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Interaction between cyanobacterial bloom and fishes in the Hoedong Reservoir : laboratory and enclosure experiment

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To clarify the interaction between native fishes and Microcystis in a small reservoir, in vivo and in vitro feeding experiment of the filtered cells (< 35m mesh size; 96% Microcystis spp.) and 2 dominant native fishes (Hemiculter eigenmanni and Culter brevicauda) were conducted. This reservoir was constructed in 1967 for drinking water supply. A massive Microcystis bloom event occured during the precipitation was very low from mid July to mid September (81.7 mm). While no toxin was detected in Microcystis from the reservoir, low level of microcystin was detected in both fish free and fish treated Microcystis culture in the laboratory experiment (> 40 g g-1-dry cell) after 24 hours. There was almost no difference in microcystin level between the control and treatment (ANOVA <0.01) at the end of incubation. However, microcystin contents in the both of fish excreta and body tissue were increased on the final day of incubation (day 6). The toxin quantity of fish body tissue was much higher on surface zone (0 m) than the subsurface zone (3 m). After day six, toxin contents of body tissue were higher in H. eigenmanni than that in C. brevicauda in surface zone (0 m). Both in vivo and in vitro experiments showed that feeding pressure from fishes would be trigger the microcystin production. There is also a possibility of increased toxin production in the laboratory culture due to the change of environmental condition. Based on the fact that lower microcystin level of body tissue than the water column and higher toxin level of excreta than the body tissue, we conclude that two fishes may selectively feed on microcystin free Microcystis in the reservoir.

Key words: cyanobacteria, microcystin, pumping reservoir, Hemiculter eigenmanni, Culter brevicauda