

# **FEEDING HABITS OF HILLSTREAM LOACH (*Sewellia Lineolata*) DISTRIBUTED IN THUA THIEN - HUE PROVINCE**

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## **Summary**

This study was conducted to examine feeding habits of *S. lineolata*. More than 3000 individuals of this fish species collected in Nam Dong and Huong Tra district, Thua Thien - Hue province were analysed to examine natural diet composition, the relative gut length, fullness of stomach and gastro-somatic index. The results showed that the mean relative gut length was 1.95. Feeding intensity changed between times of day, with the majority of feeding apparently occurring at 7:00 to 10:00 and 15:00 to 20:00. Feeding intensity of fish also appeared to differ between months of the year. The feeding activities of fish were strongest in January, February and March, with 35.70%, 38.78%, 26.03% of completely full stomachs in total respectively and lowest in June, July, November and December with 9.18%, 8.37%, 3.88% and 10.10% of completely full stomachs in total respectively. The fullness of gut and gastro-somatic index increased during ontogenetic stages and obtained the highest value in the > 55 mm size class of fish. The phylum Bacillariophyta dominated in number, with 79.62% of total number of food items found in the digestive tracts of fish, followed by Chlorophyta (5.50%) and Cyanophyta (2.25%). Nematoda and Rotifer were present in small number (0.05% for each item).

**Keywords:** *Hillstream loach, feeding habit, stomach fullness, gastro-somatic index.*