



Effects of Dietary Aqueous Extract from *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver on Growth, Muscle Composition, Amino Acid Composition and Fatty Acid Composition of Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

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ABSTRACT

The study was to investigate effects of dietary *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver (EUO) bark aqueous extract on growth performance and nutritional composition of rainbow trout (145.56 ± 4.12 g) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fed five different diets, including 0 (EUO-0), 5 (EUO-5), 10 (EUO-10), 20 (EUO-20) and 40 (EUO-40) g kg⁻¹ EUO bark aqueous extract. The muscle lipid of fish in EUO-40 was significantly higher than that in other groups ($p < 0.05$), and fish in EUO-0 showed significantly lower muscle crude lipid content than that in EUO-5, EUO-10, and EUO-20 groups ($p < 0.05$). Fish in EUO-40 had significantly higher muscle Phe, Gly, Ala, delicious amino acids contents than that in EUO-0 ($p < 0.05$), and fish in EUO-20 had significantly higher muscle Ala content than that in EUO-0 ($p < 0.05$). Fish in EUO-10 showed significantly higher 22:1n-9 content in muscle than that in EUO-0 ($p < 0.05$). Contents of 18:3n-6 in muscle of EUO-5 and EUO-40 groups were significantly lower than that of EUO-0 group ($p < 0.05$). Fish in EUO-40 had significantly higher 22:5n-3, 22:6n-3, and Σ PUFA₃ n-3 contents than that in other groups ($p < 0.05$). In conclusion, supplementation of EUO aqueous extract improved the nutritional composition of rainbow trout, and the supplemental level was estimated to be 40.00 g kg⁻¹ diet.

INTRODUCTION

In developed and developing countries, fish constitutes an important food source due to its rich nutrient content. Consumers demand healthy, high-quality, natural, and fresh fish products. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), as an important worldwide cold water fish species (Rezaei and Hosseini, 2008), is one of the main sources of protein, minerals, vitamins, and n-3 long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids including eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) (Abedi and Sahari, 2014;

Woynarovich *et al.*, 2011). Its aquaculture production was more than 760,000 tones throughout the world with a total value of near 3,000,000 USD (Mirghaed *et al.*, 2018). The quality of the products from fish is determined mainly by the nutritional value and sensory attributes of the flesh (Grigorakis, 2007); these aspects are influenced, not only among species but also within species due to several factors. Some of these factors are the age and size of the fish, the season of the year, the quality of water, the composition of diet, the feeding regime and by the stress response produced during the pre-slaughter period (Shearer, 2001; Poli, 2009; Suárez *et al.*, 2014; Bermejo-Poza *et al.*, 2017). A variety of feed additives are used to improve performance in aquaculture, to protect rainbow trout health and to improve the quantity and quality of products positively, such as plant oil (Yildiz *et al.*, 2015),

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Authors' Contribution

YL, ZAQ and ZHY designed the experiment and performed experimental work. SJ, WM and WCA analyzed the data and helped perform the analysis. JHB and LM contributed reagents and materials, and wrote the manuscript.

Key words

Rainbow trout, *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver, Growth performance, Amino acids, Fatty acids.

vitamin E (Kamireddy *et al.*, 2011), zinc (Wu *et al.*, 2015), selenium yeast (Wang *et al.*, 2018), astaxanthin and canthaxanthin (Cui *et al.*, 2009).

Eucommia ulmoides Oliver (EUO) (“Du Zhong” in Chinese, “Tu Chung” in Korean and “Tuchong” in Japanese), the sole species in the genus *Eucommia* and family Eucommiaceae, is a deciduous tree indigenous in China and widely cultured in eastern Asian countries (Si *et al.*, 2013). In China, it is distributed mainly in Guizhou, Hubei, Shanxi, Gansu, and Henan Provinces with a total area about 67 000 hectares (Jiao *et al.*, 2015). It is highly valued and commonly used in traditional medicines to treat various diseases, especially to relieve hypertension, protect the nervous system, treat diabetics, regulate lipid metabolism, inhibits oxidative stress (Okada *et al.*, 1994; Geun *et al.*, 2004; Kwon *et al.*, 2014). The inclusion of EUO in diet improved the flesh quality of pig (Wang *et al.*, 2007), chickens (Wang *et al.*, 2012), grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (Leng *et al.*, 2008; Sun *et al.*, 2017a, b), and eel, *Anguilla japonica* (Tanimoto *et al.*, 1993a, b).

In China, rainbow trout aquaculture production was from 8,818 to 38,606 tones in recent ten years (MOAC, 2019). But the flesh quality of rainbow trout has been declining in recent years, showing a loose texture due to the high stocking density and the rapid growth in China. Until now, there has been no scientific report concerning the effect of EUO as a supplement in rainbow trout diet to improve flesh quality. Water is a main solvent of decocting medicinal herbs in traditional Chinese medicine. The objective of the present study was to investigate the effects of dietary aqueous extract from EUO on the growth performance and flesh quality of rainbow trout, to supply some nutritional strategies for improving the flesh quality of cultured fish.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental diets and design

During the study, the fish were fed a commercial

rainbow trout feed produced by Shengsuo Fishery Feed Research Centre (Shandong, China) as the basal diet. The proximate composition was as follows: crude protein 420 g kg⁻¹, lipid 180 g kg⁻¹, crude fibre 60 g kg⁻¹, and crude ash 80 g kg⁻¹. The diets were prepared to contain 0 g kg⁻¹ (control, EUO-0), 5.00 g kg⁻¹ (EUO-5), 10.00 g kg⁻¹ (EUO-10), 20.00 g kg⁻¹ (EUO-20) and 40.00 g kg⁻¹ (EUO-40) *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver barks extract (EUO). The main nutritional component and active substance content of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract is in Table I. Commercial rainbow trout feed was ground through 40-mesh size and then was weighed. EUO was purchased from a local hospital, which was cut and dried at room temperature for 3 days. After dried, the EUO (0 g, 5.0 g, 10.0 g, 20.0 g or 40.0 g, respectively) was lightly boiled in 1000ml of distilled water for 4 h, concentrated to 100ml, and then aqueous extract from EUO (10%, v/w) and water (30%, v/w) were added to feed form a soft dough, and then were mixed to facilitate pelleting by a granulator (330; Ou-siqi Mechanical and Electrical Equipment Co., Ltd, Zhejiang, China). The pellets (1.0 mm diameter) were extruded and air-dried and stored at -20°C until use.

Fish and sampling

The feeding activities were performed for 70 d at a private rainbow trout farm (Dashan rainbow trout farm, Dafang, Guizhou, China). A total of 450 rainbow trout with an initial body weight of 145.56 ± 4.12 g were randomly allocated in 15 cages (1 m × 1 m × 1.2 m) with a water depth of 0.8 m and 30 fish per cage. The cages were located in three outdoor cement pools (18 m × 3.8 m × 1.2 m) with each pool containing five cages from five treatments. During the feeding period, the fish were fed manually to apparent satiation four times per day (08:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00) with a daily feeding rate of 2.0% - 4.0% of body weight. Fish in each cage were weighed every 2 weeks for feed adjustments throughout the experimental period. Dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, ammonia nitrogen, and velocity of water were > 7.5 mg L⁻¹, 12.8 - 14.1 °C, 7.6 - 8.4, < 0.05 mg L⁻¹, and 0.04 m s⁻¹.

Table I.- Main nutritional component and active substance content of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract.

Treatment	EUO-0	EUO-5	EUO-10	EUO-20	EUO-40
Crude protein (g 100ml ⁻¹ aqueous extract)	0	0.10±0.0030	0.28±0.0040	0.30±0.0050	0.37±0.050
Crude lipid (g 100ml ⁻¹ aqueous extract)	0	0.33±0.028	0.48±0.034	0.50±0.042	0.85±0.040
Ash (g 100ml ⁻¹ aqueous extract)	0	0.12±0.0089	0.15±0.0050	0.25±0.0035	0.51±0.0071
Chlorogenic acid (%)	0	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.15
Aucubin (%)	0	1.64	1.90	1.29	0.87
Geniposide (%)	0	0.38	0.45	0.24	0.22
Geniposidic acid (%)	0	1.45	1.59	1.18	0.96

All fish in each cage were weighed and counted at the beginning and at the end of the experiment. Dead fish were removed and recorded daily. At the end, twelve fish from each cage were randomly collected and were anesthetized with 200 mg L⁻¹ MS-222. Six fish were used for the analysis of muscle composition, and six fish were used to obtain the weights of whole body, viscera and liver. All samples were stored at -80°C before analysis.

Growth performance and husbandry parameters

Weight gain rate (WGR), specific growth rate (SGR), condition factor (CF) viscerosomatic index (VSI), hepatosomatic index (HSI), survival rate (SR) were calculated as follows:

$$\text{WGR (\%)} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Final body wt} - \text{Initial body wt}}{\text{Initial body wt}}$$

$$\text{SGR (\% day}^{-1}\text{)} = 100 \times \frac{\ln(\text{Final wt} - \text{Initial wt})}{\text{Days of the experiment}}$$

$$\text{HSI (\%)} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Final liver wt (g)}}{\text{Final body wt (g)}}$$

$$\text{VSI (\%)} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Final viscera wt (g)}}{\text{Final body wt (g)}}$$

$$\text{CF (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Final body wt (g)}}{\text{Body length (cm}^3\text{)}}$$

$$\text{Survival (\%)} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Final fish number}}{\text{Initial fish number}}$$

Muscle and diets proximate composition

Chemical compositions of diets and muscle including lipid, protein, moisture and ash were analyzed according to standard methods (AOAC, 2005). All analyses were performed in five replicates.

Muscle amino acids and fatty acids

The amino acid compositions of ingredients were determined in triplicate with an automatic amino acid analyzer (LKB Biochrom Ltd., Cambridge, UK). Total lipid of muscle samples were extracted using chloroform:methanol (2:1, v/v) according to the method of Folch *et al.* (1957). The saponifiable lipids were converted to methyl esters by using the standard boron tri-fluoride-methanol method (Morrison and Smith, 1964). Fatty acids methyl esters (FAME) were analysed on an Agilent 6890 gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID) and a SP-2560 fused silica capillary column (100 m long, 0.25 mm i.d. and 0.20 µm thick). Injector and detector temperatures were 270 and 280°C, respectively. Column temperature was held at 120°C for 5 min then programmed to increase at 3°C min⁻¹ up to 240°C, where it was maintained for 20 min. Carrier gas was helium (2 mL min⁻¹), and the split ratio was 30:1. Identification of fatty acids was carried out by comparing the sample FAME peak relative retention times with Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) standards. The individual FAME was identified by comparing the retention times of the authentic standard mixtures. The amount of each fatty acid was calculated using the peak area normalization method as a relative per cent value to the total fatty acids.

Statistical analysis

Data were expressed as means ± standard deviation (SD). All statistical evaluations were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) by the software SPSS 11.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) for Windows. Prior to the statistical tests, data were examined for normality and homogeneity of variances. Differences between the means were tested by Duncan's multiple-range tests. The level of significance was set at *p*<0.05.

Table II.- Effects of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract on growth performance of rainbow trout.

Parameters	EUO-0	EUO-5	EUO-10	EUO-20	EUO-40
IBW (g)	144.44±5.09	144.45±3.85	145.55±3.85	145.56±5.09	147.78±5.09
FBW (g)	380.08±23.47	393.14±9.14	394.84±22.30	386.59±18.04	386.51±6.67
WGR (%)	163.46±20.84	172.19±1.54	171.15±9.48	165.71±12.39	161.82±12.13
SGR (% day ⁻¹)	1.38±0.11	1.43±0.081	1.42±0.050	1.40±0.067	1.37±0.067
HSI (%)	0.86±0.027	0.86±0.016	0.84±0.070	0.95±0.023	0.86±0.037
VSI (%)	10.63±0.88	10.90±0.88	11.33±0.45	11.21±0.78	11.09±0.89
CF (g/cm ³)	1.47±0.029	1.43±0.021	1.45±0.029	1.45±0.028	1.44±0.032
SR/%	98.89±1.92	98.89±1.92	97.78±3.85	96.67±3.33	98.89±1.92

Values in the same row with different superscripts indicate significant differences (*P* < 0.05). IBW, initial body weight; CF, condition factor; FBW, final body weight; HSI, hepatosomatic index; SGR, specific growth rate; VSI, viscerosomatic index; SR: survival rate; WGR, weight gain rate.

RESULTS

Growth performance

Results of growth performance are presented in Table II. FBW, WG, SGR, HSI, VSI, CF and SR show no significant difference among all treatment ($p > 0.05$).

Muscle composition

Muscle composition (g kg⁻¹, wet basis) of the rainbow trout fed with different aqueous extract from EUO levels is presented in Table III. The fish fed EUO-40 diet showed significantly higher muscle crude lipid content than the fish fed other diets ($p < 0.05$), and the fish fed EUO-5, EUO-

10, or EUO-20 diet showed significantly higher muscle crude lipid content than the EUO-0 group ($p < 0.05$). For moisture, crude protein and crude ash, there were no significant differences among all treatments ($p > 0.05$).

Muscle amino acid and fatty acid composition

The effects of the dietary aqueous extract from EUO on the amino acid profile in the muscle of rainbow trout are shown in Table IV. These results indicated that most of the amino acid concentrations in muscle were not significantly affected by dietary EUO levels compared with control group (EUO-0) ($p > 0.05$), except for Val, Phe, Gly, Ala and DAA ($p < 0.05$). Fish fed EUO-5 diet had lower Val

Table III.- Effects of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract on proximate composition in muscle of rainbow trout (g kg⁻¹, wet weight).

Treatment	EUO-0	EUO-5	EUO-10	EUO-20	EUO-40
Moisture	753.26±0.44	751.24±0.35	752.08±0.44	752.09±0.36	751.13±0.21
Crude protein	199.26±1.36	199.34±1.37	200.60±1.07	199.11±1.27	200.90±0.53
Crude lipid	29.96±0.37 ^a	33.56±0.24 ^b	33.40±0.82 ^b	33.56±0.25 ^b	34.71±0.54 ^c
Crude ash	12.58±0.093	12.71±0.030	12.88±0.025	12.89±0.032	12.58±0.17

Values in the same row with different superscripts indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$).

Table IV.- Effects of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract on muscle amino acid composition of rainbow trout (g kg⁻¹, dry matter).

Amino acids	EUO-0	EUO-5	EUO-10	EUO-20	EUO-40
EAA					
Thr	35.40±0.79	35.37±0.25	36.00±0.26	35.27±0.71	35.87±0.60
Val	38.63±0.47 ^b	37.60±0.30 ^a	38.90±0.52 ^b	38.80±0.46 ^b	39.03±0.85 ^b
Met	21.57±0.83	21.43±0.96	19.20±0.92	21.60±0.71	20.97±0.83
Ile	37.23±0.86	36.67±0.31	37.77±0.40	37.83±0.35	37.77±0.64
Leu	62.67±0.57 ^{ab}	61.87±0.49 ^a	63.53±0.49 ^b	63.20±0.76 ^{ab}	63.33±0.95 ^b
Phe	33.37±0.35 ^a	33.37±0.25 ^a	33.60±0.36 ^{ab}	33.83±0.29 ^{ab}	34.20±0.66 ^b
His	17.87±0.60 ^{ab}	17.70±0.17 ^a	18.47±0.25 ^b	18.00±0.20 ^{ab}	18.23±0.12 ^{ab}
Lys	73.13±0.80	72.90±0.20	74.57±0.17	73.37±0.78	74.37±0.51
Arg	48.67±0.41	47.40±0.69	49.13±0.13	47.40±0.11	48.57±0.37
TEAA	368.53±4.97	364.30±4.19	371.17±6.30	369.30±6.21	372.33±6.31
NEAA					
Asp	76.93±1.21 ^{ab}	76.63±0.55 ^a	78.33±0.21 ^b	76.57±0.84 ^a	78.20±0.85 ^b
Glu	111.33±2.25	111.83±1.61	112.23±0.47	110.10±1.87	113.13±1.60
Gly	39.67±0.21 ^a	40.53±1.36 ^{ab}	39.80±1.08 ^a	39.97±0.15 ^a	42.13±1.79 ^b
Ala	48.30±0.17 ^b	47.37±0.40 ^a	48.37±0.058 ^{bc}	48.87±0.35 ^c	49.73±0.35 ^d
Ser	30.87±0.55 ^{ab}	31.27±0.50 ^b	31.50±0.20 ^b	30.33±0.57 ^a	31.40±0.17 ^b
Tyr	29.70±0.61	29.60±0.55	30.17±0.21	29.50±0.44	29.70±0.87
Pro	29.13±0.73	27.53±0.94	31.90±0.95	28.57±0.12	28.90±0.40
TNEAA	365.93±8.05	364.77±3.00	372.30±3.84	363.90±3.80	373.20±3.40
DAA	276.23±3.27 ^a	276.37±2.30 ^a	278.73±1.59 ^{ab}	275.50±2.21 ^a	283.20±3.53 ^b
TAA	734.47±6.72	729.07±6.19	743.47±6.31	733.20±9.79	745.53±8.59

Values in the same row with different superscripts alphabets indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$) ($n = 3$). EAA, essential amino acids; NEAA, non-essential amino acids; TEAA, total essential amino acids; TNEAA, total non-essential amino acids; DAA (Asp, Gly, Glu, Ala), delicious amino acids; TAA, total amino acids.

Table V.- Effects of *Eucommia ulmoides* Oliver bark aqueous extract on muscle fatty acid composition of rainbow trout (g kg⁻¹, dry matter).

Fatty acids	EUO-0	EUO-5	EUO-10	EUO-20	EUO-40
C8:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C10:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C11:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C12:0	0.55±0.050	0.55±0.042	0.56±0.021	0.55±0.058	0.54±0.010
C13:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C14:0	47.87±1.20	48.32±0.42	48.82±0.53	48.75±1.01	48.72±1.87
C15:0	5.34±0.078	5.23±0.028	5.21±0.13	5.09±0.045	5.13±0.058
C16:0	207.68±0.60	206.28±4.40	210.87±5.43	207.46±4.46	209.16±1.17
C17:0	3.17±0.076	3.17±0.068	3.10±0.045	3.05±0.080	3.11±0.012
C18:0	45.26±0.74 ^{ab}	44.46±0.69 ^a	46.63±0.12 ^b	45.29±0.56 ^{ab}	45.10±0.41 ^{ab}
C20:0	0.76±0.014	0.86±0.046	0.81±0.064	0.81±0.060	0.82±0.012
C21:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C20:2	0.92±0.020	0.99±0.017	0.91±0.026	0.96±0.042	0.97±0.064
C22:0	1.44±0.051 ^{ab}	1.42±0.087 ^{ab}	1.48±0.025 ^b	1.37±0.047 ^a	1.44±0.032 ^{ab}
C23:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C24:0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C14:1	0.41±0.025	0.41±0.032	0.42±0.0058	0.44±0.012	0.40±0.015
C15:1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
C16:1	68.35±2.13	69.06±3.42	68.86±2.24	70.57±1.98	67.96±3.06
C17:1	6.41±0.088	5.93±0.022	5.83±0.055	6.05±0.027	5.95±0.042
C18:1- trans(n-9)	1.11±0.026	1.08±0.012	1.16±0.049	1.28±0.018	1.12±0.032
C18:1-cis (n-9)	230.23±0.79	229.66±3.25	230.95±0.65	232.20±3.60	225.77±1.67
C20:1n-9	5.71±0.15	6.07±0.054	5.95±0.12	6.00±0.037	6.27±0.12
C22:1n-9	1.14±0.036 ^a	1.14±0.012 ^a	1.39±0.011 ^b	1.31±0.034 ^{ab}	1.29±0.015 ^{ab}
C24:1n-9	2.39±0.024	2.43±0.015	2.46±0.013	2.44±0.071	2.53±0.067
C18:2-trans(n-6)	0.82±0.018	0.83±0.018	0.86±0.027	0.73±0.056	1.27±0.016
C18:2-cis(n-6)	163.83±1.99	162.79±4.13	154.84±3.52	157.19±3.54	154.43±4.79
C18:3n-3	20.49±0.57	20.47±0.21	19.23±0.29	19.64±0.67	19.48±0.33
C18:3n-6	4.09±0.045 ^b	3.16±0.015 ^a	3.59±0.079 ^{ab}	3.43±0.053 ^{ab}	2.92±0.068 ^a
C20:3n-3	1.46±0.061	1.52±0.014	1.55±0.040	1.46±0.042	1.42±0.049
C20:3n-6	11.30±0.26	10.89±0.19	10.84±0.30	10.88±0.25	10.82±0.18
C20:4n-6	6.97±0.035	6.91±0.075	7.18±0.036	6.88±0.064	7.26±0.026
C20:5n-3	54.53±1.47	56.12±1.21	54.92±1.04	55.40±1.34	57.08±1.11
C22:2	4.92±0.014	5.37±0.042	5.10±0.018	4.98±0.039	5.22±0.22
C22:5n-3	13.62±0.20 ^a	14.09±0.097 ^a	13.84±0.056 ^a	14.06±0.37 ^a	15.51±0.090 ^b
C22:6n-3	89.21±2.57 ^a	90.79±3.66 ^a	92.64±2.33 ^a	91.72±3.06 ^a	98.30±3.18 ^b
Σ SFA _s ^a	312.08±1.32	310.28±4.63	317.49±5.34	312.05±6.68	314.02±2.98
Σ UFA _s ^b	687.92±0.31	689.72±4.63	682.52±5.34	687.95±6.69	685.98±2.98
Σ MUFA _s ^c	315.75±0.98	315.79±7.27	317.01±7.05	320.30±5.31	311.29±5.70
Σ PUFA _s ^d	372.17±1.25	373.93±6.64	365.51±4.55	367.65±4.67	374.69±8.53
Σ PUFA _s n-3 ^e	179.31±1.50 ^a	183.00±5.12 ^a	182.19±2.81 ^a	182.27±3.47 ^a	191.79±3.53 ^b
Σ PUFA _s n-6 ^f	188.01±4.06	184.58±3.38	177.30±3.77	179.43±2.80	176.71±5.25
n-3/n-6	0.95±0.027	0.99±0.078	1.03±0.028	1.02±0.055	1.09±0.015
IA ^g	0.59±0.0087	0.59±0.0081	0.60±0.013	0.59±0.016	0.60±0.015
IT ^h	0.33±0.00090	0.33±0.0099	0.34±0.0056	0.33±0.0059	0.32±0.0064

^aSaturated fatty acid; ^bUnstaturated fatty acid; ^cMonounstaturated fatty acid; ^dPolyunstaturated fatty acid; ^en-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids; ^fn-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids; ^gIndex of atherogenicity = (12:0 + 4 × 14:0 + 16:0)/[(n-6 + n-3) PUFA + 18:1 + the sum of other MUFA] (Suárez *et al.*, 2014); ^hIndex of thrombogenicity = (14:0 + 16:0 + 18:0)/[0.5 × 18:1 + 0.5 × Σ MUFA_s + 0.5 × Σ PUFA_s n-6 + 3 × Σ PUFA_s n-3 + (n-3/n-6)] (Suárez *et al.*, 2014). ND, not detected. Values in the same row with different superscripts indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$) (n=3).

than those fed the other diets ($p < 0.05$). Fish fed EUO-0 and EUO-5 diets had lower Phe than that fed EUO-40 diet ($p < 0.05$). Fish fed EUO-0, EUO-10 and EUO-20 diets had lower Gly than that fed EUO-40 diet ($P < 0.05$). Fish fed EUO-40 diet had the highest Ala among all groups ($p < 0.05$). And fish fed EUO-0 diet had lower Ala than that fed EUO-20 and EUO-40 diets ($p < 0.05$), but had higher Ala than that fed EUO-5 diet ($p < 0.05$). Fish fed EUO-40 diets had higher DAA than that fed EUO-0, EUO-5 and EUO-20 diets ($p < 0.05$). However, TEAA, TNEAA, TAA levels in muscle were not significantly influenced by the dietary different aqueous extract from EUO levels ($p > 0.05$).

As shown in Table V, the levels of most fatty acids were similar in muscle of fish fed different diet. The fatty acids in fish showed that the most abundant component was 18:1-cis (n-9) with values from 225.77 to 232.20 g kg⁻¹, but there were also rich in 16:0, 18:2-cis (n-6) with an interval from 206.28 to 210.87 g kg⁻¹, 154.43 to 163.83 g kg⁻¹, respectively. 22:1n-9 in muscle of EUO-0, EUO-5 group was lower than that of EUO-10 group ($p < 0.05$). 18:3n-6 in muscle of EUO-0 group was higher than that of EUO-5 and EUO-40 groups ($p < 0.05$). 22:5n-3, 22:6n-3, Σ PUFAs n-3 in muscle of EUO-40 group was significantly higher than those in muscle of other groups ($p < 0.05$), but there was no significant difference on 22:5n-3, 22:6n-3, Σ PUFAs n-3 in muscle among EUO-0, EUO-5, EUO-10 and EUO-20 groups ($p > 0.05$).

DISCUSSION

The current study showed no improvement in growth performance by dietary aqueous extract of EUO. Similarly, Sun *et al.* (2018) found that dietary 20.00 g kg⁻¹ aqueous extract (water-soluble) and residue (water-insoluble) of EUO could not cause positive effect of the growth in *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (initial body weight, 47.1 ± 0.8 g). However, some studies showed the positive effects of dietary EUO on the growth performance of culture animals. Another study by Sun *et al.* (2017b) indicated that WG of *C. idella* (initial body weight, 95.2 ± 0.6 g) was significantly increased by 20.00 g kg⁻¹ aqueous extract (water-soluble) and residue (water-insoluble) of EUO. The inconsistent results of *C. idella* were probably due to the differences in body size, producing area, processing method, storing time and active compound content in EUO. And dietary 20.00 and 30.00 g kg⁻¹ aqueous extract (water-soluble) and residue (water-insoluble) of EUO significantly increased the WG of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Liu, 2013). In the study by Wang *et al.* (2007), 1.5 g kg⁻¹ dietary EUO promoted the daily weight gain in pig. Meng *et al.* (2007) found that 1.5 g kg⁻¹ EUO powder significantly increased WG in *C. idella* (initial body weight, 37.0 ± 3.0 g). The supplementation of 40.0 g kg⁻¹

EUO leaf powder significantly increased WG in *C. idella* (initial body weight, 425.8 ± 37.6 g) (Leng *et al.*, 2008), and 1.5 g kg⁻¹ EUO leaf extract significantly increased SGR in *Carassius auratus gibelio* (Shi *et al.*, 2008). The inconsistent reports of different species were probably ascribed to the species, body size, diet composition, environment, feeding period, active compounds contents of EUO from different parts and locations, *etc.* Zhou *et al.* (2009) reported that there are significant differences in the components and their contents of the relevant essential oil and flavones from EUO barks and leaves. Liu *et al.* (2015) found that there are some regional differences of contents of five main effective components (aucubin, geniposidic acid, chlorogenic acid, catechin and rutin) in EUO leaf. There were no significant differences in HSI, VSI, and CF among all groups in this study, which were similar to the report of crucian carp (Shi *et al.*, 2008) and grass carp (Sun *et al.*, 2017a, b, 2018).

In the present study, no effect of dietary EUO was observed in muscle moisture, crude protein, and crude ash contents of rainbow trout, as reported for *C. auratus gibelio* (Meng *et al.*, 2007), *L. vannamei* (Liu, 2013), *C. idella* (Sun *et al.*, 2017a, b). The lipid storage is one of the key factors in determining skeletal muscle quality. In previous studies, Sun *et al.* (2018) found that dietary EUO could decrease muscle lipid content of *C. idella*. However, the other studies by Sun *et al.* (2017a, b) indicated that there was no significant difference in muscle lipid content of *C. idella* fed EUO-supplemented diet and control diet, which was similar to the studies of *L. vannamei* (Liu, 2013), *C. auratus gibelio* (Shi *et al.*, 2008), *Anguilla japonica* (Tanimoto *et al.*, 1993a). At present, the result showed that dietary EUO significantly increased the lipid content in muscle. The result was in line with previous studies in some domestic animals such as pig (Wang *et al.*, 2007), sheep (Yang *et al.*, 2017). It is probably due to the regulation of lipid metabolism and distribution by EUO, which could lower serum lipid levels and increase the muscle crude lipid contents (Yang *et al.*, 2017).

Amino acids are known as anabolic factors, which induce protein gain by stimulating protein synthesis while inhibiting proteolysis (Li *et al.*, 2007; Métayer *et al.*, 2008). Sun *et al.* (2017a) found that the supplementation of EUO into diet showed significantly improved the threonine (Thr), valine (Val), isoleucine (Ile), leucine (Leu), lysine (Lys), arginine (Arg), proline (Pro), total amino acids (TAA) level in muscle of *C. idella*. The study of Sun *et al.* (2018) reported that dietary EUO significantly promoted the muscle Arg, aspartic acid (Asp), tyrosine (Tyr), Pro, total nonessential amino acids (TNEAA), delicious amino acids (DAA), TAA levels in *C. idella*. In the study by Wang *et al.* (2012), dietary EUO promoted the generation of serine (Ser), glutamic acid (Glu) and lys in

the muscle of chickens. The present results indicated that phenylalanine (Phe), glycine (Gly), alanine (Ala), DAA in muscle were increased by the supplementation of high levels of EUO. The higher EAA content in muscle means better nutritional value for human. The fresh taste of meat is fundamentally influenced by the content of DAA. Thus it can be seen that dietary EUO can improve the contents of part EAA and DAA in muscle of animals. This may be due to the chlorogenic acid and geniposidic acid, which are the most important bioactive compounds in EU. Sun *et al.* (2017a) showed that the supplementation of 400-800 mg/kg chlorogenic acid significantly increased the contents of TEAA and TAA in muscle of grass carp. Zheng *et al.* (2014) found that dietary chlorogenic acid increased serum Gly level and liver glutathione level of rat. Sun *et al.* (2018) reported that TNEAA, TAA, DAA in muscle of grass carp were increased by the supplementation of high levels of geniposidic acid. However, we do not know the mechanism of the increased amino acids by EUO or active ingredients of EUO.

Fatty acid composition is an important characteristic of lipid and oil. In this study, 22:1n-9 content in muscle examined are positively correlated to high level of EUO in diet. This is most likely because of EUO contains 22:1n-9 (Liu, 2013), which were accumulated in muscle of fish fed EUO diets. Our results showed that 18:3n-6 content in muscle of fish fed EUO diet was lower than that of fish fed control diet, especial for EUO-5 and EUO-40 groups. Similarly, 18:2n-6 content in muscle was decreased with the increasing of EUO level in diets. Contrary to 18:2n-6 and 18:3n-6, 20:4n-6 content in muscle of EUO-10 and EUO-40 groups examined were slightly above that of control group. It is possible that rainbow trout has capacity to convert 18:2n-6 to 20:4n-6 (from 18:2n-6 to 18:3n-6, and eventually to 20:4n-6) (Thanuthong *et al.*, 2011; Dernekbası and Karatas, 2020). At present, there has been no study on the effect of EUO on muscle fatty acid composition of aquatic animal. Results of this report showed that muscle 22:5n-3 and 22:6n-3 contents were significantly increased by the supplementation of EUO-40 in diet. This may be due to the chlorogenic acid in EUO. Kühn *et al.* (2017) found that there was a tendency to increase C22:6n-3 levels in the liver of Atlantic salmon fed chlorogenic acid diets. The chlorogenic acid is an ester of caffeic acid and quinic acid present in coffee and various other plants, such as EUO, fruits, vegetables, black teas, soybeans and wheat (Sun *et al.*, 2017b). Chlorogenic acid inclusion seems to affect lipid metabolism. The antioxidant capacity of Chlorogenic acid may delay the oxidation of lipids. And it not only promotes β -oxidation of lipids but also induces n-3 LC-PUFA syntheses via transcriptional control of fatty acid elongases and desaturases through increased the expression of the perxisome proliferator-

activated receptor α (Rakhshandehroo *et al.*, 2007; Kühn *et al.*, 2017). However, it did not showed dose-dependent between chlorogenic acid addition level and muscle n-3 LC-PUFA level in this study.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrates that the supplementation of EUO could improve flesh quality without negative effects on growth performance of juvenile rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. The supplemental level of EUO was estimate to be a 40.00 g kg⁻¹ diet.

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Statement of conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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