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Effects of curry leaf extract (*Murrya koenigi*) and Lovastatin® on egg yolk cholesterol contents of chicken egg

N S B M Atapattu*, W C J Chandrasiri and M M K Premakumara
Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Mapalana, Kamburupitiya

The poultry industry is under tremendous pressure to produce cholesterol-low eggs to meet the consumer demands arising from cholesterol scare. The objectives of this study were to determine the effects of curry leaf extract (CLE) and Lovastatin® given with water on the physical properties and yolk cholesterol contents of chicken egg. Giving completely randomize design, forty weeks old layers (n=72) in 24 pens were given normal water, water with 5% CLE or water with Lovastatin® for two weeks. Randomly selected eggs were analyzed for egg physical qualities such as weight of the egg, albumin, yolk, shell and yolk pH and shell ash Yolks and serum samples were analyzed for cholesterol. In general, egg production, feed intake and water intakes were not affected by the treatments. Egg weight of the birds given CLE tends to be lower than that of other two treatments. Albumin pH was tended to be low in Lovastatin® given birds. Other egg quality parameters were not significantly affected by the treatments. Yolk cholesterol contents (mg/g of fresh yolk) of the birds given Lovastatin® and CLE were 1.56 and 3.1% lower than that of normal water given birds. The total yolk cholesterol content of the control birds, CLE and Lovastatin® given birds were 222, 215 and 205 mg/yolk, respectively. Though not significant, CLE and Lovastatin® reduced the total yolk cholesterol content by 3 and 7.6%, respectively. It was concluded that under the present experimental conditions, Lovastatin® was more efficacious than CLE in reducing the cholesterol contents of chicken egg.

*nsbm@ansci.ruh.ac.lk Tel: 041-2292200