

عنوان مقاله:

Growth Performance, Carcass Characteristics and Intestinal Microflora of Broiler Chickens Fed Diets Containing Carum copticum Essential Oil

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خلاصه مقاله:

We evaluated the effects of dietary Carum copticum essential oil (CCEO) on growth performance, carcass characteristics and intestinal microflora of broiler chickens. A total of 240 Cobb broiler chickens were allocated to five dietary treatments, each with four replicates of 12 birds. Dietary treatments were prepared by formulating a corn-soybean meal-based diet free of antibiotics (Control) and supplementing the basal diet with three levels of CCEO at 150, 250, 350 mg/kg or antibiotic Virginiamycin at 200 mg/kg. Treatments were fed from 0 to 42 d of age. Body weight gain decreased linearly ($P=0.035$) with increasing CCEO while Virginiamycin increased body weight gain at 1 to 10 d compared to the control treatment ($P < 0.05$). Though feed consumption was not affected by CCEO, CCEO insignificantly improved feed conversion ratio (FCR) ($P > 0.05$). There were no differences in carcass characteristics among broiler chickens fed the control, CCEO and Virginiamycin diets ($P > 0.05$). Lactic acid bacteria in the cecum and ileum at 42 d of age were not influenced by the treatments ($P > 0.05$) but there was a linear increase of the log numbers of *E. coli* in the ileum ($P=0.02$) with increasing CCEO ($P < 0.05$). In conclusion, supplementing CCEO to diet at 150 mg/kg improve the growth performance, decrease undesirable intestinal bacteria in broiler chickens and is an adequate alternative to antibiotics.

کلمات کلیدی:

Broiler, Carum copticum, Essential oil, Performance, Intestinal microflora

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