

Physiological effects of nitrite in striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*)



The striped catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) is farmed all-over south-east Asia and due to its important commercial role there is great attention on environmental conditions that can optimise and compromise growth and performance. One such environmental variable is nitrite which is formed from NH_3 in freshwater by bacteria. Nitrite enters the fish via the gills and following it converts functional haemoglobin to non-functional metHb in the blood. Since high levels of metHb will ultimately decrease oxygen carrying capacity it follows that nitrite can potentially compromise aerobic metabolism and aerobic scope. During the last three months in Vietnam I have been investigating if and how nitrite affects the respiratory physiology of striped catfish and here I will present data on the nitrite sensitivity of striped catfish and discuss if nitrite levels occurring in aquaculture threaten physiological performance.

Monday Feb 28 at 11h15
at Zoophysiology



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