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# Fatty acids profile of black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*): influence of feeding substrate based on coffee-waste silverskin enriched with microalgae

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# 19 Highlights

- 20 Hermetia illucens (HI) enriched with PUFA through the revalorization of organic waste
- 21 Reuse of coffe silverskin (CS) enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp or *Isochrysis* sp.
- 22 *Hermetia illucens* prepupae: first study of fatty acid composition coupling GC-MS and FTIR.
- 23 Ability of HI prepupae to accumulate significative amounts of polyunsaturated fatty acids
- 24 HI prepupae reared on CS enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp are beneficial to health
- 25 CS substrate enriched with a 10% of *Schizochytrium* sp is the most covenient one

## 26 ABSTRACT

The aim of this work was to find alternative low-cost and environmentally friendly rearing 27 substrates for the growth of Hermetia illucens (HI) (Diptera, Stratiomydae), used as feed. At this 28 purpose, insect feeding substrates based on the re-use of coffee silverskin, the main waste product of 29 30 the coffee-roasting industry, enriched with various percentages of microalgae (i.e., Schizochytrium sp. or Isochrysis sp.), were tested. The fatty acid profile, as well as the relative amount of lipids, 31 proteins and carbohydrates (these latter calculated as ratio to the total biomass of the sample) of 32 ingredients, insect feeding substrates and HI prepupae, were determined for the first-time coupling 33 Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy. A 34 35 multivariate statistical analysis (Principal Component Analysis) was performed to better read into 36 results. In general, the inclusion of microalgae caused in both feeding substrates and in HI prepupae an increase in the relative amount of lipids and proteins, improving their nutritional value. Higher 37 amounts of unsaturated fatty acids, particularly of omega-3, and good nutritional indices were 38 detected in HI prepupae reared on substrates enriched with 10%, 20% or 25% of Schizochytrium sp. 39 with respect to HI prepupae fed with coffee silverskin enriched with Isochrysis sp., suggesting them 40 as new nutraceutical ingredients for future functional feed and food. In addition, the substrate 41 enriched with a 10% inclusion level of Schizochytrium sp. has to be considered the most convenient 42 43 one since a greater inclusion of microalgae did not promote additional benefits in terms of nutritional value of HI prepupae. 44

45

46 KEYWORD: Hermetia illucens, coffee silverskin, microalgae, FA profile, relative macromolecular
47 composition, Principal Component Analysis

Abbreviations. CARBO, carbohydrates; CS, coffee silverskin; DHA, docosahexaenoic fatty acid;
DM, dry matter; EPA, eicosapentaenoic fatty acid; FA, fatty acid; FAMEs, fatty acid methyl esters;

50	FTIR, Fourier	Transform	InfraRed;	GC-MS,	gas-chroma	tography-mass	spectrometry;	HI, Hermetia
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- 51 illucens; I, Isochrysis sp.; IR, InfraRed; LIP, lipids; MUFAs, monounsaturated fatty acids; NIST,
- 52 National Institute of Standard & Technology; PCA, Principal Component Analysis; PUFAs,
- 53 polyunsaturated fatty acids; PRT, proteins; S, *Schizochytrium* sp.; UNSAT, unsaturated fatty acids.

# 54 **1. Introduction**

Due to the rapid increase in world population, the production of enough feed for farmed-animals and 55 food for humans represents a serious challenge for the future. Moreover, the increase in food-demand 56 57 along with not-sustainable food production practices will generate a rise in waste and by-product production (Van Huis, 2013). Therefore, the revalorization of by-products for feed and food 58 production is strongly supported by several research proposals and studies (Diener et al., 2011; Li et 59 al., 2011; Salomone et al., 2017). Insects may represent a valuable alternative ingredient for feed and 60 food production in a new interesting approach of sustainable circular economy, since they show high 61 reproductive rate and nutritional value and can grow on organic by-products (Henry et al., 2015; 62 Gasco et al., 2016; Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Vargas et al., 2018). Recently, the 63 EFSA Scientific Committee (2015) proposed a list of insect species with the greatest potential as food 64 and feed ingredients in the EU, including Hermetia illucens (HI, Diptera, Stratiomydae). Due to its 65 rapid development (Hall and Gerhardt, 2002), reduced environmental footprint (Sheppard et al., 66 1994), and preference for organic waste as growth substrate (Van Huis et al., 2013; Nguyen et al., 67 2015; Meneguz et al., 2018), HI is one of the most promising insect species to respond to the joint 68 69 problems of the future lack of conventional feed and food ingredients and the excessive production of agro-food waste (Cutrignelli et al., 2018; Zarantoniello et al., 2019). In general, HI shows high 70 71 lipid content (up to 500 g/kg) (Makkar et al., 2014; Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017), but its fatty acid (FA) composition is not always optimal for animal and human nutrition and health (Nordøy et al., 72 2001; Gómez-Candela et al., 2011), because characterized by low amounts of monounsaturated 73 (MUFA) and polyunsaturated (PUFA) fatty acids and high amounts of saturated ones (SFA) (St-74 75 Hilaire et al., 2007; Ushakova et al., 2016; Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017; Caligiani et al., 2018; 76 Zarantoniello et al., 2018; Cardinaletti et al., 2019). HI nutritional composition are deeply influenced by the rearing substrates (Tomberlin et al., 2002; Nguyen et al., 2013), and it has been demonstrated 77

that rearing HI larvae on a substrate based on organic waste containing desirable omega-3 fatty acids 78 79 could be a suitable way to enrich the final insect biomass (St-Hilaire et al., 2007; Barroso et al., 2017). 80 Coffee silverskin (a coffee roasting by-product, CS) is an industrial waste rich in bioactive compounds and characterized by antioxidant and potential prebiotic activities (Narita and Inouye, 81 2014; Costa et al., 2018; Iriondo-DeHond et al., 2019), suggesting it as ingredient for functional food. 82 Large amounts of CS are produced worldwide every year (Galanakis, 2017), representing a discharge, 83 and thus a cost, for coffee companies. In the concept of circular economy, a general effort to valorize 84 this waste is of great interest. 85

Marine microalgae are characterized by the presence of essential amino-acids and high contents of omega-3 and -6 PUFAs (da Silva Vaz et al., 2016). *Schizochytrium* sp. are heterotrophic marine traustochytrids of which 35 g/100g of their total fatty acids consists out of DHA (Zhu et al., 2007; Barclay et al., 2010), while *Isochrysis* sp. are microalgae of the genus haptophytes characterized by a high content of PUFAs such as DHA, stearidonic acid and alpha-linolenic acid (Aussant et al., 2018).

The aim of this work was to find environmentally friendly rearing substrates for the growth of 92 PUFA-enriched Hermetia illucens, to be used as a perspective feed ingredient. At this purpose, CS 93 94 was chosen as main growth substrate for HI, while Schizochytrium sp. and Isochrysis sp. (at various 95 inclusion percentages) were added as PUFA source. The fatty acid profile, as well as the relative 96 amount of lipids, proteins and carbohydrates (calculated as ratio to the total biomass of the sample) of ingredients, insect feeding substrates and HI prepupae, were determined for the first-time coupling 97 98 Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy. This latter is a label free analytical technique, successfully applied in recent years to characterize the 99 100 macromolecular features of biological samples at vibrational level (Giorgini et al., 2018; Zarantoniello et al., 2019). 101

102

# 103 2 Materials and methods

## 104 2.1. *Rearing and harvesting*

## 105 2.1.1. Insect feeding substrate preparation

Nine different insect feeding substrates (from here below indicated as "substrates") were tested 106 107 during the experiment. The basal substrate consisted of by-products obtained from roasting coffee (a mixture of Arabica and Robusta varieties) process (coffee silverskin, CS) [provided by Saccaria Caffè 108 S.R.L., Marina di Montemarciano (AN), Italy]. CS (moisture 440 g/kg) was collected in plastic bags, 109 frozen at -20°C, and ground in an Ariete 1769 food processor (De' Longhi Appliances Srl, Italy) to a 110 particle size of 2±0.4 mm before the feeding substrate preparation. Schizochytrium sp. and Isochrysis 111 sp. were freeze-dried provided by AlghItaly Società Agricola S.R.L. (Sommacampagna (VR), Italy) 112 and stored at 4°C. Feeding substrates were formulated as follow (Table 1): substrate E, 100% coffe 113 silverskin (CS); substrates As, Bs, Cs and Ds: CS added with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of 114 Schvzochytrium sp., respectively; substrates Ai, Bi, Ci and Di: CS added with 5%, 10%, 20% and 115 25% Isochrysis sp., respectively. All substrates were added with water to reach an optimal moisture 116 (as suggested by literature) close to 700 g/kg (Table 1) (Makkar et al., 2014). Both separate 117 ingredients (CS and microalgae) and feeding substrates (a mixture of CS and microalgae) samples 118 were stored at -80°C for further analyses. 119

## 120 2.1.2. Rearing of Hermetia illucens larvae

HI rearing was carried out at the D3A experimental facility (Polytechnic University of Marche) starting from 6 days old larvae purchased from Smart Bugs s.s. [Ponzano Veneto (TV), Italy]. Larvae were divided in the following groups (five replicates, each containing 150 larvae) (Van Broekhoven et al., 2015): HI E, prepupae reared on substrate E (100% CS); HI As, HI Bs, HI Cs, HI Ds: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of *Schyzochytrium* sp, respectively; HI Ai, HI Bi, HI Ci, HI Di: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of *Isochrysis* sp., respectively. Each group contained 750 larvae (6 days old, hand counted). Larvae were reared at a density of 0.3 ind./cm<sup>2</sup> (Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2018), in a climatic chamber at a  $27\pm1^{\circ}$ C temperature, 650±50 g/kg relative humidity (Spranghers et al., 2017), in continuous darkness.

Each larva was provided with a feeding rate of 100 mg/day (Diener et al., 2009) within plastic boxes (28 x 19 x 14 cm). Boxes were screened with fine-mesh cotton gauze and covered with a lid provided with a single ventilation hole (Spranghers et al., 2017). Substrates were completely replaced once a week (larvae were gently transferred into another box containing the new feed). Larvae were visually inspected every day and when prepupae were identified by the change in tegument colour from white to black (May, 1961), they were manually collected using forceps and brushes and sampled and stored at -80°C for further analyses.

Experiments were performed in compliance with the Italian laws and institutional guidelines. Nospecific authorization is requested to conduct experiments on invertebrates such as insects.

# 139 2.2. Analytical methods

# 140 2.2.1. Lipid extraction and fatty acids analysis

Moisture of samples was determined in an oven at 105°C for 24h (index no. 934.01) (Association 141 of Official Analytical Chemists, 2002). To determine the total lipid content and the overall FA profile 142 of the single ingredients, substrates, and HI prepupae, samples were thawed, and homogenized. 143 144 Aliquots of 200 mg of each replicate were added with 100 µl of Internal Standard (methyl ester of nonadecanoic acid, 99.6%, Dr. Ehrenstorfer GmbH, Germany), and extracted overnight with the 145 method of Folch et al. (1957). HI prepupae larvae were washed to eliminate substrate particles, and 146 147 finely ground before lipid extraction. Lipid extracts were evaporated under laminar flow inert gas (N<sub>2</sub>) until constant weight. After drying, the mass of extracted lipids was determined gravimetrically 148 (as g/kg DM). GC-MS analysis was carried out on three aliquots per replicate (three GC-MS runs for 149 aliquot). 150

151 The extracted lipids were resuspended in n-epthane to transesterify fatty acids. Fatty acid methyl 152 esters (FAMEs) were prepared using sodium methylate, according to Canonico et al. (2016). FAMEs

were determined on an Agilent-6890 GC equipped with a split-splitless injector and coupled to an 153 154 Agilent-5973N quadrupole Mass Selective Detector. A CPS ANALITICA CC-wax-MS (30 m × 0.25 mm ID, 0.25 µm film thickness) glass capillary column coated with polyethylene glycol was used. 155 Instrumental conditions were as reported in Truzzi et al. (2017, 2018): sample injections of 1 µL were 156 made in a split mode ratio 1:5 using a glass cup liner (Agilent Liner, splitless, double taper 5583-157 4705). The inlet temperature was set at 250°C. Helium carrier gas (99.9999%, Air Liquide, Italy) (8.0 158 159 psi) was used at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The oven temperature started at 100°C for 1 min, and it was subsequently increased to 150°C at the rate of 25°C min<sup>-1</sup>, to 200°C at the rate of 5°C min<sup>-1</sup> and to 160 230°C at the rate of 1°C min<sup>-1</sup>, for a total run time of 43 min. The ion source and the quadrupole 161 162 temperatures were set at 230°C and 280°C, respectively. The electron energy was 70 eV. A mass range from 50 to 400 m/z was scanned at a rate of 3.15 scan/s. Data collection, identification, and 163 quantification of FAs were as reported in Truzzi et al. (2017). Retention times and mass spectra of 164 165 37-component FAME Mix standard ( $\geq$  99%, Supelco, Bellefonte, PA, USA) were used to confirm the NIST (National Institute of Standard & Technology) identification of FAs in the sample. For each 166 aliquot, at least three runs were performed on the GC-MS. The method performances were as those 167 obtained for the determination of FAMEs in insects and experimental diets of the experiment 168 performed in Vargas et al. (2018): the linearity was checked up to 320 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, and the limit of 169 170 detection and limit of quantification, calculated as reported by Truzzi et al. (2014), ranged from 4 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> to 22 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> and from 13 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> to 66 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Moreover, the method showed 171 a good accuracy and precision. For ingredients, substrates, and prepupae, the intraday and interday 172 precision were, for major FAs with an amount greater than 1g/100 g FAs, <3% and <8%, respectively, 173 indicating a good repeatability of the analyses. For FAs with an amount minor than 1 g/100 g FAs, 174 intraday and interday precision ranged from 6% to 15%, and from 7% to 20%, respectively. 175

176 2.2.2. Fourier Transform InfraRed spectroscopy analysis

FTIR (Fourier Transform InfraRed) spectroscopy was exploited to define the relative amount of 177 lipids, proteins and carbohydrates of all ingredients, substrates and HI prepupae groups. For each 178 experimental group, one 5 mg aliquot for each replicate (five) were analyzed (5 spectra for each aliquot). 179 InfraRed (IR) measurements were performed by using a Spectrum GX1 Spectrometer (Perkin Elmer, 180 Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) equipped with a Attenuated Total Reflectance accessory for 181 measurements in reflectance. IR spectra were acquired in the medium IR region from 4000 to 800 cm<sup>-</sup> 182 183 <sup>1</sup> (spectral resolution 4 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Each spectrum was the result of 64 scans. Before each sample acquisition, a background spectrum was collected. Raw IR spectra were converted in absorbance, two-points 184 baseline linear fitted in the 4000-800 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral range and vector normalized in the same interval 185 (OPUS-IR<sup>TM</sup> 7.1, 2016). 186

On pre-processed IR spectra, specific bands with biological meaning were detected and analyzed in 187 terms of position and integrated areas (Integration routine, OPUS 7.1 software). In particular, the 188 following bands were investigated: ~3013 cm<sup>-1</sup> (spectral range of integration 3035-2996 cm<sup>-1</sup>, named 189 unsaturated FA, UNSAT); ~2925 and ~2855 cm<sup>-1</sup> (spectral range of integration 2996-2804 cm<sup>-1</sup>, named 190 lipids, LIP); ~1744 cm<sup>-1</sup> (spectral range of integration 1786-1709 cm<sup>-1</sup>, named fatty acids, FA); ~1647 191 and ~1542 cm<sup>-1</sup> (spectral range of integration 1709-1480 cm<sup>-1</sup>, named proteins, PRT), and ~1144 cm<sup>-1</sup> 192 (spectral range of integration 1187-1123 cm<sup>-1</sup>, named carbohydrates, CARBO). The above defined 193 integrated areas were used to calculate the following band area ratios: LIP/TBM (relative amount of 194 total lipids with respect to total sample biomass), UNSAT/TBM (unsaturated groups in lipid alkyl 195 chains with respect to total sample biomass), FA/TBM (relative amount of fatty acids with respect to 196 197 total sample biomass), PRT/TBM (relative amount of total proteins with respect to total sample biomass), and CARBO/TBM (relative amount of total carbohydrates with respect to total sample 198 biomass). TBM, defined as total sample biomass, was the sum of the integrated areas at 3035-2996 cm<sup>-</sup> 199 <sup>1</sup>, 2996-2804 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1807-811 cm<sup>-1</sup>. 200

201 2.3. Health benefits: fatty acid index calculation

From the fatty acid profile (as g of each fatty acid/100 g of total fatty acids), three nutritional indices were calculated. These indices provide different importance to each fatty acid depending on the different contribution of this to the promotion or prevention of cardiovascular disorders: atherogenicity (AI) and thrombogenicity (TI) indices (Ulbricht and Southgate, 1991), and the Hypocholesterolemic to Hypercholesterolemic fatty acid ratio (HH) (Santos-Silva et al., 2002):

207  $AI = [12:0 + (14:0 \times 4) + 16:0] / (\Sigma MUFAs + \Sigma PUFA-n6 + \Sigma PUFA-n3)$ 

208  $TI = \sum (14:0 + 16:0 + 18:0) / [(0.5 \times \sum MUFAs + 0.5 \times \sum (n6) + 3 \times \sum (n3) + (n3/n6)]$ 

209 where: MUFAs are monounsaturated Fatty Acids, PUFAs are polyunsaturated Fatty Acids,

distinguished in PUFA-n6 (sum of omega-6 PUFAs) and PUFA-n3 (sum of omega-3 PUFAs).

211 HH = (18:1n9 + 18:2n6 + 20:4n6 + 18:3n3 + 20:5n3 + 22:5n3 + 22:6n3)/(14:0 + 16:0)

Also, other nutritional indices such as n-3/n-6, PUFAs/SFAs, were calculated from the fatty acid
profile.

#### 214 2.4. Statistical analysis

IR band area ratios (presented as mean±S.D), lipid content and fatty acid data were analyzed by 215 one-way-ANOVA test, followed by the Multiple Range Test (Daniel and Cross, 2013), after testing 216 the homogeneity of variance with Levene's test. Significant differences were evaluated at the 95% 217 confidence level. When the ANOVA test gave a P-value equal to 0.0000, in the text it was indicated 218 as P<0.001. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was carried out on standardized data; significant 219 components were obtained through the Wold cross-validation procedure (Wold, 1978). ANOVA test, 220 Multiple range test and PCA were performed using STATGRAPHICS Centurion 18 software 221 (Manugistics Inc., 2018). 222

223 **3. Results** 

The fatty acids (FA) profile as well as the relative amount of lipids, proteins and carbohydrates of single ingredients (CS and microalgae *Schizochytrium* sp. and *Isocrysis* sp.), substrates (E, As, Bs, Cs, Ds, Ai, Bi, Ci, Di), and HI prepupae fed on the different substrates were analyzed by GC-MS and FTIR techniques.

### 228 3.1. Single ingredients

## 229 *3.1.1. Fatty acid profile*

The total lipid content extracted from CS with the Folch's method ( $96 \pm 6$  g/kg DM) was consistent 230 with the few data available (Borrelli et al., 2004; Esquivel and Jiménez, 2012; Pourfarzad et al., 2013; 231 232 Toschi et al., 2014). The content of total lipids in Schizochytriums sp (78±1 g/kg DM) and Isochrysis sp (70±5 g/kg DM) was lower than literature data (Zhu et al., 2007; Ren et al., 2009; Shah et al., 233 234 2014; Vidyashankar et al., 2015). The content of fatty acids (calculated as in Truzzi et al., 2017) was 1.5 g/kg in rehydrated coffee, 63 g/kg in Schizochytrium sp. and 1.2 g/kg in Isochrysis sp. 235 236 The FA profiles of CS and microalgae *Schizochytrium* sp. and *Isochrysis* sp. are reported in Table 2. In CS, the most represented FA was linoleic acid (18:2n6, ~26 g/100 g FAs), followed by palmitic 237 (16:0, ~22 g/100 g FAs), stearic (18:0, ~15 g/100 g FAs), arachic (20:0, ~11 g/100 g FAs) and bebenic 238 (22:0, ~9 g/100 g FAs) acids. In general, CS was mainly composed of SFA (~62 g/100 g FAs), 239 followed by PUFA (~29 g/100 g FAs) and MUFA (~9 g/100 g FAs). The FA profile of 240 Schizochytrium sp. was dominated by 22:6n3, (docosahexaenoic acid DHA, ~79 g/100 g FAs), and 241 16:0 (~13 g/100 g FAs). This microalga was then rich in PUFA (~82 g/100 g FAs), whereas SFA and 242 MUFA represented only ~16 g/100 g FAs and ~1 g/100 g FAs, respectively. Moreover, the very high 243 244 content of 22:6n3 resulted in a high n-3/n-6 ratio (~47). The FA composition of Isochrysis sp. was characterized by a high content of 22:6n3 (~32 g/100 g FAs), myristic acid (14:0, ~17 g/100 g FAs), 245

246  $\alpha$ -linoleic acid (18:3n3, ~13 g/100 g FAs), and oleic acid (18:1n9, ~11 g/100 g FAs). PUFA was the

main class (~55 g/100 g FAs), followed by SFA (~27 g/100 g FAs) and MUFA (~18 g/100 g FAs).

248 n-3/n-6 ratio (~5) was about 9-fold lower than that of *Schizochytrium* sp.

# 249 *3.1.2. Relative macromolecular composition*

The absorbance IR spectra of lyophilized samples of coffee silverskin (CS) and microalgae Schizochytrium sp. (S) and *Isocrysis* sp. (I) were reported in Fig. 1. In all the spectra, the bands related to lipids (2925 and ~2855 cm<sup>-1</sup>, asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations of  $CH_2$  groups in

lipid alkyl chains,  $v_{asym}$  CH<sub>2</sub> and  $v_{sym}$  CH<sub>2</sub>) (Kiefer et al., 2010), proteins (~1647 cm<sup>-1</sup>, mainly v C=O, 253 Amide I band of proteins) (Mayers et al., 2013), carbohydrates and polysaccharides (~1032 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 254 stretching vibration of C-O moieties in carbohydrates, v C-O) (Mayers et al., 2013) were detected. In 255 Schizochytrium sp., additional bands associated to unsaturated lipids (3013 cm<sup>-1</sup>, stretching vibration 256 of =CH groups in lipid alkyl chains, v = C-H) (Kiefer et al., 2010), fatty acids (1744 cm<sup>-1</sup>, stretching 257 vibration of carbonyl moiety in fatty acids, v C=O) (Mayers et al., 2013), proteins (1542 cm<sup>-1</sup>, v C-N 258 and  $\delta$  N-H, Amide II band of proteins) (Mayers et al., 2013), and carbohydrates and polysaccharides 259 (1144 cm<sup>-1</sup>, stretching vibration of C-O-C bonds in carbohydrates and polysaccharides, v C-O-C) 260 261 (Duygu et al., 2012), were also found. In *Isochrysis* sp., only the bands at 3013 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1542 cm<sup>-1</sup> were detected, the former showing a lower absorbance value with respect to *Schizochytrium* sp. 262

## 263 *3.2.* Insect feeding substrates

# 264 *3.2.1. Fatty acid profile*

The extraction of total lipids from substrates with Folch method (Folch, 1957) showed that the inclusion of microalgae in the substrates caused a statistically significant increase of total lipids with respect to the CS substrate E (Fig. 2), positively related to microalgae inclusion levels in the substrate. In particular, the inclusion of *Schizochytrium* sp. (at all tested percentages) and of *Isochrysis* sp. (exclusively at 20% (Ci) and 25% (Di)) (Fig. 2b), caused a statistically significant increase of lipid content in the substrate compared to CS substrate E (P>0.001, P=0.002, respectively).

Table 3 shows the FA composition of substrates. The FA profile of substrates enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp. was dominated by docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) 22:6n3, which increased with the increase of the microalga inclusion, from ~61 to ~71 g/100 g FAs (Ds). The second most represented fatty acid was 16:0 (from ~16 in As to ~13 g/100 g FAs in Cs), followed by 18:0 (from 4.5 in As to 2.7 g/100 g FAs in Ds), 18:2n6 (from 6.1 in As to 2.5 g/100 g FAs in Ds), 20:0 (from 3.0 in As to 1.7 g/100 g FAs in Ds), and 22:0 (from 2.0 in As to 1.3 g/100 g FAs in Ds). The FA profile of substrates enriched with *Isochrysis* sp. was dominated by 16:0, that decreased with the increase of the microalga inclusion, from ~23 (Ai) to ~19 g/100 g FAs (Di). Other well represented fatty acids were 18:0 (from ~16in Ai to ~7 g/100 g FAs in Di), and 18:2n6 (from ~16 in Ai to ~14 g/100 g FAs in Di), followed by 18:3n3 (from ~9 in Ai to ~17 g/100 g FAs in Di), 20:0 (from ~10 in Ai to ~6 g/100 g FAs in Di) and 22:0 (from ~10 in Ai to ~6 g/100 g FAs in Di). DHA varied from 1.5 in Ai to 5.7 g/100 g FAs in Di, whereas the content of 20:5n3 were below the detection limit.

Fig. 3 compares the amounts of FA classes of substrates containing different microalgae. In 283 general, an increasing inclusion of Schizochytrium sp. in substrates determined a statistically 284 significant decrease of SFA (P<0.001), MUFA (P<0.001), n-6 (P<0.001), n-9 (P<0.001) amounts, 285 and a statistically significant increase of PUFA (P<0.001) and n-3 (P<0.001) amounts, and of n-3/n-286 287 6 ratio (P<0.001). An increasing inclusion of *Isochrysis* sp. in substrates determined in general a statistically significant decrease of SFA (P<0.001) and n-6 (P=0.005) amounts, and a statistically 288 significant increase of MUFA (P<0.001), PUFA (P<0.001), n-3 (P<0.001), n-9 (P<0.001) amounts, 289 290 and of n-3/n-6 ratio (P=0.008). Substrates enriched with Schizochytrium sp. showed statistically significant lower amounts of SFA (P<0.001), MUFA (P<0.001), n-6 (P<0.001) and n-9 (P<0.001), 291 and statistically significant higher amounts of PUFA (P<0.001) and n-3 (P<0.001) compared to those 292 enriched with Isochrysis sp. Consequently, substrates containing Schizochytrium sp. showed a n-3/n-293 294 6 ratio significantly higher than substrates enriched with *Isochrysis* sp. (P<0.001).

## 295 *3.2.2. Relative macromolecular composition*

The absorbance IR spectra of tested feeding substrates were reported in Fig. 4. For a better comparison, IR spectra of microalgae *Schizochytrium* sp. (S) and *Isochrysis* sp. (I) were also shown. It is interesting to notice that, in all substrates enriched with increasing amounts of *Schizochytrium* sp. (As, Bs, Cs and Ds), a corresponding and well evident increase of the absorbance of the peaks already detected in the microalga was detected: ~2925 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~2855 cm<sup>-1</sup> (asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations of CH<sub>2</sub> groups in lipid alkyl chains, v<sub>asym</sub> CH<sub>2</sub> and v<sub>sym</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>); ~3013 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1744 cm<sup>-1</sup> (respectively stretching vibration of =CH groups in lipid alkyl chains, v =C-H, and stretching vibration of carbonyl moiety in fatty acids, v C=O); ~1647 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1542 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Amide I and II bands of proteins), and ~1144 cm<sup>-1</sup> (stretching vibration of C-O-C bonds in carbohydrates and polysaccharides, v C-O-C) (Fig. 2a). Conversely, except a tiny increase of the band at ~1647 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1542 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Amide I and II bands of proteins), no meaningful differences were observed by comparing the spectral profiles of the CS substrate (E) with those of substrates enriched with increasing percentages of *Isochrysis* sp. (Ai, Bi, C, and Di) (Fig. 2b).

The statistical analysis of specific band area ratios (Fig. 5a), confirmed that the inclusion of 309 Schizochytrium sp. caused in all substrates (As, Bs, Cs and Ds), a statistically significant increase of 310 the relative amount of total lipids (LIP/TBM, P<0.001), unsaturated lipid alkyl chains (UNSAT/TBM, 311 312 P<0.001), fatty acids (FA/TBM, P<0.001) and carbohydrates (CARBO/TBM, P<0.001) with respect to E. Conversely, a statistically significant increase of relative amounts of proteins (PRT/TBM) was 313 detected only in Bs, Cs and Ds substrates (P=0.035), while no significant differences were observed 314 between E and As (P=0.494). In substrates enriched with Isochrysis sp., due to the absence of 315 meaningful bands attributable to this microalga, only the band area ratios LIP/TBM and PRT/TBM 316 were analyzed (Fig. 5b). With respect to E, a statistically significant increase of the relative amount 317 of total lipids (LIP/TBM) was observed only in Ci e Di substrates (P=0.025), while no changes were 318 319 detected in Ai and Bi (P=0.852); conversely, the relative amount of proteins (PRT/TBM) significantly 320 increased in all the substrates enriched with *Isochrysis* sp. (P<0.001).

321 *3.3 Hermetia illucens prepupae* 

The dry matter (DM) content of fresh prepupae reared on the different experimental substrates was
 320±20 g/kg, and no statistically significant differences between groups were evidenced.

324 *3.3.1. Fatty acid profile* 

The analysis of total lipids extracted through Folch method evidenced that, in general, an increase of total lipid content in the substrate corresponded to an increase in total lipid content of prepupae (Fig. 2). In fact, the lipid content of HI prepupae reared on substrates enriched with *Schizochytrium* 

sp. showed a statistically significant linear correlation (r=0.905, P=0.035) with lipid content of 328 substrates. Moreover, HI prepupae showed a statistically higher lipid content (from ~140 in HI As to 329 330 ~210g/kg DM in HI Ds) than that of prepupae reared on substrate E (~8 g/kg DM), and significant differences between groups were also evidenced (P<0.001), a part between HI Cs and HI Ds. About 331 HI prepupae reared on substrates enriched with Isochrysis sp., a statistically higher lipid content (from 332 ~120 in HI Ai to ~140g/kg DM in HI Di) was observed with respect to HI prepupae reared on substrate 333 E (P=0.015). In this case, no statistically significant correlation between lipid content of prepupae 334 and of substrates was evidenced. 335

Table 4 and Fig. 6 show FA composition and the amount of FA classes of HI prepupae reared on tested substrates, respectively. The FA profile of prepupae reared on CS substrate E was characterized by high quantities of saturated fatty acids (i.e.  $74\pm2$  g/100 g FAs, Fig. 6), such as 12:0, 16:0, 18:0, 20:0, and 22:0, followed by 18:1n9, 18:2n6 and 16:1n7. This profile reflected the FA composition typical for CS, with a higher prevalence of SFA (Table 2).

341 The inclusion of Schizochytrium sp. in substrates induced, in prepupae, a statistically significant increase in the amount of 22:6n3 (DHA) and 20:5n3 (EPA), and a statistically significant general 342 decrease in saturated fatty acids with respect to prepupae HI E. It should be noted that lauric acid 343 344 (12:0) increased in prepupae HI Cs and HI Ds if compared with prepupae Hi E. Moreover, HI prepupae Bs, HICs, and HIDs showed a similar FA composition, especially in relation to unsaturated 345 FAs, and they showed amounts of 22:6n3 and 20:5n3 statistically higher than prepupae HI As. The 346 inclusion of Schizochytrium sp. allowed to obtain a DHA/EPA ratio of 1.3-1.6. This behavior 347 modified the quantities of FA classes (Fig. 6a): HI Bs, HI Cs, HI Ds showed a significantly lower 348 SFA amount (P<0.001), and significantly higher amounts of PUFA (P<0.001), n-3 (P<0.001), n-6 349 350 (P<0.001), n-9 (P<0.001), and n-3/n-6 ratio (P<0.001), than prepupae HI As and HI E. No significant differences were evidenced in FA classes of prepupae reared on substrates including 10%, 20% and 351 352 25% of microalgae. The inclusion of Isochrysis sp. in substrates caused the following changes in FA

profile of HI prepupae with respect to HI E (Table 4): (i) a statistically significant marked increase (2 353 fold-higher) of lauric acid (12:0); ii) a statistically significant increase of 14:0, 18:0, and 18:1n9; (iii) 354 a statistically significant decrease of 20:0 and 22:0; (iv) a statistically significant increase of EPA and 355 DHA only for prepupae HI Ci and HI Di. Concerning FA classes (Fig. 6b), prepupae HI Ci and Di 356 showed a statistically lower amount of SFA (P<0.001), and a statistically higher quantities of MUFA 357 (P=0.0005), PUFA (P<0.001), n-3 (P<0.001), n-9 (P<0.001), than prepupae HI Ai and Bi and those 358 reared on CS substrate (HI E). The n-3/n-6 ratio significantly increased with the increasing inclusion 359 percentage of *Isochrysis* sp. in the substrate (P<0.001). 360

361 HI Bs, HI Cs and HI Ds prepupae showed a statistically lower amount of SFA (~45 g/100 g FAs) with respect to HI prepupae reared on substrates enriched with Isochrysis sp. (more than 60 g/100 g 362 FAs) (P<0.001), and significantly higher quantities of PUFA (~37 g/100 g FAs (P<0.001)), and n-3 363 (~28 g/100 g FAs) (P<0.001), than prepupae reared on substrates enriched with Isochrysis sp. (PUFA 364 < 20 g/100 g FAs, n-3 < 10 g/100 g FAs). Consequently, the n-3/n-6 ratio is significantly higher in 365 366 prepupae reared on Schizochytrium sp. than in those reared on Isochrysis sp (P<0.001). Moreover, comparing prepupae reared on substrates enriched with the same inclusion level of Schizochytrium 367 sp. or *Isochrysis* sp., the amounts of EPA and DHA were significantly higher (about 10-folds) in 368 prepupae reared on Schizochytrium sp. with respect to prepupae reared on Isochrisis sp. (P<0.001 for 369 both EPA and DHA). 370

# 371 *3.3.2. Relative macromolecular composition*

For the first time, HI prepupae were analyzed by FTIR spectroscopy. In all IR spectra (Fig. 7), the bands attributable to lipids (~2922 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~2850 cm<sup>-1</sup>), proteins (~1648 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1540 cm<sup>-1</sup>), carbohydrates and polysaccharides (~1040 cm<sup>-1</sup>) were detected. In addition, the absorbance IR spectra of HI reared on substrates enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp., showed both the increase of the bands at ~1575 cm<sup>-1</sup> (stretching vibration of carboxylate groups, v COO<sup>-</sup>) (Aryee et al., 2009) and ~1540 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Amide II band of proteins), and the occurrence of additional bands at ~3013 cm<sup>-1</sup> (attributable to unsaturated fatty acids) and ~1742 cm<sup>-1</sup> (associated to fatty acids) (Fig. 7a). Less marked differences were observed by comparing the IR spectra of HI prepupae reared on substrates enriched with *Isochrysis* sp. with CS substrate E. In this latter case, only the increase of the bands at ~1575 cm<sup>-1</sup> and ~1540 cm<sup>-1</sup> was observed (Fig. 7b). In addition, in all HI prepupae fed on substrates enriched with microalgae, no significant differences were observed in the spectral range 1200-900 cm<sup>-1</sup>, related to carbohydrates vibrational modes.

Specific band area ratios were analyzed (Fig. 8) suggesting that HI reared on substrates enriched 384 with increasing amounts of Schizochytrium sp. (HI As, HI Bs, HI Cs and HI Ds) showed a 385 corresponding statistically significant increase of total lipids (LIP/TBM, P<0.001) (as pinpointed by 386 lipid extraction with Folch method), fatty acids (FA/TBM, P<0.001), and unsaturated lipid alkyl 387 chains (UNSAT/TBM, P<0.001). Moreover, a statistically significant increase of proteins 388 389 (PRT/TBM) was also observed in HI Bs, HI Cs and HI Ds (P<0.001), while no changes were detected in HI As (P=0.527) (Fig. 8a). Considering prepupae reared on substrates enriched with Isochysis sp., 390 391 a statistically significant increase of total lipids (LIP/TBM) was detected only in insects reared on substrates enriched with higher inclusions of microalga (HI Ci and HI Di) (P<0.001), confirming in 392 general the results obtained with Folch method. Statistically significant higher amounts of proteins 393 394 (PRT/TBM, P<0.001) were observed in all insect groups with respect to HI E (Fig. 8b). Due to the absence of the band at 1144 cm<sup>-1</sup> in all the analyzed insect samples (reared on substrates enriched 395 with microalgae), it was not possible to evaluate the band area ratio CARBO/TBM. 396

# 397 3.4. Principal Component Analysis

To better understand the relationships between type and percentage of microalgae included in the substrates and relative amount of lipids and proteins and FAs composition of prepupae, a multivariate analysis (Principal Component Analysis, PCA) on HI prepupae data was performed to reduce the dimensionality of the data set to few components that summarize the information contained in the overall data set. The amount of total lipids in g/kg DM (TL), FAs greater than 1 g/100 g FAs, and band

area ratios LIP/TBM and PRT/TBM, were included in the data matrix (band area ratio UNSAT/TBM 403 and FA/TBM were not included because of lacking data for prepupae reared on substrates enriched 404 with Isochrysis sp.). By applying PCA to the data set (9 observations, 18 variables), it was possible to 405 406 extract three significant, cross-validated principal components (PC), that accounted for ~92% of the 407 variability in the original data (Table 5). On examining the loading matrix (Table 5) and the graphical 408 distribution of analyzed groups on the reported biplot (showing loadings and scores plots simultaneously) of PC1 vs PC2 (Fig. 9), specimens were divided based on their FAs composition, 409 lipid content and protein relative amount. PC1, that explained ~47% of the variance, was associated 410 411 to the prevalence of saturated or polyunsaturated fatty acids: prepupae HI E, and HI As, HI Ai and HI Bi (positive scores) were characterized by higher content of SFA such as 16:0, 18:0, 20:0, and 412 22:0 (positive loadings on PC1), than other groups, whereas prepupae reared on substrates enriched 413 with 10%, 20% and 25% of Schizochytrium sp. (HI Bs, HI Cs, and HI Ds, respectively), were 414 415 characterized by a higher amount of lipids (LIP/TBM and TL negative loadings on PC1), and by a 416 FA composition with higher content of PUFA, in particular omega-3 (20:5n3, 22:6n3), and omega-6 (20:4n6, 18:3n6) (negative loadings on PC1), than other groups. PC2 (~34% of explained variance) 417 was dominated by the type of microalga added to the substrate: HI prepupae reared on substrates 418 419 enriched with Isochrysis sp. showed positive scores, whereas HI prepupae reared on substrates 420 enriched with Schizochytrium sp. showed negative scores on PC2. Prepupae reared on Isochrysis sp., 421 showed higher protein relative amount, and higher content of precursors of n-3 and n-6 FAs (18:3n3 422 and 18:2n6, respectively), and of short-chain fatty acids (12:0 and 14:0) than prepupae reared on 423 Schizochytrium sp. (negative scores), which showed instead higher amounts of n-3 and n-6 FAs, and 424 of SFA from 16 to 22 carbons (medium- and long-chain fatty acids). PC3 (Table 5) was mainly 425 dominated by the contrast between 18:0 and its metabolite 18:1n9; HI Ci and HI Di (positive scores 426 on PC3) showed higher content of 18:1n9, 18:2n6 and 18:3n3, than HI Ai and HI Bi prepupae

427 (negative scores on PC3). In any case, the variance explained by PC3 was only ~10%, then it did not
428 provide further information about FA composition differences between studied groups.

## 429 3.5. Health benefits indices

Table 6 shows Atherogenic (AI), thrombogenic (TI), and Hypo/Hyper-cholesterolemic (HH) 430 indices of HI prepupae. Low values of AI ( $\leq 0.51$ ) and TI ( $\leq 0.30$ ) are beneficial to health (Ulbricht 431 and Southgate, 1991). AI values of all groups of *H. illucens* are higher than the suggested value, but 432 HI reared on substrates enriched with Schizochytrium sp. showed statistically lower values than 433 prepupae reared on substrates enriched with *Isochrysis* sp. (P<0.05). HI reared on substrates including 434 435 from 10% to 25% of *Schizochytrium* sp. showed a TI value  $\leq 0.30$ , whereas the TI value of prepupae reared on substrate enriched with Isochrysis sp. was far above this limit. Finally, the HH index (high 436 437 values correspond to hypocholesterolemic effects (Santos-Silva et al., 2002) was significantly higher, from ~2.6 to ~3.3, in HI prepupae reared on substrate enriched with 10%, 20% or 25% of 438 Schizochytrium sp. than other groups. The recommended PUFAs/SFAs ratio is > 0.45, i.e. the 439 minimum recommended value to avoid the potential to raise blood cholesterol level (Department of 440 441 Health and Social Security (DHSS), 1984). Only prepupae of HI reared on substrates including 10%, 20% and 25% of *Schizochytrium* sp. showed a PUFA/SFA ratio > 0.45. 442

# 443 **4. Discussion**

In agreement with the concept of circular economy, in the present study, rearing substrates for HI larvae were based on the re-use of the organic by-product coffee silverskin while *Schizochytrium* sp. and *Isochrysis* sp. were tested as PUFA-rich ingredients in order to improve the nutritional quality of the final produced insect biomass. Microalgae can be considered environmental-friendly ingredients for the improvement of insect feeding substrates (Vidyashankar et al., 2015). The fatty acid profile and the relative macromolecular composition of ingredients, substrates and prepupae were investigated by conventional GC-MS and innovative FTIR techniques.

The analysis of coffee silverskin confirmed lower amounts of proteins and lipids with respect to 451 452 microalgae (Vargas et al., 2018); FAs were mainly represented by SFA, and, to a lesser extent, by PUFA and MUFA (data consistent with those reported by Costa et al (2018)). Conversely, the infrared 453 analysis of the microalgae Schizochytrium sp. suggested higher relative amounts of proteins, 454 carbohydrates, and unsaturated lipids with respect to those detected in coffee silverskin. In addition, 455 the FA profile of this microalga was rich in PUFA, mainly in docosahexaenoic acid DHA, and 16:0, 456 457 as already reported in literature, even if with different relative quantities (Zhu et al., 2007; Wang and Wang, 2012). Higher relative amounts of proteins and lipids were also detected in *Isochrysis* sp. with 458 respect to those detected in coffee silverskin, and its FA profile was rich in PUFA. The n-3/n-6 ratio 459 460 (~5) of Isocrysis sp. was about 9-fold lower than that of Schizochytrium sp. (~47), suggesting that 461 this latter microalga contains a major amount of PUFA with respect to both *Isochrysis* sp. and CS. These results, in agreement with data reported by Poisson and Ergan (2001), but quite different from 462 those found by Aussant et al. (2018) for Isochrysis galbana, and by Vidyashankar et al. (2015) for 463 Isochrysis sp., suggested a different FA composition of the two microalgae. Moreover, it is known 464 that the FA composition of microalgae is influenced by both the nutritional composition of culture 465 media and the growing environmental conditions as well as by the specific species and strains 466 (Robertson et al., 2013). 467

468 The study of the FA composition of substrates showed that CS substrate E was poor in unsaturated FA, and particularly in the omega-3 DHA and EPA. Schizochytrium sp. inclusion lead to a statistically 469 significant increase of lipids and unsaturated fatty acids (such as n-3 and n-6), and to a detriment of 470 471 saturated ones. A similar trend was also pinpointed for substrates enriched with Isochrysis sp., even if the content of unsaturated fatty acids was lower than substrates enriched with Schizochytrium sp. 472 473 The infrared analysis of the substrates pinpointed that the microalgae inclusion determined an increase in the relative amount of proteins and lipids with respect to the CS substrate E, thus 474 improving the nutritional value of the substrate at all levels. In coffee silverskin enriched with 475 476 increasing percentages of Schizochytrium sp., a well evident increase of the bands related to proteins,

477 carbohydrates, lipids and, mainly, to unsaturated fatty acids was observed. Conversely, substrates
478 enriched with increasing percentages of *Isochrysis* sp. showed only a higher relative amount of
479 proteins, and, to a lesser extent, of lipids, this latter statistically significant only in substrates enriched
480 with 20% and 25% of microalga.

The dry matter (DM) content of fresh prepupae reared on the different experimental substrates was 481 320±20 g/kg, in accordance with data obtained in HI prepupae reared on various organic substrates 482 (Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017; Caligiani et al., 2018), and no statistically significant differences 483 between groups were evidenced. The inclusion of microalgae in the substrate influenced the lipid 484 content of HI prepupae; this result agreed with previous studies that demonstrated a strong influence 485 486 of the lipid composition of the diet on lipid content in insects (Tomberlin et al., 2002; Nguyen et al., 487 2013; Barroso et al. 2017; Spranghers et al., 2017). The lipid content of HI prepupae reared on CSbased substrates enriched with microalgae Schizochytrium sp. or Isochrysis sp. was in general 488 consistent with the lipid content (from 70 to 390 g/kg DM) found in HI larvae reared on animal waste, 489 490 such as chicken manure, swine manure, or liver (Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017), but the nutritional quality of prepupae analyzed in this study was higher. In fact, whereas HI prepupae reared on CS 491 substrate E showed a FA profile consistent with that of HI larvae reared on animal waste (Barragan-492 493 Fonseca et al., 2017), HI prepupae reared on CS enriched with microalgae showed a FA profile with 494 a high content of omega-3 fatty acids, such as DHA and EPA, which are in general absent in the FA profile of HI larvae reared on animal or vegetables waste (St-Hilaire et al., 2007; Ushakova et al., 495 2016; Barragan-Fonseca et al., 2017; Caligiani et al., 2018). 496

HI prepupae reared on feeding substrates containing microalgae showed high percentages of lauric acid 12:0. This fatty acid is synthetized by HI larvae when there are sufficient amounts of carbohydrates in their substrates (Spranghers et al., 2017). Fatty acids from the substrate are also being transformed into 12:0 by the larvae. Lauric acid has been shown to demonstrate an intestinal anti-inflammatory role in fish, promoting gut's welfare by mitigating inflammatory conditions such as inflammation caused by insect-chitin (Aleström et al., 2006; Dahm and Geisler, 2006; De-Santis

and Jerry, 2007; Zarantoniello et al., 2019). The levels of 12:0 in the larvae reared on *Isochrysis* sp.
enriched substrates are in compliance with literature, but their fat content is still low (120-130 g/kg
DM). The fact that HI E larvae do not contain much 12:0 means that CS solely is not a good growth
substrate. This is also reflected in the very low-fat content of these larvae (only 10%). *Schyzochytrium*sp. looks to be a very good enrichment substrate given that not only the percentage of n-3 in the larvae
was increased, but also the total lipid content and thus 12:0.

Moreover, prepupae reared on substrates enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp. showed a higher relative content of proteins, lipids and unsaturated fatty acids, with respect to the total biomass, than insect reared on CS substrate E. In the case of HI reared on substrates enriched with *Isocrhysis* sp., the inclusion of this microalga caused a consistent increment of the relative amount of proteins compared to HI reared on CS substrate E, while only a tiny increase of lipids was observed.

PCA analysis highlighted that the type of microalga included in the substrate strongly influenced 514 the FA composition and hence the nutritional composition of HI prepupae. In particular, prepupae 515 reared on Schizochytrium sp. enriched substrates, showed a better FA profile, with significantly lower 516 amounts of saturated fatty acids and significantly higher quantities of unsaturated ones and of n-3/n-517 518 6 ratio than prepupae reared on *Isocrhysis* sp. enriched substrates. Moreover, from PCA analysis no 519 relevant differences were observed in the overall nutritional quality of prepupae reared on substrates 520 enriched with 10%, 20% or 25% of Schizochytrium sp. (HI Bs, HI Cs, and HI Ds, respectively). 521 Noteworthy, the inclusion of *Schizochytrium* sp. over 10% did not bring a significant improvement in the FA profile in terms of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids, particularly omega-3. 522

Health benefits indices recorded for HI prepupae were in general consistent with those of different species of microalgae (Aussant et al., 2018) and demonstrated that a regular inclusion of HI prepupae as feed/food ingredient reared on substrate enriched with 10%, 20% or 25% of *Schizochytrium* sp. could be beneficial to health and produce hypocholesterolemic effects (Santos-Silva et al., 2002). On the light of the overall results and considering that the heterotrophic production of this microalga is much cheaper than the autotrophic *Isochrisis* sp. production (Ren et al., 2009; Perez-Garcia et al.,

2011; Vidyashankar et al., 2015), *Schizochytrium* sp. seems to be the best microalga to be added to
the CS substrate.

## 531 **5.** Conclusions

This work demonstrated an easy and efficient way to produce high nutritional quality *Hermetia illucens* prepupae through the revalorization of organic industrial waste (coffee silverskin), and its polyunsaturated fatty acids-enrichement with environmentally friendly microalgae, promoting the circular economy concept.

536 Schyzochytrium sp. looks to be a very good source of polyunsaturated fatty acids, given that not only the percentage of n-3 in the larvae was increased, but also the total lipid content. Moreover, the 537 inclusion of *Schizochytrium* sp. supported a *Hermetia illucens* prepupae production characterized by 538 higher nutritional values than those reared on Isochrysis sp. diets. No differences in the fatty acid 539 profile and nutritional indices were evidenced among *Hermetia illucens* prepupae reared on substrates 540 enriched with 10%, 20% or 25% of Schizochytrium sp. Therefore, the substrate enriched with a 10% 541 inclusion level of *Schizochytrium* sp. should be considered the most convenient one since a greater 542 543 inclusion of microalgae did not promote additional benefits in terms of nutritional value of *Hermetia* 544 *illucens* prepupae. Finally, another advantage related to the use of *Schyzichytrium* sp. is that the 545 heterotrophic production of this microalga is much cheaper than the autotrophic Isochrisis sp. production. 546

Thanks to fat quality, these *Hermetia illucens* prepupae enriched with polyunsaturated fatty acids deserve a special attention both as feed ingredient in the present, as well as food ingredient in the future.

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#### 554 Notes

555 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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## 787 **Figure Captions**

- Fig. 1 InfraRed (IR) absorbance spectra of coffee silverskin (CS), *Isocrysis* sp. (I) and
   *Schizochytrium* sp. (S) in the 4000-800 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral range. Spectra are shifted along y-axis
   for better reading.
- Fig. 2 Total lipid content (g/kg DM, dry matter) of coffee silverskin substrate (E) and substrates and *Hermetia illucens* (HI) prepupae reared on corresponding substrates enriched with: (a) 5% (As), 10% (Bs), 20% (Cs) and 25% (Ds) of *Schizochytrium* sp.; (b) 5% (Ai), 10% (Bi), 20% (Ci) and 25% (Di) of *Isochrysis* sp. White bar, substrate; grey bar, Insect. Values are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD (mean represents 5 replicates). Different letters indicate statistically significant differences among experimental groups compared within the same matrix (P<0.05).
- 797 Fig. 3 Comparison of fatty acid (FA) classes (g/100 g FAs) between substrates enriched with 5% (A), 10% (B), 20% (C), 25% (D) of Schyzochytrium sp. or Isochrysis sp. SFA, saturated fatty 798 799 acids; MUFA, monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-6, omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-9, omega-9 800 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3/n-6, omega-3/omega-6 ratio. Different letters indicate 801 statistically significant differences among rearing substrates containing the same microalga 802 803 (P<0.05). Values are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD (mean represents 5 replicates). The coffee 804 silverskin substrate (E) was not reported in the figure, because the FA profile is the same of the ingredient silverskin, with the only difference between them being the content of water. 805
- Fig. 4 InfraRed (IR) absorbance spectra of coffee silverskin substrate (E) and of substrates enriched with: (a) 5% (As), 10% (Bs), 20% (Cs) and 25% (Ds) of *Schizochytrium* sp.; (b) 5% (Ai), 10%
  (Bi), 20% (Ci) and 25% (Di) of *Isochrysis* sp. For a better comparison, the spectra of *Schizochytrium* sp. (S) and *Isochrysis* sp. (I) are also reported. Spectra are showed in absorbance mode in the 4000-800 cm<sup>-1</sup> spectral range and shifted along y-axis.
- Fig 5 Statistical analysis of band area ratios of substrates enriched with *Schizochytrium* sp. (a) and *Isochrysis* sp. (b): LIP/TBM (lipids/total sample biomass, representative of total lipids),

UNSAT/TBM (unsaturated lipids/total sample biomass, representative of unsaturated lipid 813 alkyl chains), FA/TBM (fatty acids/total sample biomass, representative of total fatty acids), 814 PRT/TBM (proteins/total sample biomass, representative of total proteins), and 815 CARBO/TBM (carbohydrates/total sample biomass, representative of total carbohydrates). 816 Coffe silverskin substrate (E); substrates enriched with 5% (As), 10% (Bs), 20% (Cs) and 817 25% (Ds) of Schizochytrium sp. (S); substrates enriched with 5% (Ai), 10% (Bi), 20% (Ci) 818 and 25% (Di) of Isochrysis sp. (I); microalgae Schizochytrium sp. (S) and Isochrysis sp. (I). 819 820 Values are presented as mean±SD (mean represents 5 replicates). Different letters denote significant differences among experimental groups (P<0.05). 821

- Fig. 6 Fatty acid (FA) classes (g/100 g FAs) of *Hermetia illucens* (HI) prepupae reared on coffe
  silverskin substrate (HI E) and on substrates enriched with: (a) 5% (HI As), 10% (HI Bs), 20%
- 824 (HI Cs) and 25% (HI Ds) of *Schizochytrium* sp.; (b) 5% (HI Ai), 10% (HI Bi), 20% (HI Ci)
- and 25% (HI Di) of *Isochrysis* sp.. SFA, saturated fatty acids; MUFA, monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-6, omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-9, omega-9 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3/n-6, omega-3/omega-6 ratio. Values are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD (mean represents 5 replicates).
- Fig. 7 InfraRed (IR) absorbance spectra of *Hermetia illucens* (HI) prepupae reared on coffe
  silverskin substrate (HI E), and on substrates enriched with: (a) 5% (HI As), 10% (HI Bs),
  20% (HI Cs) and 25% (HI Ds) of *Schizochytrium* sp.; (b) 5% (HI Ai), 10% (HI Bi), 20% (HI
  Ci) and 25% (HI Di) of *Isochrysis* sp. Spectra are showed in absorbance mode in the 4000-
- 833  $800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral range and shifted along y-axis.
- Fig. 8 Statistical analysis of band area ratios of HI prepupae reared on CS substrate (HI E) and on
  substrates enriched with: (a) 5% (HI As), 10% (HI Bs), 20% (HI Cs) and 25% (HI Ds) of *Schizochytrium* sp.; (b) 5% (HI Ai), 10% (HI Bi), 20% (HI Ci) and 25% (HI Di) of *Isochrysis*sp. LIP/TBM (lipids/total sample biomass, representative of total lipids), FA/TBM (fatty
  acids/total sample biomass, representative of total fatty acids), UNSAT/TBM (unsaturated

- lipids/total sample biomass, representative of unsaturated lipid alkyl chains) and PRT/TBM
  (proteins/total sample biomass, representative of total proteins). Values are presented as
  mean±SD (mean represents 5 replicates). Different letters denote significant differences
  among experimental groups (P<0.05).</li>
- Fig. 9 Principal Component Analysis: 2D Biplot of PC1 (first Principal Component) versus PC2
- 844 (second Principal Component). HI E: prepupae reared on substrate E (100% coffee silverskin,
- CS); HI As, HI Bs, HI Cs, HI Ds: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%,
- 846 20%, and 25% of *Schizochytrium* sp., respectively; HI Ai, HI Bi, HI Ci, HI Di: HI prepupae
- reared on substrates CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20%, and 25% of *Isochrysis* sp., respectively.
- 848 TL: total lipids, g/kg DM (dry matter); LIP/TBM: amount of lipids relative to total sample
- biomass; PRT/TBM: amount of proteins relative to total sample biomass.

Substrate	CS (%)	Schizochytrium sp. (%)	Isochrysis sp. (%)	Moisture, g/kg (n=3)
As	95	5	-	695±3
Bs	90	10	-	693±1
Cs	80	20	-	692±2
Ds	75	25	-	693±4
E	100	0	0	686±5
Ai	95	-	5	688±3
Bi	90	-	10	700±3
Ci	80	-	20	683±2
Di	75	-	25	694±6

850	Table 1	Percentage of in	gredients in teste	d feeding substrate	es, and relative water	content.
		<i>i i i i i</i>	,	<b>i</b> )		

Substrates As, Bs, Cs and Ds: coffe silverskin (CS) enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of *Schyzochytrium* sp., respectively; substrate E: 100% CS; substrates Ai, Bi, Ci and Di: CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% *Isochrysis sp.*, respectively.

Table 2 Fatty acid (FA) profile (as g/100 g FAs) of the ingredients coffee silverskin (CS),

Fatty acids	CS (Saccaria)	Schizochytrium sp.	856 <i>Isochrysis</i> sp.
10:0	nd	$0.05 \pm 0.004$	nd 857
12:0	$0.20 \pm 0.06$	0.13±0.01	$0.06 \pm 0.01$
14:0	2.4±0.1	0.9±0.01	16.7±0.3 858
15:0	0.61±0.04	0.12±0.01	$0.31 \pm 0.02$
16:0	22.1±0.6	12.9±0.7	9.2±0.4 859
16:1n9	$0.42 \pm 0.02$	$0.59{\pm}0.01$	4.6±0.2
16:2n7	$0.09 \pm 0.04$	nd	2.0±0.1
17:0	$0.38 \pm 0.03$	0.12±0.01	<sup>nd</sup> 861
18:0	15.5±0.1	1.9±0.3	$1.0\pm0.1$
18:1n9	7.2±0.5	0.2±0.01	11.5±0.2 862
18:1n7	$0.85 \pm 0.03$	0.61±0.01	1.3±0.1
18:2n6	26.2±0.9	0.4±0.1	7.5±0.1 863
18:3n6	nd	0.21±0.01	$1.2\pm0.1$
18:3n3	2.9±0.1	0.5±0.1	12.8±0.3 864
20:0	11.4±1.1	0.3±0.1	nd
20:1n9	$0.54 \pm 0.02$	nd	nd 865
20:4n6	nd	1.1±0.1	nd
20:5n3	nd	1.2±0.1	nd 866
22:0	8.7±0.5	nd	nd 867
23:0	0.38±0.03	nd	nd
24:0	0.17±0.09	nd	<sup>nd</sup> 868
22:6n3	nd	78.8±0.5	31.7±0.7
Total SFAs	61.8±1.1	16.3±0.7	27.3±0.5 869
Total MUFAs	9.0±0.3	1.4±0.1	17.5±0.2
Total PUFAs	29.2±0.4	82.2±0.9	55.2±0.8 870
n-3	2.9±0.3	80.5±0.9	44.6±0.8
n-6	26.2±0.3	1.7±0.0	8.7±0.1 871
n-9	8.14±0.3	0.8±0.0	16.1±0.2 872
n-3/n-6	0.11±0.01	46.8±1.4	5.1±0.1

Schizochytrium sp. and Isochrysis sp.

SFAs, saturated fatty acids; MUFAs, monounsaturated fatty acids, PUFAs, polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-3, omega-3
 polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-6 omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-9 omega-9 polyunsaturated fatty acids, n-3/n-6,

876 omega-3/omega-6 ratio. Data represent mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n. aliquots per sample = 3, replicates for each aliquot 877 = 3).

878 nd, not detected

FA	Е	As (5%)	Bs (10%)	Cs (20%)	Ds (25%)	P-value	Ai (5%)	Bi (10%)	Ci (20%)	Di (25%)	P-value
10:0	nd	0.03±0.002	$0.04 \pm 0.007$	0.04±0.001	0.04±0.001		nd	nd	nd	nd	
12:0	$0.15 \pm 0.01$	$0.15 \pm 0.06$	0.16±0.03	0.13±0.01	$0.12 \pm 0.002$		$0.11 \pm 0.01$	$0.13 \pm 0.01$	$0.10\pm0.01$	$0.11 \pm 0.01$	
14:0	$2.5 \pm 0.2$	1.2±0.1ª	1.1±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	1.0±0.01 <sup>a</sup>	1.0±0.01ª	0.054	2.6±0.1ª	3.3±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	4.4±0.1°	$4.4 \pm 0.2^{\circ}$	0.001
15:0	$0.63 \pm 0.05$	0.23±0.01	0.21±0.03	$0.19 \pm 0.01$	$0.18 \pm 0.01$		$0.61 \pm 0.01$	$0.57 \pm 0.01$	$0.60 \pm 0.01$	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	
16:0	22.7±0.4	$16.4{\pm}1.4^{b}$	15.4±1.1 <sup>a,b</sup>	13.1±0.6 <sup>a</sup>	14.3±0.9 <sup>a</sup>	< 0.001	22.5±0.3°	$21.5 \pm 0.1^{b,c}$	$21.3 \pm 0.3^{b}$	19.3±0.4 <sup>a</sup>	0.0023
16:1n9	$0.43 \pm 0.04$	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	$0.53 \pm 0.06$	$0.55 \pm 0.01$	$0.55 \pm 0.01$		2.4±0.3ª	2.7±0.3ª	$3.8 \pm 0.1^{b}$	5.1±0.1°	0.0005
16:2n7	$0.11 \pm 0.01$	$0.02 \pm 0.01$	$0.03 \pm 0.01$	0.03±0.01	$0.03 \pm 0.01$		$2.3 \pm 0.1^{b}$	1.7±0.1ª	2.9±0.1°	$5.0\pm0.1^{d}$	< 0.001
17:0	$0.38 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.01$	$0.16 \pm 0.01$	$0.15 \pm 0.01$	$0.14 \pm 0.01$		$0.38 \pm 0.01$	$0.36 \pm 0.01$	0.36±0.01	0.33±0.01	
18:0	16.9±0.5	$4.5\pm0.4^{d}$	3.5±0.1°	$3.2 \pm 0.3^{b}$	2.7±0.1ª	< 0.001	$15.8 \pm 0.1^d$	14.1±0.1°	9.4±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	6.6±0.1ª	< 0.001
18:1n9	6.3±0.4	$1.7\pm0.2$	1.1±0.1	0.9±0.1	$0.7 \pm 0.05$		5.8±0.1ª	6.0±0.1ª	$7.3 \pm 0.2^{b}$	$7.5 \pm 0.1^{b}$	0.0005
18:1n7	$0.83 \pm 0.02$	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	$0.58 \pm 0.04$	$0.60\pm 0.01$	$0.57 \pm 0.004$		$1.4\pm0.1$	1.3±0.01	$1.6\pm0.01$	1.9±0.03	
18:2n6	$24.0{\pm}1.4$	$6.1 \pm 0.3^{d}$	4.2±0.3°	$2.8\pm0.2^{b}$	2.5±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	< 0.001	$15.8 \pm 0.1^{b}$	15.4±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	$15.7 \pm 0.1^{b}$	13.8±0.1ª	0.0002
18:3n6	nd	$0.14 \pm 0.01$	$0.17 \pm 0.02$	$0.17 \pm 0.01$	$0.17 \pm 0.01$		$0.15 \pm 0.01$	$0.18 \pm 0.01$	$0.24 \pm 0.01$	$0.30 \pm 0.02$	
18:3n3	2.7±0.1	$1.0\pm0.1$	0.9±0.1	$0.8\pm0.1$	$0.7 \pm 0.02$		$8.7 \pm 0.1^{b}$	7.3±0.1ª	11.5±0.1°	$16.8\pm0.1^d$	< 0.001
20:0	11.9±0.6	3.0±0.2°	$2.1 \pm 0.1^{b}$	1.9±0.1ª	1.7±0.1ª	< 0.001	9.9±0.2°	10.3±0.2 °	$7.8\pm0.3^{b}$	$5.9{\pm}0.2^{a}$	< 0.001
20:1n9	$0.48 \pm 0.02$	0.13±0.01	$0.10\pm0.01$	$0.07 \pm 0.01$	$0.06\pm0.01$		$0.35 \pm 0.04$	$0.35 \pm 0.01$	$0.37 \pm 0.06$	$0.29 \pm 0.01$	
20:4n6	nd	0.9±0.1	0.9±0.1	$1.0\pm0.1$	$1.0\pm0.02$		nd	nd	nd	nd	
20:5n3	nd	0.8±0.1	0.9±0.1	$1.0\pm0.1$	1.0±0.03		nd	nd	nd	nd	
22:0	9.4±1.2	$2.0\pm0.3^{b}$	1.3±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.2±0.1ª	1.3±0.07 <sup>a</sup>	< 0.001	9.6±0.2°	$10.6 \pm 0.2^d$	$7.3 \pm 0.2^{b}$	6.2±0.1ª	< 0.001
23:0	$0.35 \pm 0.04$	$0.09 \pm 0.01$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	$0.05 \pm 0.01$	$0.05 \pm 0.01$		$0.29 \pm 0.02$	$0.38 \pm 0.03$	$0.24\pm0.04$	$0.22 \pm 0.01$	
24:0	$0.21 \pm 0.04$	nd	nd	nd	nd		nd	nd	nd	nd	
22:6n3	nd	60.6±1.9 <sup>a</sup>	66.4±1.5 <sup>b</sup>	71.1±0.4°	71.3±1.4°	< 0.001	1.5±0.1ª	3.9±0.3 <sup>b</sup>	5.1±0.1°	5.7±0.1 <sup>d</sup>	< 0.001

879 Table 3 Fatty acid (FA) profile (as g/100 g FAs) of control substrate (E), and substrates enriched with *Schyzochytrium* sp. or *Isochrysis* sp.

880 Substrate E: 100% coffe silverskin (CS); substrates As, Bs, Cs and Ds: CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of *Schyzochytrium* sp., respectively; substrates Ai, Bi, Ci and

B81 Di: CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% *Isochrysis sp.*, respectively.

**882** Data represent mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (replicates for each group = 5; n. aliquots per replicate = 3).

883 Means within rows of rearing substrates containing the same microalga bearing different letters are significantly different (P<0.05). FAs <1g/100 g FAs were excluded from any

statistical analyses because their concentrations were close to the limit of detection.

FA	HI E	HI As (5%)	HI Bs (10%)	HI Cs (20%)	HI Ds (25%)	HI Ai (5%)	HI Bi (10%)	HI Ci (20%)	HI Di (25%)	P-value
10:0	0.25±0.04	0.38±0.08	0.52±0.14	0.85±0.02	0.55±0.03	0.87±0.01	1.03±0.01	0.94±0.02	0.85±0.02	
12:0	14.1±1.5 <sup>c</sup>	9.4±0.4 <sup>b</sup>	8.0±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	19.5±0.3 <sup>d</sup>	19.9±1.9 <sup>d</sup>	28.3±0.3 <sup>e</sup>	$32.5{\pm}1.5^{\mathrm{f}}$	$30.2{\pm}1.4^{\mathrm{f}}$	28.2±0.6 <sup>e</sup>	< 0.001
14:0	$3.2 \pm 0.7^{b,c}$	2.7±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.0±0.2ª	5.9±0.9 <sup>d</sup>	$4.0\pm0.4^{\circ}$	$5.7{\pm}0.1^{d}$	6.7±0.1 <sup>e</sup>	6.8±0.2 <sup>e</sup>	6.9±0.2 <sup>e</sup>	< 0.001
15:0	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	0.32±0.02	0.22±0.05	0.16±0.02	$0.12 \pm 0.01$	0.24±0.01	0.27±0.01	0.25±0.01	0.20±0.01	
16:0	18.1±2.0 <sup>e</sup>	16.6±0.6 <sup>d,e</sup>	$15.9 \pm 1.2^{d}$	12.1±0.6 <sup>b</sup>	$10.8{\pm}1.0^{a}$	14.4±0.5°	14.3±0.6°	12.7±0.5 <sup>b</sup>	12.0±0.6 <sup>b</sup>	< 0.001
16:1n7	$4.7 \pm 0.5^{b,c}$	$4.1\pm0.4^{a,b}$	5.2±0.1°	$4.3{\pm}0.5^{a,b}$	5.0±0.3°	3.8±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.6±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	3.9±0.2ª	3.6±0.2ª	0.0051
16:2n7	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	
17:0	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	0.42±0.06	$0.35 \pm 0.09$	$0.21 \pm 0.02$	$0.16\pm0.02$	$0.27 \pm 0.01$	$0.20 \pm 0.01$	$0.20 \pm 0.01$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	
18:0	$10.8 \pm 0.7^{d}$	$17.1 \pm 0.5^{f}$	12.6±0.5 <sup>e</sup>	$4.7{\pm}0.6^{a}$	$5.8\pm0.6^{b}$	$21.4{\pm}0.9^{g}$	12.9±0.7 <sup>e</sup>	$11.0{\pm}0.6^{d}$	9.0±0.6°	< 0.001
18:1n9	$9.0 \pm 0.9^{b,c}$	$8.2 \pm 0.3^{b}$	11.3±0.3 <sup>d</sup>	11.7±0.8 <sup>d,e</sup>	12.9±0.7 <sup>e,f</sup>	$7.4{\pm}0.2^{a}$	10.2±0.7°	12.4±0.7 <sup>e</sup>	$13.9{\pm}0.8^{\mathrm{f}}$	< 0.001
18:1n7	$2.5\pm0.3^{\mathrm{f}}$	$1.5{\pm}0.1^{d,e}$	$1.4{\pm}0.1^{d}$	$0.9{\pm}0.2^{b}$	$0.5{\pm}0.1^{a}$	1.6±0.1 <sup>e</sup>	1.2±0.1°	1.2±0.1°	$1.1 \pm 0.1^{b,c}$	< 0.001
18:2n6	$6.2\pm0.6^{c,d}$	$4.6 \pm 0.2^{b}$	$4.9{\pm}0.6^{b}$	3.7±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.9±0.4 <sup>a</sup>	$4.0\pm0.3^{a}$	$4.8 \pm 0.3^{b}$	5.9±0.4°	$6.8{\pm}0.5^{d}$	< 0.001
18:3n6	$0.4\pm0.1$	0.9±0.1	1.6±0.2	$1.6\pm0.4$	1.9±0.6	0.1±0.1	0.1±0.1	0.2±0.1	$0.2\pm0.1$	
18:3n3	1.0±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	0.9±0.1ª	1.1±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.0±0.1ª	1.1±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.2±0.3ª	2.3±0.3 <sup>b</sup>	3.8±0.4°	$5.3 \pm 0.4^{d}$	< 0.001
20:0	11.0±0.3 <sup>e</sup>	$6.9 \pm 0.7^{d}$	$2.7 \pm 0.7^{b}$	1.2±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	1.3±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.2±0.5°	$2.9{\pm}0.4^{b}$	$2.6 \pm 0.5^{b}$	$2.4{\pm}0.4^{b}$	< 0.001
20:1n9	$0.02\pm0.01$	$0.15 \pm 0.05$	$0.12 \pm 0.05$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$	$0.05\pm0.04$	$0.04\pm0.01$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	$0.04\pm0.01$	$0.07 \pm 0.01$	
20:4n6	$0.1 \pm 0.3^{a}$	$2.2{\pm}0.4^{d}$	3.2±0.4 <sup>e</sup>	3.6±0.3 <sup>e</sup>	3.9±0.7 <sup>e</sup>	$0.4{\pm}0.3^{a,b}$	$0.7 \pm 0.2^{b}$	1.4±0.1°	$2.0\pm0.1^d$	< 0.001
20:5n3	$0.8{\pm}0.2^{a}$	6.5±0.3 <sup>e</sup>	$10.6\pm0.2^{\mathrm{f}}$	$10.6{\pm}0.2^{\rm f}$	11.7±0.1 <sup>g</sup>	0.6±0.1ª	1.2±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.2±0.1°	$3.0{\pm}0.1^d$	< 0.001
22:0	16.0±0.4 <sup>e</sup>	$8.9{\pm}0.7^{d}$	$2.8 \pm 0.3^{b}$	1.3±0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.1±0.3ª	5.0±0.4°	3.3±0.3 <sup>b</sup>	3.0±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	$2.8 \pm 0.3^{b}$	< 0.001
23:0	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	
24:0	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	
22:6n3	$0.7{\pm}0.2^{a}$	8.3±0.6°	15.6±0.8 <sup>d,e</sup>	16.7±0.3e	$15.2\pm0.2^{d}$	$0.5{\pm}0.1^{a}$	0.6±0.1ª	1.2±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	$1.4{\pm}0.2^{b}$	< 0.001

886 Table 4 Fatty acid (FA) profile (as g/100 g FAs) of *Hermetia illucens* (HI) prepupae reared on tested feeding substrates.

887 HI E: prepupae reared on substrate E (100% coffe silverskin, CS); HI As, HI Bs, HI Cs, HI Ds: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of 888 Schyzochytrium sp, respectively; HI Ai, HI Bi, HI Ci, HI Di: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of Isochrysis sp., respectively.

889 Data represent mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (replicates for each group = 5; n. aliquots per replicate = 3).

Means within rows bearing different letters are significantly different (P<0.05). FAs <1g/100 g FAs were excluded from any statistical analyses because their concentrations were 890 891 close to the limit of detection.

892 Table 5 Principal Component Analysis. Eigenvalues, explained and cumulative variance, loadings

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of the variables for the first three Principal components.

	Principal Component						
	1	2	3				
Variance explained							
Eigenvalues	8.508	6.209	1.812				
% of variance	47.26	34.50	10.07				
Cumulative %	47.26	81.76	91.83				
Factor loadings							
12:0	0.061	0.364	-0.175				
14:0	0.019	0.373	-0.113				
16:0	0.236	-0.271	0.064				
16:1n7	-0.114	-0.264	0.100				
18:0	0.230	-0.054	-0.422				
18:1n9	-0.216	0.206	0.419				
18:1n7	0.291	-0.174	0.145				
18:2n6	0.167	0.133	0.585				
18:3n6	-0.292	-0.207	0.034				
18:3n3	0.036	0.347	0.312				
20:0	0.258	-0.220	0.184				
20:4n6	-0.330	-0.062	0.075				
20:5n3	-0.311	-0.160	0.025				
22:0	0.252	-0.215	0.217				
22:6n3	-0.298	-0.189	-0.022				
TL	-0.328	-0.064	-0.082				
LIP/TBM	-0.299	0.161	0.126				
PRT/TBM	0.077	0.372	-0.128				

TL: total lipids, g/kg DM (dry matter); LIP/TBM: amount of lipids relative to total sample biomass; PRT/TBM: amount of proteins relative to total sample biomass.

896 Table 6 Atherogenic index (AI), thrombogenic index (TI), Hypo/Hyper-cholesterolemic index (HH), and PUFA/SFA ratio of HI prepupae reared

897 on coffee silverskin (E) and on coffee silverskin enriched with different percentages of *Shizochytrium* sp. or *Isochrysis* sp.

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Nutritional indices	HI E	HI As (5%)	HI Bs (10%)	HI Cs (20%)	HI Ds (25%)	HI Ai (5%)	HI Bi (10%)	HI Ci (20%)	HI Di (25%)	P-value
HI	$1.83{\pm}0.08^{d}$	$0.99 \pm 0.05^{\circ}$	$0.58{\pm}0.06^{a}$	1.02±0.08°	$0.84 \pm 0.05^{b}$	$3.34{\pm}0.07^{g}$	$2.86{\pm}0.06^{\rm f}$	$2.18{\pm}0.07^{e}$	$1.81{\pm}0.03^d$	< 0.001
TI	$1.68{\pm}0.23^{\rm f}$	$0.61 \pm 0.04^{\circ}$	$0.31 \pm 0.02^{b}$	0.22±0.01ª	$0.20{\pm}0.02^{a}$	$0.20\pm0.02^{a}$	$1.42 \pm 0.02^{e}$	$0.87{\pm}0.01^d$	0.63±0.01°	< 0.001
HH	$0.85{\pm}0.06^{\mathrm{a}}$	$1.58 \pm 0.09^{b,c}$	$2.62 \pm 0.27^d$	$2.63 \pm 0.22^d$	3.30±0.23 <sup>e</sup>	$0.70{\pm}0.02^{a}$	$0.94{\pm}0.02^{a}$	$1.38 \pm 0.09^{b}$	1.72±0.06°	< 0.001
PUFA/SFA	$0.12 \pm 0.02^{a}$	$0.37 \pm 0.02^{\circ}$	$0.82{\pm}0.07^{d}$	$0.81{\pm}0.03^{d}$	0.86±0.04 <sup>e</sup>	$0.08 \pm 0.01^{a}$	$0.13 \pm 0.01^{a}$	$0.27 \pm 0.01^{b}$	$0.30 \pm 0.01^{b}$	< 0.001

899 HI E: prepupae reared on substrate E (100% coffe silverskin, CS); HI As, HI Bs, HI Cs, HI Ds: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of

900 Schyzochytrium sp, respectively; HI Ai, HI Bi, HI Ci, HI Di: prepupae reared on substrate CS enriched with 5%, 10%, 20% and 25% of Isochrysis sp., respectively.

901 PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acids; SFA, saturated fatty acids.

902 Data represent mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

903 Means within rows bearing different letters are significantly different (P<0.05)

















912 Fig. 6