

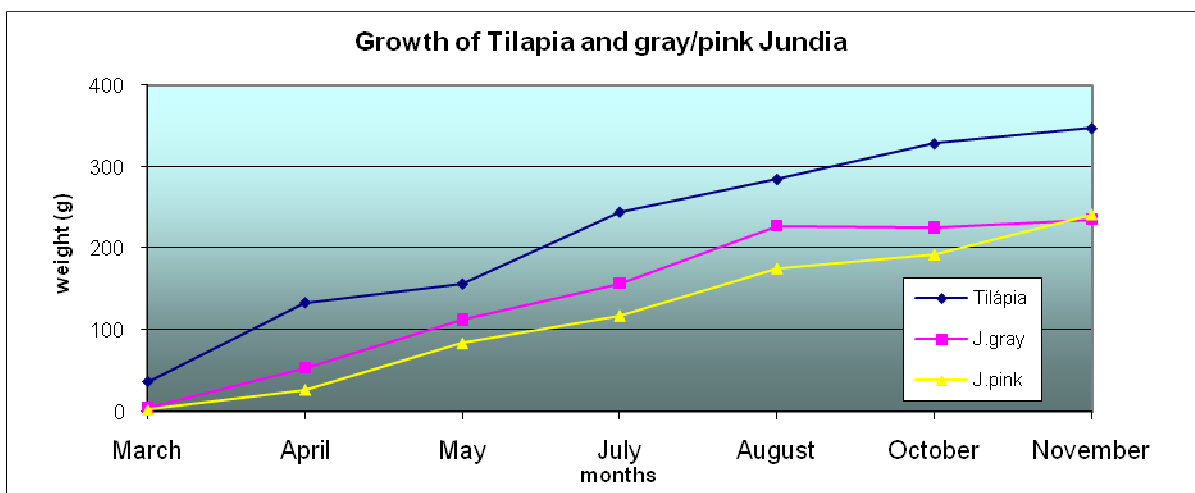
## COMPARATIVE GROWTH TEST BETWEEN GRAY AND PINK JUNDIÁ *Rhamdia SP* AND NILE TILAPIA *Oreochromis niloticus*.

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The gray and pink jundiá, the Brazilian catfish of genus *Rhamdia*, are being pointed out as a potential native species for fishculture in Southern Brazil, mainly due to their good resistance to low temperature.

This work aimed at verifying the growth rate of two colored jundiás, grown with Nile tilapia. The experimental schedule was totally randomized with 2 treatments (T1= 3000 tilapia; 2500 gray jundiá and 2500 pink jundiá/ha and T2= 3000 tilapia; 3500 gray and 3500 pink jundiá/ha), and 3 replications. The initial weights for tilapia, gray and pink jundiá were respectively 35.84g, 4.68g and 2.11g. The test was carried out at Camboriú Fish Culture Experimental Station, in laterally concreted and earthen botton, 17 m<sup>2</sup> ponds, initiated on March, 26, 2002. A peletized commercial feed of 32% PB, was served, at a diary rate of 3% of fish biomass.

After 240 days, the mean weights of tilapia, gray and pink jundiá were respectively for: T1= 360.3g; 217.2g; 269.6g and T2= 334.5g; 252.1g ; 213.3g. The total (T1 + T2) survival rate and diary weight gain were 96.67%, 1.3g; 56.95%, 0.96g and 33.33%, 1.0g respectively for Nile tilapia, gray and pink jundiá.



It was concluded that there is no difference in growth rate between gray and pink jundiá, when the sexes are mixed, but gray and pink female showed a 20.76% and 31.96% heavier than the respective male. At the last sampling, the pink jundiá reached the gray, due to a low survival rate and higher percentage of female remaining in this experiment (Figure).

The productivity was higher on T2 (1.784,3kg/ha) than T1 (1.493,2 kg/ha), and the tilapia performance (T1= 1.008,0 and T2= 1.003,8 kg/ha), was better than the gray (T1= 316,7 and T2= 490,2 kg/ha) and pink (T1= 168,5 and T2= 290,3 kg/ha) jundiás.

**Key Words: Comparative Growth, *Rhamdia Sp*, *Oreochromis niloticus*.**

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