Effect of the addition of *Urtica dioica* leaves in diet of broiler chicken on growth performances and carcass characteristics

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AIMS

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of the addition of *Urtica dioica* leaves in diets on growth performances and carcass characteristics of broiler chicken.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

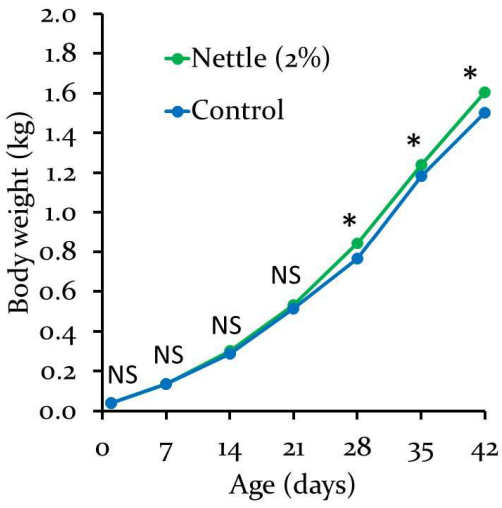
- The study was conducted from May to June 2014 in the area of Chemini (Algeria).
- 100 one-day-old broilers (industrial strain) were divided into 2 groups and 2 repetitions with 25 chickens each.
- Group 1 (control) : Standard commercial diet based on corn and soybean purchased on the local market.
- Group 2 : Nettle diet (control diet with addition of 2% of nettle leaves).

RESULTS

	Control	Nettle (2%)
Carcass traits (%)		
Carcass yield	70.84±0.52	71.40±0.38
Breast	32.18±0.30	32.61±0.42
Thigh	25.22^{b}±0.34	26.01^{a}±0.27
Abdominal fat	4.39^{b}±0.22	3.90^{a}±0.16
Feed intake (g)		
day 0 – day 21	888.5	875.7
day 21 – day 42	2552.9	2304.1
day 0 – day 42	3441.4	3179.8
Feed conversion ratio		
day 0 – day 21	1.795	1.845
day 21 – day 42	2.305	2.340
day 0 – day 42	2.147	2.178

^{a,b} : the values with different superscripts are significantly different (P<0.05)

Growth performance



Signification : NS, P>0.05 ; *, P<0.05

CONCLUSION

This experiment showed that dietary addition of *Urtica dioica* has positive effects on growth performance and carcass quality of broilers.

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