Effects of *Satureja khuzistanica* essential oils in drinking water on mortality, production performance, water intake, and organ weights in broiler chickens reared under heat stress condition

H. Khosravinia

Abstract  An experiment was conducted to examine the effects on mortality, production performance, water intake (WI), and organ weight of *Satureja khuzistanica* essential oil (SkEO) using 720 1-day-old Arian broiler chicks in a 42-day trial. Experimental treatments were addition of 0 (control−), 200, 300, 400, and 500 mg/L SkEO or 500 mg/L polysorbate 80 (control+) into drinking water. The birds were kept under natural ambient temperatures 4 to 6 °C above standard recommendation from days 22 to 42 of age. Addition of SkEO into drinking water at 200 and 500 mg/L decreased weight gain ($P<0.05$) of the birds from days 29 to 35 of age with no differences in feed intake (FI) and feed conversion ratio (FCR) compared to control groups ($P>0.05$). Supplementation of drinking water with 200, 300, 400, and 500 mg/L SkEO resulted in a 0.47, 4.40, 8.60, and 12.93 % decrease in WI, respectively, from days 1 to 42 of age. The calculated European broiler index was greater for the birds received 400 mg/L of SkEO in their drinking water compared with that of the other birds ($P<0.05$). Pancreas percentage was increased for the birds received 200 to 500 mg/L SkEO at days 21 and 42 of age compared with that of the control− birds ($P<0.05$). The gall bladder weight was 17.56, 40.50, 12.16, and 38.73 % greater for the birds received 200, 300, 400, and 500 mg/L SkEO compared with that of the control− birds, respectively. The results showed that an addition of 400 mg/L SkEO into drinking water for heat-stressed broiler chickens improves economic efficiency possibly by promoting digestion process, creating miniscule improvement in FCR and lowered mortality rate.

Keywords  Broiler chicken · Heat stress · *Satureja khuzistanica* · Water intake · Zootechnical performance

Introduction

Extreme ambient temperature is probably the most prevalent environmental stressor adversely affecting welfare, health, and production economics in broiler industry (Borges et al. 2004). The major consequence of heat stress in growing birds is depressed weight gain occurring mainly due to decreased feed intake and elevated energy expenditure to reduce body temperature (Lott 1991; May and Lott 1992; Belay and Teeter 1993). Therefore, exploration of any avenue toward heat stress relief which improves feed and water intake may offer a thermoregulatory and performance advantage to heat-stressed broilers. Many studies have focused on diet modifications to alleviate hot environmental conditions for heat-stressed broilers. In most of these studies, supplementing diets or drinking water with vitamins (Mckee and Harrison 1995), electrolytes (Borges et al. 2003, 2004; Ahmed and Sarwar 2006), probiotics (Zulkifli et al. 2000), prebiotics (Riad et al. 2010), or organic acids (Goksoy et al. 2010) was the main approach suggested to minimize the impact of heat stress in broilers. Recent findings show that the use of phytogenic feed additives alleviates the harmful effect of heat stress in broiler chickens (Zeinali et al. 2011; Suderman and Solikhah 2011). Zeinali et al. (2011) reported that dietary supplementation of selenium and turmeric powder had a beneficial effect on health and plasma lipids in heat-stressed broiler chicken. Suderman and Solikhah (2011) showed that inclusion of *Pluchea indica* L. leaf meal in diet (20 g/kg) improved weight gain, feed intake, and water intake, but not feed conversion ratio, in heat-stressed broiler chicks.
**Satureja khuzistanica** Jamzad is a plant well-known for its remedial properties in traditional medicine (Zargari 1990). The aerial parts of *S. khuzistanica* collectively contain up to 3 % of an essential oil spectacularly rich in carvacrol (up to 94 %) (Khosravinia et al. 2013). Carvacrol is a phenolic, caustic, and bitter-tasting compound with good stability (Lide 1998) demonstrating antioxidant (Quiroga and Asensio 1998) demonstrating antioxidant (Quiroga and Asensio 1998), antibacterial (Azaz et al. 2002), and antifungal (Skociusic and Bezic 2004) effects mainly in experiments conducted under standard managerial practices and normal environmental conditions.

However, experimental evidence on effects of administration of phytogenic extracts to the avian exposed to various environmental stressors such as heat-stressed birds is scarce. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the effects of SkEO on productive performance, mortality, and certain organ weights in broiler chickens exposed to seasonal extreme environmental stressors such as heat-stressed birds is scarce. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the effects of SkEO on productive performance, mortality, and certain organ weights in broiler chickens exposed to seasonal extreme environmental temperatures during days 21 to 42 of age.

### Materials and methods

**Preparation of essential oil**

The aerial parts of *S. khuzistanica* were manually harvested during the flowering stage of the plant in Khorraman farm, Khorramabad, Iran. The collected materials were air dried at ambient temperature under shade and hydrodistilled using a clevenger-type apparatus for 5 h, giving a yellow oil in 3 % yield. The oils were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and stored at 4 °C. A sample of the bulk was analyzed based on the method used by Hadian et al. (2011) and the composition is presented in Table 1.

**Experimental flock**

A total number of 720 1-day-old Arian broiler chicks were obtained from a commercial hatchery and housed in a concrete floor, cross-ventilated windowless shed. The chicks were randomly assigned to 36 pens (100×180 cm) arranged in six replicate blocks at flocking density of 12 birds per m². Corn and soybean meal based diets and water were provided to the birds for ad libitum consumption throughout the experiment (Table 2). The shed was equipped with wet pad-and-fan cooling system to reduce the ambient temperature. Nonetheless, during days 21 to 42 of experiment, the average temperature during day and night hours ranged from 32 to 35 and 28 to 30 °C, respectively. Therefore, it was considered that the birds were exposed to seasonal extreme ambient temperature from day 21 of age onwards.

The effects of six experimental treatments consisting supplementation of drinking water with 0 (control), 200, 300, 400, and 500 mg/L SkEO or 500 mg/L polysorbate 80 (control) were examined in six replicates of 20 birds each. Polysorbate 80 used as an emulsifying agent to disperse SkEO in water at a 1:1 ratio (v/v). Mortality was recorded all through the experiment upon occurrence. Body weight gain, FI, and WI were measured weekly, and their data were used to calculate data on FCR and FI:WI ratio and a European broiler index (EBI) as (Euribird 1994):

$$\text{EBI} = \frac{(\text{viability}, \% \times \text{live weight, kg})}{\times 100/(\text{age of slaughtering}, \text{days} \times \text{feed intake, kg})}$$

At day 21 of age, one male bird and at 42 days of age eight birds (4 males and 4 females) from each replicate pen were killed (without stunning) by slicing the carotid artery and jugular vein, bled for 120 s, scaled at 60 °C for 90 s, and picked using a rotary drum picker individually and eviscerated. After evisceration, the carcasses were individually weighed (CW) and the data were presented as a percentage of live weight (CY). The weight of abdominal fat (AF), liver, pancreas, duodenum, and gall bladder were also expressed proportional to carcass weight.

### Table 1 Essential oil composition of *Satureja khuzistanica*

| Compound                  | RII    | Composition (%) |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| α-Thujene                 | 925    | 0.24±0.14       |
| α-Pinene                  | 933    | 0.15±0.05       |
| Myrecene                  | 981    | 0.26±0.19       |
| α-Terpine                 | 1013   | 0.24±0.12       |
| α-Cymene                  | 1017   | 1.26±0.86       |
| Limonene                  | 1026   | 0.13±0.04       |
| (Z)-β-oicinene            | 1036   | 0.54±0.08       |
| γ-Teriencene              | 1053   | 0.74±0.23       |
| trans-Sabinene hydrate    | 1081   | 0.17±0.02       |
| Terpinen-4-ol             | 1163   | tr              |
| α-Terpinolene             | 1175   | 0.42±0.45       |
| Thymol                    | 1266   | tr              |
| Carvacrol                 | 1282   | 92.16±0.46      |
| Thymyl acetate            | 1329   | tr              |
| β-Caryophyllene           | 1425   | 0.16±0.01       |
| α-Humulene                | 1427   | tr              |
| β-Bisabolene              | 1501   | tr              |
| trans-β-Bisabolene        | 1522   | 0.10±0.01       |

RII retention indices determined relative to n-alkanes (C6–C24) on a DB-5GC column, tr trace (<0.05 %)

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1 The plant was already identified by the Department of Botany of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (TARI), Tehran. A voucher specimen (No. 58416) has been deposited at the Herbarium of TARI.
Statistical analysis

The statistical model used to analyze the collected data was

\[ Y_{ijkl} = \mu + \text{SkEO}_i + S_j + B_k + \varepsilon_{ijkl}, \]

where \( Y_{ijkl} \) is the dependent variable, \( \mu \) is the general mean, \( \text{SkEO}_i \) is the fixed effect of SkEO (\( i=6; \) control, 0, 200, 300, 400, 500 mg/L SkEO), \( S_j \) is the fixed effect of sex (\( j=2; \) and \( B_k \) is the random effect of block (\( k=6; \) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) and \( \varepsilon_{ijkl} \) is the residual error. For the variables evaluated at day 21 of age, the fixed effect of sex was omitted from the model. The data were analyzed using PROC MIXED of SAS 9.1 (2002). The LSD test was used for multiple treatment comparisons using the LSMEANS statement of SAS 9.1 (2002) with letter grouping obtained using the SAS pdmix800 macro (Saxton 1998). For the different statistical tests, significance was declared at \( P<0.05 \). The REG procedure of SAS 9.1 (2002) was used to provide regression models for assessment of relationship between SkEO and water intake. Orthogonal polynomial contrasts were applied to test the linear or quadratic nature of the response in variables concerned to the graded levels of SkEO in drinking water (SAS Institute 2002).

Results

Supplementing SkEO at the levels of 200 and 500 mg/L in drinking water did not change average daily gain (ADG) of the birds with the single exception of days 29 to 35 of age when ADG was greater in SkEO-received birds compared with the control birds (\( P<0.05 \); Table 3). Feed intake was similar among the birds (\( P>0.05 \); Table 4). Feed conversion ratio tended to be lower (3.5%) in the birds receiving 400 mg/L SkEO than in the other birds (\( P=0.058 \); Table 4).

Water intake was significantly decreased by addition of SkEO into drinking water in a dose-dependent manner during all weekly periods of age (\( P<0.05 \); Table 5). Supplementation of drinking water with SkEO linearly decreased water intake from day 1 to 42 of age (Fig. 1). A dose-response decrease was also observed in mean FI:WI ratio for all birds received SkEO in their drinking water, but the response was not as much consistent as it was for WI (\( P<0.01 \); Table 5). The mean mortality rate was not different for the treated birds compared
to the control birds during days 1 to 21 and 22 to 42 of age ($P>0.05$; Fig. 2). However, for pooled data overall periods, supplementation of drinking water with 300 and 500 mg/L SkEO increased mortality rate of the birds mainly in the second episode of the growing period when the birds were under heat stress.

The calculated European broiler index was greater for the birds that received 400 mg/L of SkEO in their drinking water compared to the other groups (Fig. 3). There were no significant effects of SkEO-treated water on carcass weight, carcass yield, and abdominal fat percentage in male and female birds at day 42 of age ($P>0.05$; Table 6). The mean duodenum

### Table 3  Effect of essential oils of *Satureja khuzistanica* on average daily weight gain in broiler chicken up to 42 days of age

|                  | Weight gain (g) | Essential oils of *S. khuzistanica* (mg/L) | SEM$^b$ | $P$ value |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
|                  | Control$^a$     | Control$^a$                               | 0       | 200       |
| 1–7 days         | 16.61           | 16.90                                     |         | 16.78     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 16.91     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 16.92     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 16.98     |
| 8–14 days        | 26.29           | 26.41                                     |         | 26.26     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 26.21     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 27.17     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 25.31     |
| 15–21 days       | 41.31           | 41.72                                     |         | 40.19     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 41.52     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 39.40     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 40.90     |
| 22–28 days       | 72.62           | 74.72                                     |         | 76.05     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 73.48     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 74.91     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 74.48     |
| 29–35 days       | 81.36$^b$       | 87.72$^a$                                 |         | 87.48$^a$ |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 80.00$^b$ |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 85.00$^b$ |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 80.29$^b$ |
| 36–42 days       | 82.43           | 81.43                                     |         | 79.60     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 85.62     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 86.07     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 83.00     |
| 1–42 days        | 53.43           | 54.81                                     |         | 54.39     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 53.96     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 55.91     |
|                  |                 |                                           |         | 53.49     |

Means within a row without a common superscript ($a$, $b$) differ significantly ($P<0.05$)

$^a$Control+ : The birds that received drinking water supplemented with 500 mg/L polysorbate 80 throughout the trial. Control− : The birds that received drinking water with no additive

$^b$Standard error of mean

### Table 4  Effect of essential oils of *Satureja khuzistanica* on average daily feed intake and feed conversion ratio in broiler chicken up to day 42 of age

|                  | Control$^a$     | Essential oils of *S. khuzistanica* (mg/L) | SEM$^b$ | $P$ value | Trend        |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
|                  |                 | 0                                         | 200     | 300       | 400          | 500          |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           | Linear       | Quadratic    |
| Feed intake (g)  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 1–7 days         | 19.26           | 19.67                                     |         | 19.40     | 19.02        | 19.19        | 19.53        | 0.104        | 0.4158       | 0.2345       | 0.2013       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 8–14 days        | 36.62           | 36.17                                     |         | 36.45     | 37.01        | 36.50        | 36.29        | 0.114        | 0.2258       | 0.6571       | 0.7201       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 15–21 days       | 60.01           | 60.95                                     |         | 60.03     | 60.71        | 59.86        | 61.46        | 0.252        | 0.3129       | 0.5321       | 0.1234       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 22–28 days       | 136.58          | 132.36                                    |         | 133.27    | 132.07       | 132.17       | 129.78       | 0.898        | 0.2511       | 0.4561       | 0.2340       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 29–35 days       | 183.41          | 175.65                                    |         | 176.13    | 175.15       | 175.41       | 175.52       | 1.603        | 0.6742       | 0.2913       | 0.4521       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 36–42 days       | 189.77          | 199.85                                    |         | 204.82    | 210.97       | 196.04       | 214.24       | 2.754        | 0.0672       | 0.3912       | 0.1219       |
|                  |                 |                                           |         |           |              |             |
| 1–42 days        | 104.27          | 104.11                                    |         | 105.08    | 105.82       | 103.18       | 106.14       | 0.466        | 0.4356       | 0.2345       | 0.0912       |

$a$Control$^a$ : The birds received drinking water supplemented with 500 mg/L polysorbate 80 throughout the trial

$^b$Standard error of mean
weight in days 21 and 42 of age was not affected \( (P > 0.05) \) by SkEO-treated water (Table 7). Pancreas percentage was significantly increased \( (P < 0.05) \) for the birds that received 200 to 500 mg/L SkEO at 21 and 42 days of age compared with that of the control groups. Liver percentage (as the percentage of carcass weight) was not significantly different among the treated and control birds at day 42 of age \( (P < 0.05) \). The relative weight of gall bladder was greater for the birds that received 500 mg/L SkEO compared to the control birds at day 42 of age \( (P < 0.05; \) Table 7).

### Discussion

In this study, SkEO exhibited no promising effect on DWG of the broiler chicken through day 28 of age when the birds were maintained under normal production practices. However, in days 29 to 35, when the birds suffered from an extreme heat stress episode, SkEO-added water decreased DWG of the birds. The decreased DWG was mainly attributed to the lowered water intake which imposed a great challenge to the birds because they needed to drink more water to overcome their disturbed homeothermic state (Lara and Rostagno 2013). In a study, supplementation of drinking water with high doses of SkEO (ranging from 500 to 2500 mg/L) adversely affected production performance of broiler chickens from days 1 to 28 of age (Khosravinia et al. 2013). When the dose of SkEO in drinking water were reduced below 500 mg/L, the birds...
received 500 mg/L SkEO in the first 28 days of age compensated their weight gain afterwards. These findings were inconsistent with the results of Lee et al. (2003) who reported a 2 % increase in average daily gain of broiler chicken by inclusion of 0.2 g per kg carvacrol in the diet. Addition of tymole, an isomer of carvacrol, at the same dose caused a 3 % decrease in ADG (Lee et al. 2003). The same researchers did not report water intake of the treated birds. However, the differences in the results could be explained by physiological status of the birds. In the current study, birds were not raised in standard conditions. The inconsistency in the results of current study with those reported by the other researchers could be also explained by the fact that in this experiment SkEO was added to the drinking water, while in the other studies the active components of SkEO (such as carvacrol) were mainly included in the diet. In agreement with the findings of the current study, Basmacioglu et al. (2004) reported that dietary oregano extract (a natural product rich in carvacrol) at 0.15 g/kg decreased WI in all treated birds. Such effect has been already assigned to the flavor of water (Khosravinia et al. 2013). The bitter and pungent taste of carvacrol and possibly other principle components of SkEO caused a significant drop in water intake. Water is involved in every aspect of broiler metabolism, playing important roles in regulating body temperature, digesting food, and eliminating body wastes. At normal temperatures, poultry consume at least twice as much water as feed. Under heat stress, water intake increases (Quinteiro-Filho et al. 2012; Lara and Rostagno 2013). It seems that the caustic taste of water did not allow the treated birds to increase their WI when they were exposed to heat stress. Therefore, a dose-dependent decrease in mean FI:WI ratio was observed (Fig. 1). Unfortunately, effects of flavors on chicken performance have not been investigated in detail. Because, most researchers believe that broilers may not actually respond to the flavors as compared with mammals (Moran 1982). It was shown that dietary inclusion of carvacrol in broiler chicks reduced feed intake by modulating appetite of the birds (Lee et al. 2003). In
agreement with the conclusions made by Lee et al. (2004), findings of the present study also questioned the assumption that phytogenic extracts improve the palatability of diet (Windisch et al. 2008; Costa et al. 2013). The great attention currently focused on administration of essential oils and other phytogenic products to poultry urges further investigation on response of avian species to flavors in water and feeds.

Mortality always represents a major economic loss in broiler flocks. It is usually greater in broiler flocks exposed to extreme environmental temperatures compared to those maintained in normal conditions. Water intake is an important determinant in mortality rate in heat-stressed birds (Bruno et al. 2011). Water intake increases in heat-stressed birds to maintain thermoregulatory balance (Bruno and Macari 2002), because heat stress increases water loss via exhalation as a mean to cool down body temperature (Zhang et al. 2012). In the current study, it was speculated that the decreased water intake was due to the bitter taste of carvacrol resulted in greater mortality rates in treated birds. Such a speculation became a reality as the mortality rate increased in the birds received 300 and 500 mg/L SkEO when they were exposed to extreme ambient temperature in days 21 to 42 of age.

No single production criterion can perfectly reveal the economic output of a broiler flock. Researchers have tried to pool the fractional influence of many production criteria in an index to compare performance of different flocks. The index created by Euribrid (1994) is calculated based on final body weight, FCR, and mortality. The calculated index for the treated birds with 400 mg/L of SkEO through drinking water was greater compared to other groups. The diminutive advantages of water treated with 400 mg/L SkEO in DWG, improved FCR in days 1 to 42 of age and lowered mortality rate especially during days 22 to 42 of age was reflected as an improved

### Table 6
Effect of essential oils of *Satureja khuzistanica* on carcass weight (CW; g), carcass yield (CY; %), abdominal fat-to-carcass weight ratio (AF: CW) in broiler chicks at 42 days of age

|          | CW     | CY     | AF: CW |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Males    |        |        |        |
| Control+a| 1662.6 | 40.54  | 2.442  |
| 0        | 1594.2 | 31.69  | 1.969  |
| 200      | 1651.0 | 38.00  | 2.294  |
| 300      | 1661.3 | 35.50  | 2.131  |
| 400      | 1652.2 | 32.00  | 1.940  |
| 500      | 1683.6 | 38.75  | 2.300  |
| SEMᵇ     | 14.449 | 1.202  | 0.067  |
| P>F      | 0.1581 | 0.1859 | 0.2125 |
| Trends   |        |        |        |
| Linear   | 0.4510 | 0.2871 | 0.4511 |
| Quadratic| 0.2672 | 0.3212 | 0.1873 |
| Females  |        |        |        |
| Control+a| 1408.0 | 41.77  | 2.970  |
| 0        | 1454.2 | 36.58  | 2.500  |
| 200      | 1413.6 | 45.00  | 3.127  |
| 300      | 1328.4 | 38.08  | 2.866  |
| 400      | 1398.2 | 37.92  | 2.722  |
| 500      | 1409.6 | 36.25  | 2.557  |
| SEMᵇ     | 15.238 | 1.203  | 0.077  |
| P>F      | 0.2936 | 0.2910 | 0.1581 |
| Trends   |        |        |        |
| Linear   | 0.3321 | 0.3870 | 0.6517 |
| Quadratic| 0.3642 | 0.3912 | 0.1271 |

ᵇ Standard error of mean

### Table 7
Effect of essential oils of *Satureja khuzistanica* on relative weight of duodenum and pancreas (at 21 and 42 days) and relative weight of liver and bile bladder (at 42 day) in broiler chickens

|          | Essential oils of *S. khuzistanica* (mg/L) | SEMᵇ | P value |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|------|---------|
|          | 0 | 200 | 300 | 400 | 500 | Linear | Quadratic |
| Duodenum |          |      |      |      |      |        |
| Control+a| 1.412 | 1.689 | 1.628 | 1.625 | 1.483 | 1.507 | 0.045 | 0.3120 | 0.2072 | 0.1176 |
| 0        | 1.180 | 1.218 | 1.269 | 1.356 | 1.223 | 1.178 | 0.023 | 0.1927 | 0.3451 | 0.2431 |
| 200      | 1.322 | 0.302 | 0.322 | 0.329 | 0.332 | 0.340 | 0.006 | 0.0121 | 0.0345 | 0.3391 |
| 300      | 3.783 | 3.639 | 3.831 | 3.566 | 3.583 | 3.500 | 0.065 | 0.6670 | 0.5100 | 0.4310 |
| 400      | 0.094 | 0.074 | 0.087 | 0.104 | 0.083 | 0.102 | 0.004 | 0.0146 | 0.0341 | 0.1021 |
| 500      |          |      |      |      |      |        |
| SEMᵇ     | 15.238 | 1.203 | 0.077 |
| P>F      | 0.2936 | 0.2910 | 0.1581 |
| Trends   |        |        |        |
| Linear   | 0.3321 | 0.3870 | 0.6517 |
| Quadratic| 0.3642 | 0.3912 | 0.1271 |

ᵇ Standard error of mean

Means within a column without a common superscript (*a–b*) differ significantly (*P*<0.05)
EBI index. These results suggest that 400 mg/L can be recommended as the dose for addition of SkEO into drinking water for broiler chickens.

In the current study, CW and CY were not affected by treatments in either male or female birds. These results were expected as carcass weight is mainly associated with pre-slaughter weight but carcass yield is mainly correlated to body composition among many other factors. However, it was anticipated that SkEO exerts a considerable impact on abdominal fat percentage. Case et al. (1995) reported that dietary inclusion of carvacrol affected fat metabolism in broiler chicken as shown by decreased abdominal fat (AF). In broiler chicken, lipids and triglycerides in particular are stored in the abdominal cavity (Saadoun and Leclercq 1987). There is a general postulation that almost all the fat built up in broiler adipose tissue including abdominal fat is synthesized in the liver or derived from the diet (Griffin et al. 1992; Hermier 1997). The results on AF disagree with the findings of Khosravinia et al. (2013) who reported that supplementation of drinking water with SkEO (500 to 2500 mg/L) significantly reduced abdominal fat in both male and female birds raised under normal conditions.

In conclusion, the present study revealed that administration of SkEO at 400 mg/L through drinking water to heat-stressed and female birds raised under normal conditions.

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