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Effects of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.F) Nees on Broiler Performance and Mortality Compared with Chlortetracycline

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Abstract

A study was conducted at the poultry research farm, Phichit College of Agriculture and Technology, Phichit Province, Thailand and the study was carried out to examine the effect of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. F.) Nees. (AP) leaves meal on broiler performance and mortality and to establish the proper levels of AP leaves meal supplement. The feeding trial was accomplished in approximately 2 months during February 2001 — April 2001, while the laboratory analyses were conducted after the feeding trial. 240-broiler chickens were divided into six groups and raised in coops in deep litter system under station management for 6 weeks. During the first week the chicken were kept together and brooder lamps were supplied for all chicken. They were fed a balanced diet added 0 %, 0.2 %, 0.3 %, 0.4 % of AP leaf meal. For group 6, the feed was mixed with chlortetracycline (50 mg/1 Kg of Feed). In every group average daily gain (ADG), feed conversion ratio (FCR) and mortality rates were measured. Every 2 weeks blood samples were collected and analyzed for glucose, total protein, albumin and globulin. After 6 weeks the chicks were slaughtered carcass characteristics were analyzed. Data were collected for analysis according to ANOVA and Duncan's new multiple rang test. The study showed no significant differences in mean of average daily gain, feed conversion ratio, blood clinical chemistry values and carcass characteristic among all treatment groups. However, there were significant differences in mortality rate between group 1 (control) and other groups. Group 5 that recieved 0.4 % AP as feed additive, showed lower mortality rate than group 6 that recieved chlortetracycline. Thus, AP leaves can be used as feed additive to replace antibiotics due to lower mortality rate. This will reduce the risk of antibiotic residue in chicken meat that can occur when antibiotics are used in poultry production.

Keywords: *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. F.) Nees, AP leaves meal, broiler performance, chlortetracycline, mortality