

# Effectiveness of Spirulina Meal in Enhancing Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*)

## ABSTRACT

This study was to determine the effectiveness of adding spirulina meal in increasing the color of platy fish and to determine the right dose of spirulina in feed on the intensity of the color of platy fish. The study was conducted in the maintenance activities at the Production and Reproduction Laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, Mataram University and used the Completely Randomized Design (CRD) method, experiments, with 4 treatments and 3 repetitions. In P1 (100% control feed), P2 (99% feed + 1% spirulina meal), P3 (97% feed + 3% spirulina meal) and P4 (95% feed + 5% spirulina meal). The commercial feed used was in the form of powder mixed with spirulina meal according to the treatment. The fish used were platy fish seeds with a length of 1-2 cm. Observations of carotenoids on feed were carried out before feeding the test fish. The brightness level of the platy fish skin was measured on days 0, 15, 30 and 45, as many as 3 fish in each treatment using a colourimeter. The level of color brightness, lightness, redness, yellowness, hue and chroma based on the day and dose of ANOVA results showed that feeding with the addition of different spirulina meal had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the level of color brightness, the growth rate of platy fish, while the survival rate of platy fish had no significant effect. Conclusion this experiment adding 3% spirulina meal with a maintenance period of 30 days can improve the color of platy fish with a Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value of 47.26, Redness ( $a^*$ ) of 24.63, Yellowness ( $b^*$ ) of 24.90, Hue of 61.77 and Chroma value of 44.77 with a carotenoid content of 15.56  $\mu\text{mol/l}$ . The use of spirulina meal in feed for platy fish produces a survival rate of over 90%.

*Keywords: carotenoids, color brightness level, platy fish, spirulina meal,*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Platy fish are freshwater ornamental fish that have beautiful colors that vary in their bodies and fins and have a small body shape. This fish has a friendly and non-aggressive nature, making it very suitable for use as ornamental fish in aquascaping. The beauty of the color of platy fish is one of the consumer attractions, so farmers need to improve the color of platy ornamental fish (Amin et al., 2019). Efforts made by ornamental fish farmers to get bright colors in platy fish are to add pigment sources to the feed. the addition of dyes or pigments in feed (for ornamental fish) will help stimulate the dyes in the fish's body. One of the feed ingredients that can be used as a source of natural pigments is spirulina.

Spirulina contains phycocyanin, chlorophyll-a and carotene (Andriani, et al., (2018). Carotene is composed of xanthophyll (37%),  $\beta$ -carotene (28%) and zeaxanthin (17%) (Tongsiri et al., 2010). Spirulina meal can be used as a source of carotenoids which are components that form dyes that give red and yellow colors to ornamental fish Satyani and Sugito (1997) in (Rosida, 2018). According to (Malini et al., 2016) the  $\beta$ -carotene content in spirulina can increase the number of chromatophore cells so that the brightness of the color in ornamental fish can increase.

The addition of spirulina meal to increase the color intensity of ornamental fish has been carried out by several studies, including the results of Koncara et al., (2014) research that 3% spirulina content has a more effective effect and produces brighter colors in guppy fish. Likewise with the research of Noviyanti et al., (2015) where the addition of 1.2 grams of spirulina meal gave the best effect on the color intensity of goldfish. While in the research of Amin et al., (2019) with a dose of spirulina meal 4% the highest dose to improve color quality

33 in platy fish. The difference between this study and the previous one is in the different doses  
34 and using the colourimeter color parameter test.

35 Therefore, the importance of this study is to determine the effect of adding spirulina  
36 to feed on the color intensity of platy fish and to determine the right dose of spirulina in feed  
37 on the color intensity of platy fish.

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## 39 **2. METHODOLOGY**

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### 41 **2.1 Time and Place**

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43 This research was conducted for 45 days from February 20 - April 5, 2024,  
44 maintenance activities at the Production and Reproduction Laboratory, Faculty of  
45 Agriculture, Mataram University, checking the quality of fish color at the Bioprocess  
46 Laboratory, Faculty of Food Technology and Agroindustry, Mataram University, Carotenoid  
47 content analysis was carried out at the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, Faculty of  
48 Mathematics and Science, Mataram University. Proximate Tests at the Animal Nutrition and  
49 Food Science Laboratory, Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Mataram University.

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### 51 **2.2 Research Methods**

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53 This study was conducted using the Completely Randomized Design (CRD) method.  
54 The method used in this study was an experiment, using 4 treatments and 3 repetitions with  
55 a control dose (without spirulina), 1%, 3%, and 5%, spirulina meal, so that there were 12  
56 experimental units.

57 P1 : Control feed (100%)

58 P2 : Feed (99%) and spirulina meal (1%)

59 P3 : Feed (97%) and spirulina meal (3%)

60 P4 : Feed (95%) and spirulina meal (5%)

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### 62 **2.3 Research Preparation**

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#### 64 **2.3.1 Feed Making**

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66 The feed used in this study used commercial feed with spirulina meal. The  
67 commercial feed used was in powder form mixed with spirulina meal according to the  
68 treatment and added 1% CMC then added 50 ml of water per 100 grams of feed and stirred  
69 until smooth (Diansyah, et al., 2019). The feed is dried in the sun until the feed is dry. Next,  
70 the feed is molded according to the opening of the fish's mouth. Proximate tests are carried  
71 out to determine the feed content.

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#### 73 **2.3.2 Container Preparation**

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75 Prepared a 30 liter container, jar, aeration hose, and aeration stone, then cleaned  
76 with running water and dried. The container that has been filled with 15 liters of water,  
77 installed aeration and left for 24 hours (Barus, 2014).

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#### 79 **2.3.3 Test Fish**

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81 The fish used in this study were platy fish seeds with a length range of 1-2 cm. The  
82 density of fish stocking was 1 fish/l so that the number of test fish stocked was 10 fish per  
83 container. The test fish used must be healthy by looking at the bright color and moving  
84 actively. The test fish were acclimatized in a temporary holding tank using aeration for  
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## 2.4 Maintenance Phase

Platy fish were kept for 45 days. The length and weight measurements of platy fish were carried out every 9 days to determine the growth rate, and for the survival of fish seeds, fish were counted at the beginning and end of the study for the total number of fish.

### 2.4.1 Feeding

The feed used during the study was fed according to the treatment. Feeding was done twice a day at 10:00 WITA and 15:00 WITA for each treatment. The amount of feed given was 5% of the average body weight of the fish (Barus, 2014).

### 2.4.2 Observation of Feed Carotenoids

Observation of carotenoids on the treatment feed was carried out before feeding the test fish. Observation of carotenoids in feed used spectrophotometry. The method of carotenoid analysis used the spectrophotometry method, namely the sample was added with 10 ml of technical acetone. Then homogenized at a speed of 1,500 rpm for 1 minute. The results were then filtered using filter paper and the volume (extract volume) was measured, then the absorbance was measured using wavelengths of 480, 645 and 663 nm. Furthermore, the value was entered into the formula to calculate the value of carotenoid content in the test fish (Hendry and Grime 1993 in Saputri (2017)).

### 2.4.3 Improving Fish Color Quality with a Colourimeter

The skin brightness level of platy fish was measured on day 0 (before treatment), day 15, day 30 and day 45 (after treatment) for 3 fish in each treatment using a colourimeter. The colourimeter tool is turned on first, then the sensor is directed at the test material and then the measurement results will appear on the display screen.

## 2.5 Research Parameters

The parameters to be observed in this study are: testing of feed carotenoids, observing the color of test fish, specific growth and survival rate.

### 2.5.1 Calculation of Carotenoid Content in Feed

The calculation of carotenoid levels according to Hendry and Grime (1993) in Saputri (2017) is as follows:

$$\text{Karotenoid}(\mu\text{mol/L}) = \frac{(A_{480} + 0.114 \times A_{663} - 0.638 \times A_{645}) \times V \times 103}{112.5 \times W}$$

Information :

A480	: Absorbance at a wavelength of 480 nm
A645	: Absorbance at a wavelength of 645 nm
A663	: Absorbance at a wavelength of 663 nm
V	: Extract Volume (mL)
W	: Sample weight (g)
1 $\mu$ mol/L	: 27.25 mg/L

### 139 2.5.2 Color Observation on Test Fish

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141 The brightness level of the platy fish skin was measured on day 0 (before  
142 treatment), day 15, day 30 and day 45 (after treatment) as many as 3 fish in each treatment  
143 using a colorimeter (Minolta Meter CR-400). The measurement of the brightness of the platy  
144 fish was carried out by placing the sample directly under the sensor lens of the colorimeter  
145 tool, then the brightness value will be displayed on the monitor of the tool. The color  
146 brightness measurements tested include Lightness, Redness, Yellowness, Hue, and  
147 Chroma. The formula for finding Hue and Chroma according to (Sukarman, et al., 2018), is  
148 as follows:

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$$150 \text{ Hue} = \arctan \times (b^*/a^*)$$

$$151 \text{ Chroma} = (a^{*2} + b^{*2})^{1/2}$$

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153 Information :

154  $b^*$  : Yellowness

155  $a^*$  : Redness

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### 157 2.5.3 Specific Growth Rate Measurement

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159 The daily growth rate, which is the percentage of the difference between the final  
160 weight and the initial weight divided by the length of maintenance time, is calculated using  
161 the formula of Rahmi *et al.*, (2017), namely:

$$SGR = \frac{Wt - W_0}{t}$$

162 Information:

163 SGR = specific growth rate (%/day),

164  $W_0$  = initial weight of fish (g),

165  $W_t$  = weight of fish at time  $t$  (g),

166  $t$  = maintenance time (days).

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### 168 2.5.4 Survival rate

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170 Measurement of the survival of test fish can be calculated using the Effendi (2002)  
171 formula, namely:

$$SR = \frac{N_t}{N_0} \times 100\%$$

172 Information:

173 SR = Survival of test fish (%),

174  $N_t$  = Number of test fish that died during the study (tails),

175  $N_0$  = number of test fish at the start of the study) (tails).

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### 177 2.6 Data analysis

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179 SGR and SR test result data The results obtained were processed using Analysis of  
180 variance (ANOVA) and the results of the brightness test of the test fish were processed  
181 using Univariate Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at a 95% confidence level using the SPSS  
182 program to determine the effect of each treatment . The results of the analysis that were  
183 significantly different were further tested by Duncan. Meanwhile, the results of the carotenoid  
184 test data were analyzed descriptively.

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186 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

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188 **3.1 Results**

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190 **3.1.1 Proximate Test Results of Test Feed**

191 Proximate test of platy fish test feed with the treatment of adding spirulina flour to  
192 the feed Table 1.

193 Table 1 Nutritional Composition of Platy Fish Feed with Additional Spirulina Flour.

Feed Example	Ash (%)	Crude fat (%)	Crude fiber (%)	Crude protein (%)
P1 (Control)	11.0153	4.2840	2.7006	29.1896
P2	8.5854	3.7229	2.8020	30.6529
P3	10.5788	3.8756	2.0638	30.9273
P4	10.6336	3.9206	1.5295	31.2252
SNI 01-4266-2006	<13	>5	<8	>25

194 **Information:** Proximate Test Results of Animal Nutrition and Feed Science Laboratory

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196 **3.1.2 Carotenoid Content in Feed**

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198 The results of the carotenoid test on feed with the addition of spirulina meal used in  
199 this study are in Table 2.

200 Table 2 Results of Feed Carotenoid Test

Feed Samples	Carotenoid levels ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )
P1 (Control)	5.57
P2	10.61
P3	15.56
P4	19.14

201 **Information:** Food Chemistry and Biochemistry Laboratory Test Results

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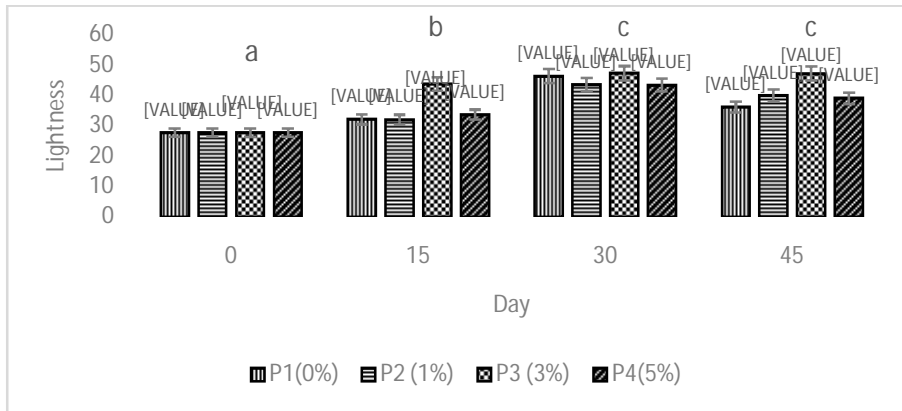
203 **3.1.3 Color Brightness Level**

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205 The results of the color brightness level test of platy fish during 45 days of  
206 maintenance when fed with the addition of different spirulina meal are shown based on the  
207 Lightness value ( $L^*$ ), namely white, the Redness value ( $a^*$ ), namely red, the Yellowness  
208 value ( $b^*$ ), namely yellow, the Hue value and the Chroma value.

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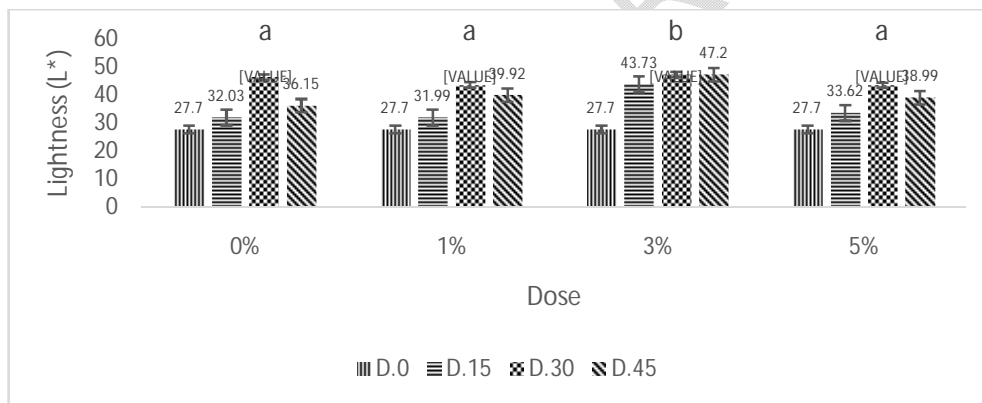
210 **a. Lightness ( $L^*$ )**



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**Figure 1 Lightness Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Day**

The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the Lightness value in platy fish based on the day. Based on the observation day, the Lightness ( $L^*$ ) results on day 0 showed different results with an increase in the Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value on the observations on days 15, 30 and 45, but showed the same results on days 30 and 45.



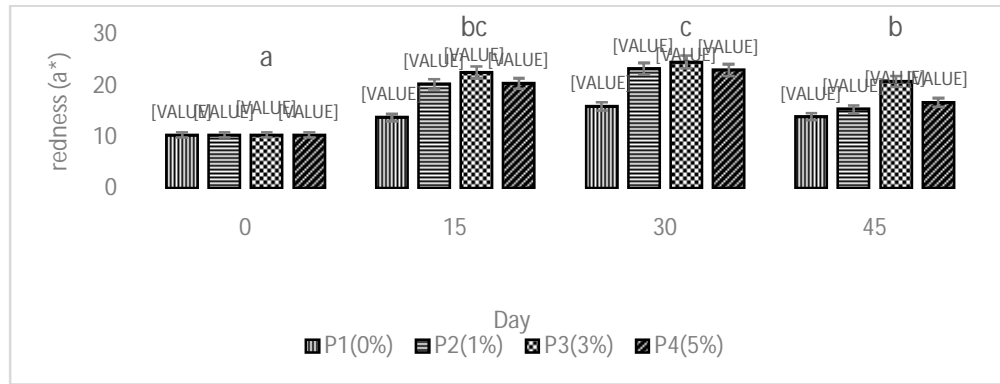
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**Figure 2 Lightness Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Dose**

The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Lightness value of platy fish based on the dose. Based on the dose, the Lightness value of platy fish at a dose of 0% showed the same results as doses of 1% and 5%, but showed different results with a dose of 3%.

**b. Redness ( $a^*$ )**

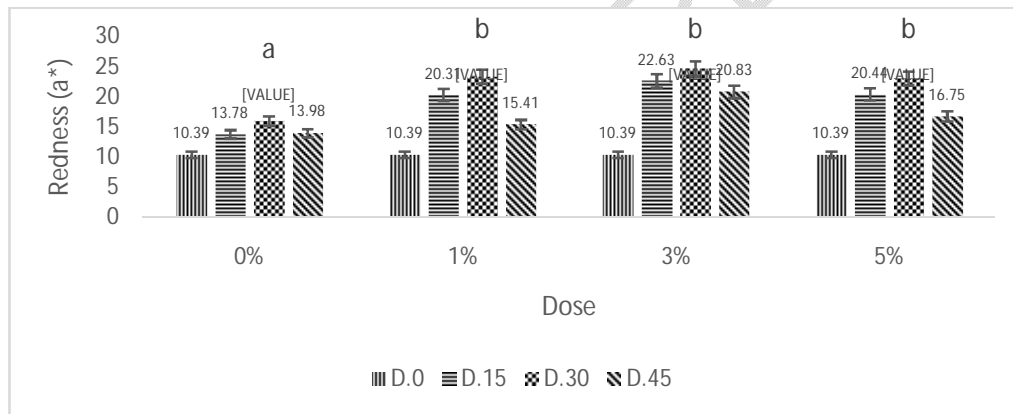
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**Figure 3 Redness Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) based on day**

The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the redness value in platy fish based on the observation day. So the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The test results showed that the Redness value ( $a^*$ ) of platy fish on day 0 showed significantly different results with an increase in the Redness value ( $a^*$ ) on observations on days 15, 30 and 45, but day 30 showed different results on days 0 and 45.

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**Figure 4 Redness value of Platy fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) based on dose**

The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Redness value ( $a^*$ ) in platy fish based on the dose. So the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The Duncan test results showed that the Redness value ( $a^*$ ) of platy fish at a dose of 0% was significantly different from doses of 1%, 3% and 5%, but the dose of 3% was not significantly different from doses of 1% and 5%.

**c. Yellowness ( $b^*$ )**

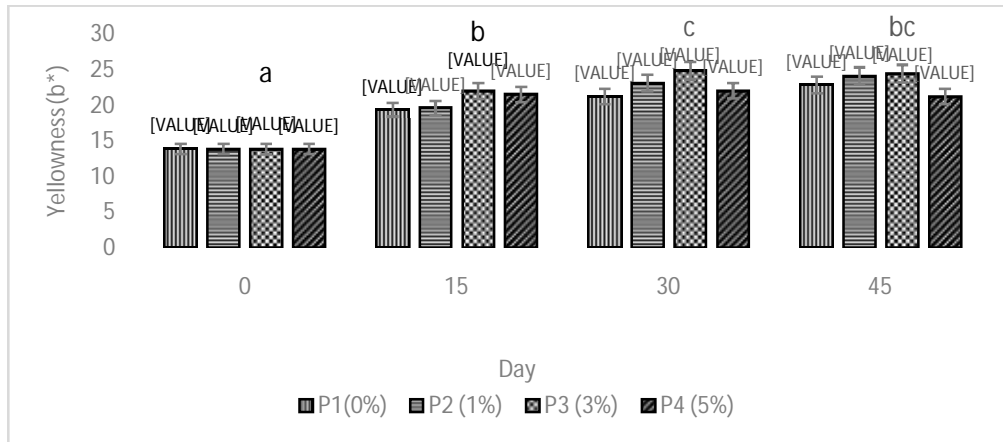


Figure 5 Yellowness Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Day

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Yellowness value in platy fish based on the day. So the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The test results showed that the Yellowness value ( $b^*$ ) of platy fish on day 0 was significantly different from the Yellowness value ( $b^*$ ) on observations on days 15, 30 and 45, but on observations on day 30 it was not significantly different from day 45.

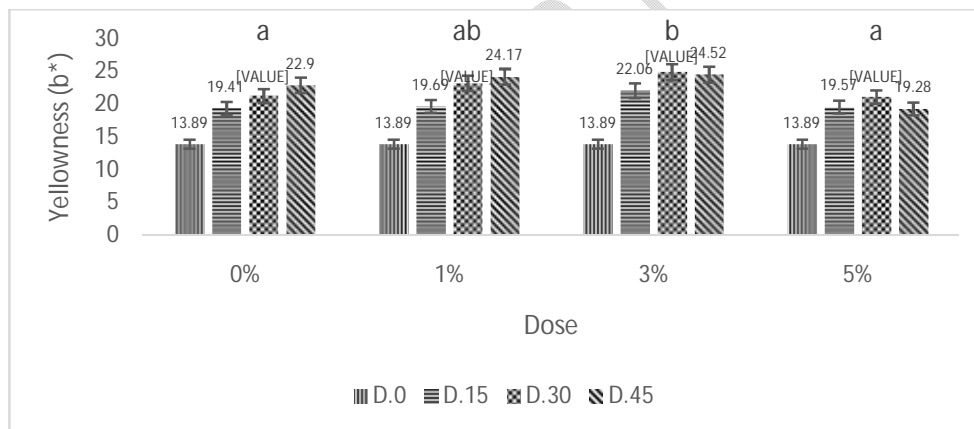
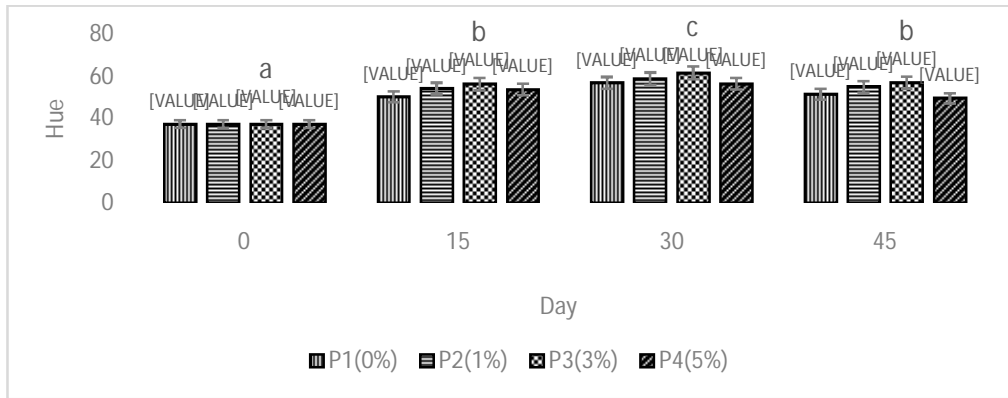


Figure 6 Yellowness Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Dose

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Yellowness value ( $b^*$ ) in platy fish. So the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The test results showed that the Yellowness value ( $b^*$ ) of platy fish at a dose of 0% was not significantly different from the doses of 1% and 5%, but was significantly different from the dose of 3%.

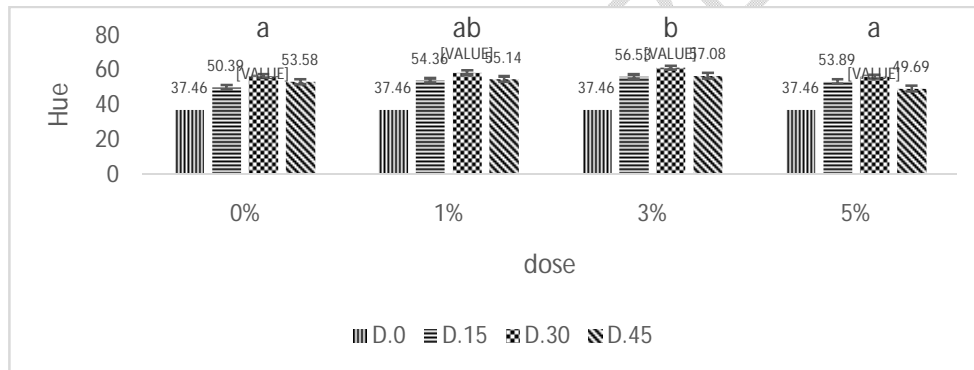
#### d. Hue



**Figure 7 Hue Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Day**

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Hue value in platy fish based on the day. Therefore, the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The Duncan test results showed that the Hue value of platy fish on day 0 was significantly different from days 15, 30 and 45, but day 15 was not significantly different from 45.

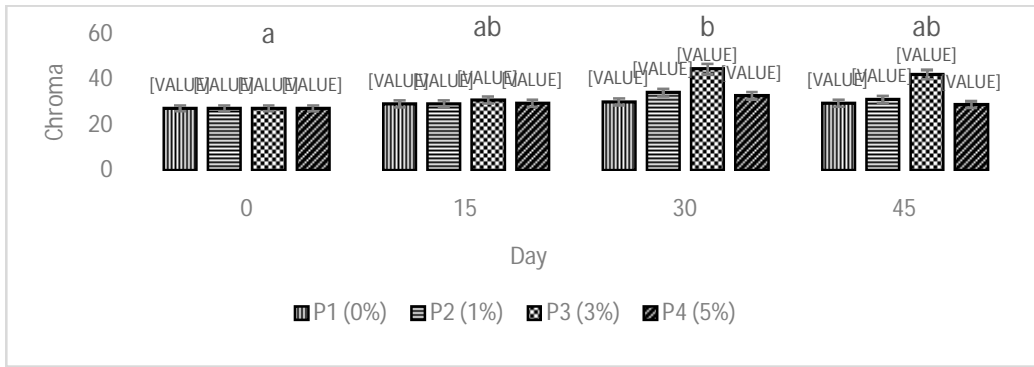


**Figure 8 Hue Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Dose**

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Hue value in platy fish based on the dose. Therefore, the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The Duncan test results showed that the Hue value of platy fish at a dose of 0% was not significantly different from the doses of 1% and 5% but was significantly different from the dose of 3%.

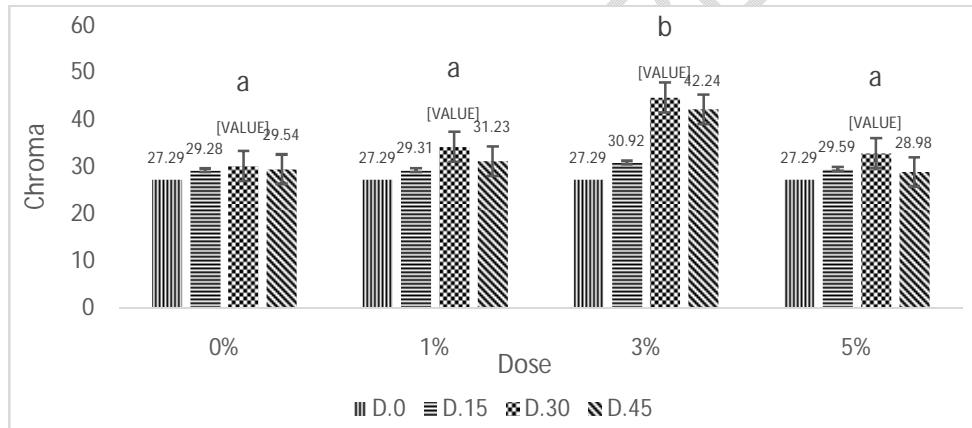
**e. Chroma**



**Figure 9. Chroma Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Day**

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P > 0.05$ ) on the Chroma value in platy fish based on the day. Therefore, the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The Duncan test results showed that the Chroma value of platy fish on day 0 was not significantly different from days 15 and 45, but was significantly different from day 30. On day 15 it was not different from 30 and 45.



**Figure 10. Chroma Value of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) Based on Dose**

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The ANOVA results showed that the effect of adding spirulina meal to the feed had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the Chroma value in platy fish based on the dose. So the Duncan test was conducted to determine the effect of adding spirulina meal to platy fish. The Duncan test results showed that the Chroma value of platy fish at a dose of 0% was not significantly different from the doses of 1% and 5%, but was significantly different from the dose of 3%.

### 3.1.4 Specific Growth Rate of Platy Fish

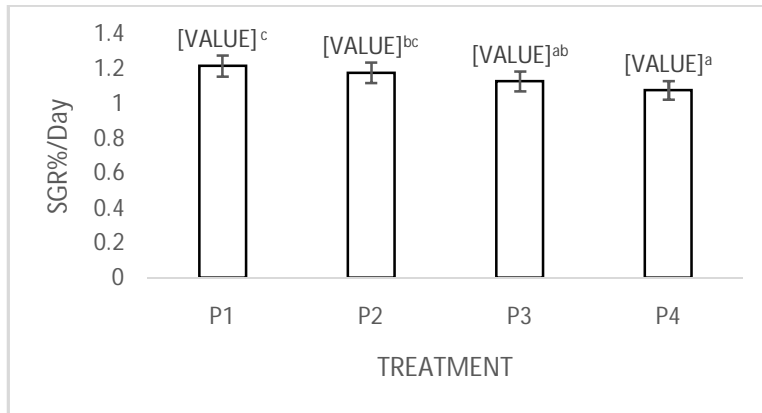


Figure 11 Specific Growth Rate of Platy Fish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*)

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The ANOVA results showed that feeding with the addition of different spirulina meal had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the specific growth rate of platy fish. So that a further Duncan test was carried out. Based on the results of the Duncan test, it showed that the specific growth rate of platy fish in the control (P1) gave an absolute weight that was not significantly different from the P2 treatment (1%), but was significantly different from P3 (3%) and P4 (5%).

### 3.1.5 Survival Rate(SR)

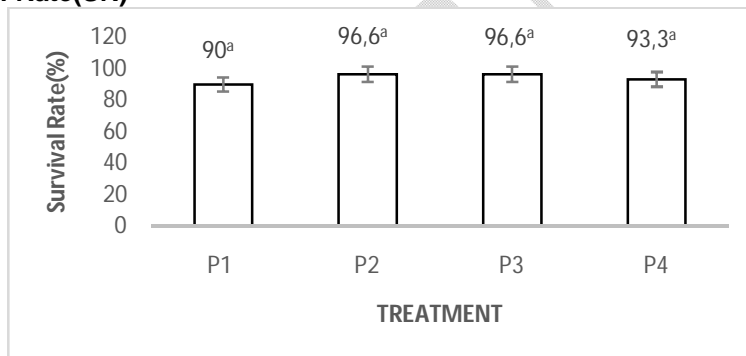


Figure 12 Survival Rate (SR) of Platy Fish(*Xiphophorus maculatus*)

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The ANOVA results showed that feeding with different spirulina meal additions had no significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the survival behavior of platy fish. In P1(0%) the survival value was 90%, P2(1%) was 96.6%, in P3 (3%) was 96.6% while in P4(5%) was 93.3%.

## 2. DISCUSSION

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The ash content of the feed ranges from 8-11% where the ash content of the feed is still suitable for fish feed. In accordance with the provisions of SNI 01-7242-2006 the ash content of fish feed meets the threshold of  $\leq 12\%$ . The addition of spirulina flour up to 5% has an impact on the decrease in the ash content of the feed in this study. The fat content ranges from 3-4%, where the fat content in the feed is still considered good. The SNI 01-7242-2006 standard states that the fat standard is between 2-10%. crude fiber ranges from 1-2%. It is suspected that the addition of spirulina flour to the feed causes crude fiber to decrease. However, this crude fiber content is still ideal for fish. In line with Iskandar and Subhan (2017) that 1-6% fiber components are the ideal composition. Protein levels increased in each treatment ranging from 29.18-31.22%. This shows that the high content of

342 spirulina flour mixed with feed resulted in an increase in protein levels after a proximate test.  
343 According to Nurhalisa et al., (2022) stated that the more protein digested in feed, the more  
344 nutrients are absorbed by the body. Spirulina flour is one source of animal protein in fish  
345 feed, besides spirulina flour also contains carotenoids (Noviyanti et al., 2015). The standard  
346 protein limit is 20-35%, according to SNI 01-7242-2006.

347 The carotenoid levels in feed supplemented with spirulina meal increased except for  
348 the P1 (control) treatment value of 5.57  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  without the addition of spirulina meal, this  
349 indicates that the control feed already has carotenoid levels in the feed. There was an  
350 increase, treatment P2 (1%) increased by 10.61  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Treatment P3 (3%) increased by  
351 15.56  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , while P4 (5%) increased by 19.14  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . This study shows that the addition  
352 of spirulina meal resulted in an increase in carotenoid levels of up to 5% in the feed. This is  
353 in accordance with the statement of Putra et al., (2022) that increasing the carotenoid content  
354 in the feed given can increase carotenoids in fish.

355 The Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value is the level of brightness measured with a range of values 0  
356 to 100 indicating dark to light colors. Therefore, the higher the  $L^*$  value, the brighter the color  
357 tendency. The Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value of platy fish in this study increased in line with the  
358 addition of the spirulina meal dose, but there was a decrease in the P4 treatment with a  
359 dose of 5% spirulina meal. This shows that the addition of spirulina meal up to 3% (P3) to  
360 the feed is the optimum dose in increasing the color intensity of platy fish and can meet the  
361 carotenoid needs of the platy fish body. Simamora's statement (2019) that the best color  
362 brightness appearance in ornamental fish can be obtained by providing the right dose of  
363 color pigment sources, not excessive and not lacking. Therefore, the addition of spirulina  
364 meal was increased to 5% (P4) then there was a decrease in the Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value of  
365 platy fish. This is because excessive administration of carotenoids to fish cannot increase  
366 the intensity of fish color and can even reduce the quality of fish color and if the  
367 administration of carotenoid levels is reduced, it can affect the level of fish color intensity. It  
368 is known that the Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value at a dose of 3% with a maintenance period of 30 days  
369 increases the Lightness ( $L^*$ ) value compared to the control. According to Amin et al., (2019),  
370 giving 4% spirulina flour has a more effective effect on the brightness of the color of platy  
371 fish compared to doses of 6% and 8%.

372 Redness ( $a^*$ ) indicates the color level from green to red with a range of values -80 to  
373 +100. Positive values indicate that the sample tends to show red and conversely negative  
374 values indicate that the sample shows green. Day 0 to 30 days the Redness value ( $a^*$ ) of  
375 platy fish tends to increase, but on day 45 there is a decrease. This is thought to be a  
376 physiological change caused by the activity of chromatophore pigment cell movement. In  
377 line with (Agustina et al., (2023) that on D-20 to D-40 shows that the color of the fish changes,  
378 or is less bright. Changes in pigmentation in fish from day 20 to 40 there is an increase and  
379 decrease in color due to the presence of Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone and Melatonin  
380 (MT). it is known that the Lightness value ( $L^*$ ) with a dose of 3% with a maintenance period  
381 of 30 days increases the Lightness value ( $L^*$ ) compared to the control. the addition of  
382 spirulina meal for platy fish with a dose of 3% with a maintenance period of 30 days shows a  
383 high redness value ( $a^*$ ) for platy fish.

384 The Yellowness ( $b^*$ ) value ranges from -70 to +70 indicating from blue to yellow. ).  
385 The Yellowness ( $b^*$ ) value in this study ranged from 19.41 to 24.9 so that the fish showed a  
386 yellow color. This is because the basic color of the platy fish is yellow. The Yellowness ( $b^*$ )  
387 value in the platy fish before treatment was 13.89, this proves that the basic color of the  
388 platy fish is yellow to orange, so that there was an increase after the administration of  
389 spirulina meal. The Yellowness value showed an increase on days 15, 30 and 45, but the  
390 highest Yellowness value was on day 30 of 22.60. While the Yellowness ( $b^*$ ) value  
391 increased at a dose of 3% by 21.34. Based on observations of Yellowness ( $L^*$ ) it is known  
392 that the addition of spirulina meal on the 30th day with a dose of 3% showed the best  
393 results. According to (Nafsihi et al., (2016) that carotenoids form yellow, orange and red  
394 colors, while melanin mainly affects the formation of brown to black colors. Astaxanthin and

395 xanthoxanthin are two other types of carotene pigments that play a role in the formation of  
396 fish body color.

397 The Hue value in platy fish ranges from 50,390-61,770 which indicates that the platy  
398 fish is reddish yellow and the highest Hue value is in the P3 treatment (3%). According to  
399 (Sukarman & Hirnawati, 2018) that the value of 00 to 900 proves a color change from red to  
400 orange to yellow. The Hue value before treatment was 37,450, the platy fish showed a  
401 yellow color. In line with the statement of Nacing et al., (2021) that the Hue value range of 54  
402 to 90 indicates a reddish yellow color. According to (Tasuib et al., (2022) stated that the lower  
403 the Hue value, the yellower the fish color becomes, conversely the higher the Hue value, the  
404 red-orange color of the fish. This is suspected to occur because platy fish tend to become  
405 reddish orange during the maintenance period. Based on observations during the  
406 maintenance period, it tends to be reddish orange, the highest value was obtained on the  
407 30th day with a dose of 3%.

408 *Chromas* is the color concentration of the test material. According to Sukarma et al.,  
409 (2017) in (Ayuningsih et al., 2024) that the higher the Chroma value, the more concentrated  
410 the color of an object. This study shows that the highest chroma value in the P3 (3%)  
411 treatment was 44.77. The Chroma value before treatment was 27.29, and there was an  
412 increase for 30 days, but on the 45th day there was a decrease due to the presence of  
413 Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone and Melatonin (MT). Melanocyte-stimulating hormone is  
414 produced in the middle lobe of the pituitary gland, with target cells of chromatophore pigment  
415 cells. The hormone causes the pigment to spread within the cells, so that the color of the  
416 scales looks bright and clear. Melatonin is produced in the epiphyseal gland. The target cells  
417 of the hormone are chromatophore pigment cells which cause pigment granules to gather in  
418 the cells, resulting in a decrease in color (Puspita, 2012 in Pratama, 2018). This is thought to  
419 be because the fish show color concentration. Based on Chroma observations, it is known  
420 that the addition of spirulina meal on the 30th day with a dose of 3% showed the best  
421 results. This is in accordance with the statement of (Ayuningsih et al., 2024) that the chroma  
422 value indicates the accumulation of carotenoids in pigment cells (chromatophores). The  
423 chroma value indicates the color concentration so that the higher the Hue value or type of  
424 color produced, the more concentrated the fish's body will produce.

425 The highest specific growth rate in treatment P1 (0%) was 1.22%/day. While the  
426 lowest specific growth rate was in treatment P4 (5%) was 1.08%/day. This study shows that  
427 the addition of spirulina meal to platy fish feed provided the lowest average growth rate in  
428 treatment P4 (5%), and the highest in treatment P1 (0%). It is suspected that platy fish utilize  
429 the spirulina meal content to improve color quality rather than the growth of platy fish. The  
430 low growth in the treatment given spirulina meal, in addition to fish using the spirulina meal  
431 content for color quality, is due to feed nutrition. In addition to protein, crude fiber and fat  
432 content are factors for the absolute weight growth of fish. This is in accordance with the  
433 research of (Rosida, 2018) where the provision of spirulina meal in feed has no effect on fish  
434 weight growth. According to Amin et al., (2019) ornamental fish that are fed carotenoid  
435 sources utilize the dye more to improve their body color. According to Yaeni et al., (2017)  
436 that the addition of carotenoids to feed will not affect growth, because fish utilize it more in  
437 converting pigment proteins in the dermis layer. Ornamental fish that are fed with carotene  
438 sources are thought to utilize more coloring agents to improve their body color. According to  
439 Widinata et al., (2016) stated that in commercial test feed there is another source of  
440 carotenoids, namely  $\beta$ -carotene from fish meal which causes fish to have an appetite but  
441 does not affect color changes.

442 The survival rate of platy fish in this study was very good ranging from 90 to 96.6%.  
443 This shows that the addition of spirulina meal to the feed is not harmful to the growth and  
444 survival of fish. Good and proper adaptation process so that fish can survive and grow in  
445 controlled maintenance containers. the occurrence of fish deaths during maintenance is  
446 suspected due to stress experienced when taking data on length and weight, checking fish  
447 color, because fish must be removed from the container resulting in changes in

448 environmental conditions. while fish experience stress when changing water and when  
449 siphoning. according to Sari et al., (2014), fish survival can be influenced by biotic and abiotic  
450 factors. Biotic factors that influence are competitors, parasites, age, predation, population  
451 density, animal adaptability and human handling. while abiotic factors that influence include  
452 the physical and chemical properties of an aquatic environment. According to Putra et al.,  
453 (2022), fish deaths during treatment occurred due to improper handling during growth,  
454 observation of fish weight and length, fish pressure during weighing and measuring, jumping  
455 from the seroken and the ability of fish to adapt to new environments.

#### 456 **4. CONCLUSION**

457  
458 Adding 3% spirulina meal with a maintenance period of 30 days can improve the  
459 color of platy fish. with a Lightness (L\*) value of 47.26, Redness (a\*) of 24.63, Yellowness  
460 (b\*) of 24.90, Hue of 61.77 and Chroma value of 44.77. with a carotenoid content of 15.56  
461  $\mu\text{mol/}$ .

#### 462 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

463  
464  
465 "The author has declared that there is no conflict of interest."  
466

#### 467 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

468  
469 All authors designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the first draft of the  
470 manuscript, managed the study analysis, and managed the literature search. All authors  
471 read and approved the final manuscript."  
472

#### 473 **Disclaimer (Artificial intelligence)**

#### 474 **Option 1:**

475  
476 Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language  
477 Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the  
478 writing or editing of this manuscript.

479

480

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