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Vitamins and proteins in the nutrition of *Tenebrio molitor* larvae.

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Tenebrio molitor larvae can be grown on a synthetic diet containing pure casein and starch, cholesterol, salts, the usual vitamins of the B-complex, biotin, choline and one undetermined factor (Leclercq, 1948; Fraenkel, Blewett & Coles, 1950). This undetermined factor is present in small amounts in starch (Leclercq, 1948) and in optimal or suboptimal amounts in the new 'vitamin T' (Goetsch, 1947; *Nutrition Reviews*, 1951). Many conclusions previously drawn in the literature are not statistically significant because the real value of means is obscured by the interference of cannibalism and the occurrence of several genetic strains in the usual mealworm populations (Leclercq, 1950*b*). Recent investigations carried out with isolated larvae of the 'big strain' (Leclercq, 1950*a*) show that (*a*) *Tenebrio* larvae can be grown with as good results as in flour on a diet containing the above nutrients (even without choline) supplemented with 'vitamin T'; (*b*) lactalbumin is a much better protein than casein and the latter is better than edestin > casein hydrolysate > gliadin > soy protein and > zein.

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