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The effects of methionine supplementation to soybean meal (SBM)-based diets on the growth and whole body-carcass chemical composition of tilapia (*T. zillii*)

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**Abstract:** The effects of supplementing soybean meal-based diets with methionine on the growth and carcass-whole body chemical composition of *T. zillii* were studied during a 62-day feeding trial. A control diet prepared for *T. zillii* was supplemented with five different levels of free methionine, 0.5%, 1%, 1.5%, 2% and 2.5% (the same amounts of ?-cellulose were removed). At the end of the study, the best growth rate and FCR were determined in the group fed a diet supplemented with 0.5% methionine (total 1.38% methionine+cystine). Statistically significant effects of methionine supplementation on whole body protein content were determined ( $p<0.05$ ). No significant effects of control and test diets were detected on carcass dry matter and protein content; however, a significantly low ( $p<0.05$ ) carcass lipid content in the group fed a diet not supplemented with methionine (control group) was determined.

**Key Words:** *Tilapia zillii*, methionine, soybean meal, whole body-carcass chemical composition

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