

BUKTI KORESPONDENSI
ARTIKEL JURNAL INTERNASIONAL BEREPUTASI

Judul Artikel : The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system

Jurnal : Aquaculture, Aquarium, Conservation & Legislation Bioflox, 2022, Volume 15, No. 4, 2171-2180

Penulis : Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi, Fitri Rahmawati, Maria Ulfah

No.	Perihal	Tanggal
1.	Bukti konfirmasi submit artikel	17 Juli 2021
2.	Bukti konfirmasi review dan hasil review pertama	31 Mei 2022
3.	Bukti konfirmasi submit revisi pertama, respon kepada reviewer, dan artikel yang diresubmit	7 Juni 2022
4.	Bukti konfirmasi artikel accepted	25 Agustus 2022
5.	Bukti konfirmasi artikel published online	28 Agustus 2022

AACL Bioflux

Dari: Eni Kovacs (ek.bioflux@gmail.com)

Kepada: endahrita@yahoo.co.id

Tanggal: Sabtu, 17 Juli 2021 22.44 GMT+7

Dear Dr. Dewi,

Thank you for your submission.

The editorial team assessed your submission and found some common phrases / paragraphs between the manuscript and a previously published article:

"Development of Combination of Environmentally Friendly Biofloc and Aquaponic Systems in the Maintenance of *Oreochromis niloticus*"

<https://ijisrt.com/development-of-combination-of-environmentally-friendly-biofloc-and-aquaponic-systems-in-the-maintenance-of-oreochromis-niloticus>

<https://ijisrt.com/assets/upload/files/IJISRT20MAY772.pdf>

Please modify the common parts and resubmit the manuscript.

Thank you.

--

Kind regards,
Editor AACL Bioflux
Eniko Kovacs

Article Confirmation

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: ek.bioflux@gmail.com; zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com

Tanggal: Rabu, 25 Mei 2022 11.44 GMT+7

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux

I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



AACL Mei 25. 20201 (1).docx

95.6kB



preliminary acceptance letter AACL.pdf

98.2kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Rabu, 1 Juni 2022 13.28 GMT+7

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the explanation and correction provided.

I will comply with applicable regulations and immediately send a revised manuscript, for that I need one week to revise.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 31 Mei 2022 19.04.47 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for your email, I received your email today (see below).

I am sorry, I think there was a communication problem. I sent you the review request in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents).

Please do the following:

(1) Format the paper according to journal rules: paragraph, tabs, reference style, etc. See Model of paper here: <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/> (up, left side of the page)

(2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

(3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

Kind regards,

Crina Petrescu,

Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs <ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

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Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Selasa, 7 Juni 2022 10.56 GMT+7

Dear Editor
With this I send

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Artikel Revisi AACL Bioflok-akua1 (2).docx

96kB



FORM Authors Answers to Reviewers (1).docx

15kB



Revisi AACL Juni 6. 20201 (1).rtf

3.8MB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Kamis, 30 Juni 2022 20.12 GMT+7

Dear Editor,

I have revised my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Hopefully the article will be published soon.
Thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 28 Juni 2022 16.11.15 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of the manuscript.

I edited it. Please see my changes in the attached version and check each of them carefully.
Please answer all my comments. They are highlighted in yellow. Add the final paragraph. Mark your changes with green.

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Dear Authors,

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On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:58 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

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attachment.rtf

3.3MB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Senin, 11 Juli 2022 21.00 GMT+7

Dear Editor,

I have revised again my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Thank you for your attention.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Rabu, 6 Juli 2022 12.21.28 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for the email. I downloaded your file and I started to read. I saw you did not answer all my comments. Please see what I wrote in the comments on the right side of the manuscript. Please reply to each of my comments and explain in your reply what you did in response to my suggestions.
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My next comment was about "Christinet"....

The next one was to follow journal rules for citations in text and references. (for example, remove the comma after the name. see Model of Paper)

Please check all my comments and answer all.

Thank you in advance.

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Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

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AACL Bioflux attachment Returned to Authors 3(4).rtf

3.3MB

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Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Rabu, 27 Juli 2022 18.32 GMT+7

Dear Editor,

I just resubmitted a revised article. Hopefully this article will be published soon.
Thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 19 Juli 2022 15.53.18 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the corrections. I check all comments. Most of them are solved. Several aspects still need your input.
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On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 5:01 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

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AACL Bioflux rev 4. 28Juli.docx
114.4kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

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Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Senin, 15 Agustus 2022 20.57 GMT+7

Dear Editor,

I have submitted an article with several revisions. I really hope that there will be information when the article entitled "The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system" can be published in August. because this article is very important for my work. I hope my article gets attention. thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 2 Agustus 2022 13.51.08 WIB, Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> menulis:

Dear Editor
I sent back the article
that has been
corrected. Hopefully
it will be published
soon. Thank you very
much

Endah Rita Sulistya
Dewi

Pada Sabtu, 30 Juli 2022 19.08.48 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the revised version. Please send me by email the final paragraph. Pay attention to the correct order of first name and last name.

Received: 23 August 2016. Accepted: 25 September 2016. Published online: 18 October 2016.

Authors:

Loke Hai Xin, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: keealf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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How to cite this article:

Xin L. H., Adzis K. A. A., Hyde J., Cob Z. C., 2016 Growth performance of *Acropora formosa* in natural reefs and coral nurseries for reef restoration. *AAFL Bioflux* 9(5):1090-1100.

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Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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How to cite this article:

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Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>
>

Dear Editor

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I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



AACL Edited 27 08 02022.pdf
224.8kB



AACL Edited 27 08 02022.docx
110kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

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Edited 01 09 2022.docx
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in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email
and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the
revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the
recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions,
with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the
changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers
to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and
"B" documents).

Please do the following:

(1) Format the paper according to journal rules: paragraph, tabs, reference style,
etc. See Model of paper here: <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/> (up, left side of the
page)

(2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

**Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review
time will be longer.**

(3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at
the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for
example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to
revise the manuscript?

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu,
Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

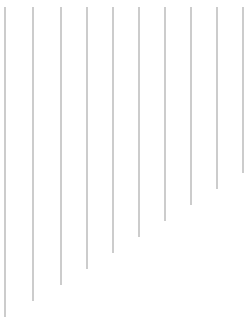
To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4
and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia**

(Oreochromis niloticus) in the Biofloc-Aquaaponic System" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux
I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article.
thank you



AACL Revised 02 09 2022.docx
108.1kB



AACL Revised 02 09 2022.pdf
216.3kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Bioflux Journals (biofluxeditor1@gmail.com)

Kepada: endahrita@yahoo.co.id

Tanggal: Jumat, 2 September 2022 12.31 GMT+7

Dear Authors,

This is the final version of your manuscript. I kept my previous correction of the references because the ones you introduced are not correct.

Please tell me if you agree with its publication.

Check your names and affiliation and the whole manuscript carefully because we cannot make changes after it is published.

If you make any changes, mark them in green and write them in your email. If I do not see them, I will not process them. You did not mark any changes in the previous version, so I did not include any change.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Fri, Sep 2, 2022 at 6:47 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I sent back again the results of the revised article, according to the directions, and hopefully can be published as soon as possible.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Jumat, 2 September 2022 00.52.00 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Please see the attached version. I edited all references again. However, some minor corrections are still needed. Please answer make corrections where I marked in yellow and send me back the manuscript by September 2.

If you make other changes, please mark your changes in green.

Also, tell me if you agree with this version for publication.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

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Thank you so much

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Pada Kamis, 25 Agustus 2022 21.59.51 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

I corrected most of the text of your ms. Please see the part in yellow and do what is needed, according to my comments.

Also, format the references according to journal style:

1. the references in text: you must mention only the family names of the authors, not all the names. Look in the Model of paper or other published papers in the AACL journal.
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Arinardi O. H., Trimaningsih S. H., Asnaryanti E., 1996 [Range of predominant plankton abundance and composition in central Indonesian waters]. Oceanology Research and Development Center-LIPI, Jakarta, 140 p. [In Indonesian].

Hamuna B., Tanjung R. H. R., Suwito, Maury H. K., Alianto, 2018 [Study of sea water quality and pollution index based on physico-chemical parameters in the waters of the Depapre district, Jayapura]. Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan 16(1):35–43. [In Indonesian].

Regarding how to write the references, please pay attention to how to use spaces, capital letters, italics, etc.

Please try to comply with journal rules because a manuscript cannot be published if it does not comply with all formatting rules. Please send me the revised version by 26 08 2022 so we can publish it by the end of August.

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Dear Authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version.

I confirm that I received your manuscript. It needs revisions for formatting according to journal style and English grammar. If you can send me a revised version 100% following journal style and English corrected, I will publish it 48 hours after receiving it. If you can do this, please confirm until August 17. If I do not receive your confirmation, I will consider that I do the revisions. If I have to do these

revisions, it will take 1-2 weeks because this is a very busy period. I will do my best to finish it by the end of August.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Mon, Aug 15, 2022 at 4:57 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have submitted an article with several revisions. I really hope that there will be information when the article entitled "The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system" can be published in August. because this article is very important for my work. I hope my article gets attention. thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 2 Agustus 2022 13.51.08 WIB, Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> menulis:

Dear Editor

I sent back the article that has been corrected. Hopefully it will be published soon. Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya
Dewi

Pada Sabtu, 30 Juli 2022 19.08.48 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the revised version. Please send me by email the final paragraph. Pay attention to the correct order of first name and last name.

Received: 23 August 2016. Accepted: 25 September 2016. Published online: 18 October 2016.

Authors:

Loke Hai Xin, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: keearf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

How to cite this article:

Xin L. H., Adzis K. A. A., Hyde J., Cob Z. C., 2016 Growth performance of *Acropora formosa* in natural reefs and coral nurseries for reef restoration. *AAFL Bioflux* 9(5):1090-1100.

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Please work on the attached version.
I also attached the Model of paper.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 5:01 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have revised again my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Thank you for your attention.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Rabu, 6 Juli 2022 12.21.28 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for the email. I downloaded your file and I started to read. I saw you did not answer all my comments. Please see what I wrote in the comments on the right side of the

manuscript. Please reply to each of my comments and explain in your reply what you did in response to my suggestions.

For example, my second comment was: "Key words must be different from title words. Please change 1-2 of them". You must do 2 things here: change the key words according to my suggestion; and 2. Reply (click on "Reply" button and write), for example: "I changed the key words".

My next comment was about "Christinet"....

The next one was to follow journal rules for citations in text and references. (for example, remove the comma after the name. see Model of Paper)

Please check all my comments and answer all.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,
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On Thu, Jun 30, 2022 at 4:12 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have revised my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Hopefully the article will be published soon.
Thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 28 Juni 2022 16.11.15 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of the manuscript.

I edited it. Please see my changes in the attached version and check each of them carefully.

Please answer all my comments. They are highlighted in yellow. Add the final paragraph. Mark your changes with green.

Please **download the attached version** and **work on it**. Please keep all my changes: Do not accept/delete my changes and do not delete my comments, just answer them in the paper (not in the comments).

Please format the paper, including tables according to journal rules.

Please cite all references from the text in the References list at the end.

Please format the References according to journal rules. See Model of paper here <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/>

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I confirm I received your files. I will write back as soon as I have the feedback regarding your revisions.

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On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:58 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor
With this I send

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions
2. One clean copy of the revised version
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents)

I hope my article will be published in the journal AACL Bioflux soon. Thank you
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<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

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Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
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- (2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

- (3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

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From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux

I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



Edited 02 09 2022.docx
109.3kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Sabtu, 3 September 2022 12.47 GMT+7

Dear Editor

I have checked and revised the article as suggested. There is a small change, and I've marked it in green, in the library section.

Next I agree with the version for publication.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Jumat, 2 September 2022 12.31.06 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

This is the final version of your manuscript. I kept my previous correction of the references because the ones you introduced are not correct.

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Thank you very much

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Authors:

Loke Hai Xin, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: keearf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

How to cite this article:

Xin L. H., Adzis K. A. A., Hyde J., Cob Z. C., 2016 Growth performance of *Acropora formosa* in natural reefs and coral nurseries for reef restoration. AACL Bioflux 9(5):1090-1100.

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Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

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I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



AACL Revised 03 09 2022.docx

108.1kB

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Dari: Bioflux Journals (biofluxeditor1@gmail.com)

Kepada: endahrita@yahoo.co.id

Tanggal: Sabtu, 3 September 2022 15.52 GMT+7

Dear Author,

Thank you for the feedback.
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Authors:

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lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:

keearf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

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Please format the paper, including tables according to journal rules.

Please cite all references from the text in the References list at the end.

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I hope my article will be published in the journal AACL Bioflux soon. Thank you

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Dear Authors,

Thank you for your email, I received your email today (see below).
I am sorry, I think there was a communication problem. I sent you the review request in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
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Please do the following:

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Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

- (3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

Kind regards,
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Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux

I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Minggu, 4 September 2022 12.24 GMT+7

Dear Editor,

1. For the first correction, I used the reference

(Francis-Floyd R., 1996. Use of Formalin to Control Fish Parasites. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida)

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(Suprianto S., Redjeki, E. S., Dadiono, M. S., 2019. Optimization of probiotic doses on the growth and survival rates of Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc system. Journal of Aquaculture and Fish Health 8(2):80-85).

I include both articles in this email.

Hopefully my article is correct and can be published.

Thank you very much

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I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



Use-of-Formalin-to-Control-Fish-Parasites 1996(1).pdf
47.5kB



Suprianto JAFH+8(2)+80-85.pdf
176.1kB



AACL Revised 03 09 a2022.docx
108.4kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Bioflux Journals (biofluxeditor1@gmail.com)

Kepada: endahrita@yahoo.co.id

Tanggal: Minggu, 4 September 2022 15.40 GMT+7

Dear Authors,

Thank you for the email.

1) For the first correction, the document you used is an older version of the one I found. I suggest to use the second because it is updated with references. The content is the same. Please check it here

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5Carchived%5CVM%5CVM061%5CVM061-10568036.pdf> and **confirm**.

2) For the second correction, I accept your suggestion. The journal used a wrong citation, mentioning only the first author, while in the manuscript 3 authors are listed. So we will use your version.

Kind regards,
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Hopefully my article is correct and can be published.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

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If you use a different document, please send me the link to check it.

I did not find anywhere the reference you mentioned.

2) Regarding your second correction, I do not find it anywhere

Tell me if this is the reference you used

<https://e-journal.unair.ac.id/JAFH/article/view/13156>

If yes, the correct citation is the one I wrote.

If not, please send me the link where it is published online so I can see the authors, etc.

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Dear Authors,

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Also, format the references according to journal style:

1. the references in text: you must mention only the family names of the authors, not all the names.

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Received: 23 August 2016. Accepted: 25 September 2016. Published online: 18 October 2016.

Authors:

Loke Hai Xin, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:

lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:

keeealf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:

zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

How to cite this article:

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I edited it. Please see my changes in the attached version and check each of them carefully.

Please answer all my comments. They are highlighted in yellow. Add the final paragraph. Mark your changes with green.

Please **download the attached version** and **work on it**. Please keep all my changes: Do not accept/delete my changes and do not delete my comments, just answer them in the paper (not in the comments).

Please format the paper, including tables according to journal rules.

Please cite all references from the text in the References list at the end.

Please format the References according to journal rules. See Model of paper here <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/>

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

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I confirm I received your files. I will write back as soon as I have the feedback regarding your revisions.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:58 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor
With this I send

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions
2. One clean copy of the revised version

3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents)

I hope my article will be published in the journal AACL Bioflux soon.

Thank you

Pada Selasa, 31 Mei 2022 19.04.47 WIB, Bioflux Journals

<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for your email, I received your email today (see below).

I am sorry, I think there was a communication problem. I sent you the review request in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents).

Please do the following:

- (1) Format the paper according to journal rules: paragraph, tabs, reference style, etc. See Model of paper here: <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/> (up, left side of the page)
- (2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

- (3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu,
Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

[<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>](mailto:ek.bioflux@gmail.com), zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com [<zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>](mailto:zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com)

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Minggu, 4 September 2022 19.53 GMT+7

Dear Editors,

Thank you for the correction, then I have replaced the new reference according to the suggestion.

(Francis-Floyd R., Pouder D., 2018 Use of Formalin to Control Fish Parasites. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida).

I hope my article will be published soon.

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Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail: keealf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:

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How to cite this article:

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I hope my article will be published in the journal AACL Bioflux soon.
Thank you
Pada Selasa, 31 Mei 2022 19.04.47 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for your email, I received your email today (see below). I am sorry, I think there was a communication problem. I sent you the review request in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents).

Please do the following:

- (1) Format the paper according to journal rules: paragraph, tabs, reference style, etc. See Model of paper here: <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/> (up, left side of the page)
- (2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

(3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu,
Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



AACL Revised 03 09 a2022.docx
108.5kB

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Bioflux Journals (biofluxeditor1@gmail.com)

Kepada: endahrita@yahoo.co.id

Tanggal: Senin, 5 September 2022 00.53 GMT+7

Dear Authors,

Congratulations on the publication of your manuscript!

Your manuscript is now published online. Please find it here:

<http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/>

Publication date: 28 August 2022

Thank you for publishing your study in AACL Bioflux. I wish you all the best!

Kind regards,

Crina Petrescu

On Sun, Sep 4, 2022 at 3:54 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editors,

Thank you for the correction, then I have replaced the new reference according to the suggestion.

(Francis-Floyd R., Pouder D., 2018 Use of Formalin to Control Fish Parasites. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida).

I hope my article will be published soon.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Minggu, 4 September 2022 15.40.37 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for the email.

1) For the first correction, the document you used is an older version of the one I found. I suggest to use the second because it is updated with references. The content is the same. Please check it here <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5Carchived%5CVM%5CVM061%5CVM061-10568036.pdf> and **confirm**.

2) For the second correction, I accept your suggestion. The journal used a wrong citation, mentioning only the first author, while in the manuscript 3 authors are listed. So we will use your version.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Sun, Sep 4, 2022 at 8:24 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

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2. For the second correction, I used the reference

(Suprianto S., Redjeki, E. S., Dadiono, M. S., 2019. Optimization of probiotic doses on the growth and survival rates of Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc system. Journal of Aquaculture and Fish Health 8(2):80-85).

I include both articles in this email.

Hopefully my article is correct and can be published.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Sabtu, 3 September 2022 15.52.13 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Author,

Thank you for the feedback.
There is a misunderstanding.

1) Regarding your first correction, I checked the reference Francis-Floyd R., Poudet D., 2018, and the correct citation is the one I wrote. Please look at the document:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5Carchived%5CVM%5CVM061%5CVM061-10568036.pdf>

If you use a different document, please send me the link to check it.

I did not find anywhere the reference you mentioned.

2) Regarding your second correction, I do not find it anywhere

Tell me if this is the reference you used

<https://e-journal.unair.ac.id/JAFH/article/view/13156>

If yes, the correct citation is the one I wrote.

If not, please send me the link where it is published online so I can see the authors, etc.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Sat, Sep 3, 2022 at 8:47 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor

I have checked and revised the article as suggested. There is a small change, and I've marked it in green, in the library section.

Next I agree with the version for publication.

Thank you very much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Jumat, 2 September 2022 12.31.06 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

This is the final version of your manuscript. I kept my previous correction of the references because the ones you introduced are not correct.

Please tell me if you agree with its publication.

Check your names and affiliation and the whole manuscript carefully because we cannot make changes after it is published.

If you make any changes, mark them in green and write them in your email. If I do not see them, I will not process them. You did not mark any changes in the previous version, so I did not include any change.

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Thank you very much

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Dear Authors,

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Please answer make corrections where I marked in yellow and send me back the manuscript by September 2.

If you make other changes, please mark your changes in green.

Also, tell me if you agree with this version for publication.

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On Sun, Aug 28, 2022 at 2:14 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I sent back the results of the revised article, according to the directions and hopefully can be published as soon as possible
Thank you so much

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Kamis, 25 Agustus 2022 21.59.51 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

I corrected most of the text of your ms. Please see the part in yellow and do what is needed, according to my comments.

Also, format the references according to journal style:

1. the references in text: you must mention only the family names of the authors, not all the names. Look in the Model of paper or other published papers in the AACL journal.

2. the list of references at the end. See Model of paper. The title of papers/ books, websites/ etc must be translated in English between [] like this:

Arinardi O. H., Trimaningsih S. H., Asnaryanti E., 1996 [Range of predominant plankton abundance and composition in central Indonesian waters]. Oceanology Research and Development Center-LIPI, Jakarta, 140 p. [In Indonesian].

Hamuna B., Tanjung R. H. R., Suwito, Maury H. K., Alianto, 2018 [Study of sea water quality and pollution index based on physico-chemical parameters in the waters of the Depapre district, Jayapura]. Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan 16(1):35–43. [In Indonesian].

Regarding how to write the references, please pay attention to how to use spaces, capital letters, italics, etc.

Please try to comply with journal rules because a manuscript cannot be published if it does not comply with all formatting rules. Please send me the revised version by 26 08 2022 so we can publish it by the end of August.

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I'm trying to complete the article according the directions until August 17.

I hope my article can be published.

Thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 16 Agustus 2022 14.38.58 WIB, Bioflux Journals
<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version.

I confirm that I received your manuscript. It needs revisions for formatting according to journal style and English grammar. If you can send me a revised version 100% following journal style and English corrected, I will publish it 48 hours after receiving it. If you can do this, please confirm until August 17. If I do not receive your confirmation, I will consider that I do the revisions. If I have to do these revisions, it will take 1-2 weeks because this is a very busy period. I will do my best to finish it by the end of August.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Mon, Aug 15, 2022 at 4:57 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have submitted an article with several revisions. I really hope that there will be information when the article entitled "The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system" can be published in August. because this article is very important for my work. I hope my article gets attention. thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 2 Agustus 2022 13.51.08 WIB, Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> menulis:

Dear Editor
I sent back the article
that has been
corrected. Hopefully
it will be published
soon. Thank you very
much

Endah Rita Sulistya
Dewi

Pada Sabtu, 30 Juli 2022 19.08.48 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com>
menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the revised version. Please send me by email the final
paragraph. Pay attention to the correct order of first name and last name.

Received: 23 August 2016. Accepted: 25 September 2016. Published online: 18 October
2016.

Authors:

Loke Hai Xin, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science and
Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:
lokehx@gmail.com

Kee Alfian Abdul Adzis, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of
Science and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-
mail: keearlf@hotmail.com

Julian Hyde, Reef Check Malaysia, Suite 5.19-5.22, Box 606, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang,
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, e-mail: julian@reefcheck.org.my

Zaidi Che Cob, School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, Faculty of Science
and Technology, National University of Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, e-mail:
zdcc@ukm.edu.my

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Attribution License, which

permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original
author and source
are credited.

How to cite this article:

Xin L. H., Adzis K. A. A., Hyde J., Cob Z. C., 2016 Growth performance of *Acropora formosa* in
natural reefs and coral nurseries for reef restoration. AAFL Bioflux 9(5):1090-1100.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 11:52 AM Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the corrections. I check all comments. Most of them are solved. Several aspects still need your input. Please see the attached version and what I wrote you on it. I highlighted them in yellow to see them easier.

Please work on the attached version.
I also attached the Model of paper.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 5:01 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have revised again my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Thank you for your attention.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Rabu, 6 Juli 2022 12.21.28 WIB, Bioflux Journals
<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for the email. I downloaded your file and I started to read. I saw you did not answer all my comments. Please see what I wrote in the comments on the right side of the manuscript. Please reply to each of my comments and explain in your reply what you did in response to my suggestions. For example, my second comment was: "Key words must be different from title words. Please change 1-2 of them". You must do 2 things here: change the key words according to my suggestion; and 2. Reply (click on "Reply" button and write), for example: "I changed the key words".

My next comment was about "Christinet"....
The next one was to follow journal rules for citations in text and references. (for example, remove the comma after the name. see Model of Paper)

Please check all my comments and answer all.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Thu, Jun 30, 2022 at 4:12 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor,

I have revised my article as directed, and I will send it back.
Hopefully the article will be published soon.
Thank you very much.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Selasa, 28 Juni 2022 16.11.15 WIB, Bioflux Journals
<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for submitting the revised version of the manuscript.

I edited it. Please see my changes in the attached version and check each of them carefully.

Please answer all my comments. They are highlighted in yellow. Add the final paragraph. Mark your changes with green.

Please **download the attached version** and **work on it**. Please keep all my changes: Do not accept/delete my changes and do not delete my comments, just answer them in the paper (not in the comments).

Please format the paper, including tables according to journal rules.

Please cite all references from the text in the References list at the end.

Please format the References according to journal rules. See Model of paper here <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/>

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 6:35 AM Bioflux Journals
<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Authors,

I confirm I received your files. I will write back as soon as I have the feedback regarding your revisions.

Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:58 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
<endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editor
With this I send

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions
2. One clean copy of the revised version
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents)

I hope my article will be published in the journal AACL Bioflux soon.
Thank you
Pada Selasa, 31 Mei 2022 19.04.47 WIB, Bioflux Journals
<biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for your email, I received your email today (see below).

I am sorry, I think there was a communication problem. I sent you the review request in January 2022. I am sending it now again.

Please answer to the reviewers' comments in the form that I attach to this email and also write a revised version of your manuscript in which you incorporate the revisions requested by the four reviewers. If you choose not to follow some of the recommendations/ comments, please motivate your choice.

In conclusion, please send me three documents:

1. One revised version of the manuscript that contains all revisions, with track changes visible for all your revisions; include in it all the changes that **ALL** reviewers made on your manuscript;
2. One clean copy of the revised version;
3. The document "Answers to reviewers" which contains your answers to all reviewers and to all their comments (included in "A" documents and "B" documents).

Please do the following:

- (1) Format the paper according to journal rules: paragraph, tabs, reference style, etc. See Model of paper here: <http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aacl/> (up, left side of the page)
- (2) Correct English grammar. Currently, many sentences are hard to understand.

Please know that if you cannot do these two requests, the review time will be longer.

- (3) Check that each reference cited in text is included at the references section at the end.

Also, please check the entire document with an **English editor program**, for example, Grammarly or Writefull.

Could you, please, let me know how much time (days or weeks) you need to revise the manuscript?

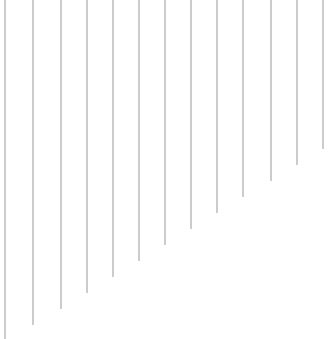
Kind regards,
Crina Petrescu,
Editor - Bioflux Journals

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>
Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM
Subject: Article Confirmation
To: Eni Kovacs
<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want



information when my article can be published in the journal AACL
Bioflux
I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt
of the article. thank you

Re: Revisions requested for your manuscript

Dari: Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi (endahrita@yahoo.co.id)

Kepada: biofluxeditor1@gmail.com

Tanggal: Senin, 5 September 2022 15.20 GMT+7

Dear Editor

Thank you very much, for the opportunity given to us, so that our article can be published in the AACL journal. It was a long process and ended happily..This is a nice experience to developed our skilll in witting an article.

Endah Rita Sulistya

Pada Senin, 5 September 2022 00.53.38 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Congratulations on the publication of your manuscript!

Your manuscript is now published online. Please find it here:

<http://www.bioflux.com.ro/aac/>

Publication date: 28 August 2022

Thank you for publishing your study in AACL Bioflux. I wish you all the best!

Kind regards,

Crina Petrescu

On Sun, Sep 4, 2022 at 3:54 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

Dear Editors,

Thank you for the correction, then I have replaced the new reference according to the suggestion.

(Francis-Floyd R., Pouder D., 2018 Use of Formalin to Control Fish Parasites. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences University of Florida).

I hope my article will be published soon.

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(Suprianto S., Redjeki, E. S., Dadiono, M. S., 2019. Optimization of probiotic doses on the growth and survival rates of Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc system. Journal of Aquaculture and Fish Health 8(2):80-85).

I include both articles in this email.

Hopefully my article is correct and can be published.

Thank you very much

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Dear Author,

Thank you for the feedback.
There is a misunderstanding.

1) Regarding your first correction, I checked the reference Francis-Floyd R., Poudet D., 2018, and the correct citation is the one I wrote. Please look at the document:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf%5Carchived%5CVM%5CVM061%5CVM061-10568036.pdf>

If you use a different document, please send me the link to check it.
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Dear Editor

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Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

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Check your names and affiliation and the whole manuscript carefully because we cannot make changes after it is published.

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soon. Thank you very
much

Endah Rita Sulistya
Dewi

Pada Sabtu, 30 Juli 2022 19.08.48 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for sending the revised version. Please send me by email the final paragraph. Pay attention to the correct order of first name and last name.

Received: 23 August 2016. Accepted: 25 September 2016. Published online: 18 October 2016.

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How to cite this article:

Xin L. H., Adzis K. A. A., Hyde J., Cob Z. C., 2016 Growth performance of *Acropora formosa* in natural reefs and coral nurseries for reef restoration. *AAFL Bioflux* 9(5):1090-1100.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
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On Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 11:52 AM Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> wrote:

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On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 5:01 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

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Thank you for your attention.

Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi

Pada Rabu, 6 Juli 2022 12.21.28 WIB, Bioflux Journals <biofluxeditor1@gmail.com> menulis:

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Please check all my comments and answer all.

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On Thu, Jun 30, 2022 at 4:12 PM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi <endahrita@yahoo.co.id> wrote:

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On Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:58 AM Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi
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From: **Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi** <endahrita@yahoo.co.id>

Date: Wed, May 25, 2022 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Article Confirmation

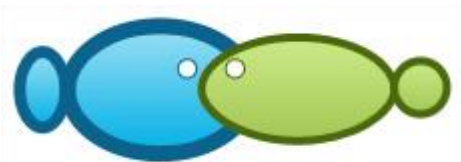
To: Eni Kovacs

<ek.bioflux@gmail.com>, zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com <zoobiomag2004@yahoo.com>

Dear Editor

I'm Endah Rita Sulistya Dewi has submitted an article entitled "**The Effect of EM-4 and ST Probiotic Fortification on the Growth Removed of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the Biofloc-Aquaponic System**" and has paid for the article contribution since October 2021 and has revised it . Through this email I want information when my article can be published in the journal AACL Bioflux

I send back the article that has met the revision and proof of receipt of the article. thank you



The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system

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Abstract. Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) is a fish that is highly demanded by the public as a source of protein with low cholesterol. It has a nutritional content of 17.7% protein and 1.3% fat. Innovative production methods must be found to increase production and meet market needs. Probiotics are one of the supporting factors for success in tilapia cultivation. This study aimed to determine the effect of probiotic fortification of EM-4 (Effective Microorganism) and ST (Sukses Tani) on the growth of tilapia in the biofloc-aquaponic system. This study used a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatments and three replications, namely P0 (without probiotic), P1 (EM-4 probiotic), P2 (ST probiotic). The data obtained were analyzed using the Analysis of Variance and the Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method. The results showed that the administration of probiotics in the biofloc-aquaponic system generated significant differences in weight and length gain ($p < 0.05$). The highest growth was obtained in P2 treatment, with a weight gain of 37.81 g and a length growth of 13 cm, followed by P1 treatment, with a weight gain of 26.66 g and a length growth of 11 cm, while the lowest growth was obtained in the P0 treatment with a weight gain of 18.47 g and a length growth of 10 cm. It was concluded that probiotic fortification could improve tilapia growth in biofloc-aquaponic systems.

Key Words: aquaponics, probiotics, fortification, tilapia, biofloc

Introduction. International market demand for tilapia reaches 200,000 tons/year (Wijaya 2011). Tilapia has high economic value. Tilapia has several advantages, including easiness of cultivation and consumer' preferences (Christin et al 2021). Tilapia is also highly demanded on the international market. Indonesia is the largest tilapia exporting country, exporting around 10 million tons/year (Nugroho et al 2013).

The increase in tilapia production causes an increase in the cultivation area and water use. The limited land and available water sources impose to find a solution so that cultivation activities can continue to develop. One solution is the application of a biofloc-aquaponic system. The biofloc technology transforms nitrogen waste into high protein feed through the growth of heterotrophic bacteria in aquaculture ponds. Microbes that are included in heterotrophic bacteria are from the genera *Mycobacterium*, *Streptomyces*, *Agrobacterium*, *Bacillus*, and *Pseudomonas*. Umasugi et al (2018) suggested that the use of *Bacillus* sp can improve water quality because it can decompose organic matter, suppress the growth of pathogens and balance the microbial community to provide a better environment for fish. In addition, the aquaponics system can save land and water use and increase business efficiency through the utilization of nutrients from left over feed and fish metabolism. The aquaponic system can remodel ammonia through the process of oxidation to nitrite by bacteria *Nitrosomonas* which is then oxidized under aerobic conditions to nitrate by bacteria *Nitrobacter* (Saptarini 2010). The main function of this system is to optimize water function and water bioremediation using plants in fish farming systems (Nugroho et al 2012). This biofloc-aquaponic system has a basic principle that benefits fish and plants from the utilization of nitrogenous waste, which becomes nutritious feed for fish and nutrients from leftover feed and fish manure that can be used as fertilizer for plants.

The combination of biofloc technology and aquaponics system can optimize land and water use and optimizes nutrients to increase tilapia growth. The-eco friendly biofloc-aquaponic system in tilapia rearing minimizes aquaculture waste, thereby preventing pollution.

The increasing market demand must be balanced with an increase in the productivity of tilapia aquaculture. One alternative is to give probiotics to fish. Probiotics are microbial substances that are used as additional nutrients that have the advantage of being able to improve the balance of the microflora of the host's digestive tract. The purpose of giving probiotics is to increase the digestibility capacity of fish by increasing digestive enzymes that can hydrolyze proteins into simpler compounds so that they are more easily absorbed and used as growth deposits. Probiotics can regulate the microbial environment in the intestines, blocking pathogenic microorganisms in the intestines by releasing enzymes that help the process of digestion of food (Istiqomah et al 2019; Rostika et al 2020). Several studies have proven that applying probiotic technology plays a role in improving water quality, increasing biosecurity, increasing productivity, increasing feed efficiency, and decreasing production costs through reducing feed costs (Avnimelech & Kochba 2009; Salamah & Zulpikar 2020; Dewi & Ulfah 2022). One of the factors supporting the success of probiotics in increasing the growth is the activity of photosynthetic bacteria, *Lactobacillus* sp., *Actinomyces* sp., *Streptomyces* sp., and yeast contained in probiotics. These microorganisms can produce digestive enzymes and compounds that can increase the growth of tilapia.

In this study, probiotic EM-4 (Effective Microorganisms) and probiotic ST (Sukses Tani) are used. They are two types of probiotics that are often used in cultivation. These two probiotics each have different content to increase fish growth. Probiotics EM-4 in the form of a brown liquid and sweet and sour smell (fresh) can be used as an addition to optimize the utilization of food substances because the bacteria in EM-4 can digest cellulose, starch, sugar, protein, and fat (Surung 2008). Several microorganisms support the growth of fish in EM-4 probiotic, such as lactic acid and other fermentative microorganisms. The fermenters in EM-4 probiotics secrete exogenous enzymes such as amylase, lipase, amylase, and cellulase. These enzymes degrade complex nutrients that make up feed into simpler nutrients. Consequently, EM-4 can facilitate the digestive process of fish and increase fish growth. ST probiotic is a bioactivator containing *Lactobacillus*, *Actinomyces*, *Streptomyces*, and photosynthetic bacteria obtained from the isolation of moist soil in the forest, grass roots, and cow colon (Indriani 2005). Bacteria *Lactobacillus* can increase the digestibility of fish to feed so that it can stimulate fish growth (Bukhori 2020). The ST probiotic also contains *Nitrobacter* bacteria which play an important role in the nitrification process in aquaculture ponds.

The basic principle in this biofloc-aquaponic system is that food residues and fish manure that have the potential to worsen water quality can be used as fertilizer for aquatic plants. There are various types of probiotics that are marketed to support fish growth, especially in weight and length. Therefore, this study will comparatively examine the effect of EM-4 and ST probiotics on tilapia in a biofloc-aquaponic system. The-eco friendly biofloc-aquaponic system as an appropriate technology that can help farmers to produce tilapia in high quantity and quality.

Material and Method. The subjects used in this study were local tilapia with an initial length of 5-7 cm. A number of 200 fish were reared in three ponds. Each pond had 2650 liters. This research was conducted between May and September 2020 at the Biology Education Laboratory Campus 3 Universitas PGRI Semarang. Measurements of dissolved oxygen, ammonia (NH₃), nitrite (NO₂), and nitrate (NO₃) were carried out at the Chemistry Laboratory, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga.

This study used a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatments and three replications, namely P0 treatment without using probiotic treatment (control), P1 using EM-4 probiotic treatment and P2 using ST probiotic treatment (10 ml/m³). The variables observed in this study were weight gain and length of tilapia and water quality indicators. Measurements of weight gain (WG) and length gain (LG) followed Purbomartono et al (2022) guidelines as follows: $WG = W_t - W_o$; $LG = L_t - L_o$, where W_t = final weight;

Lt = final length; Wo = initial weight; Lo = initial length; WG = weight gain; LG = length gain after 90 days (3 month) of rearing.

Water observation variables included dissolved oxygen (DO), ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels. Observations were made at the end of the study. Tilapia growth was observed by taking 30 fish samples from each pond. The tools used in this study include: tarpaulin pools, aerators, gutters, water pumps, PVC pipes, plastic buckets, bioballs, pots, coconut fiber, and rockwool. The materials used in this study include; paprika seeds, tilapia, fish pellets, probiotic EM-4, and probiotic ST. Treatment was carried out during maintenance by giving probiotics and replacing/filling water regularly. Measurements of the fish weight and length growth were carried out twice during the study. Observation of the growth of fish weight and length was measured by sampling 30 fish per pond.

ANOVA was used to analyze the research data (weight gain and length gain) If $F_{count} > F_{table}$ 0.05, it can be concluded that the probiotic fortification of EM-4 and ST generated significant differences in the observed variables. If $F_{count} < F_{table}$ 0.05, it can be concluded that the probiotic fortification of EM-4 and ST did not show significant differences in the observed variables. A Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method is run if the data analysis shows a significant difference. The aim of Fisher's LSD method is to compare two average values.

Results and Discussion

Weight of tilapia. Based on the results of the study, the average weight gain of tilapia fry in each treatment for each measurement ranged from 18.47 g to a size of 37.81 g. During 92 days of rearing tilapia fry, the highest weight gain was of 37.81 g, achieved in the treatment of ST probiotics, in P2, namely from 2.97 g to 40.78 g. This was followed by P1 treatment, with EM-4, with a 26.86 g increase from 3.37 g to 30.80 g. The lowest gain was of 18.47g, in P0 treatment (no probiotic), from 3.37 g to 21, 84 g. The results of the weight gain of tilapia can be seen in Figure 1.

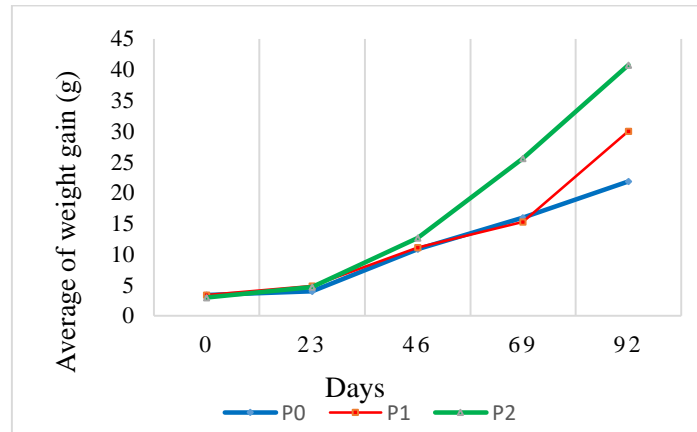


Figure 1. Weight gain of tilapia during the study

The research data were analyzed using three tests as follows. The first one was the homogeneity test and its results are presented in Table 1. The sig value (0.830, Table 1) is higher than 0.05. This means there is no statistically significant difference between tested variables.

Table 1.

Homogeneity test for the weight gain of tilapia

<i>Levene Statistic</i>	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
.192	2	6	.830

The second test on the weight gain was one-way ANOVA. This generated the results presented in Table 2. Based on the analysis of variance (ANOVA) on the weight gain obtained $F_{\text{value calculated}}$ of 85.038 while the result of the calculation F_{table} by 5.14 Then $F_{\text{count}} 85.038 > F_{\text{table}} 5.14$ which means that there is a very significant difference between treatments. This shows that there is a significant effect between the administration of different types of probiotics (no treatment, EM-4 and ST) on the weight gain of tilapia.

Table 2.

Results of one-way ANOVA regarding tilapia weight gain

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	565.375	2	282.688	85.038	.000
Within Groups	19.945	6	3.324		
Total	585.321	8			

The third test was Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) Method. This generated the results presented in Table 3. The Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method showed that the treatment had a statistically significant difference in the weight growth of tilapia ($p < 0.05$) in each treatment.

Table 3.

Results of the Advanced Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method of the weight of tilapia

<i>Comparison of Treatments</i>		<i>Differences Mean</i>	<i>Sig</i>
P0 (Control)	P1 (EM-4)	-8.20000 ^a	0.002
P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	-11.14000 ^b	0.000
P2 (ST)	P0 (Control)	-19.34000 ^c	0.000

Note: Different superscript letters indicate a significant difference between treatments.

Length of tilapia. Based on the results of the study, the average length of tilapia fry in each treatment for each measurement ranged from 10 cm to 13 cm. During 92 days of tilapia fry rearing, the highest length gain was achieved in the P2 treatment, (with ST probiotic fortification), with an average of 13 cm (measurements ranging from 7 cm to 17 cm). This was followed by P1 treatment, with probiotic fortification EM-4, with an average of 11 cm (measurements ranging from 6 cm to 15 cm). Finally, the lowest increase was in P0 treatment, without probiotic fortification, with an average of 6 cm (measurements ranging from 6 cm to 13 cm). The results of the increase in the length of tilapia can be seen in Figure 2.

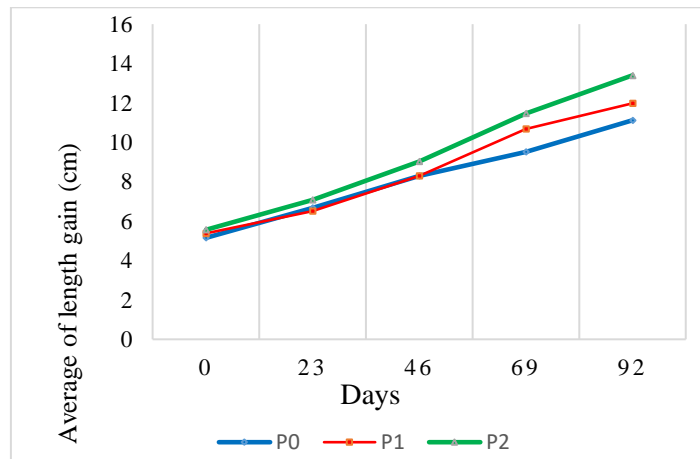


Figure 2. Length of tilapia during the study

The research data were analyzed using 3 tests as follows. The results of the homogeneity test are indicated in Table 4. The homogeneity of variance has a statistical value of sig 0.260 > 0.05, indicating that the variance of the three groups of sample data is the same or homogeneous.

Table 4.

Test of Homogeneity for Variances of tilapia weight gain

<i>Levene Statistic</i>	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
1.699	2	6	.260

The results of ANOVA test on the weight gain are included in Table 5. They generated $F_{\text{value calculated}}$ of 5.297 while the yield calculation F_{table} by 5.14. Then $F_{\text{count}} 5.297 > F_{\text{table}} 5.14$ which means that there is a statistically significant difference between treatments. In other words, there is a significant difference between the effect of the administration of different types of probiotics (EM-4 and ST probiotics) on the length growth of tilapia. ST probiotics generated a bigger increase in weight gain.

Table 5.

Results of One Way ANOVA on tilapia weight gain

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	5.798	2	2.899	5.297	.047
Within Groups	3.284	6	.547		
Total	9.082	8			

The results of Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) test are presented in Table 6. According to it, the P2 treatment generated a statistically significant difference in the length growth of tilapia ($p < 5\%$).

Table 6.

Fisher's LSD Results tilapia Fish Weight gain

<i>Comparison of Treatments</i>		<i>Differences Mean</i>	<i>Significance</i>
P0 (Control)	P1 (EM-4)	-0.69333 ^a	0.295
P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	-1.24667 ^b	0.085
P2 (ST)	P0 (Control)	1.94000 ^c	0.018

Note: Different superscript letters indicate a significant difference between treatments.

Growth is an increase in length or weight gain over time (Supianto & Endah Sri Redjeki 2019). According to Saparinto & Susiana (2011), the fish growth is influenced by two factors, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include genetics, sex, age, disease, and the influence of hormones; external factors include habitat variables that are not in accordance with the tolerance ability of the fish's body so that it can cause disturbances in growth. These external factors include temperature, water oxygen content, salt content, water pH, and pollution. The results of this study show that the highest weight gain was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic) with an average weight gain of 37.81 g. The average weight gain of the seeds was 2.97 g and after treatment for 90 days, it increased to 40.78 g. The highest length growth was also in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic) with an average length increase of 7.84 cm. The average length of the seeds was 5.56 cm at the beginning and it increased to 13.40 cm after undergoing maintenance for 90 days.

This is certainly influenced by the microorganisms in probiotics. According to Lisna & Insulistyowati (2015), the bacteria in probiotics can improve water quality and the digestive tract of fish so that the addition of probiotics can increase fish growth. ST probiotics contain *Lactobacillus* and *Nitrobacter* which in fish rearing media can improve water quality and increase fish growth. This is in accordance with Sugih (2005) who mention that bacteria *Lactobacillus* can increase the digestibility of fish to feed so that it can stimulate fish growth. *Lactobacillus* bacteria are able to increase the body's immunity to fight infection. According to Arief et al (2008), *Lactobacillus* sp. is a type of bacteria that can maintain the balance of microbes in the digestive tract, so that it can increase the digestibility of fish and will ultimately provide a better weight gain. *Nitrobacter* bacteria in ST probiotics also play an important role in the nitrification process in ponds. This process occurs in two steps, firstly ammonia is converted to nitrite (NO²⁻) by several bacterial genera including *Nitrosomonas*. Both nitrites are converted to nitrate (NO³⁻) by groups of bacteria such as *Nitrobacter*. This process occurs in the sediment surface layer of aquaculture ponds, in plants and other structures (Francis-Floyd et al 1996) Add this to References list. The overall nitrification process can be described through the following reaction (Titiresmi & Sopiha 2006):



Water Quality. In this study, water quality tests were carried out at the end of the study. The water quality in the biofloc-aquaponic system is described in Table 7.

Table 7.

Pond Water Quality

Water Quality Parameters	Treatment			Standard
	P0 (control)	P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	
DO	6.40	6.00	6.82	5-7 mg/L*
Ammonia (NH ₃)	0.13	0.23	0.64	< 0.8 mg/L**
Nitrite (NO ₂)	0.065	0.024	0.026	0.06 mg/L***
Nitrate (NO ₃)	4.1	5.4	5.8	20 mg/L***

Source: * Badan Standarasi Nasional Indonesia (2009), Effendi (2003), ** BBPBAT (2005), *** State Secretariat (2001)

The water quality test results (Table 7) show that the levels of DO, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate in each pond are different. The difference is due to the probiotic fortification that has been carried out. DO, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels determine pond water quality. DO is the amount of oxygen in the water that comes from photosynthesis and air diffusion. DO in the waters is used for respiration, degradation of organic and inorganic materials, metabolic processes, and exchange of substances, which produce energy for

growth and reproduction. The aquaponic biofloc system has a stable DO level when compared to the conventional system. In table 7 where the DO levels in all treatments ranged from 6-6.82 mg/L. In line with the research results of Putra et al (2011), the aquaponic system has a stable DO level as a parameter of good water quality for waters.

Table 7 shows that the level of DO was not much different between treatments. Sufficient DO levels are also able to facilitate the nitrification process in the pond so that the need for inorganic nitrogen includes Ammonia (NH_3), Nitrite (NO_2), and Nitrate (NO_3) in the pond. Whereas in the P0 treatment without probiotic fortification, the DO level was lower, resulting in the nitrification process being inhibited and the ammonia and nitrite levels increasing. Increased levels of ammonia and nitrite can be lethal to fish in culture. Treatment P1 (with EM-4 probiotic) had a growth of weight and length that was not much different from treatment P2, namely weight gain of 26.86 g. The average weight of the seeds was 3.37 g and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days increased to 30.23 g. The length growth was 6 cm. The average length of the seed was 5 cm and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days it increases to 11 cm.

Tilapia growth in P1 treatment was not much different from P2 treatment because in EM-4 probiotics there were several microorganisms that support fish growth such as lactic acid and other fermenting microorganisms. Probiotic EM-4 contains a mixed culture of fermenting microorganisms, namely lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacillus casei*) and yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) (Ardita et al 2015; Rachmawati et al 2006). These bacteria will secrete enzymes such as proteases and amylase in the digestive tract (Setiawati et al 2013). The fermenters in EM-4 probiotics secrete exogenous enzymes such as amylase, lipase, amylase and cellulase. These enzymes will degrade complex nutrients that make up feed into simpler nutrients, facilitate the digestive process of fish, and increase fish growth. This is in accordance with the statement of Rachmawati et al (2006) that EM-4 microorganism culture works in the body of fish through a synergistic action. Lactic acid in probiotic EM-4 also plays a role in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. The bioactive compounds from the spices in the EM-4 probiotic were able to increase the fish's immunity to disease, so that tilapia could survive until the end of this study. The yeast content is also believed to help accelerate the growth of tilapia. Toxic substances that enter with food into the body can be bound by yeast and then these substances are excreted through feces, so that fish can grow better because toxins in the body can dissolve in food that is eliminated in feces (Wulandari 2008).

However, in Table 7 it can be seen that the lowest level of DO was in the P1 treatment. This causes fish growth to be less than optimal. An imbalance of DO can cause stress in fish because the brain does not get enough oxygen supply and can lead to death. This is because oxygen is dissolved in the blood that cannot be bound by fish body tissues (Dahril et al 2017). The P0 treatment without probiotic fortification had the lowest weight and length gain. Based on the study's results, the weight gain was 18.47 g. Thus, the average initial weight gain of the seeds was 3.37 g, and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days, it increased to 21.84 g. The length increase was 6 cm. The average initial length of the seeds was 5 cm, and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days increased to 11 cm.

This is presumably due to a decrease in water quality as indicated by the low levels of nitrates (Table 7). The low levels of nitrates are thought to be due to the inhibition of the nitrification process. The inhibition of the nitrification process can be caused by a lack of nitrifying bacteria such as *Nitromonas* and *Nitrobacter* so that the nitrification process is inhibited and causes the slow down the growth of tilapia. The decrease in water quality in the P0 treatment (control) was thought to be caused by the feed that contained excessive protein, excess undigested amino acids resulted in increased N content in the waters resulting in ammonia, and nitrate pollution (Dewi et al 2020). In addition, the control treatment did not have probiotics, so only a few bacteria could oxidize organic matter, and there were few good bacteria that could help improve fish digestion and increase the growth. This resulted in the hydrolysis process of protein into simpler compounds that was less than optimal and caused less optimal protein absorption so that the growth of tilapia was lower/less than the one seen in the probiotic fortification treatments.

Ammonia (NH_3) in pond water is obtained from the decomposition of organic matter in the form of metabolic waste and food waste that is not consumed. Ammonia levels in

the pond indicate the smoothness of the nitrification process. Ammonia is converted into nitrite by *Nitrosomonas* bacteria and nitrite is converted by *Nitrobacter* bacteria in the pond. The high level of ammonia is caused by the accumulation of organic matter at the bottom of the pond which comes from the rest of the feed and the results of fish metabolism and is not completely decomposed by decomposing bacteria. However, the ammonia level in each treatment was still within the feasible and safe range for tilapia rearing, this is in accordance with the recommendations of BBPBAT (2005) that indicate that ammonia levels in tilapia rearing must be $< 0.8 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$.

The levels of nitrite in each pond ranged from $0.024\text{-}0.065 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ (Table 7). Low levels of nitrite indicate declining water quality. The low levels of nitrite are thought to be due to the small number of *Nitrosomonas* bacteria that play a role in converting ammonia into nitrite. The nitrification process is inhibited and results in a less than optimal fish growth. Water quality plays an important role for fish growth because good water quality affects the rate of metabolism and energy assimilation for growth (Putra et al 2011). Results show an increase in nitrate concentration in the ST treatment was obtained. This increase in nitrate concentration indicates the conversion of ammonia to nitrate through the nitrification process that runs smoothly. In table 7. it can be seen that the levels of nitrate in each treatment ranged from 4.1 to 5.8 mg L^{-1} . The highest level of nitrate was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic fortification). This is presumably due to the presence of *Nitrobacter* bacteria in ST probiotics which play an important role in the nitrification process. The nitrite in the pond is converted into nitrate by the *Nitrobacter* bacteria in the ST probiotic. High levels of nitrate indicate good water quality in the tilapia pond. This increases the growth of tilapia.

Conclusions. Based on the study's results, it can be concluded that the effect of fortification with EM-4 and ST probiotics significantly affects the weight and length gain of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in a biofloc-aquaponic system. The highest growth in weight and length gain was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic), which contained *Lactobacillus* and *Nitrobacter* bacteria. This generated a weight gain of 37.81 g and a length gain of 13 cm .

Conflict of interests. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests

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Received: 8 November 2021. Accepted 25 August 2022. Published online: **28** August 2022.

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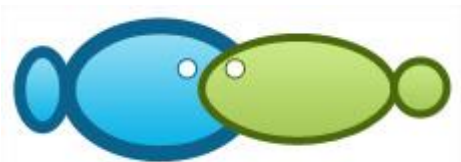
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How to cite this article

Dewi E. R. S., Rahmawati F., Ulfah M., 2022 The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system. *AAAL Bioflux* 15(4):2171-2180.



The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system

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Abstract. Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) is a fish that is highly demanded by the public as a source of protein with low cholesterol. It has a nutritional content of 17.7% protein and 1.3% fat. Innovative production methods must be found to increase production and meet market needs. Probiotics are one of the supporting factors for success in tilapia cultivation. This study aimed to determine the effect of probiotic fortification of EM-4 (Effective Microorganism) and ST (Sukses Tani) on the growth of tilapia in the biofloc-aquaponic system. This study used a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatments and three replications, namely P0 (without probiotic), P1 (EM-4 probiotic), P2 (ST probiotic). The data obtained were analyzed using the Analysis of Variance and the Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method. The results showed that the administration of probiotics in the biofloc-aquaponic system generated significant differences in weight and length gain ($p < 0.05$). The highest growth was obtained in P2 treatment, with a weight gain of 37.81 g and a length growth of 13 cm, followed by P1 treatment, with a weight gain of 26.66 g and a length growth of 11 cm, while the lowest growth was obtained in the P0 treatment with a weight gain of 18.47 g and a length growth of 10 cm. It was concluded that probiotic fortification could improve tilapia growth in biofloc-aquaponic systems.

Key Words: aquaponics, probiotics, fortification, tilapia, biofloc

Introduction. International market demand for tilapia reaches 200,000 tons/year (Wijaya 2011). Tilapia has high economic value. Tilapia has several advantages, including easiness of cultivation and consumer' preferences (Christin et al 2021). Tilapia is also highly demanded on the international market. Indonesia is the largest tilapia exporting country, exporting around 10 million tons/year (Nugroho et al 2013).

The increase in tilapia production causes an increase in the cultivation area and water use. The limited land and available water sources impose to find a solution so that cultivation activities can continue to develop. One solution is the application of a biofloc-aquaponic system. The biofloc technology transforms nitrogen waste into high protein feed through the growth of heterotrophic bacteria in aquaculture ponds. Microbes that are included in heterotrophic bacteria are from the genera *Mycobacterium*, *Streptomyces*, *Agrobacterium*, *Bacillus*, and *Pseudomonas*. Umasugi et al (2018) suggested that the use of *Bacillus* sp can improve water quality because it can decompose organic matter, suppress the growth of pathogens and balance the microbial community to provide a better environment for fish. In addition, the aquaponics system can save land and water use and increase business efficiency through the utilization of nutrients from left over feed and fish metabolism. The aquaponic system can remodel ammonia through the process of oxidation to nitrite by bacteria *Nitrosomonas* which is then oxidized under aerobic conditions to nitrate by bacteria *Nitrobacter* (Saptarini 2010). The main function of this system is to optimize water function and water bioremediation using plants in fish farming systems (Ristiawan et al 2012). This biofloc-aquaponic system has a basic principle that benefits fish and plants from the utilization of nitrogenous waste, which becomes nutritious feed for fish and nutrients from leftover feed and fish manure that can be used as fertilizer for

plants. The combination of biofloc technology and aquaponics system can optimize land and water use and optimizes nutrients to increase tilapia growth. The-eco friendly biofloc-aquaponic system in tilapia rearing minimizes aquaculture waste, thereby preventing pollution.

The increasing market demand must be balanced with an increase in the productivity of tilapia aquaculture. One alternative is to give probiotics to fish. Probiotics are microbial substances that are used as additional nutrients that have the advantage of being able to improve the balance of the microflora of the host's digestive tract. The purpose of giving probiotics is to increase the digestibility capacity of fish by increasing digestive enzymes that can hydrolyze proteins into simpler compounds so that they are more easily absorbed and used as growth deposits. Probiotics can regulate the microbial environment in the intestines, blocking pathogenic microorganisms in the intestines by releasing enzymes that help the process of digestion of food (Istiqomah et al 2019; Rostika et al 2020). Several studies have proven that applying probiotic technology plays a role in improving water quality, increasing biosecurity, increasing productivity, increasing feed efficiency, and decreasing production costs through reducing feed costs (Avnimelech & Kochba 2009; Salamah & Zulpikar 2020; Dewi & Ulfah 2022). One of the factors supporting the success of probiotics in increasing the growth is the activity of photosynthetic bacteria, *Lactobacillus* sp., *Actinomyces* sp., *Streptomyces* sp., and yeast contained in probiotics. These microorganisms can produce digestive enzymes and compounds that can increase the growth of tilapia.

In this study, probiotic EM-4 (Effective Microorganisms) and probiotic ST (Sukses Tani) are used. They are two types of probiotics that are often used in cultivation. These two probiotics each have different content to increase fish growth. Probiotics EM-4 in the form of a brown liquid and sweet and sour smell (fresh) can be used as an addition to optimize the utilization of food substances because the bacteria in EM-4 can digest cellulose, starch, sugar, protein, and fat (Surung 2008). Several microorganisms support the growth of fish in EM-4 probiotic, such as lactic acid and other fermentative microorganisms. The fermenters in EM-4 probiotics secrete exogenous enzymes such as amylase, lipase, amylase, and cellulase. These enzymes degrade complex nutrients that make up feed into simpler nutrients. Consequently, EM-4 can facilitate the digestive process of fish and increase fish growth. ST probiotic is a bioactivator containing *Lactobacillus*, *Actinomyces*, *Streptomyces*, and photosynthetic bacteria obtained from the isolation of moist soil in the forest, grass roots, and cow colon (Indriani 2005). Bacteria *Lactobacillus* can increase the digestibility of fish to feed so that it can stimulate fish growth (Bukhori 2020). The ST probiotic also contains *Nitrobacter* bacteria which play an important role in the nitrification process in aquaculture ponds.

The basic principle in this biofloc-aquaponic system is that food residues and fish manure that have the potential to worsen water quality can be used as fertilizer for aquatic plants. There are various types of probiotics that are marketed to support fish growth, especially in weight and length. Therefore, this study will comparatively examine the effect of EM-4 and ST probiotics on tilapia in a biofloc-aquaponic system. The-eco friendly biofloc-aquaponic system as an appropriate technology that can help farmers to produce tilapia in high quantity and quality.

Material and Method. The subjects used in this study were local tilapia with an initial length of 5-7 cm. A number of 200 fish were reared in three ponds. Each pond had 2650 liters. This research was conducted between May and September 2020 at the Biology Education Laboratory Campus 3 Universitas PGRI Semarang. Measurements of dissolved oxygen, ammonia (NH₃), nitrite (NO₂), and nitrate (NO₃) were carried out at the Chemistry Laboratory, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga.

This study used a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three treatments and three replications, namely P0 treatment without using probiotic treatment (control), P1 using EM-4 probiotic treatment and P2 using ST probiotic treatment (10 ml/m³). The variables observed in this study were weight gain and length of tilapia and water quality indicators. Measurements of weight gain (WG) and length gain (LG) followed Purbomartono

et al (2022) guidelines as follows: $WG = W_t - W_o$; $LG = L_t - L_o$, where W_t = final weight; L_t = final length; W_o = initial weight; L_o = initial length; WG = weight gain; LG = length gain after 90 days (3 month) of rearing.

Water observation variables included dissolved oxygen (DO), ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels. Observations were made at the end of the study. Tilapia growth was observed by taking 30 fish samples from each pond. The tools used in this study include: tarpaulin pools, aerators, gutters, water pumps, PVC pipes, plastic buckets, bioballs, pots, coconut fiber, and rockwool. The materials used in this study include; paprika seeds, tilapia, fish pellets, probiotic EM-4, and probiotic ST. Treatment was carried out during maintenance by giving probiotics and replacing/filling water regularly. Measurements of the fish weight and length growth were carried out twice during the study. Observation of the growth of fish weight and length was measured by sampling 30 fish per pond.

ANOVA was used to analyze the research data (weight gain and length gain) If $F_{count} > F_{table}$ 0.05, it can be concluded that the probiotic fortification of EM-4 and ST generated significant differences in the observed variables. If $F_{count} < F_{table}$ 0.05, it can be concluded that the probiotic fortification of EM-4 and ST did not show significant differences in the observed variables. A Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method is run if the data analysis shows a significant difference. The aim of Fisher's LSD method is to compare two average values.

Results and Discussion

Weight of tilapia. Based on the results of the study, the average weight gain of tilapia fry in each treatment for each measurement ranged from 18.47 g to a size of 37.81 g. During 92 days of rearing tilapia fry, the highest weight gain was of 37.81 g, achieved in the treatment of ST probiotics, in P2, namely from 2.97 g to 40.78 g. This was followed by P1 treatment, with EM-4, with a 26.86 g increase from 3.37 g to 30.80 g. The lowest gain was of 18.47g, in P0 treatment (no probiotic), from 3.37 g to 21, 84 g. The results of the weight gain of tilapia can be seen in Figure 1.

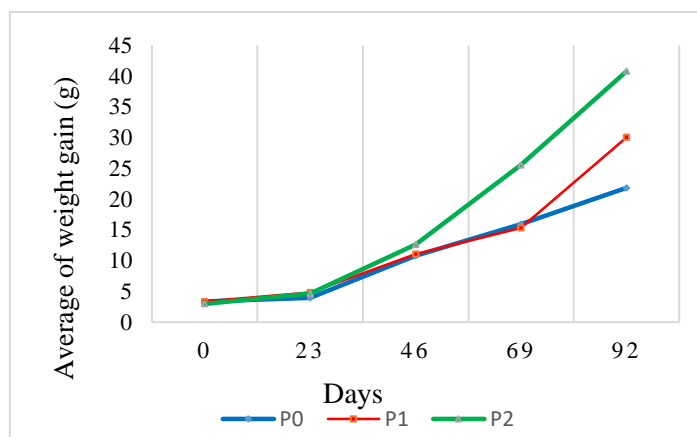


Figure 1. Weight gain of tilapia during the study.

The research data were analyzed using three tests as follows. The first one was the homogeneity test and its results are presented in Table 1. The sig value (0.830, Table 1) is higher than 0.05. This means there is no statistically significant difference between tested variables.

Table 1.

Homogeneity test for the weight gain of tilapia

<i>Levene Statistic</i>	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
.192	2	6	.830

The second test on the weight gain was one-way ANOVA. This generated the results presented in Table 2. Based on the analysis of variance (ANOVA) on the weight gain obtained $F_{\text{value calculated}}$ of 85.038 while the result of the calculation F_{table} by 5.14 Then F_{count} $85.038 > F_{\text{table}}$ 5.14 which means that there is a very significant difference between treatments. This shows that there is a significant effect between the administration of different types of probiotics (no treatment, EM-4 and ST) on the weight gain of tilapia.

Table 2.

Results of one-way ANOVA regarding tilapia weight gain

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	565.375	2	282.688	85.038	.000
Within Groups	19.945	6	3.324		
Total	585.321	8			

The third test was Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) Method. This generated the results presented in Table 3. The Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method showed that the treatment had a statistically significant difference in the weight growth of tilapia ($p < 0.05$) in each treatment.

Table 3.

Results of the Advanced Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) method of the weight of tilapia

<i>Comparison of Treatments</i>		<i>Differences Mean</i>	<i>Sig</i>
P0 (Control)	P1 (EM-4)	-8.20000 ^a	0.002
P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	-11.14000 ^b	0.000
P2 (ST)	P0 (Control)	-19.34000 ^c	0.000

Note: Different superscript letters indicate a significant difference between treatments.

Length of tilapia. Based on the results of the study, the average length of tilapia fry in each treatment for each measurement ranged from 10 cm to 13 cm. During 92 days of tilapia fry rearing, the highest length gain was achieved in the P2 treatment, (with ST probiotic fortification), with an average of 13 cm (measurements ranging from 7 cm to 17 cm). This was followed by P1 treatment, with probiotic fortification EM-4, with an average of 11 cm (measurements ranging from 6 cm to 15 cm). Finally, the lowest increase was in P0 treatment, without probiotic fortification, with an average of 6 cm (measurements ranging from 6 cm to 13 cm). The results of the increase in the length of tilapia can be seen in Figure 2.

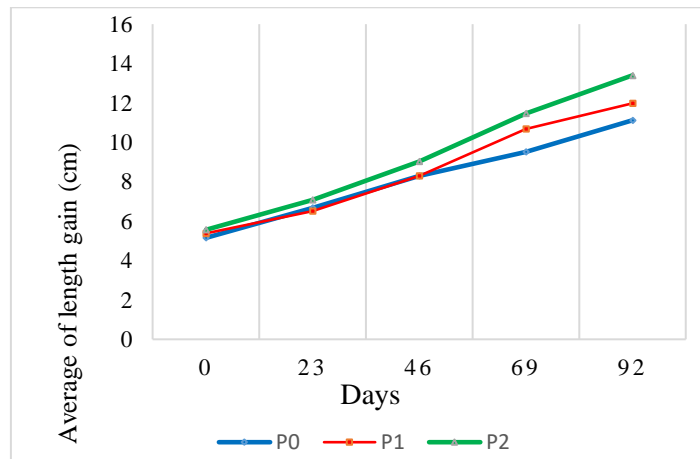


Figure 2. Length of tilapia during the study.

The research data were analyzed using 3 tests as follows. The results of the homogeneity test are indicated in Table 4. The homogeneity of variance has a statistical value of sig 0.260 > 0.05, indicating that the variance of the three groups of sample data is the same or homogeneous.

Table 4.

Test of Homogeneity for Variances of tilapia weight gain

<i>Levene Statistic</i>	<i>df1</i>	<i>df2</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
1.699	2	6	.260

The results of ANOVA test on the weight gain are included in Table 5. They generated $F_{\text{value calculated}}$ of 5.297 while the yield calculation F_{table} by 5.14. Then $F_{\text{count}} 5.297 > F_{\text{table}} 5.14$ which means that there is a statistically significant difference between treatments. In other words, there is a significant difference between the effect of the administration of different types of probiotics (EM-4 and ST probiotics) on the length growth of tilapia. ST probiotics generated a bigger increase in weight gain.

Table 5.

Results of One Way ANOVA on tilapia weight gain

	<i>Sum of Squares</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Between Groups	5.798	2	2.899	5.297	.047
Within Groups	3.284	6	.547		
Total	9.082	8			

The results of Fisher's LSD (Least Significant Different) test are presented in Table 6. According to it, the P2 treatment generated a statistically significant difference in the length growth of tilapia ($p < 5\%$).

Table 6.

Fisher's LSD Results tilapia Fish Weight gain

<i>Comparison of Treatments</i>		<i>Differences Mean</i>	<i>Significance</i>
P0 (Control)	P1 (EM-4)	-0.69333 ^a	0.295
P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	-1.24667 ^b	0.085
P2 (ST)	P0 (Control)	1.94000 ^c	0.018

Note: Different superscript letters indicate a significant difference between treatments.

Growth is an increase in length or weight gain over time (Suprianto 2019). According to Saporinto & Susiana (2011), the fish growth is influenced by two factors, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include genetics, sex, age, disease, and the influence of hormones; external factors include habitat variables that are not in accordance with the tolerance ability of the fish's body so that it can cause disturbances in growth. These external factors include temperature, water oxygen content, salt content, water pH, and pollution. The results of this study show that the highest weight gain was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic) with an average weight gain of 37.81 g. The average weight gain of the seeds was 2.97 g and after treatment for 90 days, it increased to 40.78 g. The highest length growth was also in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic) with an average length increase of 7.84 cm. The average length of the seeds was 5.56 cm at the beginning and it increased to 13.40 cm after undergoing maintenance for 90 days.

This is certainly influenced by the microorganisms in probiotics. According to Lisna & Insulistyowati (2015), the bacteria in probiotics can improve water quality and the digestive tract of fish so that the addition of probiotics can increase fish growth. ST probiotics contain *Lactobacillus* and *Nitrobacter* which in fish rearing media can improve water quality and increase fish growth. This is in accordance with Sugih (2005) who mention that bacteria *Lactobacillus* can increase the digestibility of fish to feed so that it can stimulate fish growth. *Lactobacillus* bacteria are able to increase the body's immunity to fight infection. According to Arief et al (2008), *Lactobacillus* sp. is a type of bacteria that can maintain the balance of microbes in the digestive tract, so that it can increase the digestibility of fish and will ultimately provide a better weight gain. *Nitrobacter* bacteria in ST probiotics also play an important role in the nitrification process in ponds. This process occurs in two steps, firstly ammonia is converted to nitrite (NO²⁻) by several bacterial genera including *Nitrosomonas*. Both nitrites are converted to nitrate (NO³⁻) by groups of bacteria such as *Nitrobacter*. This process occurs in the sediment surface layer of aquaculture ponds, in plants and other structures (Francis-Floyd & Pouder 2018). The overall nitrification process can be described through the following reaction (Titiresmi & Sopiah 2006):



Water Quality. In this study, water quality tests were carried out at the end of the study. The water quality in the biofloc-aquaponic system is described in Table 7.

Table 7.

Pond Water Quality

Water Quality Parameters	Treatment			Standard
	P0 (control)	P1 (EM-4)	P2 (ST)	
DO	6.40	6.00	6.82	5-7 mg/L*
Amonia (NH ₃)	0.13	0.23	0.64	< 0.8 mg/L**
Nitrite (NO ₂)	0.065	0.024	0.026	0.06 mg/L***
Nitrate (NO ₃)	4.1	5.4	5.8	20 mg/L***

Source: * Badan Standariasi Nasional Indonesia (2009), Effendi (2003), ** BBPBAT (2005), *** State Secretariat (2001)

The water quality test results (Table 7) show that the levels of DO, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate in each pond are different. The difference is due to the probiotic fortification that has been carried out. DO, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels determine pond water quality. DO is the amount of oxygen in the water that comes from photosynthesis and air diffusion. DO in the waters is used for respiration, degradation of organic and inorganic materials, metabolic processes, and exchange of substances, which produce energy for growth and reproduction. The aquaponic biofloc system has a stable DO level when

compared to the conventional system. In table 7 where the DO levels in all treatments ranged from 6-6.82 mg/L. In line with the research results of Putra et al (2011), the aquaponic system has a stable DO level as a parameter of good water quality for waters.

Table 7 shows that the level of DO was not much different between treatments. Sufficient DO levels are also able to facilitate the nitrification process in the pond so that the need for inorganic nitrogen includes Ammonia (NH₃), Nitrite (NO₂), and Nitrate (NO₃) in the pond. Whereas in the P0 treatment without probiotic fortification, the DO level was lower, resulting in the nitrification process being inhibited and the ammonia and nitrite levels increasing. Increased levels of ammonia and nitrite can be lethal to fish in culture. Treatment P1 (with EM-4 probiotic) had a growth of weight and length that was not much different from treatment P2, namely weight gain of 26.86 g. The average weight of the seeds was 3.37 g and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days increased to 30.23 g. The length growth was 6 cm. The average length of the seed was 5 cm and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days it increases to 11 cm.

Tilapia growth in P1 treatment was not much different from P2 treatment because in EM-4 probiotics there were several microorganisms that support fish growth such as lactic acid and other fermenting microorganisms. Probiotic EM-4 contains a mixed culture of fermenting microorganisms, namely lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacillus casei*) and yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) (Ardita et al 2015; Rachmawati et al 2006). These bacteria will secrete enzymes such as proteases and amylase in the digestive tract (Setiawati et al 2013). The fermenters in EM-4 probiotics secrete exogenous enzymes such as amylase, lipase, amylase and cellulase. These enzymes will degrade complex nutrients that make up feed into simpler nutrients, facilitate the digestive process of fish, and increase fish growth. This is in accordance with the statement of Rachmawati et al (2006) that EM-4 microorganism culture works in the body of fish through a synergistic action. Lactic acid in probiotic EM-4 also plays a role in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. The bioactive compounds from the spices in the EM-4 probiotic were able to increase the fish's immunity to disease, so that tilapia could survive until the end of this study. The yeast content is also believed to help accelerate the growth of tilapia. Toxic substances that enter with food into the body can be bound by yeast and then these substances are excreted through feces, so that fish can grow better because toxins in the body can dissolve in food that is eliminated in feces (Wulandari 2008).

However, in Table 7 it can be seen that the lowest level of DO was in the P1 treatment. This causes fish growth to be less than optimal. An imbalance of DO can cause stress in fish because the brain does not get enough oxygen supply and can lead to death. This is because oxygen is dissolved in the blood that cannot be bound by fish body tissues (Dahril et al 2017). The P0 treatment without probiotic fortification had the lowest weight and length gain. Based on the study's results, the weight gain was 18.47 g. Thus, the average initial weight gain of the seeds was 3.37 g, and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days, it increased to 21.84 g. The length increase was 6 cm. The average initial length of the seeds was 5 cm, and after undergoing maintenance for 90 days increased to 11 cm.

This is presumably due to a decrease in water quality as indicated by the low levels of nitrates (Table 7). The low levels of nitrates are thought to be due to the inhibition of the nitrification process. The inhibition of the nitrification process can be caused by a lack of nitrifying bacteria such as *Nitromonas* and *Nitrobacter* so that the nitrification process is inhibited and causes the slow down the growth of tilapia. The decrease in water quality in the P0 treatment (control) was thought to be caused by the feed that contained excessive protein, excess undigested amino acids resulted in increased N content in the waters resulting in ammonia, and nitrate pollution (Dewi et al 2020). In addition, the control treatment did not have probiotics, so only a few bacteria could oxidize organic matter, and there were few good bacteria that could help improve fish digestion and increase the growth. This resulted in the hydrolysis process of protein into simpler compounds that was less than optimal and caused less optimal protein absorption so that the growth of tilapia was lower/less than the one seen in the probiotic fortification treatments.

Ammonia (NH₃) in pond water is obtained from the decomposition of organic matter in the form of metabolic waste and food waste that is not consumed. Ammonia levels in the pond indicate the smoothness of the nitrification process. Ammonia is converted into

nitrite by *Nitrosomonas* bacteria and nitrite is converted by *Nitrobacter* bacteria in the pond. The high level of ammonia is caused by the accumulation of organic matter at the bottom of the pond which comes from the rest of the feed and the results of fish metabolism and is not completely decomposed by decomposing bacteria. However, the ammonia level in each treatment was still within the feasible and safe range for tilapia rearing, this is in accordance with the recommendations of BBPBAT (2005) that indicate that ammonia levels in tilapia rearing must be $< 0.8 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$.

The levels of nitrite in each pond ranged from $0.024\text{-}0.065 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ (Table 7). Low levels of nitrite indicate declining water quality. The low levels of nitrite are thought to be due to the small number of *Nitrosomonas* bacteria that play a role in converting ammonia into nitrite. The nitrification process is inhibited and results in a less than optimal fish growth. Water quality plays an important role for fish growth because good water quality affects the rate of metabolism and energy assimilation for growth (Putra et al 2011). Results show an increase in nitrate concentration in the ST treatment was obtained. This increase in nitrate concentration indicates the conversion of ammonia to nitrate through the nitrification process that runs smoothly. In table 7. it can be seen that the levels of nitrate in each treatment ranged from 4.1 to 5.8 mg L^{-1} . The highest level of nitrate was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic fortification). This is presumably due to the presence of *Nitrobacter* bacteria in ST probiotics which play an important role in the nitrification process. The nitrite in the pond is converted into nitrate by the *Nitrobacter* bacteria in the ST probiotic. High levels of nitrate indicate good water quality in the tilapia pond. This increases the growth of tilapia.

Conclusions. Based on the study's results, it can be concluded that the effect of fortification with EM-4 and ST probiotics significantly affects the weight and length gain of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in a biofloc-aquaponic system. The highest growth in weight and length gain was in the P2 treatment (with ST probiotic), which contained *Lactobacillus* and *Nitrobacter* bacteria. This generated a weight gain of 37.81 g and a length gain of 13 cm .

Conflict of interests. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests

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Received: 8 November 2021. Accepted 25 August 2022. Published online: 28 August 2022.

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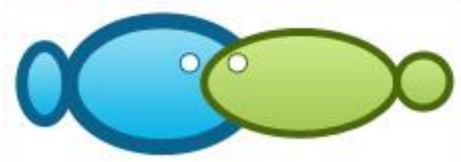
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How to cite this article

Dewi E. R. S., Rahmawati F., Ulfah M., 2022 The effect of EM-4 and ST probiotic fortification on the growth of tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in the biofloc-aquaponic system. *AACL Bioflux* 15(4):2171-2180.




Bioflux (publishing house)
54 Ceahlau Street,
Cluj-Napoca 400488,
Romania, European Union

Certificate

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