# Proximate composition and fatty acids profiles of *Artemia* cysts, and nauplii from different geographical regions of Iran

# Peykaran Mana N. 1\*; Vahabzadeh H.<sup>2</sup>; Seidgar M.<sup>3</sup>; Hafezieh M.<sup>4</sup> Pourali H. R.<sup>5</sup>

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#### **Abstract**

Artemia has been widely used in aquaculture as a suitable live food. The presence of highly unsaturated fatty acids is a key factor that determines the nutritional value and marketing of Artemia for shrimp, marine larvae, sturgeon and ornamental fish industries. To determine the variation in nutritional content in cysts, decapsulated cysts and nauplii of Artemia from three different biotopes of Iran, were tested for their protein, lipid, energy, and fatty acid profiles, particularly essential fatty acids. The cysts collected from Urmia, Maharlou and Meighan lakes, were rinsed, processed, decapsulated, hatched and then analyzed for proximate and fatty acid composition using standard methods. Statistical comparisons of the results revealed significant differences not only in proximate composition but also in fatty acid contents (p<0.05). The highest mean  $(\pm SD)$  level of protein  $(60.5\pm3.3 \%)$ , lipid  $(18.60\pm1.1\%)$  and energy contents (5448.3±10.4 Kcal/kg) were observed in Instar I nauplii hatched from Urmia Lake cysts, Instar I nauplii hatched from Maharlou Lake cyst and Instar I nauplii hatched from Urmia Lake decapsulated cyst, respectively. The highest content of DHA (0.78 mg/g DW) was observed in nauplii of cysts from Urmia Lake; whereas, it was around zero in other samples. The highest level of EPA (24.24 mg/g DW) was measured in nauplii from Maharlou Lake decapsulated cysts and the lowest (0.24 mg/g DW) was observed in Urmia lake cysts. The results revealed that the nauplii from decapsulated cysts of Maharlou Lake Artemia contained significantly higher levels of EPA and n-3 HUFA compared to others. Therefore, it is recommended to use it in aquatic larviculture.

Keywords: Artemia, cyst, Decapsulated cyst, Nauplii, Nutritional value, Fatty Acid Profile

<sup>1-</sup>International Sturgeon Research Institute, Rasht, P. O. Box 41635-3464.

<sup>2-</sup>Islamic Azad University, Lahijan Branch, Iran. P.O. Box: 1616

<sup>3-</sup> Iranian Artemia Research Center, Urmia, Iran

<sup>4-</sup> Iranian Fisheries Research Organization, Tehran, Iran

<sup>5-</sup> International Sturgeon Research Institute, Rasht, P.O. Box: 41635-3464.

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author's email: nemat44p@gmail.com

### Introduction

Although Artemia has been known for centuries, its uses in fish larviculture began in the 1930 (Lavens and Sorgeloos, 1996). There is an increasing demand for Artemia products that led to its huge supply from natural habitats and its culture in pools, ponds and salt water lakes. Because of their use in aquaculture and their direct impact on survival rates and growth of sensitive larval stages of shrimp and marine fish, Artemia cysts, decapsulated cysts and nauplii have been extensively studied as to their biochemical composition, especially the fatty acid profiles (Bengtson et al., 1991, Lavens and Sorgeloos, 1996). The level of essential fatty acids eicosa pentaenoic acid (20: 5-ώ3) and docosahexaenoic acid (22:6 ώ3) are a very important factor to determine the dietary value of Artemia for (Sargent *et al.*, 1997), marine fish crustacean larvae (Kayama et al., 1980; Mourente and Rodriguez, 1997) and bivalves (Langdon and Waldock, 1981;

Caers et al., 1998) feeding. However, their levels reveal a distinct variability among different Artemia populations even within the same strain and different sampling times depending their feeding regimes and climatological conditions (Leger et al., 1986; Lavens et al., 1989). Little work on this matter is carried out in Iran (Ahmadi et al., 1990; Agh and Hosseini Ghatre, 2002) and comparative studies on Artemia from different geographical regions are not available. The present study analyzed the proximate and fatty acid composition of some Artemia cysts and nauplii from different geographical regions in Iran.

# Materials and methods

The geographical position and other specifications of study regions is shown in Table 1 and Fig.1. Water salinity was measured in all sampling areas by a refractometer ATAGO-Japan (Table 1). All cysts collected by a 100µ mesh size net sampler. After collection, cysts separated and purified from mud, algae and *Artemia* carcass.

Table 1: The specifications of sampling area.

Region	Position	Altitude from Sea level (m)	Situation	Area (Km²)	Salinity (g/L)
Urmia Lake	37 ° 20' N 45° 40' E	1278	17 km East of Urmia	5750-6000	320
Maharlou Lake	29 ° 32' N 52° 42'E	1455- 2990	27 km South-East of Shiraz	216	250
Meighan Lake	34 ° 9'N 49° 55'E	1660	17 km North-East of Arak	545.3	96

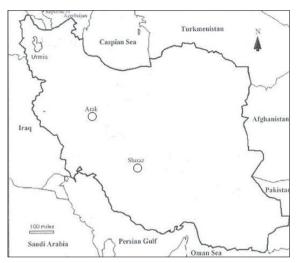


Figure 1: The geographical position of sampling areas.

Artemia cysts of 3 geographical regions in Iran (Urmia, Maharlou and Meighan lakes) were collected, hatched according to Sorgeloos et al. (1997). Moreover, some cysts were decapsulated according to Bruggeman et al. (1980). The nutritional composition of cysts, decapsulated cysts and Instar I nauplii were analyzed using Kieldahl, Soxhlet and calorimetry methods (Hafezieh et al., 2010). Fatty acid profile of Artemia cyst, decapsulated cyst and newly hatched nauplii of each of the 3 Artemia populations was determined using weight. All data were statistically analyzed using Excel and SPSS v. 19. One Way ANOVA-Duncan after test. the normality's were stabilized by PP. Plot, SPSS V.

#### **Results**

Data on nutritional value including moisture, protein, lipid, carbon hydrate, capillary gas chromatography Agilent-6890-USA. Decapsulated cysts or Nauplii were homogenized, then lipid extraction, saponification and esterification were done according to Schauer et al. (1980) and Folch et al. (1957). Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) were injected on a capillary column (30m fused silka, ID: 0.32 mm and thickness of  $0.25\mu m$ ). laver identifications and quantification was done with reference standards. The results are **FAME** presented as area-percent composition and as mg FAMEg-1 dry calcium, phosphorus, ash, fiber and energy of Artemia cyst and nauplii hatched from decapsulated and non-decapsulated cysts from 3 geographical regions in Iran, are shown in Table 2. Fatty acid profiles of each sample (Area % and mg /g DW) are shown in Tables 6.

Table 2: Artemia cyst composition analysis of three geographical regions in Iran (Mean  $\pm$  SD).

Nutrients (%)	Region					
Nutrients (70)	Meighan Lake	Maharlou Lake	Urmia Lake			
Moisture	0.1±0.001°	$0.6\pm0.001^{b}$	2±0.001a			
Protein	$49.7 \pm 7.0^{b}$	58.6±8.1a	$57.5 \pm 6.2^{a}$			
Lipid	7.67±0.7	6.62±0.6	7.15±0.6			
Carbon hydrate	28.13±3.1ª	27.68±3.2a	$24.25 \pm 2.7^{b}$			
Calcium	1.3±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	$0.42 \pm 0.2^{b}$	$0.35{\pm}0.2^b$			
Phosphorus	0.43±0.1	$0.46 \pm 0.1$	$0.4\pm0.1$			
Ash	11.6±1.1 <sup>a</sup>	$4.1 \pm 0.5^{b}$	$3.6{\pm}0.4^b$			
Fiber	2.8±0.5	2.4±0.4	2.5±0.4			
Energy (Kcal/kg)	3803.5±10.4 <sup>b</sup>	3953±11.1ª	3977±11.8a			

Different superscript letters in each row show significant differences ( $p \le 0.05$ ).

Table 3: Analyses of ingredients of Instar I nauplii hatched from *Artemia* cysts of three geographical regions in Iran (Mean  $\pm$  SD).

Nutrients (%)	Region					
11441161165 (70)	Meighan Lake	Maharlou Lake	Urmia Lake			
Moisture	1.7±0.9 <sup>b</sup>	1.9±0.8 <sup>b</sup>	2.7±0.7a			
Protein	53.7±3.1°	$57.7 \pm 2.0^{b}$	60.5±3.3a			
Lipid	12.42±3.1 <sup>b</sup>	18.60±1.1a	$12.38\pm3.5^{b}$			
Carbon Hydrate	$24.38 \pm 6.5^{a}$	13.7±8.5 <sup>b</sup>	$21.85\pm6.3^{a}$			
Calcium	$0.35\pm0.1$	$0.46\pm0.1$	$0.58\pm0.1$			
Phosphorus	$0.47 \pm 0.1$	$0.57 \pm 0.1$	$0.67 \pm 0.1$			
Ash	$6.1\pm2.5^{a}$	$6.1\pm2.5^{a}$	$0.67 \pm 0.1^{b}$			
Fiber	$1.7 \pm 0.5$	2±0.5	$1.9\pm0.5$			
Energy (Kcal/kg)	$4241 \pm 10.4^{b}$	4530±10.4a	$4408.2\pm10.4^{a}$			

Different superscript letters in each row show significant difference  $(p \le 0.05)$ .

Table 4: Analyses of Artemia decapsulated cyst composition of 3 geographical regions in Iran (Mean  $\pm$  SD).

	Region						
Nutrients (%)	Meighan Lake	Maharlou Lake	Urmia Lake				
Moisture	1.7±0.8 <sup>a</sup>	0.5±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	1.4±0.7 <sup>a</sup>				
Protein	51.7±3.0	52.5±3.0	$50.7 \pm 2.0$				
Lipid	$9.7 \pm 1.1^{b}$	$9.34\pm1.2^{b}$	11.87±2.1a				
Carbon Hydrate	$29.9 \pm 1.0^{a}$	$26.54 \pm 1.8^{b}$	28.73±2.1a				
Calcium	$0.45 \pm 0.1$	$0.42\pm0.1$	$0.32\pm0.1$				
Phosphorus	$0.5\pm0.1$	$0.46 \pm 0.1$	$0.4\pm0.1$				
Ash	5.1±1.1	6.2±1.1	5.2±1.1				
Fiber	$1.9\pm0.6^{a}$	$0.42 \pm 0.1^{b}$	$2.1\pm0.5^{a}$				
Energy (Kcal/kg)	$4137 \pm 10.4^{ab}$	$4002.2 \pm 10.4^{b}$	$4245.5 \pm 10.4^a$				

Different superscript letters in each row show significant difference  $(p \le 0.05)$ .

Table 5: Analyses of Instar I nauplii composition from decapsulated *Artemia* cyst of three geographical regions in Iran (Mean  $\pm$  SD).

Nutrients (%)	Region				
	— Meighan Lake	Maharlou Lake	Urmia Lake		
Moisture	2±0.7	1.3±0.6	2±0.7		
Protein	52.5±2.1 <sup>b</sup>	56.8±1.1a	$52.5 \pm 2.2^{b}$		
Lipid	$14.07 \pm 1.1^{b}$	16.62±2.1a	13.91±0.9b		
Carbon Hydrate	$25.23\pm3.1^{ab}$	$23.18\pm2.1^{b}$	29.91±3.1a		
Calcium	$0.4\pm0.1$	$0.30\pm0.1$	$0.4\pm0.1$		
Phosphorus	$0.58\pm0.1$	$0.62\pm0.1$	$0.58\pm0.1$		
Ash	5.1±1.1 <sup>a</sup>	1±2.1 <sup>b</sup>	$0.58\pm0.1^{b}$		
Fiber	$1.1\pm0.1$	$1.1 \pm 0.1$	$1.1\pm0.1$		
Energy (Kcal/kg)	4375.5±10.4b	$4695 \pm 10.4^{ab}$	5448.3±10.4a		

Energy (Kcal/kg)  $43/5.5\pm10.4^{\circ}$   $4695\pm10.4^{\circ}$  Different superscript letters in each row show significant difference  $(p\leq0.05)$ .

Table 6: Fatty acid profile of Artemia cysts from 3 geographical regions of Iran.

	Meighan La		Maharlou La		Urmia Lake	
Fatty acids	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)
C14:0						
C14:1n5	1.68	2.19	1.30	1.97	1.47	2.06
C16:0	0.91	1.18	0.81	1.23	0.76	1.06
C16: 1n7	14.39	18.76	21.87	33.04	12.61	17.64
C17:0	14.92	19.45	9.27	14.00	3.07	4.29
C17:1n7	0.60	0.78	nd	nd	nd	nd
C18:0	1.12	1.46	0.54	0.81	nd	nd
C18:1n9	3.36	4.38	2.81	4.25	2.62	3.67
C18:1n7	12.83	16.73	9.94	15.01	13.23	18.5
C18:2n6-t	10.40	13.56	6.66	10.07	6.12	8.56
C18:2n6-cis	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C18:3n3	2.05	2.67	2.14	3.24	5.77	8.07
C20:0	0.47	0.61	2.20	3.33	1.94	2.71
C20:1n9	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.39	3.34
C20:2n6	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.28	0.39
C20:3n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:4n6	1.18	1.54	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:4n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:5n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
(EPA)	7.61	9.92	3.24	4.90	0.24	0.33
C22:0	nd	nd	0.48	0.73	0.44	0.61
C22:6n3(DH	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.40	0.56
A)	8.90	11.60	4.85	7.33	0.68	0.95
C24:0	0	0	0	0	1.70	1.70
DHA/EPA						
Total	80.42 <sup>a</sup>		66.11 <sup>b</sup>		52.02°	
SFA	28.33 <sup>b</sup>		31.31 <sup>a</sup>		20.21°	
MUFA	40.18 <sup>a</sup>		27.22 <sup>b</sup>		23.46°	
PUFA	9.26 <sup>a</sup>		5.44 <sup>b</sup>		2.18 <sup>c</sup>	
n6-PUFA	$2.05^{b}$		2.14 <sup>b</sup>		5.77 <sup>a</sup>	
n3-PUFA	9.26a		5.44 <sup>b</sup>		2.58 <sup>c</sup>	
n-3 HUFA	8.79 <sup>a</sup>		3.24 <sup>b</sup>		0.64 <sup>c</sup>	

Table 7: Fatty acid profile of nauplii from Artemia cysts of 3 geographical regions of Iran.

	Meighan Lake		Maharlou La	Maharlou Lake		
Fatty acids	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)
C14:0						
C14:1n5	3.94	3.17	6.16	3.31	1.86	1.50
C16:0	1.71	1.38	3.20	1.72	1.51	1.22
C16: 1n7	16.52	13.3	27.99	15.05	16.59	13.40
C17:0	28.57	23.00	39.36	21.16	2.85	2.30
C17:1n7	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.64	0.51
C18:0	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.34	1.89
C18:1n9	4.65	3.74	5.34	2.87	4.72	3.81
C18:1n7	17.13	13.79	27.03	14.53	22.65	18.29
C18:2n6-t	17.23	13.87	19.53	10.5	12.75	10.30
C18:2n6-cis	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C18:3n3	3.04	2.45	4.24	2.28	3.51	2.84
C20:0	2.24	1.8	7.12	3.83	5.78	4.67
C20:1n9	0.76	0.61	0.50	0.27	nd	nd
C20:2n6	0.24	0.19	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:3n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:4n6	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.33	0.26
C20:4n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.32	0.26
C20:5n3	nd	nd	1.43	0.77	nd	nd
(EPA)	0.34	0.27	nd	nd	15.29	12.35
C22:0	1.28	1.03	0.61	0.33	1.18	0.95
C22:6n3	0.55	0.44	nd	nd	0.78	0.63
(DHA)	14.95	12.04	15.44	8.3	2.56	2.07
C24:0	1.63	1.63	0	0	0.05	0.05
DHA/EPA						
Total	113.15 <sup>b</sup>		157.95 <sup>a</sup>		95.66°	
SFA	42.1 <sup>b</sup>		56.04 <sup>a</sup>		26.91°	
MUFA	64.88 <sup>b</sup>		89.12 <sup>a</sup>		42.1°	
PUFA	2.58°		8.55 <sup>b</sup>		21.4 <sup>a</sup>	
n6-PUFA	3.04		4.24		3.83	
n3-PUFA	3.13°		8.55 <sup>b</sup>		22.18 <sup>a</sup>	
n-3 HUFA	$0.88^{b}$		1.43 <sup>b</sup>		16.40 <sup>a</sup>	

Table 8: Fatty acid profile of decapsulated Artemia cysts from 3 geographical regions of Iran.

	Meighan La	ke	Maharlou L	ake	Urmia Lake	!
Fatty acids	DW(mg/g)	Area (%)	DW(mg/g)	Area(%)	DW(mg/g)	Area (%)
C14:0	1.54	1.59	1.83	1.96	2.06	1.74
C14:1n5	1.23	1.26	1.17	1.26	1.48	1.25
C16:0	12.22	12.60	13.95	14.94	18.39	15.49
C16: 1n7	19.63	20.24	17.23	18.45	13.54	11.41
C17:0	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.56	0.51	0.43
C17:1n7	1.96	2.02	1.73	1.85	3.32	2.80
C18:0	3.39	3.49	3.22	3.44	4.31	3.63
C18:1n9	17.77	18.31	16.81	17.99	19.15	16.14
C18:1n7	9.88	10.19	9.60	10.28	7.43	6.26
C18:2n6-t	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C18:2n6-cis	2.94	3.03	2.91	3.12	8.58	7.23
C18:3n3	4.55	4.69	4.46	4.78	21.99	18.53
C20:0	nd	nd	1.01	1.08	nd	nd
C20:1n9	0.42	0.43	nd	nd	0.52	0.44
C20:2n6	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:3n3	nd	nd	1.01	1.08	nd	nd
C20:4n6	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:4n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:5n3	11.37	11.72	10.52	11.26	6.16	5.19
(EPA)	0.65	0.67	nd	nd	nd	nd
C22:0	nd	nd	0.24	0.25	nd	nd
C22:6n3	8.44	4.44	7.58	8.11	8.62	7.26
(DHA)	0	0	0.02	0.02	0	0
C24:0						
DHA/EPA						
Total	96.51 <sup>b</sup>		93.79 <sup>b</sup>		116.06 <sup>a</sup>	
SFA	26.24 <sup>b</sup>		27.59 <sup>b</sup>		33.38 <sup>a</sup>	
MUFA	50.89 <sup>a</sup>		46.54 <sup>b</sup>		45.44 <sup>b</sup>	
PUFA	15.92 <sup>b</sup>		15.99 <sup>b</sup>		28.15 <sup>a</sup>	
n6-PUFA	2.94 <sup>b</sup>		2.91 <sup>b</sup>		8.58a	
n3-PUFA	15.92 <sup>b</sup>		16.23 <sup>b</sup>		28.15 <sup>a</sup>	
n-3 HUFA	11.7 <sup>a</sup>		11.76 <sup>a</sup>		6.16 <sup>b</sup>	

Table 9: Fatty acid profile of nauplii from decapsulated *Artemia* cysts from 3 geographical regions of Iran.

Fatty acids	Meighan Lake		Maharlou La	ıke	Urmia Lake	
	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)	DW (mg/g)	Area (%)
C14:0						
C14:1n5	2.12	1.51	3.34	2.01	2.08	1.50
C16:0	1.42	1.01	1.82	1.09	1.56	1.12
C16: 1n7	15.64	11.12	22.09	13.28	20.10	14.45
C17:0	26.72	18.99	36.93	22.21	14.33	10.30
C17:1n7	1.15	0.82	1.83	1.10	0.52	0.37
C18:0	1.49	1.06	1.88	1.13	3.71	2.67
C18:1n9	5.27	3.75	5.77	3.47	6.19	4.45
C18:1n7	20.39	14.49	26.10	15.69	22.88	16.45
C18:2n6-t	16.48	11.71	18.34	11.03	9.99	7.18
C18:2n6-cis	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C18:3n3	3.29	2.34	4.95	2.98	10.31	7.41
C20:0	2.42	1.72	2.57	1.55	24.92	17.9
C20:1n9	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:2n6	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.67	0.48
C20:3n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.29	0.21
C20:4n6	1.60	1.14	nd	nd	0.51	0.37
C20:4n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
C20:5n3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
(EPA)	15.89	11.29	24.24	14.57	6.70	4.82
C22:0	0.46	0.33	1.28	0.77	nd	nd
C22:6n3	nd	nd	0.57	0.34	nd	nd
(DHA)	8.81	6.26	14.00	8.42	10.10	7.26
C24:0	0	0	0.02	0.02	0	0
DHA/EPA						
Total	123.15°		165.71a		134.86 <sup>b</sup>	
SFA	32.3°		46.48 <sup>a</sup>		38.47 <sup>b</sup>	
MUFA	66.5 <sup>b</sup>		85.07 <sup>a</sup>		53.14 <sup>c</sup>	
PUFA	19.91°		26.81 <sup>b</sup>		32.13 <sup>a</sup>	
n6-PUFA	3.29 <sup>b</sup>		4.95 <sup>b</sup>		10.6 <sup>a</sup>	
n3-PUFA	19.91°		27.38 <sup>b</sup>		32.13 <sup>a</sup>	
n-3 HUFA	17.49 <sup>b</sup>		24.81a		7.22°	

### **Discussion**

Variations in different *Artemia* species and their use in aquaculture as to their nutritional value and fatty acid profiles have been well documented (Bengtson *et* 

al., 1991; Rezaei et al., 2000; Agh and Hoseini Ghatre, 2002). The price of Artemia cysts is dependent on nutritional value especially the presence of n-3 HUFA and their hatchability (Lavens and

Sorgeloos, 1996). The lipid and energy content of Artemia strains are decreased as growth occurred, and the highest lipid and energy content is due to decapsulated cyst: while, nauplii is in the second place (Fujita et al., 1980). The differences observed in total lipid and protein from different strains of Artemia can be due to their genetic structure and /or variation of their feeding nutrients (Schauer et al., 1980; Agh et al., 2002). Royan-jozeph (1980) reported that lipid and protein content of decapsulated Artemia cyst was higher than its cyst and instar I nauplii. Schauer et al., (1980) determined the lipid content and fatty acid profile of Artemia cyst and newborn nauplii from Australia, Brazil, Italy and USA (California, Utah) .Our study showed that the lipid content in Artemia nauplii from Urmia Lake was slightly higher than nauplii from Italy and Sanfransisco Bay, but the ration of lipid content was less in nauplii from Australia, Brazil, Sanfransisco Bay and Great Salt Lake ones. Vanhaecke and Sorgeloos (1980) argued that energy content and dry weight of newborn nauplii were 0.0366-0.0725 J. and 1.61- 3.32, respectively. Also, in newborn nauplii protein, lipid, carbohydrate and ash content were calculated as 37-71%, 12-13%, 11-23% and 4-21%, respectively (Vanhaecke et al., 1987). The average total lipid of nauplii from Urmia Lake was reported as 15.45% (Pour Jafar, 1988). This study revealed that the mean (±SD) protein content of newborn nauplii from Artemia cyst and decapsulated cyst were different ranging from  $49.7 \pm 0.7 - 58.6 \pm 8.1\%$  and  $52.5 \pm$ 0.3-56.8± 1.1%, respectively, which were higher than those of Margarita de Savia - Italy (41.92%), San Pablo – Spain (49.73%), Sanfransisco Bay (53.25%) and Macau- Brazil (53.77%) but were less than those of Cyprus (58.07%) ones. In addition, the lipid percentage in newborn from Artemia nauplii cvst and decapsulated cyst of the 3 studied regions were 12.42± 3.1- 16.62± 2.1%  $13.91\pm0.9$ -  $14.07\pm1.1$  %, respectively. It can be concluded that the lipid content of studying samples was less than Artemia from Italy, San Francisco Bay, San Pablo, Australia, Brazil and Utah. Although average (±SD) lipid content of nauplii from cyst (18.60± 1.1%) and decapsulated cyst (16.62±2.1%) of Maharlou Lake were higher than Italy, San Francisco Bay and San Pablo ones: but. it was the same as that of nauplii from Australia.

Ahmadi et al., (1990) reported that Artemia nauplii enjoys a good amount of C18:3n3 and very low amount of C20:5n3 (EPA); therefore, is considered as useful for fresh water applications. The DHA level, especially DHA/EPA has a key role in growth, survival rate and protection against diseases in marine fish and crustacean (Kanazawa, 1993; Watanabe, 1993; Furuita, 1996; Han et al., 2001). In all studied samples, the DHA/EPA was decreased, that might be due to low amount of DHA level (Paykaran Mana, 2007). In spite of this, the highest amount of this ratio among studied regions was due to cysts from Urmia Lake. The difference in Carotenoid complex (Soiejima al., 1980), minerals et(Watanabe et al., 1978), lipid and energy contents (Schauer et al., 1980) may not be responsible in aquaculture. Yet, fatty acid profiles showed a significant difference

(Léger et al., 1987). Léger et al. (1986) reported that C20:5n3 (EPA) levels in different species of Artemia cyst from different regions of the world ranged from 0.3 to 15.4 area (%) and the C20:5n3 (EPA) levels showed significant differences among species, even within species. Besides, genetic structure, habitat characteristics especially food availability and quality for example nutritional composition of algae, play major roles in this variation. The Artemia fed with higher n-3HUFA levels contained higher n-3HUFA (Fujita et al., 1980; Schauer et al., 1980; Léger et al., 1986; Mura et al., 1997). In fact, Artemia cysts reflected the C20:5n3 (EPA) level of their parental nutritional ration (Léger et al., 1987). The significant differences in fatty acid profile of nauplii from different Artemia strains. even within a strain differences may be due to genetic structures, feeding strategy or a combination of them (Schauer et al., 1980). Schauer et al. (1980) reported that the C20: 5n3 (EPA) levels in nauplii from San Francisco bay ranged from 0.3-13(%), while the same fatty acid in the studied samples (cyst, decapsulated cyst and ongoing nauplii) from 3 geographical regions of Iran were higher and ranged from 0.27 (%) in nauplii from Arak's Mighan Artemia cyst to 14.57 (%) in nauplii from Maharlou's decapsulated cyst that were similar to results of other studies in the world. As different strains of Artemia contained different C20:5n3 (EPA) and very low C22:6n3 (DHA), their nauplii need to be enriched for marine fish and shrimp post larvae feeding. Likewise, it would be suggested that suitable enriched unicellular algae should be used

for culture of suitable strain of *Artemia* to enhance the quality and quantity of producing cysts.

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