

First Visible Sign of Toxicant Impact

Dr. Sudhanshu Tiwari

When an organism comes into contact of any toxicant or chemical it shows some kind of reactions which will be manifested in its changed behavioral pattern which are not seen in its normal behavior. Such altered behavioral patterns of an organism are studied in BEHAVIOURAL TOXICOLOGY.

Behavioral toxicology deals the effects of chemicals on behavioral pattern of an organism due to acute or sub-acute toxicity.

Any chemical may act as a poison when it is not accepted by the body. In acute toxicity, body response immediately after administration of poison while in sub-acute toxicity, responses are delayed.

DDT, BHC, Hg, Cd etc. are retained in the body of living organisms due to their lipid soluble nature and their effects on excretory and reproductive organs.

Behavior of the poisoned animals varies from toxicant to toxicant. For example in case of nerve poison, physically four different symptoms are appeared: Excitation, Convulsions, Paralysis and Death. While in case of stomach poison excitation and restlessness are more pronounced.

Thus by observing visible changed animal behavior, we can know toxic impact of any chemical or we can make conclusion that introducing chemical is harmful or not for organisms sharing that environment in which it is released.