



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***SEMEN QUALITY OF CAGED RED JUNGLE, SERAMA AND VILLAGE
FOWLS AND EFFECTS OF DIETARY ENERGY AND PROTEIN ON
SEMEN QUALITY OF CAGED RED JUNGLE FOWL***

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By

FAZHANA BINTI ISMAIL

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of
Science**

September 2013

***For my husband, Lukman Saidin and our adorable son, Uwais AlQarni.
I am truly blessed.***



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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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The primary objective of this research were to compare semen quality in three local chicken breeds; Red Jungle Fowl (RJF), Serama (SC) and village chicken (VC) and semen production and fertility of caged Red Jungle Fowl (RJF) related to the dietary energy and protein level. Semen quality was compared on 8 cockerels of each breeds aged 28 weeks to achieve the first objective. In second experiment, a total of 45 RJF cockerels aged 24 weeks fed on five different dietary energy and protein level accordingly to determine its effects on their semen quality and fertility. The collection of semen was carried out using the manual abdominal massage once a week from each individual cockerel. Spermatozoa were screened for the volume, concentration, color, size and the percentage of live, motility, total abnormal

and morphological defects spermatozoa. When at least 80% of the hen started consistently laying eggs, the artificial insemination was done in each hen. Fertility was determined by two methods; Semen Quality Factor (SQF) calculation and percentage of fertile eggs. Total feed intake and weight gain percentage were also recorded. Statistical analyses of the data were done using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) in the statistical programme SPSS version 17.0.

The results of the study indicate that different breeds of chicken significantly produced different spermatozoa characteristics. All three breeds produced more than 90% of live spermatozoa which indicated a good quality of fresh semen. SC produced lowest semen volume (0.14ml) and concentration (1.78×10^9 sperms/ml) with least motile spermatozoa percentage (49%) and highest abnormal spermatozoa (34.5%) were observed. VC and RJF were not significantly different in semen volume but RJF was significantly produced higher semen concentration (4.51×10^9 sperms/ml) with high motile spermatozoa (53.8%). In addition, RJF significantly produced lower abnormal spermatozoa (26.7%) compared to VC (28.1%).

Since RJF semen characteristics was the most superior compared to SR and VC, only RJF cockerels were selected to be used in dietary effects on semen quality experiment assuming that the affects would be more obviously

determined. Five diet treatments were determined; Group A, control (3000kcal/kg ME and 16% CP), Group B (3320kcal/kg ME and 16% CP), Group C (2621kcal/kg ME and 16% CP, Group D (2980kcal/kg ME and 20% CP) and Group E (3000kcal/kg ME and 10% CP). It was found that providing higher dietary energy significantly reduced semen volume (0.27ml) and concentration (4.08×10^9 sperms/ml) in RJF but improved the percentage of general sperm motility (68.4%) and live spermatozoa (97.15%). Lower dietary energy did not detriment to the semen volume (0.33ml) but significantly reduced the semen concentration (4.00×10^9 sperms/ml), sperm general motility (47.3%), live spermatozoa (92.11%) and total abnormalities (24.34%). Higher dietary protein significantly reduced semen volume (0.26ml), concentration (4.22×10^9 sperms/ml), and live spermatozoa (85.31%). It was also caused significantly increased total abnormalities (26.93%). Lower dietary protein at 10% significantly reduced semen volume (0.25ml), concentration (3.78×10^9 sperms/ml), general motility (51.3%) ,live spermatozoa(58.16%) and total abnormalities(25.71%). SQF and fertile eggs percentage were significantly affected in all diet treatments. SQF in Group B, C, D and E were 8.03, 9.99, 8.02 and 7.02, respectively which were significantly lower than control group, 10.86. Fertile eggs percentage was 79.1%, 83.4%, 72.8% and 59.8% in Group B, C, D and E , respectively which was also lower than control group, 85.8%.

From this study, RJF produced the greatest quality of semen compared to SC and VC. Providing too high or too low dietary energy or protein levels may detriment to semen quality and fertility in caged RJF. Therefore, recommended dietary energy at 3000 kcal ME/kg and 16% crude protein should be followed so that the optimum productivity will be maintained. SQF could be one of the methods to predict fertility in breeder males during parentstock selection.



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**KUALITI AIR MANI AYAM HUTAN, SERAMA DAN AYAM KAMPUNG
DALAM SANGKAR SERTA KESAN KANDUNGAN TENAGA DAN PROTIN
DALAM DIET TERHADAP KUALITI AIR MANI AYAM HUTAN DALAM
SANGKAR.**

Oleh

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Objektif utama kajian ini dijalankan adalah untuk membandingkan kualiti air mani pada tiga jenis baka ayam tempatan; ayam hutan, serama dan ayam kampung dan kaitan penghasilan air mani dan kesuburan ayam hutan dalam sangkar dengan kandungan tenaga dan protin dalam diet. Kualiti air mani dibandingkan dalam 8 ekor ayam jantan matang bagi setiap baka ayam berusia 28 minggu untuk mencapai objektif kajian yang pertama. Dalam eksperimen kedua, sejumlah 45 ekor ayam hutan jantan berusia 24 minggu diberi makan dengan lima tahap kandungan tenaga dan protin yang berbeza

untuk menentukan kesannya terhadap kualiti air mani dan kesuburan. Pengumpulan air mani dijalankan secara urutan abdomen manual sekali setiap minggu daripada setiap ayam jantan tersebut. Sperma dikaji berdasarkan isipadu, kepekatan, warna, saiz dan peratusan sperma hidup, pergerakan, sperma cacat, serta jenis kecacatan sperma. Setelah sekurang-kurangnya 80% ayam betina bertelur secara konsisten, pernianian beradas dilakukan dalam setiap ayam betina. Tahap kesuburan ditentukan menggunakan dua kaedah; pengiraan Faktor Kualiti Air Mani (SQF) dan peratusan telur bernas. Jumlah pengambilan makanan dan pertambahan berat badan turut direkod. Data analisa menggunakan kepelbagaian analisa satu hala (ANOVA) dalam program statistic SPSS versi 17.0.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan baka ayam yang berbeza menghasilkan karektor sperma yang berbeza. Ketiga-tiga baka ayam tempatan menghasilkan lebih 90% sperma hidup menunjukkan air mani segar yang berkualiti. Serama menghasilkan isipadu (0.14ml) dan kepekatan(1.78×10^9 sperma/ml) air mani terendah dengan peratusan sperma bergerak terendah (49%) dan spermatozoa cacat tertinggi (34.5%). Ayam kampung dan ayam hutan tidak berbeza secara signifikan dari segi isipadu air mani tetapi ayam hutan menghasilkan kepekatan air mani lebih tinggi (4.51×10^9 sperma/ml) dengan peratusan sperma bergerak yang juga tinggi (53.8%). Selain itu,

ayam hutan secara signifikan menghasilkan sperma cacat lebih rendah (26.7%) berbanding ayam kampung (28.1%).

Memandangkan ciri-ciri air mani ayam hutan lebih baik berbanding serama dan ayam kampung, hanya ayam hutan dipilih untuk digunakan dalam eksperimen kesan diet terhadap kualiti air mani dengan anggapan kesannya akan dapat ditentukan dengan lebih jelas. Lima jenis diet telah dikaji, Kumpulan A, kawalan (3000kcal/kg tenaga and 16% protin kasar), Kumpulan B (3320kcal/kg tenaga and 16% protin kasar), Kumpulan C (2621kcal/kg tenaga and 16% protin kasar, Kumpulan D (2980kcal/kg tenaga and 20% protin kasar) and Kumpulan E (3000kcal/kg tenaga and 10% protin kasar). Kajian ini mendapati bahawa diet tinggi kandungan tenaga secara signifikan mengurangkan isipadu (0.27ml) dan kepekatan (4.08×10^9 sperma/ml) air mani ayam hutan tetapi meningkatkan peratusan pergerakan sperma secara amnya(68.4%) dan sperma hidup (97.15%). Kandungan tenaga yang lebih rendah tidak mengganggu isipadu air mani (0.33ml) tetapi secara signifikan mengurangkan kepekatan (4.00×10^9 sperma/ml), pergerakan sperma secara am(47.3%), sperma hidup(92.11%) dan sperma cacat (24.34%). Kandungan protin lebih tinggi secara signifikan menyebabkan penurunan isipadu air mani (0.26ml), kepekatan (4.22×10^9 sperma/ml) dan sperma hidup (85.31%). Ia juga menyebabkan peningkatan peratusan sperma cacat (26.93%). Diet berprotin rendah sehingga 10% secara signifikan mengurangkan isipadu air

mani (0.25ml), kepekatan (3.78×10^9 sperma/ml), pergerakan sperma (51.3%), sperma hidup (58.16%) dan jumlah sperma cacat (25.71%). SQF dan peratusan telur bernas secara signifikan dipengaruhi dalam kesemua diet. SQF dalam Kumpulan B, C, D dan E adalah 8.03, 9.99, 8.02 dan 7.02 masing-masing menunjukkan secara signifikan lebih rendah daripada kumpulan kawalan(10.86). Peratusan telur bernas adalah 79.1%, 83.4%, 72.8% dan 59.8% dalam Kumpulan B, C, D dan E juga menunjukkan lebih rendah dibandingkan dengan kumpulan kawalan, 85.8%.

Berdasarkan kajian ini, ayam hutan menghasilkan air mani yang lebih berkualiti berbanding Serama dan ayam kampung. Pemberian kandungan tenaga atau protin yang terlalu tinggi atau terlalu rendah merosakkan kualiti air mani dan kesuburan pada ayam hutan dalam sangkar. Oleh itu, saranan kandungan tenaga sebanyak 3000 kcal ME/kg dan 16% protin kasar perlulah diamalkan supaya produktiviti yang optimum dapat dikekalkan. SQF boleh digunakan sebagai kaedah menjangka kesuburan ayam penjantan pada masa hadapan sewaktu pemilihan ayam baka.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 5 September 2013 to conduct the final examination of Fazhana Binti Ismail on her thesis entitled “**Semen Quality of Caged Red Jungle Fowl, Serama and Village Chicken and Effects of Dietary Energy and Protein Levels on Semen Production and Fertility of Caged Red Jungle Fowl**” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Masters of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



FAZHANA BINTI ISMAIL

Date: 5 September 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
DEDICATIONS		ii
ABSTRACT		iii
ABSTRAK		vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		xi
APPROVAL		xiii
DECLARATION		xv
LIST OF TABLES		xviii
LIST OF FIGURES		xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		xxi
CHAPTER		
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Objectives	3
	1.2 Hypothesis	4
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	5
	2.1 Introduction	5
	2.2 Male reproductive organ anatomy	6
	2.2.1 Testis	6
	2.2.2 Leydig and Sertoli cells	7
	2.2.3 Spermatogenesis	8
	2.2.4 Transport and storage sperm	9
	2.2.5 Sperm maturation	10
	2.2.6 Semen composition	11
	2.3 Hormones	11
	2.4 Semen quality	12
	2.4.1 Chicken sperm morphology	13
	2.4.2 Semen collection methods	14
	2.4.3 Semen evaluation	16
	2.5 Fertility studies	19
	2.6 Dietary energy as major requirement	22
	2.7 Dietary protein in breeder males	26
3	SEMEN QUALITY OF CAGED RED JUNGLE FOWL, SERAMA AND VILLAGE CHICKEN	28
	3.1 Introduction	
	3.2 Materials and Methods	32
	3.2.1 Experimental birds	32
	3.2.2 Body weight gain	32
	3.2.3 Determination of feed intake	33
	3.2.4 Semen collection	34

	3.2.5	Determination of semen volume and color	35
	3.2.6	Determination of sperm motility	35
	3.2.7	Determination of live dead , total abnormalities and morphological defects of spermatozoa	36
	3.2.8	Determination of semen concentration	36
	3.2.9	Determination of sperm length	38
	3.2.10	Statistical analysis	38
	3.3	Results and discussions	39
	3.3.1	Feed intake and weight gain	39
	3.3.2	Semen quality evaluation	41
4		EFFECTS OF DIETARY ENERGY AND PROTEIN LEVELS ON SEMEN PRODUCTION AND FERTILITY OF CAGED RED JUNGLE FOWL	51
	4.1	Introduction	51
	4.2	Materials and Methods	52
	4.2.1	Experimental birds	52
	4.2.2	Experimental diets	53
	4.2.3	Semen collection	56
	4.2.4	Fertile eggs percentage	56
	4.2.5	Statistical analyses	58
	4.3	Results and discussions	59
	4.3.1	Feed intake and body weight gain	59
	4.3.2	Semen quality evaluation	61
	4.4	Conclusion	69
5		CONCLUSIONS	71
	5.1	Recommendation for future research	72
		REFERENCES	73
		APPENDICES	83
		BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	88
		LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	89

LISTS OF TABLES

Table		Page
3.0	Semen color score	35
3.1	Mean of BW gain (%BW), feed intake and daily energy and protein intake in RJF, SC and VC within 5 wks experimental period	39
3.2	Mean of semen volume, color and concentration in RJF, SC nad VC	41
3.3	General motility and four types of individual spermatozoa motility as percentage in RJF, SC and VC	44
3.4	Live spermatozoa, total abnormalities and sperm length as percentage in RJF, SC and VC	46
3.5	Sperm morphological defects in RJF, SC and VC as percentage of the total 200 spermatozoa	48
4.1	Dietary energy and protein level in each diet treatment	54
4.2	Composition of the diets fed during the experiment period (24 – 41 weeks of age)	55
4.3	Mean of BW gain (%BW), feed intake and daily energy and protein intake in RJF cockerels fed on different level of dietary energy and protein within 17 wks experimental period	59
4.4	Mean of semen volume, color and concentration in caged RJF fed on different dietary energy and protein level	61
4.5	Mean of live spermatozoa, total abnormalities and sperm length in caged RJF fed on different dietary energy and protein level.	64
4.6	Semen quality factor (SQF) and percentage of fertile eggs in caged RJF fed on different dietary energy and protein level	66

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Diagram of the reproductive tract of a male chicken	6
2	Morphology of sperm in different species of animal	13
3	Manual abdominal massage during semen collection	15
4	Comparison of live and dead sperm stained with N&E staining. Live sperm exclude the stain while dead sperm will uptake the stain and appear as pink or red against purple background. (40x)	18
5	Fertile blastoderm appears white, symmetrical ring 4-5 mm diameter, with a clear central area, round with smooth uniform edges in egg on 8 days post-incubation	22
6	Serama chicken is very popular for indoor pet and well known for its recognized upright position, has a proud stance, dignified appearance with prominent full breast.	29
7	Village chicken in Malaysia is usually reared under an extensive system in small rearing scale. Sometimes the features of village chicken have a resemblance to the Red Jungle Fowl but village chicken is commonly larger in body size	30
8	Red Junglefowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) is thought to be the ancestor to the domesticated chicken. A flight in this breed to reach their roosting areas in trees or high and safe places is common.	31
9	Comparison of Red Junglefowl males and female head figure. Males have large red fleshy wattles and comb on the head and long, bright gold and bronze feathers forming a "shawl" or "cape" over the back of the bird from the neck	31

to the lower back. Females have no fleshy wattles or comb on the head.

10	Semen collective tubes containing diluents; normal saline 0.9% should be pre-warmed at 37-38°C prior semen collection to prevent sperm dead due to rapid changes of temperature	34
11	Determination of semen concentration using a hemocytometer	37
12	Plotted chart according to daily energy and protein intake (g) in caged Red Jungle Fowl, Serama and Village Chicken within 5 weeks experimental period	40
13	Mean of semen volume in caged RJF, SC and VC in five weeks experimental period. RJF produced the highest volume.	42
14	Mean of semen concentration in caged RJF, SC and VC in five weeks experimental period. RJF produced the highest concentration.	43
16	WinFeed 2.8 Software Program was used to formulate five different levels of dietary energy and protein diet in this experiment.	53
17	The plotted chart of fertile eggs percentage and SQF in each group's treatment	68

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation

AI	-	artificial insemination
BW	-	body weight
CP	-	crude protein
FI	-	feed intake
FSH	-	Follicle Secreting Hormone
GnRH	-	Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone
LH	-	Luteinizing Hormon
ME	-	metabolisable energy
RJF	-	Red Jungle Fowl
SC	-	Serama chicken
SQF	-	semen quality factor
SQI	-	semen quality index
T	-	Testosterone
VC	-	village chicken

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the Study

Reproduction is the most important requisite in animal breeding. Hisgenetic factor carried by the broiler breeder males may affect their progeny ability to fertilize eggs (Fiser and Chambers, 1981). An ultimate profitability in any breeder flock is indicated by the total number of success fertile eggs that purposely for hatching. Normally, broiler producer favor to rear chicken with fast growth and an excellent appetite so that it will meet the target of meat yield production. However, there have been paramount in the development of the modern broiler intense selection for growth, yield, and carcass characteristics (Harms, 1984; Reddy, 1994).

Flock management is the main factor for reproductive efficiency in any broiler breeder production. Fertility in male broiler breeder is a complex trait that involving several physiological processes starting at the point of reproductive organ development from birth to puberty, spermatogenesis, ejaculation and mating behavior. All these processes should be well coordinated as to produce high quality of semen.

Common criteria for evaluating semen quality are including spermatozoa motility, volume, concentration and morphology (Bearden & Fuquay, 1997). Reinecke *et al.*, (1995) stated that sperm morphology is among the essential characteristic for successful fertilization in most domestic animals.

The quality, amount and type of food may exert complex effects on the reproductive system (Hahn *et al.*, 2005). Almost 65-70% of total production cost is due to feed expenses and in fact, energy and protein are the most costly item in poultry diets. As the result of economic and performance concerns, there has been continuous interest in manipulating dietary energy and protein level in poultry nutrition.

Numerous studies have been well documented on the importance of providing sufficient dietary energy and protein during the growing phase of the poultry. As the result, the adequate-nourished flocks will perform superbly by the end of their growth cycle or during reproduction/ breeder phase in case of breeder flock.

Many researchers suggest higher dietary energy and protein level during the growing phase in the chicken life cycle because it gives many advantages to the flock when they reach their sexual maturity. Later, it is recommended to reduce the level of both nutrients when they reach the puberty because by that time, energy and protein are only for body maintenance. Therefore, most

of previous studies focused on manipulating dietary energy and protein levels only during the grower phase. However, information on the manipulation of dietary energy and protein levels in diets during reproduction phase itself or in other word, after sexually maturity in breeder males on their semen production and fertility is still inadequate.

Therefore, it was desirable to determine the effects of dietary energy and protein level during the reproduction phase in caged breeder males on their reproductive performance. Initially, three breeds of local chicken; Red Jungle Fowl (RJF), Serama (SC) and village chicken (VC) will be evaluated for their semen quality since there is no other documented report regarding to their semen profile. The most superior semen producer will be determined in this experiment and will be selected for the dietary energy and protein effects on their semen production and fertility in the second experiment.

1.1 Objectives

1. To evaluate and compare semen parameters in three breeds of local chicken; Red Jungle Fowl, Serama and village chicken fed on commercial breeder diets;
2. To determine the effects of dietary energy and protein level on semen production and fertility in the most superior semen producer of the local chicken breed.

1.2 Hypothesis

It is expected to see variation in semen characteristics among three breeds of local chicken. According to the body size, it is expected Serama (SC) will produce the smallest number of semen volume and concentration since testis size often used to estimate sperm production (Moller, 1988). Red Jungle Fowl (RJF) and village chicken (VC) are expected to not obviously differ in term of semen quality since RJF is the ancestor of the domesticated chicken. However, sperm production estimates can be highly variable (Briskie and Montgomerie, 2007). It is expected high dietary energy and protein may cause improvement in semen quality and fertility in caged breeder males. On the other hand, low dietary energy and protein diet is detrimental to the semen quality and fertility. Fertility depends on the semen quality and can be predicted by SQF value or fertilized eggs percentage.

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