Abstract

Growth, survival, production and efficiency of energy transfer were determined in early juvenile crayfish of the species Cambarellus montezumae (Saussure), using detritus of Egeria densa microbiologically enriched. Growth and survival were evaluated during 5 weeks. At the end of the experiment the weight of the organisms increased 10.3 times, survival was 34.4%, the stock biomass increased 3.3 times. The efficiency of energy transfer was evaluated through a bio-energetic criteria, measuring the metabolic and nitrogen excretion rates in crayfish of different size. Energy losses and assimilation values showed an inverse relation to animal weight. It is concluded that the use of enriched vegetal detritus presents quite favorable characteristics to be used in early juvenile crayfish production and in extensive culture systems of this species.

Keywords

Crayfish, Cambarellus montezumae, Egeria densa, Culture, Growth, Production, Bioenergetics.