tissue (50 mg) was homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5, and centrifuged at 10,000 g for 10 min at 4 °C. The assay mixture consisted of 2.0 mL potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), 50 µL H₂O₂ (0.3 M) and 50 µL homogenate. Change of H₂O₂ absorbance in 60s was measured at 240 nm. Catalase activity was calculated and expressed in µmol/min/mg protein.

GST (EC 2.5.1.18) activity was measured in the liver using a procedure described by Habig et al (1974) that involved CDNB as substrate. The assay mixture contained 1 mM CDNB (in ethanol), 10 mM GSH, 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.5), and 50 µl of the tissue homogenates. Enzyme activity was calculated from the changes in absorbance at 340 nm using a molar extinction coefficient of 9.6 mM/cm. One unit GST activity was

defined as the amount of enzyme required to catalyze the conjugation of 1 mol CDNB with GSH/minute at 25°C.

Protein carbonyl content was assayed by the method described by Yan et al (1995), with some modifications. The liver tissue (60 mg) was homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.4 using a glass homogenizer. Soluble protein (1.0 mL) was reacted with 10 mM DNPH in 2N hydrochloric acid. After incubation at room temperature for one hour in the dark, 0.5 mL of denaturing buffer (150 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, containing SDS 3.0%), 2.0 mL of heptane (99.5%) and 2.0 mL of ethanol (99.8%) were added sequentially, vortexed for 40s and centrifuged at 10,000 X g for 15 min. The protein extracted from the interface was washed twice by resuspension in ethanol/ethyl acetate (1:1), and suspended in 1 mL of denaturing buffer. The carbonyl content was then measured spectrophotometrically (Femto Scan spectrophotometer) at 370 nm. The total carbonylation was calculated using a molar extinction coefficient of 22,000 M/cm. The protein carbonyl content was expressed as nmol carbonyl/mg protein.

Lipid peroxidation was estimated by the TBARS assay, performed by a MDA reaction with TBA, which was spectrophotometrically measured according to Buege and Aust (1978). The liver, brain (50 mg) and muscle (250 mg) tissues were homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of potassium phosphate buffer (20 mM) and thus TCA 10% and TBA 0.67% were added to adjust to a final volume of 1.0 mL. The reaction mixture was placed in a micro-centrifuge tube and incubated in hot bath for 15 min at 95 °C. After cooling, it was centrifuged at 5000 g for 15 min and optical density was measured by spectrophotometer (Femto Scan spectrophotometer) at 532 nm TBARS levels were expressed as nmol MDA/Mg protein.

Protein was determined by the Coomassie blue method using BSA as standard. Absorbance of samples was measured at 595 nm (Bradford 1976).

Comparison between two groups was made by the Student *t*-test, paired test. The results obtained were expressed as mean \pm standard derivation (SD). The value of $P \leq 0.05$ was considered statistically significant for all analyses ($N = 15$).

Results and Discussion

In the present study, a set of oxidative stress parameters of *carpio* was determined to evaluate possible effects of carbofuran on the concentration recommended to rice field conditions in an experiment conducted for two agricultural years. Considering the key enzymes for the detoxification of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in all organisms, it is

possible to detach superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (CAT). These antioxidant enzymes are essential for the conversion of ROS to harmless metabolites and may be increased or inhibited under chemical stress.

The sublethal concentration used of carbofuran increased the liver SOD activity after 7, 30 and 90 days of exposure in both experimental years. In the years 1 and 2, there was an increase of 64% and 58% (7 days), 52% and 75% (30 days) and 80% and 62% (90 days), respectively (Fig. 1). Clasen et al (2012) have recently shown similar results in carp exposure to 0.65 µg/L (sublethal concentration) of fipronil insecticide for 7, 30 and 90 days in rice field conditions.

In the present study the CAT activity did not show significant changes after 7 and 90 days of insecticide exposure, whereas after 30 days of exposure of this activity enzyme in liver decreased 24.5% and 18.0% in the first and second experimental years, respectively (Fig. 2). CAT activity is a typical response against pesticide toxicity. Its effect showed to be directly related to carbofuran residues found in water ponds considering that carbofuran were found up to 45 days after the application (Fig. 3). The decrease of CAT activity could be due to the flux of the superoxide radicals, which have been reported to inhibit CAT activity as occurred in this study at 30 days. In a similar experiment considering exposure at rice field, liver CAT activity was reduced in carps after 21 days of exposure and no changes were observed after 7 or 72 days of exposure to herbicide bispyribac sodium (Toni et al. 2010). Our results are on accordance with Moraes et al (2009) who has also reported the reduction of the hepatic activity of CAT in *Leporinus obtusidens* exposed to clomazone and propanil in a field study. On the other hand, the lack of response of CAT observed at 7 and 90 days of exposure is probably due to tissue oxidative damage, and could also represent a response against insecticide toxicity helping liver tissue to prevent protein oxidation and lipid damage. Similar to our results, no changes in CAT activity were observed in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to imazethapyr and imazapic (Moraes et al. 2011). CAT responses seem to be fish specific and variations observed were obtained also considering different agrochemical classes. Therefore, the use of CAT activity as an exclusive biomarker of toxicity is not recommended and it is necessary to verify the activity of different enzymes in order to understand antioxidant responses of fish (Van der Oost et al. 2003). Antioxidant enzymes have a complex pathway of regulation and their activities derived from two processes: production and inactivation (Modesto and Martinez 2010). In the context of this study SOD activity have production and CAT suffered inhibition or no response, probably due to carbofuran induced toxicity.

GST activity in fish of polluted locations may be an important biomarker of pesticide toxicity. On the contrary of the most common enzyme responses, in our study different GST results were observed according to the period analyzed. The liver GST activity showed a reduction of 28.9% (year 1) and 53.3% (year 2) after 7 days of exposure and 14.5% (year 1) and 52.1% (year 2) after 90 days. However, after 30 days of exposure an increase of 16.1% (year 1) and 103.1% (year 2) was found in this enzyme activity (Fig. 4). The increase observed in GST activity after 30 days of exposure is probably due to the increase in the biotransformation process of the xenobiotic by the animal exposed to carbofuran. The metabolism of the lipoperoxides formed by the Fenton reaction may also have occurred indicating the activation of the defense mechanisms. The decrease enzyme activity in hepatic tissue after 7 days of exposure may have occurred because liver is one of the first organs exposed to pesticides or other pollutants. However, the decrease observed in GST activity after 90 days of exposure can indicate a different response, where the antioxidant defense is disrupted by carbofuran or its derived products. The decrease of GST activity could indicate a toxic situation caused by carbofuran exposure. The most common response of GST against toxic situation is the induction of activity that is considered beneficial to handle a stress condition. The inhibition of GST has also been reported in gills of mosquitofish exposed to carbofuran (Rondón-von Osten 2005) and liver of carps exposed to bispyribac sodium (Toni et al. 2010).

Protein carbonyl showed reduction (11.0%) only after 90 days in the first year of experiment, whereas, in the second year of experiment a decrease of 61.2%, 67.5% and 25.2% after 7, 30, and 90 days of exposure was observed, respectively (Fig. 5). The decrease in protein carbonyl levels showed in this study may indicate the protective role of antioxidant system that reduces the liver susceptibility to proteolytic degradation and oxidation of proteins. Few works have been reported concerning protein carbonyl in teleost fish especially after long exposure. The existence of an induction of antioxidant system may reflect an adaptation of organisms and explain the reduced levels of protein carbonyl found in the present study. Other studies are needed to improve our knowledge about protein carbonyl reduction after long time exposure to carbofuran.

TBARS levels enhanced 148.0% (year 1) and 65.02% (year 2) on average in the brain after all periods tested. However, in the liver and the muscle TBARS levels increased up to 32.9% (year 1) and up to 282.3% (year 2) after 30 and 90 days of exposure, respectively (Table 1). The sum of results concerning TBARS levels and protein carbonyl suggests protective effects of the antioxidant system of *Cyprinus carpio* for 7 days of exposure. The

lipid peroxidation phenomenon was evidenced due to the elevation of brain, liver and muscle TBARS levels after 30 and 90 days of exposure. These results lead us to conclude that the exposure to carbofuran insecticide promotes variations in the MDA concentrations and in the antioxidant systems in the various tissues of *C. carpio*. Other authors have also observed elevated levels of lipid peroxidation induced by aquatic pollutants (Sayeed et al. 2003; Li et al. 2003). In a similar study in rice field conditions Clasen et al (2012) observed an enhanced in brain, liver and muscle TBARS levels after exposure of *Cyprinus carpio* to sublethal concentration of fipronil insecticide to 7, 30 and 90 days. Lipid peroxidation induced by herbicides is a common response of teleost fish such as *Leporinus obtusidens* exposed to clomazone and propanil (Moraes et al. 2007) as well as carps exposed to bispyribac-sodium (Toni et al. 2010). The level of lipid peroxidation may differ among fish species due to the organ considered and pesticide tested.

After exposure to commercial formulation containing carbofuran for two agricultural years no significant difference was observed in weight gain of fish between the treatments, as well as no significant changes in measures between the carbofuran treatment and control group during the two experimental years (Table 2).

Results present in our study clearly demonstrated that carbofuran concentrations used in agriculture may cause changes in toxicology parameters of *Cyprinus carpio*. The measurement of TBARS levels and SOD activity could be considered to monitor insecticide fish toxicity in contaminated water. Although carbofuran residues are not found in 90 day period, the insecticide-induced lipid peroxidation and increased SOD activity could be a prolonged effect or also effects of surfactants used in commercial formulation.

Thus, some external stressors, such as carbofuran, even at non-lethal concentration used in rice field can have a toxic effect on the *C. carpio* oxidative parameters. The increased TBARS levels may have resulted from an increase of free radicals as a result of fish stress condition after carbofuran intoxication.

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Table 1. Lipid peroxidation measured throughout TBARS levels (nmol MDA/mg of protein) in brain, liver and muscle of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran at first year (2010/11) and second year (2011/12) in rice field condition after 7, 30 and 90 days (n=15).

Time (days)	Brain		Liver		Muscle	
	0.0 µg/L	50.0 µg/L	0.0 µg/L	50.0 µg/L	0.0 µg/l	50.0 µg/L
First year						
7	3.83 ± 0.5	7.83±0.82*	1.85 ± 0.7	1.81 ± 0.48	0.83 ± 0.5	0.69 ± 0.32
30	4.26 ± 0.6	11.98±0.07*	1.61 ± 0.06	1.85±0.04*	0.82 ± 0.09	0.97 ± 0.13*
90	4.04 ±0.4	10.44±1.5*	1.73 ± 0.3	2.30±0.83*	0.86 ± 0.12	1.17±0.23*
Second year						
7	4.26 ± 0.6	6.84 ± 1.4*	1.8 ± 0.4	2.30 ± 0.9	0.84 ± 0.1	0.75 ± 0.3
30	4.18 ± 0.6	7.0 ± 6.7*	1.8 ± 0.8	3.4 ± 0.03*	0.83 ± 0.24	3.73±0.54*
90	4.31 ±0.06	7.2 ± 0.05*	1.7 ± 0.08	6.5 ± 0.04*	0.77 ± 0.07	1.79±0.09*

Values were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). *Indicate significant differences from control values ($p \leq 0.05$) (n=15).

Table 2. Weight and measures of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran (50.0 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30 or 90 days for two experimental years. Data represent the mean ± SD (n=15).

Time (days)	First Year		Weight (g)		Measures (cm)	
	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment
0	15.33 ± 1.0	14.93 ± 0.8	10.34 ± 1.6	11.15 ± 0.7		
7	22.67 ± 0.7	23.81 ± 1.2	15.27 ± 0.9	14.42 ± 1.1		
30	98.23 ± 0.5	94.16 ± 1.0	20.51 ± 1.1	20.39 ± 1.4		
90	204.72 ± 1.2	201.28 ± 1.1	28.46 ± 1.8	27.32 ± 1.6		
Time (days)	Second Year		Weight (g)		Measures (cm)	
	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment	Control	Treatment
0	13.42 ± 1.0	12.34 ± 0.6	11.48 ± 0.8	11.39 ± 0.4		
7	22.81 ± 1.2	20.57 ± 0.9	14.24 ± 0.9	14.26 ± 0.8		
30	85.59 ± 0.9	81.24 ± 1.1	21.17 ± 1.2	20.14 ± 1.0		
90	196.34 ± 1.1	195.96 ± 1.4	30.53 ± 1.5	29.55 ± 1.2		

Values were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). *Indicate significant differences from control values ($p \leq 0.05$) (n=15).

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Liver superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran (50.0 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30 or 90 days for two experimental years. Data represent the mean ± SD (n=15). *Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

Figure 2. Liver catalase (CAT) activity in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran (50.0 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30 or 90 days for two experimental years. Data represent the mean ± SD (n=15). *Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

Figure 3. Carbofuran concentration (µg/L) in water from rice field at first year (2010/11) and second year (2011/12).

Figure 4. Liver glutathione S-transferase (GST) activity in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran (50.0 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30 or 90 days for two experimental years. Data represent the mean ± SD (n=15). *Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

Figure 5. Liver protein carbonyl in *Cyprinus carpio* exposed to commercial formulation containing carbofuran (50.0 µg/L) at rice field condition after 7, 30 or 90 days for two experimental years. Data represent the mean ± SD (n=15). *Indicates significant difference between control and insecticide group ($p \leq 0.05$).

Fig.1

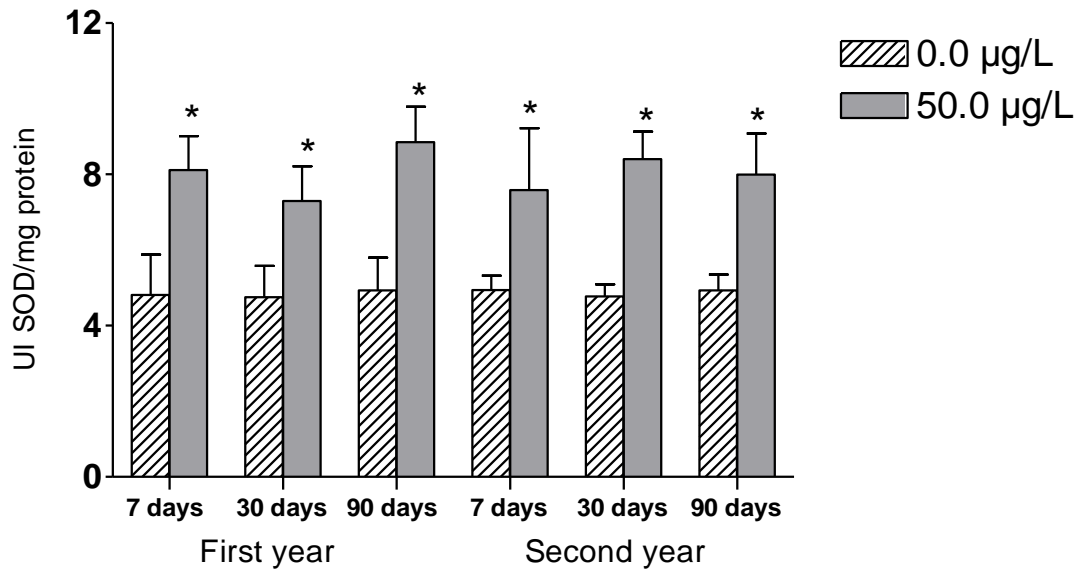


Fig.2

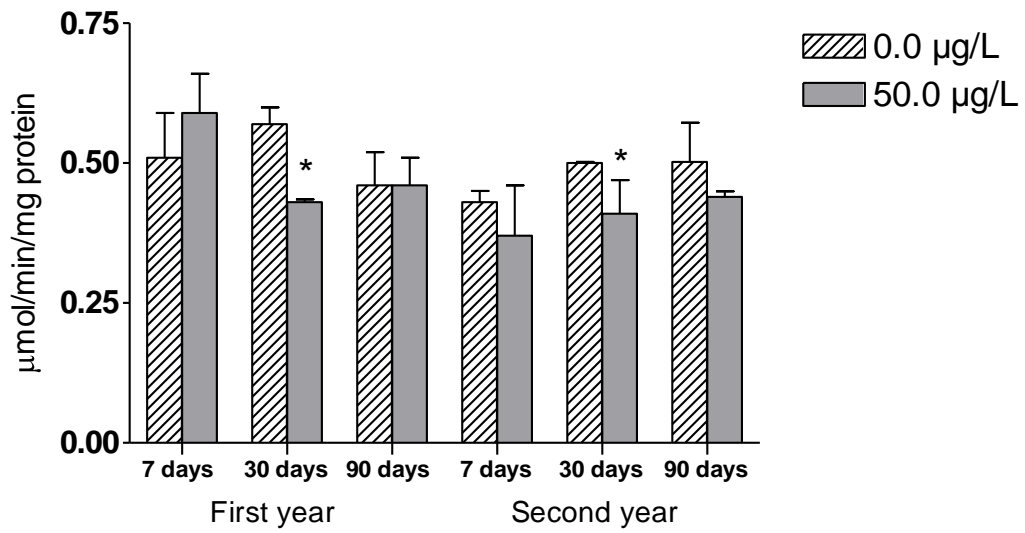


Fig.3

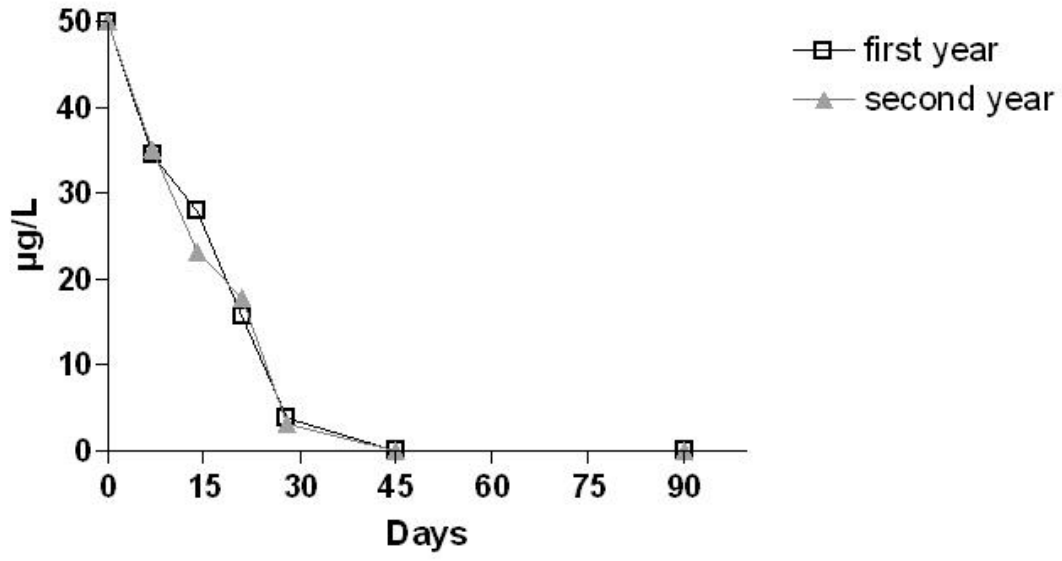


Fig.4

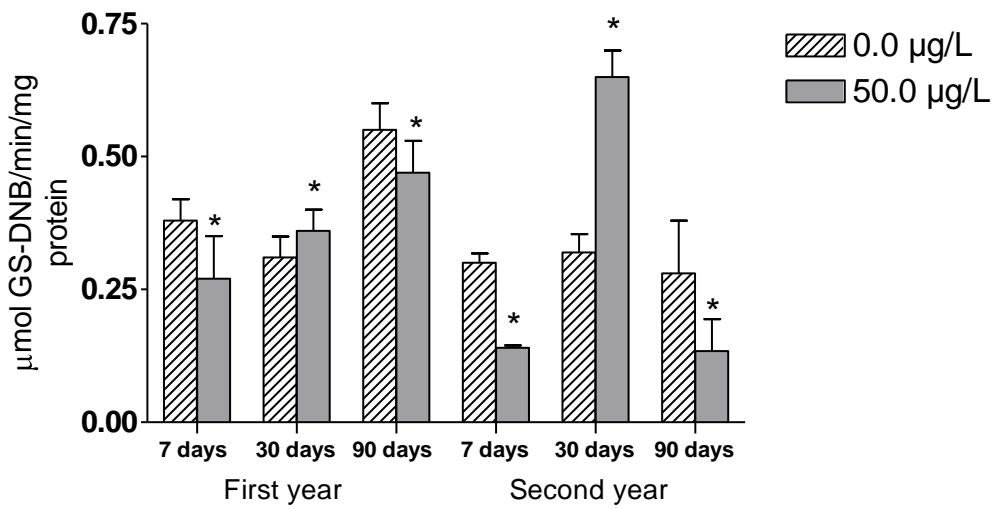
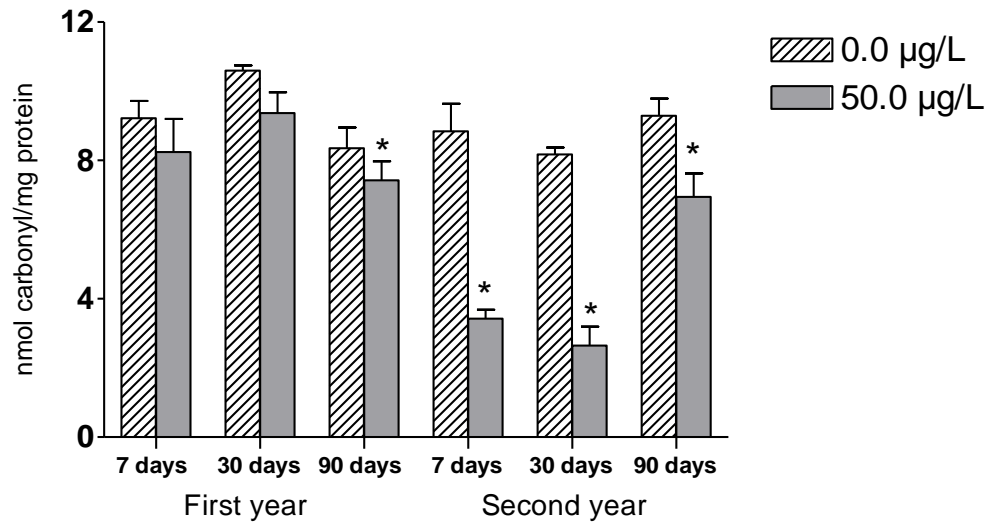


Fig.5



4.3 Manuscrito II

Biochemical parameters of carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) exposed to insecticides carbofuran and fipronil. Laboratory case study

Bárbara Clasen, Jossiele Leitemperger, Charlene Menezes, Cândida Toni, Thais Lópes, Martha Bohrer Adaime, Renato Zanella, Vania Lucia Loro

Biochemical parameters of carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) exposed to insecticides carbofuran and fipronil. Laboratory case study

Bárbara Clasen^a, Jossiele Leitemperger^a, Charlene Menezes^a, Cândida Toni^a, Thais Lópes^a, Martha Bohrer Adaime^b, Renato Zanella^b, Vania Lucia Loro^{a*}

^aLaboratório de Bioquímica Adaptativa, Pós-Graduação em Bioquímica Toxicológica, Departamento de Química, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

^b LARP – Laboratório de Análises de Resíduos de Pesticidas, UFSM, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

Corresponding Author:

(*) Dr. Vânia Lucia Loro.

Departamento de Química

Universidade Federal de Santa Maria

97105.900 - Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

Phone: 55 3220-9456

Fax: 55 (55) 3220-8240

E-mail: vania.loro@gmail.com.br

Abstract

The intense and uncontrolled use of pesticides can cause contamination of different ecosystems, including aquatic, affecting different organisms, like fish. These pesticides can affect toxicological parameters of these animals, harming their survival. In this sense, the objective of this study was to evaluate biochemical changes on carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) after exposure to a commercial formulation of insecticides carbofuran ($50.0 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) and fipronil ($0.65 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) for 30 days. The following biochemical parameters were analyzed: thiobarbituric acid reactive substances levels (TBARS), protein carbonyl, and antioxidant profile represented by: catalase (CAT), glutathione S-transferase (GST), glutathione (GSH), ascorbic acid and acetylcholinesterase (AChE). TBARS levels increased in every tissue analyzed after exposure to both insecticides. In the same way protein carbonyl increased in liver of carps exposed to carbofuran and fipronil. The liver activities of CAT and GST did not change after exposure to both insecticides. The GST activity did not change in brain and muscle. Non enzymatic antioxidants GSH and ascorbic acid showed a different response where GSH levels increased in liver after exposure to carbofuran and fipronil and liver and muscle ascorbic acid increased only after carbofuran exposure. Fipronil exposure did not change ascorbic acid at any organs tested. Carbofuran and fipronil exposure reduced AChE activity in brain and muscle. The results of present investigation showed that insecticides exposure causes disorder in biochemical parameters tested in carps. The evaluation of lipid peroxidation and protein carbonyl evidenced oxidative damage in organs of carp and these parameters could be used as biomarkers for insecticides exposure.

Keywords: pesticides; biomarkers; oxidative stress

1.Introduction

For centuries, pesticides have been widely used in agriculture in order to increase production, as well as fight insects, weeds and also fungi that may attack crops. Over the past 30 years, their use has been intensified especially in Brazil, which became one of the largest consumers of such chemicals, behind only of Japan and the United States (DAMS, 2006). Insecticides are deemed necessary to control pests in several commercial crops, but they can cause toxic effects in non-target organisms in different terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (Breteau et al., 2000).

Carbofuran (Furadan[®]) is used as an insecticide, nematicide and acaricide and is included in the group of carbamates and is widely used in Brazil. Fipronil (Standak[®]) is a broad-spectrum insecticide that belongs to the phenylpyrazole class of insecticides and is considered more selective and less damaging to ecosystems if compared with organophosphate insecticides (Stark and Vargas, 2005; Chelinho et al., 2012; Clasen et al., 2012).

In south Brazil, mainly in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, is common to find the practice of aquaculture complementary to agriculture, since the ponds used for fish farming are close to or within agricultural areas, or receive water that circulates through the cultivated soil (Cericato et al., 2008). Several studies have been conducted to investigate biochemical changes induced in fish exposed to pesticides, in field and in laboratory conditions (Golombieski et al., 2008; Cattaneo et al., 2008, Moraes et al., 2009, Toni et al., 2011). Pesticides in contact with fish can cause biochemical and physiological changes depending of used concentration, exposure time and also fish species. Among the harmful effects caused by pesticides in fish, we can cite the occurrence of oxidative stress, which leads to the generation of free radicals and alterations in antioxidant defenses (Toni et al., 2010, Moraes et al., 2011). The state of oxidative stress is caused by an imbalance between oxidants and antioxidants due to the depletion or to overproduction of reactive oxygen species (ROS), or both, resulting in damage to the organism (Isik and Celik, 2008).

To deal with this paradox, the cell has a number of defenses to avert or combat the deleterious effect of these ROS generated by aerobic metabolism. The defense system consists of enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants. The SOD catalyzes the conversion of superoxide anion ($O_2^{\bullet-}$) to produce hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), which is metabolised by CAT in molecular oxygen and water. Glutathione S-

transferases (GST) are a group of multifunctional enzymes that catalyze the conjugation of GSH with a variety of metabolites and oxygen radicals. GST is involved in the biotransformation and detoxification of xenobiotics (Cnubben, 2001).

In addition to changes in enzymatic antioxidant defense system, lipid peroxidation (LPO) has also been suggested as one of the molecular mechanisms involved in pesticide-induced toxicity (Kehrer, 1993). The process of LPO is an important consequence of oxidative stress and has been extensively investigated in fish (Miron et al., 2008, Clasen et al., 2012). As a result of oxidative stress may also occur the formation of protein carbonyl, altering the structure and consequently the function of different proteins. Thus, the number of carbonyl groups is correlated with damage to proteins in a situation of oxidative stress (Almroth et al., 2005).

Another parameter frequently used in toxicological studies is the measurement of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity. AChE is a key enzyme in the nervous system, terminating nerve impulses by catalyzing hydrolysis of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in acetate and choline. This enzyme inhibition has been widely used to detect adverse effects of carbamates and organophosphates (Wang et al., 2009; Pretto et al., 2011). Considering that carbofuran classically inhibited AChE activity in fish, more studies are needed to improve knowledge about others effects, particularly on oxidative parameters.

Considering the potential contamination of fish by pesticides used in farming practices, the evaluation of biochemical responses in fish, as well the determination of biomarkers of oxidative stress may serve as tools to be used in programs for environmental risk assessment.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Chemicals

A commercial formulation of carbofuran - 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimetil-7-benzofuranyl metylcarbamate (Furadan[®] - Química do Brasil Ltda) and fipronil (Standak[®]- BASF), [(±)-5-amino-1-(2,6-dichloro- α - α -trifluoro-p-tolyl)-4-trifluoromethylsulfinyl]pyrazole-3 carbonitrile] was used in the experiment. 1-chloro-2,4- dinhitrobenzene (CDNB), bovine serum albumin, Triton X-100, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), malondialdehyde (MDA), 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA) and sodium dodecyl sulfete (SDS) and 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH). were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA).

2.2 Experimental design

The experiment was conducted at the Biochemistry Laboratory of Federal University of Santa Maria, RS, Brazil. *Cyprinus carpio* (weight: 12.0 ± 1.0 g, length: 10.0 ± 1.0 cm) were obtained from fish farm (RS, Brazil). Fish were acclimated in laboratory conditions for 10 days in tanks (250 L) prior to experiments. They were kept in continuously aerated water with a static system and with a natural photoperiod (12h light/12h dark). The fish were fed once daily with commercial feed Supra[®] (42% crude protein). After the acclimatization period fish were divided into three groups, without insecticide (control), group 1 (carbofuran) and group 2 (fipronil) and then exposed for 30 days. The concentration of insecticides used was: carbofuran ($50.0 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) and fipronil ($0.65 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) as recommended for rice culture. No replacements were made for pesticides and their levels were monitored every other day (Table 1). The following water parameters were monitored during the experiments: temperature (22.1 ± 2.0 °C), pH (6.7 ± 0.2), dissolved oxygen (6.31 ± 2.0 mg/L), nonionized ammonia ($0.6 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{g/L}$) and nitrite (0.03 ± 0.01 mg/L). Insecticide in experimental medium was analyzed by high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) using the method described by Sabin et al. (2009). After exposure period (30 days), 15 individuals per treatment (n=15) were killed by punching the spinal cord (behind the opercula), and then submitted to tissue (brain, liver and muscle) collection.

2.3 Biochemical Parameters

2.3.1 Lipid Peroxidation Assay

Lipid peroxidation was estimated by a TBARS assay, performed by a malondialdehyde (MDA) reaction with 2-thiobarbituric acid (TBA), which was spectrophotometrically measured according to Buege and Aust (1978). Liver, muscle and brain (50-250 mg) were homogenized in phosphate-K + (20 mM) and centrifuged at 5,000 g for 10 min. Once, a rate (250-400 μL) of homogenate was added 10% TCA and 0.67% thiobarbituric acid adjusted to a final volume of 1 mL. The samples were incubated for 15 min. at 95 ° C. After the samples were centrifuged at 5,000 g for 15 min and the absorbance was measured at a wavelength of 532 nm. The levels of TBARS were expressed as nmol MDA / mg protein.

2.3.2 Carbonyl assay

The liver tissue was homogenized in 10 volumes (w/v) of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.4 using a glass homogenizer. Protein carbonyl content was assayed by the method described by Yan et al. (1995) with some modifications. Soluble protein (1.0 mL) was reacted with 10 mM DNPH in 2N hydrochloric acid. After incubation at room temperature for one hour in dark, 0.5 mL of denaturing buffer (150 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 6.8, containing SDS 3.0%), 2.0 mL of heptane (99.5%) and 2.0 mL of ethanol (99.8%) were added sequentially, vortexed for 30s and centrifuged at 10,000 X g for 15 min. Then, the protein isolated from the interface was washed twice by resuspension in ethanol/ethyl acetate (1:1), and suspended in 1 mL of denaturing buffer and the carbonyl content was measured spectrophotometrically at 370 nm. Assay was performed in duplicate and two tubes blank incubated with 2 N HCl without DNPH was included for each sample. The total carbonylation was calculated using a molar extinction coefficient of 22,000 M/cm.

2.3.3 Catalase activity assay

Catalase (EC 1.11.1.6) activity was assayed by ultraviolet spectrophotometry (Nelson and Kiesov 1972). Liver tissue (50 mg) were homogenized in a Potter-Elvehjem glass/Teflon homogenizer with 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5 (1:20 w/v), centrifuged at 10,000 X g for 10 min at 4 °C. The assay mixture consisted of 2.0 mL potassium phosphate buffer (50 mM, pH 7.0), 0.05 mL H₂O₂ (0.3 M) and 0.05 mL homogenate. Change of H₂O₂ absorbance in 60 s was measured by at 240 nm. Catalase activity was calculated and expressed in $\mu\text{mol}/\text{min}/\text{mg}$ protein.

2.3.4 Glutathione S-transferase assay

GST activity was measured according to Habig et al. (1974) using 1-chloro-2, 4-dinitrobenzene (CDNB) as a substrate. The formation of S-2, 4-dinitrophenyl glutathione was monitored by the increase in absorbance at 340 nm against blank. The extinction coefficient used for CDNB was 9.6 mM/cm. The activity was expressed as $\mu\text{mol GS-DNB}/\text{min}/\text{mg}$ protein.

2.3.5 Reduced glutathione assay

GSH levels were determined according to Ellman (1959). The preparation of homogenate for the liver tissue (150 mg) was homogenized with 1.5 mL Tris HCl 50

mM (pH 7.5) followed by centrifugation at 3000g for 10 min . An aliquot the supernatants (1.0 mL) mixed with 1.0 mL trichloroacetic acid 10% followed by centrifugation. For GSH levels determinations an aliquot the supernatants (200 μ L) was used with 5,50-dithio-bis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) 10 mM (DTNB) and phosphate buffer 0.5 mM (pH 7.4) the reaction was followed at 412 nm. The GSH levels were expressed as μ mol GSH g^{-1} of liver.

2.3.6 Ascorbic acid assay

Ascorbic acid content was determined by the method of Roe (1954) and modified by Jacques-Silva et al. (2001). The preparation of homogenate for the liver tissue (150 mg) was homogenized with 1.5 mL Tris HCl 50 mM (pH 7.5) followed by centrifugation at 3000g for 10 min . An aliquot of the supernatants (1.0 mL) was mixed with 1.0 mL trichloroacetic acid 10% followed by centrifugation. For the determination of ascorbic acid it was used an aliquot of the supernatants (300 μ L) with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (4.5 mg/mL), 0.6 mg/mL thiourea, CuSO₄ (0.075 mg/mL) and trichloroacetic acid 13.3% and incubated for 3 h at 37°C. Then H₂SO₄ 65% (v/v) was added to the medium. The ascorbic acid levels were expressed as μ g ASA/g of liver.

2.3.7 Acetylcholinesterase assay

The AChE activity was measured using the method described by Ellman et al. (1961) and modified by Miron et al. (2005). Brain and muscle (30 mg) were weighed and homogenized with sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.2 and 50 mM Triton X-100 1%. The homogenate was centrifuged for 10 min at 3000 g and 5°C supernatant was used as a source of enzyme. Aliquots of supernatant (50 and 100 μ L) (brain and muscle, respectively) were incubated at 30°C for 2 min with a buffer solution containing 0.1M sodium phosphate, pH 7.5 and 1 mM DTNB. After incubation, the reaction was initiated by the addition of Asch (0.5 mM). Absorbance was measured by spectrophotometry at 412 nm for 2 min. The enzyme activity was expressed in mmol Asch hydrolyzed/min/mg protein.

2.3.8 Protein Determination assay

Protein was determined by the Coomassie blue method using BSA as standard. Absorbance of samples was measured at 595 nm according to Bradford (1976).

2.3.9 Statistical analysis

Comparison between each group with control was made by the Student *t*-test, paired test. Value of $P \leq 0.05$ was considered statistically significant for all analyses (n=15).

3. Results

The insecticides were monitored in experimental water on days 1, 7, 14, 21 and 28 to verify dissipation in water. After 28 days 50% of carbofuran and 24.6 % of fipronil was detected in experimental water. After 30 days of exposure to carbofuran and fipronil TBARS increased in liver, brain and muscle in comparison with the control group (Figure 1). The liver tissue show increased levels of protein carbonyl after exposure to both insecticides (Figure 2). Exposure to carbofuran and fipronil induced some changes in antioxidant profile. The liver activities of CAT and GST did not change after exposure to both insecticides. The GST activity also did not change in brain and muscle. GSH levels increased in liver after exposure to carbofuran and fipronil, but no changes were recorded in brain and muscle. Ascorbic acid levels increased in liver and muscle only after carbofuran exposure. Fipronil exposure did not change ascorbic acid at any organs tested (Table 2). Carbofuran and fipronil exposure reduced AChE activity in brain and muscle (Figure 3).

4. Discussion

The exposure to carbofuran and fipronil for 30 days induced the lipid peroxidation (LPO) phenomenon in the liver, brain and muscle of *carpio*. The increased TBARS levels in organs of *carpio* are clearly indicative of LPO induced by both insecticides. LPO occurs when free radicals attack the unsaturated fatty acid, causing cell membrane damage, affecting its structure and function. The protein carbonyl also increased in liver and this result taken together with TBARS in liver could be an indicative of oxidative damage. Considering that liver is an essential organ to detoxification process, TBARS and carbonyl increased levels can contribute to disrupt carbofuran and fipronil detoxification in liver. In fact, liver tissue showed absence of response for enzymes catalase (CAT) and glutathione S-transferase (GST) and only GSH levels increased in this organ after exposure to both insecticides. The results concerning TBARS levels are in agreement with those obtained by Sayeed et al. (2003) that observed a significant increase of TBARS in the liver of *Channa punctatus* exposed to deltamethrin insecticide for 48h. Isik and Celik (2008) showed TBARS increased levels in the liver and muscle of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* after short exposure to methyl parathion and diazinon insecticides (0.5 ppm) for 24 and 48h. TBARS levels and protein carbonyl content have often been used as effective biomarkers of toxic pollutants in fish (Livingstone 2001; Parvez and Raisuddin 2005; Moraes et al., 2011). In addition TBARS, protein carbonyl levels and SOD activity were considered important biomarkers for evaluation of fipronil toxicity at prolonged study (90 days) in rice field conditions (Clasen et al., 2012). Protein carbonyl has been used as a biomarker of pollutants exposure in fish because when protein carbonylation occurs, protein conformational changes, decreasing catalytic activity and breakdown of proteins by proteases occurs (Almroth et al., 2005). Insecticides, such as carbofuran and fipronil, may induce oxidative stress, thus leading to the generation of free radicals as well as causing LPO and carbonylation of proteins as a mechanism involved in insecticide toxicity.

Carbofuran and fipronil exposure changes antioxidant profile in fish due to absence of response for CAT and GST activities and increased levels of GSH and ascorbic acid levels found in organs of carps. CAT activity was unaffected in brain and gill of *Oreochromis niloticus* exposed to 2,4D herbicide and azinphosmethyl insecticide Oruç and Üner (2000). Similar results were showed when carps were

exposed to commercial formulation containing imazethapyr and imazapic for 30 and 90 days, liver GST activity decreased and CAT did not change (Moraes et al., 2011). Fipronil exposure at rice field conditions showed similar response concerning GST activity. Any change was recorded after 7, 30 or 90 days of exposure. However, liver CAT was reduced after same condition and time exposure (Clasen et al., 2012). In addition, carps exposed to herbicides bispyribac-sodium and penoxulan for 21 days also showed absence of response for liver GST (Toni et al., 2010; Cattaneo et al., 2010). Zhang et al. (2004) did not find any changes in CAT activity in the liver of *Carassius auratus* exposed to low concentrations of 2,4 - dichlorophenol for 40 days. The CAT is generally associated with elevated concentrations of H₂O₂ due to important role of CAT to removal hydrogen peroxide, which is metabolized to oxygen and water. For other side GST is considered an important step for detoxification of xenobiotics such as pesticides that generate oxidative stress. The lack of response of CAT and GST showed in liver of carps could be caused by carbofuran and fipronil intoxication. Thus, the excessive lipid peroxidation or excessive production of free radicals may cause enzymes exhaustion. An effective antioxidant defense in this study was provided only by liver non-enzyme antioxidants reduced glutathione (GSH) and ascorbic acid. GSH is considered important in the detoxification of electrophiles and prevention of oxidative damage (Sies, 1999). In the present study the liver increased GSH levels were recorded after carbofuran and fipronil exposure. Brain and muscle did not change GSH or ascorbic acid levels. GSH levels could increase during oxidative stress leading to adaptive mechanisms, however according to some authors high oxidative damage could suppress GSH levels reducing adaptive mechanisms (Zhang et al., 2004, Monteiro et al., 2006). On the other hand, when *Brycon cephalus* were exposed to methyl parathion insecticide increased GST activity was concomitant to the decreases in GSH content for all organs analyzed. There was GSH depletion with increased activity of GST (Monteiro et al., 2006), this hypothesis is not true in the context of this study, where liver GSH increases could be an important antioxidant defense against carbofuran and fipronil toxicity. Ascorbic acid levels increased in liver and muscle after exposure to carbofuran. Fipronil exposure did not change ascorbic acid at any organs tested. In order to combat oxidative damage when enzyme defenses are disrupted secondary defense such as ascorbic acid were important. In the context of this study, ascorbic acid taken

together with GSH increased levels represented an important way to help antioxidant defenses against oxidative damage generated by insecticides exposure.

Another important parameter used for toxicological evaluation is the measurement of AChE activity. In the present study AChE activity was inhibited in brain and muscle after exposure to carbofuran and fipronil. The major effect of pesticides on AChE activity is the reduction of activity after exposure (Begum, 2004; Miron et al., 2008; Modesto and Martinez, 2010). Our results are in agreement with those found by Golombieski et al. (2008) that showed an inhibition in AChE activity in the brain (38%) and muscle (50%) of carps exposed for 96h to diafuran carbamate insecticide. Brain of goldfish exposed to carbofuran (50 or 500 µg/L) showed high levels of inhibition (19-87%) (Bretaud et al., 2000). AChE activity was inhibited 47% in brain and 45% in muscle in *Rhamdia quelen* exposed to clomazone herbicide (Crestani et al., 2007). Some authors suggest that TBARS increase could be linked with AChE inhibition (Sevgiler et al., 2004; Üner et al., 2006; Oruç and Usta, 2007, Miron et al., 2008). Our results suggest the same hypothesis due to TBARS increase in brain and muscle concomitant to AChE inhibition in the same tissues after both insecticides exposure. Another hypothesis is the involvement of protein carbonyl to disrupt AChE activity. However in the present study only liver carbonyl was verified. In this sense more investigations are needed regarding AChE activity and relationship with pro-oxidants such as TBARS and carbonyl.

Our results clearly indicated the oxidative damage and the involvement of the insecticides tested causing lipid peroxidation and carbonylation of proteins. Some effects were observed on oxidative profile indicating that even of these insecticides low concentrations affect fish organs and disrupt normal metabolism. TBARS levels, protein carbonyl and AChE activity could be used as biomarkers for risk assessment in aquatic ecosystems.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. TBARS levels (nmol MDA mg⁻¹ protein) in brain, muscle and liver organs of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed for 30 days to commercial insecticides containing carbofuran and fipronil (n=15). * Indicates difference between insecticides groups and control (P <0.05).

Figure 2. Protein carbonyl (nmol carbonyl mg⁻¹ protein) in the liver of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed for 30 days to the insecticides carbofuran and fipronil (n=15). * Indicates difference between insecticides groups and control (P <0.05).

Figure 3. AChE activity (μmol AcSCh hydrolyzed min⁻¹ mg⁻¹ protein) in the brain and muscle of *Cyprinus carpio* exposed for 30 days to commercial insecticides containing carbofuran and fipronil (n=15) * Indicates difference between insecticides groups and control (P <0.05).

Fig.1

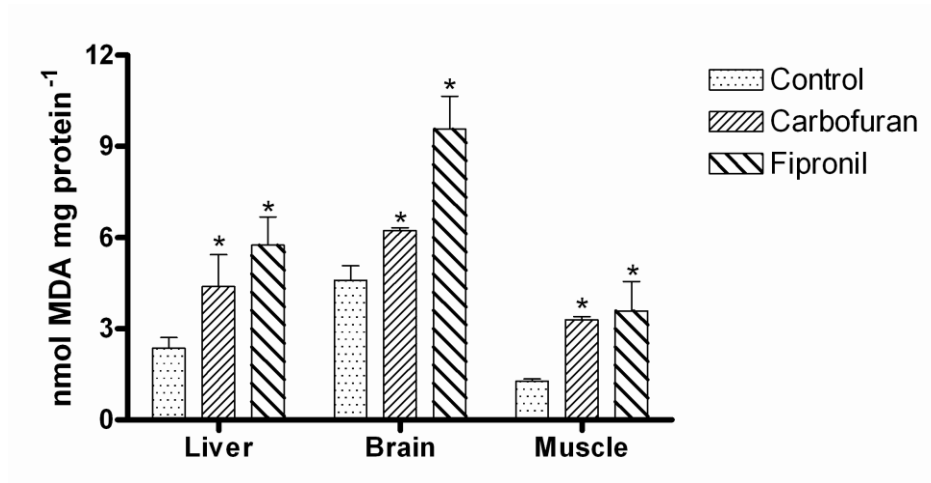


Fig.2

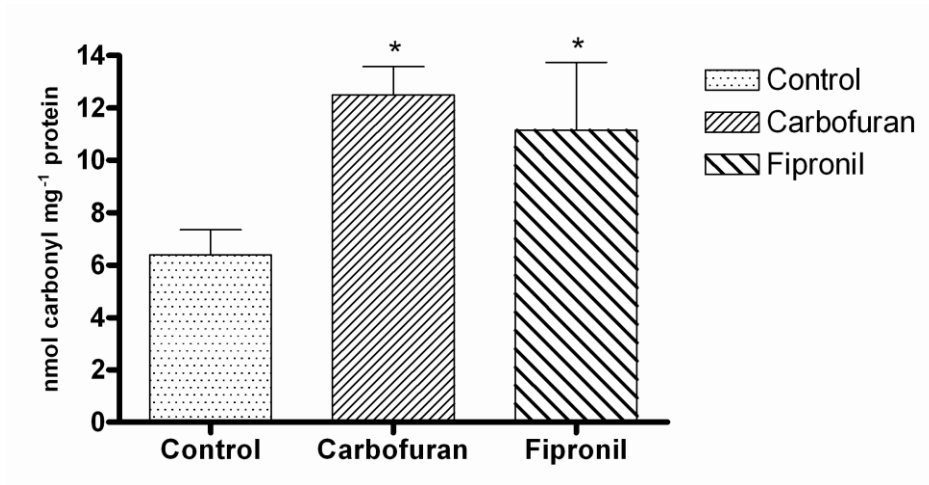


Fig.3

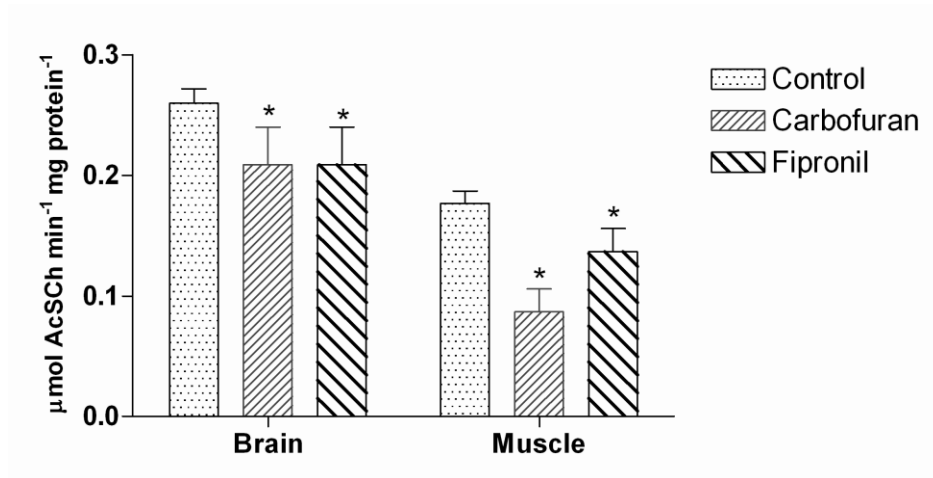


Table 1. Carbofuran and Fipronil concentrations ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) in water during experimental period (30 days)

Days after application Carbofuran	Concentration ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	Carbofuran in water (%)
1	50.0	100
7	37.4	74.8
14	34.0	68
21	24.4	48.8
28	23.0	46
Days after application Fipronil	Concentration ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	Fipronil in water (%)
1	0.65	100
7	0.42	64.61
14	0.35	53.84
21	0.21	32.3
28	0.16	24.61

Values were expressed as mean \pm SD of carbofuran and fipronil ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) in water.

Table 2. Effects of carbofuran and fipronil on ascorbic acid ($\mu\text{g ASA g}^{-1}$ of liver), reduced glutathione ($\mu\text{mol GSH g}^{-1}$ of liver) levels, catalase ($\mu\text{mol min}^{-1} \text{mg protein}^{-1}$) and glutathione S-transferase ($\mu\text{mol GS-DNB min}^{-1} \text{mg protein}^{-1}$) activities in organs of *Cyprinus carpio* after 30 days of exposure.

Organ	Control	Carbofuran	Fipronil
Liver			
Ascorbic acid	3.42 \pm 0.36	6.70 \pm 0.98*	3.62 \pm 0.43
GSH	1.12 \pm 0.24	1.44 \pm 0.25*	1.59 \pm 0.35*
CAT	0.61 \pm 0.12	0.62 \pm 0.06	0.63 \pm 0.23
GST	0.45 \pm 0.05	0.44 \pm 0.04	0.45 \pm 0.09
Muscle			
Ascorbic acid	0.99 \pm 0.28	1.75 \pm 0.28*	0.94 \pm 0.20
GSH	0.64 \pm 0.13	0.61 \pm 0.29	0.65 \pm 0.18
GST	0.14 \pm 0.04	0.16 \pm 0.01	0.15 \pm 0.03
Brain			
Ascorbic acid	4.50 \pm 0.12	4.81 \pm 0.25*	4.86 \pm 0.22*
GSH	1.15 \pm 0.20	1.20 \pm 0.18	1.10 \pm 0.35
GST	0.41 \pm 0.10	0.38 \pm 0.09	0.43 \pm 0.09

Data represent the mean \pm SD (n=15). * Significantly different from control group at $P < 0.05$ using Student *t*-test.

5. DISCUSSÃO

Um dos fatores mais importantes que levam a contaminação do ambiente aquático é o uso intensivo de pesticidas na atividade agrícola. Deste modo, faz-se necessário estabelecer limites de utilização destes produtos empregados em lavouras de arroz irrigado em sistemas que contemplam a consorciação entre a cultura do arroz e a criação de peixes. Neste sistema, os peixes são estocados com o objetivo de aumentar e diversificar a produtividade da cultura do arroz, propondo uma alternativa de uso intensivo e sustentável de áreas de várzea, considerando o uso racional de pesticidas.

Neste estudo foram realizadas avaliações em condições de campo e de laboratório, onde um conjunto de parâmetros bioquímicos foi determinado para verificar os possíveis efeitos tóxicos das formulações comerciais dos inseticidas carbofuran (dois anos agrícolas) e fipronil (um ano agrícola). Experimentos em laboratório (30 dias) também foram realizados utilizando *Cyprinus carpio* expostos às concentrações recomendadas destes agroquímicos para lavoura de arroz irrigado no Brasil.

5.1 – Experimentos em lavoura de arroz

Os níveis de TBARS aumentaram significativamente em cérebro após exposição ao carbofuran no ano 1, assim como no ano 2 em todos os períodos experimentais analisados. No entanto, em fígado e músculo os níveis de TBARS aumentaram após 30 e 90 dias de exposição. Após exposição ao fipronil, os níveis de TBARS foram significativamente aumentados em todos os órgãos testados (cérebro, fígado e músculo) em todos os períodos analisados. Outros autores também observaram níveis elevados de peroxidação lipídica induzida por poluentes aquáticos incluindo pesticidas (Sayeed et al., 2003; Li et al., 2003; Cattaneo et al., 2011; Pretto et al., 2011). A peroxidação lipídica gerada pela exposição a pesticidas é uma resposta comum em peixes tais como *Leporinus obtusidens* expostos ao clomazone e propanil (Moraes et al., 2007), bem como carpas expostas ao bispiribac-sodium (Toni et al., 2010). O aumento nos níveis de TBARS pode ser resultado de um aumento dos radicais livres devido à condição de estresse em que o peixe se

encontra após intoxicação por carbofuran ou fipronil em condições de lavoura de arroz irrigado.

Os níveis de proteína carbonil apresentaram redução somente após 90 dias de exposição ao carbofuran no primeiro ano experimental. Por outro lado, no segundo ano experimental houve diminuição após 7, 30 e 90 dias de exposição. Recentemente, mostrou-se que pesticidas podem induzir modificações oxidativas em proteínas sendo isso, também, uma consequência do estresse oxidativo gerado nos peixes (Sayeed et al., 2003, Almroth et al., 2005, Clasen et al., 2012). Sabe-se que o radical hidroxila (OH^\cdot) é altamente reativo, ou seja, é uma espécie reativa de oxigênio formada em uma situação de estresse oxidativo e é considerado responsável pela formação de grupos carbonilados nas proteínas (Oliver, 1987). Poucos trabalhos têm sido relatados sobre proteína carbonil em peixes, principalmente após longos períodos de exposição. A diminuição nos níveis de proteína carbonil mostrada neste estudo pode estar relacionada ao papel protetor do sistema antioxidante, como visto na exposição ao carbofuran pelo aumento da SOD. A existência de uma indução do sistema antioxidante pode refletir numa adaptação dos peixes a condição na qual estão expostos e explicar os níveis reduzidos de proteína carbonil encontrada no presente estudo. Outras investigações são necessárias para melhor explicar a redução da proteína carbonil após longos períodos de exposição ao carbofuran. As alterações referentes aos parâmetros oxidativos como a proteína carbonil variam de acordo com a espécie de peixe estudada e também devido ao pesticida testado. Estudos de nosso laboratório mostraram que exposições prolongadas a herbicidas utilizados na cultura do arroz aumentam os níveis de proteína carbonil hepática (Cattaneo et al., 2011; Toni et al., 2010; Moraes et al., 2011; Cattaneo et al., 2012). De uma maneira contrária ao resultado de carbofuran, após exposição prolongada ao inseticida fipronil (30 e 90 dias), o fígado de carpas apresentou níveis aumentados de proteína carbonil. Esses resultados estão de acordo com Parvez e Raisuddin (2005), que encontraram níveis aumentados de proteína carbonil em fígado de *Channa punctata* após exposição aos pesticidas deltametrina, endosulfan e paraquat. O aumento da carbonilação de proteínas pode ser um biomarcador da exposição de carpas ao fipronil, sendo considerado um parâmetro importante nos estudos de toxicologia de pesticidas.

Na literatura atual tanto o aumento como a diminuição nos níveis de proteína carbonil podem servir como biomarcadores, onde um aumento parece ser a resposta

mais grave (Sayeed et al., 2003; Almroth et al., 2005; Cattaneo et al., 2012; Clasen et al., 2012). Uma redução nos níveis de proteína carbonil pode indicar que a susceptibilidade à degradação proteolítica foi aumentada por oxidação de proteínas, impedindo a carbonilação. Por outro lado, um aumento nos níveis de proteína carbonil pode indicar que o metabolismo normal da proteína está interrompido, resultando em danos as moléculas. Enzimas antioxidantes possuem um complexo mecanismo de regulação e suas atividades são reguladas por processos de produção (ativação) e inativação. Considerando as enzimas-chave para a detoxificação de espécies reativas de oxigênio (EROs), podemos destacar a superóxido dismutase (SOD) e a catalase (CAT), consideradas essenciais para a conversão de EROs em metabólitos não tóxicos. A atividade destas enzimas pode estar aumentada ou diminuída em situações de estresse químico, como a exposição a pesticidas (Modesto e Martinez, 2010). A concentração subletal de carbofuran aumentou a atividade da enzima SOD em fígado de carpas após 7, 30 e 90 dias de exposição em ambos os anos experimentais, assim como, após exposição ao inseticida fipronil. A SOD tem um papel importante na atividade antioxidante, e é considerada a maior resposta ao estresse oxidativo (Van der Oost et al., 2003). Este aumento da SOD hepática é indicativo da formação em excesso do ânion superóxido em resposta a toxicidade causada por ambos os inseticidas testados.

Em nosso estudo, a atividade da CAT hepática não mostrou alterações significativas após 7 e 90 dias de exposição ao inseticida carbofuran. No entanto, após 30 dias de exposição a atividade da enzima CAT foi reduzida tanto no primeiro quanto no segundo ano experimental. Já nas carpas expostas ao fipronil a atividade hepática da CAT diminuiu após todos os períodos de exposição. A inibição da atividade da CAT pode estar relacionada ao fluxo de radicais superóxidos, produção excessiva de radicais livres, já relatados como inibidores da atividade da CAT. Essa diminuição mostra também a redução da capacidade de eliminação de H_2O_2 produzido neste órgão, estando diretamente relacionada com o desenvolvimento de dano oxidativo após exposição a pesticidas. Nossos resultados estão de acordo com Pandey et al., (2001), Atif et al., (2005) e Ballesteros et al., (2009) que relataram redução da atividade da CAT após exposição ao inseticida endosulfan. A falta de resposta da CAT já foi relatada anteriormente em experimento semelhante, realizado em lavoura de arroz onde a atividade desta enzima foi reduzida em carpas após 21 dias de exposição ao herbicida bispiribac-sodium. Entretanto de maneira similar aos

resultados deste estudo não foram observadas alterações após 7 ou 72 dias de exposição (Toni et al., 2011).

A GST apresentou uma redução de sua atividade em fígado após 7 e 90 dias de exposição ao carbofuran, nos dois anos experimentais. No entanto, após 30 dias de exposição no ano 1 e ano 2, um aumento foi encontrado na atividade desta enzima. O aumento observado na atividade da GST após 30 dias de exposição é provavelmente devido a maior atividade no processo de biotransformação pelo animal em razão da exposição ao carbofuran. A diminuição da atividade da enzima no tecido hepático após 7 e 90 dias de exposição pode ser explicada por duas hipóteses. Primeiramente, as etapas de biotransformação realizadas pela enzima do citocromo P450 podem produzir uma variedade de metabólitos diferentes, os quais competem pelos sítios ativos da enzima GST atuando como inibidor da atividade da mesma. Em segundo lugar, Gallangher e Sheehy (2000) e Ballesteros (2009) relatam que a baixa atividade da enzima pode ser causada por uma diminuição na síntese de GST em níveis moleculares. Outra explicação pode estar relacionada com a redução da glutathiona reduzida (GSH) em situações de estresse oxidativo. Assim, os resultados relativos à atividade da GST sugerem possível dano oxidativo em fígado, causando interrupção do processo de desintoxicação, sinalizando uma situação tóxica causada pela exposição ao inseticida carbofuran. A resposta mais comum da GST frente à toxicidade é a indução de sua atividade, sendo considerado benéfico em uma condição de toxicidade. A inibição da GST também tem sido relatada em brânquias de “mosquitofish” expostos ao carbofuran (Rondón-von Osten, 2005) e em fígado de carpas expostas ao bispiribac sodium (Toni et al., 2010). Considerando a exposição dos peixes ao inseticida fipronil a atividade da enzima GST em fígado não se alterou significativamente em relação ao grupo controle, o que parece aumentar o risco de estresse oxidativo, uma vez que não aumentou a capacidade de proteção da célula. A falta de resposta pode ter sido causada pela intoxicação a fipronil, bem como um resultado ao processo de descontaminação. Assim, a produção excessiva de radicais livres pode causar um esgotamento da enzima ocasionando a ausência de resposta da enzima GST em fígado.

Após os 90 dias de exposição realizou-se avaliação de parâmetros de crescimento (pesos e medidas) nos peixes, os quais não apresentaram alterações significativas em ambos inseticidas testados.

5.2 – Experimentos de Laboratório

Após os experimentos em campo, foi realizada a exposição de carpas em condição de laboratório sob as mesmas concentrações dos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil utilizadas na lavoura de arroz, com a finalidade de observarmos a possibilidade de as diferentes condições experimentais (campo e laboratório), influenciarem nas respostas toxicológicas apresentadas nos peixes.

A peroxidação lipídica é um dos principais processos induzidos pelo estresse oxidativo decorrentes de exposição a pesticidas, em peixes (Ahmad et al., 2004). Em nosso estudo os resultados de TBARS encontrados em carpas expostas por 30 dias em condições de laboratório foram os mesmos obtidos quando estes peixes foram expostos em lavoura de arroz irrigado, onde, os níveis de TBARS aumentaram em fígado, músculo e cérebro após exposição aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil. De acordo com Üner et al., (2006) observaram elevados níveis de TBARS em músculo de *Cyprinus carpio* expostos ao inseticida diazinon. Similarmente, Crestani et al. (2007) também observaram níveis de TBARS aumentados em cérebro e fígado de jundiás após a exposição ao clomazone. A elevação do LPO observada em ambas condições experimentais sugere uma situação de estresse oxidativo, a qual pode induzir a formação de radicais livres mediada pela exposição aos inseticidas testados.

Dentre outras consequências do estresse oxidativo, pode ser evidenciada a ocorrência de carbonilação de proteínas. Os níveis aumentados de proteína carbonil foram observados após exposição ao carbofuran ou fipronil por 30 dias em laboratório. Os resultados da exposição ao inseticida carbofuran diferiram conforme a condição experimental, enquanto os resultados após exposição ao inseticida fipronil foram semelhantes, ocorrendo aumento da carbonilação de proteínas em ambas as condições experimentais. Porém, como relatado anteriormente, mais estudos são necessários para entender a complexidade das respostas apresentadas pelos diferentes órgãos e organismos frente à exposição a pesticidas utilizados nas culturas agrícolas.

Peixes respondem a exposição a poluentes através da alteração ou adaptação de suas funções metabólicas. A atividade das enzimas antioxidantes pode ser aumentada ou diminuída após exposição a pesticidas, dependendo da intensidade e da duração do estresse, bem como a susceptibilidade das espécies expostas. Não é

regra geral que um aumento na concentração de xenobióticos induz a atividade antioxidante (Ballesteros et al., 2009).

A atividade da enzima antioxidante CAT em fígado apresentou-se inalterada após exposição aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil em condição de laboratório em relação ao grupo controle. A atividade da CAT se mostrou diferente de acordo com a condição experimental. Estes resultados nos mostram que a exposição em condições de lavoura de arroz foi mais prejudicial aos peixes comparada à exposição em laboratório no período de 30 dias. A diminuição observada na atividade da enzima CAT em carpas após 30 dias demonstra que estes inseticidas induzem dano oxidativo no fígado causando alteração no sistema antioxidante. Pandey et al. (2001) observaram resultados similares quando expuseram *C. punctatus* (Bloch) ao inseticida endosulfan. Crestani et al. (2007) mostraram que o clomazone (0,5 ou 1,0 mg/ L) causa redução da CAT em fígado de jundiás. A exposição ao inseticida deltametrina causou uma diminuição na atividade da CAT em fígado, rins e brânquias de *C. punctatus* (Sayeed et al., 2003). Este declínio na atividade da CAT poderia ser devido à produção excessiva de O_2^- como indicado por Bainy et al. (1996).

Neste estudo também se avaliou a atividade da enzima GST que participa dos processos de biotransformação e destoxificação de xenobióticos. A atividade da GST permaneceu inalterada em fígado, cérebro e músculo de carpas após 30 dias de exposição aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil em comparação ao grupo controle. A atividade da enzima determina a habilidade do peixe em se adaptar a poluentes ambientais como os pesticidas (Gadagbui et al., 1996), por isso tem sido investigada em estudos que avaliam a toxicidade de pesticidas em peixes (Monteiro et al., 2006). Oruç e Üner (2000) relataram que a atividade da GST não foi alterada após exposição de *Oreochromis niloticus* a uma combinação do herbicida 2,4D e do inseticida azinfosmetil durante 96 horas. Alguns autores encontraram aumento (Ferreira et al., 2010) enquanto outros mostraram a diminuição (Isik e Celik, 2008) da atividade da GST em peixes após exposição a pesticidas. Dado o exposto, constata-se como inconclusivos os efeitos sobre a GST, mostrando indução, redução ou nenhuma alteração em sua atividade enzimática. Alguns autores relacionam a atividade da enzima GST com os níveis da enzima GSH, pois a GSH é substrato para GST. Monteiro et al. (2006) encontraram diminuição do conteúdo de GSH em fígado e músculo de *Brycon cephalus* após exposição ao inseticida methyl

parathion e relacionam essa diminuição com o aumento ocorrido na atividade da GST.

Neste estudo foram avaliados em condição de laboratório antioxidantes não enzimáticos como GSH e ácido ascórbico. Os níveis de GSH foram aumentados apenas em fígado após exposição a ambos os inseticidas. Enquanto que em músculo e cérebro estes níveis permaneceram inalterados em comparação ao grupo controle. A GSH desempenha um papel importante na desintoxicação de eletrófilos e prevenção do estresse oxidativo celular (Sies, 1999). Durante uma situação moderada de estresse oxidativo, os níveis de GSH podem aumentar, como um mecanismo de adaptação. No entanto, um forte estresse oxidativo pode suprimir os níveis de GSH, devido à redução dos mecanismos adaptativos (Zhang et al., 2004). De acordo com Elia et al. (2003), depleção de GSH pode reduzir a capacidade celular de retirar radicais livres, aumentando o potencial oxidativo geral nas células. Os resultados do presente estudo referentes a GSH estão de acordo com Isik e Celik (2008), os quais demonstraram que a exposição a inseticidas causa mudanças nos níveis de GSH em fígado e brânquias de trutas. Os autores consideram que em uma situação de estresse oxidativo o aumento de GSH, exerce um papel protetor nos organismos expostos aos pesticidas. No contexto deste estudo, o aumento de GSH hepático observado pode ter contribuído para a resposta antioxidante das carpas expostas.

Em relação aos níveis de ácido ascórbico, os resultados foram diferentes para os inseticidas testados. Os peixes expostos ao carbofuran mostraram níveis aumentados de ácido ascórbico em fígado, músculo e cérebro após 30 dias de exposição. Nas carpas expostas ao fipronil ocorreu aumento dos níveis de ácido ascórbico somente em cérebro, permanecendo inalterados em fígado e músculo. Tem sido observado que, quando defesas enzimáticas são alteradas, defesas secundárias, tais como o ácido ascórbico, podem ser induzidas, impedindo a ocorrência de reações oxidativas em cadeia. O ácido ascórbico tem sido citado como um fator essencial para proteção de alguns dos efeitos tóxicos causados por radicais de oxigênio (Sayeed et al., 2003). Níveis aumentados de ácido ascórbico foram encontrados em fígado e rim de *Channa punctatus* após exposição ao inseticida deltametrina, enquanto o oposto foi observado nas brânquias deste mesmo peixe (Sayeed et al., 2003). No entanto, os dados disponíveis indicam que as respostas observadas deste parâmetro são variadas. Considerando os dados do presente

estudo, este parâmetro tem um baixo nível de confiabilidade como biomarcador, porém poucos estudos consideram o ácido ascórbico como uma ferramenta importante para avaliar efeitos de pesticidas.

Outro parâmetro utilizado para avaliar a toxicidade dos inseticidas em laboratório foi a determinação da atividade da enzima acetilcolinesterase (AChE). A atividade da AChE foi inibida em cérebro e músculo de carpas após 30 dias de exposição aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil. Vários autores relatam que a atividade da AChE em peixes após exposição a pesticidas geralmente encontra-se diminuída (Miron et al., 2008; Fonseca et al., 2008; Modesto e Martinez, 2010). Nossos resultados estão de acordo com os encontrados por Céron et al. (1996) e Fernández-Vega et al. (2002) que relatam que a exposição de peixes aos pesticidas diazinon e thiobencarb causa inibição da AChE em cérebro de enguias (*Anguilla anguilla*). Inibição de 47% e 45% na atividade da enzima AChE cerebral e muscular foi observada em jundiás expostos a 0,5 e 1,0 mg/L de clomazone (Crestani et al., 2007), assim como em cérebro de goldfish expostos a 50 µg/L (19–28%) e 500 µg/L (85–87%) do inseticida carbofuran (Bretaud, 2000). Alguns estudos associam um aumento dos níveis de TBARS com a inibição da AChE indicando estresse oxidativo induzido pelos pesticidas (Üner et al., 2006; Oruç e Usta, 2007; Miron et al., 2008). Similar a estes estudos, nossos resultados demonstraram um aumento em níveis de TBARS e uma inibição da AChE em cérebro e músculo de carpas após 30 dias de exposição aos inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil. Podemos sugerir também que o aumento da proteína carbonil nestes tecidos poderá estar envolvida com a redução da atividade da AChE, entretanto só foram analisados os níveis de carbonil em fígado. Neste sentido, mais estudos são necessários para avaliar o tipo de inibição causada na enzima acetilcolinesterase em cérebro e músculo e sua relação com parâmetros pro-oxidantes como os níveis de TBARS e a carbonilação de proteínas.

Os resultados apresentados em nosso estudo demonstram claramente que as concentrações de carbofuran e fipronil utilizadas na lavoura de arroz causam alterações nos parâmetros toxicológicos de *Cyprinus carpio*. A partir destes resultados pretendemos avançar nossas pesquisas com intuito de determinar limites de utilização destes agroquímicos utilizados em sistema de consórcio arroz-peixe, viabilizando este tipo de sistema de uso alternativo de várzeas. Um dos principais objetivos seria verificar se a associação arroz-peixe com o uso racional de pesticidas permite a criação saudável de peixes, sem perdas de produtividade na cultura do

arroz. Alguns autores relatam que a dependência de agroquímicos na lavoura de arroz irrigado compromete a sustentabilidade do processo (Halwarth, 1995; Berg, 2002; Marchezan, 2006).

6. CONCLUSÕES

Experimento em lavoura de arroz:

- As formulações comerciais dos inseticidas estudados provocam alterações na atividade das enzimas SOD e CAT no tecido hepático indicando um dano oxidativo causado pela exposição a ambos inseticidas.
- A glutathione S-transferase apresentou modificações em sua atividade, indicando uma possível resposta detoxificante frente à intoxicação causada pelo carbofuran em lavoura de arroz. No entanto, nos peixes expostos ao inseticida fipronil a enzima não se alterou durante todos os períodos experimentais.
- O aumento na formação de substâncias reativas ao ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS) em diferentes tecidos de carpas e as alterações dos níveis de carbonilação de proteínas hepáticas deste peixe evidenciam uma situação de estresse oxidativo causado pela exposição aos inseticidas comerciais testados em lavoura de arroz.
- Os inseticidas carbofuran e fipronil não influenciaram no crescimento das carpas durante o período experimental.
- A atividade da enzima SOD, a carbonilação de proteínas em fígado e os níveis de TBARS em cérebro, músculo e fígado são bons biomarcadores de exposição a ambos inseticidas avaliados em lavoura de arroz.

Experimento em laboratório:

- A atividade da enzima CAT hepática não sofreu alteração após 30 dias de exposição em condição de laboratório.
- Os inseticidas estudados não provocaram alterações na atividade das enzimas GST em fígado, músculo e cérebro, assim como, na atividade de GSH em músculo e cérebro. Alteração da atividade da GSH foi observada apenas em fígado.
- O aumento nos níveis de ácido ascórbico foi evidenciado em fígado, músculo e cérebro das carpas expostas ao carbofuran. Após exposição ao fipronil alterações foram observadas somente no cérebro dos peixes.

- Os níveis de TBARS e carbonilação de proteínas aumentaram em todos tecidos de carpas analisados caracterizando uma situação de estresse oxidativo causado pela exposição a ambos os inseticidas.
- Os inseticidas estudados neste trabalho afetaram a atividade da AChE em cérebro e músculo de *Cyprinus carpio*. Carbofuran e fipronil mostraram-se um potentes inibidores em ambos tecidos.

7. PERSPECTIVAS

Tendo em vista os resultados obtidos nesta tese, aprofundaremos ainda mais os estudos relacionados ao aspecto toxicológico destes inseticidas. Com este objetivo os seguintes estudos já estão sendo realizados:

- Determinação da concentração dos ingredientes ativos dos pesticidas fipronil e carbofuran no filé dos peixes.
- Determinação dos parâmetros de qualidade do pescado (transformação de músculo em carne, estabilidade, rigor mortis, pH, nucleotídeos, avaliação sensorial, bases voláteis).
- Verificação de alterações nos parâmetros hematológicos, cortisol e dosagem de intermediários metabólicos em resposta a exposição aos agroquímicos.
- Determinação da atividade da glutathione peroxidase (GPx) e glutathione reductase (GR) e capacidade antioxidante total (TOSC) em peixes expostos aos agroquímicos.
- Determinação da cinética da atividade da AChE *in vitro* para a compreensão da inibição da atividade desta enzima pelos inseticidas e comparação com resultados obtidos após exposição em lavoura de arroz.

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