

THE EFFECTS OF ANTHONOTHA MACROPHYLLA (AFRICAN BEANS) LEAF MEAL ON THE BLOOD PROFILES OF FINISHING BROILER CHICKENS

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ABSTRACT

The effects of *Anthonotha macrophylla* (African bean) on haematological and serum biochemical characteristics of finishing broiler chickens were determined in a 35 day feeding trial. One hundred and sixty (160) unsexed broilers (Anak strain) were used for the experiment. The birds were brood together for three weeks and fed *Anthonotha macrophylla* leaf meal free diet for four weeks. Four diets were formulated containing 0, 5, 7.5, and 10% level of *A. macrophylla* leaf meal. At day 35, the birds were divided into four groups of 40 birds and each group was randomly assigned to one of the diet using completely randomized design (CRD). Each group was further replicated 4 times, with each replicate containing 10 birds housed in deep litter pen measuring 2m×2m. Wood shaving was used as litter material. Feed and water were provided *ad libitum*. At day 63, blood samples were collected from the birds through their wings vein and were analyzed for the following haematological and serum biochemical parameters, Red blood cell (RBC), White blood cell (WBC), Packed cell volume (PCV), Haemoglobin concentration (HB), total protein, urea, cholesterol, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase, albumin and globulin. All the haematological and serum biochemistry determined were not affected by the experimental diet. The result of the study showed that 10% inclusion of *A. macrophylla* leaf meal in the diet of broilers had no adverse effect on their haematological and serum biochemical indices.

Keywords: Broilers, *Anthonotha macrophylla*, blood profile.