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Effects of daphnia (Moina micrura) plus chlorella (Chlorella pyrenoidosa) or microparticle diets on growth and survival of larval loach (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus)

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**Abstract:** 

Culture performance beyond metamorphosis of larval loach (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus) was examined in a feeding experiment of the early development stage (20 days after hatch; DAH). Total length, dry weight, length- and weight-specific growth rate (SGR) and survival were monitored in different diet regimes. During 20 days, diet treatments included: microparticle diets (A); live daphnia (Moina micrura) (B); live daphnia plus live chlorella (Chlorella pyrenoidosa) (C); and live daphnia plus microparticle diets (D). Fish survival rates during 20 days were  $21.23 \pm 4.2\%$  (A),  $73.19 \pm 2.8\%$  (B),  $90.76 \pm 3\%$  (C) and  $91.46 \pm 3.1\%$  (D), respectively. Length- and weight-specific growth rate after 20 DAH (final mean SGR; %  $day^{-1}$ ) were 5.36 ± 0.44 and 15.75 ± 1.52 (A), 9.29 ± 1.25 and 23.47 ± 2.23 (B), 9.42 ± 1.55 and  $24.88 \pm 2.9$  (C) and  $9.55 \pm 1.23$  and  $24.40 \pm 2.75$  (D), respectively. Fish in treatments B, C and D displayed higher growth rates and were significantly longer and heavier than fish in treatment A by the end of the experiment (P<0.05). Fish in treatment A had highly significant greater (P<0.001) mortalities than in treatments B, C and D. There were no significant differences in any growth parameter between fish in treatments B, C and D, but the survivals in treatments C and D (90.76% and 91.46%) were significantly higher than in treatment B (73.19%, P<0.05). The results demonstrated that enriched prey and co-feeding may serve as a potential feeding strategy for loach larvae, and the form of co-feeding reduces the costs and dependence on live foods to a certain extent. We concluded that larval loach should be reared over metamorphosis using either of the following methods: feed with live daphnia supplemented with microparticle diets or with live chlorella. However, a prolonged rearing period of loach larvae is needed to detect nutritional problems and observe remote effects of

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co-feeding on weaning in the future.

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