

Online Journal of Animal and Feed Research

An international peer-reviewed journal which publishes in electronic format (online)

Online J. Anim. Feed Res., 6 (3): May 25, 2016

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Volume 6 (3); May 25, 2016**Research Paper*****In vitro* digestibility of selected forages in Sargodha district, Pakistan.**

Arif M, Hayat Z, Saeed M, Asif Arain M, Ali Shah Q, Ali Siyal F, Faizi Z, Soomro RN, Abbasi IHR, Rehman A, Abbas Raza SH, Hayat F.

Online J. Anim. Feed Res., 6(3): 62-72, 2016; pii: S222877011600009-6

Abstract

The present study conducted to evaluate the digestibility values of four tree fodder species i.e. Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Kikar, (*Acacia nilotica*), Ber (*Zizphus jujube*) and Shirin (*Albezia procera*); three grasses i.e. Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), Mott grass (*Penisetum perpureum*) and Rhode grass (*Chloris gayana*) and two fodder crops i.e. Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) and Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) were selected as treatment having three replicates. Duplicate sample of each treatment was collected from seven sub districts of Sargodha. The results showed that dry matter content varied from 17.50% in *Penisetum perpureum* to 44.23% in *Albezia procera*. Crude protein contents were highest in *Morus alba* (22.56 %) and lowest in *Sorghum bicolor* (5.60 %). Acid detergent insoluble fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent insoluble fiber (NDF) values were highest for *Penisetum perpureum* (ADF 45.43% and NDF 74.56%) and lowest for *Acacia nilotica* and *Zizphus jujube* (ADF 14.46% and NDF 31.56%), respectively. The ash contents were highest in *Penisetum perpureum* (11.50%) and lowest in *Cynodon dactylon* (5.46%). *In vitro* DM digestibility was determined at different time intervals (6, 12, 24 and 36 hours) and found highest $P < 0.05$; 78.26% in *Morus alba* and lowest 54.20% in *Chloris gayana*. In conclusion, results recommended that the *Morus alba* forage use as alternative cheap source of ruminants due to high nutritive and IVDMD (*In vitro* dry matter digestibility) values.

Key Words: Forages, Digestibility Evaluation, Ruminants[PDF](#) [XML](#) [DOAJ](#)**Research Paper****Interactive effects of stocking density and feed type on growth, survival and cannibalism among African catfish (*C. gariepinus* Burchell 1822).**

Shourbela RM, El-Hawarry WN, and Abd El-Rahman SH.

Online J. Anim. Feed Res., 6(3): 73-82, 2016; pii: S222877011600010-6

Abstract

Food type and stocking density are two major factors influencing aquaculture production. To evaluate their effects on growth, survival rate, and cannibalistic activities among African catfish (*C. gariepinus*) larvae, a 3×3 factorial design was used. Three feed types (*Artemia* nauplii, Zooplankton, and dry feed) and three different stocking densities (10, 20 and 40 larvae l⁻¹) were performed throughout a 21 days rearing period (each treatment was triplicated). T₁ Catfish larvae (*Artemia* nauplii and 10 larvae l⁻¹) and T₉ (Dry feed and 40 larvae l⁻¹) showed the highest growth performance parameters and significantly lower growth performance parameters as expressed by final body weight (T₁; 165.03 mg, T₉; 34.36 mg), specific growth rate (T₁; 22.83% day⁻¹, T₉; 14.83% day⁻¹). Meanwhile, the survival rate percentage was the lowest (29.37%) and the highest (82.37%); in T₄ (Zooplankton and 10 larvae l⁻¹) and T₉ (Dry feed and 40 larvae l⁻¹) respectively. Additionally, higher stocking densities of catfish larvae had expressed higher rates of cannibalism when compared to the lower stocking densities. The lowest cannibalism rate (3.46%) was recorded for T₁ (*Artemia* nauplii and 10 larvae l⁻¹) by the end of the experiment. Despite the absence of significant interaction effect between stocking density and feed on rearing performance of *C. gariepinus* larvae, results of the current study indicated successful rearing and well performance of catfish larvae concerning growth performance, cannibalism and survival rates at lower stocking density. The density of 10 larvae l⁻¹ was the maximum threshold capacity for *C. gariepinus* larval best growth when fed on either *Artemia* or zooplankton. However, further investigations are required to explore the effect of using other dry feed types in the rearing phase of African catfish larvae.

Key Words: African catfish (*C. gariepinus*), Larval Rearing, Food Type, Stocking Density, Cannibalism, Survival Rate[PDF](#) [XML](#) [DOAJ](#)[Previous issue](#) [Next issue](#) [Archive](#)

