

Review of: "The Growth Performance of Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis Niloticus*) Fed Low-Cost Fish Feeds Formulated From Fish By-Products, Fishery By-Catch and Pig Blood-Meal"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper in question is a relevant research topic. The subject is of high interest and may be considered suitable for "Qeios". The manuscript investigated the effects of alternative protein sources such as fish by-products from fisheries and pig blood meal used in substitution of 50% of soybean meal.

I recommend explaining all the chapters of the paper better. In the Abstract, the average weight of fingerlings (00.6 ± 0.02 g) is different from that reported in Materials and Methods (00.6 ± 0.02 g) and from that reported in Table 6 (0.97-1.08). I note that the experimental design has to consider many results as part of Materials and Methods. This is the case with the analysis of feed ingredients, the proximate analysis of the feeds, and water quality parameters.

As for Table 4, high variation in water temperature (16-32 °C) occurred throughout the trial. However, in the paragraph on "Study Area" and in the 2nd line of the M&M, the authors declare that the aquariums were placed in a greenhouse in order to maintain constant temperatures. Please clarify this parameter. Indeed, did you compare the final mean weight of such young fingerlings with coetaneous conspecific tilapia? Most of the papers cited consider fish larger than those used in this study.

In Figure 1, the legend reports "growth (weight gain)," but it is not the same weight gain reported in Table 6. Please clarify this part.

In Figure 1, I suggest commenting on the trend of the weight gain during the 11 weeks. In particular, BM50% showed a strong reduction in weight, then recovered the week after. What happened?

In Table 5, the letters of statistics of the Protein Efficiency Ratio don't report "c" but only a, b, and bc.

In Table 6, the different letters are also not complete.

I recommend adding the amino acid profile of the feeds, as announced in the conclusion, because it is the amino acid profile that affects the growth of fish, and the authors did not determine the survival rate although it was declared at the end of M&M.

I suggest the authors provide an improved overall presentation.

