

## DIGESTIBILITY OF FAT IN BROILER CHICKENS INFLUENCED BY DIETARY ADDITION OF SPICE HERBS

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This experiment was conducted to investigate the effects of garlic (*Allium sativum* L.), black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) and hot red pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.) in broiler chicken nutrition on productive performances and crude fat digestibility. For biological research eight treatments with 1200 broiler chickens of hybrid line Hubbard in total were formed, in four replicates. Control treatment (T1) was fed with standard commercial mixtures based on corn meal and soybean meal. Experimental groups were fed with same commercial mixtures with addition of spice herbs as follows: garlic 0.5 (T2) and 1.0 g/100 g (T3), black pepper 0.5 (T4) and 1.0 g/100 g (T5), hot red pepper 0.5 (T6) and 1.0 g/100 g (T7) and mixture of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper (1:1:1) in total of 0.5 g/100 g (T8). During the preparation period (first two weeks) chickens were fed with starter mixtures diets without addition of spice herbs. After this period, starter and grower diets were prepared according the plan till the end of experiment (42 days). At the end of experiment and on the basis of gained results it can be concluded that the chickens at experimental treatments T6 and T7 achieved statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher final body masses (2460.6 and 2442.4 g) compared to the chickens at control and other treatments. When it comes to a highest digestibility of crude fat, treatments T2, T4 and T6 (4.5 g/100 g) recorded statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences compared to control treatment, but without significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) between experimental treatments. In this experiment addition of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper had significant influence on fat digestibility and utilization as well as better production results compared to a control treatment.

**Key words:** garlic; black pepper; hot red pepper; nutrition; chickens; fat digestibility

## СВАРЛИВОСТ НА МАСТИТЕ ВО ИСХРАНАТА НА БРОЈЛЕРСКИ ПИЛИЊА СО ДОДАВАЊЕ ЗАЧИНСКИ БИЛКИ ВО ОБРОЦИТЕ

Овој експеримент беше направен со цел да се испита влијанието на лукот (*Allium sativum* L.), црниот пипер (*Piper nigrum* L.) и лутата црвена пиперка (*Capsicum annuum* L.) во исхраната на бројлерски пилиња врз производните карактеристики и сварливоста на суровите масти. За истражувањето беа направени вкупно осум третмани на 1200 бројлерски пилиња од хибридната линија Hubbard, со по четири повторувања. Контролната група (T1) беше хранета со комерцијални смеси со стандарден состав врз база на пченкарно брашно и соја. Експерименталните групи беа хранети со исти комерцијални смеси, но со додавање зачински билки како што следува: лук 0,5 (T2) и 1,0 g/100 g (T3), црн пипер 0,5 (T4) и 1,0 g/100 g (T5), лута црвена пиперка 0,5 (T6) и 1,0 g/100 g (T7) и смеса на лук, црн пипер и лута црвена пиперка (1:1:1) во вкупно 0,5 g/100 g (T8). Првите две недели бројлерите беа на подготвителен период со starter-смеси без додавање на зачинските билки, потоа пилињата се хранеа со grower и finisher-смеси според планот за исхрана до крајот на експериментот, кој траеше 42 дена. На крајот од експериментот и врз основа на постигнатите резултати можеше да се заклучи дека бројлерските пилиња од експерименталните групи T6 и T7 постигнале статистички значајно ( $p < 0,05$ ) повисока крајна телесна маса (2460,6 и 2442,4 g) во споредба со пилињата од контролната и другите групи. Кога станува збор за највисока сварливост на суровите масти, третманите T2, T4 и T6 (4,5 g/100 g) постигнале статистички значајни ( $p < 0,05$ ) разлики во споредба со контролната група, но немало сигнификантни

разлики ( $p > 0,05$ ) помеѓу експерименталните групи. Во овој експеримент додавањето на лукот, црниот пипер и лутата црвена пиперка имаше значајно влијание врз сварливоста и искористливоста на суровите масти, како и подобри производни резултати во споредба со контролната група.

**Клучни зборови:** лук; црн пипер; лута црвена пиперка; исхрана; пилиња; сварливост на масти

## INTRODUCTION

Besides of important role of spices, medicinal herbs and aromatic plants in daily human nutrition these additives have been usefully used in animal nutrition for improvement of health, utilization of nutrients and animal wellbeing. Removal of antibiotics as growth promoters has led to animal performance problems, feed conversion ratio increase, and a rise in the incidence of certain animal diseases [30]. The alternatives to antibiotics as growth promoters are numerous [22, 12, 25, 19]. Plant derived additives used in animal nutrition to improve performance have been called “phytogenic feed additives” [31]. The primary mode of action of these growth promoting feed additives can be attributed mainly to the stabilization of feed hygiene and also from the beneficial effect on the gastrointestinal microbiota through controlling pathogens [21]. Spices have been recognized for long time regarding their digestive stimulant action. Several spices are also employed in medicinal preparations against digestive disorders in traditional and Indian medicine. Earlier reports on the digestive stimulant action of spices are largely empirical; only in recent years, this beneficial attribute of spices has been authenticated in exhaustive animal studies. Animal studies have shown that many spices induce higher secretion of bile acids which play a vital role in fat digestion and absorption. When consumed through the diet, spices produce significant stimulation of the activities of pancreatic lipase, amylase and proteases. A few of them also have been shown beneficial effect on the terminal digestive enzymes of small intestinal mucosa. Concomitant with such a stimulation of either bile secretion or activity of digestive enzymes by spices, leads to an accelerated digestion and reduction in the feed transit time in the gastrointestinal tract [17]. In commercial broiler production mainly powder forms or essential oils of oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), sage (*Salvia officinalis*), thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), garlic (*Allium sativum*), black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) and chilli (*Capsicum annum*) are used singly or in combination as feed additives [8, 19, 18]. Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.), is a well known spice and herbal medicine for the preven-

tion and treatment of a variety of diseases [2]. It has been shown to exhibit antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-hypertensive properties [23]. As a natural feed additive, garlic has been reported to improve broiler growth, feed conversion ratio and decreased mortality [28]. The mechanism of action of garlic as a growth promoter is yet to be fully elucidated. It was considered that garlic might have the ability to improve absorptive capacity of the small intestine via structural alterations [16]. In broilers, it was reported that garlic, as a natural feed additive have improved broiler growth and feed conversion ratio, and decreased mortality rate [26]. Furthermore, this additive has a relatively low market price and if it is added in small amounts of 0.2 to 2%, do not increase production costs, which is of particular importance to manufacturers [32]. Black pepper is known as spices due to its pungent quality. Black pepper is found to improve feed digestibility [15]. Black pepper was found to be rich in glutathione peroxidase and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, and it has been shown that piperine can dramatically increase absorption of selenium, vitamin B complex and  $\beta$  carotene as well as other nutrients [11, 27]. Piperine enhances the thermogenesis of lipids and accelerates energy metabolism in the body and also increases the serotonin and  $\beta$ -endorphin production in the brain [4]. Piperine is an active alkaloid that modulates benzopyrene metabolism through cytochrome P450 enzyme, which is important for the metabolism and transport of xenobiotic and metabolites [20]. Investigation of Abou-Elkhair et al. [1] showed that black pepper in broiler nutrition had influenced on improved health status trough serum globulin concentration increase. Hot red pepper plays an important role in decreasing the deposition of cholesterol and fat in the body and contributes to decrease levels of triglycerides and work to support the vascular system in the body. Pepper efficiency compounds are consisting of capsaicin, capsinin and capsantine that some of them allay rheumatic aches. A recent studies involved in poultry performance showed that blends of active compounds for hot red pepper causes chemopreventive and chemotherapeutic effects.

Aim of this study was to investigate the effects of garlic (*Allium sativum* L.), black pepper

(*Piper nigrum* L.) and hot red pepper (*Capsicum annum* L.) in broiler chicken nutrition on productive performances and crude fat digestibility.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### *Animal nutrition, housing and sample collection*

Biological experiment were carried out under production conditions at the experimental farm "Pustara" in property of the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science in Novi Sad. At the beginning of experiment, eight treatments of 150 one day old broiler chickens of hybrid line Hubbard per treatment in four replication on a total of 1200 chickens were formed. For chicken feeding three mixtures were used, starter, grower and finisher (Table 2). The first 14 days, during the preparatory period, chicks were fed with starter mixture. Following the preparation period, chicks were fed the next 21 days with grower mixtures, and then the last 7 days of fattening period with finisher mixtures according the experimental design given in Table 1. During the 42 days experiment, chicks were fed and watered *ad libitum*, and microclimate conditions were regularly monitored. Chickens were on the floor holding system. Control of body weight and feed consumption was performed on the weekly basis. Collection of feces samples was carried out for three days at the end of IV, V and VI week of fattening period. Samples of grower and finisher feed mixture, as well as feces samples was analyzed with standard AOCS method for crude fat determination.

### *Digestibility of crude fat (CFD)*

The digestibility of crude fat (CFD) was calculated for the grower and finisher feeding period according to the equation [14]:

$$\text{CFD} = \frac{\text{crude fat in diet mixture} - (\text{crude fat in feces} / \text{crude fat in diet mixture})}{\text{crude fat in diet mixture}}$$

### *Statistical analyses*

Statistical analyses were conducted using the Statistica for Windows statistical package program, (version 12) to determine if variables differed between groups. Significant effects were further explored using analysis of variance (ANOVA), LSM and Fisher's LSD post-hoc multiple range test to ascertain differences among treatment means. A level of significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

Table 1

### *Experimental design with chickens*

Experimental treatments	Additive	Concentration of additives in chicken diets g/100 g		
		In starter	In grower	In finisher
		1–14 days	15–35 days	36–42 days
T1	Control treatment	0.0	0.0	0.0
T2	Garlic powder	0.0	0.5	0.5
T3	Garlic powder	0.0	1.0	1.0
T4	Black pepper powder	0.0	0.5	0.5
T5	Black pepper powder	0.0	1.0	1.0
T6	Hot red pepper powder	0.0	0.5	0.5
T7	Hot red pepper powder	0.0	1.0	1.0
T8	Mixture of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper (1:1:1)	0.0	0.5	0.5

Table 2

### *Chemical composition of dietary mixtures, g/100 g*

Nutrients	Diet mixtures		
	Starter	Grower	Finisher
Dry matter	89.4	89.3	89.4
Moisture	10.5	10.7	10.5
Crude protein	21.1	20.7	17.3
Crude fat	3.9	3.9	4.7
Crude fiber	3.5	3.5	3.6
Ash	5.0	4.8	5.6
Ca	0.8	0.9	1.1
P	0.6	0.6	0.5
Metabolic energy, MJ/kg	12.5	12.8	13.3

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the obtained results it can be concluded that the addition of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper in the diet of broiler chickens led to a statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) differences in body weight (Table 3). At the end of the preparatory period chickens had uniform body weight with no statistical significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ).

At the end of the third week, chickens in treatment T2 achieved highest body weight (818.5

g) with statistically significant differences compared to the treatments T1, T4 – T8. Almost the same tendency was observed at the end of fourth week where the highest body masses were recorded in chickens at treatments with addition of 0.5 (T2) and 1.0 g/100 g (T3) of garlic powder (1202.3 and 1204.9 g) with statistically significant differences compared with T1, T4 and T5, while the significant differences with treatments T6, T7 and T8 was absent. At the end of second fattening period, addition of hot red pepper in treatments T6 and T7 showed stimulating effect and led to statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) in body weight in relation to control and other experimental treatments. After the completion of experimental period the highest body weight of chicken was at treatment T6 (2460.6 g) which was followed by treatment T7 (2442.4 g) with statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to other treatments. Treatments with addition of garlic powder (T2, T3) achieved final body masses of 2371.1 and 2336.1 g which was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher than masses of chickens at treatments T1 (2075.8 g), T4 (2076.5 g) and T5 (2077.5 g). Addition of black pepper in treatments

T4 and T5 led to a statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) lower body weight compared to other experimental treatments, but without significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) compared to a control treatment T1. Lewis et al. [13] showed that addition of plant extracts to broiler chickens nutrition has some effects on performance but none of them were significant. These study have showed that the addition of medicinal herbs to the chickens diet have positive effect on production results what is in agreement with previous findings of Ashayerizadeh et al. [5]; Fadlalla et al. [7]; Stanačev et al. [26]; Al-Kassie et al. [4]; Issa and Abo Omar [10]; Valiolahi et al. [29] and Puvača et al. [18]. Al-Harathi [3] found that broiler chicks fed diets supplemented with hot red pepper showed improved feed conversion ratio and concluded that the effect may be due to its stimulative, carminative, digestive and antimicrobial properties, what is in consistent with our results. Hosseini [9] showed that black pepper increases digestion through prompt digestive liquids of stomach and eradicates infectious bacteria. Black pepper affects the absorption power, decreases material transit velocity and increases digestive enzymes.

Table 3

*Body weight of chickens in experiment, g*

Experimental treatments	Age of chickens							
	1 day	7 days	14 days	21 days	28 days	35 days	42 days	
T1	LSM	42.8 <sup>a</sup>	162.7 <sup>a</sup>	388.6 <sup>a</sup>	785.6 <sup>bc</sup>	1162.4 <sup>b</sup>	1643.8 <sup>c</sup>	2075.8 <sup>d</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.52	3.64	8.38	11.84	12.2	24.23
T2	LSM	42.1 <sup>a</sup>	160.2 <sup>a</sup>	389.7 <sup>a</sup>	818.5 <sup>a</sup>	1202.3 <sup>a</sup>	1743.1 <sup>b</sup>	2371.1 <sup>b</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.63	3.84	8.41	11.8	12.16	23.96
T3	LSM	42.2 <sup>a</sup>	159.7 <sup>a</sup>	386.4 <sup>a</sup>	804.6 <sup>ab</sup>	1204.9 <sup>a</sup>	1737.2 <sup>b</sup>	2336.1 <sup>bc</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.64	3.79	8.5	11.75	11.94	23.43
T4	LSM	42.4 <sup>a</sup>	159 <sup>a</sup>	384.2 <sup>a</sup>	754.1 <sup>d</sup>	1117.1 <sup>c</sup>	1577.8 <sup>d</sup>	2076.5 <sup>d</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.62	3.79	8.41	11.8	12.39	24.42
T5	LSM	42.4 <sup>a</sup>	160.4 <sup>a</sup>	386.6 <sup>a</sup>	727.5 <sup>c</sup>	1055.6 <sup>d</sup>	1503.7 <sup>c</sup>	2077.8 <sup>d</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.62	3.86	8.35	11.75	12.16	23.96
T6	LSM	42.5 <sup>a</sup>	162.5 <sup>a</sup>	385.3 <sup>a</sup>	770.5 <sup>cd</sup>	1193.6 <sup>ab</sup>	1815.1 <sup>a</sup>	2460.6 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.63	3.86	8.29	11.84	12.25	24.05
T7	LSM	42 <sup>a</sup>	161.6 <sup>a</sup>	385.1 <sup>a</sup>	762.4 <sup>cd</sup>	1183.6 <sup>ab</sup>	1812.1 <sup>a</sup>	2442.4 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.6	3.87	8.38	11.84	12.2	24.33
T8	LSM	41.8 <sup>a</sup>	163.2 <sup>a</sup>	384.9 <sup>a</sup>	778.6 <sup>c</sup>	1178.7 <sup>ab</sup>	1717.5 <sup>b</sup>	2297.8 <sup>c</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.47	1.6	3.81	8.38	11.71	12.02	23.78

Treatments with different letter indexes in the same column are statistically significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) \

<sup>a</sup> – statistically no significant differences; <sup>ab, bc, cd</sup> – statistically significant differences

Results in Table 4 show the digestibility of crude fat in broiler chickens. Amount of crude fat in the diet mixtures, both grower and finisher between the treatments was uniform, without statistically significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ). From the results of crude fat amount in feces significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) could be observed. The highest amount of crude fat in feces (3.5 g/100 g) at the end of IV week was recorded in chickens at treatment T1 which was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared with all other experimental treatments. The smallest amount of crude fat in feces (2.2 g/100 g) was recorded in chickens on treatment T3 with statistically significant differences compared with control and experimental treatments. The same tendency was observed at the end of VI week, only with the smallest amount of crude fat (1.8 g/100 g) in the feces of chickens in treatment T6 with significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ). When it comes to a highest digestibility of crude fat, treatments T2, T4 and T6 (4.5 g/100 g) recorded statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences compared to control treatment, but without significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) between experimental treatments. In this experiment addition of

garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper had significant influence on crude fat digestibility and utilization. These effects of spice herbs can be attributed to their stimulation of gastric functions and intensify of salivary flow and gastric juice secretion, which help in digestion [17]. It has been found that black pepper enhances digestive tract function. In experiments with rats and mice it was reported that black pepper and piperine can stimulate digestive enzymes, modify stomach secretions, alter gastrointestinal food transit time, and inhibit diarrhoea [6, 24]. Abou-Elkhair et al. [1] in their experiment with addition of 0.5% of black pepper in broiler chicken nutrition found that the pepper dietary addition led to an improved feed conversion ratio through the entire fattening period. In our study as well as in a study of Al-Kassie et al. [4], addition of hot red pepper in broiler chicken nutrition led to a better feed utilization. The digestive stimulant action of these spices herbs seems to be mediated by liver stimulations to secrete bile rich in bile acids, components that are vital for fat digestion and absorption, and by a stimulation of enzyme activities that are responsible for digestion [17].

Table 4

*Digestibility of crude fat, g/100 g*

Nutrients		Crude fat in diet			Crude fat in feces			Digested crude fat		
Week		IV	V	VI	IV	V	VI	IV	V	VI
T1	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	3.5 <sup>a</sup>	3.3 <sup>a</sup>	3.3 <sup>a</sup>	3.0 <sup>a</sup>	3.0 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>b</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T2	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.4 <sup>d</sup>	2.7 <sup>b</sup>	2.1 <sup>f</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T3	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.2 <sup>e</sup>	2.3 <sup>d</sup>	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T4	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.5 <sup>d</sup>	2.6 <sup>c</sup>	2.1 <sup>e</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T5	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.5 <sup>d</sup>	2.3 <sup>d</sup>	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T6	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.6 <sup>c</sup>	2.1 <sup>e</sup>	1.8 <sup>g</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T7	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.8 <sup>b</sup>	2.5 <sup>c</sup>	2.4 <sup>c</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04
T8	LSM	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>a</sup>	2.7 <sup>bc</sup>	2.7 <sup>b</sup>	2.3 <sup>d</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>
	SE <sub>LSM</sub>	0.11	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.04

Treatments with different letter indexes in the same column are statistically significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ );

<sup>a</sup> – statistically no significant differences; <sup>ab, bc</sup> – statistically significant differences

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the obtained results, it can be with certainty concluded that the addition of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper in broiler chicken nutrition have positive effect on production performances. Addition of hot red pepper in amount of 0.5 g/100 g has led to highest final body weights. Also, obtained results indicate that garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper are effective in regulation of lipid metabolism in a favourable manner. Addition of garlic, black pepper and hot red pepper had significant influence on crude fat digestibility and utilization, but the further investigation of their mode of action is still necessary.

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