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**THE INFLUENCE OF SOME HEAVY METALS ON
CLARIAS GARIEPINUS IN POLLUTED WATER WITH
SPECIAL STRESS ON SOME PHYSIOLOGICAL AND
PATHOLOGICAL CHANGES
ON THESE FISHES**
(With 9 Tables and 16 Figures)

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(Received at 17/9/2007)

**تأثير بعض المعادن الثقيلة على أسماك القرموط الأفريقي في المياه الملوثة
مع التركيز على بعض التغيرات الفسيولوجية والباثولوجية على هذه الأسماك**

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تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لبيان مدى خطورة المعادن الثقيلة الموجودة في المصارف والترع والبحيرات نتيجة الصرف الزراعي والصحي والصناعي في هذه المناطق الطبيعية للمياه ومدى تأثيرها الضار على صحة الكائنات الحية والأسماك وأيضاً الإنسان المستهلك لها. وأوضحت الدراسة على أسماك القرموط الأفريقي المجمعة من أربعة مناطق مختلفة في محافظة الدقهلية وهي نهر النيل بمدينة المنصورة، بحر البقر، مصرف نمرة ٧ وبحيرة المنزلة وجود أخطر المعادن الثقيلة وهي النحاس، الكاديوم والرصاص الذي يؤثر مباشرة على أسماك القرموط الأفريقي فيفقد شهيته وتزيد لزوجة الإفرازات المغطاة لجلد السمك والخياشيم وتسبب ضيق في التنفس ويحدث نفوق للأسماك مع وجود احتقان شديد في الأعضاء الداخلية (خياشيم، كبد، كلى، طحال) كما تم عمل تحليل لعينات المياه المجمعة من هذه المناطق فتبين ارتفاع نسبة الملوحة وعسر المياه وزيادة معدل تركيز المعادن الثقيلة في المناطق الأكثر تلوثاً وهي بحر البقر، مصرف نمرة ٧ وبحيرة المنزلة عن الحد المسموح به بينما كانت مكونات المياه ونسبة المعادن الثقيلة أقل من المسموح به في نهر النيل بمدينة المنصورة. وقد أدت زيادة معدلات المعادن الثقيلة (نحاس وكاديوم ورصاص) إلى وجود تغيرات معنوية في صورة ومصل الدم في أسماك المناطق الملوثة (بحر البقر، مصرف نمرة ٧، بحيرة المنزلة)، فبالنسبة لصورة الدم اتضح وجود نقص معنوي واضح في العد الكلي لكرات الدم الحمراء، تركيز الهيموجلوبين وحجم الخلايا المضغوطة وعلى النقيض وجدت زيادة معنوية واضحة في العد الكلي لكرات الدم البيضاء بينما كانت صورة الدم طبيعية في عينات دم الأسماك المجمعة من نهر النيل بالمنصورة أما بالنسبة لمصل الدم فقد ثبت وجود

نقص معنوي في قيم المتوسطات لكل من البروتين الكلي، الألبومين، الجلوبيولين الكلي، الكوليستيرول وهرمون الثيرونين (T4). وعلى الجانب الآخر وجدت زيادة معنوية في قيم متوسطات كل من سكر الدم، هرمون الكورتيزون، أنزيمات الكبد وتشمل S.AST ، S.ALT ، S.ACP وكذلك مستوي الكرياتينين وبولينا الدم والذي تم تأكيده بواسطة الفحص الباثولوجي للكبد والكلي. وقد أوضحت دراسة التغيرات الباثولوجية التي سببتها سموم هذه المعادن الثقيلة للأعضاء الداخلية (الكبد - الكلي - الخياشيم - العضلات)، ففي الكبد نرى وجود فجوات في الخلايا الكبدية مع ارتشاح في الأوعية الدموية الكبدية، تتركز شديد في معظم جدار الكبد وجود تتركز وتحلل في خلايا جدار القنوات المرارية مع تكون قنوات صغيرة جدا وتليف جدارها مع انتشار خلايا الميكروفاج بين أنسجة الكبد المتحللة. أما التغيرات الباثولوجية في الكلي فأوضحت الدراسة وجود التهابات في الخلايا المبطنة لأنابيب الكلي ومع وجود تحلل في الخلايا وتحطمها وظهور خلايا الميكروفاج مع وجود احتقان، خلايا مينة وظهور حبيبات بنية الشكل وسط مناطق مينة في نسيج الكلي ووجود تليف حول الجلوميرول وزيادة سمك الغلاف المحيط بالكلي مع وجود أنزفة. أما التغيرات الباثولوجية في أنسجة الخياشيم فكانت واضحة حيث يظهر تحطم الجزء الطرفي من الخياشيم مع وجود تضخم بخلاياها وضمور الخلايا في الجزء الثاني المبطن للخياشيم مكونة شريط مع زيادة إفراز الخلايا المخاطية. التهاب القوس الخيشومي مع ظهور ارتشاح والخلايا الليمفاوية والإيزينوفيل مع الخلايا المتحطمة وأيضا تبين وجود احتقان وتجلط الدم في شعيرات الدموية الموجودة في الخلايا المبطن للخياشيم وأيضا أنسجة العضلات ظهرت بها بعض التغيرات الهستوباثولوجية فنرى نسيج العضلات يفقد شكل التخطيط الطبيعي والفراغات التي بين ألياف العضلات مع وجود ارتشاح وتتركز جزئي مع التهاب بعض الألياف المكونة للعضلات، ظهور تتركز وتحلل شديد لبعض أنسجة العضلات مع وجود خلايا ليمفاوية والميكروفاج.

SUMMARY

Pollution with heavy metals has become serious during recent years. Heavy metals such as copper, lead and cadmium when discharged into water can enter the food chain, bioaccumulate in fish tissues therefore they are highly toxic for consumers when exceeding the recommended safety levels. The concentration of heavy metals differed in four examined areas. The concentrations of heavy metals (copper, cadmium and lead) were in normal levels in water of River Nile in Mansoura city and in tissues of *Clarias gariepinus* fish collected from River Nile. But the concentrations of heavy metals in water samples and tissues of fish collected from drainage canal No 7 then Bahr El-Bakar and Manzala Lake were higher than the permissible limits as reported by FAO/WHO (1992) and WHO (1993). The bioaccumulation of the studied heavy metals in vital organs of *Clarias gariepinus* collected from studied locations were high concentrations in liver, gills, kidney then muscles. The haematological analysis of blood revealed presence of significant

changes in blood and serum of *Clarias gariepinus* which collected from drainage canal No 7, Bahr El-Bakar and Manzala Lake. The total red blood cells, hemoglobin and packed cell volume levels were lower than fish collected from River Nile at Mansoura city which were in normal ranges. The total leukocytes values nearly similar to normal ranges in Mansoura city, in contrary marked leucocytosis were observed in other three polluted areas. Concerning the biochemical parameters, the results showed significant decrease for both of proteinogram parameters, cholesterol and thyronine (T4). On other side significant increase for both of glucose, cortisol hormone, serum AST and S.ALT, S.ACP, S. creatinine and S. blood urea were observed. The clinical signs and gross lesions on *Clarias gariepinus* including respiratory manifestations and congestion of skin and fins with increase amount of slimy mucous secretion on skin and presence of congestion in gills, kidney and liver with enlargement in size. The histopathological studies revealed the hepatic lesions of affected fish with heavy metals as vacuolation of hepatic cells, edema portal blood vessels, hydropic degeneration of hepatic parenchyma, melanomacrophages among degenerated hepatic tissues. The lesions of kidneys were nephrosis in renal tubules with activation of haemopoietic elements, hyaline degeneration of epithelial lining of some renal tubules and death cells of other tubules with presence of hemorrhages with small brown granules among necrotic areas, periglomerular fibroblastic proliferation and roused renal capsule with subcapsular hemorrhages. The lesions of gills revealed that destroyed upper portion of gill filaments with hyperplasia of secondary lamellar epithelium with numerous secreting cells, edema in primary filaments, inflammatory cells in gill arch with edema and destruction of surface epithelium. Also gill rocker revealed edema and haemorrhages. Gill filaments had thrombosis in dilated capillaries of secondary lamellar epithelium. The pathological changes in muscles including swollen with loss of their striation, partial and intense hyalinization with intermuscular edema, partial necrosis with myolysis of some muscle fibers with proliferation of fibroblasts and intense necrosis with few melanomacrophages and lymphocytes. The study concluded that the heavy metals had dangerous effect on physiological parameters and vital organs of fishes exposed in it.

Key words: *Fish, clarias gariepinus, heavy metals, water*

INTRODUCTION

Fish had long been regarded as a nutritious and highly food due to their contribution of high quality animal protein, richness in calcium and phosphorus and generous supply of vitamins. The pollution of the aquatic environment with heavy metals has become a serious health concern during years (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006). Commercial farming of sharptooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) has significantly increased in different areas of A.R.E over the past few year, *Clarias gariepinus* is widely accepted by consumer in Egypt as relatively cheaper choice of fish protein (Ahmed and El-Kamel, 2006).

The environmental pollution represent a major problem in the world, specially in the less developed countries. Egypt is one of these countries which suffer from biospheres pollution (air and water) (Mona and Sawsan, 2004).

Heavy metals have a great ecological significance due to their toxicity and accumulative behavior playing role in aquatic organisms, therefore the toxic heavy metals become hazard for man and mammals (De Gregori *et al.*, 1994). The heavy metals introduced into aquaria from metal aquarium hoods, ceramic were that lead glaze and certain rocks, groundwater especially soft acid water, rain water may be a source to aluminum and algaecid or treat ectoparasites lead to poisoning with copper (Noga, 1996). The industrial and agricultural discharge, coal and oil combustion, chemical and chloride plants emissions, aerial all out phosphate fertilizers and sludge used on agricultural lands, sewage effluents, some types of plastics and pesticides are considered the primary sources of lead, cadmium and mercury pollutions in fish (WHO, 1992; Shibamoto and Bjeldames, 1993; Jehan *et al.*, 1999 and Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2006).

Many of heavy metals such as cadmium and lead have no nutritional importance and their presence in relatively high concentration in body tissues can result in health problems in human as well as in animals (Gold Frank *et al.*, 2001). The impact of heavy metals on fish has been of great concern for many years. Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in fish many critically influence the growth rate, physiological and biochemical status and consequently the meat quality of fish (El-Naggar *et al.*, 1998 and Haggag *et al.*, 1999). The exposure of fish to different levels of individual heavy metals and to very lesser extent combined ones showed monotring alterations in metabolic aspects of the exposed fish where one of them increased plasma glucose in different

fish species (Gill *et al.*, 1992 and Dethloff *et al.*, 1999a&b). Inorganic lead alters plasma glucose and cholesterol in Bayad (Hema *et al.*, 1987). Cadmium also elevated blood glucose in tilapia (Almeid *et al.*, 2001) and gold fish (Zikic *et al.*, 2001). Elevated plasma protein concentration was also observed in catfish exposed to zinc (Hilmy *et al.*, 1987). The objective of this work was planned to study the following:

- (1) The clinical signs of some heavy metals pollution and its residual in water, muscle tissue and organs in *Clarias gariepinus*.
- (2) The haematological aspects and physiological responses including some metabolic and enzymatic activities in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from polluted locations with heavy metals.
- (3) The pathological changes in some organs in *Clarias gariepinus* exposed to heavy metals pollution at Dakahlia Governorate.

MATERIALS and METHODS

(I) Fish:

120 of *Clarias gariepinus* were collected from four (4) different regions in Dakahlia Governorate from River Nile in Mansoura city, Bahr El-Bakar, drainage canal number (7) in Belkas region and Manzala Lake. The collected fishes were transported to laboratory and detected the clinical signs and abnormal symptoms on the fish. The blood samples were taken from all examined fishes. The tissue samples from liver, kidney, gills and muscles were taken from the dissected fish and stored in the deep freezer at -20°C for heavy metals evaluation.

(II) Residual analysis:

- (1) Determination of copper (Cu), lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) in surface water was carried according to the methods prepared by Polprasert (1982) and Sprenger *et al.*, (1987).
- (2) Determination of copper, lead and cadmium in fish tissues was done according to the method described by Heckman, (1970) and Greig *et al.*, (1982). Tissue samples were measured by using atomic absorption spectrophotometer according to Capar (1977).

(IV) Haematological examination:

The collected blood samples for haematological techniques were carried according to Lucky (1977). Blood samples were taken from examined fishes from each region by section of the caudal peduncle for haematological and biochemical studies as following:

(1) Whole blood:

About 0.5 – 1.0 ml whole blood was collected in small plastic vials containing a suitable amount of dipotassium salt of Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetic acid (EDTA) as anticoagulant. These samples were used for, the evaluation of Total Erythrocytic Count (TEC), hemoglobin concentration (Hb), Packed Cell Volume (PCV) and Total Leucocytic Count (TLC) according to Stoskopf (1993).

(2) Blood serum:

About 3-4 ml blood were collected in plastic centrifuge tubes and left to clot for 3 hours at 4°C, after that the blood samples were centrifuged to separate the serum and kept in glass vials at -20°C until used.

The separated serum was used in biochemical studies, where serum total protein was measured according to Doumas *et al.*, (1981), albumin (Frank, 1950), total globulin calculated mathematically by subtracting albumin from total protein, serum glucose (Trinder 1969), serum cholesterol (Allain *et al.*, 1974) cortisol (Foster and Dum, 1974), serum triiodothyromine (T₃) and tetraiodothyronine (T₄) (Eastman *et al.*, 1975 and Chopra 1972) respectively, serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) (Reitman and Frankel, 1957), acid phosphates (ACP) (Young 2001), blood urea (Patton and Crouch, 1977) and creatinine (Husden and Rapaport, 1968).

(V) Histopathological examination:

Tissue specimen from muscles, liver, kidney and gills of examined fish were fixed in 10% phosphate buffer formalin. Five micron thick paraffin sections were prepared and stained with hematoxylin and eosin according to Roberts, (1989).

(VI) Statistical analysis:

All data were statistically analyzed by the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) Technique using the linear models (GLM) procedures of SAS (SAS[®] Institute, 2001). Significant differences among treatment means were determined by Duncan's Multiple Range Test according to Duncan, (1955).

RESULTS

Heavy metals are widely distribution in aquatic system due to wide use of chemicals in agriculture and industry in Egypt. The hazards of residual heavy metals on fish live in polluted water detected in

clinical signs. The external signs on *Clarias gariepinus* including respiratory manifestation, congestion in fins and skin and increase amount of slimy mucous secretion covered skin and gills. The gross lesions of internal organs were liver enlargement, friable and very congested, distended in gall bladder and congestion in spleen and kidney (Fig. 1).

Water quality:

Dealing with the water analysis (Table 1) showed that changes in the physicochemical properties of water samples collected from the four different locations revealed that different variations in the water quality were the oxygen dissolved in water in normal range but high in River Nile than other three locations. The pH values of water samples collected from studied locations were increase in drainage canal number (7), then Bahr El-Bakar and Manzala Lake, but in River Nile pH value in normal range. The water salinity increase in 3 highly polluted location arranged in the following drainage canal number (7), then Bahr El-Bakar then Manzala Lake while salinity degree of River Nile was in normal value.

Chemical analysis to water:

The concentration of heavy metals in water samples collected from four locations (River Nile in Mansoura city, Bahr El-Bakar, Drainage canal number (7) and Manzala Lake) were showed in Table (2). Copper, cadmium and lead concentrations in water samples collected from three polluted locations were higher than these concentrations in River Nile in Mansoura city. However copper, cadmium and lead concentrations in the three locations (drainage canal number 7, Bahr EL-Bakar and Manzala Lake) were higher concentrations than permissible levels as reported by WHO (1993).

Residual heavy metals in fish tissues:

Heavy metals as copper, cadmium and lead were accumulated in fish tissues as gills, muscles, liver and kidney. The concentrations of the studied heavy metals (Cu, Cd and Pb) in the vital organs and muscles of *Clarias gariepinus* were highly significant different among different studied locations showed in Tables (3, 4, 5 and 6). The highest concentrations of copper in muscles and kidney of fish in region (3), then in liver of fish in region (2) and liver of fish in region (4). The concentrations of cadmium were highest in liver and muscles of fish in region (3 and 4) respectively. The higher concentrations of lead were detected in liver of fish in region (3 and 4) respectively then muscles of

fish in region (3) the bioaccumulation of the studied heavy metals in vital organs of *Clarias gariepinus* were collected from studied locations were in the following order: liver tissue> gills> kidney> muscles were higher concentrations than permissible limits as reported by FAO/WHO, (1992).

Blood parameters:

Hematological analysis of blood samples collected from *Clarias gariepinus* in different studied locations showed that blood parameters of fish collected from River Nile in Mansoura city were in the normal ranges, but the blood parameters of fish collected from Bahr EL- Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake showed high significant and significant ($p < 0.01$), ($p < 0.05$) decrease respectively in the mean values of total RBCs, haemoglobin content and packed cell volume. The total W.B.Cs of fish collected from River Nile was in normal range but in fishes collected from other polluted locations showed very highly significant ($p < 0.001$) increase in total WBCs (Table 7).

Serum biochemical parameters:

Fish collected from polluted regions (Bahr EL-Bakar, drainage canal No 7 and Manzala Lake) showed significant ($p < 0.05$) decrease in total protein mean values, also occur significant ($p < 0.01$), ($p < 0.001$) and ($p < 0.05$) decrease in albumin levels in the other three polluted locations respectively were observed. The total globulin levels of fish in Bahr EL-Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake present significant ($p < 0.01$) and ($p < 0.05$) decrease in the mean values respectively when compared with the normal level of fish collected from River Nile in Mansoura city (Table 8).

Regarding the glucose mean values (Table 8) showed significant ($p < 0.01$), ($p < 0.001$) and ($p < 0.05$) increase in blood serum of fish collected from polluted regions Bahr EL-Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake respectively in comparison with those of River Nile locations.

Serum cholesterol results revealed significant ($p < 0.01$), ($p < 0.001$) and ($p < 0.05$) decrease in fish collected from the three polluted locations respectively (Bahr EL-Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake) in comparison with fish collected from River Nile in Mansoura city (Table 8).

The result given in Table (8) declared that level of cortisol hormone significantly ($p < 0.01$) and ($p < 0.05$) increase in Bahr EL-

Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake respectively when compared with the level of those fish in River Nile location.

Sera analysis of fish collected from heavy metals polluted water localities which tabulated in table (8) showed that serum levels of triiodothyronine (T_3) were not affected, but serum levels of thyronine (T_4) showed significant ($p < 0.05$) decrease in collected fish from Bahr EL-Bakar and Manzala Lake respectively, while the fish collected from drainage canal No (7) showed high significant ($p < 0.01$) decrease.

Concerning liver enzymes Table 9 revealed significant ($p < 0.01$), ($p < 0.001$) and ($p < 0.05$) increase in serum levels of AST in fishes collected from the three polluted localities (Bahr EL-Bakar, drainage canal No 7 and Manzala Lake) respectively, while serum level of ALT showed significant ($p < 0.01$) increase in regions (Bahr EL-Bakar and drainage canal No 7), while in Manzala Lake the level of significance was ($p < 0.05$) increase. The level of (ACP) showed significant ($p < 0.001$) and ($p < 0.05$) increase in (Bahr EL-Bakar , drainage canal No 7 and Manzala Lake respectively.

Dealing with kidney function (Table 9) showed that both of serum creatinine and blood urea levels significantly ($p < 0.001$) increased in fish collected from Bahr EL-Bakar and drainage canal No (7) but serum creatinine significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased in Manzala Lake. Also serum blood urea significantly ($p < 0.01$) increased in fish collected from Manzala Lake.

Results of histopathology:

The morphological changes among examined organs of different localities varied in intensity according to the type and amount of detectable heavy metal and their toxicity.

The histopathological changes in liver included that the hepatic lesions of fish among different areas were sever and represented by vaculation of the hepatic cells beside edema in portal blood vessel and mild inflammatory cells (Fig. 2). Sometimes, the lesions become more wide and represented by intense hydropic degeneration in the majority of the hepatic parenchyma (Fig. 3). Areas of coagulative necrosis with proliferation of bile duct epithelium forming numerous bile ductules with periductular fibrosis could be seen (Fig. 4). Melanomacrophages could be seen scattered among degenerated hepatic tissues. Hepatopancrease revealed inactivation with depletion of their zymogenic granules with congestion of their blood vessels.

On the histopathological findings in kidneys were the renal lesions in posterior kidney were sever mainly in areas Bahr El-Bakar and drainage canal No. (7) and become moderate in area of Manzala Lake. Nephrosis of all renal tubular epithelium with activation of haemopoietic elements and a few scattered melanomacrophages were seen (Fig. 5). The epithelial lining of some renal tubules became disassociated from their basement membrane and undergo hyaline degeneration could be seen (Fig. 6). The other tubules suffered from either accidental or programmed cell death with haemorrhages and presence of small scattered brown granules necrotic areas (Fig. 7).

The contracted glomerular tufts with periglomerular fibroblastic proliferation could be seen (Fig. 8) and thickened renal capsule by fibrous tissue with subscapular haemorrhages was common.

The pathological changes in gills of *Claria gariepinus* revealed that lesions in gills were severe of drainage canal No. (7) and moderate in area of Bahr El-Bakar and Manzala Lake. Distorted upper portions of gill filaments with hyperplasia and hypertrophy of their secondary lamellar epithelium forming sheets containing numerous mucus secreting cells were seen (Fig. 9). The forementioned lesions were extended to involve whole length of some primary filaments beside presence of edema (Fig. 10). The gill arch revealed intense inflammatory cell mainly lymphocytes and eosinophil granular cells and edema with destruction of their surface epithelium (Fig. 11). The gill racker revealed edema, haemorrhages and presence of numerous mucous secreting cells in their coxexing. Some gill filaments had telangectiasis or thrombosis in the dilated capillaries of secondary lamellar epithelium with haemorrhages and edema (Fig. 12).

The pathological changes in muscles including moderate muscular lesions were seen in Bahr El-Bakar and drainage anal No. (7) and become sever lesion in fish muscles of Manzala Lake. The muscle fibers became swollen with loss of their striation and absence intermuscular spaces and partially hyalinized (Fig. 13). Intense hyalinization and intermuscular edema were also detected (Fig. 14). Partial necrosis with mymyolysis of some muscle fibers and proliferation of fibroblasts could be seen (Fig. 15). Intense necrosis in the majority of muscles with presence of a few melanomacrophages and lymphocytes could be seen (Fig. 16).

Table 1: Physical analysis of water collected from different localities

Location	Items	Temperature °C	Oxygen ppm	pH value	Salinity g/L
1- River Nile		20 ± 2	8.35	7.51	0.13
2- Bahr El-Bakar		18 ± 2	6.01	8.61	1.452
3- Drainage canal (7)		22 ± 2	4.21	9.51	2.11
4- Manzala Lake		16 ± 2	6.2	8.5	1.322

Table 2: Heavy metal concentration (ppm) of water were collected from different localities

Location	Heavy metal	Copper	Cadmium	Lead
1- River Nile (Mansoura city)		0.058 ± 0.02	0.075 ± 0.01	0.007 ± 0.002
2- Bahr El-Bakar		1.35 ± 0.20	0.059 ± 0.01	0.24 ± 0.09
3- Drainage canal No. (7)		1.37 ± 0.21	0.072 ± 0.02	1.27 ± 0.17
4- Manzala Lake		1.27 ± 0.20	0.081 ± 0.01	0.68 ± 0.11

* permissible limit of heavy metals in water according to WHO (1993) cadmium 0.003 mg/l, lead 0.01 mg/l, copper 2.00 mg/l.

Table 3: Heavy metal concentrations in some organs in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from River Nile

Organ	Muscles	Gills	Liver	Kidney
Heavy metal				
Copper (Cu) ppm	0.371 ± 0.015	0.312 ± 0.022	0.241 ± 0.026	0.165 ± 0.02
Cadmium (Cd) ppm	0.011 ± 0.002	0.021 ± 0.005	0.035 ± 0.013	0.012 ± 0.004
Lead (Pb) ppm	0.021 ± 0.005	0.032 ± 0.007	0.043 ± 0.01	0.039 ± 0.009

Table 4: Heavy metal concentrations in some organs in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from Bahr El-Bakar

Organ	Muscles	Gills	Liver	Kidney
Heavy metal				
Copper (Cu) ppm	0.878 ± 0.007	0.475 ± 0.006	1.045 ± 0.011	0.546 ± 0.008
Cadmium (Cd) ppm	0.180 ± 0.006	0.095 ± 0.003	0.075 ± 0.006	0.041 ± 0.004
Lead (Pb) ppm	0.035 ± 0.005	1.010 ± 0.003	1.033 ± 0.014	0.601 ± 0.033

* permissible limit of heavy metals in organs of fish according to WHO (1992), copper 0.5 ppm, cadmium 0.05 ppm and lead 0.5 ppm.

Table 5: Heavy metal concentrations in some organs in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from drainage canal No (7)

Organ	Muscles	Gills	Liver	Kidney
Heavy metal				
Copper (Cu) ppm	2.525	0.763	0.903	1.39
Mean	± 0.095	± 0.011	± 0.056	± 0.175
Cadmium (Cd) ppm	0.118	0.095	0.145	0.110
Mean	± 0.021	± 0.015	± 0.017	± 0.017
Lead (Pb) ppm	1.440	1.280	1.840	1.130
Mean	± 0.032	± 0.017	± 0.05	± 0.035

Table 6: Heavy metal concentrations in some organs in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from Manzala Lake

Organ	Muscles	Gills	Liver	Kidney
Heavy metal				
Copper (Cu) ppm	0.743	0.610	1.210	0.491
Mean	± 0.20	± 0.039	± 0.053	± 0.032
Cadmium (Cd) ppm	0.145	0.120	0.128	0.66
Mean	± 0.017	± 0.041	± 0.034	± 0.005
Lead (Pb) ppm	0.765	1.158	1.720	0.023
Mean	± 0.038	± 0.022	± 0.017	± 0.006

Table 7: Mean values of some blood parameters of fish from different locations

Location	River Nile (Mansoura city)	Bahr El-Bakar	Drainage canal No (7)	Manzala Lake
Blood Parameters				
Total R.B.Cs ($\times 10^6/\mu\text{l}$)	1.92 ± 0.06 ^a	1.57 ± 0.07 ^c	1.48 ± 0.11 ^c	1.62 ± 0.12 ^b
Haemoglobin (G / dl)	7.84 ± 0.40 ^a	5.22 ± 0.48 ^c	5.55 ± 0.49 ^c	6.24 ± 42 ^b
Packed cell volume (%)	21.55 ± 0.90 ^a	16.90 ± 0.82 ^c	17.45 ± 0.77 ^c	18.80 ± 0.90 ^b
Total W.B.Cs ($\times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$)	30.76 ± 1.14 ^d	38.6 ± 0.83 ^a	39.10 ± 0.86 ^a	37.10 ± 0.95 ^a

*Means with the same letter in the same row are not significantly different.

Table 8: Mean values of some serum biochemical parameters of fish from different locations

Serum blood Parameters	Location			
	River Nile (Mansoura city)	Bahr El-Baker	Drainage canal No (7)	Manzala Lake
Total protein (G/dl)	4.41 ± 0.33 ^a	3.15 ± 0.44 ^b	3.10 ± 0.35 ^b	3.33 ± 0.38 ^b
Albumin (G/dl)	2.11 ± 0.05 ^a	1.73 ± 0.09 ^c	1.65 ± 0.08 ^d	1.85 ± 0.11 ^b
Total globulin (G/dl)	2.30 ± 0.18 ^a	1.42 ± 0.15 ^c	1.45 ± 0.13 ^c	1.48 ± 0.27 ^b
Glucose (mg/dl)	87.60 ± 1.57 ^d	96.81 ± 1.85 ^b	99.10 ± 1.45 ^a	92.80 ± 1.50 ^c
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	126.28 ± 1.96 ^a	115.94 ± 2.05 ^c	114.23 ± 2.23 ^d	119.80 ± 2.20 ^b
Cortisol (ng/ml)	3.41 ± 0.12 ^c	4.21 ± 0.17 ^a	4.36 ± 0.23 ^a	3.96 ± 0.22 ^b
Thyronine (T4) (ng/ml)	13.42 ± 0.39 ^a	11.67 ± 0.49 ^b	10.88 ± 0.66 ^c	11.92 ± 0.55 ^b
Triiodothyronine (T ₃) (ng/ml)	3.53 ± 0.11 ^a	3.27 ± 0.17 ^a	3.31 ± 0.14 ^a	3.45 ± 0.15 ^a

* Means with the same letter in the same row are not significantly different.

Table 9: Mean values of serum parameters of liver and kidney functions of fish from different locations

Serum blood parameters	Location			
	River Nile (Mansoura city)	Bahr El-Baker	Drainage canal No (7)	Manzala Lake
AST (μ / dl)	284.11 ± 1.76 ^d	293.21 ± 2.01 ^c	296.80 ± 1.67 ^a	289.77 ± 1.73 ^b
ALT (μ / dl)	8.23 ± 0.70 ^c	12.13 ± 0.75 ^a	11.33 ± 0.74 ^a	10.71 ± 0.78 ^b
ACP (μ / dl)	2.23 ± 0.14 ^c	3.33 ± 0.15 ^a	3.75 ± 0.17 ^a	2.85 ± 0.23 ^b
Creatinine (mg /dl).	1.47 ± 0.05 ^c	2.10 ± 0.08 ^a	2.40 ± 0.09 ^a	1.85 ± 0.15 ^b
Blood urea (mg /dl)	3.51 ± 0.14 ^d	7.10 ± 0.29 ^a	8.35 ± 0.35 ^a	4.60 ± 0.32 ^c

* Means with the same letter in the same row are not significantly different.

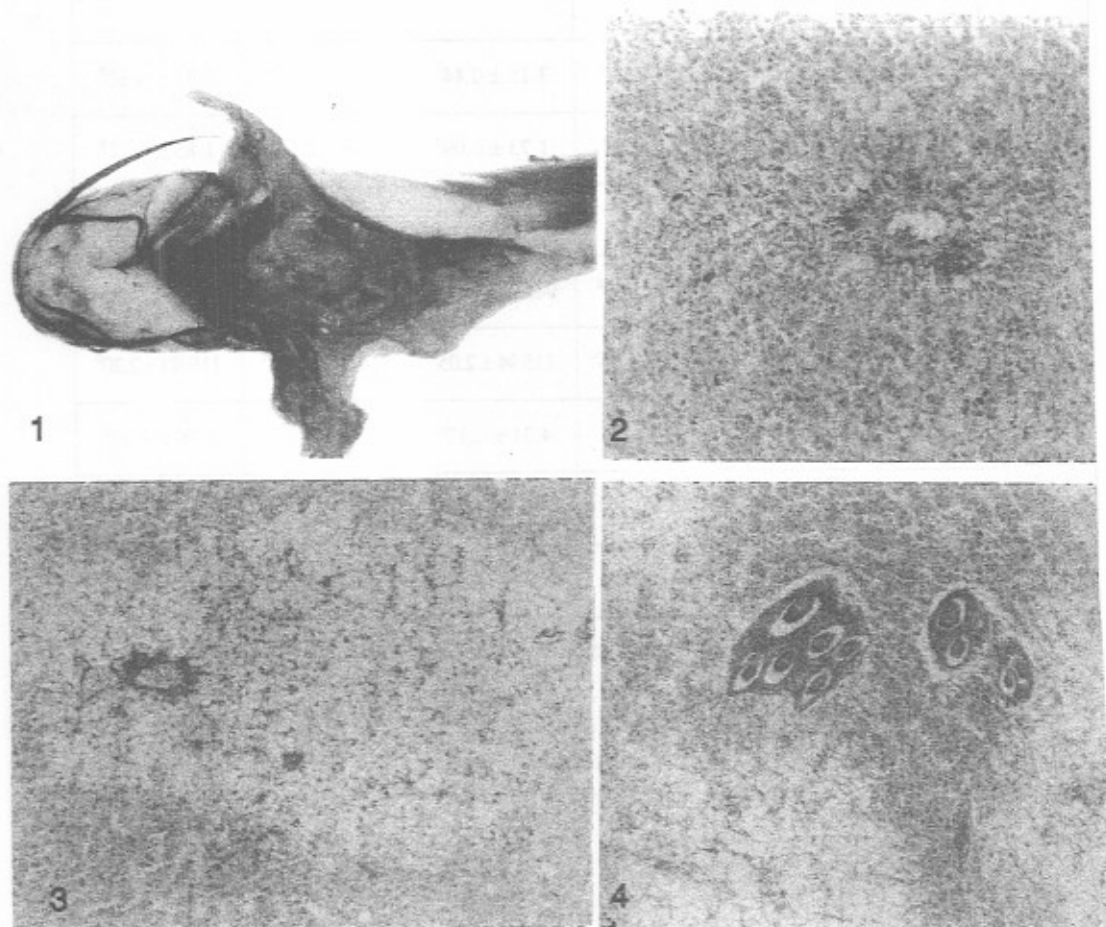


Plate I:

Fig. 1: *Clarias gariepinus* collected from polluted water showing congestion in gills, liver, kidney and spleen.

Fig. 2: Liver showing mild vacuolation of hepatic cells and odema in blood vessel wall (H & E \times 150).

Fig. 3: Liver showing hydropic degeneration of the hepatic cells (H & E \times 150).

Fig. 4: Liver showing periductoacular fibrosis (H & E \times 150).

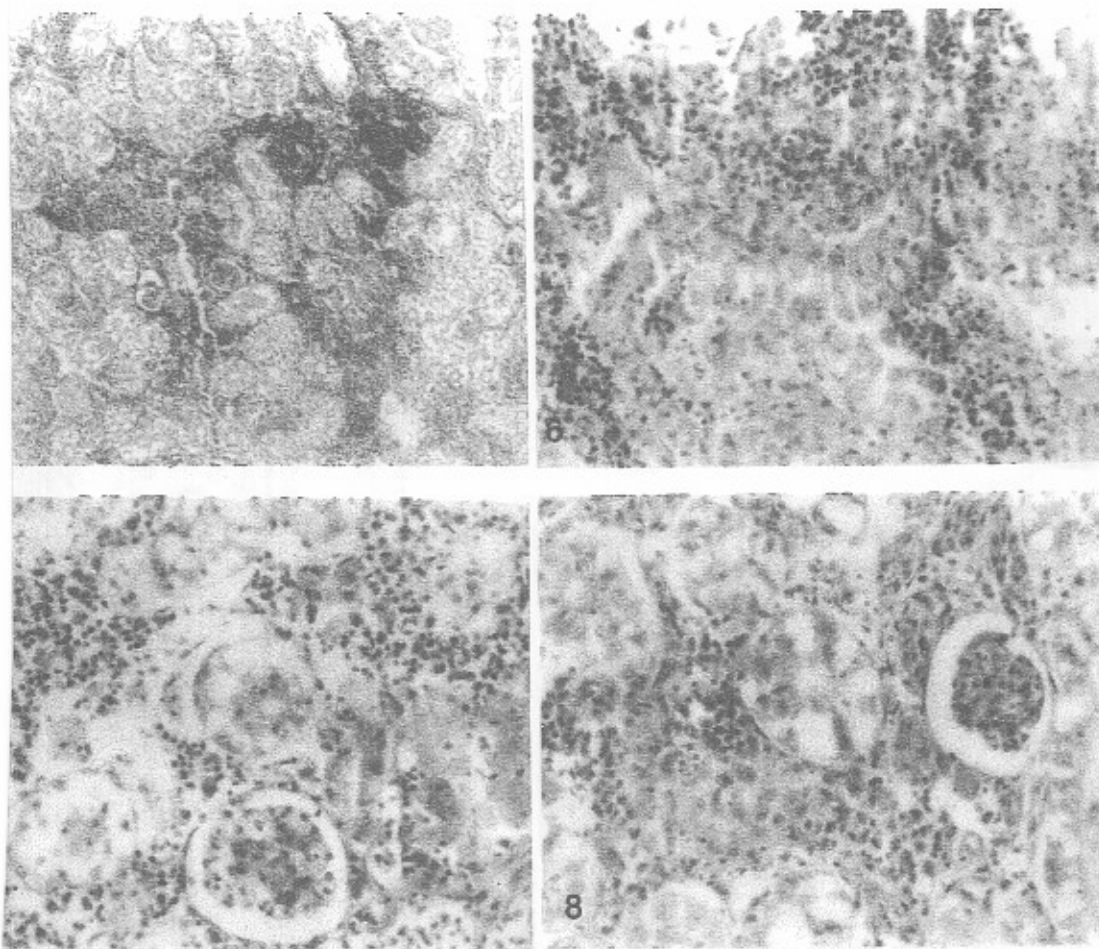


Plate II:

- Fig. 5:** Kidney showing nephrosis and activation of hemopoietic elements (H & E \times 150)
- Fig. 6:** Kidney showing hyaline degeneration of some tubular epithelia (H & E \times 300).
- Fig. 7:** Kidney showing accidental or programmed cell death of some renal tubules (H & E \times 300).
- Fig. 8:** Kidney showing contracted glomerular tuft and periglomerular fibrosis (H & E \times 300).

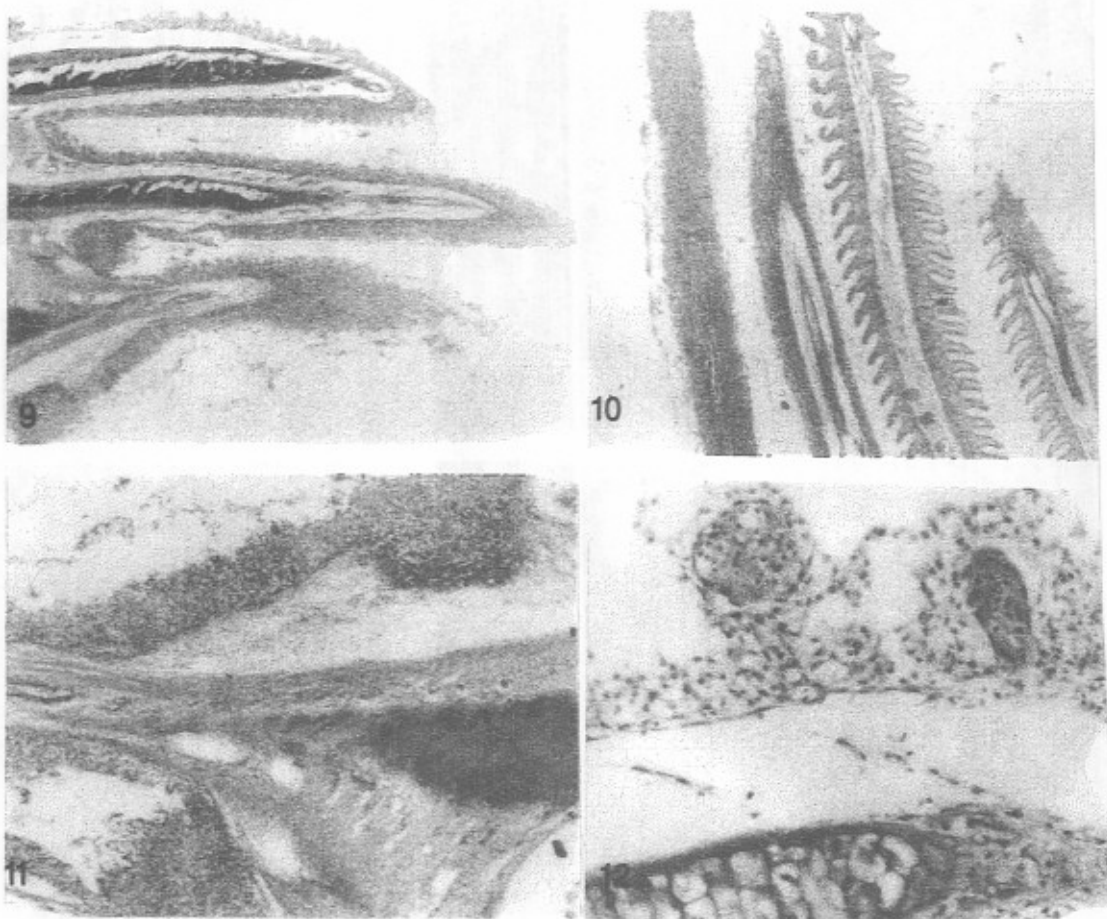


Plate III:

- Fig. 9:** Gills showing hyperplasia and hypertrophy of secondary lamellar epithelium on the tips of primary filaments (H & E \times 150).
- Fig. 10:** Gills showing sheeecs along the length of some gill filaments (H & E \times 150).
- Fig. 11:** Gills showing intense inflammatory cells, odema and haemorrhages in gill arch (H & E \times 150).
- Fig. 12:** Gills showing telangiectiasis and odema of secondary lamellae (H & E \times 300).

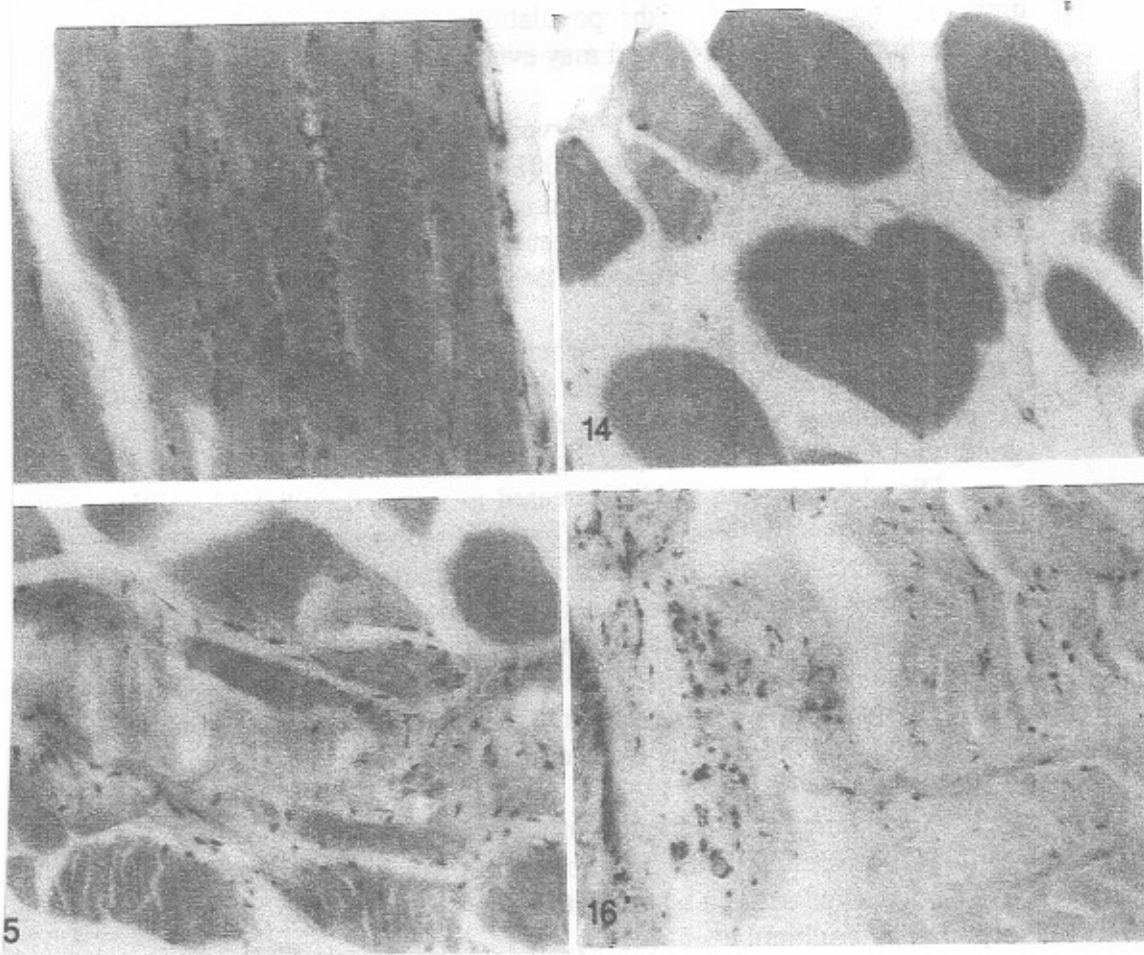


Plate IV:

- Fig. 13:** Skeletal muscles showing loss of striation and absence of intermuscular spaces (H & E \times 300).
- Fig. 14:** Skeletal muscles showing partial hyalinization and intermuscular odema (H & E \times 300).
- Fig. 15:** Skeletal muscles showing partial myolysis of some muscle fibers (H & E \times 300).
- Fig. 16:** Skeletal muscles showing intense necrosis and presence of a few melanomacrophages (H & E \times 300).

DISCUSSION

The higher concentration of heavy metals beyond the tolerance limit of fishes affect fish populations, reducing their growth, reproduction and/or survival and may even kill fishes (Schreck and Iorz, 1978; Zaghoul 1997 and 2000).

The main clinical signs observed were similar to that mentioned by Elsa (1991), El-Shaieb *et al.*, (2001) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003). The postmortem examination revealed congestion in internal organs (gills, liver, kidney, spleen) and enlargement in liver. Similar lesions were previously mentioned by Sorensen (1991), El-Shaieb *et al.*, (2001) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003).

The changes in the physico-chemical properties of water samples collected from the different studied localities reflect the differences in the effluents that discharged to each locality (Industrial effluents, agricultural drainage and waste municipal).

Dissolved oxygen levels decreased in water of polluted localities and similar to result of Boyd, (1990) were dissolved oxygen content in industrial effluents, agricultural and sewage drainage varies widely and water becomes unsuitable for fish if the concentration falls to 1ppm. Also reduction in oxygen content to 4ppm increases the toxicity of heavy metals (Skidmore, 1974). The fish were exposed to low levels of oxygen in pumping more water through the gills in order to obtain sufficient oxygen and thereby exposed to addition poisons (Zaghoul *et al.*, 2001).

Water samples collected from polluted localities were increased in salinity compared with water samples from River Nile due to the high levels of dissolved salts in water that discharged directly to this locality as reported by Zaghoul *et al.*, (2000).

Water pH values of polluted water localities in normal range were 6.5 to 9 (Boyd, 1990). However, slight increase in pH of water in drainage canal No (7) due to agriculture drainage water and changes in alkalinity due to uptake of free carbon dioxide from water and precipitation of calcium carbonate (Boyd, 1990 and Saeed, 2000).

Heavy metal pollution in water is generally associated with industrial, agricultural and municipal discharges (Haggag, *et al.*, 1999, Salah El-Deen, *et al.*, 1999 and Zaghoul, 2000). Once metals are in the water column, they may be taken up by living organisms, deposited in the sediments or remain for some period in the water itself (Salah El-Deen, *et al.*, 1999). The highly significant differences in the studied

heavy metals (copper, cadmium and lead) among the water samples collected from the different locations could be attributed to the differences in the effluents (waste municipal, agricultural drainage water and/or other urban activities discharged directly to the studied locations. This is in agreement with Nagdi and Shaker (1998) and Zaghoul (2000) who attributed the increase of heavy metals in drainage water to the decomposition of the organic matter and / or the use of fertilizers and other chemicals in agriculture.

Heavy metals such as copper, lead and cadmium when discharged into the water can enter the food chain, bioaccumulate in fish tissue and reached to man (Ajmal *et al.*, 1985). Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in fish may critically influence the growth rate, physiological and biochemical status and consequently the meat quality of fish (Salah El-Deen, *et al.*, 1996 and 1999, El-Naggar, *et al.*, 1998, Haggag, *et al.*, 1999 and Zahra *et al.*, 2001). The concentrations of studied heavy metals (Cu, Cd and Pb) in vital organs and muscles of *Clarias gariepinus* were highly significant among different studied locations showed in tables (3, 4, 5 and 6). However, highest concentrations of copper in muscles and kidney of fish collected from drainage canal No (7), then liver in fish collected from Bahar El-Bakar and Manzala Lake respectively. The concentrations of cadmium were highest in liver and muscles of fish collected from drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake. Also the higher concentrations of lead were detected in liver of fish collected from drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake respectively then lead concentration in muscles of fish collected from drainage canal No (7). In the present investigation the high concentrations of the various heavy metals in different vital organs of *Clarias gariepinus* collected from different locations may be attributed to their exposure to high concentration of water heavy metals and the specific effluents discharged to each location.

Bioaccumulation of either of the studied heavy metals in vital organs of *Clarias gariepinus* were collected from studied locations were in the following order: liver tissues > gills > kidney > muscles. Heavy metals were significantly higher in fish viscera, including liver tissue, than in muscle tissues as previously shown (Shereif and Moaty, 1995; Khalil and Hussie, 1996; Zahra *et al.*, 2001).

Accumulation of heavy metals in the vital organs of fish is correlated with metabolic rate (Sorensen 1991). The highest concentrations of the studied heavy metals in liver may be attributed to the major role of liver in the detoxification and protection from heavy

metals exposure both by producing metallothionein and by acting as storage site for bound metals (Pratap, *et al.*, 1989).

Fish accumulate the heavy metals from the water primarily through the gills (Eisler 1967). Its uptake could be controlled by the amount of water passing through the gills. The obtained results showed highly concentration of copper in gills of fish collected from drainage canal No (7), but highly concentration of lead in fish gills collected from drainage canal No (7), these results agree with Hilmy *et al.*, (1987).

Haematological studies have been developed for evaluation blood parameters as indicator of general health conditions of animal body. Subsequently, haematological studies are promising tools for investigating physiological changes caused by environmental pollutants (Ghazaly and Said, 1995; El-Naggar *et al.*, 1998; Haggag *et al.*, 1999).

The haematological analysis of blood samples from *Clarias gariepinus* in the different studied locations tabulated previously in table (7) showed significant differences between polluted areas and those of River Nile at Mansoura city. These findings coincide with those reported by El-Naggar *et al.*, (1998) and Haggag *et al.*, (1999) and Zahra *et al.*, (2001) who attributed the decrease in RBCs, Hb and PCV values to the reduction in red blood corpuscles production in the haematopoietic organs under the action of heavy metals accumulated at high concentrations in the various tissues and to intrahepatic and intrasplenic haemorrhage induced by action of accumulated heavy metals.

Also the decrease in RBCs in *Clarias gariepinus* collected from Manzala Lake may attribute to the high concentrations of lead in water. This may be due to reduction in red blood corpuscles production in the bone marrow under the action of mentioned heavy metals as well as intrahepatic and intrasplenic haemorrhage by the action of accumulated heavy metals in the present study. These results agreed with (Marie, 1990 and Abbas, 1994). The observed leucocytosis could be attributed to the release of corticoids into circulation under the stress effect of heavy metals accumulation. These results agreed with (Hafez *et al.*, 2003).

Fish collected from polluted location (Bahr El-Bakar, drainage canal No 7 and Manzala Lake) showed significantly decrease in total protein, albumin and globulin mean values respectively when compared with normal values in fish collected from River Nile (Table 8). These reductions may be attributed to liver damage. The obtained results were similar to those of (Al-Ekel 1994). The protein analysis showed an opposite trend where (Abd Allh *et al.*, 2002) reported increase in plasma protein with a constant albumin level and that is may related to their role

as a transport vehicle for xenobiotics (Ghosh and Bhattacharya, 1992 and De Smet *et al.*, 2001).

Regarding the glucose mean values (Table 8) showed significant increase in fish collected from (Bahr El baker, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake). The noticed hyperglycaemia might be related to the stress response in which fish show increased concentrations of cortisol (Dethloff *et al.*, 1999a) and adrenaline (Mazeaud and Mazeaud 1981) where these hormones could cause a direct inhibition of eating or they might even do it indirectly and produce changes in the blood glucose level by mobilizing of liver glycogen into blood glucose. Our results were in agreement with the findings of Abd-Allh *et al.*, (2002) and Metwally *et al.*, (2002).

The data illustrated in table (8) revealed significant decrease in cholesterol levels in three polluted locations (Bahr El-Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake). The result in the current work is also similar to that obtained by Ferranda and Anderew, (1991) and Ali *et al.*, (2003), where they said that such decrease in cholesterol level could be attributed to its greater level of utilization during corticosteroidogenesis as it is precursor for steroid hormones.

The results given in table (8) declared that the levels of cortisol hormone in the three polluted locations significantly increased when compared with those levels of River Nile fishes. In respect our data come in accordance with those of Ali *et al.*, (2003), they attributed such increase to stress factors and the intoxication of fish exposed to heavy metals pollution specially lead. Heakal *et al.*, (1999) said that the exposure to cadmium elevate serum cortisol level, he explained this elevation by the fact that cadmium is a chemical stressor that able to activate the hypothalama- pituitary- internal (HPI) axis as has been previously reported by James and Wigham, (1986).

The sera analysis of heavy metals of fish collected from polluted locations showed that the serum levels of triiodothyronine (T₃) were not affected; while serum levels of thyronine (T₄) were decreased as showed in table (8). It has been suggested that most of heavy metals specially cadmium induced decrease in serum (T₄) and this may be due to direct inhibition of hormone synthesis in the gland by the metal (Gupta *et al.*, 1995).

Concerning liver enzymes (Table 9) revealed significant increase in serum levels of AST and ALT in fish collected from polluted locations (Bahr El-Bakar, drainage canal No (7) and Manzala Lake) The level of acid phosphatase (ACP) showed also significant increase in its

level as showed in table (9). The increased activity of liver enzymes in the current work may reflect the hepatocellular damage, and to a lesser extent other tissues (Whitby *et al.*, 1989 and Srivas Tava *et al.*, 1998). The obtained data support the suggestions by Hema *et al.*, (1987) and Zikic *et al.*, (2001) that cadmium, besides most heavy metals causes oxidative stress and tissue damage in exposed fish to pollution.

Dealing with kidney function table (9) showed that both of serum creatinine and blood urea levels increased as in previously results. The obtained results in the present work agreed with those of El-Naggar *et al.*, (1998) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003), they attributed such increases in blood urea and creatinine levels in fish collected from polluted location to gills and kidney damage.

The main lesions were found in liver represented by vaculation of the hepatic cells beside edema in portal blood vessel and mild inflammatory cells (Fig. 2). Sometimes the lesions become more wide and represented by intense hydropic degeneration in the majority of hepatic parenchyma (Fig. 3). Areas of coagulative necrosis with proliferation of duct epithelium forming numerous bile ductules with periductular fibrosis could be seen in (Fig. 4). These data were in agreement with El- Shaieb, *et al.*, (2001). These findings reflect the role of the liver in detoxification of heavy metals. Klaverkamp *et al.*, (1984) suggested that the liver plays a major role in the protection of body against the heavy metals toxicosis. Abouzaid *et al.*, (1992) add that the liver is a target organ for heavy metal toxicity in fish. The wide spread necrosis of hepatocytes was confirmed with El-Naggar *et al.*, (1998) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003).

Melanomacrophages could be seen scattered among degenerated hepatic tissues. These results are in agreement with Fantin *et al.*, (1992). Hepatopancreas revealed inactivation with depletion of their zymogenic granules with congestion of their blood vessels. These histopathological findings were in agreement with Roberts (1989). The ultrastructural changes in the liver due to toxic effect of heavy metals were in agreement with Al-Ekel., (1994).

The histopathological changes in kidneys were sever in areas Bahr El-Bakar and Drainage canal number (7) and moderate in Manzala Lake area. Nephrosis of renal tubular epithelium with activation haemopoietic elements and melanomacrophages were scattered and epithelial lining of some renal tubules become disassociated from their basement membrane and undergo hyaline degeneration could be seen (Fig. 7). These results were in agreement with Fantin *et al.*, (1992); El-

Shaieb *et al.*, (2001) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003). The contracted glomerular tufts with periglomerular fibroblastic proliferation could be seen (Fig 8) and thickened renal capsule by fibrous tissue with subcapsular haemorrhages was common. This picture was in agreement with those reported by El- Naggar *et al.*, (1998) and the accumulate of metabolic waste products could induce erythrocytes hemolysis and depression in the production of erythrocytes by hamatopoietic organs. These data in agreement with Tewari *et al.*, (1987); Tabache *et al.*, (1990) and Hafez *et al.*, (2003).

The gills showed distorted upper portions of gill filaments with hyperplasia and hypertrophy of their secondary lamellar epithelium forming sheets containing numerous mucus secreting cells were seen (Fig. 9). The forementioned lesions were extended to involve whole length of some primary filaments beside presence of edema (Fig. 10). These results were similar to Crespo and Karnaky (1983) and El- Shaieb *et al.*, (2001) and these findings could be attributed to heavy metal potent inhibition on chloride transport across the opercular epithelium. They inhibit Na^+ , K-ATpase and may interact, as well, with the coupled NaCl carrier.

These features lead to the magnification of the chloride cells volume due to NaCl accumulation. The gill racker revealed edema, haemorrhages and presence of numerous mucous secreting cells in their coxexing. Some gill filaments had tetangetiasis or thrombosis in the dilated capillaries of secondary lamellar epithelium with haemorrhages and edema (Fig. 12). These results could be due to partial disturbance of gas exchange and tissue hypoxia which may increase the flow of blood to the gills (El-Shaieb *et al.*, 2001). The gill and kidney dysfunction that resulted from histopathological alterations lead to increase in urea and creatinine (El-Naggar *et al.*, 1998 and Hafez *et al.*, 2003).

The pathological changes in muscles including moderate muscular lesions were seen in Bahr El-Bakar and drainage canal No (7) and sever lesion in fish muscles of Manzala Lake. The muscle fibers became swollen with loss of their striation and absence intermuscular spaces and partially hyalinized (Fig. 13). Intense hyalinization and intermuscular edema were also detected (Fig. 14). Partial necrosis with myolysis of some muscle fibers necrosis with myolysis of some muscle fibers and proliferation of fibroblasts could be seen (Fig. 15). These results were in agreement with El-Shaieb *et al.*, (2001).

In conclusion based on the physico-chemical properties of water, fish health, agricultural drainage and sewage water were considered the lowest water quality among other sources where it contains high concentrations of heavy metals that implicate fish tissues affecting its quality and hence become a threat to man so, treatment of agricultural drainage and sewage water should be carried out before draining in natural water areas e.g. small tributaries of River Nile and lakes in Egypt for increase fish production and muscles of fish become good in quality and not hazard on human public health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is great pleasure to us to record our independence to Prof. Dr. Abd El-Moniem A. Ali, Professor of Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagazig University for his great help throughout the period of this study reading and comment on the histopathological specimens.

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