

Submission letter

Article title: Potential of Maggot and Earthworm Meals as Protein Sources for the Growth of Nirwana Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)

Hereby I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “**Potential of Maggot and Earthworm Meals as Protein Sources for the Growth of Nirwana Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)**” to Aquaculture, Aquarium, Conservation & Legislation - International Journal of the Bioflux Society.

This manuscript was not submitted or published to any other journal. The authors declare that the manuscript is an original paper and contain no plagiarized text. All authors declare that they are not currently affiliated or sponsored by any organization with a direct economic interest in subject of the article. My co-authors have all contributed to this manuscript and approve this submission.

Corresponding author

Suyono

Author 1

Kusnadi

Author 2

Sari Prabandari

Author 3

Syarifudin

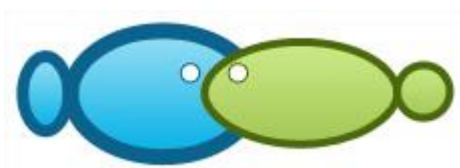
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B). Written evaluation – critics and comments on the article

C). Evaluation based on the form.

| | The Aspect | Evaluation |
|-----|---|---|
| | | yes / no (if no, is recommended to provide comments) |
| 1. | The title is clear and reflects the object of study | Yes |
| 2. | The abstract synthesizes well the content of the article | Yes |
| 3. | There are 4-6 key words (they key words have to be different from the words from the paper's title) | Yes |
| 4. | The introduction presents the relevance of the article for the given field and quotes the main results obtained by other authors concerning the subject. The introduction also has to contain the aim of the study. | Yes |
| 5. | The article contains a good overview on the previous studies from the same domain | Yes |
| 6. | The methodology in use is coherently presented and there is a fair justification of it being preferred instead of other existent methodologies | Yes |
| 7. | The source of the database is reliable (official databases, representative samples, etc) | Yes |
| 8. | The scientific contribution of the paper is original | Yes |
| 9. | The conclusions summarize clearly the results and the consequences | Yes |
| 10. | Recent and well chosen (suitable) bibliography. There is a clear match between the bibliographic references from the end of the article and the ones quoted in the text | Yes |
| 11. | The vocabulary used is academic, without incoherencies or grammar mistakes | Yes |
| 12. | The paper is edited according to journal format | Yes |

- Accepted in the initial form
- Accepted with minor modifications
- Accepted with substantial modifications – see comments in the paper
- Rejected



Potential of Maggot and Earthworm Meals as Protein Sources for the Growth of Nirwana Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)

¹Kusnadi, ¹Sari Prabandari, ²Syarifudin, ³Suyono*

¹Department of Pharmacy, Harapan Bersama Politechnic, Tegal 52147, Central Java, Indonesia; ²Department of Mechanical Engineering, Harapan Bersama Politechnic, Tegal 52147, Central Java, Indonesia; ³Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Pancasakti University, Tegal, Indonesia. Corresponding author: suyono.faperi.ups@gmail.com

Abstract. The purpose of this study was to determine whether maggot meal and earthworm meal have the potential to replace fish meal as a protein source in artificial feed formulations including assessing their effect on specific growth rate (SGR), rate of relative growth (RRG), ratio of feed conversion (RFC), feed efficiency (FE), and survival rate (SR) nirwana tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). This study used an experimental method with a completely randomized design (CRD), 4 treatments (F1, F2, F3, and F4) and commercial feed (CF) as a comparison. Nirwana tilapia were the experimental fish, with an average weight of 30.14 ± 0.02 g. The treatment applied was the use of maggot meal for fish meal substitution of 5% to 20% and 4% earthworm meal. The treatments are F1 = 30% fish meal (FM) + 5% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), F2 = 25% fish meal (FM) + 10% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), F3 = 20% fish meal (FM) + 15% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), and F4 = 15% fish meal (FM) + 20% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM). Relative growth rate (RRG), specific growth rate (SGR), survival rate (SR), feed conversion ratio (RFC), and feed efficiency are the variables identified in this study (FE). The SGR, RRG, FE, and SR values of nirwana tilapia can increase while the RFC value decreases with the addition of animal protein sourced feed containing maggot meal and earthworms. In fact, the use of maggot meal and earthworm meal at F3 (20% FM + 15% MM + 4% EM) with 25.32 protein produced RRG (2.81%) and SGR (1.65%), RFC (2.89%), FE (34.58) and SR (95%) which was almost the same as the use of commercial feed (CF) with 26% protein which produced RRG (2.87%) and SGR (1.67%), RFC (2.86%), FE (34.74) and SR (95%). Water quality in nirwana tilapia culture media (temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH (power of hydrogen), ammonia) was also concluded to be within the appropriate range for nirwana tilapia cultivation.

Key Words: maggot meal, earthworm meal, nirwana tilapia, growth, feed conversion.

Intruduction. Indonesia is the second largest producer of tilapia in the world, with 6.3 million tonnes produced globally in 2018. Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) was widely cultivated worldwide (Suhermanto et al 2019). Tilapia could adapted to aquaculture environments, traditional, semi or intensive scale cultivation systems, has high economic value, and was not affected by market price fluctuations, contributes to animal protein, and had experienced a significant increase in production in recent years (Wang & Lu 2016).

The increasing demand for tilapia commodities was related to the intensification of aquaculture, so that it will have an impact on the need for feed which was one of the inhibiting factors for growth. The cost of feed needs for cultured fish was around 60-70% of the total production cost, so the development of feed with sustainable local raw materials was needed, and becomes a challenge for farmers (Hamid et al 2016; Sarker et al 2018). The main cause of the high price of fish feed was the increased in the price of feed raw materials. The main protein source of commercial fish feed still comes from imported raw materials such as fish meal. In addition, excessive use of fish meal causes the supply of fish resources to be depleted (Pucher et al 2014). In addition, there is a fairly high pressure on the sustainability of fishery resources due to the excessive use of fish meal. As a result,

a breakthrough in the quest for substitute protein sources was required to support the availability of feed that is sustainable, accessible, and must be environmentally friendly.

Maggots and earthworms are sources of animal protein that have a high nutritional value, could reduced the need for fish meal, and have positive ecological effects (Li et al 2019). Black soldier fly maggots or larvae have the potential to serve as an alternate source of protein for fish food whether processed into fresh (live maggots) or dried into meal. The protein content of maggot was 42.1% (in dry weight), moisture (7.9%), fat (24.8%), ash (10.3%), and crude fiber (7%), so that it can meet the protein needs of livestock (Park 2016). The amino acid content in maggot contains arginine (2.29%), methionine (0.66%), phenylalanine (1.63%), threonine (1.70%), tryptophan (0.55%), valine (2.56%), histidine (1.50%), isoleucine (1.87%), lysine (2.71%), and leucine (3.23%) and can support fish development (Djissou et al 2015).

The high protein content was also relatively large (approximately 54-66% in dry matter) carbohydrates, fats and ash (Musyoka et al 2019). According to (Parolini et al 2020), earthworm meal (*Lumbricus rubellus*) contains 63.0% protein, 5.9% crude fat, 8.9% ash, and 1476 kJ/100 g of energy for metabolism. Together with arginine (2.83 g kg⁻¹), phenylalanine (6.26 g kg⁻¹), tryptophan (4.43 g kg⁻¹), valine (4.43 g kg⁻¹), histidine (1.47 g kg⁻¹), isoleucine (2.04 g kg⁻¹), leucine (4.11 g kg⁻¹), and lysine (6.35 g kg⁻¹) were the amino acid profiles found in earthworm meal.

utilizing maggots to replace fish meal as a source of animal protein for *Oreochromis niloticus* (Ezewudo et al 2015), maggot and earthworm meal for *gariepinus* (Djissou et al 2016a), for juvenile turbot (*Psetta maxima*) and white shrimp (Kroeckel et al 2012; Cummins et al 2017), earthworm for *Clarias gariepinus* (Dedeke et al 2013), earthworms for *Cyprinus carpio* (Pucher et al 2014), and *Oreochromis* sp. juvenile (Jabir 2012). In general, substituting fish meal could reduced feed consumption while boosting growth and feed effectiveness (Rachmawati and Nurhayati 2022). There hadn't been any investigation on the effects of mixing maggot meal with earthworm meal on the growth of nirwana tilapia, according to some earlier literature, so it is a novelty in the study. This study aims to determine the effect of using maggot flour and earthworm flour as a protein source on the substitution of fish meal in artificial feed formulations on the rate of relative growth (RRG), specific growth rate (SGR), ratio of feed conversion (RFC), feed efficiency (FE), and survival rate (SR) nirwana tilapia.

Material and Method

Experimental materials. The raw material for fish meal was obtained from the fish meal industry, Sari Ulam, Tegal City, Indonesia. Maggot and earthworms were obtained from local maggot and worm farms, Tegal agrofarm Indonesia. The manufacture of maggot meal refers to (Ahmad et al 2022) with a slight modification, A hot air oven was used to dry the maggot for around 36 hours at 60 °C, then mashed using a grinder and filtered through a sieve. The manufacture of earthworm meal refers to (Parolini et al 2020) a slight modification, by steaming the earthworms at a temperature of 70 °C for 10 minutes and grinding them with a grinder until the particles are finer. After that, bake for 10 to 12 hours at 60 °C. The dry materials were crushed and put through a sieve with a mesh size of 50.

Experimental fish. The nirwana tilapia utilized in this investigation had an average beginning weight of 30.14 ± 0.05 g. Tilapia fish used in the study were 100 fish obtained from the Fish Seed Center of Tegal City, Central Java, Indonesia. The test tilapia were stocked as many as 20 fish in each maintenance tarpaulin container. The completeness of the organs, physical health, size, and weight were taken into consideration when choosing the test fish. The fish are fed until they were completely satisfied twice daily at 8:00 and 16:00 to ensure that they have truly adapted to the new surroundings and the feed provided. The test fish were reared for 60 days and during rearing the tilapia were fed according to the treatment to determine the weight growth from May to July 2022.

Diet Experiment. The ingredients for the feed composition include fish meal, earthworm meal, maggot meal, corn meal, rice bran, copra meal, tapioca meal, fish oil, premix and

commercial feed from PT Matahari Sakti, Surabaya, Indonesia with 26% protein. The use of maggot meal as a substitute for fish meal as much as 5% to 20%, while earthworm meal was 4% for 4 treatments (F1, F2, F3, and F4) based on the difference in the percentages of fish meal (FM), maggot meal (MM), and meal. earthworm (EM). F1 = 30% fish meal (FM) + 5% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), F2 = 25% fish meal (FM) + 10% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), F3 = 20% fish meal (FM) + 15% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM), and F4 = 15% fish meal (FM) + 20% maggot meal (MM) + 4% earthworm meal (EM) and commercial feed (CF) as comparison. Previously, proximate analyses of feed components like fish meal, maggot meal, and earthworm meal had been performed (Table 1) for their composition before the experimental diet was used and Table 2 presents the proximate results of the experimental feed formulation. Provided food up to 5% of their body weight at a frequency of two meals per day during maintenance, and two meals per day at 8:00 and 17:00 WIB..

Table 1

Nutrient composition (% dry weight) on fish meal, maggot meal, and earthworm meal

| Ingredient | Protein | Moisture | Ash | fat | fiber |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fish meal | 40.43±0.09 ^c | 8.67±0.01 ^a | 16.48±0.27 ^a | 8.41±0.01 ^b | 4.40±0.12 ^c |
| Maggot meal | 44.63±0.02 ^b | 6.34±0.06 ^c | 12.53±0.03 ^b | 11.50±0.11 ^a | 10.19±0.04 ^a |
| Earthworm meal | 54.46±0.09 ^a | 8.18±0.02 ^b | 5.61±0.03 ^c | 7.43 ^c ±0.02 ^c | 6.39±0.14 ^b |

Note: *analysis outcome from the University of Diponegoro's Laboratory of Animal Nutrition, Faculty of Animal Sciences and Agriculture (2022). The number after ± was the standard error value, unequal superscript letters on the same line indicate significantly unequal treatment effects (P < 0.05).

Table 2

Experimental diet composition in each formula

| Materials | Feed formulation (%/100 g) | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 |
| Fish meal | 30.00 | 25.00 | 20.00 | 15.00 |
| Maggot meal | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 20.00 |
| earthworm meal | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Tapioca meal | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Bran meal | 18.00 | 18.00 | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| Copra meal | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Corn meal | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Vitamin-mineral mix | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Fish oil | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Note: F1 (30% FM and 5% MM, 4% EM); F2 (25% FM, 10% MM and 4% EM); F3 (20% FM, 15% MM and 4% EM); F4 (15% FM, 20% MM and 4% EM) and CF (Commercial feed).

Experimental Containers. In this study, the container used was a plastic pool with a length, width and height of 1 m x 1 m x 0.70 m, then the pool was filled with water with a height of 50 cm. The maintenance container was equipped with an aeration and circulation system for changing water using a pipe on the inside of the pond. The test tilapia were stocked into the plastic pool and acclimatized first. Feed was given little by little, if there is food that was not eaten by the fish then the feed was taken so that the water in the test container was not cloudy. Water quality is maintained by siphoning the

remaining feed and feces at the bottom of the container, as well as changing the water every 7 days with the volume of water replaced, which was 25% of the initial volume.

Research methods. Completely Randomized Design (CRD) was used in the experimental methodology of this study, with 4 trials and the use of commercial feed (CF) as a comparison. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed in statistical data analysis to establish the significance level ($p < 0.05$) and continued using the Tekey test if there was a difference. Descriptive analysis to analyze water quality, Microsoft Excel 2013 was used to determine the mean difference between treatments.

Research variable. Several variables were observed in this study, including the rate of relative growth (RRG), specific growth rate (SGR) (Katya et al 2017), ratio of feed conversion (RFC) (Selvam et al 2018), feed efficiency (FE), and survival rate (SR). The formula equations applied in this study are presented as follows:

$$\text{Rate of relative growth (RRG) (\%)} = \frac{\text{final weight} - \text{initial weight}}{\text{Fish rearing time in days} \times \text{initial weight}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Specific growth rate (SGR) (\%)} = \frac{\ln(\text{final weight} - \text{initial weight})}{\text{Fish rearing time in days}} \times 100$$

$$\text{RFC} = \frac{\text{Amount of dry feed intake}}{(\text{final weight in days} + \text{dead fish weight in days}) - \text{initial weight in days}} \times 100$$

$$\text{FE} = \frac{(\text{final weight in days} + \text{dead fish weight in days}) - \text{initial weight in days}}{\text{Amount of dry feed intake}} \times 100$$

$$\text{SR (\%)} = \frac{\text{final fish count}}{\text{Initial Fish count}} \times 100$$

Chemical and microbiological analysis. Protein, fat, water, ash, and fiber proximate chemical analyses were performed in accordance with the AOAC's recommended procedure (Latimer 2016). The Kjeldahl method was used for protein proximate analysis (Kusnadi et al 2022). The solution of the destroyed sample was placed in a steam distillation apparatus and three drops of phenolphthaleine indicator were added before the distillation was completed. When the dripping distillate reacts neutrally to red litmus and the color of the reservoir solution changes to green, the reservoir solution was determined as a solution of the destroyed sample (pink). Fat analysis was performed using Soxhlet extraction. Amino acid profile of feed using the method (HPLC) applied by (Nik Sin et al. 2021) with slight modification was used for amino acid analysis. A total of 30 mg of protein hydrolyzate was then added with 4 ml of 6 N HCl which had been heated at 110 °C for 24 hours. Cool to room temperature, neutralize ($\text{pH} = 7$) with 6 N NaOH, add the sample to 10 µl of distilled water, then filter using 0.2 m Whatman filter paper. Add 10 µl of HPLC injector to 50 µl of sample and 300 µl of OPA (Orthophthalaldehyde) solution after stirring for 5 minutes. Feed microbiological tests include analyzing aflatoxin contamination using the HPLC method (María et al 2022) and Salmonella with ISO 6579-1, which were evaluated in the laboratory center for agro-based industry (Mooijman et al 2019).

Facets of water quality. Measurements of temperature (°C), pH (hydrogen power), and dissolved oxygen (DO) were measured for water quality supporting parameters in this study every two days at 08.00 and 16.00 WIB in each unit experiment. At the start,

midpoint, and end of the study, UV-Vis Spectrophotometry was used to analyze the ammonia (NH₃) content.

Results. Table 3 displays the findings of the proximate and microbiological examination of feed on 4 formulations using earthworm meal and maggot meal as well as 1 commercial feed.

The protein and fat content (%) for treatments F1 to F4 ranged from 23.65%, 24.74%, 25.32%, and 26.60%, respectively. The protein content in each formula increased from F1 to F4, in line with the 5% increase in maggot meal in each formula.

| Proximate analysis | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 | CF |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Protein (%) | 23.65±0.02 ^d | 24.74±0.02 ^c | 25.32±0.03 ^b | 26.66±0.03 ^a | 26.00 |
| Moisture (%) | 9.87±0.02 ^a | 9.75 ^b ±0.01 | 9.66±0.01 ^{bc} | 9.55±0.02 ^c | 10.00 |
| Ash (%) | 12.76±0.03 ^a | 12.24±0.02 ^b | 11.63±0.25 ^c | 10.88 ^d ±0.02 ^d | 12.00 |
| Fat (%) | 5.14±0.01 ^d | 5.64±0.01 ^c | 6.60±0.02 ^b | 7.66±0.01 ^a | 5.00 |
| Fiber (%) | 7.19±0.04 ^d | 7.88±0.02 ^c | 8.35±0.01 ^b | 8.83±0.04 ^a | 8.00 |
| Energy (kcal) | 3818.2 | 3853.7 | 3899.3 | 3936.5 | 3906.8 |
| Microbiological analysis | | | | | |
| Aflatoxin (µg kg ⁻¹) | 6.79 | 6.18 | 4.68 | 3.81 | 3.76 |
| Salmonella | Negative | Negative | Negative | Negative | Negative |

Note: the number after ± was the standard error value; unequal superscript letters on the same line indicate significantly unequal treatment effects (P < 0.05). F1 (30% FM and 5% MM, 4% EM); F2 (25% FM, 10% MM and 4% EM); F3 (20% FM, 15% MM and 4% EM); F4 (15% FM, 20% MM and 4% EM) and CF (Commercial feed).

Table 4 lists the essential amino acid (EAA) composition of the feed formulation rations as well as the necessary EAA amounts for nirwana tilapia.

| Asam amino | Experimental diets formulation | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 | CF |
| Histidine | 0.34 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.46 | 0.43 |
| Threonin | 0.94 | 1.00 | 1.08 | 1.30 | 1.07 |
| Arginin | 2.00 | 2.16 | 2.26 | 2.72 | 2.76 |
| Tyrosin | 1.62 | 2.12 | 2.46 | 2.98 | 2.20 |
| Methionin | 0.2 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.3 | 0.37 |
| Valin | 1.08 | 1.24 | 1.36 | 1.68 | 1.25 |
| Phenylalanin | 0.82 | 0.9 | 0.94 | 1.16 | 1.14 |
| Isoleusin | 0.70 | 0.82 | 0.90 | 1.12 | 0.95 |
| Leusin | 1.70 | 1.86 | 1.96 | 2.36 | 1.99 |
| Lysin | 1.90 | 1.90 | 2.18 | 2.52 | 2.33 |

Note: F1 (30% FM and 5% MM, 4% EM); F2 (25% FM, 10% MM and 4% EM); F3 (20% FM, 15% MM and 4% EM); F4 (15% FM, 20% MM and 4% EM) and CF (Commercial feed).

Table 4 shows that experimental feed's amino acid content and profile increased from F1 to F4, which was consistent with the rise in protein content in each feed formulation.

Table 5 displays the findings from the examination of the variables rate of relative growth (RRG), specific growth rate (SGR), ratio of feed conversion (RFC), feed efficiency

(FE), and survival rate (SR). The results of observations on all variables show the experimental feed the F3 formula showed almost the same results as the use of commercial feed (CF). Commercial feed showed the best results of RRG, SGR, RFC, FE, and SR compared to the experimental formula, then followed by the treatment of F3 and F5 feed, while the results of F2 and F1 treatments showed lower results. Measurements and observations of water quality during the study are presented in Table 6.

Table 5

Data replication of rate of relative growth (RRG), specific growth rate (SGR), ratio of feed conversion (RFC), feed efficiency (FE), and survival rate (SR) of nirwana tilapia

| Parameter | Experimental diet formulation | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 | CF |
| RRG (% day ⁻¹) | 2,35±0.01 ^d | 2,58±0.02 ^c | 2.81±0.02 ^{ab} | 2.76±0.03 ^b | 2.87±0.03 ^a |
| SGR (%) | 1.46±0.02 ^b | 1.56±0.01 ^b | 1.65±0.01 ^a | 1.63±0.02 ^a | 1.67±0.02 ^a |
| RFC | 3.30±0.01 ^d | 3.07±0.02 ^c | 2.89±0.03 ^a | 2.98±0.02 ^b | 2.86±0.01 ^a |
| FE | 30.23±0.02 ^e | 32.49±0.02 ^d | 34.58±0.01 ^b | 33.47±0.01 ^c | 34.74±0.02 ^a |
| SR (%) | 90.00±0.00 | 95.00±0.00 | 95.00±0.00 | 90.00±0.00 | 95.00±0.00 |

Note: the number after ± was the standard error value; unequal superscript letters on the same line indicate significantly unequal treatment effects (P < 0.05).

Table 6

Data replication of Facets of water quality in nirwana tilapia culture

| Facets of water quality | Treatment | | | | | Ref. range |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 | CF | |
| Temperature (°C) | 27.2-28.6 | 27.2-28.7 | 27.3-28.5 | 27.2-28.6 | 27.2-28.8 | 28.5-30.55* |
| DO (mg L ⁻¹) | 5.8-6.8 | 5.7-6.9 | 5.8-6.7 | 5.7-7.0 | 5.7-6.8 | > 3* |
| pH | 6.6-7.8 | 6.5-7.7 | 6.5-7.5 | 6.6-7.6 | 6.7-7.7 | 6.5-8.5* |
| Ammonia (mg L ⁻¹) | 0.006-0.02 | 0.006-0.02 | 0.006-0.02 | 0.006-0.06 | 0.006-0.04 | < 0.1* |

Note: *Boyd (1992). F1 (30% FM and 5% MM, 4% EM); F2 (25% FM, 10% MM and 4% EM); F3 (20% FM, 15% MM and 4% EM); F4 (15% FM, 20% MM and 4% EM) and CF (Commercial feed).

During the study, the value of facets of water quality in the shrimp culture medium was still within the desired range, thus ensuring the growth of nirwana tilapia.

Discussion. The results of the proximate test, the protein values from treatment F1 to F4 were 24.65% to 26.60%, while the different test results were different in water content, fat, ash and fiber content (Table 3). The increase in protein content in the feed formulation was influenced by maggot meal which had a protein content (44.13%) greater than fish meal 40.43%. The combination of maggot meal and earthworm meal at F1 (30% FM and 5% MM, 4% EM) showed the lowest protein level. While the microbiological examination of aflatoxin contamination in all formulations revealed that aflatoxin levels decreased with increased usage of maggot meal. This was because maggot has antimicrobial and antifungal activity so that it could reduced microbial contamination in feed formulations (Valachova et al 2014; Pöppel et al 2015). The results of aflatoxin content for all feed formulas were still relatively safe for fish consumption, because they were still below the threshold, which was less than 20 g kg⁻¹ and also do not contain salmonella bacteria.

Maggot and earthworms were good sources of animal protein for tilapia because they contain essential amino acids for fish growth. Protein requirements for fish growth vary, the younger the age of the fish, the greater the protein needs. (Nguyen et al 2020a)

in his study stated that the need and balance of feed protein was 24-30% for Nile tilapia measuring 7.90 g for growth up to 10 weeks. Another study stated that the protein requirement of feed for juvenile Nile tilapia measuring 12.7 g in an eight-week period was 22.2% to 29.7% sourced from soybean meal, fish meal, and corn meal protein (Nguyen et al 2020b). The protein content of the formulas F1 through F4 was shown in this study based on the literature, and it still met the suggested levels of fish feed protein for tilapia growth.

Amino acid content in F4 and F3 treatment feeds with ratios (FM)/(MM)/(EM) (15:20:4)% and (20:15:4)%, respectively, always occupied the highest position, while the combination (FM)/(MM)/(EM) with a ratio (30:5:4)% almost always in the lowest place during the F1 treatment (Table 3). This suggests that the value of the amino acids it contains could be improved by adding natural feed sources of maggot meal to the amino acid profile in amounts ranging from 5% to 20%. Table 4 shows that there are nine profiles of essential amino acids out of ten that are required to be present in the five types of feed, namely arginine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, threonine, valine, methionine, and phenylalanine. Lysine was one of the 10 necessary amino acids that could served as a benchmark amino acid (Hamid et al 2016). This was because the amino acid lysine in the animal body could stimulated fish growth and deposit protein tissue, because it was needs were not influenced by other metabolic roles (Marchão et al 2020; Cai et al. 2018). The requirement for the amino acid lysine in the growth phase of lysine tilapia can reach 1.55% (Diógenes et al 2016). The values of amino acid levels are larger than 1.55% according to the formulas F1 through F4 and commercial feed (CF) content, namely F1 (1.90%), F2 (1.90%), F3 (2.18%), F4 (2.52%), and CF (2.33%). This shows that the requirement for the amino acid lysine for tilapia was fully met. Diets with an unbalanced amino acid profile could led to lessed food intake and lessed effective utilization of essential amino acids (Prabu et al 2020).

The results of feed treatment on formula F3, F4 and commercial feed (CF) with 25.32%, 26.66% and 26% protein respectively for Nirwana tilapia resulted in RRG, SGR, RFC, feed efficiency (FE), and Survival rate values (SR) which was better than the experimental feed treatment F1, F2, and F4. It was anticipated that the inclusion of earthworm meal and maggot meal in experimental feeds F3 and F4 will provide nirwana tilapia with a rich source of essential amino acids. The analysis findings revealed that CF treatment caused the highest rate of relative growth (RRG) and specific growth rate (SGR) of 2.87% and 1.67%, respectively, then F3 with RRG (2.81%) and SGR (1.65%) is the next highest result. There were differences based on the RRG and SGR values for all formulas, although for CF and F3 they were not statistically different ($p > 0.05$). The ratio of feed nutrients (protein, fat, and fiber) affected relative and specific growth rates to promote fish growth (Eriegha & Ekokotu 2017). Growth happens when there was extra metabolic energy left over after it had been consumed for bodily upkeep and activities. The majority of the feed consumed was used for growth after first being used to maintain the body and replace damaged cells (Adeniyi et al 2020). Increased feed protein does not always lead to increased growth. Increasing feed protein without being followed by a balance with non-protein energy sources will cause protein to be used as an energy source (Samuelsen et al 2022).

The results of proximate analysis, substitution of fish meal with 15% maggot meal in the F3 feed formula (25.33% protein) resulted in a higher rate of relative growth (RRG) and specific growth rate (SGR) than F4 feed with 20% substitution (26.66% protein). This was presumably because the nutritional content of the feed used for growth was sufficient. This was also in accordance with the study of Rachmawati & Samidjan (2013), which stated that the substitution of fish meal with maggot meal with 25.13% protein could provided more optimal growth compared to protein with levels of 26.94% and 27.79% respectively. If their protein requirements are met, fish can grow well if their food intake is appropriate. The amount of protein in the meal has an impact on the tilapia's high and low growth rates (Ngugi et al 2017). Due to the consumption of protein from bodily tissues to maintain important processes, a lack of protein in the diet could resulted in stunted growth, which was followed by weight loss. The quality of the protein, the energy content of the feed, the nutritional balance, and the level of feeding all had a significant impact on how well the

fish used the protein for growth (Samuelsen et al 2022). If the amount of protein consumed from the feed was too high, only a portion of it would be absorbed and used for cell formation and repair, and the remainder would be expelled (Prangnell et al 2022). High protein intake had the effect of increasing the amount of energy needed for protein catabolism, which results in nitrogen being excreted in the form of ammonia through the kidneys. This was due to fish's limited ability to store protein (Silva et al 2022).

The findings of assessing the ratio of feed conversion (RFC) in F1 to F4 and CF treatments in Nirwana tilapia (*O. niloticus*) for 60 days likewise revealed significant variations between treatments ($p < 0.05$). The RFC values in the F3 and CF treatments also produced the smallest values and were not significantly different ($p > 0.05$), namely 2.89 and 2.86. Table 5 shows that the F1 treatment shows the highest RFC value of 3.30 and the lowest in the F4 treatment of 2.89. Therefore, it could be seen that the feed that has the highest utilization efficiency was the F3 treatment (15% maggot meal in place of fish meal) of 2.89. The higher the use of maggot meal (20%) in the formulation, the higher the ratio of feed conversion (RFC) value of 3.30. This was most likely owing to the chitin content in maggot meal, which reduced the ability of tilapia seeds to digest feed when fish meal was substituted more frequently. Because chitin was crystalline and soluble only in strong acid solutions, the body was unable to properly digest it (Cummins et al 2017). The quality of the water and the feed utilized had an impact on the RFC value, which was also strongly connected with the fish diet (Rachmawati & Samidjan 2019). The smaller the RFC value, the better the level of feed efficiency (FE), and vice versa. Compared to the control treatment, the use of feed was smaller, this could be seen from the fish's low appetite (Rachmawati & Nurhayati 2022). Tayebi & Sobhanardakani (2020), stated that Tilapia had an omnivorous nature, so that aquaculture was efficient with low feed costs. The higher the quality of the feed delivered, the lower the RFC value. (Selvam et al 2018). Meanwhile, if the feed conversion value was high, it means that the quality of the feed provided was not good.

Table 5 demonstrates that the nirwana tilapia's survival value differed when fish food was substituted with maggot meal and earthworm meal. The mean survival rate (SR) in Nirwana tilapia cultivation in F2, F3, and CF treatments was 95%, while F1 and F4 treatments were 90%. The results of observations during the study, tilapia fed the test feed (using maggot meal in place of fish meal 5%, 10%, 15%, and 20%) and 4% earthworm meal had a high survival value. The high survival value of fish The tilapia obtained in this study was suspected to be water quality parameters during maintenance that were still within the limits of optimum conditions for cultivation purposes so that it was feasible for the survival of tilapia (Diógenes et al 2016). The size of the survival rate was affected by both internal and external parameters, such as water quality, stocking density, amount of complete amino acids in feed, and gender, heredity, age, reproduction, and disease resistance (Obirikorang et al 2022).

According to Djissou et al (2016a), growth performance and survival rate of tilapia were influenced by feed and water quality. Constraints faced in aquaculture were caused by the main components, namely quality seeds, water quality management, feed management, and fish pest management. Provision of quality feed with the required quantity, use of seeds and professional cultivation management were factors that support the success of cultivation (Djissou et al 2016b). Measurement of the study water quality parameters showed that the dissolved oxygen (DO) level in tilapia water was between 5.8 and 6.9 mg/L, which was a level that is still good for fish maintenance and survival. The results of temperature measurements obtained results of 27.2-28.8°C. It was also stated that Rachmawati & Samidjan (2019) that tilapia could lived well with a temperature tolerance value of 25-30°C, tilapia can survive in low oxygen content of up to 3 mg L⁻¹, but a good oxygen range value for cultivation was between 5-7 mg L⁻¹ and levels of ammonia (NH₃) < 0.1 mg L⁻¹.

Conclusions. According to the study's findings, replacing fish meal with a protein source consisting of 4% earthworm meal and 15% maggot meal could raise nirwana tilapia SGR, RRG, FE, and SR values while decreasing RFC. The use of maggot meal and earthworm meal on F3 (20% FM + 15% MM + 4% EM) with 25.32 protein resulted in RRG (2.81%)

and SGR (1.65%), RFC (2.89), FE (34.58) and SR (95%) which was almost the same as the use of commercial feed (CF) with 26% protein which produces RRG (2.87%) and SGR (1.67%), RFC (2.86), FE (34.74) and SR (95%). Use of earthworm meal and maggot meal as a source of protein can help minimize reliance on fish meal in fish feed.

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Authors:

Kusnadi, Department of Pharmacy, Harapan Bersama Politechnic, Tegal 52147, Central Java, Indonesia,
e-mail: kusnadi.adi87@gmail.com

Sari Prabandari, Department of Pharmacy, Harapan Bersama Politechnic, Tegal 52147, Central Java, Indonesia,
e-mail: sariprabandari.sp@gmail.com

Syarifudin, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Harapan Bersama Politechnic, Tegal 52147, Central Java, Indonesia, e-mail: masudinsyarif88@gmail.com

Suyono, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Pancasakti University, Tegal, Indonesia
e-mail: suyono.faperi.ups@gmail.com

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