

CORN GLUTEN IN TILAPIA FINGERLINGS DIETS

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SUMMARY

The digestibility of corn gluten meal (CGM) and possibility of its inclusion in tilapia diets were studied in two steps. Firstly, CGM was fed as a sole dietary ingredient to tilapia and showed digestibility coefficient (DC) of 86.32, 82.2 and 74.8 % for CP, EE and GE, respectively. Secondly, an experimental study was done to investigate the effect of CGM inclusion rate (25, 50 and 100 %) in fish diets replacing either soybean meal (SBM) or fish meal (FM) on tilapia performance. In addition, the DC of such diets was determined. Tilapia fed on diets contained CGM (especially at high inclusion rate) did not perform well as those fed on SBM-FM control diet. Although 25 % replacing level of SBM by CGM surpassed all dietary treatments in CP and EE digestibility. It can be concluded that, CGM can successfully replaces either SBM or FM in fish diets up to 25% of the total protein in case of their shortage.

INTRODUCTION

The primary aim of fish farming is to maximize survival and growth at a minimal cost. Nutritionally adequate and low cost diets have always been one of the most important goals for successful fish culturing in many developing countries. Commercial tilapia diets contain variable but high amounts of protein (25-50 %) most of which is usually supplied by fish and soybean meals. Since good quality fish and soybean meals are becoming increasingly expensive and sometimes difficult to be obtained; a situation which encouraged many research workers to find other alternative protein sources that can, at least partially, replace both ingredients in fish diets.

Replacement of fish meal by other animal-protein rich sources as milk or whey powder (Meske et al., 1977), feather and meat meal (Tiews et al., 1976), single cell protein (Atack et al., 1979) and poultry by-products (Osman 1988) were experimented.

On the other hand, most of the attempts to replace fish meal by vegetable protein (SBM) had adversely affected both growth rate and feed conversion rate (Nose, 1971); Koops et al., (1976); Atack and Matty (1979); Viola et al., (1980); Pantha (1982) and Hossain and Jauancey (1989).

Corn gluten as a feed by-product was successfully fed for many species; in particular, broilers and layers (Castanon et al., 1990), in turkey hens (Owings et al., 1988), and steers (Titgemeyer et al., 1989). However, Lovell (1977) found that the crude protein digestibility of corn gluten meal was 80 % in catfish when used as a sole dietary ingredient, whereas, it was 89% when used at level of 21.7% of the diet. Moreover, Hopher (1988) cited that net protein utilization and Biological value of corn gluten in fish diet were 35 and 36 to 55% ; repectively.

The digestibility of corn gluten and the possibility of its inclusion in tilapia diets are not recorded in the available literature. Therefore, two studies were conducted; first to determine the digestibility of corn gluten when fed as a sole dietary ingredient to tilapia. The Second to assess the tilapia performance when fed on diets in which soybean or fish meals were replaced with corn gluten at levels of 25, 50 and 100% . Also, the digestibility of such diets was evaluated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preliminary study on corn gluten meal digestibility in tilapia:

Aimed at the determination of digestibility of corn gluten when used as a sole dietary ingredient, thirty tilapia fingerlings (*Oreochromis niloticus*) with an average weight of 20.0 ± 1.3 g were used. They were randomly stocked in two glass aquaria (120 L) each of 15 at Fish culture Research Station at El-Kanater El-Khairia. During the experimental period, water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen were maintained within the optimum recommended values for tilapia; Heher (1988). Tap water treated by antichlor reagent according to Boyd (1979) was used. Fish were starved for 48 hours before the beginning of the experiment then fish were acclimatized gradually to corn gluten meal (CGM) for a period of two weeks. Fine ground CGM was fed at a rate of 5% of life body weight (LBW) daily according to El-Banna (1991). Chromic oxide was added at a level of 0.5 % to CGM as an indicator. Faecal collection period lasted for ten days during which faecal samples were collected using siphoning technique as described by Abd-El-Ghany (1993). The concentration of chromic oxide was measured in CGM and faecal samples spectrophotometrically by the method of Furukawa and Tankahara (1966). The proximate chemical analysis of CGM and faecal samples was done according to AOAC (1980). Gross energy (GE) of the diet and faecal samples was determined using a bomb calorimeter according to Nijkamp (1971).

Calculation of digestibility coefficient (DC) of different nutrients was done as described by Hefner (1988), GE was calculated as mentioned by Abd-El-Ghany (1993).

Experimental study:

An attempt was made to investigate the usefulness of the nutritional information obtained from digestibility study done with diets containing large quantities of CGM in an experimental study. Seven isonitrogenous and equacaloric experimental diets were formulated to fulfill the requirement (El-Banna, 1991). The chemical analysis of diet ingredients (table 1) was the basis

used in formulating those diets.

CGM replaced either soybean meal (SBM) or fish meal (FM) at levels of 25, 50 and 100%, while the control diet contained both SBM and FM as the main protein sources (table 2). Tilapia fingerlings with an average 1.6 ± 0.2 g were allotted into 7 equal duplicate groups each of 15. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University. Two weeks before starting the 8-week performance trial; fish were stocked in the same type of glass aquaria and under similar ecological conditions as mentioned in the preliminary study for acclimatization.

Fish were weighed biweekly and the daily feed was adjusted accordingly to a rate of 5% LBW daily and the amount of feed was offered twice daily at 9.00 a. m. and 3 p.m. The used parameters to evaluate fish performance were body weight gain, feed conversion ration (FCR) and percentage weight gain calculated from the initial weight.

At the end of 8-weeks experimental period digestibility trial for the previously formulated experimental diets was conducted using the same technique mentioned before, in the Fish Culture Research Station at El-Kanater El-Khairia. Statistical analysis was done according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Preliminary study:

The results of digestibility coefficient (DC) of CGM as a sole dietary ingredient were 86.2, 74.8% for CP, EE and GE, respectively. The result of DC of CP obtained through digestibility trial in which CGM was used as a single dietary ingredient was closely related to that reported by Lovell (1977) in catfish. Unfortunately, there is no available literature concerning CGM digestibility in tilapia to compare such findings. In general, considerable variation in nutrient digestibility of various feedstuffs exists among fish species and under different environmental conditions (Hovell, 1977).

Tilapia Fingerlings Diets

Table (1): Chemical composition (%) of ingredients used in formulating the experimental diets.

Ingredient Item	Fish meal	Soybean meal	Yellow corn	Corn gluten
Crude protein	71.93	44.15	9.80	46.43
Ether extract	8.41	1.23	3.82	1.34
Crude fiber	0.71	5.80	2.61	2.50
Ash	10.50	6.10	1.31	3.52

Experimental study:

The effect of replacing SBM or FM by CGM on tilapia performance are presented in table (3) .

Fish fed the SBM-FM diet showed the highest final body weight (14.08 g) body gain (12.45 g) and good feed conversion ratio (1.28) during the 8-weeks experimental period . replacing of SBM or FM by CGM had always induced a negative effect on tilapia performance traits specially at higher levels of inclusion (50 and 100 %). The replacement of sbm or FM at levels of 50 and 100 % had induced significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower final body weight compared the SBM-FM control diet. The partial replacement (25%) of either SBM or FM by CGM had the mildest adverse effect on the body weight gain (10.89, 11.05 vs g, respectively), while feed conversion results were

Table (2): The composition and proximate analysis of the experimental diets.

Diet Ingredient	Substitution %						Control SBM-FM diet
	SBM			Fish Meal			
	25	50	100	25	50	100	
Fish meal	30.5	30.0	29.0	23.2	15.5	--	31.0
SBM	30.0	20.0	--	40.0	40.0	41.0	40.0
Yellow corn	25.5	26.0	27.0	20.5	16.8	5.0	25.0
Corn gluten	10.0	20.0	40.0	12.3	23.7	49.0	--
Corn oil	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	--
Mineral premix*	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Vit. premix**	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Proximate analysis %							
C. P.	42.07	41.99	41.84	41.83	41.26	41.31	42.15
E. E.	4.17	4.25	4.47	3.52	3.01	2.95	4.03
Calculated analysis							
Methionine	0.95	1.00	1.12	0.87	0.82	0.77	0.89
Lysine	2.58	2.39	1.96	2.47	2.51	1.52	2.79
Tryptophan	0.47	0.43	0.34	0.48	0.44	0.37	0.55
ME (Kcal/Kg)***	3397	3430.9	3472.8	3367.6	3354.6	3400.6	3332.9
Cal/P	80.75	81.71	83.00	81.50	81.30	82.30	79.10

* Each kg of mineral premix contains Ca 125 gm, P 90 gm, Fe 25000 mg, Cu 2000 mg, Mn 60000 mg, I 200 mg, Se 100 mg, Zn 40000 mg and NaCl 250 mg.

** Each kg vitamin premix contains Vit. A 4000,000 I. U., Vit. D 8000 I. U., Vit. E 1000 mg, vit B1 2000 mg; B2 10000 mg, B6 100mg Vit K 1000 mg, B12 3mg, Vit. C 10mg. Folic acid 500 mg .Pantothenic acid 5000mg and Niacine amide 5000 mg.

*** Calculated as described by El-Banna (1991).

closely related as compared with SBM-FM diet (1.25, 1.27 vs 1.28, respectively). The percentage increase of weight gain supported the previous results of weight gain and fish fed SBM-FM diet showed the highest increase followed by the fish fed on the diets where CGM replaces 25 % of either SBM or FM. The higher inclusion rates of CGM (50 and 100%) reduce the percentage weight gain dramatically.

all dietary treatments in CP digestibility. There was insignificant difference observed in CP and GE digestibility when CGM had replaced at levels of 25, 50 and 100% compared with SBM-FM diet.

The obtained data suggested that there is no link between the nutrient digestibility and tilapia performance, many factors may

Table (3): Effect of replacing Soybean meal and fish meal by corn gluten meal on tilapia productive performance.

Parameters	Substitution %						Control SBM-FM diet
	SBM			FM			
	25	50	100	25	50	100	
Av. initial weight (g)	1.67 ^a ± 0.32	1.77 ^a ± 0.28	1.65 ^a ± 0.31	1.61 ^a ± 0.26	1.59 ^a ± 0.21	1.69 ^a ± 0.33	1.65 ^a ± 0.11
Av. final weight (g)	12.51 ^b ± 1.74	11.15 ^c ± 1.28	9.88 ^d ± 1.22	12.66 ^b ± 1.33	10.57 ^c ± 0.97	10.39 ^c ± 0.93	14.08 ^a ± 0.32
Total weight gain (g)	10.84	9.38	8.23	11.05	8.98	8.70	12.43
Total feed consump. g	13.50	13.79	12.66	14.06	13.76	12.06	15.97
Av. daily gain (g)	0.194	0.168	0.147	0.197	0.160	0.155	0.229
F. C. R.	1.25	1.47	1.55	1.27	1.53	1.39	1.28
Weight gain (%) *	649.1	529.9	498.8	686.3	564.8	514.8	753.3

* a,b,c, & d Means ± SD in rows with different superscripts are significantly differed (P < 0.05). of the initial weight.

Results of digestibility of different experimental diets are presented in table (4), the digestibility coefficient (DC) of C.P. and EE was 78.92 and 64.92 and 64.6 in fish fed the SBM-FM diet which was lower than that of fish fed CGM as a sole dietary ingredient. The replacement of SBM at levels of 50 and 100% by CGM showed slight improvement in DC of both CP and EE compared with SBM-FM diet, while the GE showed values especially at complete replacement. Meanwhile, 25% replacing level of SBM by CGM surpassed

contributed for such results:

1- The digestibility of feed when used as a dietary ingredient is usually differ than digestibility when fed in a complete diet. 2- The results of nutrient digestibility in fish are usually contradictory due to the difference in methods used for collection of feed samples (divers stomach content) as well as faecal collection methods (siphoning, stripping and intestinal content) Hanly (1991). 3- there is a possibility that

fish feeding on selected component of the diet as tilapia repeatedly pick and expel feed from their mouth before swallowing (Bowen, 1978 and Popma, 1982) unlike carnivorous fish that swallow their food as a whole. Therefore the digestibility trial alone is not a good parameter to assist in evaluating newly introduced feedstuff in fish nutrition, long term feeding trials using graded level of the new feedstuff under investigation are required to obtain a full nutritional information on its value.

Table (4) The digestibility coefficient (%) of crude protein, Ether extract and gross energy of the experimental diets.

Experimental diet	CO	EE	GE
SBM - FM diet	78.92 ^b ± 6.2	64.4 ± 5.9	54.7 ^a ± 4.8
<u>SBM-substitution %</u>			
25	85.12 ^a ± 7.2	68.2 ± 6.1	52.3 ^{ab} ± 5.2
50	82.12 ^b ± 8.1	66.3 ± 5.1	50.4 ^{bc} ± 4.1
100	28.67 ^b ± 8.9	66.4 ± 5.4	48.2 ^{cd} ± 4.6
<u>FM-substitution %</u>			
25	79.07 ^b ± 5.6	65.6 ± 6.9	51.8 ^{ab} ± 5.4
50	78.39 ^b ± 7.7	64.1 ± 6.0	48.6 ^{cd} ± 5.0
100	77.55 ^b ± 6.8	64.0 ± 7.1	46.6 ^d ± 4.8

a,b,c, & d Means (n=20) ± SD of the same column with different superscripts are significantly differed (P < 0.05).

From the present investigation it can be concluded that tilapia fed on diets contained CGM did not perform well as those fed on the SBM-FM diet (control), although, SBM substitution by CGM showed improvement in both CP and EE digestibility. So CGM can successfully replace either SBM or FM up to 25% of their total protein in case of the shortage as monitored by performance data.

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