

**Diet composition and feeding strategy of crossbanded barb, *Puntioplites bulu* (Bleeker, 1851) in Perak River, Peninsular Malaysia**

**ABSTRACT**

**Aim:** The present study deals with the diet composition and feeding strategy of *P.bulu* from Perak River, Peninsular Malaysia in relation to its development stage and size. **Methodology:** Diet composition and feeding strategy of crossbanded barb, *P. bulu* captured from Perak, Peninsular Malaysia were studied between October 2015 and September 2016. Diet compositions were determined through a microscopic examination and feeding items were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible. The feeding strategy for both stages (adult and juvenile) were determined based on Amundsen graphical method. **Results:** Findings of this study revealed that this species is a planktivorous species that feeds primarily on Bacillariophyceae. Based on Simple Resultant Index, there are seven major diet items groups consumed by *P.bulu* in the population. Ontogenetic dietary shifts were perceived to be stage related, with adult stages consuming larger-sized prey while juveniles were predominantly herbivorous and fed primarily on smaller dietary items. **Interpretation:** *Puntioplites bulu* inhabiting Perak River is planktivorous. This species demonstrated mixed feeding strategy and ontogenetic dietary changes was observed between juvenile and adult stages.

**Keyword:** Feeding habits; Perak River; Planktivorous; *Puntioplites bulu*