



Effect of Pollutants on the Fishes of Ganga and Sai River of Raebareli District in Uttar Pradesh in India

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Available online at: www.isca.in, www.isca.me

Received 9th October 2014, revised 30th October 2014, accepted 22th November 2014

Abstract

The lotic aquatic environment has been polluted by effluents wastes having toxic trace metals from anthropogenic activities. A major portion of these toxic metals accumulates in the body of aquatic organisms, hence these organisms are often considered as potential indicators of aquatic metal pollution. These metals are harmful to animal itself and also to consumers in the food chain after a permissible concentration. Fishes of being end consumers in the aquatic food chain are used as the indicators of heavy metal enrichment. Much attention has been paid to biomonitoring of these trace metals after minimata diseases caused by mercury and cadmium contamination in the aquatic environment. Studies on the heavy metal contents in fishes of various localities have been reported. The riverine fishes of the district Raebareli despite the fact that the both rivers Ganga and SaiRiver highly sensitive for metals pollution and contribute more than half in total fish production of this district.

Keywords: Pollutants, heavy metals, fishes, Sai River and Ganga, Raebareli.

Introduction

No organic life can develop and survive without the participation of metal (element) ions. Basically the metals are divided into two categories; the macro-elements and micro-elements (trace elements or heavy metals). Essential macroelements to life are Sodium, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium etc. Essential microelements to life are zinc, manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, molybdenum etc. All metals essential to life are toxic when supplied in concentrations in excess of the optimum concentration levels. But there is a group of trace metals which are nonessentials to life and has become synonymous with poison, such as arsenic, mercury, cadmium, lead etc.

The lotic aquatic environment has been polluted by effluents wastes having toxic trace metals from anthropogenic activities. A major portion of these toxic trace metals accumulates in the body of aquatic organism, hence these organisms are often considered as potential indicator of aquatic metal pollution. These metals are harmful to animal itself and also to consumers in food chain after a permissible concentration. Fishes are the end consumers in aquatic food chain and thus these are used as indicators of heavy metals enrichments. Biomonitoring of heavy metal pollution has been given ever-increasing attention due to ability of various fresh water organisms to accumulate trace elements¹. Biological monitoring may be defined as the systematics or repetitive measurement and assessment of agents or their metabolites either in tissues or secretions to evaluate the uptake of a chemical and the health risk involved, with the purpose of prevention of health effects by corrective actions as needed². Much attention has been paid to biomonitoring of these trace metals after minamta³ and itai-itai⁴ diseases caused by

mercury and cadmium contamination in the aquatic environment.

Studies on the heavy metal contents in fishes (whole fish/different organs) have been reported by a large number of workers such as Ruparelia et.al.⁵, Srivastava⁶ Ayyadurai et.al.⁷, Pandey et.al.⁸. Different workers have been also reported on heavy metal contents in blood of different animals like Lizard⁹, Aves¹⁰, Beef steers¹¹ and Raccoons¹².

Blood is the biological medium most commonly used in monitoring exposure to heavy metals because blood act as distributing medium to whole body and toxic metals reach to muscles and other organs via this medium and accumulate there.

District Raebareli has two prominent rivers the Sai (95km) and the Ganga (86 km) and both are highly sensitive for metal pollution¹³. However it appears from the literature that no attempt has been made to assess the concentration of trace metals in fishes from both the rivers in this district despite the fact that both rivers contribute more than half in total fish production of this district¹⁴. Hence the present studies have been under taken to find out the concentration of seven trace metals in blood and muscle tissue of three edible fishes of high food value of both the rivers.

Material and Methods

In river SaiTakiaghat, Dibiapur, Munshiganjand in river Ganga Rampur, Shivpuree and Khajoorgaonsites were selected .To study trace metal concentration in blood and muscle three edible fishes were selected belonging to three chief fresh water fishes groups; Labeorohita from major carps Clariasbatrachus from

cat fishes and 3, *Channa striatus* from live fishes. Whole blood samples were collected in the heparinized containers. Blood samples (min. 2ml. to max. 5ml.) were obtained by direct puncturing the heart with disposable syringe of 5ml. size. Fresh muscle tissue and blood samples were digested with 15ml. (each sample x 5ml. x 3 times) concentrated analytical grade nitric acid (Co. Ranbaxy) in conical flask on hot plate at a temperature of 70°C till the white or creamy or light pale residue appeared. The digested masses (Colourless residue) were diluted with 10ml. of distilled water. now the concentrations of cadmium (Cd), copper (Cu), chromium (Cr), manganese (Mn), nickel (Ni), lead (Pb) and zinc (Zn) in digested masses were determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin/Elmer AAS model 5000) as mentioned in perkin elmer Manual¹⁵, Bais et.al.¹⁶.

Blank sample were also prepared to check impurities in different chemical self. These blank samples were digested as above, and measured in atomic absorption spectrophotometer with true samples for each metals. This study was conducted in post monsoon period of 1994, (Nov. 94 to Jan.95) and atomic absorption spectrophotometric work was performed in Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow.

Observations: The level of concentration of trace metals cadmium, copper, chromium, manganese, nickel, lead and zinc in blood and muscle tissue of three selected edible fishes, *Labeorohita*, *Channa striatus*, and *Clarias batrachus* of both the rivers has been presented in table-1 and 2.

Table-1
Concentration of toxic metals in the blood and muscles of Fishes of River Sai at Raebareli

Sampling Station	Pisces Species	Sample	Cd	Cu	Cr	Mn	Ni	Pb	Ni
Takiaghat	A	Blood	0.12± 0.04	BDL	0.50± 0.12	0.50 ± 0.08	0.35 ±0.08	0.15 ±0.04	6.45± 0.38
		Muscle	0.21± 0.06	0.12± 0.04	1.32± 0.26	1.17± 0.21	1.14± 0.21	0.24± 0.04	6.36± 0.54
	B	Blood	0.09± 0.02	0.06 ±0.02	0.26± 0.06	0.31± 0.07	0.28± 0.10	0.08 ±0.02	4.38±0.22
		Muscle	0.17± 0.05	0.24 ±0.06	1.16± 0.22	0.89± 0.14	0.94± 0.18	0.22± 0.06	8.22± 0.43
	C	Blood	0.14 ±0.03	0.08± 0.03	0.22 ±0.06	0.38± 0.12	0.27 ±0.07	0.11 ±0.03	4.68 ±0.33
		Muscle	0.08± 0.02	0.42± 0.16	0.83± 0.08	0.73± 0.13	1.22± 0.22	0.31± 0.04	7.39± 0.41
Dibiapur	A	Blood	0.18± 0.06	0.10± 0.03	0.46± 0.10	0.86± 0.25	0.42± 0.14	0.19±0.0 4	9.88± 0.28
		Muscle	0.22± 0.04	0.31± 0.06	0.97± 0.27	1.74 ±0.26	1.62± 0.30	0.28± 0.06	1.21± 0.16
	B	Blood	0.04± 0.01	0.06± 0.01	0.28± 0.08	0.41± 0.08	0.39 ±0.09	03 ±0.01	5.03± 0.25
		Muscle	0.06± 0.02	0.29± 0.09	1.41 ±0.32	1.82± 0.34	1.88± 0.23	0.17± 0.05	9.17± 0.39
	C	Blood	0.14 ±0.05	0.04 ±0.01	0.27±0.06	0.19 ±0.06	0.31± 0.07	0.17± 0.03	5.39 ±0.40
		Muscle	0.28± 0.08	0.22± 0.04	1.03± 0.17	0.43± 0.17	1.53± 0.29	0.34± 0.09	2.20± 0.29
Munshiganj	A	Blood	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na
		Muscle	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na
	B	Blood	0.28± 0.04	0.14± 0.05	0.39± 0.11	0.88± 0.14	0.44± 0.12	0.21± 0.09	10.66± 0.48
		Muscle	0.88± 0.14	1.02± 0.21	2.24± 0.39	2.49± 0.30	2.24± 0.36	1.04± 0.11	13.32± 0.66
	C	Blood	0.24± 0.07	0.17± 0.04	0.48± 0.13	0.67± 0.16	0.38± 0.08	0.16± 0.04	12.21 ±0.34
		Muscle	0.76± 0.13	1.06± 0.18	2.86± 0.28	2.67 ±0.37	2.14 ±0.27	0.83± 0.19	14.66± 0.55

All the values are mean ± S.E. of 3 observation. Pisces species: A=*Labeorohita*, Values in blood are in ppm, B=*Channa striatus* Values in muscles tissue are in µg/gm., C=*Clarias batrachus* Na = Sample not available., BDL= below detectable limit.

Table-2
Concentration of toxic metals in the blood and muscles of Fishes of River Ganga at Raebareli

Sampling Station	Pisces Species	Sample	Cd	Cu	Cr	Mn	Ni	Pb	Zn
Rampur	A	Blood	0.28± 0.08	0.05± 0.01	0.28± 0.07	1.39± 0.22	0.52 ±0.13	0.08 ±0.02	13.89± 0.77
		Muscle	0.82± 0.12	18.26± 1.04	12.06± 0.55	18.42± 1.24	6.04± 0.46	0.24± 0.04	32.24± 2.18
	B	Blood	0.24± 0.06	0.06 ±0.01	0.09± 0.03	0.49± 0.17	0.30± 0.07	0.11 ±0.03	6.32±0.2 2
		Muscle	1.03± 0.18	28.03 ±2.42	16.84± 0.68	8.44± 0.31	9.22± 0.34	0.44± 0.08	39.03± 1.41
	C	Blood	0.42 ±0.10	0.14± 0.05	0.10 ±0.04	0.48± 0.13	0.27 ±0.08	0.09 ±0.03	4.72 ±0.33
		Muscle	0.53± 0.13	9.53± 0.31	13.57± 1.21	7.92± 0.51	4.83± 0.67	0.19± 0.06	28.76± 1.14
Shivpuree	A	Blood	0.21± 0.08	0.02± 0.01	0.3± 0.10	1.42± 0.23	0.58± 0.09	0.06 ±0.01	14.92± 0.86
		Muscle	0.72± 0.13	22.34± 1.21	9.43± 0.61	18.00 ±2.41	6.87± 0.52	0.39± 0.07	29.43± 0.74
	B	Blood	0.26± 0.07	0.04± 0.01	0.18± 0.03	0.34± 0.08	0.21 ±0.07	0.08 ±0.02	4.22± 0.19
		Muscle	0.98± 0.16	31.62± 3.24	14.33 ±0.53	7.65± 0.44	11.24± 0.61	0.49± 0.06	41.06± 4.26
	C	Blood	0.39 ±0.05	0.10 ±0.02	BDL	0.35 ±0.10	0.34± 0.13	0.10± 0.04	4.60 ±0.48
		Muscle	0.68± 0.14	12.46± 0.88	4.32± 0.34	8.56± 0.38	4.73± 0.45	0.17± 0.03	21.37± 1.31
Khajoorgaon	A	Blood	0.12± 0.03	0.04± 0.02	0.22± 0.05	1.88± 0.26	0.54± 0.12	0.06± 0.02	13.06± 0.59
		Muscle	0.86± 0.16	18.77 ±1.59	11.72± 0.81	19.58± 0.49	6.18± 0.64	0.36± 0.06	29.47± 2.47
	B	Blood	0.21± 0.05	0.08± 0.02	0.16± 0.07	0.58± 0.06	0.28± 0.07	0.05± 0.01	5.09± 0.44
		Muscle	1.42± 0.23	31.00± 2.42	13.57± 1.09	8.22± 0.31	12.44± 0.31	0.48± 0.07	34.22± 3.27
	C	Blood	0.28± 0.06	0.09± 0.08	0.11± 0.03	0.72± 0.08	0.24± 0.06	0.13± 0.04	7.38 ±1.13
		Muscle	0.73± 0.17	11.49± 1.13	7.34± 0.68	7.93 ±0.65	7.29 ±0.41	0.21± 0.05	19.42± 1.49

Pisces species: A=Labeorohita Values in blood are in ppm, B=Channa striatus Values in muscles tissue are in µg/gm, C=Clarias batrachus, BDL= below detectable limit.

Cadmium (Cd): In river Sai fishes the range of cadmium was recorded table-1 in between 0.04 ± 0.01 ppm and 0.28±0.04 ppm in blood while it was 0.06±0.02 µg/g to 0.88 ±0.14 µg/g in muscles. Highest concentration (0.88± 0.14 µg/g) was observed in muscle tissue of carnivorous fish *C. striatus*.

In gangetic fishes the concentration of cadmium table-2 was in range of 0.12 ± 0.03 ppm to 0.42 ± 0.10 ppm in blood and 0.53

±0.13 µg/g to 1.42 ±0.23 µg/g in muscles. Concentration of Cd was highest (1.42 ±0.23 µg/g) in muscles of carnivorous fish *C. striatus*.

Copper(Cu): The range of copper concentration in blood and muscle tissue of river Sai Table-1 fishes was from , BDL to 0.17 ± 0.04 ppm and 0.12 ± 0.04 µg/g to 1.06 ± 0.18 µg/g respectively. Omnivorous fish *Clarias batrachus* show highest

concentration of Cu in muscle tissue ($1.06 \pm 0.18 \mu\text{g/g}$).

In Gangetic fishes copper ranged (table-2) in between 0.02 ± 0.01 ppm to 0.14 ± 0.05 ppm in blood and $9.53 \pm 0.31 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $31.62 \pm 3.24 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Concentration of Cu was highest in muscle of carnivorous fish *C. striatus* ($31.62 \pm 3.24 \mu\text{g/g}$).

Chromium (Cr): The range of this trace metal was recorded from 0.22 ± 0.06 ppm to 0.50 ± 0.12 ppm in blood and from $0.83 \pm 0.08 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $2.86 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles of Sai fishes table-1.

In Gangetic fishes the Chromium ranged table-2 BDL to 0.30 ± 0.10 ppm in blood and from $4.32 \pm 0.34 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $16.84 \pm 0.68 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Chromium concentration was highest in muscle of carnivorous fishes *C. striatus* ($16.84 \pm 0.68 \mu\text{g/g}$).

Manganese (Mn): In river Sai Fishes manganese ranged from 0.19 ± 0.06 ppm to 0.88 ± 0.14 ppm in blood and from $0.43 \pm 0.17 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $2.67 \pm 0.37 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Highest concentration of Manganese was observed in muscles of omnivorous fish *C. batrachus* ($2.67 \pm 0.37 \mu\text{g/g}$).

In Gangetic fishes the concentration manganese table-2 was from 0.34 ± 0.08 ppm to 1.88 ± 0.26 ppm in blood and from $7.65 \pm 0.44 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $19.56 \pm 0.49 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Highest concentration of manganese was in muscles of herbivorous fish *L. rohita* ($19.56 \pm 0.49 \mu\text{g/g}$).

Nickel(Ni): In river Sai fishes the range of Nickel was recorded from 0.27 ± 0.07 ppm to 0.44 ± 0.12 ppm in blood and from $0.94 \pm 0.18 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $2.24 \pm 0.36 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Highest concentration of Nickel was observed in muscles of carnivorous fish *C. striatus* ($2.24 \pm 0.36 \mu\text{g/g}$).

In Gangetic fishes Ni ranged table-2 from 0.21 ± 0.07 ppm to 0.58 ± 0.09 ppm in blood and from $4.83 \pm 0.67 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $12.44 \pm 0.31 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Highest concentration of Nickel was observed in fish *C. striatus* ($12.44 \pm 0.31 \mu\text{g/g}$) in muscles.

Lead (Pb): In river Saifishes the lead ranged table-1 in between 0.03 ± 0.01 ppm to 0.21 ± 0.09 ppm in blood and from $0.17 \pm 0.05 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $1.04 \pm 0.11 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscle. Highest concentration of lead was observed in fish *C. striatus* ($1.04 \pm 0.11 \mu\text{g/g}$) in muscles.

In Gangetic fishes the lead ranged table-2 in between 0.05 ± 0.01 ppm to 13 ± 0.04 ppm in blood and from $0.17 \pm 0.03 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $0.49 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Carnivorous fish *C. striatus* show highest concentration of Pb in its muscles ($0.49 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{g/g}$).

Zinc (Zn): The concentration of Zn in river Sai fishes was table-1 in range from 4.38 ± 0.22 ppm to 12.21 ± 0.34 ppm in blood and from $12.21 \pm 0.34 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $14.66 \pm 0.55 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles. Highest concentration of Zinc was observed in muscles of omnivorous fish *C. batrachus* ($14.66 \pm 0.55 \mu\text{g/g}$).

In Gangetic fishes Zinc ranged from 4.22 ± 0.19 ppm to 14.92 ± 0.86 ppm in blood and from $19.42 \pm 1.49 \mu\text{g/g}$ to $41.06 \pm 4.26 \mu\text{g/g}$ in muscles table-2. Highest concentration of zinc was observed in muscles of carnivorous fish *C. striatus* ($41.06 \pm 4.26 \mu\text{g/g}$).

On the basis of above finding it is clear that Zinc concentration was highest in blood and muscle tissue than rest all trace metals in all the three fishes in both the rivers. Carnivorous fish *C. striatus* show higher concentration of much of above mentioned toxic elements than herbivorous fish *L. rohita* and omnivorous fish *C. batrachus* in both the rivers. Concentrations of different trace metals in muscles tissue are higher than concentration observed in blood except few findings. In fishes of both the rivers the concentration of different trace metals varied at different sampling stations. In Sai fishes the concentration of Cr, Mn, Ni, Zn is always higher than those of Cu, Cd and Pb in blood and muscles both in all sampling stations. The pattern of distribution of different trace metals in blood and muscle of Sai fishes was Zn>Mn>Cr>Ni>Cd>Pb>Cu and Zn>Ni>Mn>Cr>Cu>Pb>Cd respectively. The trace metal concentration pattern in Gangetic fishes was Zn>Mn>Ni>Cd>Cr>Pb>Cu in blood and Zn>Cu>Mn>Cr>Ni>Cd>Pb in muscles. Except Pb rest all above mentioned trace metals are higher in muscles of Gangetic fishes than Sai fishes.

Results and Discussion

The maximum permissible concentration of Cd, Cu, Cr, Mn, Ni, Pb and Zn in food according to various nations such as mentioned by Gopalan et.al¹⁷, Reilly¹⁸, Robert¹⁹, W.H.O.²⁰ have been presented in table-3. Our finding for the concentration of Cd in fish muscles (edible part) were always lower than those maxima permitted by Australia and Tasmania table-3. Cu concentration in our results sometimes exceeded the maximum permissible limit in food as permitted by Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and U.K. but always lower than those of Canada table-3. When these observed value of Cu were compared with data of "Nutritive value of Indian food". The Cu concentration was always higher in all observations mentioned by Kousar S., Javed M. and Shuhaimi-Othman M. et. al.^{21,22} and recommended maximum permissible concentration of Cr should be 0.01-0.2 mg/kg in food. Our results for Cr concentration in were higher than this recommendation. Mn concentration in present work sometimes exceeded the recommendations of Gopalan C et.al.¹⁸ but always higher than those maxima permitted by Australia in food. Nickel values observed in present studies were always higher than those maxima permitted in fish products table-3, Pb values in present work were always lower than maxima permitted by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa in food²³ table-3. Zn values in present work sometimes exceeded the maxima permitted by Australia, and New-Zealand in food but always lower than those of Canada and South Africa²⁴.

Table-3
Maximum permissible concentration of some trace metals in food according to various nations as mentioned by Gopalan et.al.¹⁷, Robert¹⁹ and W.H.O.²⁰

Countries	Cd	Cu	Cr	Mn	Ni	Pb	Zn
Australia	2.0	30.0	-	0.15	-	2.0	40.0
Canada	-	50.0	-	-	-	10.0	50.0
New Zealand	-	30.0	-	-	-	2.0	40.0
South Africa	-	20.0	-	-	-	50.0	50.0
Tasmania	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.H.O.	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-
Recommendation of Robert (1981)	-	0.5-3.0	0.01-0.2	0.5-5.0	-	-	3.15
U.K.	-	20.0	-	-	-	-	50.0
Average values of Present work	0.59	10.42	6.46	6.56	4.61	0.37	19.81

*All values are in mg/kg. *- = Data not available

However due to absence of Indian standards on same aspect (information from bureau of indian standards, Manak Bhawan, New Delhi Ref. No. FAD/G-80, dated 12.5.97 and 5.9.97) we could not correlate our finding with Indian Conditions. The concentration of different trace metals varied significantly at different sampling stations in the river Sai. In the river Sai all the metals were highest in fishes of Munshiganj (Matihahar) sampling stations. This is due to the industrial effluents of Sultanpur Road Industries mainly Shri Bhawani Paper Mill, U.P. state spinning Mill, Sri Niwas Oil Refineries, Mittal Fertilizer, which mixes to Sai at Matihahar in this region through a GandaNala and makes Sai excessively polluted (WQI>80) mentioned by Sinha et.al.²⁵. Due to this major carps have been depleted from this region and no sample was available. Fishes of Takiaghat station show lowest concentration as there is no industrial effluent in this Sector (WQI<50). Fishes of Dibiapur station show higher concentration than those of Takiaghat because effluents of Rawal Paper mill and City sewage mixes here through Rajghat Ganda Nala.

Mn and Zn contents of muscles of Sai fishes are higher than reported values of river Cauvery Fishes except Zn rest all above mentioned metals are lower in muscles than reported by Ruparelia et.al.⁵, in lake Kankaria fishes. Concentration of Zn and Cr is lower than those reported by Pandey et.al.⁸ in fish

muscle of sewage fed pond.

In Gangetic fishes concentration of Mn, Pb and Zn are higher while concentration of Cd, Cu, Cr and Ni are lower in muscles than values reported by Srivastava⁶ in muscles of Gangetic fishes in between Kalakankar (Distt. Pratapgarh U.P.) and Phaphamau (Distt. Allahabad U.P.).

The values of metal concentration in muscles are always higher than values found in blood with some exceptions. This is due to that blood act as distributing medium to whole body and toxic metal search to muscles and other organs via this medium and accumulate there. When these observed values for the concentration of different trace metals in blood in present work were compared with those of terrestrial animals table-4 then it was found that Pb concentration was higher while Cd and Mn concentration were lower than those of reported values in blood of birds of Lucknow city by Hussain and Kaphalia¹⁰. Cd, Cu, Cr, Mn, Pb concentration in blood of fishes in the present study were lower while Zn concentration was higher than those reported values in blood of Lizards by Srivastava⁹. Cd value in blood in present work was lower while Cu and Pb values were higher than reported values in blood of Beef steers by Comerford¹¹. Pb concentration was higher in blood of Raccoons than observed Pb values in blood of fishes in present work table-4.

Table-4
Average levels of some trace metals in blood of Lizards, Aves, Mammals and fishes

Animals	Cd	Cu	Cr	Mn	Ni	Pb	Zn	References
Lizards	0.62	0.95	9.14	1.24	-	1.4	1.93	9
Aves	0.07	-	-	0.60	-	1.42	-	10
Mammals	0.02	0.08	-	-	-	0.20	-	11
Beef steers Raccoons	-	-	-	-	-	0.44	-	12
Fishes average Values in present work	0.20	0.07	0.25	0.69	0.35	0.10	8.0	

*All values are in ppm *- = Data not available

Conclusion

Most of the above toxic metals show higher concentration in carnivorous fishes (*C. striatus*) than those of herbivorous fish (*L. rohita*) and omnivorous fish (*C. batrachus*) in both rivers. This may be due to that carnivorous fish represent highest trophic level hence have high biomagnification factor for various toxic metals.

Present studies revealed that except Pb rest all above (Cd, Cu, Cr, Mn, Ni, Zn) trace metals are higher in muscles of Gangetic fishes than Sai fishes. This result indicates that fish of river Sai are more suitable for human consumption than Gangetic Fishes, River Ganga have a very high degree of contamination yet after GANGA ACTION PLANE (Danik Jagran News Paper, dated 09.06.1996)²⁶.

Acknowledgment

The authors are thankful to the Department, Zoology, DAV College, Kanpur for providing laboratory facilities.

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