



## PROXIMATE COMPOSITION AND CONSUMER ACCEPTABILITY OF AFRICAN MUDFISH *CLARIAS GARIEPINUS* SMOKED WITH TWO ENERGY SOURCES

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### ABSTRACT

**The aim of the study was to assess the organoleptic differences of *Clarias gariepinus* smoked with two different energy sources, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* and *Tamarindus indica* with the help of a hedonic scale and to determine possible proximate composition difference between the smoked products. Smoking of the fishes was carried out for 4 hours using traditional smoking kiln, the chemical analysis on the determination of moisture content, ash, crude protein, lipid and carbohydrate were carried out according to AOAC (1990) and hedonic scale was used to determine the organoleptic properties of the fish. The results of the sensory evaluation showed a strong organoleptic difference between the treatments in relation to the color, texture, taste and overall acceptability while more preference was observed for treatments smoked with *Tamarindus indica* which was characterized with more juiciness, more tenderness and a greater overall acceptability and for *Anogeissus leiocarpus* were poorer color and tenderness but better proximate quality. Fish smoked with *Anogeissus leiocarpus* recorded lower moisture, but higher dry matter, ash and crude protein content in comparison to fish smoked with *Tamarindus indica*. Organoleptic differences can be related to proximate analysis. It is therefore recommended that a knowledge of the energy source that can add value to smoked cultured fish be known so as to improve commercial value**  
**Key; *Clarias gariepinus*, smoking, *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Tamarindus indica*, proximate composition**

### INTRODUCTION

Fish constitutes a very important component of the diet for many people and often provides the much needed nutrient that is not provided in cereal based diets (Clucas and Sutchiffe, 1981). It was reported by Teutscher (1990); Saisithi (1994) that fish provides between 30% and 80% of the total animal protein intake of the coastal people of West Africa. Additionally, Olomu (1995); Kreuzer and Heen (1962); Waterman (1976) have also highlighted that fish is rich in protein with amino acid composition very well suited to human dietary requirements comparing favorably with egg, milk and meat in the nutritional value of its protein.

Fish is however susceptible to damage as soon as it harvested. Some factors responsible for this include the prevailing high temperatures in Nigeria and the facilities for processing, storing and distributing the fish caught are frequently inadequate or non-existent in most cases. There is therefore enormous waste through spoilage of both fresh and dried fish (UNIFEM 1988; FAO 1981; and Rawson 1996). Preservation of fish therefore generally slows down spoilage. Preservation methods are applied with an intention of making the fish safer and extend its shelf-life (Ghazala, 1994).

Acceptability of smoke-dried products however depends on the type of wood used (Tilgner, 1958; Maga, 1987; Regenstein, 1990). Fish is often smoked in some parts of northern Nigeria with *Tamarindus indica* and *Anogeissus leiocarpus* wood due to the abundance of the wood types in the region. Wood selection must be done with care as some wood like resinous types e.g. pine may impart unpleasant

flavor and taste to the final product; while others like *Euphobia* species may be poisonous (UNIFEM, 1988).

Fish smoking is one of the most widely used traditional fish-processing methods. Various species of fish are smoked depending on the availability. *Clarias gariepinus* specie is among the most commonly cultured and smoked fish in Nigeria.

Fuel wood is the main source of energy for fish smoking. Although many wood types may be used as fuel for fish smoking among the many factors influencing the choice of wood, what is used depends on local availability. The fuel wood preferences of most fish smoker are also related to the physical characteristics of the wood and how they affect the smoked product (Nerquaye-Tetteh, 1985; Lartey *et al.*, 1994). Different fuel woods may affect the quality of the smoked fish differently.

The organic constituents of the wood are reported to include cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin. When wood is burnt, the chemical compounds are broken down into many smaller compounds as a result of incomplete combustion (FAO, 1981; Storey, 1982; Wheaton and Lawson, 1985). The characteristics of traditionally smoked products are to some extent dependent on the source of the smoke. A study on smoking fish with Eucalyptus wood in Zambia showed that the smoked product was golden brown and had a desirable texture as well as an appealing smoky aroma. There was no bitter taste when eaten and the product could sell well. (Mwambazi *et al.*, 1995). Mensah (1998) also observed that some of the smoked fish from the Volta lake in Ghana which are black and unattractive are normally not due to charring but to the type of fuel wood used.

Wood smoke is composed of vapor and particles that are easily taken up by moisture on the surface during smoking and they contribute to the characteristic smoke smell and color (Foster, *et.al*, 1961; Gilbert and Knowles, 1975; Hamm, 1977; Daun, 1979).

In addition to smoke imparting color and flavor-enhancing ingredients to the smoked product, wood smoke also has anti-oxidative and bactericidal properties (Barylko-Pikielna, 1977). Fish smoking has been practiced over the years in Nigeria and the fuel woods used are well documented. However the effect of different types of woods smoke on smoked fish is poorly documented. The aim of this study was to determine organoleptic differences in *Clarias gariepinus* smoked with two different energy sources, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* and *Tamarindus indica* with the help of a hedonic scale thus elaborating the differences in their proximate composition.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Description of Study Area

The study was conducted in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Bayero University Kano.

Kano lies between longitude 9° 30' and 12° 30' North and latitude 8° 42' and 9° 30' East in the semi arid region of Northern Nigeria the state occupies a land area of 20,400km<sup>2</sup> with a population of over ten million people (Census, 2006). Hausa – Fulani are the major ethnic group in the area and Islam is the dominant religion. The climate of Kano is hot during dry season and cold during harmattan. The ambient temperature ranges from 16.6° C to 42.8° C in the months of January to June and 23.9° C to 26.7° C in July to December (Anonymous, 2010). An average monthly precipitation of 0 to 30mm was recorded in January to June and 780 to 1320mm in July to December (KNARDA, 2001). Trading is the main occupation of the people living in the metropolis of Kano while in other areas farming is the main occupation.

### Collection of Fish Samples

Samples of *Clarias gariepinus* were obtained fresh and slaughtered on the 16th of November, 2011, from the Kano University of Science Technology, Wudil Pond. taken in ice chest to the traditional kiln smokers located at Galadima road, Kano state, where the fish samples were smoked using with two different energy sources, *Tamarindus indica* and *Anogeissus leiocarpus* as a source of heat after which the smoked samples

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the experiments are presented below:

**Table 1: Proximate composition of *Clarias gariepinus* smoked under two energy sources**

Parameter	<i>T. indica</i>	<i>A. leiocarpus</i>	Air dried	LSD
Ash	7.54 <sup>a</sup>	8.67 <sup>b</sup>	8.24 <sup>c</sup>	0.44
Moisture	7.33 <sup>b</sup>	6.87 <sup>a</sup>	8.3 <sup>c</sup>	0.52
Dry Matter	92.67 <sup>a</sup>	93.12 <sup>b</sup>	91.7 <sup>a</sup>	0.42
Crude Protein	27.34 <sup>a</sup>	29.42 <sup>b</sup>	32.25 <sup>c</sup>	0.68
Lipid	6.26 <sup>b</sup>	5.41 <sup>a</sup>	7.02 <sup>c</sup>	0.89

\*Means in the same rows with the same superscript are not significantly different.

**Table 2: Sensory Evaluation of *Clarias gariepinus* smoked under two energy sources**

were taken to the Animal Science Laboratory of Bayero University, Kano State for proximate analysis.

### Smoking process

The fish samples were gutted and washed thoroughly with clean water and the samples were then kept on racks and put on the traditional oven. Smoking of the fishes was carried out for 4 h. The maximum temperature in the smoking chamber was 100°C. The smoke was produced by the burning of *Tamarindus indica* and *Anogeissus leiocarpus* wood, thus two different ovens were used respectively to smoke the fish samples and some were air dried as control treatment. After smoking, the products were packed in transparent polythene bags and sealed to reduce microbial infestation.

### Preparation of Fish Samples

Prior to analysis, the smoked fishes were washed, dressed and chopped into pieces. The smoked samples were blended and homogenized using mortar and pestle. They were packed in different bottles and labeled accordingly.

### Proximate Analysis of Fish Samples

The chemical analysis on the determination of moisture content, ash, crude protein, lipid and carbohydrate were carried out using guidelines of Association of Official Analytical Chemists AOAC, (1990).

### Organoleptic Assessment

Organoleptic evaluation of the smoked *Clarias gariepinus* was performed with the aid of seven (7) panelists and were analyzed for tenderness, flavor, color, juiciness, texture and overall acceptability on a 1-9 hedonic scale as follows (Ihekoronye and Ngoddy, 1985):

1. Like extremely
2. Like very much
3. Like moderately
4. Like slightly
5. Neither like nor dislike
6. Dislike slightly
7. Dislike moderately
8. Dislike very much
9. Dislike extremely

### Statistical Analysis

All data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Duncan's multiple range tests for mean separation using SAS computer software.

Parameter	<i>T. indica</i>	<i>A. leiocarpus</i>	Air dried
Tenderness	1.85 <sup>a</sup>	3.42 <sup>ab</sup>	3.28 <sup>b</sup>
Flavor	2.14 <sup>a</sup>	3.14 <sup>b</sup>	3.28 <sup>c</sup>
Color	1.28 <sup>a</sup>	3.28 <sup>c</sup>	4.14 <sup>b</sup>
Juiciness	2.42 <sup>b</sup>	2.85 <sup>b</sup>	3.85 <sup>a</sup>
Texture	2.85 <sup>a</sup>	3.0 <sup>c</sup>	3.42 <sup>b</sup>
Overall Acceptability	1.71 <sup>a</sup>	2.57 <sup>c</sup>	2.91 <sup>b</sup>

\*Means in the same rows with the same superscript are not significantly different.

The study showed that *Clarias gariepinus* fish smoked with *Tamarindus* wood lost moisture more than when smoked with *Anogeissus* wood and air drying. Ash content of smoked fish showed similar pattern with moisture content giving a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) between the treatments as indicated in Table 1. The crude protein content and dry matter content showed significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) difference between fish smoked under different energy sources. Nevertheless there were significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) changes in dry matter content as indicated in Table 1.

The present study indicates that there was significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) in color, texture, taste, and overall acceptability and slight difference in the juiciness of *Clarias gariepinus* smoked with *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, most of the assessors were not able to differentiate between them as indicated in Table 2. While, *Clarias gariepinus* smoked with *Tamarindus indica* was found to have distinct tenderness, flavor, color, juiciness and having higher overall acceptability than the other two treatments. The present study agrees with the results of Mensah (1998) on sensory properties being preferred based on wood type used in smoking.

Concerning the flavor, it indicates that the higher fat content in cultured fish affect taste giving

them the characterization of more juicy and a white flesh. In a study on Salmon, Rawson (1998) had shown a very strong correlation of sensory fatness and juiciness to the fillet fat content. Although fats have been proposed to modify tenderness, bite, lubrication, elasticity and juiciness, the precise mechanism of action of lipids is very difficult to define (Maga, 1987). It was found that *Anogeissus leiocarpus* and *Tamarindus indica* woods used for the taste panel in the present study differed significantly in their color, texture, and flavor and overall acceptability of the fish samples.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This research was able to provide evidence of strong organoleptic differences between the different treatments upon sensory evaluation. This indicates that *Clarias gariepinus* if smoked with *Tamarindus* wood has high acceptability to consumers in term of eating quality but *Anogeissus* wood gave less moisture and better retention of chemical constituent of the fish. It is recommended to use *Tamarindus* wood for short storage period and *Anogeissus* wood for long term storage.

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