

## Food and Feeding Habit of *Clarias anguillaris* in Tagwai Reservoir, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

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**Abstract :** Sixty-two (62) samples of *Clarias anguillaris* were collected from Tagwai Reservoir and used for the study. 29 male and 33 female samples were obtained for the study. Body measurement indicated that different sizes were collected for the study. Males, females and combined sexes had standard length and total length means of  $26.56 \pm 4.99$  and  $31.13 \pm 6.43$ ,  $27.17 \pm 5.21$  and  $30.62 \pm 5.43$ ,  $26.88 \pm 5.08$  and  $30.86 \pm 5.88$  cm, respectively. The weights of males, females and combined sexes have mean weights of  $241.10 \pm 96.27$ ,  $225.75 \pm 78.66$  and  $232.93 \pm 86.95$  gm, respectively. Eight items; fish, insects, plant materials, sand grains, crustaceans, algae, detritus and unidentified items were eaten as food by *Clarias anguillaris* in Tagwai Reservoir. Frequency of occurrence and numerical methods used in stomach contents analysis indicated that fish was the highest, followed by insect, while the lowest was the algae. Frequency of stomach fullness of *Clarias anguillaris* showed low percentage of empty stomachs or stomachs without food (21.00%) and high percentage of stomachs with food (79.00%), which showed high abundance of food and high feeding intensity during the period of study. Classification of fish based on feeding habits showed that *Clarias anguillaris* in this study is an omnivore because it consumed both plant and animal materials.

**Keywords :** stomach content, feeding habit, *Clarias anguillaris*, Tagwai Reservoir

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