EFFECT OF OREGANO (*Oregano vulgaris*) SUPPLEMENTATION ON THE PERFORMANCE AND BLOOD PARAMETERS OF ROSS BROILER CHICKENS REARED UNDER HEAT STRESS CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

One hundred and sixty (21 day old) (Ross) broiler chickens were kept in floor pens following completely randomized design for 3 weeks during summer season (19/May to 29/June /2009) the birds were divided into four groups, (4 replicate each with 10 birds). The Oregano grandeurs was added at the rate of (0, 2.5, 5.0, and 7.5 g/kg diet) during the experimental period in respective broiler groups. Results indicated that body weight, weight gain, feed conversion and dressing percentage were not effected with Oregano supplementation in all groups, whereas feed intake was increased and number of dead birds were decreased with supplementation of Oregano in all broiler groups. Blood picture showed that the red and white blood cells count, packed cells volume, hemoglobin concentration and total protein concentration was higher (p<0.05) in Oregano supplemented. However uric acid concentration and enzymes activity (G O T and G P T) lowered (p<0.05) with oregano supplementation in all groups. Based on the findings of the present study it was concluded that Oregano supplementation was effective in improving blood parameters of broiler under heat stress conditions.