

Figure 4

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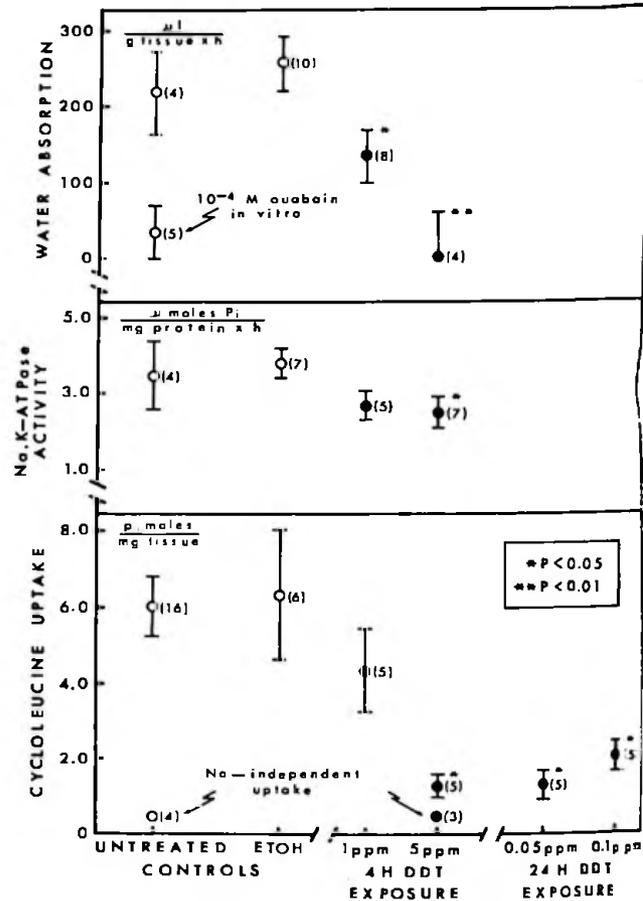
DDT Inhibits Nutrient Absorption and Osmoregulatory Function in *Fundulus heteroclitus* Intestine

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Previous studies have suggested that DDT-induced osmoregulatory failure in marine teleosts is accompanied by inhibition of intestinal Na,K-ATPase, an enzyme associated with the Na pump of the epithelial cell (*Science*, 173:1146-1148, 1971; *Environ. Health Perspectives*, 1:169-173, 1972). Since intestinal osmoregulatory (salt and water) nutrient (sugar and amino acid) transport is Na-dependent, (*Physiol. Rev.*, 50:637-718, 1970), pump inhibition by DDT could affect a wide range of essential intestinal functions. To determine if Na-coupled processes were affected by DDT *in vivo*, sea water (SW)-adapted Killifish (*Fundulus heteroclitus*) were exposed to 0.05-ppm DDT in SW as previously described (*Environ. Health Perspectives*, 1:169-173, 1972). After 4 h of exposure to 1 or 5 ppm, fish exhibited elevated plasma Na levels as reduced (30-35%) intestinal Na, K-ATPase activities; intestinal absorption of water and cycloleucine (a non-metabolized leucine analog) was substantially inhibited (Fig. 1). Significantly, only the Na-dependent component of cycloleucine transport was affected by DDT. Comparable inhibition of cycloleucine transport was also observed in fish exposed to 0.05 or 0.1 ppm for 24 h (Fig. 1). DDT levels in the intestinal mucosae of fish exposed to 5 ppm for 4 h and 0.05 ppm for 24 h averaged 5 and 1 ppm, respectively.

The data reported here suggest a cause and effect relationship with regard to impaired fluid transport and osmoregulatory disruption. Since there are no definitive data available which indicate whether DDT retrards growth or protein synthesis in fish, the environmental significance of the observed impairment of amino acid transport has yet to be determined.

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Regeneration in Spinal Cord of Hagfish, *Myxine glutinosus*

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Lower vertebrates retain a remarkable capacity for functional regeneration of their central nervous systems. This phenomenon has been most thoroughly characterized in the goldfish visual system. When the retinal axon is cut, the goldfish retinal ganglion cell makes a vigorous regenerative response which includes cellular hypertrophy, increased synthesis of RNA and protein formation of a large number of sprouts at the cut end and formation of these sprouts into the optic tectum through glial channels. The most significant points of departure from the response of mammalian central neurons to axotomy which does not lead to regeneration, seem to be in (a) the quantitatively greater synthetic response by the cell body and (b) the apparently active participation by the glial cells in the guidance of the regenerating neurons. The hagfish spinal cord was examined in order to