Effects of calcium carbonate nanoparticles on water quality, growth and metabolic activity of *Macrobrachium nipponense* in zero-water exchange biofloc system

R Fakhari¹, H Adineh^{1*}, H Jafaryan¹, M Harsij¹, M Sudagar²

¹Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources, Gonbad Kavous University, Gonbad, Iran

²Department of Aquaculture, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran

Received: June 2020

Accepted: August 2020

Abstract

The purpose of the present research was to investigate the effects of adding calcium carbonate nanoparticles to the Macrobrachium nipponense diet in the biofloc system under zero exchange conditions. Oriental River prawn (initial weigh of 0.82 ± 0.07 g) were divided into four groups and fed four levels of calcium carbonate nanoparticles as following 0, 25, 50 and 100 mg kg⁻¹ diet in biofloc system (CN0, CN25, CN50, and CN100) for 28 days. This study was applied complete randomized design with three replications. Water quality parameters were measured during the test period. Feed and growth parameters and some metabolic activities of hepatopancreas were measured. Physico-chemical water factors were in the appropriate range for this species. The concentrations of total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), nitrite, and nitrate were not significantly different between the experimental groups.

*Correspondence H. Adineh, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture science and natural resources, Gonbad Kavous University, Gonbad, Iran (e-mail: adineh.h@gonbad.ac.ir). The growth of prawns was significantly higher and feed conversion ratio was lower in CN25 and CN50 groups compared to the control group. The lowest AST and ALT activities were observed in CN25 and CN50 groups compared to the control. The prawns fed with experiment diets had significantly higher total protein, hemocyanin, glucose, and calcium compared to the control. Overall, the results showed diets containing Nano-calcium carbonate at levels 25-50 mg kg⁻¹ in CN25 and **CN50** groups could improve growth performance and metabolic activity of oriental river prawn in the biofloc system.

Keywords: *Macrobrachium nipponense*, nanoparticles, physiology, biofloc technology

Introduction

Freshwater prawn farming plays an important role in the global aquaculture industry. Oriental river *Macrobrachium nipponense* is widely distributed in freshwater and lowsalinity areas of rivers. Oriental river *M*. *nipponense* is one of the important and commercial species of Palamonidae family of decapod crustacesns (Ma *et al.*, 2011), due to high resistance to temperature changes, good growth in natural conditions, and ease of reproduction. Currently, this species is an important target in Southeast Asian countries. This species abundantly found in fish ponds in the Northern provinces of Iran (Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan).

Biofloc technology (BFT) is a suitable and useful system based on the growth of microorganisms. Microorganisms play two major roles in maintaining water quality (by absorbing nitrogen compounds in the production of microbial protein) and nutrition (increasing production per unit area and reducing feed conversion ratio) in the aquaculture environment (De Schryver et al., 2008; Avnimelech, 2009; Crab et al., 2012). The main advantages of the culture system with biofloc technology are the use of nitrogenous wastes, the limited use of water and at least wastewater is released to the environment (Avnimelech, 2009; Emerenciano et al., 2011), and so BFT is environmentally friendly. In addition, BFT systems enhance the growth parameters, feed performance, enzymatic activities, and immune and also antioxidant indexes of cultured shrimp (Xu et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2017; Panigrahi et al., 2020). In this regards, research has been reported on the effects of BFT on the growth and liver histology changes of Speckled shrimp (Metapenaeus monoceros) (Kaya et al., 2019) and Pacific white shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei (Xu and Pan, 2012; Khanjani et al.,

2017), the effects of different types of feeds and salinity levels on Pacific white shrimp juveniles in a biofloc system (Khanjani *et al.*, 2020), and the effects of different feeding levels on Pacific white shrimp in zero water exchange system (Khanjani *et al.*, 2015).

Divalent cations such as calcium (Ca^{2+}) are responsible for the formation of bioflocs by improvements in floc properties as measured by sludge volume index (SVI), capillary suction time (CST), specific resistance to filtration (SRF), cake solids, and floc strength (Sobeck and Higgins, 2002). Calcium is an essential element in the body that is required for bone formation, growth, cellular physiology, immune response, and blood coagulation (Reid et al., 1993). Calcium carbonate is the most common form of calcium supplements (NRC, 1994). Calcium carbonate, a mineral chemical with the formula (CaCo₃), can also be produced synthetically. Calcium carbonate can affect crustacean biological activities such as reproduction, peeling, and growth by affecting water hardness (Mente, 2003; Houng et al., 2010).

In recent years, interest in nanotechnology and the use of nanoparticles in commercial applications has increased. However, there is little information about the fate and behavior of engineered nanoparticles in the environment (Moges et al., 2020). The use of calcium carbonate nano-particles in the fish and crustacean diets has not been investigated and studies were for other animals. Also, no report has been published on the feasibility of *M. nipponense* culturing in the biofloc system. Therefore, this project was planned to improve the technical production of BFT and to provide a more sustainable system for shrimp culture. In our study, the effects of feeding M. *nipponense* with different levels of calcium carbonate nanoparticles in the biofloc environment were evaluated.

Materials and Methods

Prawns

Oriental river *Macrobrachium nipponense* were caught with a hand-held saucer around coastal waters of Golestan Dam located in Gonbad Kavous, Golestan Province, Iran. All prawn samples were immediately transferred to the aquaculture laboratory at Gonbad Kavous University. Prawns were acclimatized with laboratory conditions for 7 days. The prawns (inital weigh of 0.82 ± 0.07 g) were distributed into 12 aquaria (volume of 25 L) and reared for 28 days. The photoperiod was a 10 h:14 h light-dark cycle.

Biofloc Production

Biofloc production was performed in two fiberglass tanks with a water volume of 40 liters in the laboratory environment. In each tank, three air stones were created to make a circular flow of water for complete mixing. Biofloc material contained commercial feed, flour wheat, urea, and molasses. Previously produced microbial flocs were inoculated in the biofloc system at a rate of 10% of the total volume (Martins *et al.*, 2017). The carbon: nitrogen (C:N) ratio was maintained at 15:1 using the carbon source (molasses) described by Crab *et al.* (2012). According to Craig and Helfrich (2002), 16% of protein is N. If the prawns are consumed 100 g of feed with 34.30% protein, the N amount consumed by the prawns is 5.48 g (Asaduzzaman *et al.*, 2008) and 4.11 g N ends up in water. On average 75% of the feed-N ends up in the water (Piedrahita, 2003). The C:N ratio was maintained at 15:1, so 61.65 g C per 100 g of feed needed for biofloc production. The amount of carbon source added will then depend on the C content of the carbon source. In case of molasses (containing 0.4 g C per g), 154.12 g of carbon source would be needed (Sierra-De La Rosa, 2009).

Experimental diets

The diet ingredients were prepared and uniformly mixed (Table 1). The basal diet was divided into four equal portions. Only water was added to prepare the control diet (for the treatment). Calcium control carbonate nanoparticles (CN) (average particle size 10-80 nm, morphology cubic or hexagonal, molecular weight 100.09) were obtained from Iranian Nanomaterial Pioneers Company, Iran. The other three portions were CN (for the CNsupplemented diets) 25, 50, and 100 mg kg⁻¹, respectively. Water was then added to produce stiff dough. Four experimental diets were prepared with varying levels of CN [0 (control), 25 (CN25), 50 (CN50) and 100 (CN100) mg kg⁻¹]. The dough was then passed through a meat grinder and the resultant strings were dried before being crushed in the appropriate size. The pellets were kept after drying in the refrigerator (4 °C). Approximate analysis of protein, lipid, and ash was

DOI: 10.29252/ijaah.6.1.93

performed according to the AOAC method (1995) (Table 1). Through Kjeldahl method, crude protein content was analyzed in triplicate (Kjeltec 1030 Auto Analyzer, Tector, Sweden); using a Soxtec extraction unit, crude lipid determination was performed (model 1043 Extraction Unit; Tecator, Sweden); after burning the shrimp sample in a muffler oven at 550 °C for 12 h, the weight of the crude ash was determined by weighing the residue of the crude ash (Heraeus, Germany).

| 0 | 1 | 1 \ \ / | 1 |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-------|
| Ingredient | % | Composition | % |
| Fish meal | 15 | Crude protein | 34.30 |
| Meat meal | 10 | Crude fat | 8.5 |
| Soybean meal | 19 | Moisture | 14 |
| Wheat meal | 35 | Crude ash | 8.9 |
| Fish oil | 2 | | |
| Soybean oil | 2 | | |
| Corn meal | 10 | | |
| Starch | 1 | | |
| Lysine | 0.5 | | |
| Methionine | 0.5 | | |
| Vitamin premix | 2 | | |
| Mineral premix | 3 | | |

Table 1. Ingredients and proximate compositions (%) of the experimental diets

Water analysis

Temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and salinity were measured with a multiparameter meter (Hack, Model 2000). Water quality parameters including total alkalinity, total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), nitrite nitrogen (NO₂-N), nitrate nitrogen (NO₃-N), and total phosphorus (TP) were analyzed following the standard methods for water parameters analysis on days 7, 14, 21, and 28 of the experiment (APHA, 1998). Every 7 days, the biofloc volume (BFV) was determined using the Imhoff cone, where the biofloc volume was recorded after 30 minutes of deposition from 1000 ml of water (Avnimelech, 2009).

Feed and growth parameters

At the end of the test, the feed and growth parameters were calculated:

Weight gain = (final wight (g) – initial weight (g)) \times 100/ initial weight (1)

Specific growth rate = (Ln final weight (g) – Ln initial weight (g) / test days (2) Feed conversion efficiency = (weight gain / feed consumed) × 100 (3) Condition factor = (final wight (g) / final length (cm)³) × 100 (4)

Metabolic activity

Feeding was stopped 12 hours before sampling. All prawns were counted and weighed after collection. In each tank, hepatopancreas from ten prwan were separated to measure metabolic activity. The total protein, glucose, calcium, cholestrol, AST, ALT, and hemocyanin were determined using commercially available kits. Total protein was determined based on Shi *et al.* (2006). According to the method of Kunst *et al.* (1983), glucose concentration was determined by a commercial kit (Pars-Azmun Co., Tehran, Iran) with colorimetric assay at 546 nm using a

Downloaded from ijaah.ir on 2025-06-13

DOR: 20.1001.1.2345315.2020.6.1.7.5

spectrophotometer. Ca^{2+} levels were measured using an absorption spectrophotometer (Li and Cheng, 2012). Cholesterol levels were measured using a commercial kit (Pars-Azmun Co., Tehran, Iran) with the enzymaticcalorimetric method. Homocyanin was determined according to the method of Adachi *et al.* (2001) using a spectrophotometer with a wavelength of 340 nm.

Statistical

Data were presented as mean \pm SD. Data were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Duncan's multiple range tests. Before analysis, normality and homogeneity of variance were checked with the Shapiro-Wilk and Levene's tests, respectively. The differences were measured in statistical with SPSS at p < 0.05 level.

Results

The results of water quality parameters in the experimental groups during 28 days trial are shown in Table 2. Phosphate in CN25 group was higher than CN50 and CN100 groups. Also, BFV in CN100 group was higher than CN25 group. The water variables ranges were into the acceptable levels for shrimp culture.

| Table 2. Water quality parameters | of prawns fee | l nano-calcium | carbonate in | biofloc | environment | for 2 | 28 d | lays |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------|------|------|
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------|------|------|

| | Control | CN25 | CN50 | CN100 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Temperature (° ^C) | 26.06 ± 0.23 | $26.23{\pm}~0.05$ | 25.86 ± 0.66 | 25.56 ± 0.49 |
| $DO (mg L^{-1})$ | 4.62 ± 0.73 | 3.94 ± 0.32 | 4.29 ± 0.40 | 4.19 ± 0.67 |
| рН | 7.48 ± 0.06 | 7.41 ± 0.24 | 7.47 ± 0.14 | 7.50 ± 0.08 |
| Salinity (g L ⁻¹) | 0.42 ± 0.02 | 0.43 ± 0.02 | 0.41 ± 0.01 | 0.44 ± 0.02 |
| EC (µs cm ⁻¹) | 896.00 ± 50.48 | 884.00 ± 24.12 | 881.40 ± 27.51 | 917.40 ± 48.84 |
| TDS (mg L ⁻¹) | 426.80 ± 26.33 | 428.25 ± 16.41 | 415.40 ± 15.93 | 439.40 ± 25.11 |
| Alkalinity (mg L ⁻¹ CaCO3) | 371.31±7.57 | 340.12±15.18 | 366.65±29.55 | 365.18±13.33 |
| Phosphate (mg L ⁻¹) | $0.16{\pm}0.03^{ab}$ | $0.21{\pm}0.02^{a}$ | $0.11{\pm}0.03^{b}$ | 0.12 ± 0.03^{b} |
| BFV (mg L ⁻¹) | $7.45{\pm}0.86^{ab}$ | 6.80 ± 0.54^{b} | $7.13{\pm}~0.72^{ab}$ | 8.41 ± 0.62^{a} |
| TAN (mg L ⁻¹) | 0.094 ± 0.037 | 0.081 ± 0.022 | 0.089 ± 0.023 | 0.088 ± 0.024 |
| NO ₃ (mg L ⁻¹) | 0.56 ± 0.09 | 0.48 ± 0.07 | $0.37{\pm}\ 0.05$ | 0.51 ± 0.10 |
| NO ₂ (mg L ⁻¹) | $0.05 {\pm} 0.004$ | $0.04{\pm}0.005$ | $0.04{\pm}\ 0.003$ | $0.05{\pm}\ 0.005$ |

Data are presented as mean \pm SD. Data were analyzed through one-way ANOVA besides Duncan comparisons. Data with different superscript letters (a, b and c) in the same row mean significant differences among experimental groups (p < 0.05).

The fish growth performance and feed efficiency are presented in Table 3. The final weight, weight gain, and specific growth rate were significantly (p<0.05) improved in fish fed diets containing 25 and 50 mg CN kg⁻¹ diet as compared to the control group in the biofloc system. Statistical analysis showed that there was no significant difference in the condition factor of fish in experimental groups. However, feed conversion ratio (FCR) was decreased significantly in prawns fed CN25 and CN50 supplemented diets than the control group (p<0.05). The survival rate was ranged from 71.66 % (control) to 91.41% (CN50) with a statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

| • | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | Control | CN25 | CN50 | CN100 |
| IW (g) | 0.80 ± 0.07 | 0.80 ± 0.08 | 0.79 ± 0.07 | 0.91 ± 0.06 |
| FW (g) | 1.22 ± 0.14^{b} | 1.58 ± 0.23^{a} | 1.49 ± 0.20^{a} | 1.37 ± 0.23^{ab} |
| WG (g) | $0.42{\pm}0.12^{b}$ | 0.77 ± 0.19^{a} | 0.70 ± 0.14^{a} | 0.56 ± 0.20^{ab} |
| SGR (% day ⁻¹) | $1.39{\pm}~0.37^{b}$ | 2.23 ± 0.40^{a} | 2.11 ± 0.24^{a} | 1.72 ± 0.59^{ab} |
| CF (%) | 1.17 ± 0.64 | 1.28 ± 0.44 | 1.51 ± 0.34 | 1.61 ± 0.57 |
| FCR | $2.83{\pm}0.86^{a}$ | 1.50 ± 0.41^{b} | 1.61 ± 0.33^{b} | 2.17 ± 0.69^{ab} |
| FCE | 38.11±11.75° | 70.75 ± 18.07^{a} | 64.09 ± 13.37^{ab} | 49.74 ± 14.83^{bc} |
| SR (%) | 71.66 ± 9.05^{b} | $83.35{\pm}9.46^{ab}$ | 91.41 ± 7.52^{a} | 76.67 ± 14.83^{ab} |
| | 6 m m 1 | | INFORTE 1 D | |

 Table 3. Production parameters of M. nipponense fed different levels of nano-calcium carbonate in biofloc environment for 28 days

Data are presented as mean \pm SD. Data were analyzed through one-way ANOVA besides Duncan comparisons. Data with different superscript letters (a, b and c) in the same row mean significant differences among experimental groups (p < 0.05). IW, initial weight; FW, final weight; SGR, specific growth rate, CF, condition factor; FCR, feed conversion ratio; FCE, feed conversion efficiency; SR, survival rate.

The measured metabolic activity is shown in Table 4. Hepatopancreas total protein, hemocyanin, and glucose of prawns fed CN were significantly (p<0.05) higher than the control group. AST and ALT activities was decreased significantly in prawns fed nano-calcium carbonate (CN25 and CN590) compared to the control group (p<0.05). There was a tendency to increase cholesterol and calcium of hepatopancreas along with an increase in dietary CN supplementation.

extra carbon to the water environment or feed.

If the ratio of carbon and nitrogen is regulated

and balanced in the culture environment,

nitrogen compounds are converted into

bacterial biomass (Schneider et al., 2005). In

| Table 4. Metabolic response of | prawns fed nano-calcium | carbonate in biofloc system | for 28 days |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|

| | Control | CN25 | CN50 | CN100 |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Protein (mg g ⁻¹ Tissue) | 47.70 ± 0.40^{d} | 55.36± 0.55 ^b | $51.54 \pm 1.50^{\circ}$ | $57.82{\pm}0.22^a$ |
| Hemocyanin (m mol kg ⁻¹) | 1.14 ± 0.03^d | $1.25 \pm 0.04^{\circ}$ | 1.71 ± 0.03^{a} | $1.34{\pm}0.01^{b}$ |
| Glucose (mg g ⁻¹ Tissue) | $3.76{\pm}~0.07^{d}$ | $4.99{\pm}~0.07^{a}$ | $4.22{\pm}0.06^{c}$ | $4.85{\pm}0.06^{b}$ |
| AST (u mg ⁻¹ Protein) | $0.138{\pm}\ 0.0005^{a}$ | 0.074 ± 0.0017^{c} | $0.069 \pm 0.0043^{\circ}$ | 0.102 ± 0.0055^{b} |
| ALT (u mg ⁻¹ Protein) | 0.024 ± 0.0017^{a} | $0.013 \pm 0.0005^{\circ}$ | $0.012 \pm 0.0005^{\circ}$ | 0.016 ± 0.0006^{b} |
| Cholesterol (mg g ⁻¹ Tissue) | $5.37{\pm}0.05^a$ | $4.11 \pm 0.01^{\circ}$ | $4.46{\pm}~0.06^{b}$ | 5.29 ± 0.01^a |
| Calcium (mg g ⁻¹ Tissue) | 1.22 ± 0.02^d | $1.30 \pm 0.04^{\circ}$ | 1.45 ± 0.01^{b} | 1.59 ± 0.02^{a} |

Data are presented as mean \pm SD. Data were analyzed through one-way ANOVA besides Duncan comparisons. Data with different superscript letters (a, b and c) in the same row mean significant differences among experimental groups (p < 0.05).

Discussion

98

The environment and farming system are main factors that affect the growth performance and health status of aquatic organisms and water quality of culture (M'balaka *et al.*, 2012). Biofloc or microbial flocs provides nutrients such as protein (essential amino acids), polyunsaturated fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals (Azim and Little, 2008). Biofloc is a technology to improve water quality by adding

oly-our study, water parameters were appropriateeralsfor Macrobrachium rearing (Ballester *et al.,*sa2017). Water factors such as temperature, pH,dingand dissolved oxygen showed that no

DOI: 10.29252/ijaah.6.1.93]

significant difference was observed between the treatments. Also, water nitrogen contents (TAN, NO₂, and NO₃) were not significantly different in BFT groups. Total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) is combination of ionised ammonia (NH₄⁺) and unionised ammonia (NH₃) exist simultaneously in the water (Purwono *et al.*, 2017), which is produced by the dissociation and organic matter excretion and can affect cultured organisms action or leading to death in high concentrations (Lin and Chen, 2001).

Ionic compounds such as calcium can affect the size, stability, formation, and structure of bioflocs (De Schryver et al., 2008). High calcium concentrations in water lead to an increase in the biofloc density (Luo et al., 2013). Therefore, in this study, different levels of calcium carbonate nanoparticles (25, 50, and 100) were added to the shrimp diet. In the treatments containing calcium carbonate also the decrease in total ammonia concentration demonstrated no significant statistical difference compared to the control. This study showed that total ammonia nitrogen concentrations can be effectively controlled in biofloc treatments by absorbing ammonia to heterotrophic bacteria autotrophic or nitrification (Adineh et al., 2019). Similar to our results, the researchers reported that the water quality of the culturing environment improved for the shrimp/prawn in the biofloc system. For example, Khanjani et al (2017) reported that adding carbon sources in zerowater exchange system of biofloc could help to recycle nitrogen waste and improve water quality. Similarly, the effects of biofloc

different levels on *L. vannamei* post larvae cultured in zero-water exchange system showed that replacement of 25% biofloc with feed can improve water quality and growth performance of shrimp (Adineh and Harsij, 2019).

Research on the effect of calcium on water quality in the biofloc system is very limited. In this regard, Furtado et al (2014) reported that calcium hydroxide can be used daily between 10 and 20% of the total feed of L. vannamei or doses of 0.05 g L⁻¹ to correct alkalinity and pH in a biofloc system. Research with shrimp and prawn indicates that culture water in biofloc system contains growth enhancing factors such as microbial proteins that boost production. Flocs are a supplemental food resource that can be effective for the growth of aquatic animals (Ballester et al., 2017; Negrini et al., 2017; Nguyen et al., 2019; Pinto et al., 2020). The final weight, weight gain, and specific growth rate were significantly (p<0.05) improved in experiment treatments fed diets containing 25 and 50 mg CN kg⁻¹ diet compared to the control group in the biofloc system. The highest growth and the lowest FCR were obtained in CN25 and CN50 groups. Similarly, the highest growth factors of shrimp and the lowest feed conversion ratio were obtained in the biofloc system (Xu et al., 2020). The combination of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, algae, etc. as microbial proteins in the biofloc environment can enhance growth. In addition, the use of dietary supplements in these environments can stimulate growth. According to Kaya et al (2019), the use of carbon source (corn starch) in biofloc system with 3 g kg⁻¹ mannan oligosaccharides led to the strengthening and stimulation of growth in the Metapenaeus monoceros. In this experiment, the addition of 25 and 50 mg kg⁻¹ calcium carbonate nanoparticles in the M. nipponense diet in the biofloc system increased feed and growth efficiency. The conditions for the production of microbial biomass and improvement of water quality are provided in the biofloc environment, due to the uptake of ammonia by bacteria (Avnimelech, 1999). Also, biofloc is a suitable medium for nutrition, growth, and resistance to stress in aquatic animals (Adineh et al., 2019). Moreover, crustaceans need calcium for some important physiological activities such as molting and growth. The calcium carbonate is an interesting mineral for biofloc cultivation. The reason for this is that both sources are Ca²⁺, which is important for changing the bioflocs composition (Luo et al., 2013). In a published study, water quality and growth performance of Oreochromis niloticus in the biofloc system improved in NaHCO3 and Ca $(OH)_2$ groups compared to the CaCO₃ group (Martins et al., 2017). According to Furtado et al (2014), 0, 10%, and 20% treatments had significantly better growth performance than 40% calcium hydroxide in the biofloc system. Calcium is one of the essential elements for calcification in the cuticle, which plays a key role in the growth of crustaceans (Li and Cheng, 2012).

In our study, protein, glucose, and hemocyanin of hepatopancreas were significantly increased in experiment groups compared to the control group in the biofloc system. Homocyanin is a respiratory pigment that makes up about 80 to 90% of the total protein concentration in the crustaceans hemolymph, which is involved in immune functions including phenolioxidase, hemolytic, antiviral, antitumor, and antimicrobial (Coates and Nairn, 2014). Liver enzymes (ALT and AST) can be used as a marker of invertebrate aquatic stress. In our experiment, the hepatopancreas ALT and AST activities were significantly increased in the control group than other experiment groups. Also, the increase of calcium carbonate nanoparticles supplementation levels lead to an increase in the calcium of hepatopancreas. Li and Cheng (2012) examined changes in calcium levels in hemolymph and shrimp tissues at different stages of molting and salinity. Their results showed the calcium in crustaceans stored in the hemolymph and then released to support mineralization in the post-melting. By storing calcium in the molting cycle, muscles may participate in the growth of shrimp.

Generally, it can be stated that the presence of calcium carbonate nanoparticles in the diet and its storage in the hepatopancreas can accelerate the growth of prawn. Also, the nutrient-rich biofloc environment introduced as an anti-stress site, so the addition of nano-carbon calcium to the diet of *Macrobrachium nipponense* in the biofloc system can improve growth and metabolic activity.

Acknowledgement

This research was conducted with the support of Gonbad Kavoush University.

Conflicts of interest

None of the authors has any conflicts of interest to declare.

References

Adachi. K., Hirata, T., Nagai, K. and Sakaguchi, M., 2001. Hemocyanin a most likely inducer of black spots in kuruma prawn *Penaeus japonicus* during storage. *Journal of Food Science*, 66, 1130-1136.

Adineh, H. and Harsij, M., 2019. Effect of different levels of biofloc on water quality, growth performance and survival of *Litopenaeus vannamei* post larvae. *Journal of Veterinary Research*, 73(4), 393-401. (In Persian)

Adineh, H., Naderi, M., Hamidi, M. K. and Harsij, M., 2019. Biofloc technology improves growth, innate immune responses, oxidative status, and resistance to acute stress in common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) under high stocking density. *Fish and shellfish immunology*, 95, 440-448.

American Public Health Association (APHA). 1998. In: Clescert L, Greenberg A, Eaton A (Eds.), Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. 20th edition. Washington, USA.

AOAC. 1995. Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International. 16th ed., Vol. 1 (Cunnif, P. Ed.), AOAC Int. Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Asaduzzaman, M., Wahab, M. A., Verdegem, M. C. J., Huque, S., Salam, M. A. and Azim,

M. E., 2008. C/N ratio control and substrate addition for periphyton development jointly enhance freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* production in ponds. *Aquaculture*, 280, 117–123.

Avnimelech, Y., 1999. Carbon and nitrogen ratio as a control element in aquaculture systems. *Aquaculture*, 176, 227–235.

Avnimelech, Y., 2009. Biofloc technology. A practical guide book. *The World Aquaculture Society, Baton Rouge*, 182.

Azim, M. E. and Little, D. C., 2008. The biofloc technology (BFT) in indoor tanks: water quality, biofloc composition, and growth and welfare of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). *Aquaculture*, 283(1-4), 29-35.

Ballester, E. L. C., Marzarotto, S. A., Silva de Castro, C., Frozza, A., Pastore, I. and Abreu,
P. C., 2017. Productive performance of juvenile freshwater prawns *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* in biofloc system. *Aquaculture Research*, 48(9), 4748-4755.

Coates, C. J. and Nairn, J., 2014. Diverseimmunefunctionshemocyanins. DevelopmentalandComparative Immunology, 45(1), 43-55.

Crab, R., Defoirdt, T., Bossier, P., & Verstraete, W., 2012. Biofloc technology in aquaculture: beneficial effects and future challenges. Aquaculture, 356, 351-356.

Craig, S., Helfrich, L.A., 2002. Understanding Fish Nutrition, Feeds and Feeding (Publication 420–256). Virginia Cooperative Extension, Yorktown (Virginia). 4 pp.

De Schryver, P., Crab, R., Defoirdt, T., Boon, N. and Verstraete, W., 2008. The basics of bio-flocs technology: the added value for aquaculture. Aquaculture, 277, 125–137.

Emerenciano, M., Ballester, E. L., Cavalli, R. O. and Wasielesky, W., 2011. Effect of biofloc technology (BFT) on the early postlarval stage of pink shrimp *Farfantepenaeus paulensis*: growth performance, floc composition and salinity stress tolerance. *Aquaculture International*, 19(5), 891-901.

FAO, FAO Yearbook. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. 2016. Rome, Italy, 2018.

Furtado, P. S., Gaona, C. A., Poersch, L. H. and Wasielesky, W., 2014. Application of different doses of calcium hydroxide in the farming shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* with the biofloc technology (BFT). *Aquaculture international*, 22(3), 1009-1023.

Houng, D. T. T., Wang, T., Bayley, M. and Phuong, N. T., 2010.Osmoregulation, growth and moulting cycles of the giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) at different salinities. *Aquaculture Research*, 41, 135-143.

Kaya, D., Genç, M. A., Aktaş, M., Eroldoğan, O. T., Aydın, F. G. and Genç, E., 2019. Effects of Biofloc Technology (BFT) on Growth of Speckled Shrimp (*Metapenaeus monoceros*). Journal of Agricultural Sciences, 25(4), 491-497. Khanjani, M. H., Sajjadi, M. M., Alizadeh, M. and Sourinejad, I., 2017. Nursery performance of Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei* Boone, 1931) cultivated in a biofloc system: the effect of adding different carbon sources. *Aquaculture Research*, 48(4), 1491-1501.

Khanjani, M. H., Alizadeh, M. and Sharifinia, M., 2020. Rearing of the Pacific white shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei* in a biofloc system: The effects of different food sources and salinity levels. *Aquaculture Nutrition*, 26(2), 328-337.

Khanjani, M.H., Sajjadi, M.M., Alizadeh, M. and Sourinejad, I., 2015. Effect of different feeding levels on water quality, growth performance and survival of western white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei* Boone, 1931) post larvae with application of biofloc technology. *Iranian Scientific Fisheries Journal*, 24(2), 13-28. (In Persian)

Kumar, S., Anand, P. S. S., De, D., Deo, A. D., Ghoshal, T. K., Sundaray, J. K. and Lalitha, N., 2017. Effects of biofloc under different carbon sources and protein levels on water quality, growth performance and immune responses in black tiger shrimp *Penaeus monodon* (Fabricius, 1978). *Aquaculture Research*, 48(3), 1168-1182.

Kunst, A., Draeger, B. and Ziegenhorm, J., 1983. UV- methods with hexoquinase and glucose- 6- phosphate dehydrogenase. In: Bergmeyer, H.U. Ed., Methods of Enzymatic Analysis. vol. 6, 3rd ed. Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, pp: 163-185. Li, C. H. and Cheng, S. Y., 2012. Variation of calcium levels in the tissues and hemolymph of *Litopenaeus vannamei* at various molting stages and salinities. *Journal of Crustacean Biology*, 32(1), 101-108.

Lin, Y.C. and Chen, J.C., 2001. Acute toxicity of ammonia on *Litopenaeus vannamei* Boone juveniles at different salinity levels. *Journal of experimental marine biology and ecology*, 259(1), pp.109-119.

Luo, G., Liang, W., Tan, H., Yao, C., Zhang, N. and Lu, L., 2013. Effects of calcium and magnesium addition on the start-up of sequencing batch reactor using biofloc technology treating solid aquaculture waste. *Aquacultural Engineering*, 57, 32–37.

Ma, K., Feng, J., Lin, J. and Li, J., 2011. The complete mitochondrial genome of *Macrobrachium nipponense. Gene*, 487(2), 160-165.

Martins, G. B., Tarouco, F., Rosa, C. E. and Robaldo, R. B., 2017. The utilization of sodium bicarbonate, calcium carbonate or hydroxide in biofloc system: water quality, growth performance and oxidative stress of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). *Aquaculture*, 468, 10-17.

M'balaka, M., Kassam, D. and Rusuwa, B., 2012. The effect of stocking density on the growth and survival of improved and unimproved strains of *Oreochromis shiranus*. *Egyptian Journal of Aquatic Research*, 38, 205-211. Mente, E., 2003. Nutrition, Physiology and Metabolism in Crustaceans. Science Publisher, Inc., Enfield, USA, p: 170.

Moges, F. D., Patel, P., Parashar, S. K. S. and Das, B. 2020. Mechanistic insights into diverse nano-based strategies for aquaculture enhancement: A holistic review. *Aquaculture*, *519*, 734770.

Negrini, C., Castro, C. S. D., Bittencourt-Guimarães, A. T., Frozza, A., Ortiz-Kracizy, R. and Cupertino-Ballester, E. L., 2017. Stocking density for freshwater prawn *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (Decapoda, Palaemonidae) in biofloc system. *Latin american journal of aquatic research*, 45(5), 891-899.

Nguyen, N. H., Trinh, L. T., Chau, D. T., Baruah, K., Lundh, T. and Kiessling, A., 2019. Spent brewer's yeast as a replacement for fishmeal in diets for giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), reared in either clear water or a biofloc environment. *Aquaculture Nutrition*, 25(4), 970-979.

NRC. 1994. Nutrient Requirements of Poultry, ^{9th} Rev. Ed. Na-tional Academy Press, Washington, DC., USA.

Panigrahi, A., Das, R. R., Sivakumar, M. R., Saravanan, A., Saranya, C., Sudheer, N. S. and Gopikrishna, G., 2020. Bio-augmentation of heterotrophic bacteria in biofloc system improves growth, survival, and immunity of Indian white shrimp *Penaeus indicus*. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 98, 477-487.

Piedrahita, R.H., 2003. Reducing the potential environmental impact of tank aquaculture effluents through intensification and recirculation. Aquaculture 226, 35–44.

Pinto, P. H. O., Rocha, J. L., do Vale Figueiredo, J. P., Carneiro, R. F. S., Damian, C., de Oliveira, L. and Seiffert, W. Q., 2020. Culture of marine shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) in biofloc technology system using artificially salinized freshwater: Zootechnical performance, economics and nutritional quality. *Aquaculture*, 734960.

Purwono, A. R., Hibbaan, M. and Budihardjo, M. A., 2017. Ammonia-Nitrogen (NH₃-N) and Ammonium-Nitrogen (NH₄-N) Equilibrium on The Process of Removing Nitrogen By Using Tubular Plastic Media. *Journal of Materials and Environmental Science*, 8, 4915-4922.

Reid, I. R., Ames, R. W., Evans, M. C., Gamble, G. D. and Sharpe, S. J., 1993. Effect of calcium supplementation on bone loss in postmenopausal women. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 328, 460-464.

Schneider, O., Sereti, V., Eding, E. H. and Verreth, J. A. J., 2005. Analysis of nutrient flows in integrated intensive aquaculture systems. *Aquacultural Engineering*, 32, 379–401.

Shi, X., Li, D., Zhuang, P., Nie, F. and Long, L., 2006. Comparative blood biochemistry of Amur sturgeon, *Acipenser schrenckii*, and Chinese surgeon, *Acipenser sinensis*. Fish *Physiology and Biochemistry*, 32(1), 63.

Sierra-De La Rosa, J. F., 2009. Cultivo de tilapia roja en un sistema super-intensivo de agua marina y biofloc. Descripción de un ensayo de cultivo en el departamento de Bolívar, Caribe colombiano. Programa de Diversificación Corporación Centro de Investigación de la Acuacultura de Colombia.

Sobeck, D. C. and Higgins, M. J., 2002. Examination of three theories for mechanisms of cation-induced bioflocculation. *Water Research*, 36, 527–538.

Xu, W. J., Pan, L. Q., Sun, X. H. and Huang, J., 2013. Effects of bioflocs on water quality, and survival, growth and digestive enzyme activities of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Boone) in zero-water exchange culture tanks. *Aquaculture Research*, 44(7), 1093-1102.

Xu, W., Xu, Y., Su, H., Hu, X., Xu, Y., Li, Z. and Cao, Y., 2020. Effects of feeding frequency on growth, feed utilization, digestive enzyme activity and body composition of *Litopenaeus vannamei* in biofloc-based zero-exchange intensive systems. *Aquaculture*, 522, 735079.

Xu, W. J., Pan, L. Q., 2012. Effects of bioflocs on growth performance, digestive enzyme activity and body composition of juvenile *Litopenaeus vannamei* in zero-water exchange tanks manipulating C/N ratio in feed. *Aquaculture*, 356, 147-152.