BIOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF *Hermetia illucens*: A BASE FOR PROSPECTIVE USE OF LARVAL BIOMASS IN YOUNG PIG FOOD

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ABSTRACT

The prospects of use of the *Hermetia illucens* larvae for feeding young pigs have been discussed. At rearing on forage grains, the larvae contain in their body 38% of protein, 39% of fat, 5% of chitin. The *Hermetia illucens* larvae are featured with high nutritive value and comprise a rich amino acid content. Saturated acids, 49% of which is lauric acid, prevail in the composition. A physiological experiment has demonstrated the possibility of effective replacement of 5% fish meal with 7% dried *Hermetia illucens* larvae in animals’ ration. That resulted in pig’s average daily living weight growth of 6.7% as well as in decrease of mixed fodder consumption by 8% per 1 kg of weight gain. The possibility of use of insect micro dosage in mixed fodders for pigs, as a complex probiotic preparation component, has been also demonstrated. Adding the component in the amount of 0.5 kg/t of complex preparation enhanced the daily pigs’ weight growth by 14% at lowering the fodder consumption by 12%.

**Keywords:** food additive, edible insects, *Hermetia illucens*, fish meal, probiotic, mixed fodder, pigs

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