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## Controlled production of *Artemia* biomass using an inert commercial diet, compared with the microalgae *Chaetoceros*

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During laboratory experiments *Artemia* were fed 14 days from nauplius to adult stage with a commercially available, enriched and unenriched, inert, dry baby food (Nestum). Growth, survival, and nutrient content of *Artemia* were determined, and compared with *Artemia* fed with the unicellular microalgae *Chaetoceros* sp. Raising *Artemia* on Nestum resulted in a high survival rate (Nestum: 72%; Nestum enriched 79%) and after 11 days a growth of 4.93 mm with Nestum and 5.02 mm with enriched Nestum, which was similar to *Artemia* reared on *Chaetoceros*. The lipid content of *Artemia* reared on Nestum was significantly higher and the protein content lower than *Artemia* reared on *Chaetoceros*. The carbohydrate and ash content were similar. The results show that rearing *Artemia* with Nestum is a viable and economical alternative to the laborious production of unicellular algae.

Palabras clave: *Nyctiphanes simplex*, *Artemia*, Brine shrimp, Inert feed, *Chaetoceros*

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