

# Survival, growth, and tissue biochemical profile of African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) juveniles fed diets supplemented with Country onion (*Afrostryax lepidophyllus*) bark powder

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## 1 ABSTRACT

To promote growth and maintain fish healthy, this study examined the effects of nutritional supplementation using *Afrostryax lepidophyllus* (Country onion) on survival, growth and biochemical parameters of African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus*. Juveniles weighing  $9.29 \pm 0.15$  g were split up into four treatments in triplicate before being administered diets that contained 0, 10, 15 and 20 (T<sub>0</sub>, T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, and T<sub>3</sub>, respectively) g/kg *A. lepidophyllus* for 56 days. Adding *A. lepidophyllus* bark in the diets enhanced significantly the survival rate, growth performances and tissue biochemical components of *C. gariepinus*. Fish fed with T<sub>3</sub> diet demonstrated the most favourable influence on tissue biochemical components and reduced the cost of production. This study demonstrated that *A. lepidophyllus* bark powder can be added to the diet of *C. gariepinus* at 2% inclusion level as a feed additive without any negative impact on the physiological function of the fish.