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by Istiyanto Samidjan

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Substitution of Fish Meal with Chicken Feather Silage Meal on Diet Can Improve Growth Performance of Striped Catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*)

Diana Rachmawati^{1*}, Istiyanto Samidjan¹, Dicky Harwanto¹, Hadi Pranggono²

¹Aquaculture Department, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Diponegoro University, Semarang, 50275, Indonesia

²Aquaculture Study Program, Faculty of Fisheries, Pekalongan University, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: dianarachmawati1964@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to examine the effect of substitution of fish meal with silage meal of chicken feathers on diet to protein digestibility, growth and survival rate of striped catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*). The test fish used is catfish with an average weight of 2.31 ± 0.04 grams /fish. The experimental method was used based on completely randomized design, 5 treatments and 4 repetitions. The treatments in this study were substitution of fish meal with different dose of chicken feather silage, namely A (0%), B (25%), C (50%), D (75%) and E (100%). Parameters observed included relative growth rate (RGR), feed conversion ratio (FCR), protein efficiency ratio (PER), apparent digestibility coefficient of protein (ADC_p), and survival rate (SR) of catfish. The results showed that substitution of fish meal with chicken silage meal could improve protein digestibility and growth of *P. hypophthalmus*. Substitution silage with rate of 25% substitution chicken feather is the best dose for protein digestibility and growth of *P. hypophthalmus*. Water quality during the study was still within a reasonable range for catfish culture.

Keywords: catfish, chicken feathers, diet, growth, silage

1. Introduction

Striped catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) is one of the fish commodities that have high economic value both as a consumption fish and ornamental fish. Intensive cultivation of the catfish is very dependent on the existence of artificial diet quality. On the other hand, the quality of diet is determined by the protein content. Protein is an important nutrient in diet both the quality and quantity of protein is very important for fish growth from seed size to consumption (Suloma et al., 2014).

Fish meal in artificial diet to date is used as a source of animal protein. However, the use of fish meal in the diet has the main problems of rising costs, uncertain availability, counterfeiting and quality variations. With the increasing demand for unstable fish meal stocks and high fish diet prices, and also with the expansion of cultivation activities, it is necessary to look for alternative sources of protein (FAO, 2013).

Chicken feather meal is an alternative protein source that can be used to replace fish meal in the diet. According to Sarmwatanakul and Bamrongsam (2000), chicken meal comprises a complex protein (keratin) that can be broken down through hydrolysis, making it easier to digest. Keratinase has excellent ability to decrease keratin through the reshuffling of chemical cell wall structure, disconnection of hydrogen fish and keratin disulfide bonds (Suloma et al., 2014). The silage process in chicken feather meal can make the diet digested more efficiently by the fish. This is because of the role of microbes in the silage process as mentioned by Suloma et al. (2014) that microbes derived from one spore cell will grow into an individual and produce keratinase enzymes that play a role in breaking the complex peptide (keratin) bond into simple peptide bonds. Chicken feather meal contains an easily digestible protein (75-87%) and is rich in essential amino acids such as cystine, threonine,

and arginine and its amino acids are balanced with fish meal and soybean meal (Sarmwatanakul and Bamrongtum, 2000).

Substitution studies of chicken feather meal in diet for several species of fish have been reported, among others Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* (Fowler, 1990), Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Pfeffer et al., 1994), Hybrid Clarias Catfish (Arunlertaree and Rakyutthamkul, 2006), *Oreochromis niloticus* (Arunlertaree and Moolthongnoi, 2008; Kumari and Sundarabharathy, 2011), Humback groupers *Cromileptes altivelis* (Shapawi et al., 2007), Fish African catfish *Clarias gariepinus* (Chor et al., 2013), and *Oreochromis niloticus* (Suloma et al., 2014). However, a substitution study of fish meal with silage meal of chicken feather in Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) diet has not been reported to date. Thus, it is necessary to research on the use of chicken feather flour as a substitute for fish meal in the diet of catfish.

2. Materials and Methods

In this study, fish larvae of *P. hypophthalmus* were obtained from catfish farmer in Subang district, West Java, Indonesia. The weight of larvae was about 2.31 ± 0.04 g. The test fish used were selected based on size, weight, completeness of body organs and physical health (Rachmawati et al., 2017).

The test diet used in this study was a pellet-shaped artificial diet, with a protein content of 30% (isoprotein) and energy of 2.72 kcal / g diet (iso-energy). The treatments in this research were substitution of fish meal with silage of chicken feather meal in diet with different doses i.e. A (0% chicken feather silage), B (25% chicken feather silage), C (50% chicken feather silage), D (75% chicken feather silage), and E (100% chicken feather silage). The determination of substitution dosage of fish meal with silage meal in diet was from modifying the results of Arunlertaree and Moolthongnoi (2008).

Table 1. Formulation of test diet used in the study

Food Composers Materials (g/100g)	Composition (%)				
	A(0)	B(25)	C(50)	D(75)	E(100)
Fish meal	28.00	18.00	12.00	6.00	0.00
Chicken Feather Silage Meal	0.00	7.50	11.50	16.00	19.50
Soybean Meal	22.00	20.00	19.00	19.15	19.15
Cornstarch	15.00	16.50	16.50	17.00	18.00
Bran Meal	15.45	17.50	19.50	19.50	20.00
Wheat meal	13.00	13.50	14.30	15.00	16.00
Fish oil	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Corn oil	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Mineral-Vitamin mix	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
C ₂ O ₃	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
CMC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Total (g)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Result of Proximate Analysis					
Protein (%) [*]	30.35	30.23	30.07	30.65	30.44
Fat (%) [*]	7.8	6.75	6.25	5.75	5.27
BETN (%) [*]	41.74	44.82	46.62	48.3	50.29
Energy (kkal/g) ^a	272.74	272.56	272.44	273.85	274.95
Ratio of E/P (kkal/g P) ^b	8.99	9.02	9.06	8.94	9.03

Note:

^{*} Results of proximate analysis of Livestock Diet Laboratory, Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture, Diponegoro University (2017).

a. Calculated based on Digestible Energy according to Wilson (1982) for 1 g of protein is 3.5 kcal / g, 1 g of fat is 8.1 kcal / g, and 1 g of carbohydrate is 2.5 kcal / g.

b. According to De Silva (1987), the E / P value for optimal growth of fish ranges from 8-12 kcal / g.

The ingredients used to make the diet in this research include fish meal, chicken feather silage, soybean meal, corn meal, bran meal, wheat meal, fish oil, corn oil, minerals and vitamin mix, CMC and Cr₂O₃ 0.5% (NRC, 1993). Preparation of test diet conducted in this research plan, among others, to test proximate diet ingredients, formulate and make the diet. The process of making the diet begins with the process of chicken feather silage by using the addition of strong HCL acid (Puastuti, 2007). Furthermore, the dieting process is carried out by weighing the necessary ingredients (Table 1), then mixing all the ingredients starting with the smallest to the greatest amount. After that the dough diet is printed in pellet form and inserted into the oven to dry (NRC, 1993). Proximate test results can be seen in Table 1.

Container used in this research was a 60 cm x 60 cm x 40 cm aquarium. Aerator to recirculate the water was placed in every container. The frequency of dieting was 2 times a day where fish was fed little by little until the fish was full (*ad satiation*). Water quality parameters including temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH and ammonia were measured. Temperature measurements were performed daily in the morning and afternoon. The measurement of DO and pH was done once a week. Meanwhile, ammonia was measured at the beginning, middle and end of the study. Sampling was done once a week to measure the weight of test fish.

Parameters observed included relative growth rate (RGR), protein efficiency ratio (PER),

diet conversion ratio (FCR) (Tacon, 1987), apparent digestibility coefficient of protein (ADC_p) (Fenucci, 1981), and survival rate (SR) (NRC, 1993). Analysis of Cr₂O₃ using modified calorimetric method (Fenucci, 1981). The pH, DO, temperature and Ammoniac were using water quality checker.

The parameters were calculated by the following formula:

$$RGR = \frac{\text{Final weight} - \text{Initial weight}}{\text{Initial weight} \times \text{Time experiment}} \times 100\%$$

$$FCR = \frac{\text{The amount of diet consumed}}{(\text{Final weight} + \text{Total weight fish deat}) - \text{Initial weight}} \times 100\%$$

$$PER = \frac{\text{Final weight} - \text{Initial weight}}{\text{The amount of diet consumed} \times \text{Protein content of diet}} \times 100\%$$

$$ADC_p = 100 \left\{ \frac{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in the diet} \times \% \text{ protein in the feces}}{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in the feces} \times \% \text{ protein in the diet}} \right\}$$

$$SR = \frac{(\text{Final count})}{\text{Initial count}} \times 100\%$$

The data were tested by ANOVA. For the very significant ($P < 0.01$) or significant ($P < 0.05$) results, the Duncan test was performed (Steel et al., 1996). Water quality parameters were analyzed descriptively.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of observation of RGR, PER, FCR, ADC_p and SR of *P. hypophthalmus* can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. The values of RGR, PER, FCR, ADC_p and SR of catfish (*P. hypophthalmus*)

Data	Treatment (percentage of chicken feather silage composition)				
	A (0%)	B (25%)	C (50%)	D (75%)	E (100%)
RGR (%/day)	2.40±0.23 ^c	5.21±0.63 ^a	3.86±0.53 ^b	3.42±0.45 ^b	2.13±0.14 ^c
FCR	2.53±0.23 ^c	1.53±0.21 ^a	1.72±0.42 ^b	2.12±0.32 ^c	2.35±0.17 ^c
PER	1.25±0.64 ^d	2.59±0.34 ^a	2.06±0.31 ^b	1.82±0.61 ^c	1.23±0.23 ^d
ADC _p (%)	50.15±0.42 ^d	75.57±0.36 ^a	70.21±0.51 ^b	63.52±0.43 ^c	53.13±0.19 ^d
SR (%)	98.60±0.63 ^a	99.44±0.54 ^a	96.78±0.53 ^a	98.56±0.54 ^a	97.98±0.51 ^a

Note: The Values with the same superscripts in the same row show that there was no significant difference

Substitution of fish meal with chicken feather silage on the diet was highly significant ($P < 0.01$) on RGR of *P. hypophthalmus*. The RGR of *P. hypophthalmus* in treatment B (5.21% / day) was the highest among other treatments. The results are similar to those of Somsueb and Boonyaratpalin (2001), Arunlertaree and Rakyuttithamkul (2006) and Arunlertaree and

Moolthongnoi (2008). The high value of RGR of catfish fed B is presumed to be the right diet for catfish in utilizing the essential amino acids contained in the diet so that the diet has an ADC_p, the FCR and the highest PER (75.59%, 1.53 and 2.59, respectively) that support growth. According to Sarmwatanakul and Bamrongtum (2000), chicken meal contains many essential

amino acids such as cysteine, threonine, arginine and pepsin that are relatively high in protein digestibility of 75-87%. Fish with treatment E has the lowest relative growth rate. It is suspected that the smell of the diet affects the catfish so that appetite decreases. This opinion is supported by Somsueb and Boonyaratpalin (2001) which states that diet with 100% silage meal chicken feathers will appear smells that affect the palatability of fish.

The FCR is a calculation of how efficient fish are able to convert diet into fish meat (in 1 kg of meat) and the conversion as a reference or as a benchmark to the extent of the efficiency of fish enlargement efforts (Tacon, 1987). The amount of FCR value is a description of the level of diet efficiency given to the fish. The smaller the value the more efficiently the diet will be given (Steffens, 1994). Substitution of fish meal with chicken feather silage in diet had a very significant effect ($P < 0.01$) to FCR of *P. hypophthalmus*. The value of fish FCR with treatment B was the lowest among other treatments (Table 2). The results of this study indicate that the value of FCR of *P. hypophthalmus* will increase with the increasing number of silage meal of chicken feathers in the diet. This is similar to that of Hasan et al. (1997) who reported that FCR of *Labeo rohita* increased with increasing percentage of meal in fish diet. The lower FCR value (Treatment B) shows that the diet is better in quality, supported by ADC_p, PER and the highest RGR of 75.59%, 1.53 and 5.21% / day, respectively. So it can be concluded that the diet on treatment B can be eaten, digested, absorbed and utilized properly for the growth of *P. hypophthalmus*.

According to Tacon (1987), PER is used to determine the quality of proteins in diet. Quality of protein one of them is influenced by the level of protein digestibility. Protein is easily digested indicates that the amount of amino acids absorbed by the body is higher, thereby impacting on growth. Substitution of fish meal

with chicken feather silage into diet had a significant effect ($P < 0.01$) to protein efficiency value of *P. hypophthalmus* ratio. The results showed that the highest PER value in *P. hypophthalmus* treatment B (2.59) and the lowest in treatment E (1.23). The high value of PER of *P. hypophthalmus* Treatment B because the diet has the highest ADC_p (75.57%). This causes the amount of amino acids absorbed by the fish body higher so that it can be utilized properly for the formation of *P. hypophthalmus* body protein.

The value of ADC_p *P. hypophthalmus* Treatment B, C and D were higher when compared with treatment of A. The *P. hypophthalmus* treatment B had the highest ADC_p value of 75.57% and the higher percentage silage of chicken feathers the lower the ADC_p of *P. hypophthalmus*. The high value of apparent digestibility coefficient of protein *P. hypophthalmus* Treatment B showed that the diet was suitable to be digested by *P. hypophthalmus* resulting in the highest RGR, FCR and PER (5.21% / day, 1.53 and 2.59, respectively). The results of this study are similar to those performed by Arunlertaree and Rakyuttithamkul (2006), indicating that the highest protein digestibility of catfish hybrid fish (*Clarias macrocephalus* x *Clarias gariepinus*) was fed 25% silage diet meal. Arunlertaree and Moolthongnoi (2008) stated that 25% chicken silage meal on diet showed the highest protein digestibility of *Oreochromis niloticus*.

Substitution of fish meal with chicken feather silage on diet was not significant ($P > 0.05$) on the SR of *P. hypophthalmus*. Similar results were reported by Pfeffer et al. (1994), Arunlertaree and Rakyuttithamkul (2006), Shapawi et al. (2007), Arunlertaree and Moolthongnoi (2008), Kumari and Sundarabarathy (2011), Chor et al. (2013) and Suloma et al. (2014). Water quality during the study is still in proper condition for catfish culture. Water quality parameters during the cultivation of *P. hypophthalmus* can be seen in Table 3.

Tabel 3. Parameters of water quality for Catfish (*P. hypophthalmus*) cultivation

Treatment	Water Quality			
	Temperature (°C)	pH	DO (mg/l)	NH ₃ (mg/l)
A	27.3 – 31.5	6.78 – 8.32	4.23 – 4.85	0.0052 – 0.0052
B	27.5 – 31.0	6.85 – 8.03	4.31 – 4.90	0.0052 – 0.0052
C	27.5 – 31.5	6.85 – 8.02	4.25 – 4.65	0.0052 – 0.0052
D	27.4– 31.8	6.85– 8.03	4.26 – 4.63	0.0052 – 0.0052
Feasibility	14-38*	6.50 – 8.5 [†]	>2 [†]	<0.1*

Note : * Boyd (1992)

4. Conclusion

The results showed that substitution of fish meal with chicken silage meal could improve protein digestibility and growth of *P. hypophthalmus*. Substitution silage with rate of 25% substitution chicken feather is the best dose for protein digestibility and growth of *P. hypophthalmus*.

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