ABSTRACT

The gut contents of 141 wild Scylla olivacea juveniles collected from November to December 2009 in Dumangas, Iloilo were determined. The crabs were divided into two two size classes based on internal carapace width (4.0 — 6.1 and 6.2 — 8.3 ICW). Most gut samples analyzed were half-empty. The gut contents found in wild S. olivacea juveniles were molluscs, plant material, detritus, echinoderms, fish, silt or sand, unidentified fragments. chyme, unidentified spines, skeletons, flesh and foraminiferans. Results showed that crustaceans were the most frequently occurring (84.40%) and numerically abundant (26.85%) in the guts of crabs with size class 4.0 — 6.1 cm and 6.2 — 8.3 cm ICW. Foraminiferans were the least in frequency occurrence (0.71%) and numerical abundance (0.05%) among the gut contents when the two size classes were combined and in size class 4.0 — 6.1 cm. Foraminiferans were absent in size class 6.2 — 8.3 cm, thus echinoderms, fish and skeletons (2.13%) were the least in frequency occurrence while the least in numerical abundance were echinoderms (0.83%). There was no significant difference ($P>0.05$) between the gut composition of two size classes 4.0 — 6.1 cm and 6.2 — 8.3 cm ICW. This study suggests that plant and animal food items can be incorporated in S. olivacea juvenile diet. Results of this study maybe used for S. olivacea juvenile diet development.

Key Words: Scylla olivacea, juveniles, gut content analysis, mud crab, frequency of occurrence. numerical abundance