Effects of Live Food Organisms and Formulated Diets on Growth, Survival, and Body Protein of Asian Sea Bass Fry (*Lates calcarifer*, Bloch)

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(Received 25.7.08, Accepted 22.9.08)

Key words: *Lates calcarifer*, *Artemia*, *Moina*, *Tubifex*, Bombay duck fishmeal, formulated diet, body protein

Abstract

The effects of the live feeds, *Artemia*, *Moina*, and *Tubifex*, and a formulated diet on the survival, growth, and body composition of fry (0.05±0.001 g) of the Asian sea bass, *Lates calcarifer* (also called barramundi), were evaluated. The formulated diet was supplemented with dry Bombay duck fishmeal (10%) as an attractant. The experiment was conducted for 30 days in 40-l glass aquaria containing 30 l fresh water. The fry fed *Artemia* had the best survival (70%) and growth rate (6.48±0.10%). Fry fed *Moina* and formulated diet had 60% survival, not significantly different from fry fed *Artemia*. Survival was poor (30%) in fry fed *Tubifex*. Body protein and lipid contents differed significantly among treatments. The present study suggests that *Artemia* nauplii is the better feed for Asian sea bass fry but formulated diet can be used as a substitute since growth and survival were similar.

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