

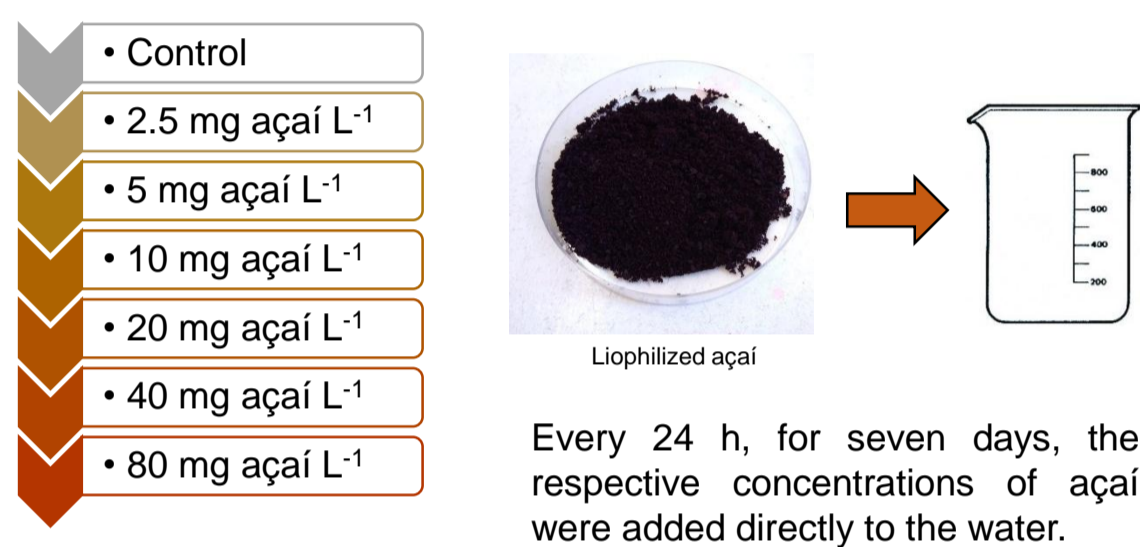
INTRODUCTION

In addition to acting in the maintenance of water quality and serving as a supplementary food source for reared organisms, the bioflocs have in their composition bioactive compounds with antioxidant activity. Moreover, bioflocs can incorporate antioxidants added exogenously to the BFT system. The Amazon fruit *Euterpe oleracea* is composed of large amounts of several phytochemicals, including phenolic compounds, which together give this fruit high antioxidant capacity. In this context, the present study aimed to evaluate the capacity of bioflocs to assimilate and transfer the bioactive compounds present in açai fruit to post-larvae of *L. vannamei* cultivated in BFT system, through the analysis of antioxidant and oxidative damage responses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

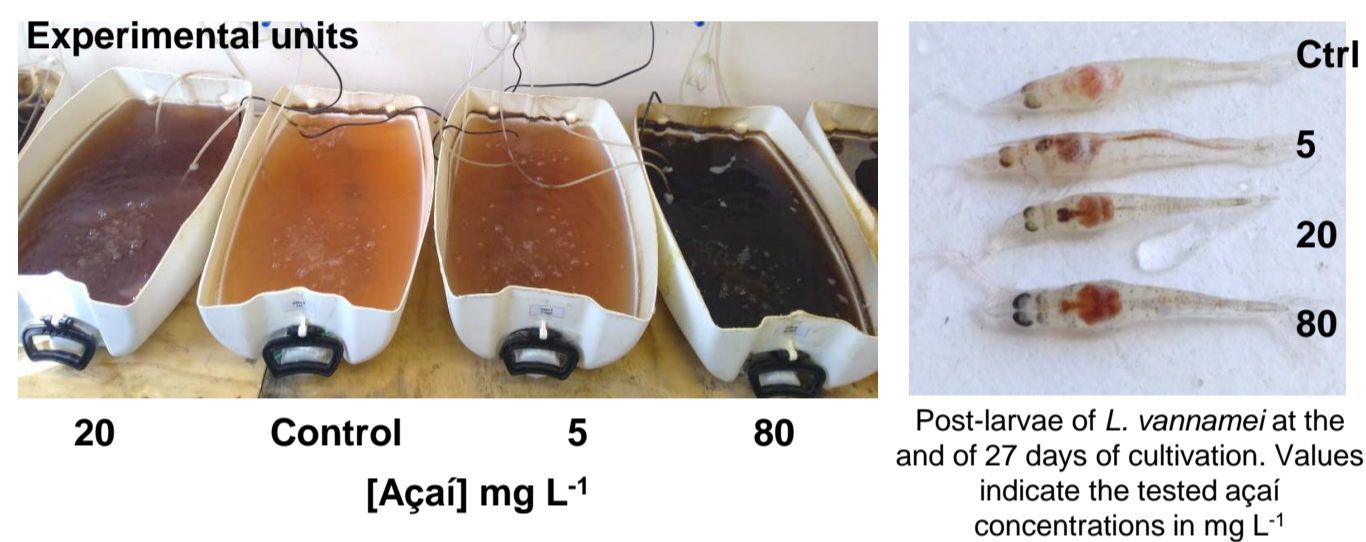
First Experiment

21 beakers with an useful volume of 1 liter were employed and randomly distributed in seven treatments, all in triplicate, with constant aeration:



Second Experiment

From the results of the first experiment, three concentrations of açai, beyond to the control treatment, added daily in the water, were tested in triplicate in the cultivation of post-larvae for an experimental period of 27 days. Shrimps of stage PL23 were stored at a density of 30 shrimps/L in 12 tanks (20 liters).



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

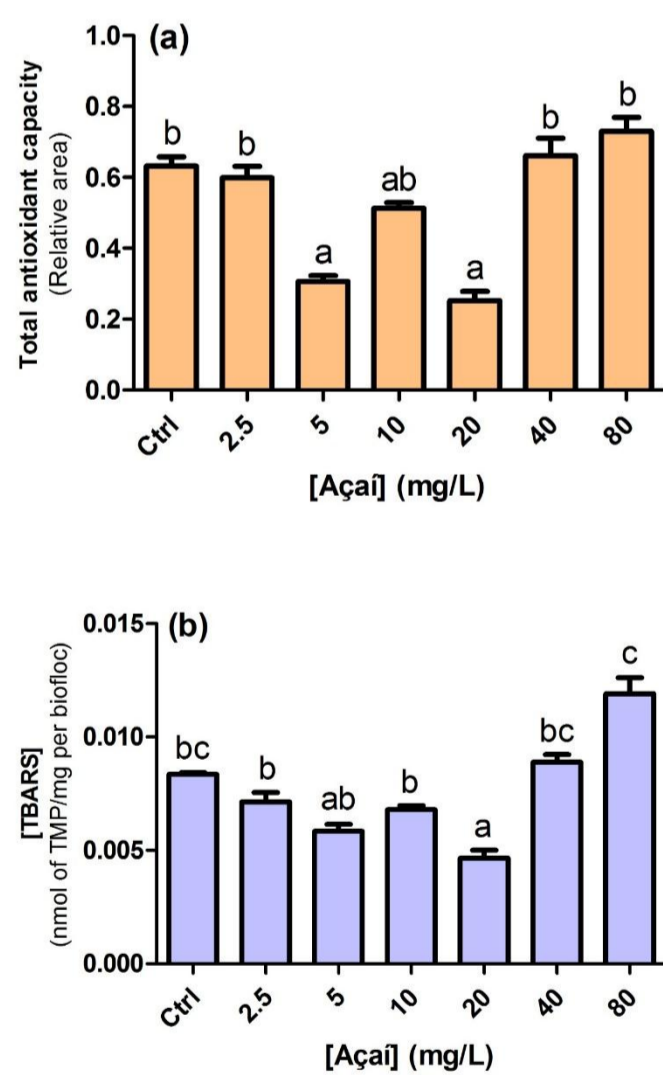


Figure 1. Values of total antioxidant capacity against peroxy radicals (expressed in relative area) (A) and content of substances reactive to thiobarbituric acid (B) in bioflocs from a BFT system without shrimps after addition of different concentration of lyophilized açai for seven days.

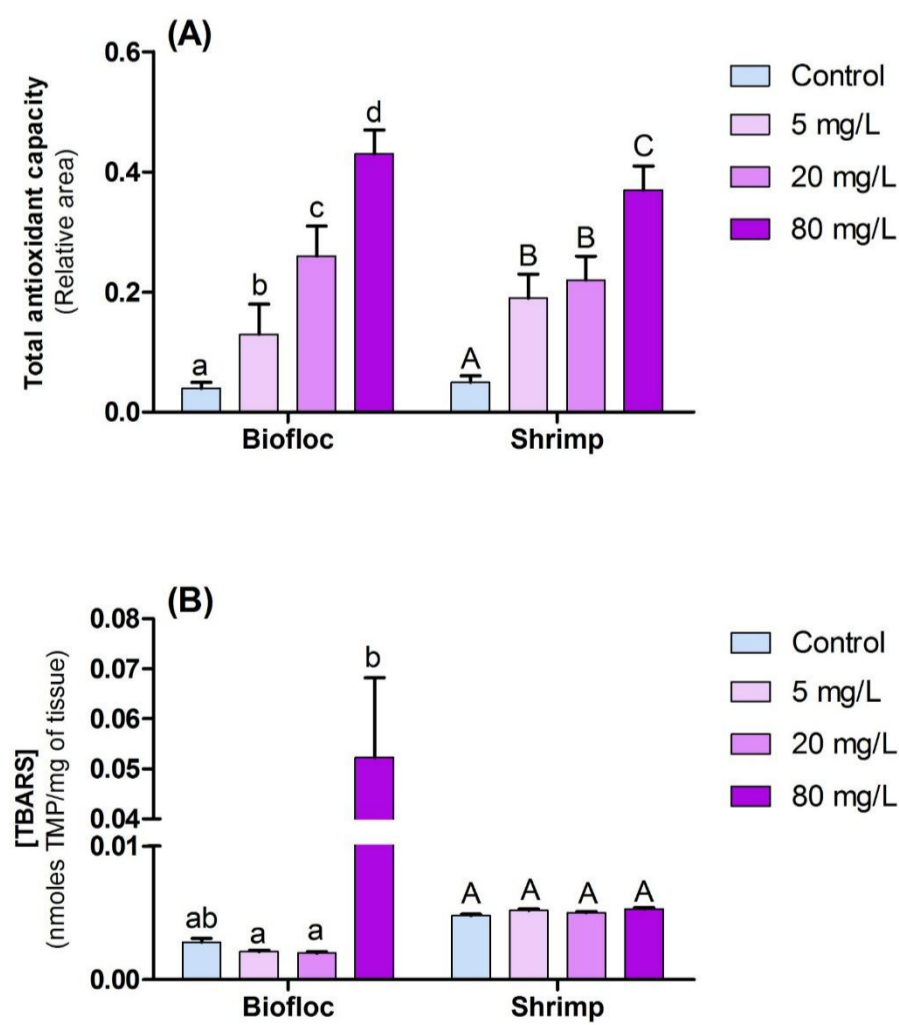


Figure 2. Values of total antioxidant capacity against peroxy radicals (expressed in relative area) (A) and content of substances reactive to thiobarbituric acid (B) in bioflocs and of *L. vannamei* shrimps post-larvae after addition of different concentration of lyophilized açai for 27 days.

Table 1. Zootechnical parameters of *Litopenaeus vannamei* shrimp post-larvae reared in Biofloc Technology System (BFT) with different concentrations of açai added every day during 27 days.

Parameters	Treatments			
	Control	5 mg/L	20 mg/L	80 mg/L
Initial weight (g)	0.013 ± 0.001 ^a	0.013 ± 0.001 ^a	0.013 ± 0.001 ^a	0.013 ± 0.001 ^a
Final weight (g)	0.065 ± 0.004 ^a	0.072 ± 0.004 ^a	0.087 ± 0.005 ^b	0.072 ± 0.004 ^a
Initial length (cm)	1.354 ± 0.039 ^a	1.354 ± 0.039 ^a	1.354 ± 0.039 ^a	1.354 ± 0.039 ^a
Final length (cm)	2.261 ± 0.052 ^a	2.289 ± 0.049 ^a	2.424 ± 0.048 ^a	2.216 ± 0.040 ^a
Final biomass (g)	34.12 ± 1.17 ^{ab}	35.89 ± 2.56 ^{ab}	39.90 ± 1.18 ^b	26.51 ± 3.77 ^a
Survival (%)	65.94 ± 1.83 ^a	81.89 ± 0.28 ^b	81.22 ± 2.56 ^b	78.89 ± 3.24 ^b

In the first experiment, it was observed an increase in the antioxidant capacity against peroxy radicals (lower relative area) of bioflocs ($p < 0.05$) at concentrations of 5.0 and 20.0 mg açai L⁻¹ (Figure 1A), and a decrease in lipid peroxidation (TBARS) at a concentration of 20 mg açai L⁻¹ (Figure 1B). The higher antioxidant capacity against peroxy radicals is important for the interception of by-products of lipid peroxidation that include lipid peroxy radicals, resulting in lower damage lipid in bioflocs.

In the second experiment, shrimps from treatments with açai showed greater survival ($p < 0.05$) and higher final weight at the concentration of 20 mg açai L⁻¹ ($p < 0.05$) (Table 1). Beyond the action of bioactive compounds present in açai, one hypothesis for the increase in survival observed in all treatments that received açai is due to a greater supply of food in the cultivation, because besides the ration, the post-larvae also directly ingested the offered açai, which is rich in saturated and unsaturated fatty acids that are used in metabolic routes for energy production.

The bioflocs and shrimp lost antioxidant capacity (greater relative area) with increasing concentration of açai ($p < 0.05$) (Figure 2A). The decrease in antioxidant competence may be related the pro-oxidant action of açai due to the great amount and diversity of antioxidant molecules present in this fruit, which, when absorbed and metabolized, can generate pro-oxidant conditions. Furthermore, the greater growth observed in post-larvae that received açai may have induced an increase in metabolism, generating more reactive oxygen species and thus contributing to the decrease in antioxidant capacity. TBARS levels of the biofloc was lower in the concentrations of 5.0 and 20.0 mg açai L⁻¹ when compared with 80 mg açai L⁻¹ ($p < 0.05$). For shrimps, no statistical differences ($p > 0.05$) in TBARS levels were observed between treatments (Figure 2).

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that biofloc are capable of assimilating part of the antioxidant compounds influencing the zootechnical parameters and redox state of the shrimp.