

Effect of 17β-Estradiol on Feminization, Growth Rate and Survival Rate of Pasific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*, Boone 1931) Postlarvae

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Abstract

This study was therefore aimed to determine the effect of different concentration of estrogen hormone, 17β-estradiol (E₂) on feminization for the production of all female, growth rate and survival rate of Pasific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) postlarvae (PL). *L. vannamei* PL₁ were stocked randomly at a density of 10 ind.L⁻¹ into a 10 L of seawater for each experimental flask with three replicates each. PL₁ was immersed in seawater containing 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ estrogen hormone, E₂ for 4 hours. The experiment was continued for 30 days for larval rearing. At the termination of experiment, the specimens in each treatment groups were weighed and measured individually for their wet body weight (BW) and total length (TL) for the mean weight gain, length gain and the specific growth rate (SGR) estimation. The mean sex ratio values of male to female postlarvae obtained from control till the highest E₂ hormone concentration of 0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ were 1:1, 1:2, 0:1 and 0:1 respectively. The weight gain and length gain were 40605% and 606% for control, 46310% and 647% for 0.5 mg.L⁻¹ concentration, 49310% and 663% for 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ concentration and 45048% and 628% for 1.5 mg.L⁻¹. The mean SGR BW and SGR TL for control till the highest E₂ hormone concentration of 0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ were 20.00 and 6.51, 20.46 and 6.70, 20.67 and 6.77 and 20.37 and 6.62 respectively. The mean survival rate for E₂ hormone concentration of 0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ were 52.67%, 54.33%, 54.67% and 52.33% respectively. The study shows that while the concentration of E₂ hormone increased, the female sex ratio of *L. vannamei* PL also increased but the growth rate and survival rate decreased at concentration of 1.5 mg.L⁻¹. Thus the optimum concentration of this hormone usage was 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ immersed for 4 hours.

Keywords: 17β-estradiol, feminization, growth rate, *Litopenaeus vannamei*, postlarvae, survival rate.

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, as in many countries, aquaculture plays an important role in increasing seafood production. Penaeid shrimp is one of the fastest growing aquaculture production sectors [1]. The Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) production has rapidly increased in Asia [2]. In 2006, 88% of penaeid shrimp came from Asia, with the top five producers such as China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and India are accounting for 81% of world production [3].

Thus, an efficient biotechnology for producing all female penaeid shrimp populations is required especially in Indonesia, in which shrimp farming economically constitute an important source of income [4]. Due to the economic importance of penaeid shrimp worldwide, especially in aquaculture base production, great efforts had been developed for suitable and useful techniques. It is in order to increase the total of harvesting production goal [5]. Thus, the

requirement of market demand for shrimps in more uniform sizes, the monosex culture of female penaeid shrimps could be a strategy to produce larger shrimp is become necessary [6].

Commonly, females penaeid shrimp are growing faster and achieve a larger ultimate size than males as they are observed in wild populations [7,8,9]. Possibly, the larger size of females penaeid shrimp also exhibit sex-dependent dimorphic growth pattern that influence females growing faster than the males [10], because females have higher food efficiency utilization and apparent digestibility of energy [7, 11]. Therefore, there is a technique that potential for monosex females culture of penaeid shrimps for decreasing growth period, increasing pond yield, and also provide significantly higher growth rate [12].

The productions of monosex population can be applied through sex reversal achieved by administering androgens or estrogens hormone. While 17β-estradiol has been shown to be an effective feminization hormone in some fish [13], the administration of the steroid in crustaceans focused on reproduction has been attempted but the results are varied and sometime inconsistent [14,15].

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Some study to reverse sex in penaeid shrimps from male to female had reported successful by administering steroid hormone 17 β -estradiol through prepared feed in *Penaeus monodon* [16] and banana shrimp (*Fenneropenaeus merguensis*) [17] during postlarvae stages. But none administration of steroid hormone 17 β -estradiol through immersion were reported. Thus, this study aimed to determine the effect of different concentration of immersions estrogen hormone, 17 β -estradiol on feminization, survival rate and growth rate of *L. vannamei* postlarvae.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sea Water Supply and Water Treatment

This experiment was conducted at National Broodstock Center for Shrimp and Mollusc Karangasem, Bali, Indonesia, where the Pacific white shrimp (*L. vannamei*) postlarvae also obtained. The sea water source was from coastal water of Lombok Strait and pumped to the sedimentation tank and left overnight. The water was disinfected with 30 ppm calcium hypochlorite for 16 hours without aeration, then full aeration was blown throughout the tank for 8 hours. Before use, the sea water was checked with o-Tolidine to make sure there was no chlorine left. When the o-Tolidine test result showed yellowish water, the sea water then dechlorinated with sodium thiosulfate. After that, 5 ppm EDTA added as chelating agents of heavy metals in the water. The cotton filterbag (50 μ m) was used to filter detritus, small organisms and turbid water while sea water being used.

Experimental Design

The culture design consisted of 12 flasks containing each 10 L sea water. All the flasks were put in the 8000L tank containing freshwater which act as the water bath and covered with black hollow plastic to maintain stable temperature of 28-32 $^{\circ}$ C throughout the experimental period. Aeration was distributed from a controled air blower to each flask through transparent long rubber hose which provide with an air stone. *Litopenaeus vannamei* postlarvae day 1 (PL₁) were stocked randomly at a density 10 ind.L⁻¹, so the number of postlarvae stocked in each experimental flask is 100 individuals. The experiment consisted of immersed postlarva containing three concentrations of E₂ at 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ with three replicates for each treatment. Twenty five PL samples were weighted and measured randomly to obtain the initial body weight (BW) and total length (TL) and recorded.

Hormone Immersions

The hormone solution prepared by following method described by [18,19]. Stock solution of hormone prepared by weighting the amount of 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ hormone (Argent Laboratories Inc. Philippines) and dissolved in 1 mL 95% ethanol (Merck) each. The hormon solution then poured in 1 L sea water each and aerated for 30 minutes to evaporate ethanol odor. Amount of PL₁ *L. vannamei* were immersed for 4 hours in hormone solution. After completion of hormone immersion, the flasks were emptied, washed and filled with 10 L filtered sea water. The experiment were maintained until the end of study in this flasks.

Larval Rearing

The daily amount of feed, which include quantity and number of feeding times, were adjusted for growth and survival compensation depend on the age of shrimps. The fed were given four times a day at 07.00 am, 12.00 am, 05.00 pm and 10.00 pm at the rate of 10% wet body weight.day⁻¹ [20]. The experiment was continued for 30 days. Water exchange were done by siphoned out 40-50% water and also to removed uneaten food and faeces then replaced with new clean treated and filtered water.

During the study, the parameters of sea water were maintained at 28-32 ppt of salinity, more than 4 mg.L⁻¹ for DO, temperature 28-30 $^{\circ}$ C and 7.5-8.5 for pH. After 30 days, the shrimp postlarvae in each flasks were harvested by firstly siphoned out until the depth of water level about 2/3 left and finally shrimps collected using smooth scoop net. Postlarvae harvested from each flask was counted to determine their survival rate, and their weight and length also measured for the growth rate analysis. The shrimp postlarvae were preserved in 10% formaldehyde and put in the bottle sample according to their each concentration of treatment until their sexes observed.

Sex Determination and Sex Ratio

These external sex differentiation of each shrimp between male and female *L. vannamei* in this present study determined by examining the morphological sex structures following the protocol of previous study [10]. The females PL had a pair of oblique sharp ridges on the anterior part of sternite XIV (between the fourth and fifth pereopods) that characterizes the female thelycum of this species. While the males PL had a masculine appendix at the second pair of pleopods and tubular appendage developed the

gonophores complex at the medially of fifth pereopods.

Size Increasements and Spesific Growth Rate

At the termination of the experiment (after 30 days), the biological measurement of wet body weight (BW) and total length (TL) of random 25 PL *L. vannamei* from each treatment group were weighted and measured individually to estimate the mean final body weight and total length, and the spesific growth rate (SGR). A digital weighing machine (Kern brand) with an accuracy of 0.0001 g and a vernier calliper (Tricke Brand, Shanghai China) with an accuracy of 0.1 mm were use to measure the BW and TL of each PL shrimp, respectively. The SGR of PL was calculated using formula by [21].

$$SGR = \frac{100(\text{in mean final } \frac{BW}{TL} - \text{In mean initial } \frac{BW}{TL})}{\text{Culture Period (days)}}$$

Description:

SGR = Spesific Growth Rate

BW = Body Weight

TL = Total Length

Survival rate

The survival *L. vannamei* PL were also counted at the termination of the study. Survival rate (%) is equal to number of PL harvested divided by number of PL stocked multiply by 100% [22].

Statistical analysis

To determine the differences among treatments, One way Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. Post host test and Tukey's test were used to determine the significantly different among treatment. The significance level of the results was set at ($P < 0.05$). All statistics were performed using SPSS (version 16).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of experimentals groups hormone-treated *L. vannamei* gained from the mean of 25 individuals PL for the three replicates of each treatment. The comparison of mean sex ratio values of male : female gained from control to the highest E₂ hormone concentration of 0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ that is 1:1, 1:2, 1:9 and 0:1, respectively. In this study, as the concentration of E₂ hormone increased from control treatment (0 mg.L⁻¹) until the highest treatment concentration (1.5 mg.L⁻¹), the mean sex ratio values of male to female were also increased. The results obtained were significantly different ($P < 0.05$) among the treatments. The sex

ratio of experimental groups hormone-treated *L. vannamei* were shown in Figure 1.

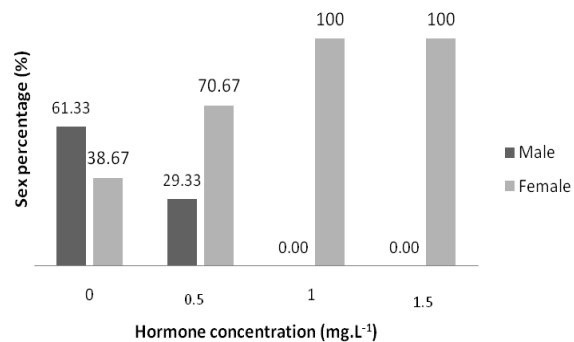


Figure 1. Sex ratio percentage of *L. vannamei* larvae between all hormone concentration (mg.L⁻¹) treatments

This study, showed the administration of E₂ hormone can increase the sex reversal of the male *L. vannamei* PL into 100% females. A similar result was also obtained by previous study in blue gill sunfish, *Lepomis macrochirus* [23]. Thus, it can be stated that E₂ hormonal administration can produce sex reversal not only for fish species but also for Penaeid shrimps. Other studies shown consider successful feminization of tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) [16] and banana shrimp (*Feneropenaeus merguensis*) [17] as their mean sex ratio values of male reverse to female increased as the concentration of E₂ hormone increased from control treatment to the highest treatment concentration when administration of E₂ hormone through feed was done during the early stages of their lives.

Growth Rate

The mean SGR BW for control treatment of *L. vannamei* PL after 30 days of culture was 20.00, while for E₂ hormone concentration treatments of 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg L⁻¹ were 20.46, 20.67 and 20.37 respectively (Fig. 2). All hormone treatment shrimp shows higher SGR BW than control with the highest SGR BW was 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ hormone treatment. The same situation was obtained from SGR TL result (Fig. 3) which showed all hormone treatment shrimp have higher SGR TL than control. The results for control, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ treatment were 6.51, 6.70, 6.77 and 6.62 respectively. Immersions through 1.0 mg.L⁻² E₂ concentration showed the highest SGR TL from all treatments. This study showed the same results obtained from the study on bluegill sunfish, *L. macrochirus* that shown consider successful in administration

of E₂ hormone not only on sex reversal but as a growth promoter [23].

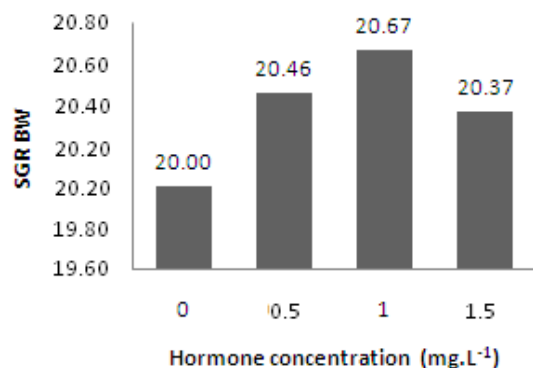


Figure 2. Mean SGR BW of *L. vannamei* larvae between all hormone concentration (mg.L⁻¹) treatments

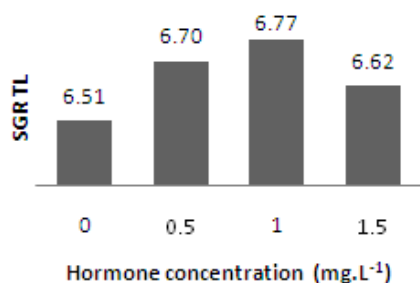


Figure 3. Mean SGR TL of *L. vannamei* larvae between all hormone concentration (mg.L⁻¹) treatments

The weight gain and length gain for control and all treatment were shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Control shows the lowest value of both weight gain and length gain. Hormone concentration of 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ showed the highest weight gain and length gain followed by 0.5 and 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ hormone concentration respectively. Highly significant difference (P>0.05) was detected among the treatments.

Results of weight gain and length gain were expected to show that the hormone treatment of *L. vannamei* larvae gain weight and length higher and faster than normal or control larvae because E₂ also have been proved to accelerate the growth of coho salmon [24], *Penaeus monodon* [16] and *Fenneropenaeus merguensis* [17].

The increased E₂ doses (0.5 and 1.0 mg.L⁻¹) had also increased the growth and size of *L. vannamei* PL due to the increasing somatic growth rate for each individual of the monosex population. In monosex population, the shrimp body will concentrate the energy from feed more on somatic growth than in the gonad development [22,25].

Meanwhile, mean SGR BW and SGR TL and also weight gain and length gain at 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂

concentration decreased. One of the possible reason for their decreasing because of the high concentration of E₂, as also reported that 17β-estradiol at 62.5 μg.L⁻¹ and higher levels may cause growth suppression and low survival rate for mysid shrimp *Americamysis bahia* [26].

Table 1. Weight Gain (%) *L. vannamei* Larvae Between All Hormone Concentration (mg.L⁻¹) Treatments

Hormone doses (mg.L ⁻¹)	Initial mean weight (g)	Final mean weight (g)	Weight gain (%)
0.0	0.0007 ± 0.0003	0.2849 ± 0.047	40605
0.5	0.0007 ± 0.0003	0.3249 ± 0.018	46310
1.0	0.0007 ± 0.0003	0.3459 ± 0.024	49310
1.5	0.0007 ± 0.0003	0.3160 ± 0.011	45048

Table 2. Length Gain (%) *L. vannamei* Larvae Between All Hormone Concentration (mg.L⁻¹) Treatments

Hormone doses (mg.L ⁻¹)	Initial mean length (mm)	Final mean length (mm)	Length gain (%)
0.0	5.05 ± 0.74	35.30 ± 2.10	606
0.5	5.05 ± 0.74	37.30 ± 0.83	647
1.0	5.05 ± 0.74	38.20 ± 1.36	663
1.5	5.05 ± 0.74	36.40 ± 0.65	628

Survival Rate

Survival rate of each treatment group was calculated based on mean of three replicates. The highest mean percentage of survival rate was recorded for 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ hormone treatment at 54.67 ± 1.53% while the lowest mean percentages was recorded for 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ at 52.33 ± 3.79%. The survival rate was increase started from 0.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ at 54.33 ± 1.15 % to 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ at 54.67 ± 1.53 % and slightly decreased at 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ at 52.33 ± 3.79 % (Fig. 4). Highly significant difference (P>0.05) was detected among the treatments.

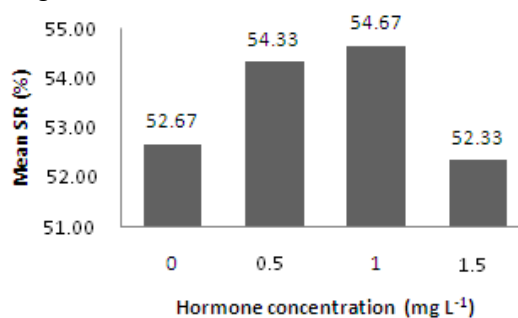


Figure 4. Mean Survival Rate of *L. vannamei* PL Immersed with Different E₂ Hormone Concentration.

The survival rate of 1.5 mg.L⁻¹ E₂ hormone treated *L. vannamei* postlarvae were slightly lower comparing with control. It was not surprising because 17β-estradiol treatments result in higher mortality of most aquaculture

species [27-31]. It was suggested that the *L. vannamei* PL are in the stress with the increasing of E₂ concentrations in their body that will over react their body metabolism thus produced lower survival rate. Based on those result, we conclude that the optimum concentration for the growth and survival rates was 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ of E₂.

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrates that the usage of estrogen hormone, 17β-estradiol through immersion can be an effective method for the production of 100% female *L. vannamei* PL at lowest concentration of 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ E₂. The results also showed that E₂ hormone can be acted as a growth promoter in penaeid shrimp (*L. vannamei*) PL either the growth rate and survival rate decrease when the hormone concentration increasing. It also concludes that the optimum concentration of 17β-estradiol was 1.0 mg.L⁻¹ for the best feminization, growth and survival rate of *L. vannamei*.

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