

Determining the effects of black cumin seed oil on performance and meat fatty acid profile of broiler chickens

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(Received 6 July 2019; Accepted 10 October 2019; First published online 28 October 2019)

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Abstract

This study was designed to investigate the effects of adding black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.) seed (BCS) oil to diets for broiler chickens on their performance and the meat fatty acid profile of the meat. Broiler chicks were assigned to three groups. The unsupplemented control did not receive BCS oil. The two treated groups received 0.5% and 1% BCS oil. The live weight and live weight gain of the experimental groups were generally greater for the treated groups than for the control group. Feed consumption did not differ among groups, and thus the group that was fed the diet supplemented with 1% BCS oil was most efficient. Total saturated fatty acids were lower, and polyunsaturated fatty acids were greater in the treated groups, but monounsaturated fatty acids were greater in meat from the control group. As a result, it can be concluded that the addition of 0.5–1% BCS oil into the diets of broiler may improve the performance of chicks and enrich the meat quality by creating meaningful changes in meat fatty acid profiles, especially in terms of total polyunsaturated fatty acids.

Keywords: Ross broiler, fatty acids, nigella sativa, nutrition, yield

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Introduction

Black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.) is a herbaceous annual plant that can grow to a height of 20–30 cm. It is a well-known species, and its seeds and the oils obtained from them have been used worldwide as a spice for thousands of years. (The oil content ranges from 30% to 45%.) Also, it is known that its seeds enhance urine and milk production, make food more appetizing, and regulate menstruation, and its oils have topical effects against hair loss and dandruff in traditional phytotherapy (Baytop, 1999). In addition, Black cumin seed (BCS) and various active substances in its oil (such as thymoquinone) have anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, analgesic (Ali & Blunden, 2003), antioxidant (Guler *et al.*, 2007; Entok *et al.*, 2014), antibacterial (Boka *et al.*, 2014), anticoccidial (I Kadhim *et al.*, 2018), immune responsiveness (Al-Mufarrej, 2013; Ali *et al.*, 2014), and anticancer (Randhawa & Alghamdi, 2011; Majdalawieh & Fayyad, 2016) effects in modern medicine. Official institutions in some countries allow the use of and have granted patents on these products for the prevention of cancer, the development of the immune system, antiviral activities, and the treatment of diabetes, psoriasis, and asthma (Lim, 2013).

In the livestock sector, intensive studies are being conducted to discover natural products that may improve the performance of animals and the quality of their products. The addition of BCS to broiler diets has improved performance and carcass yields and various biochemical parameters, including serum cholesterol, triglyceride, and protein (Guler *et al.*, 2006; Al-Beitawi & El-Ghousein, 2008; Ali *et al.*, 2014). In addition, BCS has improved intestinal morphology, increased egg yield, weight, and shell quality, and lowered the serum cholesterol in laying hens (Aydin *et al.*, 2008; Boka *et al.*, 2014).

Recent research on animal nutrition and animal food production has shown that studies on the production of healthier animal food for human consumption have gained attention and momentum. The logic

on which these studies are based is to feed the animals with diets containing specific ingredients in an attempt to obtain animal products with the desired characteristics. Various studies have detailed the positive effects of BCS and its oil on animal and human health and the production of more healthful animal products for humans (Hassanien *et al.*, 2015; Abd El-Hack *et al.*, 2016; Kumar & Patra, 2017). Most published experiments have utilized BCS in the diets, but few studies have been carried out with BCS oil. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the effects of BCS oil on the performance of broiler chickens and the fatty acid profile of the meat they produced.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out with 108 one-day-old broiler chicks (Ross 308) in a climate-controlled environment, and over a 42-day period. All procedures were approved by Kırıkkale University Ethical Committee for Experimental Animals. Three groups were formed, consisting of 36 chicks each. Each group was divided into three replicates of 12 chicks. Three basal diets (starter, grower and finisher) were prepared. The diets for the control group were not supplemented. The treated groups received either 0.5% BCS or 1.0% BCS oil in addition to the diet that was fed to the control group. Diets were available *ad libitum* and the chicks were fed in groups.

Live weight (LW) and feed consumption (FC) were recorded at 14-day intervals, and live weight gain (LWG) and feed conversion rates were calculated for each period. The chemical contents of diets were determined by Weende analysis methods (AOAC, 2005). The feed ingredients and chemical composition of the diets that were used in the study are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Ingredient composition and analysed content of the nutrients in the starter, grower and finisher diets fed to broiler chickens used in the trial (% dry matter).

Feedstuffs	Diets		
	Starter (0–14 day)	Grower (15–24 day)	Finisher (25–42 day)
Corn	34.4	37	38
Wheat	15	15	15
Full-fat soy	10	10	10
Soybean meal (44%)	33.5	28.7	27.7
Vegetable oil	3.8	6	6
Limestone	1	1	1
DCP	1.5	1.5	1.5
Salt	0.3	0.3	0.3
Vitamin and mineral premix ¹	0.25	0.25	0.25
DL-Methionine	0.25	0.25	0.25
<i>Chemical composition of feeds used during trial (%)</i>			
Dry matter	86.96	88.41	89.22
Crude protein	23.54	22.22	21.18
Ether extract	7.03	9.51	8.44
Crude fibre	4.54	4.05	4.85
Crude ash	5.19	5.44	5.01
Starch	34.78	36.96	38.86
Sugar	6.94	6.84	5.61
Metabolizable energy (MJ/kg)	12.78	13.78	13.41

¹ Vitamin-mineral premix composition of each 2.5 kg (2.5 kg was added to the 1000 kg diet): vitamin A: 1 000 000 IU; vitamin D₃: 3 000 000 IU; vitamin E: 20 000 mg; vitamin K₃: 3 000 mg; vitamin B₁: 3 000 mg; vitamin B₂: 5 000 mg; vitamin B₆: 5 000 mg; vitamin B₁₂: 20 mg; vitamin C: 50 000 mg; niacin: 25 000 mg; pantothenic acid: 8 000 mg; folic acid: 750 mg; biotin: 45 mg; choline chloride: 125 000 mg; canthaxanthin: 2 500 mg; carotenoic acid ester: 500 mg; manganese: 80 000 mg; zinc: 60 000 mg; iron: 60 000 mg; copper: 5 000 mg; iodine: 1 000 mg; cobalt: 200 mg; selenium: 150 mg

After 42 days on feed, nine chickens from each group (therefore from each replicate) were selected at random. The selected birds were slaughtered and breast meat samples (from *Musculus pectoralis major* and minor) were taken from each to determine the fatty acid profiles. Lipid extractions were done using chloroform-methanol reagents (Folch *et al.*, 1957). Fatty acid esters were obtained using boron trifluoride according to AOAC (2005) method 969.33. The fatty acid profiles were determined by gas chromatography–mass spectrometry technology (Device: QP2010 Plus, Shimadzu, Japan; column: Agilent J & W HP-88 GC, USA). The Supelco® 37 Component FAME Mix CRM47885 reagent (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA) was used as the analytical standard. Fatty acid types were defined according to their retention times, and their concentrations were determined from the area under the chromatographic peaks.

The SPSS package program was used for the statistical analysis of the data obtained in the study (version 23.0, IBM Corp. Armonk, New York, USA). One-way ANOVA variance analysis and Duncan's multiple range test were used to determine the significance of differences between the experimental groups.

Results and Discussion

Weights attained by the broiler chickens at weekly intervals are shown in Table 2. Mean live weight of the day-old chicks at the initiation of the experiment was similar ($P > 0.05$). Subsequently, mean live weights of broilers supplemented with BCS oil were significantly greater at days 7, 14, and 42 than for the control group ($P < 0.05$). However, the differences in weight among the groups were not significant at days 21, 28, and 35 ($P > 0.05$). Overall, the broilers that were supplemented with 1.0% BCS oil gained 145.87 g more weight than those in the control group in this 42-day experiment ($P < 0.05$) (Table 3).

Table 2 Means (\pm SE) for live weight (g) of broilers supplemented with different levels of black cumin seed oil

Age, day	Treatment groups			P-value
	Control	0.5% BCS oil	1.0% BCS oil	
1	39.25 \pm 0.54	39.58 \pm 0.55	39.83 \pm 0.58	0.758
7	159.97 ^B \pm 3.31	173.56 ^A \pm 2.81	177.56 ^A \pm 2.60	0.001
14	424.03 ^B \pm 6.05	445.74 ^A \pm 7.31	450.36 ^A \pm 6.38	0.012
21	868.00 \pm 11.77	899.59 \pm 14.74	897.94 \pm 12.51	0.161
28	1481.14 \pm 20.30	1526.00 \pm 21.18	1532.28 \pm 20.48	0.166
35	2175.66 \pm 25.40	2272.03 \pm 36.87	2267.28 \pm 31.72	0.055
42	2863.73 ^B \pm 33.17	2977.71 ^A \pm 37.10	3010.74 ^A \pm 25.59	0.005

^{A, B} Row means with different superscripts differ significantly at $P < 0.05$

BCS: Black cumin seed

Adding 0.2–0.5% BCS to the diets of broiler chicks has increased LWG (Shewita & Taha, 2011; Ali *et al.*, 2014). Further, increased LWG was reported for broilers fed BCS-supplemented diets at the rates of 1–1.5% (Guler *et al.*, 2006; Al-Beitawi & El-Ghousein, 2008; Erenner *et al.*, 2010; Miraghaee *et al.*, 2011). Rahman & Kim (2016) observed similar effects with the addition of 1% and 2% BCS to diets fed to broilers. The addition of BCS from 2% to 4% also linearly increased LWG of broilers (Durrani *et al.*, 2007). Al-Beitawi & El-Ghousein (2008) and Massuod *et al.* (2014) reported a quadratic effect on LWG with the addition of BCS to diets of broiler chicks, suggesting there may be an optimal level for its use. Increasing the BCS level above 2% of diet DM resulted in a negative effect on LWG (Al-Beitawi & El-Ghousein, 2008; Massuod *et al.*, 2014). jyb and Shewita & Taha (2011) observed that 0.6–1% BCS may have a negative effect on LWG.

Saleh (2014) reported significant improvement in LW and LWG of chicks when they were fed 1 ml/kg DM of BCS oil compared with chicks in an unsupplemented control group. Similarly, when broilers were fed a diet that was supplemented with 0.10–0.15% BCS oil (Attia & Al-Harathi, 2015) and when Japanese quail were a diet that was supplemented with 0.1% BCS oil (Tufan *et al.*, 2015) the LWG of the birds was significantly increased. In the current study, both diets supplemented with BCS oil generally increased LW and LWG. Thus, it is possible to conclude that the addition of BCS oil to the diet at levels up to 1.0% increases the growth performance of broilers. Full-fat BCS may contain components that inhibit feed intake when BCS is added to diets at higher levels. These include alkaloids, saponins, volatile oils and other anti-

nutritional factors (Guler *et al.*, 2006). However, BCS oil increases the energy levels of diets, resulting in improved performance.

Although there were no statistically significant differences among the treatment groups in FC, the feed conversion ratio (FCR) for broilers fed the diet containing 1.0% BCS oil was significantly reduced compared with those in the 0.5% BCS oil and control groups ($P < 0.05$) when the whole experimental period was considered (Table 3). Similar to the results of the current study, the addition of BCS or BCS oil to broiler diets either had no effect or decreased the FC values (Durrani *et al.*, 2007; Attia & Al-Harhi, 2015). However, the addition of BCS oil to broiler diets significantly improved FCR (Erener *et al.*, 2010; Saleh, 2014; Attia & Al-Harhi, 2015). The effect of supplementation with BCS oil on FCR apparently resulted from increased weight of the broilers.

Table 3 Means (\pm SE) for live weight gain, feed consumption and feed conversion ratio for broilers supplemented with various levels of black cumin seed oil

Trait ¹	Age, days	Treatment groups			P-value
		Control	0.5% BCS oil	1% BCS oil	
LWG	0–14	384.63 ^B \pm 5.56	405.94 ^A \pm 6.95	410.53 ^A \pm 5.92	0.008
	15–28	1057.11 \pm 16.04	1080.26 \pm 14.29	1081.92 \pm 14.66	0.429
	29–42	1360.13 ^B \pm 16.87	1416.14 ^A \pm 19.76	1429.78 ^A \pm 15.75	0.014
	0–42	2823.57 ^B \pm 32.77	2936.96 ^A \pm 36.82	2969.44 ^A \pm 25.14	0.004
FC	0–14	564.43 \pm 8.67	580.80 \pm 13.24	589.72 \pm 9.09	0.300
	15–28	1441.98 \pm 37.59	1493.64 \pm 44.15	1466.22 \pm 15.61	0.601
	29–42	2273.63 \pm 10.22	2358.00 \pm 70.74	2210.11 \pm 7.44	0.113
	0–42	4280.04 \pm 55.59	4432.45 \pm 124.41	4266.05 \pm 24.41	0.332
FCR	0–14	1.48 \pm 0.02	1.44 \pm 0.02	1.45 \pm 0.02	0.441
	15–28	1.37 \pm 0.02	1.38 \pm 0.02	1.36 \pm 0.02	0.720
	29–42	1.68 ^A \pm 0.02	1.67 ^A \pm 0.02	1.55 ^B \pm 0.02	0.001
	0–42	1.52 ^A \pm 0.02	1.52 ^A \pm 0.02	1.44 ^B \pm 0.01	0.001

^{A, B} Row means with different superscripts differ significantly at $P < 0.05$

¹ LWG: live weight gain; FC: feed consumption; FCR: feed conversion ratio
BSC: Black cumin seed

The fatty acid profiles of the BCS oil and the diets used in the experiment are presented in Table 4. Vegetable oils generally contain more unsaturated fatty acids (UFAs) than saturated fatty acids (SFAs). According to the current data, BCS oil contains high amounts of oleic (C18:1) and linoleic (C18:2_{n-6}) acids, constituting approximately 85% of the total fatty acids. The other major fatty acid components (about 13%) were palmitic (C16:0) and stearic (C18:0) acids. Thus BCS oil is rich in unsaturated fatty acids, which is deemed desirable for healthy food production.

Nineteen fatty acids that were found in the breast meat of the samples and their proportions are presented in Table 5. Total saturated fatty acid content of the breast samples ranged from 31.35% to 34.04%, whereas total UFA contents of the breast samples ranged from 65.96% to 68.65%. Total SFA levels decreased significantly ($P < 0.05$) but total UFA levels increased significantly ($P < 0.05$) with addition of BCS oil to the broiler diets. Lower levels of saturated fat and trans fatty acids in the diet resulted in improved blood lipid profiles (Minihane & Lovegrove, 2006). Many examples in the literature show that the fatty acid profiles of animal products (meat, eggs, etc.) can be manipulated with various oils and additives to the diet (Suksombat *et al.*, 2006; Bostami *et al.*, 2017; Kanakri *et al.*, 2018; Skřivan *et al.*, 2018). However, only a limited number of such studies used BCS and its oil.

Table 4 Fatty acid profiles of black cumin seed oil and unsupplemented starter, grower and finisher diets fed to broilers in this trial (% total fatty acid).

Fatty acids	Black cumin seed oil	Starter	Grower	Finisher
C12:0, Lauric acid	-	0.02	0.03	0.16
C14:0, Myristic acid	0.11	0.31	0.32	0.23
C15:0, Pentadecanoic acid	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.04
C16:0, Palmitic acid	9.38	16.24	16.60	15.18
C16:1, Palmitoleic acid	0.16	0.06	0.05	0.02
C17:0, Heptadecanoic acid	-	0.20	0.19	0.14
C18:0, Stearic acid	3.75	6.42	6.52	5.08
C18:1, Oleic acid	33.32	25.60	25.03	23.93
C18:2 _(n-6) , Linoleic acid	51.97	45.33	45.48	49.11
C18:3 _(n-3) , α -Linolenic acid	0.10	4.77	4.79	5.19
C20:0, Arachidic acid	0.24	0.32	0.31	0.31
C20:1, Eicosenoic acid	0.19	0.01	0.01	0.01
C20:2 _(n-6) , Eicosadienoic acid	0.76	0.10	0.11	0.08
C20:3 _(n-6) , Eicosatrienoic acid	-	0.26	0.27	0.28
C20:4 _(n-6) , Arachidonic acid	-	0.11	0.02	0.06
C20:5 _(n-3) , Eicosapentaenoic acid	-	0.09	0.10	0.07
C22:6 _(n-3) , Docosahexaenoic acid	-	0.04	0.03	0.04
C24:1, Nervonic acid	-	0.03	0.06	0.04

Saleh (2014) reported significant reductions in total SFA levels and increases in total monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) levels of breast meat fatty acid profiles in chickens that were fed a diet supplemented with 1 ml/kg of BCS oil compared with the control group. Kumar *et al.* (2018) reported similar findings with the addition of BCS to the diet. The results of the current study support the findings of both Saleh (2014) and Kumar *et al.* (2018).

Palmitic (C16:0) and stearic (C18:0) acids were the major SFAs in breast samples, comprising more than 97% of total SFA in the breast. The remaining SFAs were lauric (C12:0), myristic (C14:0), pentadecanoic (C15:0), heptadecanoic (C17:0), and arachidic (C20:0) acids. Total PUFA levels ranged between 38.08 and 42.82% and total MUFA levels ranged from 25.83 to 27.88%, among treatments. The addition of BCS oil to broiler diets significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$) total MUFA levels, but significantly increased total PUFA levels in the breast samples. The most dominant MUFA in all treatment groups was oleic (C18:1) acid, comprising over 90% of total MUFA in breast samples. Among PUFAs, total n-6s ranged from 35.00% to 39.22%, while total n-3s were between 3.08 and 3.60%. Both n-6 and n-3 levels increased with the addition of BCS oil to the broiler diets ($P < 0.05$). Arachidonic (C20:4_{n-6}), EPA (C20:5_{n-3}) and DHA (C22:6_{n-3}) acids, which are considered among the most important PUFAs, were significantly greater in groups supplemented with BCS oil compared with control ($P < 0.05$). However, the n-6/n-3 ratio was similar among treatment groups ($P > 0.05$), ranging from 10.94 to 11.91.

PUFAs such as arachidonic, linoleic and linolenic acid are essential for many living organisms, including human beings. Polyunsaturated fatty acids are components of phospholipids, which are found in cell membranes and serve as precursors to the eicosanoids, which are a group of hormone-like inflammatory mediators (Minihane & Lovegrove, 2006). PUFAs may also have significant beneficial cardiovascular effects (Ander *et al.*, 2003). In addition to health benefits against cardiovascular diseases, n-3 PUFAs, namely EPA and DHA, have a variety of health benefits, including hypotriglyceridemic and anti-inflammatory effects. Studies have also indicated promising anti-ageing, anti-arthritis, anticancer, antidepressant, antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and insulin-sensitizing effects of these fatty acids. Briefly, n-3 PUFAs seemed to have many health benefits that are mediated at least in part by their anti-inflammatory actions. Therefore, the consumption of these fatty acids from dietary sources needs to be encouraged (Siriwardhana *et al.*, 2012). The addition of BCS oil to broiler diets increased the concentration of these fatty acids in the breast samples in the current study. Thus, consumption of such breast meat may improve the health of people.

Table 5. Means (\pm SE) for breast fatty acid profiles of broilers supplemented with different levels of Black cumin seed oil (% total fatty acids)

Fatty acids	Treatment groups			P-value
	Control	0.5% BCS oil	1.0% BCS oil	
C12:0	0.04 \pm 0.01	0.09 \pm 0.03	0.07 \pm 0.01	0.149
C14:0	0.26 ^B \pm 0.01	0.34 ^A \pm 0.01	0.35 ^A \pm 0.01	0.001
C15:0	0.06 ^B \pm 0.01	0.10 ^A \pm 0.01	0.11 ^A \pm 0.01	0.001
C16:0	22.50 ^A \pm 0.22	19.60 ^B \pm 0.30	20.42 ^B \pm 0.48	0.001
C16:1	1.13 \pm 0.12	0.93 \pm 0.07	0.97 \pm 0.10	0.325
C17:0	0.14 ^B \pm 0.01	0.26 ^A \pm 0.01	0.26 ^A \pm 0.01	0.001
C18:0	10.99 \pm 0.14	10.84 \pm 0.30	11.17 \pm 0.54	0.820
C18:1	25.98 ^A \pm 0.37	23.20 ^B \pm 0.38	23.48 ^B \pm 0.88	0.005
C18:2 _(n-6)	31.22 \pm 0.32	33.04 \pm 0.54	32.05 \pm 0.97	0.176
C18:3 _(n-6)	0.11 ^B \pm 0.01	0.18 ^A \pm 0.01	0.17 ^A \pm 0.01	0.002
C18:3 _(n-3)	2.64 ^A \pm 0.14	2.29 ^{AB} \pm 0.12	2.06 ^B \pm 0.16	0.028
C20:0	0.05 ^C \pm 0.01	0.12 ^A \pm 0.01	0.10 ^B \pm 0.01	0.001
C20:1	0.13 ^C \pm 0.01	0.22 ^A \pm 0.01	0.18 ^B \pm 0.01	0.001
C20:2 _(n-6)	0.35 ^B \pm 0.02	0.69 ^A \pm 0.03	0.69 ^A \pm 0.07	0.001
C20:3 _(n-6)	0.21 ^B \pm 0.01	0.42 ^A \pm 0.02	0.40 ^A \pm 0.03	0.001
C20:4 _(n-6)	3.11 ^B \pm 0.23	4.88 ^A \pm 0.28	4.92 ^A \pm 0.66	0.009
C20:5 _(n-3)	0.06 ^B \pm 0.01	0.17 ^A \pm 0.01	0.16 ^A \pm 0.02	0.001
C22:6 _(n-3)	0.38 ^B \pm 0.03	1.13 ^A \pm 0.14	1.01 ^A \pm 0.18	0.001
C24:1	0.64 ^B \pm 0.03	1.48 ^A \pm 0.09	1.46 ^A \pm 0.19	0.001
Total SFA ¹	34.04 ^A \pm 0.24	31.35 ^B \pm 0.57	32.48 ^{AB} \pm 0.98	0.030
Total MUFA ²	27.88 ^A \pm 0.34	25.83 ^B \pm 0.43	26.08 ^B \pm 0.80	0.031
Total PUFA ³	38.08 ^C \pm 0.27	42.82 ^A \pm 0.35	41.44 ^B \pm 0.34	0.001
Total UFA	65.96 ^B \pm 0.24	68.65 ^A \pm 0.57	67.52 ^{AB} \pm 0.98	0.030
SFA/UFA	0.52 ^A \pm 0.01	0.46 ^B \pm 0.01	0.48 ^{AB} \pm 0.02	0.033
Total n-3	3.08 ^B \pm 0.11	3.60 ^A \pm 0.09	3.22 ^B \pm 0.07	0.002
Total n-6	35.00 ^C \pm 0.31	39.22 ^A \pm 0.28	38.22 ^B \pm 0.35	0.001
n-6/n-3	11.54 \pm 0.55	10.94 \pm 0.22	11.91 \pm 0.27	0.205

^{A,B,C} Row means with different superscripts differ significantly at $P < 0.05$

¹Saturated fatty acid (SFA): lauric (C12:0), myristic (C14:0), pentadecanoic (C15:0), palmitic (C16:0), heptadecanoic (C17:0), stearic (C18:0) and arachidic (C20:0) acids

²Monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA): palmitoleic (C16:1), oleic (C18:1), eicosenoic (C20:1) and nervonic (C24:1) acids

³Polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA): linoleic (C18:2n-6), α -linolenic (C18:3n-3), γ -linolenic (C18:3n-6), eicosadienoic (C20:2n-6), eicosatrienoic (C20:3n-6), arachidonic (C20:4n-6), eicosapentaenoic (C20:5n-3) and docosahexaenoic (C22:6n-3) acids

BCS: Black cumin seed

Another important point that was observed in the results of this study was that supplementation with 0.5% BCS oil decreased the n-6/n-3 ratio numerically compared with the 1% BCS oil supplement, although this effect was not statistically significant. Because of the pathway competition between n-6 and n-3 PUFAs for enzyme activity, the ratio of n-6 to n-3 PUFA is important to human health (Ander *et al.*, 2003). By increasing the n-3/n-6 PUFA ratio in the Western diet, the incidence of some chronic inflammatory diseases and obesity may be reduced (Patterson *et al.*, 2012; Simopoulos, 2016). Although the ratio of n-6 to n-3 PUFAs in the typical Western diet is between 8: 1 and 25: 1 (Salem, 1999), recommendations from national health agencies are approximately 4: 1 (Holub, 2002). The n-6 to n-3 PUFA ratios observed here were not

ideal, but were near the lower edge of the typical Western diet. In particular, the supplementation of broiler diets with 0.5% BCS oil appeared to have a positive effect on n-3 fatty acids.

Conclusions

The addition of BCS oil at levels up to 0.5% to the broiler diets created significant differences in live performance and breast fatty acid profiles of chickens. This type of manipulation in diets can lead to a reduction in total SFAs, and simultaneously enrich the body's total UFA and omega fatty acid levels and improve the meat quality of broiler chickens.

Authors' Contributions

MD designed the experiment, conducted the growth trial, collected the samples from the chicks and drafted the manuscript. MAK and YA analysed the samples and interpreted the results of the study. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There are no conflicts of interest.

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