EFFECTS OF PROBIOTICS AND PHYTOEXTRACTS ON GROWTH AND IMMUNOMODULATING PERFORMANCES OF BROILER CHICKENS

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ABSTRACT
An investigation was carried out to find out the effects of probiotics and phytoextracts (Korolla-bitter melon, Triphala—traditional three herbal components and Safi-commercial polyherbal products) on growth, hematological and biochemical (TEC, TLC, ESR, Hb concentration, PCV, ALT, AST, Cholesterol, Tryglyceride, HDL and LDL) and immunomodulating performance of broiler chickens. The study was performed from February to April, 2017. A total of 150, seven-days-old broiler chicks were divided into five (05) groups using 30 chicks in each group. The group A was designated as control group (without probiotics and phytoextracts), with probiotics (Exolution®) Group B, with phytoextract (Korolla-bitter melon) Group C, Triphala—traditional three herbal components Group D and Safi Group E. Chicks were reared for 35 days and body weight were measured on weekly basis. Broilers were sacrificed at the end of 35 days and blood samples were taken for hematological analysis. Serum samples were also taken for biochemical tests. Broilers in all treatment groups were necropsied at the end of the experiment to observe and determine the weight of the gross lymphoid organs (spleen, thymus and bursa of Fabricious). Both body weight gain, hematological parameters like TEC, TLC, Hb concentration and PCV values and size of lymphoid organs (spleen, thymus, Bursa of Fabricious) were increased in birds supplemented with probiotics and phytoextracts as compared with control group. In biochemical parameters, AST and ALT values were decreased significantly (p<0.05 and p<0.01) in groups B, C, D, E from that of the control group. The findings of the experiment would help us to assess the use of proper feed additives as healthy growth promoter and immunomodulator in broiler chickens.

Keywords: Probiotics, phytoextracts, broiler, growth, immunomodulator

INTRODUCTION
The poultry sub-sector is an important avenue in fostering agricultural growth and reduce malnutrition for the people in Bangladesh (Carlos et al., 2014). It is an integral part of farming system in Bangladesh including support services for about 6 million people (Ansarey et al., 2012). This sub-sector has provided as an attractive economic activity and indicating its importance for the entire economy. It has been reported that poultry meat alone contributes 37% of the total meat production and contributes about 22-27% of the total animal protein in Bangladesh (Prabakaran, 2003).

The production of broiler has grown dramatically in the past two decades and these improvements are largely depends on numerous research and breeding programs which further enhances feed utilization and growth rate of chicken. To achieve the optimum production, a number of feed additives like antibiotics, steroids, vitamin, minerals and other growth promoters have been used to improve the performance of broiler growth (Raha, 2009). Nowadays human beings are very much conscious of their health and their food quality. The demand for quality broilers without antibiotics, chemicals and growth promoters is now a great concern in the world (Sarker et al., 2014).

Probiotics are live microorganisms which administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host. It includes live bacteria, yeast, microbial metabolites and pH adjusters, which contribute to maintain balance in intestinal microflora (Islam et al., 2004) leading to beneficial effects to the animal and antagonistic to harmful microbes. The mono or mixed probiotics substitutes for antibiotics in broiler industry have become an arena of great interest.
Plants are the oldest friends of mankind. In modern animal feeding, plant extracts have gained interest in animal feed ration (Charis, 2000). Medicinal plants compete with synthetic drugs, and the majority has no residual effects (Tipu et al., 2006). Medicinal plants and its products continue to be an important therapeutic aid for alleviating the ailments of human beings as well as poultry (Joseph et al., 2010; Singh et al., 2012).

*Momordica charantia* (M. charantia), also known as bitter melon, korailla, balsam pear, or bitter gourd, is a popular plant used for the treating various disease in the world (Cefalu et al., 2008; Cousens, 2008). The extract of bitter melon can also be used as a broad-spectrum antibacterial agent to fight off infectious agents such as *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella sp*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus sp*, *Pseudomonas sp* and *Streptobaccilus sp* (Saeed et al., 2005).

*Triphala* (tri = three and phala = fruits), is an ayurvedic preparation composed of three equal proportions of herbal fruits native to the Indian subcontinent: viz. *Terminalia chebula*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, and *Terminalia bellerica*. It has been reported that various applications of triphala in medical field used as laxative, digestive stimulation, anti inflammatory, antioxidant activity, lower cholesterol, reduces tumor size and improves liver function (Kumar et al., 2010; Sandhya et al., 2006). It also inhibits the growth of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria (Biradar et al., 2008).

*Safi* is a versatile polypharmaceutical herbal medicine prepared with valuable medicinal plants that cleanses the entire system of the body. It is also useful as a diuretic and preventing problems arises from change of weather. It has been reported that safi also works against blood impurities, skin diseases, constipation, hypercholesterolaemia, epistaxis etc in human.

However, it is not clear whether these phyto extracts have any antimicrobial effect or growth promoting effects in broiler chicken. So, present study was under taken to consider the following objectives: to investigate the effects of probiotics and plant extracts as feed additives on growth performance of broiler chicks; to determine the effects of probiotics and phyto feed additives supplementation on hemato-biochemical parameters such as Total Erythrocyte Count (TEC), Total leukocyte count (TLC), Packed Cell Volume (PCV), Haemoglobin (Hb) concentration, Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), Serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT), Serum aspartate transaminase (AST), Tryglyceride, Cholesterol, LDL and HDL; and to assess the immune activity of chicken by observing gross changes of lymphoid organs (thymus, bursa of Fabricious and spleen) and counting total leukocyte per unit volume of blood.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study was conducted at the Department of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, Patuakhali science and Technology University, Babuganj, Barisal during the period from February, 2017 to April, 2017. To complete the research work following steps were followed.

**Management of experimental shed and broilers**

At first the shed for rearing broiler chickens (experimental poultry shed at ANSVM campus, PSTU was managed by Department of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics) were properly prepared. The pens were thoroughly cleaned, white washed and disinfected before keeping the experimental chick in the shed. A total of 100 DOC (Day Old Chicks) were purchased from a local dealer of Paragon Poultry & Hatchery Ltd. Then the DOC (Day Old Chicks) was managed carefully. All the birds were provided same management conditions like floor space, temperature, relative humidity, ventilation and light. Immediately after unloading from the chick boxes, the chicks were provided vitamin-C and glucose to prevent the occurrence of stress occurring during transportation.

The broiler chicks were kept in the same compartment for 7 days and brooding temperature were correctly maintained. Optimum light was provided daily throughout the experimental period. The chicks were brooded at 35°C during first week and thereafter; the temperature was reduced by 3°C in every week until the temperature reached to the room temperature i.e., 25±1°C. All the groups were reared under the similar conditions of temperature, humidity, light, ventilation and floor space. The litter management was also done very carefully. The starter and finisher broiler rations were supplied to the broiler chicken appropriately. A weighed amount of the ration was offered to the birds twice a day and the left over feed was collected to calculate feed consumption of the individual broiler.
Performances of broiler chickens

Routine management
The following management procedures were carried out during the experimental period.

Litter management
Fresh and dried rice husk collected from local rice mill was used as litter material. The depth of litter was 3 cm. The litter material was disinfected with Vircon (5g/liter water) solution. The litter was stirred three times in a week from 14 days and onwards to avoid cake formation. It was replaced by new litter once was found damp partially or fully.

Immunization of birds
The birds were vaccinated against Newcastle disease (Ranikhet) and infectious bursal disease (Gumboro).

Collection and processing of Korolla
Korolla (Momordica charantia) were bought from local market for preparation of korolla extract to determine its efficacy as growth promoter on broilers. Mature and diseased free korolla were collected from local market.

Preparation of Korolla extracts
At first korolla was washed with distilled water. After washing, 50 gm korolla was measured by weighing balance and properly grinded with mortar and pestle. Then grinded korolla was taken in glass beaker and distilled water was added up to the 100 marks. In this process 50% korolla solution (stock solution) were prepared and properly filtered. Finally it was stored in a refrigerator at 4°C to maintain the active ingredients. From this stock solution 3 ml was added with 100 ml drinking water as a regular dose. Thus the final concentration of korolla extract in the drinking water of the treatment group was 3%.

Collection of probiotics
Superbiotics (Exolution®) was collected from local market, which is available in the market by ACI Agrovet Limited. Each gm of superbiotic contains Bacillus subtilis min. 1x10^6 cfu with specific Bacteriophage q.s. to 1 gm) and administrated 2gm/lit of water for 28th days from the starting time of the experiment.

Collection of Triphala
Triphala was collected from local market manufactured by Humdard Laboratories Bangladesh. It consists of Amalki, Haritaki and Bahera (Terminalia chebula, Phyllanthus emblica, and Terminalia belerica.) and administrated 3gm/lit of drinking water for 28th days.

Collection of Safi
Safi was collected from local market manufactured by Humdard Laboratories Bangladesh.

Experimental design
After 7 days all the 100 broiler chicks were randomly divided into 5 groups (A, B, C, D and E) for assessing the efficacy of superbiotics, korolla (bitter melon) extract, triphala and safi as growth promoter on broilers. The commercial broiler ration and commercial superbiotics (Exolution®), Korolla, Triphala and Safi were purchased from the local market. Group–A: Fed with commercial broiler ration and fresh drinking water; Group–B:Commercial superbiotics (Exolution®) @ 2gm/L drinking water plus commercial broiler ration for 28 days; Group–C: Korolla @3ml/L drinking water plus commercial broiler ration for 28th days; Group–D: Triphala @ 3gm/L drinking water plus commercial broiler ration for 28 days; Group– E : Safi @ 3 ml/L drinking water plus commercial broiler ration for 28 days. All the chicks of treated and control groups were closely observed for 35 days and following parameters were also studied.

Recording body weight
The effects of phytoextracts and superbiotics on body weight of broilers were recorded using digital balance before and after treatment. The body weight and feed conversion ratio were measured at 7 days interval up to 35 days of age.

Determination of hematobiochemical parameters
Blood samples were collected from the wing vein of chicken of both control and treatment groups on 35th day and determine the effects of phyto extracts and superbiotics on hematobiochemical parameters.
The principles and procedures of hematobiochemical examinations are as follows:

**Total Erythrocyte Count (TEC)**
Total erythrocyte count was done following the method described by Lamberg and Rothstein (1977). Well-mixed blood sample was drawn with red blood cell diluting pipette and immediately filled with the red cell diluting fluid (Hayem's solution). Then the total number of RBC was calculated as number of cells counted x 10,000 and the result was expressed in million/μl of blood.

**Total Leukocyte Count (TLC)**
The experiment was performed by Lamberg and Rothstein (1977). A sample of whole blood was mixed with diluents, which lyses red cells and stains nuclei of white blood cells. The white blood cells (WBC) were counted in a hemocytometer counting chamber under the microscope and result is expressed as total number of leukocytes per μl of blood or per liter of blood.

**Hemoglobin Concentration (Hb)**
Well-homogenized blood sample was then drawn into the Sahli pipette and the blood of the pipette was immediately transferred into the graduated tube containing hydrochloric acid. This blood and acid were thoroughly mixed by stirring with a glass stirrer. The tube containing acid hematin mixture was added water drop by drop. The solution was mixed well with a glass stirrer until the color of the mixture resembled to the standard color of the comparator. The result was read in daylight by observing the height of the liquid in the tube considering the lower meniscus of the liquid column. The result was then expressed in g%. The above procedure was matched by the Hellige hemometer method as described by Lamberg and Rothstein (1977).

**Packed Cell Volume (PCV)**
The citrated well mixed blood sample was drawn into special loading pipette (Wintrobe pipette) and pipette was filled from the bottom by pressing the rubber bulb of the pipette. Then the Wintrobe hematocrit tube was placed in the centrifuge machine and was centrifuged for 30 minutes at 3000 rpm. The hematocrit or PCV was recorded by reading the graduation mark. The percent volume occupied by the hematocrit was calculated by using the following formula as described by Lamberg and Rothstein (1977).

\[
PCV\% = \frac{\text{Height of red cell volume in cm}}{\text{Height of total blood in cm}} \times 100
\]

**Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)**
The fresh anticoagulant blood was taken into the Wintrobe hematocrit tube. The filled tube was placed vertically undisturbed on the wooden rack for one hour. After one hour the ESR was recorded from the top of the pipette. The result was expressed in mm/in 1st hour.

**Cholesterol**
At first 10 micro liters sample was taken in each test tube and 1 ml sample was thoroughly by stirring with a glass stirrer. The result was read in EMP biochemical Analyser® machine. The result was expressed in mg/dl. According to the National Cholesterol Education Program, the desirable blood cholesterol level is <200 mg/dl. The borderline high blood cholesterol level is 200-239 mg/dl and high blood cholesterol level is > 240 mg/dl. The above procedure was performed according to the manufacturer instructions (Crescent Diagnostics®).

**Tryglyceride**
The working reagent was prepared after mixing R₁ reagent with 100 parts of R2 reagent that mixed thoroughly. The result was read in EMP Biochemical Analyser® and result was expressed in mg/dl. The experiment procedure was done according to the manufacturer instructions (Crescent Diagnostics®).

**HDL (High Density Lipoprotein)**
At first 10μl sample and 1ml reagent were taken in the test tube mixed it thoroughly and allowed to stand for 10 minutes. 1ml R₁ mixed with 100ml R₂ and incubated for 5 min at 37°C temperature. The result was read in EMP Biochemical Analyser ® machine and expressed in mmol/L. Above procedure was performed according to the manufacturer instructions (Crescent Diagnostics ®).
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SGOT (AST)

Taken 4 parts of reagent 1 with 1 part of reagent 2 and mixed it thoroughly with prepared monoreagent. The sample should be diluted 1+9 with 0.9% NaCl solution, then 200ml sample were properly added with 1ml monoreagent. Mixed it thoroughly and incubated approximately for 1 min. After that reading was taken from EMP Biochemical Analyser®. Above procedure was also done according to the manufacturer instructions (Crescent Diagnostics®).

SGPT (ALT)

Taken 4 parts of reagent 1 with 1 part of reagent 2 and mixed it thoroughly to prepare monoreagent. The sample should be diluted 1+9 with 0.9% NaCl solution, then 200ml sample were properly added with 1ml monoreagent. Mixed it thoroughly and incubated approximately for 1 min. After that reading was taken from EMP Biochemical Analyser®. Above procedure was also done according to the manufacturer instructions (Crescent Diagnostics®).

Feed consumption

Feed consumption is the amount of feed consumed every week; it was calculated for each treatment at weekly basis. At the end of the week, the residual amount of feed was weight and subtracted from the known weight of feed at the beginning of week. The feed was divided by the total number of birds.

Body weight gain

Body weight was measured for all birds at the beginning of the experiment, and it was repeated weekly at the beginning of the week in the same time. Live weight gain was calculated by subtraction of live weight at the beginning of the week from the live body weight of the next week.

Weight gain = Live weight - Initial weight

Postmortem Examination

Five broilers from each group were slaughtered to see if there were any pathological changes present on 35th day after treatment. There were no significant pathological changes in any internal organs of the broilers of treatment group. To estimate the immune activity of lymphoid organs (thymus, spleen and bursa of Fabricious) were collected and compared with control group of chicken.

Biosecurity and sanitation

Proper hygienic and sanitation programs were followed to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Statistical Analysis

The data were analyzed statistically between control and treated groups of chicken by Student’s t-test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effects of probiotics and phytosextracts on body weight of broilers

Effects on body weight of different groups of broilers are presented in Table 1. Body weight on day 7 of age (1st day of study) was observed that the body weight in control group A was 0.574±0.015, in the treatment group B (Probiotics) was 0.5944±0.004gm, in group C (Korolla) was 0.585±0.007gm and in group D (Triphala) was 0.580±0.00371gm and in group E (Safi) was 0.577±0.017gm. In this experiment, phytosextracts components (Korolla, Triphala, Safi) comparatively increase body weight than probiotics treated group.

Probiotics improve gut micro flora and positively influences local and systemic immune systems by secreting beneficial enzymes, organic acids, vitamin and non-toxic antibacterial substances (Jun et al., 2002; Dibner, 2004). It also successfully improves immune status of broiler chicks. Probiotics increases physiological activity and production performance of broiler chicken which support the recorded study (Rahman et al., 2013; Ahmed and Taghi, 2006; Kabir et al., 2004).

The non pharmacological products like prebiotics, probiotics, organic acids, essential oils, medicinal plants or parts of plants were used as feed additives which are alternatives to antibiotics as growth stimulators (Simon et al., 2001). It has been reported that Korolla (Momordica charantia) have antidiabetic effect, inhibit unwanted cell proliferation, hypoglycemic (reduce blood glucose level) and heptoprotective effects in human body (Rahman et al., 2011; Singh et al., 2008; Taylor et al., 2002; Saed et al., 2010; Budrat et al., 2008). The beneficial effect of Korolla on animals and birds didn’t study yet. In our study recorded that extract of Korolla as
feed additives improve the body weight of broiler chicken which was in support of previous study in human cases. The plant extract Triphala have been used as antioxidant, gastroprotective, hepatoprotective, antifungal and antibiotic effect in human medicine (Sabu and Kuttan, 2002; Nariya et al., 2011; Jose and Kuttan, 2006; Bajaj and Tandon, 2011). Unlikely there is no recorded data on animal and bird cases. In performed study, Triphala extract as feed additives significantly enhances body weight than control group of birds which might be in support of Sabu and Kuttan, (2002) and Nariya et al. (2011). It might have similar positive effects (gastroproective, hepatoprotective and antioxidant) in the birds like human individual.

The herbal extract Safi (Humdard Lab. Bangladesh.) usually used to treat liver disease, constipation and dermatitis according to manufacturer instruction. It also has no performed study on human and animals. But in our experiment it has been recorded that Safi as feed additives increases feed efficiency and body weight of broiler chicken. So it might have hepatic protective effect and increases digestibility in broilers. Sarker et al. (2014) reported that neem leaves act as growth promoting effect in broiler birds. Neem extract is the one of the basic component of Safi syrup and recorded data support the findings of Sarker et al. (2014).

Table 1. Effects of probiotics and phyto extracts on body weight (gm) (Mean±SD) in broilers on 28th day of experiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Pre treatment</th>
<th>Post treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st day of experiment</td>
<td>7th days of experiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A) Control</td>
<td>0.570±0.01</td>
<td>1.05±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Probiotics</td>
<td>0.594±0.00</td>
<td>1.09±0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Korolla</td>
<td>0.585±0.00</td>
<td>1.09±0.01*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Triphala</td>
<td>0.580±0.00</td>
<td>1.07±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Safi</td>
<td>0.577±0.01</td>
<td>1.05±0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** = Significant at 1% (p<0.01) level of probability.
* = Significant at 5% (p<0.05) level of probability.

Effects of probiotics and phyto extracts on hematological parameter

Effects of probiotics and phyto extracts (Korolla, Triphala, Safi) increases total erythrocyte count (TEC), total leukocyte count (TLC) and hemoglobin concentration in broiler chicken shown in Table 2. Rahman et al. (2013) showed that probiotics as growth promoter increases growth performance, erythrocyte count and hemoglobin concentration in broiler. Sarkar et al. (2014) also showed that probiotics as feed additives increase the total erythrocyte count and hemoglobin concentration significantly in treatment group. These published data similar to performed study.

In our study, most of the phytoextracts component significantly increases total erythrocyte count and hemoglobin concentration and reduces ESR time/hr shown in Table 2. It has been reported that feeding broiler with Nishyinda, black pepper and cinnamon extract as feed additives increases total erythrocyte count and hemoglobin by Molla et al. (2012). Mahejabin et al. (2015) reported that neem, turmeric and papaya leaf extracts also increases TEC and hemoglobin concentration, which are in support of recorded data. Sorwar et al. (2016) also reported that kalo zeera seeds and papaya leaves also increases the hemoglobin concentration, TEC and decreases ESR which were more or less similar to recorded study. Plant extracts and their fruits used as blood purifier, antioxidants and heptoprotective agents in the body (Bajaj and Tandon, 2011 and Rahman et al., 2011). Triphala, Korolla and Safi in treatment group of chickens might have similar function and support the findings of (Bajaj and Tandon, 2011; Rahman et al., 2011).
Performances of broiler chickens

Table 2. Effects on hematological parameters (Mean±SD) in broilers on 28th day of experiment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>TEC (Millions/mm³)</th>
<th>TLC (x10³/ml)</th>
<th>Hb (gm/dl)</th>
<th>PCV (%)</th>
<th>ESR (mm in 1st hour)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Control)</td>
<td>3.61±0.15</td>
<td>4.12±0.17</td>
<td>10±1.58</td>
<td>27.6±3.91</td>
<td>3.75±0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Probiotics)</td>
<td>3.63±0.13</td>
<td>4.14±0.19</td>
<td>13.2±1.09*</td>
<td>30.2±4.76</td>
<td>3.15±0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Korolla)</td>
<td>3.96±0.06**</td>
<td>4.28±0.03**</td>
<td>15.4±1.14*</td>
<td>33.8±2.58*</td>
<td>2.86±0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Triphala)</td>
<td>3.79±0.14</td>
<td>4.30±0.05**</td>
<td>14.8±1.30*</td>
<td>28.8±1.92</td>
<td>2.84±0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Safi)</td>
<td>3.78±0.12</td>
<td>4.15±0.15</td>
<td>13.2±2.58</td>
<td>28.6±3.20</td>
<td>2.80±0.24**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** = Significant at 1% (p<0.01) level of probability
* = Significant at 5% (p<0.05) level of probability.

Effects of probiotics and phytoextracts on biochemical parameters

The probiotics and phytoextracts feeding to broiler as feed additives significantly changes biochemical parameter of liver function enzymes and lipid profile in serum content of blood shown in Table 3. Rahman et al. (2013) and Pazhanivel and Balachandran (2014) reported that serum ALT level was significantly reduced in chicken with probiotics and phytoextracts treated group, respectively. The recorded present study also supported by Sarker et al. (2014). Kanjilal et al. (2014) also reported that feeding probiotics as feed additives decreases liver function enzyme (AST and ALT) and similar to performed study.

Triphala treatment significantly reduce serum cholesterol and LDL level in human (Saravanan et al., 2007), which was in support to present study in broiler chickens. Attia et al. (2017) also found that phytoextract blend treated group increases the serum HDL level and reduces the serum cholesterol and LDL level of broiler chicken, which was inclined to our present data.

Table 3. Biocemhical parameter (Mean±SD) in broilers on 28th day of experiment after treating with probiotics and phyto extracts (Korolla, Triphala and Safi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>No. of birds</th>
<th>AST (U/L)</th>
<th>ALT (U/L)</th>
<th>CHOL</th>
<th>Tryglyceride</th>
<th>HDL</th>
<th>LDL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Control)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>358.3±0.21</td>
<td>5.3±0.21</td>
<td>177.3±19.81*</td>
<td>48.7±1.23</td>
<td>65.3±1.72</td>
<td>90.08±1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Probiotics)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>356.3±0.09**</td>
<td>5.0±0.09</td>
<td>146.0±10.54</td>
<td>40.5±1.64</td>
<td>66.5±1.87</td>
<td>86.8±2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Korolla)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>350.1±0.12**</td>
<td>4.5±0.12**</td>
<td>87.1±3.02</td>
<td>38.2±1.92</td>
<td>73.3±1.81**</td>
<td>66.67±4.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Triphala)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>348.3±0.24*</td>
<td>4.3±0.24**</td>
<td>91.6±2.7</td>
<td>42.2±1.33*</td>
<td>70.8±1.47*</td>
<td>65.8±2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Safi)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>347.1±0.21*</td>
<td>4.8±0.21*</td>
<td>90.8±0.8</td>
<td>45±1.58**</td>
<td>67.3±1.63</td>
<td>73.67±2.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = Significant at 5% (p<0.05) level of probability
** = Significant at 1% (p<0.01) level of probability.

Immunomodulating effects of probiotics and phytoextracts on gross changes of lymphoid organs and total leukocyte count.

The effects of probiotics and phytoextracts as feed additives in broilers increase in size of lymphoid organs (spleen, thymus, bursa of Fabricious) and total leukocyte count as compared with control group shown in Table 2 and Table 4. Probiotics as feed additives increases T cell proliferation of broilers (Asqari et al., 2016). Shewitu and Taha, (2011) reported that black seed powder (Nigella sativa ) as feed additives significantly increases the size of thymus and bursa of Fabricious, which support the present performed study study. Mufarrez, (2014) found no significant differences in the size of lymphoid organs in broiler chickens. All of these published reports imply that probiotics and phytoextracts as feed additives improve immunmoduation in broiler.
Table 4. Gross changes (Mean±SD) of lymphoid organs in broilers on 28th day of experiment after treating with probiotics and phyto extract (Korolla, Triphala and Safi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Spleen</th>
<th>Thymus</th>
<th>Bursa of Fabricious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Control)</td>
<td>2.27±0.04</td>
<td>2.02±0.08</td>
<td>1.84±0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Probiotics)</td>
<td>2.92±0.08</td>
<td>4.28±0.46</td>
<td>3±0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Korolla)</td>
<td>3.04±0.11</td>
<td>5.2±0.44</td>
<td>4.1±0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Triphala)</td>
<td>2.508±0.25</td>
<td>5.94±0.25</td>
<td>3.12±0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Safi)</td>
<td>3.08±0.08</td>
<td>5.898±0.23</td>
<td>3.06±0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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