

# Effects of Turmeric Oil as a Dietary Supplements on the Haematology and Serum Biochemical Indices of Broiler Chickens

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**Abbreviations:** PCV: Pack Cell Volume; Hb: Haemoglobin; MCV: Mean Corpuscular Volume; MCH: Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin; MCHC: Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration

## ABSTRACT

The objective of this current study was to examine the effects of turmeric oil as a dietary supplement on some haematological and serum biochemical indices of broiler chicken. A total of two hundred 1-day-old broiler chicks (Ross 308 strain) were randomly distributed to five treatments of 4 replicates consisting of 10 birds each in a completely randomized design. Birds in treatment 1 (T1) were fed basal diet + 0 % turmeric oil (TOL), T2, T3, T4 and T5 were fed basal diet supplemented with TOL at 0.1 %, 0.2 %, 0.3 % and 0.4 % respectively. Basal diet was formulated to meet the nutritional requirements of birds according to NRC (1994). Clean feed and water were also provided ad libitum throughout the experiment which lasted for 56 days. Results obtained showed that all the haematological parameters (Pack cell volume, haemoglobin, red blood cell, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration, white blood cells and its differentials) were significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) different among the treatments. Serum biochemical parameters (Total protein, albumin, globulin, cholesterol, alanine transaminase, aspartate transaminase) were influenced by the dietary supplementation of TOL ( $P < 0.05$ ). Cholesterol level decreases as the dietary supplementation of TOL increases ( $P < 0.05$ ). However, all values were within the normal physiological range for birds. It was concluded that TOL contains several bioactive chemicals which confers it the ability to perform multiple biological functions.

**Keywords:** Broiler Chickens; Turmeric Oil; Haematology; Serum Biochemistry

## Introduction

The increasing pressure of reducing the use of antibiotics as antimicrobial growth promoters for animals due to harmful residual toxicity effects of drugs observed in the food chain calls for alternative solutions to sustain the efficiency of current livestock production [1,2]. Among the potential alternatives is essential oil which has been found to be loaded with several bioactive chemicals, less toxic and free from residues [3]. According to Franz and Novak (2009), essential oils are complex mixtures of volatile compounds produced by living organisms and isolated by physical means only (pressing and distillation) from the whole plant or plant part of

known taxonomic origin. The composition of essential oil in plants depends on plant species and its age, harvesting periods, methods of processing, geographical location and soil types [4,5]. Scientific reports showed that essential oils (EOs) can perform several biological activities such as antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, cytotoxic, hypolipidemic, hepatoprotective, antiviral, miracidicidal and antioxidant [4-7]. EOs are relatively cheap, effective, safe and perceived as growth promoters in poultry diets [8], improve meat quality [9,10], alteration of lymphocyte distribution in the gut [11,12], potentiate the immune response [13-15] and high antimicrobial activity against pathogenic bacteria [16].

In view of these abundant potentials in EOs, this study was designed to evaluate the effect of dietary supplementation of turmeric oil on the haematology and serum biochemical indices of broiler chickens. This experiment will further help to bridge the gap between food safety and livestock production.

## Materials and Methods

### Site of The Experiment

The experiment was carried out at the University of Abuja Teaching and Research Farm, Animal Science Section, Main Campus, along Airport Road, Gwagwalada, Abuja, Nigeria.

### Extraction of Turmeric Oil (TOL)

Fresh turmeric rhizome was purchased from an open market in Gwagwalada, Abuja. The outer layer of the rhizome was peeled using a kitchen knife, it was thereafter separated and sun-dried for one week. The dried rhizome was granulated into coarse particles using a laboratory grinder. A 100 g of grinded rhizome placed onto a thimble and the thimble was put into the sohxlet extractor. N-hexane solvent was poured into three-neck- round bottom flask that is joined with the extractor and flask along with the condenser on the top to avoid any solvent losses. The whole assembly was then placed on the temperature controller heater to provide the required temperature. The temperature was measured by a thermometer that was inserted in one of the necks of the round bottom flask. After certain interval of the time the experiment was stopped and the trapped oil in the solvent was separated. The mixture of solvent and oil was separated using rotary evaporator under vacuum at temperature of 65oC, the oil obtained after evaporation was weighed.

### Experimental Animals and Management

Two hundred 1- day old (Ross 308) broiler chicks with mixed sex were used for the experiment. The birds were purchased from a commercial hatchery in Ibadan and weighed on arrival on the farm to obtain their initial body weight and thereafter weekly. A deep litter housing system was used, it was fumigated two weeks prior to the commencement of the study, and the surrounding environment was also cleaned daily to ensure proper hygiene. Birds were divided to five treatments with four replicates consisting of 10 birds in a completely randomized design. Electric brooders were used, and wood shavings serve as the litter material. Daily feed intake (g) was calculated as a difference between feed offered and left-over. Vaccines were administered according to the prevailing disease condition in the environment and all other management practices were strictly adhered to throughout the experiment which lasted for 56 days.

### Diet Formulation

The basal diet was formulated to meet the nutrient requirements of birds according to NRC (1994) as presented in Table 1.

**Treatment 1:** Basal diet + 0 % TOL

**Treatment 2:** Basal diet + 0.1 % TOL

**Treatment 3:** Basal diet + 0.2 % TOL

**Treatment 4:** Basal diet + 0.3 % TOL

**Treatment 5:** Basal diet + 0.4 % TOL

**Table 1:** Percentage composition of experimental diet.

| Ingredients                | Starter Mash (0-4 Weeks) | Finisher Mash (5-8 Weeks) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maize                      | 52.00                    | 60.00                     |
| Soya meal                  | 38.60                    | 30.10                     |
| Groundnut cake             | 3.00                     | 4.00                      |
| Fish meal (72%)            | 1.00                     | -                         |
| Bone meal                  | 3.00                     | 3.00                      |
| Limestone                  | 1.50                     | 2.00                      |
| Lysine                     | 0.15                     | 0.15                      |
| Methionine                 | 0.20                     | 0.20                      |
| Toxin binder               | 0.01                     | 0.01                      |
| *Premix                    | 0.25                     | 0.25                      |
| Salt                       | 0.30                     | 0.30                      |
| Total                      | 100.00                   | 100.00                    |
| Determined analysis (% DM) |                          |                           |
| Crude protein              | 23.23                    | 20.91                     |
| Crude fibre                | 3.14                     | 4.00                      |
| Ether extract              | 5.01                     | 4.74                      |
| Calcium                    | 1.28                     | 1.31                      |
| Phosphorus                 | 0.63                     | 0.68                      |
| Energy                     | 2901.9                   | 3100.7                    |

\* Premix supplied per kg diet: - Vit A, 10,000 I.U; Vit E, 5mg; Vit D3, 3000I.U, Vit K, 3mg; Vit B2, 5.5mg; Niacin, 25mg; Vit B12, 16mg ; Choline chloride, 120mg ; Mn, 5.2mg ; Zn, 25mg ; Cu, 2.6g ; Folic acid, 2mg ; Fe, 5g ; Pantothenic acid, 10mg ; Biotin, 30.5g ; Antioxidant, 56mg.

### Measurements

Proximate compositions of experiment diet were determined by using official method of analysis by AOAC (2000).

### Haematological and Serum Biochemical Analysis

Blood samples were collected very early in the morning from the wing vein from three (3) randomly selected birds per replicate into a 5 ml sterile syringe using 23-gauge needles and

transferred into an ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA) bottle. Haematological parameters: pack cell volume (PCV), red blood cell (RBC), haemoglobin (Hb), mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH), mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration (MCHC), mean corpuscular volume (MCV), white blood cell (WBC) and its differentials were analyzed using an automated machine (Sysmex, Model KU-30 HG, India). Serum analysis was carried out using bottles free from EDTA, blood were analyzed for total protein, albumin, globulin, cholesterol, alanine transaminase (ALT) and aspartate transaminase (AST) were assayed using diagnostic kit manufactured by Merck India Ltd (Model PS-09R)

### Statistical Analysis

All data were subjected to one -way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using SPSS (23.0) and significant means were separated using Duncan multiple range tests (Duncan, 1955). Significant was declared if  $P \leq 0.05$ .

## Results and Discussions

### Haematological Parameters of Broiler Chicken Fed Diet Supplemented with Turmeric Oil

Table 2 reveals the haematological parameters of broiler chicken fed turmeric oil (TOL). PCV, Hb, RBC, MCV, MCH and

MCHC ranged between 30.10 – 38.96 %, 9.88 – 13.80 g/dl, 2.01 – 3.95 ( $10^6/\mu\text{L}$ ), 101.2 – 149.8 fl, 32.77 – 49.15 pg and 30.49 – 35.53 % respectively. Highest value were recorded in T4 and T5, intermediate in T2, T3 and lowest in T1 ( $P < 0.05$ ). The PCV, Hb, RBC and WBC values increased as the level of turmeric oil increases in the diets of the animals ( $P < 0.05$ ). This result is in agreement with the findings of Gerardo et al. [17]. who noted that administration of Mexican oregano oil at 0.4g/kg showed positive haematological activities in broiler chicks? Similar recommendation was made by Alagbe and Grace [19-23] who reported a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) in broilers fed herbal essential oil as a phytoadditive. This effect could be attributed to the presence of bioactive chemicals or secondary metabolites in turmeric oil. However, all the values of the haematological parameters fall within the ranges for broilers as reported by Talebi et al. (24); Ibrahim Albokhadaim [25]. Hematological studies have been found useful for disease prognosis and for therapeutic and stress monitoring [26] but can vary due to age, gender, environment, infection and poisoning [27]. Red blood cell is involved in the transport of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the body [28]. This is a clear indication that birds in T5 will have a have enough oxygen especially in situation of oxygen starvation. Nse [29]; Subhadarsini and Silpa, 2020 reported that hematocrit or PCV is an index of toxicity; lower value could be a sign of anemia.

**Table 2:** Haematological parameters of broiler chicken fed diet supplemented with turmeric oil.

| Parameters                    | T1                 | T2                 | T3                 | T4                 | T5                 | SEM  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| PCV (%)                       | 30.10 <sup>c</sup> | 35.43 <sup>b</sup> | 35.56 <sup>b</sup> | 38.71 <sup>a</sup> | 38.96 <sup>a</sup> | 0.03 |
| Hb (g/dl)                     | 9.88 <sup>c</sup>  | 11.01 <sup>c</sup> | 12.06 <sup>b</sup> | 13.71 <sup>b</sup> | 13.80 <sup>a</sup> | 0.09 |
| RBC $\times 10^6/\mu\text{L}$ | 2.01 <sup>c</sup>  | 3.61 <sup>b</sup>  | 3.68 <sup>b</sup>  | 3.71 <sup>a</sup>  | 3.95 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.10 |
| MCV (fl)                      | 149.8 <sup>a</sup> | 103.7 <sup>c</sup> | 107.5 <sup>b</sup> | 107.0 <sup>b</sup> | 101.2 <sup>c</sup> | 0.18 |
| MCH (pg)                      | 49.15 <sup>a</sup> | 30.50 <sup>c</sup> | 32.77 <sup>c</sup> | 36.95 <sup>b</sup> | 34.94 <sup>b</sup> | 2.33 |
| MCHC (%)                      | 32.82 <sup>c</sup> | 29.41 <sup>b</sup> | 30.49 <sup>b</sup> | 35.53 <sup>a</sup> | 33.51 <sup>a</sup> | 3.09 |
| WBC $\times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$ | 19.89 <sup>c</sup> | 22.56 <sup>b</sup> | 25.35 <sup>b</sup> | 28.05 <sup>a</sup> | 30.22 <sup>a</sup> | 1.25 |
| Lymphocytes %                 | 14.18 <sup>c</sup> | 15.90 <sup>c</sup> | 16.56 <sup>b</sup> | 17.08 <sup>a</sup> | 18.22 <sup>a</sup> | 0.21 |
| Monocytes %                   | 0.99 <sup>c</sup>  | 1.44 <sup>b</sup>  | 1.33 <sup>b</sup>  | 1.35 <sup>b</sup>  | 1.38 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.07 |
| Heterophils %                 | 5.09 <sup>c</sup>  | 6.06 <sup>b</sup>  | 6.17 <sup>c</sup>  | 6.45 <sup>b</sup>  | 7.58 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.12 |
| Basophils %                   | 1.04 <sup>c</sup>  | 2.10 <sup>c</sup>  | 2.17 <sup>b</sup>  | 2.23 <sup>b</sup>  | 2.90 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.09 |
| Eosinophils %                 | 1.03 <sup>c</sup>  | 1.41 <sup>b</sup>  | 1.51 <sup>a</sup>  | 1.58 <sup>a</sup>  | 1.74 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.01 |

<sup>abc</sup> means different superscript along rows differs significantly at  $P < 0.05$ .

PCV: pack cell volume; Hb: haemoglobin; MCV: mean corpuscular volume; MCH: mean corpuscular haemoglobin; MCHC: mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration.

WBC, leucocytes, monocytes, heterophils, basophils and eosinophils values ranged between 19.89 – 30.22 ( $10^3/\mu\text{L}$ ), 14.18 – 18.22 %, 0.99 – 1.44 %, 5.09 – 7.58 %, 1.04 – 2.90 % and 1.03 – 1.74 % respectively. Significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) were observed among the treatments, WBC helps to fight against infections and provide resistance against diseases [30]. This is an indication that

birds in T4 and T5 have high resistance to infections which amounts to low mortality and healthy stocks. Basophils and eosinophils play a role in regulating allergic and inflammatory processes and host defense responses against parasitic infections like helminthiasis and ectoparasitic infestation [31].

## Serum Biochemical Indices of Broiler Chicks Fed Diets Supplemented with Turmeric Oil (TOL)

Table 3 reveals the serum biochemical indices of broiler chicks fed diets supplemented with TOL. The total protein, albumin, globulin, cholesterol, ALT and AST values ranged between 3.45 – 4.95 g/dl, 1.83 – 2.95 g/dl, 1.62 – 2.00 g/dl, 35.1 – 78.1 mg/l, 48.10 – 83.19 iu/L and 85.10 – 103.2 iu/L respectively. All the values were significantly affected ( $P < 0.05$ ) by the dietary supplementation of TOL. The total protein in the serum of animals are influenced by

protein quality in the diet, this showed that the protein levels in the diet was enough to support normal protein reserves across the treatments. However, the values obtained in this study were within the normal ranges for broilers reported by Livingstone et al. [32]; Obiakaonu et al. [33]. Cholesterol level decreased as the level of turmeric increased in the diet of the animal, this is a clear indication that TOL could perform hypolipidemic activity, thus preventing cardiovascular infection [34]. Alanine transaminase (ALT) and aspartate transaminase were depressed as the level of TOL increased indicating no toxicity [35-38].

**Table 3:** Serum biochemical indices of broiler chicks fed diets supplemented with TOL.

| Parameters           | T1                 | T2                 | T3                 | T4                 | T5                 | SEM  |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| Total protein (g/dl) | 3.45 <sup>b</sup>  | 4.61 <sup>a</sup>  | 4.70 <sup>a</sup>  | 4.65 <sup>a</sup>  | 4.95 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.98 |
| Albumin (g/dl)       | 1.83 <sup>b</sup>  | 2.87 <sup>a</sup>  | 2.70 <sup>a</sup>  | 2.85 <sup>a</sup>  | 2.95 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.02 |
| Globulin (g/dl)      | 1.62 <sup>b</sup>  | 1.74 <sup>b</sup>  | 2.00 <sup>a</sup>  | 2.00 <sup>a</sup>  | 2.00 <sup>a</sup>  | 0.31 |
| Cholesterol (mg/l)   | 78.1 <sup>a</sup>  | 48.3 <sup>b</sup>  | 45.1 <sup>b</sup>  | 38.3 <sup>b</sup>  | 35.1 <sup>b</sup>  | 2.33 |
| ALT (iu/L)           | 83.19 <sup>a</sup> | 50.61 <sup>b</sup> | 50.10 <sup>b</sup> | 49.41 <sup>b</sup> | 48.10 <sup>b</sup> | 4.12 |
| AST (iu/L)           | 103.2 <sup>a</sup> | 97.40 <sup>b</sup> | 90.31 <sup>b</sup> | 88.17 <sup>c</sup> | 85.10 <sup>c</sup> | 2.78 |

<sup>abc</sup> means different superscript along rows differs significantly at  $P < 0.05$ .

ALT: Alanine transaminase; AST: Aspartate transaminase

## Conclusion

It was concluded that turmeric oil has a great potential and can be generally considered natural, less toxic due to the presence of various secondary metabolites and can be supplemented in the diet of broilers up to 0.4 % without causing any deleterious effect on the health and general performance of broiler chicks.

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