



Research Note

수산물 중 해양생물독소 오염실태와 안전관리

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Contamination Status and Safety Management of Marine Biotoxins in Seafoods in South Korea

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ABSTRACT - Marine microalgal biotoxins can accumulate in seafoods, posing significant risk to human health. These toxins include tetrodotoxin (TTX) and can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP), and amnesic shellfish poisoning (ASP). With accelerating climate change, the frequency and intensity of harmful algal blooms capable of producing biotoxins have increased. In South Korea, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) regulates traditional toxins, including TTX and toxins causing PSP, DSP, and ASP. In contrast, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have established regulatory standards for a broader spectrum of marine biotoxins, including yessotoxins (YTXs), brevetoxins (BTXs), azaspiracids (AZAs), and ciguatoxins (CTXs), to ensure seafood safety. To effectively address this global concern, the MFDS launched an R&D project entitled "Establishment of the Safety Management System for Marine Biotoxins" (2020–2024). This project focused on enhancing analytical methods to detect unregulated toxins, assessing contamination levels, and developing rapid detection techniques. The project proposal emphasizes the need to establish a comprehensive monitoring system to mitigate future risks, particularly as climate change expands the range of toxic marine species. This project aims to advance our understanding of marine biotoxin contamination and strengthen seafood safety measures in South Korea by aligning them with international standards. This special issue compiles knowledge accumulated and technical advancements related to marine biotoxins, stemming from the outcomes of this project. It includes 12 papers describing analyses of various regulated and unregulated marine biotoxins, the current prevalence of seafood contamination, toxicity assessments, rapid analytical methods, and the state of safety management.

Key words: Marine biotoxins, Shellfish toxins, Seafood management, Analytical methods, Risk assessment

해양생물독소는 특정 규조류와 와편모조류에 의해 자연적으로 생성되는 독성물질로, 패류 등의 수산물에 축적되

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어 인간의 건강을 위협할 수 있다¹⁾. 최근, 전 지구적인 기후변화와 관련하여 해수의 온도가 상승함에 따라 연안 환경내 유해조류 대량증식의 강도, 빈도, 기간 그리고 지역적 범위가 점차 확대되고 있다. 또한 선박평형수를 통한 외래 종 유입 등과 같은 인위적인 경로를 통해 해양생물독소가 국내 해역으로 유입될 수 있다²⁾. 미세조류에 의해 생성된 해양생물독소는 이매패류, 갑각류, 어류 등 다양한 해양 생물에 축적될 수 있으며, 먹이사슬을 통해 최종적으로 인간에게 독성영향을 미칠 수 있다^{3,4)}. 특히, 여과식식자인 이매패류는 해양 미세조류를 주요 먹이원으로 하

여 독화되기 쉽고, 이러한 독소를 패류독소라고 한다. 독소의 생물축적은 유입속도와 대사 및 배출속도에 의해 결정되며, 대사 및 배출이 상대적으로 느린 독소는 체내에 축적될 수 있어, 패류 체내 체류가 수 개월간 지속되기도 한다^{5,6)}.

패류독소는 증상에 따라 마비성 패독(paralytic shellfish poisoning, PSP), 설사성 패독(diarrhetic shellfish poisoning, DSP), 신경성 패독(neurotoxic shellfish poisoning, NSP), 기억상실성 패독(amnesic shellfish poisoning, ASP)으로 분류된다⁷⁾. 또한, 화학적 성질에 따라 친수성 생물독소와 친지성 생물독소로 나눌 수 있다⁸⁾. 친수성 생물독소에는 saxitoxin (STX), domoic acid (DA) 및 tetrodotoxin (TTX)이 포함되며, 친지성 생물독소에는 okadaic acid (OA), dinophysistoxins (DTXs), yessotoxins (YTXs), pectenotoxins (PTXs), brevetoxins (BTXs), azaspiracid (AZAs), ciguatoxins (CTXs), cyclic imines (CIs) 등이 포함된다(Table 1). 현재까지 약 300종의 해양생물독소가 보고되었으며, 친지성 생물독소는 전체 생물독소의 90%를 차지 한다⁹⁾. 지난 30년 동안 해양 생물독소와 그 원인 미세조류의 발생이 전 세계적으로 증가 추세에 있고, 이는 국제적인 문제로 대두되고 있다^{2,10)}.

우리나라의 경우 식품의약품안전처에서 PSP, DSP, ASP, TTX에 대해 기준을 두어 관리하고 있다(Fig. 1). 반면, 미국 FDA와 유럽 식품 안전청(EFSA)은 YTXs, BTXs, AZAs, CTXs 등 더 다양한 생물독소에 대해 관리 기준을 마련해 수산물의 안전을 보장하고 있다. 기후변화로 인해 미세조류, 어류, 저서 무척추동물을 비롯한 열대 및 아열대 지역의 독성 해양생물의 서식범위가 점차 확대됨에 따라 우리나라 해역으로의 미관리 독소 유입이 우려되고 있다¹¹⁾. 또한, 수산물 수입국의 다변화로 인해 더 많은 독소에 대한 관리가 요구되고 있다. 최근 우리나라 연안 해역에서 다양한 독소의 원인 조류가 출현하고, 미관리 독소인 YTXs, PTXs, CIs 등이 검출됨에 따라 이들에 의한 수산물 오염 가능성이 존재하며, 이에 대한 선제적 대응이 필요하다. 기존 관리 체계를 보완하고 미관리 독소에 대한 모니터링을 강화하여 향후 발생할 수 있는 독소로 인한 수산물 안전 문제에 대응하는 것이 중요하다.

식품의약품안전처에서는 2020-2024년 동안 ‘해양생물독소 안전 관리망 구축’ R&D 과제를 지원하고 있다. 이 과제는 기존 관리독소의 관리 강화, 미관리 독소의 분석법 개발 및 오염 실태조사, 생물독소 신속검출 기법 개발, 생

Table 1. Chemical characteristics and symptoms of major marine toxins

Marine toxin group	Reference compound (formula & molar weight ^a)	Chemical class	Syndrome	Lipophilicity
Saxitoxin & its analogues	Saxitoxin (C ₁₀ H ₁₇ N ₇ O ₄ , 299)	Tetrahydro-purine alkaloid	Paralytic shellfish poisoning	Hydrophilic
Okadaic acid & its analogues	Okadaic acid (C ₄₄ H ₆₈ O ₁₃ , 804)	Polyether, spiro-keto ring assembly	Diarrhetic shellfish poisoning	Lipophilic
Domoic acid & its analogues	Domoic acid (C ₁₅ H ₂₁ NO ₆ , 311)	Cyclic amino acid, 3 carboxy groups	Amnesic shellfish poisoning	Hydrophilic
Brevetoxin & its analogues	Brevetoxin (C ₄₉ H ₇₀ O ₁₃ , 867)	Polyether with contiguously fused rings	Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning	Lipophilic
Pectenotoxin & its analogues	Pectenotoxin 1 & 2 (C ₄₇ H ₇₀ O ₁₅ , 875)	Polycyclic ether with a spiroketal	Hepatotoxic ^b	Lipophilic
Azaspiracid & its analogues	Azaspiracid (C ₄₇ H ₇₁ NO ₁₂ , 841)	Polyether, second amine, 3-spiro-ring assembly	Azaspiracid shellfish poisoning ^c	Lipophilic
Yessotoxin & its analogues	Yessotoxin (C ₅₅ H ₈₂ O ₂₁ S ₂ , 1143)	Disulfated polycyclic polyethers	Gastrointestinal symptoms ^d	Lipophilic
Tetrodotoxin & its analogues	Tetrodotoxin (C ₁₁ H ₁₇ N ₃ O ₈ , 319)	Guanidinium derivative of penta-hydroxylated 2,4-dioxaadmantane	Paralytic shellfish poisoning	Hydrophilic
Ciguatoxin & its analogues	Ciguatoxin (C ₆₀ H ₈₆ O ₁₉ , 1111)	Polycyclic polyethers	Ciguatera fish poisoning ^e	Lipophilic
Cyclic imines	- ^f	Polycyclic ether with imines and spiro-rings	Neurotoxic	Lipophilic

^aUnit: g/mol.

^bUnclear due to lack of data.. Previously included in the list of toxins that cause diarrhetic shellfish poisoning, but now excluded as irrelevant.

^cMainly shows gastrointestinal symptoms similar to diarrhetic shellfish poisoning.

^dSimilar to diarrhetic shellfish poisoning.

^eMainly neurotoxic symptoms due to neuroexcitability.

^fNo single reference compound. Currently known toxins include spirolides, gymnodimines, pinnatoxins, and pteriatoxins.

Current guidance on marine biotoxins in seafood

South Korea ¹²⁾	Japan ¹³⁾	USA (FDA) ¹⁴⁾	Canada ¹⁵⁾
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • TTX: 20 MU^e 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • TTX: 2 mg kg⁻¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • AZA: 160 µg AZA1-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 800 µg BTX2-EQ kg⁻¹ • C-CTX^f: 0.1 µg CTX-EQ kg⁻¹ • P-CTX^g: 0.01 µg CTX-EQ kg⁻¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • PTX^h: 200 µg kg⁻¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 200 MU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • YTX: 3750 µg YTX-EQ kg⁻¹ • AZA: 160 µg AZA1-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 800 µg BTX2-EQ kg⁻¹ • CTX^g: 0.01 µg CTX-EQ kg⁻¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 200 MU 	
FSANZ¹⁶⁾	EFSA¹⁷⁾	FAO/WHO¹⁸⁾	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 200 MU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • YTX: 3750 µg YTX-EQ kg⁻¹ • AZA: 160 µg AZA1-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 800 µg BTX2-EQ kg⁻¹ • CTX^g: 0.01 µg CTX-EQ kg⁻¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STX: 800 µg STX-EQ kg⁻¹ • OA^b: 160 µg OA-EQ kg⁻¹ • DA: 20 mg DA-EQ kg⁻¹ • BTX: 200 MU 	

References

¹²⁾MFDS (2016); ¹³⁾MAFF (2015); ¹⁴⁾FDA (2023); ¹⁵⁾Health Canada (2020); ¹⁶⁾FSANZ (2024); ¹⁷⁾EFSA (2010); ¹⁸⁾FAO (2004)

Fig. 1. Recent regulations and recommendations on marine biotoxins in seafood established by different nations and global organizations.

물독소 표준품 개발, 생물독소 독성 평가 기술 개발 등을 포함한다. 이를 통해 우리나라 해양생물 독소의 오염 특성에 대한 이해도와 분석 기술의 향상이 기대되며, 생물독소 분야의 인력 양성에도 기여할 것이다. 이 외에도 해당 과제에서는 독소의 장기 모니터링 데이터를 축적하여 기후변화와 연관된 독소 발생을 선제적으로 대응할 수 있는 과학적 기초자료를 확보하는데 그 의의를 두고 있다.

한국식품위생안전성학회지의 이번 특별호에서는 해양 생물독소 관련하여 현재까지 축적된 지식을 전파하고 기술 발전을 독자들에게 알리는 것을 목표로 한다. 이번 특별호에는 국내 유통 패류 내 미관리 독소인 Cls 및 palytoxin의 분석법 및 오염실태, 수입산 패류의 AZAs 오염 실태, 어류시료 내 테트로도톡신 및 유사체 분석법 및 오염실태, TTX 검출을 위한 세포시험법 등 다양한 주제를 포함하고 있으며, 총 12편의 논문이 게재되었다. 이러한 연구 결과들을 통해 해양생물독소에 대한 이해도를 높이고, 수산물 안전관리에 실질적으로 기여할 수 있기를 기대한다.

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Conflict of interests

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest.

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