

## Effect of Ovaprim, Ovotide, HCG, LHRH-A2, LHRHA2+CPE and Carp Pituitary in Benni (*Barbus sharpeyi*) Artificial Breeding

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**Abstract:** The *Barbus sharpeyi* is a species of the genus *Barbus* of cyprinidae with local name "Benni" distributed in shadegan and horolazim GnRHA2-effectiveness of Ovaprim, Ovotide, GnRHA2, LHRH-A2, LHRHA2+CPE and Carp Pituitary on spawning success, Latency period, working fecundity, fertilization success and hatching rate. 56 fish were divided into 7 treatments and injected intramuscularly as follows. 4mg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of CPE as positive control, Propylene glycol as negative control, 0.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of Ovaprim, 0.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of Ovotide, 1000 Iu kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of HCG, 10µg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of LHRH-A2, 10µg+2 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w. of LRHa+CPE in double injection 10 h apart. Results showed that LRHa+CPE combination yielded 87.5% spawning success in comparison with HCG, Ovaprim, Ovotide, LRHa and CPE. None of fish were ovulated in the groups of negative control, HCG and LRHa, while 3/8 fish were ovulated in the group of Ovaprim and Ovotide (37.5%). 6/8 fish were ovulated in the group of CPE (75%). Therefore, LHRHa+CPE combination can be effected comparison CPE or alone other hormones.

**Key words:** *Barbus sharpeyi* • Spawning • LHRHa • HCG • Ovaprim • Ovotide

### INTRODUCTION

The *Barbus sharpeyi* (Al. Hassan L.A.J 1983) is a species of the genus *Barbus* of cyprinidae and is widely distributed in the Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Nile, Victoria and Naser river [1]. In Iran, this species with local name "Benni" is distributed at shadegan and horolazim wetlands in the southwest of Iran. It has a synchronous single behaviour spawning on aquatic weeds in kharkhe river [2]. This is a very valuable commercial fish in the southwest of Iran and is greatly demanded due to its good taste and culinary customs of the local people. To restock this valuable species in the wetlands, the Iranian Fisheries Organization (shilat) produced and release up to 3.5 million fry (average weight 1g) in the horolazim wetland annually [3].

Environmental and hormonal manipulation of ovulation in the fish have become of practical importance in the fish farming industry for two main reasons; to solve the problem of spawning asynchrony which necessitates frequent broodstock handling [4,5] and for accelerating or delaying gametogenesis in captive broodstock, spawning may be scheduled to yield fry whenever needed [6] Use of exogenous hormones is an effective way to induced reproductive maturation and produce fertilized eggs [7].

Originally, culturists utilized carp pituitary (CP) and this is still widely used particularly for the major Indian carps, Chinese carps and the common carp *Cyprinus carpio* [6, 8]. Human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) has been used to induce final maturation of oocytes and also as a tool for utilization in commercial in aquaculture [7-11].

The superactive luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone analogue des-Gly10[D-Ala6]LHRHethylamide (LHRHa) has been successfully used to induce final maturation and synchronize ovulation of many commercially cultured fish [9, 12]. The use of different forms of gonadotropin releasing hormone agonist (GnRHa), which stimulate secretion of endogenous gonadotropin(GTH) [13, 14] Ovaprim and Ovotide are a kind of analogue of salmon gonadotropin releasing hormone (sGnRHa) with a dopamine blocker [15]. The use of sGnRHa resulted in successful stimulation of ovulation in some of cyprinids [16-19] and catfishes [20]. The objective of induced ovulation is to produce, on demand, a large supply of high quality eggs. Egg quality is assessed by characteristics such as egg fertility and hatching [21]. Hormonal induction of final oocyte maturation and ovulation, however, can result in reduced egg quality [22].

In the present study we investigated the effects of hormone of HCG, LHRHa, Ovaprim, Ovotide, LHRHa+HCG and CP on spawning success, spawning success, Latency period, working fecundity, fertilization success, hatching rate and survival larval rate, in order to develop simple and cost effective method for accelerating and synchronizing ovulation in *B. sharpeyi*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Fish Stocks and Maintenance:** The experiment were conducted at south Iran aquaculture Research Center, Ahvaz, Khozestan. Iran. Benni were captured from the Horolazim Wetland and maintained in earth pond in January 2008 (water temperature 15-17°C). 56 female fish weighing 800-2000 g body weight (b.w.) were used. Females were selected for injections in May based on external characteristics reddish swollen vent and a soft rounded abdomen. Prior to injection, fish were individually weighted and marked by colour cloths on the tail fin and were randomly divided into treatment groups.

**Hormones:** Ovaprim (Syndel International Inc., Canada) is a liquid preparation containing salmon GnRH analogue (D-Arg<sup>6</sup>, Pro<sup>9</sup> Net-sGnRH) and domperidone, a dopamine antagonist. The manufacturers recommended dose is 0.5 ml/ kg<sup>-1</sup>b.w of spawner body weight. The Ovotide (sGnRH+Dopamin) was supplied by Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, India.

Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing hormone analogue (Des-Gly10, [D-Ala 6] LH-RH Ethylamide) or LHRHa is a peptide that is similar in structure to native luteinizing hormone hormones (LHRH). The LRHa available on the market is a white powder and is combined with mannite as a filler (made in China).

Human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) is a polypeptide hormone with molecular weight 36000. At present, the ready-made material available on the market in china is "veterinary gonadotropin".

**Experiments:** Groups of 8 fish were injected I.M. with different preparation: CPE as a control group (3 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>b.w), HCG alone 1000 Iu kg<sup>-1</sup>b.w in double injections, Ovaprim and Ovotide alone 0.5ml/ kg<sup>-1</sup> in a single injection, LHRHa alone 10 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> in double injection, LHRHa combined with CPE (10 µg kg<sup>-1</sup>+1.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.w) in double injection. Double injection were done in 10-90% ratio, 10 h apart.

After injection, the fish were placed in an indoor fiberglass tank with running water, temperature 23-24°C.

The fish were checked for ovulation after first injection every 13h interval up to ovulation. Although, they can spontaneously spawn in the tank after hormonal induction, but because of the large number of broodfish in hatchery and stickiness of eggs, it is better to enhance gamete quality and quantity. So when ovulation was observed, the eggs were stripped manually and fertilized with milt from at least two males and 250-300 g of fertilized eggs from each female was incubated in vase (7 liter) incubators up to hatching.

Spawning rate (the number of ovulated fish/total number of injection fish) and embryo viability percent (number of viable embryos/total number of eggs×100) were determined [23]. The latency period (the time between the first injection and fish ovulation and working fecundity (the number of stripped eggs/kg b.w.) was calculated [16, 24], respectively.

Fertilization rate was determined under a dissecting loop 8h after fertilization, when were at the stage of gastrulation.

**Statistical Analysis:** Spawning rate was analyzed by the Chi-square test [25]. Differences in latency period, working fecundity, fertilization rate and hatching rate were analyzed by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's new Multiple Range test at minimum significant of P<0.05. Results are presented as means ± standard error of the mean (S.E.M).

## RESULTS

Non of 8 fish ovulated in the HCG and LHRHa groups after injection (Table 1). In the control group, six out of 8 ovulated (75%). Three out of 8 ovulated (37.5%) in the Ovaprim and Ovotide groups. The lowest spawning (0%) in the HCG and LHRHa groups were observed. Combination of LHRHa+CPE was most effective for induction and the highest spawning rate (87.5%).

The latency periods were in the range of 24-26.6 h after the first injection. The mean latency period was 24.42±0.2 h in LHRHa+CPE group which was lower than all other groups (P<0.05). The longest period (25.38±0.2 h) was observed in the control group(CPE). The mean latency period was 25.23±0.33 h in ovaprim (T6) and similar result achieved by the ovotide treatment (Table 1). The mean working fecundity h in ovulated fish is shown in Table 1. The mean working fecundity h in treatments were 20625-73333 and LHRHa+CPE was the highest working fecundity among groups (P<0.05).

Table 1: The effect of different hormone treatment on spawning success (%), latency period (h), fertilization rate ovulation index OI(%) and (%) of Benni, *Barbus sharpie*

Treatment ID	Treatment	Dosage		Spawning success(%)	Latency period	Working fecundity	Fertilization success (%)	Hatching rate (%)
		1 st	2nd					
Positive control	CPE	0.3mg	2.7mg	75 <sup>c</sup>	25.38±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	33687.49±2960 <sup>a</sup>	82.83±4.36 <sup>a</sup>	66.16±3.49 <sup>a</sup>
Negative control	Propylene glycol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T1	HCG (1000)	100Iu	900Iu	0 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-
T2	LHRHa(10)	1μ	9μ	0 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-
T3	LHRHa+CPE(10+2)	1+0.2	9+1.8	87.5 <sup>c</sup>	24.42±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	56626.18±5036 <sup>b</sup>	94.57±0.99 <sup>b</sup>	78.42±1.65 <sup>b</sup>
T4	Ovatide	0.5ml/kg		37.5 <sup>b</sup>	25.2±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	34774.28±1163 <sup>a</sup>	84.33±2.33 <sup>ab</sup>	76±1.15 <sup>b</sup>
T5	Ovaprim	0.5ml/kg		37.5 <sup>b</sup>	25.2±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	33783.28±1363 <sup>a</sup>	85.26±2.54 <sup>ab</sup>	77±1.36 <sup>b</sup>

Mean(± S.E.M.) value with a different letter are significantly different (p<0.05)

Fertilization rate in treated fish was in the range of 84.33-94.57% (Table 1) and CPE was lowest rate 82.83±4.36 among groups (P<0.05). There was significant difference in fertilization success among groups (P<0.05). The Hatching rate% was in the range 66-78 % and showed significantly difference among groups (Table 1). The control group showed the lowest hatching rate (P<0.5).

### DISCUSSION

The necessity of using inducing agents such as CPE, HCG, LHRHa and sGnRH (ovaprim) for induction of spawning has been demonstrated in cyprinid fish such as common and Chinese carps [10, 26-28] as well as Indian major carps [27-30]. Benni reproduction in captivity requires hormonal stimulation. To date, there have been no reports of obtaining oocytes from female with it. The spawning success was different among groups (Table 1), with 87.5% spawning success in LHRHa+CPE treatment, a value higher than positive control and other treatments. As reported Ovaprim and Ovatide is a known spawning inducing agent in Indian major carps, catfish and other carp species [10, 31-33] and the highest ovulation (100%) in Nase, *Chondrostoma nasus* [34]. Non of fish ovulated in the negative control, HCG and LHRHa treatments. As a result, it is proposed to combine LHRH+CPE was best treatment for successful spawning induction. HCG alone was ineffective except when combined with carp pituitary homogenate in hypophysectomized goldfish [35].

HCG alone or in combination with fish pituitary induced spawning in silver carp and rohu [36, 37]. Chonder [38] has described the technique of repeated breeding in Indian and Chinese major carps during the same spawning season by administering HCG injections [38].

This success immediately gained international attention and LHRH-A has been successfully used for maturation and spawning of various fish including coho salmon [39], Atlantic salmon [4], seabass and rabbit fish [40] and milkfish [41]. Successful spawning through a single dose of ovaprim has also been reported in several species of fish in India [31, 32]. Overall, the results of this study showed that in *B. sharpie* ovulation could not be successfully induced with hCG and LHRHa alone. LHRHa with CPE induced ovulation (85%) in female compared to female that received LHRHa alone. To date showed that ovatide and ovaprim were able to induce ovulation in 37.5% of the female *B. sharpie*.

Despite research in our laboratory suggesting that LHRHa about 100% of Chinese carp ovulate [28] in response to a second dose of 10 μg/kg LHRHa, in this study *B. sharpie* failed to respond to a similar treatment. Why the response to hormones was different in *B. sharpie* to that typically found in Chinese carp is not known. This search was similar to results that carried out on *B. xanthopetrus* [42]. The latency period was observed 24-26 h in treatments that responded to hormones. The latency period were greater than reported for catfish [43, 44], common carp [45-47], Chinese carp [48] and lower than reported for spotted murrel [44] Kutum [49], Nase [34]. Assessment of effectiveness of hormonal treatments can be done by examining spawning success, work fecundity, fertilization success and hatching success after hormonal treatments. According to our results the work fecundity in spawned fish was approximately in the range of 20-73 thousands. LHRHa+CPE was the highest working fecundity among groups, while CPE treatment was the lowest working fecundity. The work fecundity was lower than reported for common carp [43].

As reported Ovaprim (sGnRHA) is a known spawning inducing agent in Indian major carps and other carp species [10, 31].

“Linpe” method (sGnRHA and dopamine antagonist) has been used for induced ovulation in case of a number of cultured fish [10].

Fertilization success showed significant differences between CPE with LHRHa+CPE treatment suggesting that LHRHa+CPE was greatest fertilization success (94.57%). The percentage of fertilization and hatching rate remained consistently higher than ovaprim, ovotide and LHRHa+CPE treatments as compared to CPE in the trials. One of the reasons for this difference is the poor quality of pituitary glands used in various farms [32].

The type of hormones, administration protocols and gamete acquisition procedures may vary depending on the reproductive biology of each cultured species and a thorough understanding of the endocrine control of gametogenesis, final maturation and spawning is essential for the appropriate management of the species [7]. In different dosage LHRHa in Gattan *Barbus xanthopetrus* was not show change in spawning success. That showed LHRHa were not effect only spawning success [42].

Recently, HCG preparation has been approved for commercial utilization in commercial aquaculture [7].

In conclusion, this study demonstrated that a combination of LHRHa+CPE is an effective and reliable method for induction of ovulation in benni and can be very useful for hatchery and broodfish management, spawning and restocking programs. The advantage over the of CPE include its greater availability and lower cost.

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