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Proximate Compositions of *Clarias gariepinus* from Selected Dams in Niger State

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to evaluate the proximate compositions of *Clarias gariepinus* from selected dams in Niger state, Nigeria. Niger state comprised of three geo-political zones namely Zone A, B and C. the selected dams were Agaie Lapai dam in zone A, Shiroro dam in zone B and kainji dam in zone C respectively. *Clarias gariepinus* were collected from the selected dams from each zones. Crude protein, moisture, ash, lipids and nitrogen free extract contents were analyzed using the AOAC methods. The species shows significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in the results of the proximate analysis. However, Moisture content was recorded significantly high $p < 0.05$ in all the species of *Clarias gariepinus* from Agaie- lapai dam in zone A (75.18 ± 0.01) and low in kainji dam in Zone C (72.34 ± 0.01). The crude protein content was significantly high ($p < 0.05$) in zone C *Clarias gariepinus* (10.68 ± 0.01) and low in in Agaie-lapai dam in zone A, lipids contents recorded highest in *Clarias gariepinus* in zone A (5.04 ± 0.01) and significantly low ($p < 0.05$) in zone C (3.86 ± 0.0). The ash content in *Clarias gariepinus* was high in Zone C (2.72 ± 0.01) and low in zone A (1.44 ± 0.01) while the nitrogen free extract was significantly highest in shiroro dam in zone B (11.22 ± 0.01) and low in zone A (9.16 ± 0.01) respectively. The research revealed that, Zone C *Clarias gariepinus* is high in crude protein while Zone A has high lipid content.

Keywords: *Clarias gariepinus*, Moisture, Crude Protein, Ash, Lipids

Introduction

Fish is an important animal protein and has been widely accepted in the world, as a good source of protein and other elements for the maintenance of healthy body compared to meat (Adeniyi *et al.*, 2012). With the world's population expected to reach 8.2 billion by 2030, and with 842 million people estimated undernourished during 2011–2013, food supply will present a growing challenge in the next two decades. With increase in income along side with demographic changes related to family size, population growth, urbanization and consumer trends such as concerns for eating healthy foods and sustainable production, there will be a great shift in demand and major changes in the composition of demand. This situation will in turn have an impact on food supply, which will need to increase and become more efficient if it is to grow within the constraints presented by the availability of natural resources and existing technology (FAO, 2014). Presently, fish consumption has been increasing worldwide, mainly due to the availability, accessibility and price in relation to meat consumption, such as, poultry, pork, and beef. Therefore, some concerns begin to emerge, primarily regarding the quality of fish available in the market. Chemical residues could be present in any product of animal origin causing economic losses and putting into a risk of human and animal health. According to Bostock *et al.* (2010), aquaculture contributes nearly half of all food of aquatic origin for the purpose of human consumption, as a vital part of the global food industries. The chemical components of fish comprises of mainly water, proteins, and lipids. These components are the most important in terms of nutritional value (Ros *et al.* 2010). Nutritional value of the fish depends on many factors that can further be divided into intrinsic factor, dietary factors and Environmental factors (Grigorakis, 2007). The fisheries sector of Nigeria consists of capture and aquaculture fisheries. Capture fisheries is further sub-divided into industrial and artisanal which flourish well inside and outside to the open deep waters of 200nm EEZ across the 9 coastal states of the country's coastline (Ipinmoroti, 2012; Oladimeji *et al.*, 2013; Okeowo *et al.*, 2015).

Materials and Methods

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African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) of average body weight of 200g at 25cm in length were collected from Agaie-lapai dam located in Zone A on lat. 9°23'N, long. 6°58'E, Shiroro dam located in Zone B at lat. 9°53'N, long. 6°50'E, and Kainji dam located in zone C on lat. 10°21'N, long. 4°32'E and were analyzed according to Association of official Analytical chemist (A.O.A.C, 2002) was used to determine moisture, lipids, crude protein, ash and nitrogen free extract respectively.

Result

Proximate Compositions of *Clarias gariepinus* From Some Selected Dams In Niger State

Table 1: The Proximate composition of whole *Clarias gariepinus* from Agaie lapai dam in zone A has a significantly high ($p < 0.05$) moisture content of 75.18% while zone C exhibited a significantly low ($p < 0.05$) moisture value (72.34%). The crude protein was significantly high ($p < 0.05$) for Zone C (10.68%) however, Zone A (9.18%) and B content (5.04%) while zone C had a significantly low ($p < 0.05$) lipid value (3.86%). The ash was significantly high ($p < 0.05$) for Zone C (2.72%) and significantly low ($p < 0.05$) for Zone A (1.44%). The nitrogen free extract was significantly high ($p < 0.05$) for Zone B's *C. gariepinus* (11.22%) while those of Zone A gave a significantly low ($p < 0.05$) NFE value (9.16%).

Discussion

The proximate compositions of *Clarias gariepinus* (protein, lipid, moisture, ash and nitrogen free extract) were the major contents which were considered in evaluating the nutritional value of the specie studied. The proximate compositions of *Clarias gariepinus* vary considerably. Stansby (1985); Azim *et al* (2012) reported that variation in proximate composition of fresh fish may vary with species variation, season, age and feeding habit of the fish. The result of the present study shows that there was fluctuation in moisture and lipid value of whole *Clarias gariepinus* from different zones in Niger state. This variation in moisture and lipid content of the samples showed that with a gradual decline in moisture content, fat content gradually increased, this result agrees with the previous works reported on freshwater fisheries by Sadiku and Oladimeji (1991); Bake and Sadiku (2012); Bake *et al.*, (2014). Huss 1995; Saoud, *et al.*, (2007), also reported that fat content has shown inverse proportionality to water content in some semi fatty fish species muscle, this may be attributed to the seasonal differences, availability of food and changes in the reproductive cycle having considerable effect on the tissue biochemistry of the fish particularly changes in the lipid and water content of their body system. The nutritional elements showed variable values in all the fishes analyzed; with crude protein recording the highest value and lipid recording the lowest. This makes the fishes important living resources of dietary protein as other sea and freshwater fish (Zuraini *et al.*, 2006). High lipid fishes had less water and more protein than low-lipid fishes. This is in-line with the report of Steffens (2006), that protein forms the largest quantity of dry matter in fish. The high moisture content would increase the deterioration level of fish when kept for a long time. This is because micro-organisms would be highly active with high moisture content (Love, 1980). Similar observation has been reported by Aboluade and Abdullahi (2005), Otitologbon *et al.* (1996).

Conclusion

This study shows that fresh fish from some selected dams from Niger State Nigeria are of good and wholesome biochemical quality for immediate consumption. However, they can be utilized maximally by food processors in fish canning and other value-added fish products such as fish burger, fish cake and fish crackers and also for use in controlling diet while the wastes recovered can be used for fish meal or silage production for animal feeds. Hence, they are suitable as potential industrial material for possible utilization for different products.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that, fresh fishes under good physiological condition are good for consumption as food in relation to health status of individuals and the community. The fishes have high protein that can supplement the protein needs of the people in the communities in and around the dam.

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Proximate compositions (%)

Zones	Moisture content	Crude protein	Crude Lipids	Ash	Nitrogen free extract
A	75.18 ^a ±0.01	9.18 ^b ±0.01	5.04 ^a ±0.01	1.44 ^c ±0.01	9.16 ^c ±0.01
B	73.31 ^b ±0.01	9.25 ^b ±0.01	4.27 ^b ±0.01	1.95 ^b ±0.01	11.22 ^a ±0.01
C	72.34 ^c ±0.01	10.68 ^a ±0.01	3.86 ^c ±0.01	2.72 ^a ±0.01	10.40 ^b ±0.01