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PHYSIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES ON THE SKELETAL MUSCLES OF JAPANESE QUAIL

BY

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B.Sc. Agric., (Poultry Production) Ain Shams Univ., 1987 M.Sc. Agric., (Poultry Physiology) Ain Shams Univ., 1993

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ABSTRACT

Ishrak Abd El-Raouf El-Sayed Shata, Physiological and Biochemical Studies on the Skeletal Muscles of Japanese Quail, Unpublished Doctor of Philosophy Dissertation, Dept. of Poultry Production, Faculty of Agric., Ain Shams Univ., (2001).

Japanese quail was selected for high (H) and low (L) live body weight at 4-wk of age through three generations (Go, G1, and G₂). Live body measurements: body depth (BD), body width (BWI), keel length (KL), shank length (SL), body circumference (BC), leg circumference (LC) and shank circumference (SC) were determined. At 6-wk of age, body weight (BW), slaughter traits and carcass composition were estimated. Weight and dimensions of breast muscles (pectoralis) and drumstick muscle (peroneus longus) were estimated. The correlation coefficients between live body weight at 4 and 6-wk of age and all variables by generation, line and sex were determined. Examination of histological sections of m. pectoralis and m. peroneus longus at 6-wk of age were done, and number of nuclei per field were counted. The level of some total proteins (STP), creatine constituents: serum phosphokinase (CPK) and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) enzymes, and triiodothyronine (T₃) hormone were determined. The correlation coefficients between live BW at 4 and 6-wk and blood serum constituents at 6-wk of age by generation, line and sex were estimated. Results obtained that mean live body measurements of all traits except SL and SC exhibited significant (P<0.01) differences between generations and lines. Mean BWI for females was significantly higher than that of males. While males showed significant increase in LC and SC than those of females.

Although mean percentage carcass weight was similar in female and male, the absolute carcass muscle weight increased in male than female. Muscle bone ratio was significantly (P<0.01) increased in Go, H-line and males. Total carcass muscle weight increased significantly (P<0.01) in G₀, G₂ and H-line. Edible offal weight increased significantly in G2 and H-line. In edible offal increased in G₀, H-line, and females. The m. pectoralis and m. peroneus longus weight, area, width and length increased significantly (P<0.01) in H-line and the two muscles lengths in females were significantly higher than males. Means of nuclei number per field microscope in m. pectoralis and m. peroneus longus increased slightly in control and H-line. The muscle fibers of m. pectorals were more compact and dense than m. peroneus longus. The increase in BW was associated with increase in STP. LDH and T₃, and decrease in CPK. There were highly correlation coefficients for muscle traits and various body measurements. These results indicated that selection for high line BW at 4-wk of age resulted in increase in body weight at 6-wk of age. The use of body measurements, carcass composition and blood constituents support the use of these parameters as indices in a well planed selection, which could result in an improvement in later generations.

Key words: Japanese quail, carcass composition, skeletal muscle, histology, serum total protein, CPK, LDH, T₃.

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