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SHORT COMMUNICATION

ACTIVITIES OF GL YCOSIDASES IN THE FOOT MUSCLES OF AFRICAN GIANTLAND SNAIL, *ARCHACHATINA MARGINATA* DURING AESTIVATION

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ABSTRACT: The growth performance and the activities of glycosidases (amylase, cellulase and a-glucosidase) in the foot muscle of giant land snail, *Archachatna marginata* were examined during aestivation. Aestivation significantly affected the growth performance of the snails as active snails gained l6.4±O.02gwhile the aestivated snails lost I5.5±O.Ig. Three glycosidases were detected in the foot muscle of the snails at varying levels: *33-37 Abs/min* (a-glucosidase), 11-15 Abs/min (amylase) and 28-31 Abs/min (cellulase) with the active snails having significantly higher activities (Abs/min) in a-glucosidase and cellulase. Aestivation thus significantly affects the foot muscle activities of *A.marginata.*

Key words/phrases: Aestivation, Glycosidases, Growth, Snail.