

Hematology Profile of the Mekong Giant Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*) Juveniles

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Abstract The purpose of the present study was to obtain a basic knowledge of the hematology profile of the Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*, Chevey). Thirty catfish with an average weight of 74.0 ± 27.43 g and average length of 21.23 ± 2.86 cm were examined. The results of hematology data showed that the average value of the total red blood cell count was $2.24 \pm 0.62 \times 10^6$ cell/mm³; the average value of the total white blood cell count was $5.30 \pm 2.79 \times 10^4$ cell/mm³, the average value of the hematocrit was $28.73 \pm 4.23\%$; the average value of serum protein was 2.88 ± 1.0 g/dL; the average value of serum glucose was 0.69 ± 0.11 mg/dL; and the average value of serum lysozyme was 5.56 ± 3.19 unit/min. The morphological features of the blood cells were described according to the observations under the light microscopy at magnification of 1,000X. Erythrocytes, thrombocytes and other five types of leucocytes: lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, basophils and neutrophils were distinguished and characterized. Thrombocytes were the most abundant blood cells after erythrocytes, easily distinguished from lymphocytes by morphological features and size. The results of this can provide preliminary data of the standard Mekong giant catfish hematology profile.

Keywords : Hematology, Blood Cells, Mekong giant catfish, *Pangasianodon gigas*
