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EFFECT OF AQUEOUS NEEM LEAF (*AZADIRACHTA INDICA*) EXTRACT ON PERFORMANCE, CARCASS QUALITY AND PHYSIOLOGICAL STATUS OF BROILERS

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Abstract

This study was carried out to evaluate the effects of aqueous neem leaf extract (ANLE) on the performance, carcass characteristics, blood and serum biochemistry of broiler birds. One hundred and sixty, day-day old broiler chicks were randomly assigned to four treatments which contained 0, 20, 40 and 60ml ANLE per litre of water in a Completely Randomized Design experiment. Each treatment was replicated four times with ten birds in each replicate. Feed and water were provided ad libitum. There was significant ($P<0.05$) difference in weight gain and feed intake in favour of birds in the control, and feed conversion was better in birds placed on 20mL/L ANLE. Significant ($P<0.05$) effect was observed in the survival of birds treated with ANLE with 20 and 40mL/L ANLE having 15 and 10% mortality rate respectively. There was no significant ($P>0.05$) difference in Hemoglobin, packed cell volume, white blood cell neutrophil and monocyte. Significant ($P<0.05$) effect was observed in creatinine, AST and ALT. In conclusion, results of this study indicate that aqueous ANLE could therefore, be used in broiler chicks production without any deleterious effect on the performance, carcass characteristics and health status of the birds at the inclusion level used in this study.

Keywords: neem, hemoglobin, broiler, growth, WBC, serum

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