

Potential use of green algae *Caulerpa lentillifera* as feed ingredient in the diet of Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*

Potensi penggunaan rumput laut *Caulerpa lentillifera* sebagai bahan baku pakan ikan nila *Oreochromis niloticus*

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ABSTRACT

The high composition of import raw material of fish diet in Indonesia causes feed price expensively and should be replaced using local materials such as green macro algae. It is, therefore, this study aimed to evaluate effect of diet containing the *Caulerpa lentillifera*, as feed ingredient in the diet of Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*. This study consisted of two experiments which were *C. lentillifera* digestibility test for raw material feed for tilapia and growth performance test of tilapia. *C. lentillifera* digestibility test was done by using Cr₂O₃ as indicators and analysis of faecal tilapia. The second experiment is growth performance test using a completely randomised design with four diets were formulated at variuos rates of *C. lentillifera* meal of 0 (control), 10, 20, and 30%. A number of 240 tilapia fingerlings of 3.41±0.10 g in mean weight were randomly stocked in 12 aquaria and fed on diet test for growth performed of rearing period. *C. lentillifera* digestiility test result showed a good value as a raw material feed tilapia, the digestibility of *C. lentiliifera* and protein digestibility amounted to 68.81% and 86.31%. Growth performance parameters showed the use of 10% and 20% is not significantly different from the control (P>0.05), to the final body weight, protein efficiency ratio, protein retention, specific growth rate, and feed efficiency. But, the diet test at 30% performed the lowest growth performance and feed utilization as well of tilapia fingerlings. This study, therefore, concludes that *C. lentillifera* meal could be used up to 20% in the tilapia diet.

Keywords: *Caulerpa lentillifera*, Nile tilapia, feed utilization, growth performance

ABSTRAK

Tingginya jumlah bahan baku impor dalam pakan ikan di Indonesia menyebabkan harga pakan yang tinggi dan harus diganti menggunakan bahan alternatif lokal seperti makro alga. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji penggunaan dari pakan yang mengandung *Caulerpa lentillifera* sebagai bahan baku pakan ikan nila *Oreochromis niloticus*. Tahapan penelitian terdiri atas uji pencernaan *C. lentillifera* sebagai bahan baku dan uji kinerja pertumbuhan ikan nila. Metode uji pencernaan menggunakan Cr₂O₃ sebagai indikator pakan dan analisis feses ikan nila. Tahap penelitian kedua adalah kinerja pertumbuhan menggunakan rancangan acak lengkap dengan pakan diformulasikan dengan inklusi 0 (kontrol), 10, 20, dan 30% tepung *C. lentillifera*. Ikan nila sebanyak 240 ekor, dengan berat rata-rata 3,41±0,1g dibagi kedalam 12 akuarium dan diberi pakan perlakuan untuk melihat kinerja pertumbuhan. Hasil uji pencernaan *C. lentillifera* menunjukkan nilai yang baik sebagai bahan baku pakan ikan nila, yaitu pencernaan bahan sebesar 68,81% dan pencernaan protein sebesar 86,31%. Parameter kinerja pertumbuhan menunjukkan perlakuan penambahan 10% dan 20% tepung *C. lentillifera* tidak berbeda nyata (P>0,05) dengan kontrol, yang terdiri atas: bobot tubuh akhir, pertumbuhan mutlak, protein efisiensi rasio, retensi protein, laju pertumbuhan spesifik dan efisiensi pakan. Namun, pakan perlakuan 30% menghasilkan kinerja pertumbuhan dan efisiensi pakan yang lebih rendah pada ikan nila. Penelitian ini memberikan hasil, penggunaan tepung *C. lentillifera* dapat digunakan sampai 20% dalam pakan ikan nila.

Kata kunci: *Caulerpa lentillifera*, nila, pemanfaatan pakan, kinerja pertumbuhan

INTRODUCTION

Fish and shrimp feed production reached a total annual production of 1,411,000 ton (GPMT, 2015) in Indonesia in 2014. Producing such amount of feed required raw materials and Indonesian feed production mainly depends on imported raw material. Indeed, nowadays, Indonesia imports up to 70% of its raw materials, including soybean meal and white pollard. Several research were conducted to decrease the amount of imported raw materials by using local raw materials. Local raw materials that have already been explored for possible use and engineered in order to increase their nutritional value included lamtoro leaves, cassava (*onggok singkong*), cacao fruit peel, Kapok seeds, cassava peel, kopra, rubber seed, and palm oil cake (Fitriliyani, 2010; Suprayudi *et al.*, 2012; Jusadi *et al.*, 2013; Afebrata *et al.*, 2014). However, the availability of these raw materials is relatively limited and still way below the required amount required to fulfill the need for imported raw materials. As a consequence of the limited availability, there is a need to search for potential raw materials within the Indonesian natural resources to be used as raw material in fish feed. One of the natural resources that has been used as a potential raw material is seaweed, demonstrating the vast coastal area, about 769,452 ha, that could be used to culture seaweed (Sahat, 2013).

Carrageenan content of seaweed is a limiting factor in the use of seaweed as raw material for fish feed, since the physical behavior of carrageenan can form gel or rigid (Widyastuti, 2010). A seaweed species that does not contain carrageenan is green algae *Caulerpa lentillifera* (Widyastuti, 2008). In addition, Murugaiyan *et al.* (2012) stated that green algae contain high protein compared to both red algae and brown algae. *C. lentillifera* is an algae species that possesses amino acids contents higher than that of *Sargassum polycystum* dan *Eucheuma cottonii* (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009). The proximat composition (dry weight) of *C. lentillifera* from Binuangeun area, Pandeglang was as follows: protein (11.11%), ash (44.58%), fat (0.23%), crude fiber (18.16%) and NFE (25.92%). Meanwhile, the proximat composition (dry weight) of *C. lentillifera* from Takalar area revealed nutrient compositions as follows: protein (29.16%), ash (16.56%), fat (0.76%), crude fiber (7.07%) and NFE (46.45%). *C. lentillifera* seaweed can be potentially cultured due to its role as biofilter in maintaining water

quality in aquaculture activities (Chaitanawisuti *et al.*, 2011; Liu *et al.*, 2016). As it can be observed above, *C. lentillifera* has a high mineral content as other kind of seaweeds (Kut-Guroy, 2007; Matanjan *et al.*, 2009; Natify *et al.*, 2015; Mahasu, 2016). Macro-mineral analysis results revealed that the macro minerals with the highest concentration in *C. lentillifera* are calcium and magnesium, while iron had the lowest micro-mineral concentration (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009). Minerals are trace elements that are highly required, although in low quantity. However, high ash consumption in the feed can lead to a decrease in nutrients absorption that will in turn decrease growth (Sugiura *et al.*, 1998).

As a result of the mentioned advantages, *C. lentillifera* has a potential raw material to be developed in aquafeed, since it can decrease imported raw materials use such as soybean meal and white pollard. However, the quality of a given raw material is also determined by its digestibility. Thus, the present research was aimed at evaluating the digestibility of *C. lentillifera* and its optimal quantity in tilapia feed formulation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design

The use of *C. lentillifera* as raw material in tilapia feed was carried out in series of two research using a completely randomized design. The first research was performed to determine *C. lentillifera* digestibility in tilapia. While the second research was performed to evaluate the effects of adding *C. lentillifera* in feed formula on tilapia growth performance. Feed formula were divided into treatments with three replicates each i.e. 0% *C. lentillifera* powder (as control), 10% *C. lentillifera*, 20% *C. lentillifera*, and 30% *C. lentillifera*.

Caulerpa lentillifera

C. lentillifera seaweed was obtained from waste drainage ponds of shrimp farms in Teluk Laikang, Takalar, South Sulawesi, in January 2016. *C. lentillifera* seaweed was immersed in freshwater for 30 minutes and cleaned. Afterwards, *C. lentillifera* was dried in an oven at a temperature of 40 °C for 18 hours (to reach 7% water content), then grinded using a grinding machine. Proximate composition of *C. lentillifera* (dry weight) revealed that it contained protein (29.16%); fat (0.76%); carbohydrate (53.52%); and ash (16.56%).

Digestibility test of feed

C. lentillifera digestibility test was performed by mean of formulating 30% *C. lentillifera* with feed and mixed with 0.5% chromium indicator (Cr_2O_3). The mentioned formula was compared to a reference feed following Watanabe (1988).

Growth performance feed

The composition of the growth test feed is presented in Table 1. *C. lentillifera* powder was used in feed formula at different percentages (0, 10, 20, and 30%). All of the tested feed were formulated to have a protein content of 28% and similar energy contents. Feed were processed with the same protein and energy content in all treatments. An increase in feed *C. lentillifera* content resulted in a decrease in the use of both soybean and white pollard powders. Feed was shaped in dry pellet form with a size of 1–2 mm.

Rearing during digestibility test stage

Tilapia with average body weight of 7.00 ± 1.00 g brought the center for freshwater fish research and development in Bogor were used in the present research. Fish were acclimatized to

experimental condition i.e. placed into aquariums ($60 \times 40 \times 40 \text{ cm}^3$) previously filled with 72 L of water (equipped with aeration system). Ten fish per aquarium were used and fed on test feed at satiation at a feeding rate of three times a day during 21 days. Feces collection started on day 4 of the research after feeding (an hour after feeding) and was performed by mean of a rope and a filtering net in order to gather the feces. The collected feces were then placed in an oven at 40°C for 12 hours and both chromium and proximat analysis performed.

Rearing during growth test

Twenty tilapias, at average body weight of 3.41 ± 0.10 g, were placed in each aquarium ($60 \times 40 \times 45 \text{ cm}^3$), which represent each treatment. The tested fish were acclimatized to experimental conditions, that were equipped with aerating system, for 7 days. Prior to feeding on experimental diets, a few experimental fish were sampled in order determine not only the intial proximate composition but also the intial weight.

Feeding was done three times a day at satiation i.e. 08.00 a.m., 12.00 a.m., and 4 p.m., and fish

Table 1. Composition and proximate of growth performance test feed supplemented with *C. lentillifera* for tilapia, for 50 days

Raw materials	<i>C. lentillifera</i> composition in feed			
	0%	10%	20%	30%
Fish meal	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Soybean meal	45.00	39.70	34.40	29.20
<i>C. lentillifera</i> powder	0.00	10.00	20.00	30.00
White pollard powder	35.04	30.34	25.51	20.60
Tapioca	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fish oil	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.50
Corn oil	0.00	0.20	0.43	0.64
Palm oil	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.00
Premix	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Di-Calsium-Phospat	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Vitamin C	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Total	100	100	100	100
Protein	28.32	28.83	29.42	27.66
Lipid	5.64	5.13	5.8	5.25
Ash	11.41	12.43	13.39	14.11
NFE	48.64	47.29	44.61	45.95
Crude fiber	5.99	6.32	6.78	7.03
Gross energy (calories/kg)	4110.3	4035.6	4021.7	3926.4

Note: NFE = nitrogen free extract. Energy conversion calculation followed Watanabe (1988) method, i.e. 1 g protein = 5.6 kcal GE, 1 g carbohydrate/NFE = 4.1 kcal GE, and 1 g lipid = 9.4 kcal GE.

were reared for a period of 50 days. Total feed consumption and dead fish were recorded throughout the research period. Water exchange was periodically performed (every morning) and aeration provided (to supply dissolved oxygen) in order to maintain an optimal water quality. The tested fish were sampled at the end of the research to analyse nutritional contents.

Fish were starved for a day at the end of the rearing period and anesthetized using 0.67 mg/L of cean free special arowana stabilizer. Fish were then weighed and measured to determine growth and proximate analysis (for protein and fat retention).

Chemical analysis

Chemical analysis consisted of chromium analysis, mineral analysis, and proximate analysis. Chromium analysis of both feed and feces was performed using the spectrophotometric method. Proximate analysis of feed and fish body (initial and final) consisted of water content, protein, crude fiber, ash, and NFE. Water content and ash analysis were performed with the gravimetric method, protein with kjeldhal method, lipid with Soxhlet method, and organic matter with Vansus method. The present proximate analysis was in accordance with AOAC procedure. Mineral content analysis (Ca, Mg, and Fe) used weight destruction method which was read by Atomic Absorbance Spectrofotometer (AAS).

Tested parameters

The observed parameters in the present research was *C. lentillifera* digestibility, which resulted from the first series of research based on Watanabe (1988) calculation, and consisted of parameters such as protein, calcium, magnesium, and iron digestibilities. The second series of the present research involved other parameters such as feed consumption (Watanabe, 1988),

protein efficiency ratio (Watanabe, 1988), protein retention (Watanabe, 1988), lipid retention (Watanabe, 1988), specific growth rate (Halver, 1989), feed efficiency (Watanabe, 1988), survival rate (Effendi, 2004), and absolute growth rate of tilapia (Watanabe, 1988).

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using independent-test analysis of variance (ANNOVA) with an interval of confidence of 95%, using SPSS 21.00, followed by a Duncan-test if significant differences were observed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Digestibility test results of *C. lentillifera* powder is presented in Table 3. Results showed a total *C. lentillifera* digestibility of 68.81% with a protein digestibility of 86.31%. *C. lentillifera* powder had a high mineral content, including calcium, magnesium, and iron with digestibilities of 3.49%, 32.46%, and 36.21%, respectively.

Table 3 represents growth performance parameters of tilapia fed on different doses of *C. lentillifera* powder with final body weight ranging from 9.28–10.87 g ($P>0.05$). no significant differences ($P>0.05$) were observed between treatments in terms of feed consumption during the 50 days rearing period, ranging between 11.20 to 11.95 g. the lowest specific growth rate (SGR) in the 30% *C. lentillifera* (2%), was not significantly different with 20% *C. lentillifera* ($P>0.05$). yet, SGR in the 10% *C. lentillifera*, 20% *C. lentillifera*, and control did not significantly differ. According to results of the analysis of variance, some parameters, such as protein efficiency ratio, protein retention, and feed efficiency, supported the use of *C. lentillifera* powder as raw material up to 20% in tilapia feed without being significant different to the control ($P>0.05$). there were no significant differences among treatments in terms of survival rate, which ranged from 96.67 to 98.33%.

The body composition of the tested fish at both the beginning and the end of the rearing period is presented in Table 4. The test results showed that both protein and lipid contents of the fish body increased after the rearing period. The use of *C. lentillifera* powder did not significantly ($P>0.05$) affect protein, crude fiber and NFE composition of the fish body (final).

Table 2. *C. lentillifera* powder digestibility in tilapia

Tested parameters	Digestibility (%)
Total Digestibility	68.81±1.2
Protein digestibility	86.31±0.6
Ca digestibility	38.49±1.1
Mg digestibility	32.46±2.3
Fe digestilibty	36.21±0.8

Note: The value listed above are averages followed by standard deviation. Ca = calsium. Mg = magnesium. Fe = iron.

Table 3. Growth performance of tilapia fed on *C. lentillifera* with different compositions

Parameters	<i>C. lentillifera</i> composition in feed			
	0%	10%	20%	30%
W ₀ (g)	3.41±0.05a	3.41±0.08 a	3.41±0.05 a	3.41±0.09 a
W ₅₀ (g)	10.81±0.65a	10.87±0.37a	9.84±0.82ab	9.28±0.34b
AGR (g)	7.40±0.65 a	7.47±0.36 a	6.43±0.82 ab	5.88±0.34 b
TFC (g)	11.95±0.46a	11.72±0.68a	11.20±0.89a	11.24±0.36a
PER (%)	2.19±0.17a	2.21±0.05a	1.95±0.13ab	1.89±0.09b
PR (%)	28.82±2.04a	29.10±1.27a	26.77±3.21a	26.17±3.05a
LR (%)	70.67±4.01a	61.61±1.64b	61.12±2.73b	52.94±2.01c
SGR (%/day)	2.31±0.12a	2.32±0.07a	2.12±0.16ab	2.00±0.07b
FE (%)	61.92±4.72a	63.71±1.41a	57.32±3.88a	52.28±2.62b
SR (%)	96.67±5.77a	98.33±2.89a	98.33±2.89a	98.33±2.89a

Note: The value listed above are averages followed by standard deviation. Different letters behind the standard deviations showed significant differences between treatments ($P < 0.05$). W₀ = initial individual body weight; W₅₀ = individual final body weight; AGR: absolute growth rate; SR= survival rate; TFC= total feed consumption; PER= protein efficiency ratio; PR= protein retention; LR= lipid retention; SGR= specific growth rate; FE= feed efficiency.

Discussion

Digestibility shows the composition of nutrients (amount) that are digested and used for growth and metabolic processes (NRC, 2011). The results (Table 2) in the present study revealed that tilapia has the ability to digest *C. lentillifera* powder up to 68.81%, which was a little bit higher compared to the digestibility of *Ulva lactuca* powder, being 66.26% (Mahasu, 2016).

C. lentillifera powder had a protein digestibility value of 86.26% (Table 2), which was within the normal range for optimal digestible protein in fish feed. The optimal value of digestible protein of a given raw material in fish feed ranged from 75 to 95% (NRC, 2011). The protein digestibility of *C. lentillifera* powder was not significantly different compared to those of white pollard (83.87%), soybean meal (91.12%), and fish meal (83.53%) (Ribeiro *et al.*, 2011).

Minerals and vitamins are micro-nutrients needed in fish feed. Most of the seaweeds have high mineral contents (Kut-Guroy, 2007; Matanjan *et al.*, 2009; Natify *et al.*, 2015; Mahasu, 2016), and in the proximate analysis scheme, a few minerals were classified as ash, including calcium and magnesium. The micro-mineral with a high content in seaweeds is iron (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009). According to Sugiura *et al.* (1998), a high ash consumption through feed will result in a decrease in nutrient absorption. The digestibility of three minerals in *C. lentillifera* powder were observed in the present study i.e. calcium, magnesium, and iron. Calcium is a micromineral

that has a high content in *C. lentillifera* seaweed (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009) and plays an important role in fish growth with a digestibility (in *C. lentillifera*) of 38.49%. In addition to calcium, magnesium and iron had digestibility of 32.46% and 36.21%, respectively, in the present study (Table 2). The nutrients digestibility of *C. lentillifera* powder showed interesting values as raw material for tilapia feed. In calculating the nutritional requirement to determine the best feed composition, the present study used 0, 10, 20, and 30% *C. lentillifera* powder concentrations in feed.

The survival rate data (Table 3) showed that the use of *C. lentillifera* powder up to 30 % did not negatively affect growth and water quality, which was optimum for tilapia culture. The variations in the results are consequences of the given treatments i.e. the use of various *C. lentillifera* powder composition in tilapia feed.

Growth performance parameters, other than the body weight, were also supported by factors such as feed consumption, protein efficiency ratio, lipid and protein retentions, daily growth rate and feed efficiency (Table 3). The total feed, that suits the stomach capacity or the period of time when fish need feed, has to be considered due to the fact that at a time fish is close to hunger (Sunarno, 1991). The amount of feed consumed showed that the difference in *C. lentillifera* powder composition in feed does not affect the palatability of tilapia and also the fish appetite.

The protein efficiency reveals the ratio of fish body weight and the protein of the consumed feed. Based on feed efficiency ratio results, the

Table 4. Fish body composition at the beginning and the end of the rearing period (% of dry weight)

Tested parameters (%)	Initial	<i>C. lentillifera</i> composition in the feed			
		0%	10%	20%	30%
Water content	77.6	75.33±1.31a	72.31±1.18b	75.24±1.28a	74.63±0.89a
Ash content	27.55	15.48±1.83a	16.81±0.53ab	17.33±0.76ab	17.83±0.32b
Protein	46.75	48.41±1.53a	51.48±2.06a	49.34±0.96a	48.39±1.62a
Lipid	4.97	18.29±0.49a	17.22±0.25b	17.21±0.41b	15.31±0.51c
Crude fiber	1.67	1.78±0.53a	2.19±0.28a	2.22±0.25a	2.16±0.20a
NFE	19.06	16.04±2.24a	12.29±2.10a	13.90±1.88a	16.31±2.39a

Note: Same letters in the same line showed no significant differences among treatments ($P>0.05$). The value listed above are averages followed by standard deviation. NFE= free nitrogen extract.

use of *C. lentillifera* powder up to 20% in tilapia feed had a protein-energy ratio that is in line with tilapia requirement. In addition, Khan and Abidi (2012) stated that the use of protein depends on the availability of non-protein energy source in the feed that will affect the efficiency of nutrient retention.

The higher the use of *C. lentillifera* powder in the feed, the lower the lipid retention. The results of the present study showed that a decrease in lipid retention did not lead to an increase in growth. It is believed that the use of carbohydrate as energy source is not efficient due to the use of the lipid stored in the body as energy source.

The maximal use of energy by lipid and carbohydrate can support the use of protein as a component of fish growth. The use of *C. lentillifera* up to 30% in the feed resulted in the lowest specific growth. The growth of the tested fish can be also determined through the growth of the absolute weight. The growth of tilapia in the 30% *C. lentillifera* treatment had the lowest absolute growth compared to other treatments.

The low growth observed in the results of the present research revealed was supported by a low feed efficiency in the 30% *C. lentillifera* treatment. The growth was observed to decline as *C. lentillifera* powder increased in tilapia feed, which was a consequence of high crude fiber and ash contents in the challenge feed (Table 1). Feed fiber will remain in the digestive tract for a short period of time causing a decrease in feed nutrient absorption (Fitriyanti, 2010), since a high crude fiber content in feed can decline feed nutrient absorption. In addition, Sugiura *et al.* (1998) stated that high ash consumption in feed will lead to a decrease in nutrient absorption that will finally result in a decrease in growth. Other identification included anti-nutritional substances in algae i.e. lectin (Oliveira *et al.*, 2002), which

is another type of toxic proteins that causes agglutination or cultivation of red blood cells. *Caulerpa curpressoides* was observed to have a high lectin content in the forms of glycine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid and serine as well as a low content of basic amino acids (Benevide *et al.*, 2001).

Pratama *et al.* (2015) explained in their research that fish needs more feed materials that provide a good combination of essential amino acids. Thus, the formulation of protein profile is of capital importance, since feed protein will be directly used by the fish for both maintenance and growth purposes. The weakness of *C. lentillifera* is that it has a low essential amino acids content such as methionine and lysine (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009). Methionine is very important for growth and a decrease in methionine will lead to a slow growth of the fish (Hu *et al.*, 2013). Based on the essential amino acids composition determination (Figure 1) from feed raw materials references (Matanjan *et al.*, 2009; NRC, 2011), lysine content of the 30% *C. lentillifera* treatment was lower compared to Tilapia requirement. A low lysine content can lead to an imbalance of the amino acids. Lysine helps in calcium absorption that is needed for bone formation (Li *et al.*, 2008). Figure 1 revealed that a lower threonine content compared to tilapia requirement in both 20% and 30% *C. lentillifera* treatments. That was in line with the results of Yue *et al.* (2014) research, which proved that threonine induction in feed will result in a reduced growth in tilapia without any pathological symptoms. Similar results were also observed in Indian catfish (Ahmed, 2007) and Indian major carp (Abidin & Khan 2008). Special attention need to be paid to the amino acids balance in feed, since an imbalance in type of composition can affect protein synthesis efficiency, resulting in not only in a low protein retention, but also a low

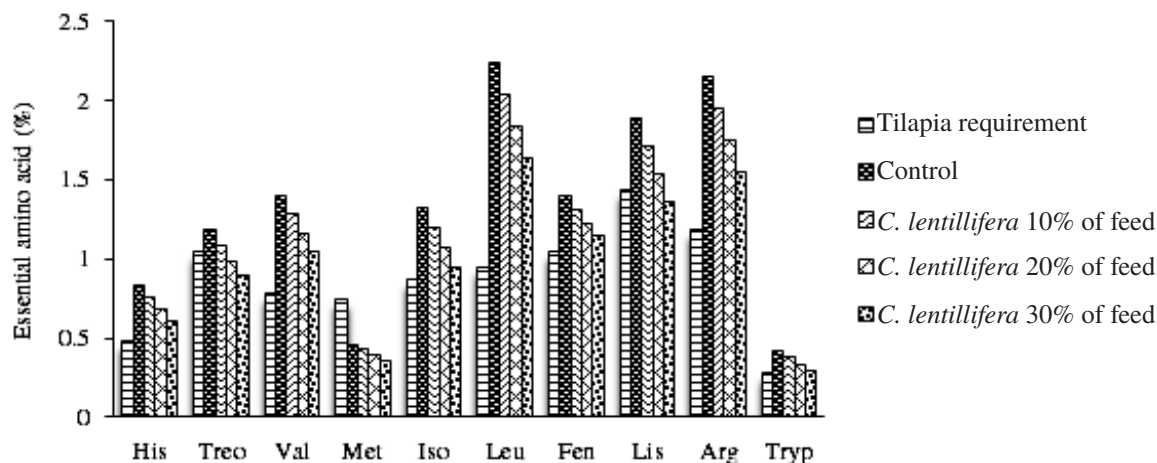


Figure 1. Essential amino acid profile of tilapia requirement and test feed with *C. lentillifera* (Matanjun *et al.*, 2009; NRC, 2011).

growth (Conde-Aguilera *et al.*, 2013; Hu *et al.*, 2013; Valverde *et al.*, 2013), which was probably the case in the 30% *C. lentillifera* treatment.

Chemical composition of the fish body post-rearing period showed an increase in both protein and fat contents compared to that of the fish before the experiment (Table 4). The increment of protein composition in fish body (final) that did not differ in the use of *C. lentillifera* up to 20% was supported by protein retention values in each treatment. Similar results were observed in the use of *Ulva* seaweed, which is a green alga, as raw material for fish feed that did not significantly differ in terms of body protein composition (Kut-Guroy *et al.*, 2007; Diler *et al.*, 2007; Natify *et al.*, 2015; Mahasu, 2016). A difference case was observed with the lipid in fish body after rearing and significant differences were observed in terms of *C. lentillifera* addition in tilapia feed. The higher *C. lentillifera* content of the feed, the lower the lipid content of the fish body, which was supported by lipid retention values in each treatment. Diler *et al.* (2007) reported that the use of *Ulva* up to 20% can decrease the lipid contained in common carp body. A high protein and a low lipid in *C. lentillifera* treatments (up to 20%) are believed to be a consequence of the feed having a balanced of protein and non-protein that fulfill fish requirements, since lipid can be efficiently used as energy leading to a low lipid storage in fish body.

CONCLUSION

C. lentillifera powder has a good digestibility value for fish and can be used up to 20% in fish feed, making it eligible as raw material for tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* feed.

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