

## Effects of *Moringa oleifera* Leaves, Bark Stem of *Lannea barteri* and Antibiotic (Oxytetracycline) on Haematological Parameters of *Clarias gariepinus* Fingerlings

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Received date: April 18, 2018; Accepted date: May 23, 2018; Published date: May 29, 2018

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### Abstract

An experiment was conducted to determine the effects of *Moringa oleifera* leaves, *Lannea barteri* bark and antibiotic additives on haematological parameters of *C. gariepinus* fingerlings. *Moringa* and *Lannea* were subjected to three (3) treatments (whole, aqueous and ethanol). Four hundred and eighty (480) *C. gariepinus* fingerlings of  $4.60 \text{ g} \pm 0.02 \text{ g}$  mean weight were acclimated for two weeks and distributed randomly into 24 re-circulatory tanks of 50 litres volume capacity representing 8 experimental diets. The experimental diets comprised the same inclusion levels. A commercial reference diet (CRD) was used as control. *Moringa* whole (MWL), *Moringa* aqueous extract (MAE) and *Moringa* ethanol extract (MEE) represented diet 2, 3 and 4 respectively while *Lannea* whole (LWL), *Lannea* aqueous extract (LAE) and *Lannea* ethanol extract (LEE) representing diet 5, 6 and 7 while diet 8 was antibiotic (ANTB). After feeding trial, the haematological parameters revealed that, white blood cells (WBC) count was significantly higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the group of fish fed LWL ( $247.40 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), LAE ( $235.50 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) and LEE ( $234.15 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) based diets and significantly lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) was obtained in group of Antibiotic based diet ( $1.65 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ). There significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) across the red blood cells (RBC) of the initial fishes and experimented fishes were recorded. The Packed Cell Volume (PCV) ranges between LWL (46.05%) and MWL (10.70%). Haemoglobin was significantly lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the Initial (4.87 g/dl) and CRD (5.13 g/dl) based diets. The platelets count were significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) in all the treatments. There were no significant differences ( $P > 0.05$ ) in all mean corpuscular haemoglobin and mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration in all the treatments. The findings have positive impact on the haematological parameters of *C. gariepinus* fingerlings compared with antibiotic (ANTB).

**Keywords:** Natural; Additive; Catfish; Haematology

### Introduction

Feed additives are substances such that they are added in traces amount which provides a mechanism by which such dietary deficiencies can be addressed as it benefits both nutrition and growth of animal concerned. Most of some growth promoting feed additives includes hormones, antibiotics, ionospheres and probiotics [1,2]. The culture of African Catfish (*C. gariepinus*) is widely practiced in many tropical and subtropical regions of the world which constitutes one of the largest groups of freshwater fish farmed in Nigeria [3].

Nutritional requirements of an animal are a fundamental aspect that depends solely on species, habitat and live cycle stage [4]. The use of antibiotics and other chemotherapeutics for controlling diseases has been criticized for their negative impacts. The inclusion of herbal feed supplements often provides cooperative action to various physiological functions. The synergistic effect of herbs has been reported in many fishes, including Japanese flounder and *C. gariepinus* [5,6].

However, in most cases, the knowledge of haematological characteristics of the fish is important in toxicological studies and its implication on final consumers which is man. In culture fisheries these studies are usually associated with the feed input. The White blood cell count (WBC), Red blood cells (RBC) count, haematocrit (PCV) and Haemoglobin (Hb) concentration vary with diet and strain as well as

temperature, season of the year and nutritional status of the fish [7,8]. Chemical and Biological analysis of the blood is of considerable value in confirming the diagnosis and response to treatment in variety of diseases. Cells naturally contain enzymes for their functions such that damages to cellular membrane lead to their escape into the blood where their presence or activities can be measured as an index of cell integrity [9].

Therefore, Fish haematology is gaining importance in fish culture because of its importance in monitoring the health status of fish [8,10]. Hrubec et al. [10] reported that, haematological characteristics of most fish have been studied with the aim of establishing normal value range and deviation from it may indicate a disturbance in the physiological process. The aim of this work is to determine the haematological parameters of *C. gariepinus* fingerlings fed differently processed *M. oleifera* (leaves), *L. barteri* (bark) and Antibiotic (oxytetracycline) additives.

### Materials and Methods

#### Plants preparations

*M. oleifera*: *M. oleifera* leaves were harvested from horticultural garden, Department of Crop Production Federal University of Technology, Minna. The leaves were taken to Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology (WAFT) Departmental

laboratory, air dried at room temperature for 5 days, the dry leaves were ground to powdery form following [11] procedures sieved with 1 mm mesh size, packed in polythene leather and preserved in a deep freezer at 4°C.

*L. bateri*: Bark of *L. bateri* was also harvested from Gupa-Miffi village via Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State, cut into smaller sizes, air dried at room temperature for 5 days, pounded into smaller particles and fed to hammer mill at animal departmental laboratory, FUT Minna ground into powdery form [12,13], sieved with 1mm mesh size, packed in polythene leather and preserved in a deep freezer at 4°C.

### extract preparation procedures

Fifty (50) grams of the plants (*M. oleifera* leaf and *L. bateri* bark) were measured each and soaked into 500 ml of ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) of 99/100% concentration following the [14] procedures for 72 hours in 1000 ml bottle. The bottles were tightly covered to prevent evaporation of the ethanol. The bottles were agitated thoroughly at intervals and the soaked materials were doubled filtered using muslin cloth. The concentrated liquids were fed to 1 litre flask and clipped to a rotary evaporator (RE300) rotating on a water bath filled with water to a capacity which was boiling steadily at 100°C and the ethanol solvents were separated from the extract. The extracts were poured into 100 ml bottle, exposed to air until ethanol solvent was finally removed. The bottles were labelled as ethanol extracts covered and stored at room temperature in the laboratory deep freezer at 4°C until used.

For the aqueous extract 50 gms of *M. oleifera* leaf and *L. bateri* bark were measured soaked with distilled water of 500 ml in 1000 ml bottles and procedure for extraction was as the same as that of ethanol extraction. The aqueous extracts were in the laboratory deep freezer at 4°C until used.

### Diet formulation and level of inclusion

Eight diets were formulated for the experiment. Each of the experimental diet was formulated to contain 45% Crude protein (CP) as compare with the label of the package in the Commercial reference diet (CRD) used as control. The proximate analyses of the major ingredients were determined before formulating the diets (Table 1). Maize meal (14% CP) was used as energy source while fish meal (72.4% CP) was used as protein source. Other ingredients used were vitamin and mineral premix, fats and oil representing 3% inclusion levels each while Moringa, Lannea and Oxytetracycline representing 2% inclusion levels each (Table 1). The experimental diets were formulated using Pearson square method and compounded into 2 mm size pellet using hand pelletizer. The diets were prepared by individually weighing of each component while the ingredients were thoroughly mixed to ensure homogeneity. The feeds were oven dried at 60°C and chemical compositions of each feed was carried out as in Table 1. The feeds were packed in polythene, labelled and stored in the departmental laboratory deep freezer prior to the commencement of the experiment.

Feed ingredients (g)	Diet 1 (CRD)	Diet 2 (MWL)	Diet 3 (MAE)	Diet 4 (MEE)	Diet 5 (LWL)	Diet 6 (LAE)	Diet 7 (LEE)	Diet 8 (ANTB)
FM	-	49.4	49.4	49.4	49.4	49.4	49.4	49.4
MM	-	43.6	43.6	43.3	43.6	43.6	43.6	43.6
VMP	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Fat	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Additive	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total	-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Moisture	4.12	2.48	2.84	2.22	2.55	2.82	2.38	2.41
Crude protein	46.6	44.86	44.89	44.1	44.5	44.5	44.75	45.43
Ether extract	6	8.8	9.7	9	8.4	9.9	9.2	9.3
Crude fibre	2.86	2.6	2.67	2.58	2.4	2.67	2.58	2.58
Ash	17.4	18.6	17.01	15.57	17.4	16.8	13.58	14.9
NFE	23.02	22.66	22.89	26.3	24.75	23.25	27.51	25.38
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

CRD=Commercial reference diet, MWL=Moringa whole, MAE=Moringa aqueous extract, MEE=Moringa ethanol extract, LWL=Lannea whole, LAE=Lannea aqueous extract, LEE=Lannea ethanol extract, FM=Fish meal, MM=Maize meal VMP=Vitamin and Mineral Premix.

**Table 1:** Diets formulation and chemical compositions of experimental diets fed *C. gariepinus* fingerlings for 56 Days of feeding trial.

### Experimental procedures

Four hundred and eighty (480) *C. gariepinus* fingerlings with an average body mass of 4.60 g ± 0.02 g were acclimated for two weeks at water resources; aquaculture and fisheries (WAFT) departmental

recycling tanks. During acclimation, they were fed commercial diet (Coppens) at 5% of their body weight [3] before being randomly distributed into 24 recycling plastic tanks of 50 litres capacity filled with 20 litres volume of water each. Each of the tanks contains 20 fish, 3 replicate representing 8 dietary treatments. Fish in the group of

treatment 1 represent control diet (CRD) while the rest were fed the tested experimental diets. Water flow rate was maintained at 1.5 litres per minute [2] and water quality parameters were measured weekly. Temperature and dissolved oxygen was measured using hand held DO meter (AZ8403), PH was measured using pocket size PH meter (HI96107), total conductivity was measured using pen type digital conductivity meter (CT-3030) and total alkalinity was determined chemically in the laboratory. All the parameters measured were within international recommended ranges. Fish were fed 5% of their body weight per day in two equal meals between 10 am and 4 pm for a period of 56 days.

### Blood sample collection

Fishes were randomly selected and their blood samples were collected and labelled as initial sample in triplicate for haematology analysis before the commencement of the research. At the end of the feeding trial, haematology analysis was also conducted on the fishes from each treatment in triplicate. The fishes used were thoroughly washed to avoid contamination before their blood samples were collected [14]. They were bled from caudal artery by severing the caudal fin and the blood were collected into anticoagulant bottle (EDTA bottle) labelled to represent each treatment. All the samples collected were taken to Haematology Laboratory, Federal Medical Centre, Bida, Niger State for Haematological Parameters. Sysmex (KS-21N) digital was used for the haematology determination. Parameters determined were; direct measurement of erythrocyte otherwise known Red Blood Cells (RBCs) values, White Blood Cells (WBCs), Packed Cell Volume (PCV) and Platelets. Haemoglobin (Hb), Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration (MCHC), Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin (MCH) and Mean Corpuscular volume (MCV) were calculated according to the formulae described by Dienye et al. [8,15-17].

Haemoglobin (Hb) values were determined using;

$$Hb = \frac{PCV(\%)}{3}$$

Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration (MCHC) was determined using;

$$MCHC(\%) = \frac{Hb}{PCV} \times 100$$

Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin (MCH) was determined using;

$$MCH(pg) = \frac{Hb}{RBC} \times 10$$

Mean Corpuscular Volume (MCV) was determined using;

$$MCV(fl) = \frac{PCV}{RBC} \times 10$$

### Statistical analysis

The haematological results were subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using P>0.05 significance level to test for significant difference. The parameters of mean comparison were applied according to Duncan Multiple Range Test [18]. All the statistics were computerised using stat graphics (version 3.0) and Minitab (version 9.2) packages.

### Results

The haematological evaluations of fingerlings of *C. gariepinus* fed supplemented diets of plant additives from *M. oleifera* leaves (Powder), *L. barteri* bark (Powder) and antibiotic based diets are shown in Table 2. The total white blood cells count result revealed in fish fed Lannea whole ( $247.40 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), Lannea aqueous extract ( $235.50 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), Lannea ethanol extract ( $234.15 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), Moringa ethanol Extract ( $229.40 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) and Moringa aqueous extract ( $227.40 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) based diets were significantly higher than Initial ( $42.60 \pm 3.54 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) haematology value recorded while control reference diet ( $40.30 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) have little significant variation from the initial value and Antibiotic ( $1.65 \times 10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) based Diets revealed the lowest significant value among all the treatments in terms of white blood cells count. There was no significant difference in red blood cells amongst Fish of LWL ( $2.75 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), LAE ( $2.55 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), LEE ( $2.50 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) and MEE ( $2.45 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) based diet. There was significant difference (P<0.05) between the haematology values of Initial ( $1.30 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) and the fish fed experimental based diets belonging to MAE ( $2.30 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), ANTB ( $1.60 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ), MWL ( $0.30 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) and CRD ( $1.20 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) in which MWL ( $0.30 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ ) based diet recorded the lowest performance in terms of RBCs counts.

Parameters	Initial	CRD	MWL	MAE	MEE	LWL	LAE	LEE	ANTB
WBC ( $10^3 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ )	42.60d ± 3.54	40.30e ± 0.00	5.75e ± 6.72	227.40c ± 7.07	229.40bc ± 0.71	247.40a ± 1.13	235.50b ± 0.14	234.15bc ± 0.21	1.65e ± 0.92
RBC ( $10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$ )	1.30cd ± 0.28	1.20d ± 0.14	0.30e ± 0.29	2.30b ± 0.00	2.45ab ± 0.07	2.75a ± 0.07	2.55ab ± 0.07	2.50ab ± 0.07	1.60c ± 0.28
Hb (g/dl)	4.87c ± 0.23	5.13c ± 0.52	3.50c ± 4.43	10.9b ± 0.71	12.82ab ± 0.69	15.34a ± 1.93	12.67ab ± 0.47	11.62ab ± 0.12	7.08c ± 0.45
PCV (%)	14.60d ± 0.71	15.40d ± 1.56	10.70e ± 13.29	32.70b ± 2.12	38.50ab ± 2.12	46.05a ± 5.87	38.00ab ± 1.41	34.90ab ± 0.42	21.3c ± 1.14
MCV (fl)	113.65d ± 18.30	128.44cd ± 2.17	43.99e ± 5.36	142.19bc ± 9.21	157.10ab ± 4.10	167.25a ± 17.05	149.01abc ± 1.40	139.61bc ± 1.68	134.46bcd ± 14.96
MCH (pg)	38.04a ± 6.63	42.79a ± 0.69	83.54a ± 71.36	47.41a ± 3.10	52.29a ± 1.29	55.67a ± 5.56	49.66a ± 0.48	46.46a ± 0.48	44.73a ± 5.13
MCHC (%)	33.33a ± 0.00	33.31a ± 0.02	33.21a ± 0.18	33.33a ± 0.00	33.33a ± 0.07	33.34a ± 0.07	33.26a ± 0.08	33.26a ± 0.08	33.27a ± 0.10

Platelets	198.00a ± 6.86	200.90a ± 6.93	7.18f ± 0.25	45.15d ± 1.68	27.68e ± 0.95	47.15d ± 1.63	62.53c ± 2.15	118.90b ± 4.10	51.25d ± 1.77
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Average values on the same row carrying similar superscripts are not significantly different from each other (P>0.05). WBC=White Blood Cells, RBC=Red Blood Cells, Hb=Haemoglobin, PCV=Packred Cell Volume, MCV=Mean Corpuscular Volume, MCH=Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin and MCHC=Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration.

**Table 2:** Haematology parameters of *C. gariepinus* fed experimental diets for a period of 56 days.

The packed cell volume results evaluated revealed that, *Lannea* whole based diet was significantly higher (46.05%) while *Moringa* whole based diet (10.70%) was significantly lower than the rest of the results from other experimental based fishes. The haemoglobin results evaluated shows that, the Initial (4.87 g/dl), commercial reference diet (5.13 g/dl) antibiotic (7.08 g/dl) were the least performed group as compared to other groups of the experimental fishes. The mean corpuscular volume of the experimental fish showed that the fish from the group of *Lannea* whole (167.25 fl) based diet was significantly higher in terms of values recorded while that of *Moringa* whole (43.99 fl) was significantly lower. The mean corpuscular haemoglobin and mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentrations showed no significant difference in all the parameters evaluated (Table 2). Platelets showed significance across all the experimental fishes while initial fish and that commercial reference diet were not significantly different.

## Discussion

The basis of haematological parameters is to reveal the components which are valuable in monitoring toxicity constituents in fish diets as it affects the formation of blood in fish culture. The increase in white blood cell (WBC) count in *Lannea* whole (LWL), *Lannea* aqueous extract (LAE), *Lannea* ethanol extract (LEE) and *Moringa* aqueous extract (MAE) based diets may be a protective response of the fish to improve its immunity while low WBC count in antibiotic (ANTB) might be an indication of weakening of the immune system due to stress effect of antibiotic. This findings were in accordance with the report of Adedeji et al. [3,17,19]. The authors observed that, increase WBC count improves defensive cells of the body which are involved in protecting the body against stress which lead to infectious disease and foreign invaders. According to Akinwande et al. [20] a measurable increase in WBC count of fish or any animal is a function of immunity or resistance to disease. Douglas et al. [21] also revealed that, low amount of WBC count has implication in immune responses and the ability of the species to fight against infection. The decrease values of packed cell volume (PCV) ranges obtained from the fishes of initial, CRD and MWL were contrary to the range of 20% to 50% as reported by Dienne et al. [8,22]. The decrease in PCV could be as a result of the presence of anti-nutritional factor such as phytic acid, saponin and tannins in raw *Moringa* leaves incorporated into the diet fed. Similar trend was also reported by Dienne et al. [8,23] that decreasing in PCV blood concentration in *C. gariepinus* fed raw *M. oleifera* leaf meal is attributed to the presence of anti-metabolites such as tannin and phenol in *Moringa* leaf incorporated into the diet. An increase in PCV observed in the fish fed plant additive diets might be an indication of high immunity on the fish [23].

Therefore, the fish species with higher values of leucocyte will be able to fight infection. However, lower values recorded in ANTB based diet is in agreement with the findings of Hentschel et al. [24-26] who reported that long term use of antibiotic on fish can induce nephrotoxicity, liver damage and residual deposit in fish tissues and

fish products from prolong application. The low red blood cell count in MWL based fed diet may be attributed to effect of raw incorporation of *Moringa* into the diet while the high values recorded for extracted based diets were in agreement with that of Fagbenro et al. [17] who fed raw sunflower and sesame seed to *C. gariepinus*. Furthermore, Dienne et al. [8] also reported that, erythrocyte (red blood cells (RBC) count greater than  $1.00 \times 10^6 \text{ mm}^{-3}$  is considered high and is an indication of high oxygen carrying capacity of the blood which is the characteristics of fish capable of aerial respiration and high metabolic activity [27-29]. The high values obtained for haemoglobin (Hb) for fishes fed plants additives compared with other diets were in agreement with the findings of Adedeji et al. [3,8,17] which is a measure of anaemic condition of the fishes. The mean corpuscular volume (MCV), mean corpuscular haemoglobin (MCH) ranges, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentrations (MCHC) were in agreement with the findings of Dienne et al. [8] who fed dietary *Moringa* leaf meal at varying inclusion levels to *C. gariepinus* species and Fagbenro et al. [17] report of feeding *C. gariepinus* species with sunflower and sesame meal-based diet.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that haematological parameters of *C. gariepinus* was significantly affected by plant additive especially the extracted form of *Moringa* and *Lannea* plants.

## Recommendation

It can be recommended that ethanol extract form of *Moringa* and *Lannea* can be incorporated in the diets of *C. gariepinus* instead of antibiotic.

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