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# Toxicity Assessment of Biosynthesized Iron Oxide Nanoparticles Using *Casia Fistula* Leaf Extract, Aggregation in Gills and Biochemical Parameters of *Platy Xiphophorus Maculatus*

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## Abstract

The present study aimed at the toxicity of biosynthesized Iron oxide nanoparticles using *Casia fistula* leaf extract, aggregation in gills and biochemical parameters of *Platy Xiphophorus maculatus*. *Casia fistula* leaf extract was used for the synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles and described using UV-Visible spectrophotometer; Scanning Electron Microscope, Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectroscopy, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy and X-Ray Diffraction. Aggregation of biosynthesized iron oxide nanoparticles in the gills and biochemical parameters were estimated by exposing platy for 7 days. UV-VIS image of iron oxide nanoparticles was observed at 371.79nm. SEM image was observed at the wavelength range 5 and 10mm. EDX spectrum shows Fe and O elements and located between 0.5 to 6.5KeV. FT-IR spectrum was ascertained in the line of 4000-400cm<sup>-1</sup>. XRD results confirmed the crystal expression, and the moderate size is 20±24nm. Aggregation of iron oxide nanoparticles in gills increased and biochemical parameters such as protein, carbohydrate and lipids in muscle and gill of platy were gradually decreased with increased concentration of iron oxide nanoparticles. The present study concluded that the biosynthesized iron oxide nanoparticles using *Casia fistula* leaf extract affect the biochemical parameters of platy.

**Keywords:** Toxicity; *Casia fistula*; Biosynthesis; Iron oxide nanoparticles; Aggregation; Biochemical; Platy fish

## Introduction

Many researchers have discovered many plant species and components that contain antioxidant compounds such as nitrogenous base amino acids, polyphenols and sugars [1]. These compounds perform the function of a capping agent for the synthesis of nanoparticles [2]. Generally, metal nanoparticles are manufactured in two ways such as bottom to up and top to bottom. Metal and metal oxide nanoparticles from plant extract are generally stable even after 1 month and do not undergo any change [3]. Green synthesis of various metallic nanoparticles has re-evaluated plants for their natural ability to reduce toxic and hazardous chemicals. Nanoparticles of plant-related parts such as leaves, stems flowers, bark, roots, seeds and their metabolites have been used for biosynthesis [4]. The synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles depends upon plant type and phytochemical concentration, whereas

microorganisms and other methods require more time to reduce ions to nanoparticles [5]. The main advantage of biosynthesis is to control the particle size, shape and physicochemical properties. Also, biomolecules of plants can act as capping and reducing agents and it increases the percentage of reduction rate and stabilization of nanoparticles [6]. The different organic and inorganic materials such as carbohydrates, phlorotannin's, anthraquinones, phenolic compounds, alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, saponins, tannins, sterols, amino acids, terpenoids and quinines are present in the extract can act as powerful reducing agents. Among the phytochemicals, phenolic compounds and flavonoids play a vital role in the formation of iron oxide nanoparticles [7]. Nanoparticles released into the water ecosystem affect the organisms including fishes [8]. The present work aimed at the influence of biosynthesized iron oxide nanoparticles using *Casia fistula* leaf extract, aggregation in gills and biochemical parameters of platy *Xiphophorus maculatus*.

## Materials and Methods

For the experimental study, iron oxide nanoparticles ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ) were biosynthesized by using the leaf of *Casia fistula* as a reducing agent. Fresh leaves were collected from The Gandhigram Rural Institute- Deemed to be a university campus, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India, surface cleaned with running water to remove debris and other contaminated organic contents and dried at room temperature. The powdered leaf was placed in the Soxhlet apparatus, added 300ml of methanol and run up to 3 hours, the extract was collected in the round bottom flask. For the synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles, *Casia fistula* leaf extract was used as a capping agent. For toxicity studies, Platy *Xiphophorus maculatus* fingerlings ( $3.5 \pm 1.5\text{g}$ ) were collected from A.M Fish Farm, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India and transported to the laboratory and acclimated in round plastic troughs for 15 days at  $28 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ . During acclimation, fishes were fed with trainee feed containing fish meal, groundnut oil cake, wheat flour and rice bran in the form of dry Pellets. The synthesized nanoparticles were described using UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, Scanning Electron Microscopy, Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectrometer Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy and X-Ray Diffraction. Water quality parameters such as pH, Temperature, dissolved oxygen, dissolved carbon dioxide, hardness, alkalinity, and Chloride were estimated [9]. For assessment of iron oxide nanoparticles toxicity, different concentrations (0, 10, 100, 500, 750 and 1000ppm) of the iron oxide nanoparticles were taken. Control was maintained with tap water and without Iron oxide nanoparticles. 5 fish with an average weight of 4-5g were introduced and the behaviour and survival were observed in each concentration for 96hrs. For sub-lethal studies, platy was exposed to different concentrations (0, 100, 200, 300 and 400ppm) for 7 days and iron aggregation in the gills and biochemical parameters such as protein, carbohydrate, and lipid [10-12] in the muscle, and gill were estimated. The fish used is as per the Institutional Ethical Committee for Research on Human and Animal subjects.

## Results and Discussion

The absorbance spectra of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were measured at 400nm (Figure 1). In the synthesized iron oxide nanoparticles maximum absorption peak is 371.79nm. Pattanayak & Nayak et al. [13,14] reported the absorption peak at 216-265nm from various plant extracts and sorghum bran extract respectively. Sneha Shah et al. [15] reported the maximum UV-Vis absorbance peak at 190nm from the stem extracts of *Euphorbia milii*, 202nm for *Tridax procumbens* and flower extracts used by the synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles and approximate crystal size at 195nm for *Euphorbia milii* and 194nm for *Tinospora cordifolia*. Scanning Electron Microscopy indicates the spherical and rectangular shape of synthesized nanoparticles (Figures 2a & 2b). Green synthesized of iron oxide nanoparticles were spherical in [16]. The element composition shows the peaks are located between the 0.5KeV and 6.5KeV (Figure 3). Also reported that the elemental composition of iron oxide nanoparticles was Iron, Oxygen, Calcium and Chloride [17]. The FTIR bands observed at 3437.05, 2918.88, 1714.61, 1628.25 and 543.93 are associated with functional groups of alcohol, phenols, primary amines, ketones and O-H, C-H, C-Br stretching of proteins (Figure 4). The XRD diffraction peaks are indexed as  $10.75^\circ$  (020),  $24.12^\circ$  (022),  $33.14^\circ$  (110),  $35.62^\circ$  (111),  $40.87^\circ$  (041),  $49.47^\circ$  (104),  $54.02^\circ$  (124) and  $62.45^\circ$  (125) (Figure 5). Similar reports were reported by the presence of  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles on the surface of rice straw evidenced by the absorption bands at around  $295\text{-}541\text{cm}^{-1}$  that confirm the Fe-O stretch [18,19]. From the XRD the average size of the crystal is  $20 \pm 14$ . Wu et al. [20,21] studied that the  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticle synthesis followed by the co-precipitation method and its average particle size was calculated at 19.4nm and 11.4nm. Crystallite size of synthesized  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  nanoparticle was 16.79nm and range of 17-25nm by using leaf extract of seaweed *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and brown seaweed (*Sargassum muticum*) extract [22,23].

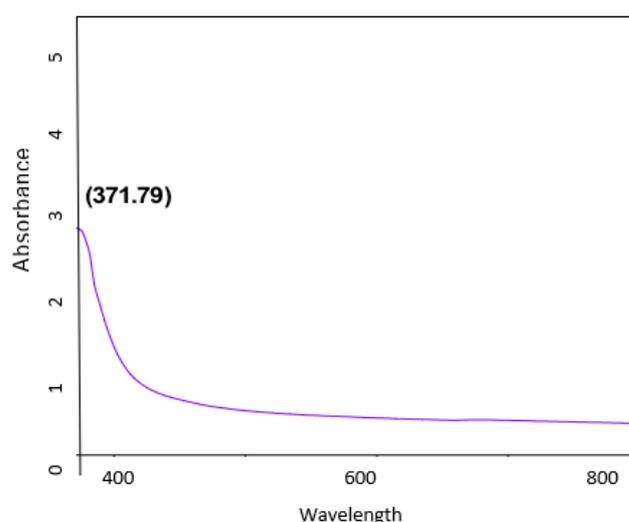
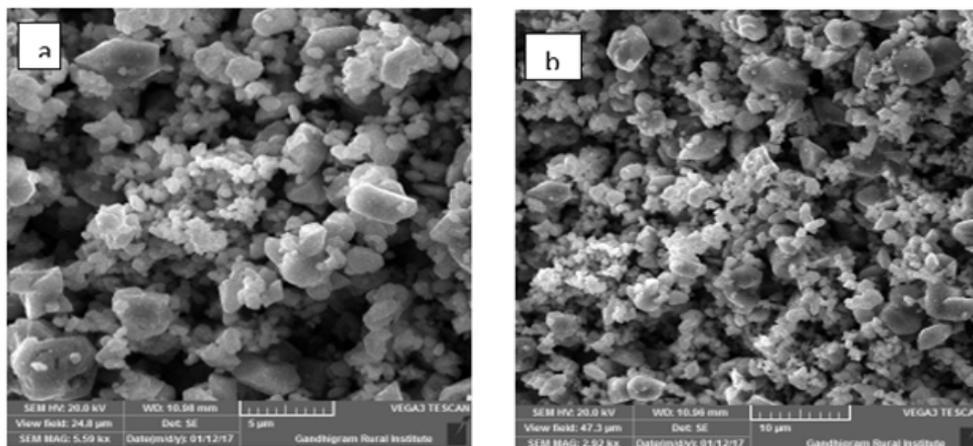
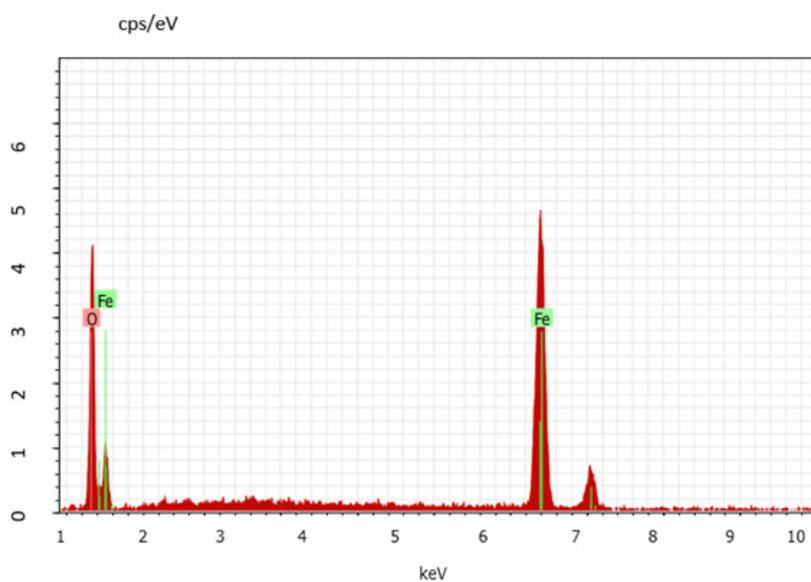


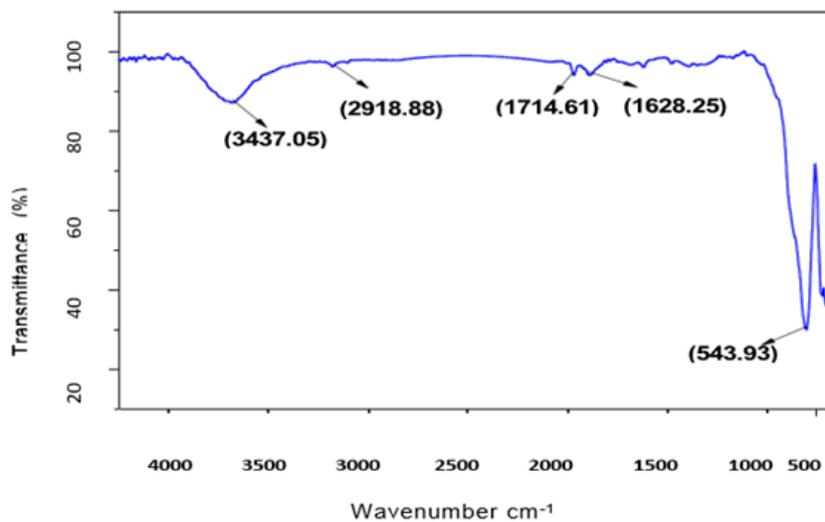
Figure 1: UV-VIS image of iron oxide nanoparticles.



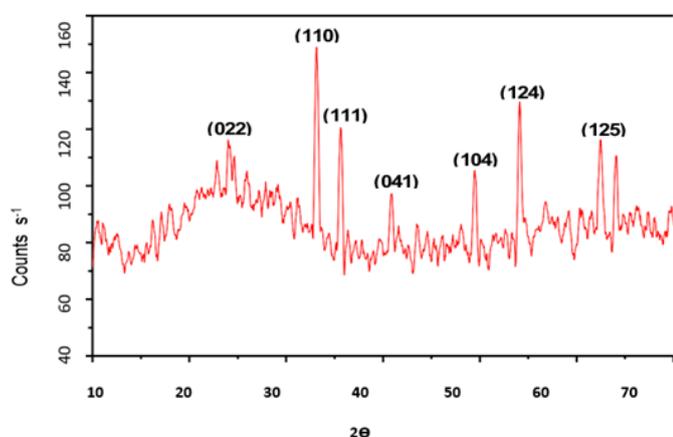
**Figure 2:** SEM image of iron oxide nanoparticles (a-5 $\mu$ m; b-10 $\mu$ m).



**Figure 3:** EDAX image of iron oxide nanoparticles.



**Figure 4:** FT-IR image of iron oxide nanoparticles.



**Figure 5:** XRD image of iron oxide nanoparticles.

Water quality parameters and behaviour of the fish were presented in Tables 1 & 2. Similarly, Hao et al. [24] reported that the Physico-chemical parameters of water samples are pH-7.1, dissolved oxygen - 6.5mg/L, temperature- 22 °C, and total hardness- 77.7mg/L. Shahzad et al. [25] reported that the mean values of physicochemical parameters of water samples such as temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), total alkalinity and total hardness are 27 °C, 7.7, 7.00mg/L, 202mg/L and 51.6mg/L, respectively were similar to the present study. Khunyakari et al. [26] reported toxicity of nickel, copper and zinc in *Poecilia reticulata* that caused raised secretion like mucus over gills, excessive excretion, anorexia and inflated fin movement. Survival studies of Platy Fish exposed to Iron oxide Nanoparticles are presented in Table 3. The mortality/survival of fish in iron oxide treated was recorded after 96 hours and the concentration at which 25% mortality of fish occurred was taken as the median lethal concentration [27]. 100% mortality was observed in 6 hours, under the influence of different concentrations of iron oxidnanoparticles and the toxic effect was observed on haematological parameters. Iron aggregation in platyfish gills was gradually increased (Table 4). The excessive aggregation of free iron can cause toxicity generation of reactive oxygen species and induction of cell death The transport of the iron in the blood is performed by plasma protein transferrin and can aggregate in the case of the iron overload in zebrafish. The increased iron concentration on gills is due to hydrolysis and polymerization in agreement with the fish body [28]. Protein, carbohydrate and lipid in muscle and gill decreased with increased concentration of iron oxide nanoparticles (Table 5). The biochemical mechanisms in an organism play an important role during stress conditions due to the presence of toxicants in the aquatic ecosystem. Yesudass Thangam [29] reported that pollutant in aquatic media causes its affect fishes at the cellular or molecular level which results in significant changes in biochemical parameters.

**Table 1:** Water quality parameters of tap water.

Parameters	Values
pH	7.6
Temperature	27
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	6.52
Dissolved Carbon dioxide "	Nil
Hardness "	320.7
Alkalinity "	15
Chloride "	71

**Table 2:** Basic observation of platy fish exposed to iron oxide nanoparticles.

Activity	Observation
Circular swimming	Yes
Jerk movement	Yes
Bottom resting	No
Surface respiration	Yes
Aggressive movement	Yes
Excess mucous secretion	No
Mortality observation	Yes
Behaviour observation	Yes
Breathing movement	Surface

**Table 3:** Survival Studies of platy Fish exposed to iron oxide nanoparticles.

Concentration (ppm)	Exposure (Hours)			
	24	48	72	96
Control	NM	NM	NM	NM
10	NM	NM	NM	NM
100	NM	NM	NM	NM
500	NM	NM	3	2
750	3	2	-	-
1000	5	-	-	-

**Table 4:** Accumulation of iron oxide nanoparticles in gills of platy fish.

The Concentration of Iron Oxide NPs(ppm)	Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (g/mg <sup>1</sup> )
0 (Control)	144.01
100	472.8
200	949.2
300	1432.99
400	1916.4

**Table 5:** Biochemical parameters of platy exposed to different concentrations of iron oxide nanoparticles.

Concentration of Iron oxide NPs(ppm)	Organs	Protein(mg/g)	Carbohydrate(mg/g)	Lipid(mg/g)
0 (Control)	Muscle	4.18±0.03	2.51±0.03	1.98±0.07
	Gill	1.86±0.02	0.37±0.03	0.98±0.01
100	Muscle	4.08±0.04	1.26±0.08	1.25±0.07
	Gill	1.62±0.53	0.23±0.02	0.15±0.03
200	Muscle	3.62±0.02	1.22±0.02	1.01±0.04
	Gill	1.43±0.12	0.17±0.02	0.15±0.02
300	Muscle	3.18±0.12	1.11±0.15	0.95±0.02
	Gill	1.02±0.05	0.16±0.03	0.12±0.01
400	Muscle	2.62±0.03	0.85±0.07	0.61±0.03
	Gill	0.89±0.21	0.06±0.02	0.10±0.03

## Conclusion

Iron oxide nanoparticles were biosynthesized using *Casia fistula* leaf extract and characterized using UV-Vis, SEM, EDAX, FT-IR and XRD. As the quantity of Iron oxide nanoparticles increased the concentration in the gill of platy was also increased. Decreased protein, carbohydrate and lipid content was observed in muscle and gill of platy.

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