**Dietary effect of *Acalypha fimbriata* on growth and haematological changes in *Clarias gariepinus* and *Oreochromis niloticus***

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**Abstract**

Aqua-farmers are searching for an alternate for harmful antibiotics and other chemicals that are widely used in aquaculture since the banned of antibiotics in aqua farming. Phytoadditives are herbs or herbal derivatives that can replace antibiotics and other growth promoters. The present study is a preliminary work which was conducted to evaluate the effect of adding 1 level of *Acalypha fimbriata* (1.0 g / 100 g diet) in a basal diet of *Clarias gariepinus* juveniles (initial weight =45.51 ± 0.12 – 45.4 ± 0.10 g/fish) and *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings (initial weight = 5.75 ± 0.12 – 5.73 ± 0.27 g/fish) on growth performance, feed utilization, survival rate and some hematological parameters. The experiment was conducted in triplicate. Fish were fed daily at 8:00 h and 18:00 h. Diets containing 30% crude protein (CP) and 40% crude protein were administrated at a rate of 3% body weight to *O. niloticus* and *C. gariepinus* respectively. At the end of 56th day fishes were weighed. Blood was collected and subject to haematological analysis. The present results suggested that dietary *Acalypha fimbriata* powder administrated at level of 1.0 g/100 g diet could improve survival, growth and feed utilization of *Clarias gariepinus* juveniles and *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings. Better Feed conversion ratio (FCR) was observed in fishes fed with *Acalypha fimbriata* supplemented diets. Administration of *Acalypha fimbriata* also induce a significant increase in some blood variables (haemoglobin content, hematocrit value, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular hemoglobin and leukocytes count) in treated fishes when compared to the control fishes group.