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**Toxic effects of chlorpyrifos on the growth, hemocytes count, and vital organ's histopathology of freshwater mussel, *Lamellidens marginalis***

**Abstract**

The Chlorpyrifos 20 EC (emulsifying concentration) is one of the extensively used agro-pesticide in Bangladesh, most of which are residual in nearby natural water reservoirs. The freshwater mussel, *Lamellidens marginalis* have been exposed to Chlorpyrifos 20 EC at varying concentrations of T<sub>c</sub> 0 mgL<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>1</sub> 2.53 mgL<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>2</sub> 5.07 mgL<sup>-1</sup> and T<sub>3</sub> 10.15 mgL<sup>-1</sup> for 35 days to investigate its toxic effects on growth biometrics, hemocyte counts and histopathology of gill, muscle, and ovary. The 96-hour Chlorpyrifos 20 EC LC<sub>50</sub> for *L. marginalis* has been computed as 25.37 mgL<sup>-1</sup> from PROBIT analysis. Major water regulating parameters were recorded and analyzed for each treatment group. The specific growth rate (%) was reported statistically highest in T<sub>c</sub> (0.104±0.412) and lowest in T<sub>3</sub> (-0.52±0.38). Similarly, the condition index (CI) and Fulton's condition factor were decent at T<sub>c</sub> and downed at T<sub>3</sub> ( $P < 0.05$ ). A high mortality rate occurred in T<sub>3</sub> and the lowest mortality in T<sub>c</sub>. The value of total hemocytes count were also reported to be highest for T<sub>c</sub> and gradually decreased as the dosage increased ( $P < 0.05$ ). The histopathology of gill, muscle, and ovary also revealed moderate to severe pathological signs in treatment groups in comparison to control. Administration of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC results in detrimental growth, cytological and hematological alternation in *L. marginalis*.

**Keywords:** Chlorpyrifos 20 EC, *Lamellidens marginalis*, hemocytes, histopathology, growth biometrics.

## 1. Introduction

The pearl mussel, *Lamellidens marginalis*,<sup>36</sup> is the most common and abundant freshwater bivalve species in the tropical climate of southeast Asia (Mishra et al., 2008; Siddique et al., 2020). They serve as excellent natural water filters and therefore, are used as biological agents in water quality monitoring (Hussain et al., 2022; Sicuro, 2015). Being a filter feeder, freshwater mussels are highly influenced by anthropogenic factors such as the internment of rivers, flow modification, pollution, and climatic change. (Bolotov et al., 2019). The freshwater mussel *L. marginalis* is the primary bivalve species used for commercial pearl production across the Indian subcontinent (Sicuro, 2015). They also contributed to ecological importance by providing a source of food, and shelter for a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic life (Carboni et al., 2019).

Organophosphorus has been among the most widely applied group of insect repellents in the global pest control industries (Cacciatore et al., 2013) and it had successfully replaced the old organochlorine derivatives in Agri farm practices (Zahran et al., 2018). Chlorpyrifos is labeled as a priority element following the directive of the European Commission aquatic ecosystems protection policy (Rouillard et al., 2018). This group represents low environmental persistence with a moderately little half-life in aquatic habitats ranging from 29 to 74 days (Bondarenko et al., 2004). Histopathology, hematology, and growth evaluation of mollusks could be evidence of their overall health status (Zahran et al., 2018). The changes in the abundance of mussels in a particular water body would be a truthful indicator of its physicochemical properties (Traiger et al., 2022). The histological assays are more widely used methods in evaluating the impact of toxicants at the cellular or tissue level (Ait-Ayad et al., 2011; Hussain et al., 2022). The present study is a baseline effort to expand information concerning the risks of existing pesticides usages to native freshwater mussels in Bangladesh. Very little data exist pertaining to the toxicity of pesticides in invertebrates and other aquatic biotas in Bangladesh.

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## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Collection of animals and rearing

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Live samples of freshwater mussel, *L. marginalis* were collected from the nearby river water areas and transported in a large, aerated plastic drum to the wet laboratory facilities of Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh. The collected mussels were initially checked for health status and acclimatized in separate aquariums with proper temperature and aeration. There was no provision for feeding during acclimatization. After acclimatizing, 20 healthy and uniform-sized mussels were stocked into each of the 50-liter treatment aquariums to rear for up to 35 days. A control and three different treatment groups were assigned following the 96-hour LC<sub>50</sub> value of chlorpyrifos 20 EC. The mussels were fed with dried and formulated green algae three times a day at 1.5-1.25 % of their body weight and the amount of food was sequentially decreased after two weeks to prevent over-primary productivity in the aquarium system. Uneaten feed and the feces materials were siphoned out once per two days and partially water was added to prevent loss via evaporation.

### 2.2 LC<sub>50</sub> test and planning the dose of exposure

A 96-hour LC<sub>50</sub> test has been done with 20 animals in each of 0, 3.0, 6.0, 9.0, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, 72, and 96 mgL<sup>-1</sup> of chlorpyrifos 20 EC treatment units. Each aquarium contained 25 liters of water, a well aeration system and 20 animals were employed in each unit following the standard OECD guidelines (OECD, 2009). The resulting mortality rates were put in the SPSS for the PROBIT regression model to analyze LC<sub>50</sub> (Finney, 1971) (Figure 1). The different dose of pesticide used in different treatment assigned as T<sub>c</sub> 0mgL<sup>-1</sup> (0% of LC<sub>50</sub>), T<sub>1</sub> 2.53 mgL<sup>-1</sup> (10% of LC<sub>50</sub>), T<sub>2</sub> 5.07 mgL<sup>-1</sup> (20% of LC<sub>50</sub>) and T<sub>3</sub> 10.15 mgL<sup>-1</sup> (40% of LC<sub>50</sub>) following the LC<sub>50</sub> values.

### 2.3 Monitoring hydrological parameters and sampling

Various hydrological parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, TDS, and pH were measured each 7 days interval by using YSI Professional Plus Handheld Multiparameter Meter (Model 6050000) and ammonia levels were detected by employing a commercially manufactured ammonia test kit (Model HI 3824, Japan). At the same interval, three animals from each replication unit were sampled randomly for all the treatment groups, and length, weight, and body depth data were acquired immediately. At the end of the trial, all animals were sacrificed to measure their soft tissue wet weight, and a section from muscle tissue, gonad and gill was preserved in neutral buffered formalin (NBF) for histological analysis.

#### **2.4 Tools for growth biometrics**

Different growth biometrics were calculated by using formulae.

Percentage of weight gain =  $(W_f - W_i / W_i) \times 100$ , Where  $W_f$ -Mean final weight and  $W_i$ -Mean initial weight.

Specific growth rate SGR (%) =  $(\ln W_2 - \ln W_1 / T_2 - T_1) \times 100$ , Where  $W_1$ = the initial weight (g) at a time,  $W_2$ = the final weight (g) at a time,  $T_2 - T_1$ =Duration in days.

Percentages of length gain =  $(L_f - L_i / L_i) \times 100$ ; Where,  $L_f$ -Mean final length and  $L_i$ -Mean initial length.

The Fulton's condition factors were computed from the length-weight equation of Htun-Han, (1978). The condition index (CI) has been calculated by using following the methodology adopted from Uddin et al., (2010). The shells were sundried for 2.5 hours before taking their weight in the ratio between wet tissue wet and dry weight of the shell.

#### **2.5 Collection of hemolymphs and counting total hemocytes**

At the end of 25 days of rearing, the hemolymph samples were collected from fleshy abductor muscle by using a 0.8 mm needle and 1 ml syringe. About 300-500 microliter of samples were collected from each animal and placed in the centrifuge tube. The samples were then mixed as a 1:2 ratio of Alsevier solution (MP Biomedicals, Ohio) prepared with the same volume of 3%

formaldehyde solution following the description of Juhel et al., (2015). The concentration of the cell was counted by using a conventional hemocytometer process.

### **2.6 Histology of gill, muscle, and gonad tissues**

Previously <sup>1</sup> NBF preserved samples were washed under tap water and underwent repeated alcoholic dehydration and xylene cleaning process before infiltrating them on paraffin. Paraffin-embedded <sup>28</sup> tissue was sliced at 3-5 micrometers and stained with Hematoxylin-Eosin stain to visualize the cell under the light microscope. Photographs are taken by using Zeiss software version 2.3 on Windows 10 installation connected to Carl ZEISS Primostar 3 Microscope.

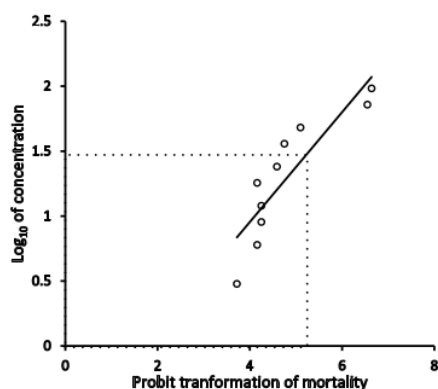
### **2.7 Statistical analysis and visual constructions**

A comparison of the mean between different parameters were conducted by using <sup>1</sup> IBM SPSS v27 and Duncan's Multiple Range test (DMRT) at  $p < 0.05$ . Graph and visualization were performed in office 365 tools by using data from SPSS analysis.

## **3.0 Results**

### **3.1 Toxicity tests**

<sup>1</sup> The 96-hour  $LC_{50}$  of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC for *L. marginalis* in the current trial was computed as  $25.37 \text{ mgL}^{-1}$  from the PROBIT regression model (<sup>1</sup>  $P < 0.05$ ) (figure 1). A reference table has been constructed based on previous trials in 96-hour  $LC_{50}$  of different formulations of organophosphate pesticides in bivalves (table 2). A moderately high estimate of  $LC_{50}$  had already been reported for Dimethoate, Malathion, Atrazine, and Glyphosate in several bivalves (table 2).



**Figure 1.** A 96-hour LC<sub>50</sub> regression curve for *L. marginalis* exposed to Chlorpyrifos 20EC.

**Table 1.** 96-h LC<sub>50</sub> for commonly used pesticide formulation in mussels.

Species	Value of 96-hour LC <sub>50</sub> (mgL <sup>-1</sup> )	Formulation of Pesticides	References
<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>	7700	Neonicotinoid Calypso 480 SC (CAL)	(Stara et al., 2020)
<i>Unio tigridis</i>	324	Chlorpyrifos 48 EC	(Al-Fanharawi et al., 2019)
<i>L. marginalis</i>	36.36	Dimethoate	(Kumar et al., 2012)
	7.9	Carbaryl	
<i>Utterbackia imbecillis</i>	19.4	Atrazine	(Connors and Black, 2004)
	18.3	Glyphosate	
	241.3	Diazinon	
	215		
<i>Elliptio icterina</i>	32	Malathion	(Keller and Ruessler, 1997)
<i>Villosa lienosa</i>	111		
<i>Villosa villosa</i>	180		

### 3.2 Hydrological parameters

The environmental data obtained in table 2 demonstrates that the temperature value was stable for all treatments and fluctuation took place as the duration of rearing increased. It occurred due to seasonal changes and entering the winter season in the last 15 days of the trial. The salinity contents remained relatively the same for different time slots and treatment units and no statistically significant changes were reported ( $P < 0.05$ ). The ammonia and pH levels were not significantly varied throughout the whole experiment period. However, a significant increase ( $P < 0.05$ ) in dissolved O<sub>2</sub> values was reported in all the experimental units from day 15 to the end (table 2).

**Table 2.** Water quality parameters for different treatment groups during the 35 days experiment.

Parameter	Treatments	DAY-0	DAY-15	DAY-35
Temperature (°C)	T <sub>C</sub>	25.22±0.60 <sup>b</sup>	24.2±0.6 <sup>b</sup>	20.5±1.29 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	24.87±0.51 <sup>b</sup>	23.25±0.369 <sup>b</sup>	20.12±1.31 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	25.02±0.61 <sup>b</sup>	23.62±0.59 <sup>b</sup>	20.87±0.62 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	25.02±0.67 <sup>b</sup>	23.95±0.64 <sup>b</sup>	21.12±0.25 <sup>a</sup>
pH	T <sub>C</sub>	7.29±0.45 <sup>a</sup>	7.87±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	7.65±0.23 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	7.47±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	7.60±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	7.55±0.05 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	7.64±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	7.66±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	7.61±0.06 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	7.49±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	7.71±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	7.6±0.18 <sup>a</sup>
Dissolved O <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>C</sub>	6.59±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	7.27±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	6.97±0.33 <sup>b</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	6.48±0.25 <sup>a</sup>	7.06±0.48 <sup>b</sup>	7.22±0.12 <sup>b</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	6.62±0.32 <sup>a</sup>	6.91±0.44 <sup>b</sup>	7.32±0.35 <sup>b</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	6.83±0.24 <sup>a</sup>	7.21±0.23 <sup>b</sup>	7.15±0.6 <sup>b</sup>
NH <sub>3</sub> (mg/L)	T <sub>C</sub>	0.34±0.21 <sup>a</sup>	0.71±0.35 <sup>a</sup>	0.30±0.22 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	0.40±0.149 <sup>a</sup>	0.48±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	0.35±0.06 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	0.57±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	0.54±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	0.37±0.09 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	0.46±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	0.54±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	0.40±0.15 <sup>a</sup>
Salinity (mg/L)	T <sub>C</sub>	0.15±0.017 <sup>a</sup>	0.08±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.08±0.01 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	0.08±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	0.08±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	0.07±0.01 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	0.08±0.00 <sup>a</sup>	0.08±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.07±0.01 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	0.08±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.09±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.08±0.01 <sup>a</sup>
Total dissolved solids (mg/L)	T <sub>C</sub>	109.12±22.06 <sup>a</sup>	101.87±16.12 <sup>a</sup>	107±8.86 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>1</sub>	100.12±15.45 <sup>a</sup>	93.00±6.58 <sup>a</sup>	93.0±4.69 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>2</sub>	109.75±18.30 <sup>a</sup>	103.12±1.65 <sup>a</sup>	101.25±2.5 <sup>a</sup>
	T <sub>3</sub>	109.00±17.59 <sup>a</sup>	102.25±6.65 <sup>a</sup>	97.50±4.12 <sup>a</sup>

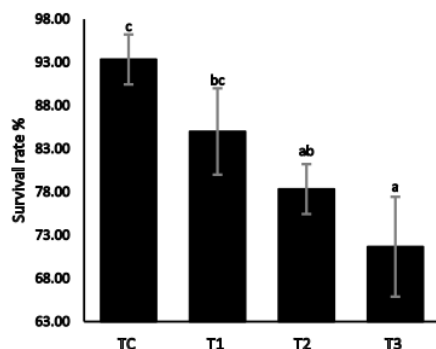
The raw with different superscripts indicate significant differences at  $P < 0.05$ ; values are means  $\pm$  SD.

### 3.3 Growth biometrics, survival rate, and condition indices

The obtained data in table 3 confirmed that the value of final total body weight differed statistically between the different treatment groups ( $P < 0.05$ ). The highest value of the final total body weight was observed in T<sub>C</sub> as 49.24±6.7g and the lowest was 36.67±4.37g in T<sub>3</sub>. The least value of weight gain was reported in the T<sub>3</sub> (-7.37±5.0 g), while maximized at T<sub>C</sub> (49.24±6.7 g) ( $P < 0.05$ ). Specific growth rate (SGR %) among the treatment varied statistically; the lowest SGR was -0.52±0.38 at T<sub>3</sub>, while the highest was 0.104±0.412 in the control group. However, statistically insignificant differences in SGR between T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> are observed (table 3). Similarly, the soft tissue wet weight was highest in T<sub>C</sub> (12.20±2.12 g) and lowest in T<sub>3</sub> (8.82±1.40 g). Condition index (CI) value was at a peak (0.70±0.14) in T<sub>C</sub> as and the lowest value was 0.54±0.14 in T<sub>3</sub> ( $P < 0.05$ ) (table 3). The value of Fulton's condition factor also followed the same trends ( $P < 0.05$ ). There were no significant changes over other parameters



such as <sup>17</sup> initial shell length, initial total body weight initial, maximum shell depth, final shell length final, dry shell weight, length gain, etc. The mortality rate was statistically highest in T<sub>3</sub> and lowest in this treatment T<sub>c</sub> ( $P < 0.05$ ) (figure 2).



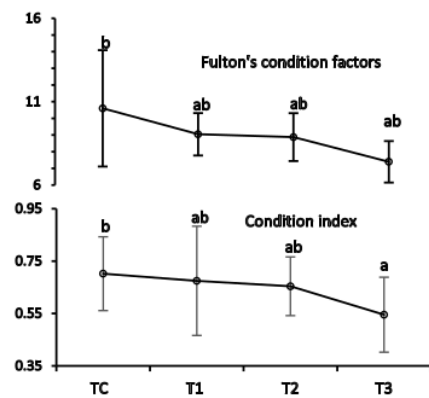
**Figure 2.** Survival rate and mortality rate of freshwater mussel *L. marginalis* exposed to Chlorpyrifos 20 EC for 35 days.

**Table 3.** Changes in growth parameters of *L. marginalis* after 35 days of exposure to Chlorpyrifos 20 EC.

Parameters	Tc	T1	T2	T3
Shell length initial (cm)	7.85±0.56 <sup>a</sup>	7.93±0.52 <sup>a</sup>	7.53±0.49 <sup>a</sup>	7.93±0.42 <sup>a</sup>
Total body weight initial (g)	47.79±9.44 <sup>a</sup>	49.05±10.04 <sup>a</sup>	45.32±14.97 <sup>a</sup>	44.04±5.61 <sup>a</sup>
Maximum shell depth (cm)	3.87±0.20 <sup>a</sup>	4.05±0.48 <sup>a</sup>	3.85±0.48 <sup>a</sup>	3.98±0.18 <sup>a</sup>
Shell length Final (cm)	7.86±0.70 <sup>a</sup>	7.95±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	7.57±0.61 <sup>a</sup>	7.94±0.41 <sup>a</sup>
Total body weight Final (g)	49.24±6.7 <sup>b</sup>	46.08±10.37 <sup>b</sup>	38.82±9.67 <sup>a</sup>	36.67±4.37 <sup>a</sup>
Maximum shell depth Final	3.83±0.38 <sup>a</sup>	3.91±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	3.72±0.27 <sup>a</sup>	3.78±0.23 <sup>a</sup>
Soft tissue wet weight (g)	12.20±2.12 <sup>b</sup>	11.53±1.83 <sup>b</sup>	8.97±1.47 <sup>a</sup>	8.82±1.40 <sup>a</sup>
shell weight (g)	18.09±5.39 <sup>b</sup>	18.62±5.89 <sup>b</sup>	13.95±2.44 <sup>a</sup>	16.75±3.104 <sup>ab</sup>
Length gain (cm)	0.008±1.06 <sup>a</sup>	0.025±0.36 <sup>a</sup>	0.041±0.60 <sup>a</sup>	0.0083±0.45 <sup>a</sup>
Weight gain (g)	1.44±8.21 <sup>b</sup>	-2.97±7.30 <sup>ab</sup>	-6.5±13.30 <sup>a</sup>	-7.37±5.0 <sup>a</sup>
Length gain (%)	0.83±106.46 <sup>a</sup>	2.5±36.46 <sup>a</sup>	4.16±60.06 <sup>a</sup>	0.83±45.41 <sup>a</sup>
Weight gain (%)	144.91±821.72 <sup>b</sup>	-297.33±730.7 <sup>ab</sup>	-650±1330.07 <sup>a</sup>	-737.25±500.47 <sup>a</sup>
Specific growth rate SGR%	0.104±0.412 <sup>b</sup>	-0.19±0.48 <sup>ab</sup>	-0.40±0.83 <sup>a</sup>	-0.52±0.38 <sup>a</sup>
weight				
Average daily length gain (cm)	0.0002±0.030 <sup>a</sup>	0.0007±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.0012±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.00023±0.01 <sup>a</sup>
Average daily weight gain (g)	0.041±0.23 <sup>b</sup>	-0.085±0.20 <sup>ab</sup>	-0.186±0.38 <sup>a</sup>	-0.21±0.14 <sup>a</sup>

The column with different superscripts indicates significant differences at  $P < 0.05$ ; values are means ± SD.

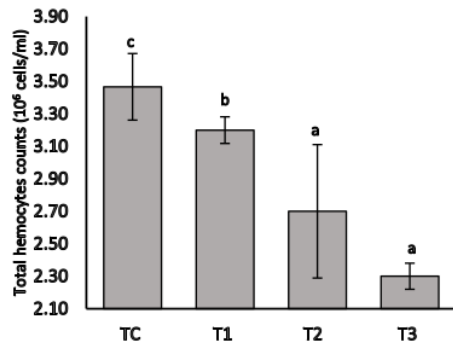
The value of Fulton's condition factor and condition index follows a similar course of decline after the control unit. The lowest values for both indices were allocated for the T<sub>3</sub> treatment group, while the highest was for the control T<sub>c</sub> group (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Fulton's condition factors and condition index of freshwater mussel *L. marginalis* exposed to Chlorpyrifos 20 EC for 35 days.

### 3.4 Total hemocytes count

The highest hemocytes count has been noted for the control group T<sub>c</sub> ( $3.47 \times 10^6$  cells/ml) while the lowest was for the T<sub>3</sub> ( $2.3 \times 10^6$  cells/ml) group ( $P < 0.05$ ) (figure 4). The hemocytes counts between T<sub>1</sub> ( $3.2 \times 10^6$  cellml<sup>-1</sup>) and T<sub>2</sub> ( $2.7 \times 10^6$  cells/ml) also confirmed moderate statistical variation ( $P < 0.05$ ) (figure 4).

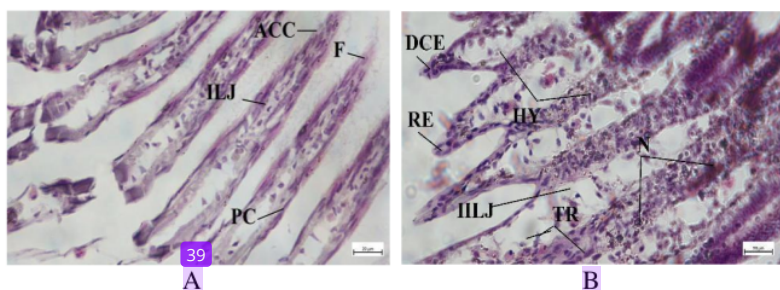


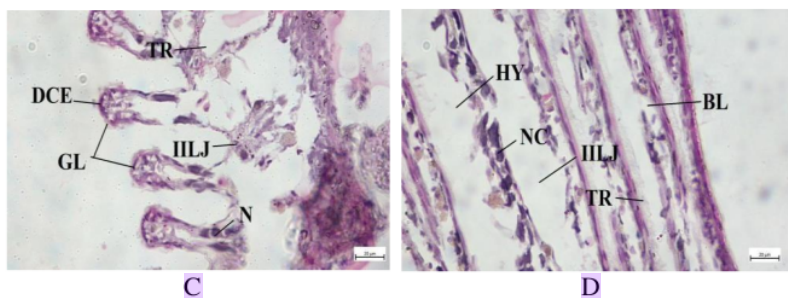
**Figure 4.** Total hemocytes counts of freshwater mussel *L. marginalis* exposed to Chlorpyrifos 20 EC for 35 days.

### 3.5 Histopathology of gill, muscle, and ovary

The bivalves exposed to higher doses of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC endured more damage to their gill architecture. Gill lamellae in bivalves kept as controls are made up of a large number of closely

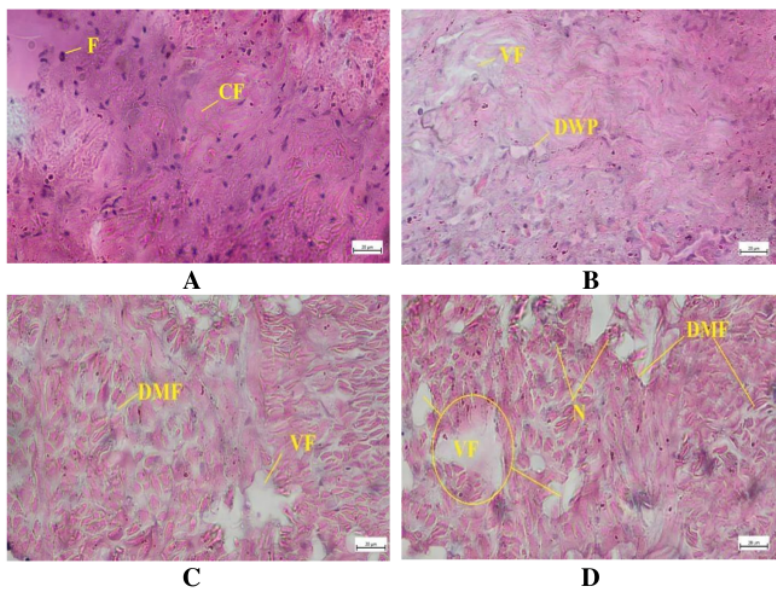
spaced, thin, vertical gill filaments that have a porous structure punctured by minute openings and bound filaments (figure 5. A). Degeneration of epithelial cells, swelling, and the vacuolated and necrotic epithelium were seen in all treatment groups (figure 5. B-D). The secondary gill lamellae were fused together, and the gill filament bases widened (figure 3). Following the exposure of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC, increased the intercellular junction, necrosis occurred in the cell, and tissue rupture and hyperplasia were observed (figure 5. B-D). The epithelium of the gill filaments and all forms of the cilia were disrupted, and the epithelium showed considerable oedema formation and necrotic bodies. Epithelial separation, lamellar distortion, epithelia loss, and necrosis were increased at the gill with the intensified concentration of chlorpyrifos 20 EC. The histopathology of pesticide-exposed bivalves' gills indicated clear signs of damage not seen in the control group. The histo-micrograph of adductor muscles of *L. marginalis* from different treatment groups are shown in figure 6. The control group showed well-organized muscular fibers that were connected perfectly (figure 6. A). In the case of T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, and T<sub>3</sub> treatment groups, degeneration of muscle fiber (DMF), vacuoles (V), degenerative waving pattern, and necrosis were common pathologies. was seen after pesticide exposure (figure 6. B-D). The T<sub>3</sub> treatment group showed a higher level of deformities in all cases. Figure 7. A displays the normal structure of the mussel's ovary at vitellogenic stage. After pesticide administration, the normal structure of gonad cells was disorganized, follicle degradation occurred, and yolk globules started to disrupt at different intensities as observed in Figure 7. B-D.





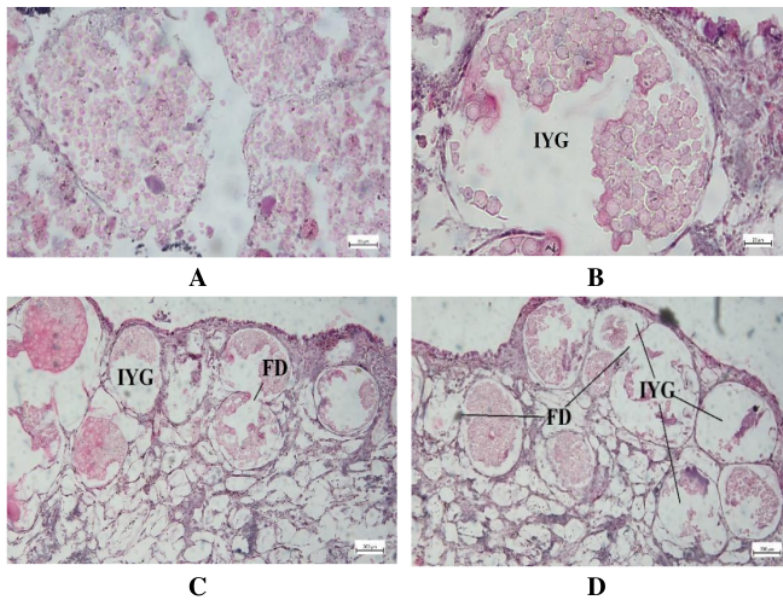
**Figure 5.** Gill transverse section photomicrograph of *L. marginalis*. **A.** T<sub>C</sub>, **B.** T<sub>1</sub>, **C.** T<sub>2</sub> **D.** T<sub>3</sub>.

(GL-gill lamellae, ACC-abfrontal ciliated cell, F-frontal, PC-Pillar cells, ILJ-interlamellar junction, DCE-damaged cilia epithelium, TR-tissue rupture, HY-hyperplasia, BL-breakdown of lamellae, NC-necrosis, NL-necrotic lamellae, ILLJ-Increased interlamellar junction).



**Figure 6.** Muscle transverse section photomicrograph of *L. marginalis*. **A.** T<sub>C</sub>, **B.** T<sub>1</sub>, **C.** T<sub>2</sub>, **D.**

T<sub>3</sub>. (DMF-degeneration of muscle fiber; VF-vacuole formation; DWP-disruption of waving pattern, N-necrosis; F-healthy fiber, CF-collagen fiber).



**Figure 7.** Ovarian transverse section photomicrograph of *L. marginalis*. **A.** Tc, **B.** T1, **C.** T2, **D.** T3. (FD-follicle degradation, GD-gonadal degeneration, IYG-yolk globule disruption).

#### 4.0 Discussions

The growth, development, and propagation of aquatic animals are solely associated with water quality parameters of surroundings (Ahmed et al., 2020). The thermal constitution varied between 20°C to 36°C and seems to be optimal for supporting life in tropical aquatic systems (Kua et al., 2020). A value of DO > 5 ppm is vital to sustaining aquatic animals' existence and development (Bhatnagar and Singh, 2010). Water quality features acquired in current research remained quite optimal for the growth and reproduction of aquatic animals following the hydrology assessment criteria of Bhatnagar & Devi, (2010) and Chapman et al., (2016).

The LC<sub>50</sub> data from previous studies exemplifies that aquatic mollusks are moderate to highly tolerant to acute toxicity of different organophosphate formulations (Becker et al., 2020; Connors and Black, 2004). The LC<sub>50</sub> values for different mollusks ranged from least 7.9 mgL<sup>-1</sup> Carbaryl (Kumar et al., 2012) to 7700 mgL<sup>-1</sup> Neonicotinoid Calypso 480 SC (CAL) (Stara et

al., 2020). The animals in the control group of the current trial demonstrate 100 % survival rates, which fall within the regulation and description code of APHA, (1999) for testing rapid and acute toxicity trials in aquatic animals.

The substantial biochemical and cellular changes in animals are reported to be initiated by organophosphate **toxicants** (Stalin et al., 2017). Intensification of toxicant in living water cause behavioral, physiological, and cellular changes in **the** animal which eventually lead to death (Kumar et al., 2012). Cypermethrin was reported to disrupt normal valve activity and survival rate of marine mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (Ait-Ayad et al., 2011). Similar fixation has been recounted in current research and mortality rates were higher as the concentration of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC increased. **The intrusion** of the municipal effluent causes reduced growth in *Elliptio complanate* (Gagné et al., 2007). The accumulation of Pb was addressed to alter soft tissue weight, filtration behavior, and mortality of *Dreissena polymorpha* (Rahnama et al., 2010). Chlorpyrifos had been registered to prevent growth, reproduction, and development in *Unio tigridis* and *Viviparous benglensis* (Al-Fanharawi et al., 2019).

The Fulton's condition factor and condition index are widely used morphometric tools in assessing the animal's fitness, nutritive status, and associated ecological condition (Siddique et al., 2020). The alternation in CIs and Fulton's condition was described to be correlated with food availability, parasitic loads, and **water-born stressors** in several **invertebrates** (Marwaha et al., 2019). Intensifying the **pesticide** toxicant in current research also revealed reduced values for both condition factors **in the** treatment **group in** comparison **with the control group**. This would happen due to decreased food intake in treatment groups and earning poor soft tissue weight as well. Hemocytes are treated as a vital regulatory component of the molluscan immune system (Uddin et al., 2010) and their concentrations are related to being impacted by different forms of aquatic **toxicants** (Lu et al., 2021). The reduced concentration of hemocytes **was** noted by 21 days **of** exposure to neonicotinoid Calypso 480 SC in *Mytilus galloprovincialis*

(Stara et al., 2020) and with polystyrene microplastics treatment in oyster *Crassostrea gigas* (Sussarellu et al., 2016). The current trial also resulted in reduced hemocytes counts for highly concentrated treatment groups in comparison to the control.

The gill is a vital organ in bivalve mollusk, which is engaged in the organism's respiration and food-sieving activities (Andreyeva et al., 2021). Analysis of histological malformations is a widely used method to assess the effects of toxicants and the environment (Hussain et al., 2022). Increased concentration of toxicants like pesticides, metals, etc. inhibits the metabolic processes of cells inside the tissues and leads to cell death, hyperplasia, or cellular inequality (Joshy et al., 2022). Swollen gill filament, lamellar fusing, necrosis, and structural modification were noted in *L. marginalis* exposed to 5ppm 30 days chlorpyrifos toxicant (Stalin et al., 2017). Similar histological alterations in gill were documented by Katalay et al., (2016). The epithelium oedema formation and necrotic gill were observed in mussels associated with agro-pesticides (Rane et al., 2019). Histological alterations in muscle tissue due to bisphenol-A exposure were reported in soft tissues of *Corbicula fluminea* (Benjamin et al., 2019). Increased vacuole formation and necrotic cell death are prominent pathologies of muscle tissue in response to toxicants (Alonso et al., 2019). The current research also acts as a supportive trail to the previous finding and extensive histopathology was photographed for the animals in a higher concentration of Chlorpyrifos 20 EC treatment.

Current results concluded that exposure to sublethal concentrations of the Chlorpyrifos 20 EC leads to the significant manifestation of growth, fitness, and survival of bivalve mollusks. The study also noticed major alterations in cellular architecture. Chlorpyrifos 20 EC is also documented to impact the reproduction and growth of mussels as indicated by condition indices and histopathology of gonads.

### **Authors contribution**

Mohammad Amzad Hossain and Tumpa Rani Sarker designed the methodology, performed assays, data analysis, software and visualization, validation, editing, fund acquisition, and preparation of the manuscript. Lipi Sutradhar performed rearing and laboratory activities, writing, and preparation of the original report. Monayem Hussain performed sampling, data reviewing, and editing. Mohammed Mahbub Iqbal was involved in conceptualization, methodology development, fund administration and administration, and supervision.

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### **Data Availability**

Raw data will be provided based on reasonable demand.

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