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Bentonite clay supplemented diet on immunity in stinging catfish, *Heteropneustes fossilis* against *Aeromonas hydrophila*

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Abstract

The effect of Sodium Bentonite (SB) enriched diet on growth performance, innate immune response, and disease resistance in stinging catfish, *Heteropneustes fossilis* against *Aeromonas hydrophila* is reported. The infected fish fed with 5% SB had the maximum weight gain diet (PWG %) and specific growth rate (SGR %) were 26% and 29% when compared to 14% and 17% with 10% diet. Similarly the phagocytic activity increased significantly when infected fish were fed with 5% or 10% SB diets during the experimental period; the complement, respiratory burst and lysozyme activities were also significantly enhanced on weeks 2 and 4. The lower cumulative mortality (10% and 15%) was observed