

## EFFECT OF ENRICHED COPEPODS ON THE GROWTH, SURVIVAL AND COLOURATION OF ANGELFISH (*Pterophyllum scalare*)

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**Abstract:** Cyclopid copepod has a potential as live feed that can provide ornamental fish larvae with energy and essential nutrients, and promote their growth and survival, as well as affect their colouration. However, the nutrition, growth and nutritional requirements of this species are poorly understood. This research focuses on comparing the efficacy of enrichment types on copepods towards the growth rate, survival rate and colouration of *Pterophyllum scalare* larvae. The enrichment of copepods consists of four enrichment procedures (rice bran, palm kernel cake (PKC), *Chlorella* and yeast). This study was carried out over 50 days and the growth rate, survival rate and colouration (growth rate, survival rate, SGR and colouration) were used to evaluate the responses of *P. scalare* larvae towards different enrichment methods. Specific growth rates ( $8.0161 \pm 1.4928$  %;  $P = 0.775$ ) and survival rates ( $66.667 \pm 5.337$ %;  $P = 0.815$ ) of fish larvae were found to not be significantly different ( $P = 0.775$ ,  $P = 0.815$ ;  $P > 0.05$ ). However, the colouration of the fish larvae was affected by the types of enrichment used ( $P < 0.05$ ). The growth and survival rates of *P. scalare* larvae were highest when fed with copepod enriched with rice bran and PKC. This enrichment type is the regulating factor for the growth rate, survival rate and colouration of *P. scalare*. The present study indicates that the organic fertilisers used, such as rice bran and PKC, have the potential for the aquaculture industry as an important enrichment medium for the growth and survival of fish larvae. Our results showed that both enrichment methods are applicable for the substitution of yeast and these findings will therefore provide better enrichment options in the larval rearing of the ornamental fish *P. scalare*. This study will allow the potential use of other live feed enrichment formulas to ensure that fish larval development is maintained in hatcheries.

Keywords: Copepod, Angelfish, proximate, larvae, coloration.

### Introduction

Marine and freshwater species of zooplankton are generally used to provide fish larvae with nutrients. They provide energy and are a main source of nutrients for the production and growth of larvae. The significance of copepods in aquaculture, especially in the larval rearing of most marine fish, has been recognised. Most larvae mainly feed on copepods (Rasdi & Qin, 2016). The dry-weight protein concentration of copepods is higher than rotifers, but it cannot easily be enriched (Hamre *et al.*, 2013). Maximum survival and growth rates were recorded in copepod-fed fish larvae (Santhanam, 2012). Copepods are sometimes

used as biodiversity indicators. They are therefore widely considered superior to rotifers and *Artemia* for fish larvae cultures (Zeng *et al.*, 2018). Copepods feed on small algae and serve as a nutrient source for millions of other aquatic life. In recent years, fish nutrition has improved spectacularly with the development of new and balanced commercial diets that offer ideal fish health maintenance and growth rate (Craig *et al.*, 2017). A good appreciation of all these factors is needed for the successful production of fish.

Studies of fish larvae have shown that copepod nauplii are the essential food of various fish species (Marcus, 2005). Nowadays, enrichment techniques are applied to a wide

variety of macro and micronutrients and include techniques to minimise or alter the overall nutritional value of fish. Copepods are a splendid candidate in terms of nutritional composition as they possess higher levels of HUFA, and they contain an amended balance between triglyceride and phospholipid lipid classes (Dhont *et al.*, 2013).

Nowadays, the angelfish (*Pterophylum scalare*) are popular among ornamental fish pet keepers due to their unique shape and interesting personalities (Uyeno *et al.*, 2009). Unfortunately, aquaculturists have not formulated an optimal diet to enhance the colouration of the fish. The angelfish (*P. scalare*) is a disk-shaped cichlid. In the natural habitat, they are found to have black bars on a silver-coloured body (Feltwell, 2016). Angelfish are one of the most crucial cichlid species. Angelfish tend to breed in pairs. The compromising of the fish larvae is also hard to determine and meet in terms of nutritional requirements, and may inhibit growth or a proper development (Hamre *et al.*, 2013). There is also very little information on the nutritional needs and growth of the species, as well as factors that are critical for the release of the species on the aquaculture sector. (Koca, 2009; Espitia *et al.*, 2017). Furthermore, the industrial development of ornamental freshwater fish cultivation was limited by insufficient live feed for different stages of production. (Lim *et al.*, 2003)

Live feed is the most important resource for aquaculture in an aquatic environment. The majority of natural fish feed on phytoplanktonic and zooplanktonic species. Natural fish feed is typically not common in freshwater clear ponds but is abundant in ponds with greenish water. The green colour indicates the existence of phytoplankton, as well as other live feed, and thorough nutrition is among the most serious factors in fish larvae production. (Koven *et al.*, 2001). Zooplanktons are a significant part of the larval diet in the natural food network, and it is widely accepted that copepods can fulfil the nutritional needs of fish larvae (Evjemo *et al.*, 2003). Sustaining the copepod in the hatchery is quite difficult. Studies measuring the optimum

conditions for the development of intensive zooplankton are lacking. Nutrition is recognised to be among the most critical barriers to the implementation of fish larvae (Koven *et al.*, 2001).

The findings of this study can be useful to the industrial society, especially to the aquaculture industry. A current obstacle in observational studies is observing growth performance as malnutrition is one of the major determinants of larval growth and survival rate decline (Conceição *et al.*, 2010). The nutritional criterion is often calculated as the highest growth provision and survival rate, which have important effects on the fortitude of the perceptible needs of fish diet feeding. (Hamre *et al.*, 2013). So, we need to give the best starter feed to them. Hence, the priority of copepods in aquaculture has been recognised at various stages. Apart from that, it is shown that copepods play a key role in the food web ecosystem. Copepods also have been proven to be a nutritionally sufficient live feed for the rearing of the larvae of most species (Busch *et al.*, 2011). In order to ensure the success of an aquaculture, it is important to understand the growth performance, survival rate and colouration of fish. A significant amount of zooplanktons rely on the intense larval culture of most marine fish (Onianwah, 2018).

Moreover, in terms of nutritional value, live feed is distinct from artificial feed. (Das *et al.*, 2012). Copepods were also able to produce high yield of biomass and lipid productivity under normal and various nutrient-deprived conditions (Praveenkumar *et al.*, 2012) Enrichment, such as rice bran, is high in vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, dietary fiber and other sterols, which is important for ornamental fish larvae, through zooplankton enrichment (Gul *et al.*, 2015).

Colouration is also one of the most important parts in the ornamental industry. Colouration can be obtained through carotenoid. Carotenoid is a lipid-soluble pigment, and it is synthesised by photosynthetic organisms. It must be obtained through diet. Carotenoid cannot be synthesised endogenously (Kouba *et al.*, 2013). These pigments have attracted increasing attention.

In addition, it has a number of positive impacts on animal physiology, such as the precursor vitamin A, and is thought to have a function in sensing (Moren *et al.*, 2002), in immunisation (Amar *et al.*, 2001), light defense (Palace *et al.*, 2006) or as antioxidants (McGraw *et al.*, 2005). Carotenoid-based ornamentation was suggested as signifiers for the ability to obtain and assimilate carotenoids in their diet.

The aim of this study is to improve the production of commercial ornamental freshwater fish and evaluate the effects of enriched copepods on the growth performance, survival rate and colouration of angelfish. This study also aims to calculate the efficiency of enrichment types on copepods and the growth rate, survival rate and colouration of *P. scalare* larvae. So, we need to keep angelfish feed with good nutrition and aim to keep fish in good health. Otherwise, the ornamental fish business depends upon colour.

## Material and Method

### Sampling and Culturing

Copepods were sampled from Setiu, Terengganu, Malaysia. The copepods were cultivated and maintained at the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu hatchery. The temperature and salinity were monitored and maintained within an optimum range. The optimum temperatures for habitats are between 26°C and 27°C, and the average salinity is between 24 and 26 ppt (Zaleha & Busra, 2012). The copepods were first cultivated in a 1000L tank as a stock culture. Regular feeding and observation were provided. Apart from that, 30% of the water were modified once every two days to prevent pollution and toxicity by food.

### Experimental Design and Setup

Freshwater was filtered through GFC membrane filters after being passed through a UV treatment before being used. Beakers with capacities of 0.5 L and 1 L were used as the culture vessels. The cultures were maintained at a salinity of between

22 to 26 ppt and temperatures of between 26 °C to 27 °C. The cultures were fed daily with yeast, rice bran, *Chlorella* sp. and Palm kernel cake (PKC) at a density of  $1 \times 10^6$  cell ml<sup>-1</sup> (Zaleha & Busra 2012). No aeration was provided for the 0.5 L and 1 L stock cultures.

Angelfish were bred and this experiment was performed with angelfish larvae. Before the beginning of the experiment, the angelfish larvae were randomly divided into 12 groups; 4 treatments with triplicate (Berchielli-Morais *et al.*, 2016). Each treatment was given different enrichments, which are yeast (as control), rice bran, *Chlorella* sp. and PKC. The initial weight of the fish was weighed, and the body weight gain of the fish was measured individually.

### Enrichment

The copepods need to be enriched. The copepods from the stock were transferred to a 10 L aquarium and enriched with four different types of diets for 24 hours (Brown, 2002). The copepods were enriched as we wanted the copepod to have a better reproduction and growth rates. The copepods are then used as a live feed to increase the survival rate of the fish larvae. Live feed is important in the early stages of fish larvae as they are biologically incapable of processing inert diet through their nascent digestive system. The enrichment of copepods provided better nutritional contents for fish or fish larvae. The concentration for the enrichment was  $1 \times 10^6$  for algae, which is equivalent to 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of dry enrichment (Zaleha & Busra, 2012).

### Angelfish Larvae Rearing

The angelfish larvae were cultured in an aquarium tank with aeration. A gentle filtration system was required. Other than that, all parameters, such as temperature, salinity, nitrite, nitrate, pH, were observed to ensure a good condition. Fish were maintained under the following water parameters: temperature of 27.0 °C and pH of 8.4± (Salas, 2009). The tank was washed regularly to eliminate detritus contents

at the floor and a frequent water adjustment of at least 1-2/3 of the volume of the tank was conducted on a weekly basis. The tank was mildly acidic, with an optimum pH of 6.7. The water temperature was approximately 26 °C. The success of the hatchery development of fish fingerlings in the grow-out production system depends almost entirely on the availability of adequate live feed organisms to feed fish larvae until the juvenile stage (Das *et al.*, 2012).

### **Growth Rate and Survival Rate**

According to Berchielli-Morais (2016), the following formula was used to calculate the specific growth rate.

The weight gain of the body was calculated individually. The parameters of growth performance were obtained using the following equations:

$$\text{SGR (\% day}^{-1}\text{)} = [\ln (\text{Fw}) - \ln (\text{Iw}) / \text{d}] \times 100$$

Where

Fw = Final weight

Iw = Initial weight

d = number of days

$$\text{Weight gain (g)} = \text{Fw} - \text{Iw}$$

Where

Fw = Final mean weight

Iw = Initial mean weight

Survival rate (%) of angelfish larvae fed on different diet;

$$\text{Percent of survival (\%)} = (\text{Survival fish} / \text{n}) \times 100$$

Where

Survival fish = number of survival fish

n = total number fish stocked

### **Colouration**

The fish were chosen randomly and anaesthetised at lower temperatures for around 10 minutes to

determine the colour of their skin. The evaluation was performed by reflectance spectroscopy with transformation into colour variables based on the values of tristimulus, L\*, a\*, b\*, lightness, redness and yellowness, respectively. (Trujillo *et al.*, 1996). According to Sharma (2013), skin colour was measured at the centre of the body area of all fish. Measurements were recorded at the end of the feeding trial using a Chroma Meter (colorimeter). Recordings will be made according to the colour system mode of the International Commission on Illumination (CIE): L\* = lightness, where dark = 0, and white = 100; a\* = red, where positive values = red, and negative values = green; b\* = yellow, where positive values = yellow, and negative values = blue. Hue (H<sub>o</sub>ab) and chroma (C\*) were calculated using the following formulae: if a\* > 0 then H<sub>o</sub>ab = tan<sup>-1</sup> (b\*/a\*), but if a\* < 0 then H<sub>o</sub>ab = 180 + tan<sup>-1</sup> (b\*/a\*); Cab\* = (a\*<sup>2</sup> + b\*<sup>2</sup>)<sup>1/2</sup>

### **Proximate Analysis**

The weight of the samples was measured. The samples were packed in separate polyethylene bags, labelled and stored in a freezer at -20°C for further laboratory analyses. Protein, lipid, moisture, and ash were analysed at the Department of Fisheries laboratory of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. The method protocol was not provided, but the method references provided were as follows: protein, lipid, moisture and ash (AOAC, (1962) (Woods & Velentino, 2003). The method used were as follows:

The total protein content of the larvae was determined using the Micro-Kjeldhal process. (Pearson, 2000).

The protein percentage determined by multiplying the percentage of N2 (%) with an empirical factor 6.25.

$$\text{Protein (\%)} = \text{percentage of total amount of N2} \times 6.25.$$

The total lipid content of larvae was measured using the Bligh and Dyer method (2000). The percentage of lipid calculated by:

Percentage of fat (%) = (weight of the extract/ weight of the sample) × 100.

The moisture concentration was determined using the hot air oven method used by Jain and Singh (2000). The percentage was calculated by:

Percentage (%) of moisture = (weight loss/ actual weight of the sample) × 100

The ash content of the larvae was evaluated by the AOAC method (2000). The percentage of ash content was estimated by:

Ash (%) = weight of ash/weight of sample × 100.

### Data Analysis

Data was presented as a mean ± standard deviation (SD). All data were obtained during the experiment and merged together to be evaluated using a one-way variance analysis (ANOVA). This is done to compare the growth, survival and colouration of the angelfish larvae (*P. scalare*). Differences at  $P < 0.05$  are considered significant. Where the main treatment impact was significant, post-hoc comparison was performed using the Tukey test. In order to satisfy the assumptions of ANOVA, all of the data will be evaluated for normality, homogeneity and independence.

## Results

### Specific Growth Rate (SGR)

Table 1 shows the overall growth rate of the angelfish larvae and enrichment after test feeding for 50 days. The highest specific growth rate of the angelfish larvae occurred when the larvae were fed with rice bran ( $8.93 \pm 0.33^b$  %), compared with other treatments for feeding ( $P < 0.05$ , Table 1). Angelfish larvae fed with yeast produced a lower growth rate ( $7.81 \pm 0.16^a$  %) than those fed with PKC and *Chlorella* sp. ( $8.50 \pm 0.29^a$  % and  $8.34 \pm 0.47^{a,b}$  %). The specific growth rate of the angelfish larvae was based on the type of enrichment given ( $P < 0.05$ ; Table 1).

Table 1: The specific growth rate (SGR) of angelfish *P. scalare* larvae fed with different enrichment.

All values are expressed in terms of mean ± standard deviation ( $n=4$ ). The different small letters indicate significant differences between enrichment treatments ( $P < 0.05$ )

Enrichment	Specific Growth Rate (%)
Rice bran	$8.93 \pm 0.33^b$
Palm kernel cake	$8.50 \pm 0.29^b$
<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	$8.34 \pm 0.47^{a,b}$
Yeast (control)	$7.81 \pm 0.16^a$

### Survival Rate

The survival of the angelfish larvae depended on the enrichment type ( $P = 0.01$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). Higher survival rate of Angelfish larvae resulted from *Chlorella* sp. ( $72.33 \pm 2.52^b$  %) and the survival rate of the angelfish larvae fed with rice bran, PKC and yeast were ( $68.33 \pm 2.51^{a,b}$  %), ( $66.33 \pm 2.89^{a,b}$  %) and ( $61.00 \pm 3.61^a$  %), respectively.

Table 2: The survival rate of the angelfish *P. scalare* larvae fed with different enrichment. All values are expressed in terms of mean ± standard deviation ( $n=4$ ). The different small letters indicate significant differences between treatment ( $P < 0.05$ )

Enrichment	Survival Rate (%)
Rice bran	$68.33 \pm 2.51^{a,b}$
PKC	$66.33 \pm 2.89^{a,b}$
<i>Chlorella</i>	$72.33 \pm 2.52^b$
Yeast (control)	$61.00 \pm 3.61^a$

### Colouration

The colouration reading of the Angelfish larvae depended on the enrichment type ( $P = 0.01$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). Higher chroma, lightness and Hue reading of the angelfish larvae was the result of rice bran ( $9.17 \pm 0.83$  \*C,  $69.06 \pm 2.65$  \*L and  $113.25 \pm 1.27$  H<sup>0</sup><sub>ab</sub>) and the colouration reading of the angelfish larvae fed with PKC, *Chlorella* sp. and yeast were ( $8.23 \pm 0.63$  \*C,  $62.84 \pm 2.64$  \*L,  $111.32 \pm 0.93$  H<sup>0</sup><sub>ab</sub>), ( $7.33 \pm 1.24$  \*C,  $55.65 \pm 3.70$  \*L,  $110.80 \pm 1.03$  H<sup>0</sup><sub>ab</sub>) and ( $5.27 \pm 0.77$  \*C,  $55.39 \pm 4.54$  \*L,  $105.46 \pm 1.07$  H<sup>0</sup><sub>ab</sub>), respectively. The colouration reading of Angelfish larvae depended on the enrichment type provided ( $P < 0.05$ ; Table 3).

Table 3: The colour reading of the angelfish larvae fed with different enrichment and colour assessments. All value are expressed in terms of mean  $\pm$  standard deviation ( $n=4$ ). The letters indicate significant differences between different colour assessments ( $P < 0.05$ )

Color assessment	Enrichment	Color reading
Chroma(C*)	Rice bran	9.17 $\pm$ 0.83 <sup>b</sup>
	Palm kernel cake	8.23 $\pm$ 0.63 <sup>b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	7.33 $\pm$ 1.24 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Yeast	5.27 $\pm$ 0.77 <sup>a</sup>
Lightness(*L)	Rice bran	69.06 $\pm$ 2.65 <sup>b</sup>
	Palm kernel cake	62.84 $\pm$ 2.64 <sup>a,b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	55.65 $\pm$ 3.70 <sup>a</sup>
	Yeast	55.39 $\pm$ 4.54 <sup>a</sup>
Hue(H <sup>0</sup> <sub>ab</sub> )	Rice bran	113.25 $\pm$ 1.27 <sup>b</sup>
	Palm kernel cake	111.32 $\pm$ 0.93 <sup>b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	110.80 $\pm$ 1.03 <sup>b</sup>
	Yeast	105.46 $\pm$ 1.07 <sup>a</sup>

### Proximate of Angelfish

Different enrichments significantly affected the proximate analysis of *P. scalare*. Based on the results, higher mean values of protein, lipid and moisture were recorded when the angelfish larvae were fed with rice bran, with the mean values being (69.87  $\pm$  2.19<sup>b</sup>), (18.90  $\pm$  1.01<sup>b</sup>)

and (47.54  $\pm$  17.88<sup>a</sup>), respectively. Meanwhile, a higher mean value of ash was recorded in the angelfish larvae fed with yeast (31.26  $\pm$  3.68<sup>a</sup>). The enrichment used in this study had a significant impact on the mean value of the body composition ( $P=0.01$ ,  $P=0.03$ ,  $P=0.00$ ,  $P=0.03$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ).

Table 4: The body composition of the angelfish larvae fed with different enrichments. The different small letters indicate significant differences between different treatments ( $P < 0.05$ ) *Chlorella* sp

Body Composition	Enrichment	Mean
Protein	Rice Bran	69.87 $\pm$ 2.19 <sup>b</sup>
	PKC	64.19 $\pm$ 2.13 <sup>a,b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	61.29 $\pm$ 5.57 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Yeast	57.27 $\pm$ 3.68 <sup>a</sup>
Lipid	Rice Bran	19.75 $\pm$ 1.95 <sup>b</sup>
	PKC	14.86 $\pm$ 0.81 <sup>a,b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	15.99 $\pm$ 0.71 <sup>a,b</sup>
	Yeast	14.21 $\pm$ 3.20 <sup>a</sup>
Moisture	Rice Bran	81.58 $\pm$ 1.48 <sup>b</sup>
	PKC	73.09 $\pm$ 2.18 <sup>a</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	71.55 $\pm$ 0.80 <sup>a</sup>
	Yeast	70.81 $\pm$ 0.49 <sup>a</sup>
Ash	Rice Bran	24.54 $\pm$ 6.12 <sup>a</sup>
	PKC	22.84 $\pm$ 5.13 <sup>a,b</sup>
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	17.04 $\pm$ 7.39 <sup>a</sup>
	Yeast	36.85 $\pm$ 6.23 <sup>b</sup>

**Proximate of Copepod**

The proximate analysis of copepod was carried out and copepod enriched with rice bran showed high levels of protein, lipid and moisture ( $69.87 \pm 2.19^b$ ), ( $21.09 \pm 1.99^b$ ) and ( $84.18 \pm 0.99^a$ ) but low level of ash ( $24.54 \pm 6.12^{a,b}$ ), compared with the protein, lipid, moisture and ash levels

in PKC, *Chlorella* sp. and yeast, with the values being ( $66.19 \pm 2.16^{b,c}$ ,  $14.86 \pm 0.81^a$ ,  $78.08 \pm 2.82^b$  and  $22.84 \pm 5.13^{a,b}$ ), ( $60.80 \pm 3.73^{a,b}$ ,  $18.99 \pm 0.71^b$ ,  $82.72 \pm 3.02^{a,b}$  and  $1.57 \pm 0.92^a$ ) and ( $57.99 \pm 2.45^a$ ,  $13.21 \pm 1.55^a$ ,  $78.68 \pm 0.34^{a,b}$  and  $5.95 \pm 1.53^b$ ), respectively. The body composition of the copepods depends on type of enrichment provided ( $P < 0.05$ ; Table 5).

Table 5: The body composition of *Apocyclop ramkhamhaengi* enriched with different enrichments. The different small letters indicate significant differences between different treatments ( $P < 0.05$ )

Body Composition	Enrichment	Mean $\pm$ SD
Protein	Rice bran	$69.58 \pm 3.48^c$
	PKC	$66.19 \pm 2.16^{b,c}$
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	$60.80 \pm 3.73^{a,b}$
	Yeast	$57.99 \pm 2.45^a$
Lipid	Rice bran	$21.09 \pm 1.99^b$
	PKC	$14.86 \pm 0.81^a$
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	$18.99 \pm 0.71^b$
	Yeast	$13.21 \pm 1.55^a$
Moisture	Rice bran	$84.18 \pm 0.99^a$
	PKC	$78.08 \pm 2.82^b$
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	$82.72 \pm 3.02^{a,b}$
	Yeast	$78.68 \pm 0.34^{a,b}$
Ash	Rice bran	$4.15 \pm 2.49^{a,b}$
	PKC	$3.04 \pm 0.97^{a,b}$
	<i>Chlorella</i> sp.	$1.57 \pm 0.92^a$
	Yeast	$5.95 \pm 1.53^b$

**Discussion**

The development in enrichment protocols to promote further larvae growth, survival rate and colouration, leads to an increasing need to examine new potentials of live feed for the aquaculture industry. The nutritional requirements of copepods must also be thoroughly understood to support their growth so that they can be produced on a large scale. However, recent studies on this matter have produced a lack of result. Exploring potential new enrichment of live feed, such as using an organic base is necessary for the continued development of better enrichment options that can assist larval rearing in commercial realms. A

possible new enrichment that could be applied for fish in larvae farming was the encouraging outcome of these findings.

The findings of this analysis showed that enrichment was necessary for the maintenance of angelfish larvae and had a significant impact on their development, survival and colouration. The specific growth rate, survival rate and colouration of the angelfish larvae clearly depended on the type of enrichment used for feeding. Based on the results (Table 1, Table 3), the best results for specific growth rate and colouration came from the use of rice bran, with the resulting values of ( $8.39 \pm 0.33^b$  %;  $9.17 \pm 0.83^b *C$ ,  $69.06 \pm 2.65^b *L$ ,  $113.25 \pm 1.27^b H^{0}_{ab}$ ),

respectively. According to Ryan (2011), rice bran has a high nutritious mixture that can increase the growth and survival rates of fish larvae, and this is supported by Chhay *et al.* (2010). Meanwhile, PKC enhanced the growth and survival rates (Zahari & Alimon, 2005). According to Rao (2000), rice bran with 15 to 20% oil, can serve as a good source of energy and essential fatty acids (EFA). The survival of angelfish larvae depended on the enrichment type ( $P = 0.01$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). This experiment showed that (Table 2), the higher survival rate of angelfish larvae came from *Chlorella* sp. ( $72.33 \pm 2.52^b$  %) (Table 4) and the survival rate of angelfish larvae fed with rice bran, PKC and yeast were ( $66.67 \pm 6.73$  %), ( $65.33 \pm 5.84$  %) and ( $65.33 \pm 6.83$  %), respectively. According to some researches, angelfish fed with diet containing high levels of protein showed better growth and survival rates (Dars *et al.*, 2010; Millikin *et al.*, 1980). Furthermore, there were significant differences between the distribution for colour assessments and there were same across categories of treatments ( $P=0.01$ ,  $P=0.004$ ,  $P=0.00$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). According to Kouba *et al.* (2013) the annexation of enrichment containing the carotenoid will affect the pigmentation of angelfish. An organic base can also enhance the colouration of the fish (Bunch, 1997).

Sadique *et al.* (2018) state that using rice bran as a diet replacement can increase the growth and the survival rates of fingerling fish. Rice bran contains gamma-oryzanol ( $\gamma$ -oryzanol), which can provide bioactive lipid-loaded nano-emulsions for food system, survival and growth (Zhong *et al.* 2018). The experiment by Maoka *et al.*, 2008 shows that  $\gamma$  - oryzanol provides higher level of colouration ( $L^*$ ,  $a^*$  and  $b^*$ ). Rice bran can enhance astaxanthin, lutein tunaxanthin, and that astaxanthin was converted to tunaxanthin by lutein (Yuangsoi *et al.*, 2010). Astaxanthin is an excellent antioxidant in fish. It has, therefore, been strongly suggested that rice bran can preserve astaxanthin from radical decomposition in fish and also increase the accumulation of carotenoids in fish. Besides, rice bran is a nutritional and valuable byproduct, and is also a low-cost enrichment that can be used by small- and medium-scale farmers.

Proximate analyses were carried out to compare the body composition of angelfish *P. scalare* larvae after being fed with different enrichment of copepods (Table 4). A larvae feed with copepod enriched with rice bran showed the highest percentage of protein ( $69.87 \pm 2.19^b$  %) compared with other enrichments ( $P= 0.01$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). A post-larvae feed with copepod enriched with yeast showed the lowest percentage of protein at  $57.27 \pm 2.19^b$  %. Previous early studies on the rearing of fish larvae showed an optimum dietary protein level ranging from 24.2% to 79.5% (Watanabe *et al.*, 1983). Protein contents of lower than 15% can cause mortality in fish larvae as protein is the first and foremost factor that has to be considered when formulating a fish feed. Based on the results (Table 5), yeast showed the lowest percentage of lipid ( $13.21 \pm 1.55^a$  %). However, even cultured on a low cost, copepods fed with yeast produced relatively low population and reproductive performance development, mainly due to the low EFA content derived from copepods (Nanton *et al.*, 2015). The moisture and ash contents were maximum in the body composition of angelfish larvae fed with copepod enriched rice bran ( $84.18 \pm 0.99^a$  %) and yeast ( $5.95 \pm 1.53^b$  %), respectively. The minimum percentage of moisture was observed in angelfish larvae fed with copepod enriched with PKC ( $78.08 \pm 2.82^b$  %). The lowest percentage of ash was found in fish fed with copepod enriched with *Chlorella* sp. ( $1.57 \pm 0.92^a$  %).

Because of its natural origin and poorly developed research among aquaculture researchers, rice bran and PKC have not been used widely in the industry. However, in terms of abundance and prevalence, the nutrient composition of these organic fertilisers has been found to influence the efficiency of planktons. (Gangadhara *et al.*, 2017). However, rice bran and PKC are an excellent food and has many benefits compared with other live feed, such as microalgae. It is also present in abundant amounts, can be conveniently obtained at a low price, can be used immediately after drying, and can be kept for a longer period of time. Hence, it is also easy to dose and has little to do with



the management of algae stock and cultivation (Zehra & Altaff, 2002). In certain cases, dried algae are also excellent for live feed, but they are too expensive to use on a massive scale (DePauw *et al.*, 1981). The use of microalgae in mass cultures is not cost-effective enough to satisfy aquaculture needs (Wang *et al.*, 2017). There is a need for affordable feed to reduce the price of producing copepods (Drillet *et al.*, 2011).

### Conclusion

This study indicates that organic fertilisers, such as rice bran, can be used as an effective enrichment media for the growth, survival and colouration of fish larvae (*P. scalare*) in the aquaculture industry. In terms of improving the nutritional value of live feeds, several enrichment procedures were still not enough for some fish larvae and could not exceed the nutritional contents of the copepod. Some fish larvae could not exceed the nutritional contents of the copepod. As copepods could not be enriched by traditional methods of enrichment, the organic base nutrition for copepods can be done to replace the nutritional composition. Copepods fed with rice bran have been shown to produce positive results on the growth rate, survival rate and colouration of fish larvae depending on the organic nutritional content fed to copepods. Further research is needed to understand the application of rice bran and PKC as enrichments of live feed that will result in high performance. It will also enable the future use of other enrichment formulae for live feed in ensuring the sustenance of fish larvae production in hatcheries.

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