

# Research on the Diffusion Law of Oncomelania Along with the Flow Through a Side-Weir

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**Abstract:** Schistosomiasis is a parasitic disease mostly found in areas along the Changjiang River. Oncomelania is the only intermediate host of schistosomiasis. Oncomelania entering into farmland or the residential zones through the flood discharge or irrigation system is the main reason of spreading schistosomiasis. Therefore it is most essential and effective way to control diffusion of oncomelania along with flow for preventing epidemic of schistosomiasis disease. In order to simulate the flood discharge when the river dike breaks or the flow from main to branch channel, a side-weir flow system is set up in this paper, And further the flow characteristic is studied by experiment and mathematical modeling. Finally the research on the diffusion law of oncomelania along with side-weir flow is carried out using the experimental test. The results show that oncomelania do not equally distribute at floodplain areas, but place where flow velocity is small, i.e. in the vortex areas during oncomelania moving along with side-weir flow. The settling positions of oncomelania are obtained, which lay a good foundation for eliminating oncomelania.

**Keywords:** Oncomelania, Side-weir flow, Schistosoma, flood discharge, river dike breaks, diffusion law.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Schistosomiasis is a natural focus infection disease, which is very much influenced by natural factors. Oncomelania is the only intermediate host of schistosomiasis. So it is most essential and effective way to control diffusion of oncomelania for preventing epidemic of schistosomiasis disease. Since the establishment of new China, it was due to that exterminating oncomelania is set as the basic policy of schistosomiasis japonica prevention, this epidemic was controlled admirably once. But since the 80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, epidemic disease situation began to deteriorate. One of the important reasons is that the oncomelania spread to dyke-enclosed places or the floodplain areas during flood discharge or irrigation [1-3]. This area is heavily populated so that the situation of the spread of schistosomiasis was more and more serious. Common method used to eliminate oncomelania such as molluscicide, is impossible to be used over a wide area considering its adverse effects on the economic and environment. If the poisonous molluscicidal drugs such as Niclosamide and the PCP-Na are sprinkled in wide area, the water body in living areas are sure to be polluted seriously. On the other hand, people expend a large amount of manpower, material resources and financial resources.

Therefore it is very important to understand the diffusion law of oncomelania during flood discharge and irrigation for preventing epidemic of schistosomiasis disease. Since the 1980s a number of researchers investigated the diffusion law

of oncomelania along with the flow by adopting the hydrodynamics method. For example, Li Damei [2] explored the sinking behavior and sensitivity to flowing water velocity of oncomelania in a circular open channel, Zhang Wei etc. Zhang *et al.* discussed the settling velocity and incipient velocity by the experiment test in a straight flume [4-6]. These research results provide important theories for hydraulic schistosomiasis control project, but the flow characteristics of flood discharge or irrigation is complicated, the diffusion law of oncomelania in water is not demonstrated clearly. So it's essential to probe the movement and behavior of oncomelania during the flood discharge or irrigation.

In this paper a side-weir flow system is set up and its flow characteristic is studied by experiment and numerical simulating, the diffusion of oncomelania along with the side-weir flow is discussed. The oncomelania distribute characteristic is obtained, which provide a useful reference for eliminating oncomelania more effectively.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL MODEL

The Circulating flume system with side-weir flow is designed and made so as to model the flow from main to branch channel or from outside dyke-enclosed places to inside these areas during flood discharge. The system arrangement is shown in Figs. (1-3). The system comprises three parts: a flume, a tank and a reservoir. The flume has a length of 16 meters, a width of 0.5 meters and a height of 0.5m, the side wall of the flume is made of Plexiglas. A standard right-angled triangle weir is set up at the right side of the flume, the lowest points of the weir is 0.2m distant from the bottom of the flume. The bottom of the flume is

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Fig. (1). Experiment scene of side-weir flow.

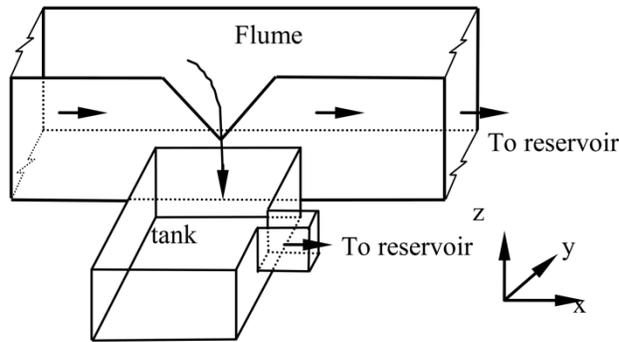


Fig. (2). Diagram of experiment on side weir flow.

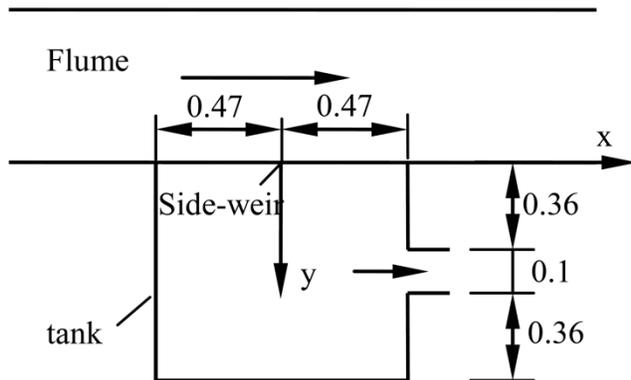


Fig. (3). Planar diagram of experiment on side weir flow (m).

smoothed with cement and its slope is fixed. Upstream flow is divided two parts, one part releases to the reservoir, the other part rushes through the side-weir to the tank, and finally flows from the outlet to the reservoir as well. Thin-plate weir is installed at the flume upstream to regulate discharge, and flap gate is used to adjust the stage at the flume downstream as well. The tank is 0.94m long and 0.82m wide. The outlet is in the middle of the tank's side-wall. The outlet is about rectangular, 0.12m long and 0.1m wide, 0.07m distant from the bottom of the tank.

### 3. RESEARCH ON THE FLOW FIELD CHARACTERISTIC

#### 3.1. Experimental Testing

In this paper the water depth of the flume is measured by a water level tracker system. The measuring accuracy is 0.005mm.

The flow field velocity is measured by Acoustic-Doppler Velocimeter (ADV) as well. The ADV measuring range of velocity is 0.01m/s~2.5m/s and the accuracy is  $\pm 1\%$ FS. ADV is erected above the flume, and is fixed by a buggy which can move along with longitudinal move of the flume. Step motor on the buggy which can control the vertical and transverse move of the ADV. X, y and z represent respectively longitudinal, vertical and transverse directions of the channel. The three-dimensional velocity of the flume and the tank is measured. Because the current turns to the aerated water flow when it falls to the tank, it is impossible to measure the velocity in this region by ADV. So the flow is simulated by numerical method as well.

#### 3.2. Mathematical Model

Because the flow is complex 3-D turbulent flow with free surface, so it is simulated by double equations model and the free surface is tracked by VOF [7, 8].

According to the VOF method, the free surface is considered interface between air and water. And a volume of fraction  $\alpha_w$  is introduced to define the water region. In a computational cell, where  $\alpha_w=1$  in the liquid phase and  $\alpha_w=0$  in the air phase. Therefore, the air-liquid interface exists in the cell where  $\alpha_w$  lies between 0 and 1.  $\alpha_w$  is given by the following equation [8]:

$$\frac{\partial \alpha_w}{\partial t} + u_i \frac{\partial \alpha_w}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (1)$$

So the density of mixture is different from the one phase flow, and is defined as follows:

$$\rho = \alpha_w \rho_w + (1 - \alpha_w) \rho_a \quad (2)$$

$$\mu = \alpha_w \mu_w + (1 - \alpha_w) \mu_a \quad (3)$$

Where  $\rho_a$  and  $\mu_a$  is the density and viscosity of air;  $\rho_w$  and  $\mu_w$  is the density and viscosity of water.

The governing equation for the flow of the fluids are almost similar to one phase flow except the volume fraction equation when the VOF method is used to track the free surface. These equations are written as follows:

The continuity equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \rho u_i}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (4)$$

The momentum equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho u_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho u_i u_j) = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} [(\mu + \mu_t) (\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i})] \quad (5)$$

The equation of turbulence kinetic energy  $k$  :

$$\frac{\partial \rho k}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho u_j k) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k}) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_i}] + G + \rho \epsilon \quad (6)$$

The equation of turbulence dissipation ratio  $\rho_w$  :

$$\frac{\partial \rho \epsilon}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (\rho u_j \epsilon) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\epsilon}) \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial x_i}] + C_{1\epsilon} \frac{\epsilon}{k} G - C_{2\epsilon} \rho \frac{\epsilon^2}{k} \quad (7)$$

Where  $\mu_t$  is turbulent viscosity coefficient that is obtained by turbulence kinetic energy  $k$  and turbulence dissipation ratio  $\varepsilon$  :

$$\mu_t = \rho C_\mu \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon} \tag{8}$$

Where  $c_\mu = 0.09$ ,  $\sigma_k$  and  $\sigma_\varepsilon$  are turbulent Prandtl constant of  $k$  and  $\varepsilon$  respectively,  $\sigma_k = 1.0$ ,  $\sigma_\varepsilon = 1.3$ .

Where  $C_{1\varepsilon}$  and  $C_{2\varepsilon}$  are  $\varepsilon$  equation constant,  $c_{1\varepsilon} = 1.44$ ,  $c_{2\varepsilon} = 1.92$ .

$G$  is the production term of turbulence kinetic energy due to mean velocity gradient, defined as follows:

$$G = \mu_t \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \tag{9}$$

The second order up-wind differencing scheme is used to solve the momentum equation for the sake of minimizing numerical diffusion [8]. The pressure-implicit with splitting of operators (PISO) is adopted for the pressure-velocity coupling scheme [9]. Using PISO allows for a rapid rate of convergence without any significant loss of accuracy.

### 3.3. Analysis of the Experimental Test and Numerical Simulation Results

Two cases of different distributaries discharge through side-weir are researched. The incoming discharge and water depth at the flume upstream are respectively:  $Q_1 = 41.68L/s$ ,  $h_1 = 25.2cm$ ;  $Q_2 = 41.68L/s$ ,  $h_2 = 28.8cm$ .

The water depth of longitudinal section (5 cm away from right bank of the flume) is listed in Figs. (4 and 5). From the figures we can see that the computational results accord with the experimental data well, which indicates that the simulation results are reliable.

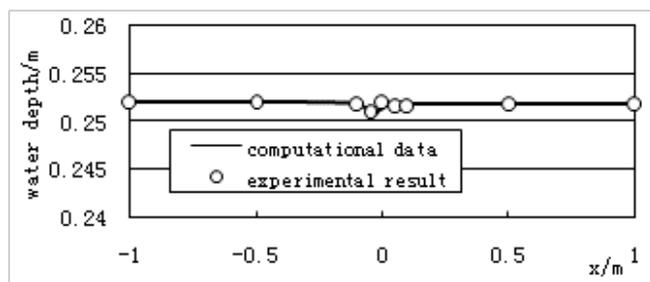


Fig. (4). The water depth of longitudinal section (5 cm away from right bank of the flume) for case 1.

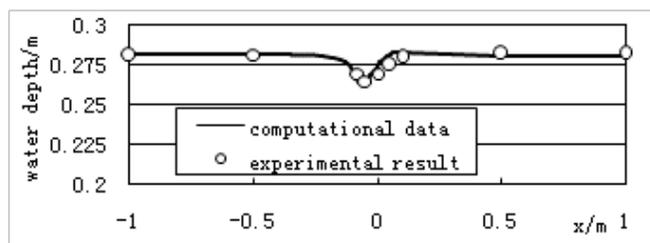


Fig. (5). The water depth of longitudinal section (5 cm away from right bank of the flume) for case 1.

Experimental and computed velocities of the plane at  $h=1cm$  and  $h=4cm$  are shown in Figs. (6-9). The flow characteristic is concluded as follows:

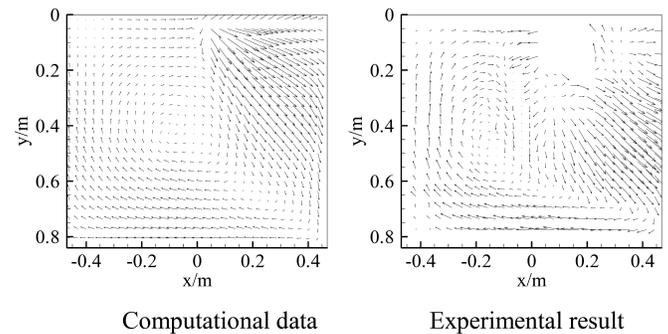


Fig. (6). Computational and experimental velocities of the plane at  $h=1cm$  for case 1.

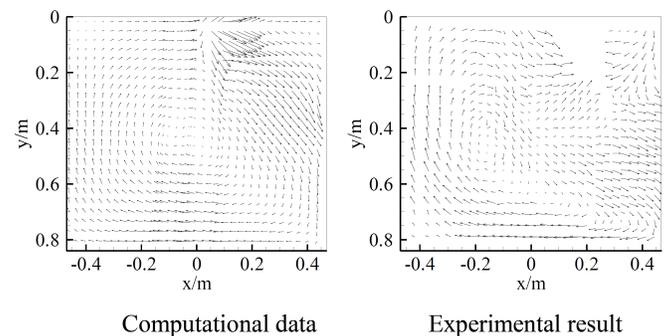


Fig. (7). Computational and experimental velocities of the plane at  $h=4cm$  for case 1.

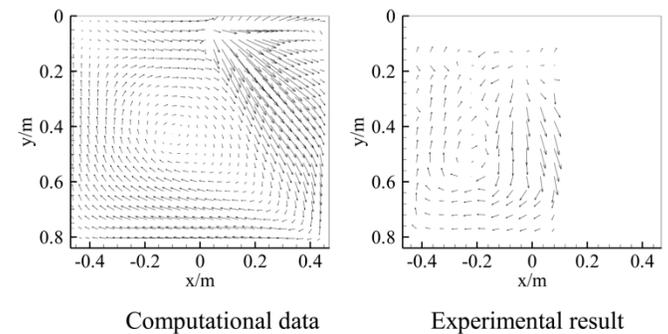


Fig. (8). Computational and experimental velocities of the plane at  $h=1cm$  for case 2.

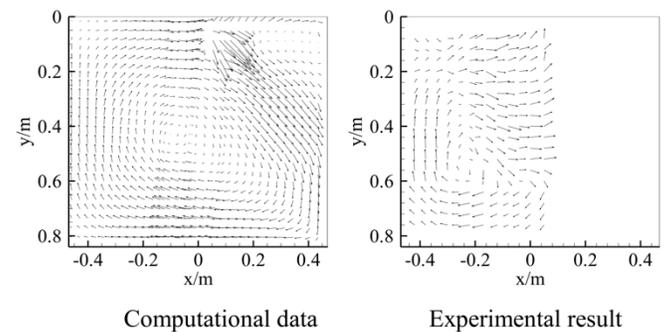


Fig. (9). Computational and experimental velocities of the plane at  $h=4cm$  for case 2.

(1) The computed velocity is in agreement with the experimental result. Regardless of the discharge through

the side-weir, there is an obvious vortex in the tank and its scale is similar with that of the tank. As for the same distributary from the flume, the two-dimensional velocity distribution at different water depth plane is similar too. However, the position of the vortex center is changed slightly, that's to say, the closer to the free surface where is, the nearer to the tank downstream the vortex center is. When the current falls to the tank through the side-weir, the flow has a great amount of movement energy and the water changes to aerated flow, so that it is impossible to measure the velocity of the areas by ADV. Especially when the discharge through the side-weir increases, the effective area where the velocity can be measured decreases. Thus we can measure velocity just in the partial area for case 2.

- (2) The position of the vortex center is changed with discharge through the side-weir, i.e., the larger the discharge is, the nearer to the upstream the vortex center is. In addition, the velocity downstream is larger than that in other areas.
- (3) There are some difference between calculated and measured values of the position of the vortex center, which may be due to the following reasons: the bottom of the tank is in such a depression but it is considered a flat bottom during the numerical calculation; Secondly the side-weir is thin-plate weir, but the thickness of the weir wall is 5mm during the numerical calculation.

#### 4. THE DIFFUSION LAW OF THE ONCOMELANIA WITH THE FLOW

On the basis of study on the flow field characteristics, the experimental research on the spread of the oncomelania with the flow. The oncomelania used in the experiment are negative, i.e., they are not affected by schistosomiasis. Average water temperature is about 15-18 degrees. In every test 100 oncomelania are thrown into the water flume upstream. And we observe the spread characteristics of the oncomelania with the flow through the side-weir and their transportation in the tank. The spread path of the oncomelania with the flow and the final sinking position is shown in Fig. (10) and Fig. (11).

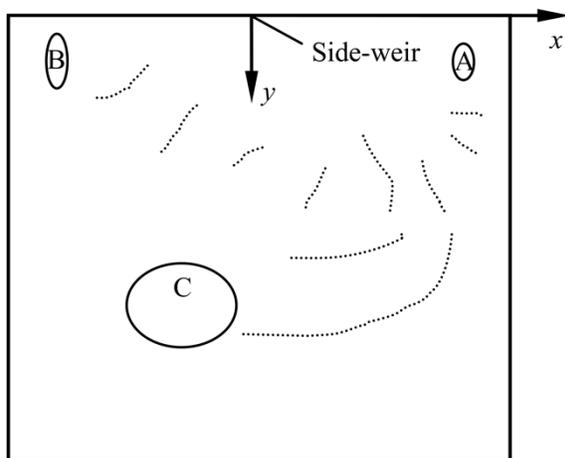


Fig. (10). Spread path of oncomelania along with flow.

From the observation results during the test we can see that the characteristics of the oncomelania movement with the flow through the side-weir and their transportation in the tank are similar in the two cases.

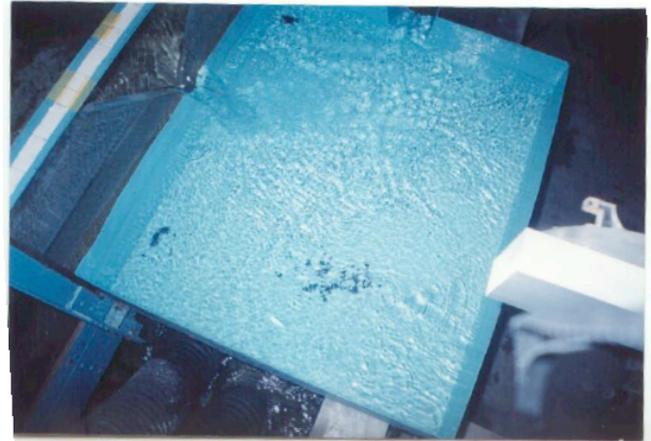


Fig. (11). Sinking position of oncomelania at the bottom of tank for case 1.

- (1) Because water goes rushing through the side-weir, the oncomelania close its operculum in order to protect themselves, thus these oncomelania turn to be the state of 'runaway' and move with the flow like sediment particle. Finally they are deposited at the bottom of the tank. After the end of the experiment, the oncomelania begin to open their operculum and crawl around in the tank.
- (2) After water goes rushing through the side-weir, the oncomelania move quickly upstream, downstream and in the front of the side-weir at the bottom of the tank. A small portion of oncomelania are settled in region A and B near the corner of the tank. Region A is the narrowest, that's to say here the oncomelania are gathered in a very small area by the flow and show in the shape of 'point distribution'. In regional B distribution of oncomelania is slightly looser than that in region A. The other portion of oncomelania move to region C and stay there finally. In region C distribution of oncomelania is slightly looser than that in regions A and B. They show in the shape of 'piece distribution'. It's noticed that most of oncomelania 'move and wait' and sometimes they are floating during their transportation. X and y coordinate values of regions A, B and C center position are shown in Table 1. From Table 1 we can see that in these two conditions distribution locations at the bottom of the tank of the oncomelania are slightly different.
- (3) During the test, no oncomelania spread to the reservoir through the outlet of the tank.

In summary, the diffusion and distribution of the oncomelania is in conformity with flow velocity. With the water from the flume falling to the tank, the oncomelania move quickly forward by the current. However, when they are close to the front-wall of the tank, they are moving and waiting, floating from time to time. Finally they stay at the

**Table 1. X and y coordinate values of region A, B and C center position.**

X and y coordinate values of settling regions and vortex center(m)	Case 1		Case 2	
	x	y	x	y
Region A	0.42	0.05	0.42	0.05
Region B	-0.37	0.05	-0.40	0.09
Region C	-0.23	0.38	-0.30	0.69
Experimental Vortex center	-0.15	0.45	-0.20	0.50

center of the vortex. Because the velocity there is so small that the flow is weak and unable to gather oncomelaniae together anymore, distribution of oncomelaniae is scattered. In addition, in the corner of the tank in regions A and B recirculation is shaped too, where the velocity is small thus a small portion of oncomelaniae deposit here. Moreover, with the increase of flow through the side-weir, the vortex center in region C is closer to upstream, so the oncomelaniae move more closer to the upstream.

## CONCLUSION

From the above research results the conclusions about the diffusion law of oncomelaniae with the flow can be drawn:

- (1) Oncomelaniae don't distribute equally throughout the flow field, but distribute in the shape of ' point or piece ' at the bottom of the tank.

The diffusion and distribution of the oncomelaniae is in conformity with that of flow velocity. The majority of oncomelaniae deposit in the area of vortex center, a small portion of oncomelaniae stay in the area close to the tank corner where the velocity is so small. That's to say after oncomelaniae spread by the flow from main channel to branch channel or from outside dyke-enclosed places to inside this areas during discharge and irrigation, they don't distribute evenly throughout the dyke-enclosed places or floodplain area, but stay in the areas where the velocity is so small such as near the bank or vortex center etc.

- (2) No oncomelaniae spread to the reservoir through the outlet of the tank.

Oncomelania's diffusion law provides an important theory for eliminating oncomelaniae.

Common methods used to eliminate oncomelaniae such as molluscicide is simple and easily operated, but impossible to be used over a wide area considering its adverse effects on the economy and environment. If people understand the diffusion law of oncomelaniae along with the flow, drugs are only thrown in the local areas where oncomelaniae settle, it will reduce drug pollution to a great extent, and decrease burden on manpower and finance correspondingly. During the test, no oncomelaniae spread through the outlet of the

tank to reservoir. which also provides the inspiration for active control of flow field for preventing snails to spread with the flow.

Besides author would like to point out there are so many influencing factors on oncomelania activities considering it as a life. Furthermore, natural environment of the floodplain areas or dyke-enclosed places is also very complex, the diffusion law of oncomelania along with the flow is needed to study further.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author confirms that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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