

**Ingestion efficiency of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man) larvae feeding on *Artemia*, *Moina micrura* Kurz and their combination**

**ABSTRACT**

Ingestion efficiency of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (de Man) larvae feeding on *Artemia* alone (A), *Moina* alone (M) and a 50:50 mixture of *Artemia* and *Moina* (AM) at 1, 3, 5 and 7 organisms ml<sup>-1</sup> densities was investigated in terms of individual ingestion rate (IIR), dry mass ingestion (DMI) and energy intake (EI). Irrespective of larval stages and test food densities, larvae showed a significantly higher IIR for diet A except for AM, as the IIR for A and AM were similar from stage V onwards. Compared with diet A, IIR of M were sevenfold to fourfold lower, up to stage V. However, the larvae showed a sharp increase in IIR thereafter and gradually the differences reduced to about 1.6-1.2 fold at later stages. Despite the lower IIR, both DMI and EI for *Moina* were higher from stage VIII onwards than values for *Artemia*. In case of mixed diet (AM), the larvae of all stages showed a food selectivity response.

**Keyword:** Individual ingestion rate (IIR); Dry mass ingestion (DMI); Energy intake (EI)