	Original Research Article
NUTRITIONAL Q	JALITY OF WEANING FOODS
FORMULATED FR	OM MAIZE GRUEL 'OGI' AND
CRAYFISH USIN	NG COMBINED TRADITIONAL
r	PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY
ABSTRACT	
	quality of weaning foods produced from maize gruel 'og ional processing techniques (germination, fermentatio
and toasting). Study design: Randomized block o	dealan
	pepartment of Food Science and Technology, Federa
Jniversity of Technology, Akure, On	ndo State, Nigeria, between January 2013 and Novembe
2014. <b>Methodology: Maize grains were</b>	germinated at room temperature for three days after
which they were fermented for 24 h.	the maize grains were milled into slurry and divided int
	oven-dried at 50°C and milled into flour while the secon lled into flour. The two flours were separately mixed wit
	d crayfish-ogi blend and toasted crayfish-ogi blend. Th
	was determined. The nutritional qualities of the crayfis
	sed biologically using animal feeding experiment t intake, protein quality parameters and haematologica
	food (Crelac) and traditional wearing food, ordinary og
Maize gruel), were used as control	
	eria count of the <i>ogi</i> blends ranged from 1.2 to 2.5x 10 d in both oven-dried and toasted crayfish enriched og
plends. Yeasts were found only in	oven-dried enriched ogi blend (1.0 x 10 <sup>3</sup> cfu/g). Coliforn
	e not detected in all the formulated diets. The growth rat
	d-ogi blends were lower than those fed with the cerela nary ogi. The protein efficiency ratio of animals fed wit
	as similar ( $p=0.05$ ) to those fed with cerelac diet. The no
protein ratio, True digestibility, Biolo	gical value and Net protein utilization of animals fed with
	ificantly lower (p<0.05) than those fed with cerelac die en and kidney of animals fed with crayfish-enriched o
	0.05) than those fed with ordinary <i>ogi</i> but similar to the
ats fed with casein and cerelac d	liets. The haematological variables of animals fed wit
crayfish enriched ogi diets, comme significantly (p>0.05) influenced by t	ercial weaning food (cerelac) and casein diet were not be dietary treatment
	gi has potential as a functional weaning food wit
adaptable production technology (to	asting) especially among rural dwellers.

- 12 Keywords: Quality evaluation, crayfish, enrichment, Ogi, germination, fermentation, toasting

#### 14 **1. INTRODUCTION**

15 When breast milk is no longer enough to meet the nutritional needs of the infant at 16 the age of four or six months and above, complementary foods (i.e., traditional or 17 commercial weaning foods) should be added to the diet of the child. Several commercial weaning foods are marketed in Nigeria, but they are too expensive for people of low socio-18 19 economic status, especially those in the rural areas [1]. The most popular traditional weaning 20 food in Nigeria which is fermented maize gruel known as 'ogi' has been implicated in the 21 etiology of protein - energy malnutrition (PEM) in children during weaning period due to the 22 low nutritive value characterized by low protein, low energy density and high bulk [2]. There 23 is therefore a need to develop weaning foods with adequate protein that will promote growth 24 in children from low cost local food sources using methods that are suitable at village level or 25 at home.

26 Food processing techniques such as roasting, germination, milling, cooking, drying, 27 fermentation and extrusion have the potential to enhance the nutrient bioavailability, nutrient 28 density, food safety, storage stability, palatability, and convenience of supplementary foods 29 suitable for infant mixtures [3]. Germination, fermentation and toasting of cereals are 30 affordable and widely practiced processing techniques in Africa [4]. Fermentation enhances 31 the nutrient of foods through biosynthesis and bioavailability of vitamins, essential amino 32 acids, reducing the antinutrients and improving the protein quality and fibre digestibility [5, 6]. 33 Germination unlocks many nutrients which are in bound forms in the food and thereby increases nutrient bio-availability, energy density and acceptability of the food [7, 8]. 34 35 Toasting reduces anti-nutrients, improves the taste and nutrient quality of the food product 36 and lowers the moisture content of such food product thereby increasing its shelf life [9]. An 37 integrated approach that combines a variety of the traditional food processing techniques in 38 the preparation of weaning food, including the addition of small amount of animal-source 39 foods has been reported to be the best strategy to improve the nutrient content and 40 bioavailability of micro-nutrients in plant-based diets in resource-poor settings [10]. The 41 combination of two or more food processing techniques is more effective in removing 42 antinutritional factors in cereal and thereby producing high nutrient dense weaning food [11]

43 Crayfish which is classified as an animal polypeptide is a freshwater crustacean resembling 44 small lobster and it is commonly found in Nigerian coastal water. Crayfish is relatively cheap, 45 affordable and readily available throughout the year. A review of nutritional value of crayfish 46 showed that it is a good source of protein (36 -45%) with a superior biological value, true 47 digestibility, net protein utilization, high content of essential amino acid, and protein 48 efficiency is favourable compared to case in [12,13]. It is very low in carbohydrate but rich in 49 vitamin D, A and mineral elements such as calcium, potassium, copper, zinc and iodine, [14, 50 **15**].

In the effort to cube problem of protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) among the infants in Nigeria, a number of weaning foods have been formulated from locally available food materials [2,16,17,18]. Most of these formulated complementary foods are still not accessible to many nursing mothers, as a result of the high cost of food materials and production processes [19]. The present study is therefore aimed at producing weaning foods from ogi flour and crayfish flour mixes using a combination of traditional processing techniques and evaluates the microbiological and nutritional quality of the formulated diets.

# 59 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

60

# 61 2.1 Materials

62 White maize (*Zea mays*), white crayfish (*euastacus spp*) and commercial weaning food 63 (cerelac) were purchased from Oba market in Akure Ondo state Nigeria.

# 64 **2.2 Preparation of crayfish enriched ogi blends**

65 The maize grains were soaked overnight after which they were germinated for 3 days. The 66 germinated grains were dried at 60  $^{\circ}$ C for 14 hours and the radicles were removed. The germinated grains were steeped in water for 24 hours for fermentation to take place. The 67 68 germinated - fermented grains were wet-milled, sieved and the slurry obtained was allowed to settle after which it was dewatered using muslin cloth. Ogi cake obtained was pulverized, 69 70 sieved and divided into two portions. The first portion was oven dried at 50 °C for 24 hours while the second portion was toasted at 70 °C to 80°C using open cast iron. The crayfish 71 72 were cleaned and milled into flour. The two ogi flours were separately mixed with crayfish 73 powder in ratio of 80:15 respectively to obtain oven-dried cravitish-ogi blend and toasted 74 crayfish-ogi blend. The choice of these mixing ratios was based on the target protein which is 18%. This mixing ratio was determined by using Quarto pro 8 software programme. 75

# 76 **2.3 Microbiological analysis**

The formulated weaning diets were examined microbiologically using the procedure of
Olutiola *et al.*, [20] after serial dilution. The total microbial load was determined using nutrient
agar in a plate count while molds and yeasts were examined using potato dextro agar.
Staphylococcus aureus, coliform and salmonella were determined using manitol salt agar,
macconkey agar and deoxycholate citrate agar respectively.

# 82 2.4 Experimental Diets

The experimental diets which consist of formulated diets (crayfish enriched-ogi diets), commercial weaning food (cerelac) and casein were prepared at 10% protein level (isonitrogenous diets). A Basal diet (ordinary *ogi*) was also prepared. Composition of experimental diets is shown in Table 1. Diet 1 is the basal diet (ordinary *ogi*), diet 2 is the control (casein diet) while diets 3, 4 and 5 are cerelac, oven dried crayfish enriched *ogi* and toasted crayfish enriched *ogi* respectively.

#### 89 Table 1: Composition of experimental diet (g/100g)

Ingredients	N-free diet	Casein diet	Cerelac diet	Oven-dried enriched ogi diet	Toasted enriched ogi diet
Ordinary ogi	71.80	60.30	5.63	16.24	16.24
Casein	-	11.50	-	-	-
Cerelac	-	-	66.67	-	-
Oven-dried enriched ogi	-	-	-	55.56	-

Toasted enriched ogi	-	-	-	-	55.56
Glucose	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sucrose	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Non-nutritive cellulose	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Vegetable oil	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Mineral mixture	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Vitamin mixture	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
NaCl	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

## 91 2.5 Animal Experiment

92 In this study, thirty weanling albino rats of the Wistar strain weighing between 30 – 65g at the 93 beginning of experiment were obtained from the Department of Biochemistry, University of 94 llorin, Kwara state, Nigeria. The rats were weighed and divided into five groups. They were 95 randomly distributed in metabolic cages and fed on normal (pellet) diets for a period of 7 days for proper acclimatisation to the environment before commencement of the 96 97 experiments. After the acclimatisation period, the animals were then re-weighed and 98 grouped into five groups of six rats each per group such that the differences in their mean 99 weights were ±2g. Two groups of animals were administered with the formulated diets 100 (oven-dried cravitish enriched ogi and toasted cravitish enriched ogi). The remaining three groups of animals were administered with cerelac (a commercial weaning food), ordinary ogi 101 and casein. Food and water were provided ad libitum to the rats for 28days. During this 102 103 period dietary intake per day and weight of the animals were recorded. Five days before the 104 end of feeding experiment, the faeces and urine were collected separately from each rat and pooled together at the end of the experiment. Pooled samples of faeces were dried in an 105 oven at 80°C for 12 hours, cooled and weighed. A few drops of dilute sulphuric acid 106 107 (H2SO4) were added to the urine, which was kept under frozen conditions. Nitrogen in the 108 urine and faeces was determined by micro-Kjeldahl method [21]. The biological value (BV), 109 true digestibility (TD), net protein utilization (NPU), protein efficiency ratio (PER), feed 110 efficiency ratio (FER) and net protein ratio (NPR) were calculated.

#### 111 **2.6 Haematological Evaluations**

112 At the end of the experiment, all the rats were starved for 3 hours and weighed after which 113 each rat was anaesthetised and sacrificed. Blood samples from each rat were collected into 114 sample bottles containing a few milligram of EDTA prior to haematological analysis. The 115 packed cell volume (PCV) was estimated by spinning about 75ul of each blood sample in 116 heparinised capillary tubes in a haematocrit microcentrifuge for 5 minutes, and the total red 117 blood cell (RBC) and white blood cell (WBC) counts were determined. The haemoglobin 118 concentration (Hb) was estimated using the cyano-methaemoglobin concentration method. 119 while the lymphocyte, neutrophil, monocyte, basophill and eosinophil were determined [22,

120 23]. The heart, lungs, spleen, kidneys and liver were removed, blotted free of blood and
 121 weighed [22]. The values were subsequently expressed in g/kg of body weight

# 122 **2.7** Statistical analysis

All analyses were carried out in triplicates. Means were tested for differences using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) using Statistical Analysis System Software (SAS version 9.2, SAS institute, Cary, NC). Significant differences between mean values were determined by Duncan's Multiple Range Test and accepted at  $P \le 0.05$ . Data are reported as mean  $\pm$ standard deviation from the mean.

# 128 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

# 129 **3.1 Microbial analysis**

130 The result of coliform, staphylococcus, salmonella, mould, yeast and total viable count of the 131 formulated diets are shown in Table 2. Coliform, Staphylococcus and Salmonella spp were 132 absent in the formulated diets. This shows that the food will be fit for human consumption. 133 The total viable count in all the formulated diets are below the maximum level of 1.0 x10<sup>5</sup> recommend by PAG [24]. However, all the formulated weaning diets would require cooking 134 135 before feeding to children during which most of these microorganisms would be destroyed. 136 The reduction in the total viable count of toasted enriched ogi diets may be due to toasting which was done at high temperature. (70-80°C) and might have destroyed all the pathogenic 137 138 microorganisms.

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140

# 141 Table 2: Microbiological quality of enriched ogi (cfu/g)

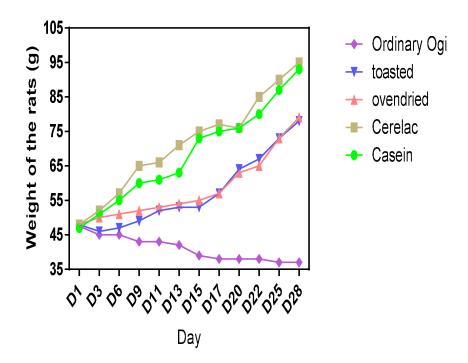
	cc	ounts	
Micro-organism	Ovendried	Toasted	
Coliform	0	0	
Staphylococcus	0	0	
Salmonella	0	0	
Molds (sfu/g)	1x10 <sup>3</sup>	1x10 <sup>3</sup>	

Yeast	1x10 <sup>3</sup>	0
Total viable count	1.8x10 <sup>3</sup>	1.2x10 <sup>3</sup>

143

#### 144 **3.2 Growth Performance and nutrient utilization of the experimental animals**

145 The food intake of rats fed on the formulated diets, cerelac and casein ranged from 148.5g (oven-dried 146 enriched ogi) to 182.2g (cerelac diet) (Table 3). Food intake of animals fed with casein and cerelac diet was 147 significantly (p=0.05) higher than that of animals fed with oven-dried and toasted enriched ogi. A similar 148 trend was observed in the protein intake of the experimental animals (Table3). The growth performance and 149 weight gain /loss of the experimental animals are presented in Figure 1. The weight gain of the experimental 150 animals ranged from 33.0 g to 46.8 g. It was observed that the weight gains of animals placed on 151 experimental diets (oven-dried crayfish-ogi and toasted crayfish-ogi) were lower than those of animals fed 152 with cerelac and casein diets but were higher than those of animal fed with ordinary ogi. Weight gain of 153 animals fed with oven-dried crayfish-ogi was similar to that of animals fed with toasted crayfish-ogi. Weight 154 gain of animals fed with cerelac and casein diet agreed with their food intake. Similar observation was 155 reported by Ibironke, [25]. Ibironke et al. [15] reported that the diet formulated from maize flour and crayfish 156 (10% and 15%) promoted growth more than the milk based commercial diet. Animals fed with ordinary ogi diet did not show any appreciable growth. This may be due to the fact that the diet lacked adequate nutrient 157 158 such as protein with balanced amino acids. This agrees with the previous results that cereals are deficient in 159 essential amino acid, such as lysine and tryptophan, hence, was not nutritionally adequate to promote growth [3,8,9]. 160





162 D.....1042010 = Days of feeding

163 Fig. 1: Growth rate of rats fed with formulated weaning diets, cerelac and casein

164	Table 3: Nutrient utilization of rats fed with enriched ogi, casein and Cerelac
104	Table 5. Nutrient utilization of rats red with enforced ogi, casein and ociciae

Parameters	casein	cerelac	Oven-dried enriched ogi	Toasted enriched ogi
Food intake (g)	164.6 <sup>a</sup>	$182.2^{a}$	148.5 <sup>b</sup>	149.6 <sup>b</sup>
Protein intake (g)	$17.8^{a}$	$18.5^{a}$	14.5 <sup>b</sup>	15.0 <sup>b</sup>
Nitrogen consumed	0.61	0.62	0.47	0.56
Feacal nitrogen	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.23
Urinary nitrogen	0.09	0.13	0.14	0.17
Nitrogen retained	0.37	0.28	0.13	0.16

165 Values followed by different superscript on the same row are significantly different (p=0.5)

166 The results of Feed efficiency ratio (FER), protein efficiency ratio (PER) and net protein ratio (NPR) of the

167 experimental animals are shown in Figure 2. The feed efficiency ratio (FER) of different diets varied from

168 0.22g (toasted enriched ogi diet) to 0.26g (casein diet). The FER of rats fed with casein and cerelac were

169 not significantly different (P=0.05) but were higher than those of rats fed with toasted crayfish enriched ogi

170 and oven-dried crayfish enriched ogi diets. The corrected PERs of the different diets varied from 2.3 (toasted

171 crayfish enriched ogi) to 2.5 (Casein diet). The corrected PERs of the formulated diets were similar to those

172 of cerelac and casein diets. The PAG (Protein Advisory Group) and U.S. Department of Agriculture

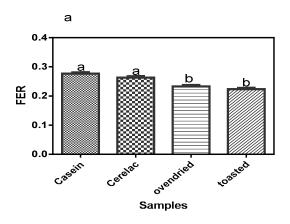
173 guidelines recommend a PER of not less than 2.1 and preferably greater than 2.3 for weaning food and

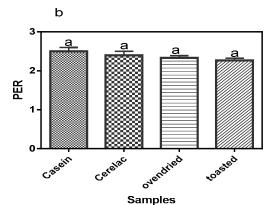
174 corn-based blends [18,26,27]. The net protein ratio (NPR) of the diets ranged from 2.6 (toasted enriched ogi)

- 175 to 3.25 (Casein diets). NPR is a more accurate measure of protein quality than PER as it allows for the
- 176 evaluation of maintenance requirement and results are independent of feed intake. The NPR of the
- 177 formulated diets was lower than those of casein and cerelac diets. Similar report was obtained by Fashakin,

178 <mark>[28].</mark>

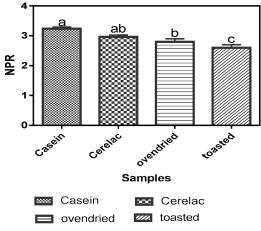
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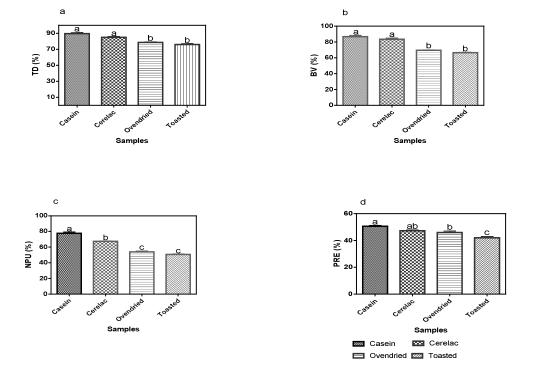


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181 Fig. 2: (a) The Feed Efficiency Ratio (FER), (b) Protein Efficiency Ratio (PER) and (c) Net Protein Ratio

182 (NPR) of rats fed on different weaning diets and casein

The results of true digestibility (TD), biological value (BV), net protein utilization (NPU) and protein retention efficiency (PRE) are illustrated in (Fig 3). TD, BV, NPU and PRE ranged from 76.0 to 89.8%, 66.5 to 87.6%, 185 50.5 to77.4% and 42 to 51 respectively. The TD, BV and NPU of casein and cerelac were higher ( $p \le 0.05$ ) 186 than those of oven-dried and toasted crayfish enriched ogi. The results obtained in the present study are 187 similar to those observed by Obizoba [29], who reported BV values of 67.6 to 75.9% and NPU values of 51.8 188 to 62.3% for the weaning food prepared from malted corn plus crayfish. The lower values of TD, BV and 189 NPU in the toasted diet may be due to roasting as it affects the availability of some amino acids. Similar 190 report was obtained by Dahiya and Kapoor, [9] who showed that PER, TD, BV and NPU decreased on 191 roasting. The effect of roasting on availability of amino acid can be minimized by roasting at a reduced 192 temperature. Since protein retention efficiency (PRE) was obtained by multiplying NPR by 16, the trend of 193 the result obtained for PRE is similar to that of NPR (Fig. 2.).



194

Fig. 3: (a) The True Digestibility (TD), (b) Biological Value (BV), (c) Net protein Utilization (NPU) and (d)
 Protein Retention Efficiency of rats fed with different weaning diets and casein

# 197 3.3 Organ weights and haematological parameters of animals fed with cerelac, casein, 198 formulated diets and ordinary ogi

199	The weight of some vital organs of animals fed with cerelac, casein, formulated diets and ordinary ogi are
200	shown in Table 4. The heart weight, the liver weight, the spleen weight and kidney weight ranged from 0.20
201	to 0.37g, 2.19 to 4.4g, 0.13 to 0.42 g and 0.35 to 0.78g respectively. The weights of the heart, the kidney, the
202	spleen and liver of animals fed with oven dried and toasted crayfish enriched ogi compared favorably with
203	those of standard diet (Casein and Cerelac). This indicates that the formulated diets may not result in
204	abnormal development of the vital organs.
205	The results of haematological parameters of animals fed with cerelac, casein, formulated dietsi and ordinary

206 ogi are shown in Table 5. The blood indices varied: packed cell volume (PCV) 30.25 to 33.0 %, haemoglobin

concentration (Hb) 10.03 to 11.28%, red blood cell (RBC) 64.45 to 73.08 x10<sup>5</sup>, white blood cell (WBC) 52.0 to 101.5 x 10<sup>5</sup>, erythrocyte sedimentation rate 1.23 to 1.65, lymphocyte 50.18 to 53.15%, basophil 2.0 to 11.25%, neutrophil 30.5 to 37.35% and monocytes 7.75 to 10.0%. PCV measures the ratio of the volume occupied by red blood cell to the volume of whole blood cell. It is a convenient and rapid measure of the degree of anaemia [18]. Low PCV, HBc and serum protein have been associated with protein deficiency [25]. The PCV, Hb and RBC of rats fed with basal diet were lower than those fed with casein, cerelac and formulated diets. Similar results were reported by Osundahunsi and Aworh [30]. The values obtained for PCV, RBC, WBC and Hb of the rats fed with formulated diets were similar to those fed with casein and cerelac. The results show the adequacy of the formulated diets in blood formation. This suggests that the feeding of formulated diets will support haematopoietic activities of the body.

Dietary group	Heart (g)	liver (g)	Spleen (g)	Kidney (g)
Cerelac	0.28 <sup>b</sup>	4.02 <sup>ab</sup>	0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	0.72 <sup>ab</sup>
Casein	0.37 <sup>a</sup>	4.49 <sup>a</sup>	0.42 <sup>a</sup>	0.78 <sup>a</sup>
Oven-dried	0.29 <sup>b</sup>	3.79 <sup>b</sup>	0.29 <sup>b</sup>	0.55 <sup>ab</sup>
Enriched 'ogi'				
Toasted	0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	3.80 <sup>b</sup>	0.29 <sup>b</sup>	0.53 <sup>ab</sup>
Enriched 'ogi'				
Ordinary'Ogi'	0.20 <sup>c</sup>	2.19 <sup>c</sup>	0.13 <sup>c</sup>	0.35 <sup>b</sup>
diet				

Table 4: Organ weights (g) of rats fed with crayfish enriched-ogi, casein, cerelac and ordinary 'ogi'

219 Values with different superscript on the same column are significantly different (p=0.5)

Parameters	Toasted	Oven-dried	Casein	Cerelac	Ogi
	enriched ogi	enriched ogi			
Packed cell volume	30.50	30.75	32.00	33.00	30.25
(%)					
Haemaglobin	10.38	10.25	10.73	11.28	10.03
(g/100ml)					
Red blood cell (x $10^5$ )	67.55	67.30	70.98	73.08	64.45
White blood cell	76.63 <sup>b</sup>	52.01 <sup>c</sup>	66.51 <sup>bc</sup>	68.01 <sup>bc</sup>	101.5 <sup>a</sup>
(x10 <sup>2</sup> )					
Erythrocyte	1.23 <sup>b</sup>	1.35 <sup>ab</sup>	1.38 <sup>ab</sup>	1.35 <sup>ab</sup>	1.65 <sup>a</sup>
sedimentation rate					
Lymphocytes (%)	53.15	51.00	50.18	51.00	54.25
Monocytes (%)	9.00	8.00	7.75	9.00	10.00
Eosinophil (%)	2.50	2.75	2.00	2.00	3.50
Basophil (%)	1.25 <sup>ab</sup>	1.75 <sup>a</sup>	1.25 <sup>ab</sup>	1.50 <sup>a</sup>	2.01 <sup>a</sup>
Neutrophil (%)	36.75 <sup>a</sup>	30.51 <sup>b</sup>	37.25 <sup>a</sup>	36.01 <sup>a</sup>	31.25 <sup>b</sup>

Table 5: Haematological parameters of rats fed with formulated diets, casein and cerelac

# 231 Conclusion

232 The study showed that the formulated diets promote growth better than ordinary ogi. The haematological 233 indices and organ weight measurement of the rats fed the formulated diets were better than that of ordinary 234 ogi and compared favourably with that of rats fed with standard casein and Cerelac. The study indicated that oven dried enriched ogi and toasted enriched ogi may support growth in children than ordinary ogi which is 235 236 currently in use as traditional weaning foods in Nigeria. The implications of these findings are far reaching 237 since all the components used in the formulation are obtained from local market and toasting is a processing method that can easily be practiced at home. Adoption of toasted enriched ogi may make the product a 238 239 potentially more functional and more accessible weaning food.

240

# 241 COMPETING INTERESTS

- 242 We declared no competing interests exist
- 243

# 244 ETHICAL APPROVAL

- This study was approved by the ethical review committee of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria
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