

Effect of milk replacer added *Macleaya cordata* extract calf body weight and health*

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Research Article

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ABSTRACT

This experiment was conducted on 40 newborn Holstein female calves comprising two experimental groups, with 20 calves in each group to investigate the effects of *Macleaya cordata* extract (MCE), on calf body weight and health which added to milk replacer. In both group calves fed on the same terms. Differently, 10 g /head/ day dosages MCE added to the milk replacer of the trial group from day 3 to day 25. Afterward, calves continued to feed until 3 months old and weighed on the birth, 15th, 40th, 60th and 90th days. At the end of the experiment, there was no significant difference at the weights on the birth and 15th days. However, on the 40th, 60th and 90th days weighing in favor of the control group, a significant difference was found (P<0.05). At the end of the experiment in favor of the trial group, there was a significant difference with clinical pneumonia and aspiration pneumonia (P<0.05). The results obtained in the research; MCE which added the milk replacer as a feed additive indicated no positive effect on calf body weight. From a health point of view, MCE has reduced the incidence of respiratory diseases in particular.

Keywords: calf, phytobiotic, performance, respiratory disease

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Introduction

During the past decades, there were renewed interest in developing natural compounds and understanding their target specificity for drug development instead of antibiotics. The recent demand for reduction of antibiotic use in animal production and the ban on their use as feed additives in the European Union (Regulation 1831/2003/ EC), has led to the development and evaluation of alternatives for improving animal performance and health status.

Plant-derived natural bioactive compounds have a large variety of active ingredients and thus represent one of the most promising alternatives to antibiotics. However, the results from these studies have largely been inconsistent and the mechanisms are still inconclusive with limited resources (Liu et al. 2014). For example; gradual or suddenly weaned calves were fed essential oils blend (EOB) as feed additives, results showed that EOB had the potential to improve growth

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performance and to decrease the effect of stressful events in suckling calves (Jeshari et al., 2016). In contrast to this, oregano oil extract did not affect performance and blood parameters in lambs (Ünal and Kocabağlı, 2014). *Macleaya cordata extract* (MCE) is of great scientific and practical interest to researchers, due to its antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory responses within experimental animals (Newton et al., 2002). This extract has a natural appetite enhancer effect on swine, cattle, poultry and even aquaculture (Vieira et al., 2008). MCE is a natural plant-derived (Sangrovit®) supplement, standardized the weight to 1.5% as used in animal nutrition, containing many benzophenanthridine alkaloid compounds, the most abundant of which is sanguinarine (Dvořák et al., 2006). Antimicrobial (Namkung et al., 2004; Walker et al., 1990), antifungal, immunomodulator (Chaturvedi et al., 1997) and anti-inflammatory (Namkung et al., 2004; Yui et al., 1993) effects were determined in different studies.

Many studies in poultry (Vieira et al., 2008; Matulka et al., 2018), beef cattle (Aguilar Hernández et al., 2016) and pigs (Kantas et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016; Zhao, et al., 2017) has been reported positive effect of sanguinarine-like alkaloids on performance. A Study conducted especially in piglet extract of MCE has been reported as an alternative to antibiotics with diarrhea prevention and a positive effect on immunity (Liu et al., 2016). There are no reported studies on the use of the MCE as feed additives in Turkey until today. Thus, the aim of this study was to examine the effect of *Macleaya cordata* extract on calf body weight and health which added to milk replacer.

Materials and methods

This research project was conducted at Uluova Dairy Farm (in Ezine, Çanakkale/Turkey) from September 2017 to January 2018; all procedures were approved by Çanakkale 18 Mart University Animal Experiments Local Ethics Committee (decision number: 2017 / 08-01). In the study, 40 female Holstein calves were used which has born in the date between September-October 2017 and selected calves considering the weights and divided into two groups for the experiment.

The first three days, calves were fed with colostrum, then they transferred to the individual boxes and fed with milk and milk replacer mixture (mixture content 50 g of commercial milk replacer with 2 liters of milk) and fed with 3 times a day. Calves had free access to calf starter feed + roughage + corn flakes mixture and fresh water all times during the

trial. A total of 2.5 kg of this mixture formed by 200 g chopped alfalfa hay, 500 g corn flakes and, 1800 g calf starter feed. This mixture was prepared and given every day to the animals in front of their individual boxes. We added 10 g/ head/ day dosage MCE (Sangrovit® CS, Phytobiotics Futterzusatzstoffe GmbH, Rosengasse9, 65343 Eltville, Germany) in milk and milk replacer mixture to the trial group. This process adds it into the morning feeding. In conclusion; *Macleaya cordata* extract added for 3 weeks to the trial group.

The label information of the milk replacer which is used in research (Halavit 440, Maabarot Products Ltd., Post Maabarot 4023000, Israel) contains Crude protein 23%, Casein 16%, Crude Fat 15%, Crude Ash 7%, Crude Cellulose 0.05%, Sodium 0.5%. This milk replacer mixed in 2 liters milk with 50 g dosage milk replacer.

During the research, we recorded the health parameters and weight of animals in the control and trial group. Body weights were taken on the day birth, 15th, 40th, 60th and 90th. Farm veterinarians made the diagnosis of the diseases in the control and trial group.

Table 1. Average nutrient values of milk which used for calf feeding during the trial

Nutrients	%
Dry Matter	12.06
Fat	3.40
Protein	3.01
Fat/Protein	1.13
MUN	14.33
Urea	30.69
Fat-Free Dry Matter	8.47
Casein	2.24
Lactose	4.90
Acetone	0.11

Statistical analysis: Independent samples T-test were used for the difference between control and trial group importance in terms of weights on birth, 15th day, 40th day, 60th day and 90th day. We used the Chi-square test to compare the health data of the control and trial group. It was used SPSS 13.0 statistical calculation program. Statistical significance was defined according to $P < 0.05$.

Results

It has provided the standard error measurements, significance levels and detected average calf weights of trial and control group on 15th, 40th, 60th and 90th days on Table 2. There was no significant difference in the detected weight gains on birth and 15th days ($P>0.05$). But on the 40th, 60th and 90th days weighing, the difference was significant ($P<0.05$), (Table 2).

Table 2. Calf weights of trial and control group during the experiment (n=20)

Day	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	Control	P Values
0	36.10 ± 1.24	38.90 ± 1.24	0.119
15	40.55 ± 1.16	43.41 ± 1.28	0.107
40	53.63 ^b ± 1.01	58.18 ^a ± 1.12	0.004
60	68.98 ^b ± 1.23	73.84 ^a ± 1.04	0.004
90	83.30 ^b ± 1.34	98.82 ^a ± 0.54	0.000

a-b : The average values with different letters on the same line have significantly difference.

With the purpose to detect the MCE effect on calf health, we recorded the animals which have aspiration pneumonia, clinical pneumonia, chronic pneumonia, feed induced diarrhea and calf diarrhea in the trial and control group. A number of the sick calves in the trial and control group have shown on Table 3 according to disease type.

Table 3. Number of sick calves in the experimental and control groups according to disease type

Disease	<i>Macleaya cordata</i> (n=20)		Control (n=20)		Chi-Square P Value
	n	%	n	%	
Aspiration Pneumonia	0 ^b	0.0	4 ^a	2.0	4.444 (0.035)
Clinical Pneumonia	9 ^b	45.0	17 ^a	85.0	7.033 (0.008)
Chronic Pneumonia	3	15.0	3	15.0	0.000 (1.000)
Feed Induced Diarrhea	7	35.0	11	55.0	1.616 (0.204)
Calf Diarrhea	1	5.0	4	20.0	2.057 (0.151)

a-b: The average values with different letters on the same line have significantly difference.

We recorded diseases, treatments, date of onset of disease and the date of treatment in trial and control group calves. SPSS cross- table rates of detected calf diseases in trial and control groups have shown in Table 4.

Table 4. SPSS cross-table rates of detected calves diseases in trial and control groups

Disease	Group	Status	
		Patient (%)	Healthy (%)
Clinical Pneumonia	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	22.5	27.5
	Control	42.5	7.5
Feed Induced Diarrhea	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	17.5	32.5
	Control	27.5	22.5
Chronic Pneumonia	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	7.5	42.5
	Control	7.5	42.5

In order to determine the risk of developing diseases whatever connect to MCE application, as a result of the chi-square test, the difference between the groups was founded significant in clinical pneumonia and aspiration pneumonia ($P<0.05$). However, there was no significant difference between the trial and control group which calves have feed induced diarrhea, chronic pneumonia and calf diarrhea ($P>0.05$).

Discussion

It has known the fact that using phytobiotics in animal nutrition, has positive effects on various performance parameters. In this study, there are no positive effect on 40th, 60th and 90th day weighings of calves weight despite applied MCE recommended dosages for 21 days (Table 1). Calsamiglia et al. (2007) shown that adding essential oil to milk replacer, decreases feed intake due to the flavor problems in the feed. In this study, due to the taste of MCE, it decreases of milk replacer intake observed. Therefore, the results obtained in this study in line with Calsamiglia et al. (2007)'s study results.

In many studies that applied different essential oils to ruminants, not determines significant statistical differences and was not observed positive results in terms of performance. In the study conducted by Santos et al. (2015) with applied essential oils in the milk replacer, not reported any change in feed consumption and calf weight. Vakili et al. (2013) applied 5 g/ head/ day phytobiotic containing cinnamon and thyme to Holstein calves who have an average weight of 217 kg and reported no significant effect on daily weight gain, feed consumption and feed conversation ratio. The results obtained from these studies support our findings.

There are also studies reporting that phytogetic ingredients have a positive effect on ruminants (Ruben et al., 2015). A study carried out by Estrada Angulo et al. (2016) in sheep during the finishing period on the use of MCE; not detected significant statistical differences in daily weight gains, despite reported that trial group which applied MCE provide 11% more weight gain than the control group.

Results of the studies on animal health of feed additives with phytogetic ingredients show differences. Bampidis et al. (2006) applied feed additives to black pied breed calves which have diarrhea. They applied oregano essential oil with dosage a 10 mg/ day/ kg BW to one group and applied neomycin sulfate as antibiotics with dosage 10 mg/ day/ kg BW. There was no difference in diarrheal days, diarrhea severity and mortality rate between thyme essential oil and antibiotic applied group. Unlu et al. (2011) detected that addition of 250 mg oregano and garlic essential oils in to the full fat milk per day, did not cause any positive results on fecal coliform, *Escherichia coli* and *Lactobacillus* spp. numbers, fecal score and diarrhea treatment days. Liu et al. (2016) reported that no significant difference in performance when compared control group to the group which applied MCE for 90 days to weaned piglets ($P>0.05$). But in the same study, the group with *Macleaya*

cordata significantly increased volumes of ZO-1 and claudin-1, particularly in comparison with the pigs in the control group. Therefore researchers reported that MCE increases intestinal barrier function and can be used as an alternative to antibiotics for piglets (Liu et al., 2016). When we looked to the health results in our trial, in terms of aspiration and clinical pneumonia observed significant results in favor of MCE treated group ($P<0.05$). However, there was no significant difference in feed induced diarrhea, chronic pneumonia and calf diarrhea ($P>0.05$). These positive results weldable antimicrobial effect of the extract with based on Liu et al. (2016) reviews.

The results obtained in the study; MCE which use as a feed additive and added to milk replacer, has shown no positive effect on calf weight gain. When an evaluation is made in terms of health, MCE especially decreased the incidence of respiratory diseases. For this reason, MCE recommended for use as a preservative especially for the respiratory disease for the first stage of life.

In conclusion, MCE has the potential to decrease the incidence of respiratory diseases in calves. Future research is needed to determine the benefit of feeding MCE if it can be used as an alternative to antibiotics for suckling calves.

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