



Seasonal variations of heavy metals in the marine bivalve *Cerastoderma glaucum* (Bruguière, 1789) from Tamsah Lake, Ismailia, Egypt, and their relation to antioxidant enzymes

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ABSTRACT

Cerastoderma glaucum is a common bivalve in Tamsah Lake. It plays important direct and/or indirect roles in the nutrient cycle. This work determined the seasonal variation of heavy metals [copper (Cu), iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), chromium (Cr), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb)] in the tissue of the investigated bivalve, and the effect of these metals on the antioxidant enzymes. The results revealed that the greatest values for all studied metals in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* occurred during winter and autumn seasons, while the least values were recorded during spring and summer seasons. Mg and Fe concentrations were significantly higher in all seasons when compared with all other metals. The concentrations of metals, such as Mn, Ni, Fe, and Cr were present beyond the WHO recommended standards, especially during winter and autumn seasons. Also, this study showed highly significant increase in lipid peroxidation (MDA) activity during autumn and winter seasons that was associated with a decrease in the mean activity levels of catalase (CAT) and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) than summer season and decrease in superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity than spring season. These results related to high heavy metals concentrations, such as Cu, Fe, and Zn during the autumn season, and Mg, Mn, Cr, Co, and Ni during the winter season. Moreover, the present study recorded positive significant correlations between MDA activity and Cu, Cr and Fe concentrations, and significantly negative correlations between MDA activity and SOD activity, between CAT activity and Ni and Mn, and between GPx and Mn, Cr and Fe. So, the present study suggests that MDA and antioxidant enzymes (CAT, GPx and SOD) can be used as biomarkers to reflect the level of heavy metal pollution stress, especially Fe and Cr in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum*.

INTRODUCTION

The lagoon cockle *Cerastoderma glaucum* (Cardiidae) (Bruguière, 1789) represented one of the most dominant macrobenthos species living in Tamsah Lake that plays an important role in most of the activities in Ismailia City (El-Din and El-Hak, 2017; Kandeel *et al.*, 2017). It is eaten by a human, and considered a very cheap food resource due to their occurrence in high densities in this lake. It can share in the food

chain as some marine animals prey upon them (Malham *et al.*, 2012). But, these cockles, like the other bivalve species, are sedentary filter-feeding organisms (Hamza-Chaffai, 2014). They can bioaccumulate chemical contaminants in their tissues to a much higher level than those of the surrounding seawater (Zannella *et al.*, 2017).

One of the threats to Temsah Lake ecosystem is heavy metal pollution (Ibrahim and El-Regal, 2014). Heavy metals originate from a number of anthropogenic and natural sources (El-Nemr *et al.*, 2012). There are three major sources responsible for the heavy metal contamination in Temsah Lake namely; agricultural runoff, industrial discharge from shoreline workshops and raw sewage effluent from the city network (Abd El-Azim *et al.*, 2018). Some heavy metals have a negative effect on many marine bivalve species, and consequently can cause a human health risk, especially when they are eaten raw or slightly cooked (Holland *et al.*, 2015).

Heavy metals that are accumulated inside bivalve tissues may induce oxidative stress leading to lipid peroxidation, enzyme inactivation, protein degradation and DNA damage (Xu *et al.*, 1999; Regoli, 2000). Hence, they can alter the cell membrane structure by stimulating lipid peroxidation of poly-unsaturated lipids leading to the intracellular generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and short-chain compounds like malondialdehydes (MDA) (Halliwell and Gutteridge, 2015). However, bivalves have developed defense mechanisms against these free radicals and ROS production to survive under these adverse conditions, including changes in respiratory and metabolic rates, activation of alternative pathways for energy production and induction of antioxidant defense and repair mechanisms (De Almeida *et al.*, 2007). Where, the stimulation of lipid peroxidation is modulated by the presence of three major antioxidant enzymes [catalase (CAT), glutathione peroxidase (GPx) and superoxide dismutase (SOD)] that responsible for the detoxification process of ROS, and play a crucial role in maintaining cell homeostasis (Cantú-Medellín *et al.*, 2009). CAT is a marker enzyme for oxidative stress in bivalves, and is involved in the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) to molecular oxygen (O_2) and water (Regoli *et al.*, 1998a, 1998c). GPx reduces both H_2O_2 and lipid hydroperoxides by coupling its reduction with the oxidation of glutathione (GSH) (Vinodhini and Narayanan, 2008). The conjugation reaction of the sulphhydryl group of GSH with the electrophilic group of xenobiotic compounds and toxins, catalyzed by glutathione-S-transferase (GST), makes the reaction products less toxic and more hydrosoluble for facilitating the excretion (Wiegand and Pflugmacher, 2005). SOD decomposes superoxide anion radical ($O_2^{\cdot-}$) to the less reactive species H_2O_2 and O_2 (Regoli *et al.*, 1998a, 1998c). So, the present study aims to investigate the relationships between MDA, CAT, GPx and SOD activities and heavy metals pollution in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* to evaluate the physiological status of these cockles during the four different seasons.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Study area and sample collection

Specimens of *C. glaucum* were seasonally collected during the period from autumn, 2017 to summer, 2018 from Temsah Lake, Ismailia, Egypt. The lake is small and shallow, situates between 30° 33' 3" and 30° 35' 31" N latitude and 32° 16' 30" and 32° 18' 50" E longitude (Kandeel, 2018) (Fig. 1). It is characterized by receiving a variety of water types; saline water from the Suez Canal, and freshwater from the overflow of the

Ismailia freshwater Canal (**El-Sherbiny *et al.*, 2011**). Sorting of these bivalves from the sediments was occurred by sieve; its mesh size was 4 mm. The animals with a standardized shell size (31.58×18.67×25.02 mm) were collected in polyethylene bags and freeze-dried as a whole in isothermal boxes.



Fig. 1. A map of Tamsah Lake, Ismailia, Egypt (Google map).

2. Determination of heavy metals concentrations in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum*

Levels of heavy metals [copper (Cu), iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn), chromium (Cr), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb)] were determined according to **Manutsewee *et al.* (2007)**. An aliquot of the soft tissues of cockles was dried at 70 °C for enough time until ashed. The digestion of samples was occurred using a digestion mixture containing conc. HNO₃, HCl and H₂O₂. The samples were analyzed by Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES; Agilent 5100 VDV). The obtained results were expressed as µg/g dry weight. Working standards were used, and quality assurance procedures and precautions were carried out to ensure the reliability of the results. Samples were carefully handled, and deionized water was used to avoid contamination.

3. Biochemical analysis in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum*

The tissues were homogenized in 5-10 ml cold buffer per gram tissue. The homogenated tissue was then centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 15 min at 4 °C. Only for SOD assay, 0.5 ml of ice-cold extraction reagent (ethanol/chloroform 60/40 v/v) was added to 1 ml of supernatant, vortexed for at least 30 sec, and centrifuged again at 4000 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C. The resulting supernatant containing the enzyme was separated, and should be stored at 0-4 °C until used for the assay. Enzymes activities were analyzed by colorimetric method. Determination of lipid peroxidation (MDA) activity was measured according to **Kei (1978)**, **Ohkawa *et al.* (1979)** and **Persky *et al.* (2000)**. The CAT activity was determined by the method of **Fossati *et al.* (1980)** and **Aebi (1984)**. The GPx levels were determined by the method of **Paglia and Valentine (1967)**. The SOD activity was measured using the procedure of **Nishikimi *et al.* (1972)**.

4. Statistical analysis

All experiments were conducted three times. Data were represented as mean \pm standard deviations (SD). Statistical analyses by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Pearson's linear correlation coefficient (r) test were used. Significant differences were considered when $p \leq 0.05$.

RESULTS

1. Seasonal heavy metals concentrations in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum*

The data in **Table 1** demonstrate that most heavy metals concentrations were high during winter and autumn seasons when compared with spring and summer seasons. The determined metals recorded high accumulation of Mg, Mn, Cr, Ni and Co (1211.97, 1.973, 13.856, 8.436 and 0.276 $\mu\text{g. g}^{-1}$, respectively) during winter than all other seasons. While, concentrations of Cu, Fe and Zn (1.125, 114.589 and 17.83 $\mu\text{g. g}^{-1}$, respectively) were high during autumn. The results showed a complete absence of Cd and Pb from *C. glaucum* tissues during all seasons. The results in **Figure 2** revealed that Mg and Fe concentrations were significantly higher in all seasons when compared with all other metals ($P = 0.000$), while Co and Cu concentrations were significantly lower in all seasons comparing with Fe, Mg and Zn ($P = 0.000$).

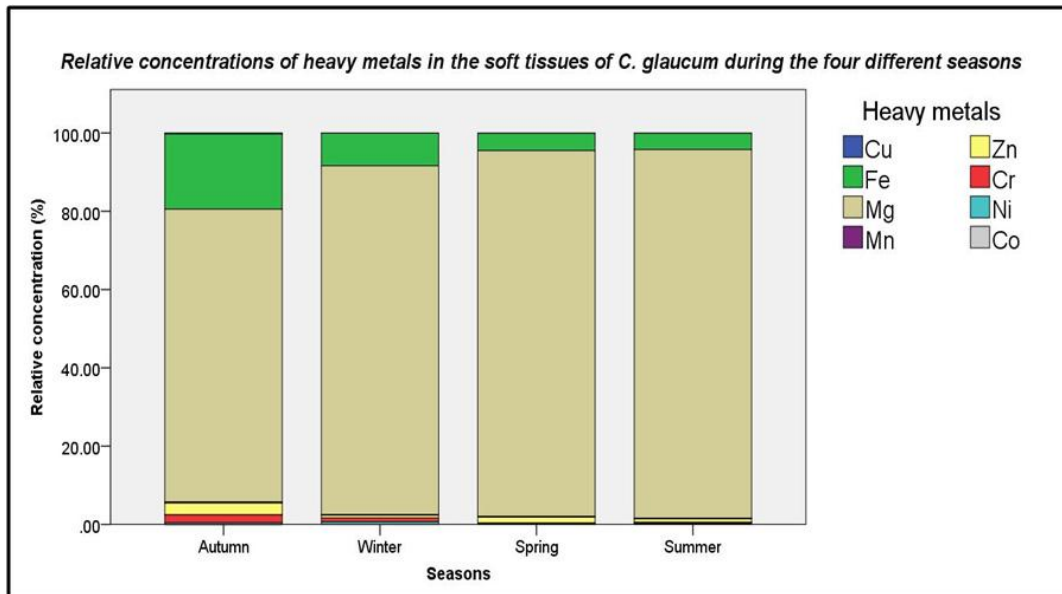


Fig. 2. Relative concentrations of heavy metals in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* during the four different seasons.

Table 1. Heavy metals concentrations ($\mu\text{g. g}^{-1}$ dry w.) in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* during the four different seasons. Data are means \pm SD. Means in the same column with different superscript letters (a, b, c and d) are significantly different, $P < 0.05$ (one-way ANOVA).

Seasons	Concentration ($\mu\text{g. g}^{-1}$)									
	Cu	Fe	Mg	Mn	Zn	Cr	Ni	Co	Cd	Pb
Autumn	1.125 \pm 0.001 ^{b*}	114.589 \pm 1.2 ^c	445.014 \pm 4 ^{a***}	1.819 \pm 0.02 ^{b*}	17.83 \pm 1.3 ^{c***}	12.063 \pm 0.1 ^{c***}	2.48 \pm 0.02 ^{c***}	ND	ND	ND
Winter	0.799 \pm 0.02 ^a	113.169 \pm 1.1 ^c	1211.97 \pm 5.03 ^d	1.973 \pm 0.1 ^c	9.591 \pm 0.6 ^a	13.856 \pm 0.2 ^d	8.436 \pm 0.04 ^d	0.276 \pm 0.03 ^c	ND	ND
Spring	0.795 \pm 0.03 ^a	40.185 \pm 0.2 ^{a***}	852.337 \pm 2.3 ^{b***}	1.724 \pm 0.01 ^{b**}	13.96 \pm 1.4 ^{b**}	1.351 \pm 0.04 ^{a***}	1.554 \pm 0.01 ^{a***}	0.04 \pm 0.02 ^{a***}	ND	ND
Summer	0.754 \pm 0.2 ^a	43.011 \pm 1.2 ^{b***}	977.18 \pm 3.1 ^{c***}	1.17 \pm 0.02 ^{a***}	9.176 \pm 0.7 ^a	3.489 \pm 0.02 ^{b***}	1.995 \pm 0.03 ^{b***}	0.128 \pm 0.01 ^{b***}	ND	ND
Seasonal mean	0.868 \pm 0.178	77.738 \pm 37.775	871.625 \pm 290.477	1.671 \pm 0.319	12.639 \pm 3.8	7.689 \pm 5.6	3.616 \pm 2.926	0.111 \pm 0.111		
F ratio	8.633	5064.934	22017.124	134.648	44.422	8844.154	41869.841	128.217		
P-value	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Maximum residual limits (MRLs; $\mu\text{g. g}^{-1}$)										
FAO/WHO (1989)	30	100	-	1	40-100	-	-	-	-	-
WHO (1989)	30	100	-	1	100	-	0.5-1	-	1	2
US FDA (2001)	-	-	-	-	-	12-13	-	-	-	-

ND: Non detected. Each value is the mean of 3 replicates \pm SD (Standard Deviation), F ratio: Frequency and P-value: Probability. Maximum residual limits (MRLs) were according to **FAO/WHO (1989)**, **WHO (1989)** and **US FDA (2001)**.

*Significant at P-value \leq 0.05, ** Significant at P-value \leq 0.01 and *** Significant at P-value \leq 0.001.

2. Biochemical analysis in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum*

As shown in **Figure 3**, there were highly significant seasonal variations in the activities of lipid peroxidation (MDA) and antioxidant enzymes, such as CAT, GPx and SOD ($P= 0.000$). The highly significant increase in MDA activity was observed during autumn season than all other seasons ($P= 0.000$). The mean activity levels of CAT and GPx in summer season were higher than all other seasons ($P\leq 0.039$ and $P= 0.000$, respectively). While, the mean activity level of SOD in spring season was higher than all other seasons ($P= 0.000$).

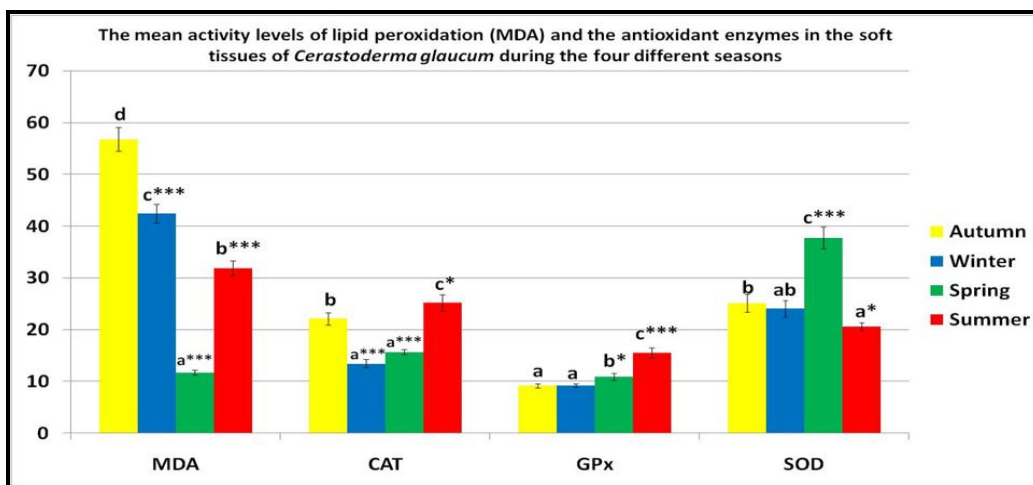


Fig. 3. The mean activity levels of lipid peroxidation (MDA, nmol. g⁻¹ tissue) and the antioxidant enzymes (U. g⁻¹ tissue) in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* during the four different seasons. Values are mean \pm SD. Different letters (a, b, c and d) are significant, $P < 0.05$ (one-way ANOVA).

3. Pearson linear correlation analysis

Figure 4 presents the Pearson linear correlation of MDA and antioxidant enzyme activities with the concentrations of different heavy metals in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* collected throughout the study period. The positive significant correlations were found between MDA activity and Cu ($r= 0.645^*$), Cr ($r= 0.855^{**}$) and Fe ($r= 0.861^{**}$) concentrations. Also, MDA activity was negatively correlated with SOD activity ($r= -0.685^*$). The mean activity level of CAT in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* showed a significant positive correlation with GPx activity ($r= 0.672^*$) and significant negative correlations with Ni ($r= -0.618^*$) and Mn ($r= -0.771^{**}$). The significantly negative correlations were reported between GPx activity and concentrations of Mn ($r= -0.969^{**}$), Cr ($r= -0.660^*$) and Fe ($r= -0.745^{**}$).

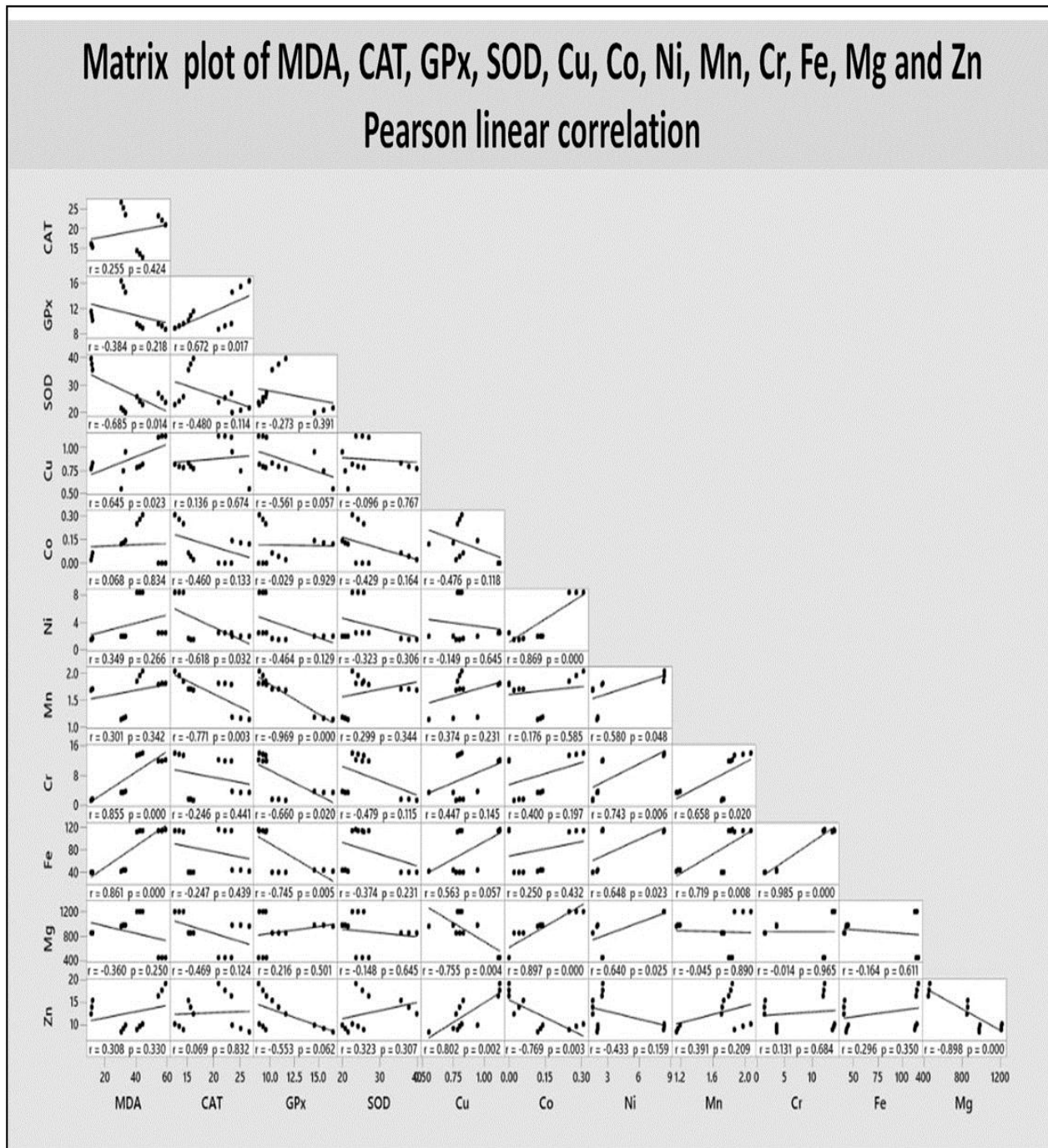


Fig. 4. Pearson linear correlation coefficient (r) of lipid peroxidation (MDA) and antioxidant enzymes (CAT, GPx and SOD) activities with the concentrations of different heavy metals in the soft tissues of *Cerastoderma glaucum* collected throughout the study period. P: * Correlation is significant at the ≤ 0.05 level and ** Correlation is significant at the ≤ 0.01 level (2-tailed).

DISCUSSION

Environmental pollution due to heavy metals represents a serious marine problem around the world (Cajaraville *et al.*, 2000). They are dangerous due to its high toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation ability of these metals in tissues of the living organisms (Sharaf and Shehata, 2015). The consumption of seafood contaminated by heavy metals can lead to potential human hazards. This study was carried out to reveal the seasonal levels of heavy metals in the edible marine bivalve *C. glaucum* collected from Temsah Lake. The present study revealed that there were significant seasonal variations in the concentrations of heavy metals in the soft tissues of *C. glaucum* collected from Temsah Lake. Where the maximal levels of heavy metals were recorded during winter and autumn seasons, and the minimal ones were registered during spring and summer seasons. The seasonal variation of the metal levels in Temsah Lake is due to the agriculture effluents, industrial waste products through shipyard of the Suez Canal and municipal waste products through sewage discharge from Ismailia city (Abd El-Azim, 2002). These data are in the same line with studies demonstrating the influence of seasons on metal accumulation in the bivalve species (Chafik *et al.*, 2001; Rouane-Hacene *et al.*, 2015), as they recorded the highest levels of metals during winter season and the lowest levels during summer season. Also, Pestana *et al.* (2009) suggested that during wet seasons, bivalves take a longer time for clearing their intestinal tract from contaminated heavy meals than in dry seasons.

This finding appeared that seasonal variation in heavy metals concentrations was not only affected by changes in temperature or physical parameters, but strongly affected by a seasonal variation of human activities and discharges into Temsah Lake. Whereas, the heavy metals may find their way into Temsah Lake with rainwater and sewage (Abd El-Azim, 2002). Also, the fishing activities at Temsah Lake are increased in the rainy seasons (Alam *et al.*, 2003).

Current results revealed the highest concentrations of Mg and Fe and the lowest concentrations of Co and Cu in *C. glaucum* soft tissues throughout all seasons. This result may be due to increasing these metals into the lake. These findings are in agreement with previous observations recorded by Ibrahim and El-Regal (2014), Sharaf and Shehata (2015) and Abd El-Azim *et al.* (2018) who studied the heavy metals concentrations in Temsah Lake, and found that Fe and Mg reached the maximum values in the water samples of Temsah Lake and the soft tissues of the studied bivalve species.

Heavy metals concentrations in *C. glaucum* soft tissues remain within acceptable limits proposed by FAO/WHO (1989) and WHO (1989) for consumption, except for Mn and Ni in all seasons and Fe only in autumn and winter seasons were upper the permissible limits. Also, Cr content during winter season was slightly greater than the limit set by US FDA (2001).

There is a close relationship between environmental stress in bivalves and the rate of cellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation (Storey, 1996). When the rate of ROS production exceeds the rate of its decomposition by antioxidant defenses and repair systems, oxidative stress can be established by ROS leading to several toxic processes, including DNA damage, chemical carcinogenesis, lipid peroxidation activation and enzymatic inactivation, especially CAT, GPx and SOD (Sies, 1993; Bagchi *et al.*, 1995; Cheung *et al.*, 2001). The activities of these antioxidant enzymes serve as protective

responses to eliminate reactive free radicals (Karakoc *et al.*, 1997; Solé *et al.*, 1998). MDA and these antioxidative enzymes have been detected in a number of bivalve species (Regoli *et al.*, 1998a, 1998c; Cheung *et al.*, 2002; Charissou *et al.*, 2004).

In the present study, the highly significant increase in lipid peroxidation (MDA) activity during autumn and winter seasons was associated with a decrease in the mean activity levels of CAT and GPx than summer season and decrease in SOD activity than spring season. These results can be explained by high heavy metals concentrations, such as Cu, Fe and Zn during autumn season and Mg, Mn, Cr, Co and Ni during winter season than spring and summer seasons. Hence, the present study showed the positive significant correlations between MDA activity and Cu, Cr and Fe concentrations and significantly negative correlation between MDA activity and SOD activity. These results are confirmed with that observed by El-Khodary *et al.* (2018) who recorded an increase in the mean activity level of MDA 17.93 (U/g) in the soft tissue of *Ruditapes decussatus* collected from Abo Quir Bay, where heavy metal toxicity increased, associated with a significant decrease of SOD and GPx activities. Cantú-Medellín *et al.* (2009) showed a positive correlation between thiobarbituric acid reactive substance (TBARS) level and Cu concentration in muscle tissue of the black chocolate clam *Megapitaria squalid* at El Mogote ($r = 0.94$).

In marine bivalves, exposure to metals induces oxidative stress through the formation of ROS and lipid peroxidation (De Almeida *et al.*, 2004). Cu can induce oxyradicals (superoxide radicals) production leading to MDA formation (Gómez-Mendikute and Cajaraville, 2003), and this has been demonstrated in *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (Viarengo *et al.*, 1990, 1991), *Crassostrea virginica* (Ringwood *et al.*, 1998), *C. gigas* and *M. edulis* (Géret *et al.*, 2002) and *Perna perna* (De Almeida *et al.*, 2004). Also, transition metals, such as Fe catalyze the reaction of superoxide anion radicals with hydrogen peroxide to produce hydroxyl radicals by Fenton reactions (Sies, 1988; Winston and DiGiulio, 1991). These hydroxyl radicals attack polyunsaturated fatty acids to produce lipid hydroperoxides (Cheung *et al.*, 2002). Viarengo *et al.* (1990) showed a relationship between metal exposure, especially Fe, Cu, Co, Cd and Al and lipid peroxidation in bivalves. Also, Fe and Cd alter the structure of cell membranes by stimulating lipid peroxidation of polyunsaturated lipids forming epoxides, hydroperoxides, epoxyalcohols, hydroxyalkenals and short-chain compounds like MDA (Stohs *et al.*, 2000).

The present study recorded a significant positive correlation of CAT activity with GPx level. Also, it presented significantly negative correlations between CAT activity and Ni and Mn concentrations, and between GPx activity and Mn, Cr and Fe concentrations. Different responses of the antioxidant enzymes have been demonstrated in bivalves subjected to chronic or acute exposure of different levels of heavy metals (Regoli and Principato, 1995). Previous studies on the responses to pollutants indicated the partial inhibition of GPx activity as a general response to metal exposure in bivalves (Regoli *et al.*, 1998b). Metals, such as Fe and Cu under acute exposure, can decrease GPx activity level, and to produce lipid peroxidation in *P. perna* (De Almeida *et al.*, 2004). Activities of GPx and SOD activities in *Macoma balthica* and *Adamussium colbecki* exhibited negative relationships with Fe and Cr concentrations and a positive correlation with Zn level (Regoli *et al.*, 1998a, 1998c). A negative correlation was found between the level of Ni concentration and SOD activity in muscle tissue of *Megapitaria squalida* from Playa

El Sausozo ($r = -0.99$) (Cantú-Medellín *et al.*, 2009). The negative correlations between the unnaturally high pollutant concentrations and some of the enzymatic antioxidant activities may be due to the inhibitory effects caused by these chemicals (Cheung *et al.*, 2001). Also, the occurrence of one kind of antioxidant enzyme response or more depends on the exposure time, toxicant concentration and bivalve species (Bebianno *et al.*, 2005).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the present study suggests that *C. glaucum* is at a great risk of Mn, Ni, Fe and Cr, especially during winter and autumn seasons, since these metals concentrations were present beyond the WHO recommended standards in the edible part. Also, the lipid peroxidation (MDA) and antioxidant enzymes (CAT, GPx and SOD) activities are affected by heavy metals pollution, and have potential as indicators of heavy metal contamination, especially Fe and Cr in the soft tissues of the marine bivalve *C. glaucum*.

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ARABIC SUMMARY

التغيرات الموسمية للعناصر الثقيلة في المحار البحري سيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم (Bruguère، 1789) من بحيرة التمساح، الاسماعيلية، مصر، وعلاقتها مع انزيمات مضادات الأكسدة

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يعتبر المحار البحري سيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم من الأنواع الشائعة في بحيرة التمساح، حيث يلعب دورا هاما في السلسلة الغذائية بصورة مباشرة وغير مباشرة. لذلك تهدف هذه الدراسة الى تحديد التغيرات الموسمية في تركيز المعادن الثقيلة (النحاس والحديد والماغنسيوم والمنجنيز والزنك والكروم والنيكل والكوبلت والكاميوم والرصاص) في أنسجة السيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم وتحديد تأثير هذه المعادن على انزيمات مضادات الأكسدة. وقد أوضحت النتائج وجود نسب عالية من المعادن الثقيلة محل الدراسة في الأنسجة الرخوة لسيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم خلال فصلى الشتاء والخريف بينما تم تسجيل أقل قيم لهذه المعادن خلال فصلى الربيع والصيف. وسجلت تركيزات الماغنسيوم والحديد تركيزات عالية في جميع الفصول بالمقارنة بالمعادن الأخرى. وقد أوضحت هذه الدراسة أن تركيزات بعض المعادن الثقيلة مثل المنجنيز والنيكل والحديد والكروم في الأنسجة الرخوة لسيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم قد تخطت الحد المسموح به من منظمة الصحة العالمية خاصة خلال فصلى الشتاء والخريف. وقد أظهرت هذه الدراسة زيادة كبيرة في نشاط بيروكسيدات الدهون خلال فصلى الخريف والشتاء مصحوبا بانخفاض في مستوى نشاط الكاتالاز والجلوتاثيون بيروكسيداز عن فصل الصيف وانخفاض في مستوى نشاط سوبرأكسيد ديسموتاز عن فصل الربيع. وقد ارتبطت هذه النتائج بارتفاع تركيزات المعادن الثقيلة مثل النحاس والحديد والزنك خلال فصل الخريف وكذلك الماغنسيوم والمنجنيز والكروم والكوبلت والنيكل خلال فصل الشتاء. بالإضافة الى ذلك فان الدراسة الحالية سجلت ارتباطات ايجابية بين نشاط بيروكسيدات الدهون وتركيز النحاس والكروم والحديد، في حين سجلت بيروكسيدات الدهون ارتباطات سلبية مع نشاط انزيم سوبرأكسيد ديسموتاز وبين نشاط انزيم الكاتالاز وتركيز النيكل والمنجنيز وبين نشاط انزيم الجلوتاثيون بيروكسيداز وتركيز المنجنيز والكروم والحديد. لذلك فان هذه الدراسة توضح أنه يمكن استخدام بيروكسيدات الدهون وانزيمات مضادات الأكسدة (الكاتالاز والجلوتاثيون بيروكسيداز وسوبرأكسيد ديسموتاز) كمؤشرات حيوية للكشف عن تلوث الأنسجة الرخوة لسيرا/ستوديرما جلوكيم بالمعادن الثقيلة خصوصا الحديد والكروم.