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Editorial: Nutrition, disease, environmental stress, and microorganisms in crustacean aquaculture

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Editorial on the Research Topic

[Nutrition, disease, environmental stress, and microorganisms in crustacean aquaculture](#)

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2022), global aquaculture production of crustaceans retained its growth trend in 2020 and reached 11.2 million tons, valued 81.5 billion US dollars. With the rapid expansion of aquaculture production of crustaceans (mainly shrimp and crabs), factors as nutrition, disease, and environmental stress are an existing constraint to the sustainability and growth of the global crustacean aquaculture industry (Asche et al., 2021). For a long time, the focus of traditional crustacean aquaculture studies has been primarily on crustaceans themselves (Ye et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016; Chen and He, 2019; Ye et al., 2020; He et al., 2022), but nowadays the microbial communities hosted by the crustaceans have drawn attention of researchers.

In recent years, it is becoming increasingly clear that animals can no longer be considered as autonomous entities but rather as holobionts, encompassing the host plus its associated microbiota (McFall-Ngai et al., 2013; Bordenstein and Theis, 2015). This recognition has opened up a new field in biology and caused researchers to reexamine the questions on crustacean aquaculture. Therefore, it is crustaceans and their associated microbiotas that pull together to face factors as nutrition, disease, and environmental stress. Correspondingly, the field of crustacean microbiology has remarkably advanced in terms of information on the microbial functions in the nutrient digestion, disease defense, and stress response of the host.

Nutrients are critical in supporting the survival, development, and growth of crustaceans. Both live food and formulated diet should be digested before absorption by crustaceans. It is generally recognized that the gut microbiota provides the crustaceans with a complementary enzymatic arsenal for food ingestion (Dempsey and Kitting, 1987; Pinn et al., 1999; Lau et al., 2002; Oxley et al., 2002; Zbinden and Cambon-Bonavita, 2003). For example, bacteria and fungi in the hindgut assist digestion of wood fragments

for *Munidopsis andamanica* (Hoyoux et al., 2009). Further, the proteasome metabolic capacity of the intestinal bacteria may facilitate the feed protein utilization of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Duan et al., 2020) while a more complex and cooperative gut eukaryotic interspecies interaction may facilitate nutrient acquisition efficiency of shrimp (Dai et al., 2017). However, every coin has two sides. Microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, and fungi could be pathogens for crustaceans. Diverse diseases, such as emulsification disease of swimming crab (Wang et al., 2006) and white faeces syndrome of shrimp (Hou et al., 2018), have occurred in crustacean farming. The innate immune of crustaceans is vital for disease control. However, probiotics are considered as a practical alternative in disease prevention of crustaceans through immune enhancement, disease resistance, modulation of the gut microbiota, and competitive exclusion of pathogens (Castex et al., 2008; Talpur et al., 2012). For example, dietary supplementation of lactic acid bacteria (*Enterococcus faecalis* Y17 and *Pediococcus pentosaceus* G11) could modulate the immune system of mud crab and protect the host against *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* infection (Yang et al., 2019). Thus, the healthy gut microbiome affects the colonization, growth, and virulence of invading pathogens (Sassone-Corsi and Raffatellu, 2015; Bäumlér and Sperandio, 2016; Xiong et al., 2019), which is vital for the fitness of host.

Crustaceans have been challenged with a variety of biotic and abiotic factors. The associated microbes of crustaceans have also been challenged and respond phylogenetically and functionally (Zheng et al., 2016; Shi et al., 2019; Lin et al., 2020; Lu et al., 2022). For example, the acute hepatopancreatic necrosis in diseased shrimp caused a gastrointestinal microbiota imbalance highlighted by the enrichment of *Vibrio* and the significantly increased gene abundances of the NOD receptor signaling pathway, *Vibrio* infection, and *Vibrio* pathogenic cycle function (Dong et al., 2021). Thus, changes in the microbial community could determine the ability of the crustacean to cope with biotic and abiotic stress, subsequently leading to resistance, resilience, disease, or acclimatization of crustacean holobiont upon stress.

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In summary, this Research Topic delivers new ideas for crustacean aquaculture accomplished up to date. We also note that it is timely to scale up the crustacean concept from the simple autonomous entity to the complex holobiont, to further understand the nutrition, disease, and environmental stress in crustacean aquaculture.

Author contributions

The author confirms being the sole contributor of this work and has approved it for publication.

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Conflict of interest

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