

**EFFECT OF ULTRAVIOLET EXPOSURE ON PRODUCTIVE,
REPRODUCTIVE, PHYSIOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE AND
IMMUNE RESPONSE OF LAYING HENS**

By

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the current study was to elucidate the role of Ultraviolet (UVA) light with wavelength up to (368 nm) in improving the productive performance and physiological status of two developed strains of chickens. A total number of 165 birds (150 female + 15 male) from each of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains were used in the study. The experimental period was from 20 to 40 weeks of age. All birds were weighed and randomly distributed into five treatments with three replicates per treatment (10 females and 1 male / replicate) with almost similar initial average body weight. During the experimental period, birds were fed ad libitum a commercial layer diet. Experimental groups were exposed to natural day light which is recommended in the farm, for lighting program as follows: The first group (control group) was exposed to normal day light only, while the second, third, fourth and fifth groups were exposed to 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours/day respectively to UV light from UV lamps after sunset. Birds reared up under similar condition.

Results indicated that live body weight (LBW), feed conversion ratio (FCR), egg production, egg mass, egg quality traits (external and internal), some blood components, immune responses to sheep red blood cells and litter microbial count were significantly improved ($P \leq 0.05$) by supplemental exposure of birds to UVA lamps for 2-3 hours daily.

It could be concluded that interaction between strains and artificial source of UVA light by UV lamps was (2-3 hours/day) for both silver Montazah and Matrouh developed local strain of chickens.

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Keywords: UVA, Ultraviolet lamps, Laying hens, light program, Productive performance and Litter microbial count.

CONTENTS

	Title	page
	LIST OF TABLES	V
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6
	2.1. Light in Poultry Production	6
	2.2. Productive Performance	7
	2.2.1 Effect of Light Source on:	
	2.2.1.1. Production and Behavior	7
	2.2.1.2. Egg Production	8
	2.2.1.3. Feed Consumption	8
	2.2.1.4. Feed Conversion Ratio	8
	2.2.1.5. Body Weight	8
	2.3. Reproductive Performance	9
	2.3.1. The Egg and Eggshell	9
	2.3.2. Fertility	10
	2.3.3. Incubation and Hatching	11
	2.4. Physiological Parameters	11
	2.5. Immunology	17
	2.6. Litter traits	23
3.	MATERIALS AND METHODS	24
	1. Experimental procedures	24
	1.1. Experimental birds	24
	1.2. Experimental design	24
	1.3. Management and housing	25
	2. Measurements	25
	2.1. Productive Performance	25
	2.2. Egg production traits	26
	2.3. Egg quality traits	26
	2.4. Blood Sample collection and analytical procedures	28
	2.4.1. Hematological parameters	29
	2.5. Humoral Immune responses	30

2.6. Litter traits	30
2.6.1 Microbiological analysis	30
3. Statistical analysis	31
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	32
4.1. Productive performance	32
4.1.1. Live body weight	32
4.1.1.1. Effect of strain	32
4.1.1.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	32
4.1.1.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	33
4.1.2. Feed consumption	34
4.1.2.1. Effect of strain	34
4.1.2.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	34
4.1.2.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	34
4.1.3. Feed conversion ratio	38
4.1.3.1. Effect of strain	38
4.1.3.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	38
4.1.3.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	38
4.1.4. Egg number	39
4.1.4.1. Effect of strain	39
4.1.4.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	39
4.1.4.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	40
4.1.5. Egg weight	41
4.1.5.1 Effect of strain	41
4.1.5.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	42
4.1.5.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	44
4.1.6. Egg mass	44
4.1.6.1 Effect of strain	44

III

4.1.6.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	45
4.1.6.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	46
4.1.7. Egg production number (%)	46
4.1.7.1. Effect of strain	46
4.1.7.2. Effect of Ultraviolet (UV) exposure time	47
4.1.7.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	48
4.1.8 Egg quality	48
4.1.8.1. External egg quality	49
4.1.8.1.1. Effect of strain	49
4.1.8.1.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	50
4.1.8.1.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	51
4.1.8.2. Internal egg quality	53
4.1.8.2.1. Effect of strain	53
4.1.8.2.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	56
4.1.8.2.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	57
4.2. Physiological performance	61
4.2.1. Blood plasma constituents	61
4.2.1.1. Effect of strain	61
4.2.1.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	62
4.2.1.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	63
4.3. Immune responses	66
4.3.1. Hematological parameters	66
4.3.1.1. Effect of strain	66
4.3.1.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	66
4.3.1.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	67
4.3.2. Sheep Red Blood Cells	69

IV

4.3.2.1. Effect of strain	70
4.3.2.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	70
4.3.2.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	70
4.3.3. Newcastle Disease antibody	71
4.3.3.1. Effect of strain	71
4.3.3.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	71
4.3.3.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	72
4.4. Litter Traits	72
4.4.1. Effect of strain	72
4.4.2. Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time	72
4.4.3. Effect of interaction between Strain and Ultraviolet exposure time	73
5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	75
6. REFERENCES	80

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
1	Live Body Weight (g) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time (hr./day) during different experimental periods.	36
2	Feed consumption (g/hen/day) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	37
3	Feed conversion ratio (g feed/g egg) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	40
4	Egg number (hen/period) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet Exposure Time during different experimental periods.	43
5	Egg weight (g/hen) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	45
6	Egg mass (g) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental period.	47
7	Egg production number (%) of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	49
8	External egg quality of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	54
9	Internal egg quality of Silver Montazah and Matrouh layers as affected by Ultraviolet exposure time during different experimental periods.	59

10	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on plasma calcium and phosphorus of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	64
11	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on plasma Protein of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	64
12	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on some plasma hormones of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	65
13	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on Transaminases activity, Uric acid and Creatine levels of silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	65
14	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on Hemoglobin concentration, red blood cells count and packed cell volume of silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	68
15	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on White blood cells differential count of silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	69
16	Effect of Ultraviolet exposure time on Immune responses of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains.	71
17	Litter analysis of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains as affected by Ultraviolet Exposure Time at 40 weeks of ages.	74
18	Litter bacterial count of Silver Montazah and Matrouh strains as affected by Ultraviolet Exposure Time at 40 weeks of ages.	74