

Ingestion rate of postlarvae *Penaeus monodon* fed *Apocyclops dengizicus* and *Artemia*

ABSTRACT

Three different live diets including; *Apocyclops* copepodids, *Artemia* nauplii, and combination of *Apocyclops* copepodids and *Artemia* nauplii were offered to two groups of *Penaeus monodon* larvae viz PL3–6 and PL9–12. The prey diets were offered to each group at three density levels (6, 13 and 20 μg dry weight/ml). The results showed that PL3–6 *P. monodon* larvae consumed *Apocyclops* copepodids (CII–CIV) at 5.1–14.3 ind./day, the *Artemia* nauplii at 18.4–39.2 ind./day, and mixture of *Apocyclops* and *Artemia* at 12.2–41.5 ind./day. Similarly, PL9–12 *P. monodon* larvae ingested *Apocyclops* at 12.6–51.7 ind./day, *Artemia* at 62.4–101.6 ind./day, and their mixture at 48.0–65.3 ind./day. This study indicated that *P. monodon* larvae, at PL3–6 and PL9–12, can ingest *Apocyclops* selectively better than *Artemia* at 1:1 ratio as shown by the improved body dry weight of the larvae.

Keyword: Ingestion rate, *Apocyclops dengizicus*, *Artemia* nauplii, *Penaeus monodon*