



Dietary Non-protein Energy Sources Regulate Growth and Digestion of Barramundi Juvenile (*Lates calcarifer*)

Zhengyi Fu^{1,2,3,4}, Rui Yang^{2,3,4}, Zhenhua Ma^{2,3,4*}, Mingyang Han^{2,3,4} and Yifu Wang^{2,3,4}

¹Ocean College, Hainan University, Haikou, 570228, P.R. China

²Tropical Aquaculture Research and Development Center, South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, Sanya 572018, P.R. China

³Key Laboratory of South China Sea Fishery Resources Exploitation and Utilization, Ministry of Agriculture, Guangzhou, 510300, P.R. China

⁴Sanya Tropical Fisheries Research Institute, Sanya 572018, P.R. China

ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the effects of different dietary non-protein energy sources on growth performance, somatic parameters, histology and digestive enzymatic activity of barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*). Fish were fed iso energetic diets (18 kJ/g) with two types of non-protein energy sources in the experimental groups and a regular diet was used as the control. The feeding trial lasted for 56 days. Results from the present study indicate that, except for weight gain and feed intake, most growth parameters of fish were not significantly affected by the experimental diets ($P > 0.05$). Lipid group had higher whole body and muscle lipid, hepatosomatic index (HSI) and intraperitoneal fat ratio (IPF). The number of goblet cells and the height of the mucosa in the HL were significantly higher than those in the other two groups. The lipase activity of HL and HC was higher than that of control group in both stomach and foregut. This study indicates that increasing the proportion of lipid in the dietary improves growth performance and digestion performance of barramundi, while higher proportions of carbohydrate in the diet don't affect their growth performance. Considering the cost of production, carbohydrate could be a potential energy supplementing source.

Article Information

Received 25 April 2020

Revised 30 May 2020

Accepted 20 June 2020

Available online 02 December 2020

Authors' Contribution

ZM designed this study. ZF, RY, MH and YW conducted the tests. ZF and ZM drafted the manuscript.

Key words

Feed, Growth performance, Somatic parameters, Histology, Digestive enzymatic activity

INTRODUCTION

Dietary lipid and carbohydrate as energy sources in fish aquaculture are considered as partial substitution of dietary protein and increased feed efficiency (Boujard, 2004; Hillestad *et al.*, 1998). In intensive aquaculture, the major cost of production is the cost of feed (Muzinic *et al.*, 2006). High-efficiency and economic dietary should be provided with energy from non-protein energy sources as much as possible, to reduce the consumption of protein, and also reduce the pollution of water environment caused by large amount of nitrogen excretion caused by high-protein dietary (Panserat *et al.*, 2000). As a non-protein energy source, lipid not only provides energy for fish, but also acts as carrier of fat-soluble vitamins and synthetic material for certain vitamins and hormones. It is generally accepted that fish are less carbohydrate efficient, and carnivorous fish are less efficient than herbivorous and omnivorous fish (NRC, 2011). However, some studies have revealed that incorporation of appropriate levels of carbohydrates

in diet can improve growth performance in several fish species (Hemre *et al.*, 2002; Ren *et al.*, 2011). Adequate carbohydrate can save the consumption of protein and lipid to provide energy, thus effectively preventing the degradation of protein and lipids (Enes *et al.*, 2006; Stone, 2003). It has been found that *Oncorhynchus mykiss* accelerates the degradation of muscle protein when it lacks carbohydrate (Peragón *et al.*, 1999).

As a kind of feed material with high energy density, lipid has practical significance for improving growth performance (Glencross, 2006). Study has shown that dietary crude lipid had significant dose response effect on growth of Gulf corvina (*Cynoscion. othonopterus*) (González-Félix *et al.*, 2015). Even in several kinds of fish, high dietary lipid level is acceptable. It has no negative effect on feed utilization, fish growth, and fish intestine and liver health when triploid rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) was fed high-lipid diet (up to 29.4%) (Meng *et al.*, 2019). Furthermore, changing the amount of dietary carbohydrate did not significantly reduce the growth indicators such as protein efficiency ratio, and even the utilization of carbohydrate by fish could be equal to or even exceed that of lipid under certain conditions. For example, in Japanese seabass (*Lateolabrax japonicus*),

* Corresponding author: zhenhua.ma@hotmail.com

0030-9923/2021/0001-0001 \$ 9.00/0

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the provision of adequate dietary cornstarch (>18%) could improve the growth performance (Zheng *et al.*, 2015). It has been found that although no differences among diets are observed on growth and feed utilization in European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*); however, the protein efficiency ratio is higher in the high carbohydrate group (Castro, 2015).

Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) is an important aquaculture species in south-east Asia and Australia (FAO, 2019; Ngoh *et al.*, 2015). It has become a widely cultivated aquaculture species because of its high tolerance for high-density culture environment and its easy propagation and easy adaptability to artificial pellets at young stage (Liu *et al.*, 2018; Ma *et al.*, 2018, 2019). Moreover, the fish grows rapidly as it merely takes 6 months to 2 years to reach the commercial size (Ma *et al.*, 2019). Improving growth performance is critical for aquaculture species including barramundi. The key to improve the growth performance is the suitable feed formula. In the present study, fish oil and α -starch were used as non-protein energy sources to evaluate the growth performance and digestion response of fish to dietary lipids and carbohydrate. The results provide insights for further understanding the usage of lipids and carbohydrates in fish feed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experiment design and system

Barramundi juveniles (wet weight 33.69 ± 3.63 g, total length 12.08 ± 2.13 cm) were produced by Tropical Aquaculture Research and Development Center, Sanya, China, and reared in the indoor recirculating aquaculture system. A total of 117 fish were randomly assigned to 9-tanks (800 L) for a 12-days acclimation, and fed with experimental diets. In each experiment tank, 13 fish were assigned, and the diet treatments were randomly assigned to the experimental tanks in triplicate. Upon completion of acclimation, feeding trial was conducted and the experiment lasted 8 weeks. Fish were fed *ad libitum* twice a day at 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. The experiment was conducted in outdoor seawater tanks. The water was changed 1h after feeding, with 50% water exchange in tank volume each time. Natural filtered seawater was used in this study. During the experimental period, the water quality parameters were measured daily and were maintained at ammonia nitrogen < 0.1 mg L⁻¹, nitrite nitrogen < 0.02 mg L⁻¹, pH7.8, and dissolved oxygen > 7.0 mg L⁻¹. At the end of experiment, all fish were anaesthetized in 7 mg L⁻¹ eugenol (Shangchi Dental Material Co., Ltd., Changshu, China) before handling and sampling to comply with the animal ethic protocol approved by the Animal Welfare Committee (E437-16). All fish in each tank were weighed

to assess growth performance and three fish were sampled from each tank for somatic parameters, histological and biochemical analyses.

Three iso-energy diets (Table 1) were prepared in Tropical Aquaculture Research and Development Center. According to the general nutritional requirements of barramundi, the control group (C) used the diet formula according to crude protein 475g kg⁻¹, crude fat 100g kg⁻¹, and nitrogen-free extract 180g kg⁻¹. In the experimental group, fish oil and α -starch were used as the source of lipid and carbohydrate, respectively. The crude fat in the lipid group (HL) increased to 160g kg⁻¹, and the nitrogen-free extract in carbohydrates group (HC) increased to 220g kg⁻¹. All ingredients were crushed and sieved (0.2mm mesh size), mixed with a food mixer (Guangdong Lifeng Co., Ltd., China) and then blended with the oils. Pellets (4mm diameter) were then produced with a pelletizer (Shandong Hengfeng Co., Ltd., China) and air-dried at room temperature (25 °C). All diets were sealed in plastic bags and stored at -20 °C until used.

Proximate composition analysis

Moisture was determined by oven drying to a constant weight at 103 °C in an air-blower-driven drying closet (Nocchi Instrument Co., Ltd., China). Total nitrogen (% dry weight) was determined using a rapid N exceed (Elementar Co., Ltd., Germany). Crude protein content was calculated as % nitrogen $\times 6.25$. Ash (% dry weight) was quantified after heating 2 g samples at 650 °C for 3 h in a muffle furnace (Labotery Instrument Co., Ltd., China). Crude lipid (% dry weight) was determined by ether extraction using a Soxtec System (Zhejiang Tuopu Instrument Co., Ltd., China).

Histological analysis

The foregut of three fish was collected and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 24h, dehydrated in graded ethanol concentrations. The dehydrated tissues were embedded in paraffin blocks and sliced in a series of transverse sections (4 μ m thick) using a Leica RM 2016 rotary microtome (Shanghai Leica Instrument Co., Ltd., China). Hematoxylin–eosin (HE) stain was used for general histological analysis. Each slide, with tissue sections, was mounted permanently using neutral balsam. The sections were scanned using a Panoramic 250/MIDI scanner (3D HISTECH Co., Ltd., Hungary), and Caseviewer 2.0 (3D HISTECH Co., Ltd., Hungary) was used for viewing, image collection, and data measurement. For each gut sample, three cross-sections were quantified for goblet cell number. Mucosal height and muscularis thickness were quantified by taking 10 measurements per foregut section.

Table I. Feed composition (g kg⁻¹), proximate composition of the diets (air-dry basis g kg⁻¹) and gross energy content (MJ kg⁻¹) in three experimental diets.

Ingredients	C	HL	HC
Fish meal	560	560	560
Peeled soybean meal	238	178	188
α -starch	100	100	150
Fish oil	60	120	60
Choline chloride	2	2	2
Vitamin premix*	10	10	10
Mineral premix*	10	10	10
Calcium dihydrogen phosphate	10	10	10
Ethoxy quin	10	10	10
Total	1000	1000	1000
Proximate composition			
Dry matter	929.91	914.06	931.97
Crude protein	474.92	445.74	451.42
Lipid	99.89	153.14	94.03
Ash	173.61	167.04	167.12
Nitrogen-free extract	179.99	145.04	218.10
Gross energy (kJ/g)*	18.26	19.08	18.13

C, control; HL, lipid diet; HC, carbohydrate diet.

*Vitamin premix (mg kg⁻¹ diet or specified): vitamin A 900 0000 (IU kg⁻¹ diet), vitamin D 250 0000 (IU kg⁻¹ diet), vitamin K₃ 600 (IU kg⁻¹ diet), vitamin E 500 (IU kg⁻¹ diet), vitamin B₁ 3200, vitamin B₂ 1 0900, vitamin B₃ 2 0000, vitamin B₆ 5000, vitamin B₁₂ 1160, vitamin C 5 0000, niacin 400, folic acid 50, calcium pantothenate 200, phaseomannite 1500, biotin 2; *Mineral premix (mg kg⁻¹ diet or specified): MgSO₄·7H₂O 300; KCl 70; KI 1.5; ZnSO₄·7H₂O 14; MnSO₄·4H₂O 3; CuCl₂ 5; CoCl₂·6H₂O 0.5; FeSO₄·7H₂O 15; KH₂PO₄·H₂O 4.5 (g kg⁻¹ diet); CaCl₂ 2.8 (g kg⁻¹ diet); *The dietary energy was calculated as protein: 23.64 MJ·kg⁻¹; lipid: 39.54 MJ·kg⁻¹; carbohydrate: 17.15 MJ·kg⁻¹.

Enzymatic assays

The stomach and foregut of three fish from each tank were pooled and immediately preserved in liquid nitrogen. For each assay, pooled samples from each tank were partially thawed, weighed and homogenized using a tissue homogenizer on ice in five volumes of 0.2M NaCl (w/v). The suspensions were centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C. The activities of lipase, amylase and pepsin in stomach, foregut and the protein concentration of the enzyme extracts were determined by commercial kit (Nanjing Jiancheng Bioengineering Institute, Nanjing, China). All enzyme assays were performed in triplicates.

Calculations and statistical analysis

Specific growth rate (SGR) = $100 \times (\ln(W_f) - \ln(W_i)) / \Delta T$
 W_f was the final body weight; W_i was the initial body weight; and ΔT was the experimental duration.

Feed conversion ratio (FCR) = dry feed fed/body wet

weight gain

Feed intake (FI) = (feed consumed per tank/fish)/day

Protein efficiency ratio (PER) = total weight gain/protein intake

Condition factor (CF) = $100 \times [(\text{body weight})/(\text{body length})^3]$

Viscera ratio (VR) = $100 \times [\text{viscera weight}/\text{whole body weight}]$

Hepatosomatic index (HSI) = $100 \times [\text{liver weight}/\text{whole body weight}]$

Intraperitoneal fat ratio (IPF) = $100 \times [\text{intraperitoneal fat weight}/\text{whole body weight}]$

The data are expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation (SD). Statistical analyses were carried out by PASW Statistics (Version 18.0). Comparisons between different groups were conducted by one-way ANOVA and LSD test, and significant difference was set at $P < 0.05$. All percentage data were transformed using square root to satisfy the assumptions of ANOVA.

RESULTS

Growth performance

The growth performance of fish is presented in Table II. Final weight, SGR, survival rate, FCR and PER did not show significant differences among the three groups. Only WG and FI showed significant differences between treatments ($P < 0.05$). The difference between the HL and control groups was significant ($P < 0.05$), but there was no significant difference between the HC and the C group ($P > 0.05$).

Table II. Effects of three experimental diets on growth performance of *Lates calcarifer*.

Productivity index	Experimental diet		
	C	HL	HC
Initial weight (g fish ⁻¹)	32.85 \pm 0.67	32.76 \pm 2.15	35.31 \pm 6.19
Final weight (g fish ⁻¹)	44.36 \pm 2.30	48.17 \pm 3.15	49.46 \pm 5.58
WG (g fish ⁻¹)	11.51 \pm 2.41 ^b	15.41 \pm 1.98 ^a	14.15 \pm 0.71 ^{ab}
SGR (% d ⁻¹)	0.53 \pm 0.10	0.69 \pm 0.07	0.61 \pm 0.11
Survival (%)	100 \pm 0	97.44 \pm 4.44	92.31 \pm 7.69
FI (g fish ⁻¹ d ⁻¹)	0.63 \pm 0.07 ^b	0.83 \pm 0.13 ^a	0.64 \pm 0.08 ^{ab}
FCR	3.12 \pm 0.46	3.09 \pm 0.76	2.54 \pm 0.21
PER (%)	0.68 \pm 0.10	0.76 \pm 0.20	0.88 \pm 0.07

Data are given as the mean \pm SD. In the same row values with same small letter superscripts or no letter superscripts mean no significant differences ($P > 0.05$); different small letter superscripts mean significant differences ($P < 0.05$). WG, Weight gain; SGR, specific growth rate; FI, feed intake; FCR, feed conversion rate; PER, protein efficiency ratio. For other abbreviations, see Table I.

Proximate composition and somatic parameters

There was no significant difference in moisture content among the three groups ($P > 0.05$, Table III). The crude protein in the whole body and muscle of the HL group was significantly lower than that of the other two groups ($P < 0.05$), and the crude fat was significantly higher than that of the other two groups ($P < 0.05$). The ash content in the HL group was significantly lower than that in the other two groups ($P < 0.05$). In muscles, the ash content was significant different in HC compared with C ($P < 0.05$). There were no significant differences in CF and VR between the groups ($P > 0.05$, Table III). The HSI and IPF had significant differences ($P > 0.05$) between the groups, and HL showed the highest values for HSI and IPF.

Table III. Effects of three experimental diets on body composition and somatic parameters in *Lates calcarifer*.

Items	Experimental diet		
	C	HL	HC
Whole body composition			
Moisture content %	70.41±0.75	67.94±1.03	68.81±2.06
Crude protein (N% x 6.25)	63.19±0.30 ^a	54.27±1.25 ^c	61.30±0.19 ^b
Ash content % DW	18.17±0.24 ^a	16.92±0.21 ^b	18.31±0.13 ^a
Crude lipid % DW	18.13±0.44 ^c	26.89±0.39 ^a	20.11±0.53 ^b
Muscle composition			
Moisture content %	78.54±1.02	78.08±2.98	77.80±0.39
Crude protein(N% x 6.25)	90.07±1.03 ^a	88.04±0.75 ^b	90.34±0.73 ^a
Ash content % DW	5.84±0.08 ^a	5.77±0.08 ^{ab}	5.66±0.06 ^b
Crude lipid % DW	2.19±0.11 ^b	3.81±0.19 ^a	2.03±0.10 ^b
Somatic parameters			
CF	3.42±0.05	3.62±0.04	3.39±0.47
VR	8.28±0.47	9.46±0.66	8.04±2.22
HSI	1.47±0.27 ^{ab}	1.96±0.27 ^a	1.36±0.25 ^b
IPF	1.91±0.24 ^b	3.84±0.59 ^a	1.48±0.32 ^b

Data are given as the mean ± SD. In the same row, values with same small letter superscripts or no letter superscripts mean no significant differences ($P > 0.05$); different small letter superscripts mean significant differences ($P < 0.05$). CF, Condition factor; VR, Viscera ratio; HSI, Hepatosomatic index; IPF, Intraperitoneal fat ratio. For other abbreviations, see Table I.

Histology

In this study, the morphological structure of the foregut of groups was different (Fig. 1), which was mainly reflected in the number of goblet cells and the mucosal height. The number of goblet cells and the height of the mucosa in the HL were significantly higher than those in the other two groups. In C and HC group, the number of HC goblet cells and the height of mucosal were significantly

higher than that of C ($P < 0.05$, Fig. 1d, e). There was no significant difference in muscularis thickness between the three groups ($P > 0.05$).

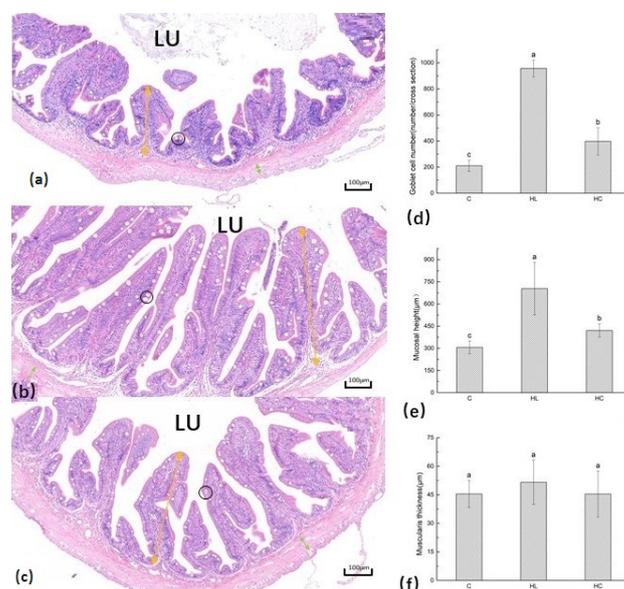


Fig. 1. The gastrointestinal tract of barramundi is influenced by different diets. Representative foregut histological sections (20×magnification) are shown on the left (Panels a–C; b–HL; c–HC). Circle indicate the location of goblet cell; Yellow double-arrow line segments indicate the height of the mucosa; green double-arrow line segments indicate muscularis thickness; LU: lumen. Average activity of goblet cell number (Panel d), mucosal height (Panel e) and were muscular thickness (Panel f) measured from sections of the foregut barramundi fed experimental diet (C, HL, HC). Different superscript letters indicate significant differences among treatments ($P < 0.05$). Error bars represent standard error.

Digestive enzymatic activity

In stomach, the lipase activity of HL was significantly higher than that of the other two groups ($P < 0.05$), and there was no significant difference in amylase and pepsin activity between groups ($P < 0.05$). In foregut, the lipase activity in HL was significantly higher than that in other two groups ($P < 0.05$), and there was no significant difference in amylase activity (Fig. 2, $P > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

Fish oil and α -starch are commonly used as non-protein energy sources in aquatic animal feed. Marine oils such as cod oil, sardine oil and other fish oil are more easily digested than terrestrial oils such as soy oil and palm oil. With fish oil as the lipid source in the dietary

can provide essential fatty acids (NRC, 2011). α -starch is a gelatinized starch obtained after liquefaction by thermally stable α -amylase and high temperature extrusion (Vasanthan *et al.*, 2001). Studies indicate that increasing carbohydrate utilization in carnivorous fish can be achieved by gelatinizing starches (Kroghdahl *et al.*, 2005). To sum up, in the present study, fish oil and α -starch were used as non-protein energy sources, because they could be more utilized by fish and the negative effects on growth caused by the low utilization of added energy sources were excluded.

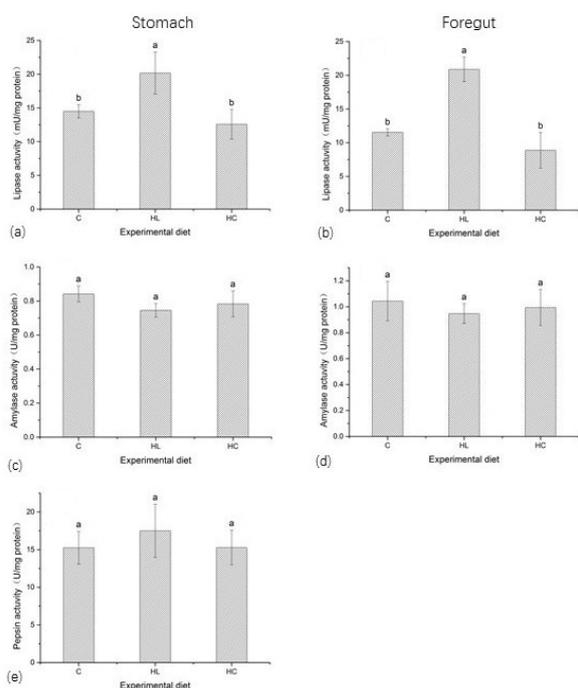


Fig. 2. Activity of lipase, amylase and pepsin in barramundi fed experimental diet. Different superscript letters indicate significant differences among treatments ($P < 0.05$). Error bars represent standard error.

In the present study, there was no significant differences in most growth parameters among the three groups. The results indicated that the types of energy substances could not significantly affect the growth performance of the barramundi, and the proportion of non-protein energy substances in the diet could be increased appropriately. Similar results have been reported for barramundi by Catacutan and Coloso (1997). Only two different growth parameters, WG and FI, showed increase level in HL. In fish, voluntary FI is influenced by dietary, environmental and physiological factors (Magnoni *et al.*, 2018). Many previous studies have shown that the fish adjust their feed intake according to their own energy

requirements, so energy is one of the most important factors affecting their feed intake (Nankervis *et al.*, 2000). However, in the present study, the feed energy of the three groups was similar. Therefore, the above phenomenon may be caused by other reasons, such as the attractiveness of fish oil (Wang *et al.*, 2005). In terms of physical factors of feed, compared with the other two groups, the amount of α -starch added in HL group was relatively little, and the feed particle adhesion was low. The feed structure was looser and easier to swallow, which may have better palatability for the barramundi. It is generally believed that carnivorous fish have better palatability with moderate hardness feed (Sørensen, 2012).

In most fish, the positive correlation of whole-body lipid with dietary fish oil levels is due to lipid deposition in tissues and viscera (Gómez-Requeni *et al.*, 2013; Guo *et al.*, 2019). In the present study, a significant increase in crude lipid in HL's whole body and muscle directly led to a decrease in the proportion of crude protein and crude ash. The present results are consistent with those of Schrama *et al.* (2011) who also observed higher level of lipid in the whole body of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) fed diets high in lipid. Moreover, HSI and IPF followed the same trend with the whole body and muscle crude lipid indicating that the lipid intake of the barramundi was deposited not only in the muscle, but also in the liver and intraperitoneal adipose tissue. Studies have shown that in most perciformes, the intraperitoneal adipose tissue was relatively developed and lipid was prone to accumulate in it (Ren *et al.*, 2018), IPF may change significantly. This phenomenon also has been found in other fish (Jiang *et al.*, 2015; Torfi Mozanadeh *et al.*, 2017; Zhao *et al.*, 2016). But excessive deposition of fat in the intraperitoneal adipose tissue is not favorable for storage and product quality. In commercial aquaculture practice, people are more interested in the fillet lipid composition than whole body lipid (Helland and Grisdale-Helland, 1998; NRC, 2011). Carbohydrates could be converted into lipid in the body, but the efficiency of lipid deposition is not as obvious as lipid (Glencross *et al.*, 2017). The added carbohydrate reduces the decomposition of proteins to provide energy, and improves its utilization rate (Zhou *et al.*, 2016). In the present study, there was no difference in the muscle crude protein, indicating that under the dietary level of present experiment, HC reduced the addition of protein and increased the addition of carbohydrate, which had little effect on the retention of body protein, but increased the PER.

The foregut is the main part of the digestive system of barramundi that absorbs nutrients, and its structure is very sensitive to the change in diet. The number of goblet cells, the height of mucosa and the muscular is important

intestinal structural parameters reflecting the degree of intestinal health (Ma *et al.*, 2018; Sun *et al.*, 2018). Goblet cells have the function of secreting mucus, they are the main source of mucin secretion. Mucin secretion could protect the inner surface of the intestine from pathogens and lubricates the gut content to ease its passing. Damage to intestinal health, such as intestinal infections, would have the reduced levels of goblet cell response and mucin production, enough goblet cells might have a positive effect on host defense system of the gut (Kim and Khan, 2013). The control group had significantly fewer goblet cells than the other two testing groups, which may indicate that non-protein energy sources play a positive role in intestinal health with higher mucosal height as well as augmented surface area of the gut mucosa (Merrifield *et al.*, 2011). This is a positive effect on fish gastrointestinal morphology (Heidarieh *et al.*, 2012). In this experiment, the height of the mucosa was significantly increased in the HL group, indicating that adding lipid in a certain range would enhance its digestive capacity.

Growth is a complex phenomenon that partly relies on the digestive capabilities of an organism, and the activity of digestive enzymes is an important parameter reflecting the digestibility (Babaei *et al.*, 2017). In this study, different types of energy sources only had significant effect on lipase activity, suggesting that dietary lipid was correlated with lipid digestibility in the foregut (Mohanta *et al.*, 2008; Trenzado *et al.*, 2018). Carnivorous fish commonly consume fat-rich food, which can stimulate lipase activity in their digestive tract (Ma *et al.*, 2014; Wang *et al.*, 2018). There was no significant difference in amylase with different non-protein energy sources added. In this experiment, the range of nitrogen-free extracts was 143-218 g kg⁻¹ and did not reach very low level. High carbohydrate content limited capacity to utilize carbohydrate of some carnivorous fish (Hilton and Atkinson, 1982; Hu *et al.*, 2007; Ren *et al.*, 2011). Amylase activity may have reached a higher level within its ability range under the conditions of this experiment. In cobia (*Rachycentron canadum* L.), it was found that only when carbohydrate was added at 13-184 g kg⁻¹ amylase showed significant difference (Ren *et al.*, 2011). There was no significant difference in pepsin activity among the three experimental groups, indicating that addition of lipid, carbohydrate and reduced protein may not have significant effect on the activity of pepsin. Pepsin activity remained independent of protein quality and quantity, confirming the investigations on *Tilapia mossambica* (L.) (Nagase, 1964), *Brycon melanopterus* (Reimer, 1982), *Colossoma macropomum* (Kohla *et al.*, 1992) and *Pseudoplatystoma corruscans* (Lundstedt *et al.*, 2004). As gastric fluid production is only stimulated by the mechanical friction of the feed, the pepsin activity per

unit of gastric liquid remained nearly the same while the absolute activity increased (Kohla *et al.*, 1992).

CONCLUSION

The results of this experiment showed that when the barramundi was fed with the same amount of energy, the diet with a high proportion of lipid had a positive effect on its growth performance and digestion. Compared with the control group, the diet with high proportion of carbohydrate had no significant effect on growth performance and digestion. Therefore, from the point of view of increasing the growth rate and energy deposition, the proportion of lipid added to the diet of barramundi can be appropriately increased. From the point of view of saving the cost of feed, increasing the proportion of adding carbohydrate will not have a negative effect on growth, so it is feasible to save feed cost.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was financially supported by Guangxi Innovation Driven Development Special Fund Project (Guike AA18242031), Central Public-interest Scientific Institution Basal Research Fund, South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, CAFS (2017ZD01, 2018ZD01), and Key Research and Development Project of Hainan Province (ZDYF2017036, ZDYF2018096).

Statement of conflict of interest

The authors have declared no conflict of interest.

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