CYANOTOXINS IN RELATION TO HYGIENIC RISKS OF DRINKING WATER IN RIVER NILE, GREAT CAIRO

By

RASHA HUSSEIN AHMED ABD EI MEGEED

B.Sc. Agric. Sci. (Biotechnology), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., 2003

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APPROVAL SHEET

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SUPERVISION SHEET

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in River Nile, Great Cairo.

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Aziz Mohamed Higazy

Dr. Olfat Sayed Barakat

Department: Microbiology Approval: 8 /6 / 2009

ABSTRACT

River Nile is an important natural fortune for Egypt. A total of 375 representative water samples, from 3 different sites, were collected from Helwan, Giza and Rod El-Farag drinking water treatment plants in the great Cairo city. Water samples representing raw water of river Nile, treated water and the tap water from the distributions network were subjected to chemical and microbiological analyses. In all water samples, fluorine, mercury, lead and cadmium were not detected. While chlorine, nitrate, chromium, nickel, zinc and cupper were existed. Counts of total bacteria, total fungi, total and fecal coliforms, staphylococci, Salmonella, Aeromonas, Vibrio cholera, Escherichia coli, Bacillus cereus and clostridia were determined. The raw Nile water recorded higher counts of all the examined microorganisms. After water treatments, all the pathogenic bacteria could not be detected except B. cereus and cyanobacteria. Two hundred bacterial isolates were isolated and characterized according to their morphological, cultural and some physiological traits. Results indicated that such isolates are belonging to the genera Staphylococcus, Salmonella, Aeromonas. Also, B. cereus was isolated from all water samples at different sites. Cyanobacteria were isolated from all raw water and tap water samples from Giza and Rod El-Farag stations.

The present study describes the toxicity of some cyanobacteria in the river Nile at some drinking water treatment plants in Great Cairo, Egypt. A total of 25 cyanobacterial strains from these water samples were obtained during this study and identified. The toxicity of the cyanobacterial filtrates were examined for their ability to produce cyanotoxins adopting the disk diffusion method, mouse bioassay including some biochemical parameters. The results showed that selected 15 strains belonging to Anabaena sp., Calothrix sp. and Nostoc sp. had a lethal influence on most of the prevailing bacterial species and caused toxicity to mice after feeding via stomach tube. The most pathogencity of cyanobacterial strains on mice groups was observed as morphological and anatomical symptoms such as pyodermatosis in the tergum, inflation in both belly site and testis, cyanosis in belly site and backward feet. Inflation of different mice organs eg. heart, lung, liver, kidney and testis was also reported. Therefore, the results are clarifying the possible consideration of aquatic cyanobacteria as bio-indicators / bio-sensors for drinking water contamination, particularly the river Nile, the main source of drinking water in Egypt. Regarding the public health point of view, it could be suggested that aquatic cyanobacteria may play a potential role in the field of drinking water purification and must be considered in water treatment plants.

Keywords: Cyanotoxins, bacterial pathogens, bioassay, drinking water and river Nile.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to whom my heart felt thanks; to the soul of my father, who has given me much support and endless love, to my mother and my husband who gave me strong support and endless love that made me able to overcome difficulties facing up during the completion of this work, and endless love to my lovely son Mohammad, who gives me nice smile. So, I would like to express my sincere thanks from my heart to my brother and sisters, for their encouragement and helping me a lot.

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The authoress wishes to express his thanks and sincere gratitude to **Dr. Aziz M. Higazy**, Professor in Microbiology, for suggesting the problem, supervising the work and for his positive criticism and fruitful discussion in the work as well as his valuable advice in the life-sides.

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Grateful appreciation is also extended to all the staff members and colleagues of the Microbiology Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, for their sincere help and kind cooperation.

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استمارة معلومات الرسائل التي تمت مناقشتها

الكلية / المعهد: الزراعة الغروبيولوجيا

 $\sqrt{}$ دکتوراه ماجستیر $\sqrt{}$ دکتوراه

٢ - بيانات الرسالة:

عنوان الرسالة باللغة العربية:

السموم الطحلبية و علاقتها بالمخاطر الصحية لمياه الشرب في نهر النيل بالقاهرة الكبرى

عنو ان الرسالة باللغة الأجنبية:

Cyanotoxins in Relation to Hygienic Risks of Drinking Water in River Nile, Great Cairo

التخصص الدقيق: ميكروبيولوجيا المياه

تاريخ المناقشة : ٨ / ٦ / ٢٠٠٩ م

٣ - بيانات الطالب:

الاسم: رشا حسين أحمد عبد المجيد الجنسية: مصريه النصوع:انثي

العنوان: ٧ ش سعد الشربيني من الشيخ ريحان طالبية فيصل جيزة

رقم التليفون :١٢٣٨٠٥٢٢١٠

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 الاسم
 القسم
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 القاهرة

 7- الدكتور : الفت سيد بركات
 الميكروبيولوجيا الزراعة
 القاهرة

-٣

- ه _ مستخلص الرسالة (Abstract)
- ٥ ١ باللغة العربية: بشرط ألا يزيد عن ٧ أسطر

(الكلمات الدالة : السموم الطحلبية، البكتريا الممرضة، التقييم الحيوي، مياه الشرب و نهر النيل)

يعتبر نحر النيل من أهم الثروات الطبيعية بمصر. والهدف من الدراسة إجراء تقييم كيميائي و ميكروبيولوجي لعينات مياه محطات مياه الشرب الرئيسية بالقاهرة الكبرى. تم دراسة ٣٧٥ عينة مياه أخذت من ٣ محطات مياه شرب رئيسية في حلوان و الجيزة و روض الفرج و انقسمت هذة العينات إلى عينات من مياه النيل وعينات من المخطات بعد المعالجة و عينات من المناطق التي تغذيها كل محطة. وقد تم عزل Bacillus cereus و العديد من أنواع السيانوبكتريا من عينات مياه الشرب. تم الحصول على ٢٥ سلاله نقية من السيانوبكتريا وتم تصنيفها وتعريفها إلى أجناس Postoc spp., Calothrix spp. السيانوبكتريا في مياه النيل تعتبر احد مصادر التلوث الحيوي لإجراء بعض الاختبارات الحيوية. و خلصت نتائج الدراسة إلى أن وجود السيانوبكتريا في مياه النيل تعتبر احد مصادر التلوث الحيوي للمياه و التي يمكنها التأثير على صلاحية مياه نحر النيل للشرب، لذلك فإنه يوصى بضرورة التقييم المستمر لوجودها في مياه الشرب.

٥ - ٢ باللغة الأجنبية: بشرط ألا يزيد عن ٧ أسطر

(Key Words: Cyanotoxins, bacterial pathogens, bioassay, drinking water and river Nile)

River Nile is an important for Egypt. A total of 375 representative water samples, from 3 different sites, were collected from Helwan, Giza and Rod El-Farag drinking water treatment plants. Water samples representing raw water of river Nile, treated and the tap water were subjected to chemical and microbiological analyses. A total of 25 cyanobacterial strains were identified to *Anabaena* spp., *Calothrix* spp. and *Nostoc* spp.. The toxicity of the cyanobacteria were examined adopting the bioassay experiment. The results are clarifying the possible consideration of aquatic cyanobacteria as bioindicators / bio-sensors for drinking water contamination, particularly the river Nile.

٦ - أهم النتائج التطبيقية التى تم التوصل إليها

(لا تزيد عن سطرين لكل منها)

٦ - ١ - أكدت النتائج أن جميع عينات المياه حالية تماماً من الفلور، و الزئبق، الرصاص و الكادميوم، في حين وحد كــــل
 من الكلور، النترات، الكروميوم، النيكل، الزنك و النحاس موجودة بتركيزات مختلفة.

٢ - ٢ - أكدت النتائج أن مياه نمر النيل قبل المعاملة احتوت على أعداد كبيرة من الأعداد الكلية للميكروبات و كذلك
 بعض الأجناس الممرضة و كانت للمعاملة نتائج ايجابية حيث اختفت جميع هذه الميكروبات الممرضة في المياه بعد المعاملة.

٦ - ٤ - أكدت النتائج على أن وحود السيانوبكتريا في مياه نهر النيل تعتبر احد مصادر التلوث الحيوي للمياه و التي يمكنها التأثير على صلاحية مياه النيل للشرب لذلك فإنه يوصى بضرورة التقييم المستمر لوجود السيانوبكتريا في مياه الشرب.

٧ - ما هي الجهات التي يمكن أن تستفيد من هذا البحث:
(اذكر هذه الجهات مع شرح أهمية البحث لهذه الجهة بما لا يزيد عن أربعة سطور لكل جهة)
۷ – ۱ – محطات میاه الشرب
لمحاولة إحراء التقييم المستمر لوجود السيانوبكتريا في محطات مياه الشرب و محاولة الوصول إلى طريقة آمنه باستخدام بعــــ
الكائنات الحية الدقيقة المصاحبة للسيانوبكتريا لمقاومة الأنواع الضارة منها و الموجودة في مياه الشرب.
٧ - ٢ - وزارة الدولة لشئون البيئة
لمحاولة حصر هذه المشكلة البيئية وهي تعرض مجرى نمر النيل للعديد من الملوثات الطبيعية والصناعية والتي بدورها قد تـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
سلباً على صلاحية مياهه للشرب والري وكذلك على الثروة السمكية.
٧ ـ ٣ـ وزارة الصحة و السكان
لمحاولة تحديد أهم الأعراض التي تنتج من تلوث مياه الشرب بالسموم الطحلبية الناتحة من السيانوبكتريا و أثرها على الص
العامة سواء من ناحية الاستهلاك المباشر لمياه الشرب أو استهلاك الأسماك الملوثة بهذه السموم.
$\sqrt{}$ \phantom
۲ – ۸
٣ _ ٨
ما هي طبيعة العلاقة :
مشروع بحثى
تعاون أكاديمي
مشروع ممول من جهة ثالثة الله النكر ما هي :
أخرى (تذكر

 ٩ هل توافق على التعاون مع جهات مستفيدة من خلال الجامعة :
لا الماذا (الماذا
نعم √
(I) لتطبيق البحث :
(II) لاستكمال البحث: بالمستكمال البحث: المستكمال البحث
(ج) أخرى (تذكر)
١٠ ـ هل تم نشر بحوث مستخرجة من الرسالة في مجلات أو مؤتمرات علمية
(تذكر مع جهة النشر و المكان و التاريخ)
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Barakat, Olfat S.; Ahmed, Rasha H. and Higazy M. A. (2008). Biological and Chemical Evaluation of Some Drinking Water Sites on River Nile, Egypt. Bull. Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ. 2008, 59:132-141.
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Possible Toxicity of Drinking Water by Cyanotoxins in River Nile, Great Cairo. 1 st International Joint Conference on Materials Science, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology- MNB 09- Future Challenges, 4-6 January 2009. National Research Centre (NRC). Giza, Egypt. (Accepted)
لا المذكورة في هذه الاستمارة لجهات أخرى
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ه كيال الكلية (المعهد) للدر اسات العليا ه البحوث : التاريخ

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INTRODUCTION

Drinking water is an important resource all around the globe. Safe drinking-water, defined as, does not represent any significant risk to health over a lifetime of consumption, including different sensitivities that may occur between life stages. Little research has focused on identifying the bacteria in water distribution systems or how treatment techniques could alter the composition. In contrast, the bacteria present in wastewater treatment plants are very well characterized by a suite of advanced molecular techniques (Wagner and Loy, 2002).

In Egypt, the river Nile is the main source of drinking water. The Nile, unfortunately, receives heavy loads of industrial, agricultural and domestic wastes. One of the most important factors of water pollution is the microbial contamination; especially with pathogenic microorganisms. Enteric pathogens are typically responsible for waterborne sickness (Karaboze *et al.*, 2003). Contamination of water is a serious environmental problem as it adversely affects the human health and the biodiversity in the aquatic ecosystem, and the microbial load variable during the seasons e.i. summer and winter (Sabae and Rabeh, 2007). The physico-chemical characters of the river Nile and the distribution of some heavy metals and the microbial pollution are variable during the seasons and location (Abdo, 2004, Abd El-Hady, 2007 and Sabae and Rabeh, 2007)

Cyanobacteria are common inhabitants of freshwater and reservoirs throughout the world. The species composition and toxicity