

Comparative analysis of protein and lipid contents of two 'prawn/shrimp' species in Sri Lanka

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Macrobrachium rosenbergii and *Penaeus monodon* are two commercially important prawn species in Sri Lanka. *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* is mainly a fresh water prawn while *P. monodon* is a marine form. In this study, protein and fat contents in muscle tissues of *M. rosenbergii* and *P. monodon* were determined. The results indicated that the percentage protein content of *M. rosenbergii* (86.15%) was found to be significantly higher compared to *P. monodon* (79.87%). In contrast, significantly lower fat content was recorded in the muscles of *M. rosenbergii* (0.05%) than that of *P. monodon* (2.05%). Based on the findings, *M. rosenbergii* can be considered as an important source of animal protein containing low total fat levels which suits for a healthy life. As such, efforts should be made to boost *M. rosenbergii* culture based fishery to provide sufficient amounts for local communities.

Key words: *fat content, Macrobrachium rosenbergii, Penaeus monodon, prawns, protein content*

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