Title : Gut content analysis of river snail, *Filopaludina martensi* in Mae Kha Canal, Chiang Mai: robust measures of diet composition

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ABSTRACT

Filopaludina martensi is one of the most numerous commercial species consumed in Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand. It is the dominant freshwater species in Mae Kha Canal, Chiang Mai province, which has become a tourist attraction in Chiang Mai province recently. However, a diet of *F. martensi* in this area has never been done. The aims of this research are to study the composition of the main food in the digestive system of *F. martensi* in Mae Kha Canal, Chiang Mai and to study influence of habitat on quantity and diversity of food type through gut content techniques. The snail samples were collected by handpicking from November 2024 to December 2024 in Mae Kha Canal (upper, middle, and lower canal area). The results indicated that the relative contribution to the quantity and diversity of food types was different for each region: *F. martensi* in the upper canal area has the greatest number of quantities and diversity of food (40,217 individuals and 28 species of food types). The diagram results based on the Costello method revealed that river snails in the upper and lower canals mainly consume *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Phormidium* sp., and *Nitzschia* sp., while the river snails in the middle canal mainly consume *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Oscillatoria* spp., and *Phormidium* sp. ($P < 0.05$). These results provided valuable insights into the feeding habits and ecological roles of the snail, which can help to improve our understanding of trophic interaction and freshwater ecosystems.

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