

LEAD INDUCED HISTOPATHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE GILLS OF *HETEROPNEUSTES FOSSILIS*

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(Accepted 12 June 2013)

ABSTRACT : This study is designed to investigate the effects of one of the most common and hazardous water pollutant namely lead on the gills of fresh water fish *Heteropneustes fossilis*. Sub-lethal concentration of lead acetate for six week produced significant histological changes in the gills of fishes. The study indicate that chronic lead exposure adversely affects normal architecture of gills in fishes.

Key words : Gill, lead, toxicity, chloride cells, pillar cells, endothelial cells, filaments.