

# Welcome

Presentation by Mary Mkhonto

Msc Zoology

Supervisor: JHJ Van Vuren

Zoology Department, University of Johannesburg

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**The Impact of Environmental stressors  
on biomarkers in *Clarias gariepinus* and  
*Oreochromis mossambicus* in Ndumo  
Game Reserve**



# OVERVIEW

A background photograph of a lake with several people wading in the water, pulling a long net. A small inflatable boat is also visible in the middle of the lake. The shoreline is covered with green vegetation, and the sky is filled with white clouds.

- Introduction
- Aims
- Materials and Methods
- Results + Conclusion





# Introduction



# Lower Phongolo

## The Study

- OCP Bioaccumulation
- Biomarker Analysis

## Target Species

-  *O. mossambicus* (Mozambique tilapia)
-  *C. gariepinus* (Sharptooth Catfish)



# Aims

1. Evaluating the impacts of environmental stressors and pesticides on the Lower Phongolo River and floodplains.
2. The use of two fish species, *Oreochromis mosambicus* and *Clarias gariepinus* as bio-indicators of pollution and environmental stress.
3. The determination of contaminating compounds and bio-accumulation levels in fish.



# Location





# Agriculture and Industry



- ☐ Beneficial but detrimental

- ☐ Effective Management and support studies

- ☐ Phongolopoort Dam

## Pesticides

- ☐ Agriculture and malaria prevalence

- ☐ DDT persistence and monitoring



# BANNED!!

DDT concentration:  
increase of  
10 million times

DDT in  
fish-eating birds  
25 ppm

DDT in  
large fish  
2 ppm

DDT in  
small fish  
0.5 ppm

DDT in  
zooplankton  
0.04 ppm

DDT in water  
0.000003 ppm



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# Local Communities



Josiah Townsend



Josiah Townsend



Josiah Townsend



Josiah Townsend



# Field and Practical Work





# Field and Practical Work



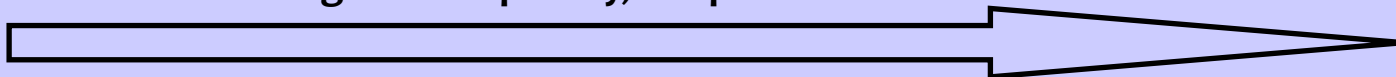


# Biomarkers

SHORT TERM

Biological Complexity, Response

LONG TERM



Time & Biological Significance

**Definition:**

Pollutant  
Chemicals

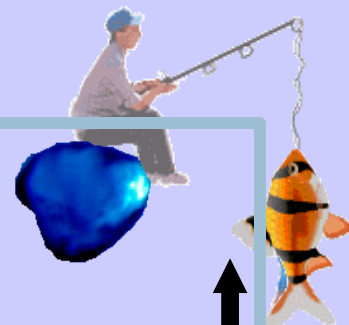
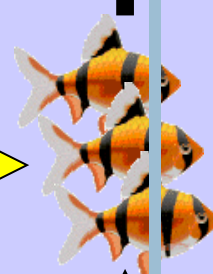
Molecular  
&  
Cellular

Tissue

Organs

Individual animal

"...assess chemical exposure and cumulative, adverse effects of toxicants on biota."



Physical factors  
&  
Biological Agents



EARLY BIOMARKER SIGNALS

LATER EFFECTS





# Biomarkers

## *Biomarkers of exposure*



- ▣ **AChE** (organophosphate and carbamate pesticide)
- ▣ **Cytochrome P450** (organocholine exposure )
- ▣ **MT Assay** (metal exposure)

## *Biomarkers of effect (Antioxidant stress)*



- ▣ **Catalase Assay** (ROS enzyme)
- ▣ **Lipid peroxidation** -malondialdehyde (lipid breakdown)
- ▣ **Protein carbonyls** (protein breakdown)
- ▣ **Superoxide Dismutase** (ROS enzyme)
- ▣ **Glutathione** (metal exposure)

## Energy reserve alterations:

**Cellular Energy Allocations**

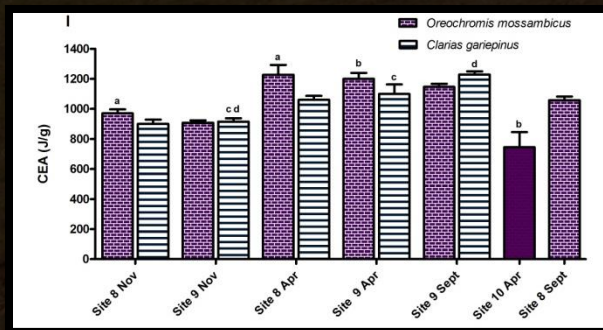


# Findings and Importance

## Findings:

## Importance:

- Stress
- Metals
- Opportunity
- Pesticides
- Exposure






# Acknowledgements:


## Family

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 **Student:** Ruan Gerber

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 WRC, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Ndumo Game Reserve





**Thank You**

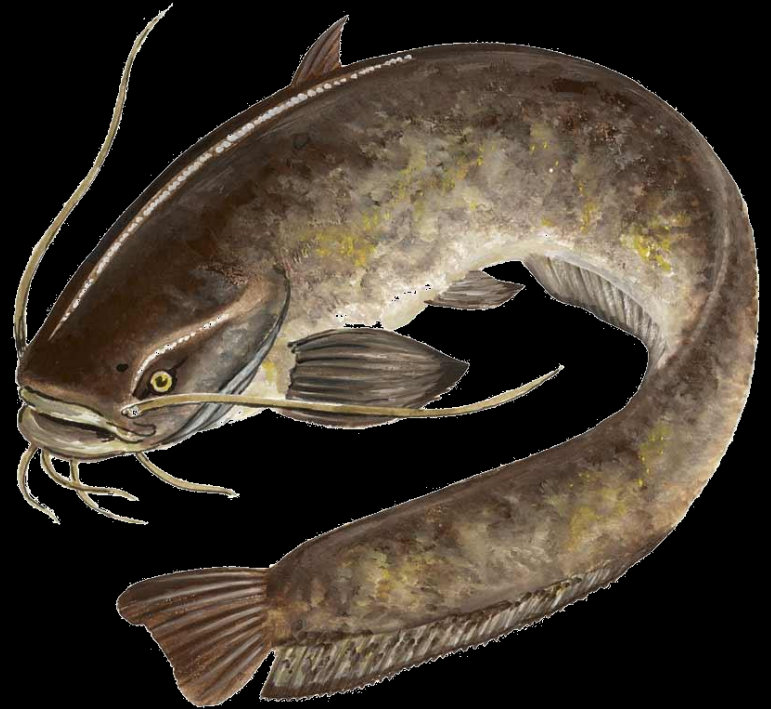
# Fish



*Oreochromis mossambicus*  
(Mozambican tilapia)



*Clarias Gariepinus*  
(Sharptooth catfish)





# Site Selection





# Preparation

