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# Oxidative Stress Markers in Parasitized and Non-Parasitized *Amietophrynus regularis* (Reuss, 1833) Exposed to Multi-Stress Conditions in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria

- [Okechukwu Martin Okeagu,](#)
- [Bamidele Akinsanya,](#)
- [Abiodun Benedict Onadeko,](#)
- [Khalid Adekoya &](#)
- [Omoregie Patrick Isibor](#)

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## Abstract

Background: Amphibians are subjected to a variety of natural and artificial stresses that can compromise physiological balance. This study explored the variations in oxidative stress markers in *Cosmocercan* parasitized and non-parasitized *Amietophrynus regularis* in diverse conditions. The toad specimens were collected from natural habitats and dumpsites of three (3) major areas of Lagos. 15 g wet weight of the liver, intestine, and parasites were separately prepared and analyzed for oxidative stress parameters including; SOD, CAT, GSH, and MDA activities according to well-established protocols. Result: Based on stations, there were significant differences in the SOD levels in the liver and intestine of infected and uninfected toads

obtained at the dumpsite and the natural habitat at  $p < 0.001$ . Also, the concentration of SOD in the parasites ( $238.86 \pm 7.72$  min/mg prot.) recovered from the toads at the dumpsite was very much significantly higher than the concentration in those recovered from the toads in the natural habitat ( $p < 0.001$ ). The study has shown that the level of SOD released by the antioxidant defense system in response to the oxidative stress in the organism makes it a reliable tool for ecotoxicological assessment. All the oxidative stress markers except for MDA showed significant differences at  $p < 0.05$  between the host tissues and the parasites irrespective of sampling locations indicating both organisms were stressed either due to the host-parasite relationship or from other environmental contaminants. Conclusions: The toad's antioxidant defense system was typically sensitive and adaptable to environmental conditions, suggesting that it could be used in future research on effective ecotoxicological evaluation tools.

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## Author information

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### Authors and Affiliations

- 1. Department of Zoology, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State, Nigeria**  
Okechukwu Martin Okeagu, Bamidele Akinsanya & Abiodun Benedict Onadeko
- 2. Department of Cell Biology and Genetics, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State, Nigeria**  
Khalid Adekoya
- 3. Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria**  
Omorieg Patrick Isibor

### Contributions

A.B and O.M.O conceived and designed the experiments. O.M.O performed the experiments on the toads. O.M.O and I.P.O analyzed and interpreted the data. O.B.A and A.K contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools, and ideas. O.M.O wrote the Manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscripts.

### Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Okechukwu Martin Okeagu](#).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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