

Table 3 The proximate composition of carcass of *Clarias gariepinus* fingerlings fed thermally processed watermelon seed meal

Parameters	Initial	DT1	DT2	DT3	DT4	DT5	0.001
Moisture	71.22 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	61.12 ± 0.02 <sup>e</sup>	68.71 ± 0.01 <sup>b</sup>	62.31 ± 0.01 <sup>d</sup>	63.13 ± 0.03 <sup>c</sup>	61.13 ± 0.03 <sup>e</sup>	0.001
Protein	9.43 ± 0.03 <sup>f</sup>	13.63 ± 0.03 <sup>e</sup>	14.32 ± 0.02 <sup>d</sup>	16.42 ± 0.02 <sup>c</sup>	16.71 ± 0.01 <sup>b</sup>	18.14 ± 0.04 <sup>a</sup>	0.001
Fat	5.01 ± 0.01 <sup>f</sup>	5.42 ± 0.02 <sup>e</sup>	5.62 ± 0.03 <sup>d</sup>	7.45 ± 0.05 <sup>c</sup>	7.63 ± 0.03 <sup>b</sup>	9.71 ± 0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.001
Fibre	2.01 ± 0.01 <sup>e</sup>	2.41 ± 0.01 <sup>b</sup>	2.12 ± 0.02 <sup>d</sup>	2.21 ± 0.01 <sup>c</sup>	2.14 ± 0.01 <sup>d</sup>	2.71 ± 0.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.001
Ash	2.67 ± 0.02 <sup>b</sup>	2.71 ± 0.01 <sup>a</sup>	2.03 ± 0.03 <sup>e</sup>	2.23 ± 0.03 <sup>c</sup>	2.12 ± 0.03 <sup>d</sup>	2.71 ± 0.03 <sup>a</sup>	0.001
NFE	9.66 ± 0.06 <sup>b</sup>	10.51 ± 0.06 <sup>a</sup>	7.40 ± 0.00 <sup>e</sup>	9.38 ± 0.04 <sup>c</sup>	8.27 ± 0.04 <sup>d</sup>	5.60 ± 0.08 <sup>f</sup>	0.001

Note: Mean in the same column with different superscripts differ significantly (P<0.05)