

### Effect of Phytobiotics, Probiotics and Toltrazuril on Chicken Coccidiosis

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#### Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate the effects of phytobiotics (Orego-stim®) and their combinations with probiotics and chemical anticoccidial toltrazuril in prevention of coccidiosis in broilers and also to examine these effects on growth performance, some blood biochemical parameters and immunity indices in broiler chickens. Two hundred and forty, one-day old Cobb chicks were used. They were divided into eight equal groups of 30 birds each. The 1<sup>st</sup> group was non-infested non-treated group. The other groups were inoculated intra-crop with  $1 \times 10^5$  sporulated oocysts of field strain of *Eimeria spp.* on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of age. The 2<sup>nd</sup> group was infested non-treated group. The 3<sup>rd</sup> group was treated with phytobiotics (300 mg/Liter drinking water). The 4<sup>th</sup> group was treated with probiotic (1 g/ liter drinking water). The 5<sup>th</sup> group was treated with toltrazuril 2.5 % (7 mg/kg BW. in drinking water). The 6<sup>th</sup> group treated with phytobiotics plus probiotic. The 7<sup>th</sup> group treated with phytobiotics plus toltrazuril 2.5 % while, the last group was treated with probiotic beside toltrazuril 2.5 %. Birds received phytobiotics showed better anticoccidial effect, an increase of growth performance parameters (body weight, body weight gain and feed consumption) and decrease of feed conversion ratio. Moreover, an improvement in immunity indices with variable effects on some blood biochemical parameters were resulted. Phytobiotics can be considered a promising high effective anticoccidial, growth promoting and immunomodulating agents.

**Keywords:** Phytobiotics, Coccidiosis, Performance, Broilers.

#### Introduction

Chicken coccidiosis is caused by *Eimeria spp.* which affects most of birds and associated with great economic losses. It can be treated with chemoprophylaxis and anticoccidial feed additives. Many researches are looking for alternative anticoccidial drugs [1]. Phytobiotics are defined as natural feed additives that are safe to animal [2]. They are different substances, mainly plant materials extracts, as leaves, flowers, seeds, buds, fruits, twigs, root, bark, wood, and herbs [3]. The active materials have many various secondary plant metabolites with a wide range of physiological effects [4]. Phytobiotics improve broiler performance [5], whereas others reported no effects on body weight gain and feed intake [6] or feed conversion ratio [7].

#### Material and Methods

##### *Birds and experimental design*

Two hundred and forty, one-day old apparently healthy Cobb chicks (male and female) were purchased from Al-Watania poultry company. Chicks were allotted in metal wire-cages for each group from day one. The chicks were divided into eight equal groups, each of 30 birds. The 1<sup>st</sup> group was non-infested non-treated group. The other groups were inoculated intra-crop on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of age with  $1 \times 10^5$  sporulated oocysts of field intestinal strains of *Eimeria spp.* The 2<sup>nd</sup> group was kept as infested non-treated group. The 3<sup>rd</sup> group was treated with phytobiotic (0.3 mL/Liter drinking water). The 4<sup>th</sup> group was treated with probiotic (1 g/liter drinking water). The 5<sup>th</sup> group was treated with toltrazuril 2.5% (7 mg/kg BW in drinking water).

The 6<sup>th</sup> group was treated with phytobiotic plus probiotic. The 7<sup>th</sup> group was treated with phytobiotic plus toltrazuril 2.5%, while, the last group was treated with probiotic beside toltrazuril 2.5 %. The chicks were fed starter diet from 1-15 days old and then fed grower diet from 16- 25 days and finally fed on finisher diet from 25 days to the marketing age [8]. All diets were formulated to meet the nutrient requirement of the broilers according to the recommendations of the National Research Council [9]. During the first week of age, the feed was sterilized in the oven at 65°C for 18 hours to destroy the probable accidental sporulated oocysts of *Eimeria* which may contaminate the rations. Moreover, the water also was sterilized during the first week of age through boiling and cooled before offered to the chicks [10].

Field intestinal *Eimeria* species were subjected to isolation, propagation, purification and sporulation then were inoculated intracrob in broiler chickens in a dose of (1x10<sup>5</sup>) sporulated oocysts, each (counted by Hemocytometer apparatus) on the 8<sup>th</sup> day old. Phytobiotic (Orego-stim<sup>®</sup>); Orego-stim was produced by Meriden Animal Health Co.-United Kingdom. It contains a- pinene, camphene, B-pinene, sabinene, Myrecene, a-phellandrene, a-terpinene, Limonene, 1.8 cineole, B-Ocimene, Trpinolene, 1-Octn-3-o 1, trans-Sabinene hydrate, Linalool, Cis-sabinene hydrate, terpinrn-4ol, a-Terpineol, borneol, B-Bisabolene, carvacrol 81.89%, y-terpinrn 5.1%, p- cymene 3.76% and thymol 2.12%. It was given at a dose of 0.3 mL/ liter drinking water all over the experiment. Probiotic (Gro-2-Max<sup>®</sup>); a product of Bio Natural America Institute (BNA), USA. It is a powder contains *Pediococcus acidilactici*, *Pediococcus pentosaceus*, *Acetobacter aceti* and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*. Total bacterial colony count was 2x10<sup>9</sup>. It was given at a dose of 1 g/liter during the whole experimental period. Toltrazuril (Toltacoccin<sup>®</sup>), a product of Waki Pharma, Egypt, which is a chemical anticoccidial drug with a wide spectrum activity. Toltacoccin<sup>®</sup> contains toltrazuril 2.5% solution. The drug was given at a dose of 7 mg/kg BW for two consecutive days in drinking water on 14 and 15 days post infection.

### **Oocysts output**

Fecal droppings were daily collected from all chicks of each group for 10 successive days between 5-14 days post infection (PI), and the oocysts were counted in 1 gm of fecal matter by the Mc-Master technique [11]. The oocysts reduction % was calculated according to the following: Reduction percentage = (X-Y)/X × 100, where X is the mean number of oocysts in the positive control group and Y is the mean number of oocysts in the treated group [12].

### **Lesion scoring**

On 7 and 14 days PI with coccidiosis, five chickens from each group were slaughtered and lesions in the duodenum (the organ that mostly affected) were described and scored according to Johnson and Reid [13].

### **Growth performance parameters**

The chicks were individually marked and weighed at one-day old, then body weight was recorded weekly till the end of the experiment (the fifth week). Cumulative feed consumption, cumulative body weight gains and feed conversion ratio (FCR) were calculated [10]. Five birds from each group were randomly selected and slaughtered at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks of age for collecting giblets (empty gizzard, heart and liver without gall bladder).

### **Blood biochemical parameters and determination of immunity indices**

Blood samples were collected from the wing vein of five chickens per each group on the 5<sup>th</sup> week of experiment. Sera from the collected samples were allowed to separate for determining serum Alanine aminotransferase (ALT), Aspartate aminotransferase (AST) [14], total proteins [15], albumin [16]. The serum globulin was given by subtracting serum albumin from serum total protein. Furthermore, Serum uric acid [17] and creatinine [18] and serum total cholesterol [19] were measured. The bursa of Fabricius, spleen and thymus were collected at the third and fifth week of age from randomly selected five birds per each group which weighed separately.

**Table 1: Effect of phytobiotics, probiotic and toltrazuril on oocysts output in experimentally infested broilers with sporulated oocysts of *Eimeria* spp. (Mean  $\pm$  SEM)<sup>1</sup> (n=5)**

Groups	Oocyst output										Overall mean R %	
	Days post infestation											
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
<b>I</b>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>e</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>e</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>	0.00			
<b>II</b>	16.32 $\pm$ 1.05 <sup>a</sup>	37.66 $\pm$ 2.33 <sup>a</sup>	96.05 $\pm$ 4.59 <sup>a</sup>	172.38 $\pm$ 6.77 <sup>a</sup>	144.67 $\pm$ 7.55 <sup>a</sup>	123.50 $\pm$ 5.33 <sup>a</sup>	104.21 $\pm$ 4.82 <sup>a</sup>	87.89 $\pm$ 2.11 <sup>a</sup>	70.72 $\pm$ 3.20 <sup>a</sup>	59.55 $\pm$ 1.55 <sup>a</sup>	90.59 $\pm$ 1.62 <sup>a</sup>	0.00
<b>III</b>	9.10 $\pm$ 0.52 <sup>b</sup>	20.74 $\pm$ 0.86 <sup>b</sup>	47.00 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>b</sup>	80.38 $\pm$ 1.44 <sup>b</sup>	62.30 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>b</sup>	38.25 $\pm$ 1.17 <sup>b</sup>	24.05 $\pm$ 0.95 <sup>b</sup>	13.34 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>b</sup>	3.74 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>b</sup>	2.55 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>b</sup>	30.79 $\pm$ 1.80 <sup>b</sup>	67.33
<b>IV</b>	9.46 $\pm$ 0.42 <sup>b</sup>	21.57 $\pm$ 1.22 <sup>b</sup>	48.88 $\pm$ 2.02 <sup>b</sup>	83.59 $\pm$ 3.45 <sup>b</sup>	64.79 $\pm$ 4.11 <sup>b</sup>	39.78 $\pm$ 2.44 <sup>b</sup>	25.01 $\pm$ 1.33 <sup>b</sup>	13.88 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>b</sup>	3.89 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>b</sup>	2.65 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>b</sup>	32.03 $\pm$ 2.18 <sup>b</sup>	70.02
<b>V</b>	7.91 $\pm$ 0.33 <sup>b</sup>	17.42 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>c</sup>	36.80 $\pm$ 2.11 <sup>c</sup>	71.06 $\pm$ 1.82 <sup>c</sup>	55.59 $\pm$ 2.73 <sup>c</sup>	31.11 $\pm$ 1.63 <sup>c</sup>	31.11 $\pm$ 1.63 <sup>c</sup>	7.40 $\pm$ 0.34 <sup>c</sup>	3.23 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>b</sup>	1.36 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>bc</sup>	25.98 $\pm$ 1.42 <sup>b</sup>	72.75
<b>VI</b>	8.92 $\pm$ 0.46 <sup>b</sup>	20.32 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>b</sup>	46.06 $\pm$ 2.15 <sup>b</sup>	78.77 $\pm$ 3.42 <sup>b</sup>	61.06 $\pm$ 2.66 <sup>b</sup>	37.49 $\pm$ 1.75 <sup>b</sup>	23.57 $\pm$ 1.36 <sup>b</sup>	13.07 $\pm$ 0.85 <sup>b</sup>	3.67 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>b</sup>	2.50 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>b</sup>	30.18 $\pm$ 1.33 <sup>b</sup>	65.98
<b>VII</b>	4.76 $\pm$ 0.14 <sup>d</sup>	12.75 $\pm$ 0.83 <sup>d</sup>	22.36 $\pm$ 1.14 <sup>d</sup>	43.01 $\pm$ 3.21 <sup>d</sup>	31.28 $\pm$ 1.42 <sup>d</sup>	20.06 $\pm$ 1.33 <sup>c</sup>	10.79 $\pm$ 0.36 <sup>c</sup>	1.70 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	14.64 $\pm$ 1.02 <sup>c</sup>	85.52
<b>VIII</b>	4.57 $\pm$ 0.21 <sup>d</sup>	12.24 $\pm$ 1.05 <sup>d</sup>	21.46 $\pm$ 1.12 <sup>d</sup>	41.29 $\pm$ 2.13 <sup>d</sup>	30.03 $\pm$ 1.72 <sup>d</sup>	19.26 $\pm$ 0.82 <sup>c</sup>	10.36 $\pm$ 0.64 <sup>c</sup>	1.64 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>c</sup>	14.05 $\pm$ 0.96 <sup>c</sup>	82.10

<sup>1</sup>SEM=Standard Error of Mean. <sup>a-c</sup> Values followed by different superscript letters were significantly different at (P  $\leq$  0.05). R%= Reduction percentage = (A-B)/A  $\times$  100, where A is the mean number of oocysts in the infected non-treated group and B is the mean number of oocysts in the treated group. I (Non-infested non-treated, -ve control), II (Infested non-treated, +ve control), III (Phytobiotics), IV (Probiotic), V (Toltrazuril), VI (Phytobiotics + Probiotic), VII (Phytobiotics + Toltrazuril), VIII (Probiotic + Toltrazuril).

### Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted with the Statistical Package SPSS [20]. The Shapiro-Wilk test was performed to check the data normality and it was used to compare the means among different groups. One-way ANOVA was used to compare the means among different groups. Duncan's multiple range test was conducted to determine the significant level [21]. When probability values were less than 5% ( $P < 0.05$ ), it considered statistically significant.

### Results and Discussion

Phytobiotics treated groups (phytobiotics group, phytobiotic and probiotic group and phytobiotics and toltrazuril group) showed significantly decreased oocyst output until 14 days PI (Table 1) and lesion scores (Table 2) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> week of coccidial infestation. Essential oils supplemented chickens specially in birds fed Oregano essential oils, thyme and Garlic at doses of 10, 10 and 5 mg/kg feed, respectively, showed a gradual decreased oocysts outputs that shed from infested supplemented groups compared with chicken treated with Amprolium sulfate (chemical anticoccidial) [22].

Phytobiotics treated groups showed a significant increase of body weight, body weight gain and feed consumption with significant decrease of feed conversion ratio (FCR) as showed in Table (3). These results may be attributed to that phytobiotics increase villus height in different parts of the small intestine mainly in duodenum, therefore, increasing nutrient absorption [23]. There was an improvement of gut equilibrium which was achieved through enhancement in activities of digestive enzymes and nutrient absorption, reducing bacterial counts, fewer fermentation products, less activity of the gut-associated lymphatic system, and a greater prececal nutrient digestion.

**Table 2: Effect of phytobiotics, probiotic and toltrazuril on lesion scores in experimentally infested broilers with sporulated oocysts of *Eimeria* spp. (Mean  $\pm$  SEM) (n=5)**

Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> week	5 <sup>th</sup> week
Non-infested non-treated (-ve control)	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>d</sup>	0.00 $\pm$ 0.00 <sup>e</sup>
Infested non-treated (+ve control)	3.67 $\pm$ 0.23 <sup>a</sup>	3.33 $\pm$ 0.15 <sup>a</sup>
Phytobiotics	2.33 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 $\pm$ 0.09 <sup>b</sup>
Probiotic	2.00 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>b</sup>	1.66 $\pm$ 0.10 <sup>c</sup>
Toltrazuril	1.66 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>c</sup>	1.33 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>d</sup>
Phytobiotics + Probiotic	2.33 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>b</sup>	1.66 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>c</sup>
Phytobiotics + Toltrazuril	1.33 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>c</sup>	1.00 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>d</sup>
Probiotic + Toltrazuril	2.00 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>b</sup>	1.66 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>c</sup>

SEM=Standard Error of Mean. The data collected were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA), <sup>abc</sup> Values within a column followed by different superscript letters were significantly different at ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

In addition, some phytochemical compounds seem to promote intestinal mucus production [4]. Chickens fed on oregano essential oils, thyme and garlic in doses of 10, 10 and 5 mg/kg feed, respectively, showed an improvement in body weight, relative growth rate and FCR [22]. Birds received *Satureja khuzistanica* Jamzad essential oil had the highest feed intake [24].

Phytobiotics treated groups at the 5<sup>th</sup> week showed no significant effect on liver function tests, AST and ALT, serum uric acid and creatinine levels. But, they showed significant increase of serum total protein, albumin and globulin levels. On the other hand, these groups showed a significant decrease of total serum cholesterol level as shown in Table (4). Phytobiotics treated groups at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> week showed significant increase on average bursa and spleen weight to body weight ratio without bursal atrophy and spleen hypertrophy in the 5<sup>th</sup> week. Phytobiotics treated chickens and phytobiotics and toltrazuril treated group

showed a significant increase of average thymus weight to body weight ratio. But, phytobiotic and probiotic treated group showed a significant decrease of average thymus weight to body weight ratio without atrophy in thymus index. These results may be explained due to essential oils reinforce the animal's immune status in poultry by increasing the rate of lymphocyte proliferation and phagocytosis, as well as, the level of serum IgG, IgA, IgM, C3 and C4 [25].

The mixture of three phytochemicals; carvacrol, cinnamaldehyde and capsicum oleoresin (Xtract TM®) enhanced Hemagglutination inhibition titers against Newcastle disease vaccine which had significant positive effects on the immune response [26]. Phytobiotics treated groups at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> week showed significant decrease of gizzard and liver weight without changes in heart weight. Phytochemical feed additive containing essential oils of thyme and star anise did not significantly affect the heart weight in broiler chickens [27].

**Table 3: Effect of phytobiotics and their combination with probiotic and toltrazuril on broilers growth performance parameters (average body weight, cumulative body weight gain, cumulative feed consumption and cumulative feed conversion ratio represented in grams) experimentally infested with sporulated oocysts of *Eimeria* spp. (Mean  $\pm$  SEM)<sup>1</sup> (n=5)**

Groups	<sup>2</sup> BW					<sup>3</sup> CBWG	<sup>4</sup> CFC	<sup>5</sup> CFCR	
	1 <sup>st</sup> day	7 <sup>th</sup> day	14 <sup>th</sup> day	21 <sup>th</sup> day	28 <sup>th</sup> day				35 <sup>th</sup> day
<b>I</b>	47.2 $\pm$ 0.539	141.00 $\pm$ 3.68	422.76 $\pm$ 14.23 <sup>a</sup>	615.13 $\pm$ 13.25 <sup>b</sup>	941.92 $\pm$ 12.18 <sup>b</sup>	1282.45 $\pm$ 34.12 <sup>c</sup>	246.76 $\pm$ 9.88 <sup>c</sup>	41640 $\pm$ 22.65 <sup>c</sup>	168.75 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>c</sup>
<b>II</b>	47.82 $\pm$ 0.88	144.54 $\pm$ 1.93	364.76 $\pm$ 15.13 <sup>b</sup>	571.14 $\pm$ 12.26 <sup>c</sup>	862.72 $\pm$ 36.02 <sup>c</sup>	1095.72 $\pm$ 27.43 <sup>d</sup>	136.28 $\pm$ 8.65 <sup>d</sup>	40643 $\pm$ 18.78 <sup>d</sup>	298.23 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>a</sup>
<b>III</b>	47.85 $\pm$ 0.68	151.00 $\pm$ 2.91	434.32 $\pm$ 9.36 <sup>a</sup>	676.47 $\pm$ 26.52 <sup>a</sup>	1072.03 $\pm$ 48.17 <sup>a</sup>	1473.00 $\pm$ 36.16 <sup>b</sup>	297.82 $\pm$ 8.44 <sup>b</sup>	35370 $\pm$ 16.78 <sup>b</sup>	118.76 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>d</sup>
<b>IV</b>	47.42 $\pm$ 0.52	142.30 $\pm$ 1.65	422.89 $\pm$ 11.12 <sup>a</sup>	651.33 $\pm$ 43.48 <sup>a</sup>	1026.15 $\pm$ 68.33 <sup>a</sup>	1427.23 $\pm$ 41.66 <sup>b</sup>	306.20 $\pm$ 9.45 <sup>b</sup>	40965 $\pm$ 20.87 <sup>b</sup>	133.78 $\pm$ 0.06 <sup>d</sup>
<b>V</b>	46.88 $\pm$ 0.55	140.06 $\pm$ 2.87	376.24 $\pm$ 8.16 <sup>b</sup>	625.37 $\pm$ 17.54 <sup>b</sup>	961.15 $\pm$ 34.16 <sup>b</sup>	1256.17 $\pm$ 62.76 <sup>c</sup>	201.84 $\pm$ 10.11 <sup>c</sup>	40610 $\pm$ 21.75 <sup>c</sup>	201.20 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>b</sup>
<b>VI</b>	46.26 $\pm$ 52	150.72 $\pm$ 1.64	440.42 $\pm$ 5.57 <sup>a</sup>	688.47 $\pm$ 33.16 <sup>a</sup>	1087.38 $\pm$ 59.63 <sup>a</sup>	1604.00 $\pm$ 52.13 <sup>a</sup>	412.16 $\pm$ 10.78 <sup>a</sup>	39105 $\pm$ 22.36 <sup>a</sup>	94.88 $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>d</sup>
<b>VII</b>	47.22 $\pm$ 0.26	143.72 $\pm$ 2.45	430.77 $\pm$ 10.57 <sup>a</sup>	670.16 $\pm$ 31.44 <sup>a</sup>	1065.46 $\pm$ 82.75 <sup>a</sup>	1454.00 $\pm$ 42.45 <sup>b</sup>	292.04 $\pm$ 9.73 <sup>b</sup>	37620 $\pm$ 17.56 <sup>b</sup>	128.82 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>d</sup>
<b>VIII</b>	46.78 $\pm$ 0.34	150.72 $\pm$ 1.36	427.56 $\pm$ 12.57 <sup>a</sup>	657.78 $\pm$ 42.11 <sup>a</sup>	1031.52 $\pm$ 78.31 <sup>a</sup>	1427.23 $\pm$ 41.66 <sup>b</sup>	291.77 $\pm$ 7.89 <sup>b</sup>	41035 $\pm$ 19.58 <sup>b</sup>	140.64 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a-d</sup> Mean values within the same column with different superscript letters are statistically different at  $p \leq 0.05$ . <sup>1</sup>SEM: standard error of mean. <sup>2</sup>BW: Body weight. <sup>3</sup>CBWG: Mean group cumulative body weight gain. <sup>4</sup>CFC: Mean group cumulative feed consumption. <sup>5</sup>CFCR: Mean group cumulative feed conversion ratio. I (Non-infested non-treated, -ve control), II (Infested non-treated, +ve control), III (Phytobiotics), IV (Probiotic), V (Toltrazuril), VI (Phytobiotics + Probiotic), VII (Phytobiotics + Toltrazuril), VIII (Probiotic + Toltrazuril).

**Table 4: Effect of phytobiotics and their combination with probiotic and toltrazuril on some blood biochemical parameters in broilers experimentally infested with sporulated oocysts of *Eimeria* spp. (Mean  $\pm$  SEM)<sup>1</sup> (n=5)**

Groups	blood biochemical parameters							
	<sup>2</sup> ALT (U/L)	<sup>3</sup> AST (U/L)	Total protein (gm./dl)	Albumin (gm./dl)	Total globulin (gm./dl)	Uric acid (mg./dl)	Creatinine (mg./dl)	Cholesterol (mg./dl)
<b>Non-infected non-treated (-ve control)</b>	26.82 $\pm$ 1.18 <sup>b</sup>	53.66 $\pm$ 0.86 <sup>b</sup>	4.62 $\pm$ 0.25 <sup>b</sup>	2.76 $\pm$ 0.18 <sup>b</sup>	1.86 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>c</sup>	10.22 $\pm$ 0.02	0.35 $\pm$ 0.06	152.17 $\pm$ 2.47 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Infected non-treated (+ve control)</b>	40.42 $\pm$ 1.37 <sup>a</sup>	81.78 $\pm$ 2.57 <sup>a</sup>	3.98 $\pm$ 0.14 <sup>c</sup>	1.76 $\pm$ 0.08 <sup>c</sup>	2.22 $\pm$ 0.12 <sup>b</sup>	10.18 $\pm$ 0.03	0.33 $\pm$ 0.03	138.37 $\pm$ 1.24 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Phytobiotics</b>	27.06 $\pm$ 0.96 <sup>b</sup>	56.17 $\pm$ 0.28 <sup>b</sup>	5.71 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>a</sup>	2.95 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>a</sup>	2.76 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>a</sup>	10.32 $\pm$ 0.02	0.36 $\pm$ 0.07	123.18 $\pm$ 2.44 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Probiotic</b>	25.47 $\pm$ 0.74 <sup>b</sup>	53.22 $\pm$ 1.34 <sup>b</sup>	5.22 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>a</sup>	2.12 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>b</sup>	10.24 $\pm$ 0.03	0.35 $\pm$ 0.08	140.33 $\pm$ 1.13 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Toltrazuril</b>	24.19 $\pm$ 0.82 <sup>b</sup>	53.89 $\pm$ 1.22 <sup>b</sup>	4.58 $\pm$ 0.07 <sup>b</sup>	2.7 $\pm$ 0.11 <sup>b</sup>	1.88 $\pm$ 0.09 <sup>c</sup>	10.25 $\pm$ 0.05	0.34 $\pm$ 0.07	155.34 $\pm$ 1.46 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Phytobiotics + Probiotic</b>	27.93 $\pm$ 0.79 <sup>b</sup>	55.95 $\pm$ 0.48 <sup>b</sup>	5.82 $\pm$ 0.14 <sup>a</sup>	3.36 $\pm$ 0.12 <sup>a</sup>	2.46 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>a</sup>	10.30 $\pm$ 0.09	0.33 $\pm$ 0.09	125.62 $\pm$ 1.44 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Phytobiotics + Toltrazuril</b>	27.37 $\pm$ 0.56 <sup>b</sup>	51.24 $\pm$ 0.72 <sup>b</sup>	5.64 $\pm$ 0.16 <sup>a</sup>	3.26 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>a</sup>	2.38 $\pm$ 0.13 <sup>a</sup>	10.21 $\pm$ 0.04	0.35 $\pm$ 0.05	127.39 $\pm$ 2.82 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Probiotic + Toltrazuril</b>	26.83 $\pm$ 0.91 <sup>b</sup>	55.69 $\pm$ 0.47 <sup>b</sup>	5.18 $\pm$ 0.17 <sup>a</sup>	3.11 $\pm$ 0.18 <sup>a</sup>	2.07 $\pm$ 0.12 <sup>b</sup>	10.27 $\pm$ 0.06	0.34 $\pm$ 0.02	137.17 $\pm$ 1.73 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a-c</sup> Mean values within the same column with different superscript letter are statistically different at ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). <sup>1</sup>SEM: standard error of mean. <sup>2</sup>ALT: Alanine transaminase. <sup>3</sup>AST: Aspartate aminotransferase.

## Conclusion

Phytobiotics, probiotic and toltrazuril improved the lesion scores, oocyst output reduction percentage in coccidial infested broiler chickens while phytobiotics and probiotic improved the growth performance parameters (body weight, body weight gain, feed consumption and FCR). Therefore, phytobiotics and probiotic have anticoccidial effect. Phytobiotics and probiotic may improve the immune status of broilers with no significant effects on gible weights. Phytobiotics can be used as a potential alternative anticoccidials in broilers to avoid side effects of chemical anticoccidial drugs.

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## الملخص العربي

### تأثير الفيتوبيوتك والبروبيوتيك والتلترازوريل على كوكسيديا الدواجن

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بناها

تهدف هذه الرسالة لمعرفة تأثير استخدام الفيتوبيوتيك (اوريجو ستيم®) وخليطها مع البروبيوتيك، و التلترازوريل على طفيل الكوكسيديا في دجاج التسمين. وأيضا لمعرفة تأثيرات تلك المركبات على معدلات نمو الطائر وتم قياسات الدم البيوكيميائية ومؤشرات المناعة في دجاج التسمين. أجريت هذه الدراسة على عدد ٢٤٠ كتكوت عمر يوم من نوع كب. قسمت الكتاكيت الى ثماني مجموعات متساوية، بكل مجموعة ٣٠ كتكوت. حيث كانت المجموعة الأولى غير معدية بحويصلات الكوكسيديا وغير معالجة. تمت العدوى التجريبية لباقي المجموعات لكل واحد بجرعة (١×١٠°) حويصلة متجرثمة من الأيميريا الحقلية عند عمر ثمانية أيام. المجموعة الثانية معدية وغير معالجة. المجموعة الثالثة معدية ومعالجة بالفيتوبيوتيك بجرعة ٣٠٠ مجم/ لتر ماء شرب. المجموعة الرابعة معدية ومعالجة بالبروبيوتيك بجرعة ١ جم/ لتر ماء شرب. المجموعة الخامسة معدية ومعالجة بالتلترازوريل (٢,٥%) بجرعة ٧ مجم/ كجم من وزن الطائر بماء شرب. المجموعة السادسة معدية و معالجة بخليط من مركبات الفيتوبيوتيك والبروبيوتيك بنفس الجرعات السابقة. المجموعة السابعة معدية و معالجة بخليط من مركبات الفيتوبيوتيك و التلترازوريل ٢,٥ % بنفس الجرعات السابقة. اما المجموعة الثامنة معدية و معالجة بخليط من مركبات البروبيوتيك و التلترازوريل ٢,٥ % بنفس الجرعات السابقة. أظهرت النتائج ان كل المجموعات المعالجة بالفيتوبيوتيك لها تأثير ايجابي للكوكسيديا كما أبدت تلك المجموعات زيادة معنوية في معدلات النمو (وزن الجسم – وزن الجسم المكتسب – استهلاك العلف) ونقص معنوي في معدل التحويل الغذائي وتحسن ملحوظ في مؤشرات المناعة مع تأثيرات متفاوتة على بعض قياسات الدم البيوكيميائية. نستخلص من ذلك أن استخدام الفيتوبيوتيك له تأثير ايجابي على الكوكسيديا حيث قلل عدد حويصلات الكوكسيديا و محفزا للنمو ورافعا للمناعة.