



Mr. Itamar Rocha, Organizer  
of both Symposia

Thank you both very  
much for bring me  
here after 36 years!

Mr. I.T. Guo, NangRong  
Group., Shanghai

# Antioxidant Nutraceuticals in Aquatic Animals: Enhancing Resistance to Environmental and Pathological Stress

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# Nutraceutical = Nutritional + Pharmaceutical

Nutrition becomes required at critical conditions, such as **under various stress**. Under normal conditions, it is not regarded as an requirement or its deficiency may not cause immediate crisis and receive attention. Such nutritional food is usually referred as health food for people.

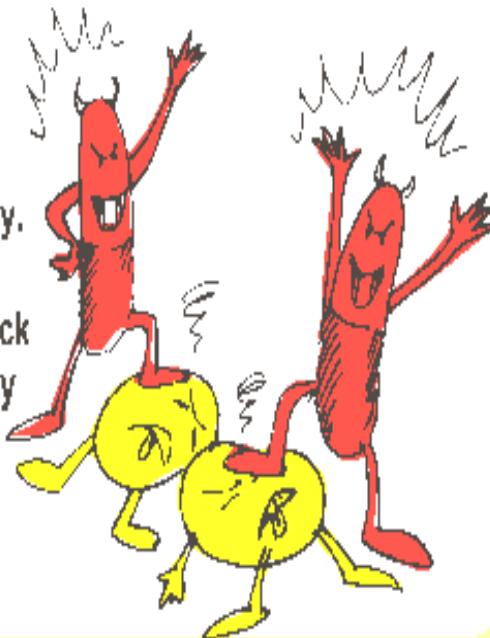
# CONTENTS

- I. Stress, ROS, antioxidants, defense against ROS and resistance to stress.
- II. More important roles of antioxidant capacity in aquatic animals than terrestrial ones.
- III. Expansion of our 20 years' study on I.
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# FREE RADICALS AND ROS

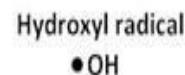
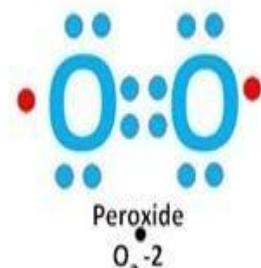
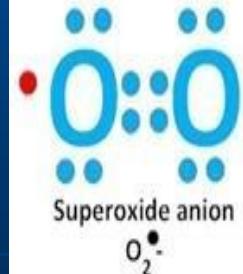
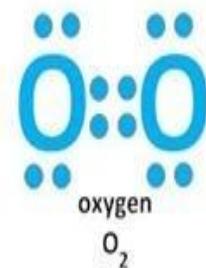
## What are Free radicals ?

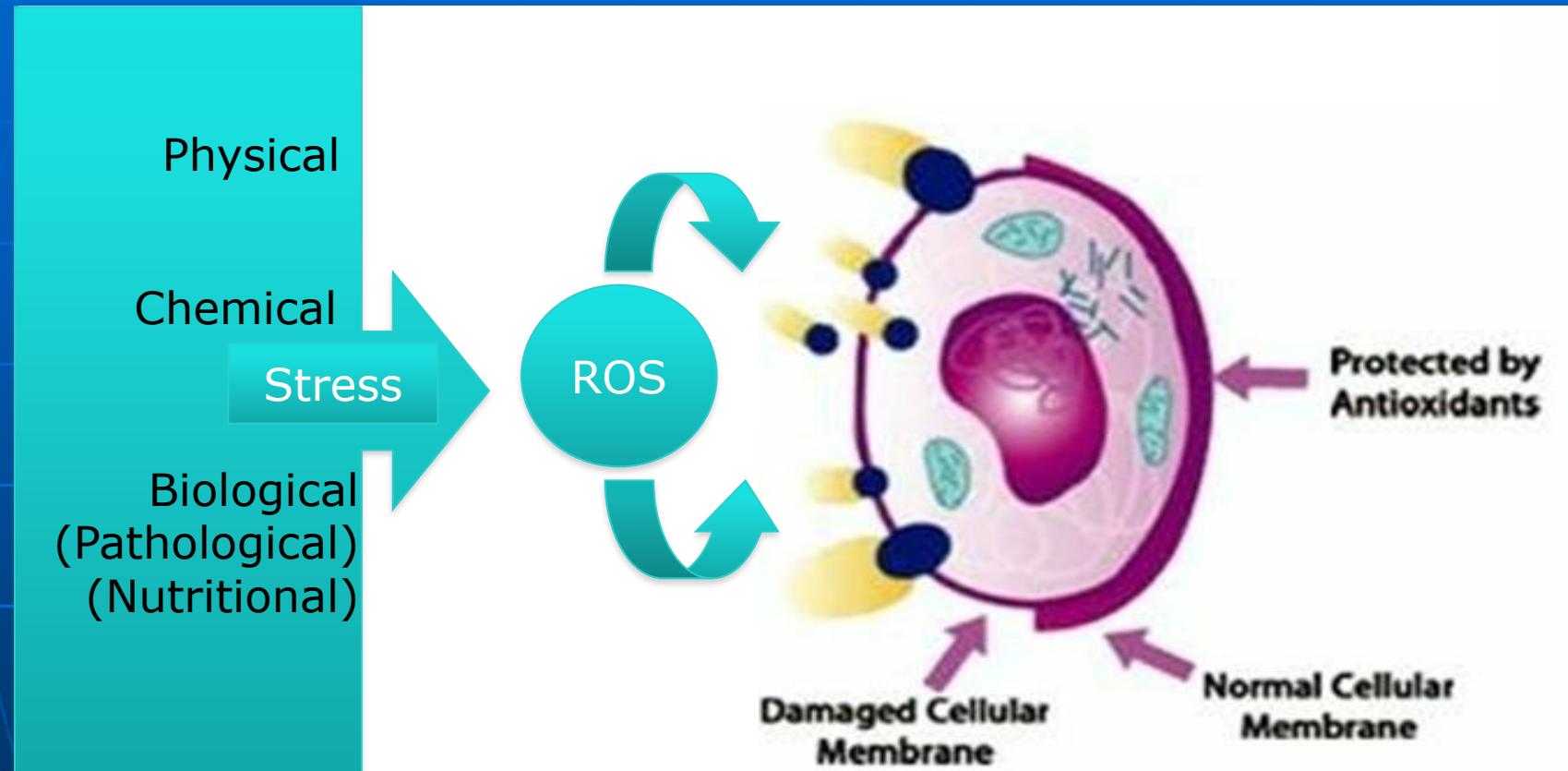
- Free radicals are like robbers which are deficient in energy.
- Free radicals attack and snatch energy from the other cells to satisfy themselves.



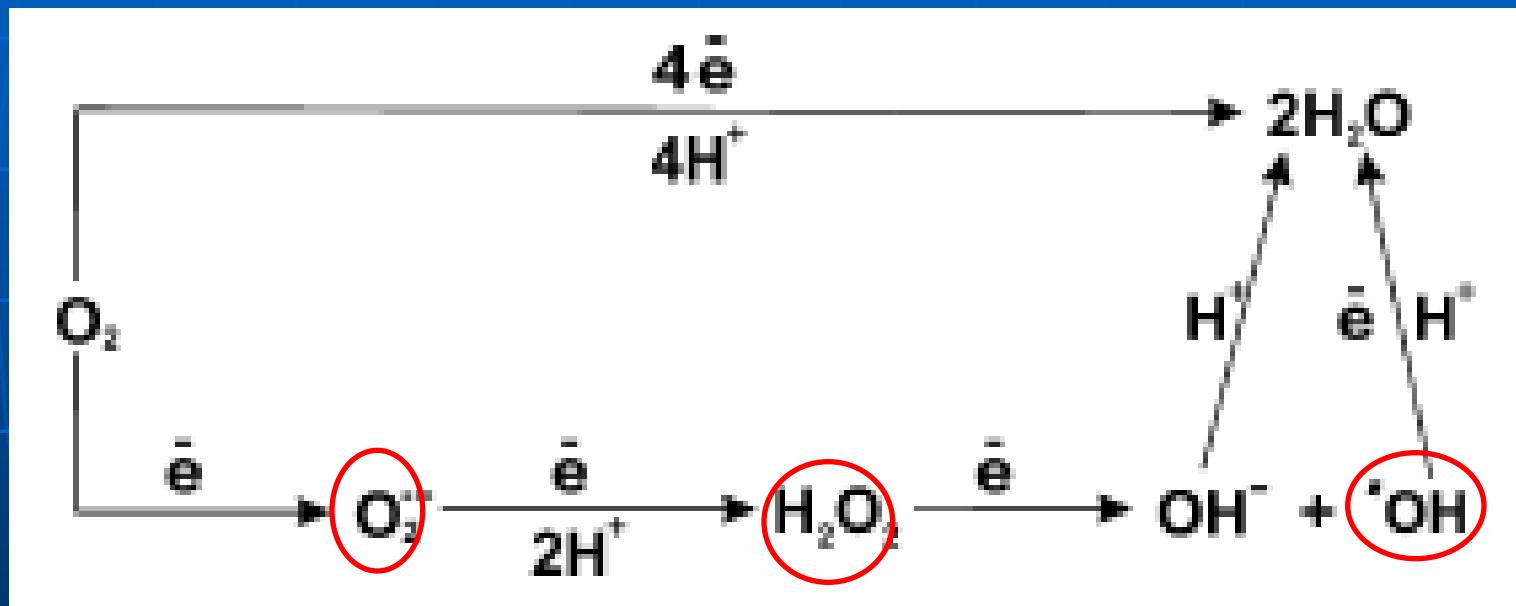
### Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)

• = unpaired electrons

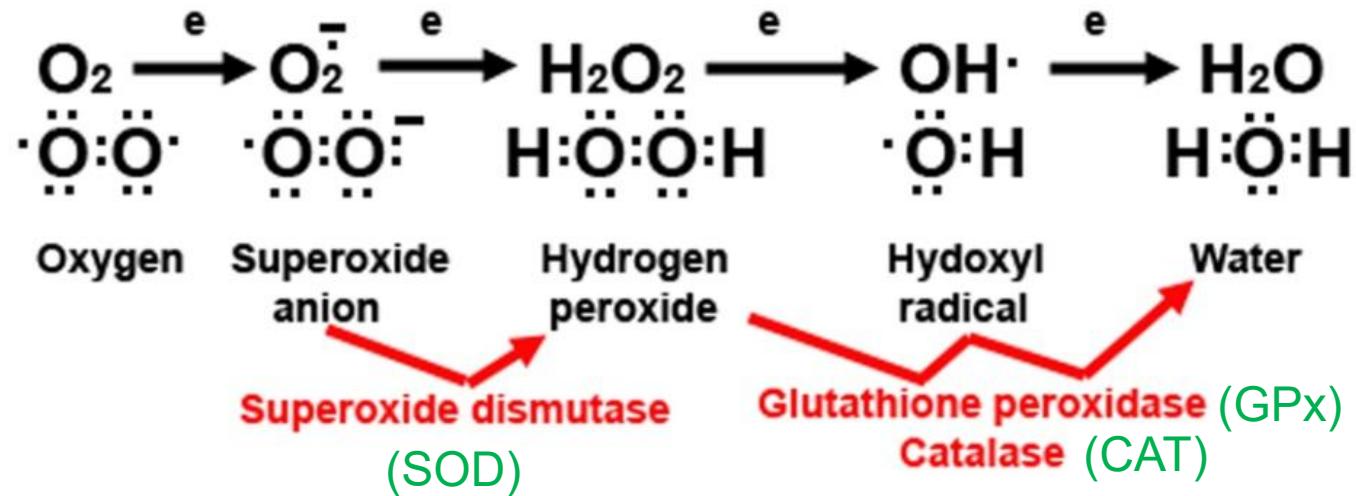




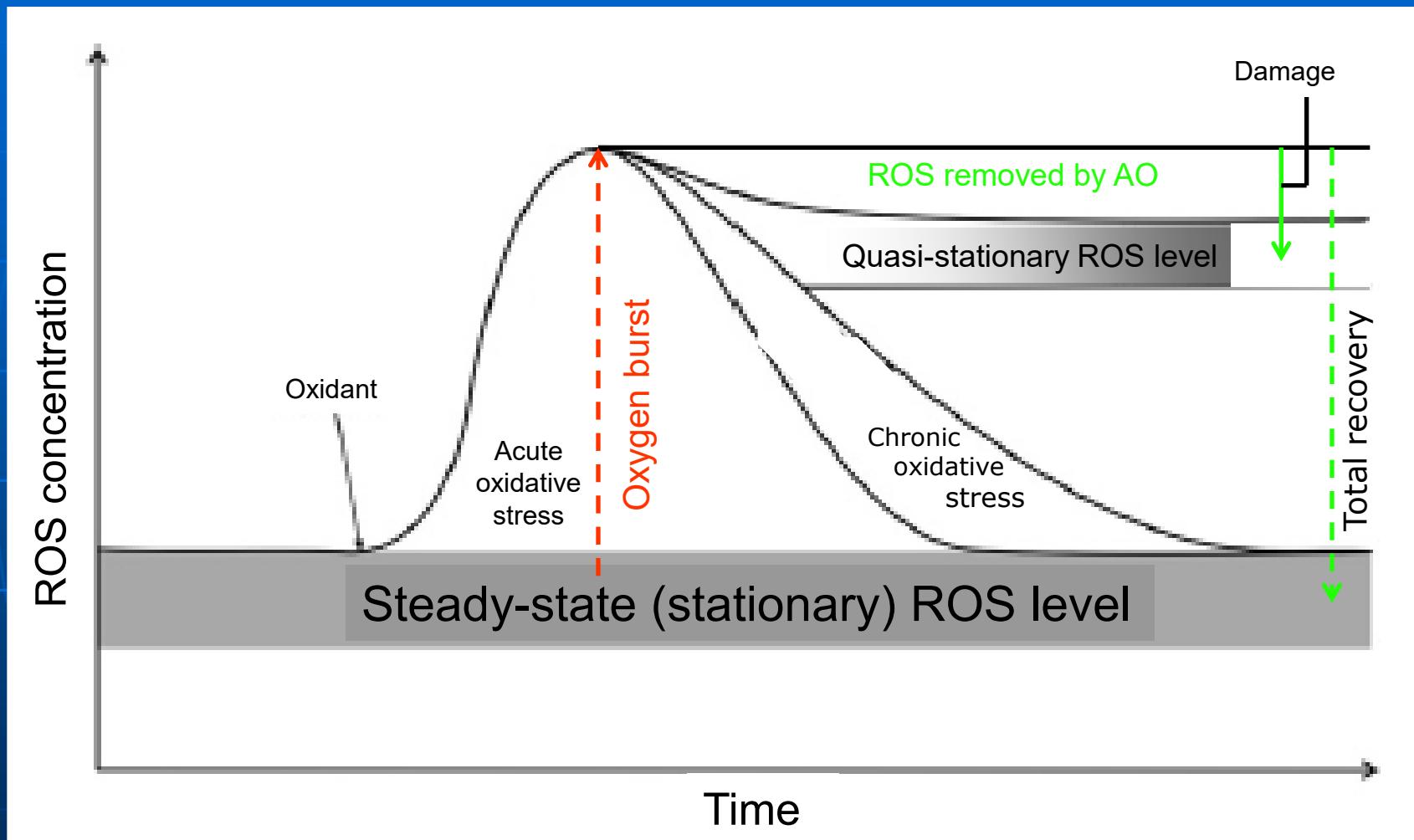
# ROUTES OF OXYGEN METABOLISM



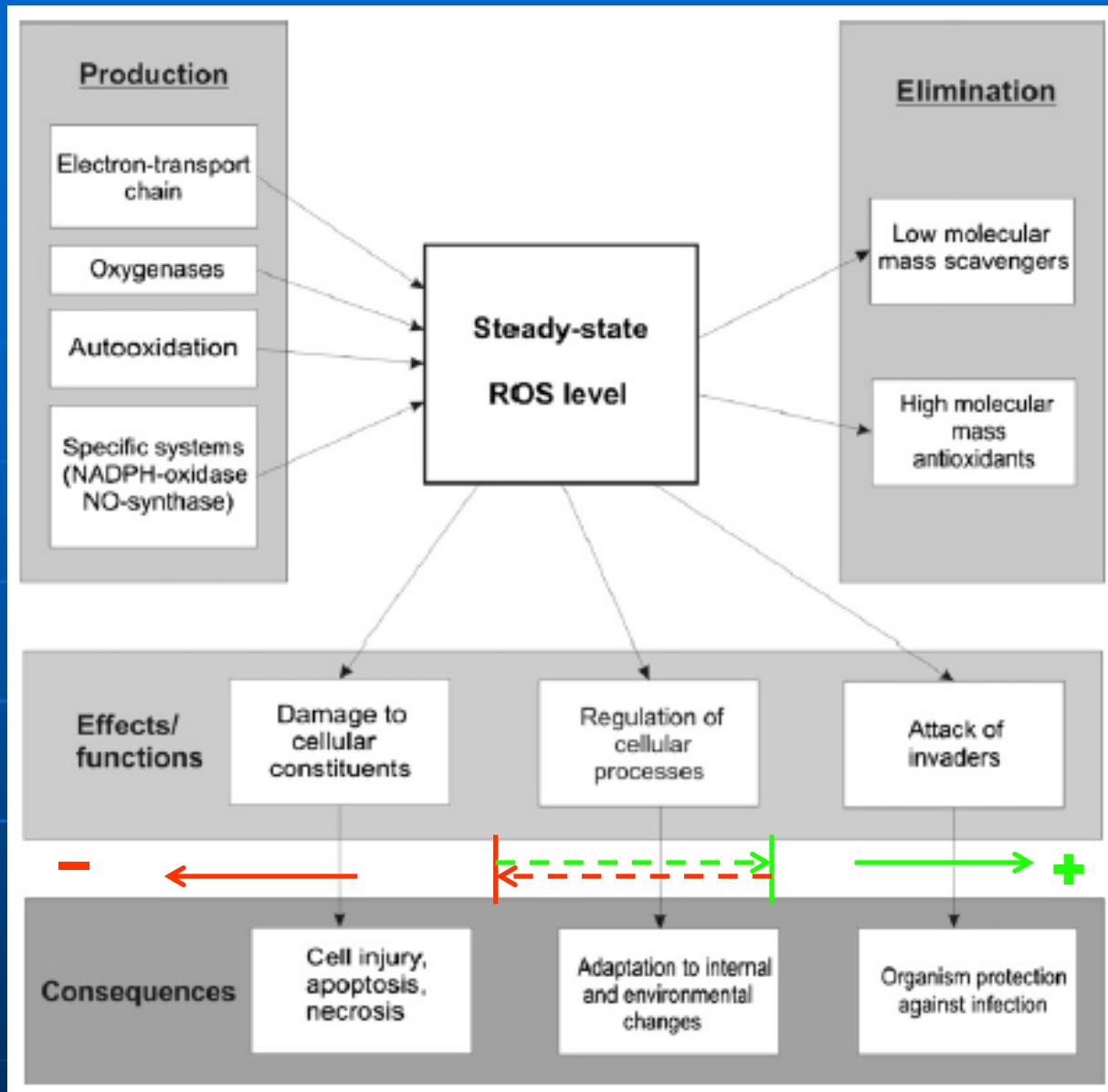
## Formation and Elimination of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)



Increasing Numbers of electrons



The dynamics of oxidant-induced perturbations of levels of reactive oxygen species in living organisms (Lushchak 2011)



Balance between production and elimination of ROS and their potential biological effects (Lushchak 2011)

# ANTIOXIDANTS

Antioxidants are nutrients that help to minimize free-radical damage to the body cells by:

- Reducing their energy,
- Inhibiting their formation or
- Interrupting an oxidizing chain reaction to minimize the damage of reactive oxygen species (ROS).

In short, antioxidants **inhibit oxidation**.

**First level of defence:**  
*Prevention of radical formation*

Superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, catalase, glutathione and thioredoxin systems and metal-binding proteins.

**Second level of defence:**  
*Prevention and restriction of chain formation and propagation*

Vitamins A, E, C, carotenoids, ubiquinols, glutathione, uric acid.

**Third level of defence:**  
*Excision and repair of damaged parts of molecules*

Lipases, peptidase, proteases, transferases, DNA-repair enzymes etc.

# STRESS

Chemical – high ammonia/low DO

Physical – temperature/salinity sudden change

Pathogenic – bacteria/virus attack

## CELLULAR PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES

“Burst” – sudden shortage of oxygen

Abnormal oxidative reactions

Singlet oxygen (ROS) & free radicals (ROI)

## DAMAGES TO CELL COMPONENTS

Lipids

Proteins

Carbohydrates

Nucleotides

Membranes

Enzymes

DNA

## CONSEQUENCES

Chronicle – growth inhibition

Acute – mortality

# Antioxidant Defense System

- Neutralization of the potential ill effect of ROS and ROI

## Substances for Primary Defense

Antioxidant compounds:

ascorbic acid (vit.C),  $\alpha$ -tocopherol (vit.E), retinal (vit.A),  
carotenoids, glutathione, and uric acid

- Antioxidant scavenging enzymes

## Carotenoids

$\beta$ -carotene:

lipid antioxidant- a free radical trap and quencher of ROS;  
antioxidation ability (AA) 10 times > vit.E

Astaxanthin (Super vit.E):

Inhibit lipid peroxidation

AX 10 times > $\beta$ -carotene, 100 times > vit.E

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# Adaptation: Survive through Eternity



## Hypothesis:

Through evolution, aquatic animals may have to develop a more efficient antioxidant defensive system than terrestrial animals to counter-react more oxidative stress in aquatic inhabitation than in terrestrial one.

This is because of the relative disadvantage of aquatic animals to conduct aerobic metabolism over terrestrial animals.

# Relative disadvantage of aquatic animals to conduct aerobic metabolism over terrestrial animals

1. **Extremely poor accessibility for oxygen:**  $<1/5000$   
In water: Dissolved oxygen content  $< 10$  part per million ( $10^{-6}$ )  
In air: Fraction of oxygen = 20 per cent ( $10^{-2}$ )
2. **Carbohydrate not available for energy:**  
Nil carbohydrate in natural food sources and hence poor utilization of it for energy generation (not marine but few freshwater finfish).
3. **More risk from lipid peroxidation:**  
when lipid is used to generate energy and exposed to ROS.

Even more  
internal and  
external  
stress in  
aquaculture  
than in  
animal  
husbandry



# Stress to the cultured animals in captivity (confined space)

- \* Stress from immediate contact with deteriorated water and sediment where the cultured animals inhabit:
  - Stimuli from unsuitable range of physical and chemical parameters, such as temperature, salinity, pH and hardness, low dissolved oxygen, and toxicity derived from metabolic waste.
  - Infection by proliferated pathogenic microbes and virus.
- \* Stress from stocking density:
  - Hierarchical pressure (packed order) caused timid feeding.
  - Cannibalistic attack.

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# Study Realm Expansion

Pigmentation on rainbow trout by crawfish astaxanthin in LSU

→ Pigmentation on Kuruma prawn by astaxanthin (AX)

→ Resistant against hypoxia in black tiger by AX

→ More carotenoids, stress types and responding parameters, also for finfish

→ More antioxidants, also prooxidants

→ (Modeling for Aquafeed 4.0)

## CONCLUSION I

The increase of body astaxanthin content through dietary supplementation in tiger prawn *P. monodon* juvenile could enhance its antioxidant defense capability and resistance to thermal and osmotic stress, ammonia stress, and pathogen challenge. Also hemolymph of the treated shrimp had **higher TAS** and/or **lower SOD**, **lower AST** and/or **ALT**, and **lower *in vitro*** activity of lipid peroxide (LPO) than that of the control shrimp, showing that both the antioxidant capability and hepatopancreatic function had been improved by dietary astaxanthin.

For *P. monodon*, astaxanthin is a **nutraceutical**, which can become critical when the animal is under physical and chemical stress and pathogen challenge.



For beauty, ask for  
astaxanthin!

For **protection** and  
**insurance** do ask for  
**ASTAXANTHIN!**

**Beauty and protection**

# Enhancement of Resistance in Characins *Hyphessobrycon callistus* to Physical and Chemical stress by Dietary Supplement of Carotenoids

Effects of dietary supplementation of carotenoids on survival, growth, pigmentation, and antioxidant capacity of characins, *Hyphessobrycon callistus*. Aquaculture 261: 641-648.

The antioxidant capacity response to hypoxia stress during transportation of characins (*Hyphessobrycon callistus* Boulenger) fed diets supplemented with carotenoids. Aquaculture Research 41, 973-981

Antioxidant defence to ammonia stress of characins (*Hyphessobrycon eques* Steindachner) fed diets supplemented with carotenoids. Aquaculture Nutrition 17, 258-266

# Objectives

Besides achieving better body color, can dietary supplement of various carotenoids at several levels enhance Characins' antioxidant capacity, concomitantly, resistance against different stress that may encounter during live fish shipping?

# Experimental Design

## Diets

AX, BC, MX

×

10, 20,  
40 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>

## Fish

### CD

AX

BC

### Anti-OX

TAS

SOD

GPx

ALT

AST

## Stress

**I- High & Low  
temp.**

**II- Low DO**

**III- High TAN**

**IV- Low pH**

## Conclusion II

Despite the type of stress varies, the responses in biochemical enzymatic activity remain similar. Only Total Antioxidant Status (TAS) was less sensitive to both stress and dietary carotenoid supplement than the other enzymes.

Antioxidant activities in fish varied with dietary carotenoids type and level. Dietary carotenoid increased the antioxidant capacity and protection of the liver. Except TAS, the other four enzyme activities showed decreasing trends with increasing dietary CD level. The activities of TAS, SOD, GPx and AST increased under the stress. Dietary CD reduced serum SOD, GPx, ALT and AST activities. In conclusion, dietary CD increased the resistance of characins to ammonia stress.

# Dietary Effects of Various Antioxidant Supplements on Growth, Survival, Antioxidant Capacity, Immune Response, Metabolic Response and Oxidative Stress Status of Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)

Laila Gallego and Yew-Hu Chien

# Objectives

To investigate the effect of antioxidant extracts with the same DPPH antioxidant activity on growth, survival, antioxidant capacity, immune response, metabolic response and oxidative stress status of *Litopenaeus vannamei*

*Quillaja saponaria*



Nutrafito plus

=

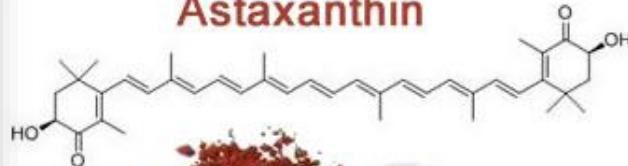
Yucca 20% +

Quillaja 80%

*Yucca schidigera*



Astaxanthin



Moringa leaves



*Moringa oleifera*



Moringa seed



Vitamin A

- Astaxanthin
- Vitamin A
- *Quillaja saponaria*
- *Yucca schidigera*
- Nutrafito plus
- Moringa leaves
- Moringa seeds



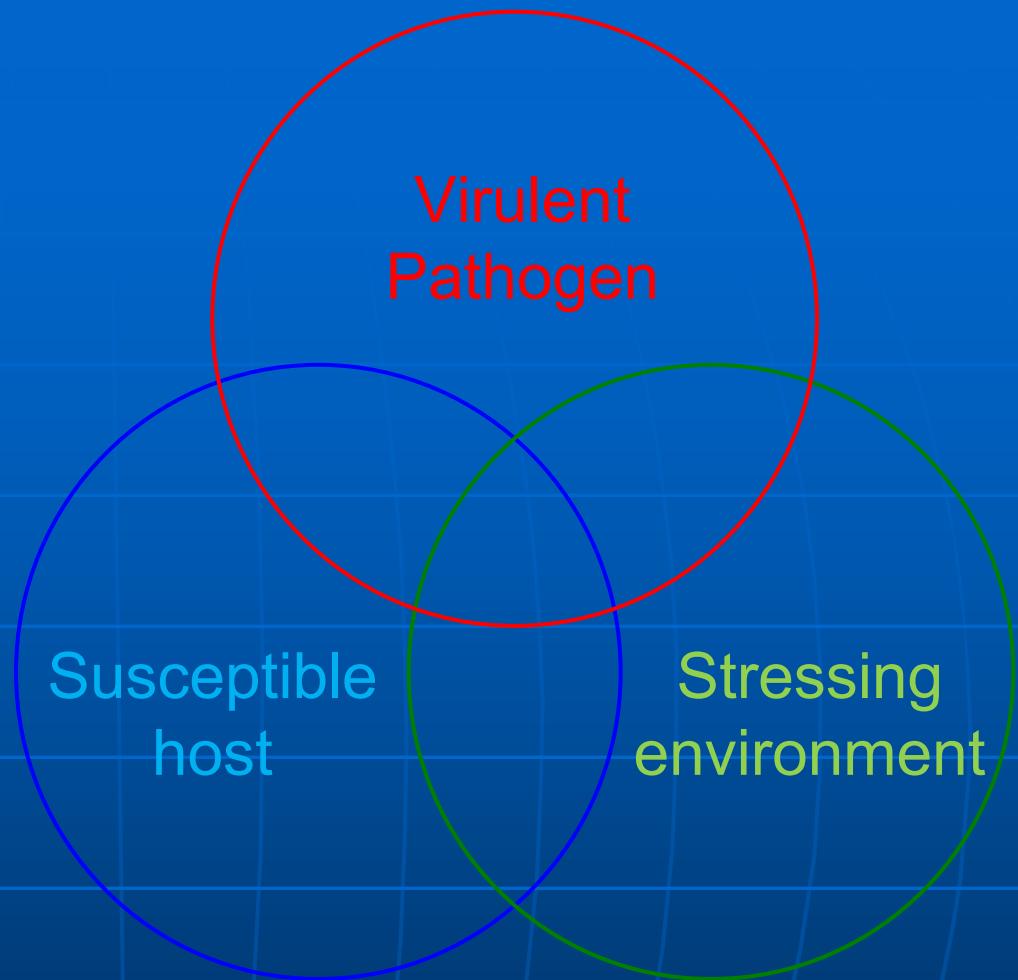
This is a holistic study to find out the total effects of dietary antioxidant on shrimp's antioxidant capacity, metabolic response, immune response, and oxidative stress status and the relationship among the responding variables. This is also a first study to compare the effects of various dietary antioxidants with the same level of total antioxidant capacity, DPPH, by their responding variables.



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Snieszko (1972):  
Communicable diseases  
of fishes occur when  
susceptible host and  
virulent pathogen meet in  
an environmental context,  
which facilitates such an  
occurrence.



Snieszko, S.F. (1972) Nutritional fish diseases. In Fish Nutrition, ed. J.E. Halver, pp. 404-37. New York and London: Academic Press.

Snieszko (1974): Infectious diseases of fishes occur when susceptible fishes are exposed to virulent pathogens under certain environmental stress conditions.

Snieszko, S.F. (1974) The effects of environmental stress on outbreaks of infectious diseases of fishes. J. Fish Biology 6, 197-208.

# Big Data: Cause-effect & Interaction

## Diets

Antioxidants  
(Anti-Ox)

×

Concentration  
(con)

×

cofactors

M

## Fish

Life stages

Target organ or tissue

Anti-Ox  
assimilation  
efficiency

Metabolic  
response  
Anti-OX  
Enzymes  
Immune  
response

M

## Stress

Physical  
temp, DO...

Chemical  
TAN, pH, sal...

Biological

Pathogen  
Density, ...

M

**Aquafeed 4.0 –**  
**Aquafeed resulted from an integral**  
**approach in dietary nutrition to**  
**relieve the threats (disease and risk)**  
**encountered during culture.**

**Antioxidant capacity building in**  
**cultured animals through nutritional**  
**and dietary enhancement.**

**Next Episode –  
Approach for  
Application**

Enhancing the antioxidant capacity of aquatic animals brings nutritional (growth,...), nutraceutical (stress resistance,...) and even pharmaceutical (immunity, ...) benefits. Consequently, antioxidant (after prooxidant) capacity (overall, specific, or group) can be used as criteria to evaluate the quality of functional aquafeed.

Dietary antioxidant compounds (vitamins, phytochemicals, ...) and concentrations, their building (digestibility, bioavailability, assimilation efficiency, ...) of various antioxidant capacity (TAS, DPPH, SOD, CAT, GR, GPx, ...) in various tissues of aquatic animals (vertebrates, invertebrates) and in various life stages, and before versus after the stress (physical, chemical, biological, behavior, ...) form a multi-dimensional matrices. Such big data lays the foundation to be mined, modeled and refined for a virtual antioxidant capacity assessment and antioxidant premix supplement.



**Thank you for your  
attention**

**Comments and  
questions are welcome**