

Action of cunaniol on goldfish

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Cunaniol is a polyacetylenic alcohol derived from *Clibadium sylvestre*. The chief effects of cunaniol on fish behaviour have been reported by Quilliam & Stables (1968). The characteristics of this abnormal behaviour will be illustrated. These effects arise when goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) are placed in tapwater containing cunaniol (0.15 $\mu\text{g/ml.}$).

Closely similar bouts of violent swimming activity with "circling" behaviour were always seen with cunaniol at 0.3 $\mu\text{g/ml.}$ tapwater with nine-spined sticklebacks (*Pygosteus pungitius*), Siamese fighting-fish (*Betta splendens*) and leopard catfish (*Corydoras julii*).

Typical hyperactivity, "circling" and other effects (Quilliam & Stables, 1968) arose when as little as 12.5 μg of cunaniol was injected intraperitoneally into large female guppies (body weight, 250–500 mg).

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REFERENCE

- QUILLIAM, J. P. & STABLES, R. (1968). The effect of cunaniol, a polyacetylenic alcohol isolated from the plant *Clibadium sylvestre*, on piscine behaviour. *Br. J. Pharmac.* **34**, 679–680P.