

BACTERIAL CAUSES OF FIN ROT IN SOME FRESH WATER FISHES

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Abstract

One hundred and seventy naturally infected fishes (90 *Oreochromis* spp., 50 *Clarias lazera* and 30 common carp) with fin rot revealed clinically progressive erosion, congestion and hemorrhages of the body fins especially the caudal and dorsal fins with edema and sloughing in some cases. The postmortem changes of naturally infected fishes were abdominal ascitis, enlargement and congestion of the liver, kidneys, spleen and intestine with distension and congestion of the gall bladder. Naturally infected fishes revealed the presence of 468 bacterial isolates related to 8 bacterial genera and species, such as *A. hydrophila* (198), *P. fluorescens* (102), *F. columnaris* (36), *Klebsiella* sp. (48), *E. coli* (24), *Proteus* sp. (12), and *Shigella* sp. (12). The pathogenicity of isolated strains revealed that *A. hydrophila* appeared to be highly virulent (100% mortality in injected groups) followed by *P. fluorescens* (50%) and *F. columnaris* (37.5%). Sensitivity test of isolated strains showed that kanamycin and nalidexic acid were the drugs of choice used for control and treatment of fin rot disease.