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## Optimization of live feeds production techniques: Rotifers

Sofia Coelho Botelho<sup>1</sup>, Hugo Batista<sup>2</sup>, Margarida Ferreira<sup>2</sup>, and José Julio Gonçalves Barros Martins<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal<sup>2</sup>Oceanário de Lisboa, Portugal

Rotifers are widely used in aquaculture as the first feed for fish and crustacean larval stages, especially due to their small size (130-320 µm), low mobility, energetic value and the possibility of artificial manipulation of their dietary value. These invertebrates feed by filtration of several organisms and particles, such as microalgae, protozoa, bacteria, dead organic matter and artificial diets. For its use in aquaculture, their main food source is usually microalgae. Another way of feeding rotifers consists on the supply of artificial diets, such as Easy DHA Selco®, which contains several essential nutrients for the proper development of the marine fish larvae. Experiments were conducted in order to evaluate in which conditions of temperature (20 and 25°C), salinity (16 and 32 ppm) and food (microalgae *Nannochloropsis* sp. and *Isochrysis* sp., and artificial diet Easy DHA Selco®) the culture of rotifers (*Brachionus plicatilis*) would develop in the most favorable way. The results show that the best development of this culture was obtained with the supply of *Nannochloropsis* at the temperature of 25°C and 16 ppm of salinity, being that the least favorable development of the culture was registered with the use of Easy DHA Selco®, at 25°C and 16 ppm ( $P < 0.0001$ ).

### Biography

Sofia Coelho Botelho has completed her Master's degree in Animal Science from University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD). She then went to Australia for six months to work in the field with beef and dairy cows. Now, she works as a Researcher in the Animal Nutrition Laboratory in UTAD.

sbotelho@utad.pt

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