



ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF PATHOGENIC FUNGI FROM CARP FISH IN SULIAMANIA PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Aim of this study was to investigate fungal infections in Different species of carps including common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*); silver carp, *Hypophthalmichthys (H.) molitrix*; *Carpinus carpio* regularis (Mirror carp) . Thirty specimens were collected randomly and studied for the presence of fungal infections. Infected fishes showed clinical signs such as fungal growth on skin, fins, eyes, Oral cavity , eroded fins and scales, hemorrhages on body surface and abdominal distension .The specimens from infected organs of fish were inoculated on each, malt extract , Sabouraud dextrose and potato dextrose agars. The fungal colonies of white, black, green, grey and brown colors were observed in the forty agar plates. Slides were prepared and stained with 0.05% Trypan blue in lactophenol. The incidence of fungal infection according to different types of carps recorded that *Cyprinus carpio* showed the highest infection rate (55 %) followed by *H. molitrix* and *L. rohita* (25.5 % each respectively) . The five fungal genera of *Aspergillus* spp. (32.5%), *Blastomyces* sp. (7.5%), *Penicillium* sp. (20%) *Rhizopus* sp. (25%) and *Candida* sp. (15%) were isolated from the fish. Eyes (25 %) and gills (20 %) were most affected areas followed by skin (17.5%), buccal cavity (15 %) and operculum (12.5 %) and Head (10 %) respectively. This study showed that most of the pathogenic fungi isolated from carps fishes which are produce many types of Mycotocine that are cases many dangerous for animals and human health.

KEYWORDS: fungal infection, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Carpinus carpio* *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Blastomyces*.

INTRODUCTION

Fish are one of the most important groups of vertebrates which give benefits to human beings in several ways . Fish is considered the best animal protein for human consumption. Fish proteins have high biological values. It contains variable quantities of calcium, phosphorus, fat its generous supply of β - complex vitamins and other nutrients important for human health and growth (Khalil, 2010). Fungal contamination of fish is considered the main cause of signs of spoilage as off flavor and unpalatable taste and it may constitute a public health hazard as well as many of economic losses (Hassan *et al.*, 2007 & El Ahl, 2010). As with all common molds, it feeds by secreting digestive enzymes onto its surrounding area. These enzymes break down the cells and tissues of the host, Moulds were recorded to constitute a public health hazard due to mycotoxin production such as aflatoxin, ochratoxin, patulin and zearalenone. These compounds cause some degree of acute toxicity when given in high amounts and are potential carcinogen, where in developing countries, it appears that there is a direct correlation between dietary aflatoxin intake and the incidence of liver cancer (Groopman *et al.*, 1988 & Hassan *et al.*, 2009). Many of the fungi that affect fishes are considered opportunists, attacking the fishes when they are stressed or immuno compromised because of unfavorable environmental conditions, or secondary to bacterial or viral infections, or when they have lost their mucus protection because of trauma or excessive handling (Roberts 1989 and Quiniou *et al.*, 1998). Oomycetes are classical saprophytic

opportunities, multiplying on fishes that are physically injured, stressed or infected (Pickering and Willoughby, 1982). Members of this group are generally considered agents of secondary infection arising from conditions such as bacterial infections, poor husbandry, and infestation by parasite and social interaction. However, there are several reports of Oomycetes as primary infectious agents of fishes (Pickering and Christie, 1980) and their eggs (Walser and Phelps, 1993) . Moreover, there are other fungi that have been implicated in fish diseases. Some of the genera involved include *Aspergillus* (Salem *et al.*, 1989), *Fusarium* (Bisht *et al.*, 2000), *Ichthyophonus* (Faisal *et al.*, 1985), *Branchiomyces* (Easa 1984), *Phoma* (Hatai *et al.*, 1986), *Paecilomyces* (Lightner *et al.*, 1988), *Exophiala* (Langdon and MacDonald 1987), *Phialophora* (Ellis *et al.*, 1983), *Rhizomucor* (Wolf and Smith 1999) and *Candida*. Most of these are multiple case reports or single and causing systemic disease with high mortality rates in fishes. (Neish and Hughes 1980) . Certain molds are known to be capable of producing mycotoxins at low temperature as low as - (Hassan and El-Sharnouby, 1997 and Hassan and Aziz, 1998). Moulds were recorded to constitute a public health hazard due to mycotoxin production such as aflatoxin ochratoxin, patulin and zearalenone. These compounds cause some degree of acute toxicity when given in high amounts and are potential carcinogen, where in developing countries, it appears that there is a direct correlation between dietary aflatoxin intake and the incidence of liver cancer (Groopman *et al.*, 1988 and Hassan *et al.*, 2009). Therefore, new, safe antimicrobial agents are

needed to prevent and overcome severe fungal infections. The objective of this study was to determine the types of opportunistic fungal pathogens specially those causing high mortality rates, elucidation of the incidence of Mycotoxin and distribution of such pathogen *Aspergillus* spp., *Penicillium* spp., *Rhizopus* spp., *Blastomyces* and *Candida* spp. affecting on common carp fish types in Suliamani province / Kurdistan region / Iraq. The main objective of this studies are to investigate the main fungal infection in common carps species in Suliamani Provinces & to Isolation and identification most pathogenic opportunistic fungi in suspected case in fish shop in Suliamani provinces.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Sample collection

Thirty samples were collected from different species of carps from fish shop in Suliamania market, and five specimens each of common carp (*C. carpio*); silver carp (*H. molitrix*); Mirror carp (*Carpinus carpio regularis*) were obtained from Fish Farms (Fig 1), The sterile swabs were collected directly. The fish body was divided into two parts; Anterior part (head, eyes and gills) and posterior part (all fins and rest of the body) for culturing of fungal specimens.



FIGURE 1: Show several types of carps fish (A) common carp *Cyprinus carpio* (B) Silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* and (C) Mirror carp *Cyprinus carpio regularis*.

Preparation of media culturing

The media preparing according to the leaflet of the company, which measuring by sensitive balance then, he glassware (containing media and distilled water covered with aluminum foil), vials and test tubes (cotton plugged) were autoclaved at 121°C at 1.054 kg/cm² for 15 min. Antibiotic streptomycin sulphate 250 mg was added to each preparation of media to reduce bacterial contamination Cycloheximid (Inhibits the non pathogenic fungi growth).

Isolation and culturing

Three different types of media including malt extract agar (A), Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) and potato dextrose agar (PDA) were culturing by sterile swab that collected from fish lesions. The body surfaces of all the fishes under study were disinfected by dipping each fish in 1% formaldehyde for 1 to 5 minutes followed by 70% alcohol and finally in sterile water in which it was thoroughly rinsed. The fungal isolates were collected from infected organs of fish with sterile swab and inoculated on malt extract (Oxoid, UK), Sabouraud dextrose (Oxoid, UK) and potato dextrose (Oxoid, UK) agars. The agar plates were divided for two groups mould and yeast culturing

which incubated at 28-30°C and fungal growth was observed after 4-7 days for mould growth and 30-37°C for yeast growth. The fungal colonies of various colors were observed in the agar plates. For microscopic examination, slides were prepared from each colony and stained with 0.05% Trypan blue in lactophenol. The slides were observed under Olympus microscope Under power 4X & 40X. The fungi were identified with the help of available fungal identification keys and literature (Willoughby *et al.*, 1994).

Statistical Analysis

The fish body was divided into two parts; Anterior part (including head, eyes and gills) and posterior part (including all fins, abdomen and lateral sides of the fish) to note the infected site. Chi-square test was applied to compare the infection according to site of infection in part of the body of the infected carps sp.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Thirty different species of carps specimens were examined for fungal infection. Forty out of thirty fishes were infected thus showing 76.66% infection. From 2 infected fishes, four fish showed clinical signs of fungal infection

such as; ruptured dorsal fins, lesions on skin and caudal peduncle; and granuloma on anal fin. The material from various parts (eyes, gills, head, buccal cavity, operculum and skin) of 23 infected fishes was taken and inoculated on three types of agar plates. A total of 40 agar plates were inoculated from 23 fish specimens and one plate from pond water. Five types of fungal colonies appeared on agar plates; whitish–orange colonies, black, yellowish-green, greenish, mucoid colonies. A total of thirty fishes of Three species were examined (Table1). Fungal infection was observed in *C. carpio*, *H. molitrix* and *Mirror*. The clinical picture of infected *C. carpio* showed fungal growth on head, gills, eyes and fins. Additionally, infected fishes had eroded scales and hemorrhages over body surface and moderate body distension with infection percent (55%). While *H. molitrix*, *C. carpio* regularis showed fungal infection on site of infection Head, Abdomen, Caudal fin 25.5 % respectively (Table (1). The infection on head, gills and eyes of fish may lead to serious pathological

conditions as extensive growth of fungal hyphae in eyes may cause complete blindness and from eyes may penetrate into brain and in such condition the treatment is impossible and eventually the fishes die (Srivastava, 2009). Fin infection is considered less pathogenic as such fishes survive but this infection may lead to complete damage of the fins. Five fungal genera viz. *Aspergillus* spp. showed the highest percentage for fungal infection (32.5%); while *Rhizopus* spp. (25%), *Penicillium* spp. (20%); *Blastomyces* spp. (7.5%), *Candida* (15%) respectively (Table 2), were isolated from Different species of carps. Two genera *Aspergillus* spp. was isolates *Aspergillus Niger* (Black colonies) , *Aspergillus Flavus* (Greenish colony) From Common carps *C. carpio*, *H. molitrix* and *C. carpio* regularis. Mixed fungal infection was also observed in *C. auratus*, in Five combinations as *Candida* *Blastomyces* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., spp., *Rhizopus* spp. *Penicillium* spp. The most prevalent genus was *Aspergillus* spp. It was isolated from *C. carpio* .

TABLE 1: Fungal infection percent in different three types of carps

Species	Symptoms	Fish Infection	Site of infection in fish
<i>C. carpio</i>	Ulcer, gill rot	55%	fins, abdomen Head, eyes, gills,
<i>H. molitrix</i>	Ulcer	22.5%	Head, Abdomen, Caudal fin
<i>Carpinus carpio regularis</i>	Ulcer, gill rot	22.5%	Caudal fin

TABLE 2: Tissue wise infection and fungal colonies in Carps

S. No	Tissue	No. of plates	% infection	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp.	<i>Blastomyces</i> sp.	<i>Penicillium</i> sp.	<i>Rhizopus</i>	<i>Candida</i>
1	Eyes	10	25	4	-	2	-	2
2	Gills	8	20	1	3	1	-	-
3	B.C	6	15	4	-	1	2	1
4	Head	4	10	-	-	2	1	-
5	OP	5	12.5	3	-	1	3	1
6	Skin	7	17.5	1	-	1	4	2
Total		40		13	3	8	10	6
				32.5%	7.5	20%	25%	15%

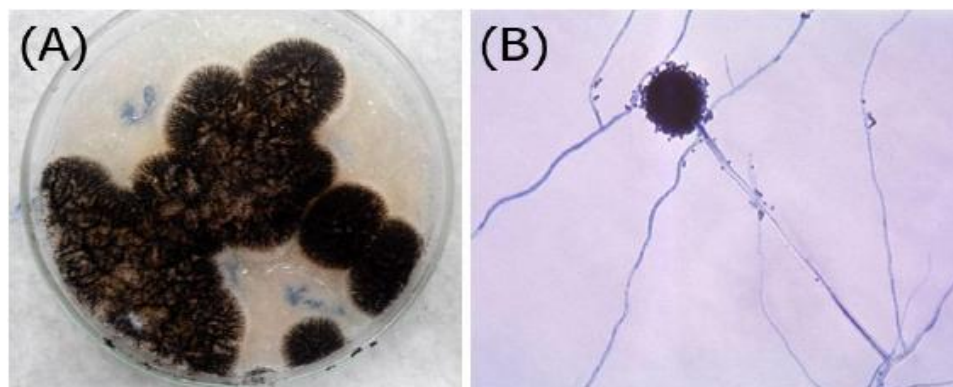


FIGURE 1: A. Colony of *Aspergillus niger* (Black colony) on SDA and PDA from Site of infection, B. *Aspergillus niger* isolated from A, reproductive head on hyphae very clear

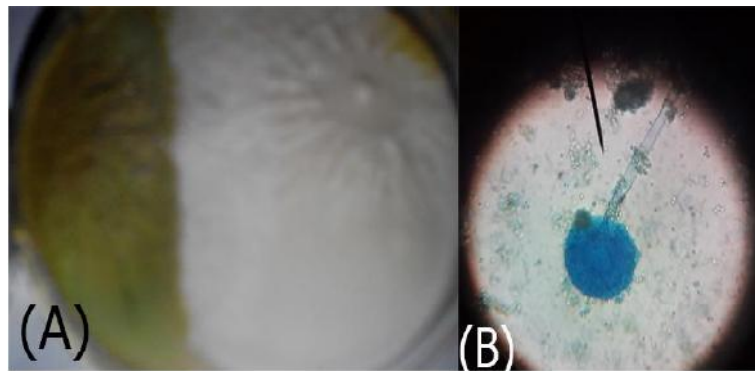


FIGURE 2: A. *Aspergillus flavus* colonies greenish - yellow color B , reproductive head on Conidiophores very clear.

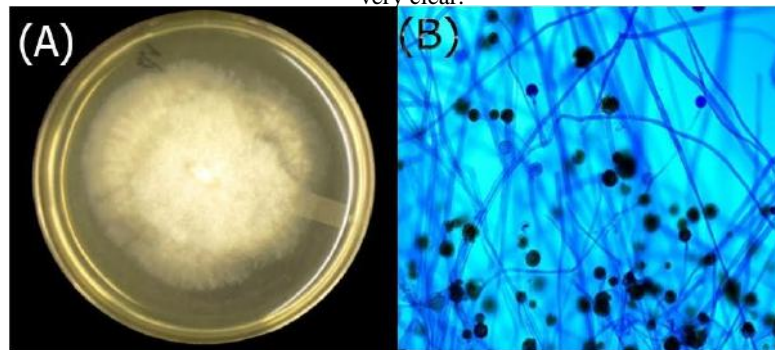


FIGURE 3: A, Colonies of *Rhizopus* on MEA, (fish 4, *C. auratus*). B, *Rhizopus* (from plate-A) showing long branched sporangophore with sporangium bearing spores.

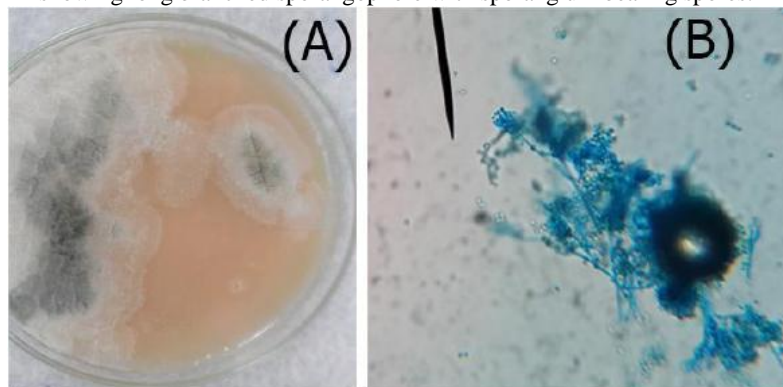


FIGURE 4: A. Colonies of *Penicillium* on SDA, (fish 1, *C. Carpio*). B, *Penicillium* sp. showing brush like arrangement of fruiting head Microscopically .

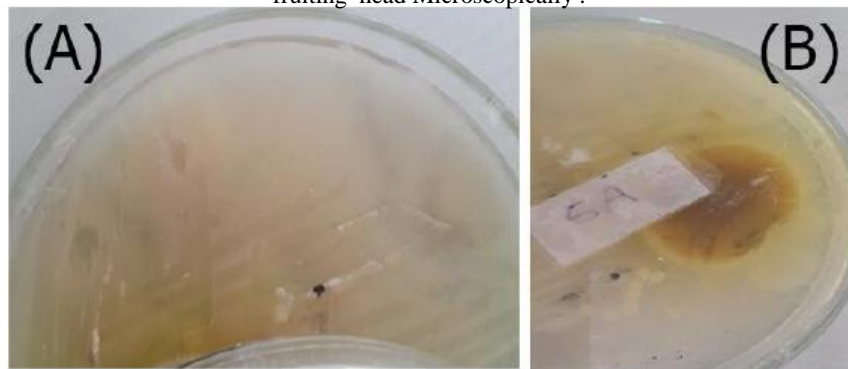


FIGURE 5: *ABranchiomycetes* spp. culture after 3 days of cultivation, (B) After 7 days , the colonies shows as folded heaped, glabrous and velvety, white in color and with white -yellowish in reveries

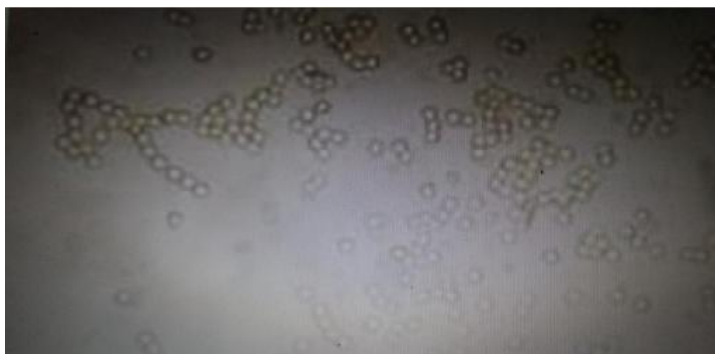


FIGURE 6: Spores of Branchiomyces spp Lactophenol cotton Blue

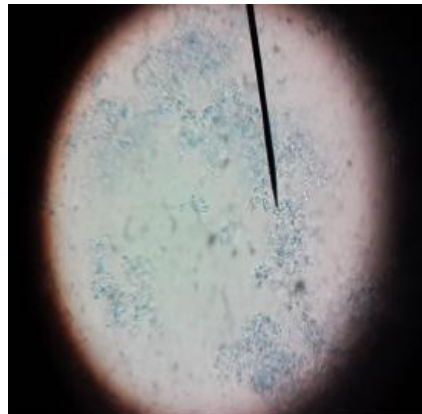


FIGURE 7: A Candida colonies creamy mucoid appear on SDA and Malt extract A, B, Unicellular cell of Candida stained by Lacto phenol cotton blue under X 400

Aspergillomycosis has been principally described in African fish, especially the tilapia *Oreochromis* sp. (Olufemi, 1983). A number of *Aspergillus* species such as *A. flavus*, *A. japonicus*, and *A. terreus* are involved in this infection. These species presumably cause infection via entry into the fish through contaminated feed. Jalilpoor et al. (2006) reported infection of *Aspergillus* periculus eggs with *Penicillium* spp., *Fusarium* spp., *Mucor* spp. and *Saprolegnia* spp. which caused 7 and 22% mortality of these eggs. Fayioye et al. (2008) isolated five different species of fungi including *Fusarium*, *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, and *Penicillium* from 8 edible smoke-dried freshwater fishes. Junaid et al. (2010) isolated 7 fungal species from stockfish in Nigeria and these included *A. flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. niger*, *Triphophyton verrucosum*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor* and *Penicillium* spp. and among these *Mucor* spp. showed the highest occurrence. In another study, fungi of eight different genera; *Saprolegnia*, *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Mucor*, *Penicillium*, *Rhizopus*, *Scopulariopsis* and *Curvularia* were isolated from two fish species, *Oreochromis* spp. and *Claris gariepinas* (Refai et al., 2010). Shahbazian et al. (2010) isolated *Penicillium expansum*, *Penicillium citrinum*; *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus clavatus*; *Alternaria* spp. and 11 other fungal species from infected eggs of rainbow trout. Moreover, Fadaeifard et al. (2011) reported the occurrence of different fungal species of genera including, *Penicillium*, *Acremonium*, *Alternaria*, *Fusarium*, *Aspergillus*, *Mucor*, *Saprolegnia* and *Cladosporium* from the eggs and brood stock of rainbow trout. Findings of the present study are comparable to the findings of

Refai et al. (2010), Shahbazian et al. (2010) and Fadaeifard et al. (2011). However, Refai et al. (2010) has characterized *Aspergillus* spp., *Penicillium* spp. and *Rhizopus* spp. as opportunistic pathogens (Refai et al., 2004) as many of them possess virulence factors which enable them to cause disease (Refai et al., 2010), especially under favorable predisposing conditions. Ecological differences play an important role in species diversity of fungi that develop on both fish and eggs (Hussein et al., 2001). Interaction of physiochemical factors generally has influence on the diversity of water molds (Paliwal and Sati, 2009). Lack of good aquarium keeping in pet shops and fish farms increases the chances of fungal infection in fishes. The basic health management practices may be easily overlooked due to dearth of trained personnel or resources. This study indicates that although most fungi isolated from fishes are considered as normal mycoflora, yet they can cause infections. This is confirmed by the presence of fungal hyphae in the lesions on the body of the fish. These findings point our attention to the possible role of fungi in affecting *Carps* species in Suliamani.

CONCLUSION

Detection of five pathogenic genera of fungi (yeast & mould) in fish (carps species) in Suliamani Province, classification the types of the fungi according to the organs incidence, Isolation and purification each types of pathogenic fungi on three types of media cultures.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Study the fungal infection in another fish species in Iraq.

2. Molecular detection for pathogenic fungal infection in fishes.
3. Make a wide study about the fungal infection in fish in Kurdistan region.
4. Differentiate between the pathogenic infection and opportunistic infections fungi in fishes.
5. Detection the titer of Mycotoxins in fish. Mycotoxins standard solution for TLC and fluorometric methods. Aflatoxins standard B1, B2, G1, G2 and their immunological affinity.

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