

## Effect of food on growth and survival of *Labeo rohita* postlarvae

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The seeds of *Labeo rohita* an introduced fish species to Sri Lanka, are in wide demand for stocking in perennial reservoirs, seasonal tanks and domestic fish ponds. As a middle layer feeder, it is used in polyculture systems. In order to fulfil this wide demand, an effective and economical feed for rearing postlarvae (PL) is needed to produce fry and fingerlings within a short period.

An experiment was conducted to investigate the most suitable food for postlarvae rearing in cement tanks. Survival and growth of PL were monitored; without supplementary feed (FX), with Ricebran (RB), and with locally formulated feed (C2). A constant stocking density of 500 pl/m<sup>2</sup> was maintained in each tank. The initial length and weight of PL were 6.0 - 7.0 mm, and 1.0 - 1.5 mg, respectively. The culture cycle was 28 days. The mean length of fry in the above feeding treatments were 14.7 mm, 23 mm and 24.4mm, for FX, RB and C2, respectively. Specific Growth Rate of *L. rohita* at the 3 feeding treatments were significantly different. Scheffe's Pairwise comparison showed that C2 and RB were not significantly different from each other but these two groups were significantly different from FX.

According to the above results, RB and C2 could be recommended for *L. rohita* PL rearing in cement tanks. RB would be the most suitable food considering the economic aspects and ample availability in the country.