

Raising Microworms

Article by: Aiglos

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Introduction

I have been raising microworms for a little bit over a year now and have had a lot of success with the tiny nematodes affectionately referred to as Microworms.

Fish that enjoy Microworms

Livebearers; Killifish; Corydoras; Tetras; Rainbowfish; Bettas; Gourami; Angelfish; Barbs; Danios ect.

PROS

- Fry naturally eat anything that moves smaller than they are.
- Minimal Maintenance
- Easy To Start
- Inexpensive
- Not Heat or Cold sensitive
- Can survive in your tank for several hours
- Easier to culture than Baby brine shrimp and always available

CONS

- The majority of the worms are not harvestable
- Cultures can smell very bad if left too long
- Not as nutritious as Baby Brine Shrimp
- Needs to be supplemented with other types of food
- Cannot sustain large amounts of fish due to limited harvest sizes



Equipment needed

- Hammer & Nails
- Ziploc Container
- 1 Cup Instant Oatmeal
- 1/4 Cup water
- Active Dry Yeast
- Measuring Cups
- Existing Culture

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Preparing the Container

I clean the container out with warm water in the sink and then punch several holes (the more the better) into the top of the lid while the lid is on the container.



Adding the Oatmeal

I use a little less than a cup of instant oatmeal and put it in the container, you do not need a lot of oatmeal nor does it necessarily have to be instant, I have used regular oats and cornmeal and have always had positive results.

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Adding the Water

I use a little more than 1/4 cup of water and mix it in with the oatmeal, you want this to be a firm but moist texture, you might have to play around with this till you are comfortable, regardless of the fact the worms will do well. After I wet my finger from the sink and try to clean the sides as best as I can.



Adding the Yeast

It is important not to add too much yeast; I use a very small pinch of yeast. Too much and you will speed your culture up and increase the smell when it goes bad.

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Adding the Starter Culture

I take a teaspoon and just raid one of my other colonies that is producing well, you do not need a lot of starter culture in order to start your new colony.



Two weeks later

I start a new colony every week; it takes about 2 weeks before I am ready to harvest microworms from an existing colony. I highly advice starting a new colony every week and throwing out your old colonies after 3 weeks, this will ensure you always have a lot of healthy cultures of microworms going.. and without the smell. Store your cultures in an out of the way place away from sunlight and with a cover and you will have no problems at all

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In order to harvest microworms all you need to do is run your finger alongside the edges of your container collecting the worms on your finger. After you have them on your finger I dip them into fresh water and then pour them through a baby brine shrimp net into another container catching the majority of the microworms, I then have a few options of either dipping the brine shrimp net into a tank or dipping the brine shrimp net into another container of water and using syringe/eyedropper to feed clean microworm to my very small fry.

Ending Notes

I hope you all enjoyed this article and I hope you have much success in raising Microworms. There are a lot of resources on the internet for you to learn more about microworms and MANY different methods and recipes for culturing them, the beauty of this hobby is your ability to experiment, learn and have fun. Your Fish will love you for it.