

Estimation of protein in *Clarias batrachus* under the three different photoperiods

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Abstract

Fishmeat is a good source of protein and changes in standard value in protein amount act as an indicator of stress and health. The present study has been designed to investigate the different photoperiodic effects in protein under natural day-night (12L:12D), continuous illumination (24L:00D) and continuous dark (00L:24D) conditions in four different phases *viz.*, Resting Phase, Pre Monsoon Phase, Monsoon Phase and Post Monsoon Phase. The experiment was conducted for 60 days, during this period counting of Protein assessed at the interval of 15 days after the commencement of the experiment. A four-way ANOVA was employed to examine the effect of factors, "Year" (1,2&3), "Phase" (Resting, Pre Monsoon, Monsoon and Post Monsoon), "Treatment" (LD=NormalDay-night condition, LL=Continuous illumination and DD=continuous dark condition)) and "Interval" (15 days, 30days, 45days and 60 days) on muscle Protein level of *Clarias batrachus*. All the parameters except year produce a significant effect on the muscle Protein level of *Clarias batrachus* ($p < 0.01$).

Keywords: Photoperiod, *Clarias batrachus*, Muscle Protein, Fish meat

Introduction

In Islam and Joaddar's (2005) [9] study, it is emphasized that fish consumption plays a crucial role in providing essential nutrients to a significant global population, thereby making a substantial contribution to nutrition.

Light is one of the rearing conditions that can be easily manipulated in recalcitrating water systems and most of the research work focused on the photo-period is man dintensity of light (Boeuf and Bail, 1999) [4].

Light sensitivity plays a crucial role in the lives of fish, influencing their behavior, diurnal activities, and various other aspects of their existence (Marchesan *et al.*, 2005; Dou and Tsukamoto, 2003; Maheshwari, 1998) [11, 7]. It has been noted that light exposure can induce compositional changes in fish during their growth stages. Physiological and biological data play a crucial role in understanding how light influences fish growth by improving food conversion efficiency, rather than solely stimulating food intake.

Fish are known for their sensitivity to environmental changes, making them valuable bioindicator species. Photoperiodic manipulation is increasingly recognized as a practical approach for regulating physiological functions in fish farming. Photoperiod techniques have been shown to significantly influence various physiological functions in fish species, including growth, reproduction, gonadal maturation, and protein composition (Boeuf and Bail, 1999; Rodriguez *et al.*, 2001; Biswas and Takeuchi, 2003; Gines *et al.*, 2004) [4, 13, 3, 8].

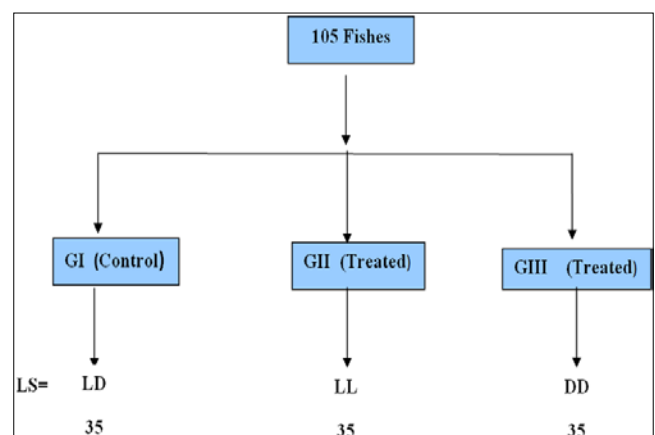
Material and methodology

The experiment involved 105 *Clarias batrachus* conducted continuously over three years. During the study, the fish were fed alternating between pieces of dried fish and boiled eggs every other day. The water in the aquarium was changed on the same days as the feeding schedule.

Prior to the start of the experiment, 105 acclimatized *Clarias batrachus* fish weighing approximately 70 ± 2 grams were randomly selected from stock aquaria. They were properly acclimatized under a 12 hours light:12 hours dark photoperiod for 24 hours.

The experiment was conducted under three light conditions *viz.* LD, LL and DD. For the experiment fish were divided into three groups (groups I, II and III). Each group with N=35 fishes. Fishes of group I were treated as control under LD12:12 while fishes of group II and group III were treated as experimental groups under LL and DD conditions respectively. Eight fish from each group were examined in every 15-day interval.

Experimental protocol for groups and light.



G=Group,

LS=LightSchedule,

LD=Natural daylight condition (12L:12D)

LL= Continuous light condition (24L:00D)

DD=Continuous dark condition (00L:24D) N=Number of fishes.

Muscleprotein

Collection of muscle from the dorsal side of the fish to study for estimation of proteint hrough the Folin-Phenol method.

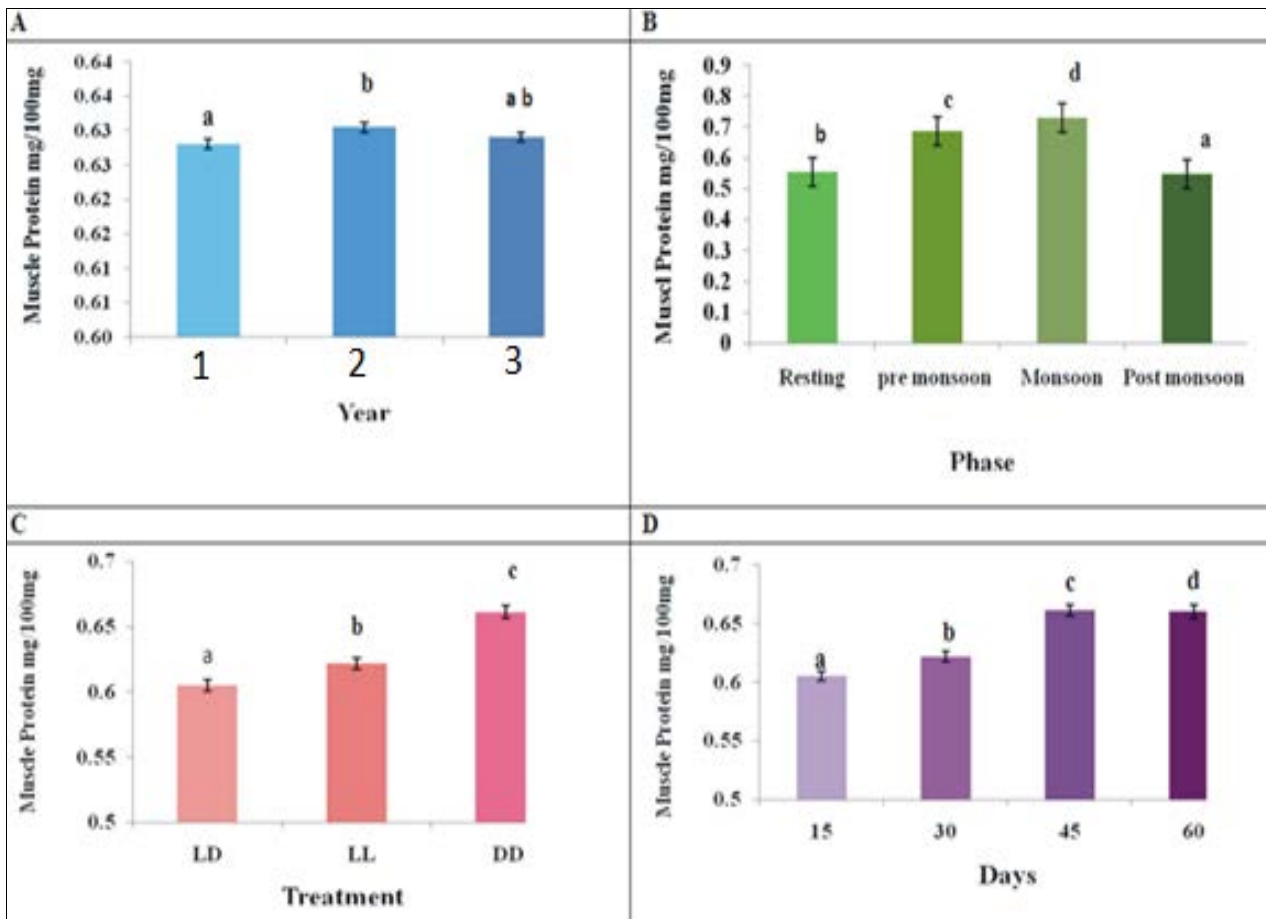


Fig 1: Graphical presentation for different four factors on Muscle Protein in *C. batrachus*. A. Muscle Protein in *C. batrachus* at different year. B. Muscle Protein in *C. batrachus* at different phases. C. Muscle Protein in *C. batrachus* at different treatment conditions. D. Muscle Protein in *C. batrachus* at different time interval

A four-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted to assess the influence of the factors "Year" (1, 2, 3), "Phase" (Resting, Pre Monsoon, Monsoon, Post Monsoon), "Treatment" (LD = Normal day-night condition, LL = Continuous illumination, DD = Continuous dark condition), and "Interval" (15 days, 30 days, 45 days, 60 days) on the muscle protein levels of *Clarias batrachus*. It was found that all factors except for "Year" significantly affected the muscle protein levels ($p < 0.01$).

Results and Discussions

The muscle protein of *Clarias batrachus* has been investigated in this experiment. The amount of muscle of muscle protein was calculated in mg/ml. The result showed that, 1. The amount of muscle protein showed variation in different photic conditions. 2. The value of protein in the resting phase in all the experimental groups was almost similar but continued darkness showed a comparatively higher amount in comparison group II group III. 3. The highest value of muscle (0.80mg/ml) has been recorded during the monsoon phase in continuous dark conditions. 4. Protein value has been observed from resting to monsoon phase in each group but a tremendous fall has also been noticed in the monsoon phase in each group. 5. Muscle protein is related to the length and weight of fish. The Ist interval (15 days) showed a comparatively lower value while the IVth (60 days) interval showed a higher value. Fish is a source of high-quality balance and easily digestible protein. It is an easily available animal protein in the diet of the man said by Ravichandran *et al.*, (2011) [12] Protein is an

essential nutrient for animal growth and development and represents the most expensive portion in the aquaculture diet (Cho *et al.*, 2003) [6] Artificial photoperiod regimes alteration in the natural light-dark cycle and any other alteration or manipulation of environmental parameters will cause stress and may affect abrupt changes, Barton and Iwama (1991) [2]. Brewer *et al.*, (2008) [5] and Shinju and Geraldine (2011) [15] opinioned that fluctuation in biochemical composition of muscles of fish species is due to changes in their ecology.

Islam and Joadder (2005) [9] noticed that variation of protein might be influenced by their feeding and breeding capabilities this statement supports the present findings in which dark-red fishes (Group III) showed significantly. Almazán-Rueda *et al.*, (2005) [1] suggested that the fish were more stressed and aggressive, compared to those under a reduced number of light hours this statement enhances our findings that fishes of group II showed comparatively lesser activity with group III. Jafri, (1965, on NET 2004) worked on freshwater catfish *Wallago attu* and resulted that protein values in all the tissues were generally low in winter. Shamsan and Ansari (2010) [14] worked on *S. sihama* and concluded that the amount of protein gradually increases from January to June and decreases from December to February.

Conclusion

The photoperiod plays a crucial role in influencing both the growth and biochemical composition of fish. The quantity of muscle protein serves as a reliable indicator of fish health

within their biotic environment. Manipulating photoperiods and responding to seasonal variations significantly affect muscle protein levels in *Clarias batrachus*, underscoring the critical role of environmental factors in fish physiology and the practices of aquaculture.

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