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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### A STUDY OF EFFECT OF LUFENURON ON BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS IN SERUM OF MICE *Mus musculus species*

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The present study examined the impact of Lufenuron on biochemical parameters of albino mice. The biochemical parameters such as Alanine aminotransferase (ALT), Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and Total protein in serum were observed. The mice exposed with Lufenuron (0.1520 mg/kg) for 30 days. The present study suggests that the level of AST, ALT and ALP were increased and Total protein content was decreased in Lufenuron treated mice. The present study concludes that the Lufenuron damages the liver tissue. Due to the damage of liver tissue these enzyme increased in the serum.

**Key words:** *Lufenuron, AST, ALT, ALP, Total protein, Mice*

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## INTRODUCTION

Pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been widely used throughout the world since the middle of the last century; however, most of them have been banned since the 1970s (many of the organochlorine compounds). Pesticides were mainly used in agriculture and animal production and PCBs as industrial fluids, both including substances with high toxic effects and persistence in the environment, posing considerable hazards. The problem becomes more serious when bioaccumulation of these lipophilic compounds is taken into consideration (Biziuk, 2001; Doyle, 2004). Organo Phosphorus Compounds (OPC) is among the most widely used pesticides, mainly as insecticides in agriculture, health campaigns and urban pest control. In last decade, adverse effects of OPC exposure on the male reproductive

stem, along with their mutagenic and carcinogenic activities have attracted attention (IARC, 1991). Pesticides are widely used throughout the world in agriculture to protect crops and in public health to control diseases transmitted by vectors or intermediate hosts. Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) are third-generation insecticides less toxic and compatible with insect pest management that were developed to reduce the pollution of food and environment. These compounds have a specific mode of action on insects and a lower toxicity against vertebrates than conventional insecticides. IGRs include compounds that affect moulting and metamorphosis by mimicking juvenile hormone (JH agonists) or usually antagonizing JH activity (ecdysteroid agonists) or by interfering with cuticle formation (chitin synthesis inhibitors) (Smet *et al.*, Oberlander *et al.*, 1991; Oberlander *et al.*, 1997).

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Organophosphorus pesticides, in addition to their intended effects like the control of insects or other pests, are sometimes found to affect non target organisms including humans (Chaudhuri *et al.*, 1999). Exposure to organophosphorus pesticides is also a potential cause of longer-term damage to the nervous system, with reports of poor mental health and deficits in memory and concentration (Davis, 1991; Nigg *et al.*, 2000) Because of the serious environmental problems resulting from the use of pesticides in the agricultural sector, several governments are seeking to employ biological and other nonpolluting methods for combating pests. Several biocides and their metabolites are suggested to be prior mutagenic and/or teratogenic compounds (Ridgway *et al.*, 1978).

Lufenuron may be co-formulated with profenofos or fenoxycarb. Lufenuron is an insecticide which has not been evaluated by the FAO/WHO JMPR or WHO/IPCS. An EU review (according to EU directive 91/414/EEC) is expected to be completed by the end of 2008). Lufenuron is a racemic mixture of two enantiomers. It is a solid of low vapour pressure, having low solubility in water and a high octanol/water partition coefficient. Hydrolysis occurs slowly at pH 9 and very slowly at pH5 and 7. Photolysis occurs slowly. Lufenuron is a selective insecticide, which provides control of the larvae of insect some Diptera (leaf miners & fruit flies), some Homoptera (Psyllids & flocculent whitefly), and rust mites of the family riophiidae. It is used on a wide range of crops, including cotton, maize, sugar beet, potatoes, other vegetables, grapes, citrus, other fruit, and ornamentals.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Chemical

Lufenuron 5.4% (w/w) (Cigna) Chemical composition of Lufenuron 540% w/w Emulsifying agents caster of polyglcal, ether 36.40.6.00 w/w. Emulsifying agents linear alkylbenzone sulfonic acid. Calcium 4.00% w/w Solvent cycotoexanaon 20.00 solvent. (Solvent) 64.60% w/w. Manufactured by. Syngenta India limited. 14.1. Tata Road Mumbai.

### Animals

Male albino mice, 7-8 weeks old, weighing 130-140g were used for the study. The animals were obtained from National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and maintained in Central animal house, Rajah Muthiah Institute of Health Science, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, India. The rats were housed in polypropylene cages at room temperatures ( $27 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) with relative humidity  $55 \pm 5\%$ , in an experimental room. In Annamalainagar, the LD (light: dark) cycle is almost 12:12h. The local institutional animal ethics committee (Registration Number 160/1999/CPCSEA), Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, India, approved the experimental design (Proposal No. 527, dated 25.05.2007). The animals were maintained as per the principles and guidelines of the ethical committee for animal care of Annamalai University in accordance with the Indian National Law on animal care and use. The animals were provided with standard pellet diet (Amrut Laboratory Animal Feed, Mysore Feeds Limited, Bangalore, India) and water *ad libitum*. The mice were divided into two groups. Each group having 6 mice. The group I was control and Group II was treated with Lufenuron (0.1520 mg/kg). After the treatment, the blood samples were collected from venipuncture of mice. The centrifuged blood samples were stored and serum were separated and used for various biochemical estimations.

### Estimation of serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT)

The conversion of NADH to  $\text{NAD}^+$  is proportional to the concentration of AST in serum, and is measured at 340nm as rate of decrease in absorbance. To 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of serum, 1ml of given reagent mix is added. The Mixture is mixed thoroughly and contents are transferred into cuvette. The first reading is recorded at 60<sup>th</sup> second, and subsequently three more readings are taken with 30 seconds interval at 340 nm. The conversion of NADH to  $\text{NAD}^+$  is proportional to the concentration of ALT in serum, and is measured at 340nm as rate of decrease in absorbance. To 100 $\mu\text{l}$  of serum, 1ml of given reagent mix is added. The Mixture is mixed

thoroughly and contents are transferred into cuvette. The first reading is recorded at 60<sup>th</sup> second, and subsequently three more readings are taken with 30 seconds interval at 340 nm.

#### Assay of alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in serum

Alkaline phosphatase in a sample hydrolyses para – nitrophenyl phosphate into para – nitrophenol and phosphate, in the presence of magnesium ions. The rate of increase in absorbance of the reaction mixture at 405nm due to liberation of paranitrophenol is proportional to the alkaline phosphatase activity. Twenty microlitres of serum is mixed with 1 ml of given buffered substrate, mixed well and absorbance is read at 30,60,90 and 120 seconds at 405nm. The mean change in absorbance per minute is determined and test results are calculated.

#### Estimation of total protein in serum

The peptide bonds of protein react with copper ions in alkaline solution to form blue – violet coloured complex (biuret reaction). Each copper ion complexes with 5 or 6 peptide bonds. The colour formed is proportional to the protein concentration and is measured at 546nm. To 20µl of serum and 20µl of standard, 1 ml of reagent is added in two different test tubes, mixed well and incubated for 10 minutes at 37° C. The absorbance of test and standard are measured at 546nm against reagent blank.

#### Estimation of serum Albumin

Albumin binds with the dye Bromocresol Green in a buffered medium to form a green coloured complex. The intensity of the colour formed is directly proportional to the amount of albumin present in the sample. To 10µl of serum and 10µl of standard, 1 ml of reagent is added in two different test tubes, mixed well and incubated for 5 minutes at room temperature. The absorbance of test and standard are measured at 630nm against reagent blank.

#### Estimation of urea

To 0.1 ml of serum 1.0 ml of enzyme solution was added, mixed well and incubated for three minutes at 37 °C (Bumas et al., 1971). Then 1 ml of

chromogen solution was added. This was mixed well and incubated for five minutes at 37 °C. The standard and blank were treated similarly. The absorbances of the test and standard were measured against blank at 578 nm.

#### Estimation of serum creatinine

Fifty microlitres of serum was mixed with 1.0 ml of working solution (Henry et al., 1974). The absorbance of assay mixture was read at exactly 30 seconds after the addition of serum and then again at 90 seconds. The standard was treated in a similar manner.

#### Estimation of serum glucose

To 10 µl of serum, 1 ml of enzyme reagent was added. Mixed well and incubated for ten minutes at 37°C (Barham et al., 1972 ). Similarly 10 µl of standard and 10 µl of deionized water as blank were treated. The absorbance of standard and test was measured against reagent blank at 505 nm.

## RESULTS

The level of AST was 82±1.3 U/L. in the serum of control mice. During the Lufenuron exposure the activity of AST was significantly increased in the serum (133±1.9) U/L. In the control mice, the level of ALT was 67±1.3 U/L. At sublethal dose of Lufenuron the ALT increased upto 114±1.7 U/L. in serum of Lufenuron treated mice. Serum Glucose, Urea, Creatinine, was observed to be in normal limit in both the groups.

The level of ALP was 92±1.3 U/L in control mice and 286±1.1 in treated serum of mice. The level of total protein was 5 ± 1.1 g/dl in normal mice. During the Lufenuron treatment the level of total protein was decreased (4.4 ± 1.5) in serum of mice.

## DISCUSSION

The determination of the patho-physiological enzymes like AST and ALT is a common mean of

**Table 1. The level of liver enzymes, total protein, Albumin of treated and control mice**

| Parameters           | Control Group I | Treated Group II |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| AST(U/L)             | 82±1.3          | 133±1.9*         |
| ALT(U/L)             | 67±1.3          | 114±1.7*         |
| ALP(U/L)             | 92±1.3          | 286±1.1*         |
| Total protein (g/dl) |                 |                  |
| Albino (g/dl)        | 5 ± 1.1         | 4.4 ± 1.5*       |

Values are expressed as mean ± SD (n = 06). Values that are not sharing a common superscript letter in the same column differ significantly differ at  $p < 0.05$  (DMRT).

**Table 2. The level of General Biochemical Parameters in serum of Lufenuron treated & control mice**

| Parameters        | Control Group I | Treated Group II |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Glucose (mg/dl)   | 161±7.2         | 106±6.7*         |
| Urea(mg/dl)       | 45±3.5          | 24±2.5*          |
| Creatinine(mg/dl) | 0.58±24         | 0.38±0.18*       |

Values are expressed as Mean±SD(n=06) (Significan P Value <0.0.5)

detecting the liver status. Alterations in AST and ALT values are reported in hepatic disease or damage. AST, ALT and ALP are considered the bio-markers for liver functions (Martin *et al.*, 1981; Mazumder, 1999). AST is responsible for transferring amino group from aspartate to  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  glutaric acid forming glutamate and oxaloacetate. The rise in AST level is virtually responsible for all types of hepatic disease. Its peak concentration and ratio to other enzymes reflect the type of hepatic damage (Tiwari and Srivastava, 2001).

ALT is responsible for transferring an amino group from alanine to  $\alpha$ - ketoglutaric acid forming glutamate and pyruvate. It is well known that AST is very specific enzyme for hepatic tissue. It is more sensitive to hepatic damage and its level rises faster and higher in most types of hepato cellular damage (Tiwari and Srivastava, 2001). The present study shows significant increase in the level of AST and ALT in the serum of mice treated with sub lethal dose Lufenuron. This result indicates that the increase in AST and ALT in serum may be due to hepato cellular necrosis, which causes increase in the permeability of the

cell membrane resulting in the release of transaminase in the blood stream. Similar results were found by Shalan *et al.* (2005) and Hassain, (1994). They reported that the serum AST and ALT are elevated due to heavy metals in chronic hepatic disease indicating toxic liver damage (Beuer, 1982) and correlating with the development of fibrosis (Latner, 1975). Similarly, Tandon *et al.* (1997), Sankar Samipillai *et al.*, 2010;Sankar Samipillai and Jagadeesan,2009) and Khan *et al.*, (1993) reported disturbances in the liver functions after exposure reported the increase in the level of AST and ALT activities in the serum of mice when treated with. Hwang *et al.*, (2000) have also observed similar results in mice serum when treated with lufenuron. The increased AST and ALT activity in rats exposed to may reveal possible leakage of enzymes across damaged plasma membranes and or the increased synthesis of enzyme in the liver. Meanwhile, the elevation of ALP also correlates with exposure level and time of animals. The Increased serum ALP has been explained by pathological processes such as liver impairment and kidney dysfunction (Atroshi *et al.*, 2000; Bogin *et al.*, 1994).

Alkaline phosphatase is a brush border enzymes, splits various phosphate esters at an alkaline pH and mediates membrane transport (Smith *et al.*, 1983). Alkaline phosphatase is a membrane bound enzyme and its inactivation leads to membrane damage of hepatic cells (Flora *et al.*, 1994). Increased Alkaline phosphatase is responsible for intra-and extra-hepatic disease. These enzymes are indicative of various aspects of metabolism and they have been used to evaluate the physiological, biochemical and metabolic defects in the brain, liver and kidney tissues. Alkaline phosphatase is involved in the synthesis of nuclear proteins, nucleic acids and phospholipids as well as in the cleavage of phosphate esters. These enzymes are associated with transmembrane transport mechanism, ion transport, maintenance of ionic strength and cell growth in the organ (Moog, 1946). The significant increase in the activities of acid and alkaline phosphatases may be attributed to the destruction of all membranes and lysosomes which in turn might cause tissue damage (Saxena and Sarin, 1980, Ramalingam *et al.*, 1999). Similar observations were made by various authors (Farley *et al.*, 1983; Blood *et al.*, 1983; Teotia and Teotia, 1991).

Proteins are important organic constituents of the animal cells. It plays a vital role in the process of interactions between intra and extra-cellular media being a part of cell membrane and an enzyme. It participates the intricately balanced subcellular fraction (Amudha *et al.*, 2002; Ramalingam *et al.*, 2002). Proteins are important organic substances required by an organism in the tissue building, the cellular organelles repair and also cellular metabolism (Yeragi *et al.*, 2000). Its synthesis is considered as premier biochemical parameters since it is the most sensitive and earlier indicator of stress. It can be reflected by a large number of exogenous substances, mainly through reduction of the endoplasmic reticulum in the cells (Syverson, 1977).

The present study showed that the level of total protein content significantly decreased in serum of mice when treated with sub-lethal dose of Lufenuron. This result suggests that the decreased level of total protein might be due to their

catabolism to liberate energy during the stress of Lufenuron toxicity similar type of results was observed by Furkas (1975); Dhar and Banerjee (1983) in rat and mice when they treated with lead and cadmium respectively. The liver enzymes in the present work (AST, ALT and ALP) was increased and total protein in serum were significantly increased were observed in Lufenuron intoxicated animals (Table 1). These results suggested that the Lufenuron has induced treated mice hepatotoxicity Serum glucose, urea, Creatinine to be is normal limit in both the groups.

These results may be due to hepato cellular necrosis which causes increase in the permeability of cell membrane resulting in the release of these enzymes in the blood stream (Sharma *et al.*, 2002; Rana *et al.*, 1996; Sankar Samipillai *et al.*, 2010; Sankar Samipillai and Jagadeesan, 2009). As the liver is the centre for detoxifying many foreign compounds entering the body. Lufenuron which is administered to mice is neither not properly detoxified in body or have caused its direct toxic effect on hepatic tissue. So in the present study, It is concluded that treated albino mice with Lufenuron showed significant changes in the level of ALT,AST,& ALP without returning to normal levels even at the end of 30 days of recovery period. So further toxic effects of Lufenuron on hepatic tissue is to be considered.

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