



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
 ISSN (P): 2349-8242
 NAAS Rating: 5.23
 TPI 2023; SP-12(12): 1306-1320
 © 2023 TPI
www.thepharmajournal.com
 Received: 20-11-2023
 Accepted: 26-12-2023

Diganta Chetia
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Subodh Gupta
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Tincy Varghese
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Showkat Ahmad Dar
 College of Fisheries, BASU,
 Bihar, India

Pallath Muhammed Nuzaiiba
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Gowher Iqbal
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

PP Srivastava
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Parimal Sardar
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author:
Subodh Gupta
 Division of Fish Nutrition
 Biochemistry and Physiology,
 Central Institute of Fisheries
 Education, Mumbai,
 Maharashtra, India

Pharmacokinetics of emamectin benzoate and its effect on metabolic and antioxidative enzymes activity in *Labeo rohita*

Diganta Chetia, Subodh Gupta, Tincy Varghese, Showkat Ahmad Dar, Pallath Muhammed Nuzaiiba, Gowher Iqbal, PP Srivastava and Parimal Sardar

Abstract

A pharmacokinetics study of emamectin benzoate (EMB) was conducted for the first time in Indian major carp, *Labeo rohita*, and the physio-biochemical changes to the drug were studied. A single dose of EMB at 20 mg kg⁻¹ had administered through feed to *L. rohita* juveniles (100±10 g) and blood samples were collected at 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 36, 48, 72, 96 and 120 hours after administration to determine the presence of EMB residue in plasma using C-18 reversed phase High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). Maximum concentration (C_{max}) of 21.82±0.012 µg ml⁻¹ had detected at one hour (T_{max}). The depletion profile of emamectin benzoate indicated that the drug was eliminated in 96 h. The metabolic enzymes (ALT, AST, and LDH) and antioxidant enzymes (SOD, CAT, GST, GPx, and ALP) were significantly increased (*p*<0.05) in all EMB treatments groups compared to control group. All the above biomarkers were peaked on the 6th day and gradually reduced up to the level of control by 15th day, indicating that the physiological disturbance due to the drug was normalized within the above period. Also, the EROD assay, estimation of CYTP4501A induction was also proved to be a sensitive biomarker for indicating the pharmacodynamics response due to the drug, as the activity also showed the same trend as that of the enzymes.

Keywords: Emamectin benzoate, pharmacokinetics, HPLC, *Labeo rohita*

1. Introduction

The random outbreak of disease is a significant constraint in aquaculture resulting in fish mortality and reduced yield (Kumar *et al.*, 2015) [28]. Intensive rearing of fish often creates a highly stressful environment, leading to suppression of immune response and rendering the fish highly susceptible to different diseases (Kumari and Sahoo, 2006) [29]. The occurrence of parasites is frequent in an aquatic organism (Moyle *et al.*, 2006) [35]. Substantial economic losses in parasites infected farms are the result of reduced growth rate and increased mortality (Kayis *et al.*, 2009) [24]. The highest prevalence of parasite infection (94.54%) in *L. rohita* was found to be during winter (Monir *et al.*, 2015) [33]. The intensity of parasitic infection in fish is greatly influenced by seasonality due to altered host physiology (Pennycuick *et al.*, 1972; Rahman *et al.*, 2005) [37, 39]. Intense parasitic infection can cause skin ulceration and difficulties during the ordinary course of reproduction (Rahman *et al.*, 2005) [39].

Emamectin benzoate (4"-deoxy-4" methylamino derivative of abamectin) has been widely used to control lepidopterous pests in agricultural products (Yen and Lin, 2004) [57]. Emamectin has also been successfully utilised by fish farmers to control the sea lice in *Salmo salar* (Ikeda and Omura, 1997; Rodriguez *et al.*, 2007) [21, 41]. Emamectin has shown efficacy against all life- stages of parasites such as *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* (Salmon louse) and *Caligus elongatus*, (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2007) [41].

Pharmacokinetics is one of the major branches of pharmacology and an essential tool to study the interaction of the drug with the body like their distribution, absorption, biotransformation, and excretion (Dar *et al.*, 2018) [7] which also helps to find out the optimum dose of the drug for an animal. Further, the adverse impact on body physiology and metabolism can estimate by evaluating markers of hepatic detoxification. The physio-metabolic responses of juvenile *L. rohita* were evaluated in EMB fed groups. The present pharmacokinetic study was conducted to understand the physio-metabolic responses of EMB in *L. rohita* to fulfil the knowledge gap in the pharmacokinetics of a drug for efficient drug delivery against ectoparasitic infection in *L. rohita* (IMC's).

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Preparation of experimental diets

Semi-purified ingredients including casein, gelatin, dextrin, starch soluble, cellulose, cod liver oil and sunflower oil, carboxymethyl cellulose and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) were procured from HiMedia, India and Vitamin mineral mix by Agrimin forte was used to prepare a feed. The experimental feed contains 32.09% crude protein and 6% crude lipid to fulfil the protein and energy need for the fishes and 0.02% emamectin benzoate (EMB, Sigma Aldrich, USA) coated using UNIGEL-500. The control diet was devoid of the EMB but coated in UNIGEL-500.

2.2. Experimental set up and sampling

Healthy juveniles of *Labeo rohita* weighing 100 ± 10 g were randomly distributed in four experimental groups in triplicates, with a stocking density of 15 fishes per tank. The experimental set up consisted of two treatments including EMB receiving group (at 20 mg kg^{-1}) and a control. Acclimated fishes were kept under fasting for a day before starting the experiment. The water temperature of $28 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and an oxygen level of 6–8 ppm were maintained throughout the experiment. Fishes were anaesthetised using clove oil, and blood samples were collected aseptically from the anaesthetised animals at intervals of 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 36, 48, 72, 96, and 120 hours post administration of the drug by piercing caudal vein using a 1 ml syringe. Plasma protein was precipitated by adding 1 ml of methanol to 200 μl plasma and the supernatant was collected by centrifuging the samples at $3000 \times g$ for 10 min. The samples were stored for HPLC analysis after filtering through $0.22 \mu\text{m}$ nylon syringe filter (Dar *et al.*, 2018) [7]. Liver, muscle and gill tissues samples were collected from treated fishes after 0, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 days, homogenised in sucrose solution and centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C and supernatant was stored at -20°C .

2.3. Quantification of emamectin benzoate from samples

Concentration of EMB in plasma as well as muscle tissue samples was carried out as describe by Roy *et al.* (2006) [43] with slight modification. Twenty microliter aliquots of the filtered fractions of samples were injected into the HPLC system by the Autosampler (Water 2707, USA). Isocratic elution was carried out at a flow rate of 1 ml min^{-1} , using a mobile phase containing 0.1% orthophosphoric acid: acetonitrile (60:40) through a C-18 reversed-phase analytical column ($250 \text{ mm} \times 4.6 \text{ mm}$, $5.0 \mu\text{m}$) using High-Performance liquid Chromatography (HPLC, Water, USA). Elution of was done at 22°C and measured at 244 nm using UV-Vis detector. The data were analysed by Water Breeze™ two integrator system.

A calibration curve was plotted with thirteen working standards of EMB with concentrations ranging from $0.05 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ to $100 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ and the linearity of the detector response were evaluated ($R^2 = 0.97$, Fig. 1).

2.4. Metabolic enzymes

Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activities were assayed in plasma by using ERBA lab kit. Lactate dehydrogenase is a key metabolic step in glycolysis and other metabolic pathways (Everse and Kaplan, 1975) [10]. The reaction mixture for LDH contained 2.7 ml of 0.1 M phosphate buffers (pH 7.5), 0.1ml of 2% NADH and 0.1ml of 0.02M sodium pyruvate. The rate

of reduction in the optical density of NADH to NAD at 340 nm by liver tissue homogenate was measured.

Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity was measured from the serum samples by following Garen and Levinthal (1960) [13] method. Briefly, the assay mixture comprised of 0.2 ml of 0.2 M bicarbonate buffer, 0.1ml of 0.1 M MgCl_2 , 0.1ml serum sample, 0.5 ml distilled water and 0.1 ml of 0.1 M par-nitrophenyl phosphate. The resultant reaction mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 min, and the 1 ml of NaOH stopped the reaction prior reading at 410 nm.

Superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathione S-transferase (GST) and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) enzyme activities were measured to determine the oxidative stress status of fish. The SOD was assayed based on the oxidation of epinephrine-adrenochrome transition. The decrease in the absorbance of the reaction mixture containing bicarbonate buffer, enzyme extract and hydrogen peroxide was measured at 240 nm for 3 minutes to determine catalase activity (Takahara *et al.*, 1960) [52].

Glutathione S-transferase (GST) activity was determined by Habig *et al.*, (1974) [17] method. Briefly, 2.4 ml of 0.3M potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.9) and 0.1 ml of 30 mM glutathione reduced were added to a cuvette directly. The reaction was initiated by adding glutathione to the mixture and change in absorbance was measured at 340 nm against the blank. Glutathione peroxidase (GPx, Flohe and Gunzler, 1984) [12] was determined by adding 0.2 ml phosphate buffer (pH 7.0, 0.4 M), 0.2 ml EDTA (0.4 mM), 0.2 ml sodium azide (10 mM), 0.1ml glutathione reduced, (0.02M), 0.2 ml glutathione reductase, 0.1 ml NADPH, 0.5 ml 10% TCA, 2 ml Tris buffer (pH 8.9, 0.4 M) and 50 μl DTNB. Oxidised glutathione (GSSG), produced upon reduction of an organic hydroperoxide by GPx and is recycled to its reduced state by glutathione reductase and NADPH. Oxidation of NADPH to NADP^+ results decreased in absorbance of the resultant mixture at 340 nm, and the rate of decrease is directly proportional to the GPx activity of the sample.

All the assays were expressed in mg of protein in the sample. Aliquots of the sample were taken in dry test tubes, and volume raised to 1 ml by adding distilled water, 250 μl of NaOH and 5 ml of Bradford reagent. The absorbance was taken at 595 nm to find the total protein content in a tissue sample (Bradford, 1976) [1].

2.5. EROD activity assay

The liver tissue was homogenised in four volumes of homogenization buffer containing 0.08 M Na_2HPO_4 ; 0.02 M KH_2PO_4 and 0.15 M KCl (pH 7.4) followed by centrifuging for 20 minutes at 4°C with speed of $10,000 \times g$. Ultracentrifugation was carried out using BECKMAN ultracentrifuge (Coulter, U.S.A) at $100,000 \times g$ for 60 min at 4°C using the supernatant of initial centrifugation step (Klemz *et al.*, 2010) [25]. One mL of resuspension buffer (the homogenization buffer with 20% glycerol, v/v) was used to resuspend the pellet obtained to obtain the hepatic microsomal fraction. Bradford (1976) [1] method was used to determine the total protein content of the samples. The EROD activity was measured at excitation wavelength of 535 nm and the emission wavelength of 585 nm using spectrofluorometer (RF-5301 PC, Shimadzu). A reaction mixture containing ten μl microsomal protein and 0.097 mg/mL 7-ethoxyresorufin was received 0.1 M NADPH. The resorufin production was measured for 2–3 min by recording the change in fluorescence from the mixture (Nilsen *et al.*, 1998) [36]. The

internal standard used was 10 μl resorufin solution.

EROD activity (picomole of resorufin produced per minute mg protein) = $F_s / \text{min} \times R \times FR \times 1 V_s \times 1 C_s$

F_s / min = Increase in sample fluorescence per min.

R = Amount of resorufin added as an internal standard (pmol).

FR = Increase in fluorescence owing to resorufin standard.

V_s = Sample volume (mL).

C_s = Protein concentration of sample (mg mL⁻¹).

2.6. Statistical analysis

The data were statistically analysed using the statistical package SPSS version 22.0 and were subjected to one-way ANOVA following Duncan's multiple range tests to determine the significant differences between the means.

3. Results

3.1. Depletion profile of EMB

The plasma concentration of EMB after oral administration to *L. rohita* was determined at different time intervals. Figure 3A to 3K is chromatogram of EMB in plasma at 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 36, 48, 72 and 96 hours of post injection and figure 5 A to 5C depicts the chromatogram of EMB of muscle tissue extract at 3, 6, and 9 days after post injection. Maximum concentration (C_{max}) of EMB ($21.82 \pm 0.012 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$) was found at one hour (T_{max}) in, and no EMB detected after 96 h (Fig 2). At the same time no residue existed in muscle tissue after 12 days of feeding the medicated feed containing EMB to *L. rohita* (Fig 4).

3.2. Activity of metabolic enzymes

The activity of transaminase enzymes (AST and ALT) are presented in Fig. 6 and 7. Plasma ALT and AST was higher on the 6th day ($22.13 \pm 0.37 \text{ IU}^{-1}$ for AST and 27.00 ± 0 for IU^{-1} ALT). Liver and muscle LDH activity were highest on the 6th day ($17.24 \pm 0.61 \text{ IU}^{-1}$ for muscle and $21.45 \pm 0.76 \text{ IU}^{-1}$ for liver). Alkaline phosphatase activity in the present study was highest on the 6th day in plasma ($14.54 \pm 1.19 \text{ IU}^{-1}$).

3.3. Activity of antioxidant enzymes

Highest SOD activity was on the 6th day in both liver ($29.21 \pm 0.71 \text{ IU}^{-1}$) and gills ($24.39 \pm 0.15 \text{ IU}^{-1}$). Liver and gills catalase activity was highest on the 6th day ($23.51 \pm 1.71 \text{ IU}^{-1}$ for liver and $20.99 \pm 0.32 \text{ IU}^{-1}$ for gills). The highest GST activity was observed on the 6th day in the liver ($21.86 \pm 0.29 \text{ IU}^{-1}$). The GPx activity was highest on the 6th day in the liver ($3.54 \pm 0.02 \text{ IU}^{-1}$). All the enzymes reached at a normal level on the 15th day (Fig. 8 to 16).

3.4. EROD activity assay

The EROD activity of the liver microsome after feeding with EMB contained feed at different time intervals in *L. rohita* is shown in Table 1. The EROD activity was highest on the 6th day ($25.44 \text{ pmol min}^{-1} \text{ mg}^{-1}$). Bioaccumulation of EMB in fish muscle was highest on the 6th day ($0.83 \pm 0 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) and reached at a reasonable level on the 15th day. The activity of EROD is present in Fig. 17.

4. Discussion

There are no response studies of EMB on pharmacokinetic and physio-metabolic activity in tropical fishes. Thus, the present study has undertaken pharmacokinetics and physio-metabolic responses in *L. rohita* for the first time. The pharmacokinetics data of emamectin benzoate is rarely

available, and hence the parameters of the present study are compared with the pharmacokinetics data of other drugs to find out the effective dose of emamectin benzoate. This study has provided substantial proof to get an effective dose for *Labeo rohita* which is an essential factor for the preparation of medicated feed.

Quantification of EMB in the HPLC system was carried out with concentration ranging from 0.05 mL^{-1} to $100 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$. A satisfactory linearity correlation coefficient of a calibration curve to be 0.972 was found which was similar as reported by Cox *et al.* (2009) [6] for metronidazole. The significant fact in which HPLC method lies is that HPLC makes the technique simple by performing a direct analysis (Iosifidou *et al.*, 1996; Gokbulut *et al.*, 2007; Dar *et al.*, 2017b) [22, 16, 8].

The pharmacokinetic and efficacy studies of emamectin benzoate and its related compounds were carried out in *Gadus morhua* (Samuelsen, 2010; Hamre *et al.*, 2011) [45, 19], *Salmo salar* (Saksida *et al.*, 2010; Lees *et al.*, 2008; Roy *et al.*, 2000; Skilbrei *et al.*, 2008; Stone *et al.*, 2002; Glover *et al.*, 2010) [44, 31, 42, 49, 51, 15], *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Toksen *et al.*, 2006) [53], *Anguilla rostrata* (Larrat *et al.*, 2012) [30], *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Hakalahti *et al.*, 2004; Roy *et al.*, 2006) [18, 43] for treating parasitic infection. The EMB attained the maximum concentration (C_{max}) of $21.82 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ in the plasma at 1 h (T_{max}), and then the concentration of EMB gradually dropped and not detected after 96 h. These findings support the earlier studies carried out in *Gadus morhua* by Samuelsen (2010) [45], where C_{max} of EMB was found at 89 h. The total concentration of EMB in plasma in fishes supplemented with medicated feed at 20 mg kg^{-1} of body weight was 18.17% respectively. While adsorption other avermectin derivatives in the gastrointestinal tract of human were only 5-10% (Reynolds, 1996) [40]. Higher absorption may be because of the agastric alimentary canal in rohu, and this indicates the effective absorption of EMB from the gastrointestinal tract of *L. rohita* compare to human.

The maximum plasma concentration of EMB raised to $21.82 \pm 0.01 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ after 20 mg kg^{-1} single dose administration. Similarly, a maximum concentration of 14 ng mL^{-1} in *Salmo salar* (Sevatdal *et al.*, 2005) [47] and 15 ng mL^{-1} in *Gadus morhua* (Samuelsen, 2010) [45] were reported when exposed to EMB. While when avermectin exposed to *Ctenopharyngeodon idella* (Qin *et al.*, 2012) [38] and lactating sheep (Cerkvenik *et al.*, 2002) [3], the maximum concentration were found to be 18.51 and $21.7 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$. Similarly, $0.13 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ in sheep (Short *et al.*, 1988) and $1.32 \pm 0.05 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ in *L. rohita* (Dar *et al.*, 2018) were reported to be the maximum concentration in plasma when ivermectin exposed to the animal. Maximum concentration of albendazole was $3.46 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ in *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*, when exposed to 20 mg kg^{-1} of albendazole (Dar *et al.*, 2017b) [8].

While comparing the results of the present study with other animals, it is evident that *L. rohita* can absorb EMB efficiently through the gastrointestinal tract and hence detected in plasma. The plasma concentration of EMB in the present study was found up to 96 h whereas in the earlier study conducted by Samuelsen (2010) [45], who found the plasma concentration of EMB up to 385 h after treatment, and this may be because the absorption rate is higher in monogastric animals (Dar *et al.*, 2018) [7].

AST and ALT are involved in functioning test liver for hepatic injury evaluation (Willianson *et al.*, 1996) [56]. In the present study, the activity of AST and ALT was higher on the 6th days, which means gluconeogenesis provision through

alanine and aspartate for production of glucose which may encompass to reduce the stress of drug-induced (Dar *et al.*, 2018) [7]. Knox and Greengard (1965) [26] reveal that the during stress higher levels of transaminase leads to increased ketoacid production in TCA cycle which affect oxidative metabolism. It is evident from normal level of ALT and AST, that administration of EMB did not cause any metabolic stress in *L. rohita*.

Oxidative stress status of the EMB treated *L. rohita* were determined by the antioxidative enzymes *viz.*, CAT, GST, SOD and GPx. Higher activities of GST, SOD, catalase and GPx found after EMB administration might be due to detoxification mechanism. Similarly, higher ROS production was reported by Kohen and Nyska (2002) [27] with a parallel increase in SOD and primary cellular enzymatic defence against H₂O₂ produced during oxidative stress by increasing CAT activity was reported by Dorval *et al.*, (2003) [9]. The GST detoxifies potential harmful substances, including reactive oxygen species, lipid peroxidation products and electrophilic compounds (Torres-Rivera and Landa, 2008) [54]. The selenium-containing an oxidative enzyme, GPx catalyses the reduction reaction of hydrogen peroxide or lipid peroxidase by reduced glutathione (Cohen and Hochstein, 1963; Christopherson, 1969) [5, 4].

At the same time, a higher level of LDH indicates production of more lactate, which is used during anaerobic metabolism in fish as a source of gluconeogenesis (Moon and Foster, 1995) [34]. The ALP is the indicator of nutrient absorption intensity in enterocytes of fish (Harpaz and Uni, 1999; Gawlicka *et al.*, 2000) [20, 14]. The ALP also plays an essential role in phosphorus metabolism in the body, so an elevated level of ALP in plasma of *Ictalurus punctatus* indicated a higher level of phosphorus in the diet (Eya and Lovell, 1997) [11].

In fish EROD used as a biomarker for cytochrome P4501A1 induction (Whyte *et al.*, 2000) [55]. It is also the best marker for xenobiotic enzymes for the detoxification of drug (Stegeman and Hahn, 1994) [50]. Elevated levels of EROD activity reveals the toxic effect of the body of the animals if the fish presence of heavy metals showed the higher level EROD activity (Jewett *et al.*, 2002; Caselles *et al.*, 2006) [23, 2]. Higher concentration of EMB in muscle was found on the 6th day ($0.83 \pm 0 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$), and it was not detected on the 15th day. Thus, it is clear that the fish do not contain any residues in the flesh after 15 days of EMB treatment.

Ethics statement

The guidelines of the CPCSEA (Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals) was followed the for the treatment with the animals used in this study.

Conflict of Interest

The authors don't have conflict of interest

Consent to publish

The authors are giving consent to the submission to the journal.

Consent to participate: The authors are giving their consent to participate in the publication of manuscript in this journal

Authors' contributions

Diganta Chetia- experimental work and manuscript writing, Showkat Ahmad Dar- manuscript editing and writing, Subodh Gupta- research concept, Tincy Varghese- experimental analysis, Pallath Muhammed Nuzaiiba-experimental analysis, Prem.P. Srivastava-manuscript summarization, Parimal Sardar- editing and analysis

Funding: It's the master degree program of the first author and have been supported by Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), with general university program.

Table 1: Composition of emamectin benzoate based diet.

| Ingredients | Control feed (g/100 g) | Medicated feed (g/100g) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Casein | 22.11 | 22.11 |
| Gelatin | 14 | 14 |
| Dextrin | 24 | 24 |
| Starch soluble | 22 | 21.8 |
| Emamectin benzoate | 0 | 0.20 |
| Cellulose | 6 | 6 |
| Cod liver oil | 3 | 3 |
| Sunflower oil | 3 | 3 |
| Vit-min premix | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Vitamin C | 0.38 | 0.38 |
| CMC | 3 | 3 |
| BHT | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Choline Chloride | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Betaine | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

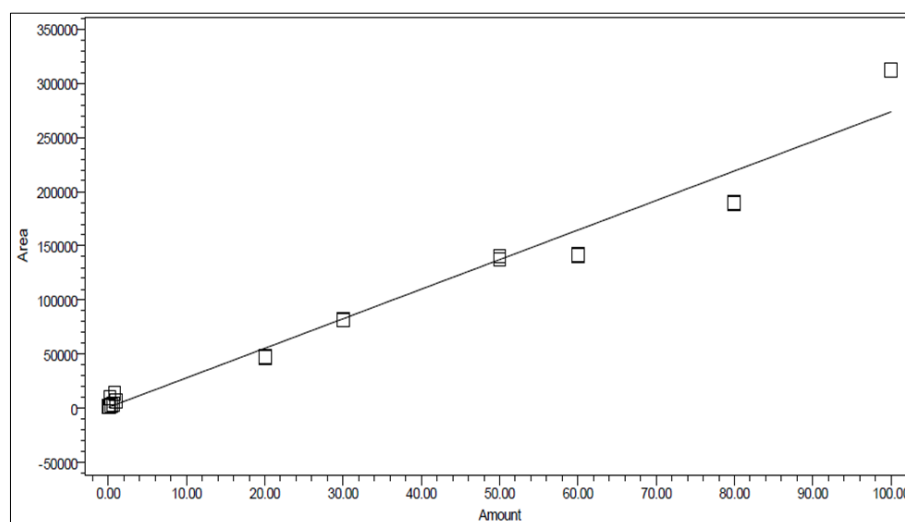


Fig 1: The calibration curve of EMB standards solution of various concentration range from 0.05 to 100 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$.

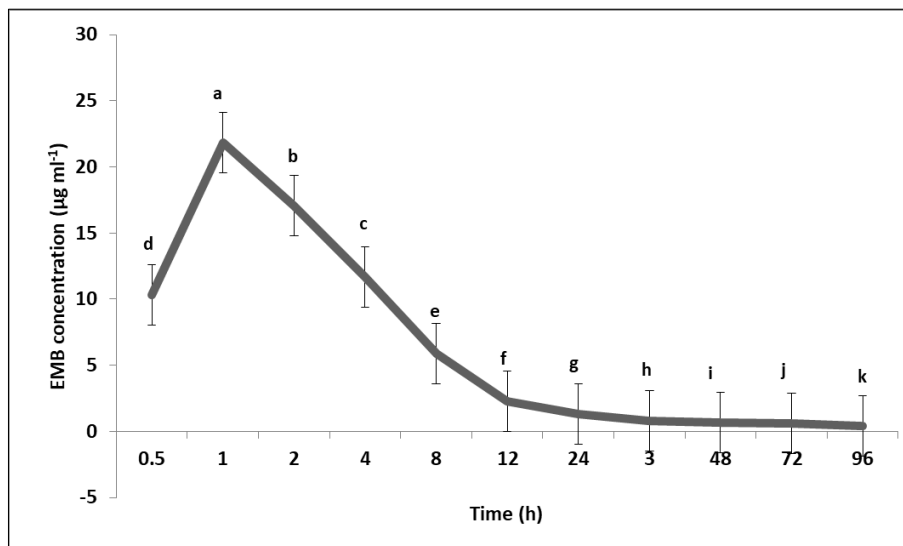
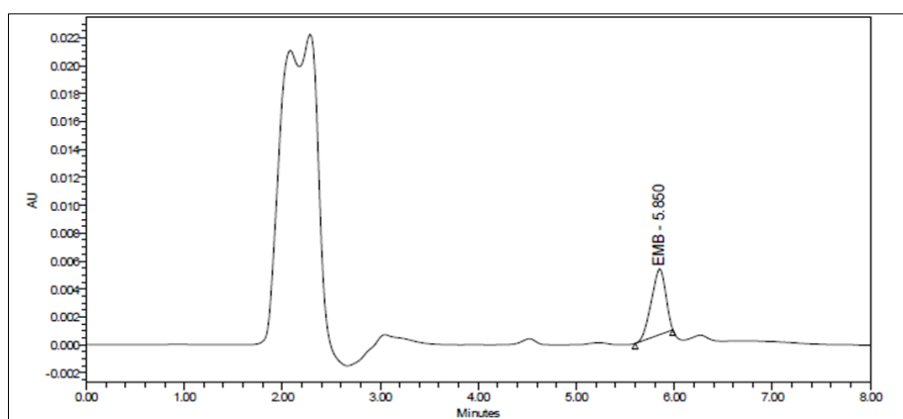
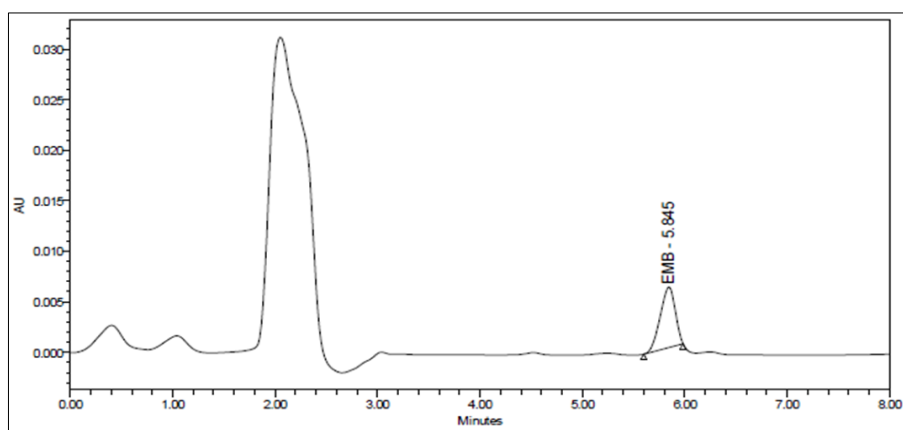
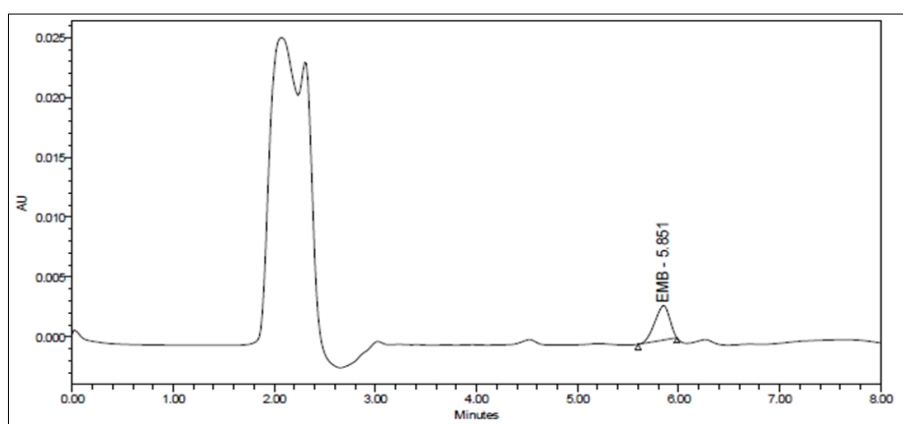
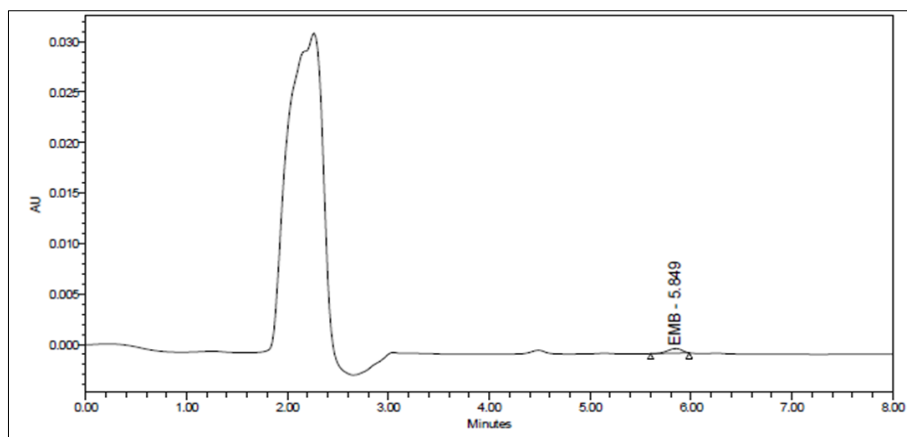
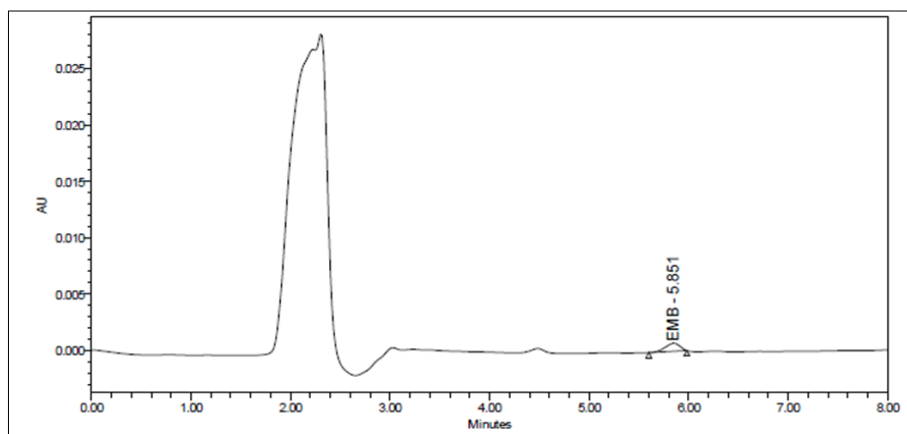
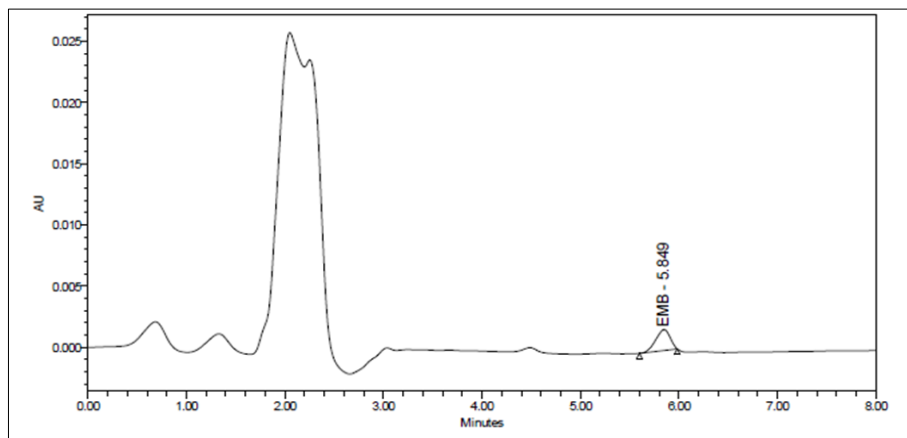
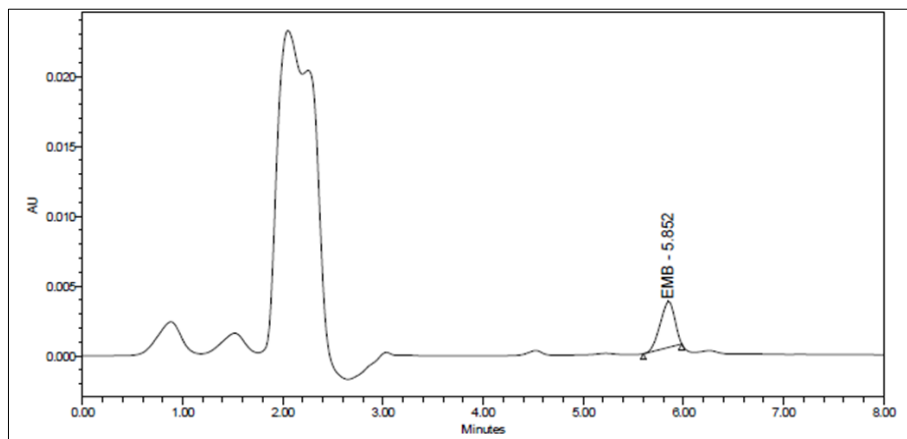


Fig 2: Plasma EMB concentration vs. time profiles after orally administration of EMB. Each time point (n = 3) represent the mean ± SE





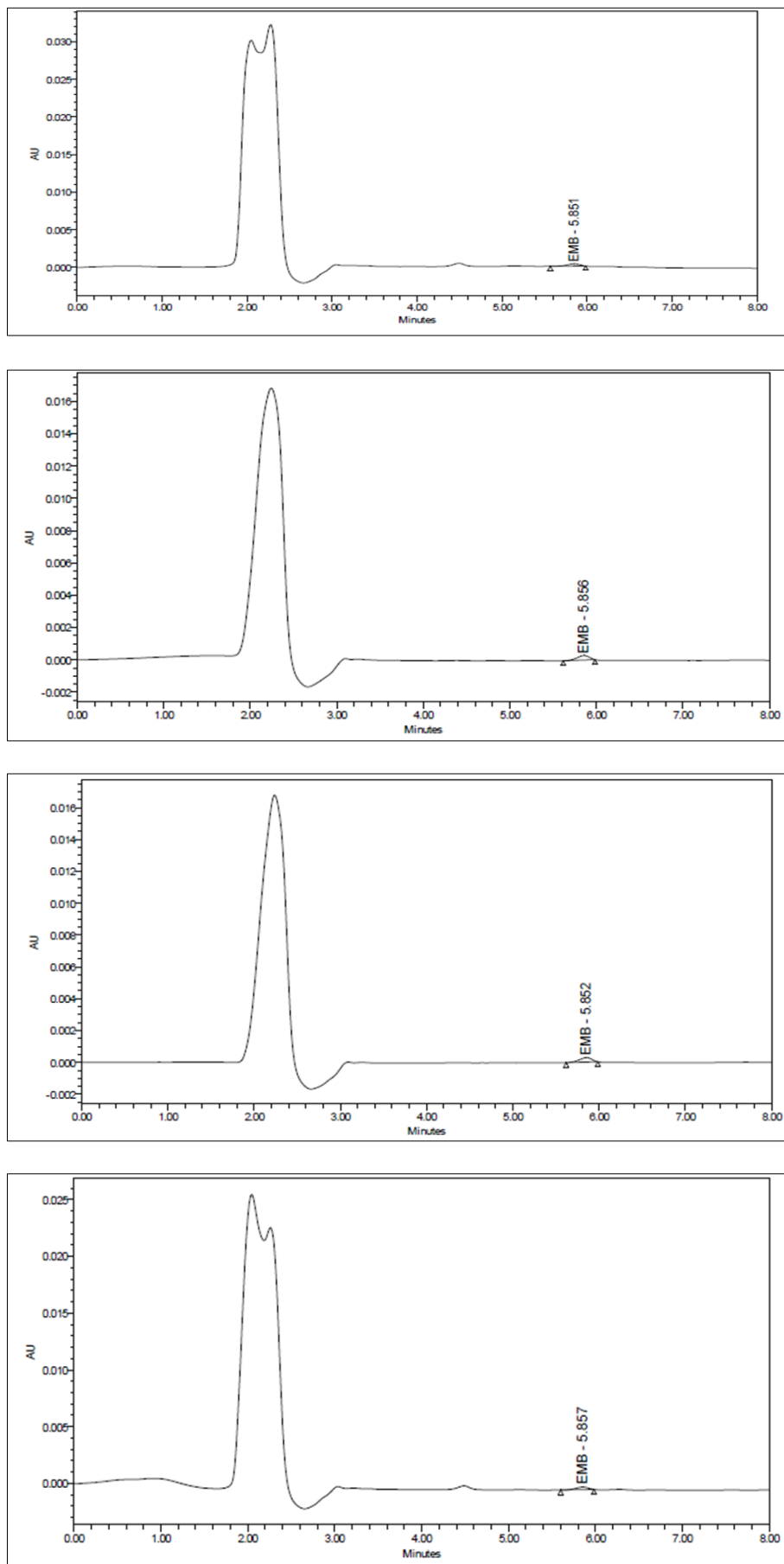


Fig 3: Chromatograph of EMB detected in plasma showing retention time 5.851 to 5.856 min at different time intervals (n = 3) A (0.5 h), B (1 h), C (2 h), D (4h), E (8 h), F (12 h), G (24 h), H (36 h), I (48 H), J (72 h) and K (96 H) postdose of drug administration

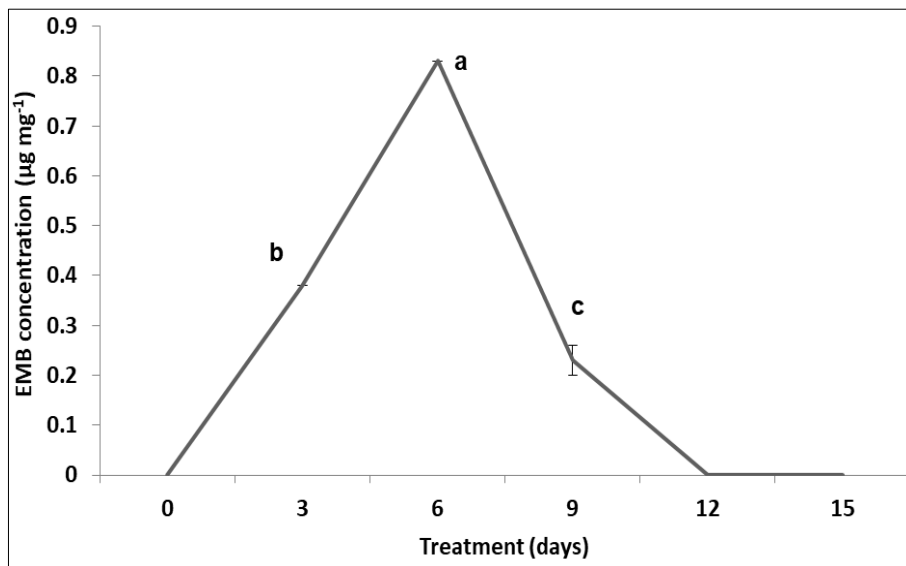
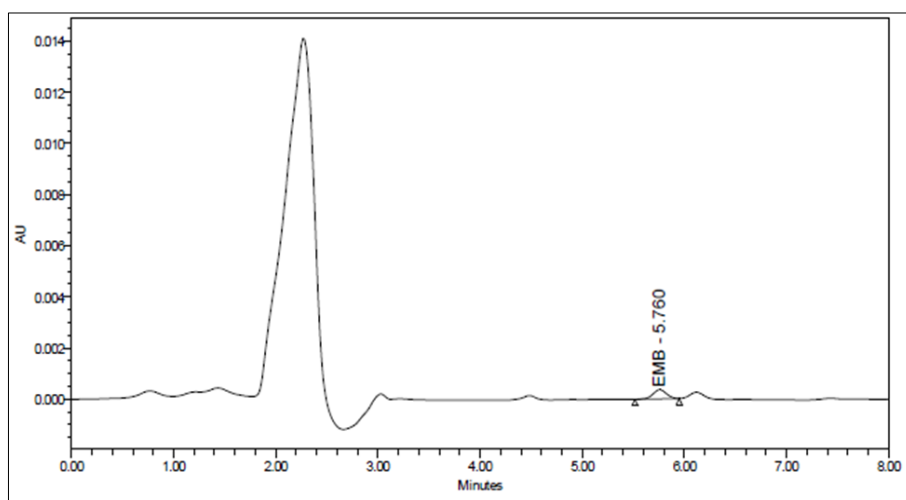
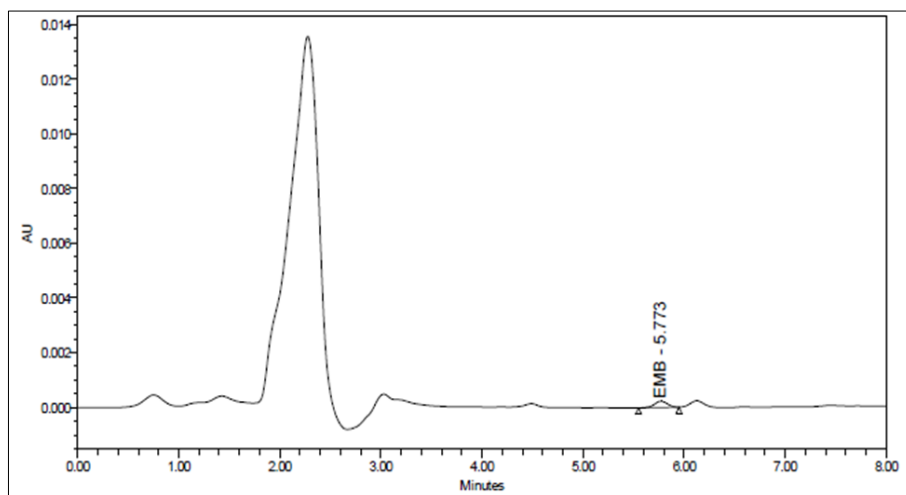


Fig 4: Muscle EMB concentration vs. time profiles after orally administration of EMB. Each time point (n = 3) represent the mean \pm SE



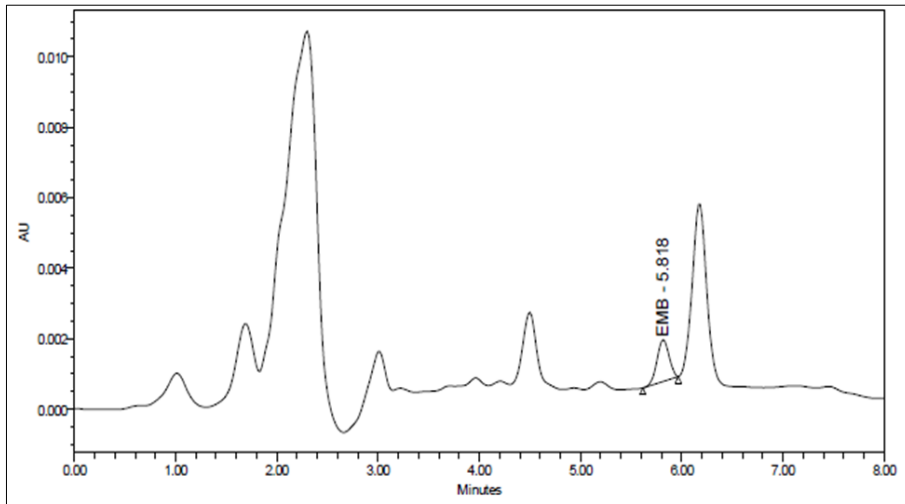


Fig 5: Chromatograph of EMB detected in muscle showing retention time 5.773 to 5.818 min at different time intervals (n = 3) A (3rd day), B (6th day), C (9th day), post dose of drug administration

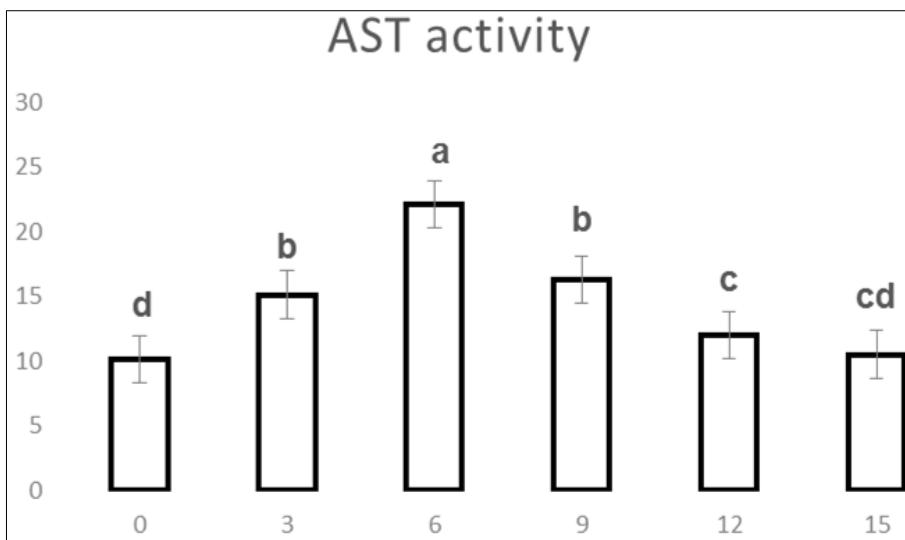


Fig 6: Aspartate amino transferase activity of *Labeo rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as nanomoles oxaloacetate released/ min/ mg protein at 37°C, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

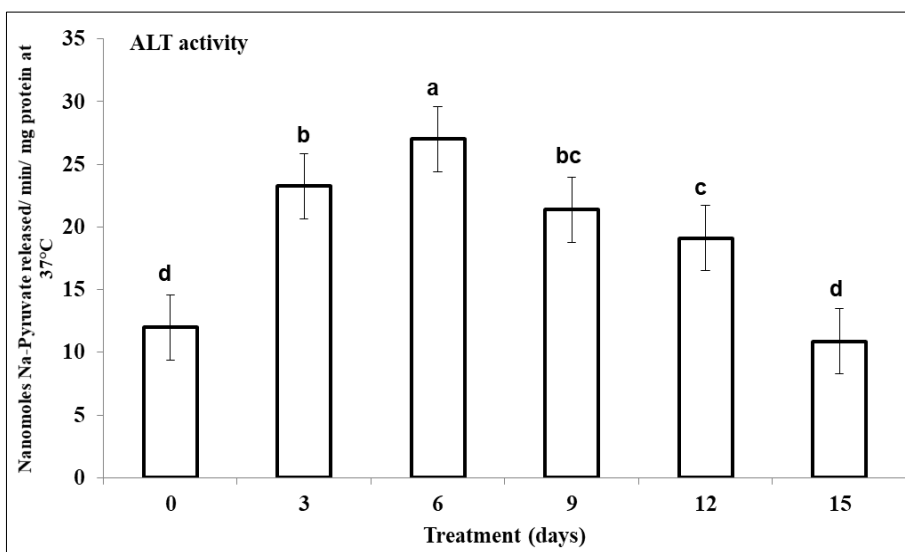


Fig 7: Alanine amino transferase activity of *Labeo rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as Nanomoles Na-Pyruvate released/ min/ mg protein at 37°C, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

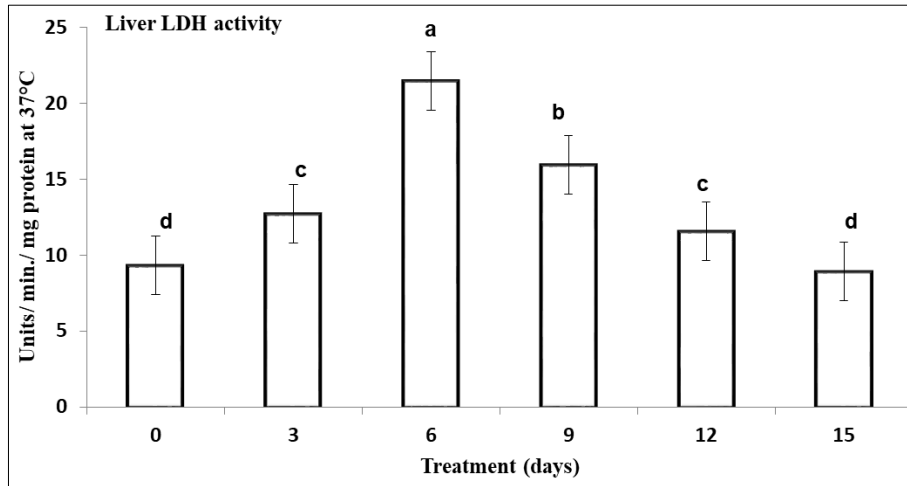


Fig 8: Lactate dehydrogenase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings (liver) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as Units/ min./ mg protein at 37°C, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

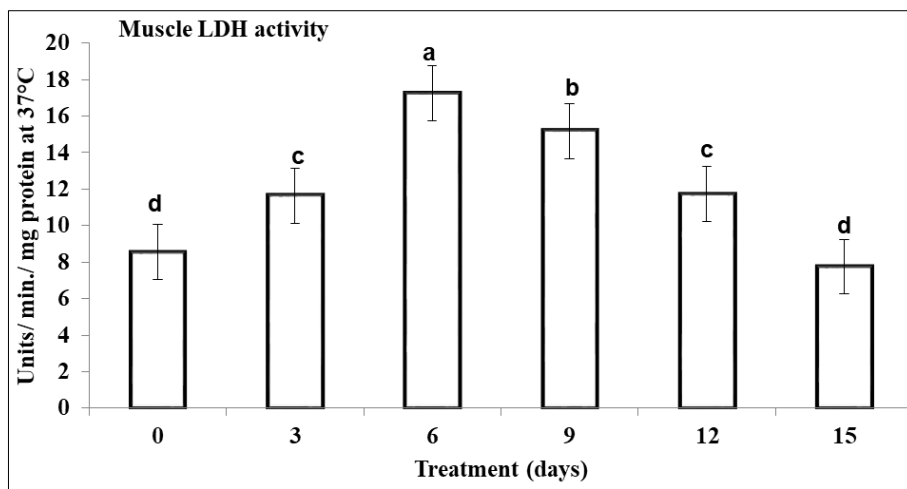


Fig 9: Lactate dehydrogenase activity of *Labeo rohita* fingerlings (muscle) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as Units/ min./ mg protein at 37°C, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

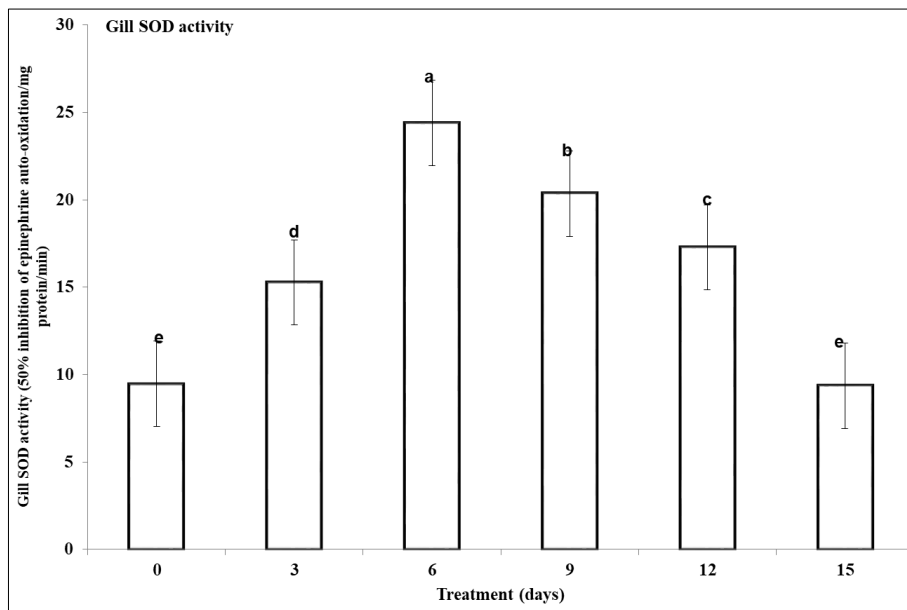


Fig 10: Superoxide dismutase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings (gill) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as 50% inhibition of epinephrine auto-oxidation/mg protein/min, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

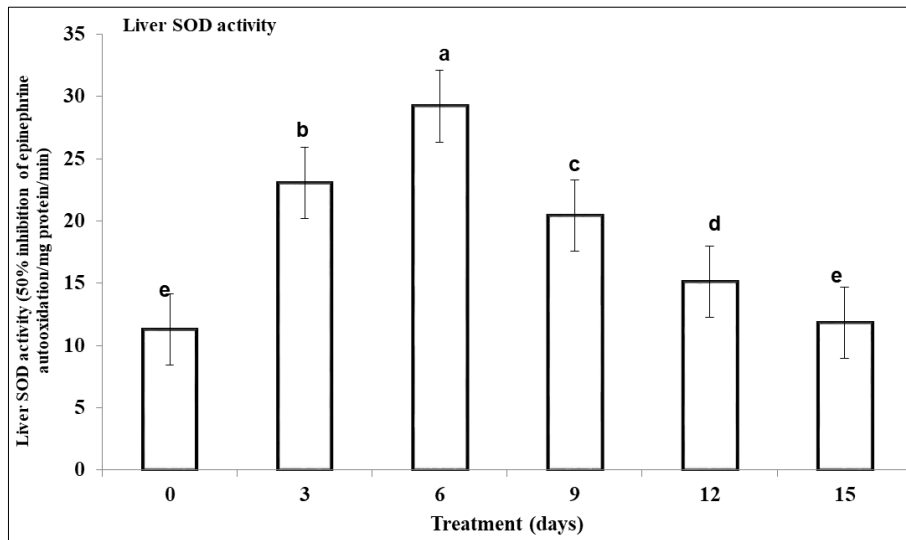


Fig 11: Superoxide dismutase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings (liver) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as 50% inhibition of epinephrine autooxidation/mg protein/min, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

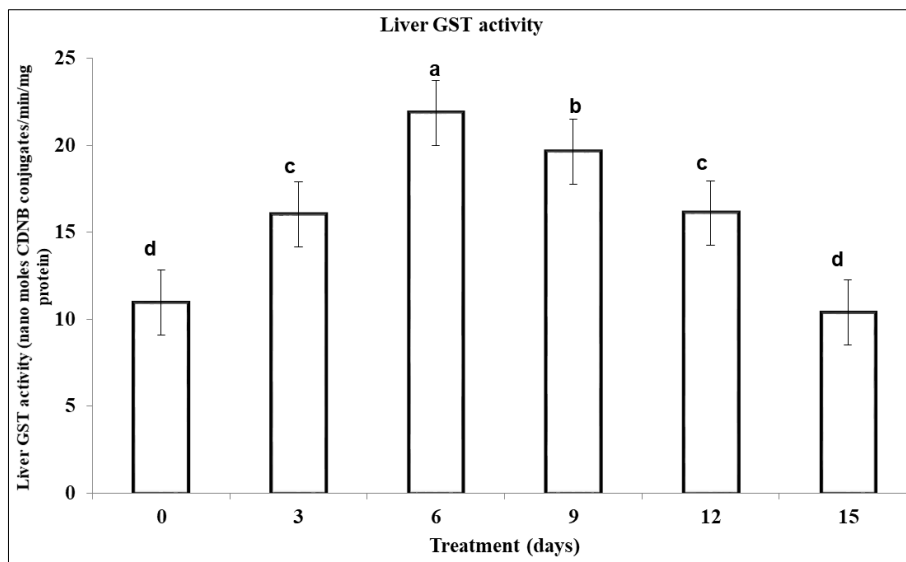


Fig 12: Glutathione S transferase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as nano moles CDNB conjugates/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

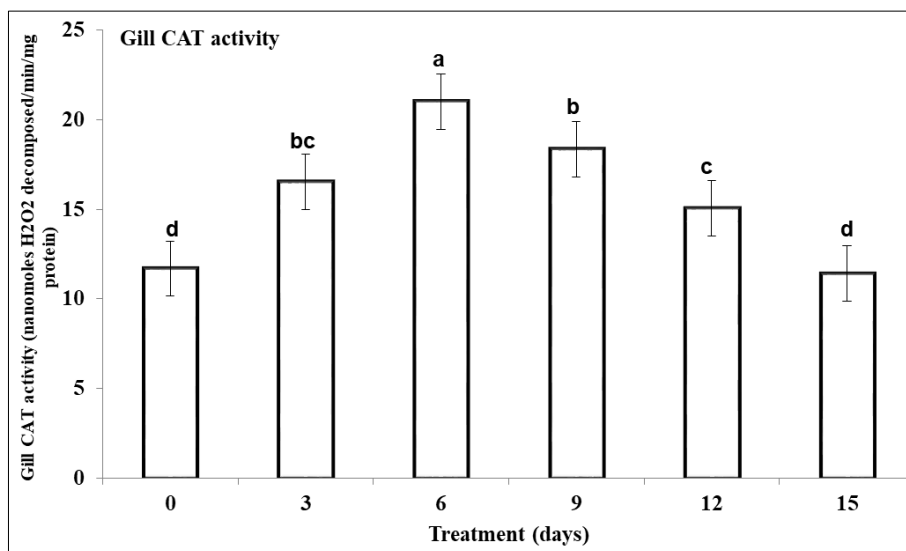


Fig 13: Catalase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings (gill) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as nanomoles of H₂O₂ decomposed/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

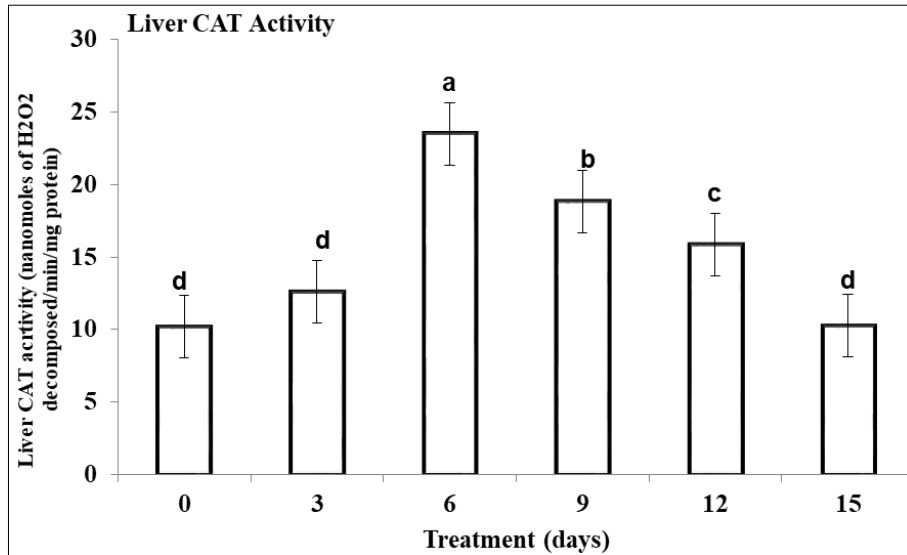


Fig 14: Catalase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings (liver) fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as nanomoles of H₂O₂ decomposed/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days.

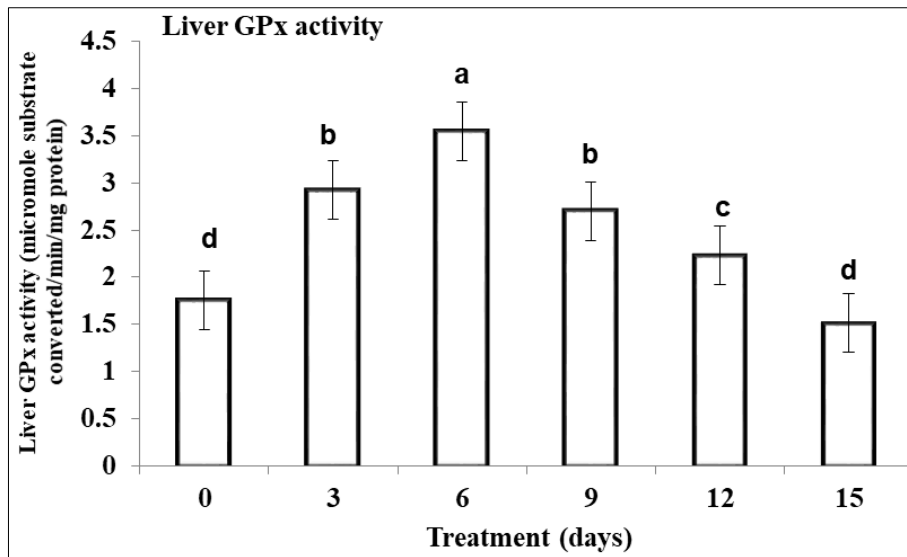


Fig 15: Glutathione peroxidase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as micromole substrate converted/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

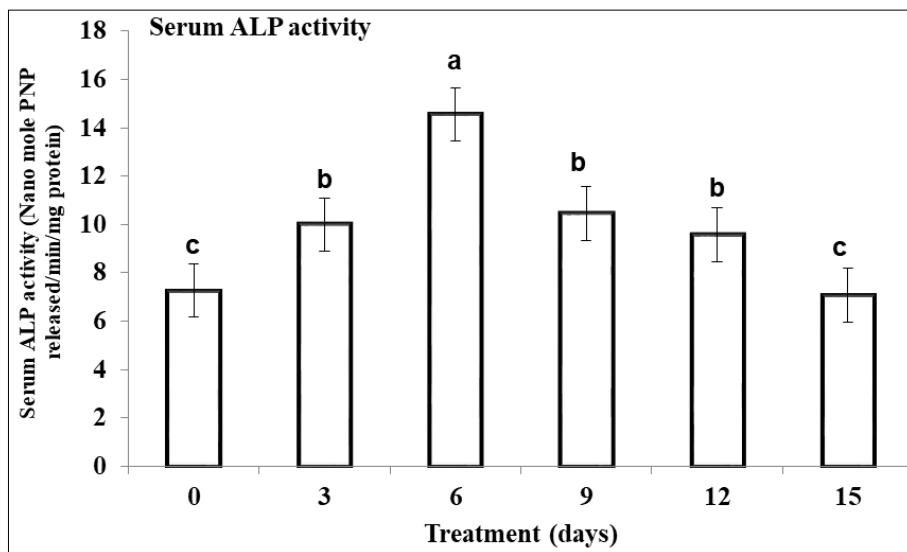


Fig 16: Alkaline phosphatase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as nano mole PNP released/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

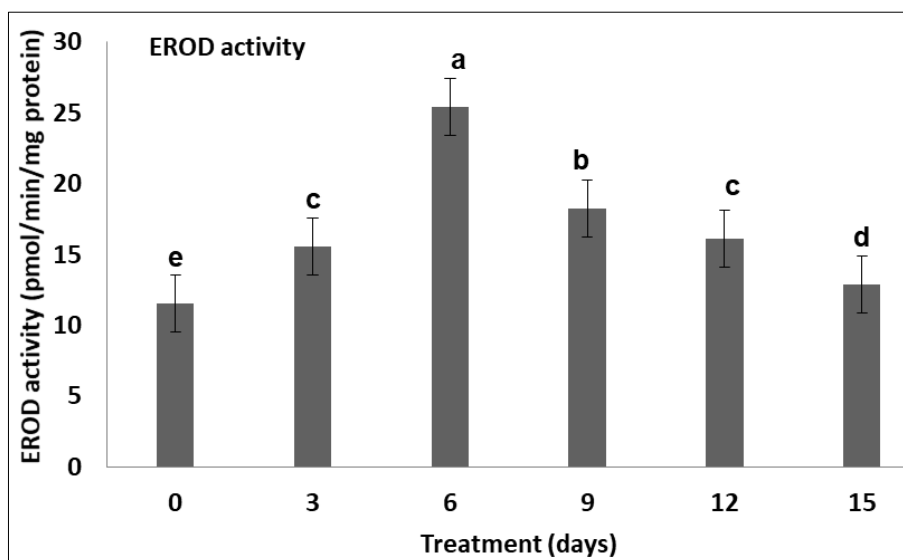


Fig 17: Ethoxyresorufin D ethylase activity of *L. rohita* fingerlings fed with EMB at the dose of 20mg/kg for 15 days. Data is expressed as pmol/min/mg protein, n=3, sampling intervals were 2 days

Acknowledgement

The authors express their deepest gratitude to Dr Gopal Krishna, Director or Vice-Chancellor, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), Mumbai, India for providing support and necessary facilities for carrying out this experiment.

References

- Bradford M. A rapid and sensitive method for the quantitation of microgram quantities of protein utilizing the principle of protein-dye binding. *Anal Biochem.* 1976;72:248-254. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-2697\(76\)90527-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-2697(76)90527-3)
- Caselles CM, Tenorio NJ, González-de-Canales ML, Sarasquete C, DelValls AT. Ecotoxicity of sediments contaminated by the oil spill associated with the tanker “prestige” using juveniles of the fish (*Sparus aurata*). *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol.* 2006;51:652–660. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00244-005-0251-0>
- Cerkvenik V, Grabnar I, Skubic V, Doganoc DZ, Beek WMJ, Keukens HJ, *et al.* Ivermectin pharmacokinetics in lactating sheep. *Vet Parasitol.* 2002;104(2):175-185. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-4017\(01\)00612-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-4017(01)00612-4)
- Christophersen BO. Reduction of linolenic acid hydroperoxide by glutathione peroxidase. *Biochim Biophys Acta-Lipids.* 1969;176(3):463-470. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-2760\(69\)90213-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0005-2760(69)90213-6)
- Cohen G, Hochstein P. Glutathione peroxidase: the primary agent for the elimination of hydrogen peroxide in erythrocytes. *Biochemistry.* 1963;2(6):1420-1428. <https://doi.org/10.1021/bi00906a038>
- Cox S, Allender MC, Yarbrough J. Determination of metronidazole in adult Artemia using high-performance liquid chromatography. *Liq Chromatogr Relat Technol.* 2009;33(1):89-96. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826070903430381>
- Dar SA, Nautiyal V, Phulia V, Bhat IA, Srivastava PP, Sahu NP, *et al.* Determination of benzimidazoles in fish plasma by the chromatographic method and their effects on metabolic and antioxidative enzymes activity. *Aquaculture.* 2018;486:57-63. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2017.11.001>
- Dar SA, Nautiyal V, Phulia V, Gupta S, Sardar P, Sahu NP. Bioavailability of albendazole and its metabolites in plasma of *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* with high-performance liquid chromatography. *Int J Curr Microbiol App Sci.* 2017;6:2392–2400. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2017.11.001>
- Dorval J, Leblond VS, Hontela. Oxidative stress and loss of cortisol secretion in adrenocortical cells of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) exposed *in vitro* to endosulfan, an organochloride pesticide. *Aquat Toxicol.* 2003;63:229–241. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0166-445X\(02\)00182-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0166-445X(02)00182-0)
- Everse J, Kaplan NO. Mechanisms of action and biological functions of various dehydrogenase isozymes. In: *Isozymes.* 1975;29-43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-472702-1.50008-6>
- Eya JC, Lovell RT. Available phosphorus requirements of food-size channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) fed practical diets in ponds. *Aquaculture.* 1997;154(3-4):283-291. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(97\)00055-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(97)00055-0)
- Flohe L, Gunzler WA. Assays of glutathione peroxidase. *Methods Enzymol.* 1984;105:114-120. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0076-6879\(84\)05015-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0076-6879(84)05015-1)
- Garen A, Levinthal C. A fine-structure genetic and chemical study of the enzyme alkaline phosphatase of *E. coli* I. Purification and characterization of alkaline phosphatase. *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1960;38:470-483. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0006-3002\(60\)91282-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0006-3002(60)91282-8)
- Gawlicka A, Parent B, Horn MH, Ross N, Opstad I, Torrissen OJ. Activity of digestive enzymes in yolk-sac larvae of Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*): indication of readiness for first feeding. *Aquaculture.* 2000;184(3-4):303-314.
- Glover KA, Samuelsen OB, Skilbrei OT, Boxaspen K, Lunestad BT. Pharmacokinetics of emamectin benzoate administered to Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar* L., by intraperitoneal injection. *J Fish Dis.* 2010;33(2):183-186. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2761.2009.01099.x>
- Gokbulut C, Bilgili A, Hanedan B, McKellar QA. Comparative plasma disposition of fenbendazole, oxfendazole, and albendazole in dogs. *Vet Parasitol.* 2007;148:279-287. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2007.06.028>
- Habig WH, Pabst MJ, Jakoby WB. Glutathione-S-

- transferase: the first enzymatic step in mercapturic acid formation. *J Biol Chem.* 1974;249:7130–7139.
18. Hakalahti T, Lankinen Y, Valtonen ET. Efficacy of emamectin benzoate in the control of *Argulus coregoni* (Crustacea: Branchiura) on rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. *Dis Aquat Org.* 2004;60(3):197-204. <https://doi.org/10.3354/dao060197>
 19. Hamre LA, Lunestad BT, Hannisdal R, Samuelsen OB. An evaluation of the duration of efficacy of emamectin benzoate in the control of *Caligus curtus* Müller infestations in Atlantic cod, *Gadus morhua* L. *J Fish Dis.* 2011;34(6):453-457. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2761.2011.01256.x>
 20. Harpaz S, Uni Z. Activity of intestinal mucosal brush border membrane enzymes in relation to the feeding habits of three aquaculture fish species. *Comp Biochem Physiol A Mol Integr Physiol.* 1999;124(2):155-160. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1095-6433\(99\)00106-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1095-6433(99)00106-3)
 21. Ikeda H, Omura S. Avermectin biosynthesis. *Chem Rev.* 1997;97(7):2591–2610. <https://doi.org/10.1021/cr960023p>
 22. Iosifidou EG, Haagsma N, Tanck MWT, Boon JH, Oiling M. Depletion study of fenbendazole in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) after oral and bath treatment. *Aquaculture.* 1996;154:191–199. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(97\)00051-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(97)00051-3)
 23. Jewett SC, Dean TA, Woodin BR, Hoberg MK, Stegeman JJ. Exposure to hydrocarbons 10 years after the ExxonValdez oil spill: evidence from cytochrome P4501A expression and biliary FACs in nearshore demersal fishes. *Mar Environ Res.* 2002;54:21–48. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0141-1136\(02\)00093-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0141-1136(02)00093-4)
 24. Kayis S, Ozecelep T, Capkin E, Altinok I. Protozoan and metazoan parasites of cultured fish in Turkey and their applied treatments; c2009. <http://hdl.handle.net/10524/19278>
 25. Klemz C, Salvo LM, Cunha Bastos J, Bainy CAD, Assis HCS. Cytochrome P450 detection in liver of the catfish *Ancistrus multispinis* (Osteichthyes, Loricariidae). *Braz Arch Biol Technol.* 2010;53:361–368. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1516-89132010000200015>
 26. Knox WE, Greengard O. An introduction to enzyme physiology. In: Weber G, ed. *Advances in Enzyme Regulation.* 3. Pergamon Press; 1965:247–258. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0065-2571\(65\)90059-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0065-2571(65)90059-2)
 27. Kohen R, Nyska A. Oxidation of biological systems: oxidative stress phenomena, antioxidants, redox reactions, and methods for their quantification. *Toxicol Pathol.* 2002;30:620–650. <https://doi.org/10.1080%2F01926230290166724>
 28. Kumar G, Menanteau-Ledouble S, Saleh M, El-Matbouli M. *Yersinia ruckeri*, the causative agent of enteric redmouth disease in fish. *Veterinary research.* 2015;46(1):103. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13567-015-0238-4>
 29. Kumari J, Sahoo PK. Dietary immunostimulants influence specific immune response and resistance of healthy and immunocompromised Asian catfish *Clarias batrachus* to *Aeromonas hydrophila* infection. *Dis Aquat Organ.* 2006;70(1-2):63-70. <https://doi.org/10.3354/dao070063>
 30. Larrat S, Marvin J, Lair S. Safety and efficacy of emamectin benzoate to treat *Anguillicoloides crassus* (Kuwahara, Niimi & Itagaki) infections in American eels, *Anguilla rostrata* (Lesueur). *J Fish Dis.* 2012;35(6):467-470. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2761.2012.01366.x>
 31. Lees F, Baillie M, Gettinby G, Revie CW. The Efficacy of Emamectin Benzoate against Infestations of *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* on Farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L) in Scotland, 2002–2006. *PLoS One.* 2008;3(2):1549. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0001549>
 32. Misra HP, Fridovich I. The role of superoxide anion in the autoxidation of epinephrine and a simple assay for superoxide dismutase. *J Biol Chem.* 1972;247(10):3170-317.
 33. Monir S, Bagum N, Rahman S, Ashaf-Ud-Doulah M, Bhadra A, Borty SC. Parasitic diseases and estimation of loss due to infestation of parasites in Indian major carp culture ponds in Bangladesh. *Int J Fish Aquat Stu.* 2015;2:118-122.
 34. Moon TW, Foster GD. Tissue carbohydrate metabolism, gluconeogenesis and hormonal and environmental influences. *Biochem Mol Biol Fishes.* 1995;4:65-100. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1873-0140\(06\)80007-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1873-0140(06)80007-X)
 35. Moyle PB, Marchetti MP. Predicting invasion success: freshwater fishes in California as a model. *AIBS Bulletin.* 2006;56(6):515-524. [https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568\(2006\)56\[515:PISFFI\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568(2006)56[515:PISFFI]2.0.CO;2)
 36. Nilsen BM, Berg K, Goksoyr A. Induction of Cytochrome P450 1A (CYP1A) in Fish; a Biomarker for Environmental Pollution. In: Philips IR, Shephard EA, eds. *Methods in Molecular Biology (Cytochrome P450 Protocols).* Humana Press Inc. 1998, 423-438. <https://doi.org/10.1385/0-89603-519-0:423>
 37. Pennycuik CJ, Western D. An investigation of some sources of bias in aerial transect sampling of large mammal populations. *Afr J Ecol.* 1972;10(3):175-191. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2028.1972.tb00726.x>
 38. Qin GX, Xu WY, Ai XH, Tang GP, Cui J, Li XH, *et al.* Studies on the pharmacokinetics and residues of avermectin in grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) after single oral administration [J]. *Freshwater Fish.* 2012;4:010.
 39. Rahman M, Pressel S, Davis BR, Nwachuku C, Wright JT, Whelton PK, *et al.* Renal outcomes in high-risk hypertensive patients treated with an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or a calcium channel blocker vs a diuretic: A report from the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT). *Arch Intern Med.* 2005;165(8):936-946. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archinte.165.8.936>
 40. Reynolds JEF. *Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia.* London: Ro Pharm. Soc.; c1996:1696.
 41. Rodriguez EM, Medesani DA, Fingerma M. Endocrine disruption in crustaceans due to pollutants: A review. *Comp Biochem Physiol Part A.* 2007;146(4):661–671. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpa.2006.04.030>
 42. Roy WJ, Sutherland IH, Rodger HDM, Varma KJ. Tolerance of Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar* L., and rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Walbaum), to emamectin benzoate, a new orally administered treatment for sea lice. *Aquaculture.* 2000;184(1):19-29. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(99\)00307-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(99)00307-5)
 43. Roy WJ, Gillan N, Crouch L, Parker R, Rodger H, Endris R. Depletion of emamectin residues following oral administration to rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. *Aquaculture.* 2006;259(1):6-16.

- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2006.02.069>
44. Saksida SM, Morrison D, Revie CW. The efficacy of emamectin benzoate against infestations of sea lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, on farmed Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar* L., in British Columbia. J Fish Dis. 2010;33(11):913-917.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2761.2010.01192.x>
45. Samuelsen OB. A single-dose pharmacokinetic study of emamectin benzoate in cod, *Gadus morhua* L., held in sea water at 9 °C. J Fish Dis. 2010;33(2):137-142.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2761.2009.01097.x>
47. Sevattal S, Magnusson Å, Ingebrigtsen K, Haldorsen R, Horsberg TE. Distribution of emamectin benzoate in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.). J Vet Pharmacol Ther. 2005;28(1):101-107.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2885.2004.00629.x>
48. Short CR, Flory W, Hsieh LC, Barker SA. The oxidative metabolism of fenbendazole: a comparative study. J Vet Pharmacol Ther. 1988;11(1):50-55.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2885.1988.tb00142.x>
49. Skilbri OT, Glover KA, Samuelsen OB, Lunestad BT. A laboratory study to evaluate the use of emamectin benzoate in the control of sea lice in sea-ranched Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.). Aquaculture. 2008;285(1-4):2-7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2008.07.055>
50. Stegeman JJ, Hahn ME. Biochemistry and molecular biology of monooxygenases: Current perspectives on forms, functions and regulation of cytochrome P450 in aquatic species. In: Mallins DC, Ostrander GK, eds. Aquat Toxicol. Molecular Biochemical and Cellular Perspectives. CRC Press, 1994, 87-206.
51. Stone J, Roy WJ, Sutherland IH, Ferguson HW, Sommerville C, Endris R. Safety and efficacy of emamectin benzoate administered in-feed to Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) smolts in freshwater, as a preventative treatment against infestations of sea lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* (Krøyer). Aquaculture. 2002;210(1):21-34.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486\(01\)00822-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0044-8486(01)00822-5)
52. Takahara S, Hamilton HB, Neel JV, *et al.* Hypocatalasemia: A new genetic carrier state. J Clin Investig. 1960;39(4):610-619.
<https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI104075>
53. Toksen E, Cagiran H, Tanrikul TT, Saygi H. The effect of emamectin benzoate in the control of *Lernanthropus kroyeri* (Van Beneden, 1851) (Lernanthropidae) infestations in cultured sea bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Linnaeus, 1758). Turk J Vet Anim Sci. 2006;30(4):405-409.
54. Torres-Rivera A, Landa A. Glutathione transferases from parasites: a biochemical view. Acta Trop. 2008;105(2):99-112.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2007.08.005>
55. Whyte JJ, Jung RE, Schmitt CJ, Tillitt DE. Ethoxyresorufin-O-demethylase (EROD) activity in fish as a biomarker of chemical exposure. Crit Rev Toxicol. 2000;30:347-570.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10408440091159239>
56. Willianson EM, Okpako DT, Evans FJ. Preparation and pharmacological evaluation of plant material. John Wiley and Sons Ltd. Selection; 1996:131-154.
57. Yen TH, Lin JL. Acute poisoning with emamectin benzoate. J Toxicol: Clin Toxicol. 2004;42(5):657-661.
<https://doi.org/10.1081/CLT-200026968>