

Effect of *Cynodon dactylon* extract on white spot virus-infected *Litopenaeus vannamei*

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Abstract The objectives of this research were to study the phytochemical composition of *Cynodon dactylon* and investigate if the oral administration of this plant extract adsorbed on the pellet feed was capable of protecting *L. vannamei* challenged with white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). The shrimps were distributed into five batches, and experiments were run by triplicate: uninfected shrimps fed with pelleted feed without ethanolic extract of *C. dactylon* (ECDE, T_C), infected shrimps fed with pelleted feed without ECDE (T₁), infected shrimps fed with 1% of ECDE (T₂), infected shrimps fed with 2% of ECDE (T₃), and infected shrimps fed with 4% of ECDE (T₄). The phytochemical screening of ECDE showed several compounds such as with important biological activities consistent with the results observed in vivo. Treatment with 2% ECDE showed a protective effect against WSSV and survival of 62% with no clinical signs of infection.

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