

**Keywords:** *Acetes sp*; Clam meat fed animals; Survival; Growth, *P. vigil*

The increasing cost of operations in the aquaculture practices has necessitated and development of new and more economically viable methods of cultivating the fin and shell fishes. A nutritious and cheap feed is a prerequisite for profitable aquaculture [1,2]. Though, use of

lipid, ash and moisture [5-8]. The gross energy of the feed was calculated from the biochemical constituents by using the conversion factors i.e. 4.18kcal/g for carbohydrate, 9.46kcal/g for lipid and 4.32kcal/g for protein [9].

## Results

The proximate composition of clam meat and *Acetes sp.* are given in Table 1. It is observed that the percentage of protein was very high for both the feeds followed by that of lipid and carbohydrate. The protein content of the *Acetes sp.* and clam meat was recorded as 57.55% and 47.61% respectively. The carbohydrate content of *Acetes sp.* and clam meat was found to be 7.94% and 4.53% respectively. The lipid content of

considered as good for crustacean culture. The lower stocking density in crabs leads to higher survival [30]. An increase in survival rate with lower stocking density may have been due to reduced cannibalism among the stock [34-37]. In the present investigation, five animals were stocked in each tank. So the survival was reasonable for both the feeds. But higher survival rate was reported in the animals fed with *Acetes* sp. than that of clam meat. This clearly shows that not only stocking density but also feed is prime factor which control the survival, since the experimental animals are exposed similar environmental conditions for both the feeds.

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