

Culturing Microworms

ANGFA Victoria

Information Sheet 1

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Key Advantage

Fry respond better to moving food than dry food, or even frozen micro-foods. Microworms are possibly the second best food for fry, after paramecium. And it's pretty easy & very cheap to maintain a constant supply of this food.

And it works! Even some of the bigger fish like adult blue-eyes, go for them.

What you will need

1. 3 plastic containers like those flat Chinese food containers, although Décor are better. The lids are easier to take on and off. I use the 2 litre ones.
2. Dry yeast eg. Tandaco
3. Rolled oats
4. A starter culture of Microworms (available from the trade table of ANGFA Victoria)
5. A system. Most people who lose their cultures do so because there isn't a regular maintenance pattern!

The process

- Drill 10 or so small holes (3mm) in the lids of your containers. Number these clearly so they don't get mixed up in the maintenance cycle.
- Place $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cup of rolled oats and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water in a microwaveable container & heat on high for $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes.
- When cooled, add 2 teaspoons of yeast to the culture & mix in.
- Add your starter culture
- Store in a warm & preferably dimly lit place.

Harvesting

Many people float polystyrene blocks on the culture & just rinse that in the tank water. Others make rafts of icy-pole sticks which seem to inevitably sink in the mixture.

I seem to get enough crawling up the sides of the container so that I just run my finger around & then into the tank.

Maintenance

1. After one week I start another culture with part of the old & add a slice of (plain) wholemeal bread to the previous culture. At this stage it's just hypothetical that cultures last longer with wholemeal than white bread.
2. The following week I repeat step one & add another slice to the original culture.
3. Next week: discard the original culture & start that one fresh with a porridge mixture. Add slices of wholemeal to the other 2 cultures.

Further Information

Attend an ANGFA VIC meeting and ask an ANGFA member for practical tips on Microworms. Meetings held the 1st Friday every second month starting February. Or go to www.angfavic.org