

Table 2 Growth rate of *P. excavatus* fed with 4 different food sources

| Groups         | Mean weight of 5 juvenile earthworms (g) |           |           |           |           | Net weight gain<br>(g/worm) | Relative growth rate<br>(g worm <sup>-1</sup> week <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|----------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
|                | 0  | 15        | 30        | 45        | 60        |                             |  |
| C              | 0.12±0.05                                | 0.30±0.09 | 0.68±0.16 | 1.05±0.21 | 1.23±0.30 | 1.11 <sup>a</sup>           | 0.13   |
| T <sub>1</sub> | 0.13±0.02                                | 0.32±.03  | 0.48±0.12 | 0.83±0.13 | 1.00±0.05 | 0.87 <sup>b</sup>           | 0.10   |
| T <sub>2</sub> | 0.13±0.04                                | 0.43±0.10 | 0.76±0.10 | 1.33±0.08 | 1.49±0.12 | 1.36 <sup>a</sup>           | 0.16   |
| T <sub>3</sub> | 0.17±0.05                                | 0.40±0.11 | 0.58±0.03 | 0.84±0.12 | 0.98±0.02 | 0.81 <sup>b</sup>           | 0.09   |

Note: Values are expressed as Mean ± Standard Error with two replicates. Within the same column, the means followed by different superscripts are statistically different (P < 0.05)