

***Arthrospira platensis* (Spirulina) and *Morinda citrifolia* (Noni) dietary supplementation can restore the aluminium and fluoride toxicity induced alteration of histopathology in the freshwater fish, *Cyprinus carpio* L.**

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Abstract: The effect of dietary supplementation by Spirulina and Noni on histopathology of intestine, liver, kidney and ovary were investigated in common carp exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium and fluoride. The sub-lethal concentration of aluminium and fluoride caused severe degenerative changes in intestine, liver, kidney, and ovary in fish. Dietary supplementation by Spirulina and Noni improved the aluminium and fluoride toxicity induced alteration of histopathology by reducing the occurrences of all the degenerative changes in the intestine, liver, kidney and ovary of common carp. The Spirulina at 1% and Noni at 0.25% showed the best response in Spirulina and Noni dietary supplementation groups respectively.

Keywords: Intestine; Kidney; Liver; Ovary; Pollution

1. Introduction

The aquaculture production is adversely affected by overcrowding, poor water quality and nutritional status due to inadequate high quality fish feed [1,2]. Population explosion coupled with rapid industrialization has led to the contamination of aquatic environment by various pollutants, which adversely affect the physico-chemical equilibrium of the aquatic body as well as bring about morphological, physiological and cytological changes of aquatic inhabitants [3]. Industrial pollution causes accumulation of potentially toxic trace elements in fishes negatively affecting the latter [4].

Aluminium, a non-essential and the most abundant metal, is the 3rd most abundant element, representing 8% of the earth's crust [5-7]. Aluminium adversely affects the haematological [8-9], biochemical [10-13] and histopathological parameters [14] of fish.

Fluorine is the lightest member of the halogen group and the most electronegative (4.0 in pauling scale) element, forms fluoride ion (F⁻) in solution. It has both beneficial as well as detrimental effect in both humans and other animals.

The environmental stressor which adversely affects the growth and quality of fish fillet may be ameliorated by incorporating different plant based dietary supplement into the fish feed [15-16]. Dietary supplement is a concentrated nutrient containing vitamins, minerals, proteins and

carbohydrate that is intended to support the nutritional needs and/or supply elementary deficiencies in the ordinary diets [17]. The dietary supplements that gained popularity in recent times are microalgae like spirulina, coffee beans, garlic, Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*), Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) etc [15, 17-20].

Arthrospira platensis (commonly called Spirulina), an ubiquitous organism (blue- green algae), is rich with protein (60-70%) containing a considerable number of essential amino acids, essential fatty acids (γ -linolenic acid), vitamins (Vitamin B complex, Vitamin C, Vitamin E), Minerals (Fe, Mg, Zn, Se) and photosynthetic pigments (β -carotene, phycocyanin) [21-24].

Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*; Rubiaceae) has been used by Polynesian for over 2000 years as a traditional medicine, and food and dye [25-26]. Different parts of the Noni (*M. citrifolia*) contain 200 phytochemicals including anthraquinones, flavonoids, iridoids glycosides, organic acids, alkaloids, lignans etc [27-28].

The effect of spirulina and noni dietary supplementations against aluminium and fluoride toxicity induced alteration in histopathology in fish is scanty in literature. Thus, the ameliorative effects of these two dietary supplements against aluminium and fluoride induced toxicity in the histopathology of common carp was investigated in the present study.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Experimental diets

The source of Spirulina (*A. platensis*) was the 'Spirulina capsules', manufactured by the Surya Herbal Ltd, India. The proximate composition of the Spirulina powder was analyzed before incorporation in the diet [29]. The maximum tolerable limit of Spirulina (*A. platensis*) to common carp (*C. carpio*) fingerlings was determined for a period of 14 days following Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guideline, and the value was 50 g/kg (5%). From this range of tolerance, Spirulina was incorporated at 0, 2.5 g/kg, 5.0 g/kg, 7.5 g/kg and 10 g/kg level to prepare control or basal diet, 0.25%, 0.50%, 0.75%, and 1% Spirulina diet respectively (Table 1) which were analyzed by standard methods [29].

Table 1: Proximate composition of Spirulina diets (g/kg); values are in mean±SE, (n=3 per sample)

Ingredients (g/Kg)	Control or basal diet (g/kg)	0.25% Spirulina diet (2.5 g/kg)	0.50% Spirulina diet (5 g/kg)	0.75% Spirulina diet (7.5 g /kg)	1% Spirulina diet (10 g /kg)
GNO Cake ¹	600	600	600	600	600
Fish Meal ²	200	200	200	200	200
Rice Bran ³	100	100	100	100	100
Vit. & Min. Premix	10	10	10	10	10
Wheat Flour	90	87.5	85	82.5	80
Spirulina (<i>A. platensis</i>) ⁴	-	2.5	5	7.5	10
Proximate composition					
Crude Protein	40.673±0.014	40.300±0.028	40.190±0.037	40.546±0.050	40.266±0.012
Crude fat	8.656±0.017	8.446±0.014	8.456±0.017	8.203±0.014	8.100±0.017
Fiber	6.140±0.036	6.420±0.017	6.206±0.023	6.306±0.034	5.793±0.021
Ash	8.093±0.023	8.244±0.031	8.130±0.011	8.243±0.034	8.430±0.011
Moisture	11.546±0.024	11.250±0.028	11.803±0.014	11.506±0.040	10.430±0.005
NFE ⁵	24.856±0.014	25.123±0.039	25.220±0.011	25.626±0.040	26.970±0.011
GE (kcal/100 g feed) ⁶	372.592	369.977	369.959	370.891	374.144

Composition of vitamin & mineral mixture (premix): Each 1 kg contains Vitamin A 8,00,000 IU, Vitamin D₃ 80,000 IU, Vitamin E 0.6g, Nicotinamide 1.2 g, Cobalt 2.2g, Copper 4.7g, Iodine 0.6g, Iron 2.2g, Magnesium 6.5g, Manganese 3.3g, Potassium 0.2g, Sodium 0.04g, and Zinc 10g; ¹ Ground nut oil (GNO) cake contains 55.43% proteins and 14.45% fat; ² Contains 51.65% proteins and 7.6% fat.; ³ Contains 9.25% proteins and 8.3% fat; ⁴ Contains 60% proteins; ⁵ NFE (Nitrogen Free Extract)=100-(Protein+Fat+Ash+Crude fiber); ⁶ GE (Gross Energy): Estimated according to NRC (1993)³² as 4.64, 9.44 and 4.11 Kcal/g for protein, fat and carbohydrate respectively.

The source of Noni (*M. citrifolia*) fruit extract was the ‘Noni capsules’, manufactured by the Cosmic Nutracos Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The proximate composition of the Noni extract was analyzed before incorporation in the diet [29]. The common carp (*C. carpio*) fingerlings can tolerate the Noni (*M. citrifolia*) fruit extract up to 30 g/kg (3%) which was determined before start of the experiment as per the guidelines of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for 14 days. From this range of tolerance, Noni (*M. citrifolia*) fruit extract was incorporated at 0, 2.5 g/kg, 5.0 g/kg, 7.5 g/kg and 10 g/kg level to prepare control or basal diet, 0.25%, 0.50%, 0.75%, and 1% Noni (*M. citrifolia*) diet respectively (table 2). The proximate composition of the experimental diets and the ingredients were estimated as per the standard methods [29].

Table 2: Proximate composition of Noni diets; Values are means \pm SEM, (n = 3 per treatment group)

Ingredients(g/kg)	Control or basal diet (g/kg)	0.25% Noni diet (2.5 g/kg)	0.50% Noni diet (5.0 g/kg)	0.75% Noni diet (7.5 g/kg)	1% Noni diet (10g/kg)
GNO cake ¹	600	600	600	600	600
Fish meal ²	200	200	200	200	200
Rice bran ³	100	100	100	100	100
Wheat flour	90	87.5	85	82.5	80
Noni (<i>M. citrifolia</i>) ⁴	-	2.5	5.0	7.5	10
Vit. & Min. mix	10	10	10	10	10
Proximate composition					
protein	40.7 \pm 0.117 ^a	40.2 \pm 0.0416 ^b	40.5 \pm 0.136 ^{ab}	40.4 \pm 0.04 ^{ab}	40.5 \pm 0.0829 ^{ab}
fat	8.68 \pm 0.0737 ^b	8.66 \pm 0.0273 ^b	8.39 \pm 0.151 ^b	8.47 \pm 0.0498 ^b	9.99 \pm 0.0379 ^a
fiber	6.16 \pm 0.026 ^b	6.2 \pm 0.0603 ^b	6.62 \pm 0.0612 ^a	6.16 \pm 0.0379 ^b	6.58 \pm 0.0702 ^a
ash	8.13 \pm 0.0624 ^b	8.21 \pm 0.0586 ^b	8.93 \pm 0.107 ^a	8.2 \pm 0.0603 ^b	8.89 \pm 0.0384 ^a
moisture	11.6 \pm 0.0265 ^a	10.9 \pm 0.0929 ^b	9.47 \pm 0.122 ^{cd}	10.1 \pm 0.276 ^c	9.26 \pm 0.0491 ^d
NFE ⁵	24.7 \pm 0.164 ^c	24.3 \pm 0.103 ^c	26.1 \pm 0.041 ^a	25.6 \pm 0.249 ^{ab}	24.9 \pm 0.0874 ^{bc}
GE (kcal/g) ⁶	372.304	368.151	374.392	372.628	384.564

Values in the same row with different superscript letters are significantly different ($p < .05$).

Composition of vitamin & mineral mixture(premix): Each 1 kg contains Vitamin A 8,00,000 IU, Vitamin D₃ 80,000 IU, Vitamin E 0.6g, Nicotinamide 1.2 g, Cobalt 2.2g, Copper 4.7g, Iodine 0.6g, Iron 2.2g, Magnesium 6.5g, Manganese 3.3g, Potassium 0.2g, Sodium 0.04g, and Zinc 10g.

¹ Ground nut oil (GNO) cake contains 55.43% proteins and 14.45% fat.

² Contains 51.65% proteins and 7.6% fat.

³ Contains 9.25% proteins and 8.3% fat.

⁴ Contains 2.84% proteins, 2.5% fat, 4.5% ash and 7.1% moisture.

⁵NFE (Nitrogen Free Extract) =100- (Protein+Fat+Ash+Crude fiber)

⁶GE (Gross Energy): Estimated according to NRC (1993) as 4.64, 9.44 and 4.11 Kcal/g for protein, fat and carbohydrate respectively.

2.2. Experimental Design

The experimental study was conducted as per the internationally accepted laboratory animal use and care, and guidelines (guiding principles in the use of animals in toxicology, adopted by the Society of Toxicology in 1989), and as per the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India. In this experiment 10% of the 96 h LC₅₀ of fluoride (i.e. 67.5 mg/L of NaF) and aluminium [i.e. 22.4 mg/L of Al₂(SO₄)₃] were used as the sub-lethal dose. Common carp fingerlings were purchased from a local fish market and then brought to the laboratory in plastic bag with sufficient oxygen. The collected fingerling of common carp were stocked in a large glass aquariums and acclimated for a total period of one month. During this period of acclimation, fingerlings of common carp were fed commercial diet at 3% of body weight daily and the water was continuously aerated. There was a total of two experiments. Each experiment

comprised of seven experimental groups like T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, and T7. The T1 was the control group fed on control diet reared in normal water, T2 was the toxic control or negative control group fed on control diet and exposed to 10% of LC₅₀ of aluminium or fluoride, T3 was served as plant control or positive control fed on Spirulina(1%) or Noni(0.25%) diet and reared in normal tap water, T4 to T7 were the treatment groups fed on Spirulina or Noni dietary supplementation at 0.25%, 0.50%, 0.75% and 1% respectively and exposed to 10% of the LC₅₀ of aluminium or fluoride. In each experiment, a total of 210 acclimated common carp fingerlings of three-month old were randomly allocated into 7 experimental groups each with 30 fish divided into three replicate (10 fish/ replicate). The experiment or each trial was continued for a total period of 30 days. Water was aerated continuously with the replacement of water in every alternate day. Fishes were provided feed @ 3% of their body weight at 9.00 hrs daily. Standard method [30] was followed to estimate the physico-chemical parameters of water namely dissolve oxygen, free CO₂, total alkalinity, total hardness, water temperature, pH, fluoride and aluminium (Table 3).

Table 3: Physico-chemical parameters of the water; values are means \pm SEM, (n = 3 per treatment group)

Sl. No.	Water quality parameters	Values
1.	Dissolve Oxygen	4.146 \pm 0.260 mg/L
2.	Free Carbon dioxide	4.633 \pm 0.120 mg/L
3.	Total Alkalinity	192.333 \pm 4.333 mg/L
4.	Total Hardness	125 \pm 1.154 mg/L
5.	Water Temperature	30.333 \pm 0.440°C
6.	pH	7.466 \pm 0.145
7.	Fluoride	0.813 \pm 0.008 mg/L
8.	Aluminium	<0.01 mg/L

2.3. Histopathology

After the end of the experiment, tissues from intestine, liver, kidney and ovary were collected from the fish by dissection and fixed in bouins fluid for 24 hours. After fixation, tissues were dehydrated in a ascending series of ethyl alcohol like 30% (2 hrs), 50% (2 hrs), 70% (6 hrs), 90% (3 hrs) and 100% (3hrs). The dehydrated tissues were then dealcoholized using in xylene (30 min), $\frac{1}{2}$ xylene + $\frac{1}{2}$ paraffin (10 min) and then infiltrated using molten paraffin (2 hrs). The block of tissues was made using paraffin. The sectioning of the tissue was done using microtome apparatus. The tissue section in paraffin ribbon was then stretched over a glass slide using mayer's albumin and a hot plate. The stretched slide was double stained using haematoxyline and eosine as per the method of Slaoui and Fiette [31] with minor modification. The stained slide was then mounted using D.P.X. [31].

3. Results

3.1. Intestine histopathology

The Transverse Section (T.S.) of intestine of common carp (T1) showed the normal architecture of intestine with muscles (longitudinal, circular), serosa and villi. Exposure of sub-lethal concentration of aluminium caused severe degenerative changes in the intestine which includes necrosis in the absorptive epithelium of the villi, and blunting of villi. Dietary supplementation with Spirulina and Noni improved the intestine histopathology by reducing the occurrence of these changes in dietary supplementation groups (Figure 1 & 2) compared to T2 (Table 4 & 5).

Table 4: Intestine histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets and exposed to sublethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Fusion and blunting (FB) of villi	I	0 ⁺	+++	0+	+	0	0	0+
Necrosis and sloughing of villi (NS)	II	0	++	0	0	0	0+	0
degeneration of villous epithelium (DVE)	II	0	+++	0	0	0+	0	0+
Degeneration of villi	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 5: Intestine histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Fusion and blunting (FB) of villi	I	0	+++	0+	0+	0+	0	0+
Necrosis and sloughing of villi (NS)	II	0+	++	0	0	0	0+	0
degeneration of villous epithelium (DVE)	II	0	+++	0+	0	0+	0	0
Degeneration of villi	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

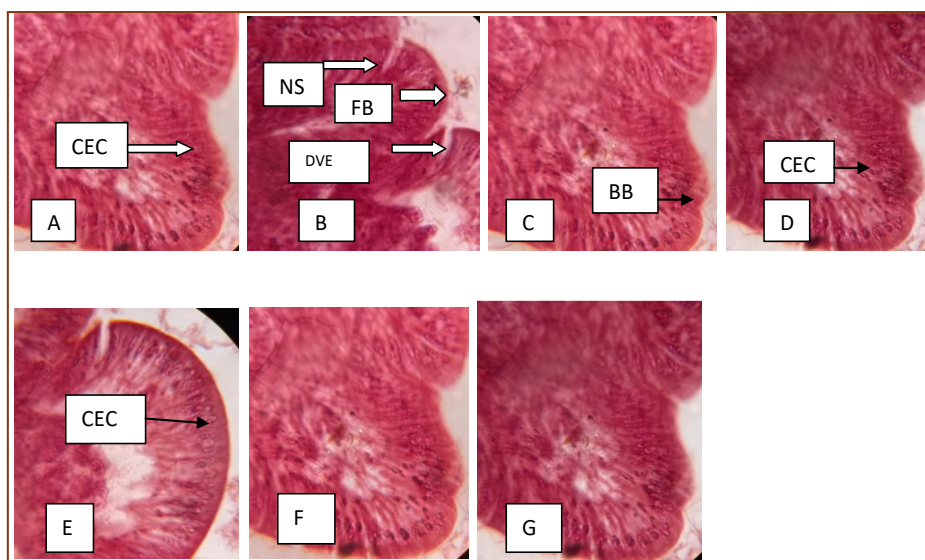


Figure 1 (A-G): T.S of Intestine of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium (A: Control, B: Al, C: SP, D: 0.25% SP+Al, E: 0.50%SP + AL, F: 0.75%SP+ Al, G: 1%SP + Al; NS: Necrosis and Sloughing, FB: Fusion and Blunting, DVE: Degeneration of Villous Epithelium, CEC: Columnar Epithelium Cells, BB: Brush Border; H&E x100)

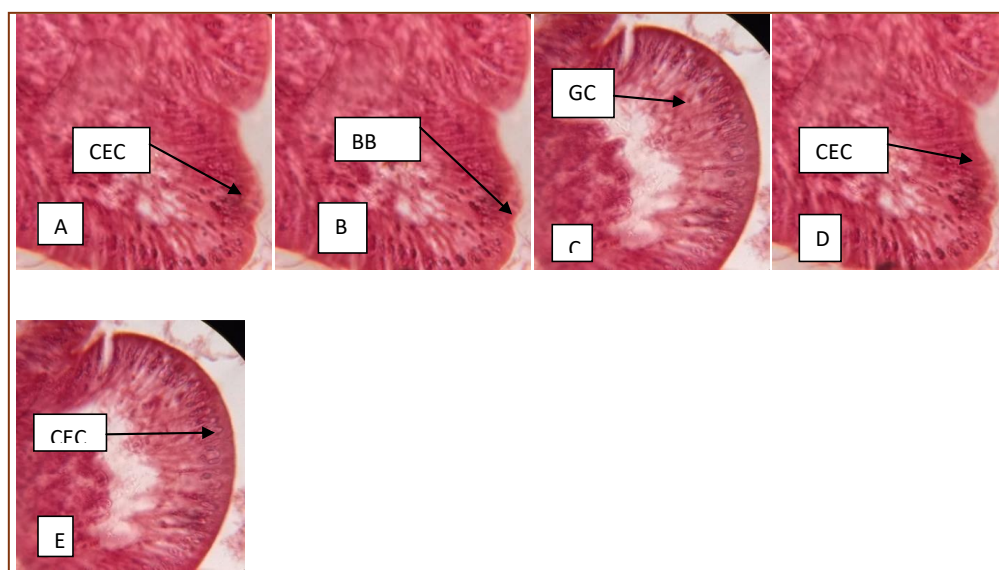


Figure 2 (A-E): T.S of Intestine of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium (A: 0.25%N, B: 0.25% N+Al C: 0.50% N + Al, D: 0.75% N+Al, E: 1% N + Al; CEC: Columnar Epithelium Cells, BB: Brush Border, GC: Goblet Cells; H&E x100)

Exposure of sub-lethal concentration of fluoride caused severe degenerative changes in the intestine which includes necrosis in the absorptive epithelium of the villi, massive fusion and blunting of villi (6 A). Dietary supplementation with Spirulina and Noni improved the intestine histopathology by reducing the occurrence of these changes in T4, T5, T6, and T7 compared to T2 (Fig 3,4) (Table 6,7).

Table 6: Intestine histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets and exposed to sublethal concentration of fluoride

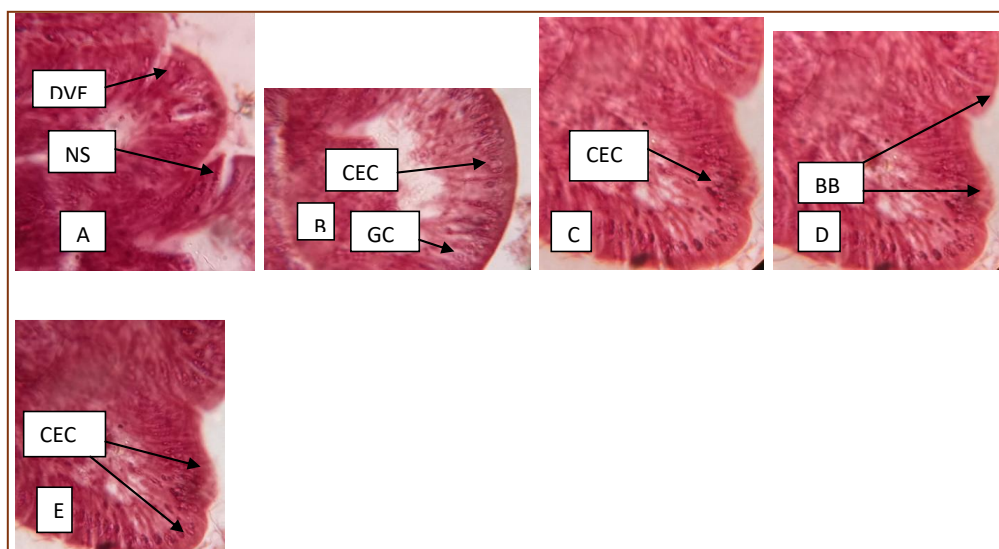
Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Fusion and blunting (FB) of villi	I	0+	++	0	0+	0	0	0+
Necrosis and sloughing of villi (NS)	II	0	++	0+	0	0	0+	0+
degeneration of villous epithelium (DVE)	II	0	+++	0	0	0+	0+	0
Degeneration of villi	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 7: Intestine histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Fusion and blunting (FB) of villi	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Necrosis and sloughing of villi (NS)	II	0	++	0	0+	0	0+	0
degeneration of villous epithelium (DVE)	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0+
Degeneration of villi	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

**Figure 3(A-E):** T.S of Intestine of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: Fluoride, B: 0.25% SP+F, C: 0.50% SP+F, D: 0.75% SP+F, E: 1%SP + F) (NS: Necrosis and Sloughing, FB: Fusion and Blunting, DVE: Degeneration of Vilous Epithelium, CEC: Columner Epithelial Cells, BB: Brush Border, H&E x100)

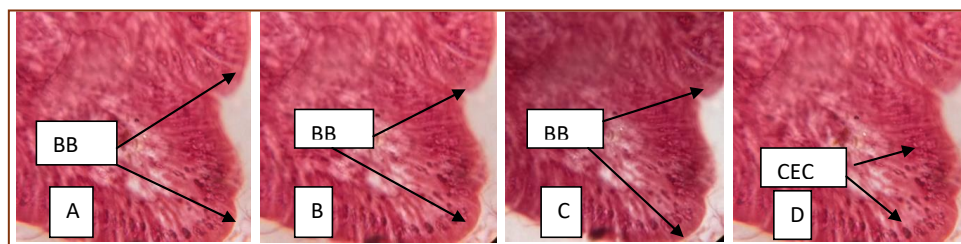


Figure 4 (A-D): T.S of Intestine of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: 0.25% N+ F, B: 0.50% N+F, C: 0.75% N + F, D: 1% N+F; BB: Brush Border, CEC: Columnar Epithelial Cells, H&E x100)

3.2. Liver histopathology

The Transverse Section (T.S.) of liver of common carp (T1) showed the polygonal hepatocytes with distinct nucleus which were arranged in chord. The stained T.S. of liver also showed the central vein and sinusoids. There was no occurrence of hypertrophy of hepatocytes. The exposure of sub-lethal concentration aluminium caused hypertrophy and degeneration of hepatocytes. It also causes the occurrence of vacuoles in the hepatocytes. However, dietary supplementation of Spirulina and Noni improved the liver histopathology by reducing the occurrence of hypertrophy and vacuolization in the hepatocytes (Table 8 & 9), (Figure 5 & 6).

Table 8: Liver histopathology of common carp fed Spirulina diets exposed to sublethal concentration of aluminium

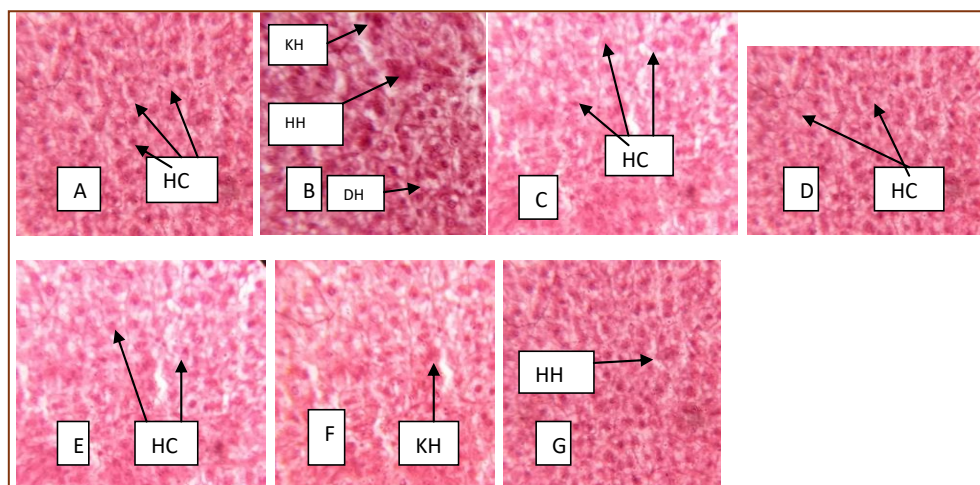
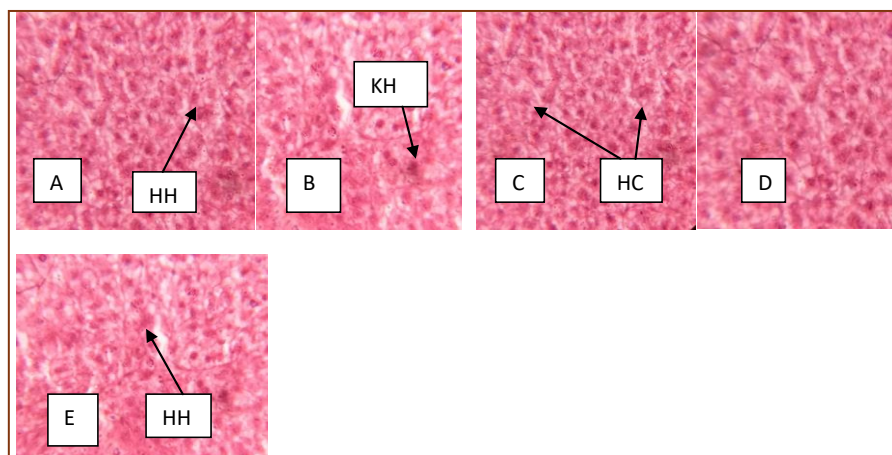
Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Hepatocyte hypertrophy	I	0	++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Kupffer cell hypertrophy	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinusoidal dilatation	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vacuolization in hepatocytes	II	0	+	0	0+	0+	0	0
Degeneration of hepatocytes	II	0	+	0	0+	0	0	0
Degeneration of central vein	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Necrotic foci	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 9: Liver histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Hepatocyte hypertrophy	I	0	+	0+	0 ⁺	0+	0+	0+
Kupffer cell hypertrophy	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinusoidal dilatation	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vacuolar degeneration	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0+
Degeneration of hepatocytes	II	0	+	0	0+	0+	0+	0
Degeneration of central vein	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Necrotic foci	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

**Figure 5 (A-G):** T.S. of liver of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium. (A: Control, B: Al, C: SP, D: 0.25%SP+Al, E: 0.50%SP+Al, F: 0.75%SP+ Al, G: 1%SP+Al; HH: Hepatocyte Hypertrophy, DH: Degeneration of Hepatocyte, KH: Kupffer cells hypertrophy; H&E x100)**Figure 6 (A-E):** T.S. of liver of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium (A: Noni, B: 0.25%N+Al, C: 0.50%N+Al, D: 0.75%N+Al, E: 1%N+Al) (KH: Kupffer cell hypertrophy, HH: Hepatocyte hypertrophy, HC: Hepatocyte; H&E x100)

The exposure of sub-lethal concentration fluoride caused hypertrophy of the hepatocytes and Kupffer cell, sinusoidal dilatation, degeneration of hepatocytes, central vein and vacuoles (Fig 10 A). However, dietary supplementation of Spirulina and Noni improved the liver histopathology by reducing the occurrence of hypertrophy, pyknotic nuclei in Kupffer cells, vacuolar degeneration as well as degeneration of hepatocytes (Figure 7 & 8)(Table 10 & 11).

Table 10: Liver histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets and exposed to sublethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Hepatocyte hypertrophy	I	0+	+++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0
Kupffer cell hypertrophy	I	0	++	0	0+	0	0+	0+
Sinusoidal dilatation	I	0	++	0	0	0+	0	0
Vacuolar degeneration	II	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of hepatocytes	II	0	+++	0	0	0+	0	0
Degeneration of central vein	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Necrotic foci	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

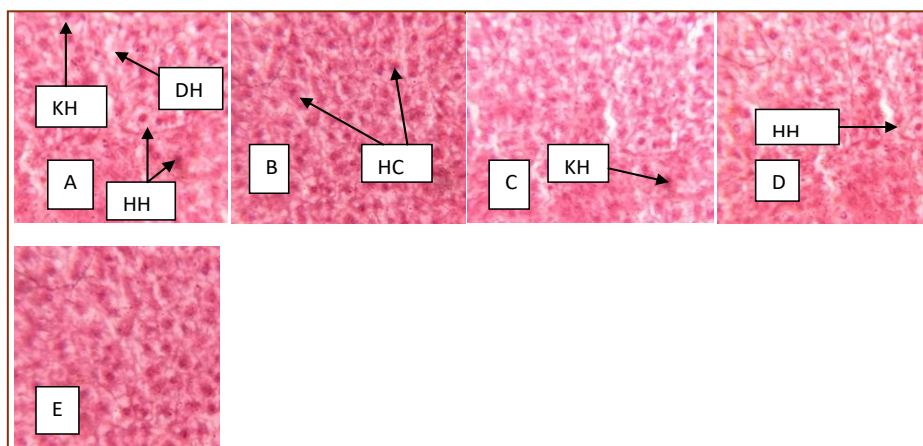


Figure 7 (A-E): T.S. of liver of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: Fluoride, B: 0.25%SP+F, C: 0.50% SP+F, D: 0.75%SP+ F, E: 1%SP+F) (HH: Hepatocyte Hypertrophy, DH: Degeneration of Hepatocyte, KH: Kupffer cells hypertrophy, HC: Hepatocyte, H&E x100)

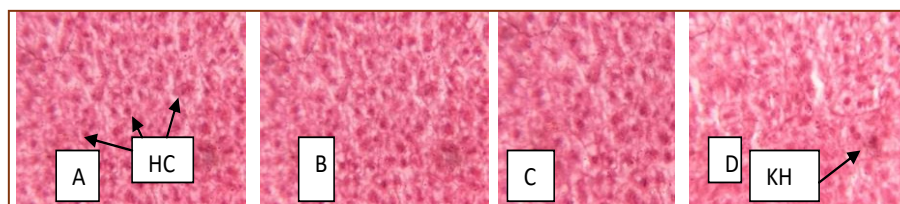


Figure 8 (A-D): T.S. of liver of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: 0.25%N+F, B: 0.50%N+F, C: 0.75%N+F, D: 1%N+F) (HC: Hepatocytes, KH: Kupffer cell hypertrophy, H&E x100)

Table 11: Liver histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Hepatocyte hypertrophy	I	0+	+++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Kupffer cell hypertrophy	I	0	++	0	0	0	0+	0+
Sinusoidal dilatation	I	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Vacuolar degeneration	II	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of hepatocytes	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of central vein	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Necrotic foci	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

3.3. Kidney histopathology

The Transverse Section (T.S.) of kidney of common carp (T1) showed the regular occurrence of glomeruli, Bowman's capsules, proximal convoluted tubules and distal convoluted tubules (Fig 12A). The aluminium caused the occurrence of irregular diameter of proximal and distal convoluted tubules. Aluminium also caused the degeneration of renal corpuscles and renal tubules. T2 also showed the shrinkage of glomeruli (12B). However, dietary supplementation by Spirulina and Noni reduces the occurrence of these histopathological changes in T4, T5, T6, T7 compared to the T2 (Table 12,13) (Fig 9,10).

Table 12: Kidney histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Shrinkage of glomeruli (SG)	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Cytoplasmic vacuolation	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cellular hypertrophy	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tube	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
complete absence of glomeruli (CAG)	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of renal corpuscle	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of renal tubule	III	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 13: Kidney histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Shrinkage of glomeruli (SG)	I	0+	++	0	0+	0+	0	0
Cytoplasmic vacuolation	I	0	0	0+	0	0	0+	0
Cellular hypertrophy	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tuble	II	0	0	0	0	0	0+	0
complete absence of glomeruli (CAG)	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
Tubular degeneration	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0+
Degeneration of tuble	III	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

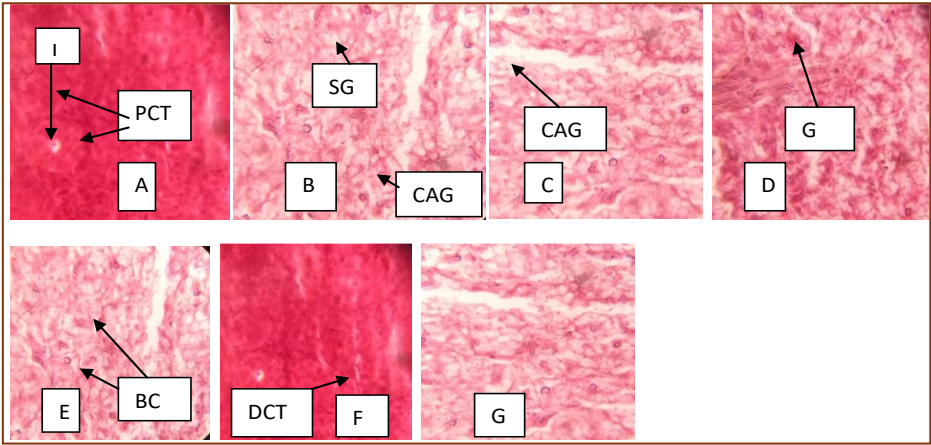


Figure 9 (A-G): T.S of kidney of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium. (A: Control, B: Al, C: SP, D: 0.25% SP+Al, E: 0.50%SP + AL, F: 0.75%SP+ Al, G: 1%SP + Al) (SG: Shrinkage of Glomeruli, CAG: Complete Absence of Glomeruli, PCT: Proximal Convolved Tuble, DCT: Distal Convolved Tuble, L: Lumen, G: Glomerulus, BC: Bowmans capsule, H&E x100)

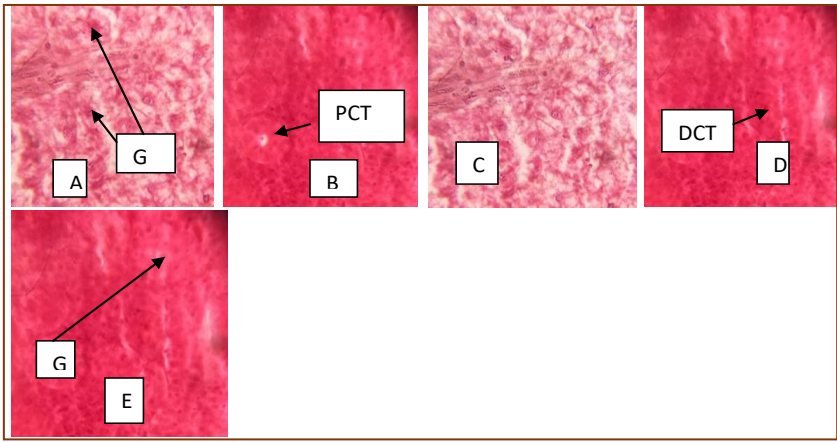


Figure 10 (A-E): T.S. of kidney of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium. (A: 0.25% Noni, B: 0.25%N+Al, C: 0.50%N+Al, D: 0.75%N+Al, E: 1%N+Al; G: Glomerulus, DCT: Distal Convolved Tuble, H&E x100)

The fluoride caused the occurrence of shrinkage of glomeruli, cytoplasmic vacuolation, cellular hypertrophy, obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tubule, complete absence of glomeruli, and degeneration of tubules more frequently compared to the control. However, dietary supplementation by Spirulina and Noni reduce the occurrence of these histopathological changes in T4, T5, T6, T7 compared to the T2 (Table 14 & 15, Figure 11 & 12).

Table 14: Kidney histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets and exposed to sublethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Shrinkage of glomeruli (SG)	I	0+	+++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Cytoplasmic vacuolation	I	0	+	0	0	0+	0	0
Cellular hypertrophy	I	0	++	0	0	0	0+	0
obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tube	II	0	++	0	0	0	0	0+
complete absence of glomeruli (CAG)	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0+	0
Tubular degeneration	II	0	+	0	0	0+	0	0
Degeneration of tube	III	0	0	0	0	0	0+	0+

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 15: Kidney histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Shrinkage of glomeruli (SG)	I	0	+++	0	0+	0+	0+	0
Cytoplasmic vacuolation	I	0+	+	0+	0	0	0+	0+
Cellular hypertrophy	I	0	++	0	0	0	0+	0
obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tubule	II	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
complete absence of glomeruli (CAG)	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0+	0
Tubular degeneration	II	0	+	0	0	0	0+	0
Degeneration of tube	III	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 16: Ovary histopathology of common carp fed Spirulina diets exposed to sublethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Cracks in the oocytes	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Ruptured follicle	II	0	++	0	0+	0+	0+	0+
Nuclear degeneraiton	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0
Atretic follicle	II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degeneration of oocytes	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

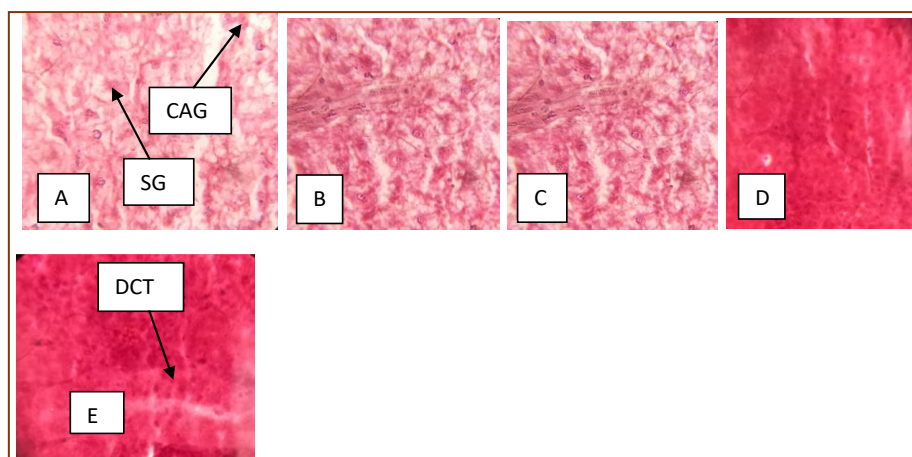


Figure 11(A-E): T.S. of kidney of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: Fluoride, B: 0.25% SP+F, C: 0.50% SP+F, D: 0.75% SP+ F, E: 1% SP+F) (SG: Shrinkage of Glomeruli, CAG: Complete Absence of Glomeruli, DCT: Distal Convolved Tubule, H&E x100)

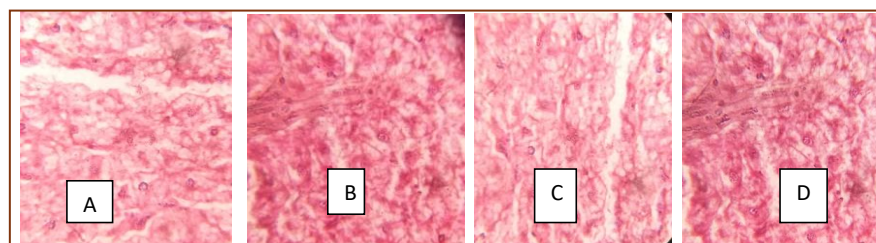


Figure 12(A-D): T.S. kidney of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: 0.25% N+F, B: 0.50% N+F, C: 0.75% N+F, D: 1% N+F; H&E x100)

3.4. Ovary histopathology

The Transverse Section (T.S.) of ovary of common carp (T1) showed the normal architecture of ovary with outer layer of thin peritoneum, thick vascularised connective tissue, and germinal epithelium having many oocytes in different stages of development. The oocytes were visible and well formed (Figure 13A). On the other hand, sub-lethal concentration of aluminium caused the occurrence of ruptured follicles, cracks in the oocytes and degeneration of nucleus (Figure 13B). Dietary supplementation by Spirulina improved the histopathology of ovary by reducing the occurrence of these degenerative changes in T4, T5, T6 and T7 compared to T2 (Table 16 & 17) (Figure 13 & 14).

Exposure of sub-lethal concentration of fluoride caused the ruptured follicles, atretic follicles, cracks in the oocytes, thickening of the ovarian wall, degeneration of nucleus, and vascularization of cytoplasm of oocytes. Dietary supplementation by Spirulina improved the histopathology of ovary by reducing the occurrence of these degenerative changes in T4, T5, T6 and T7 compared to T2 (Table 18 & 19, Figure 15 & 16).

Table 17: Ovary histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Cracks in the oocytes	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0	0+	0+
Ruptured follicle	II	0	++	0	0	0+	0+	0+
Nuclear degeneraiton	II	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0+
Atretic follicle	II	0	0	0	0	0	0+	0
Degeneration of oocytes	III	0	0	0	0	0+	0	0+

0=Absent, 0+ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

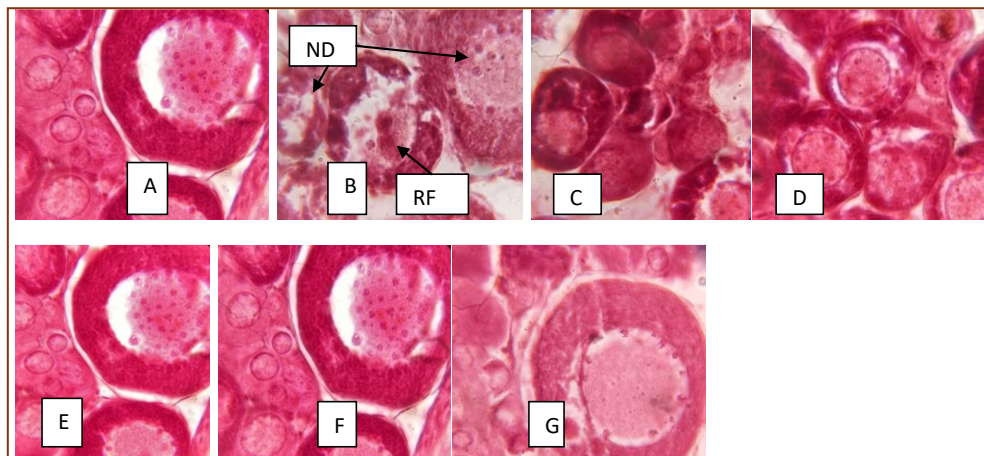


Figure 13(A-G): T.S of ovary of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium. (A: Control, B: Al, C: SP, D: 0.25% SP+Al, E: 0.50%SP + AL, F: 0.75%SP+ Al, G: 1%SP + Al; RF: Ruptured Follicle, CO: Crack in Oocyte, ND: Nuclear Degeneration, H&E x100)

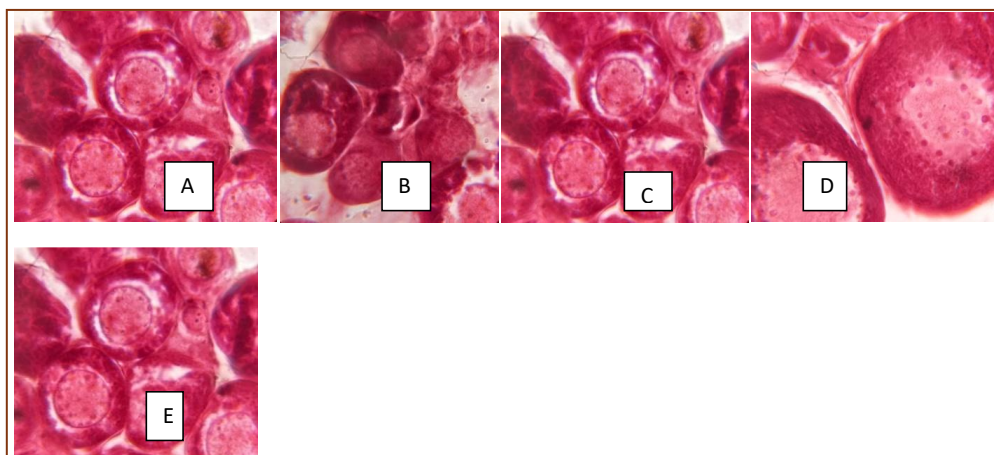


Figure 14 (A-E): T.S. of ovary of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of aluminium. (A: Noni, B: 0.25%N+Al, C: 0.50%N+Al, D: 0.75%N+Al, E: 1%N+Al, H&E X100)

Table 18: Ovary histopathology of common carp fed on Spirulina diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride

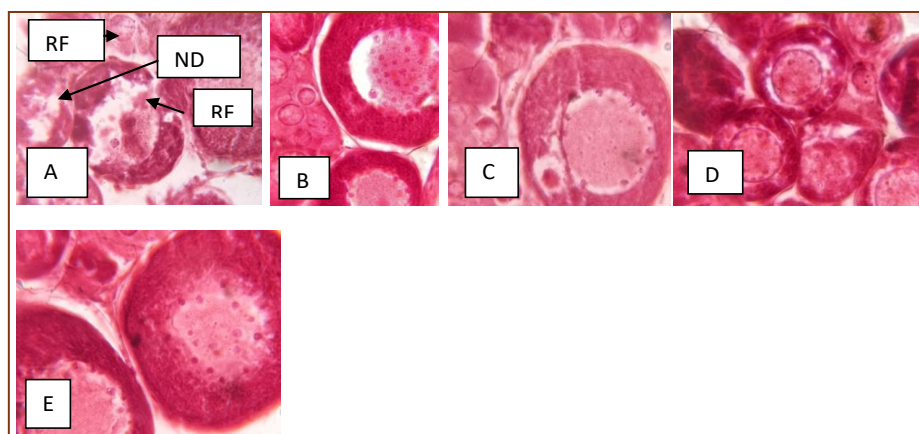
Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Cracks in the oocytes	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0+	0+	0+
Ruptured follicle	II	0	++	0	0+	0+	0	0
Nuclear degeneraiton	II	0	+++	0	0+	0	0+	0
Atretic follicle	II	0	+	0	0	0	0	0+
Degeneration of oocytes	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

Table 19: Ovary histopathology of common carp fed on Noni diets and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride

Histopathology	Stages	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Cracks in the oocytes	I	0+	++	0+	0+	0	0+	0+
Ruptured follicle	II	0	++	0	0	0+	0+	0+
Nuclear degeneration	II	0	+++	0	0+	0	0+	0
Atretic follicle	II	0	+	0	0+	0	0	0
Degeneration of oocytes	III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

0=Absent, 0⁺ = Rare, +=Low Frequency, ++= Frequent, +++= Very frequent

**Figure 15(A-E):** T.S. of ovary of common carp fed on Spirulina diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: Fluoride, B: 0.25%SP+F, C: 0.50%SP+F, D: 0.75%SP+ F, E: 1%SP+F; RF: Ruptured Follicle, CO: Crack in Oocyte, ND: Nuclear DegenerationH&E X100)

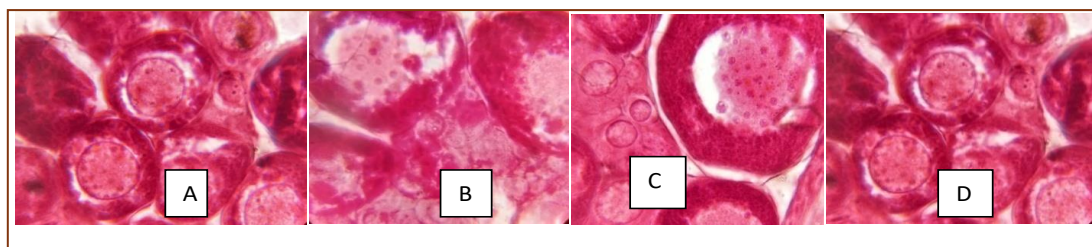


Figure 16 (A-D): T.S. of ovary of common carp fed on Noni diet and exposed to sub-lethal concentration of fluoride. (A: 0.25%N+F, B: 0.50%N+F, C: 0.75%N+F, D: 1%N+F; H&E x100)

4. Discussion

The effect of sub-lethal concentration of aluminium and fluoride on the histopathology of intestine, liver, kidney and ovary of common carp was investigated in the present study. Exposure of sub-lethal concentration of aluminium caused severe degenerative changes in the intestine which includes necrosis in the absorptive epithelium of the villi, and blunting of villi. Aluminium induced alteration of intestinal histopathology was due to oxidative stress via lipid peroxidation [32].

On the other hand, sub-lethal concentration of fluoride caused severe degenerative changes in the intestine which includes necrosis in the absorptive epithelium of the villi, massive fusion and blunting of villi. Present study is corroborated with several previous studies in which fluoride cause degenerative changes in the histopathology of intestine of fish by necrosis in the absorptive epithelium of villi, and massive fusion and blunting of villi [33-35]. Fluoride reacts with the HCl secreted from the parietal cells, form hydrofluoric acid which severely damages the villi of intestine [35].

The teleost liver is the sensitive organ, and also the main organ of all metabolic pathways of body. The hepatotoxic potential of any toxic substances can be evaluated by studying the histopathology of liver [36]. The exposure of sub-lethal concentration aluminium caused hypertrophy and degeneration of hepatocytes. It also causes the occurrence of vacuoles in the hepatocytes. Present study is in consistent with several previous studies in which aluminium induces hypertrophy, vacuolization and necrosis of hepatocytes in fish [14,37]. Hypertrophy is the increase of volume of the cell due to proliferation of endopasmic reticulum membrane [14]. Vacuolization in the liver indicates the intracellular degenerative process due to metabolic disorder. The cellular degeneration and necrosis of hepatocytes may be due to greater accumulation of aluminium in liver [14, 38].

The exposure of sub-lethal concentration of fluoride caused hypertrophy of the hepatocytes and kupffer cell, sinusoidal dilatation, degeneration of hepatocytes, central vein and vacuoles. Present study is in agreement with the previous studies in which fluoride adversely affected the histopathology of liver in common carp [33], *Heteropneustes fossilis* [39-40], *Rasbora daniconius*

[41]. Fluoride causes lipid peroxidation via generation of free radical which in turn damages the hepatocyte of liver [42-43].

The kidney of teleost considered to be an important organ to study the toxic effect of fluoride and aluminium for their accumulation as well excretion from the body [14,43]. The aluminium caused the occurrence of irregular diameter of proximal and distal convoluted tubules. Aluminium also caused the degeneration of renal corpuscles and renal tubules, and shrinkage of glomeruli. Present study is in agreement with the study of Hadi and Alwan [14] in which aluminium induces histopathological alteration of kidney by damaging renal corpuscle and severe degeneration of renal tubule cells, demonstrates the involvement of kidney in aluminium excretion [14].

On the other hand, fluoride induced histopathological alteration of kidney includes shrinkage of glomeruli, cytoplasmic vacuolation, cellular hypertrophy, obliteration of lumen (OL) of the tubule, complete absence of glomeruli, and degeneration of tubules, is corroborated with the study of [33] in *C. carpio* and Haque *et al.* [34] in *Channa punctatus*. Fluoride induced damages in kidney in the present study probably due to the increased lipid peroxidation through the generation of reactive oxygen species [33-44].

In the present study sub-lethal concentration of aluminium caused the occurrence of ruptured follicles, cracks in the oocytes and degeneration of nucleus of oocytes in the ovary of fish. Aluminium adversely affects the structure and function of ovary through decreasing the mineral contents (Zn, Fe, Cu) [45]. Aluminium also inhibits the secretion of FSH and LH from pituitary results in alteration of histopathology of ovary [45-46]. The result of the present study is in agreement with the study of [45], reported the aluminium induced alteration of histopathology of ovary in rat.

Similarly, sub-lethal concentration of fluoride caused the occurrence of ruptured follicles, atretic follicles, cracks in the oocytes, thickening of the ovarian wall, degeneration of nucleus, and vascularization of cytoplasm of oocytes in the ovary of fish. Fluoride induced different degenerative changes in the ovary is due to the inhibition of the secretion of FSH and LH from the pituitary gland [47]. The result is in par with the study of Yadav and Tripathy [47] in which fluoride causes alteration of the histopathology of ovary in *H. fossilis* [47]. The alteration of the structure of oocyte in the present study is due to the excessive production of reactive oxygen species [48].

Dietary supplementation by spirulina and Noni improved the aluminium and fluoride toxicity induced alteration of histopathology by reducing the occurrences of all the degenerative changes in the intestine, liver, kidney and ovary of both the common carp and mosquitofish. The Spirulina at 1% and Noni at 0.25% showed the best response in Spirulina and Noni dietary supplementation groups respectively. Several studies reported the ameliorative effect of vitamin C against oxidative stress induced tissue damage through neutralizing the reactive oxygen species [49,50, 51,52]. Kaur *et al.* [33] also reported the protective effect of vitamin C against fluoride toxicity induced histopathological changes of intestine, gills, liver, kidney in common carp.

Spirulina as well as Noni fruit extract are rich with ascorbic acid or vitamin C, reduce the oxidative stress through scavenging the free radical generated by the exposure of aluminium and fluoride which in turn protect the histopathology of liver, kidney, intestine and ovary [33,47,49]. Raghuvanshi *et al.* [53] also reported the protective effect of Spirulina against beryllium toxicity induced alteration of histopathology in rat.

Spirulina as well as Noni fruit extract are rich with antioxidant compounds, mitigated oxidative stress through scavenging the free radical generated by the exposure of aluminium and fluoride, which in turn protect the histopathology of intestine, liver, kidney, ovary of fish. Thus, Spirulina and Noni fruit extract may be used as dietary supplement in aquafeed at 1% and 0.25% respectively to ameliorate the fluoride and aluminium toxicity in fish.

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