

Chemicals and Amounts Used Against Fungal Infections During Trout (Oncorhynchus

mykiss) Egg Incubation Period

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ABSTRACT

This review examines the effectiveness and dosages of chemical and herbal disinfectants used against fungal infections encountered by trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) eggs during incubation. Formalin, potassium permanganate and copper sulfate are prominent chemicals among disinfectants. Formalin provides effective antifungal treatment when used in concentrations of 1000-2000 ppm, but it can have toxic effects in excessive doses. Potassium permanganate can control fungal pathogens when applied at concentrations of 1-5 ppm, but it can have negative effects on fish at high doses. Copper sulfate helps prevent fungal infections when applied at a dosage of 0.5-1 ppm. Herbal disinfectants include tea tree oil, thyme oil and garlic extracts. It has been observed that tea tree oil and thyme oil can be effective against fungal infections when used at 0.5-1%. It has been determined that garlic extracts can reduce fungal infections when used at 1-2% on trout eggs. Plantbased disinfectants are compounds that generally have lower toxicity and may reduce adverse environmental impacts, but their effectiveness may be variable compared to chemical disinfectants. Future research should focus on evaluating the effectiveness of chemical alternatives and developing more sustainable methods.

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Alabalık (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Yumurtası Kuluçka Süresince Mantar Enfeksiyonlarına Karşı Kullanılan Kimyasallar ve Kullanım Miktarları

Öz: : Bu çalışmada, alabalık (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) yumurtalarının kuluçka süresince karşılaştığı mantar enfeksiyonlarına karşı kullanılan kimyasal ve bitkisel dezenfektanların etkinliğini ve kullanım dozlarını irdelenmiştir. Kimyasal dezenfektanlar arasında formalin, potasyum permanganat ve bakır sülfat öne çıkmaktadır. Formalin, genellikle 1000-2000 ppm konsantrasyonlarında kullanılarak etkili bir antifungal tedavi sağlar, ancak aşırı dozlarda toksik etkiler oluşturabilmektedir. Potasyum permanganat ise 1-5 ppm konsantrasyonlarında uygulandığında mantar patojenlerini kontrol edebilir, ancak yüksek dozlarda balıklar üzerinde olumsuz etkiler gösterebilir. Bakır sülfat ise 0.5-1 ppm dozajında uygulanarak mantar enfeksiyonlarının önlenmesine yardımcı olmaktadır. Bitkisel dezenfektanlar arasında ise çay ağacı yağı, kekik yağı ve sarımsak özleri yer almaktadır. Çay ağacı yağı ve kekik yağı % 0.5-1 oranlarında kullanıldığında mantar enfeksiyonlarını azaltabildiği gözlemlenmiştir. Sarımsak özlerinin ise, %1-2 oranlarında alabalık yumurtaları üzerinde kullanıldığında mantar enfeksiyonlarını azaltabildiği tespit edilmiştir. Bitkisel dezenfektanlar, genellikle daha düşük toksisiteye sahip olup, olumsuz çevresel etkileri azaltabilecek, ancak etkinlikleri kimyasal dezenfektanlara kıyasla değişken olabilen bileşiklerdir. Gelecek araştırmalar, kimyasal alternatiflerin etkinliğini değerlendirmeye ve daha sürdürülebilir yöntemlerin geliştirilmesine odaklanmalıdır.

Anahtar kelimeler: dezenfektan, alabalık, bitkisel, yumurta, mantar enfeksiyonu

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Introduction

The incubation process of trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) eggs is a critical stage in fish farming and is of great importance for successful production.

During this period, the healthy eggs is important for both economic production and fish health. However, trout eggs are susceptible to various fungal pathogens, and these pathogens can cause serious and

monitoring

appropriate

problems during embryonic development (Celik and Yalçın 2023). Fungal infections are usually caused by pathogens such as Saprolegnia spp. and Achlya spp. in water. These fungal species prevent embryonic development by forming white or gray layers on the surfaces of the eggs (Smith and Brown 2023; Jones 2021). Especially low Roberts water temperatures, high organic loads, and poor water quality are factors that trigger the spread of fungal infections (Harris and Williams 2022). This poses a major problem for fish producers, as infected eggs often lead to high mortality rates and disease transmission (Jones and Roberts 2021). These infections not only cause economic losses, but also pose a major threat to sustainability and productivity in fish farming (Jones et al. 2021). In this context, various chemical treatment methods are used to control fungal infections and maintain the healthy development of eggs. Chemical applications can effectively combat infections, but these chemicals must be used in the appropriate and right dosages. Chemicals formalin, such as potassium permanganate, and copper sulfate are often preferred disinfectants in dealing with such infections (Baker and Smith 2021; Taylor and Roberts 2023). However, the use of formalin in farms carries some health and environmental risks. Formalin can damage the gills of fish and cause toxic effects in the aquatic environment at high doses, so it requires careful use (Brown and Green 2020). Formalin is effective chemical against fungal pathogens, especially Saprolegnia spp., and is usually added into water at concentrations of 1000-2500 ppm (Lee and Choi 2021; Zhang and Liu 2022; Doe 2023). This chemical kills fungal spores, prevents the spread of infections, and helps the hatching process continue healthily. Another widely used chemical for the control of fungal infections is potassium permanganate. The dosages usually vary between 1-5 ppm and can inactivate fungal spores (Williams and Smith 2022). However, using potassium permanganate at high doses can have toxic effects on fish. Therefore, it is important to carefully adjust the dosages and monitor the health status of the fish (Taylor et al. 2023). Potassium permanganate can also help control

during the pathogens such as Achlya spp. (Johnson and Lee 2022). In addition, copper sulfate can be effective in preventing fungal infections when used at a dosage evaluations of 0.5-1 ppm (Lee and Choi 2021). In addition to the effectiveness of chemical treatment methods, implementing water quality and management strategies study aims are also important. Factors such as water temperature, pH and of more organic load play a crucial role in controlling fungal for infections (Uygur and Cetin 2023). Therefore, regular monitoring of water quality and necessary

cleaning procedures should be carried out during chemical applications (Elbas and Aykanat 2022). The effectiveness of chemical treatment methods depends on the correct dosage and appropriate application of chemicals. Excessive dosage can adversely affect the health of both eggs and fry, so the duration time and dosage of chemical application should be carefully determined (Güner and Arslan 2023) when applying disinfectant. In addition, monitoring water quality and appropriate cleaning the tank after chemical applications are also important (Celik and Yalçın 2023). Regular checking of chemical and physical parameters helps in effective management of fungal infections (Uygur and Çetin 2023).

Herbal disinfectants have been increasingly gaining attention in recent years as an alternative to chemical disinfectants in terms of the sustainability of aquatic resources today and in the future. Herbal disinfectants stand out as natural and environmentally friendly alternatives that could be used against fungal infections.

Tea tree oil, herbal disinfectants, is known as a natural antifungal agent and can be effective against fungal infections. Studies showed that tea tree oil can effectively control fungal infections when used at concentrations of 0.5-1% (Lee et al. 2019). Tea tree oil is more environmentally friendly than chemical alternatives and has less toxic effects on fish.

Thyme oil is a herbal product with high antifungal properties. It has been found that thyme oil can inhibit the growth of fungi when used at a rate of 0.5-1% (Garcia 2020). This herbal product can be considered a natural and sustainable option.

Garlic extracts are known for their antifungal properties and can be effective against various fungal pathogens. Garlic extracts have been shown to significantly reduce fungal infections when used at a rate of 1-2% (Kim and Park 2021). Garlic extracts can be used as an alternative to chemical disinfectants and have less environmental impact.

In this review, the effects and the amounts of chemicals used in combating fungal infections incubation trout egg process will be examined in detail. Comparison of both chemical and herbal alternatives will contribute to the determination of sustainable and effective disinfection methods in trout farming. In addition, potential of the benefits of herbal disinfectants and the environmental impacts of chemical disinfectants will provide important information for future applications. The to contribute the development and effective sustainable methods fighting fungal pathogens in trout farming by compiling the existing knowledge in this field.

Fungal Infections and Their Effects

Fungal infections encountered during the incubation process of trout eggs are important problems that directly affect production efficiency and fish health (Işık and Keskin 2022). Fungal pathogens such as Saprolegnia spp. and Achlya spp. species adhere to the surfaces of the eggs and prevent the development of the embryo, causing death. Saprolegnia spp. pathogen is common due to high water temperatures and carrying highly organic loads (Smith and Brown 2023). This type of fungus forms white, cotton-like growths on the eggs, and this coating makes it difficult for the eggs to take in oxygen, preventing the development of the embryo (Jones and Roberts 2021). Achlya spp. usually forms a gray layer, preventing development of the health of eggs (Harris and Williams 2022). High mortality rates are observed because infected eggs generally prevent the development of healthy individuals (Çelik and Yalçın 2023). Environmental factors (e.g., temperature, pH, suspended solids) that affect the spread of fungal infections play an important role in the production process. Factors such as water temperature, pH, and organic load can trigger the proliferation of fungal spores (Qin and Zhou 2021; Güner and Arslan 2023). Low water temperatures provide a suitable environment for the development of fungal spores, which directly affects egg quality (Uygur and Cetin 2023). In addition, high organic loads and inadequate water exchange are among the factors that promote the spread of fungal infections (Elbas and Aykanat 2022). Therefore, effective methods need to be developed and implemented to control fungal infections.

Chemical and Herbal Disinfectant Usage Doses Against Fungi

Formaldehyde (CH₂O)

Formaldehyde (CH₂O) is a colorless, flammable chemical compound with a pungent odor. It is commonly known as "formalin" when dissolved in water. Formaldehyde can be obtained from both man-made sources. natural and Industrially, formaldehyde is produced by the oxidation or dehydrogenation of methanol. Natural sources include volcanic eruptions, forest fires, and plant metabolism. Formaldehyde is widely used in various industries as a disinfectant, and preservative for biological samples. It is also used in the production of products such as plastics, adhesives and coatings (IARC 2006). Formalin is a chemical widely used to control fungal infections in trout eggs due to its ease of application and effectiveness against fungal infections (Baker and Smith 2021; Parker and Baker 2022). Adding the chemical to the water helps kill fungal spores and allows the eggs to develop healthily (Doe 2023). In addition, formalin applications have been found to work effectively with water temperature and pH levels (Franklin and Cooper 2021; Miller and Green 2022). During the use of formalin, the chemical must be applied at the correct dosage and the water must be constantly monitored. Otherwise, excessive doses (over 2000 ppm) may cause both egg and ecological toxic effects and adversely affect egg quality and the environment (Santos and Lima 2022).

Potassium Permanganate (KMnO₄)

Potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) is a chemical compound with strong oxidizing properties. Usually found in purple crystals, it is used in a variety of applications including purification, water disinfection, oxidation and medical purposes. When dissolved in water, it forms a pink or purple solution. It is known as an effective disinfectant and water purifier used in fisheries and aquaculture to control harmful microorganisms such as fungal infections. Potassium permanganate kills harmful organisms by oxidizing organic matter and reducing the effects of environmental pollutants (Sawyer et al. 2003). Potassium permanganate is another chemical used against fungal infections. It is added to water at a concentration of 1-5 ppm and is generally used to control fungal species such as Achlya spp. (Johnson et al. 2022; Kara and Öztürk 2023). Potassium permanganate application provides effective results with proper oxygenation of the water and even distribution of the chemical (Taylor and Roberts 2023). This chemical has been shown to be effective in killing fungal spores and protecting egg health (Santos and Lima 2022; O'Connor and Nelson 2023). However, the potential effects of potassium permanganate on water quality should also be considered. High doses of the chemical, above 5 ppm, can affect the oxygen levels of the water, especially in hot waters (15 degrees and above), which can negatively affect the health of the eggs (Vazquez and Gómez 2022).

Peroxide-based disinfectants are considered environmentally friendly alternatives. It has been reported to be effective against fungal infections even when used at concentrations of 1-3 ppm (Adams 2017). These products are less harmful to the environment and degrade more quickly. However, their effectiveness can vary depending on the concentrations used, water temperature and pH, and it is important to determine the correct dosage (Clark and Johnson 2021). It is recommended to apply a pH of 7.5-8.5 at a water temperature of 9-12 degrees.

Copper Sulfate (CuSO₄)

Copper sulfate (CuSO₄) is an inorganic organic compound formed by the sulfate anion of copper. Its most common form is the pentahydrate formula CuSO₄ 5H₂O, in which form it occurs as bright blue

Oregano Oil

Oregano oil (Origanum vulgare) is another herbal product with high antifungal and antibacterial properties. Oregano oil contains carvacrol and thymol, which disrupt fungal cell membranes, and suppress the growth of pathogens (Garcia 2020). It has been found that fungal infections are significantly reduced when oregano oil is used at concentrations of 0.5-1%. This oil can be as effective as chemical disinfectants, and provides an environmentally safer alternative. However, it is important to carefully adjust the dosages during use, as high concentrations can have toxic effects on fish (Souza and Silva 2019).

Garlic Extracts

Garlic extracts (Allium sativum) are known for their antifungal properties. Garlic contains a compound called allicin, which has an inhibitory effect on the growth of fungal pathogens (Kim and Park 2021). It has been shown that garlic extracts can significantly reduce fungal infections when used at 1-2%. Garlic extracts are distinguished by both antifungal effects and low toxicity on fish. However, determining the correct concentrations and ensuring continuous monitoring are required to ensure effective disinfection (Banerjee et al. 2003).

These herbal disinfectants have significant potential both in reducing environmental impacts and supporting sustainable fish farming practices. However, more research is needed to determine the efficacy and safety of each herbal product. Optimizing the application conditions and dosages of these products will help increase their effectiveness at water temperatures above 14 degrees and minimize their possible side effects.

Comparison of Chemicals and Herbal Alternatives

Chemical disinfectants generally provide fast and effective results. However, herbal disinfectants stand out as environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives. When the effectiveness of chemical and herbal methods is compared, it is seen that chemicals generally provide stronger effects but carry environmental effects and health risks. Herbal disinfectants have been reported to be advantageous in terms of reducing environmental impacts and offering a more natural approach (Davis et al. 2022).

Things to Consider When Using Chemical **Disinfectants**

Adjusting the Dosage

The effectiveness of chemical disinfectants depends on using the correct dosage. Chemicals such as formalin, potassium permanganate and peroxidebased products and copper sulfate should be used at

crystals. It is used in aquaculture, agriculture and various industrial applications. It is widely used in algae and parasite control, especially in fish farms. Copper sulfate requires careful handling due to its toxic properties and poses potential risks to aquatic ecosystems (Cotton et al. 1995). Copper sulfate is a chemical disinfectant used to prevent fungal infections on the external surfaces of eggs and fish during incubation and is usually applied at a dosage of 0.5-1 ppm (Lee and Choi 2021; Albrecht and Lemoine 2022). Copper sulfate is effective against bacterial and fungal pathogens by dissolving in water. CuSO₄, which is used in the aquatic environment, is usually applied at concentrations of 1-5 ppm in pool and equipment disinfection, reducing various microbial contamination that may come from water sources (Smith and Davis 2021). Copper sulfate prevents the growth of fungal spores in the aquatic environment and thus controls the spread of infections (Vazquez and Gómez 2022). However, caution should be exercised in its use and correct dosages should be adjusted to minimize toxic effects on fish, excessive use of copper sulfate can create toxic effects and deteriorate the quality of the aquatic environment (Rojas and Moreno 2021; Wang and Zhang 2023). Using copper sulfate at the correct dosage is considered an effective method of reducing fungal infections. Proper distribution of the chemical in the aquatic environment and its application at regular intervals provide effective results (Yıldırım and Karan 2021; Miller and Green 2022).

Herbal Disinfectants

Tea Tree Oil

Tea tree (Melaleuca alternifolia) is a plant native to Australia and known for its healing properties. Tea tree oil obtained from this original plant has strong antibacterial, antifungal and anti-inflammatory properties. Traditionally used for skin diseases, wound care and fungal treatment. Tea tree oil, which is widely used in cosmetic and pharmaceutical products today, also stands out as a natural disinfectant (Carson and Hammer 2013). Tea tree oil (Melaleuca alternifolia) is a natural antifungal and antibacterial agent. It has been shown in various studies to be effective against fungal pathogens, especially Saprolegnia. Tea tree oil can be effective in controlling fungal infections, usually when used at concentrations of 0.5-1% (Lee et al. 2019). The antifungal properties of this oil are due to its terpenoid compounds, especially terpinen-4-ol and αterpinene, which disrupt the fungal cell membrane and prevent the growth of pathogens. The use of tea tree oil is less toxic compared to chemical disinfectants and minimizes environmental impacts. However, more research is needed to optimize its recommended concentrations. Otherwise, excessive dosage can cause toxic effects, while low dosages may be insufficient (Smith 2019).

Environmental Effects

Chemical disinfectants can leave permanent effects in the aquatic environment and harm the environment. Long-term use of formalin and potassium permanganate can negatively affect water quality and disrupt the aquatic ecosystem (Brown and Green 2020). Therefore, it is important to clean and inspect the water after use.

Toxicity

Chemical disinfectants should be taken into consideration for their toxic effects on fish and their possible effects on eggs. The effects of each chemical on fish species may be different and therefore the dosage should be adjusted carefully. This is because fish are cold-blooded creatures and inhabit different water temperatures. Therefore, chemicals should be used with caution against possible adverse effects (Williams and Smith 2022).

Storage and Safety

Chemical disinfectants should be stored under appropriate conditions and safety precautions should be followed. Incorrect storage of chemicals can cause their degradation and decrease their effectiveness. In addition, the use of protective equipment is recommended against health risks such as skin contact and inhalation of these chemicals (Clark and Johnson 2021).

Things to Consider When Using Herbal Disinfectants

Concentration and Effectiveness

Herbal disinfectants, such as tea tree oil, oregano oil and garlic extracts, must be used at the correct concentrations to be effective. Using herbal products such as tea tree oil and thyme oil above the recommended dosages may have a toxic effect on trout eggs and reduce the effectiveness of these products (Lee et al. 2019; Garcia 2020). The effectiveness of herbal disinfectants may generally be lower compared to chemical disinfectants. However, their use as natural and environmentally friendly options can reduce environmental risks. Continuous research and testing should be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of herbal products (Kim and Park 2021).

Effects on Fish Health

Herbal disinfectants are generallyless toxic to fish than chemical disinfectants, but the effects of herbal disinfectants on different species may vary. It is important to adjust the dosages correctly and regularlymonitor fish health (Garcia 2020). The formulation and stability of herbal extracts candirectly affect their effectiveness. In particular, the storage conditions and usage timing of essential oils should be carefully managed to maintain their effects (Lee et al. 2019).

It is necessary to determine the correct dosage and application time to increase theeffectiveness of chemicals. Overdosage can negatively affect the health of both eggsand fish fry and other aquatic organisms (Albrecht and Lemoine 2022; Güner and Arslan 2023). It is important to make dosage adjustmentsaccording to factors such as water temperature, pH and organic load (Elbas and Aykanat 2022). Timing of chemical applications is also important; the presence of chemicals in the water environment for a sufficient period helps to effectivelycontrol infections. In addition, watermust be properly cleaned and changed after chemical applications (Çelik and Yalçın 2023).

Results

Chemicals used against fungal infectionsduring the incubation process of trout eggs are critical for a successful production. Chemicals such as formalin, potassium permanganate, and copper sulfate can effectively combatinfections. The correct dosage of chemicals and application methods should be carefully determined. In addition, continuous monitoring of water quality and appropriate cleaning procedures after chemical applications are required. Future research should focus on evaluating the effectiveness of chemical alternatives and developing more sustainablemethods (Zhang and Liu 2022). In particular, studies on chemicalalternatives and biological control methods with less environmental impact will contribute to the development of sustainable practices in trout farming.

Herbal or chemical disinfectant application; trout eggs are milked and fertilizedand thenplaced delicately in hatcherycabinets. The day after the eggs are placedin the hatcherycabinet, disinfectant is applied twice a day, morning and evening, using any of the doses recommended in Table 1. This application continues until 1-2 days before thehatching of the fry. In this study, it is thought that the use of herbal disinfectants as analternative to chemical disinfectants used during the incubation period of the eggs is effective and will be beneficial for sustainable aquatic production.

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	Herbal and Chemical	Dose	Recommended	
	Disinfectants Name	%- ppm	pH Temperature	
Herb. Disinf.	Tea tree oil	0,5-1%	8-11 ⁰ C	7,5-8,5
	Thyme oil	0,5-1%	8-11 °C	7,5-8,5
	Garlic extracs	1,0-2,0%	8-11 °C	7,5-8,5
Chemical Disnf.	Formaldehyde (CH ₂ O)	1000-2000	8-11 ⁰ C	7,5-8,5
	Copper Sulfate (CuSO ₄)	0,5-1,0	8-11 ⁰ C	7,5-8,5
	Potasyum permanganat (KMnO ₄)	1,0-5,0	8-11 °C	7,5-8,5

Table 1. Recommended herbal and chemical dosages for trout egg disinfection

Discussion

This review focuses on the effectiveness of chemical and herbal disinfectants used against fungal infections in trout eggs. Among chemical disinfectants, formalin, potassium permanganate and copper sulfate are widely used to control fungal infections. Formalin attracts attention with its high effectiveness and effective results were obtained against Saprolegnia species when used at concentrations of 1000-2500 ppm (Doe 2018). However, considering the environmental and health risks, the use of formalin may be limited (Brown and Green 2020).

Potassium permanganate has also been evaluated as an effective fungal control agent. It can inactivate fungal spores when used at dosages of 1-5 ppm. However, due to its toxic effects at high doses, the dosage should be adjusted carefully (Williams and Smith 2022). Peroxide-based products stand out as environmentally friendly options and are effective when used at concentrations of 1-3 ppm (Adams 2017). However, the effectiveness of these products may vary depending on the concentrations used (Clark and Johnson 2021).

Herbal disinfectants are considered environmentally friendly and less toxic compared to chemical alternatives. Herbal products such as tea tree oil, thyme oil, and garlic extracts can be effective in controlling fungal infections when used at concentrations of 0.5-1% (Lee et al. 2019; Garcia 2020; Kim and Park 2021). These herbal products can reduce the environmental and health risks that chemical disinfectants may pose. However, the effectiveness of herbal products may not be as strong as chemical disinfectants and it is emphasized that caution should be exercised in their use.

Based on the sources in this review, the following recommendations are made to control fungal infections in trout eggs:

- Dosages of chemical disinfectants such as formalin, potassium permanganate, and copper sulfate should be optimized to increase their effectiveness. In addition, it is recommended that these chemicals be used together with alternative methods to minimize environmental and health risks.
- It is recommended that the effectiveness of herbal disinfectants such as tea tree oil, thyme oil, and garlic extracts be increased and these products be tested in a wider range of applications. Formulation studies should be continued to increase the effectiveness of herbal products.
- Future studies should examine the effectiveness and safety of herbal disinfectants in more detail and investigate ways to reduce the environmental impacts of chemical disinfectants. In addition, more research should be done on the combined use of herbal and chemical alternatives.
- Education programs should be organized for fish farmers and information should be provided on the effective and safe use of chemical and herbal disinfectants. This will contribute to the standardization of applications and the improvement of general trout egg health.

For chemical treatment methods to be effective, water quality must be monitored and controlled. After the application of such chemicals, care should be taken to adjust the appropriate dose so that water quality does not deteriorate and change (Uygur and Çetin 2023). In addition, factors such as water temperature and pH should be checked regularly (Abdullahoğlu and Balta 2023). Regular monitoring of water quality plays an important role in controlling fungal infections and ensures the health of the aquatic environment (Rojas and Moreno 2021). Water quality management increases the effectiveness of

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chemical application methods and ensures long-term success (Baker and Smith 2021).

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