D-06 Studies on intense feeding and digestibility of Cyanophyceae by *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Oreochromis mossambicus* in Beira lake

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Beira lake is a good example for eutrophication. Due to the sisposal of untreatec sewage, domestic and urban waste to the lake, the quality of the water result ir degradation. This causes depletion in species diversity and increases the abundance of a few species. At present 2 exotic cichlid species *Oreochromi: niloticus* and *Oreochromis mossambicus* predominate the fish fauna: in Beir: lake. They can tolerate harsh conditions of the water and increase in number: successfully. They show a 24 h cycle in their feeding. According to the data majority of both species have empty stomachs around the 6th h and the pH values of the stomach are near 7. A conclusion which could be drawn is tha the majority of both species gradually decrease the feeding quantity from 0-(h, according to investigations on contents of the stomach and gut, and the pH values of the stomach contents. They continue to feed and reach the maxiumun during 18-24 h. By considering the high chlorophyl a levels in the contents o gut of fish at early hours of the day, one could come to a conclusion that though they actively feed during those hours, the digestion of the food does no

occur in the stomach or in the intestine, unless the food was subjected to a pH value below 2 in the stomach, which normally occurs in-between 6 to 18 h.

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