

THE EFFECT OF SPLIT RATIONS ON  
NURSERY PRODUCTION OF *Macrobrachium*  
*rosenbergii* (de Man) UNDER  
TANK CONDITIONS

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Dedication .....

To my beloved Pa, Mum, sisters  
and brothers, without their love  
and financial support, the author  
would not have completed this programme.

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## ABSTRACT

Macrobrachium rosenbergii juveniles measuring  $1.6 \pm 0.20$ cm in total length and  $0.04 \pm 0.01$ g in weight were reared in rectangular tanks at a stocking rate of 80 prawns/m<sup>2</sup> to determine the effect of split rations on the growth and survival rate of this prawn. Split rations in this experiment means feeding frequency per day based on a daily food ration.

At the end of this study period of 8 weeks, the final mean body weight for treatments feeding once in the morning, once in the evening, twice daily and three times daily were  $0.67 \pm 0.27$ g,  $0.40 \pm 0.18$ g,  $0.59 \pm 0.29$ g and  $0.65 \pm 0.18$ g, while the final mean total length were  $4.42 \pm 0.72$ cm,  $3.82 \pm 0.85$ cm,  $4.30 \pm 0.61$ cm and  $4.43 \pm 0.43$ cm respectively. The results were highly significant at 1% level ( $P < 0.01$ ). Further statistical test showed that treatments feeding once in the morning, twice daily and three times daily were insignificantly different while treatment feeding once in the evening was significantly different from the other three at 5% level ( $P > 0.05$ ).

Survival rates for the four treatments were 88.7%, 71.6%, 70% and 63.7% for treatments feeding three times daily, once in the evening, twice daily and once in the morning respectively. No significant difference was detected at 5% level ( $P > 0.05$ ) among these four treatments.

## ABSTRAK

Anak udang Macrobrachium rosenbergii bersaiz  $1.60 \pm 0.20$ cm panjang badan dan  $0.04 \pm 0.01$ g berat badan telah ditenak dalam tangki berempatsegi dengan kadar penebaran 80 ekor/m<sup>2</sup> untuk menentukan kesan pembahagian makanan terhadap tumbesaran dan kadar kemandirian. Pembahagian makanan disini bermaksud frekuensi pemberian makanan sehari berdasarkan jumlah makanan yang diberi dalam satu hari.

Pada akhir kajian ini didapati keputusan akhir berat purata bagi pemberian makanan sekali sehari sebelah pagi, sekali sehari sebelah petang, dua kali sehari dan tiga kali sehari adalah  $0.67 \pm 0.27$ g,  $0.40 \pm 0.18$ g,  $0.59 \pm 0.29$ g dan  $0.65 \pm 0.18$ g, manakala keputusan akhir panjang badan purata adalah  $4.42 \pm 0.72$ cm,  $3.82 \pm 0.85$ cm,  $4.30 \pm 0.61$ cm dan  $4.43 \pm 0.43$ cm berturut-turut. Keempat-empat rawatan ini menunjukkan perbezaan pada paras paras keyakinan 1% ( $P < 0.01$ ). Ujian statistik seterusnya menunjukkan bahawa pemberian makanan sekali sehari sebelah pagi, dua kali sehari dan tiga kali sehari tidak ada perbezaan manakala yang sekali sehari sebelah petang mempunyai perbezaan daripada ketiga-tiga rawat tersebut pada paras keyakinan 5% ( $P > 0.05$ ).

Kadar kemandirian untuk rawatan-rawatan berikut adalah 88.7% (pemberian makanan tiga kalisehari), 71.6%

(sekali sehari pada petang), 70% (dua kali sehari) dan 63.7% (sekali sehari pada pagi). Tiada perbezaan ditunjukkan pada paras keyakinan 5% ( $P > 0.05$ ) untuk kadar kemandirian.