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RESEARCH REPORTS

Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

Title: Disposition and elimination of 17a-methyltestosterone in Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)

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Date: 14 February 2006 Publication Number: CRSP Research Report 91-A2

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Abstract: 17a-Methyltestosterone (MT) is of potential use in commercial production of all male cohorts of food fish. Sexually undifferentiated *Oreochromis niloticus* received control ration or 30 mg MT/kg ration for 30 days. On day 31 control and MT pretreated fish received a single dietary dose of 3H-MT and were killed 1, 3, 7, and 10 days later. At 1 day after dosing only 2.5-3% of whole body 3H-MT residues were identified as parent compound. The concentration of residues remaining 1-10 days after 3H-MT dosing were similar in control and MT pretreated fish. 3H-MT whole body residues decreased logarithmically during this period and had a 1-day half-life. At day 3 after dosing, 95% of 3H-MT had been converted to polar metabolites, which decreased to 70% by 7 days, and to only trace concentrations by day 10. Five months after MT pretreatment control and pretreated fish received a single oral dose of 3H-MT and were killed 1, 3, 7, and 10 days thereafter. In both groups, concentrations of 3H-MT residues were biliary >> liver > kidney > muscle at all times points. Bile contained 97-99% polar metabolites of 3H-MT in all cases and appeared a major route of excretion. These data indicated MT was readily eliminated by *Oreochromis niloticus* and that the pretreatment regimen proposed for commercial use did not substantially alter disposition of subsequent doses.

This abstract is excerpted from the original paper, which was in *Aquaculture*, 99(1-2):193-201.

CRSP RESEARCH REPORTS are published as occasional papers by the Program Management Office, Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program, Oregon State University, 418 Snell Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1643 USA. The Aquaculture CRSP is supported by the US Agency for International Development under CRSP Grant No.: LAG-G-00-96-90015-00. See the website at <pdacrsp.orest.edu>.