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Changes in The Total and Free Amino Acid Composition in African Catfish ( *Clarias gariepinus* Burchell, 1822) Larvae

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**Abstract:** In this study, changes in amino acid composition of egg, larvae and larvae tissue which was separated from yolk sac mass of African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus* Burchell, 1822) during yolk sac stage and starving larvae were investigated. In the yolk sac period, there was no change of each amino acid amounts (g/100 g dry matter) in larvae tissue in spite of conspicuous changes were determined in whole larvae amino acid amounts such as leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine and serine. It was evaluated that these amino acids were used preferentially by larvae. A/E reference was calculated for larval feed formulation. A conspicuous fall in the amounts of free amino acid of larvae was determined before depletion of yolk sac material.

**Key Words:** Fish larvae, amino acid metabolism, African catfish

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