

1 **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

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3 IMPROVEMENT OF OMEGA-3 CONTENT OF BLACK SOLDIER FLY PREPUPA (*Hermetia*  
4 *illucens*) FED WITH COMBINATION OF MARINE FISH OFFAL AND TOFU DREG

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19 **(*Hermetia illucens*) FED WITH COMBINATION OF MARINE FISH OFFAL AND TOFU**  
20 **DREG**

21  
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31  
32 **ABSTRACT**

33 One of the materials with great potency for future nutrition source for animal feed is  
34 prepupae of black soldier fly larvae (BSFP) (*Hermetia illucens*) which is fed on organic wastes.  
35 This study was designed to observe the accumulation of specific substance (omega-3) of organic  
36 wastes (marine fish offal and tofu dregs) inside harvested biomass of BSFP. A total of 150 gram  
37 food consist of marine fish offal and tofu dreg with different proportion (10:90, 25:75, 50:50, and  
38 100% tofu dregs) was fed to black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) for 21 days. At the end of feeding trial,  
39 all BSFL were harvested, weighed, and then analyzed for omega-3 fatty acids content. Fatty acid  
40 content was analyzed using Gas Chromatography with Flame Ionization Detector (GC-FID). Result  
41 of the experiment showed BSFL reared with 25% marine fish offal produced highest biomass (8.1 g  
42 / 50 larvae) with least development time (19 days). The total of omega-3 recorded from application  
43 of 0%, 10%, 25%, and 50% of marine fish offal was 0.02%, 0.87%, 2.16% and 2.61% in 100 g of  
44 dry weight, respectively. This result showed the possibility of transferring specific nutrient from  
45 organic wastes biomass of BSFP which provides base knowledgement for further application in  
46 design of specific animal feed from BSFP.

47  
48 **Keywords:** black soldier fly, omega-3, fish offal, tofu dregs

49  
50 **INTRODUCTION**

51 Most dominant wastes produced in Indonesia consisted of organic waste (Zulfikar & Chaerul  
52 2010). Most of these ended as piles of wastes as collecting and waste management efforts only  
53 covered about 50-70% of wastes produced by population (Cointreau 1994; Rushbrook & Pugh  
54 1999). Common methods applied to manage these wastes are costly sanitary landfill and  
55 composting which produce compost with low economic value, which make both methods less  
56 favorable in low income regions (Cointreau 1994).

57 Another alternative to manage organic waste is by conversion of organic wastes by  
58 saprophages through natural decomposition process (Beard & Sands 1973, Boushy 1991, Barnard *et*

59 *al.* 1998, Ndegwa & Thompson 2001, Ramos-Elorduy *et al.* 2002, Barry 2004, Diener *et al.* 2009,  
60 Manurung *et al.* 2016, Supriyatna *et al.* 2016, Supriyatna & Putra 2017). Latest development  
61 showed the increasing trend of application of insect larvae as agent to decompost organic wastes as  
62 the process produces biomass rich in protein and lipid (Diener *et al.* 2009). Among them, Black  
63 Soldier Flies Larvae (BSFL) (*Hermetia illucens*) has been considered to be the best candidate due to  
64 their great ability to convert various types of organic wastes into high protein biomass which could  
65 be applied as sources of protein and lipid for high quality animal feed and potential source of  
66 biodiesel (Newton *et al.* 1977, Newton *et al.* 2005a,b, St-Hilaire *et al.* 2007a, Myers *et al.* 2008,  
67 Rachmawati *et al.* 2010, Li *et al.* 2011, Muin *et al.* 2017, Renna *et al.* 2017, Sprangers *et al.* 2017;  
68 Kinasih *et al.* 2018).

69 Another benefit of applying *H. illucens* as organic wastes conversion agent, especially in  
70 tropical region like Indonesia, are (1) they are adapted to tropic and warm subtropical region  
71 (Tomberlin *et al.* 2002), (2) they are able to suppress the population of house flies (*Musca*  
72 *domestica*) through predation and competition for nutrition (Furman *et al.* 1959, Newton *et al.*  
73 2005a,b), (3) they are able to reduce patogen like *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enterica*  
74 (Erickson *et al.* 2004), (4) they need short development time (about 2 to 3 weeks) (Newby 1997),  
75 (5) adult flies do not eat fresh material and females do not oviposit their eggs directly on food  
76 source of larvae which made them less likely to tranfer disease (Leclercq 1997), and (6) adult flies  
77 are not attracted to human habitats or food (van Huis *et al.* 2013). This insect has digestive system  
78 rich with amylase, lipase, protease,  $\alpha$ -galactosidase,  $\beta$ -galactosidase,  $\alpha$ -mannosidase, and  $\alpha$ -  
79 fucosidase allowing them to digest almost any organic materials (Kim *et al.* 2011). Furthermore,  
80 like other insects, this digestive system also allowed them to accumulate certain organic molecules  
81 (St-Hilaire *et al.* 2007b).

82 All of these benefits could be harness to solve one of the main obstacles in food security of  
83 Indonesia, especially for protein, which is the continuous availability of affordable feed stock.  
84 Among organic wastes produced in large numbers in Indonesia, wastes with relatively unchange  
85 organic material properties during each production are tofu dreg and marine fish offal. A report  
86 showed about 731,501.5 tons tofu dreg was produced annually (Bisnis UKM 2009) while 25-30%  
87 of marine fish catch ended as wastes (KKP 2016). Tofu dreg is rich in carbohydrate and protein (Li  
88 *et al.* 2012, Li *et al.* 2013), while marine fish tissues rich in beneficial unsaturated fatty acids  
89 (Sahena *et al.* 2009) made them valuable organic wastes.

90 Studies showed that the nutritional content of BSFL biomass highly depends on quantity adn  
91 quality of the feeding material (Nguyen *et al.* 2015; Oonincx *et al.* 2015). Moreover, the fat content

92 showed more variation (between 6.6 to 39.2%) than protein (between 37.0 to 62.7%) (Barragan-  
93 Fonseca *et al.* 2017) which suggest the strong effect of the larval dietary nutrient to protein and fat  
94 content. One of main purposes of BSFL production is as the alternative source of feed material for  
95 several livestock, such as poultry (Leiber *et al.* 2017; Ssepuuya *et al.* 2017) and cultured fish  
96 species (Webster *et al.* 2015; Stadtlander *et al.* 2017). Based on the growing number of studies  
97 showed the possibility of modify the fatty acid profile of BSFL, there is possibility to improve the  
98 nutrient value (i.e. more healthy fats such as omega-3) of local livestock product through  
99 manipulation of feed leading to better value of the product as showed by study of Stoneham *et al.*  
100 (2018).

101 As the lipid content of insects is largely dependent on their diet (Stanley-Samuels & Dadd  
102 1983) and many of them have natural long-chain unsaturated fatty acids in their biomass  
103 (Thompson 1973). Study by St-Hilare *et al.* (2007b) showed that omega-3 content of BSFL could  
104 be enhanced by allowing them to feed on fish waste from rainbow trout processing plant. Unlike  
105 rainbow trout, most of marine tropical fish considered has low omega-3 content. In this study, the  
106 combination of both marine fish offal and tofu dreg were utilized as feeding material of BSFL to  
107 enhanced the omega-3 content of biomass. The main objective of this study to produced a BSFL  
108 with high omega-3 content at laboratory scale as a foundation for larger scale production of  
109 alternative source of Omega-3 produced through organic wastes conversion which applicable as  
110 livestock feed.

## 112 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 113 Animal Specimen

114 The larvae of the black soldier fly were obtained from the eggs that were purchased from  
115 BSF farm in Sumedang, West Java. All eggs were kept on the substance made of commercial  
116 chicken feed (60% moisture) and kept at constant temperature (28°C, 70%RH) in a container (50  
117 cm x 25 m x 10 cm) in Laboratory of Enviromental Toxicology, School of Life Sciences and  
118 Technology, Bandung, Indonesia.

### 120 Animal treatment

121 Growth medium applied in this study were marine fish offal originated from local fish  
122 market and tofu dreg produced as waste of local tofu industry of Sumedang, West Java. All  
123 materials were washed with chlorine free water. Four combinations of marine fish offal and tofu  
124 dreg, which were 10:90, 50:50, 25:75, and 100% tofu dreg, were prepared as food for larvae of

125 Black Soldier Flies and kept frozen for 24 hours before treatment. The proximate of the feed  
126 showed in Table 1.

127

128 Table 1 Proximate analysis of the feeding material

Proportion of fish offal	Protein (%)	Lipid (%)	Carbohydrate (%)
0%	19.59	6.35	6.07
10%	27.33	11.55	4.20
25%	35.07	16.70	3.02
50%	42.81	21.93	1.50

129

130 Two-day old larvae was used in this study. Fifty larvae were placed inside plastic cup (three  
131 replicates for each treatment) and fed with 150 mg prepared food according the treatment per 3 days  
132 (wet weight, 60% moisture content). The larvae were initially placed onto the prepared food, which  
133 was already defrosted in plastic cup. Larval weight and weight of remained food was measured  
134 every 3 days until 40% of all larvae metamorphed into prepupae when the addition of diet ceased  
135 (Tomberlin *et al.* 2002). All prepupae were removed daily from each container and weighed, then  
136 placed in plastic container for extraction process preparation.

137 All experiments were conducted in room temperature at 30-32°C, relative humidity 65-85%,  
138 and 12 hour photoperiod.

139

#### 140 **Sample preparation for Fatty Acid Analysis**

##### 141 ***Extraction***

142 All prepupae were cleaned by fresh water and dried at 60°C for 12 hours. About 0.15 gram  
143 of dried sample was grinded then mixed with 3 ml solvent (2 part Chloroform and 1 part methanol).  
144 The mixture was then homogenized with homogenizer for 30 min, centrifuged at 5400 rpm at 4°C  
145 for 5 to 15 min. Supernatant was then collected. Homogenization and centrifugation process were  
146 repeated 3 times. Collected supernatant then evaporized with evaporator to remove organic  
147 solvent.

148

##### 149 ***Esterification***

150 Crude lipid sample was mixed with 4 mL NaOH 0.5 M with methanol solvent. About  
151 0.024% Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT) was added, and then the solution was shaken at 55°C for  
152 8 hours.

153

154 ***Transesterification***

155 The samples obtained after esterification process were added with 300 mL methanol and 1-  
156 2.5% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (v/v) in MeOH, and then shaken for 1 hour. The solution of n-Hexane and NaCl (1:1)  
157 was added to samples and then centrifugated for 10 min (4,000 g, room temperature. In order to  
158 remove excess water from samples, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added, and then supernatant was collected and kept  
159 in separated containers.

160

161 **GC-FID analysis for Omega 3 content**

162 The analysis of Omega 3 content was conducted by Gas Chromatography-Flame Ionization  
163 Detection (GC-FID). GC Column used was DB-5 30m x 0.25mm ID x 0.25µm with N<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> as  
164 carrier gases. Injector temperature applied in this study was 200°C with detector temperature of  
165 300°C. Oven temperature started at 140°C increased into 270°C, with rate of 4°C/min, and  
166 maintained for 7.5 min. The fatty acid was quantified with external standard method based on  
167 formula

$$Cs = \frac{As}{Aes} \times Ces$$

168

169 whereas

170 Cs : Sample concentration

171 As : Sample area

172 Aes : External standard area

173 Ces : External standard concentration

174

175 **Data Analysis**

176 The final weight of harvested prepupae were compared across all diet composition using  
177 analysis of variance, with significance set at  $p < 0.05$ , followed by the Tukey-Kramer HSD test  
178 when significant value was detected. All analyses were done in SPSS version 22.0.

179

180

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

181 The result confirmed that black soldier fly larvae were able to recycle a proportion of fish  
182 waste which consists of high protein and fat. Larvae fed as much as 10% of fish offal slightly  
183 improved the weight of harvested prepupae. On the other hand, the addition of fish offal about 50%  
184 and more showed negative correlation to harvested weight (Table 2), which led to significant  
185 mortality of larvae (preliminary study, result not showed). However, result of the present  
186 experiment showed the final weight was relatively similar among all food combinations (Table 2).

187 The high mortality of larvae when fed with high fish offal concentration was probably caused  
 188 by: (1) lack of protein:carbohydrate balance of the feeding material. Both of these macromolecule  
 189 are the most important nutrient for growth, reproduction and survival of insects (Aguila *et al.* 2013).  
 190 Proximate analysis showed the protein:carbohydrate showed level of 28.54:1 (Table 1). Studies  
 191 showed that high protein content of the feed material produced high mortality rate in BSFL  
 192 population (Cammack & Tomberlin 2017; Barragan-Fonseca *et al.* 2019; Danieli *et al.* 2019), and  
 193 (2) juice produced through natural decomposition of fish offal. This juice increased the moisture of  
 194 feeding material, reduced the amount of O<sub>2</sub> available required for growth of insect larvae, and  
 195 induced molting process (Harrison *et al.* 2006, Klok & Harrison 2009, Harrison & Haddad 2011,  
 196 Callier & Nijhout 2011).

197 On the other hand, since BSFL are restricted to the specific diet, the consumption of one  
 198 component of diet will altered the intake of other component. Since larval weight highly associated  
 199 with carbohydrate content (Le Gall & Behmer 2014; Barragan-Fonseca 2019) this may explained  
 200 the heavier larvae of 25% fish offal.

201

202 Table 2 Final weight and development time of harvested prepupae

Proportion of fish offal	Fresh weight per 50 prepupae (g)	Development Time	Dry weight per 50 prepupae (g)
0%	8.03 ± 0.09 <sup>a</sup>	20	3.00 ± 1.41 <sup>a</sup>
10%	8.07 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	20	3.10 ± 0.65 <sup>a</sup>
25%	8.10 ± 0.12 <sup>a</sup>	19	3.74 ± 0.21 <sup>a</sup>
50%	7.81 ± 1.26 <sup>a</sup>	19	2.90 ± 0.40 <sup>a</sup>

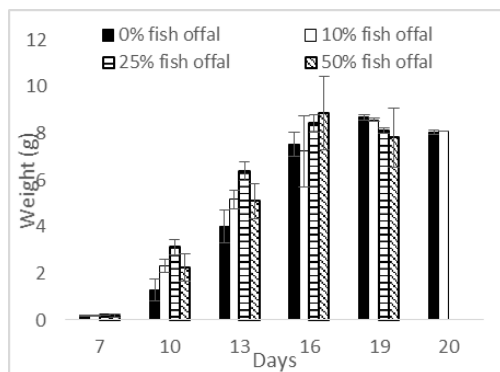
203

204 Larvae fed with 25% and 50% fish offal required less development time to metamorph into  
 205 harvested prepupae (Table 2). The lower development time of BSFL reared on high protein diet  
 206 found in this study agreed with other results reported by Oonincx *et al.* (2015b) and Cammack &  
 207 Tomberlin (2017). The development time of larvae in this study was considered lower than other  
 208 studies (Fatchurochim *et al.* 1989, Myers *et al.* 2008, Diener 2009, Nguyen *et al.* 2013, Oonincx *et*  
 209 *al.* 2015a,b, St-Hilaire *et al.* 2007b, Cammack & Tomberlin 2017) which might be related to the  
 210 higher rearing temperature during this study. On the other hand, this result showed potency of  
 211 applying this method in tropical region like Indonesia.

212 The growth pattern showed weight gain was stopped at different time among groups. Both  
 213 groups of 25% and 50% fish offal stop the weight gain at 16<sup>th</sup> day while group 0% and 10% fish  
 214 offal at 19<sup>th</sup> day (Fig. 1). The peak weight among groups was similar which indicated that  
 215 differences in the food composition did not effect the critical weight for prepupae development.



216

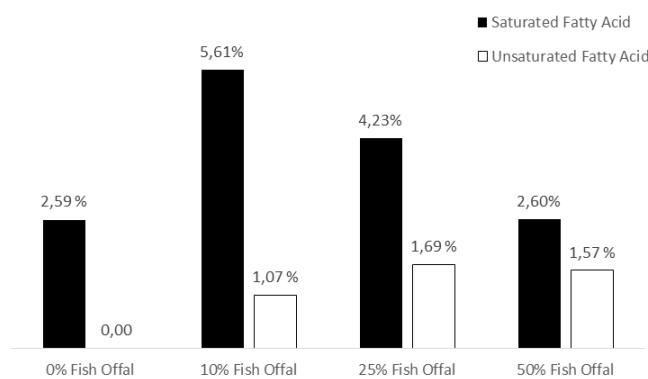


217

218 Figure 1 Changes in the weight of black soldier fly larvae fed with various combination of fish offal  
219 and tofu dreg. Data of 50% fish offal not showed as more than 40% of larvae already  
220 metamorphosed into prepupae.  
221

222 Most fatty acid content of BSFP biomass consisted of saturated fatty acid (Fig. 2). This result  
223 agreed with other research showed high saturated fatty acid content of black soldier fly prepupae  
224 (St-Hilarie 2007b, Finke 2013, Ramos-Bueno *et al.* 2016, Surendra *et al.* 2016, Renna *et al.* 2017,  
225 Schiavone *et al.* 2017, Spranghers *et al.* 2017). On the other hand, feeding material rich in  
226 carbohydrate but low in protein produced more crude fat which agreed with Barragan-Fonseca  
227 (2019) which may related to lipogenic activity and incorporation of lipid as body reserve (Nestel &  
228 Nemny-Lavy 2008).

229 Higher saturated fatty acid in 10% fish offal group may also related to possibility BSFP to  
230 convert unsaturated fatty acid into saturated fatty acid while higher fat content of 50% fish offal  
231 group may responsible for higher content of unsaturated fatty acid (Danieli *et al.* 2019).  
232



233

234 Figure 2 Proportion of saturated and unsaturated fatty acid of harvested prepupae (% of dry matter  
235 basis)  
236

237 Further analysis on each component of fatty acid showed high content of C12:0 (Lauric  
 238 Acid) (Table 3) which agreed with other studies on bioconversion of organic wastes by black  
 239 soldier fly larvae (St-Hilarie 2007b; Sealey *et al.* 2011, Leong *et al.* 2015, Spranghers *et al.* 2017).  
 240 The increase of lauric acid content with the decreasing amount of tofu dreg indicated the possibility  
 241 of accumulation from fish offal as tropical fish tissues rich in saturated fatty acid (Gopakumar &  
 242 Nair 1972). The high content of this fatty acid might be related to its function as antibacteria for  
 243 insect larvae (Urbanek *et al.* 2012)

244 Richness in C12:0 was found in BSF favour the inclusion in poultry feed since this fatty  
 245 acid is much easier to be absorbed and metabolized than the long chain fatty acids (LCFA) as  
 246 nutrition and could act as antibacteria (Skrivanova *et al.* 2006, Kim & Rhee 2016). However, higher  
 247 saturated fatty acid content of harvested prepupae could increase the content of saturated fatty acid  
 248 of meat when it was applied as feed which is undesirable for modern consumers who prefer  
 249 healthier meat and meat products (Schiavone *et al.* 2017)

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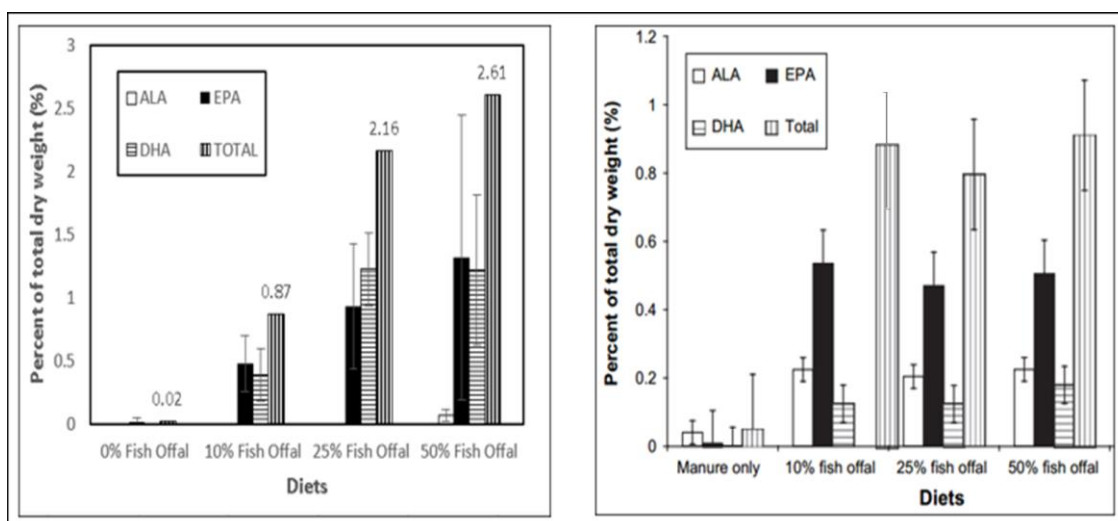
251 Table 3 Fatty acid composition of black soldier fly prepupe (% of dry matter basis)

Lipid Acid	Diet Combination			
	0% fish offal	10% fish offal	25% fish offal	50% fish offal
C 10:0	0.04 ± 0.00	0.12 ± 0.06	0.10 ± 0.07	0.19 ± 0.21
C 12:0	1.05 ± 0.12	2.89 ± 1.12	3.09 ± 0.27	4.90 ± 4.16
C 14:0	0.12 ± 0.01	0.35 ± 0.14	0.28 ± 0.20	0.10 ± 0.10
C 16:1	0.09 ± 0.02	0.31 ± 0.14	0.24 ± 0.17	0.55 ± 0.49
C 16:0	0.93 ± 0.45	0.50 ± 0.22	0.21 ± 0.22	0.09 ± 0.12
C 18:0	0.19 ± 0.23	0.19 ± 0.09	0.46 ± 0.55	0.95 ± 0.91
C 18:3n-3; ALA	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.07 ± 0.05
C 20:5	0.00 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.01
C 20:5n-3; EPA	0.02 ± 0.03	0.48 ± 0.22	0.93 ± 0.50	1.32 ± 1.13
C 22:6n-3; DHA	0.00 ± 0.00	0.39 ± 0.21	1.23 ± 0.29	1.22 ± 0.59
Total omega-3	0,02	0,87	2,16	2,61

252

253 Omega 3 is consisted of three main lipid acids, ALA, EPA, and DHA. The results of this  
 254 study showed positive correlation between the amount of fish offal added to diet and the amount of  
 255 these molecules inside prepupae biomass. In general, the total amount of EPA and DHA of  
 256 prepupae in this study was higher than similar study by St-Hillaire *et al.* (2007b) while the amount  
 257 of ALA was much smaller (Fig. 3). Low ALA concentration in prepupae produced in this study  
 258 might be related to low ALA content of tropical fish offal (Osman *et al.* 2001, Mohanty *et al.*  
 259 2016).

260



261

262 Figure 3 Percentage of a-linolenic acid (ALA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic  
 263 acid (DHA) on a total dry matter basis for prepupae fed diets containing different  
 264 proportions of fish offal (left) and result of Sheppard *et al.* (2007) (right). Error bars  
 265 indicate the pooled SE.  
 266

267 Combining fish waste with different types of waste could change the properties of molecules  
 268 of biomass produced. Higher nutrient nutritional value of tofu dreg compared to cow manure which  
 269 has much lower nutritional value may explain the difference of the results between this study and  
 270 similar study of St-Hillaire *et al.* (2007b).

271 This study showed fatty acids content of black soldier fly prepupae can be increased and  
 272 manipulated in order to produce desirable “healthy” fatty acids such as ALA, EPA, and DHA by  
 273 feeding the larvae with tropical marine fish waste which is agreed with Barroso *et al.* (2017) and  
 274 Danielli *et al.* (2019). Although the application of this method as source of omega 3 in human  
 275 would require further studies, this method could be applicable to produce a high-quality animal-  
 276 grade foodstuff that is a suitable replacement for fish meal, fish oil, or vegetables oil in animal diets  
 277 through recycle of organic wastes. Furthermore, the application of feed material rich in omega-3  
 278 may change the fatty acid profile of the meat into much healthier meat rich with unsaturated fatty  
 279 acid (Saito *et al.* 1996, Li *et al.* 2016).

280 The fatty acid composition of BSF lipid highly depends on the rearing substrate (Makkar *et*  
 281 *al.* 2014, Oonincx *et al.* 2015b, Leong *et al.* 2016); therefore, further research efforts should be  
 282 carried out in order to assess how much the fatty acid profile of lipidt can be improved through  
 283 substrate composition due to the differences in fatty acid requirement for growth (Tocher 2010).  
 284 When the fatty acid profile of BSF was equal to the animal diets that contained fish meal/oil it will  
 285 reduce the pressures on global marine fisheries and maintain environment health (Tomberlin *et al.*  
 286 2015).

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## CONCLUSION

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCES

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The application of fish offal as feedstuff for black soldier fly larvae improved the total omega 3 (EPA, DHA, and ALA) content of harvested prepupae. This study showed the possibility to produce high quality animal feed material from tropical marine fish waste.

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