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A preliminary study on the evaluation of casein, shrimp meal, squid meal and spirulina as protein sources for Penaeus monodon (Fabricius) postlarvae

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A preliminary study on the evaluation of casein, shrimp meal, squid meal and spirulina as protein sources for *Penaeus monodon* (Fabricius) postlarvae.

Chhorn Lim, Prawit Suraniranat and Rolando Platon

Aquaculture has become a major factor in supplying protein for human consumption. Generally aquatic species with high market value are cultured intensively using artificial or expensive facilities and feeds. Penaeid shrimps which fit in this category have been cultured extensively in most coastal countries in Southeast Asia for many years, using wild collected postlarvae.

Protein is the most critical ingredient in shrimp diets from the standpoint of cost and growth response. Both quality and quantity of protein have remarkable effects on growth.

This experiment was designed to evaluate the effect of fresh brown mussel meat and various dietary protein sources (casein, shrimp meal, squid meal and Spirulina) on the growth and survival rate of *Penaeus monodon* postlarvae in a controlled environment.

*P. monodon* postlarvae with an average weight of 15.62 mg were stocked in 200-L cylindrical fiberglass tanks filled with 100 liters filtered seawater with salinity adjusted to 25 ppt at a density of 50 postlarvae per tank. They were fed with fresh brown mussel (*Modiolus metcalfei*) meat and artificial diets containing casein, shrimp (*Metapenaeus ensis*) meal, squid (*Loligo* sp.) meal and *Spirulina* as protein sources at a rate of 20% of their biomass per day for a period of 10 days. No statistical difference (P<0.05) was found among the weight gains of shrimp fed various experimental diets. However, shrimp fed squid meal diet had highest weight gain (15.95 mg), followed by shrimp meal (13.82 mg), fresh brown mussel meat (13.73 mg), casein (12.16 mg) and *Spirulina* (9.37 mg). Shrimp fed squid meal diet had significantly better (P<0.05) feed conversion than those receiving other experimental diets. Feed conversion was identical for shrimp receiving casein and shrimp meal diets (2.46) and was slightly poorer than those fed brown mussel meat (2.38). Poorest feed conversion was observed in shrimp fed *Spirulina* diet. The protein efficiency
ratio (P. E. R.) was statistically highest (P < 0.05) for the squid meal diet (1.05). Next was the shrimp meal diet (0.91) which was significantly higher than that of the casein diet. The P. E. R. value of the *Spirulina* diet was significantly poorest (0.60) but was only slightly lower than that of fresh mussel meat (0.66). The survival rate was significantly highest for shrimp fed the shrimp meal diet (48.0). No statistical differences were found among shrimp fed other experimental diets.

Results of this preliminary study show that squid meal is superior to shrimp meal, fresh brown mussel meat, casein and *Spirulina* for the growth of *P. monodon* postlarvae when based on weight gain, diet conversion and P. E. R. Fresh brown mussel meat which was comparable to shrimp meal for growth, is inferior to shrimp meal when P. E. R. values and survival rates were compared. It appears that squid meal and shrimp meal are good protein sources for *P. monodon* postlarvae.

Table 1. Proximate chemical composition of fresh brown mussel (*Modiolus metcalfei*) meat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dry matter (%)</th>
<th>Protein (%)</th>
<th>Fat (%)</th>
<th>Ash (%)</th>
<th>Crude fiber (%)</th>
<th>NFE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.37</td>
<td>63.44</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>10.88</td>
<td>15.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Composition of four isonitrogenous, isocaloric diets containing various protein sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Percent in the diet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casein</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp meal</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid meal</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirulina</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dextrin</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod liver oil</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamix mix*</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral mix*</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dicalcium phosphate</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium carbonate</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. H. T.</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celite (Filler)</td>
<td>5.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated protein (%) 50.0  50.0  50.0  50.0
Analyzed values 50.84  44.65  48.87  50.94
Estimated D.E.*** 2925.0  2925.0  2925.0  2925.0 (Kcal/kg)

*Vitamin mix (mg/kg diet): Thiamin HCl, 36; riboflavin, 120; pyrodoxine HCl, 36; nicotinic acid, 480; Ca-panthothenate, 180; inositol, 2,400; biotin, 3.6; folic acid, 9.0; para-aminobenzoic acid, 240; choline chloride, 4,800; ascorbic acid, 6,000; L-tocopherol, 240; menadione-Na-bisulfite, 24; vitamin A, 13.8; calciferol, 3.6; cyanocabalam, 0.24.

**Mineral mix (g/kg diet): K2HPO4, 10.75; Ca (H2PO4) 2H2O, 13.25; CaCO3, 5.25; Ca-lactate, 8.25; KCl, 1.40; MgSO4, 7 H2O, 5.0; Fe-citrate, 0.60; AlCl3 6 H2O, 0.01198; ZnSO4 7 H2O, 0.2380; MnSO4 H2O, 0.0405; CuSO4 5 H2O, 0.01882; KI, 0.01151; Co (NO3)2 6 H2O, 0.08595.

***Estimated D. E. were based on the values found for channel catfish: Protein – 3.5 Kcal/g; Fat – 8.1 Kcal/g; NFE – 2.5 Kcal/g
Table 3. Cumulative weight gains at different periods for *Penaeus monodon* fed brown mussel meat and diet containing various protein sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeding regime</th>
<th>Initial weight (mg)</th>
<th>Average weight gain (mg) per prawn at different periods (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh mussel</td>
<td>15.62</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casein diet</td>
<td>15.62</td>
<td>4.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp meal diet</td>
<td>15.62</td>
<td>7.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid meal diet</td>
<td>15.62</td>
<td>5.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirulina diet</td>
<td>15.62</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Average weight gain, diet conversion, protein efficiency ratio and survival rate for *P. monodon* postlarvae fed fresh brown mussel meat and diets containing various protein sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeding Regime</th>
<th>Ave. weight gain (mg)</th>
<th>Conversion rate</th>
<th>P. E. R.</th>
<th>Survival rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh brown mussel meat</td>
<td>13.73\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>2.38\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>0.66\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casein</td>
<td>13.16\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>2.46\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>0.80\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>14\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp meal</td>
<td>13.82\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>2.46\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>0.91\textsuperscript{c}</td>
<td>48\textsuperscript{b}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid meal</td>
<td>15.95\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>1.94\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>1.05\textsuperscript{d}</td>
<td>13\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirulina</td>
<td>9.37\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>3.29\textsuperscript{c}</td>
<td>0.60\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{1} Treatment means with the same superscript are not statistically different at $P < 0.05$. 

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Figure 1. Growth rate of *P. monodon* postlarvae fed fresh brown mussel meat and diets containing various protein sources.
REFERENCES


