

The effect of *Chromolaena odorata* (Siam weed) on the haematological profile and growth performance of rabbits reared in the tropics

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To evaluate the haematological indices and body weight of rabbits treated with *Chromolaena odorata* leaf meal (COLM), 64 rabbits consisting of 34 males and 30 females of mixed breeds, aged 6-8 weeks and weighing 400 g - 800 g were randomized into four diet groups of 0, 10, 20, and 30% in a completely randomized design for 56 days. Each treatment was replicated four times. Samples of blood were collected weekly from the ear vein for haematological studies and the growth study was determined using a weighing scale. Among all the haematological parameters evaluated in this study, red blood cell counts (RBC), white blood cell counts (WBC), platelets and lymphocytes showed significant ($P<0.05$) difference. A progressive increase in the RBC and lymphocyte values were obtained up to the 10% COLM treatment group and thereafter a significant ($P<0.05$) decline was observed at higher inclusion rate. The numerical values of hemoglobin and packed cell volume which correlates with RBC also showed an initial increase up to 10% followed by a decrease at higher COLM rate. WBC counts were significantly

($P<0.05$) lower in rabbits fed with COLM than in the control. As the inclusion level of COLM increases, results of platelets showed a decreasing significant ($P<0.05$) difference. All growth parameters studied showed a decreasing significant ($P<0.05$) difference following higher COLM rate. These results revealed that COLM significantly decreased the growth and feed intake of rabbits but with an enhanced haematological traits at 10% inclusion level.

Speaker Biography

Imasuen J A had his education in Nigeria and Israel. His major area is Animal Physiology and Reproduction. To his credit he has over 30 academic articles published in both local and international journals. He is currently an Associate Professor in University of Benin, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science in Nigeria, West of Africa. His main objective is to contribute to the development of the livestock sub-sector of the economy, assist in the production of animal protein and associated products. As well as create awareness about the environment and help in the overall improvement of the standard of living of people and development of Nigeria through local and international collaborative research, teaching and community development.

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