

Article

Comparison of Morphometric Parameters, Nutritional Composition, and Textural Properties of Seven *Crustaceans* Species

Zhigang Yang ^{1,†}, Qingqing Jiang ^{1,2,†}, Wuxiao Zhang ², Silei Xia ², Hongyan Tian ², Fei Liu ², Wenping Yang ², Yebing Yu ², Yanmin Wu ², Yongzhi Zhu ³, Zhiqiang Xu ⁴, Zemao Gu ⁵ , Aimin Wang ^{2,*} and Aqin Chen ^{1,*}

¹ Key Laboratory of Freshwater Aquatic Genetic Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai 201306, China; zgyang@shou.edu.cn (Z.Y.); jiangqq0812@163.com (Q.J.)

² College of Marine and Biology Engineering, Yancheng Institute of Technology, Yancheng 224051, China; zhangwx257258@163.com (W.Z.); susanxia1990323@126.com (S.X.); tianhy@outlook.com (H.T.); flyliu_cn@163.com (F.L.); yangwenping@ycit.edu.cn (W.Y.); yuyebing2005@126.com (Y.Y.); 18862008173@163.com (Y.W.)

³ Institute of Agricultural Products Processing, Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanjing 210014, China; yongzhizhu@163.com

⁴ Key Laboratory of Genetic Breeding and Cultivation for Freshwater Crustacean, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute of Jiangsu Province, Nanjing 210017, China; zhiqiangx@163.com

⁵ College of Fisheries, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan 430070, China; guzema@mail.hzau.edu.cn

* Correspondence: blueseam@ycit.cn (A.W.); aqchen@shou.edu.cn (A.C.)

† These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract: In order to study the muscle quality of different *crustaceans*, we aim to provide a comprehensive assessment of their muscle quality characteristics as a theoretical reference. In this work, seven major species of farmed and consumer crustaceans were selected, including crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), kuruma prawns (*Penaeus japonicus*), river prawns (*Macrobrachium nipponense*), and Chinese shrimp (*Penaeus chinensis*). Their morphometric parameters, nutritional composition, textural properties, and physical and chemical indexes were comparatively analyzed. The results showed that the meat content (MC, about 14.78%) of crayfish was significantly lower than that of the other six species. By contrast, pacific white shrimp had the highest MC, although the MCs of black tiger shrimp, kuruma prawns, and Chinese shrimp are greater than 40%. All seven *crustacean* species were high in protein and low in fat, while pacific white shrimp had the highest crude protein, crude lipid, and crude ash content compared to the other *crustaceans*. The content of threonine (Thr) was the highest in crayfish. The content of methionine (Met) and lysine (Lys) was the highest in freshwater prawns. The content of isoleucine (Ile), leucine (Leu), and non-essential amino acid (NEAA) was the highest in pacific white shrimp. C18:2n-6 (linoleic acid, LA) was the highest in freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp; C18:3n-3 (linolenic acid, LNA), C20:4n-6 (arachidonic acid, AA), unsaturated fatty acids (UFA), and monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) were all the highest in crayfish; and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) was the highest in freshwater prawns, but the content was not significantly different from crayfish, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp. Pacific white shrimp had the highest values for hardness, cohesiveness, gumminess, and chewiness. The redness values of crayfish, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp were significantly higher than those of the other three species except kuruma prawns. Compared to other *crustaceans*, river prawns had the highest drip loss and cooking loss. Black tiger shrimp and Chinese shrimp had the lowest cooking loss rates. The research shows that the tail muscle of the seven species of *crustaceans* is rich in protein, essential amino acids, unsaturated fatty acids and low in fat, representing a high-quality protein. Among these *crustaceans*, the main essential amino acids and essential fatty acids in the tail muscle of pacific white shrimp, freshwater prawns, and crayfish are higher in content and better in nutritional value.

Keywords: muscle quality; amino acid composition; fatty acid composition; textural properties; *crustaceans*



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Key Contribution: A comprehensive evaluation system for the muscle quality of crustaceans is initially established. These seven *crustaceans* species are high-protein and low-lipid quality aquatic products. Pacific white shrimp have better nutritional value and taste compared with other *crustaceans*.

1. Introduction

With the improvement of consumption levels, more consumers are not satisfied with only demanding nutritional quality, but also have higher demands on the taste, toughness and freshness of food. In recent years, various aquatic products have gained great popularity among consumers and have become a unique culture on the table, characterized by their crispness and tenderness, texture and chroma, and delicious taste. More consumers are sparing no expense in pursuing their tastes. Muscle quality is a comprehensive evaluation index, which is mainly evaluated based on the two aspects of muscle nutrition and muscle flavor [1]. It is important to analyze muscle quality indexes and explore ways to improve muscle quality to meet consumers' demand for food production.

Current domestic and international studies on muscle quality have focused on the meat content, nutrient content, amino acid, fatty acid content, and textural properties of aquatic animals [2–4]. The physicochemical properties of muscles, such as textural characteristics, meat color, water holding capacity (WHC), and pH are also important indicators for assessing muscle quality [5,6]. It has been found that the addition of various nutrients [7–10] and additives [11–13] to feed can affect the nutrient, amino acid, and fatty acid content of the muscles of aquatic animals. Xu et al. [14] showed that optimal amounts of dietary protein improved the physical (or chemical) flavor quality of grass carp fillets by increasing the shear force, pH, hydroxyproline, protein, lipid, free amino acid, and nucleotide content (5' inosinic acid), and decreased cooking loss, cathepsin B and L activities, and lactate content. Myofiber content was approximately 15% higher in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) fed high-protein diets than those fed low-protein diets [15]. In a study on rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), the muscles of rainbow trout fed a high-protein diet had lower brightness levels and higher redness levels [16]. Under normal conditions, most of the muscle coloration of aquatic animals is derived from carotenoids in feedstuffs, so the flesh color of aquatic animals can be influenced by feeding feedstuffs containing pigments [5]. Astaxanthin is a non-vitamin-A-derived carotenoid with strong pigment deposition ability. Its use as a dye in aquatic animals improves the value of (a*) in the shell and muscle of black tiger shrimp [17]. Furthermore, muscle quality varies significantly between species; for example, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) has significantly lower meat quality than that of mandarin fish (*Siniperca chuatsi*) [18]. However, the assessment of muscle quality of aquatic animals is not unified. There are studies on nutrient composition and there are studies on textural properties, but there is not yet a unified standard. In addition, there are few comparisons of the muscle quality of different aquatic economic animals, and the reasons for the differences between them are not yet known.

Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*), pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), kuruma prawns (*Penaeus japonicus*), river prawns (*Macrobrachium nipponense*), and Chinese shrimp (*Penaeus chinensis*) are the most consumed crustaceans in China. They are loved by the majority of consumers and have significant economic importance. Crayfish are widely distributed in various aquatic ecosystems due to their remarkable environmental adaptability and robust viability. Crayfish have rapidly developed in the industry in China in recent years due to their bright color, delicious taste, and rich nutritional value and the high opinion of consumers [19]. China's farmed production of crayfish reached 2.891 million tons in 2022. Freshwater prawns, with their rapid growth, extensive feeding habits, and short production cycles achieved a high production of 177,836 tons in 2022 [20]. Pacific white shrimp are one of the most important commercial aquaculture species due to their rapid growth rate and resistance to adversity, accounting for about 80% of global shrimp produc-

tion [21], and they are farmed in China. Their production reached 1.340 million tons in 2022. Black tiger shrimp are one of the largest and fastest-growing commercial shrimps; they live mainly in the Indo-West Pacific region, the east coast of Hainan Island and the southeast coast of China, and are widely farmed in China [22]. China's farmed production reached 114.36 thousand tons in 2022. Kuruma prawns are a commercially important species in several countries, including China, Japan, and the Mediterranean regions around Egypt, Israel, and Turkey. Kuruma prawns are one of the largest penaeid prawns. Due to their high desiccation resistance, good taste, and rich nutritional content, kuruma prawns are one of the most economically important members of the Penaeidae family [23]. China's farmed production reached 46,199 tons in 2022. River prawns occur over a wide geographical range in East Asia. They are of significant importance as a commercial aquaculture species in China; China's farm production reached 226,312 tons in 2022 [24]. Chinese shrimp are one of the most economically important commodities in the global fishing industry. They are rich in nutrients needed by the human body and are preferred by consumers owing to their taste. China's farmed production reached 30,929 tons in 2022 [25]. However, the aquaculture industry faces issues such as intensive farming, high culturing density, and water quality that affect muscle quality; therefore, these issues, among others, need to be addressed.

Consequently, in this study, the muscle quality of these seven *crustaceans* species was more comprehensively evaluated and compared, and the differences between their muscle qualities were more comprehensively described to provide a reference for the study of muscle quality in aquatic animals.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Animals and Sample Collection

A total of 2 kg of crayfish, freshwater prawns, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, kuruma prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp were all purchased from the Xiaolinwei fair trade market in Nanjing (all met the adult crustacean market specifications). All animals were treated in accordance with the following license established by the Animal Experiment Ethics Committee (Approval Code: SHOU-DW-2022-024). Whole and homogeneous individuals were selected and then washed under running water, surface moisture was wiped off with gauze, the head and shell were removed, and the specimens were stored at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ under preservation conditions until the proximate composition, amino acids, and fatty acids of the muscle were to be measured.

2.2. Experimental Parameters Measured

2.2.1. Morphometric Parameters

Thirty intact and homogeneous individuals of each *crustaceans* species were randomly selected from the purchased crustaceans. The *crustaceans* were dried, and their body length and weight were measured. The head, chest plate, and shell were removed, and then the muscles and hepatopancreas were weighed.

$$\text{Meat content (MC, \%)} = \text{muscle weight/body weight} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Hepatosomatic index (HSI, \%)} = \text{hepatopancreas weight/body weight} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Condition factor (CF)} = \text{body weight/body length}^3 \times 100\%$$

2.2.2. Proximate Composition Analysis

Muscles were measured using protocols based on the AOAC [26]. Moisture, crude protein, crude lipid, and crude ash were measured using the direct drying method, semi-micro Kjeldahl nitrogen determination method, Soxhlet extraction method, and high-temperature ashing method, respectively.

2.2.3. Amino Acids

Amino acids were determined according to the method of Thiago et al. [27] using a high-speed amino acid analyzer (L8800, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan). A sample of approximately 0.2 g was weighed and 20 mL of 1 + 1 HCl were added. The sample was hydrolyzed in an electric air-drying oven at 110 °C for 22 h. Then, exactly 100 µL of the sample was dried at 60 °C for 2 h (all solvent was dried), mixed with distilled water to 0.5 mL, and then pressed through the 0.45 µm organic membrane on the machine. Five replicates of each *crustacean* species were used.

2.2.4. Fatty Acids

The fatty acid content was analyzed by gas chromatography (GC-2010, Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) according to the method of Thiago et al. [27]. A sample of approximately 0.2 g was taken randomly and added to 2 mL of a petroleum ether–ether mixture (*v/v*, 1:1) overnight. Then, 1.5 mL of a KOH–methanol solution was added and mixed, and the sample was allowed to stand for 1 h. After centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 10 min, the supernatant was removed and 1.5 mL of BF₃-CH₃OH at a mass fraction of 14% was added. The fatty acids were placed in a 55 °C water bath for 30 min. After cooling, 1.5 mL each of hexane and saturated NaCl solution were added and left to stratify at 4 °C, then the supernatant was removed completely, and the solution was filtered through an organic phase filter membrane with a pore size of 0.22 µm and then analyzed by gas chromatography. Five replicates of each *crustaceans* species were used.

2.2.5. Textural Properties

The textural properties (hardness, cohesiveness, elasticity, adhesiveness, and chewability) of *crustaceans* muscles were analyzed using a texture analyzer (TMS-Touch, FTC, Washington, DC, USA) equipped with an 8 mm flat-end cylinder probe. A double compression method was used to construct the parameters. The test conditions were two consecutive rounds of compression at a speed of 30 mm/min, with a deformation of 60% of the original length and an initial force of 0.1 N [28].

2.2.6. Physical and Chemical Properties

Each sample was placed under the lens of a colorimeter (CR-410, Konica Minolta, Tokyo, Japan) to measure the chroma of the muscle samples. Five *crustaceans* were measured in each group, and three replicates were measured of each crustacean. According to the recommendation of the International Commission on Illumination [29], the skin color parameters were represented by L*, a*, and b*. After correction by a whiteboard, samples' L*, a*, and b* were measured. L* stands for brightness, where a positive value is brighter, and a negative value is darker; a* is red–green value, where positive values are red, and negative values are green; and b* is yellow–blue value, where positive values are yellow, and negative values are blue.

Drip loss and cooking loss were measured using the methods described in previous studies [30,31] with minor modifications. To determine drip loss, five crustaceans of each species were randomly sampled, and the weight of each crustacean muscle was measured as W₀. Five crustaceans' muscles were tied with thin threads and then hung in the refrigerator at 4 °C for 24 h. The body surfaces were wiped dry with filter paper, and the weight of each crustacean muscle was measured again as W₁. For cooking loss, the meat of the remaining five crustaceans was placed in a zip-lock bag labeled with the group and then placed in a water bath heated to 70 °C for 10 min. The weight of each crustacean muscle was measured again as W₂. The calculations are as follows:

$$\text{Drip loss (\%)} = (W_0 - W_1)/W_0 \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Cooking loss (\%)} = (W_0 - W_2)/W_0 \times 100\%$$

Muscle pH was measured referring to the method of Fuentes et al. [32]. An amount of 1 g of muscle was added to 10 mL of distilled water, homogenized, and left to stand

for 30 min, and then the pH of the meat samples was measured with a pH meter (PB-10, Sartorius, Göttingen, Germany).

2.3. Statistical Analyses

The experimental data were analyzed using SPSS 25.0 for biological statistics. The assumptions of normality and mean square deviation were confirmed before any statistical analysis. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by Duncan's multiple range test, was used to determine whether different levels of substitution had a significant effect on the measurements. The level of significance was set as $p < 0.05$. The statistics were expressed as mean \pm SEM (standard error of the mean) and differences were considered significant at $p < 0.05$.

3. Results

3.1. Morphometric Parameters of Seven Crustaceans Species

Table 1 shows the morphometric parameters of crayfish, freshwater prawns, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, kuruma prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp. In the present study, river prawns had the lowest body weight compared to other species, while crayfish had the highest body weight ($p < 0.05$). Pacific white shrimp and black tiger shrimp had the longest body lengths and were significantly longer than those of the other groups, while river prawns had the shortest body lengths. The hepatosomatic index (HSI) of crayfish and freshwater prawns was significantly higher than that of the other five species ($p < 0.05$), while the difference in HSI among the other five *crustaceans* species was not significant ($p > 0.05$). The meat content (MC) of crayfish (14.74%) was the lowest value and significantly lower than that of the other six *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$), whereas pacific white shrimp had the highest MC, followed by black tiger shrimp and kuruma prawns, with 48.04%, 46.61%, and 44.60%, respectively, and there were no significant differences among these three *crustaceans* species ($p > 0.05$). The condition factor (CF) of crayfish was significantly higher than that of the other six *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$).

Table 1. Morphometric parameters of seven *crustaceans* species.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Weight (g)	31.66 \pm 1.03 ^a	20.82 \pm 0.96 ^b	17.53 \pm 0.89 ^b	18.97 \pm 0.98 ^b	11.31 \pm 0.62 ^c	2.85 \pm 0.23 ^d	13.08 \pm 0.52 ^c
Length (cm)	8.10 \pm 0.14 ^c	8.30 \pm 0.18 ^c	10.94 \pm 0.17 ^a	10.52 \pm 0.12 ^a	9.19 \pm 0.22 ^b	4.40 \pm 0.14 ^d	9.70 \pm 0.16 ^b
HSI (%) ¹	7.60 \pm 0.37 ^a	8.46 \pm 0.34 ^a	4.86 \pm 0.13 ^b	4.68 \pm 0.20 ^b	3.50 \pm 0.30 ^b	3.95 \pm 0.57 ^b	3.89 \pm 0.30 ^b
MC (%) ²	14.74 \pm 1.08 ^e	37.30 \pm 0.82 ^c	48.04 \pm 1.39 ^a	46.61 \pm 0.81 ^{ab}	44.60 \pm 1.32 ^{ab}	24.54 \pm 0.49 ^d	43.92 \pm 0.56 ^b
CF ³	6.01 \pm 0.31 ^a	3.66 \pm 0.16 ^b	1.33 \pm 0.03 ^c	1.62 \pm 0.05 ^c	1.46 \pm 0.05 ^c	3.33 \pm 0.13 ^b	1.43 \pm 0.03 ^c

Values are presented as mean \pm SEM ($n = 8$). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly ($p < 0.05$) different; ¹ HSI (%), Hepatosomatic Index = Hepatopancreas Weight/Body Weight \times 100%; ² MC (%), Meat Content = Muscle Weight/Body Weight \times 100%; ³ CF, Condition Factor = Body Weight/Body Length³ \times 100%.

3.2. Proximate Composition of Muscle

As shown in Table 2, pacific white shrimp had the lowest moisture, and crayfish and river prawns had the highest moisture values, with no significant difference ($p > 0.05$) between these two species. Pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp had the highest crude protein contents, which were significantly higher than those of crayfish and river prawns ($p < 0.05$). The crude lipid content of freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp was significantly higher than the other five *crustaceans* species, while kuruma prawns had the lowest value ($p < 0.05$). The crude ash content of pacific white shrimp was significantly higher than that of crayfish and river prawns and reached the highest value ($p < 0.05$), while river prawns had the lowest crude ash content.

Table 2. Muscle composition of seven *crustaceans* species.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Moisture (%)	80.37 ± 0.81 ^a	72.66 ± 2.50 ^{bc}	69.27 ± 1.97 ^c	75.12 ± 0.62 ^b	76.67 ± 0.22 ^b	80.70 ± 0.27 ^a	75.87 ± 0.32 ^b
Crude protein (%)	14.095 ± 0.57 ^c	19.445 ± 1.80 ^{ab}	21.232 ± 1.32 ^a	20.513 ± 0.50 ^a	19.115 ± 0.23 ^{ab}	15.428 ± 0.21 ^{bc}	19.599 ± 0.28 ^a
Crude lipid (%)	2.27 ± 0.07 ^b	3.26 ± 0.33 ^a	3.86 ± 0.33 ^a	1.08 ± 0.11 ^{cd}	0.60 ± 0.09 ^d	1.49 ± 0.15 ^{bc}	1.02 ± 0.13 ^{cd}
Crude ash (%)	1.36 ± 0.07 ^{bc}	1.69 ± 0.19 ^{ab}	1.81 ± 0.13 ^a	1.48 ± 0.08 ^{abc}	1.47 ± 0.03 ^{abc}	1.09 ± 0.03 ^c	1.42 ± 0.03 ^{abc}

Values are presented as mean ± SEM (*n* = 5). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly (*p* < 0.05) different.

3.3. Amino Acid Composition of Muscle

As shown in Table 3, 16 amino acids could be detected in all seven *crustaceans* species, including nine essential amino acids (EAAs) and seven non-essential amino acids (NEAAs), while cysteine (Cys) could only be detected in crayfish, freshwater prawns, and pacific white shrimp. The content of threonine (Thr) was the highest in crayfish. The contents of methionine (Met) and lysine (Lys) were the highest in freshwater prawns. The contents of isoleucine (Ile) and leucine (Leu) were the highest in pacific white shrimp. The content of histidine (His) was the highest in crayfish and freshwater prawns. The contents of valine (Val) and phenylalanine (Phe) were the highest in freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp. Arg was the most abundant essential amino acid and the most abundant of all the amino acids, with no significant differences among the seven *crustaceans* species. Pacific white shrimp had the highest NEAA and umami amino acids (UAA) values, but there was no significant difference in EAAs (*p* > 0.05). Pacific white shrimp and black tiger shrimp had the highest NEAA content, while crayfish, freshwater prawns, and river prawns had the lowest NEAA contents and were significantly lower than those of the other four *crustaceans* species (*p* < 0.05). The UAA contents of pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp were the highest and significantly higher than those of the other four *crustaceans* species (*p* < 0.05). However, there was no significant difference in EAA content among the seven *crustaceans* species (*p* > 0.05).

Table 3. Amino acid composition of muscles of seven *crustaceans* species.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Arg	0.59 ± 0.03	0.51 ± 0.06	0.58 ± 0.06	0.61 ± 0.02	0.63 ± 0.02	0.47 ± 0.01	0.59 ± 0.02
His	0.06 ± 0.01 ^a	0.05 ± 0.003 ^a	0.03 ± 0.003 ^b	0.01 ± 0.001 ^c	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{bc}	0.03 ± 0.001 ^b	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{bc}
Ile	0.01 ± 0.003 ^{ab}	0.02 ± 0.003 ^{ab}	0.02 ± 0.004 ^a	0.01 ± 0.002 ^{ab}	0.01 ± 0.001 ^{ab}	0.01 ± 0.0003 ^b	0.01 ± 0.001 ^b
Leu	0.01 ± 0.0001 ^c	0.04 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.04 ± 0.01 ^a	0.03 ± 0.004 ^{abc}	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{abc}	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{bc}	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{abc}
Met	0.01 ± 0.002 ^b	0.02 ± 0.004 ^a	0.02 ± 0.002 ^{ab}	0.01 ± 0.002 ^b	0.02 ± 0.001 ^{ab}	0.01 ± 0.0003 ^b	0.01 ± 0.002 ^b
Val	0.03 ± 0.005 ^b	0.05 ± 0.01 ^a	0.05 ± 0.01 ^a	0.03 ± 0.003 ^{ab}	0.03 ± 0.001 ^{ab}	0.02 ± 0.0004 ^b	0.03 ± 0.001 ^{ab}
Phe	0.01 ± 0.0004 ^c	0.02 ± 0.004 ^a	0.02 ± 0.003 ^a	0.03 ± 0.004 ^{ab}	0.01 ± 0.001 ^{abc}	0.01 ± 0.0002 ^{bc}	0.01 ± 0.002 ^{abc}
Lys	0.03 ± 0.004 ^c	0.07 ± 0.004 ^a	0.06 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.04 ± 0.01 ^{bc}	0.03 ± 0.002 ^c	0.04 ± 0.001 ^c	0.04 ± 0.003 ^{bc}
Thr	0.15 ± 0.02 ^a	0.10 ± 0.01 ^{bc}	0.11 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.11 ± 0.01 ^{abc}	0.07 ± 0.003 ^c	0.13 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.07 ± 0.01 ^c
Ala	0.13 ± 0.02 ^b	0.14 ± 0.01 ^b	0.31 ± 0.04 ^a	0.31 ± 0.01 ^a	0.29 ± 0.01 ^a	0.12 ± 0.001 ^b	0.32 ± 0.01 ^a
Gly	0.11 ± 0.01 ^c	0.20 ± 0.04 ^c	0.89 ± 0.060 ^a	0.92 ± 0.02 ^a	0.62 ± 0.02 ^b	0.18 ± 0.004 ^c	0.82 ± 0.03 ^a
Asp	0.002 ± 0.0001 ^{bc}	0.001 ± 0.0003 ^c	0.001 ± 0.0001 ^c	0.005 ± 0.001 ^a	0.004 ± 0.001 ^{ab}	0.001 ± 0.0001 ^c	0.005 ± 0.001 ^a
Glu	0.03 ± 0.004 ^a	0.05 ± 0.01 ^a	0.21 ± 0.02 ^a	0.08 ± 0.01 ^a	0.14 ± 0.01 ^b	0.05 ± 0.001 ^a	0.16 ± 0.01 ^{ab}
Tyr	0.02 ± 0.002 ^{bc}	0.03 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.03 ± 0.003 ^a	0.03 ± 0.004 ^{ab}	0.03 ± 0.001 ^a	0.01 ± 0.0003 ^c	0.03 ± 0.002 ^{ab}
Ser	0.04 ± 0.01 ^{bc}	0.02 ± 0.003 ^c	0.05 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.02 ± 0.002 ^c	0.03 ± 0.002 ^c	0.06 ± 0.002 ^a	0.02 ± 0.003 ^c
Pro	0.03 ± 0.01 ^c	0.13 ± 0.02 ^c	0.58 ± 0.05 ^{ab}	0.66 ± 0.04 ^a	0.52 ± 0.02 ^b	0.11 ± 0.003 ^c	0.47 ± 0.04 ^b
Cys	0.01 ± 0.001 ^b	0.01 ± 0.0002 ^b	0.01 ± 0.0014 ^a	ND	ND	ND	ND
¹ EAA	0.90 ± 0.06	0.91 ± 0.04	0.93 ± 0.09	0.87 ± 0.05	0.85 ± 0.01	0.73 ± 0.02	0.81 ± 0.02
² NEAA	0.35 ± 0.04 ^c	0.63 ± 0.10 ^c	2.08 ± 0.17 ^a	2.02 ± 0.03 ^a	1.63 ± 0.04 ^b	0.54 ± 0.01 ^c	1.82 ± 0.05 ^{ab}
³ UAA	0.29 ± 0.04 ^c	0.40 ± 0.03 ^c	1.47 ± 0.12 ^a	1.35 ± 0.04 ^a	1.10 ± 0.03 ^b	0.38 ± 0.01 ^c	1.34 ± 0.04 ^a

Values are presented as mean ± SEM (*n* = 5). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly (*p* < 0.05) different. ¹ EAA, essential amino acid (including Arg, His, Ile, Leu, Met, Val, Phe, Lys, and Thr); ² NEAA, non-essential amino acid (including Ala, Gly, Asp, Glu, Tyr, Ser, Pro, and Cys); ³ UAA, umami amino acids (including Phe, Ala, Gly, Asp, Glu, and Tyr); ND, not detected.

3.4. Fatty Acid Composition of Muscle

As shown in Table 4, crayfish, freshwater prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp had the most abundant fatty acids with 18, followed by black tiger shrimp with 17, while pacific white shrimp and kuruma prawns had 16. C18:2n-6 (LA) and C18:3n-3 (LNA) are essential

fatty acids, and there were significant differences in their content among the seven *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$). The C18:2n-6 content of freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp, which had the highest values, was significantly higher than that of the other five *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$). The C18:3n-3 content of crayfish was significantly higher than that of the other six species ($p < 0.05$) and was the highest value. The C20:4n-6 (AA) content of crayfish was significantly higher than that of the other six species ($p < 0.05$) and was the highest value. The content of saturated fatty acids (SFAs) in black tiger shrimp and kuruma prawns was the highest value; the SFA content in crayfish, which was the lowest value, was significantly lower than that of the other six *crustaceans* ($p < 0.05$). Crayfish had the highest unsaturated fatty acid (UFA) and monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA) values. Freshwater prawns had the highest polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) content, but the value was not significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from crayfish, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp ($p > 0.05$).

Table 4. Fatty acid composition of muscles of seven *crustaceans* species.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
C16:0	18.44 ± 0.41 ^f	21.90 ± 0.19 ^e	24.95 ± 0.23 ^c	28.26 ± 0.20 ^a	26.81 ± 0.25 ^b	22.95 ± 0.17 ^d	25.85 ± 0.20 ^{bc}
C16:1	4.70 ± 0.22 ^b	2.36 ± 0.13 ^d	1.68 ± 0.06 ^e	2.27 ± 0.05 ^d	5.20 ± 0.10 ^a	3.24 ± 0.04 ^c	2.70 ± 0.09 ^d
C17:0	0.70 ± 0.03 ^{bc}	0.47 ± 0.03 ^{cd}	0.31 ± 0.01 ^d	0.51 ± 0.05 ^{cd}	1.38 ± 0.11 ^a	0.64 ± 0.04 ^{bc}	0.84 ± 0.12 ^b
C18:0	8.99 ± 0.26 ^d	12.01 ± 0.18 ^c	14.45 ± 0.23 ^a	13.37 ± 0.13 ^b	14.42 ± 0.27 ^a	11.33 ± 0.12 ^c	14.12 ± 0.13 ^{ab}
C18:1	23.83 ± 0.48 ^a	23.81 ± 0.23 ^a	18.81 ± 0.27 ^b	18.54 ± 0.10 ^b	18.57 ± 0.33 ^b	22.70 ± 0.17 ^a	18.99 ± 0.24 ^b
C18:2n-6 (LA)	10.84 ± 0.53 ^d	20.31 ± 0.63 ^a	20.48 ± 0.16 ^a	16.78 ± 0.14 ^b	3.27 ± 0.15 ^e	12.54 ± 0.15 ^c	13.82 ± 0.36 ^c
C18:3n-3 (LNA)	3.98 ± 0.13 ^a	1.89 ± 0.10 ^c	1.17 ± 0.04 ^d	1.05 ± 0.04 ^d	2.04 ± 0.13 ^c	2.83 ± 0.07 ^b	1.26 ± 0.06 ^d
C20:0	1.48 ± 0.07 ^{ab}	0.74 ± 0.07 ^{cd}	0.78 ± 0.02 ^{cd}	0.99 ± 0.05 ^c	1.78 ± 0.15 ^a	0.66 ± 0.03 ^d	1.35 ± 0.04 ^b
C20:1	0.98 ± 0.05 ^b	1.14 ± 0.03 ^b	1.71 ± 0.10 ^a	0.99 ± 0.02 ^b	1.00 ± 0.01 ^b	1.02 ± 0.011 ^b	1.02 ± 0.01 ^b
C20:2	0.29 ± 0.04 ^a	0.12 ± 0.02 ^{bc}	ND	ND	ND	0.08 ± 0.0004 ^{cd}	0.173 ± 0.01 ^b
C20:3	6.90 ± 0.24 ^a	4.74 ± 0.26 ^c	3.67 ± 0.08 ^d	3.74 ± 0.05 ^d	5.94 ± 0.18 ^b	7.32 ± 0.15 ^a	4.206 ± 0.09 ^{cd}
C20:4n-6 (AA)	0.52 ± 0.04 ^a	0.30 ± 0.01 ^{cd}	0.25 ± 0.001 ^{de}	0.17 ± 0.02 ^e	0.39 ± 0.02 ^{bc}	0.50 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.27 ± 0.03 ^{de}
C22:0	0.37 ± 0.01 ^{ab}	0.18 ± 0.04 ^c	0.18 ± 0.01 ^c	0.22 ± 0.01 ^c	0.40 ± 0.01 ^a	0.11 ± 0.01 ^d	0.34 ± 0.02 ^b
C22:1	15.47 ± 0.15 ^a	8.88 ± 0.31 ^e	10.86 ± 0.20 ^d	11.79 ± 0.19 ^{cd}	15.91 ± 0.31 ^a	12.64 ± 0.24 ^{bc}	13.65 ± 0.29 ^b
C22:2	0.63 ± 0.10 ^a	0.34 ± 0.09 ^b	ND	0.18 ± 0.03 ^{bc}	ND	0.13 ± 0.01 ^{bc}	0.28 ± 0.04 ^b
C22:3	0.52 ± 0.03 ^b	0.25 ± 0.02 ^c	0.24 ± 0.01 ^c	0.27 ± 0.01 ^c	0.74 ± 0.04 ^a	0.25 ± 0.01 ^c	0.33 ± 0.01 ^c
C22:4	0.55 ± 0.03 ^b	0.36 ± 0.02 ^{cd}	0.31 ± 0.03 ^d	0.37 ± 0.01 ^{cd}	0.92 ± 0.07 ^a	0.48 ± 0.01 ^{bc}	0.41 ± 0.01 ^{bcd}
C24:0	0.93 ± 0.02 ^b	0.51 ± 0.06 ^c	0.64 ± 0.05 ^c	0.65 ± 0.01 ^c	1.24 ± 0.04 ^a	0.66 ± 0.03 ^c	0.59 ± 0.04 ^c
SFA	30.94 ± 0.85 ^c	35.13 ± 0.89 ^{bc}	39.93 ± 1.39 ^{ab}	43.26 ± 0.75 ^a	45.11 ± 0.65 ^a	39.77 ± 2.04 ^{ab}	40.93 ± 1.60 ^{ab}
UFA	69.06 ± 0.85 ^a	64.87 ± 0.85 ^{ab}	60.07 ± 1.39 ^{bc}	56.75 ± 0.75 ^c	54.89 ± 0.65 ^c	60.23 ± 2.04 ^{bc}	59.07 ± 1.60 ^{bc}
MUFA	44.81 ± 0.86 ^a	37.85 ± 1.58 ^{bc}	33.65 ± 0.56 ^{cd}	33.27 ± 0.22 ^d	38.57 ± 1.51 ^b	39.76 ± 0.16 ^b	37.39 ± 0.77 ^{bcd}
PUFA	24.25 ± 0.63 ^{ab}	27.02 ± 0.73 ^a	26.42 ± 0.86 ^{ab}	23.48 ± 0.78 ^{ab}	16.32 ± 2.03 ^c	20.47 ± 2.18 ^{bc}	21.68 ± 0.87 ^{abc}

Values are presented as mean ± SEM ($n = 5$). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly ($p < 0.05$) different. LA, linoleic acid; LNA, Linolenic acid; AA, Arachidonic acid; SFA, saturated fatty acids; UFA, unsaturated fatty acids; MUFA, monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acids; ND, not detected.

3.5. Textural Properties

As shown in Table 5, the hardness of freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp was significantly higher than that of the other five *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$) and had the highest value, while the hardness of river prawns had the lowest value. The cohesiveness values of pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and river prawns were significantly higher than those of crayfish and freshwater prawns ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant difference from the other two *crustaceans* species ($p > 0.05$). The springiness of black tiger shrimp had the highest value, and the springiness of river prawns, which was the lowest value, was significantly lower than that of the other six species ($p < 0.05$). The gumminess and chewiness of pacific white shrimp were the highest values and were significantly higher than those of the other six *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$). The gumminess and the chewiness of crayfish and river prawns, which were the lowest values, were significantly lower than those of the other five *crustaceans* species ($p < 0.05$).

Table 5. Textural properties of muscles of seven *crustaceans* species.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Hardness (N)	22.05 ± 3.56 ^{cd}	56.50 ± 1.95 ^a	68.58 ± 3.26 ^a	40.62 ± 4.22 ^b	33.63 ± 2.36 ^{bc}	10.11 ± 0.67 ^d	40.43 ± 3.52 ^b
Cohesiveness (%)	0.28 ± 0.02 ^b	0.28 ± 0.02 ^b	0.38 ± 0.02 ^a	0.39 ± 0.03 ^a	0.36 ± 0.02 ^{ab}	0.43 ± 0.02 ^a	0.37 ± 0.02 ^{ab}

Table 5. Cont.

	Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Springiness (mm)	3.10 ± 0.10 ^b	3.53 ± 0.10 ^{ab}	3.07 ± 0.07 ^b	3.91 ± 0.25 ^a	3.23 ± 0.26 ^b	1.49 ± 0.12 ^c	3.42 ± 0.09 ^{ab}
Gumminess (N)	4.57 ± 0.50 ^c	15.58 ± 0.72 ^b	25.76 ± 1.89 ^a	15.16 ± 0.87 ^b	11.89 ± 0.49 ^b	4.28 ± 0.29 ^c	14.69 ± 1.10 ^b
Chewiness (mJ)	13.6 ± 1.8 ^c	55.12 ± 3.70 ^b	78.88 ± 5.96 ^a	60.03 ± 6.59 ^{ab}	38.39 ± 3.46 ^b	6.31 ± 0.54 ^c	50.52 ± 4.34 ^b

Values are presented as mean ± SEM ($n = 5$). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly ($p < 0.05$) different.

A radar map of the textural properties of seven *crustaceans* species is shown in Figure 1. It shows that the best textural properties (hardness, gumminess, and chewiness) were found in the pacific white shrimp, followed by freshwater prawns; the worst textural properties were found in river prawns.

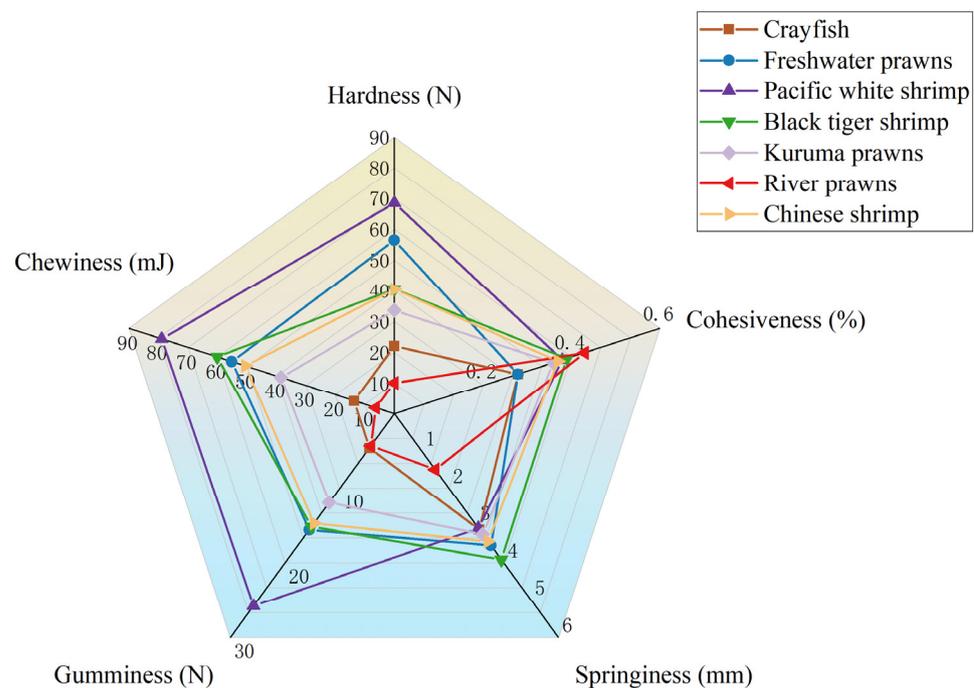


Figure 1. Radar map of textural properties of seven *crustaceans* species.

3.6. Physical and Chemical Index

As shown in Table 6, the brightness (L^*) of river prawns was significantly higher than that of the other six species ($p < 0.05$), while the L^* of black tiger shrimp was significantly lower than that of the other five *crustaceans* species except for pacific white shrimp ($p < 0.05$). The redness (a^*) of crayfish, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp was significantly higher than that of freshwater prawns, pacific white shrimp, and Chinese shrimp ($p < 0.05$). The yellowness (b^*) values of freshwater prawns, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp were negative and tended towards blue. The b^* values of crayfish, kuruma prawns, and river prawns were positive and tended towards yellow. The b^* of river prawns was significantly higher than that of the other six species ($p < 0.05$), and the b^* of freshwater prawns was significantly lower than that of the other species except for black tiger shrimp ($p < 0.05$).

Table 6. Physical and chemical indexes of muscles of seven *crustaceans* species.

		Crayfish	Freshwater Prawns	Pacific White Shrimp	Black Tiger Shrimp	Kuruma Prawns	River Prawns	Chinese Shrimp
Chroma	L* ¹	38.84 ± 0.85 ^b	34.41 ± 1.16 ^c	32.87 ± 0.91 ^{cd}	29.77 ± 0.59 ^d	36.14 ± 0.50 ^{bc}	48.09 ± 0.82 ^a	34.76 ± 1.00 ^c
	a* ²	5.12 ± 0.40 ^a	0.46 ± 0.33 ^c	1.37 ± 0.25 ^c	5.13 ± 0.27 ^a	4.49 ± 0.31 ^{ab}	3.41 ± 0.36 ^b	5.28 ± 0.44 ^a
	b* ³	0.27 ± 0.44 ^{bc}	−6.10 ± 0.39 ^e	−3.72 ± 0.28 ^d	−4.70 ± 0.53 ^{de}	1.67 ± 0.28 ^b	7.29 ± 0.49 ^a	−0.01 ± 0.83 ^c
Drip loss (%) ⁴	15.27 ± 1.36 ^b	12.65 ± 0.82 ^b	16.07 ± 1.61 ^b	15.31 ± 1.30 ^b	15.44 ± 0.97 ^b	46.32 ± 2.64 ^a	17.51 ± 0.78 ^b	17.51 ± 0.78 ^b
Cooking loss (%) ⁵	6.89 ± 1.09 ^{bc}	11.79 ± 1.04 ^{ab}	13.97 ± 1.29 ^a	4.74 ± 0.86 ^c	6.97 ± 0.38 ^{bc}	16.75 ± 2.50 ^a	3.94 ± 0.57 ^c	3.94 ± 0.57 ^c
pH	6.53 ± 0.06 ^c	7.04 ± 0.03 ^{ab}	6.84 ± 0.08 ^b	6.98 ± 0.05 ^b	7.30 ± 0.06 ^a	7.11 ± 0.09 ^{ab}	7.03 ± 0.07 ^{ab}	7.03 ± 0.07 ^{ab}

Values are presented as mean ± SEM ($n = 5$). Values with different superscripts in the same row are significantly ($p < 0.05$) different. ¹ L*, brightness, positive values are brighter and negative values are darker; ² a*, redness, positive values are red and negative values are green; ³ b*, yellowness, positive values are yellow and negative values are blue; ⁴ Drip loss (%) = $(W_0 - W_1)/W_0 \times 100$; ⁵ Cooking loss (%) = $(W_0 - W_2)/W_0 \times 100$; W_0 , initial muscle mass; W_1 , the muscle mass after hanging for 24 h; W_2 , the muscle mass after cooking for 5 min.

As shown in Table 6, the drip loss of river prawns was the highest value. There was no significant difference among the other six *crustaceans* species ($p > 0.05$). The cooking loss rates of black tiger shrimp and Chinese shrimp were significantly lower than those of freshwater prawns, pacific white shrimp, and river prawns ($p < 0.05$). The pH value of kuruma prawns, which was the highest value, was significantly higher than that of crayfish, pacific white shrimp, and black tiger shrimp ($p < 0.05$); the pH of crayfish, which was the lowest value, was significantly lower than that of the other six *crustaceans* ($p < 0.05$).

4. Discussion

With the improvement of people's living standards, more and more attention has been paid to the quality of crustaceans' meat. This article selects seven main types of commercial crustaceans in China and makes a comprehensive assessment of their meat quality.

MC is one of the indexes for evaluating the quality, parental germplasm, and economic characteristics of aquatic products. It varies depending on the species, growth stage, living environment, and diet. In the present study, the body weight of crayfish was significantly higher than that of the other six *crustaceans* species. Nevertheless, the MC of crayfish was the lowest. This may be related to the thickening of the crayfish carapace, strong chelate foot, developed appendage foot, gonad development, and other factors. This indicates that the MC of crayfish is lower than that of other commercial crustaceans and depends on the growth stage, living environment, and origin [33]. Tian et al. [34] concluded that the MC of crustaceans is influenced by the environment in which they live, and the results of this work are similar; for example, the MC of crayfish in the Dongting Lake area was 20.21% [34] and that of crayfish in Nanwan reservoir area was 19.96% [35]. In the present study, pacific white shrimp had the highest MC, indicating that they contained more edible parts. Whether the higher MC is due to higher muscle quality needs to be further investigated. The nutritional value and flavor of these seven *crustaceans* species were also examined to determine differences in muscle quality.

The main nutritional component of crustaceans is muscle, and the nutrients in muscles are mainly protein and lipid, which are elementary indicators for evaluating muscle quality [36]. In the present study, the crude protein content of the seven *crustaceans* species was significantly higher than the crude lipid and ash content, indicating that crustaceans are a high-protein and low-lipid food [37]. It is known that protein is an essential part of the diet of aquatic animals and is required for the growth, development, reproduction, and survival of fish. The amount of protein content could affect the growth and nutritional values in the muscle of crustaceans [13,38]. Pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp had the highest crude protein content, but no significant difference from freshwater prawns and kuruma prawns; crude lipid content was also the highest value for freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp. Therefore, freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp are high-quality edible crustaceans with high protein and lipid contents.

Protein consists of amino acids. EAA content is an important nutritional value index for muscle production [39]. In the present study, the content of Thr was the highest in crayfish; Met and Lys were the highest in freshwater prawns; Ile and Leu were the highest

in pacific white shrimp; His was the highest in crayfish and freshwater prawns; and Val and Phe were the highest in freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp. In addition, umami amino acids (Phe, Ala, Gly, Asp, Glu, and Tyr) reflect the flavor of the muscle and are important indicators of muscle quality [38]. In the present study, the UAA contents of pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp were the highest and significantly higher than those of the other four *crustaceans* species, indicating that these three *crustaceans* species have better flavors. Overall, crayfish, freshwater prawns, and pacific white shrimp have high nutritional values of amino acids; however, pacific white shrimp, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp have better flavor.

More and more attention has been paid to the crucial role of fatty acids and predominantly unsaturated fatty acids in the human body so as to reduce blood lipids, prevent cardiovascular diseases, and promote growth and development. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that reducing the saturated fatty acid (SFA) content and increasing the UFA content in the human diet is part of effective nutrition and prevention of chronic diseases [40]. In addition, PUFAs can significantly enhance the scent and reflect the juiciness of the muscle to a certain extent [41]. In terms of fatty acid composition, the fatty acid types of crayfish, freshwater prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp were higher than those of the other three *crustaceans* species. The C18:3n-3, C20:4n-6, UFA, and PUFA contents had their highest values in crayfish, PUFA was highest in freshwater prawns, and C18:2n-6 had its highest values in freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp. This shows that crayfish have the highest fatty acid value and strongest flavor, followed by freshwater prawns and pacific white shrimp. The highest content of SFA was palmitic acid (16:0), and seven of these were consistent. Palmitic acid can increase blood lipids and may cause the accumulation of blood cholesterol [42]. The crude lipid content of the seven *crustaceans* species was low, so palmitic acid would not cause nutritional problems. Recent studies have shown that MUFAs also play a role in regulating lipid metabolism, reducing the oxidation sensitivity of LDL cholesterol, protecting vascular endothelium, and reducing blood hypercoagulability [43]. Oleic acid (18:1) was the most abundant MUFA among the seven *crustaceans* species. Oleic acid is a benign fatty acid that can lower cholesterol and LDL [44]. In this paper, crayfish, freshwater prawns, and river prawns had high levels of oleic acid. Therefore, among the seven *crustaceans* species, crayfish have the highest nutritionally valuable fatty acids.

In addition to nutrients, the textural properties of muscle are important factors for their performance and represent the most important sensory and physicochemical index of muscle quality [45]. Hardness is represented by the human body's sense of touch—softness or hardness, the force required to deform a food, the internal bond that maintains its shape. The greater the hardness, the greater the deformation force required for fracture and the greater the springiness [46]. Springiness can reflect the binding condition of prawn muscle tissue; the better the crucial ability, the higher the springiness. Both springiness and chewiness reflect the edible taste of prawn muscle [47]. In this study, the hardness, cohesiveness, gumminess, and chewiness of pacific white shrimp were the highest. On the contrary, the hardness, springiness, gumminess, and chewiness of river prawns were all minimal. Overall, the pacific white shrimp had the best textural properties, while the river prawns had the worst textural properties.

One of the key characteristics of meat quality is muscle chroma, which can be identified through visual perception. Muscle chroma itself does not contribute much to muscle flavor but is considered as a fleshy trait primarily because it represents the external appearance of the physiological, biochemical, and microbial changes of the muscle itself. Ferrous myoglobin (Mb) and hemoglobin (Hb) play an important role in muscle color. Therefore, muscle chroma is still commonly used to indicate meat quality. Muscle chroma is typically represented by a brightness value (L^*), redness value (a^*), and yellowness value (b^*), with the change in a^* having the best correlation with muscle chroma sensation [48]. In this study, the a^* of crayfish, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp were significantly higher than those of the other species, except for kuruma prawns, suggesting that crayfish, black tiger shrimp, and Chinese shrimp have better visual indication of quality.

The amount of WHC is directly related to muscle texture and nutritional composition. The loss of water deprives the muscle not only of moisture but also nutrients and heme, affecting the sensory morphology and flesh color of the muscle [14]. Therefore, cooking loss rate and drip loss rate are essential parameters that reflect muscle water retention and show a negative correlation to quality [49]. In this study, the cooking loss of pacific white shrimp and river prawns was significantly higher than that of the other four *crustaceans* species except freshwater prawns, which is consistent with the study by Cui et al. [50], which showed that pacific white shrimp and river prawns lose more nutrients after cooking. The drip loss of river prawns was significantly higher than that of the other six *crustaceans* species, and the structural parameters of the hardness, springiness, and chewiness properties of river prawns were the lowest among the seven groups. Relevant studies also showed that drip loss is negatively correlated with the textural characteristics of muscle hardness, springiness, and chewiness [51], which was consistent with the results of this study. This also explains the high drip loss of river prawns. The pH value of muscle has a significant influence on muscle quality. When the pH of muscle decreases to the electrical value of the muscle protein or protein denaturation occurs, the mechanical properties of muscle are directly affected, especially retention, cooking loss, and dry processing capacity [52]. In the present study, the pH value of kuruma prawns was the highest. Still, it was not significantly different from that of freshwater prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp. In contrast, the pH of crayfish was significantly lower than that of the other six species, suggesting that kuruma prawns, freshwater prawns, river prawns, and Chinese shrimp would be better preserved, boiled, and processed, while the opposite was true for crayfish.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, our results suggest that each of these seven *crustaceans* species has its own advantages and that they are all high-quality sources of protein and rich in amino acids and fatty acids, capable of meeting the daily nutritional needs of the human body. Among them, the main essential amino acids and essential fatty acids in the tail muscles of pacific white shrimp, freshwater prawns, and crayfish are higher in content and have better nutritional value. In addition, the textural properties of pacific white shrimp are relatively better.

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Institutional Review Board Statement: All animals were treated following the license established by the Animal Experiment Ethics Committee. On 19 January 2022, the animal study was reviewed and approved by the Animal Experimental Ethical Inspection of Shanghai Ocean University. The study was conducted in accordance with the local legislation and institutional requirements (Approval Code: SHOU-DW-2022-024.).

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