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.

The research has interesting ecological data, but the manuscript must be redone. Here are some key suggestions:

Title: Improve by making it clear

Abstract: Must be redone

Keywords: Words that are already in the title, e.g., 'Atlantic mudskipper,' and those that are not related to the work 'phylogeny, DNA barcoding, population structure, and intraspecific diversity' must be excluded.

Introduction: The paragraphs are very long and descriptive. It could include a brief taxonomic classification and summarize the ecology of the species. Address the impacts that the 'Obgo-Okolo Mangrove Forest' is suffering and the possible impacts on the studied species (see Recommendations 2, 3, and 4).

At the end of the 2nd paragraph, there are two contradictions: The exchange of ammonia occurs in the fish gills by diffusion; if the medium has a higher concentration than that of the blood, there is no loss of ammonia to water. pH=9.0 is alkaline and not 'highly acidic' (semicolon added for clarity).

Aim: The objectives must be redone; they seem mixed with the methodology.

Materials and Methods

Sample collection: The traps were baited with crab pieces. Didn't this procedure influence the analysis of the fish's stomach contents?

Remove repeated sections in the methodology that are highlighted in yellow. It could include an analysis of niche breadth and make an explanatory diagram of the feeding strategy, contribution of niche width and prey proposed by Costello (1990) and modified by Amundsen et al. (1996). All food items could be grouped into large groups and subdivided; Mollusca, Crustacea, Pisces, Plantae/Algae (Tables 1 and 2). The length class distribution must consider the size at first sexual maturation, so there are young individuals *versus* adults. Is there a difference in food items? Statistical analysis of the results must be carried out.

Results

The text repeated what was described in Tables 1 and 2. Remove them.

Discussion

The Discussion must be redone. The results have been repeated.

Conclusion

It must be redone. The omnivorous animal feeds on items of animal and plant origin. It may be an omnivore with a tendency towards herbivory.

References suggested

AMUNDSEN, P.A.; GABLER, H.M.; STALDVIK, F.J. (1996). A new approach to graphical analysis of feeding strategy from stomach contents data - modification of the Costello (1990). *Journal of Fish Biology, 48*: 607-614.