

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.

Recommendation:

Major corrections. The manuscript should be revised, and a fresh submission should be made for consideration.

Nathaniel *et al.* conducted an interesting study on the Dietary Patterns of the Atlantic Mudskipper, *Periophthalmus barbarus*, in the Ogbo-Okolo Mangrove Forest, Santa Barbara River, Bayelsa State, Niger Delta, Nigeria. Although the study was well-designed, the experimental design and execution were confusing and difficult to follow for a general audience as there was no clear problem statement or research question that was being addressed, and the percentages provided for the various categories of diet exceeded 100%

Specifics:

1. In the abstract, why was the study of Atlantic mudskipper *Periophthalmus barbarus* diet important? This should come out strongly as a justification or problem statement for this study.
2. Summarize the data in the abstract, provide only what is relevant, and ensure that each category presented adds up to 100%. Additional results should be deleted and placed in the results section.
3. Delete the last sentence in the abstract. The study site should be taken to the materials and methods.
4. The first paragraph of the introduction lacks references.
5. First sentence of the introduction: All scientific names should be italicized.
6. Rewrite the first paragraph of the introduction as there are too many repetitions.
7. A strong justification for this study is missing.
8. In the study area, delete "by Aiteo company."
9. Figure one: The map should be redone to improve clarity and to capture the maps of Africa, Nigeria, and then the study site.
10. In the sample collection, why was it done during the rainy season? Include a figure, photo, or illustration showing the traps. How were the samples collected and killed? "cm" and "g" should be written as such and not in full.