



**EVALUATION OF GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF JUVENILE AFRICAN  
CATFISH [*Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822)] FED WITH STRIPED  
CATFISH [*Pangasius hypophthalmus* (Sauvage, 1878)] VISCERA AND  
PUTATIVE PROBIOTIC ISOLATE**

**SITI NADIA BINTI ABU BAKAR**

**FPV 2019 6**



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By

**SITI NADIA BINTI ABU BAKAR**

Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Master of Science

**October 2018**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**October 2018**

**Chairman : Assoc. Prof. Hassan Bin Hj Mohd Daud, PhD**  
**Faculty : Veterinary Medicine**

Post-harvest processing of fresh striped catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) has resulted in large volume of waste by-products such as viscera. Since it is not consumed by humans, utilization of discarded fish parts especially viscera may protect environment from the risk of disposal-related health problems and environmental pollution. Current research focus on the efficacy of utilizing discarded striped catfish (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) viscera as feed ingredient to improve the growth and survival of juvenile African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*). The discarded viscera were dried at 105°C prior for nutrient content identification. The proximate analysis of *P. hypophthalmus* dried viscera shows that it contains  $16.37 \pm 0.81\%$  of crude protein,  $48.1 \pm 10.77\%$  crude lipid,  $67.53 \pm 1.86\%$  of moisture and  $0.2 \pm 0.06\%$  of ash respectively. The indigenous putative probiont in the viscera were isolated and analysed based on its physiological and biochemical properties, adhesiveness, antibacterial activity and identified molecularly. The selected probiont were identified molecularly as *Weisella confusa* strain and possessed an outstanding performance from the identification of properties in the laboratory. It was found out to grow excellence in temperature ranged from 25 °C to 35 °C, salinity 0% until 3.5%, multiplied at pH 4, 6, 8 and 10, able tolerate to 0.15% and 0.30% presence of bile salts as well as possessed a good adhesive ability. Furthermore, current isolates shows a high inhibition zone towards some aquatic pathogenic bacteria tested; *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Vibrio harveyi* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. The isolates also were found resistant to Vancomycin (30 µg) and Amoxilin (10 µg) while susceptible to Streptomycin (10 µg), Vancomycin (5 µg) and Ampicillin (10 µg) antibiotic disk. The suitability of dried fish viscera as feed ingredient in African catfish (initial size

$2.71 \pm 0.14$  gm) were tested through feeding diet according to three different inclusion levels (10%, 20% and 30%) and it was found out that feed contained 20% of dried viscera yielded highest growth rate thus chosen for next feeding trial experiment. The efficacy of probiotics isolate as well as dried viscera were tested to juveniles African catfish in 40 days of feeding trial according to four treatments; (T1) Commercial feed; (T2) Mix of commercial feed with dried viscera (T3) Mix of commercial feed with putative probiotic isolated (T4) Mix of commercial feed with dried viscera and isolated probiotic. Findings from feeding trial proven that T3 shows significantly high growth performance ( $P<0.05$ ) in term of body weight, body weight gain, average daily gain and specific growth rate in compare to T1 but exhibited no significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ) with T2 and T4. Feed intake and feed conversion ratio were not significantly difference ( $P>0.05$ ) among all treatment but numerical value presented show high feed intake in group of fish fed probiotic T3. Survival rate of all experimental fishes were not significant difference ( $P>0.05$ ) affected each other but relatively highest in T2 followed by T3, T4 and numerically lowest in T1. Further haematological assessment carried out proven that T3 shows better performance ( $P<0.05$ ) in term of haemoglobin concentration, mean corpuscular volume and white blood cell count in compare with other treatment. Histological assessment made on intestinal epithelium height of villi between four treatments also proven that T3 shows significantly longer length ( $P<0.05$ ) of villi in compare to T1, T2 and T4. Hence, African catfish diet composed of 20% *P. hypophthalmus* dried viscera or composed of putative probiotic suspension from *P. hypophthalmus* mid-gut intestine at dosage of  $10^9$  cfu/ml diet was recommended to promote *Clarias gariepinus* growth performance.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai  
memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENILAIAN KADAR PERTUMBUHAN KELI AFRIKA JUVANA [*Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822)] YANG DIBERI MAKAN VISERA IKAN PATIN [Pangasius hypophthalmus (Sauvage, 1878)] DAN PUTATIF PROBIOTIK ASINGAN**

Oleh

**SITI NADIA BINTI ABU BAKAR**

**Oktober 2018**

**Pengerusi : Prof. Madya Dr Hassan Bin Hj Mohd Daud, PhD**  
**Fakulti : Perubatan Veterinar**

Ikan patin (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) segar yang telah dipilih dan diproses telah menghasilkan jumlah sampingan ikan yang tidak digunakan di dalam skala besar seperti visera. Oleh kerana visera ikan ini tidak dimakan oleh manusia, penggunaan bahagian ikan yang dibuang terutamanya visera dapat melindungi alam sekitar daripada risiko masalah pencemaran. Penyelidikan ini memfokuskan tentang keberkesanannya penggunaan visera ikan patin yang tidak digunakan sebagai salah satu bahan yang dapat membantu bagi meningkatkan pertumbuhan dan kelangsungan hidup ikan keli(*Clarias gariepinus*). Visera ikan yang dibuang akan dbersihkan dan dikering pada suhu 105°C sebelum dianalisis kandungan nutrien. Analisis proksimat visera ikan patin *P. hypophthalmus* yang kering menunjukkan bahawa ia mengandungi  $16.37 \pm 0.81\%$  protein mentah,  $48.1 \pm 0.01\%$  lemak mentah,  $67.53 \pm 1.86\%$  kelembapan dan  $0.2 \pm 0.06\%$  abu. Spesies probiotik yang dianggap sebagai asli dalam perut ikan telah diasingkan dan dianalisis berdasarkan sifat fisiologi dan biokimia, pelekatan, aktiviti antibakteria dan dikenalpasti secara molekular. Hasil daripada proses pengenalpastian secara molekular menunjukkan bakteria tersebut berasal daripada spesis *Weisella confusa* dan mempunyai ciri-ciri yang berkesan dan berguna. Bakteria tersebut dapat hidup pada kadar optima dalam suhu antara 25°C hingga 35°C, peratus keasinan air 0% hingga 3.5%, boleh bercambah pada pH 4, 6, 8 dan 10, mampu bertahan terhadap kewujudan 0.15% dan 0.30% kehadiran garam hempedu serta mempunyai keupayaan melekat yang baik. Tambahan pula, bakteria tersebut juga menunjukkan zon kesekatlaluan yang

tinggi terhadap bakteria akuatik berbahaya yang telah diuji seperti *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Vibrio harveyi* dan *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Bakteria tersebut juga didapati tahan terhadap cakera antibiotik Vancomycin (30 µg) dan Amoxilin (10 µg) namun terdedah terhadap Streptomycin (10 µg), Vancomycin (5 µg) dan Ampicilin (10 µg). Kesesuaian visera kering sebagai bahan makanan dalam ikan keli Africa (saiz permulaan  $2.71 \pm 0.14$  gm) telah diuji melalui diet pemakanan mengikut tiga tahap kandungan sampingan yang berbeza (10%, 20% dan 30%) dan didapati makanan yang mengandungi kadar 20% visera kering telah menghasilkan kadar pertumbuhan tertinggi, lantas telah dipilih untuk percubaan makanan seterusnya. Keberkesanannya bakteria yang telah diasingkan beserta visera kering tadi telah diuji kepada ikan keli juvana dalam tempoh 40 hari dengan memberi makan percubaan mengikut empat rawatan; (T1) Makanan komersil; (T2) Campuran makanan komersil dengan visera kering; (T3) Campuran makanan komersil dengan bakteria yang diasingkan; (T4) Campuran makanan komersil dengan visera kering dan bakteria asingan. Hasil daripada percubaan makanan membuktikan bahawa T3 menunjukkan prestasi pertumbuhan yang ketara ( $P < 0.05$ ) berat badan, purata pemakanan harian dan kadar pertumbuhan tertentu berbanding dengan T1 tetapi tidak menunjukkan perbezaan yang signifikan ( $P > 0.05$ ) dengan T2 dan T4. Nisbah pengambilan makanan tidak banyak perbezaan ( $P > 0.05$ ) di antara semua rawatan tetapi nilai berangka yang ditunjukkan menunjukkan pengambilan makanan yang tinggi dalam kumpulan ikan probiotik T3. Kadar kemandirian semua ikan eksperimen tidak mempunyai sebarang perbezaan ( $P > 0.05$ ) terjejas satu sama lain tetapi jumlah yang tinggi dalam T2 diikuti oleh T3, T4 dan T1. Penilaian haematologi yang lebih lanjut dijalankan membuktikan bahawa T3 menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik ( $P < 0.05$ ) dari segi kepekatan hemoglobin, jumlah kuantiti korpuskular dan kiraan sel darah putih berbanding dengan rawatan lain. Tinjauan histologi yang dibuat pada ketinggian dinding usus vili di antara empat rawatan juga membuktikan bahawa T3 menunjukkan ketinggian yang lebih panjang ( $P < 0.05$ ) daripada vili T1, T2 dan T4. Oleh itu, diet ikan keli Afrika yang terdiri daripada 20% visera *P. hypophthalmus* kering atau terdiri daripada bakteria daripada usus tengah *P. hypophthalmus* pada dos diet  $10^9$  cfu/ml disyorkan untuk mempertingkatkan kadar pertumbuhan *Clarias gariepinus*.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **With the name of Allah the Most Compassionate and Most Merciful**

All praise and thanks to Almighty Allah, with His blessing giving me the strength and passion, could manage to finish the research until this manuscript completed be compiled. I would like to express my most sincere and deepest gratitude to my supervisors, Associate Professor Dr Hassan Hj. Mohd Daud and Associate Professor Dr Orapint Jintasataporn who is in Kasetsart University for his continuous supervision, constant support, useful advices and comments throughout my research. I also would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my supervisory committee members; Dr. Hasliza bt Abu Hassim, Dr Murni Marlina bt Abd Karim and Dr Srinoy Chunkam for their continuous support, guidances and advices.

Throughout my master's research journey, many have contributed and helped. Thus, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to my biggest advisors whom I considered as my sister, Nurhidayahanum binti Hamid, Supalug Katakdad and Siti Fairus binti Md Yusoff. Not forgotten to my other friends whose help me a lot throughout my research journey; Rachavut, Gun, Nora Faten Afifah, Sharifah Raina, Rashidah, Kumari Geetha, Zarith Sophea, Amer and many others whom I may forgot to list. Without the help of staffs from different faculties, I do not think I would be able to accomplish all objectives for my study, thus, I would like to acknowledge all staffs and students from Aquatic Animal Health Unit and Animal Nutrition of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as well as Aquatic Animal Health of Faculty of Agriculture for helping me.

Never in my life imagined would be able to conduct my research at two different universities at the same time. Thus, I would like to send my deepest gratitude to all staff of School of Graduate Study especially to Mr Saiful Mohd Maskan whom helps me throughout my admission in Kasetsart University. I have gained so many new yet beneficial knowledge throughout my research in Kasetsart University, thus, I would like to thank to all staff and students of Department of Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University for their continuous support, help and understanding.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Ministry of Education of Malaysia as well as Southeast Asian Region Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for providing me adequate funding and allowances for my research conducted at Universiti Putra Malaysia and Kasetsart University, Thailand.

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Hassan Hj Mohd Daud, PhD**

Associate Professor

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

(Chairman)

**Orapint Jintasataporn, PhD**

Senior Lecturer

Faculty of Fisheries  
Kasetsart University  
(Member)

**Hasliza Abu Hassim, PhD**

Senior Lecturer

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Murni Marlina Abd Karim, PhD**

Senior Lecturer

Faculty of Agriculture  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD**

Professor and Dean

School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

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Name and Matric No.: Siti Nadia binti Abu Bakar (GS44060)

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Signature:

Name of Chairman of  
Supervisory Committee:

**Assoc. Prof. Dr Hassan Hj Mohd Daud**

Signature:

Name of Member of  
Supervisory Committee:

*Orapint Jintasataporn.*  
**Assoc Prof Dr Orapint Jintasataporn**

Signature:

Name of Member of  
Supervisory Committee:

**Dr Hasliza Abu Hassim**

Signature:

Name of Member of  
Supervisory Committee:

**Dr Murni Marlina Abd Karim**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	i
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	v
<b>APPROVAL</b>	vi
<b>DECLARATION</b>	vii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xvi
 <b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
1.1 Objectives of the Study	2
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	3
2.1 World Food Consumption	3
2.2 Benefits of Fish Consumption	3
2.3 Aquaculture Status	4
2.4 Catfishes in General	5
2.5 Claridae Family	5
2.6 Biology of African catfish, <i>Clarias gariepinus</i>	6
2.7 Catfish Pathogens and Diseases	6
2.8 Probiotics	7
2.8.1 Selection of Probiotic	8
2.8.2 Mode of Action	8
2.8.3 Types of Probiotics	9
2.8.4 Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB)	9
2.8.5 Probiotic Studies in Aquaculture	10
2.8.6 Probiotic Supplementation in Fish Diet	11
2.8.7 Growth Performance Evaluation of Fish	12
<b>3 EVALUATION OF NUTRIENT AND MICROBIAL CONTENT IN STRIPED CATFISH (<i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>) VISCERA AND ITS SUITABILITY AS INGREDIENTS IN FISH FEED FORMULATION</b>	13
3.1 Introduction	13
3.2 Materials and Methods	14
3.2.1 Sample Preparation	14
3.2.2 Nutrient Composition of Striped Catfish, <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>	14
3.2.3 Microbial Count	16
3.2.4 Preliminary Feeding Trial on Efficiency of Dried Viscera Supplemented in juvenile African catfish diet	16
3.2.5 Statistical Analysis	19
3.3 Results	19
3.3.1 Proximate Composition of <i>Pangasius</i>	19

	<i>hypophthalmus</i> viscera	19
3.3.2	Microbial Count	19
3.3.3	Preliminary Feeding Trial on Different Inclusion Level of Dried Viscera in African Catfish Diet	20
3.4	Discussions	21
3.5	Conclusion	24
<b>4</b>	<b>ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE PUTATIVE PROBIOTIC ISOLATED FROM INTESTINE OF THE STRIPED CATFISH (<i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>)</b>	25
4.1	Introduction	25
4.2	Materials and Methods	26
4.2.1	Collection of Samples	26
4.2.2	Serial Dilution and Bacterial Screening	26
4.2.3	Biochemical Test	26
4.2.4	Selection of Isolates by Antagonistic Test	27
4.2.5	Haemolysis Test	27
4.2.6	Putative Probiotic Properties	27
4.2.7	Identification of Putative Probiotic	29
4.3	Results	31
4.3.1	Serial Dilutions and Bacterial Screening	31
4.3.2	Biochemical Test	32
4.3.3	Selection of Isolated Probiotic by Antagonistic Effect Test	33
4.3.4	Putative Probiotic Properties	34
4.3.5	Identification of Probiotic	40
4.4	Discussions	41
4.5	Conclusions	45
<b>5</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF STRIPED CATFISH (<i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>) DRIED VISCERA AND ITS PUTATIVE PROBIOTIC (<i>Weisella sp.</i>) ON JUVENILE AFRICAN CATFISH (<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>) GROWTH PERFORMANCE</b>	46
5.1	Introduction	46
5.2	Materials and Methods	47
5.2.1	Fish Diet Preparation	47
5.2.2	Proximate Analysis of Experimental Feeds	48
5.2.3	Experimental Design	48
5.2.4	Feeding Trial	48
5.2.5	Growth Performances Analysis	48
5.2.6	Haematological Examination	48
5.2.7	Histological Examination	49
5.2.8	Statistical Analysis	49
5.3	Results	49
5.3.1	Proximate Analysis of Experimental Feeds	49

5.3.2	Efficacy of Striped Catfish ( <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> ) Viscera and its Intestinal Putative Probiot on Juvenile African Catfish ( <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> ) Growth Performance	50
5.3.3	Haematology	52
5.3.4	Histological Assessment	53
5.4	Discussions	55
5.5	Conclusion	57
<b>6</b>	<b>GENERAL DISCUSSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>59</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		<b>77</b>
<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>		<b>85</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	Proximate composition of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> viscera	19
2.	Growth performance of juvenile African catfish ( <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> ) fed dried striped catfish ( <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> ) viscera at 40 days	21
3.	Morphological, physiological and biochemical properties of screened putative probiont from mid-gut of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> .	33
4.	Growth of isolated putative probiont at different temperature 25°C, 45°C, 55°C, 15°C and 55°C after 24 hour.	35
5.	Growth of isolated putative probiont at different salinity (1.5%, 2.5%, 3.5%, 4.5%, 5.5%) after 24 hour of incubation	36
6.	Determination of optimum growth of isolated putative probiont from striped catfish intestines at pH 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 at subsequent 3, 6, 12 and 24 hour of incubation	37
7.	Determination of optimum growth of putative probiont isolated from striped catfish intestines at different bile salt concentration at subsequent 0, 3, 6, 12 and 24 hour of incubation	38
8.	Determination of inhibition zone of putative probiont isolated from striped catfish intestines against pathogenous bacteria	39
9.	Antibiotic sensitivity of isolated putative probiont against several antibiotic disk treatment after 24 hour incubation on MH agar plate	40
10.	Proximate analysis content of the experimental feed used in the feeding trial of African catfish juvenile	50
11.	Growth performance of African catfish, <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> throughout the feeding trial at 45 days (n=10)	52
12.	Haematological parameters analysis of juvenile African catfish ( <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> ) after 45 days of feeding trial	53
13.	Measurement of intestinal epithelium height of African catfish after 45 days of feeding trial	55

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	Total Aquaculture Production of Malaysia in 2014 was lead by African catfish (38.9%) and Red Tilapia (25.76%)	4
2.	African catfish juvenile in the feeding trial which were stocked in 35L aquarium and optimum water quality were maintained throughout experiment time (n=12)	18
3.	Total plate count of Man de Rose agar isolated from fresh viscera of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> after 24 hour incubation	20
4.	Total plate count of Man de Rose agar isolated from dried viscera of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> after 48 hour of incubation	20
5.	MRS agar plate count of total colony forming units screen from mid intestine of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i>	31
6.	The twelve isolated putative probiont from mid gut of <i>Pangasius hypophthalmus</i> on agar plates	32
7.	Selection of putative probiont based on the antagonistic test against pathogenic bacteria, <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> . Only one bacteria (circle) shows the antagonistic test among 12 bacteria.	34
8.	Haemolysis test of isolated putative probiont on blood agar which shows no clear halos ( $\gamma$ -hemolytic)	35
9.	Bile salt tolerance of the isolated putative probiont growth after 12 hour of incubation time	37
10.	Antagonism activity of isolated putative probiont against four pathogenic bacteria tested, <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> (A), <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> (B), <i>Vibrio harveyi</i> (C) and <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> (D) by spot assay method	39
11.	Antibacterial activity of the isolated putative probiont was found susceptible towards streptomycin, ampicillin and chloroamphenicol and shows resistancy towards amoxilin and vancomycin as circled.	40
12.	Agarose gel electrophoresis analysis of the PCR product showing that bacteria which isolated (arrow) were found to successfully amplified at 1500 bp	41

13. Growth performance based on body weight of African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* throughout feeding trial (n=10) 51
14. Longitudinal sections based on villi length in posterior of intestinal epithelium of African catfish after 45 days of feeding trial (Villi height, VH; Muscularis mucosae, M). Mag. 100x; H&E. 54

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LAB	Lactic Acid Bacteria
GIT	Gastro Intestinal Tract
MRS	Man de Rose Agar
MH	Mueller Hinton
TSA	Tryptone Soy Agar
API	Analysing Profile Index
WG	Weight Gain
TL	Total Length
SGR	Specific Growth Rate
PER	Protein Efficiency Ratio
APNU	Apparent Net Protein Utilization
MIC	Minimum Inhibition Zone
GRAS	Generally Regarded As Safe
CFU	Colony-forming Unit
bp	Base pair
DoF	Department of Fisheries
µg	Microgram
µl	Microlitre
HCL	Hydrochloric Acid
rpm	Rotation per minutes
mg/ml	Milligram/millilitre
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
rRNA	Ribosomal Ribonucleic Acid
NCBI	The National Center for Biotechnology Information
MgCl <sub>2</sub>	Magnesium chloride
dNTP	Deoxynucleotide
TE	Tris-EDTA buffer
WBC	White Blood Cells
RBC	Red Blood Cells

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture is one of the most important sectors as it has major contribution in national economies. Aquaculture industry has been widely practiced in many parts of the world including in Asian regions. Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region has contributed at least 89% of the global production (FAO, 2012). The demand of aquaculture products are increasing several years as the community has realized the importance of good protein source in daily diet. The increasing demand of freshwater products also has improved the industrialization of aquaculture.

Freshwater aquaculture production in most Asian countries especially in Vietnam has been led by the production of Pangasius catfish in 2012 followed by nile tilapia (Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission, 2014). Striped catfish or *Pangasius hypophthalmus* (Sauvage, 1878) is one of the most popular fish produced by most farmers in Asian countries. *P. hypophthalmus* is the second widely cultured fish species in Malaysia in 2010 according to Department of Fisheries Malaysia. Due to its desirable qualities such as low fat content as well as contain easily digestible protein content, it was commonly sold as frozen fillets for human consumption (Thammapat *et al.*, 2010). Thus, many processing companies were established in order to satisfy overwhelming demand from consumer for *P. hypophthalmus* fillet products.

Inevitably, post-harvest processing of fresh *P. hypophthalmus* has resulted large volume of waste by-products such as viscera, skin, head and bone which is not consumed by humans. The improper manage of these by products especially viscera could increase the risk of disposal-related health problems and environmental pollution including organic waste and microbial contamination. Approximately 20% of total fish weight were come from viscera that could produce more than 3,000,000 metric tons of waste yearly in Bangladesh (Hossain & Alam, 2015). Instead of being discarded thoroughly, these valuable viscera could be utilized in animal feed to reduce aquatic productions cost. Interestingly, the utilization of these waste by-product were found able to increase the economic value of fish (Thorpe, 2005).

The discarded *P. hypophthalmus* viscera could be utilized as one source of feeding for freshwater fish since it is very rich in microorganisms and enzymes (Feltes *et al.*, 2010), protein, amino acids and lipid (Villamil *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, due to its wide availability and cheap source, it could be used to be supplemented in the fish diet. The internal organs of fish such as heart, liver and gut contained nutritional value in terms of protein and essential fatty acids compound which might be useful in production of fish meal and fish oil (Abdi *et al.*, 2011) that could be utilized as one of the aquaculture feed ingredients source.

Fish viscera could be utilized widely in feed processing industry as well as cosmetic industry as reported by some researcher. Bama *et al.* (2010) successfully extracted collagen from the carcass of catfish through its swim bladder and Shabanikakroodi (2014) has extracted oil from *P. hypophthalmus* for hand cream production. Besides, isolation of putative probiont from fish viscera particularly from gut of fish was also one of the most common and safe technique used for improving fish health. The presence of possible candidate of probiont in viscera may help to increase the digestibility of feed and nutrient bioavailability. Probiot was proven to be isolated from discarded part of fish viscera particularly fish gut in several fish species such as in *Catla catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mirigala* and *Cyprinus carpio* (Kandeepan & Muthukumar, 2015).

Probiots are one of the best and safe mitigation which could be used to treat any emerging disease occurred in fish farming which are very essential and beneficial for particular organism's health and nutrition. It commonly known as a live microbial adjunct which has a beneficial effect on the host by modulating the host associated or ambient microbial community, by enhancing use of the feed or improving its nutritional value, by elevating the host response towards disease, or by enhancing the quality of its ambient environment (Verschueren *et al.*, 2000).

Catfish has been widely distributed throughout the world and constituted a wide and unique group of marketably important freshwater fish especially in Southeast Asia. African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822) has been considered as one the most cultured freshwater fish and represented as widely produced food fish in the world particularly in Malaysian region (Fasakin *et al.*, 2003; Al-Dohail *et al.*, 2005). *C. gariepinus* was chosen as target species for the current study since it is widely available as well as high tolerance towards any condition. Diet which incorporated with dried fish viscera and putative probiont might be another factors which can enhance growth and survival of freshwater fish. Thus, current research focus on the efficacy of utilizing discarded *P. hypophthalmus* dried viscera as well as its intestinal putative probiont as feed ingredient to improve juvenile *C. gariepinus* growth and survival.

### 1.1 Objectives of the Study

In order to utilize the discarded viscera of *Pangasius hypophthalmus* efficiently in aquaculture industry, following objectives were outlined for current study:

1. To determine the proximate composition and putative probiont population of *P. hypophthalmus* viscera.
2. To identify and molecularly characterize the putative probiont present in intestines of *P. hypophthalmus*.
3. To determine the efficacy of *P. hypophthalmus* viscera and its intestinal probiont on juvenile *C. gariepinus* growth performance.

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