

PERFORMANCE AND HAEMATOLOGICAL RESPONSE OF FINISHER BROILER CHICKENS FED *ICACINIA MANNI* (EARTH BALL)

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ABSTRACT

One hundred and twenty day-old Anak strain of broiler chickens were used to evaluate the performance and some haematological response of finisher broiler fed diets containing different levels of *icacinia manni* (Earth Ball) processed in saline for a 35-day feeding trial. Chemical analysis indicated that the NFE content of *icacinia manni* (Earth Ball) is similar to those of maize and cassava. The birds were raised on deep litter system in a completely randomized design (CRD). Three dietary treatments containing 0 (control), 10 and 20% levels of *icacinia manni* meal processed in saline were used and presented as diet 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Each treatment had 40 birds, replicated four times with 10 birds each. The results of the performance measured by body weight gain, feed intake and feed conversion ratio indicate that there were no significant ($p > 0.05$) differences among treatment diets. The haematological (WBC, RBC, Hb, PCV, MCHC, Platelet, lymphocyte and neutrophils) responses of the birds fed the control and *icacinia manni* meal processed in saline (IMS) were not significantly ($p > 0.05$) different and were not influenced by IMS inclusion levels in the diets. This study revealed that *icacinia manni* meal fermented in saline (IMS) could be used in broiler finisher diets without any deleterious effects on their performance and haematological indices.

Keywords: *icacinia manni*, Broiler finisher, performance, haematological response.