

Review of: "Food and Feeding of Atlantic Mudskipper *Periophthalmus Barbarus* in Ogbo-Okolo Mangrove Forest of Santa Barbara River, Bayelsa State Niger Delta, Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper examines the food habits of the Atlantic mudskipper *Periophthalmus barbarus*, occurring in mangrove forests in Nigeria. Because mudskippers are unique species utilizing upper and lower intertidal habitats when sandy flats are exposed, leading to their special roles in estuarine ecosystems, the results of this manuscript provide useful information that will contribute to understanding, managing, and conserving mangrove ecosystems. However, the manuscript contains several serious problems.

1. The logical structure of the introduction and discussion needs to be reconsidered. The introduction does not present the previous findings necessary to demonstrate the need for this study. The discussion does not adequately discuss the food use of this species, and there are many redundant descriptions that duplicate the results.
2. Extremely many errors in scientific names, units such as cm, and use of upper- and lower-case letters. This is a problem that affects the reliability of the whole paper.

P.2-3. Introduction

It is not necessary to write about the origin of the name *Periophthalmus barbarus*. The authors should write about the morphological characteristics of this species and related ecological characteristics without citing previous studies.

Does not adequately cite previous literature on the ecology of this species.

For example, the following literature is available.

- Abiaobo et al. (2021) Aspects of the biology of *Periophthalmus barbarus* (mudskipper), from Jaja Creek, Niger Delta, Nigeria. *Ecology and Evolution Biology* 6, 15-22
- Udoh et al. (2013) Population dynamics of the mudskipper, *Periophthalmus barbarus* (Linnaeus 1766) (Teleostei: Gobiidae), in the artisanal fishery of Imo River Estuary, southeast Nigeria. *Journal of Fisheries and Aquaculture* 4, 148-153
- Udo (2002) Intersexual plasticity in aspects of the biology of the mudskipper *Periophthalmus barbarus* (Gobiidae) in the mangrove swamps of IMO Estuary, Nigeria. *Journal of Environmental Sciences* 14, 95-101

- Udo et al. (2016) Aspects of the reproductive biology in mudskippers *Periophthalmus barbarus* (Gobiidae)(Linnaeus 1766) in mangrove swamps of Iko Estuary, southeast, Nigeria. *Continental Journal of Biological Sciences* 9, 1-14
- Chukwu and Deekae (2013) Foods of the mudskipper (*Periophthalmus barbarus*) from New Calabar River, Nigeria. *Journal of Agriculture and Veterinary Science* 5, 45-48

Scientific names should be described correctly. Don't use upper-case letters for species names (e.g., *Periophthalmus barbarus* in the title). Scientific names should be written in italics (e.g., *P. barbarus* in P. 1, *Periophthalmus barbarus* in P. 2, *Rhizophora racemosa* in P. 5). Check the whole paper.

It would also be useful to compare the regions, habitats, and ecological aspects of the 12 species of the genus *Periophthalmus* and show the position of the targeted species.

Change "Emuebie, 2011" to "Emuebie et al. 2011".

Insert the space among pH, =, and 9.0. Spaces are needed between numbers and units. Check the whole paper.

Use the unit. Change "Degree Celsius" to "°C". Change "meter" to "m". Check the whole paper.

P.4

Add the reference for describing the optimal foraging theory.

Don't use capital letters where they are not needed (e.g., mangrove forest). Check the whole paper.

P.6

Either total length or standard length is acceptable.

Add the references for the stomach analysis, frequency of occurrence, and numerical abundance.

P.7

Revise "Dinh et al. 2918a,b".

P.10-11 Discussion

In the discussion, there are many statements that duplicate the results and do not provide an essential discussion. Of the

statements in each paragraph, only the last two sentences are useful as a discussion. A comparison of the diet of this species with that of other localities and with other species of the same genus should be made. Conclusions and recommendations are not related. A constructive recommendation based on the present findings should be presented.

References

There are many errors in the references. The names of authors and journals are not consistent. Scientific names in the titles of the papers are not italicized. There are unnecessary underlines. These errors greatly damage the credibility of the paper.

Figure 1

Add latitude and longitude to the figure.

Table 1

Change "No. of species in which..." to "No. of specimens in which...".

Don't use capital letters where they are not needed.

Table 2

Revise "8.5-9.9 cm".