# Inhibition of Acetylcholinesterase activities by detergents in the Nervous system of *Mystus Montanus*

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#### Abstract

The Acetylcholinesterase is a membrane bound enzyme present in nervous system, muscle and blood. It plays important role as a neurotransmitter and neuromodulator in central and peripheral nervous system respectively. A toxic substance inhibits Acetylcholinesterase activities in animals. When freshwater fish Mystus montanus is exposed to different concentrations of detergents, it shows change in normal behaviour pattern as compare with control. It indicates toxicity of detergents to the fish. Acetylcholinesterase activity is correlated with amount of protein content in nervous tissues; it shows significantly decreased with an increase in concentration and period of exposure. It shows that toxicity increases with an increase in concentrations of detergents and period of exposure. Whereas Acetylcholinesterase activity is decreases; this may be due to either decrease in the synthesis of proteolytic enzyme or increased enzyme activity due to induced or intermolecular changes of the enzyme degradation by detergent stress.

Keyword: Detergent, acetylcholinesterase.

## Introduction

The enzyme Acetyl cholinesterase (AChE) is found in different parts of body such as brain, nerve cells, muscles, lungs and erythrocytes. AChE plays a substantial part during the nerve impulses transmission for example a *neurotransmitter* in central and autonomic nervous system and neuromodulator in peripheral nervous system. It is a membrane bound enzyme present on the postsynaptic membrane cholinergic neurons. It has very high binding receptors. When it is present in the peripheral nervous system, it activates the muscles, whereas in the autonomic nervous system act as a major neurotransmitter.

This acetylcholine is inhibited by the stimulation of many deactivating agents; it causes gathering of acetylcholine. The neurotransmission is interrupted by excess stimulation of nicotinic and muscarinic receptors. Therefore, Acetyl cholinesterase deactivators are interacted with the enzyme as a primary target; these are applied as significant drugs and contaminants. The breaking down of acetylcholine is prohibited by a substance called as Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor (AChEI). That stops the Acetylcholinesterase enzyme from contravention of acetylcholine; it increases the level and duration of action of the acetylcholine as a neurotransmitter. AChEI are classified into reversible, irreversible, or quasi-irreversible. Alzheimer's disease is associated with memory deficits in the brain is due to damage to the cholinergic (acetylcholineproducing) system. The primary cause of depression is an acetylcholine disorder. However, the effect of detergents AChE activity was assessed in brain of the exposed fish.

The acute toxicity of two detergents to fish was determined by the Litchfield and Wilcoxon graphical method. The LC<sub>50</sub> for Det-I 20.0 mg/litre and Det-II 23.5mg/litre. In test solution freshwater fish *Mystus montanus* shows behavioural reactions such as surfacing with gulfing of atmospheric air, increase in opercula movement, change in body colour, increased mucus secretion, lethargic movements. A number of behavioural changes have been showed by fish before death like agitation, quick swimming and loss of equilibrium, respiratory pain and bleeding from gill epithelium. These symptoms indicates the disorders of brain and spinal cord, demonstrates the sign of toxicity caused by detergent pollution<sup>1</sup>.

The detergents are widely used in various products and causes physiological disturbance in fish. These disturb the nervous system by deactivating acetyl cholinesterase (AChE), the enzyme that moderated the amount of the neurotransmitter, acetylcholine. The detergents are widely used insecticide is known to cause serious metabolic disturbance in non-target species, like fish. These detergents disturb the nervous system by obstructing Acetyl cholinesterase (AChE)<sup>2</sup>.

The actions of Acetyl cholinesterase and Ca2++, Mg2+ ATPase and treatment of human erythrocyte membranes with non-solubilizing and solubilizing concentrations of Triton X-100 were studied. Even very low concentration (0.1%) of Triton X-100 shows a significant deactivation of enzymes<sup>3</sup>. A combine action of contaminants on Acetyl cholinesterase activity in several marine species was studied. It has been observed that the

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strongest synergy in mixture of various pollutants and inhibit the AChE activity. Some marine species were found more sensitive<sup>4</sup>. It has been reported that Acetyl cholinesterase activity is reduced in the brain of fish *Martes pennant* with environmental contaminations<sup>5</sup>.

The effect of Dodecyl Benzyl Sulphonate (DBS) and Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate (SDS), as well as domestic detergent was studied on the AChE activity of *Daphnia magna* in conditions like vitro and vivo<sup>6</sup>. The interaction of AChE in brain with organophosphate Paraoxon and industrial detergent triton X-100 was explained<sup>7</sup>. When fish exposed to two concentrations i.e. 0.5 and /or 1g/L of SDS, the activity of AChE, GST and CAT was inhibited<sup>8</sup>.

## **Material and Method**

The freshwater fish *Mystus montanus* were collected from unpolluted area of river Mula upstream of Mahlunge. For the experiment moderate sized fishes were selected length varies from 12.3cm to 14.5cm and weight from 18.72gm to 23.86gm. Before conducting toxicity test, these fishes were acclimatised to laboratory condition in a glass tank for seven days as per APHA-<sup>9</sup>. Static renewal bioassay tests were conducted in order to evaluate the acute toxicity of Surf excel and Nirma powder.

The 96 hours  $LC_{50}$  (concentration required for 50 % mortality) values were estimated by the Litchfield and Wilcoxon graphical method <sup>10</sup>and percentage for mortality was calculated using the Abbott's formula<sup>11</sup>. Control group of animals was maintained simultaneously.

Corrected mortality (%) =

Percentage living in control — Percentage living in treatment

## Percentage living in control

As per graphical method and plots Abbott's formula, the  $LC_{50}$  values of Surf excel and Nirma for 96 hours were 20.0 mg/litre and 23.5 mg/litre respectively. These fishes are exposed to two different sub-lethal concentrations (33% and 66% of  $LC_{50}$  values) of detergents i.e. Surf excel and Nirma as per recommendations for periods of 24, 48, 72 and 96 hours<sup>12</sup>. Simultaneously, 10 fishes were kept in a glass container for the same duration as a controlled group<sup>13</sup>. The exposed fishes were scarified for 24, 48, 72 and 96 hours.

After each exposure period Acetylcholinesterase activity was estimated by (Acetyl choline hydrolase EC 3.1.1.7) method given by Wolfgong Pilz<sup>14</sup> and protein is estimated by using Biuret reagent method. Simultaneously, acetyl cholinesterase activity and protein also estimated from the controlled fishes. Three replications have been taken for calculating the mean of protein and acetyl-cholinesterase activity.

Acetyl cholinesterase activity is calculated by formula:

AChE Activity = 
$$\frac{\Delta E \times 50 \times 100}{0.961 \times W}$$
 = ---- (µmole/gram of tissue)

 $\Delta E=$  Difference between Reference and Test reading, 50= volume of test sample solution, 1000= for converting mg into gram, 0.961= for measurement at 490 nm the extinction of the dye is 0.961  $\mu mole.$  W= wt. of brain tissue taken for enzyme assay.

## **Results and Discussion**

The Acetylcholinesterase activity in fishes exposed to different sublethal (experimental) concentrations of detergents shows following results.

**Surf excel**: Shows minor decrease in acetyl-cholinesterase activity by  $1/3^{rd}$  sublethal concentration i.e. 6.67mg/lit at 24 hrs and 72hrs, whereas at 48hrs and 72 activity was significantly decreased. However with  $2/3^{rd}$  lethal concentration i.e. 13.3mg/lit insignificant decrease was observed at 24hrs, then AchE activity decreased significantly.

**Nirma powder:** Exposure of fishes to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> sublethal concentration shows slight reduction upto 72hrs and significant decrease with 96hrs. Though with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> sublethal concentration i.e.15.67mg/lit demonstrates insignificant decrease upto 48hrs and thereafter significant decrease was observed.

The Acetyl cholinesterase activity is decreased with an increase in concentration and time of exposure with both detergents. It indicates that toxicity increased with rise in concentrations of detergents and period of exposure and is correlated with amount of protein. Acetyl cholinesterase activity decreased may be due to either decrease in the synthesis of proteolytic enzyme or increased enzyme activity due to induced or intermolecular changes of the enzyme degradation by detergent stress. The circulation of residual quantity inhibitor (toxins) in fish treated with detergents may show decrease in Acetyl cholinesterase activity. Our results and findings are in total agreement with the results and findings of many workers.

The detergents are widely used in insecticides and it causes severe physiological disorders in aquatic animals like fish. These detergents disturb the nervous control by preventing the activity of Acetyl cholinesterase (AChE); it restricted the amount of the substance that controls the neuron transmission acetylcholine. It is necessary to understand the influence of pesticides on physiological condition of the organism during impact of toxicity<sup>2</sup>. The studies were conducted on action of mixture of various pollutants on Acetyl cholinesterase activity in several marine species. During this study it is found that the AChE activity was inhibited by strongest interaction in mixture

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of various pollutants. Several oceanic species were found more sensitive<sup>4</sup>. The action of Acetyl cholinesterase is decreased with various environmental contaminants in the brain of fish (*Marte spennanti*)<sup>5</sup>.

In crustacean cladoceran Daphnia magna effects of two surfactants, namely Dodecyl Benzyl Sulfonate, Sodium Dodecyl and a domestic detergent-Y Acetylcholinesterase activity is studied. It is found that enzyme activity is significantly supressed by all chemicals in vitro and vivo conditions. It has been observed that in vitro condition the lowest observed effect concentration (LOEC) values were ranged from 12.5 to 100 mgrl. The correspondent IC50 -50% inhibition concentration, values ranged from 6.6 to 58.5 mgrl. Although, in vivo LOEC values ranged from 2 to 11.9 mgrl, while EC50 -50% effect concentration, the values ranged from 11.4 to 56.7 mgrl. Acetyl cholinesterase activity is inhibited by environmental pollutants such as metals, detergents and surfactants<sup>6</sup>. In the brain of Rat Acetylcholinesterase activity was negligible in the presence of 1% triton X-100. This is found that triton X-100 unusually affects the interaction of paraxons and AChE in brain of Rat<sup>7</sup>. The effects antioxidant defense system and Acetyl cholinesterase activity of *Tilapia nilotica* by Trichlorforn and Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate is studied. It is found that in vitro exposure of SDS can hinder activities of GST, CAT and AChE at concentrations of 0.5g/L and 1g/L, it may be due to the denaturation of enzyme by SDS<sup>8</sup>.

Acetyl cholinesterase activity and content was decreased with acidic pollutants. This is suggested that the behavioural symptoms are indicative of disorders of central nervous system that clearly shows the signs of poisoning caused by acid water pollution. Due to the polluted water the pH of the media is altered that causes inhibition of Acetyl cholinesterase activity. Decrease in Acetyl cholinesterase could be due to either decrease in synthesis of enzyme protein or increased enzyme induced or intermolecular changes of enzyme degradation by the acidic stress of the medium. The acetylcholine content in the brain showed elevated levels during exposure to lethal pH's with maximum elevation at the p<sup>H</sup> of 3.4 where the fish survived for 15 hours indicating the block of nervous transmission. They concluded that the intensity of acids in the media seems to have direct relationship with the survival of fishes through brain Acetyl cholinesterase activity. They suggested that the active site of enzyme are known to possess an anionic site, which draws the positive charge of acetylcholine to form anionic bond with the acidic group, and thereby forming the enzyme-substrate complex leading to the expression of enzyme activity<sup>15</sup>.

The Acetyl cholinesterase activity was increased on 4<sup>th</sup> day exposure and significantly inhibited on 15<sup>th</sup> day of an exposure. This is suggested that Acetyl cholinesterase activity reflects the

neuronal activity that in turn generally reflects in the metabolic rate of an animal  $^{16}$ . The non-ionic detergents like Triton X-100, Lubrol-Px, Brij-35, and Tween-80 on have effects on the esterase activity and inhibitor sensitivity of human serum butyl cholinesterase (BuChE). It is observed that a marginal activation of esterase activity is caused by all detergents. The presence of Lubrol-Px, Brij-35, and Tween-80 did not affect the 50% molar inhibition concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of the inhibitors tested. However, the IC<sub>50</sub> values were increased for neostigmine, esterine and tetra-isopropyl-pyrophosphormide (acylation site 100 interacting inhibitor) in the presence of Triton X. The interaction of Triton X-100 with the acyl pocket hydrophobic region is able to activate the esterase activity of BuChE  $^{17}$ .

The Acetyl cholinesterase inhibition was not projecting of longlasting or delayed effects. The severity of illness following repeated exposure may not be proportionally related to the degree of Acetyl cholinesterase inhibition as relationship between neurobehavioral effects, Acetyl cholinesterase inhibition may not be as straight forward as assumed<sup>18</sup>.

The Acetyl cholinesterase activity in erythrocyte, plasma, blood, liver and brain of rats is reduced with sub-acute toxicity test of Anilofos. The arrivals of toxicity symptoms are depend on the rate of decrease in Acetyl cholinesterase activity than on the absolute level of activity reached after exposure. Low variability in the absolute levels of activity reached at the end of the experiment. Toxicity is depending on the rate at which activity of Acetyl cholinesterase was initially reduced; initial inhibition with the highest dose is expected to be much faster than lower doses<sup>19</sup>. The studies on influence of detergents on the Acetyl cholinesterase activity and on the efficiency of its inhibitors, during this studies it is observed that detergents are enough capable to modify the enzymatic action of AChE through an collegial mechanism<sup>20</sup>.

The amount of protein content in brain and gills of freshwater fish Mystus montanus was decrease with an increase in concentration of two detergents namely Surf excel and Nirma powder and time of exposure<sup>21</sup>. The activity of Acetyl by cholinesterase is significantly modified environmental aspects such as pH, Conductivity, DO, turbidity and temperature in nervous system of snail L. acuminate. It clearly indicates that by comparing the activity of these enzymes in snail nervous tissue, residing in water body with respect to control one can predict the presence of pollutant<sup>22</sup>. The in vitro acetylcholine esterase inhibition activity was evaluated for all synthesized compounds showed a good inhibitory potency with an IC50 value between 1.0 to 6.4µg/ml. when compared to the control neostigmine with IC50 value of  $8.3 \mu g/ml^{23}$ .

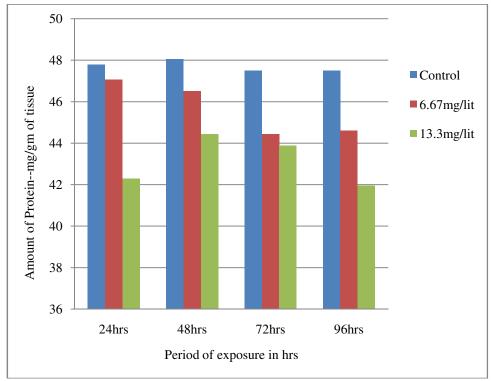


Figure-1
Effects of Surf excel on Protein content (--mg/gm) in Brain of Mystus montanus

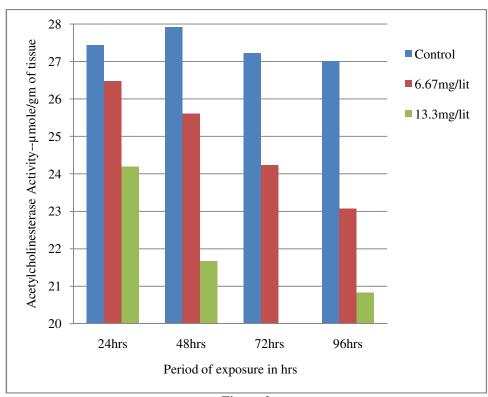


Figure-2
Effects of Surf excel on Acetylcholinesterase Activity in Brain of *Mystus montanus* 

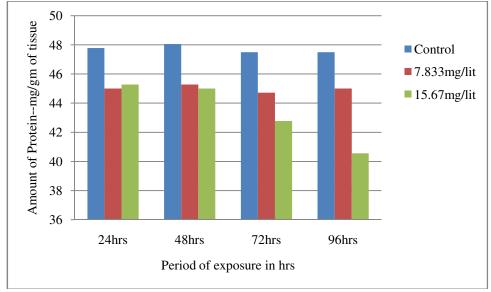


Figure-3
Effects of Nirma on Protein content (--mg/gm) in Brain of Mystus montanus

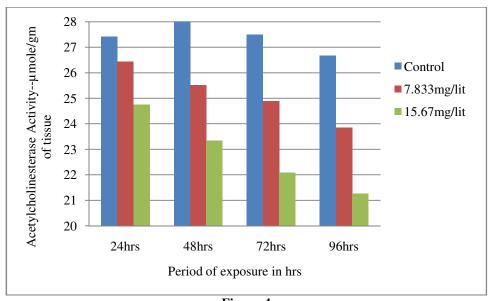


Figure-4
Effects of Nirma on Acetylcholinesterase Activity in Brain of *Mystus montanus* 

Table-1
Effects of Surf excel on Protein content (--mg/gm) in Brain of Mystus montanus

Effects of Suff exect on Frotein content ( hig/gm) in Drum of Mystus monunus				
Concentrationsin mg/litre	Exposure Time			
	24hrs	48hrs	72hrs	96hrs
Control	47.77767	48.05533	47.49933	47.5
	$\pm 2.09733$	± 1.75533	± 1.443376	± 2.5
6.67mg/lit.	47.05533*	46.49967*	44.4443*	44.61067*
	±1.071586	± 0.763763	±1.734588	±1.071586
13.3mg/lit.	45.27733*	44.444*	43.88867*	41.944**
	$\pm 1.734588$	± 2.096867	± 1.734588	± 2.92691

Values are expressed in ---mg/gram of wet weight of tissue,  $\pm$  = Standard deviation of three observation, \* = Insignificant, \*\* = Significant at 5.5%, \*\*\*= Significant at 1 %, ANOVA table was used for calculation.

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Table-2 Effects of Surf excel on Acetylcholinesterase Activity in *Mystus montanus* at various sublethal concentrations

Concentrationsin mg/litre	Exposure Time			
	24hrs	48hrs	72hrs	96hrs
Control	27.43493	27.9163	27.23077	27.00987
	± 1.995495	± 1.506007	± 2.099246	± 1.442298
6.67mg/lit.	26.48367 *	25.60963 **	24.2403*	23.0789**
	$\pm 2.306323$	± 1.970888	± 1.834685	± 1.385128
13.3mg/lit.	24.1981*	21.6673**	19.96767**	20.82595**
	$\pm 2.335423$	± 2.295125	± 1.564502	± 1.595543

Values are expressed as ---  $\mu$ mole/gram of tissue,  $\pm$  = Standard deviation of three observation. \* = Insignificant, \*\* = Significant at 5.5%, \*\*\* = Significant at 1 %, ANOVA table was used for calculation.

Effects of Nirma on Protein content (--mg/gm) in Brain of Mystusmontanus

Concentrations	Exposure Time			
in mg/litre	24hrs	48hrs	72hrs	96hrs
Control	47.77767	48.05533	47.49933	47.5
Control	± 2.097331	± 1.75533	± 1.443376	± 2.5
7 922 /1:4	44.99967*	45.27767*	44.722167*	45.0*
7.833mg/lit.	± 1.6665	$\pm 2.09733$	±1.734588	± 2.5
15 67ma/lit	45.27767*	44.99967*	42.77767**	40.55533**
15.67mg/lit.	± 2.545839	$\pm 3.00495$	± 2.097331	± 2.097331

Values are expressed in ---mg/gram of wet weight of tissue  $\pm$  = Standard deviation of three observation.\* = Insignificant, \*\* = Significant at 5.5%, \*\*\* = Significant at 1 %, ANOVA table was used for calculation.

Table-4
Effects of Nirma on Acetylcholinesterase Activity in *Mystus montanus* at various sublethal concentrations

Concentrations	Exposure Time			
in mg/litre	24hrs	48hrs	72hrs	96hrs
Control	27.42737	28.37813	27.4989	26.68037
	± 1.743491	$\pm 0.99375$	± 2.320689	± 1.323191
7.833mg/lit.	26.44053*	25.52287*	24.8892*	23.84987**
	± 1.388581	± 1.318989	± 1.512647	± 1.415323
15.67mg/lit.	24.75653*	23.34727*	22.08693**	21.26459**
	± 1.12027	± 1.490756	± 2.19743	± 1.996707

Values are expressed in ---  $\mu$  mole/gram of tissue,  $\pm$  = Standard deviation of three observation. \* = Insignificant, \*\* = Significant at 5.5%, \*\*\* = Significant at 1 %, ANOVA table was used for calculation.

### Conclusion

The synthetic detergents are used in large quantities for cleaning the household's items, as well is industries for manufacturing and cleaning. As these detergents reach the water body, they modify various environmental factors such as temperature; pH, DO, CO2, alkalinity, acidity, BOD, COD, Conductivity, and turbidity of receiving water. The fishes show behavioural changes with these altered environmental factors. In laboratory, when these fishes exposed to the various concentrations of detergents, they shows behavioural changes like swimming movement are lethargic, more secretion of mucous from body and gill epithelium, bleeding through gills, at the base of body appendages (fins) and along the belly. There is loss of nervous control, fish's swims along lateral side of body. These behavioural changes are indication of disorder of central

nervous system, shows the sign of poisoning caused by detergent and inhibition of Acetylcholinesterase activity. Results of present investigation clearly indicate that as concentration of detergents and time of exposure is increased, Acetylcholinesterase activity is reduced. In the midstream and downstream of Mula-Mutha river of Pune level of pollution is more than upper limit of water pollution. It has been observed that many fish species have been disappeared from polluted stretch of river. To sustain natural population of fishes and aquatic animals, there is need of proper control and management on use of synthetic detergents. The use of detergent in homes and industries cannot be stop. There is necessity to develop better method of disposing detergents. There is a need of development of eco-friendly detergents and soaps, so that aquatic fauna of various water bodies will be preserved.

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