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Milk productivity and hematological parameters of cows while feeding them premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay

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SUMMARY

Using of premix «Biolekks» (14g/h) in combination with bentonite clay (300 g/h) in cows feeding ration has a positive effect on milk productivity, its chemical composition and hematological parameters. It is defined that milk yield increased by 9.2 % (P 0,999), outcome of

9.2 % (P>0,999),
 21,5 (P>0,999),
 11.5 % (P>0,999).

milk fat by 21,5 (P 0,999), milk protein by 11.5 % (P 0,999).

Key words: premix «Biolekks», bentonite clay, cows, milk yield, feeding ration, mass fraction of fat, mass fraction of protein

INTRODUCTION

In production of wholesome ration is necessary to use non-traditional raw materials especially of local origin. The experience gained in Russia as well as in other countries confirms a high efficiency of implementing natural mineral recourses in ration of farm cattle. (Karmatskikh, 2009).

(Karmatskikh, 2009).

creep feed

As a source of minerals along with the traditional creep feed in animal breeding it is recommended to use natural minerals, such as bentonites. In addition to their rich mineral composition, they have good sorption characteristics (Yarmots, 2014).

(Yarmots, 2014).

The husk of Korean pinecones contains triterpenoid saponins, tannins catechin number, phospholipids, phytosterols, fatty acids, including linoleic, oleic, palmitic, and macro - and micro nutrients (Prihodko, 2004).

(Prihodko, 2004).

Premix «Biolekks» includes shredded husk of Korea pinecones from which harmful pine pitch is removed. However a great amount of balanced mineral

(Golubkov, Shishlenin, Krivonosov, 2014).

- natural and vital ingredients are saved in (Golubkov, Shishlenin, Krivonosov, 2014).

- The purpose of investigation is studying milk productivity and hematological parameters of cows while feeding premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The research has been held on cows of black and motley breed in breeding Farm «Taezhny» Ltd, In Sukhobuzimsky region of Krasnoyarsk krai.

- The premix «Biolekks» is produced in Khabarovsk, Science and production Association (SPA) «Biolekks». It consists of the extract of the husk of cones of the Korean pine, wheat flour, minerals (sulfate iron, zinc sulfate, manganese sulfate, sodium Selenite, potassium iodide, cobalt chloride), fat soluble vitamins (A, D₃, E, K) water soluble vitamins (C, B₁, B₂, B₃, B₄, B₅, B₆, B₁₂, BC, N), amino acids (methionine and lysine).

- Bentonite clay is mined in Khakass Republic. Safety of use is confirmed with the certificate of conformity of quality management system GOST R ISO 9001-2001.

GOST

R ISO 9001-2001.

- The scheme of experiment is presented in the Table 1.

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Table 1. The scheme of experiment feeding bentonite clay and premix «Biolekks»

/Group	Quantity/head	Duration of experiment/days	/Feeding schedule
Testing group	20	100	25 kg, - 5 ltr, - 0,5 kg, - 3,5 kg, - 2,6 kg, Basic Ration (BR): Medick heylage – 25 kg, grain molasses – 5 ltr, wheat straw – 0,5 kg, barley – 3,5 kg, oats - 2,6 kg, wheat middling – 2,6 kg
1	-	20	+ " " 14 g/ BR+ premix «Biolekks» 14g/head
1 st experimental	-	20	+ " " 14 g/ + 300 g/ / BR+ premix «Biolekks» 14g/head + bentonite 300g/head
2	-	20	+ " " 14 g/ + 300 g/ / BR+ premix «Biolekks» 14g/head + bentonite 300g/head
2 nd experimental	-	20	+ " " 14 g/ + 300 g/ / BR+ premix «Biolekks» 14g/head + bentonite 300g/head

(14g/ (300 g/) + /24-)

To the basic ration was added premix «Biolekks» for the cows of the first experimental group (14 g/head/24-hours) and premix «Biolekss» (14g/head) + bentonite clay (300 g/head/24-hours) for the cows of the second experimental group.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Milk productivity of cows is considered as main criteria of balanced diet. The results of milk productivity of experimental cows under the influence of premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay are presented in the Table 2.

For the first hundred days lactation period the cows of the first and the second experimental groups had higher milk-yield compare to the same parameters of testing group correspondingly to 4,3 (0,999) and 9,2 %

(0,999) 9,2 % (0,999), (0,999), milk fat– by 13,5
 – 13,5 (0,999) (0,999) and 21,5 %
 21,5 % (0,999), (0,999),milk protein by 7,4
 7,4 (0,999) 11,5 % (0,999) and 11,5 % (0,999).
 (0,999).

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Table 2. Milk productivity of cows while feeding them premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay

Indicator	/ Group		
	1 testing	2 1 st experimental	3 2 nd experimental
Milk-yield for 100 days of lactation, kg	2288,05±11,21	2386,85±19,09***	2497,45±28,81***
Average daily yield, kg	22,2±0,21	23,17±0,24**	24,25±0,27***
Mass fraction of fat,%	3,54±0,08	3,83±0,08 ⁺	3,91±0,07**
Mass fraction of fat per 24-hours, kg	0,90±0,04	1,01±0,04 ⁺	1,09±0,04**
Milk fat, kg	82,93±0,56	94,12±0,97***	100,80±0,71***
Mass fraction of protein, %	2,91±0,01	2,98±0,02**	2,95±0,02
Mass fraction of protein per 24-hours, kg	0,74±0,04	0,78±0,04	0,82±0,04
Milk protein, kg	68,26±0,66	73,29±0,64***	76,10±0,81***

Along with this, the milk-yield was more in the second experimental group compare to the first one by 4,4%, milk fat by 6,6%, milk protein by 3,7%.

Along with this, the milk-yield was more in the second experimental group compare to the first one by 4,4%, milk fat by 6,6%, milk protein by 3,7%

Blood is a tissue, in which is reflected all the most vital and important functions of any organism. It provides all organs and tissues with nutrients and carries away all unnecessary waste products of metabolism. It performs complex functions to protect the organism from harmful consequences. Endocrine glands influence on organism through the blood as well.

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Table 3. Hematological parameters of cows under the influence of premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay at the beginning of experiment

Indicator	/ Group		
	/ Testing	1	2
		1 st experimental	2 nd experimental
/ Calcium, mmol/L	2,2±0,10	2,4±0,06	2,5±0,11
/ Phosphorus, mmol/L	2,2±0,14	2,1±0,16	2,2±0,11
/ Crude protein, g/l	75,9±0,91	75,2±1,19	76,5±3,19
/ Carotene, mg%	0,1±0,03	0,1±0,02	0,1±0,01
Alkali reserve, mg%	41,1±2,96	38,3±6,78	47,3±4,79
/ Glucose, mmol/L	1,9±0,08	1,9±0,12	1,9±0,10
/Zink, mcg%	94,5±2,41	91,5±8,47	103,5±37,73
/ Magnezium, mmol/L	1,1±0,09	1,1±0,06	1,1±0,07
/ Potassium, mmol/L	5,1±0,32	5,7±0,17	5,2±0,28
/ Ferrum, mmol/L	18,7±0,74	20,9±0,73	19,8±2,27
/ Cholesterol, mmol/L	5,7±0,27	6,9±0,88	5,4±0,79
/Albumin, g/l	27,2±1,04	27,0±1,16	25,3±1,11
/Sodium, mmol/L	134,7±3,48	136,2±3,50	133,9±4,3
/ Creatinin, mcmol/L	124,9±2,16	121,8±3,91	122,9±6,24
/Cuprum, mcg%	48,8±0,71	52,5±4,73	44,8±6,95
KET		/Not found	

- According to the data in the
 - second table the biochemical parameters of blood didn't have any significant differences in all three groups at the beginning of experiment. The concentration of glucose was in norm and fluctuated within 2,3-4,4 mmol/L. However, in all groups the glucose concentration was identical (1,9 mmol/L) which was below the norm by 17,4%; Zink by 8,5%. The level of cholesterol exceeded the norms by 8-38%

2,3-4,4
 mmol/L.

(1,9
 mmol/L),
 17,4%;

8,5%.

8-38%.

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- In the Table 4 the hematological parameters of cows

" " - under the influence of premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay at the end of experiment are presented.

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Table 4. Hematological parameters of cows under the influence of premix «Biolekks» and bentonite clay at the end of experiment

Indicator	/ Group		
	/Testing	1 st experimental	2 nd experimental
/ Calcium, mmol/L	2,2±0,10	2,4±0,06	2,5±0,11
/ Phosphorus, mmol/L	2,2±0,14	2,1±0,16	2,2±0,11
/ Crude protein, g/l	75,9±0,91	75,2±1,19	76,5±3,19
/ Carotene, mg%	0,1±0,03	0,1±0,02	0,1±0,01
/ Alkali reserve, mg%	41,1±2,96	38,3±6,78	47,3±4,79
/ Glucose, mmol/L	1,9±0,08	1,9±0,12	1,9±0,10
/ Zink, mcg%	94,5±2,41	91,5±8,47	103,5±37,73
/ Magnezium, mmol/L	1,1±0,09	1,1±0,06	1,1±0,07
/ Potassium, mmol/L	5,1±0,32	5,7±0,17	5,2±0,28
/ Ferrum, mmol/L	18,7±0,74	20,9±0,73	19,8±2,27
/ Cholesterol, mmol/L	5,7±0,27	6,9±0,88	5,4±0,79
/ Albumin, g/l	27,2±1,04	27,0±1,16	25,3±1,11
/ Sodium, mmol/L	134,7±3,48	136,2±3,50	133,9±4,3
/ Creatinin, mcml/L	124,9±2,16	121,8±3,91	122,9±6,24
/ Cuprum, mcg%	48,8±0,71	52,5±4,73	44,8±6,95
KET			/Not found

" ' " - - The cows eating premix «Biolekks» in combination with bentonite clay has more intensive metabolism. In the blood of the second experimental group cows the calcium content was higher than in testing group and in the first experimental one by 18,8-16,8%; ferrum by 31,9-45,2% cholesterol by 6,1-7,0%; albumin by 19,3-7,2; sodium by 8,9-15,0%
18,8-16,8%;
31,9-45,2%,
6,1-7,0%; 19,3-7,2;
8,9-15,0%.
- In the blood of cows of the first experimental group the concentration of phosphorus was more than in the testing group and the second experimental group accordingly by 34,7 and 25,0%.
-
-
-
34,7
25,0%.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the cows had been fed with premix «Biolekks» in combination with bentonite clay in their food ration had more intensive metabolism process and it influenced positively on biochemical parameters of blood and milk productivity. The milk yield increased by 9,2% (P>0,999), milk fat by 21,5 (P>0,999), milk protein by 11,5% (P>0,999).

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Innovative approaches in the cryopreservation of semen from buffalo bulls

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SUMMARY

- The aim of this research was to analyze seminal plasma proteins in terms of preservation of sperm plasma membrane and protection of spermatozoa from Bulgarian Murrah Buffalo bulls. Computer-assisted sperm analysis was used to determine the motility and velocity parameters of spermatozoa with proven good and poor cryotolerance. Seminal plasma proteins related to the cryotolerance of the spermatozoa were proven. The chromatographic profiles of the analyzed samples and the cryoprotective medium demonstrate formation of new biocomplex structures that are specific to the ejaculates with good cryotolerance. These peaks are observed between 9.193 minute and 11.015 minute and are not present in the chromatogram of the seminal plasma, or in the chromatogram of the cryoprotective medium. These are a group of proteins with molecular weights between 150 and

11.015

9.193

150 200 kDa.

LDL

BSP

200 kDa. It can be assumed that these new structures represent some of the BSP proteins from the seminal plasma entering into physicochemical interactions with the LDL lipoproteins from the cryoprotective medium.

- The mechanism of protection of these new biocomplex structures is likely by
- adsorption on the surface of the plasma membrane and participation in cell
- signaling and activation of signaling
- pathways, inducing gamete
- decapacitation. Thereby good sperm
- preservation is provided. This represents an innovative approach to successful freezing of semen from Buffalo bulls.

Keywords: Buffalo bull, spermatozoa, cryopreservation, seminal plasma, biocomplexes

INTRODUCTION

- Over the last decade, the
- interest in livestock farming,
- breeding and selection of buffaloes is gradually increasing. That is based on the fact that worldwide production of buffalo milk is growing at a much higher rate, comparing to the production of cow milk. It is obvious that a reorganization of buffalo breeding towards milk and meat production is occurring. In Bulgaria this reorganization is expressed with the substitution of the aboriginal Bulgarian Buffalo, which is used primarily for work, milk and meat, with the new breed of Bulgarian Murrah Buffalo. This breed possesses high productive qualities for milk and meat production, and is used as genetic source for improving milk

- productivity in dozens of countries from four continents in the world. It can be said that in the coming
- years there will be significant changes in the national economy of the Republic of Bulgaria, as a member of the EU. These changes
- will impact positively on agricultural production and on buffalo breeding
- respectively. So a view in the future of this promising sector requires an in-depth analysis of the buffalo breeding, as well as the
- business environment in which it will develop.

- Not less important is to highlight the biotechnology for collection, assessment and preservation of genetic material, such as spermatozoa, oocytes and
- embryos. This will also assist in the production of high-quality breeding material and conduct quality selection both for internal needs and for the needs of foreign markets.

- The interest in freezing of semen from buffalo bulls has always been on the agenda. The reason is that there is still no mass
- application of artificial insemination with frozen semen. The reasons are various, but one of them is related to the semen freezing
- biotechnology. Today, it can be argued that there is a need for optimization and improvement of the so far applied biotechnology for semen freezing.

Our interest is focused on analysis of the seminal plasma proteins (SPPs) from the viewpoint of sperm plasma membrane (PM) preservation and protection of the spermatozoa. PM undergoes continuous remodeling during the passage of the spermatozoa through the epididymis and subsequently in the female reproductive system.

These changes make the spermatozoa capable of fertilizing the oocyte (Austin, 1985; Yanagimachi, 1994). Research in recent years has proved that SPPs actively participate in the processes related to the survival of spermatozoa and the process of capacitation inhibition. As a result this leads to preservation of their fertilization potential (Mendoza et al., 2013).

Some of the important SPPs are the BSP proteins. These are the most studied group of proteins, as they represent up to 60% of the total SPPs in the semen from bulls (Manjunath et al., 1988; Nauc et Manjunath, 2000). The common characteristic of the BSP proteins is that they have a pronounced ability to bind to glycosaminoglycans (Therien et al., 2005; Lefebvre et al., 2009; Plante et al., 2014), choline phospholipids (Desnoyers et Manjunath, 1992), high and low density lipoproteins (Manjunath et al., 1989; Manjunath et al., 2002) and gelatin (Plante et al., 2014;

et al., 2002)
al., 2014; Manjunath et al., 1987).

(Plante et

Manjunath et al., 1987).

- Probably such SPPs are relevant to the protection of the PM through mechanism of adsorption on its surface. This binding to the PM surface probably leads to participation in cellular signaling and activation of pathways causing gamete decapacitation.

e
-
(CASA)

(HPLC)

- The aim of this study is to perform Computer-Assisted Sperm Analysis (CASA) on ejaculates with good and poor cryotolerance of the spermatozoa and to conduct High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) on seminal plasma (SP); to analyze newly formed biocomplex structures between specific proteins from ejaculates with proven good cryotolerance and lipoproteins from egg yolk, in relation to an innovative approach for freezing semen from buffalo bulls.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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 5×10^6

The analyses were conducted with ejaculates from buffalo bulls – fresh and frozen semen, delivered by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Sofia and Sliven. After collection and evaluation, semen was diluted up to 1:15 with cryoprotective medium. The purpose of this dilution is to provide 5×10^6 motile spermatozoa per semen dose, which guarantees good artificial

0.250 ml
(2.32
, 2.42 Tris, 1.34
, 7 ml
, 100
1.0
, 20 ml
UI
100 ml).

rpm, 10 4° 2500
24D).
, 12000 rpm 5
0.22 µm (Milipore®)
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- HPLC
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Chromatography).
(TSK
gel G3000SW, 21.5 mm x 300 mm,
TOSOH BIOSCIENCE®)
-
10 500 kDa.
µl. 1000
: (20 min), (1700
psi) (6 ml/min).

insemination outcome. Semen is frozen in straws of 0.250 ml in a cryopreservation medium (2.32 Sodium citrate dihydrate, 2.42 Tris, 1.34 Citric acid monohydrate, 1.0 Glucose or Fructose, 7 ml Glycerin, 20 ml Egg yolk, 100 UI Penicillin, distilled water to 100 ml).

Isolation of seminal plasma

SP was isolated from fresh ejaculates by double centrifugation. The first centrifugation is performed at 2500 rpm for 10 min at 4°C (K24D centrifuge). For the second centrifugation, the supernatant is used at 12000 rpm for 5 min. The SP obtained was filtered through a 0.22 µm membrane (Milipore®) and stored at -80°C.

Chromatographic separation of proteins from SP and lipoproteins from egg yolk

The experiments were carried out on a liquid chromatography system under high pressure – HPLC (High-Performance Liquid Chromatography). A semi-preparative column (TSK gel G3000SW, 21.5 mm x 300 mm, TOSOH BIOSCIENCE®) for size exclusion chromatography with a resolution of 10 to 500 kDa was used. The sample injection volume used was 1000 µl. The optimal system parameters were set as follows: time (20 min), pressure (1700 psi) and flow rate (6 ml/min).

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 HPLC.
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 CASA System Sperm Class Analyzer[®] (Microptic[®], Spain),
 „Motility and concentration“.
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 3-5 1000
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The samples analyzed were:
 • SP from buffaloes with good (Group A) and poor (Group B) cryotolerance of the spermatozoa;
 • egg yolk;
 • SP from ejaculates with proven good cryotolerance with supplemented egg yolk.

The protein concentration of each protein fraction obtained through HPLC was determined spectrophotometrically.

Computer-assisted sperm analysis of buffalo bull spermatozoa

- Total motility, progressive motility and velocity of the spermatozoa were assessed using CASA System Sperm Class Analyzer[®] (Microptic[®], Spain), analytical software module "Motility and concentration". From each ejaculate, an 8-µl drop of semen was covered with an 18 x 18 mm cover slide.

The analysis was made on at least 1000 sperm cells on 3-5 fields. The following parameters were analyzed:

- Total motility of the spermatozoa;
- • Progressive motility;
- Slow, medium and rapid moving spermatozoa;
- • Linearity of the movement;
- Beat/Cross frequency;
- • Amplitude of lateral head

displacement;

- Velocity parameters

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The motility assessment before and after thawing was made on 6 ejaculates (Table 1). The ejaculates were divided into two groups (A and B) based on the motility data. No statistically significant differences were registered in motility before freezing between the 6 studied ejaculates. Trends for a lower initial motility after thawing of the spermatozoa from group B were observed.

1). 6 ()

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1.

b

$p < 0.05$

Table 1. Comparative data from the microscopic analysis of motility before and after freezing of semen from buffalo bulls. Values with different superscript differ significantly ($p < 0.05$)

Group	Number of samples	Motility prior to freezing (%)	Motility after freezing (%)
(n=9)	1	75.5 ± 1.5	49.3 ± 1.54
	2	69.4 ± 1.73	42.5 ± 1.20
	3	74.8 ± 1.64	46.1 ± 1.64
	/Average	73.23 ± 1.62	45.97 ± 1.64 ^a
(n=9)	4	76.87 ± 1.01	31.10 ± 1.50
	5	75.25 ± 1.22	29.02 ± 1.72
	6	67.33 ± 1.54	31.11 ± 1.46
	/Average	73.15 ± 1.25	30.41 ± 1.56 ^b

CASA

To specify the data observed, analysis of the spermatozoa from the two groups was made by CASA. Comparative evaluation of motility and velocity parameters of the spermatozoa after thawing are presented in Table 2.

2.

b

 $p < 0.05$

Table 2. Comparative average data from CASA of buffalo bull spermatozoa from group A and group B after thawing. Values with different superscript within row differ significantly ($p < 0.05$)

Parameters	Group A	Group B
Total motility (%)	52.18 ± 2.53	41.48 ± 1.23
Progressive motility (%)	30.25 ± 1.25	26.50 ± 1.05
Rapid motility (%)	36.20 ± 2.20 ^a	25.40 ± 1.08 ^b
VAP (µm/s)	82.59 ± 1.29 ^a	62.31 ± 1.22 ^b
VSL(µm/s)	69.39 ± 2.28 ^a	57.55 ± 1.24 ^b
VCL(µm/s)	143.08 ± 2.26 ^a	127.27 ± 2.18 ^b
ALH(µm)	6.55 ± 0.35	4.99 ± 0.23
BCF (Hz)	37.05 ± 0.15 ^a	29.55 ± 0.25 ^b
STR (%)	84.01 ± 0.05 ^a	75.40 ± 0.70 ^b
LIN (%)	47.77 ± 0.55	49.12 ± 0.75
Elongation (%)	54.14 ± 0.96	53.23 ± 1.09
Size (µm sq)	8.26 ± 0.73	7.22 ± 0.24
Viability (%)	65.65 ± 1.74	60.66 ± 0.89

There are apparent differences regarding the percentage of cells with progressive motility, which in ejaculates with good cryotolerance is at times higher (near 1.5 times), at the expense of the static and non-progressive spermatozoa.

The results of the analysis demonstrated interesting significant differences in the separate parameters between the two groups. In ejaculates from group A it is evident that there is significantly higher number of rapid spermatozoa, compared to group B ($p < 0.05$). Also, the statistical significant differences in the velocity parameters are noteworthy, which are in favor of

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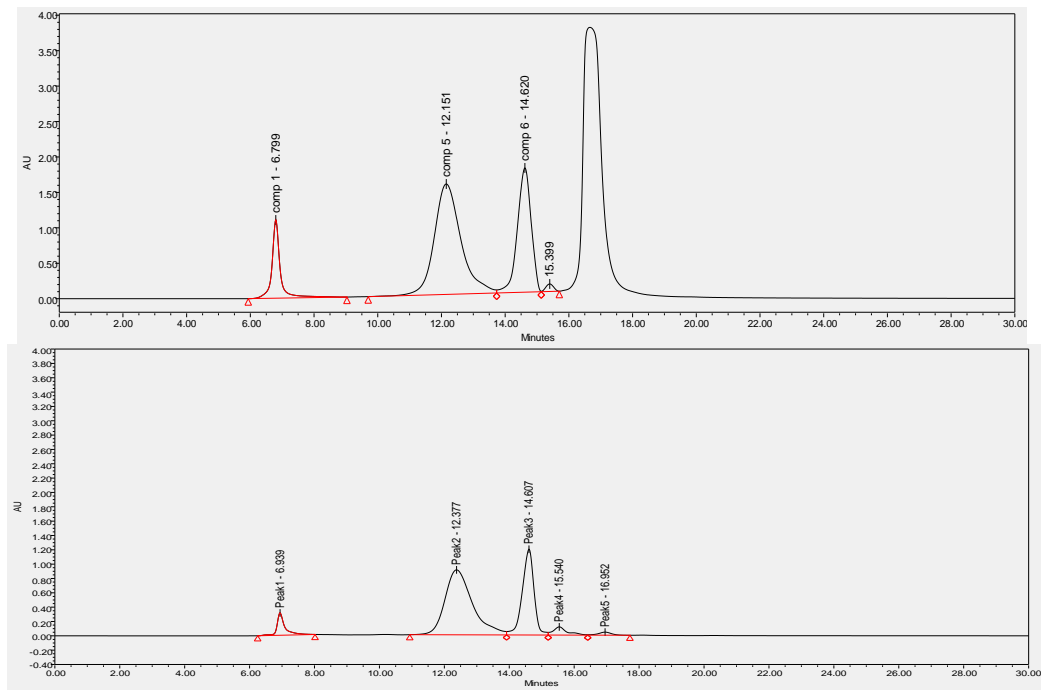
10 kDa 500

kDa (

the ejaculates with good cryotolerance of the spermatozoa.

From the analysis of the chromatographic profiles of the proteins contained in the SP of both groups, specific differences in the quantity and type of proteins in group A and B were observed.

- The chromatographic profiles of the samples analyzed demonstrate 5 distinct peaks. The proteins in those peaks vary from 10 kDa up to 500 kDa (Figure 1).

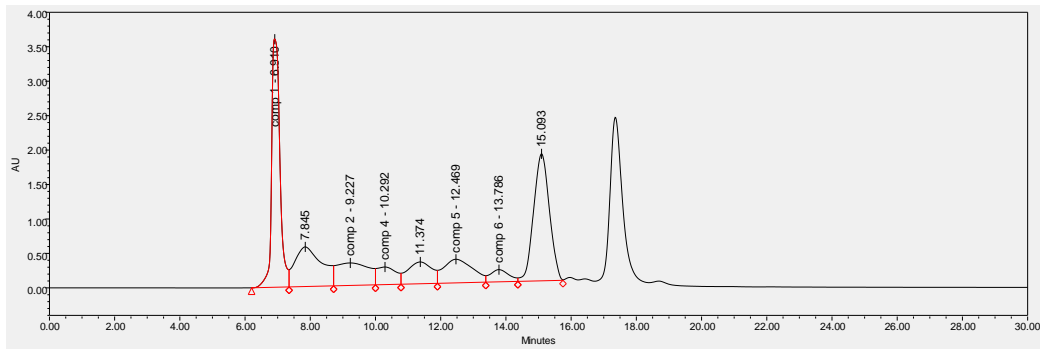


1. = 280 nm:
() ; ()

Fig. 1. Chromatographic profile of separated SPPs from buffalo bull = 280 nm: ejaculate with good cryotolerance of the spermatozoa (above); ejaculate with poor cryotolerance of the spermatozoa (below)

(9
2).

The chromatogram of the protective medium shows 9 well-defined peaks (Figure 2). We believe that the predominant proteins in the protective medium are lipoproteins, which are contained in the egg yolk.



. 2.

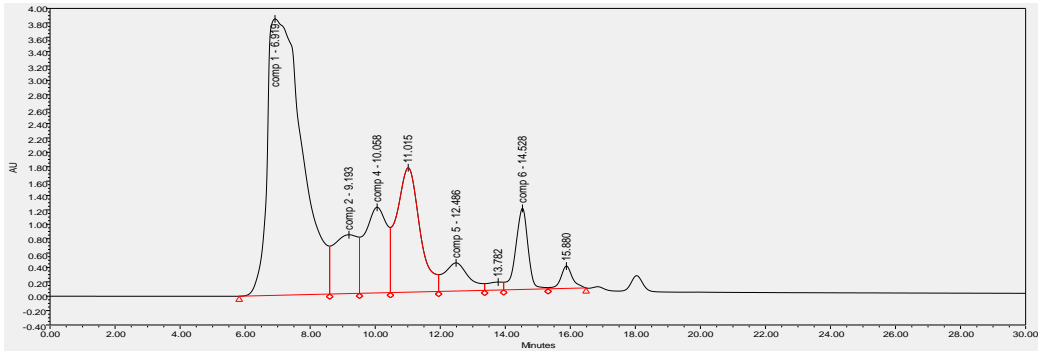
Fig. 2. Chromatographic profile of the protective medium

(3),

Combining the SPPs with proteins from the protective medium gives a new chromatographic profile (Figure 3), visualizing a specific and very different redistribution of proteins. When comparing profiles of the two chromatograms - SPPs and proteins from the protective medium, new peaks on 10.058 min and on 11.015 min are defined. These peaks are not present in either of the two samples (Figure 4).

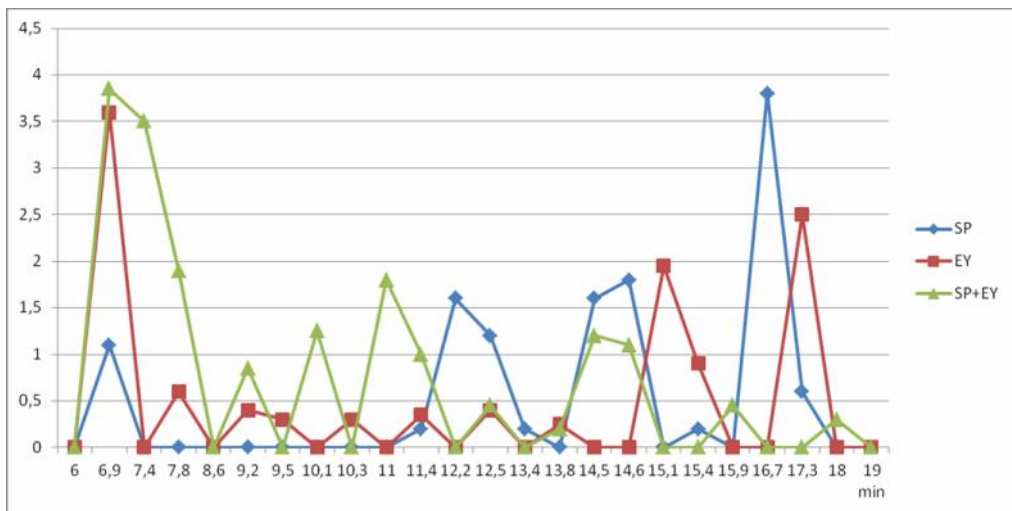
(
)
10.058
11.015 ,

(4).



. 3.

Fig. 3. Chromatographic profile of SPPs combined with protective medium



. 4.

Fig. 4. Chromatograms of the separated SPPs, the protective medium and the combination between them

The analysis of the results obtained suggests that the formation of new protein peaks is a consequence of the redistribution of the proteins from the SP and the proteins contained in the protective medium, mostly the yolk lipoproteins. We assume that this redistribution probably occurs through mechanism of complex physicochemical

- interactions between phospholipids, amino phospholipids and proteins, leading to formation of new complex structures. Further analysis of this newly formed structures contained in these peaks is to be performed in future research.

CONCLUSIONS

- The chromatography analysis of proteins from buffalo bull SP showed differences in protein profile, expressed in the chromatograms of ejaculates with good and poor cryotolerance of the spermatozoa.
- The HPLC results after combining SP with yolk-based protective medium showed peaks (on 10.058 min and on 11.015 min) containing new biocomplex structures. Probably these peaks are a trait, specific to ejaculates from buffalo bulls with good gamete cryotolerance.

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Histological study of the ovaries from the superovulated mouse supplemented by bioactive feed additive

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SUMMARY

Superovulation is an important step of the embryotransfer biotechnology widely applied in the human and veterinary medicine to produce the offspring, when the parents' fertility is impaired. Obtaining a large amount of qualitative oocytes ensures a high success rate of embryotransfer. The big importance is to get a good ovulatory response to a single treatment, because a multiple hormonal stimulation possesses the strong threat for health. There are limited scientific data regarding the influence of the bioactive feed additives on the success rate of superovulation. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the changes in the folliculogenesis of superovulated mouse supplemented by feed additive Provit E10% Super. Experiment with 20 number of female laboratory mice took place in the vivarium of the IBIR-BAS. The animals were balanced by weight and divided in the two groups (n = 10): control – the animals were routinely superovulated and experimental, where the effect of

30

H&E

Olympus BX51 (Japan).

(Corpus luteum)

Super Provit 10%

superovulation was combined with individual intake of the additive for 30 days. For the histological study the paraffin sections from the ovaries of all animals were prepared and stained with H&E. Morphometric characterization of ovarian structures was made by microscope system Olympus BX51 (Japan). The results showed that the experimental group had a more active folliculogenesis, expressed as a greater number of tertiary follicles and as a larger number of corpora lutea compared with the control group.

In conclusion, the present investigation proved that the supplementation by Provit E10% Super provokes a positive effect on the ovulatory response to hormonal stimulation due to affecting on the folliculogenesis activity.

Key words: mice, bioactive feed additive, histology, superovulation, ovary

INTRODUCTION

The embryo transfer biotechnology is widely applied in the human and veterinary medicine to produce the offspring of the parents with impaired fertility. One of the most important steps of this biotechnology is a superovulation. Obtaining a large amount of qualitative oocytes ensures more success for the subsequent procedures of the embryo biotechnology – "in vitro fertilization" and "embryo transfer". Although providing long-term research in this field, there are not clear all mechanisms and pathways providing the increased sensitivity of the growing follicles to gonadotropins, used for the superovulation, and as a result,

- increased success rate of superovulation. There are many problems related to the long-term negative effects of hormonal stimulation, especially, of repeated stimulation such as ovarian hyperstimulation, bleeding and the hormone dependent tumors (Macklon et al., 2006).

(Macklon et al., 2006).

Therefore the research topics, aimed to discover the approaches for getting a good yield of oocytes after single stimulation, remains actual till now.

- The recently accumulated scientific data shows that the nutrition is one of the important factors affecting many aspects of the reproduction in animals.

- Nutrition can alter the reproductive function at various levels by circulating metabolic hormones such as insulin, insulin-like growth factor-I, growth hormone, leptin and ghrelin.

(Scaramuzzi et al., 2015; Tena-Sempere et al., 2013).

- These hormones mediate an effect of food on the follicular growth and ovulation rate (Somchit-Assavacheep, 2011).

(Somchit-Assavacheep, 2011).

- Also ovarian steroids modulate the action of metabolic hormones, leading to changes in the folliculogenesis.

- Scaramuzzi et al. (2010) consider that the food acts as a signaling mechanism to force the metabolic pathways, activating

(Sartori et al., 2007; Santos et al., 2008; 2010).

(Velazquez, 2011).
Sales et al. (2008) Evangelista et al. (2011)

(*Spirulina platensis*)
(Kistanova et al. , 2009).

Provit 10% Super

folliculogenesis.

Data about the diet' effect on the success rate of superovulation are scanty, and often contradictory.

There was shown in cows that the malnutrition as well as the high-caloric diet had a negative effect on the ovulation rate (Sartori et al., 2007; Santos et al., 2008, 2010).

Also a further addition of fatty acids and proteins to well-balanced ration didn't lead to an increase of embryos yield from the superovulated animals (Velazquez, 2011). On the other hand, studies of Sales et al.(2008) and Evangelista et al. (2011) demonstrated that supplementation of vitamins, macro- or micronutrients increase the success rate of the superovulation in domestic livestock. There are single data showing that supplementation of diet with phytogetic additives (particularly, *Spirulina platensis*) provide an increase of the oocytes and embryos recovering after superovulation (Kistanova et.al, 2009).

In the present study we set the goal to analyze the effect of the feed additive ProviteE10% Super, supplemented to the basic ration, on the folliculogenesis and subsequent success rate of the superovulation in white lab mice.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experience was conducted in the vivarium of the IBIR-BAS. The object of the study were 20 female Swiss white mice at pubertal age, divided and aligned by weight into two groups (n = 10), with an average weight of 34.4 g: control group, which was subjected to superovulation procedure and experimental group, in which the effect of superovulation was combined with an individual intake of dietary supplement Provite E10% Super in dose 1.5µg/g to the main diet.

The feed additive Provite E10% Super contents minerals (Ca, Mg), vitamin E and plant extract artichoke.

The animals were treated by the standard protocol for superovulation, which included an initial injection of 6 IU FSH (follicle stimulating hormone) and a re-injection with 6 IU LH (luteinizing hormone) 48 hours thereafter.

Animals received standard laboratory mice feed and water "ad libitum". The health status of the animals was checked daily.

At the end of the experiment (14 hours after the second hormonal injection by the superovulation protocol) mice were humanely killed, according to the Ethics

<p>(: 2009-4-12/40).</p> <p>48 .</p> <p>10%</p> <p>5µm,</p> <p>(H&E)</p> <p>Olympus BX51 (Tokyo, Japan).</p> <p>3</p> <p>Pedersen & Peters (1968)</p> <p>(CL – corpora lutea)</p> <p><0.05.</p>	<p>- Commission requirements (report : 2009-4-12/40). Isolated ovaries were cleaned and fixed in 10% formalin for 48 hours.</p> <p>- After that tissues were dehydrated through an ascending alcohol series and included in paraffin blocks. Subsequently serial sections with a thickness of 5 µm were obtained using a microtome, mounted on slides and stained with hematoxylin-eosin by a routine protocol.</p> <p>- Morphometric characterization of the ovarian structures was made by microscope system Olympus BX51 (Japan).</p> <p>- The ovarian follicles were counted and classified in accordance with Pedersen & Peters (1968) classification for the rodent.</p> <p>- Additionally the corpora lutea were counted in all analyzed ovaries.</p> <p>- The data were processed with statistical methods, the differences were considered significant at P<0.05.</p>
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

<p>8 12</p>	<p>Laboratory mouse is a commonly used animal model in the reproductive studies. The ovulation rate in mouse is depended on the breed line and varies between 2 to 12 oocytes.</p>
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et al., 1994),

" " "

(Legge

- The physiological number of ovulated oocytes can be increased by applying the different methods, particularly, by hormonal stimulation (Legge et al, 1994), and the obtained eggs can be used for the future procedures as "in vitro fertilization" or "embryo transfer".

- In the present study we evaluate a superovulatory response to the hormonal treatment in the control group by the histological changes in the ovaries. These results were compared to the changes in the ovaries of the experimental group, which was stimulated by the same hormonal scheme combined with the nutritional supplement. In accordance with literature data the ovulatory response to the hormonal treatment is depended on the mouse strains (Martín-Coello et al., 2008; Nagy et al., 2002). In our experiment the ovary response to the gonadotropin stimulation in both groups was typical for Swiss white mouse.

(Martín-Coello et al., 2008; Nagy et al., 2002).

Swiss white.

(1),
1.5µg/g
Provit 10% Super,

(g)

- Data from biological studies (Table 1) show that the intake of 1.5µg/g supplement Provite E10% Super leads to a trend for reduction of the live weight compared to the control mice, but differences were not significant (P>0.05).

(P>0.05).

(P>0.05)

The hormonal treatment did not influence on the total weight of the

(g) , reproductive tract (g) and on the ovarian weight (g) (Table 1, P>0.05).

1. ,

Table 1. Body weight, total weight of the reproductive tract and ovaries weight of control and experimental mice

/ Groups	Control group	Experimental group
/ Parameters		
/ Live body weight, (g)	32.95±1.83	31.70±1.34
Weight of the reproductive tract, (g)	0.28±0.017	0.27±0.03
/ Ovaries weight, (g)	0.057±0.009	0.057±0.009

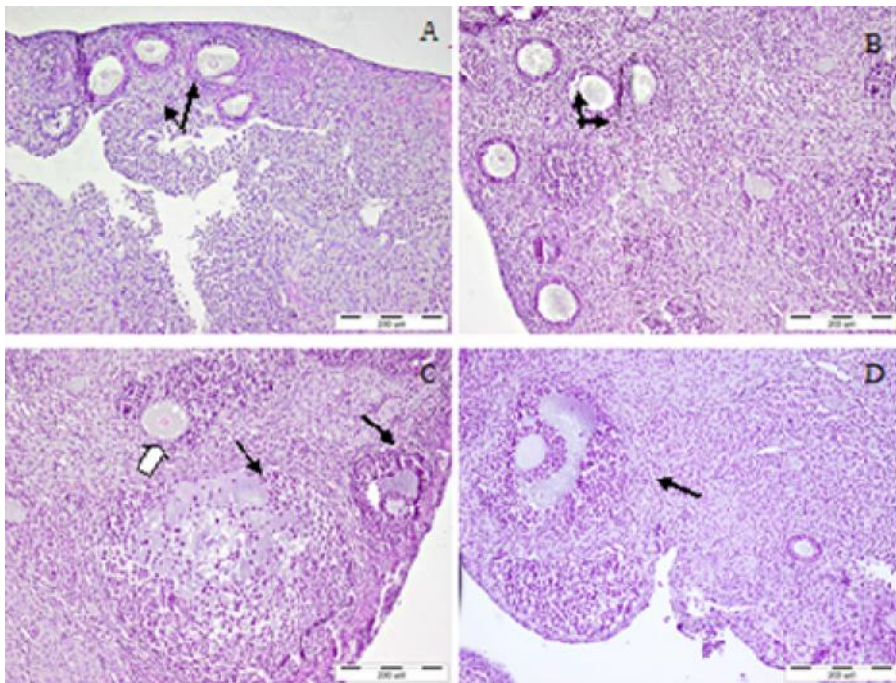
The development of the ovarian follicles during the estrus cycle is closely connected to the lipid metabolism. The fatty acids provide energy for the oocytes maturation and early embryo development. Gonadotropins are able to regulate the steroidogenesis and the new synthesis of fatty acids, but without reflection on the gonads' weight (Liu et al, 2009).

Conversely, Wang et al. (2015) report the significantly higher ovaries weight in the treated mice, which is a result of the unlocking the cholesterol-dependent genes to synthesize a newly cholesterol or to activate the lipoproteins available during the luteinization.

Found by Wang et al. (2015) increased weight of ovaries, probably, is due to stimulating with higher dose of the gonadotropins (10 IU PMSG and hCG) in comparison with our protocol. The

lack of the disturbances in the ovaries development, observed at histological samples by light microscope in the current experiment, is the indication of the normal folliculogenesis.

There was a full division of follicles, which is illustrated by microphotographs of ovaries from the experimental and control animals (Figure 1).



1.
 (20 , H&E): A. ();
 B. (); C. D. ”
 () () ”

Fig. 1. Microphotographs of histological preparations of mouse ovaries (x20, H & E): . Section of control group with secondary ovarian follicles (arrows); B. section of the experimental mouse ovary, with follicles in the transition from secondary to tertiary (arrows); C. and D. sections of the experimental mouse ovary, with preantral (white arrow) and antral follicles (black arrows)

(*Corpora lutea*)

20

($P > 0.05$)

In the present investigation the morphometric evaluation of the ovaries was done concerning the number of follicles and corpora lutea on the consecutive slices (n=10) from the ovaries of 20 female mice.

In both groups was observed a decrease of the follicles number from secondary to antral class.

It has been found non-significant trend to increase the antral follicles number in the experimental group ($P > 0.05$) compared to the control (Table 2). We assume that in the experimental group the feed additive has affected some metabolic pathways and forced the development of higher number of the tertiary follicles, which developed into antral. This prerequisite does not affect proportionality of the previous follicular classes, as seen in Table 2.

2.

Table 2. Populations of different follicular classes and Corpora lutea in the ovaries of control and experimental mouse

/ Groups (n=10)	Stages of the follicular development			
	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary+tertiary</i>	<i>Antral</i>	<i>Corpora lutea</i>
Control group	5.1±1.45	5.20±1.66	0.8±0.75	8.5±2.7
Experimental group	4.70±1.67	5.40±1.70	0.90±0.54	10.11±4.20

The results indicate that, despite the hormonal treatment,

(2010).

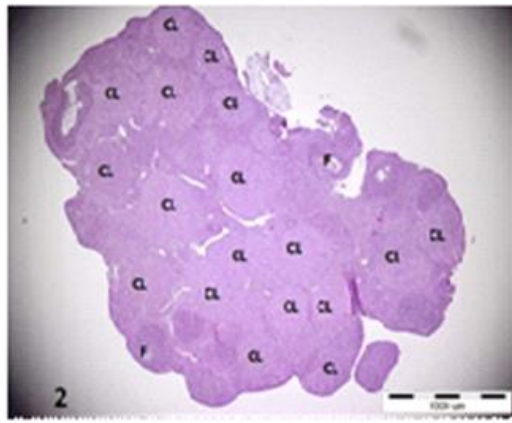
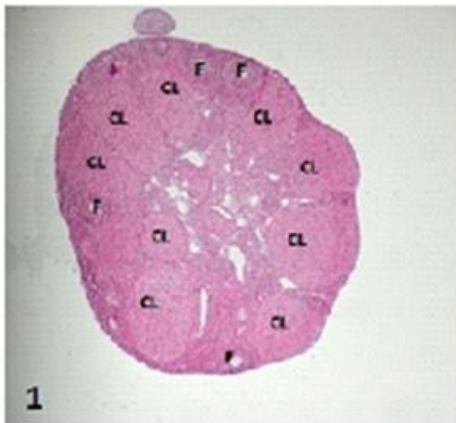
McNatty et al.

($P > 0.05$)

2.

not all antral follicles were ovulated. The tertiary and antral follicles, observed in the ovaries of our superovulated mice, probably reflect differences in their functional states that influenced by exogenous gonadotropins in different ways according to the developmental stage, which is in agreement with the statement of McNatty et al. (2010).

Also morphometric analysis showed a larger number of corpora lutea in the experimental group ($P > 0.05$) compared to control, as it is documented on Figure 2.



2.

9

; (2)

(H&E; 4): (1)

18

Fig. 2. Microphotographs of mouse ovary (H&E; 4): (1) the presence of 9 Corpora lutea in control ovary; (2) the presence of 18 Corpora lutea in experimental ovary;

Swann (2014),

Our results are match those of Swann (2014), who reported a significant increase of the corpora

Corpora lutea ($P < 0.001$)

5IU hMG

- lutea number ($P < 0.001$) and almost double size of its diameter in mice, stimulated with 5IU hMG,
- compared to the unstimulated control ovaries.

CONCLUSIONS

10% Super

Provit

- In the context of assisted reproductive technologies, the success of superovulation is a crucial for the success of the embryo transfer biotechnology. Supplementation of the mice diet with Provite E10% Super additive supports good ovulatory response to hormonal stimulation due to stimulating effect on the folliculogenesis led to the development of higher number antral follicles, and as a result, a larger number of corpora lutea in the experimental group. Probably, the sufficient number of granulosa cells was included in the follicular development and their normal luteinisation, which can be assumed as the feed additive effect on the secretion of the hormones and growth factors essential for properly folliculogenesis.
- Vitamins and minerals supplementation before the application of hormonal treatment can be recommended as an improvement of the superovulation protocol for the laboratory animals and after the future studies in-depth should be proposed for improving the success rate of

- superovulation in other animal species.

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FA1201, FA1403

(0903/11
21.01.2016 . 0903/57
24.11.2015).

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Study on maternal behaviors of goats to their kids born as triplets

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SUMMARY

The development of maternal behavior was studied in goats of Bulgarian White Dairy (BWD) breed and its crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian (AN) and Togenburg (TG), which had given birth to triplets. Goats were bred in a shed and fed with a ration consisting of 2.00 kg meadow hay and 0.600 kg concentrate fodder. Kidding of goats took place in February and March. Maternal characteristics of goats were assessed on the basis of realization speed of behavioural reactions during the first hour after kidding.

It was found that during the control period, mothers sniffed and licked the triplets within the first three minutes after kidding, as they spent thirty minutes in cares for the newborns in their first postpartum life.

The period to the first sniffing and licking was shorter for the male kids, but the total time spent in care for female kids was longer.

The results suggest that the gender of the newborn kids did not have a reliable

- effect on the expression of maternal care to the different kids, which were born as triplets.
- **Key words:** goats, newborn kids, maternal behavior, triplets

INTRODUCTION

- Maternal behaviour of goats is determined by the establishment of a selective connection between the mother and the newborn within the first hour after kidding. The formation of the connection between the mother and the newborn involves the establishment of complex interactions between them and could be influenced by a number of factors, including the number of newborn animals. The violations in formation of the connection are a reason for the increase in number of deaths within the first hours after kidding (Addae et al., 2000)

(Addae et al., 2000).

- The studies on maternal behaviour indicate that there is a tendency for limitation of cares in kidding of more than one offspring. Thus for example, although the sheep, which give birth to twins, indicate a higher activity in their cares for the newborn kids (licking, suckling) than those, which give birth to a single lamb, they in fact do not ensure "twice" more care.

- Consequently, each of the twins receives fewer stimuli than the single-born ones, which could slow down the connection with the mother. In grazing, the high infant mortality, in litter of large size, is a result of the separation of some of

(Stevens et al., 1982).

- the twins and violating the contact between the mother and all of the lambs, especially in the first day after birth (Stevens et al., 1982)

- The aim of present research was to study the maternal behaviour of goats to their kids, born as triplets, as well as the presence of essential differences in the manifestation of maternal care of goats, which gave birth to a single-born kid or twins.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data were obtained from the herd raised in the Experimental Station of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in the town of Troyan, as the observations spanned a period of 1 year. The kidding and behaviour of mothers of Bulgarian White Dairy goat breed (BWD) were observed, along with its crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian and Toggenburg goat breed, which gave birth to triplets, in the course of the first hour after kidding. Kidding occurred in February and March.

2kg In the winter period animals were bred in a cattle-shed and fed with ration of 2 kg of hay and 0.6 kg concentrated fodder per head. There was a free access to water and salt. During summer months (May-November), goats were grazing.

- The assessment of maternal characteristics was done on the

Windows
(Microsoft Excel, 2003),

ANOVA

2,57±0,84 min

30 min.

- basis of the following indicators, which were registered within the first hour after kidding, according to the method of direct observation and timing. Duration of the period between kidding and the first sniffing of the newborn, duration of the period between the kidding and first licking on the kid and time spent on cares for the offspring – the total time spent on sniffing and licking within the first hour after kidding.

- Data are represented as average arithmetic value and mean error. Results of all tasks were processed by a tool package of Windows statistical program (Microsoft Excel, 2003), and reliability was calculated according to the method of ANOVA by means of Single Factor analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The mothers sniffed and licked their triplets for the first time in 2,57±0,84 min after kidding, and the time spent on cares for them within the first hour after kidding was almost 30 min. The cares for kids always started in the sphere of the head (airways of kid were cleaned) and continued to the hind quarters of the body (breathing was stimulated), as it was accompanied by a quiet bleating by the mother. That behaviour of the goat coincides with what is described in the literature and illustrates the process of
- -
 -
 -

et al., 2012).

(Ylmaz

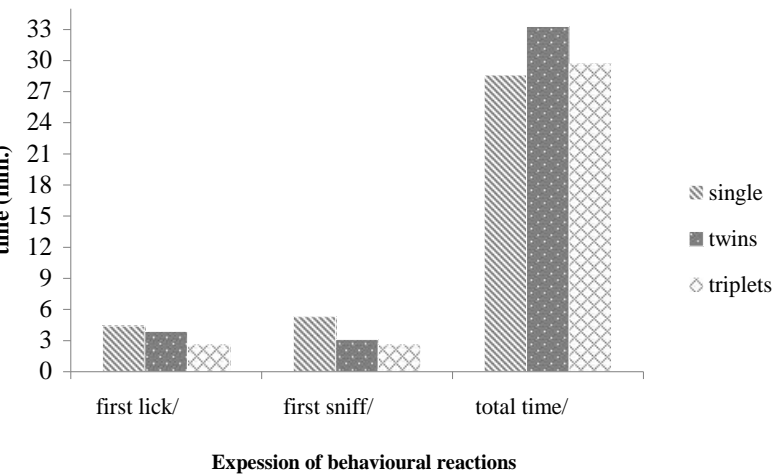
establishment of the connection between the mother and the newborn kid (Ylmaz et al., 2012).

- In our previous researches, we have found that the time for the realization of behavioural reactions, such as sniffing and licking for the first time after kidding, was shorter for twin kids in comparison with single-born ones (Stoycheva, 2014).

(, 2014)

(,) ,

If the type of kidding is compared (single-born, twins, triplets), it is obvious that triplets receive the attention of the mother faster immediately after kidding, followed by the twins and single-born ones (Figure 1).



. 1.

Fig. 1. Influence of type of kidding over the time till the first sniffing, licking and total time spent on cares for the kid within the first hour after kidding

and Lawrence, 1998).

2)

(1).

In terms of total time spent on cares for the newborn kid, triplets receive less attention than twin kids, but more than the single-born ones.

There was no statistically proven difference in the behaviour of mother depending on the number of her kids.

The development of the connection between the mother and the new born kid was initially established at the time of kidding through scent, and therefore the active licking is essentially important (Dwyer and Lawrence, 1998).

Although, goats sniff and lick earlier the male triplets in comparison with the realization of these behavioural reactions compared to female ones (Figure 2), the difference in time less than a minute was not proven and minimal.

Total time spent on cares for the newborn kids within the first hour of the postpartum life was more prolonged for the female triplets with almost 9 minutes.

Manifestation of that behavioural reaction probably was due to the more prolonged time during which female kids stood upright within the first hour after kidding as a result of their lower birth weight (Table 1).

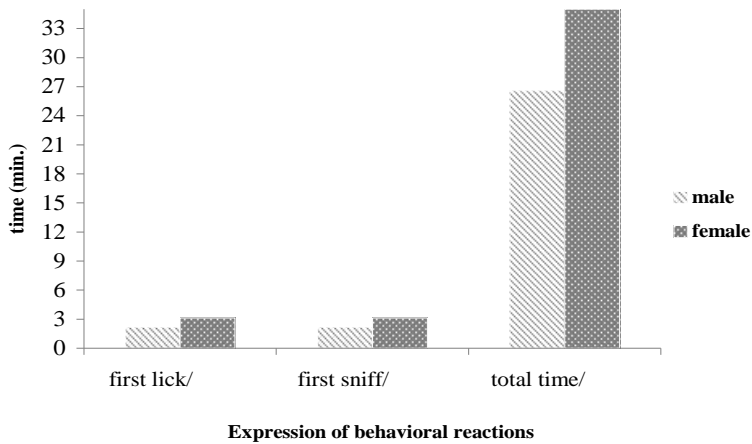


Fig. 2. Effect of sex of the new-born triplets over time spent till the first sniffing and licking and total time spent on cares for kids within the first hour after kidding
 . 2.

1.

Table 1. Birth weight of triplets

	/ Total for the herd	/ Male	/ Female
kg	2,82±0,13	2,99±0,16	2,59±0,21

Otal et al. (2010)

Murciano-Granadina,

Otal et al. (2010) report similar results to ours. In observations on kids of goats of Murciano-Granadina breed, which gave birth for the first time, the authors have found out that the time spent on cares for female kids was longer than for male ones. Unlike our results, however, in their research the mothers sniffed and licked earlier the female kids in comparison with the male ones, but these differences were also insignificant as ours. According to the authors, the maternal instinct in female animals

(2007, b) . Poindron et al. (2007, b) attribute the differences in behaviour to some still unknown neuro-physiological mechanisms, which are modulated by the experience of the mother. According to us, goats of the herd, which give birth to triplets, do not have any preferences to the gender of the kid in order to start their maternal cares for it. It was the same for single-born and twin kids in previous our researches with the same goat breeds (Stoycheva, 2014).

giving birth for the first time is stronger because of the difficulties during delivery and the goats pay attention to their kids immediately. Poindron et al. (2007, b) attribute the differences in behaviour to some still unknown neuro-physiological mechanisms, which are modulated by the experience of the mother.

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CONCLUSIONS

1. Sex and type of birth do not have a reliable effect over time spent till the first sniffing, time till the first licking and total time spent from the mother in cares for the new-born kids.
2. The litter size did not have a significant effect over the establishment of the connection between the mother and kid in breeding of goats in a cattle-shed.

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