

EFFECT OF REPLACING YELLOW CORN VIA CORN BY-PRODUCT IN TILAPIA FINGERLINGS DIET.

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SUMMARY

An in-door feeding trial was conducted for 16 weeks on Nile tilapia fingerlings (initial bodyweight 12.0-12.5g), in which corn was gradually replaced by corn by-product ("karataih" manufacture waste) at 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100% replacement levels. The results confirmed the superiority ($P \leq 0.05$) of the diet included 100% replacement than the control in either of final bodyweight, average bodyweight gain, average daily bodyweight gain, relative growth rate, specific growth rate, feed intake, protein intake, protein productive value, and crude protein content of the fish body.

Keywords: tilapia; corn by-product; growth performance; feed utilization; body composition.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial aqua feed is increasingly demand for the worldwide outspread fish culture. Since almost every second fish eaten comes from an aquaculture farm, i.e. nearly half of all fish eaten today is farmed, not caught (FAO, 2006). Locally also, tilapia culture in River Nile Delta governorates, particularly Kafr El-Sheikh was improved totally and positively affected from the view points of social and economic issues (Radwan, 2009). Many carbohydrates containing agro-industrial by-products were evaluated as unconventional feedstuffs for various animal species (Abdelhamid, 1988, 1992; Abdelhamid, and El-Ayoty, 1988; El-Sherif *et al.*, 2008; Omer and Tawila, 2008a & b; Tawila *et al.*, 2008; Abdelhamid *et al.*, 2009a & b; Etman *et al.*, 2010; Gabr *et al.*, 2010; and Omer *et al.*, 2010). The aim of this study was to attempt replacing yellow corn by corn by-product meal in tilapia diets.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Feeding experiment was conducted to evaluate corn by-product instead of dietary yellow corn concerning growth performance, carcass and muscles composition and feed utilization of Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*, fingerlings for 16 weeks. The experimental system consisted of 10 glass aquaria (60×35×40cm), each aquarium was continuously supplied with a compressed air from an electric compressor (Shenzehe Company BS410). Dechlorinated tap water was used to change one third of the water in each aquarium every day. Water was aerated before be used for about 24 hours to remove chlorine.

Experimental Fish:

A group of Nile tilapia *O. niloticus* with an average initial body weigh of (12 – 12.5 g) were obtained from the stock of earthen ponds (from a farm at AL Hamoul, Kafr El-Sheikh governorate) and transported to the aquaria located in the fish laboratory of Al Hamoul, Kafr El-Sheikh governorate. Fish were maintained in these aquaria for 2 weeks before the beginning of the experiment for acclimatization purpose. The fish were fed during the acclimatization period on a basal diet (25% crude protein) at a rate of 3% of the body weight

daily, at 2 times daily. The experimental treatments were tested at two aquaria (replicates) for each. Fish were stocked at a density of 5 fish / aquarium.

Experimental Diet:

Partial or complete replacement of yellow corn (0, 25, 50, 75, and 100%) by corn by-product meal in Nile tilapia fish diets was carried out to investigate its effect on water quality parameters, growth performance, and feed and nutrients utilization. All feedstuffs used in the experimental diets (including corn by-product "karataih" manufacture waste) were purchased from Al-Iman Factory, Al-Hamoul, Kafr El-Sheikh governorate. Diets were formulated by hand mixing the ground ingredients with little water through meat mincer to pellets (3 mm), then air dried. The basal diet No.1 was considered as a control. Composition of the experimental diets is presented in Table (1). The composition of the vitamins and minerals mixture is Vitamins: A 5.714.286 IU, D3 85.714 IU, E 7.143 mg, K3 1.429 mg, B1 571 mg, B2 343 mg, B6 571 mg, B12 7.143 µg, C 857 µg, Biotin 2.857 mg, Folic acid 86 mg, Pantothenic acid 1.143 mg, Minerals: Phosphorus 28.571 mg, Manganese 68.571 mg, Zinc 51.429 mg, Iron 34.286 mg, Copper 5.714 mg, Cobalt 229 mg, Selenium 286 mg, Iodine 114 mg, Inert essential agent: Starch 57 g, Natural H. 29 g, and CaCO₃ up to 1000 g.

Table (1): Composition (%) and chemical analysis (% dry matter bases) of the experimental diets.

Ingredients	Treatment (diet) No. 1	Treatment (diet) No.2	Treatment (diet) No. 3	Treatment (diet) No.4	Treatment (diet) No.5
	Corn by-product Control (0%)	Corn by-product (25%)	Corn by-product (50%)	Corn by-product (75%)	Corn by-product (100%)
Fish meal	60	60	60	60	60
Soybean meal	410	410	410	410	410
Corn by -product	0	75	150	225	300
Yellow corn	300	225	150	75	0
Wheat bran	80	80	80	80	80
Rice bran	100	100	100	100	100
Sunflower oil	30	30	30	30	30
Vitamins & minerals	20	20	20	20	20
<i>Chemical analysis:</i>					
Dry matter (DM)	89.25	90.01	88.96	89.86	89.79
Crude protein (CP)	25.43	25.12	24.88	25.27	25.03
Ether extract (EE)	4.18	4.25	4.63	4.56	4.82
Ash	4.96	4.46	4.65	4.81	4.66
Crude fiber (CF)	6.36	6.39	6.47	6.88	6.72
Nitrogen free extract (NFE)	59.07	59.78	95.37	58.48	58.77
Gross energy (GE)* (kcal/100 g DM)	433.01	429.46	428.22	429.46	426.69
Protein/energy (P/E) ratio (mg CP/kcal GE)	58.72	58.49	58.10	58.84	58.66
Metabolically energy (ME)** (kcal/100g)	360.75	357.79	355.28	356.76	355.47

*GE (kcal/100 g DM) = CP x 5.64 + EE x 9.44 + NFE x 4.11 calculated according to (Macdonald et al., 1973).

**ME (kcal/100g DM) = metabolically energy was calculated by using factors 3.49, 8.1 and 4.5 kcal/g for carbohydrates, fat and protein, respectively according to Pantha (1982).

Experimental Procedure:

During the experimental period, fish were fed the experimental diets at a rate of 3% of the live body weight daily. The diet was introduced twice daily, at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. The amount of food was adjusted

weekly based on the actual body weight changes. Light was controlled by a timer to provide a 14 hrs light: 10 hrs dark as a daily photoperiod. The experimental design was T₁: Control (0% replacement) 100% yellow corn, T₂: 25% corn by product meal 75% yellow corn., T₃: 50% corn by product meal 50% yellow corn, T₄: 75% corn by product meal, 25% yellow corn. T₅: 100% corn by product meal 0% yellow corn. respectively.

Water Quality Analysis:

Samples of water from each aquarium were taken to determine daily the water temperature (using a thermometer) and pH value (using Jenway Ltd, model 350-pH meter) and weekly for dissolved oxygen concentrations (using an oxygen meter model. d-5509) according to Abdelhamed (1996).

Chemical Analysis of the Experimental Ingredients, Diets, and Fish:

Determination of DM, CP, EE, (CF) and ash in the dietary ingredients, diets and in fish body at the start and at the end of the experiment for different groups was carried out according to the methods of A.O.A.C. (1990). At the end of the experiment, three fish were derived from each group (aquarium) for drying at 60°C for 48 hours and then milled through electrical mill and kept at 40C until analysis. Chemical analysis was carried out at Animal Production Department lab of the National Research Center, Egypt.

Growth Performance and Efficiency of Feed and Protein Utilization:

The growth performance and feed utilization parameters were calculated according to the following equations:

- Average weight gain (AWG, g/fish) = Average final weight (g)-Average initial weight (g).
- Average daily gain (ADG, g/fish) = Average final weight (g)-Average initial weight (g)/ Time (days).
- Survival rate (SR %) = Total number of fish at the end of the experiment×100/total number of fish at the start of the experiment.
- Relative growth rate (RGR) = Average weight gain (g) / Average initial weight (g).
- Specific growth rate (SGR, % / day) = 100 [ln wt1- ln wto/T]
- Where: ln: Natural log., Wto: Initial weight (g), Wt1: Final weight (g), T: Time in days.
- Feed conversion ratio (FCR) = Total feed consumption (g) /Weight gain (g).
- Protein efficiency ratio (PER) = Body weight gain (g)/protein intake (g).
- Protein productive value (PPV %) = 100 [Retained protein (g)/protein intake (g)].
- Energy retention (ER %) = 100 [Retained energy (Kcal) / Energy intake (Kcal)].

Statistical Analysis:

The data were statistically analyzed by using general linear models procedure adapted by SAS (1996) for users guide. Means were separated using Duncan's multiple range test (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical Composition of the Experimental Diets:

The experimental diets (Table 1) were isonitrogenous (25% CP) and isocaloric (430 kcal/100g and 59 mg CP/kcal GE as P/E ratio). Yet, corn by-product meal contained less (about third) crude protein (CP) and nitrogen free extract (NFE, about 20%) but very higher (ca. 60%) ash (because of its high inclusion level of Ca CO₃ as 75% of the corn by-product meal, as given by the producer) contents than yellow corn (Table 2).

Physico – Chemical Parameters of Water Quality:

The ranges of the tested water criteria (Table 3) were generally within the normal ranges (25.6 – 26.4 °C, 7.10 – 7.75 pH, and 5.98 – 6.10 mg /l DO). Since, Abd El-Hakeim et al. (2002) cited the suitable values of

water quality parameters for pisciculture as > 5 mg / l DO, and pH 6.7 – 8.6. Also, Abdelhamid (2003) cited the water quality criteria which are suitable for aquaculture in fresh water as pH 6.5 – 9.0, and DO > 5 mg / l.

Table (2): Chemical analysis of yellow corn and corn by-product meal (%dry matter basis).

Item	Yellow corn	Corn by-product meal
DM	87.4	95.22
CP	8.90	3.19
CF	2.20	2.46
EE	4.10	3.41
NFE	83.5	15.15
Ash	1.30	75.78

Table (3): Ranges of some important measured physico-chemical parameters of water quality.

Parameters	Treatments				
	Control Corn by-product (0%) (T ₁)	Corn by-product (25%) (T ₂)	Corn by-product (50%) (T ₃)	Corn by-product (75%) (T ₄)	Corn by-product (100%) (T ₅)
Temperature, °C	26.1-26.4	25.6-25.7	25.6-25.7	25.6-25.6	25.6-25.7
The pH value	7.45-7.45	7.46-7.54	7.38-7.34	7.10-7.26	7.20-7.75
DO, mg/l	5.98-5.97	6.05-6.05	6.05-6.10	6.05-6.06	6.05-6.05

Fish Growth Performance:

Table 4 shows that there were non significant ($P>0.05$) differences among initial bodyweights (IBW) due to treatments: yet, T₅ (100% replacement) gave significantly ($P\leq 0.05$) the best final bodyweight (FBW), average bodyweight gain (AWG), and average daily bodyweight gain comparing with the control (T₁, 0% replacement). Table 5 also illustrates no significant ($P>0.05$) differences among survival rate (SR) of fish fed different experimental diets, although the superiority ($P\leq 0.05$) of T₅ in relative growth rate (RGR) and specific growth rate (SGR) comparing with the control.

Table (4): Effect of dietary treatments on growth performance parameters of Nile tilapia.

Treatments (No.)	IBW, g / fish	FBW, g / fish	AWG, g / fish	ADG, g / fish/day
Control, Corn by-product (0%) (T ₁)	12.00±0.00 ^a	25.80±0.42 ^{ab}	13.80±0.42 ^{ab}	0.11±0.00 ^{ab}
Corn by-product (25%) (T ₂)	12.00±0.00 ^a	24.00±1.55 ^b	12.00±1.55 ^b	0.10±0.01 ^b
Corn by-product (50%) (T ₃)	12.20±0.00 ^a	23.90±0.21 ^b	11.70±0.21 ^b	0.10±0.00 ^b
Corn by-product (75%) (T ₄)	12.00±0.00 ^a	25.30±0.63 ^{ab}	13.30±0.63 ^{ab}	0.11±0.00 ^{ab}
Corn by-product (100%) (T ₅)	12.20±0.00 ^a	29.10±0.35 ^a	16.90±0.35 ^a	0.14±0.00 ^a

a-b: Means in the same column superscripted with different letters significantly ($P\leq 0.05$) differ.

Abou Khalifa (2009) mentioned that recycling waste is very important to provide feed for animals and fish. It is very important to provide feed, low-cost and high-value of food. Manufacturing of feed from industrial-plant waste is the key to eliminate pollution from the environment. The process of manufacturing of animal and fish feed and fertilizer from recycling waste is the most important factors for operation of

unemployment reduction. So, Eleraky *et al.* (2009) revealed that milling by-products and wheat past by-products can be used as corn replacer with enzymes supplementation in fish diets.

Table (5): Effect of dietary treatments on growth rates and survival rate by Nile tilapia.

Treatments (No.)	RGR	SGR, %/d	SR%
Control, Corn by- product (0%) (T ₁)	1.15±0.03 ^{ab}	0.68±0.01 ^{ab}	100.00±0.00 ^a
Corn by -product (25%) (T ₂)	0.99±0.13 ^b	0.61±0.05 ^b	100.00±0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (50%) (T ₃)	0.95±0.01 ^b	0.59±0.00 ^b	100.00±0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (75%) (T ₄)	1.06±0.02 ^{ab}	0.66±0.02 ^{ab}	100.00±0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (100%) (T ₅)	1.38±0.02 ^a	0.76±0.01 ^a	100.00±0.00 ^a

a-b: Means in the same column superscripted with different letters significantly (P≤0.05) differ

Tilapia zilli and *Mugil capito* fed the diet containing 45% dried restaurant food waste had the heaviest body weight, the longest standard length and the best feed conversion ratio than the other diets (Eissa *et al.*, 1985). Moreover, Magouz (1996) concluded that there were no significant differences in average weight gain, specific growth rate, feed conversion ratio, protein efficiency ratio, protein productive value, energy retention and body composition when Nile tilapia were fed diet containing 10% sugar beet pulp comparing with the control. Additionally, El-Saidy and Magdy (1999) evaluated different sources of carbohydrates (corn meal, wheat bran, starch, date palm and akalona) in tilapia diets. They found that the source of carbohydrate in the diet significantly affect the crude protein, fat and energy digestibility coefficients. They suggested that wheat bran or corn meal at the 28.5% level of the diet can efficiently be utilized as energy source in ration for Nile tilapia diets, wheat bran being the best. Also, Soltan (2002) used potato by-product as non-conventional ingredient in Nile tilapia diets and reported that it could replace yellow corn by potato by-product up to 40% without adverse effects but even reduces feed costs by 7.53%.

Feed and Nutrients Utilizations:

Table 6 shows that there were non significant (P>0.05) differences among treatments in feed conversion ratio (FCR) nor in protein efficiency ratio (PER). Yet, there were significant (P≤0.05) differences among treatments in feed intake (FI), protein intake (PI), and protein productive value (PPV) in favor of T5 comparing with the control.

Table (6): Means ± standard errors of feed intake, feed conversion ratio, protein intake, protein productive value, and protein efficiency ratio of the tested Nile tilapia fingerlings as affected by dietary treatments.

Treatments (No.)	Feed Intake, g/fish	FCR	Protein Intake, g/fish	PPV, %	PER
Control Corn by- product (0%) (T ₁)	46.64±1.54 ^{ab}	3.37 ± 0.01 ^a	11.85 ± 0.39 ^{ab}	11.84 ± 0.00 ^{ab}	1.16 ± 0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (25%) (T ₂)	44.35 ± 1.57 ^b	3.78 ± 0.35 ^a	11.14 ± 0.39 ^{ab}	10.92 ± 1.03 ^b	1.06 ± 0.10 ^a
Corn by- product (50%) (T ₃)	43.90 ± 0.11 ^b	3.75 ± 0.05 ^a	10.92 ± 0.02 ^b	10.89 ± 0.16 ^b	1.06 ± 0.01 ^a
Corn by- product (75%) (T ₄)	44.89 ± 0.73 ^{ab}	3.38 ± 0.10 ^a	11.34 ± 0.18 ^{ab}	11.93 ± 0.39 ^{ab}	1.16 ± 0.03 ^a
Corn by- product (100%) (T ₅)	50.03 ± 0.27 ^a	2.95 ± 0.04 ^a	12.52 ± 0.07 ^a	13.73 ± 0.20 ^a	1.32 ± 0.03 ^a

a-b: Means in the same column superscripted with different letters significantly (P≤0.05) differ

Srouf *et al.* (2002) came to the conclusion that the inclusion of 25% dried dropping dates meal instead of yellow corn meal in diets of tilapia and catfish did not negatively affect fish growth performance nor feed and nutrients utilization as compared with the control, but even reduces the cost of feed required for production of one kg fish gain. El-Komy (2006) recommended the usage of either potato processing by-product (PPB) or broken rice meal (BRM) as unconventional feedstuffs in tilapia diets up to 40 and 60%, respectively as sources of energy instead of yellow corn. He found BRM was superior than PPB as alternative energy source.

These unconventional feed resources can play an important role in reducing feed costs in intensive fish culture, particularly under conditions of fluctuations present in prices of feedstuffs in the local and world markets, especially after using various organic matters including foods and feeding stuffs for producing bio-fuel worldwide. Khalafalla and Salem (2006) replaced up to 20% of yellow corn energy by olive cake without harmful effect on the tilapia growth performance and feed utilization.

Chemical Analysis of Nile Tilapia Fingerlings:

At the start, on fresh weight basis, DM was 79.06, CP 11.86, fat 4.56, ash 3.53, and NFE 0.99 %. But at the end of the experiment, DM was generally lower and CP higher. There were no significant ($P>0.05$) differences among treatments in DM and energy contents, but there were significant ($P\leq 0.05$) differences among treatments in CP, fat, and ash percentages. Where all treatments were significantly higher in CP but T5 was lower in fat and ash percentages (Table 7).

Generally, there is a negative relationship between crude proteins and crude fats in chemical composition of Nile tilapia fish on one hand (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 1995a&b, 1997, 1998a&b, 2002a & b, 2007b & c and El-Ebiary and Zaki, 2003) and a positive correlation between crude protein and crude ash contents of Nile tilapia fish, on the other hand (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 1995a&b, 1997, 1998a&b and 2007a). A negative relationship was noticed between CP and EE contents of fish body but a positive relationship between CP and ash contents was recorded too (Abdelhamid *et al.*, 1995a&b; 1999; 2000; and El-Saidy and Gaber, 2002). Eid (1995), Kobeisy and Hussein (1995), Gaber (1996), El-Saidy and Gaber (1998 & 2002) and El-Saidy *et al.* (1999) found that there was a positive correlation between crude protein and fat contents of the fish, but Abdelhamid *et al.* (1995b, 1998a&b, 1999, 2001, 2002a&b, 2004 and 2005a&b), Goda (2002), Magouz *et al.* (2002-a & b) and El-Ebiary and Zaki (2003) found a negative correlation between protein and fat contents of the fish. However, El-Ebiary *et al.* (2001) suggested that up to 40% of fish meal protein can be replaced with corn gluten meal in diet of sea bass fry without adverse effects on whole body composition.

Table (7): Means (\pm SE) of chemical composition (% fresh matter bases) of Nile tilapia carcass as affected by the dietary treatments.

Treatment (No.)	DM	CP	Fat	Ash	EC, kcal /100g
Control Corn by- product (0%) (T ₁)	78.80 \pm 0.05 ^a	12.96 \pm 0.03 ^b	4.66 \pm 0.01 ^a	3.63 \pm 0.05 ^a	117.00 \pm 0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (25%) (T ₂)	78.56 \pm 0.13 ^a	14.33 \pm 0.05 ^a	4.63 \pm 0.07 ^a	3.23 \pm 0.05 ^{ab}	125.00 \pm 0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (50%) (T ₃)	78.43 \pm 0.13 ^a	14.16 \pm 0.10 ^a	4.60 \pm 0.03 ^a	3.40 \pm 0.12 ^{ab}	124.00 \pm 0.00 ^a
Corn by- product (75%) (T ₄)	78.63 \pm 0.07 ^a	14.30 \pm 0.20 ^a	4.36 \pm 0.09 ^{ab}	4.73 \pm 0.15 ^a	127.50 \pm 3.18 ^a
Corn by- product (100%) (T ₅)	78.86 \pm 0.08 ^a	14.76 \pm 0.05 ^a	4.13 \pm 0.01 ^b	3.06 \pm 0.01 ^b	127.50 \pm 3.18 ^a

a-b: Means (in the same column) superscripted with different letters significantly ($P\leq 0.05$) differ.

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تأثير إحتلال مخلف الذرة محل الذرة فى عبققة اصباغيات البلطى.

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فى تجربة تغذية معملية، تم اختبار إمكانية إحتلال (بنسب صفر، 25، 50، 75، و100%) مخلفات مصانع الكاراتيه (مخلفات ذرة) محل الذرة فى علائق اصباغيات أسماك البلطى النيلى (وزن أولى 12.0-12.5 جم) لمدة 16 أسبوعا. أظهرت النتائج تفوق الطبقة الخامسة (نسبة إحتلال 100%) معنويا فى كل من وزن الأسماك النهائى، الزيادة فى وزن الجسم، الزيادة اليومية فى وزن الجسم، معدل النمو النوعى والنسبى، استهلاك العلف والبروتين، القيمة الإنتاجية للبروتين، وكذا بروتين جسم الأسماك مقارنة بالكونترول.