

## Development of Regional Joint Master Program in Maritime Environmental Protection and Management - MEP&M -

## Main pollutants in the environment and some tools for their analysis (Part 2)

**WP3. Capacity Building through staff training and equipment purchase .**  
**Dev 3.4.2 KNOW-HOW TRANSFER TO TEACHING STAFF RELATED TO THE**  
**MEP&M**

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**20 December 2021**

### Virtual meeting via Google-meet application

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This presentation reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

# TOXICITY BIOASSAYS AND BIOMARKERS AS POLLUTION EFFECTS ASSESMENT TOOLS





# TOXICITY BIOASSAYS

- ☞ To know **toxic effects / alterations** of pollutants on the organisms.
- ☞ To **establish water quality standards**, that is, define safety limits or acceptable concentrations of a pollutant.



# Introduction to toxicity bioassays

## Terminology

### Toxicity

Adverse effects that pollutants cause in an organism

### Exposure time

Time in which the organism is exposed to the solution under study

### Acute toxicity

Lethal or other effect produced in a relatively short time, usually within 4 days for fish or macroinvertebrates and shorter periods (2 days) for smaller organisms

### Chronic toxicity

Long-term effects that may be related to changes in the rate of feeding, growth, metabolism, reproduction, and even mutations and death



# Introduction to toxicity bioassays

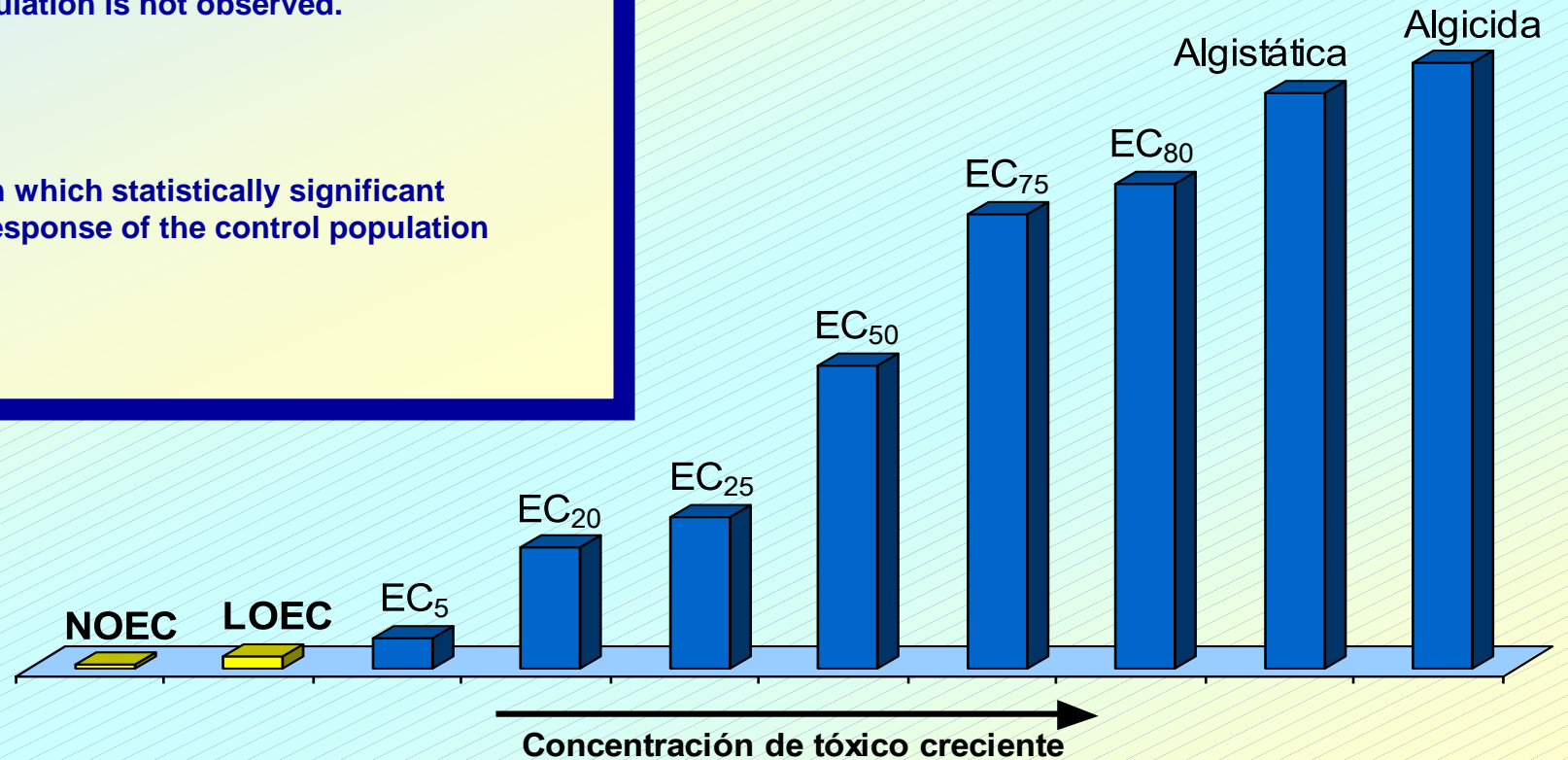
## Terminology

### **NOEC, Non observed effect concentration**

The highest concentration of pollutant tested in which a response significantly different from that obtained in the control population is not observed.

### **LOEC, Lowest observed effect concentration**

The lowest concentration of pollutant tested in which statistically significant differences are observed with respect to the response of the control population



# Introduction to toxicity bioassays

## Terminology

### ECx, Effective concentration

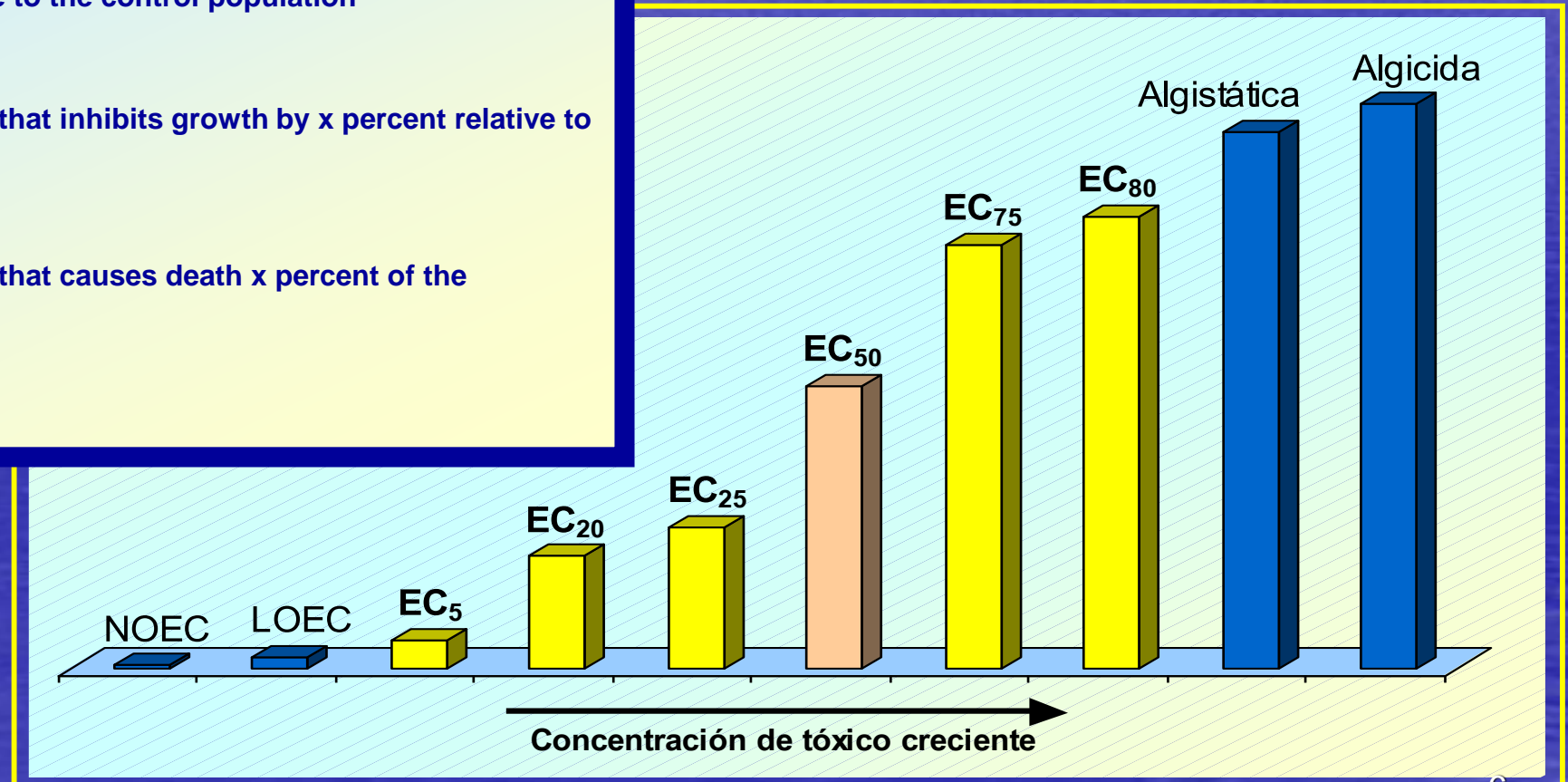
The estimated concentration of a pollutant that reduces the measurement parameter (e.g. growth, mortality) by x percent relative to the control population

### ICx, Inhibition concentration

The estimated concentration of a pollutant that inhibits growth by x percent relative to the control population

### LCx, Letal concentration

The estimated concentration of a pollutant that causes death x percent of the population relative to the control





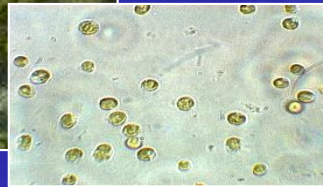


## Microalgae toxicity tests

Plant communities are very important for the functioning of aquatic ecosystems



Algae associated to plankton, that is, phytoplankton, form the basis of most food chains, produce oxygen, and play a key role in the nutrient cycle.



PHYTOTOXICITY tests are necessary to evaluate the impact of potential pollutants that can be introduced into the aquatic environment.



# Introduction to toxicity bioassays

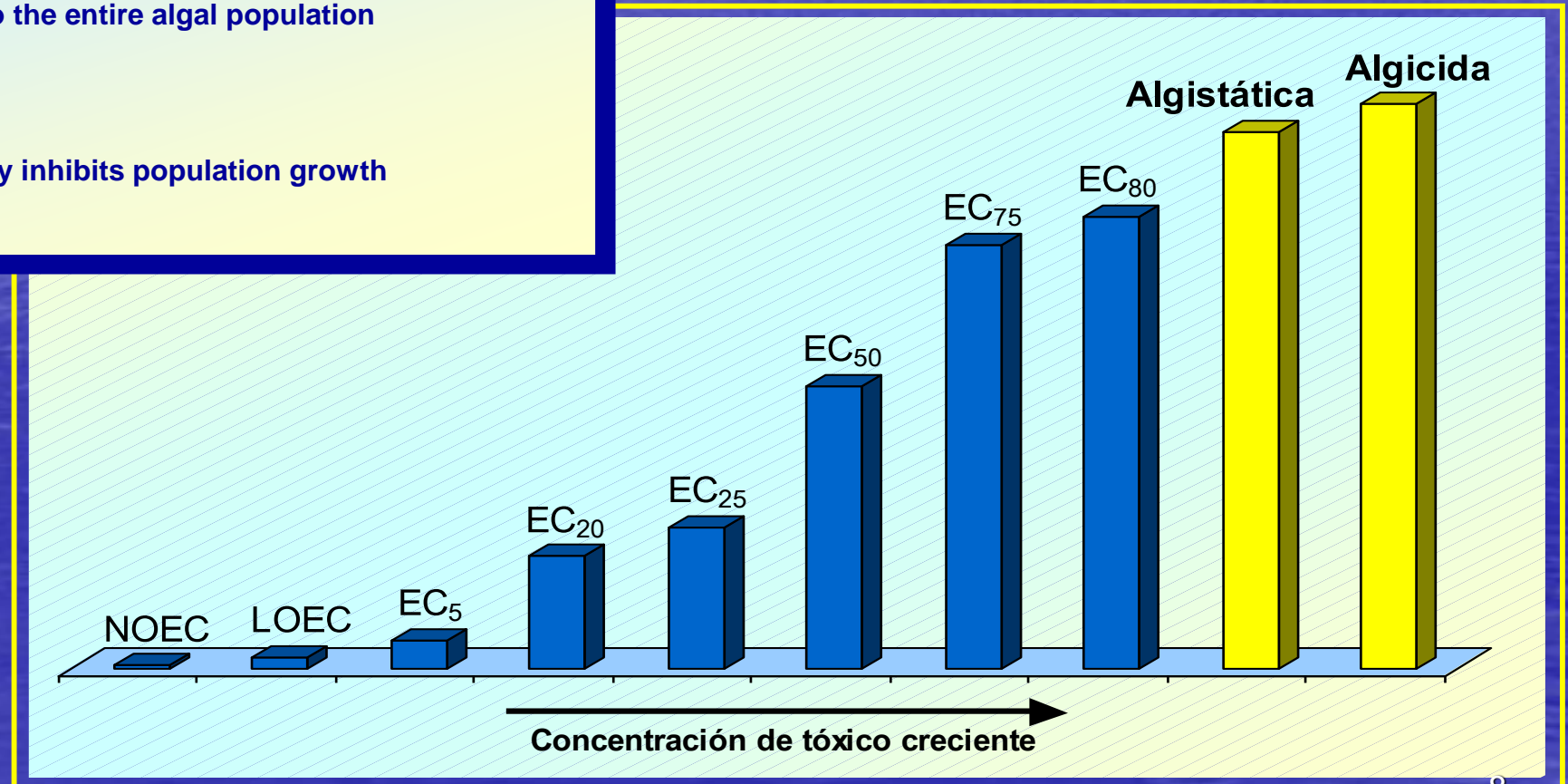
## Terminology

**Algaecide / algaecide concentration**

Concentration of a pollutant that is lethal to the entire algal population

**Algistatic / alguistatic concentration**

Concentration of a pollutant that completely inhibits population growth





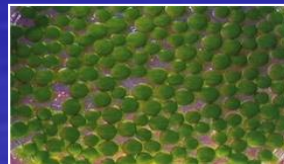


# Microalgae toxicity tests

## Testing method

Most of the toxicity tests with algae are **chronic tests** since the effects are evaluated over several generations during the 3 to 4 days of exposure period.

- Static tests
- 72 or 96 hours exposure time
- Nutrient enriched medium (N, P, Fe, vit., etc.)
- Daily agitation for gas exchange
- Controlled light and temperature conditions



# PARAMETERS TO MEASURE TOXICITY

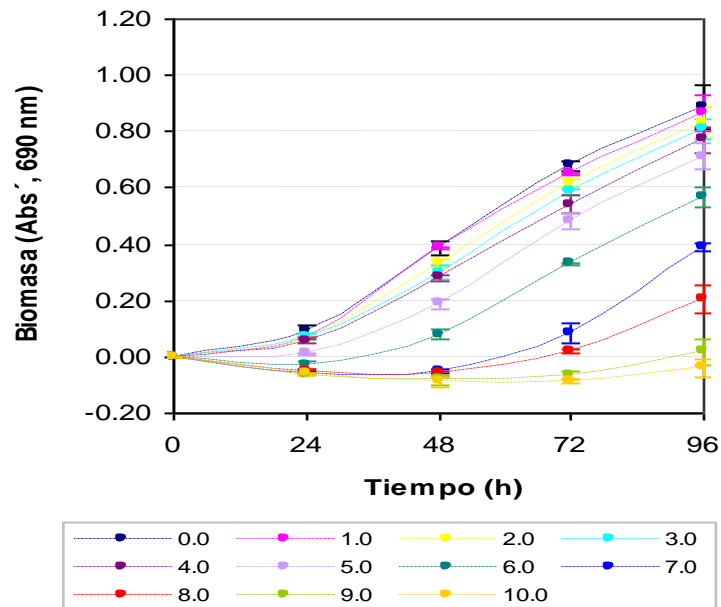
## Microalgae: *Dunaliella*



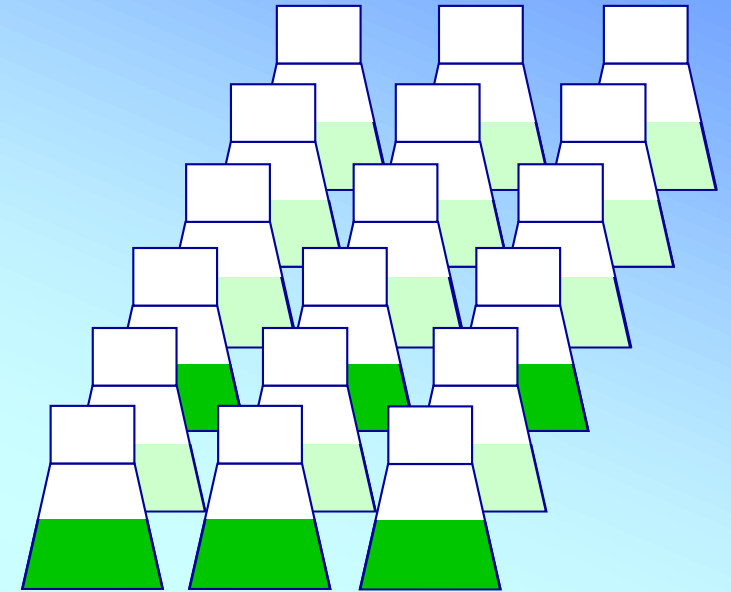
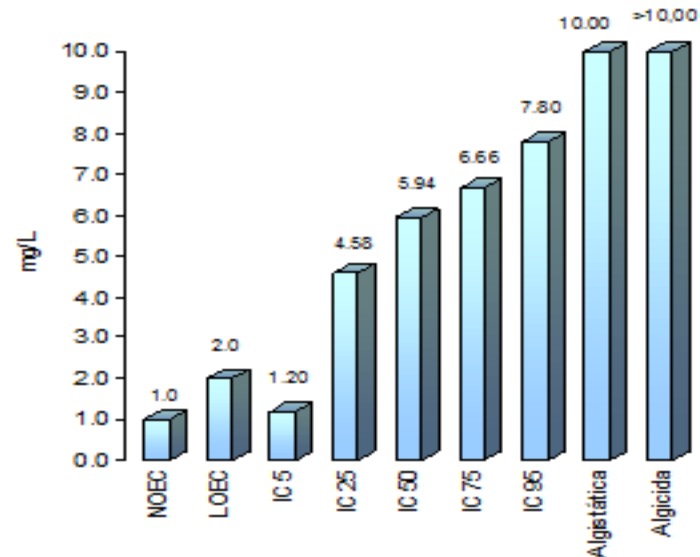
*Dunaliella salina*, Tóxico=LAS

NOEC  
LOEC  
 $IC_x$  ( $IC_{50}$ )

Variación temporal de la biomasa



Resumen de resultados de toxicidad  
Periodo de exposición=72 h



t= 72 o 96 horas  
Biomasa final





## Microcrustacean toxicity tests

**Artemia** is a crustacean suitable for the development of toxicity bioassays in seawater

Additional interest: its use in marine aquaculture

They develop resistance cysts, easily decapsulable in laboratory







# Microcrustacean toxicity tests

## Stage selection for toxicity tests

Vanhaecke et al. (1980) establishes three categories:

Cysts

Nauplius

Adult



# PARAMETERS TO MEASURE TOXICITY

## Microcrutaceans: Artemia

### Toxicity parameters in cysts:

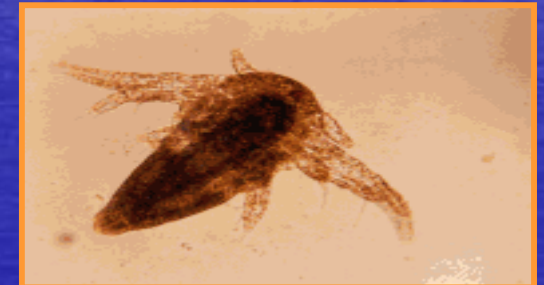
- ▶ Percentage of hatched.

### Toxicity parameters in nauplius:

- ▶ Life-death criterion
- ▶ Immobilization of the organisms

### Toxicity parameters in adults:

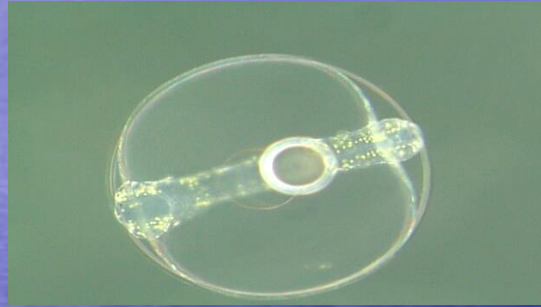
- ▶ Death of the organism
- ▶ Fecundity
- ▶ Reproductive capacity
- ▶ Bioaccumulation of toxins





# Fish toxicity tests

## ➤ EARLY DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF FISH



24 H eggs of gilthead



72 H larvae of gilthead

## ➤ JUVENILES OF FISH



50 days juveniles of Senegal sole



## GILTHEAD (*Sparus aurata*) EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES TOXICITY TEST

### TYPE OF TEST

- Acute Interval Toxicity Assay with static character
- Exposure time: 48 hours (eggs)  
96 hours (larvae)
- Number of replications: 3

### TEST MATERIAL

- Two liter capacity borosilicate glass containers
- Dilution medium: Filtered seawater (0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Aeration system
- Stereomicroscope



## TEST PROCEDURE

50 organisms per container

Aeration (oxygen saturation)

Analysis of physico-chemical parameters of water

Count of living and dead organisms

Taking samples of water and organisms (morphological and histopathological changes)





# TOXICITY TEST WITH SENEGAL SOLE JUVENILES

*Solea senegalensis*

## TYPE OF TEST

- Acute Toxicity Assay with static character
- Exposure time: 96 hours
- Number of replications: 3

## TEST MATERIAL

- Two liter capacity borosilicate glass containers
- Dilution medium: Filtered seawater (0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Aeration system
- Stereomicroscope

## TEST PROCEDURE

- 15 organisms per container
- Gentle aeration (oxygen saturation)
- Analysis of physico-chemical parameters of water
- Count of living and dead organisms
- Taking samples of water and organisms (histopathological changes)





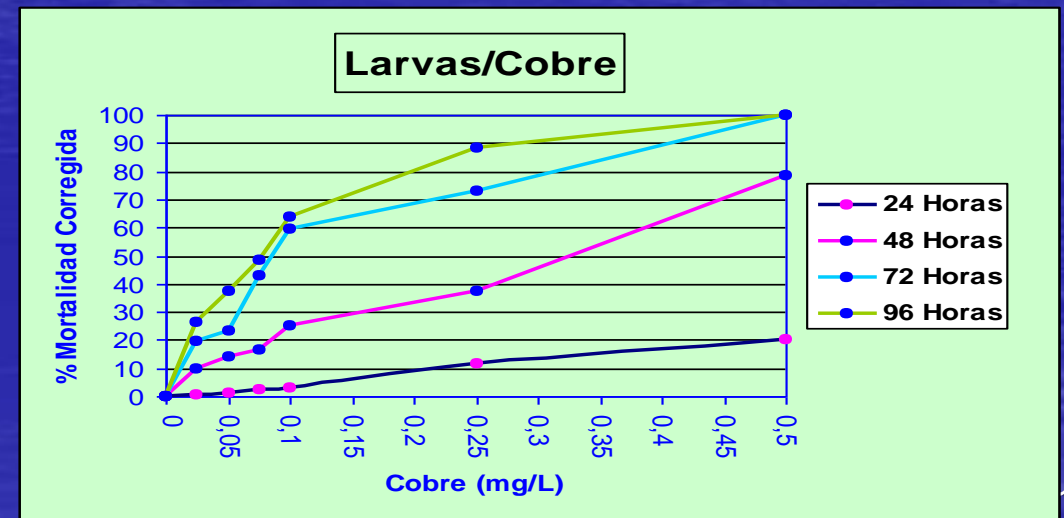
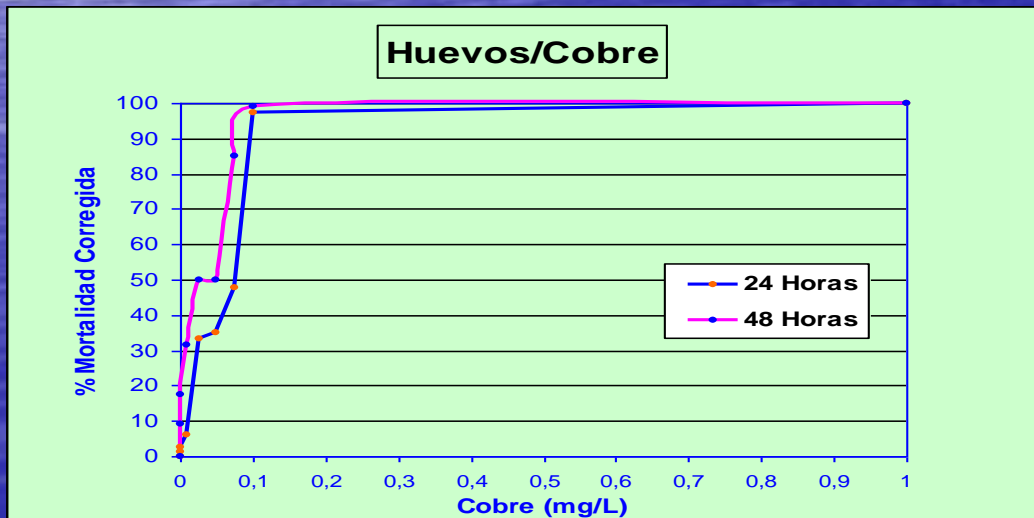
# PARAMETERS TO MEASURE TOXICITY

## Calculation of Corrected Mortality

$$\% \text{ Survival} = (\text{N}^\circ \text{ Living organisms} / \text{Total N}^\circ \text{ organisms}) \times 100$$

$$\% \text{ Mortality} = 100 - \% \text{ Survival}$$

$$\text{Corrected Mortality} = \frac{\% \text{ Mortality} - \% \text{ Control Mortality}}{100 - \% \text{ Mortality Control}} \times 100$$



## PARAMETERS TO MEASURE TOXICITY

### LC<sub>50</sub> ESTIMATION METHODS

Graphic method

Spearman-Kärber method

Spearman-Kärber Trimmer method

**Probit method ...**

- ✓ More formal procedure
- ✓ Statistical procedure
- ✓ LC50 and 95% confidence intervals

**Description of the methods ...**

<http://www.epa.gov/OST/WET/>

**PROBIT program....**

<http://www.epa.gov/nerleerd/stat2.htm>

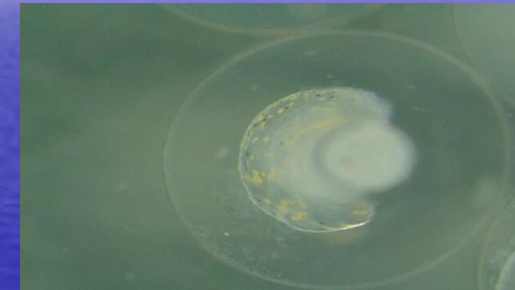
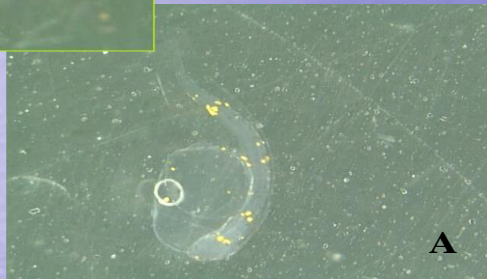
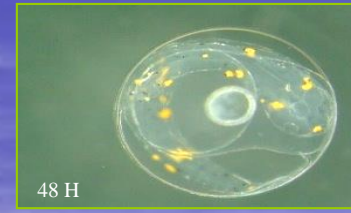
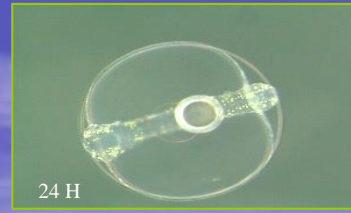
Estimation of  $CL_{50}$  in gilthead early life stages

Probit Method

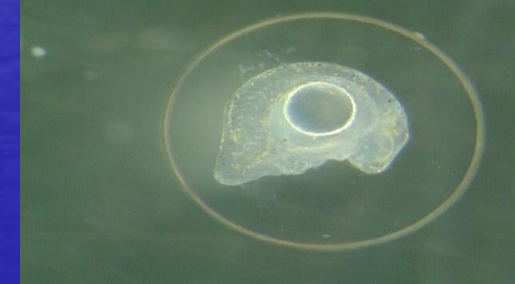
| TÓXICO        | HUEVOS               | LARVAS               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|               | $LC_{50}$ (48 horas) | $LC_{50}$ (48 horas) | $LC_{50}$ (96 horas) |
| COBRE         | <b>0.054</b>         | 0.261                | 0.064                |
| LINDANO       | 0.578                | 0.359                | <b>0.025</b>         |
| AGUA RESIDUAL | 0.132                | ---                  | 0.037                |



# MORPHOLOGICAL ALTERATIONS IN GILTHEAD EGGS



0,025 mg/L Cu



0,050 mg/L Cu



0,075 mg/L Cu

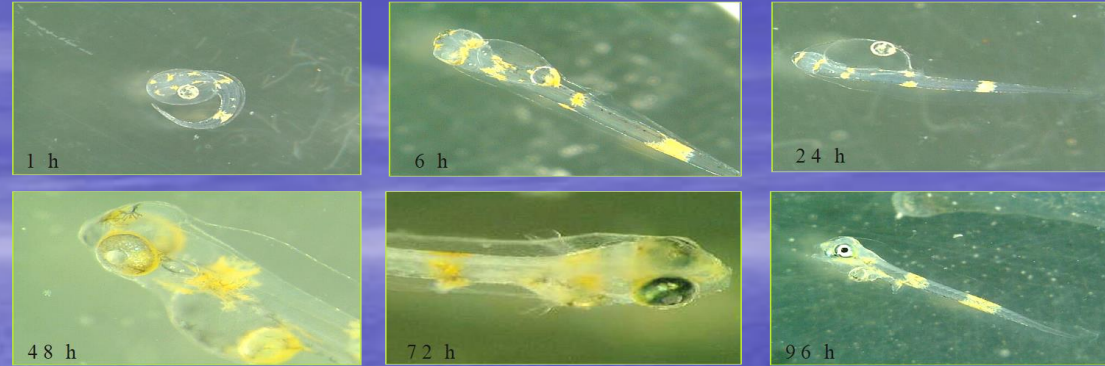
72 Hours

24 Hours

48 Hours



# MORPHOLOGICAL ALTERATIONS IN LARVAE OF GILTHEAD



24 Hours



0.1 mg/L Cu



0.5 mg/L Cu



0.1 mg/L Cu



0.25 mg/L Cu

72 Hours

24 Hours



0.1 mg/L Lindano



5 mg/L Lindano



0.1 mg/L Lindano



5 mg/L Lindano

72 Hours

24 Hours



1/1000 Wastewater



1/10 Wastewater



96 Hours



## ■ Biomarkers

A **BIOMARKER** is defined as a change in a biological response (ranging from molecular through cellular and physiological responses to behavioral changes) which can be related to exposure to or toxic effects of environmental chemicals (Peakall, 1994).



The ideal biomarkers should be early detected and be able to show adverse effects before they are irreversible.

### **Biomarkers of exposure**

Covering the detection and measurement of an exogenous substance or its metabolite or the product of an interaction between a xenobiotic agent and some target molecule or cell that is measured in a compartment within an organism.

### **Biomarkers of effect**

Including measurable biochemical, physiological or other alterations within tissues or body fluids of an organism that can be recognized as associated with an established or possible health impairment or disease.

### **Biomarkers of susceptibility**

Indicating the inherent or acquired ability of an organism to respond to the challenge of exposure to a specific xenobiotic sub-stance, including genetic factors and changes in receptors which alter the susceptibility of an organism to that exposure.

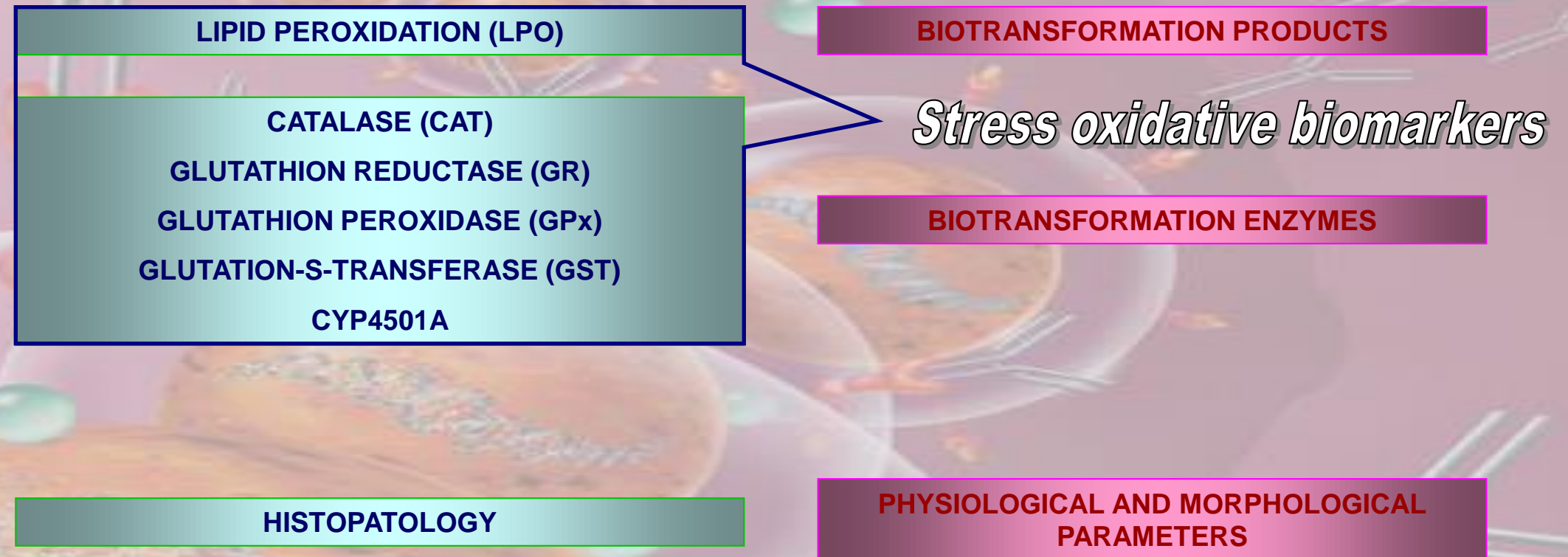
**EXPOSITION BIOMARKERS**

**EFFECT BIOMARKERS**

**SUSCEPTIBILITY BIOMARKERS**

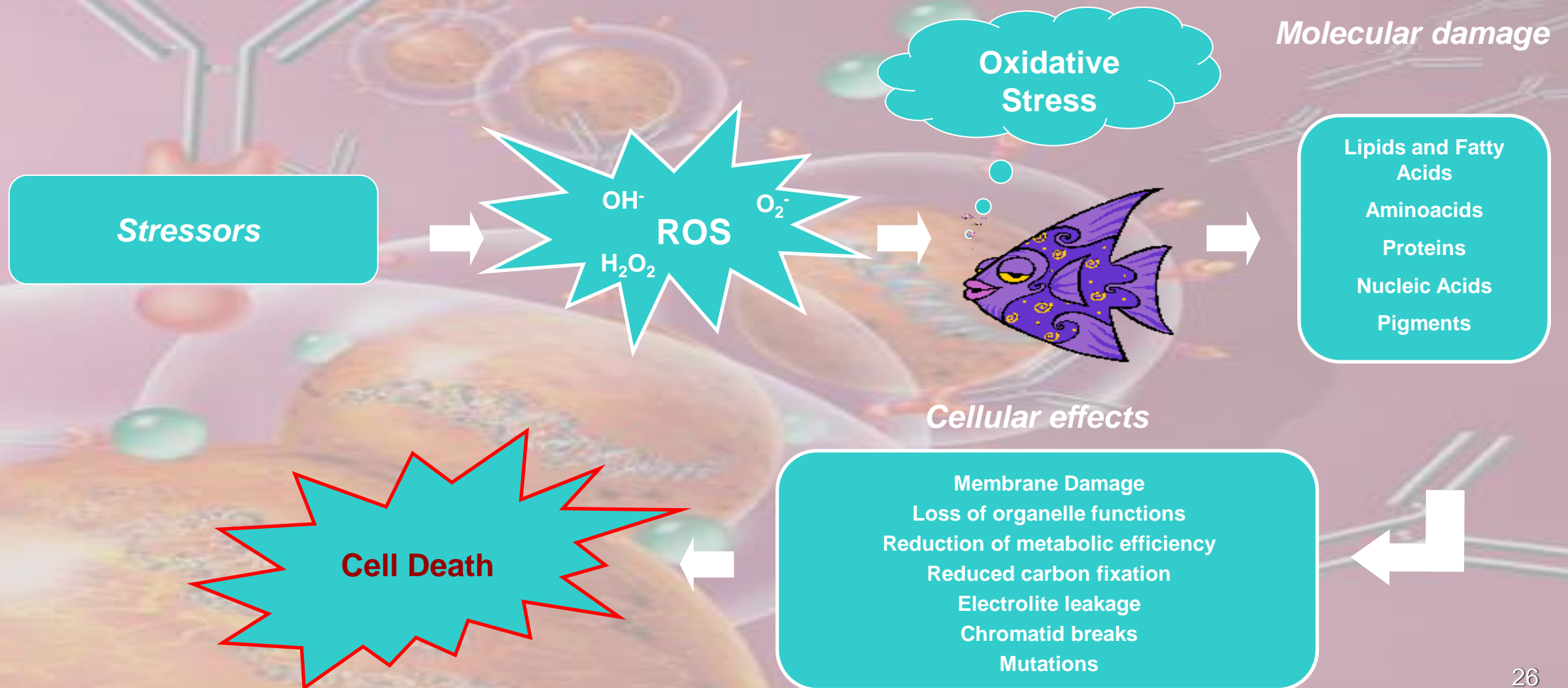


## ■ Some effect and exposure biomarkers



## ■ Stress oxidative biomarkers

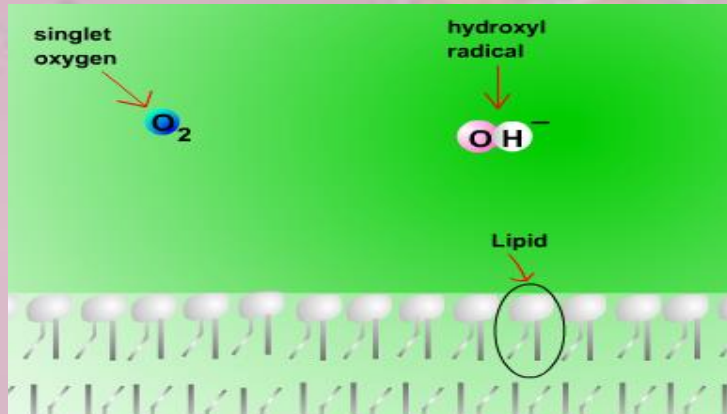
## Reactive oxygen species (ROS)





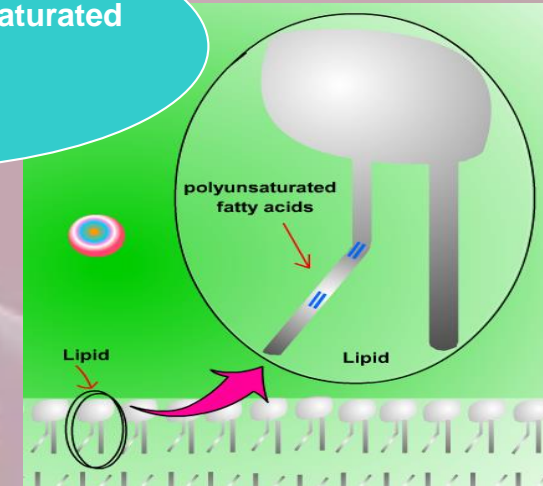
- Stress oxidative biomarkers

## Lipid Peroxidation (LPO)

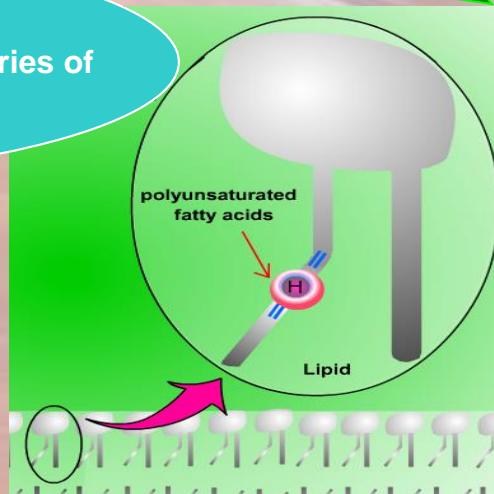


Reactive molecules will initiate lipid peroxidation

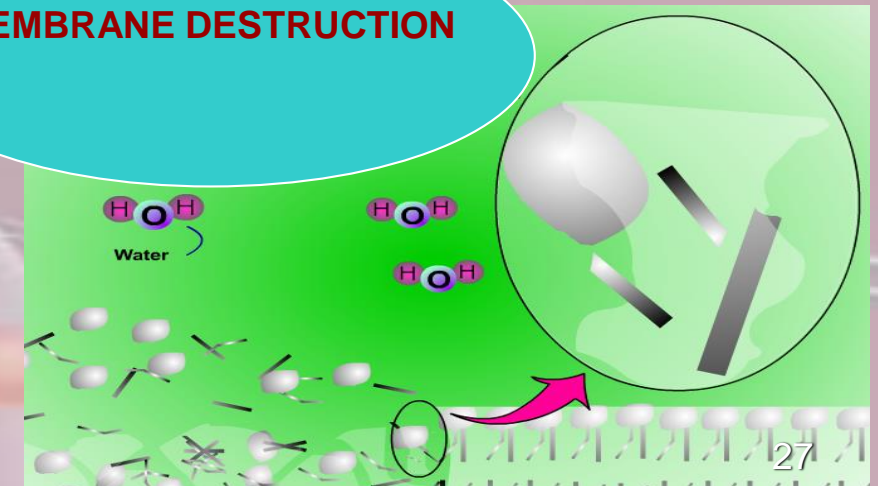
LPO occurs in polyunsaturated fatty acids



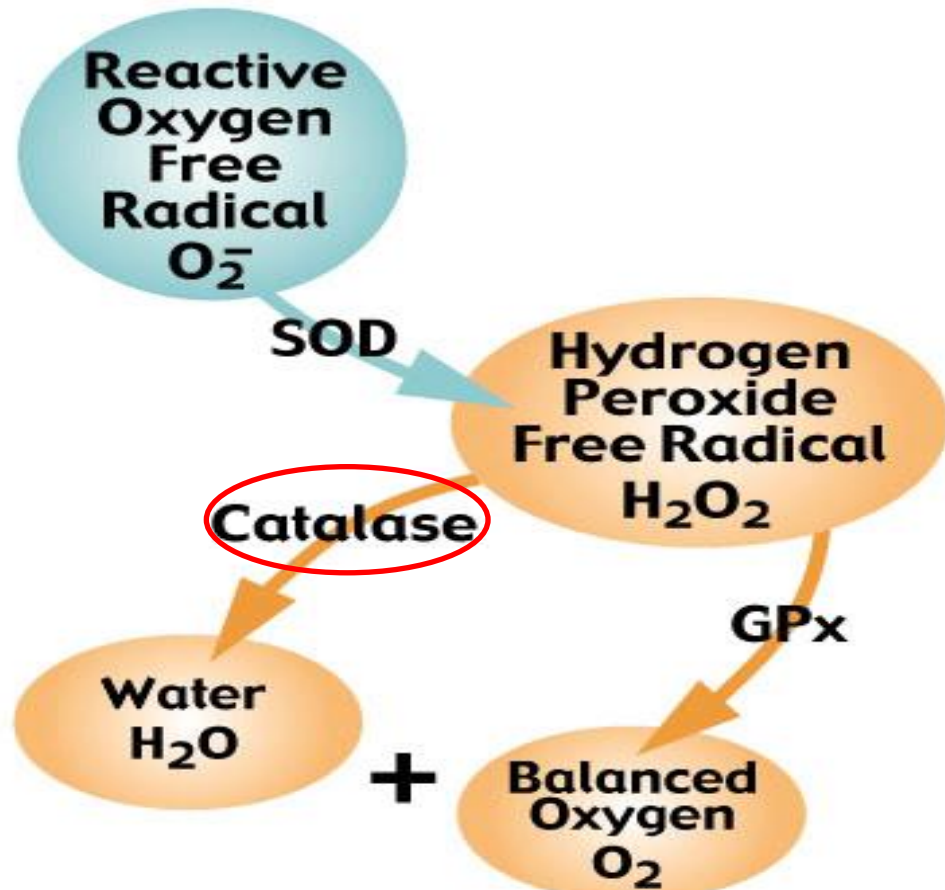
Hydrogen extraction from the lipid initiating a series of reactions



MEMBRANE DESTRUCTION



- Stress oxidative biomarkers



## Catalase (CAT)

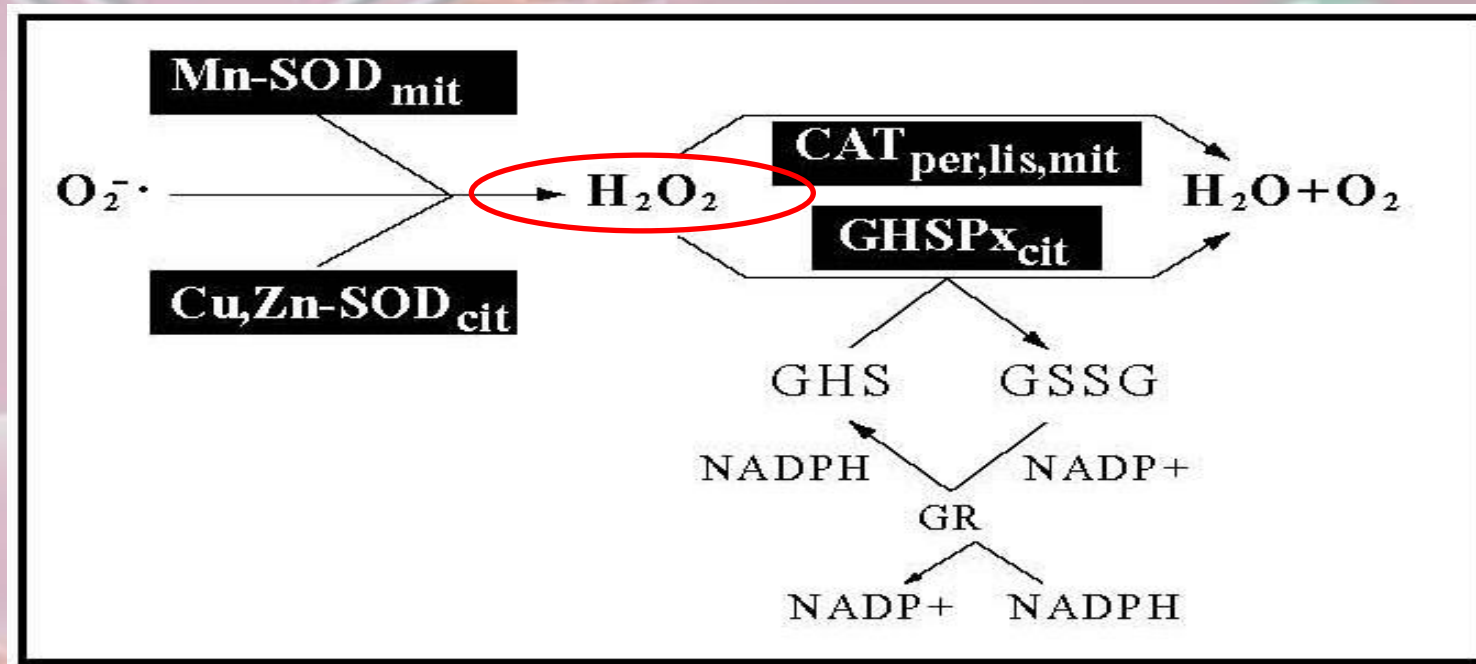
Catalyze the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide to water and oxygen.





## ▪ Stress oxidative biomarkers

## Glutathione peroxidase (GPx)

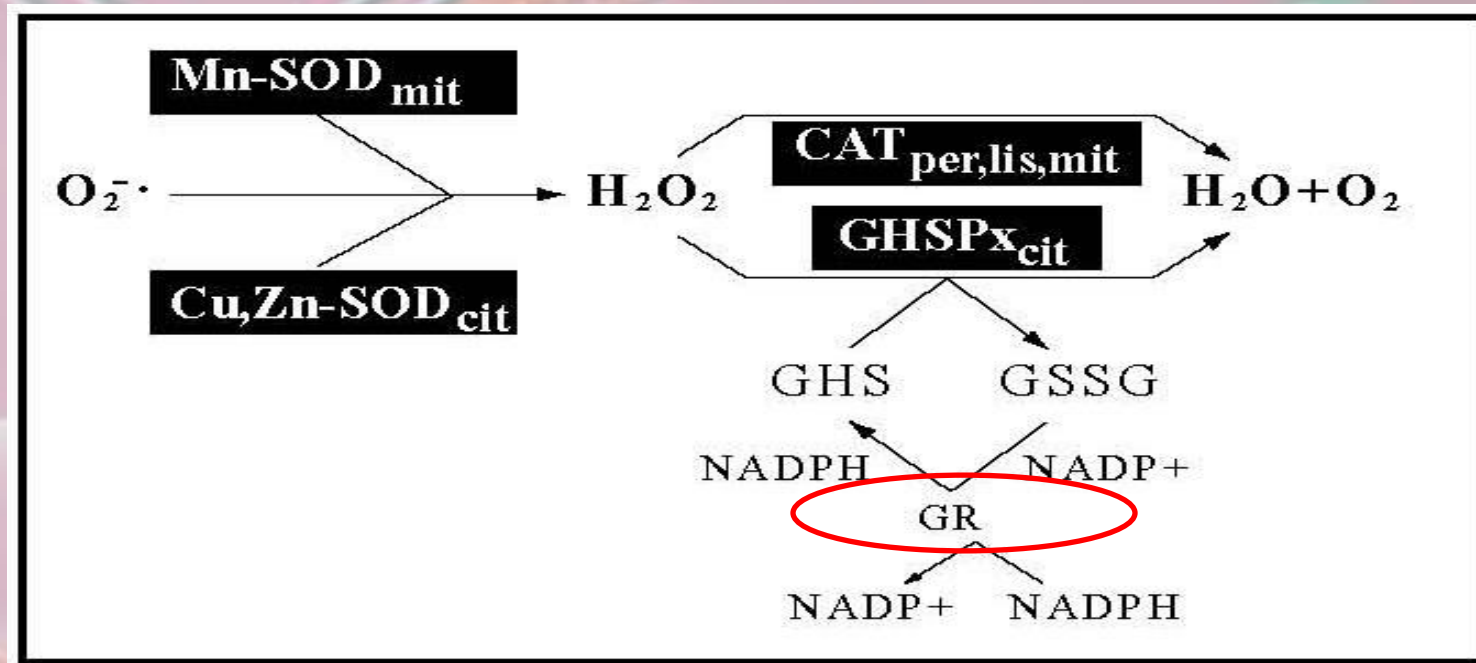


Reduce lipid hydroperoxides to their corresponding alcohols and to reduce free hydrogen peroxide to water.

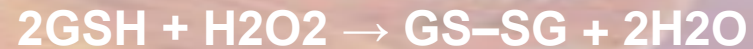


## ▪ Stress oxidative biomarkers

## Glutathione reductase (GR)



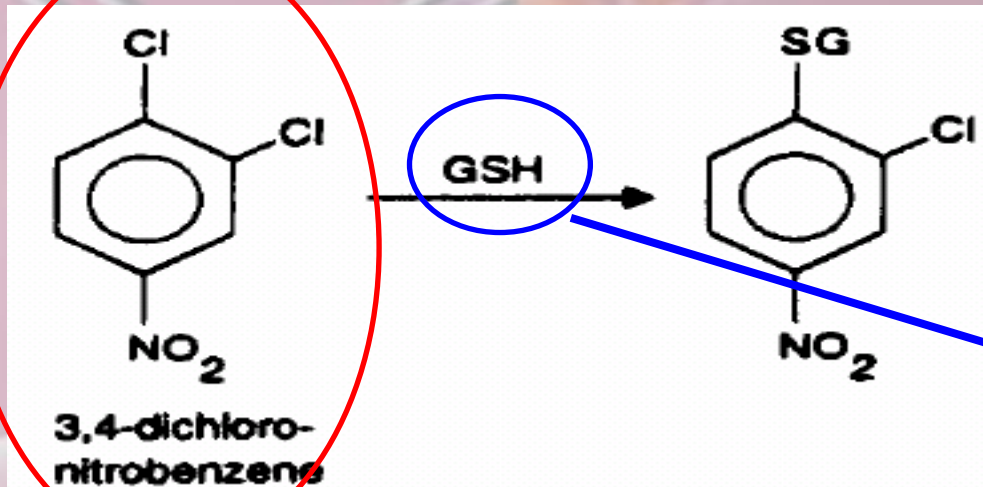
Maintaining **GSH/GSSG** homeostasis



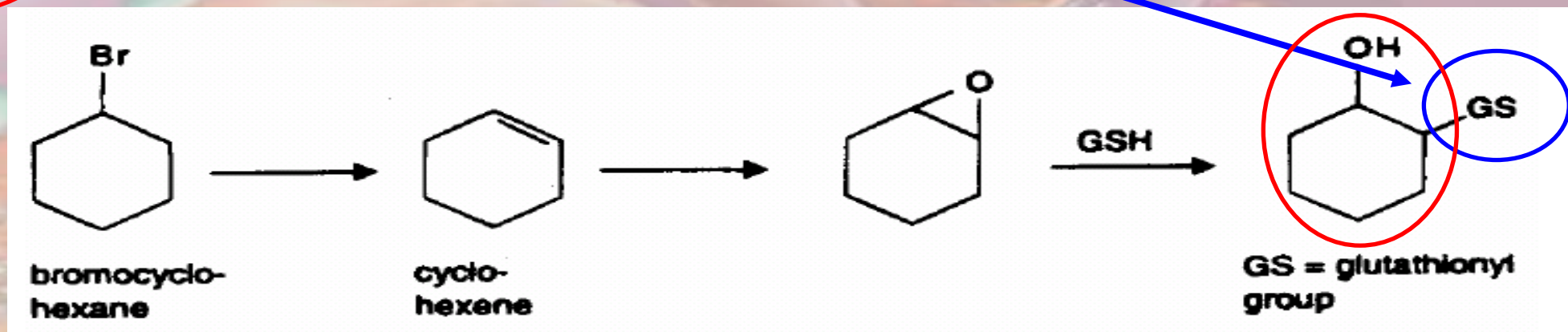
GR



▪ Stress oxidative biomarkers    Glutathione transpherase (GST)

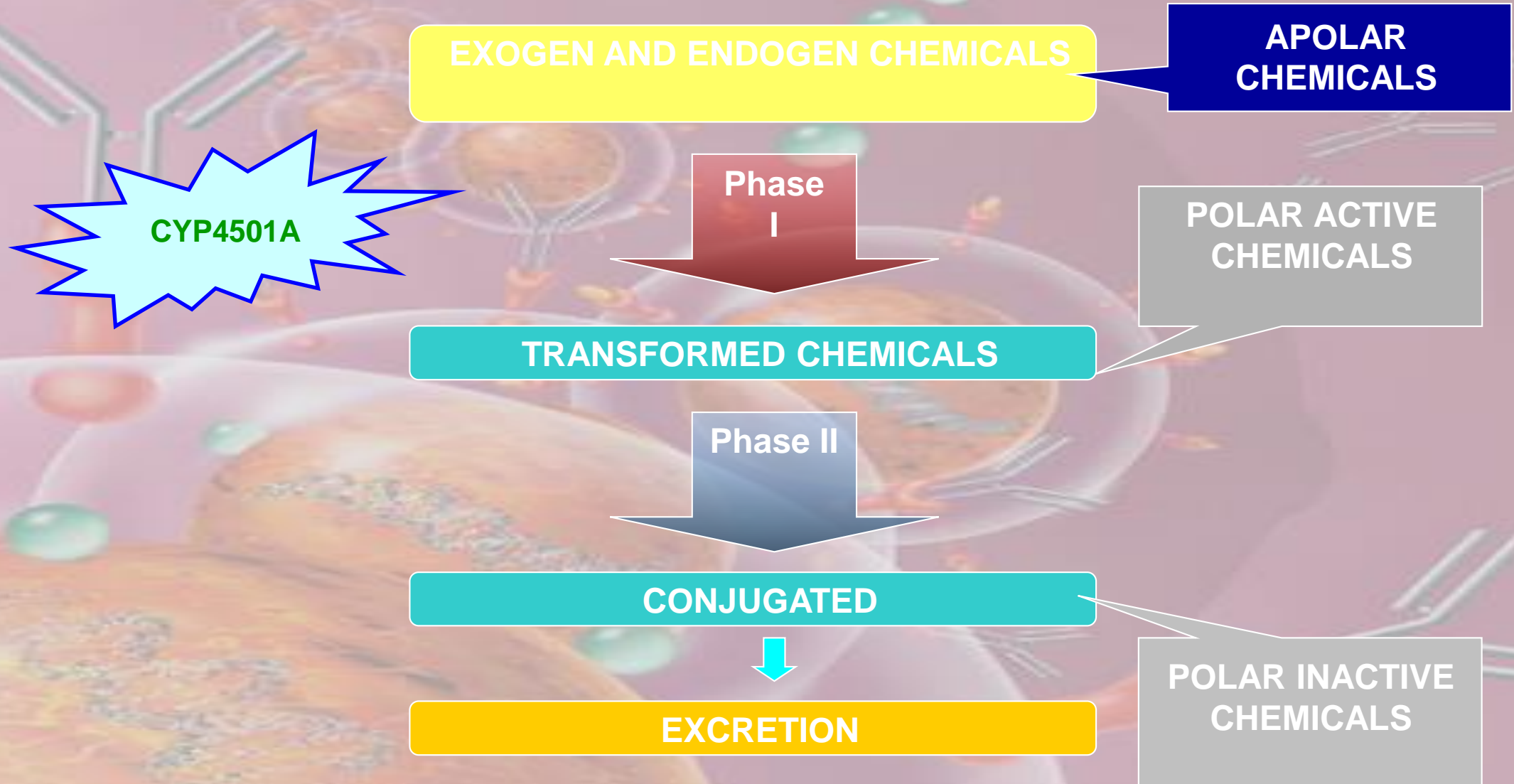


Conjugating of compounds with reduced glutathione.



## ▪ Biomarkers

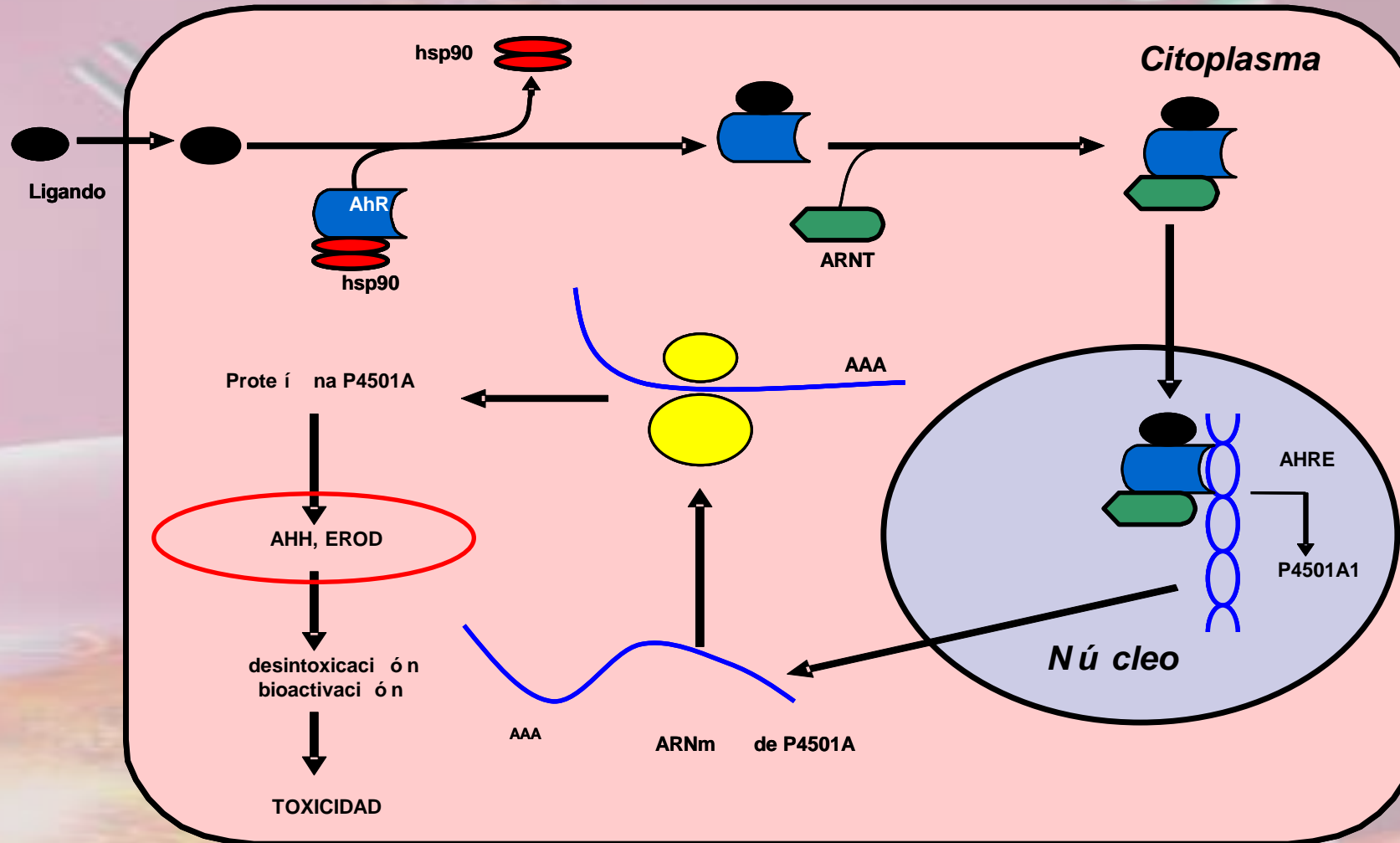
CYP4501A





## ■ Biomarkers

## CYP4501A



hsp90: protein "heat shock 90".  
 AhR: aryl- hidrocarbon receptor.  
 ARNT: translocator protein of aryl-  
 hidrocarbon receptor.  
 AHRE: response elements to aryl-  
 hidrocarbon receptor.  
 AAA: aminoacids

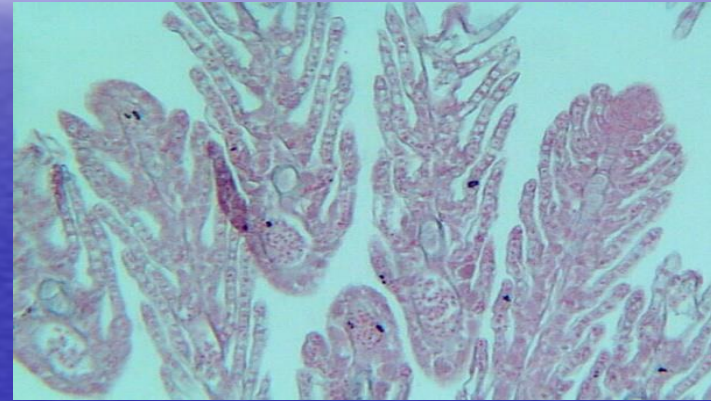
Ethoxyresorufin-O-deethylase (EROD) acts as a substrate for CYP1A1 and measurement of ethoxyresorufin O-deethylase provides a more direct method of detection for this enzyme.

## HISTOPATHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN FISH TISSUES

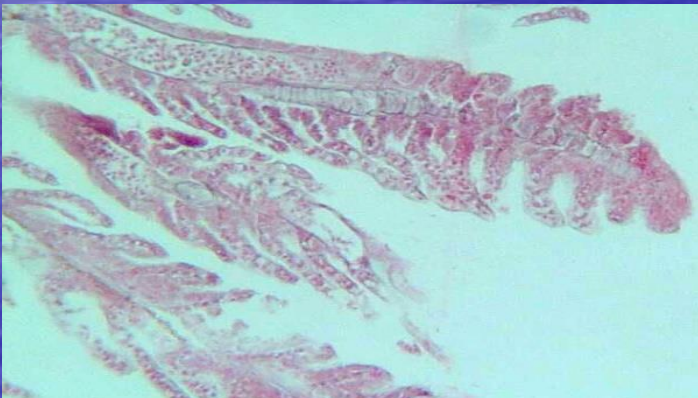
### GILLS



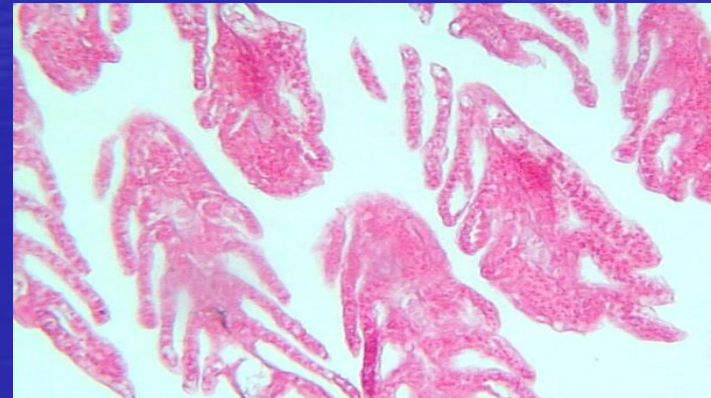
CONTROL



0.01 mg/l Cu<sup>2+</sup>



0.1 mg/l Cu<sup>2+</sup>

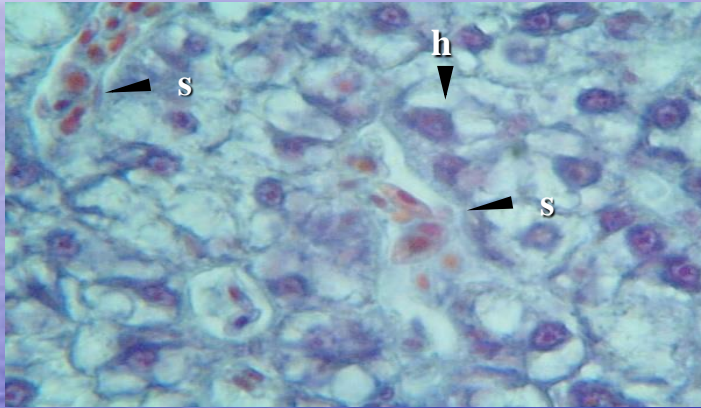


1 mg/l Cu<sup>2+</sup>

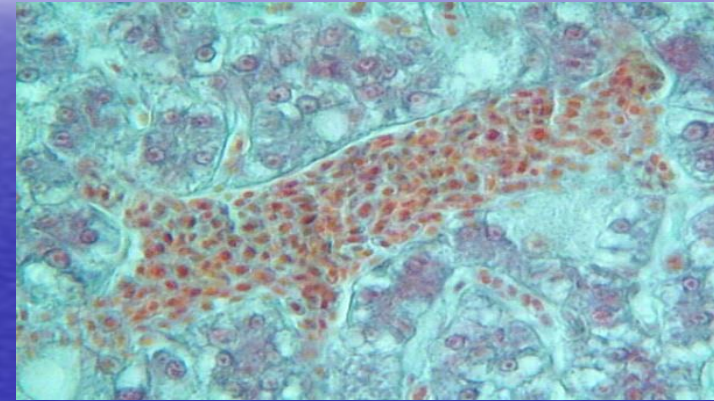


## HISTOPATHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN FISH TISSUES

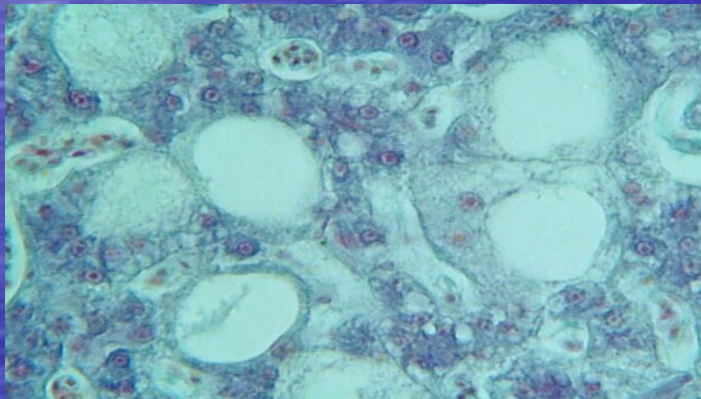
### LIVER



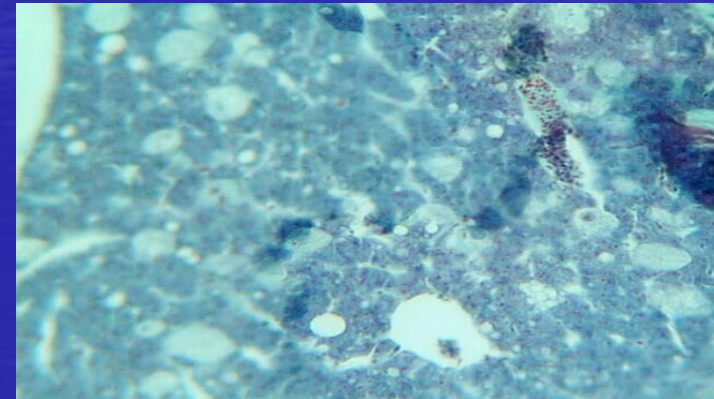
**CONTROL**



**0.01 mg/l  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$**



**0.1 mg/l  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$**



**1 mg/l  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$**

# ¡GRACIAS! Thank you Faleminderit Hvala.

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**OTHER INFORMATION:**

[Links to the oficial web of the master or personal information]

