

COMPOSITION AND ABUNDANCE OF THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF  
*Caranx melampygus* IN NABINBINAN BAY, NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS

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## ABSTRACT

*Caranx melampygus*, a piscivore common in the Indo-Pacific, is an important diurnal predator in coral reefs but little local information is available on the diet of this fish. This study was done to determine the diet composition and abundance of *C. melampygus* by examining the stomach contents of specimens collected every 2-4 weeks from catches of fish corals in Southern Guimaras from May 2012 to November 2013. Chyme, fishes, and shrimps were found in the guts of *C. melampygus*. The Sergestid shrimp *Acetes* dominated the overall prey composition, followed by penaeid shrimps, and fishes (atherinid, clupeid, engraulid). The mean food count and prey composition varied among small (6-6.9, 7-7.9, 8-8.9), medium (9-9.9, 10-10.9, 11-11.9), and large (12-12.9, 13-13.9, 14-14.9, 15-15.9) fish, suggesting that the food preference of *C. melampygus* changes as the fish grows.