

USE OF HOMEO DRUG FOR CURING ULCERATIVE SYNDROME IN FISHES

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ABSTRACT

Fungal infection was observed in *Catla catla* and *Labeo rohita* cultured in two private fish farms initially. In later stage it resulted in ulceration followed by haemorrhage on the dorsal surface of the body. Initially, usual treatments of copper sulphate, potassium permanganate and common salt solution were tried, but no improvement was observed. Then repeated intramuscular injections of homeopathic drug Heaper Sulpher and Arnica spray were given with encouraging results. Infection reported in another farm was also successfully controlled using a similar treatment.

The occurrence of disease is common in aquatic organisms. Any disease, if not treated properly in time, is most likely to spread to epidemic proportions. Information on the use of homeopathic drug in fisheries science is scanty. Only a few studies on the use of homeopathic drugs for breeding are available (Mitra *et al.*, 1987 and Mitra & Raizada, 1986). Therefore, in the present study an attempt was made to use the homeopathic drug for cure of the disease. Ulcerative Syndrome was observed in two private fish farms in Barabanki district namely 1. Ikram Fish Seed Farm, Badagaon and 2. Moh. Sueb Fish Seed Farm, Rudoli.

Primarily the disease appeared as a fungal infection in the Indian major carps, especially in *Catla catla* and *Labeo rohita*. The fish became weak, lethargic followed by ulceration or exfoliation of skin and haemorrhage on the dorsal surface of the body (Fig.1), resulting in mass mortality of the fishes.



Fig. 1 : Photograph showing the diseased fish.

The disease was first observed at Ikram Fish Seed Farm during March, 1988 in *C. catla* and *L. rohita* brooders. Initially the feed was stopped. Movement of the fishes became sluggish and the slime from the body surface disappeared. Considering this as an early stage of fungal infection fishes were treated with 1: 2,000

solution of copper sulphate, 1: 1,000 solution of potassium permanganate and 3% common salt solution. However, no improvement was observed. Then small and large sized multiple ulcerations started appearing on the body of fishes and they started dying. Acriflavine was also applied externally to individual fishes to check the disease to a certain extent, but ulcer could not be cured permanently.

Finally, the fishes were treated with homeopathic drug "Heaper Sulpher" 30 potency. The injection was prepared by mixing two drops of the drug in 10 ml of distilled water. This drug was administered intramuscularly by an hypodermic syringe, at the rate of 0.5 ml per fish irrespective of the weight of fish. Another homeopathic drug "Arnica mont" potency 'Q' was also prepared like Heaper Sulpher and was sprayed over the ulcers simultaneously.

Heaper Sulpher 30 potency was applied at an interval of four days, followed by Heaper Sulpher 200 potency at the same interval. Within seven days improvement was observed, and in fifteen days fishes were completely cured.

In April, 1988 a similar infection was reported in the fish farm of Mr. Mohd. Sueb. The disease appeared suddenly and mass mortality occurred. Almost similar symptoms i.e. disappearance of slime on the body, weakness, ulceration or exfoliation of the skin and haemorrhage on the dorsal surface of the body, were noticed as in Badagaon. In this farm also the treatment of homeopathic drug Heaper Sulpher and Arnica mont were given as explained above. It gave appreciable results and fishes were completely cured. The same stock of the brooders was used successfully during the same breeding season at both the places.

However, more field trials are warranted to recommend the above practice as a general one for the prevention or cure of this disease.

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