

# CARCASS AND DIGESTIBILITY PATTERNS FED DIFFERENT LEVELS OF MUSHROOM (*PLEUROTUS OSTREATUS*) IN THE DIET OF BROILER

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**ABSTRACT:** *The study was performed to determine the inclusion of different levels of mushroom in the diet of broiler on carcass weight, dressing percentage and digestibility. Two hundred, day-old Chicks were randomly distributed into four equal groups (A, B, C and D) with 3 replicates having 16 chicks per replicate. Group A (control) received basal diet while three different mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) concentrations were used as diet treatment i.e. 0.5%, 1.0%, 1.5% for groups. The broilers were studied to evaluate carcass weight, dressing percentage, weight of edible and non-edible organs and digestibility. Carcass weight (1403.43g/b) and dressing percentage (62.5%) remained highest in group D, followed by groups C, B and A. In case of internal organs weight, edible parts, there was non-significant difference among liver, heart and gizzard weight, but it remained higher in treatment groups. While in case of non-edible parts, like proventriculus, spleen, intestine, feather, fat and shank weight was highest in group D followed by C, B and A groups. Digestibility result including digestible crude protein, digestible metabolizable Energy percentages, digestible ether extract and digestible crude fiber in finisher phase remained significant statistically and showed highest percentage in D. Therefore, it is concluded that addition of 1.5% mushroom broiler ration gives comparatively better results in broiler performance for the digestibility patterns.*

**Key words:** Broiler, mushroom, digestibility, carcass, feed

## INTRODUCTION

The global poultry production has been growing very fast during last few decades both in developed and developing countries. Poultry sector of Pakistan contributes a major role in availability of animal protein in order to decrease the demand of animal protein. The continuity in the growth trend can be expected by increasing feed conversion efficiency and reduced production costs [1]. Therefore, alternative feed ingredients/supplements need to be researched, not only to improve broiler growth, but protect the birds from various disease challenges. The growth can be achieved by the use of various alternate feed resources like mushroom [2].

The mushrooms are valuable and natural source of food around the globe. They belong to kingdom fungi, genus *Pleurotus*. *Pleurotus ostreatus*, also called oyster, abalone, or tree mushrooms [3]. These mushrooms look like oysters and they have a rich history in herbal medicine since 3,000 years ago as a tonic for immune system [4]. Mushrooms are an important source of food throughout the world. The protein content is 4% in fresh mushrooms. The protein content of dried mushrooms has been found up to 36.7% [5]. Mushroom protein contains amides, important essential and non-essential amino acids. These are considered good source of proteins, riboflavin B12, thiamin B1, biotin, niacin and trace minerals such as iron, sodium and phosphorus. The fat content contributes the fatty acids source as well [6].

Broiler feeding with certain level of mushroom is one of the alternatives receiving much interest with the poultry nutritionists and producers; because mushroom not only has ability to improve broiler growth. But also its inclusion in the feed improves the immune system of the bird to resist against certain diseases because of lectin. Some of the mushroom species have role in immune response and may protect from the infectious diseases in chicken [7]. In view of the facts

stated above, the proposed study was carried out to observe the influence of different levels of mushroom on carcass weight, dressing percentage and digestibility of broilers.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two hundred day-old broiler chicks were bought from local market. The broiler (*Gallus domesticus*), chicks were initially weighed and divided randomly into four groups i.e. A, B, C and D having 50 chicks in each group. Then each group were further divided into three replicates having 16 birds in each replicate and Poultry Experimental House at SAU, Tandojam, Pakistan. Treatment plan of mushroom inclusion levels in commercial ratio for four experimental diets were prepared as A 0%, B 0.5%, C 1% and D 1.5% mushroom inclusion rates were designed for assessment of broiler growth. Feed composition of the diet was used as previously described by Abro et al 2016a; 2016b [8-9]. The feed was given to all experimental chicks according to their treatments. Water and feeding management were performed as routine standards for poultry house.

### Carcass weight

On completion of experimental period of 42 days, two birds from every group were weight and slaughtered. Carcass weight was measured after dressing and its dressing percentage was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Dressing (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total carcass weight (kg)}}{\text{Total live body weight (kg)}} \times 100$$

### Weight of edible and non-edible parts

After slaughtering one broiler from each replicate, the liver, heart, gizzard, proventriculus, spleen, intestine, feather and abdominal fat contents were removed, weighed on electric weighing balance and recorded. The edible and non-edible organs were measured and comparative weights were

calculated as percentage of live body weight (organ weight / Total live body weight×100).

### Digestibility

#### Fecal Sample Collection

Feces samples were collected at the end of 39<sup>th</sup> day for three sequential days and stored at -20°C till analysis. Fecal material was dried at 65 °C for 48 hours and grinded to get similar size of particles for proximate chemical analysis.

Crude Protein (CP) was performed as 5 gm sample was taken into micro-kjeldhal digester along with a catalyst, (0.2 gm Copper Sulfate and 2 gm Sodium Sulphate) where sulfuric acid (20-30 ml) taken as an oxidizing agent. Digested feed sample was diluted to definite volume with distill water. A known aliquot of the diluted feed sample was mixed with 40% NaOH solution to an excess alkaline reaction and mixture was distilled with steam in micro-kjeldahl apparatus. Stream from the process was distilled over with 5 ml of 2% boric acid for 3 minutes, containing an indicator. The ammonia trapped in solution of boric acid was determined by titration against 0.1 N solutions of HCl. The nitrogen percentage was calculated using following formula.

$$N (\%) = \frac{1.4 (V1-V2) \times \text{Normality} \times 250}{\text{Samples weight}}$$

Samples weight

$$\text{Protein } \% = N \% \times \text{Conversion Factor} (100/N\% \times 6.25)$$

The Digestibility % for CP was calculated by using following formula:-

$$\text{CP/ ME Absorbed} = \frac{\text{CP/ ME Provided} - \text{Amount of CP/ ME Excreted}}{\text{CP/ ME Provided}}$$

Digestibility % (CP) = CP Absorbed X 100/Total CP Supplied  
Metabolizable Energy (ME) was calculated by putting samples into boom calorie meter

The Digestibility % ME was calculated by using following formula:-

$$\text{ME Absorbed} = \frac{\text{ME Provided} - \text{Amount of ME Excreted}}{\text{ME Provided}}$$

$$\text{Digestibility } \% (\text{ME}) = \frac{\text{ME Absorbed} \times 100}{\text{Total ME Supplied}}$$

The fat was removed using soxhlet apparatus. Performance of the ether extract was calculated with the following formula:

$$\text{EE } (\%) = \frac{\text{Weight of ash} \times 100}{\text{Weight of sample}}$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effect of mushroom in the diet of broiler was evaluated on the carcass weight, dressing percentage and digestibility of broilers. Statistical results of the study are shown in Table -1. The results show significantly higher carcass weight 1403.43 g/ bird in group D and the lowest carcass weight (1200.37 g/bird) was observed in group A fed 1.5% mushroom level.

**Table-1. The effect of feeding different levels of mushroom on digestibility, carcass weight, and dressing percentage of broiler.**

Parameters	Group				p-value	S.E	LSD
	A	B	C	D			
Carcass weight (g/bird)	1200.37 <sup>D</sup>	1273.5 <sup>C</sup>	1341.3 <sup>B</sup>	1403.43 <sup>A</sup>	0.0001	5.3565	17.468
Dressing percentage	57.97	60.48	61.75	62.5	0.1955	1.4192	4.6282
Digestibility of nutrients (%)							
C.P %	51 <sup>D</sup>	54.33 <sup>C</sup>	58.34 <sup>B</sup>	62.3 <sup>A</sup>	0.0000	0.6496	2.1184
M.E%	82.6 <sup>B</sup>	83.73 <sup>B</sup>	85.33 <sup>A</sup>	86.56 <sup>A</sup>	0.0015	0.4577	1.4925
E.E%	12.83	14.46	16.6	17.5	0.0000	0.2972	0.9693
C.F%	33.5 <sup>C</sup>	34.6 <sup>BC</sup>	35.8 <sup>AB</sup>	36.76 <sup>A</sup>	0.5698	0.0179	1.8584

S. E (Standard Error), LSD (Least significant difference), A (Control diet), B (0.5% mushroom level), C (1.0% mushroom level), D (1.5% mushroom level), CP (Crude protein), M.E (Metabolizable energy), E.E (Ether Extract), C.F (Crude fiber)

**Table-2. The effect of feeding different levels of mushroom on internal organs of broiler.**

Parameters	GROUPS				P- Value	LSD
	A	B	C	D		
Liver (%)	2.20	2.30	2.29	2.31	0.3887	0.1545
Gizzard (%)	1.93	1.99	1.98	2.01	0.3131	0.0977
Heart (%)	0.32	0.39	0.51	0.54	0.0733	0.1028
Provent (%)	0.42	0.51	0.56	0.59	0.06467	0.2420
Spleen (%)	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.36	0.4679	0.4449
Intestine (%)	4.59	4.91	4.95	4.97	0.3646	0.5215
Feather (%)	13.51	13.71	14.14	14.23	0.0874	0.5242
Fat (%)	1.63	1.64	1.70	1.70	0.8752	0.2644
Shank (%)	9.12	9.33	10.01	10.66	0.1007	1.0193

P -value significant level at 0.05, LSD (Least significant difference), A (Control diet), B (0.5% mushroom level), C (1.0% mushroom level), D (1.5% mushroom level)

Dressing percentage of various treatment groups of broiler was non-significant ( $P>0.05$ ). Dressing percentage in groups A, B, C and D was 57.97, 60.48, 61.75 and 62.5, respectively. These findings are in accordance with the findings of Pacsi(2012), who found out there is non-significant difference on its statistical analysis[10]. The control treatment had an average dressing percentage of 76.33 while the birds fed commercial feeds.

+ 50 grams raw mushroom has 71.86 followed by commercial feeds + 100 grams raw mushroom which is 71.56 and lastly commercial feeds + 150 grams raw mushroom with 70.56 average. Numerically better Dressing percentage was observed in broiler chicks of group D.

In order to examine the effect of various levels of mushroom on Edible parts, the weight of liver, gizzard, heart, was recorded at the end of experiment shown in Table-2, which indicated that the relative organs weight was non-significant ( $P>0.05$ ) in all groups. Further findings of Buwjoon and Kohen [11], Abolfazl *et al* [12]described that bursa and liver weights of broiler chicks were significantly increased ( $P<0.05$ ) fed 2% mushroom matched to control. The breast, thigh, spleen and heart weights as a percentage of live weight and intestine length of broilers were not significantly inclined by the supplementary treatments. Numerically increased weight of edible parts was observed in group D. The weight of proventriculus, spleen, intestine, feather, fat and shank, was recorded at the end of experiment. Results regarding relative organ weight were non-significant.

The difference in digestible crude protein of broiler chicks among all groups were highly significant ( $P<0.000$ ). The average digestible crude protein of broiler chicks was (62.3%) in group D, followed by group-C (58.34%), B (54.33%) and A (51%), respectively. Digestibility percentage for CP, ME and ether extract for finisher phases was recorded maximum in group D. All treated groups showed a better digestibility in comparison to control. The weight of the internal organs of the slaughtered broilers was increased in direct proportion, in

relation to the administration of the mushroom. This study proved that mushroom has a significantly positive effect on broiler digestibility. According to Ajala *et al.*, (2003) reported that decreased nutrient absorption in broiler chicken's fed with highly fibrous diet[13].

The difference in digestible metabolized energy of broiler chicks among all groups were highly significant ( $P<0.0015$ ). The average digestible metabolized energy of broiler chicks was (86.56%) in group D, while the broiler chicks in group-C (85.33%), B (83.73%), A (82.6%), respectively. The higher feed consumption of broilers on mushroom might contain high fibre which had reduced other nutrient contents in diet, therefore to fulfil their energy requirements [14].

The difference in digestible ether extract of broiler chicks among all groups were highly significant ( $P<0.0000$ ). The digestible crude fiber was lower in broiler chicks of group-A (33.5%) than the broiler chicks in group D (36.76%) (Table-2). Furthermore, broiler chicks in group-D showed significantly higher digestible crude fiber (36.76%) .Similar findings were observed by Khan *et al.*, (2005) who

demonstrated that heat treatment of diet enhanced texture, taste and nutritive value of mushroom[15]. It was already reported that various physical treatments may influence diet chemical composition, texture and palatability. Particular palatability had been shown to improve feed consumption, thus improve the overall performance of broilers[16-17]. There was non-significant effect of dietary supplementation of mushroom on gastro intestinal tract (GIT) that indicates that GIT can possibly tolerate mushroom without causing any physiological abnormality to main constituents of the digestive tract. This justified their report of Hetland *et al.*, [18] and Svihus *et al.*, ([19]) that may be due to the rough nature of mushroom which was able to create a digesta with appropriate chemical and physical features suitable for enzymatic degradation that needed stimulation for upper digestive tract for proper organ growth and function. High level of mushroom amount to increase level of fiber resulted in major decrease in cost of feed per cost kg weight gain.

## CONCLUSION

From the current findings, it was concluded that the addition of 1.5% mushrooms influenced carcass weight, dressing percentage and digestibility of broilers.

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