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INDUCTION OF OVULATION IN Liza ramada (RISSO, 1826) OUT OF SEASON

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ABSTRACT

The present work was designed to determine the suitable hormonal requirements for induction of ovulation in the thin-lipped grey mullet (Liza ramada) reared in brackish water earthen pond out of season. On April 2014, eight groups of grey mullet (6 females / group) were collected and kept in aquaculture pond. The first group (G₁) did not receive the hormonal treatment. The mullets of the other seven groups were subjected to intramuscular injection of hormones as follows: G2, 4500 IU/Kg human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG); G₃, 3 mg melatonin (ML) /fish; G₄, 3 carp pituitary extract (cPE) / fish; G₅, a combination of 4500 IU/Kg hCG + 3 cPE / fish; G₆, a combination of 4500 IU/Kg hCG + 3mg/ ML fish; G₇, a combination of 4500 IU/Kg hCG + 3 adrenal gland (AD) / fish; G₈, a combination of 3 cPE + 3mg/ ML fish. The results after 24 hr., of injection revealed that estradiol 17- β (E₂) level in the collected serum experimental mullets was increased (P < 0.05) with G₂ treatment. In the same trend, gonadosomatic index (GSI) was significantly (P < 0.05) increased with G_2 . The serum Progesterone (P) concentration and Progesterone/Estradiol 17- β ratio (P/E₂) were significantly (P < 0.05) increased with G₅ than other groups. The G₅ group showed oocytes maturation and ovulation superior to that of all other groups, with ripped oocyte and other different maturity stages in Liza ramada out of season. It could be concluded that, 4500 IU/kg of hCG and 3 cPE combination had successfully induced the oocyte maturation in Liza ramada fish reared in brackish water under captivity out of season and a higher dose would induce the ovulation and spawning.

Key words: hCG, cPE, adrenal gland, ML, grey mullet.

INTRODUCTION

Mugilidae is one of the popular and fast growing fishes being cultured in tropical and subtropical regions (Kumar et al., 2015). The thin-lipped grey mullet, Liza ramada is an important and attractive species for farming in marine, brackish and fresh water.

The collection of *Liza ramada* mature females is not possible from the natural habitat since the pre-spawning females would have then migrated to the sea for spawning (Mousa and Mousa, 2003). In Egypt, the aquaculture of family mugilidae depended on natural fry collection, which cannot satisfy the increasing demand for the juveniles. The possibility of inducing and synchronizing spawning can be

very useful to facilitate fish farming, particularly in species that achieve ovarian development in captivity without ovulation (Mousa, 2010). In order to meet this great demand, controlled spawning of this fish and artificial rearing of the fry are the best means for fish seed production to meet the large need of the fish farmers. Furthermore, controlled reproduction of the fish may also make it possible to develop method for selective breeding of superior strains and for furnishing parasite- and disease-free fish seeds (Tang, 1964).

Under captive conditions, mullet brooders do not spawn spontaneously, with both genders displaying reproductive dysfunctions, even in full strength seawater (Aizen et al., 2005). However, Hormonal treatments are widely used

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to stimulate reproductive processes and induce spawning fish that will not spawn in captivity on their own (Bui et al., 2010).

The aim of the present study is to induce ova maturation and ovulation in *Liza ramada* out of season by different hormonal treatments at brackish water earthen ponds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Broodstock Management

Mature females of Liza ramada were reared at Shalatayat culture ponds in Port Said. The fish were collected during the spawning season (December 2013). They were 3 years old with weight ranged from 369 to 511 g and total length ranged from 32 to 35 cm. They were reared in outdoor earthen pond at Sahl El-Hussinia (30°57'26"N, 32°4'3"E) aquaculture farm. On April 2014, forty eight females (six per each treatment) were allotted into eight partitions (5x5x1 meter (m) per each, 25 m³) separated by nets. Water quality parameters were as follows: water temperature was ranged from 22 to 32°C, dissolved oxygen content was 5 mg O₂/liter (1), total nitrogen as NH₄Cl was ranged between 3.4 to 5.1 mg/l, total alkalinity 690-700 mg/l, total hardness 30-37 mg/l, total dissolved solids 6.20-6.59 ppt, conductivity (EC) 17.9 - 23.3 mV and pH value was 8.07. The light regime was that of natural photoperiod (13 hours).

Hormonal Used and its Resources

The used hCG is Pregnyl, Nile Company for Pharmaceuticals, Cairo, Egypt. Melatonin prepared by dissolving one tablet of melatonin 3 mg in 1 ml saline solution. The used melatonin tablets are manufactured by NATROL, Inc. Chatsworth, CA 91311 USA. The adrenal gland extraction was prepared by extracting three adrenal glands according to Bern (1967) in 1 ml saline solution. cPE prepared by dissolving three cPG in 1 ml saline solution.

Experimental Design and Hormone Strategies Injection

The females were divided into eight groups. The first one was the control group (G_1) , while the other seven groups subjected to the different

hormonal injections. The G_2 of females was injected with human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), 4500 IU/Kg. The G_3 was injected with 3 mg melatonin / fish. The G_4 was injected with an extract of three carp pituitary glands / fish.

In the second injection strategy fish was injected with a combination of two components, as in the G_5 injected with a combination of 4500 IU/Kg hCG and an extract of three carp pituitary glands / fish. The G_6 group was injected with a combination of 4500 IU/Kg hCG + 3 mg melatonin / fish. While, the G_7 was injected with a combination of hCG at the same dose and an extraction of three adrenal gland / fish. The G_8 was injected with a combination of an extract of three carp pituitary glands + 3 mg melatonin / fish.

In all cases, the fishes received the hormonal treatments at 08.00 AM by injection into the dorsal muscular after anesthesia with MS222.

Blood Sampling and Hormonal Assay

After 24 hr of the hormonal injection, Blood samples were collected from the caudal vein of all females and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes. Serum kept at - 20° C until analysis. Oestradiol $17-\beta$ and progesterone concentrations in the sera were determined using radioimmunoassay kits produced by Diagnostic Product Corporation (Los Angeles) at the Lab. of Middle Eastern Regional Radioisotopes Center for the Arab Countries (MERRCAC).

Measurement of Body and Gonad Parameters

Fish samples were transported to the laboratory for the measurement of total length (TL), standard length (SL) to the nearest 0.1 millimeter (mm) and body weight (W) to the nearest 0.1 g.

Gonadosomatic index (GSI) was calculated according to Render *et al.* (1995) from the following equation:

GSI = Gonad weight / (body weight - gonad weight) \times 100

Histological Examination

The ovary specimens were quickly collected 24 hrs., post-injection, weighed and fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde. Then, the

tissues were dehydrated in graded series of ethanol, cleared in xylene and embedded in paraffin. Tissue sections (3 µm thick) were obtained using rotary microtomes then deparaffinized and stained with hematoxylin and eosin at Laboratory of Anatomy, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.

Statistical Analysis

Assessment of the results was performed using the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) procedure followed by Duncan's Multiple Range test (Duncan, 1955) with SPSS (2012) version 19. Data were expressed as means \pm S.E. The 0.05 level of probability was used as the criterion for significance.

RESULTS

GSI and Serum Steroid Hormones

It is obvious that the GSI and Estradiol-17 β (E₂) values were significantly increased (P<0.05) in G₂ (Figs. 1 and 2).

On the other hand, the level of progesterone hormone and the ratio progesterone estradiol- 17β (P/E) ratio were significantly increased (P<0.05) with G_5 treatment (Figs. 2 and 3).

Microscopic Characteristics of the Ovary

The ovary showed different maturation stages of oogenetic development (Fig. 4,A,B,C).

Oogonia

There are smallest germ cells, found either in clusters or solitary. It is round to spherical shaped, characterized by weak basophilic cytoplasm and large light nucleus (Fig. 4 B).

Chromatin nucleolus stage

The oocytes are small spherical to polygonal cells with strongly basophilic homogenous cytoplasm. (Fig. 4 B).

Perinucleolar stage

It is characterized by two stage. Early perinuclear stage; the oocyte increase in the size. The nucleus is spherical, large, occupies greater part of the cytoplasm, lightly stained and contains 1-2 peripherally located nucleoli (Fig. 4. B).

Late perinuclear stage; the oocyte increase in the size and characterized by the appearance of one or few small vacuoles in the cytoplasm. The nucleoli increase in number nucleus contains 1-2 peripherally located (Fig. 4. B).

Previtellogenic and vitellogenic oocytes (Primary yolk stage or yolk vesicle (cortical alveoli) stage

Its characterized by increase in the size of oocyte which appear ovoidal in shape, weakly basophilic cytoplasm, and multiple nucleoli near to nuclear membrane with many vacuoles (Figs. 4 A). In more developed stages, the size of the vacuoles is increased; also yolk vesicles begin to be arranged into two distinct layers (one near the nuclear membrane and the other is near the oocyte membrane). Also, yolk globules of round to oval intensively acidophilic stain started to be formed secondary yolk stage.

Ripe oocyte

Characterized by the presence oval to pearl like shape, most of the vacuoles connected to each other and formed spaces between them in the cytoplasm, the nucleus began to loss its membrane and liberate its substance into the cytoplasm and disappear, some of the large yolk granules coalesced to form larger yolk drop that undergo liquefaction, some unovulated mature yolk eggs undergoining resorption (atresia) (Fig. 4 C).

According to these results, the G₅ group showed oocytes in different maturity stages where numerous oogonia in clusters appeared for further spawning with chromatin nucleolus stage (ch), few early perinuclear oocyte (Epo) and numerous late perinuclear oocyte, this in addition to many atretic and ripped oocytes appeared (R) (Fig. 4 C).

DISCUSSION

These results clearly illustrate the poor reproductive performance of the in Thin-lipped grey mullet (*Liza ramada*) capitative out of season and indicate possible means for its improvement. Thin-lipped grey mullet (*Liza ramada*) do not spawn spontaneously when reared

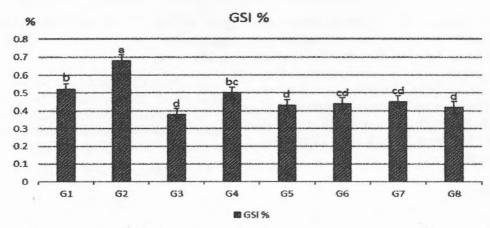


Fig. 1. Gonadosomatic index (GSI) values of *Liza ramada* 24 hr post injection with tested hormones. Each bar carrying different letters was significantly different (p< 0.05) (mean±S.E, n=3).

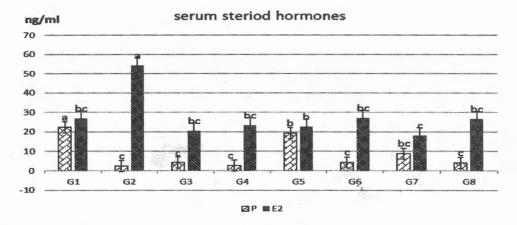


Fig. 2. Serum steroid hormones [Estradiol-17 β (E2) and progesterone (P)] values of *Liza ramada* 24 hr post injection with tested hormones. Each bar carrying different letters was significantly different (p< 0.05) (mean±S.E., n=3).

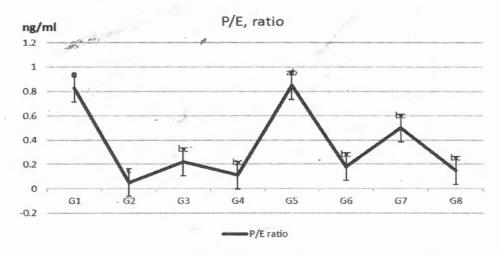


Fig.3. Progesterone / estradiol-17 β (P/E) ratio of *Liza ramada* 24 hr post injection with tested hormones. The part of curve carrying different letters was significantly different (p < 0.05) (mean \pm S.E , n=3).

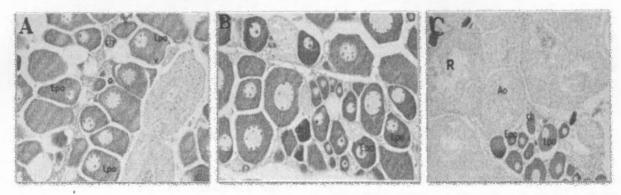


Fig. 4. Transverse section of the ovary H&E stained section (A&B), PAS stained section (C):

(A) treatments (G₃, G₄, G₆, G₇, G₈) showing oogonia (o), chromatin nucleolus stage (ch), few early perinuclear oocyte (Epo) and numerous late perinuclear oocyte (Lpo) with few vacuoles (v): (B) treatments (G₁, G₂) showing oogonia (o), chromatin nucleolus stage (ch), few early perinuclear oocyte (Epo) and numerous late perinuclear oocyte (Lpo): (C) transverse section of the ovary (G₅), showing oocytes in different maturity stages; numerous oogonia in clusters (O) chromatin nucleolus stage (ch), few early perinuclear oocyte (Epo) and numerous late perinuclear oocyte (Lpo), many atretic oocytes (Ao), few ripe oocyte (R)

in captivity. The fish migrates to the sea to propagate in the spawning season. Induced breeding is necessary to control timing and synchrony of egg production (Elakkanai et al., 2015). Few trials were done using hormone therapy for the induction of gonadal maturation and ovulation in fish with a limited success. In the present work, we examined the effectiveness types of hormones either of different individually or in combination to induce the ovaries maturation and ovulation out spawning season. Gonadal maturation in teleost fish is mainly regulated by the brain-pituitary-gonadal axis (Zohar and Mylonas, 2001). The role of pituitary gonadotropins in teleost gonadal maturation has been reported in eel, catfish and salmon (Levavi- Sivan et al., 2010; Schulz et al., 2010). Histological examination revealed that the combination of hCG and cPE in fish out of reproductive season, increase the final oocyte maturation and ovulation. Moreover, hCG alone significantly increased GSI compared with other groups fish indicating the increase in ovarian weight. Over the past years, hCG that acts directly on the level of the gonads (Zohar and Mylonas, 2001) has been increasingly used for the induction of spawning in many fish species. Ovarian gonadosomatic index and oocyte development is associated with changes in E₂ level in circulation (Lee and Yang, 2002). The high levels of E₂ in G₂ were accompanied with high gonadosomatic indices. Hence, maturation of oocytes progressed in the ovary, levels of E₂ also increased in the plasma of Liza ramada, in spite of, G2 was not the best treatment group. A significant, role of E₂ in oocyte maturation and vitellogenesis was detected. Sex steroids in female fish perform major roles in oocyte maturation, ovulation and spawning. The Synthesis of vitellogenin and the increase of the ovarian size during final oocyte maturation are controlled by E_2 . Estradiol 17- β is directly related to gonadosomatic index (Sabet et al., 2009; Coccia et al., 2010). On the other hand, in G₇, cortisol plays important regulatory roles during reproduction, including the regulation of final oocyte (Cook et al., 1980), ovulation (Hirose and Ishida, 1974), spawning behavior (Bry, 1985), and the mobilization of energy stores required for reproduction (Greenberg and Wingfield, 1987). In contrast, cortisol has deleterious effects on reproduction via reducing normal sex steroid production, pituitary gonadotropin content and gamete quality (Campbell et al. 1992; Carragher and Sumpter, 1990). The involvement of the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland in the control of cortisol secretion has been well established in fish with CRF and ACTH as the most important secretagogues and the interrenal

end products of the brain-pituitary- interrenal axis (Wendelaar, 1997). There is also histological evidence supporting the involoment of ACTH in response to stressors in these animals (Donaldson, 1981; Mousa and Mousa, 1999).

Lastly, histologically the oocyte maturation showed the following phases at the treated groups: first growth phase which includes chromatin stage, early and late perinucleolus stage. Second growth phase includes vacuolization stage, yolk stages (primary, secondary and titatry), mature stage and ripe stage than in control group.

The obtained results cleared that, 4500 IU/kg of hCG and 3 cPE combination had successfully induced the oocyte maturation in *Liza ramada* fish reared in brackish water under captivity out of season and a higher dose would induce the ovulation and spawning.

Acknowledgments

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استحداث التبويض في أسحماك الطوبارة Liza Ramada خارج موسم التفريخ الطبيعى محمد عبد الهادى عبدالمنعم نايل – عبد الحليم على الدروانى - عبد المجيد السيد نصر – خالد محمد المراكبي قسم الإنتاج الحيواني - كلية الزراعة - جامعة الزقازيق- مصر

صممت الدراسة لتحديد الاحتياجات الهرمونية المناسبة لإحداث التبويض في أسماك الطوبارة المرباة في المياه الشَروب داخل الأحواض الترابية، تم تجميع ثمانية مجموعات (٦ أناث / مجموعة) ووضعت داخل أحواض استزراع ترابية، لم يتم حقن المجموعة الأولى (مجموعة المقارنة)، وفي ابريل عام ٢٠١٤ حقنت السبعة مجموعات الأخرى في العضل على النحو التالي: المجموعة الثانية تم حقنها بـ ٢٥٠٠ وحدة دولية / كجم من وزن الأسماك بهرمون النساء الحامل (hCG)، المجموعة الثالثة تم حقنها بـ ٣ ملجم من هرمون الميلاتونين (ML)/ سمكة، المجموعة الرابعة تم حقنها بمستخلص من ٣ غدد نخامية من أسماك المبروك (cPE) / سمكة، المجموعة الخامسة تم حقنها بـ مزيج من ٤٥٠٠ وحدة دولية لهرمون النساء الحامل ومستخلص من ٣ غدد نخامية من أسماك المبروك/سمكة، المجموعة السادسة تم حقنها بمزيج من ٤٥٠٠ وحدة دولية لهرمون النساء الحامل و٣ ملجم من هرمون الميلاتونين/سمكة، المجموعة السابعة تم حقنها بمزيج من ٤٥٠٠ وحدة دولية لمهرمون النساء الحامل و مستخلص من ٣ غدد كظرية/سمكة، المجموعة الثامنة تم حقنها بمزيج من مستخلص ٣ غدد نخامية من أسماك المبروك و٣ ملجم من هرمون الميلاتونين/سمكة، وقد أشارت النتائج إلى أن مستوى هرمون استراديول- ١٧ بيتًا في مصل الدم قد ارتفع معنوياً في المجموعة الثانية، وكذلك فإن دليل المناسل الجسمي قد ارتفع معنويا (P < 0.05) مع المجموعة الثانية، وقد وجدت زيادة معنوية لكل من تركيز البروجسترون والنسبة بين البروجسترون إلى الاستراديول -٧ ابيتا في السيرم مع المجموعة الخامسة عن باقى المجموعات، وقد فاقت المجموعة الخامسة المجموعات الأخرى من حيث النضج والتبويض، وقد حدث فيها تبويض للحويصلات الناضجة وأخرى في مراحل النضج المختلفة بأسماك الطوبارة خارج موسم التكاثر، وقد خلص البحث إلى أن الحقن بمزيج من ٤٥٠٠ وحدة دولية لهرمون النساء الحامل ومستخلص ٣ غدد نخامية من اسماك المبروك نجحت في استحداث نضج البويضات في اسماك الطوبارة داخل المياه الشَّروب تحت ظروف الأسر خارج موسم التكاثر ويوصى باستخدام مستويات أعلى لإحداث التبويض.

المحكمون:

۱ - أ.د. سسعد زكريسا محمسد ۲ - أ.د. صلاح الدين على مصيلحي