



Performance and Vital Internal Organs Weight of Chicks Fed on *Moringa oleifera* Leaves in Sudan

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ABSTRACT

This experiment was conducted to assess the effects of graded levels of *Moringa oleifera* leaves diets on growth performances, and vital internal organs weight. A total of ninety six, -day old, unsexed Hubbard breed broiler chicks were used. Chicks were weighed individually and assigned randomly into four equal groups and each treatment group consisted of three replicates of 8 chicks. Four diets were formulated to be iso energetics and isonitrogenous (A, B, C, and D). Diets A as Control with no added leaf moringa. The diets were Starter (8-28 d), Grower (29-42 d). Moringa leaves added to the diets A, B, C and D at 1%, 3% and 5%, respectively. Parameters measured were live body weight, body weight gain, weakly growth rate, feed intake, feed conversion ratio, and mortality rate. The results revealed that, no significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$) between the four diets in live body weight, body weight gain, weakly growth rate, feed intake, feed conversion ratio, and mortality rate. Result obtained showed that addition 1% of leaf moringa improved significantly ($P < 0.05$) the feed conversion rate. The study showed that obtained responses due to substitution diets containing graded levels of leaf of moringa to have a potential in poultry feeding. This is exhibited through its protein content, relatively low fibre and higher mineral contents. It concluded that, for better efficiency 5% inclusion of moringa level is optimal for broiler performance.

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INTRODUCTION

Moringa oleifera Lam (syns. *Moringa pterygosperma*, family Moringaceae) is native in Himalaya but is currently spread almost world-wide. Moriga grows in all types of soil from acid to alkaline and at

attitude from sea level to 1300 m (Duke 1983). The proximate analysis of moringa leaves reveal the presence of high crude protein (17.01% ± 0.1) and carbohydrate (63.11% ± 0.09). The leaves also contained appreciable amounts of crude fibre (7.09%

± 0.11), ash ($7.93\% \pm 0.12$), crude fat ($2.11\% \pm 0.11$) and fatty acid ($1.69\% \pm 0.09$). The total ash content showed it contained minerals, Ca ($1.91\% \pm 0.08$), K ($0.97\% \pm 0.01$), Na (192.95 ± 4.4), Fe (107.48 ± 8.2), Mn (81.65 ± 2.31), Zn (60.06 ± 0.3) and P (30.15 ± 0.5) parts per million (ppm). Magnesium ($0.38\% \pm 0.01$) and copper (6.10 ± 0.19) were the least. Ogbe *et al.* (2011). The dry matter (DM) value of the Moringa leaves was of 93.7% 87.20% and (96.79%). respectively (Olugbemi *et al.* (2010) Mutayoba *et al.* (2011) and Olugbemi *et al.* (2010). Mutayoba *et al.* (2011) reported much higher (30.65%) crude protein in *Moringa oleifera* leaves. Moringa leaf and green fresh pods are used as vegetables by humans and are rich in carotene and ascorbic acid, iron and with two amino acids generally deficient in the feed methionine and cystine (Makkar and Becker 1996). Moringa leaf powder can be added to any food or beverage and has impact on those who are malnourished children, pregnant or lactating women, children at weaning and the elderly. Moringa leaves are reported to be very palatable to ruminants and have appreciable crude protein levels (Sutherland *et al.* 1990, Sarwatt *et al.* 2002, Kimoro 2002). Many trials had been done to use moringa leaves as source of protein to improve body weight in goat (Aregbore, 2003) and milk yield in dairy cows (Nadir, 2005).

The high price of protein supplement and its scarcity have initiated the search for possible source of protein for livestock and poultry production. The possibility of using moringa leaves as a source of protein in place of conventional feedstuffs and concentrates appear to be potentially of great importance, in addition, recently there is a marked shift to words the consumption of chicken meat in the Sudan.

The objective of this study was to investigate the effects of substituting

different levels of moringa leaves on performance and growth of Hubbard breed broiler

MATERIALS and METHODS

Collection and processing of sample:

Moringa oleifera leaves were harvested from farms located in Khartoum state (Buri and Soba) during the Winter season (November – February, 2012 2013). Stems and branches were cut from Moringa trees and spread out under the shade at 35°C for 3-5 days. The leaves were and powdered by using a locally made Miller machine.

Experimental birds and their management

The experimental birds were bought from Ommat Company (Khartoum). A total of ninety six one-day old, unsexed Hubbard breed broiler chicks were used. All birds were vaccinated against Newcastle. Thereafter, on day 7 birds were randomly assigned into four groups (A, B, C and D). Each group was further subdivided into 3 replicates each of 8 birds. Each replicate was placed in a separate pen of approximately 4m x 4m x 1.5m. Sunlight was used as a source of light during the day and fluorescent tubes were used to illuminate the pens at night. The birds were kept under deep litter management system and saw dust was used as litter materials to cover the floor.

Diets:

Diets were formulated to be iso energetics and isonitrogenous (A, B, C, and D). All nutrients were calculated to meet the USA National Research Council Requirements (NRC, 1994). Birds in each replicate were fed prestarter diet for 7 days (Nutrestar, Netherland) and water was provided daily *ad libitum*. At the age of 7 days, group A chicks served as control and fed untreated starter ration, while group A, B, C, and D given the starter control diet containing 1, 3, and 5% moringa leaves respectively. Feeding continues till day 28 (Table 1).

Thereafter, starter diet was replaced by grower diet during the period 29 – 42 day. Group A fed untreated grower diet, while groups B, C, and D consumed grower diets

containing 1, 3, and 5% moringa leaves respectively (Table 2). Birds were provided with ration once daily in the morning, and feeding continues for another 5 weeks.

Table 1: Feed ingredients used in the starter diets

| Component% | A (0%) | B (1%) | C (3%) | D (5%) |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sorghum | 60.75 | 60.5 | 60.5 | 60.75 |
| Groundnut seed cake | 30.31 | 28.60 | 28 | 27.60 |
| Limestone | 0.71 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.2 |
| Lysine | 0.46 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Superconcentrate* | 12.08 | 6.65 | 5.94 | 7 |
| Salt | | | | |
| Methionine | | | | |
| Plant oil | 0.5 | 0.21 | 0 | 2 |
| | 0.04 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moringa leaves | 3.75 | 1.77 | 1.60 | 3.13 |
| | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Antioxidant | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

= 0% no moringa addea, 1% moriga leaves, 3% moriga leaves and 5% moriga leaves

* Handerix concentrate Handerix Compony.France

Table 2: Feed ingredients used in the grower diets on broilers

| Component% | A(0%) | B(1%) | C3% | D(5%) |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sorghum | 69 | 69 | 67.7 | 66 |
| Groundnut seed cake | 21 | 21 | 19.9 | 19 |
| Limestone | 1 | 1 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Lysine | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Superconcentrate* | 4 | 4 | 4.4 | 4 |
| Salt | | | | |
| Methionine | | | | |
| Plant oil | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moringa leaves | 2 | 1 | 1.7 | 1 |
| | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Antioxidant | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

= 0% no moringa addea, 1% moriga leaves, 3% moriga leaves and 5% moriga leaves

* Handerix concentrate Handerix Compony.France

Data collection procedure:

Feed intake, body weight, weight gain and feed conversion ratio were recorded weekly for the individual replicate of each dietary, mortality rate also recorded. at the end of experimental period were starved over night and six birds per treatment were randomly

selected, weighted and slaughtered. Carcass hot, liver, heart, lung and spleen were separated and weighted

Statistical analysis

The data for feed intake, , weight gain, were subjected to Analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to Snedecor and Cochran (1992)

using general linear model (GLM) procedures of Statistical Analysis System (SAS) Inc, (1998). Values were considered significant at $P < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Condition of experimental birds

Generally all birds remained healthy for the entire experimental duration. Yellow coloration of body parts was observed in birds fed 5% after slaughter.

Chemical composition of ingredients and experimental diets

The chemical composition of different ingredients used in the formulation of dietary treatments is shown in Table 3 and 4. The CP and ME contents for all diets were almost similar (23% and 3199 Cal /kg DM respectively). Ca, Crude fibre, and phosphorous contents did not vary in dietary treatments

Table 3: Chemical composition and metabolizable energy of starter diets

| Item | A(0%) | B(1%) | C3% | D(5%) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| DM | 93.26 | 92.14 | 90.86 | 86.99 |
| % | | | | |
| CP | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| CF | 4.9 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| Ca | 1.07 | 1.02 | 1.01 | 1.07 |
| P | 0.45 | 0.433 | 0.40 | 0.46 |
| ME | 3197.82 | 3199.25 | 3197.82 | 3199.97 |
| Cal/kg DM | | | | |

0% no moringa addea, 1% moriga leaves, 3% moriga leaves and 5% moriga leaves

Table 4: Chemical composition and metabolizable energy of grower diets

| | A(0%) | B(1%) | C3% | D(5%) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| DM | 92.66 | 92.12 | 89.8 | 88.82 |
| % | | | | |
| CP | 20.01 | 20 | 20 | 20.03 |
| CF | 3.86 | 4 | 4.31 | 4.61 |
| Ca | 0.908 | 0.902 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| P | 0.3 | 0.302 | 0.306 | 0.304 |
| ME | 3195.43 | 3196.63 | 3195.43 | 3197.34 |
| Cal/kg DM | | | | |

A0% no moringa added, B1% moriga leaves, C3% moriga leaves and D5% moriga leaves

Feed intake: Table 5 shows weekly average feed intake of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves. There was no significant effect of dietary treatment on feed intake during week three, four and five,. However, significant and progressive increases in feed intake were observed on birds' fed 5 % levels in the diet (Table 9).

Weight gain: The results of weight gain are summarized in Table 9. There was no significant effect of dietary treatment on weight gain noted in birds fed up to 3% moringa leaves, however, weekly average

weight gain of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves shows a significant different between the diets specially in the last weeks. (Table 7)

Feed conversion ratio (FCR): Table 7 shows weekly average feed conversion ratio of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves, however, there was a significant different between the different levels of inclusion of moringa throughout the period of experiments, with the high FCR in the fifth week.(Table 9).

Mortality rate %: Diet contains moringa level 1% and 3% shows no death among the

chicks, however, moringa level up to 5% causes a death of more than 1% of chicks.

Table 5: Weekly average feed intake of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves.

| Period | M±STD %0 | M±STD %1 | M±STD %3 | M±STD %5 | Sig |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| First week | 1751.67±149.53 ^b | 1996.67±412.56 ^a | 2013.33±440.80 ^a | 1520.± 150.99 ^c | * |
| Second week | 3685±254.61 ^a | 2503.33±235.28 ^d | 3190±598.27 ^c | 3025±342.75 ^{bc} | * |
| Third week | 4146.67±482.22 | 3676.67±408.18 | 4498.33±191.39 | 4413.33±515.13 | N.S |
| Fourth week | 5553.33±331.52 | 5070.± 648.44 | 5570.± 378.91 | 5418.33±77.51 | N.S |
| Fifth week | 6653.33±285.72 | 6503.33±222.62 | 6488.33±1301.79 | 6503.33±222.62 | N.S |

0% no moringa addea, 1% moringa leaves, 3% moringa leaves and 5% moringa leaves

Table 6: Weekly average weight gain of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves.

| Period | M±STd 0% | M±STd 1% | M±STd 3% | M±STd 5% | Sig |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| First week | 89.08±9.81 ^a | 80.42±23.76 ^a | 80.75±23.62 ^a | 40.00±11.67 ^b | * |
| Second week | 228.96±35.54 | 194.58±22.984 | 177.29±59.40 | 207.53±15.18 | N.S |
| Third week | 207.15±37.63 ^a | 383.69±22.72 ^a | 227.2±47.53 ^c | 295.71±121.50 ^b | * |
| Fourth week | 421.51±72.86 | 472.86±64.71 | 409.37±75.64 | 590.05±118.26 | * |
| Fifth week | 326.67±15.27 ^a | 298.67±10.06 ^a | 300.6±10.07 ^b | 339.00±68.51 ^a | * |

Table 7: Weekly average feed conversion ratio of broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves.

| Period | M±STD %0 | M±STD %1 | M±STD %3 | M±STD %5 | Sig |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| First week | 2.69±.120 ^c | 3.21±.69 ^b | 3.21±.63 ^b | 4.93±.94 ^a | * |
| Second week | 2.25±.49 ^a | 1.62±.17 ^b | 2.43±.88 ^a | 2.10±.23 ^a | * |
| Third week | 1.47±.27 ^b | .48±.61 ^c | .74±1.06 ^c | 2.93±1.95 ^a | * |
| Fourth week | 1.93±.31 ^a | 1.67±.31 ^b | 1.83±.42 ^{ab} | 1.50±.00 ^c | * |
| Fifth week | 2.91±.15 ^b | 2.86±.37 ^b | 2.41±.97 ^c | 3.63±.49 ^a | * |

0% no moringa addea, 1% moringa leaves, 3% moringa leaves and 5% moringa leaves

Table 8: Weekly average live weight of the broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves.

| Period | M±STD %0 | M±STD %1 | M±STD %3 | M±STD %5 | Sig |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| First week | 267.71±11.08 ^a | 260.00±28.45 ^a | 261.88±21.73 ^a | 211.04±16.56 ^b | * |
| Second week | 496.61±34.33 | 454.58±38.43 | 439.17±53.13 | 418.57±30.10 | N.S |
| Third week | 904.76±68.59 ^a | 838.28±17.85 ^{ab} | 793.96±86.85 ^b | 714.28±145.39 ^c | * |
| Fourth week | 1323.33±55.08 | 1244.67±47.34 | 1203.33±77.67 | 1316.67±5.77 | N.S |
| Fifth week | 1680±110 | 1543.33±47.26 | 1590±65.57 | 1633.33±60.28 | N.S |

0% no moringa addea, 1% moriga leaves, 3% moriga leaves and 5% moriga leaves

Table 9: Overall average weight, feed intake, weight gain, g/, feed conversion ratio and mortality rate of the broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves

| | Treatments | | | | Significant |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | M±STD %0 | M±STD %1 | M±STD %3 | M±STD %5 | |
| average weight | 1680.0±110.0 | 1543.3±47.2 | 1590.0±65.5 | 1633.3±60.2 | N.S |
| feed intake, g/bird | 3080.8±124.2 ^a | 2260.0±320.9 ^a | 2471.7±614.3 ^a | 3370.6±596.7 ^b | * |
| weight gain, g/ | 1472.43±71.12 | 1363.75±49.92 | 1408.87±64.79 | 1452.29±52.37 | N.S |
| Feed conversion ratio, kg | 2.25±.13 ^b | 1.96±.26 ^a | 2.12±.39 ^{cb} | 3.02±.66 ^a | * |
| Mortality rate | .67±.58 | .00±.00 | .00±.00 | 1.33±1.53 | N.S |

Carcass and some internal organs weight:
Carcass and some internal organs weight were summarized in table 10, there was no

significant different in carcass weight, heart liver, and spleen weight and the fat weight shows variation among the diets.

Table 10: Carcass and some internal organs weight/g of the broiler chickens fed with different levels of moringa leaves.

| Items | A (0%) M±STD | B(1%) M±STD | C(3%) M±STD | D(5%) M±STD | Sig |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| Carcass weight/g | 1121.33±48.35 | 980.83±110.8 | 1000.36±89.66 | 1059.67±11.24 | NS |
| Heart weight/g | 11.74±1.25 | 10.47±.81 | 10.60±1.29 | 9.53±4.32 | NS |
| Liver weight/g | 42.09±2.52 | 41.67±2.01 | 48.77±4.48 | 44.90±1.31 | NS |
| Fat weight/g | 14.80±5.20 ^b | 17.38±2.10 ^a | 14.14±2.19 ^b | 7.99±1.99 ^c | * |
| Spleen weight/g | 1.88±.63 | 2.09±.36 | 1.52±.32 | 1.76±.66 | NS |

0% no moringa addea, 1% moriga leaves, 3% moriga leaves and 5% moriga leaves

DISCUSSION

Good healthy status of experimental birds observed during the entire period of the present study, suggest use of moringa leaves up to 3% level in the diets have negligible

amount of toxic materials already reported in other leaf meals.

The results were in contrast with various reports on fodder tree and shrub leaves. Though, Makkar and Becker (1997) observed some traces of anti-nutritional

factors in *Moringa oleifera* but had no influence in this study. On the other hand, yellow coloration of body parts observed was mainly attributed to the presence of xanthophylls and carotenoid pigments in *Moringa oleifera* as in other tree and shrub leaf meals (Austic and Neisheim 1990). The chemical composition of moringa leaves observed in the present study compare well with the values reported by (Marker and Becker 1997). The similarities in chemical composition with other studies indicate that environmental factors such as season, geographical location and stage of maturity play a minor role in determining nutritive value of moringa leaves. Further, values of chemical composition were close to those reported in other leaf meals such as *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Sesbania sesban* and *Gliricidia sepium*. This suggests the potential of moringa leaves as animal feed agree with other leaf meals from nutritional point of view.

The chemical compositions of other feed ingredients used in the formulation of experimental diets were within the ranges reported by (NRC 1994; McDonald et al 1995 and Mellau 1999).

Results obtained in this study in feed and dry matter intake demonstrate that moringa leaves is palatable and highly preferred by chickens. These findings were inconsistent with those reported in other leaf meals by (Vohra 1972; Ravindran et al 1986; Osei et. al 1990 and Bhatnagar et. al 1996) who observed a depression in intake when chickens were fed diets containing various levels of *Leucaena leucocephala* (LLM.). These variations probably suggest lower anti-nutritional factors and toxic materials in moringa leaves (Makker and Backer 1997) than in other leaf meals. On the other hand, lower energy associated with lower digestibility of energy in CF component of moringa leaves as in other plant leaves (Tangendjaja et al 1990) could be a

contributing factor to higher intake observed when moringa leaves was higher in the diet. The increase in feed intake is usually associated with compensatory mechanism to energy demand (Smith 1999).

From the results obtained in the present study, it was also evident that the chicken fed 5% moringa leaves moderately influenced negatively live body weight and Carcass and some internal organs weight. The moderate depression of moringa leaves on live body weight and Carcass and some internal organs weight observed in this study, most probably was associated to low digestibility of energy and CP and bulkiness when moringa leaves was higher in the diet that contributed to low energy and CP availability to broiler.

In the present study, it was observed that feed utilization was high in birds fed 5% in the diet. Though, moringa leaves maintained better Kg feed/Kg weight gain. These findings suggest that inclusion of moringa leaves up to 5% have no any influence on Kg feed/Kg weight gain. similar results were reported by Banjo, ,(2012) and Kakengi (2007).

The inclusion of moringa leaves at 5 % levels in the diet showed a positive effect on body weight gain but the reason of this could not be explained although probably might be associated with higher sulphur containing amino acids reported in Moringa leaves. (North (1990) reported a positive influence of sulphur containing amino acids on egg weight. However, inclusion of moringa significantly enhance the weight gain of broiler at 2% of inclusion and did not affect feed intake and feed conversion ratio ,(Banjo, 2012). Kakengi (2007) However, for better efficiency 3% inclusion level is optimal. Moreover, Olugbemi (2010) reported a reduction in performance of broiler chicks fed moringa beyond 5%.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATION

- The study showed that obtained responses due to *Moringa oleifera* to have a potential in poultry feeding. This is exhibited through its protein content, relatively low fibre and higher mineral contents.
- The study using broiler showed that moringa could be used as a source of plant protein since it was highly accepted even at high inclusion levels in the diet.
- So far the study showed highest performance in live body weight production in comparison with other leaf meals already studied. However, for optimum utilization 5% inclusion is recommended.

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