Effects of Short-Necked Clam Phospholipids on the Growth of Prawn^{*1}

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To clarify the growth-promoting effects of phospholipids, the prawn, *Penaeus Japonicus*, was maintained on various test diets containing a 7% level of pollack liver oil (PLO) and a 1% level of one of the following lipids: total lipids, acetone-soluble lipids (or neutral lipids), acetone-insoluble lipids (or polar lipids), lecithin fraction, cephalin fraction, sphingomyelin-glycolipids (1:1), fatty acids of lecithin isolated from the short-necked clam, *Tapes philippinarum*, commercial phospholipids, animal cephalin, egg lecithin, and soybean lecithin.

The highest weight gain was attained on the diet containing 7% PLO and 1% *Tapes* lecithin fraction. However, the fatty acids of *Tapes* lecithin did not exert such a growth-promoting effect. Also, soybean lecithin and egg lecithin had no effect. *Tapes* cephalin and animal cephalin were effective for the improvement of weight gain to some extent, but the growth-promoting effect of the two types of cephalin was not so as high as that of *Tapes* lecithin.

These results suggest that the growth-promoting effect of *Tapes* lecithin is probably due to certain effects of the molecular form of *Tapes* lecithin itself.

Recent advances in the nutritional studies on lipids have shown the unique aspects of essential fatty acids (EFA) requirements in fish^{1,2)} and crustaceans³⁾. The growth of crustaceans is affected not only with the level of dietary lipids, but also with the kind of lipids. Generally, a superior growth is attained on the diets containing marine types of lipids such as pollack liver oil (PLO) rich in ω 3 highly unsaturated fatty acids (HUFA), 20:5 ω 3 and 22:6 ω 3, as observed in fish.

Previously, we have observed that a superior weight gain of the prawn, *Penaeus japonicus*, was attained on the diet containing the lipids of short-necked clam (*Tapes* lipids) rather than on that containing PLO⁴⁾. Since *Tapes* lipids contained abundance of phospholipids (more than 65% of total lipids), some components of *Tapes* phospholipids were assumed to exert a high nutritive value for the prawn. In the present study, hence, we intend to examine the effects of each phospholipid fraction on the growth of prawn. This paper deals with these results and discussion on the role of phospholipids in the diet of prawn.

Materials and Methods

Prawn and Feeding Method

The prawn, *P. japonicus*, 0.4-1.0 g in body weight, was used in this study. Feeding experiments were conducted 3 times: Experiment-I (July, 1975), Experiment-II (September, 1977), and Experiment-III (August, 1978). Fifteen or 20 prawns were maintained on each test diet in a plastic aquarium (30 liters) for 30 or 45 days at 22-25°C. The methods for feeding and preparation of diets were the same as reported previously^{4,5)}.

Preparation of Lipid Fractions from the Short-Necked Clam

Total lipids were extracted with chloroform-methanol-water (2:2:1, v/v)⁶⁾ from the whole body of short-necked clam and then separated into neutral and polar lipids by column chromatography on Kieselgel 60 as mentioned previously⁷⁾. In Experiment-I, total lipids were separated into acetone-soluble and acetone-insoluble lipids. Phospholipid fractions were isolated by a solvent-fractionation method⁸⁾ as follows: Polar lipids (or acetone-insoluble lipids) were extracted with 10 volumes of ether after dissolving

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in a small amount of chloroform, and the ether-soluble lipids were separated into lecithin (ethanol-soluble) and cephalin (ethanol-insoluble) fractions by treatment with ethanol, whereas the ether-insoluble lipids were separated into glycolipid (pyridine-soluble) and sphingolipid (pyridine-insoluble) fractions with hot pyridine.

Soybean lecithin, egg lecithin, and animal cephalin were purchased from Tokyo Kasei Organic Chemicals Co. PLO used as lipid source of base in this study was supplied from Riken Vitamin Oil Co., Ltd. and scarcely contained polar lipids such as lecithin and cephalin.

The purities of these phospholipids were checked by thin-layer chromatography on Kieselgel G-Kieselgel GF₂₅₄ (4:1, w/w) with chloroform-methanol-water (70:30:5, v/v) and were as follows: *Tapes* lecithin (88%), *Tapes* cephalin (98%), *Tapes* sphingomyelin (77%), *Tapes* glycolipid (69%), and commercial lecithin (95-98%) and cephalin (95%).

Test Diet

The composition of basal diet was the same as reported previously⁴¹. The composition of dietary lipids is listed in Table 1. The test diets were prepared by adding 1% levels of examined lipids to the diet containing 7% level of PLO and 0.5% level of cholesterol. In this study, a growth-promoting effect of the following lipids was examined; Total lipids, acetone-soluble lipids, acetone-insoluble lipids, neutral lipids, polar lipids, lecithin, cephalin, and sphingomyelin-glycolipid fractions from the short-necked clam, and commercial phospholipids, egg lecithin, soybean lecithin, and animal cephalin.

Determination of Fatty Acid Composition

After the feeding trial in Experiment-I, lipids were extracted from the whole body of prawns, and the fatty acid composition was determined by gas-liquid chromatography (GLC) on 10% DEGS (3 m long $\times$ 4 mm i.d., column temperature 190°C) as mentioned previously.⁹¹

Results

Table 1 shows the weight gain of prawn, *P. japonicus*, fed the test diets.

In Experiment-I, the effects of *Tapes* lipid fractions on the weight gain of prawn were examined by the 30 day-feeding trial using 7 test diets. The highest weight gain was attained on the diet No. 5 containing 7% PLO plus 1% *Tapes* lecithin

fraction as lipid sources. Also, the addition of 1% levels of acetone-insoluble lipid and cephalin fractions from *Tapes* improved the weight gain of prawn. Whereas, acetone-soluble lipid and sphingomyelin-glycolipid fractions from *Tapes* did not exert such a growth-promoting effect for the prawn, *P. japonicus*. The results of Experiment-I indicated that *Tapes* phospholipids, especially lecithin fraction, were highly effective for the improvement of weight gain. Thereupon, Experiments II and III were carried out to ascertain the growth-promoting effect of *Tapes* phospholipids and also to examine the effects of phospholipids from the terrestrial sources on the growth of prawn.

In Experiments II and III, the highest weight gain was again attained on the diet No. 5 supplemented with *Tapes* lecithin fraction, and *Tapes* polar lipid and total lipid fractions followed to this. Animal cephalin showed a similar growth-promoting effect to that of *Tapes* cephalin fraction, but the two types of cephalin did not improved the weight gain so markedly as observed on *Tapes* lecithin in both Experiment-II and Experiment-III. The results of Experiment-III showed that soybean lecithin and egg lecithin were of no effect on the improvement of weight gain, differing from *Tapes* lecithin. Also, the fatty acids derived from *Tapes* lecithin scarcely improved the weight gain.

Tables 2 and 3 show the fatty acid composition of examined lipids. Table 4 indicates the fatty acid composition of prawn body after feeding trial in Experiment-I. Every lipid fractions from *Tapes* contained 16:0 (11.1-25.2% of total fatty acids), 16:1 (2.6-7.8%), 18:0 (5.1-16.1%), 18:1 ω 9 (3.1-9.0%), 20:1 ω 9 (5.1-13.0%), 20:4 ω 3 (1.7-13.5%), 20:5 ω 3 (5.8-19.0%), and 22:6 ω 3 (2.0-13.4%) as a major fatty acid. Although the fatty acid composition of examined lipids differed from each other, the difference was not so great as alters the dietary levels of EFA such as 18:3 ω 3, 20:5 ω 3, and 22:6 ω 3 in the test diets. The fatty acid composition of the prawn body did not vary so markedly according to the test diets (Table 4). Therefore, we assume that the growth-promoting effect of *Tapes* phospholipids is caused with certain effect of phospholipids themselves rather than with that of EFA.

Discussion

TAKEUCHI and WATANABE¹⁰¹ have reported

Table 1. Effects of phospholipids on growth of prawn, *P. japonicus*

Experiment	Diet No.	Dietary lipid	Feeding period (days)	Number of prawn	Weight gain (%)
I	1	7% PLO* ¹	30	20	83
	2	7% PLO+1% Total lipids of <i>Tapes</i> * ²	30	20	90
	3	7% PLO+1% Acetone-soluble lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	30	20	78
	4	7% PLO+1% Acetone-insoluble lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	30	20	112
	5	7% PLO+1% Lecithin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	30	20	136
	6	7% PLO+1% Cephalin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	30	20	118
	7	7% PLO+0.08% Sphingomyelin-Glycolipid fr. (1:1) of <i>Tapes</i>	30	20	81
II	2	7% PLO+1% Total lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	200
	8	7% PLO+1% Neutral lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	157
	9	7% PLO+1% Polar lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	213
	5	7% PLO+1% Lecithin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	240
	6	7% PLO+1% Cephalin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	165
	10	7% PLO+1% Cephalin (animal)	45	15	170
III	1	7% PLO	45	15	100
	11	8% PLO	45	15	109
	2	7% PLO+1% Total lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	130
	8	7% PLO+1% Neutral lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	101
	9	7% PLO+1% Polar lipids of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	140
	5	7% PLO+1% Lecithin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	160
	12	7% PLO+1% Fatty acids from lecithin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	106
	13	7% PLO+1% Lecithin (soybean)	45	15	107
	14	7% PLO+1% Lecithin (egg)	45	15	105
	6	7% PLO+1% Cephalin fr. of <i>Tapes</i>	45	15	135
	10	7% PLO+1% Cephalin (animal)	45	15	134

*¹ Pollack liver oil*² The short-necked clam, *T. philippinarum*

Table 2. Composition (%) of the main fatty acids constituting of lipid fractions from the short-necked clam

Fatty acid	% Composition of fatty acids								
	Total lipids	Neutral lipids	Acetone-solubles	Polar lipids	Acetone insolubles	Lecithin fraction	Caphalin fraction	Sphingo-myelin fraction	Glycolipid fraction
14:0	3.1	3.7	0.8	2.1	1.6	3.2	1.1	3.3	1.1
16:0	19.0	15.7	18.8	18.6	18.0	24.3	11.1	22.3	25.2
16:1	5.9	7.8	5.4	4.1	5.9	7.0	2.6	6.3	4.4
18:0	7.6	7.6	6.0	8.4	5.1	7.0	13.3	8.3	16.1
18:1 ω 9	5.8	8.2	5.9	4.3	7.3	7.2	3.1	9.0	8.1
18:2 ω 6	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.9	0.4	2.6	0.8
18:3 ω 3	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.1	0.9	1.0	1.0
20:1 ω 9	7.4	8.0	8.8	9.1	5.3	6.8	13.0	5.1	10.3
20:4 ω 3	4.2	3.1	5.3	2.7	13.5	1.7	4.7	4.7	1.7
20:5 ω 3	15.3	17.1	10.1	19.0	9.1	11.6	18.9	8.7	5.8
22:6 ω 3	13.3	11.0	13.0	12.5	11.0	8.2	8.0	6.4	2.0

that the growth-promoting effect of *Tapes* lipids on the rainbow trout is attributable to fatty acids, especially ω 3 HUFA such as 20: 5 ω 3 and 22: 6 ω 3. In the case of the rainbow trout, the HUFA was shown to give an almost similar efficiency as EFA

regardless of the molecular forms such as phospholipids, triglycerides, methylesters, and free fatty acids¹⁰⁾. Previously, we have shown that *Tapes* lipids were the most superior as lipid sources in the diet of prawn, *P. japonicus*⁴⁾. The results of the

present study indicated that the addition of *Tapes* phospholipids, especially lecithin fraction, to the diet containing 7% PLO resulted in the increase in the weight gain of prawn. Since the fatty acids of *Tapes* lecithin fraction had not such a growth-promoting effect, we suggest that a high nutritive value of *Tapes* lipids is not only due to the high content of ω 3 HUFA, but also to certain effects of phospholipids themselves, differing from the rainbow trout.

The present study also showed that *Tapes* lecithin fraction had the highest growth-promoting effect among the phospholipids examined. Since the addition of 1% *Tapes* lecithin to the diet containing 7% PLO scarcely elevated the

dietary levels of carotene and ω 3 series of EFA such as 18:3 ω 3, 20:5 ω 3, and 22:6 ω 3, we imagine that *Tapes* lecithin probably exerts the growth-promoting effect for the prawn, *P. japonicus*, by taking part in the intestinal absorption and/or interorgan transport of dietary lipids and cholesterol. In fact, literatures¹¹⁻¹⁷⁾ have suggested that in crustaceans phospholipids probably play an important role in the emulsification, absorption, and interorgan transport of lipids, of which mechanism is assumed to be different with that in mammals and other vertebrates. For example, VAN DEN OORD *et al.*^{11,12)} have demonstrated that the gastric juice of the crab, *Cancer magister*, contained no bile acids but fatty acylsarcosyl-taurine, comprising predominantly *cis*-dodec-5-enoic acid conjugated with dipeptide sarcosyl-taurine (DST), as an emulsifier. Later, LESTER *et al.*¹⁴⁾ have indicated that cholesterol may be absorbed from the intestine after the formation of single-phase micellar by the ternary system of cholesterol, lecithin, and DST. On the other hand, we have suggested that the principal lipid transport in the prawn, *P. japonicus*, is probably operated as a form of phospholipids, on the basis of the fact that the hemolymph lipids of this prawn contain abundance of phospholipids (63% of total lipids)¹⁶⁾.

Considering the above-mentioned informations, the physiological roles of phospholipids in crustaceans seem to be interesting subject to study in future from the nutritional, physiological, and biochemical viewpoints.

Table 3. Composition of the main fatty acids constituting PLO and commercial phospholipids

Fatty acid	% Composition of fatty acids			
	Soybean lecithin	Egg lecithin	Animal cephalin	PLO* ¹
14:0	1.0	1.2	5.3	3.4
16:0	16.3	27.6	22.6	26.0
16:1	0.4	4.8	1.2	7.6
18:0	3.8	5.7	12.2	5.9
18:1 ω 9	13.6	34.6	24.1	6.8
18:2 ω 6	51.6	15.5	13.7	0.5
18:3 ω 3	8.2	0.7	0	0.9
20:1 ω 9	0.3	0.4	2.6	7.3
20:4 ω 3	0.9	0.6	2.9	3.3
20:5 ω 3	0.7	0.1	2.9	13.7
22:6 ω 3	0	0	2.2	13.3

*1 Pollack liver oil

Table 4. Composition (%) of the main fatty acids of polar and neutral lipids in the prawn body after feeding trial (Experiment-I)

Fatty acid	% Composition of fatty acids													
	Polar lipid fraction							Neutral lipid fraction						
			Diet No. supplied							Diet No. supplied				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14:0	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.5	5.5	2.7	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.1
16:0	15.5	14.0	25.5	13.9	25.7	18.5	16.8	14.1	11.1	12.7	11.4	12.8	11.7	10.3
16:1	4.8	5.7	8.0	6.8	7.3	5.7	4.5	9.4	6.0	6.7	8.3	8.4	6.3	6.7
18:0	4.5	5.5	5.5	6.4	6.5	6.9	6.9	5.2	4.9	4.7	6.0	4.7	5.5	4.2
18:1 ω 9	24.7	18.0	17.1	22.2	23.6	24.6	22.8	23.3	21.8	23.5	20.9	25.5	22.4	21.5
18:2 ω 6	3.8	2.2	3.9	3.2	3.1	2.1	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.6
18:3 ω 3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
20:1 ω 9	7.4	14.4	7.9	6.2	9.4	7.4	5.7	13.3	15.1	15.3	13.2	10.2	13.5	10.9
20:4 ω 3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
20:5 ω 3	15.3	19.4	14.4	18.1	17.8	16.6	15.2	9.2	8.8	10.2	8.6	11.6	10.2	12.2
22:6 ω 3	10.1	11.2	10.0	10.7	12.4	11.8	13.3	4.5	5.9	5.0	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.1

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