



Animal, Poultry and Fish Production Research

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EFFECT OF DIETARY YEAST EXTRACT SUPPLEMENTATION ON SOME CARCASS AND BLOOD TRAITS OF GROWING JAPANESE QUAIL REARED UNDER HIGH STOCKING DENSITY

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Received: 24/11/2021 ; Accepted: 30/11/2021

ABSTRACT: This work was designed to study the effects of stocking density (SD) without or with yeast extract (YE) supplementation on carcass traits and some blood biochemical parameters of growing Japanese quail. A total number of 340, 7-days old unsexed Japanese quail chicks with initial body weight of 30.42 g were used in this study. The quails were randomly distributed to 6 experimental groups (4 replicates/group) in a complete randomized design. The 1st group was reared in normal density (ND; 10 birds/replicate) and fed the basal diet without any supplementation; the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th groups were reared in high density (HD; 15 birds/replicate) and fed the basal diet supplemented with 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 mg YE/ kg diet, respectively. The treatment with 1 mg YE / kg diet of groups stocked at HD resulted significantly increased in the relative weight of liver, gizzard and giblets comparable with either HD or untreated group kept at HD. Total protein and albumin values were significantly increased by dietary YE supplementation of HD groups compared with ND and HD without dietary YE supplementation. It is worth to note that, quail chicks groups housed at ND have increase A/G % compared with the groups housed at HD with or without YE supplementation. Increasing SD without or with dietary YE supplementation at different levels had significantly ($p < .0001$) increased plasma alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) concentrations compared with the chicks stocked in ND. However, there were no significant differences were observed among all experimental groups due to increasing density without or with dietary YE supplementation on kidney functions (plasma creatinine and urea levels). From the obtained results it could be concluded that dietary supplementation of YE can positively attenuate the stress applied upon growing quail reared under HD through enhancing some carcass traits, liver and kidney functions.

Key words: Quail, yeast extract, carcass, biochemical profile.

INTRODUCTION

Japanese quail is considered one of the important alternative resources of animal protein, because it have many advantages such as fast growth, early sexual maturity, short incubation period, small size and high egg production, low feed requirements and its housing costs, less floor space compared with the different species of poultry (Padmakumar *et al.*, 2000). Also, quails are widely distributed in many countries of the world (Roshdy *et al.*, 2010; El-Tarabany *et al.*, 2015).

Stocking density (SD) influences animals' welfare but lowering it without guaranteed optimal environmental conditions is of minor importance (Jones *et al.*, 2005; Utnik-Banaš *et al.*, 2014). The best housing condition for rearing poultry are of great interest to researchers, and good production conditions are essential to promote poultry production and improve welfare and profit (Lewko and Gornowicz, 2011; Mesa *et al.*, 2017). Housing conditions can also affect animal welfare and mortality of laying hens (Weimer *et al.*, 2019; Schuck-Paim *et al.*, 2021).

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The target of the quail producers is to increase the stocking density (SD) to achieve further reductions in production costs, but an excessive crowding of chickens can decrease performance and welfare of chickens kept in cages (Hassanein, 2011; Tayeb *et al.*, 2011; Utnik-Banaś *et al.*, 2014). To this regard, no clear recommendations are available in the literature on optimal space allowance for quail raising.

Stocking stress associated with increasing animal density can be relieved by using feed additives with strong antioxidant property (Attia *et al.*, 2021).

Japanese quails are recently attracted attention in the poultry sector for being economically viable (Bolacali and Irak, 2017). The development of intensive poultry industry has made the role of feed additives in poultry diets more and more important. The proper use of feed additives can increase feed utilization, improve production and promote health. Thus, probiotics like yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; SC) have been investigated as a feed additive for improve animal performance and health (Ogbuewu *et al.*, 2018). Probiotics are live microorganisms that improve animals' health by competing with undesirable microorganisms, improve intestinal microbial balance and absorption of nutrients (Al-Khalaifah, 2018). SC is considered as one of the most yeast species that are added to dietary formulations in poultry diets (Duarte *et al.*, 2012). SC contain substantial levels of digestible proteins, vitamins, magnesium, zinc and its wall have many characteristics such as polysaccharides α -D-mannan, chitin and β -D-glucan (Elghandour *et al.*, 2019) which play an important role in microbial balance in intestine towards beneficial organisms. Furthermore, proliferation of tissues in intestine and lymphocytes with a rapid cell turnover depend mostly on dietary nucleotides where de novo synthesis of nucleotides cannot meet their demand (Alizadeh *et al.*, 2016).

This work was designed to study the effects of stocking density (SD) without or with yeast extract supplementation on the performance carcass traits, liver and kidney functions of growing Japanese quail.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out at Poultry Research Farm, Poultry Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Zagazig University, Egypt.

This work was designed to study the effects of stocking density (SD) without or with yeast extract supplementation on carcass traits and some blood biochemical parameters (total protein and its fractions, liver and kidney functions) of growing Japanese quail.

Experimental Birds and Management

A total number of 340, 7-days old unsexed growing Japanese quail chicks with initial body weight of 30.42 g were used in this study. The quails were randomly distributed to 6 experimental groups and 4 replicates maintained per each group in a complete randomized design. The 1st group (40 quails) was stocked at a rate of 10 chicks/replicate (control, ND) and fed the basal diet without any supplementation; the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th (HD; 60 quails/group) stocked at a rate of 15 chicks/replicate and fed the basal diet supplemented with 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 mg yeast extract/ kg diet, respectively.

Birds were weighed, and randomly housed in cages. House temperature was kept at about 30°C during the first week, then gradually decreased by 2°C weekly until reached 24°C and kept until the end of the experimental period. In all the experimental groups, birds were subjected to 23 hours light at intensity of 3 watt/m² along the experimental period which extended to the age of 5 weeks, feed and water were available *ad libitum* throughout the experimental period.

Experimental Diets

The basal experimental diets were formulated to cover the nutrient requirements of growing Japanese quail as recommended by NRC (1994). The composition and calculated composition of the experimental basal diets are presented in Table 1.

Measurements Investigated

Caracas traits

At the end of the experimental period, four birds from each group were randomly selected

Table 1. Composition and calculated analysis of the experimental basal diet

Items	(%)
Ingredient	
Yellow Corn (8.5%)	51.80
Soybean meal (44%)	36.70
Gluten meal (62%)	5.21
Soybean oil	2.90
Limestone	0.70
Di-calcium phosphate	1.65
Salt	0.30
Premix ¹	0.30
L-Lysine	0.13
DL-Methionine	0.11
Choline chloride (50%)	0.20
Total	100.00
Calculated composition² (%)	
ME, Kcal /Kg	2995
Crude protein	24.00
Calcium	0.80
Nonphytate P	0.45
Lysine	1.30
Total sulfur amino acids (M+CY)	0.92

1. Provides per kg of diet: Vitamin A, 12,000 IU; Vitamin D3, 5000 IU; Vitamin E, 130.0 mg; Vitamin K3, 3.605 mg; Vitamin B1 (thiamin), 3.0 mg; Vitamin B2 (riboflavin), 8.0 mg; Vitamin B6, 4.950 mg; Vitamin B12, 17.0 mg; Niacin, 60.0 mg; D-Biotin, 200.0 mg; Calcium D-pantothenate, 18.333 mg; Folic acid, 2.083 mg; manganese, 100.0 mg; iron, 80.0 mg; zinc, 80.0 mg; copper, 8.0 mg; iodine, 2.0 mg; cobalt, 500.0 mg; and selenium, 150.0 mg.

2. Calculated according to **NRC (1994)**.

around the average of body weight, fasted overnight and weighed then slaughtered by a sharp knife to complete bleeding then followed by plucking the feather and the total inedible parts were removed. The liver, gizzard and heart were separately and individually weighted, then, the remaining carcass was weight to determine the dressing weight (Dressed weight = carcass weight plus giblets weight).

The percentage of carcass, giblets (liver, heart and empty gizzard) and dressing weights to live body weight were calculated.

Blood biochemical parameters

Individual blood samples were collected into EDTA tubes from 4 birds within each treatment (on individual basis) at 5 weeks of age. Each blood sample was centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 15 minutes to separate blood plasma.

The colorimetric determination of total protein level was carried out by specific diagnostic kit according to **Armstrong and Carr (1964)** with principle that in the presence of alkaline cupric sulfate the protein produced a violet color, the intensity of which is proportion to their concentrations.

The colorimetric determination of albumin was carried out by specific diagnostic kit produced by Bio-ADWIC according to **Wise (1965)** an albumin/bromo cresol-green complex is formed at pH 4.2 and the complex is measured photometrically.

Albumin concentrations were subtracted from the total protein concentrations to obtain the globulin concentrations (g/dl).

Plasma creatinine as (mg/dl) was determined according to **Henry (1974)** aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) as (U/L) in using commercial kit (Diamond Diagnostics kits). The activity of alanine plasma were assayed by the method of **Reitman and Frankel (1957)** using commercial kits (Diamond Diagnostics kits).

Statistical Analysis

The differences among treatments were statistically analyzed by one- way ANOVA using the SAS General Linear Models Procedure (**SAS. 2002**) by adopting the following model:

$$X_{ij} = \mu + T_i + e_{ij}$$

Where:

X_{ij} = An observation

μ = Overall mean

T_i = Effect of treatment (i = 1, 2, and 6).

e_{ij} = The experimental random error.

The significant differences between treatment means were separated by Duncan's Multiple Range-test (**Duncan, 1955**). All percentages were converted to the corresponding arcsine prior to statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISSCUTION

Carcass Traits

From the results presented in Table 2, it was clear that, the relative weight of carcass, heart and dressing did not differ significantly among all experimental groups. However, the relative weight of liver, gizzard and giblets were significantly (P=0.0029, 0.0001 and 0.0155, respectively) influenced by treatments. It was mentioned that, the treatment with 0.1 mg YE/kg diet of groups stocked at HD resulted

significantly increased in the relative weight of liver, gizzard and giblets comparable with either group kept at HD or untreated group kept at HD.

Several investigators found that, there were no significant differences in the relative weight of carcass yields of broilers and quail chickens with increasing stocking density (**Boontian *et al.*, 2019; Cengiz *et al.*, 2015; Vargas- Rodriguez *et al.*, 2013**). The results of effect dietary YE supplementation on carcass traits studied in the present study are in line with **Ahmed *et al.*, (2015)** who found that dietary yeast (SC) diet not have any significant effect on hot and cold carcass percentages. On the other hand, some authors found significant improvements in carcass yield of broiler chicks due to dietary yeast culture supplementation (**Fathi *et al.*, 2012; Onwurah and Okejim, 2014; Novake *et al.*, 2011**).

Blood Constituents

Total protein and its fractions

Results presented in Table 3 show that, increasing stocking density (SD) from ND to HD without addition YE in their diet had no significant effect on total protein (TP) and albumin (ALB) values. However, increase in TP (P=0.0066) and ALB (P<.0001) values were observed by dietary YE supplementation of HD groups compared with ND and HD without dietary YE supplementation. It is worth to note that, quail chicks groups housed at ND have increase A/G ratio (P=0.003) compared with the groups housed at HD with or without YE supplementation. This study has been confirmed an inverse relation between the stocking density (SD) and globulin concentration where, HD groups fed diet without or with YE supplementation had recorded numerically lower globulin concentration compared to the ND group.

Contradicting results were obtained by **El-Tarabany (2016)** who found that in quail layers, the group kept at low SD (200 cm²/bird) had significantly highest TP and ALB concentrations in comparison with the group kept at HD (143 cm² / bird). Likewise they found the highest A/G ratio has been recorded in LSD group, while the lowest value was in the HSD group.

Table 2. Carcass traits of growing Japanese quail as affected by stocking density without or with yeast extract supplementation

Items	ND	HD	HD + Yeast extract level (mg/kg diet)				SEM	P value
			1	2	3	4		
Carcass %	73.1	72.72	73.98	73.32	74.69	74.99	1.2530.8475	
Liver %	2.50 ^{bc}	2.19 ^c	3.12 ^a	2.93 ^{ab}	2.22 ^c	2.39 ^c	0.1180.0029	
Gizzard %	2.04 ^b	2.17 ^b	2.70 ^a	2.22 ^b	2.57 ^a	2.48 ^a	0.0610.0001	
Heart %	0.88	0.8	0.73	0.73	0.86	0.87	0.0350.0534	
Giblets %	5.43 ^b	5.16 ^b	6.55 ^a	5.87 ^{ab}	5.65 ^b	5.74 ^b	0.1770.0155	
Dressing %	78.53	77.89	80.53	79.18	80.34	80.74	1.3410.7190	

Means within the same row with different common superscripts differ significantly.

Table 3. Total protein and its fractions of growing Japanese quail as affected by stocking density without or with yeast extract supplementation

Items	ND	HD	HD + Yeast extract level (mg/kg diet)				SEM	P value
			1	2	3	4		
TP (g/dL)	2.57 ^{bc}	2.23 ^c	2.97 ^a	2.62 ^{ab}	2.94 ^{ab}	2.78 ^{ab}	0.1130.0066	
ALB (g/dL)	1.32 ^c	1.30 ^c	1.70 ^a	1.47 ^b	1.82 ^a	1.71 ^a	0.037<.0001	
GLOB (g/dL)	1.25	0.93	1.27	1.15	1.13	1.07	0.0770.0846	
A/G ratio	1.05 ^d	1.42 ^{abc}	1.35 ^{bc}	1.28 ^{cd}	1.64 ^a	1.60 ^{ab}	0.0750.0030	

Means within the same row with different common superscripts differ significantly.

TP: total protein; Alb: albumin, GLOB: globulin; A/G: albumin/ globulin ratio.

Our results are in line with **Paryard and Mahmoudi (2008)** who observed that findings yeast supplementation led to significantly higher serum TP content comparison to feeding unsupplemented yeast in broiler chicks. In reverse to these findings **Ghally and Abd Elatif (2007)** and **Ahmed et al. (2015)** noticed that dietary yeast supplementation in quail and broiler chicks causes decrease in serum albumin contents. Also, **Pouraziz et al. (2013)** and **Koncea et al. (2009)** assured that, no significant difference were observed in serum TP concentrations as a result of supplement of yeast to quail and broiler diets.

Liver and kidney functions

In the present study, increasing the stocking density (SD) from ND to HD without or with dietary YE supplementation at different levels had significantly ($p < .0001$) increased plasma AST and ALT concentrations compared with the

chicks stocked in ND (Table 4). However, there were no significant differences were observed among all experimental groups due to increasing density (SD) without or with dietary YE supplementation on kidney functions (serum creatinine and urea levels).

The increased serum AST and ALT activity in birds stocked under HD indicate that, high stocking density (SD) might cause oxidative lesions which are in accordance with the findings of **Simsek et al. (2009)**. Similarly **Shewita et al. (2019)** showed that, high stocking density (SD) altered the activity of liver functions enzymes (AST and ALT). On the other hand, **Bontiam et al. (2019)** did not find any significant effect of stocking density (SD) on blood profile (AST and uric acid). Also, **Al-Hamad (2020)** found that, there were no significant differences between the densities in AST and ALT concentrations due to high density.

Table 4. Liver and kidney functions of growing Japanese quail as affected by stocking density without or with yeast extract supplementation

Items	ND	HD	HD + Yeast extract level (mg/kg diet)				SEM	P value
			1	2	3	4		
Liver functions								
AST (IU/L)	7.19 ^c	15.95 ^a	10.67 ^b	6.32 ^c	15.17 ^a	16.25 ^a	0.873	<.0001
ALT (IU/L)	144.05 ^c	201.65 ^a	137.05 ^c	143.15 ^c	211.25 ^a	170.50 ^b	5.932	<.0001
LDH (IU/L)	182.15 ^b	192.50 ^b	235.50 ^a	124.50 ^c	193.50 ^b	181.65 ^b	9.7090	0.0004
Kidney functions								
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.55	0.64	0.57	0.50	0.51	0.53	0.0370	0.2616
Urea (mg/dL)	4.64 ^a	5.38 ^a	4.31 ^a	2.70 ^b	4.53 ^a	4.71 ^a	0.4900	0.0458

Means within the same row with different common superscripts differ significantly.

AST: aspartate aminotransferase and ALT: alanine aminotransferase.

The obtained results of effect of dietary YE supplementation in HD diet in the present study agree with **Abd El-Azeem and Hamid (2006)** who obtained insignificant decrease in, albumin, A/G ratio and creatinine in the plasma by adding yeast in the broiler diets. There was an increase in plasma globulin in the yeast group. Significant differences were observed in plasma TP and liver enzymes activity (ALT and AST) due to dietary barley yeast condition. On the other hand, obtained results of effect dietary YE supplementation in HD diet in the present study disagree with several authors (**Abd EL-Wahab *et al.*, 2019** and **Shareef and Al- Dabbagh, 2009**) who observed, the activities of ALT and AST in quails, and broilers serum were not affected by dietary yeast supplementation. However, our results agree with the results obtained by (**Yalcin *et al.*, 2008**).

Conclusion

From the data obtained in the present study it could be concluded that dietary supplementation of YE can positively attenuate the stress applied upon growing quail reared under HD through enhancing some carcass traits, liver and kidney functions.

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تأثير إضافة مستخلص الخميرة للعليقة على بعض صفات الذبيحة والدم للسمان الياباني النامي المربى بكثافة مرتفعة

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صممت هذه التجربة لدراسة تأثير الكثافة المرتفعة بدون أو بإضافة مستخلص الخميرة للعليقة على صفات الذبيحة وبعض قياسات الدم. تم استخدام 340 طائر سمان عمر 7 أيام غير بمتوسط وزن جسم 30.42 جم. تم توزيع السمان عشوائياً إلى 6 مجموعات تجريبية بكل مجموعة 4 مكررات فى تصميم عشوائى تام. المجموعة الأولى 40 طائر تم تسكينها بمعدل 10 طيور/مكررة (كنترول ذات كثافة طبيعية). وتم تغذيتها على عليقة أساسية بدون إضافات. المجموعات 2، 3، 4، 5، 6 سكنت بكثافة مرتفعة بمعدل 15 طائر/مكررة وغذيت على عليقة قاعدية مع إضافة 0، 1، 2، 3، 4. ملجم مستخلص خميرة/كجم علف على التوالى. سجلت الطيور المسكنة بكثافة عالية ومغذاه على عليقة مضاف لها 1 ملجم مستخلص خميرة/كجم علف زيادة فى وزن الكبد والقانصة الأجزاء المأكولة مقارنة بمجموعة الكثافة الطبيعية أو الكثافة المرتفعة وغير معاملة بمستخلص الخميرة. تأثرت قيم البروتين الكلى والألبومين معنويًا بمجموعات الكثافة المرتفعة مع مستخلص الخميرة مقارنة بمجموعة الكثافة الطبيعية أو الكثافة المرتفعة بدون إضافات. ارتفعت نسبة A/G فى مجموعات الكثافة الطبيعية عن مجموعات الكثافة المرتفعة بدون أو إضافة مستخلص الخميرة. أدت زيادة الكثافة بدون أو مع إضافة مستخلص الخميرة للعليقة إلى زيادة تركيز ALT، AST، فى البلازما بالمقارنة بمجموعات الكثافة الطبيعية. لا يوجد أى تأثير معنوى ملحوظ خلال التجربة بزيادة الكثافة أو بإضافة مستخلص الخميرة على وظائف الكلى والكبد. ومن النتائج المتحصل عليها يمكن ان نستنتج ان إضافة مستخلص الخميرة للعليقة يمكن ان يخفف بشكل ايجابي من تأثير الكثافة المرتفعة فى السمان من خلال تحسين بعض صفات الذبيحة وتعزيز وظائف الكلى والكبد.

المحكمون :

1 - أ.د.

2- أ.د.