

Utilization of hydrolyzed corncob as a carbohydrate source in diets for red Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*

Pemanfaatan hasil hidrolisis tongkol jagung sebagai sumber karbohidrat dalam pakan ikan nila merah *Oreochromis niloticus*

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to evaluate the influence of corncob hydrolysis on its crude fiber content, digestibility level, and utilization in the red Nile tilapia diet. This study was performed in two steps, namely hydrolysis and digestibility test. The first study step was enzymatic hydrolysis using 0.4 g/kg cocktail enzyme, followed by chemical hydrolysis using hydrochloric acid (HCl) at different treatments, i.e. concentration, incubation period, and ratio. The second step was designed using a completely randomized design with five treatments, i.e. Rd (reference diet), TJt15% (15% unhydrolyzed corncob), TJt30% (30% unhydrolyzed corncob), TJh15% (15% corncob hydrolysis), and TJh30% (30% corncob hydrolysis). The average weight of tilapia was 15.86 ± 0.19 g/fish. The hydrolyzed corncob meal used for the second study step from the hydrolysis production could reduce 57.53% of crude fiber, 38.15% of NDF fiber fraction, 6.43% of ADF fiber fraction, and 61.96% of hemicellulose. The digestibility test results showed that the hydrolyzed corn cob diet obtained a higher digestibility level, digestive enzyme activity, and blood plasma protein than the unhydrolyzed corncob diet ($P < 0.05$). This study concludes that the corncob hydrolysis eliminates the crude fiber content, fiber fraction contents (NDF, ADF, and hemicellulose), and improves the digestibility level of red Nile tilapia.

Keywords: Corn cobs, crude fiber, digestibility, hydrolysis, tilapia.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengevaluasi pengaruh hidrolisis tongkol jagung terhadap kandungan serat kasar, pencernaan, dan pemanfaatannya dalam pakan ikan nila merah. Penelitian dilakukan dalam dua tahap, yaitu hidrolisis bahan dan uji pencernaan. Penelitian tahap pertama yaitu hidrolisis secara enzimatik menggunakan koktail enzim 0,4 g/kg dan dilanjutkan dengan hidrolisis kimiawi menggunakan asam klorida (HCl) dengan perlakuan yang berbeda yaitu konsentrasi, lama waktu inkubasi, dan rasio. Penelitian tahap kedua dirancang dengan menggunakan rancangan acak lengkap dengan lima perlakuan yaitu Rd, TJt15% (tongkol jagung tidak dihidrolisis 15%), TJt30% (tongkol jagung tidak dihidrolisis 30%), TJh15% (tongkol jagung dihidrolisis 15%), dan TJh30% (tongkol jagung dihidrolisis 30%). Ikan uji dengan bobot rata-rata sebesar $15,86 \pm 0,19$ g/ekor. Hidrolisis tepung tongkol jagung dengan konsentrasi HCl 0.1 N, lama waktu inkubasi 8 jam, dan dengan rasio 1:4 yang digunakan untuk penelitian selanjutnya. Hidrolisis terhadap tepung tongkol jagung dapat menurunkan serat kasar 57,53%, fraksi serat NDF 38,15%, ADF 6,43%, dan hemiselulosa 61,96%. Hasil penelitian uji pencernaan menunjukkan bahwa pakan yang mengandung tongkol jagung terhidrolisis menghasilkan nilai pencernaan, aktivitas enzim pencernaan dan protein plasma darah yang lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan yang tidak dihidrolisis ($P < 0.05$). Kesimpulannya, hidrolisis tongkol jagung menggunakan asam klorida (HCl) 0,1 N, lama waktu inkubasi 8 jam, dan rasio 1:4 dapat menurunkan serat kasar, fraksi serat (NDF, ADF, dan hemiselulosa), serta meningkatkan nilai pencernaan pakan ikan nila merah.

Kata kunci : Hidrolisis, pencernaan, nila, serat kasar, tongkol jagung

INTRODUCTION

Feed is an input component in fish culture for fish livelihood, growth, and reproduction (Amarwati *et al.*, 2015; Haidar *et al.*, 2016). One of macronutrient components found in feed is carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are functioned as a non-protein energy source (protein-sparing effect) mainly used in freshwater fish feed at 30-47% (Kamalam *et al.*, 2017; Coutinho *et al.*, 2018). In general, most fish feed use imported materials (Suprayudi, 2017). Carbohydrates used in aquaculture can be obtained from plant materials, such as wheat and their derivatives (Muliani *et al.*, 2019; Amin *et al.*, 2020). To reduce the imported material dependence, a qualified local alternative material development from by-product materials is required with cheaper price.

Carbohydrate sources used in aquaculture feed is originated from plant materials, such as wheat and their derivatives (Suprayudi, 2017). One of the potentially-developed local carbohydrate sources is the corncob. Corncob is a by-product material from the corn culture. However, the corncob has not yet been utilized well (Kanegoni *et al.*, 2015). Corncob has 3.42% protein, 9.55% lipid, 4.41% ash, and 74.51% carbohydrate (Olagunju *et al.*, 2013). A study has been performed to utilize the corncob utilization for Nile tilapia, Java barb, and catfish (Rostika & Safitri, 2012; Klahan *et al.*, 2016).

Although studies regarding the corncob utilization in feed ingredient has been performed on fish culture, there are several obstacles found, one of which is high crude fiber level in the corncob. Corncob contains 32.6 – 54.48% crude fiber (Widaningsih *et al.*, 2018), composed of 29.35% neutral detergent fiber, 36.3% acid detergent fiber, 31.33% hemicellulose, 40.44% cellulose, and 16.18% lignin (Pointner *et al.*, 2014). Crude fiber is one of the antinutrient materials that affect on feed digestibility (Enami, 2011). To optimize the corncob utilization as a fish feed ingredient requires further manipulation to reduce the crude fiber level, namely through a hydrolysis approach.

Based on several studies related to hydrolysis on various plant material ingredients, the hydrolysis method is considered effective to degrade crude fiber and improve the nutrient level. The use of rumen fluid can reduce the crude fiber level from 14.34% to 6.98% and improve the fish diet nutrient level (Jusadi *et al.*, 2013; Zuraida *et al.*, 2013). Suprayudi *et al.* (2016) also reported

that 400 mL/kg rubber seed feed ingredient could increase the digestibility level and replace the plant protein source up to 50%. This condition occurred as rumen liquid was an enzyme that could hydrolyze the feed ingredient (Suprayudi *et al.*, 2014). However, the use of rumen liquid has a drawback due to discontinued and commercial availability, followed by special handling to preserve its quality, which needs other materials such as enzyme cocktails. Anugrah (2018) stated that the use of 0.4 g/kg enzyme cocktail was more effective to hydrolyze crude fiber than 200 mL/kg sheep rumen liquid. Crude fiber can be hydrolyzed enzymatically through chemical substances. An example of chemical substance that can be used as hydrolysis material is hydrochloric acid (HCl).

Another study result mentioned that the 0.1 N HCl could improve the glucose level in cassava skin flour (Mastuti & Setyawardhani, 2010). Based on the following explanations, an enzymatic and acidic hydrolysis experiment is required to reduce the crude fiber level and improve the digestibility level as a diet ingredient for Nile tilapia. This study was aimed to evaluate the hydrolysis effect of corncob on the crude fiber level, digestibility level, and its utilization in the red Nile tilapia (*O. niloticus*) diet.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was divided in two steps, namely corncob meal hydrolysis and digestibility test.

First step: Corncob meal hydrolysis

Corncob as the agriculture by-product was obtained from Mbawa Village, Bima District, Nusa Tenggara Barat. The corncobs were dried until reaching 9 – 10% moisture level, then the corncobs were ground sieved with a 75- μ m sieve (mesh 200) until appropriate size. Furthermore, the corncob meal was mixed with an enzyme cocktail at 0.4 g/kg dose diluted using distilled water at 30% of the material weight, then the material was homogenized and preserved in a plastic container for a 24-hour incubation period (Anugrah 2018). Next, the corncob meal was hydrolyzed with 0.1 N and 0.2 N hydrochloric acid (HCl) at 1:2, 1:4, and 1:6 ratio, each of which was soaked with HCl for 0, 4, 8, 12, and 24 hours. To identify the crude fiber degradation level, a sample was taken every 4 hours for crude fiber content analysis. The measurement of each sample was repeated twice. Treatments that showed the highest crude fiber content were used

as the basic hydrolysis standard of the fish diet ingredient for the digestibility test step.

Second step: Digestibility test

The second step in this study was a digestibility test. Materials tested contained unhydrolyzed and hydrolyzed corncob meal. In this test, the diet was added with 0.6% chromium oxide (Cr_2O_3) as a digestibility marker (Watanabe, 1988).

The second step study was designed using a completely randomized design with five treatments and four replications. The treatments were preference diet without corncob addition (Rd), 15% unhydrolyzed corncob meal (TJt15%), 30% unhydrolyzed corncob meal (TJt30%), 15% hydrolyzed corncob meal (TJh15%), and 30% hydrolyzed corncob meal (TJh30%). The diet composition for the digestibility test and its proximate analysis is presented in Table 1.

Feces maintenance and collection

The fish samples were red Nile tilapia obtained from the experimental pond of Department of Aquaculture, IPB University, which had an average weight of 15.86 ± 0.19 g/fish and were acclimatized for 7 days. A day before weighing, the fish were fasted. Fish were stocked at 15 fish/container. The containers were aquaria at $100 \times 40 \times 50$ cm³ size and 35 cm water height.

After the adaptation, fish were fed in apparent satiation three times a day at 07.00, 13.00, and 17.00 GMT+7. Feces samples were collected using syphonized hose and accommodated in a container equipped with filter. The syphon debit was maintained carefully until all collected feces remained solid. Fish feces were started to collect on 4 days after feeding as taken on an hour after feeding activity. These feces were collected in sample bottles and preserved in a freezer to avoid degradation. After the feces were collected for further analysis, feces were heated in an oven for 8–10 hours at 50°C and analyzed the nutrient contents (protein, lipid, and NFE). For Cr_2O_3 measurement, a spectrophotometer was used at 350 nm wavelength.

At the end of the experiment, digestive enzyme activity, glucose, and plasma protein were measured. The measured digestive enzymes were amylase, lipase, and protease. Sample for enzyme activity analysis was a fish digestive tract, namely intestine. The sample was separated from the cleaned fish body and collected in a sample plastic container, before preserving in a freezer at -20°C (Borlongan, 1990). For blood samples, 2-3 fish were taken from each replication container unit for blood glucose analysis. The blood samples were obtained from the caudal vein using a 1.5 mL syringe rinsed with a 3.8% sodium

Table 1. Diet composition for digestibility test of corncob (% dryweight)

Diet composition	Treatment				
	Rd	TJt15%	TJt30%	TJh15%	TJh30%
Commercial diet	99.2	84.2	69.2	84.2	69.2
Unhydrolyzed corncob	-	15	30	-	-
Hydrolyzed corncob	-	-	-	15	30
PMC	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Cr_2O_3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Proximate (% dryweight)					
Protein	30.92	25.62	24.58	28.16	26.27
Lipid	7.45	6.41	5.46	6.10	5.11
Ash	12.22	11.45	14.96	10.26	9.082
Crude fiber	3.46	9.17	12.85	4.70	9.14
NFE	38.98	40.87	37.08	44.08	43.87
GE (kcal/100 g)	403.00	371.47	341.00	395.76	375.01
C/P	13.03	14.50	13.87	14.05	14.28

Note: Rd= Reference diet; TJt = Unhydrolyzed corncob; TJh = hydrolyzed corncob; PMC = Polymethylolcarbamide; NFE = Nitrogen-free extract; GE = gross energy, 1 g protein = 5.6 kcal; lipid = 9.4 kcal; carbohydrate = 4.1 kcal; C/P= Energy per protein ratio (Watanabe, 1988).

citrate as an anticoagulant. Blood samples were taken at 1 mL and collected in 1.5 mL microtubes and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm. The separated blood plasma was taken using a pipette and moved to the tube. During the maintenance period, the water quality was in an optimum range, as the average temperature was 30.68° C, while the dissolved oxygen level was 3.46 mg/L

Parameters

Parameters observed in the second step were specific growth rate, digestibility, digestive enzyme activity, blood glucose, and blood plasma protein. The total, nutrient, energy, and ingredient digestibility levels were calculated using the following formulas (Watanabe, 1988):

$$\text{Total digestibility (\%)} = 1 - \frac{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in Diet}}{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in Feces}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Nutrient digestibility (\%)} =$$

$$1 - \left(\frac{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in Diet}}{\% \text{ Nutrient in Diet}} \times \frac{\% \text{ Nutrient in feces}}{\% \text{ Cr}_2\text{O}_3 \text{ in feces}} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Ingredient digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{ADT} - 0.7 \text{ AD}}{0.3}$$

Note:

ADT = Test diet digestibility value

AD = Reference diet digestibility value

$$\text{Energy digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{EDT} - 0.7 \text{ ED}}{0.3}$$

Note:

EDT = Test diet digested energy

ED = Reference diet digested energy

Chemical analysis

The corncob was analyzed at the beginning and end of the study to determine the fiber

fraction degradation percentage (AOAC 2012). The fiber fraction parameters were NDF, ADF, and hemicellulose contents. The amylase, protease, and lipase enzyme activity levels were performed using Borlongan (1990) method. The blood plasma protein and blood glucose parameters were measured using Bradford and ortho-toluidine reagents (Dubowski, 2008).

The blood samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm speed for 15 minutes to obtain the blood plasma, before adding the 5 mL Bradford reagent and preserved in a freezer, then vortexed and incubated for 10–60 minutes at room temperature. The plasma protein sample solution absorbance was read using a spectrophotometer at 595 nm wavelength. To identify the blood glucose level, the cold blood plasma was analyzed using a spectrophotometer at $\lambda = 530 \text{ nm}$.

Data analysis

The measurement result data during the study were analyzed using the analysis of variance (ANOVA) with *Microsoft Excel* and *SPSS 20.0*. If the ANOVA test results were significantly different, a further test was performed using Duncan's test at 95% degree of confidence.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results

The results of the first step showed that different concentration, incubation period, and ratio produced different crude fiber degradation levels of corncob meal (Table 2). The highest degradation level occurred in the 0.1 N concentration with an 8-hour incubation period and 1:4 ratio. Therefore, this treatment was then used as an optimum treatment for the digestibility test.

The influence of hydrolysis treatment with 0.1 N HCl, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio on the

Table 2. The crude fiber content of corncob hydrolyzed with hydrochloric acid with different concentration, incubation period, and ratio (material and solution) (% dryweight).

Concentration	Ratio	Incubation period (hour)				
		0	4	8	12	24
0.1 N	1:2	23.63	21.85	18.50	23.27	23.35
	1:4	22.23	16.63	14.53	23.95	22.77
	1:6	22.18	21.83	17.55	14.73	21.64
0.2 N	1:2	22.06	19.60	21.69	14.60	20.99
	1:4	20.68	16.19	16.25	20.40	26.40
	1:6	23.72	21.38	15.45	18.44	17.10

nutrient contents of corncob is presented in Table 3. Hydrochloric acid hydrolysis had a significant difference on a corncob nutrient level ($P < 0.05$). The nutrient content analysis results showed decreased lipid, ash, and crude fiber contents at 75.5%, 36.9%, and 57.5%, respectively, while the protein and NFE contents increased at 22.2% and 34.8%, respectively.

Table 3. Nutrient composition of corncob meal before and after the HCl hydrolysis (% dryweight)

Composition (%)	TJt	TJh
Protein	4.37	5.62
Lipid	3.02	0.74
Ash	5.93	3.74
NFE	42.28	55.89
Crude fiber	34.22	14.53

The study results of hydrolyzed corncob with 0.1 N HCl, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio significantly influenced the crude fiber fraction content. The crude fiber fraction analysis showed a significantly different ($P < 0.05$) between unhydrolyzed and hydrolyzed corncobs. Decreased NDF, ADF, and hemicellulose fiber fractions after the hydrolysis process was obtained at 38.15%, 6.45%, and 61.92%, respectively (Table 4).

Table 4. The unhydrolyzed and hydrolyzed corncob crude fiber fraction profiles with 0.1 N HCl, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio

Crude fiber fraction	TJt	TJh
NDF	88.86 ± 3.73 ^b	54.96 ± 2.48 ^a
ADF	38.10 ± 1.41 ^b	35.56 ± 0.83 ^a
Hemicellulose	50.76 ± 5.14 ^b	19.33 ± 2.18 ^a

Note: TJt = Unhydrolyzed corncob; TJh = Hydrolyzed corncob. Different superscript letters after average ± standard deviation values show a significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

The digestibility test results on the diet ingredient performed in the second step showed significant increased digestibility values (total, nutrient, energy, and ingredient) ($P < 0.05$). The TJt30% treatment had lower total and carbohydrate digestibility values than the TJt15%, TJh15%, and TJh30% treatments. The protein and lipid digestibility values on the unhydrolyzed corncob diets, namely TJt15% and TJt30% obtained an insignificant different value, but showing a significant different value on the TJh15% and TJh30% treatments. The highest protein digestibility was obtained from the TJh15% treatment. Meanwhile, the highest lipid digestibility was obtained from the TJh30% treatment and the lowest lipid digestibility was obtained from the unhydrolyzed corncob treatments, namely the TJt15% and TJt30%. Furthermore, the highest energy digestibility was found on the TJh15% and the lowest energy digestibility was found on the TJt30% (Table 5). The ingredient digestibility analysis results showed a significant difference between unhydrolyzed and hydrolyzed corncob treatments. The highest ingredient digestibility was obtained from the TJh15% treatment and the lowest ingredient digestibility was obtained from the TJt15% treatment.

Table 6 presents the analysis results of digestive enzyme activity in red Nile tilapia. The amylase enzyme activity obtained a lower statistical value between the TJt15% and TJt30% treatments than the reference diet (Rd) that obtained an insignificant different value between the TJh15% and TJh30% treatments. Based on the protease enzyme activity, the TJt15%, TJt30%, and TJh15% treatments obtained a lower protease activity than the Rd, but showing a significant different level on the TJh30% treatment. Moreover, the lipase activity value showed a lower value on the TJt15%, TJt30%, and TJh30% treatments than

Table 5. Digestibility value of the test diet using different hydrolyzed and unhydrolyzed corncob meal levels on red Nile tilapia

Digestibility (%)	Treatment			
	TJt15%	TJt30%	TJh15%	TJh30%
Total	59.98 ± 0.15 ^b	54.78 ± 1.29 ^a	65.83 ± 0.86 ^c	59.55 ± 0.68 ^b
Protein	87.29 ± 0.93 ^a	87.02 ± 1.48 ^a	91.28 ± 1.78 ^b	90.76 ± 1.21 ^b
Lipid	87.08 ± 1.28 ^a	88.07 ± 0.85 ^a	90.12 ± 1.35 ^b	92.03 ± 1.28 ^c
Carbohydrate	51.11 ± 0.46 ^b	35.38 ± 1.97 ^a	59.31 ± 0.35 ^c	49.94 ± 1.09 ^b 73.48
Energy	73.85 ± 0.73 ^b	68.70 ± 0.67 ^a	78.24 ± 0.36 ^c	73.48 ± 0.62 ^b
Ingredient	8.16 ± 8.89 ^a	17.47 ± 7.39 ^a	41.72 ± 5.70 ^b	34.97 ± 2.27 ^b

Note: Different superscript letters after the average ± standard error values on the same line show a significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

the Rd treatment, but the TJh15% treatment was statistically higher than the Rd treatment.

The analysis results of blood plasma protein obtained a significant different value ($P < 0.05$). The highest plasma protein value was obtained from the Rd treatment, which was insignificantly different from the TJh30% treatment. The TJt15% treatment was insignificantly different from the TJh15% treatment, but was significantly different from all treatments. The lowest plasma protein value was obtained from the TJt30% treatment (Table 6).

The glucose test on the 0-th hour showed a blood glucose level at 49.15 mg/100 ml and the highest blood glucose level was found on the 2-nd hour after feeding the diets. The Rd diet treatment obtained the highest blood glucose level at 100.83/100 mL.

The second and third highest blood glucose level was obtained from the TJh30% and TJt15% treatments at 86.43% and 82.19%, respectively. Meanwhile, the lowest blood glucose level was

obtained from the TJh15% and TJt30% treatments (74.39% and 78.18%, respectively). The fish blood glucose level in all treatments decreased on the 4-th to 6-th hour (Figure 1).

Discussions

The initial step study indicates that hydrochloric acid can decrease the crude fiber content of corncob meal. The hydrolysis success was found on the decreased crude fiber by 57.53% with 0.1 N concentration, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio. This condition means that different concentrations, incubation periods, and ingredient-solution ratios influence the hydrolysis success. Based on Lubis (2012), the hydrolysis product will increase along with the increased catalyst concentration until reaching a maximum point, and the hydrolysis reaction speed will become faster due to greater catalyst concentration.

The study results showed that the corncob meal hydrolyzed with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio influenced the

Table 6. Digestive enzyme activity (IU/ml/minute), blood plasma protein (%), and specific growth rate (%) after feeding with the hydrolyzed and unhydrolyzed corncob diets

Parameter	Treatment				
	Rd	TJt15%	TJt30%	TJh15%	TJh30%
Amylase	0.716 ± 0.045 ^b	0.577 ± 0.020 ^a	0.560 ± 0.031 ^a	0.708 ± 0.017 ^b	0.695 ± 0.019 ^b
Protease	0.043 ± 0.002 ^c	0.028 ± 0.002 ^a	0.028 ± 0.003 ^a	0.037 ± 0.002 ^b	0.040 ± 0.001 ^{bc}
Lipase	0.027 ± 0.002 ^b	0.019 ± 0.003 ^a	0.018 ± 0.005 ^a	0.032 ± 0.002 ^c	0.021 ± 0.002 ^a
Blood plasma protein	7.49 ± 0.20 ^a	6.41 ± 0.31 ^b	5.68 ± 0.41 ^c	6.83 ± 0.49 ^d	7.5 ± 0.27 ^{ad}
SGR	2.43 ± 0.07 ^d	1.77 ± 0.04 ^b	1.38 ± 0.02 ^a	2.00 ± 0.10 ^c	1.74 ± 0.06 ^b

Note: Rd = Reference diet; TJt = Unhydrolyzed corncob; TJh = Hydrolyzed corncob; SGR = Specific growth rate. Different superscript letters after the average ± standard deviation values on the same line show a significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

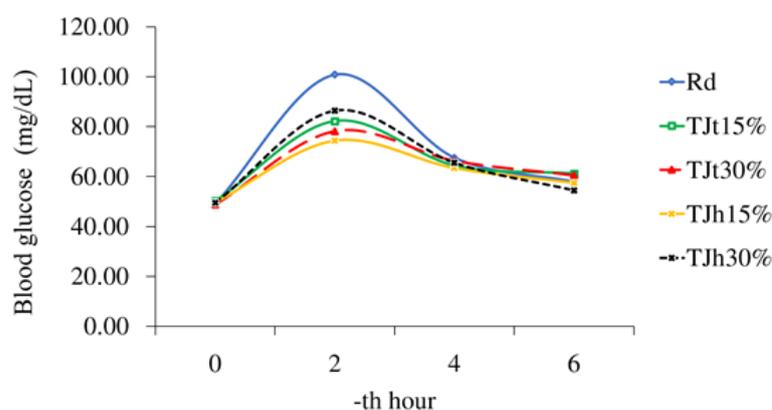


Figure 1. Blood glucose on the 0-th to 6-th hour (mg/100 mL) in red Nile tilapia after feeding with the hydrolyzed and unhydrolyzed corncob meal diet.

crude fiber fraction contents as showing decreased crude fiber fractions, such as NDF, ADF, and hemicellulose at 38.15%, 6.43%, and 61.92%, respectively. This condition was thought as the acidic hydrolysis could degrade the complex fiber fraction chain into a simpler form either NDF, ADF, or hemicellulose. These results were similar to the previous studies reported by Santoso *et al.* (2017) and Sumiana *et al.* (2020) as the hydrolysis process could degrade the crude fiber fraction in feed ingredients. The high fiber fraction content of NDF and ADF in the animal feed can decrease its digestibility value (Cindy *et al.*, 2020; Febriany *et al.*, 2020). The lowest digestibility values were obtained from the TJt30% treatment, namely the total, carbohydrate, and energy digestibility values. For ingredient digestibility, the highest value was obtained from the TJt15% treatment. This condition was thought of as the increased corncob use that increased the fiber fraction and decreased the diet digestibility value.

The total, carbohydrate, energy, and ingredient digestibility values in hydrolyzed corncob treatments were higher than in unhydrolyzed corncob treatments. This condition was thought due to simpler molecules contained in hydrolyzed ingredient than unhydrolyzed ingredient. Previous study results showed that the hydrolyzed ingredient obtained a higher digestibility value than the unhydrolyzed ingredient either in the total, carbohydrate, energy, and ingredient digestibility values (Anugrah, 2018; Sumiana *et al.*, 2020). A similar condition was also reported by Suprayudi *et al.* (2012) in striped catfish, Suprayudi *et al.* (2014) in common carp, and Suprayudi *et al.* (2016) in Nile tilapia. Based on the digestibility test results, the hydrolyzed ingredient could increase the total, nutrient (protein, lipid, and carbohydrate), energy, and ingredient digestibility values, but the digestibility values decreased when the ingredient percentage was 30%. Palupi (2017) reported that the use of poultry by-product meal (PBM) in Nile tilapia by 30% could decrease the total digestibility value. A similar condition was also found in *L. vannamei* (De Carvalho *et al.*, 2016). The higher the corncob use, the higher crude fiber content in the diet, resulting in the more decreased diet quality.

The analysis results of digestive enzyme activities showed a significant influence ($P < 0.05$) on amylase, protease, and lipase enzymes. The lowest enzyme activity values either amylase, protease, or lipase was obtained from the unhydrolyzed corncob diet treatment. This

condition was thought due to high crude fiber content in diet. High amylase enzyme in the Rd and hydrolyzed diet treatments may be caused by better carbohydrate quality and percentage than in unhydrolyzed diet treatments on each red Nile tilapia sample (0.716 ± 0.045 ; 0.708 ± 0.017 ; 0.695 ± 0.019). The amylase enzyme activity in Nile tilapia will increase along with the increased starch content in the diet (Fitriliyani, 2011). A similar condition was also found in *Trachinotus ovatus*, *Larmichthys crocea* dan *Plectropomus leopardu* (Zhou *et al.*, 2015; Zhou *et al.*, 2016; Xia *et al.*, 2019). Meanwhile, the lowest lipase enzyme activity was obtained from the TJt15%, TJt30%, and TJh30% treatments. Lipase enzyme has a function to hydrolyze triglycerides to fatty acids and monoglycerides which can be absorbed.

Based on the glucose test results, the highest glucose utilization level was occurred on the 2-nd hour and decreased on the 4-th to 6-th hour. This condition showed that the Nile tilapia had a good capability in utilizing the carbohydrates such as glucose as an energy source. These study results followed Sumiana *et al.* (2020) and Ren *et al.* (2015) in Nile tilapia and *Megalobrama amblycephala*. The glucose absorption decreased on the 4-th to 6-th hours. Based on Shiao and Chuang (1995), the plasma glucose in Nile tilapia returned to the basal metabolism state after 6-hour feeding. The blood plasma protein measurement was aimed to identify the nutrient (protein) absorption level of diets. Low blood plasma protein levels in TJt15% and TJt30% were thought due to low protein digestibility value the contrary of the hydrolyzed corncob diet treatments. Similar studies were found in Yones & Metwalli (2015), Suprayudi *et al.* (2016), and Palupi (2017).

CONCLUSION

A corncob hydrolysis with 0.1 N HCl, 8-hour incubation, and 1:4 ratio could decrease the crude fiber, NDF, ADF, hemicellulose, followed by the increased digestibility and utilization of corncob in diets as a carbohydrate source for red Nile tilapia.

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