# Trials for Control of Pseudomonas Septicemia in *Tilapia Zillii* Using Tumeric Powder as A Medicated Feed

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#### **Abstract**

The present study aimed to investigate the effect of different concentrations of curcumin in fish diet on blood parameters and disease resistance against challenge with pathogenic bacterial agent Pseudomonas aeruginosa. A total number of 120 apparently healthy Tilapia zillii, weighting  $35 \pm 5$  gram were divided into four groups. Each group consisted of 30 fish, each was subdivided into 3 subgroups (10 fish/sub group) in well prepared glass aquaria with water daily changed and fed at 3% body weight per day. The first group fed on basal diet without any supplementation with turmeric powder and served as control group. The second (T1), third (T2) and fourth (T3) groups were fed on the same basal diet supplemented with turmeric powder with different concentrations 2 (0.20%), 5 (0.50%) and 10g/kg (1%) respectively for 30 days. At the end of this period, five fish from all groups were sampled for blood indices for differentiation between basal diet and supplemented diet. After the end of the experiment, fish in all groups were intraperitoneally (IP) challenged with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* then blood samples were collected to investigate the effect of turmeric powder on hematological parameters of experimentally infected fish fed onto supplemented and basal diet. The mortality rate after challenging with Pseudomonas aeruginosa were decreased in all treated groups than control group.

**Keywords:** Tilapia zillii, Turmeric (Curcuma longa), Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

#### Introduction

Without doubt, Bacterial diseases were responsible for heavy mortality in wild and cultured fish. The problems in the fish farms are usually tackled by preventing disease outbreaks or by treating the actual disease with drugs or

chemicals and the use of antimicrobial agents had increased significantly in aquaculture practices (*Smith et al.*, 1994).

Medicinal plants act as the alternative agents which were effective to treat the infectious diseases and mitigated many to side effects that were associated with synthetic antimicrobials (*Direkbusarakom*, 2004).

Turmeric. Curcuma longa belongs to the family Zingiberaceae and considered one of the most important medicinal plants across the world and contained many compounds. such as curcumin. turmerone, curcuminoids, turmerone, arturmerone, and zingiberene. been that had antioxidant activities (Selvam et al., Curcumin *1995*). was orangevellow phytochemical, hydrophobic and polyphenolic compound of turmeric (Curcuma longa Linn.) (Behera et al., 2011)

Curcumin considered as the main constituent of turmeric that has multiple pharmacological activities included antimicrobial. antiinflammatory, anticancer. hepatoprotective, antimutagenic. immunomodulatory and antioxidant effects but its widespread clinical applications had been limited due to aqueous solubility poor and systemic bioavailability minimal (Moghadamtousi et al., 2014).

Curcumin was needed for treatment of most diseases as it was inexpensive and extremely safe even at very high doses (Lao et al., 2006). Turmeric powder could inhibit the growth of histamine-producing bacteria as Vibrio parahaemolyticus, Bacillus cereus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Proteus mirabilis (Paramasivam et al., 2007).

The present study was planned to investigate the effect of different concentrations of curcumin in fish diet on blood parameters and disease resistance against challenge with pathogenic bacterial agent *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

# Material and Methods 1. Experimental Fish

A total number of 120 apparently healthy Tilapia zillii were collected alive with an average body weight  $35 \pm 5g$ . These fish were used for experimental infection. Fish were collected from Fish Research Center. Suez Canal University. Ismailia governorate. They were transported in well aerated tanks filled with their natural water to the laboratory of Department of Fish Diseases and Management, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Suez Canal University. Fish were kept in glass aquaria measuring (80×40×30 cm). These aquaria supplied with their natural water according to Innes (1966) and conducted with electric air pumping to obtain continuous aeration. Water temperature was controlled and adjusted at 25±1°C via thermostatic heaters. Fish used for experimental infection were acclimated for two weeks, during this period fish were fed a basal diet only at 3% of body weight.

## 2. Experimental diets

basal The diets (commercial pelleted diet) were formulated to supply 32% crude protein and 4000 kcal digestible energy (DE)/kg diet. Tumeric powder (TP) was obtained from a local market. Tumeric powder (TP) was weighed, added with different concentrations to the commercial pelleted diet represent 2, 5g/kg (Abdel Tawwab and Fayza, 2017) and 10g/kg (Amany Diab et al., 2014) diet levels and mixed well by using of oil. The pellets after addition of turmeric powder were allowed to be air dried by electric fan at room temperature for 24 hr then packed in plastic bags and refrigerated at 4 °C until use (Hassan et al., 2018).

## 3. Experimental design

A total number of 120 apparently healthy Tilapia zillii, weighting 35 ± 5 gram were divided into four groups. Each group consisted of 30 fish; each was subdivided into 3 subgroups (10 fish/sub group) in well prepared glass aquaria with water daily changed. The first group (T1) fed on basal diet without any supplementation with turmeric powder and served as control group. The second (T2), third (T3) and fourth (T4) groups were fed on the same basal diet supplemented with turmeric powder with different concentrations 2 (0.20%), 5 (0.50%) and 10g/kg (1%) respectively for 30 days. Fish were fed 3 % of their body weight and the diets were offered twice per day. At the end of this period, five fish from all groups

were sampled for blood indices for differentiation between basal diet and supplemented diet on the chemistry of fish blood.

### 4. Challenge test

# 4.A. Preparation of bacterial inoculum

Pseudomonas aeruginosa was previously isolated from organs of naturally infected and freshly caught marine fish including seabass (Dicentrarchus labrax) and Tilapia zillii which were collected randomly from Lake Temsah in Ismailia governorate. The most isolated bacteria were *Pseudomonas* aeruginosa which identified using traditional methods and Vitek 2 system.

*P. aeruginosa* was inoculated into nutrient agar and incubated at 37°C for 24 hrs. Bacterial colonies were collected in sterile saline (0.85% NaCl). According to *Iqbal et al.*, (1999), each ml of saline contained 3 x10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml (LD50 by using McFarland standard tube according to *Ezzat et al.*, (2018).

# 4.B. Injection of the bacterium inoculum

After the end of the experiment, fish in all groups were intraperitoneally (IP) challenged with 0.2 ml/ Fish of a bacterial suspension of *P. aeruginosa*.

After injection, blood collected from 5 fish from each injected group in second day after injection for evaluation the effect of curcumin onto the nonspecific innate immunity of fish. Day 3 was chosen as sample time as the

previous studies have shown that the 3rd days showed peak levels of bacterial growth according to *Raida* and *Buchmann* (2009). Mortality and morbidity rates were monitored daily for one week. Specific mortalities were recorded by plating the aseptic samples of skin lesions, liver, kidneys and gills from the moribund fish on Pseudomonas F agar.

## 4.C. Haematological analysis

Blood was collected by heart puncture of the fish using heparinized syringe into small sterilized vials containing anticoagulant (Cal heparin), which were

used to estimate the haematological parameters as erythrocytic count, total

leukocytic and differential count, haemoglobin and content haematocrite value. Plasma collected after was centrifugation (3600 g for 5 min) stored in the deep freezer at -70°C to determine total albumin and proteins. globulins

according to *Ericsson and Nister* (2011).

### 5. Statistical Analysis

The obtained data were statistically analyzed by an ANOVA (one way) variance method considering P < 0.05 using MiniTab17© software. The significant differences were taken to Fisher multiple range tests to compare the means (*Ryan and Joiner*, 2005).

#### **Results**

### **Mortality rates**

mortality in rates experimentally infected Tilapia zillii with Pseudomonas aeruginosa feeding on basal supplemented with different concentrations of curcumin as 2, 5 and 10g/kg representing 40, 20 and respectively which 10% decreased than in control group (80%).

# Clinical signs and Postmortem lesions

The clinical signs in the Tilania experimentally infected zillii were represented hemorrhages distributed all over the body surface, lower jaw, base of fins, redness around eves and erosion of fins The postmortem examination in those fish revealed congested to enlarged organs as liver, spleen, kidneys, gall bladder as shown in (Plate. 1).

## Hematological parameters of experimental fish fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet before infection

The hematological parameters belong to the four examined groups (T1, T2, T3 and T4). As it is obvious, non-significant increase in concentration of hemoglobin (Hb), counts of RBCs and hematocrit value (HCT) were observed in fish fed on diet containing 1% (T4) turmeric powder when compared with other experimental groups (p<0.05) as shown in (**Fig. 1**).

There were non-significant differences in the MCV, MCH and MCHC

values among experimental groups as shown in (Fig. 2).

The WBCs count was non significantly in fish increased group fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder as compared with other experimental groups lymphocyte percentage was tended to be a significant increase in fish group fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder than fish group fed on diet supplemented with 2g/kg turmeric powder and also control group. On the other hand, there was non-significant decrease in percentage neutrophils and monocytes in all supplemented groups than control group as shown in (Fig. 3).

The total proteins and globulins were significantly increased in fish fed on diet containing 0.50 and 1% turmeric powder than other groups (p<0.05) while albumin tended to be non-significant increase in all supplemented groups than control group as shown in (**Fig. 4**).

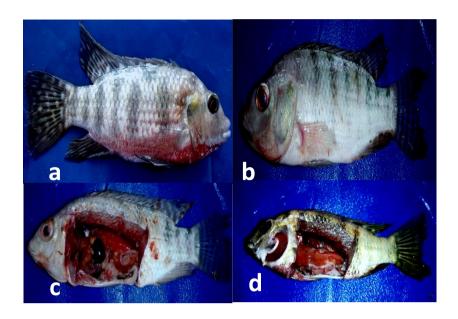
## Hematological parameters basal and supplemented diet on the experimentally fishes after infection

The hematological parameters as a response to *Tilapia zillii* with intraperitoneal injection by well

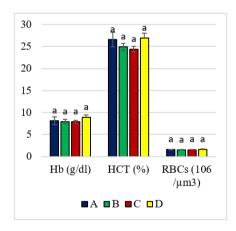
identified Pseudomonas aeruiginosa. The RBC count, Hb concentration, and HCT increased significantly in the groups fed on supplemented diet with curcumin especially fish group fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder when compared with the control group as shown in (Fig. 5). were non-significant There differences in the MCV, MCH and MCHC values among experimental groups as shown in (Fig. 6).

All the experimental groups fed on supplemented diet with Tumeric powder showed the WBCs count, percentage of neutrophils and significantly lymphocytes were increased in fish group fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder when compared with other experimental groups (p<0.05). On the other hand. there was significant decrease in percentage of monocytes in all supplemented groups than control group as shown in (**Fig. 7**).

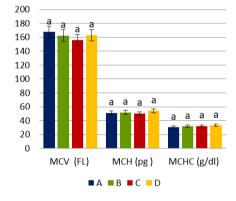
The total proteins, albumin and globulins were significantly increased in fish fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder than other experimental groups as shown in (**Fig. 8**).



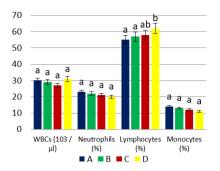
**Plate.** (1): Showing experimentally infected *Tilapia zillii* with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* a) suffered from hemorrhages distributed all over the body surface and fins. b) redness around eyes and erosion of fins. c) and d) suffered from hemorrhages and enlargement in different internal organs.



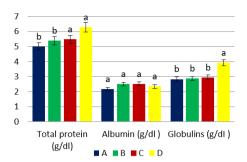
**Figure (1):** Hematological parameters (Hb (g/dl), HCT (%), RBCs (10<sup>6</sup>/ µl) of experimental fishes fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet before infection



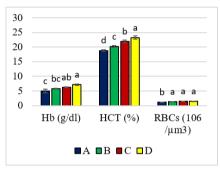
**Figure (2):** Hematological parameters (MCV (FL), MCH (pg), MCHC (g/dl)) of experimental fishes fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet before infection



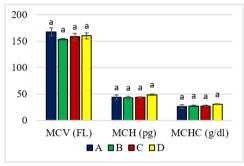
**Figure (3):** Hematological parameters (WBCs  $(10^3 / \mu l)$ , Neutrophils (%), Lymphocytes (%), Monocytes (%) of experimental fishes fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet before infection



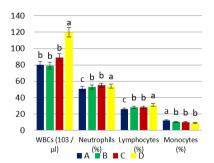
**Figure (4):** Blood Proteins of experimental fishes fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet before infection



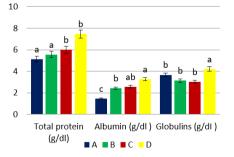
**Figure (5):** Hematological parameters (Hb) (g/dl), HCT (%), RBCs  $(10^6/ \mu l)$ ) of experimental infected fish fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet



**Figure (6):** Hematological parameters (MCV (FL), MCH (pg), MCHC (g/dl)) of experimental infected fishes fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet after infection.



**Figure (8):** Blood Proteins of experimental infected fish fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet.



**Figure (8):** Blood Proteins of experimental infected fish fed onto supplemented diet and basal diet.

#### Discussion

Fish diseases play a role as a limiting factor in fish production and causing mass mortalities and severe economic losses. Curcumin considered as the main constituent of turmeric and act as antimicrobial and immunomostimulant. The mortality rates in experimentally infected with Tilapia zillii Pseudomonas aeruginosa after feeding on basal diet supplemented with different concentrations of curcumin as 2 .5 and 10g/kg representing 40, 20 and respectively which were decreased than in control group (80%). These results attributed to curcumin in diet improve growth performance and immunity which increased resistance of challenged fish to Pseudomonas aeruginosa. results were in agreement with Amany Diab et al. (2014) who recorded that the mortality rate in Oreochromis niloticus curcumin treated groups (with 1 and 2% curcumin in diet) after challenging with Pseudomonas fluorescens were decreased than in control group. Also, Sahu et al. (2008) detected 100% survivability (no mortality) in Labeo rohuta group fed on 5g turmeric /Kg feed for 60 days after challenging with Aeromonas hydrophila and Manal et al. (2014) who reported that the mortality rate in Oreochromis niloticus fed on 5g curcumin diet after in challenging with Pseudomonas fluorescens was 0% (no mortality).

The clinical signs observed in the experimentally infected *Tilapia zillii* with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were hemorrhages distributed all over the body surface, lower jaw, base of fins, redness around eyes and erosion of fins while the postmortem examination revealed congested to enlarged internal organs. These results were similar to the results of *Eissa et al.* (2017) and *Ezzat et al.* (2018).

Regards to the results, the use of turmeric powder as an herbal additive in the diet with different concentrations 2, 5, 10g/kg basal diet had effect on the hematological parameters belong to the four examined experimental groups after feeding on basal and supplemented The concentration diet. hemoglobin (Hb), counts of RBCs and counts for WBCs were non significantly increased in fish fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder than control group while lymphocyte percentage was tended to be a significant increase in fish fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder than fish group fed on diet supplemented with 2g/kg turmeric powder and control group as well the level of total proteins and globulins were significantly in fish fed on diet increased containing 1 and 0.50% turmeric than other experimental powder groups (p<0.05). The obtained results were in agreement with Mooraki et al. (2019) who reported RBC counted, hemoglobin density, hematocrit, MCV, MCH

MCHC. did and not altered significantly among the treatments but the fish fed with 0.3 percent turmeric powder had a higher RBC counts, hemoglobin density hematocrit compared with control group and Hassan et al. (2018) who reported that total protein and globulins concentration were significantly higher in fish (Oreochromis niloticus) fed turmeric supplement compared to the other groups. The increase in globulin levels may be due to the stimulant effect immune turmeric. Also, Hala et al., (2019) serum albumin. reported that globulin, and total protein were significantly increased in treated fish (Oreochromus niloticus) fed on Turmeric (Curcuma longa) comparison with control one. The increase in globulin levels may be due to the immune stimulant effect of turmeric. The best values of blood total protein were obtained from curcumin group which agreed with El-Bahr and Saad (2008), Elgendy et al. (2016) and Hassan et al. (2018) who attributed the preferred effect of turmeric to its potent antioxidant and hepatoprotective properties.

The results obtained in this study revealed the effect of addition of Turmeric powder on the hematological parameters as a response to Tilapia zillii with intraperitoneal injection bv identified Pseudomonas aeuiginosa which were RBC count, Hb concentration. **HCT** level and

increased significantly in the groups fed with curcumin when compared with the control group and non significant differences in the MCV. MCH and MCHC values among experimental groups while the total proteins, albumin and globulins were significantly increased in fish fed on diet containing 1% turmeric than other experimental powder groups. These results were agreement with Amany Diab et al. (2014) who reported that the total proteins and globulin were significantly higher in all treated groups than control which enhanced the resistance of challenged fish with Pseudomonas fluorescens and Abdel Zaher et al. (2009) who showed that, fish fed diet containing different levels as 0.5, 1 and 1.5 % of turmeric seeds meal, significantly increased serum globulin.. the Blood proteins (albumin. globulin) had a substantial part in fish immunity(Kumar et al., 2007) and the rise of their values were an important indicator that fish had excellent humoral immunity of fish and also associated with a stronger innate response in fish (Wiegertjes et al., 1996) and indicated that, fish were immunologically strong (Nayak et al., 2004).

The present study also revealed the WBCs count, percentage of neutrophils and lymphocytes were significantly increased in fish group fed on diet containing 1% turmeric powder and infected with *Pseudomonas aeuiginosa* when compared with other experimental

(p<0.05). Total and groups differential leukocytic count. lymphocytes and neutrophils were important indices of nonspecific defense activities in fish (De Pedro et al., 2005). Similar increase in WBCs count. percentage neutrophils and lymphocytes were recorded by Sivagurunathan et al. (2011) who reported that WBCs neutrophils count, percentage of and lymphocytes were decreased infected sharply in Cirrhinus mrigala, group fed on basal diet fish than group fed on supplemented diet contain two grams of turmeric powder while the percentage of monocytes exhibited highly significant decrease in fish group fed on supplemented diet with turmeric than control group.

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## الملخص العربي

استهدف البحث دراسة تأثير التركيزات المختلفه من بودره الكركم المضافه في عليقة الأسماك علي صوره الدم و مدي مقاومة الأسماك لميكروب السودوموناس ايريجينوزا بعد عمل اختبار تحدي بهذا الميكروب للأسماك الشبار الأخضر . تم تقسيم الأسماك الي اربع مجموعات بحيث تحتوي كل مجموعه علي  $^{7}$  سمكه و هي المجموعه الأولي و التي تتغذي علي عليقه غير مضاف اليها بودره الكركم كمجموعه ضابطه بينما المجموعه الثانيه و الثالثه و الرابعه تتغذي علي عليقه مضاف اليها بودره الكركم بنسب مختلفه  $^{7}$ , و و  $^{7}$  جرام لكل كيلو علف علي التوالي لمده  $^{7}$  يوم . وفي نهاية هذه الفترة تم سحب عينات الدم لمعرفه مدي تأثير التركيزات المختلفه من بودره الكركم علي صورة الدم . تم اجراء العدوي لأسماك الشبار الأخضر معمليا ببكتيريا السودوموناس ايريجينوزا والمعزولة من الأسماك المصابة طبيعيا و كانت نسبه النفوق في المجموعات المعالجه بالكركم اقل من المجموعه الضابطه ووجد زيادة ملحوظه في تركيز الهيموجلوبين, وزيادة في أعداد خلايا الدم الحمراء و الهيماتوكريت و بالاضافة الى زيادة اعداد الخلايا الليمفاوية وزيادة في نسبة البروتين الكلية المتمثلة في الالبومين والجلوبيولين.