

Effect of Natural Carotenoids on the Pigmentation of Ornamental Fishes

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Abstract: *The present study revealed the impact of four natural β -carotene sources viz., beetroot (*Beta vulgaris*), carrot (*Daucuscarota*), spinach (*Spinaciaoleracea*) and turmeric(*Curcuma longa*). The experimental fishes(Koi carp and Molly fish) were cultured for 35 days in an aquarium. The experimental diets were prepared with four natural carotenoid sources and fed to fish twice a day at 3% of their body weight. Five experimental diets were used and four of them were with β catroenoid sources and one was common control diet (i.e., devoid of β carotene). The prominence of orange colour increased in the fish which was fed with diets enriched with natural beta carotenoid sources. The orange colour was more in fish fed with turmeric. From this study, it could be concluded that the easily available natural β -carotene sources incorporated feed can be used as a colour enhancer of fish at lower cost.*

Keywords: β -carotene sources