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GROWTH RESPONSE, BLOOD SERUM COMPONENT AND YIELD OF THE AFRICAN BONY TONGUE (*Heterotis niloticus)* FED VARYING DIETARY CRUDE PROTEIN LEVELS

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ABSTRACT

The effects of varying dietary protein levels on the growth, blood serum components and yield of juvenile African bony tongue (*Heterotis niloticus*) were studied for a period of 10 weeks. One hundred and thirty juvenile H. niloticus average weight of 160g were reared in fine meshed hapa set in a concrete tank. The fish were stocked at the rate of 10 fish/m^2, and fed diets containing 28% (Diet 1), 31% (Diet 2), 34% (Diet 3) and 37% (Diet 4) crude protein levels. At the end of 10 weeks, growth response, serum protein, albumin/globulin ratio and the yield were determined. The results showed that consumption of different crude protein levels significantly ($P<0.05$) influenced mean weight gain (MWG), feed conversion ratio (FCR) and specific growth rate (SGR% per day). Diet 4 produced the best growth (3.16g per day). Total protein was slightly highest in fish fed diet 2, while albumin/globulin ratio was highest in fish fed diet 4. Yield parameters measured were better in fish fed diet 4 (i.e. Gross profit) but less in profit index and incidence of cost than fish fed diet 3.

Keywords: Growth, Blood serum, Yield, *Heterotis.*