Effects of meniran (Phyllanthus niruri L.) administration on leukocyte profile of broiler chickens infected with Mycoplasma gallisepticum

Sri Hidanah¹, Emy Koestanti Sabdoningrum², Retno Sri Wahjuni² and Sri Chusniati³

1. Department of Animal Husbandry, Jl. Mulyorejo, Kampus C Unair, Surabaya, Indonesia, 60115; 2. Department of Basic Veterinary Medicine, Jl. Mulyorejo, Kampus C Unair, Surabaya, Indonesia, 60115; 3. Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Jl. Mulyorejo, Kampus C Unair, Surabaya, Indonesia, 60115.

Corresponding author: Emy Koestanti Sabdoningrum, e-mail: emykoestanti@yahoo.co.id
Co-authors: SH: s_hidanah@yahoo.com, RSW: wahjuniretno@yahoo.com, SC: ichusfkhua@gmail.com

doi: 10.14202/vetworld.2018.834-839 How to cite this article: Hidanah S, Sabdoningrum EK, Wahjuni RS, Chusniati S (2018) Effects of meniran (Phyllanthus niruri L.) administration on leukocyte profile of broiler chickens infected with Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Veterinary World, 11(6): 834-839.

Abstract
Aim: This study aimed to evaluate the effects of Meniran extract (Phyllanthus niruri L.) administration on leukocyte profile of broiler chickens infected with Mycoplasma gallisepticum.

Materials and Methods: Thirty broiler chickens, 21 days old were divided into five treatment groups. P0 (−): Chickens without any treatment; P0 (+), P1, P2, and P3: Chickens were infected with M. gallisepticum 10⁶ cells/ml/animal orally, then given no treatment, Meniran extract 60%, 62.5%, and 65% orally at a dose of 1 ml/kg body weight, respectively. The treatment of Meniran extract was given for 7 days.

Results: Leukocyte count with the lowest number showed in Group P0 (−) and Group P3 (p<0.05). Increased number of basophils was found in Group P0 (+), Group P1, and Group P2. The highest number of heterophils was found in Group P0 (+) and was significantly different from Group P0 to P3 (p<0.05). The same pattern was also seen in the number of lymphocytes in all treatment groups. The number of monocytes showed no significant difference between all treatment groups (p>0.05).

Discussion: Increased the number of leukocytes is often observed in inflammation due to general infections, trauma, or toxicity. Shifting in the number of heterophile or lymphocytes, an increase in the number of monocytes, basophils, and eosinophils may also be associated with various infectious or inflammatory conditions. Heterophils play a role as an antibacterial defense through several effective mechanisms. When infections and inflammation occur, the heterophils will increase to phagocytosis microbe.

Conclusion: It can be concluded that Meniran extract (P. niruri L.) at a dose of 65% can decrease the total number of leukocytes in broilers infected with M. gallisepticum.

Keywords: chicken, leukocyte, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, Phyllanthus niruri L.

Introduction
Endemic disease that attacks broiler chicken farms is considered as one of the obstacles of broiler chicken business since it will cause huge economic losses. One of the diseases that can lead to huge economic losses for broiler chicken farms is respiratory disease [1]. In the respiratory disease, bacterial infection appears to play the greatest role. One of the bacteria capable of causing respiratory disease in broiler chickens is Mycoplasma gallisepticum, also known as the cause of chronic respiratory disease (CRD) [2].

M. gallisepticum is not an invasive bacterium, but it can spread through the gaps of the respiratory organ cells due to their small size and through blood capillaries [3] by hemorrhaging erythrocytes [4]. It will then trigger changes in the number of leukocytes in the blood due to bacterial infection in the body. In other words, increased leukocytes can be considered as a physiological response to protect the body from invading microorganisms, especially neutrophils [5].

CRDs have commonly been treated using antibiotics to inhibit protein synthesizes, such as tiamulin and tylosin. Those antibiotics can damage the cell wall. However, certain antibiotics such as penicillin and its derivatives will not be useful since M. gallisepticum bacteria do not have a cell wall. Besides, continuous administration of antibiotics can also cause broiler chickens to be resistant to the drugs and leave a dangerous residue for them [6].

On the other hand, Meniran (Phyllanthus niruri L.) is a medicinal plant commonly found in Indonesia. The plant contains various chemical compounds such as lignans, tannins, polyphenols, alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids, and steroids [7]. Some of those chemical compounds, such as alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and tannins, are thought to have antimicrobial activity [8]. In addition to antimicrobial activity, Meniran extract also can serve as an immunomodulator that will enhance the immune system components.
as well as improve the disrupted immune system function [9]. Thus, it is necessary to conduct research on effects of Meniran extract (P. niruri L.) administration on leucocyte profile of broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum*.

**Materials and Methods**

**Ethical approval**

The entire research was conducted appropriately following the ethics in using experimental animals and has been approved by the ethics committee of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universitas Airlangga.

**Research location and time**

This research was conducted at several places in the Veterinary Medical Faculty of Universitas Airlangga, such as the animal cage unit, the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory of the Basic Medicine Veterinary Department, the Bacteriology and Microbiology Laboratory of the Microbiology Department, the Molecular Biology Laboratory, and the Pharmacology Laboratory of Basic Medical Science Department.

**Research materials**

Research materials used in this research were commercial chicken feed (PT Charoen Pokphand) and vitamins regularly administered during the research, Meniran extract (P. niruri L.), 96% ethanol and Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC Na), *M. gallisepticum* isolates, 70% alcohol, wright stain solution, as well as oil immersion.

**Research tools**

Research tools used in this research were cage, feeding place, drinking place, gloves, mask, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) tube, glass cover, tissue, microscope, glass object, paint shelf, blood cell counter, hematology analyzer, test tube, filter tool, rotary evaporator, oven, measuring cup, Bunsen, pipette, Erlenmeyer tube, basin, two 50-watt incandescent lamps, ND vaccine (new castle disease), disinfectant soap, cage sized 60 cm×50 cm×40 cm, and battery cage sized 40 cm×40 cm×37 cm.

**Treatment**

Chickens aged 21 days were proved to be infected with avian *M. gallisepticum* before the experiment. Chickens showed respiratory symptoms at 3 days after infection. The presumptive diagnosis was based on the occurrence of typical signs (mucus discharge from the mouth and nostrils and increased respiratory rate) together with differential diagnosis (isolation and identification of the causative organisms), and final diagnosis was based on serological tests.

Thirty broiler chickens were divided into five treatment groups as follows:

P0 (−): A negative control group of chickens without any treatment

P0 (+): A positive control group of broilers orally infected *M. gallisepticum* bacteria with a concentration of 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml/animal without the administration of Meniran extract.

P1: A treatment group of broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria with a concentration of 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml/animal, then given 60% Meniran extract at a dose of 1 ml/kg body weight (BW).

P2: A treatment group of broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria with a concentration of 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml/animal, then given 62.5% Meniran extract at a dose of 1 ml/kg BW.

P3: A treatment group of broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria with a concentration of 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml/animal, then given 65% Meniran extract at a dose of 1 ml/kg BW.

Meniran extract was given for 7 days orally using probe.

**Preparation of ethanol extract of Meniran (P. niruri L.)**

First, Meniran was aerated under the shade. Second, Meniran that has been dried was ground into powder. Third, 1 kg of Meniran powder was extracted with maceration technique by immersing it in 5 L of 96% ethanol solution for 3×24 h. Fourth, it was stirred twice, morning and evening. In total, the maceration process was conducted 3 times. Fifth, the results of the immersion in the form of filtrates were then filtered for subsequent evaporation using a rotary evaporator resulting in Meniran extract solution [10].

**Multiplication of M. gallisepticum**

Mycoplasma broth isolates were obtained from Balai Besar Veteriner Wates. Agar culture media for bacteria not yet filled were prepared. Multiplication of *M. gallisepticum* bacteria was then performed by striking the agar culture media with a sterile inoculating loop/transfer loop. Afterward, the agar medias were put into jars containing wet cotton since the bacteria grow in an anaerobic state. The jars then were put into an incubator at 37°C for 3-21 days to grow bacteria on those agar culture medias [11].

**Preparation of M. gallisepticum suspension**

Bacterial suspension was made by preparing the suspension of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* bacteria. Next, the suspension of *M. gallisepticum* bacteria was centrifuged for 10 min at 5000 rpm. The top of the suspension of *M. gallisepticum* bacteria in the centrifuge tube was then removed to obtain its filtrate remaining at the bottom of the tube. Afterward, the filtrate was mixed physiologically with NaCl using a vortex at 3000 rpm, and then centrifuged as many as 3 times [12].

The infectious dose of *M. gallisepticum* bacteria was determined using McFarland standard # 1. It means that 3×10<sup>8</sup> cells were diluted to obtain a dose of 10<sup>8</sup> cells/ml/animal. The dilution of the infectious dose of *M. gallisepticum* bacteria was started by adding 9 ml of NaCl solution into the tubes. The tubes that had been filled the NaCl solution then were added to *M. gallisepticum* bacterial suspension. Next, the
bacterial suspension was added to make their turbidity equal to the McFarland standard #1 tube with the number of bacterial colonies of $3 \times 10^8$ colony-forming unit (CFU). After their turbidity appeared the same, the suspension of $3 \times 10^8$ CFU bacteria was diluted to $10^5$. The dilution was performed with a ratio of 1-2, i.e., 1 ml of McFarland standard #1 solution together with the number of bacterial colonies ($3 \times 10^5$) was added into 2 ml of physiological NaCl solution [13].

**Blood sampling**

Blood sampling was taken through brown brachial vein as much as 1 cc. Blood samples examined were given anticoagulant EDTA. The blood samples with a dose of 1 mg/1 ml then were put into the EDTA tube. Next, the total number of leukocytes and the number of each type of leukocytes were examined at the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory of the Basic Medicine Veterinary Department of the Veterinary Faculty of Universitas Airlangga.

**Statistical analysis**

Data about the total number of leukocytes and the number of each type of leukocytes then were statistically analyzed with ANOVA test and then continued with Duncan multiple stability test using SPSS 21 for windows with a significance level of 95% (p<0.05).

**Results and Discussion**

Results of the leukocyte count analysis showed that there was no significant difference between Group P0 (−) and Group P3 (p>0.05). However, both were significantly different from Group P0 (+), Group P1, and Group P2 (p<0.05). The mean and standard deviations of Group P0 (−), Group P0 (+), Group P1, Group P2, and Group P3 were, respectively, 20.440±1.430, 38.800±5.833, 34.400±4.615, 33.258±3.014, and 25.400±3.130 (Table-1).

Increased leukocyte production suggests that the body responds to infection, drug reactions, or immunological disorders [14]. Difference in the leukocyte profile was found between the two treatment groups of those broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria treated with 60 and 62.5% Meniran extracts (Group P1 and Group P2).

On the other hand, the total number of leukocytes decreased in Group P1, Group P2, and Group P3. This condition indicates that the inflammatory process due to bacterial infection had stopped. This is due to the ability of Meniran plant extract in killing bacteria. Meniran extract is known to contain tannins, saponins, and alkaloids that have antibacterial activity [15]. Antibacterial agents have various ways of killing bacterial growth, one of which is by destroying the structure of the bacterial cells, resulting in the death of bacterial cells [16].

In general, an increase in the number of leukocytes in peripheral blood is often observed in stressful conditions triggered by inflammation due to general infections, trauma, toxicity, neoplasms, etc., whereas decline may be an indication of swelling or chronic infection [17,18]. However, changes in specific cell populations can be seen in a variety of different conditions.

Furthermore, the calculation results of the number of each type of leukocytes in the treatment groups indicated varying results. The number of eosinophils in Group P0 (−) was not significantly different from that in Group P1 and Group P2 (p>0.05). There was a significant difference in the number of eosinophils between Group P0 (+) and Group P3 (p<0.05). Similarly, there was also a significant difference in the number of eosinophils between Group P0 (+) and Group P3 (p<0.05). The lowest number of eosinophils was found in Group P3 about 500±111, while the highest one was found in Group P0 (+) about 1,337±156. However, they are still within the normal range of eosinophil count in chickens, about 0-1,000 cells, except Group P0 (+) with the number of eosinophils above the normal one.

Unlike the number of eosinophils, the number of basophils was rarely found in the blood samples of those broiler chickens. There was not a significant difference in the number of basophils between Group P0 (−) and Group P3 (p>0.05). Similarly, there was also not a significant difference in the number of basophils between Group P1 and Group P2. Nevertheless, the number of basophils in all four treatment groups was significantly different from Group P0 (+) (p<0.05). The mean number of basophils in Group P0 (−), Group P0 (+), Group P1, Group P2, and Group P3 was, respectively, 10±1, 110±25, 262±37, 230±48, and 11±2. Increased number of basophils was found in Group P0 (+), Group P1, and Group P2.

In addition, the number of heterophils in Group P0 (−) was not significantly different from Group P3. Similarly, the number of heterophile in Group P1 was not significantly different from Group P2 (p>0.05). However, the other three treatment groups were significantly different from Group P0 (+) (p<0.05). The number of heterophils in Group P0 (−) and Group P3 was still at normal one, while the number of heterophils in Group P0 (+), Group P1, and Group P2 was above the normal one. The same pattern was also seen in the number of lymphocytes in all treatment groups.

**Table-1:** The total number of leukocytes in the broiler chickens infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria after the treatments.

| Treatment | Total number of leukocytes (X±SD) (10^3/mm^3) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| P0-       | 20.440±1.430                                 |
| P0+       | 38.800±5.833                                 |
| P1        | 34.400±4.615                                 |
| P2        | 33.258±3.014                                 |
| P3        | 25.400±3.130                                 |

*Different superscripts in the same column indicated a significant difference (p<0.05). *M. gallisepticum*= *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, SD= Standard deviation.
Unlike the number of other leukocyte components, the number of monocytes showed a different pattern. The number of monocytes showed no significant difference between all treatment groups (p>0.05) (Table-2).

Moreover, eosinophilia is rarely found in chickens. However, if it occurs, it can be attributed to parasitism (mites, intestines, parasites, and parasites with tissue migration) [19]. Basophils have an ability to release histamine and control reactions of allergies and antigens invading the body [20]. In chickens, the high number of basophils in the blood indicates that they are in abnormal conditions, such as stress due to sufficiently hot air or facing pathogen infection [21]. Meanwhile, the low number of basophils indicates that chickens are in healthier conditions [22]. The number of heterophils and lymphocytes showed the same pattern in this study. The higher number of heterophils and lymphocytes was found in Group P0 (+), Group P1, and Group P2 than in the other treatment groups, i.e. P0 (−) and P3.

Increased heterophils can be found in bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections, inflammation, stress, toxicity, traumatic conditions, as well as leukemia [17,23]. Certain infectious conditions, such as bacterial infections or extra-viral diseases in hematopoietic cells, can cause a decrease in the number of heterophils [24]. Increased lymphocyte count may be associated with inflammatory effects due to M. gallisepticum infection, chronic infection or inflammatory conditions that can be attributed to certain viral infections [18,23], while a decrease in the number of lymphocytes can occur under stress conditions [24,25]. Chronic antigenic stimulation that can lead to the extensive circulation of lymphocytes since the primary function of the lymphocyte is involved in the immunological response, the formation of humoral antibodies mediated by immunocompetent cells.

Depending on a variety of conditions, shifting in the number of heterophil or lymphocytes may produce changes in the ratio of heterophils to lymphocytes. An increase in the number of monocytes, basophils, and eosinophils may also be associated with various infectious or inflammatory conditions [24].

The decrease or increase of leukocyte count, furthermore, will always be accompanied by a change in leukocyte count profile. Heterophilia accompanied by lymphocytosis in Group P0 (+) may be due to the consequent need of bacterially infected tissue to heterophils and lymphocytes since both are effective against microbial in particular bacteria or can also be caused by high levels of stress [26].

In addition, heterophils play a role as an antibacterial defense through several effective mechanisms, i.e., chemotaxis (an ability of heterophile to attract to the site of infection and inflammation) and phagocytosis, i.e., an ability of heterophile to eat and destroy microbes. When infections and inflammation occur, the heterophils will increase to phagocytosis microbe. At the same time, the bone marrow is stimulated to release more heterophile cells in the blood, and there is leukocytosis characterized by increased young leukocytes [27].

In Group P1 (treated with Meniran extract at a dose of 60%), Group P2 (treated with Meniran extract at a dose of 62.5%), and Group P3 (treated with Meniran extract at a dose of 65%), the number of heterophile significantly decreased due to the function of tannin having toxic properties to bacterial cell membranes by inhibiting certain enzymes that will damage microbial or bacterial cells [28]. The antibacterial activity of this tannin can also inhibit bacterial cell wall synthesis, then will change the permeability of cell membrane or active transport through the cell membrane, as well as inhibit protein synthesis and nucleic acid synthesis, thus, the process of bacterial growth will be damaged [29].

Besides, neutrophils have strong potency in quantity, chemotaxis, and phagocytosis [30]. The potential of such neutrophils can be enhanced by the provision of immunomodulators, such as P. niruri L. A previous research has proven that P. niruri L. is capable of enhancing neutrophil chemotaxis [31], affecting the number of neutrophils and their speed in reaching the inflammatory area thus increasing their effectiveness in eliminating bacteria.

P. niruri L. is an immunomodulator that stimulates the immune response, but can also regulate excessive immune responses. Much of the biological and chemical content is found in P. niruri L. [31,32], and some have anti-inflammatory effects. P. niruri L. also demonstrates an ability to inhibit the production of nuclear factor-κB (NFκB) in vitro. NFκB is needed for the transcription of cytokines, thus a decreased production will lead to the decreased production of cytokines.

Table-2: The number of each type of leukocytes in broiler chickens infected with M. gallisepticum bacteria after the treatment

| Treatment | Eosinophils (10³/mm³) | Basophils (10³/mm³) | Heterophils (10³/mm³) | Lymphocytes (10³/mm³) | Monocytes (10³/mm³) |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| P0 (−)    | 736±151              | 10±1                | 5.150±0.290          | 13.040±2.269          | 1.500±1.117         |
| P0 (+)    | 1.337±156            | 110±25              | 10.100±0.200         | 24.595±2.696          | 2.658±2.299         |
| P1        | 873±85               | 262±37              | 8.990±0.226          | 21.157±3.48           | 3.118±1.122         |
| P2        | 700±158              | 230±48              | 8.529±0.247          | 20.992±2.410          | 2.807±0.938         |
| P3        | 500±111              | 11±2                | 5.387±1.155          | 17.411±1.122          | 2.001±2.251         |

*Different superscripts on the same line showed a significant difference (p<0.05). M. gallisepticum=Mycoplasma gallisepticum
neutrophils *Phyllanthus* may also inhibit the induction of IL-1β and interferon gamma (IFNγ) in whole blood and the reduction in *vivo* of tumor necrosis factor α (TNFα). IL-1β, IFNγ, and TNFα have an important role in an acute inflammatory process including activating neutrophils [33,34].

Based on the results of an in *vivo* research, the administration of *P. niruri* L. extract is known to affect non-specific immune responses in the forms of increased phagocytosis, macrophage chemotaxis, neutrophil chemotaxis, 42 natural killer cell cytotoxicity, and complement activation [35]. The administration of *P. niruri* L. extract also can attack specific immune responses by increasing the proliferation of T lymphocytes, increasing the secretion of TNFα, IFNγ, and IL-4, as well as decreasing IL-2 and IL-10. Besides, the administration of *P. niruri* L. extract can trigger humoral immunity by increasing the production of immunoglobulin M as well as immunoglobulin G [36].

Finally, *P. niruri* L. is thought to have anti-inflammatory effects. *P. niruri* L. extract demonstrates some abilities to inhibit nitric oxide 31 (NO) and prostaglandin E-2, reduce endotoxin-induced NO synthase and cyclooxygenase, as well as inhibit NFkB production in *vivo*. *P. niruri* L. is also known to inhibit the induction of IL-1β, IL-10, and IFNγ in whole blood as well as the reduction in *vivo* of TNFα. A previous research on the use of *P. niruri* L. in animals even reveals that it can increase the activity of various antioxidant enzymes, such as superoxide dismutase, catalase, glutathione-S-transferase, glutathione peroxidase, and glutathione reductase, and in both the blood and tissues reduced during radiotherapy, thus reducing cellular damage due to radiotherapy [37].

**Conclusion**

It can be concluded that *P. niruri* L. extract at a dose of 65% can decrease the total number of leukocytes in broilers infected with *M. gallisepticum* bacteria into nearly its normal one.

**Authors’ Contributions**

SH, EKS, and RSW carried out the main research works, EKS and SC performed the statistical analysis of the data in the experiments, and all of the authors approved the final manuscript.

**Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Indonesia. This study was supported by research grant No. 004/SP2H/LT/DRPM/IV/2017. We also thank the Rector of Universitas Airlangga and Director of Research and Innovation Department, Universitas Airlangga.

**Competing Interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**References**

1. Calnek, B.W., Barnes, H.J., Beard, C.W., McDougald, L.R. and Saif, Y.M. (1997) In: Disease of Poultry. 10th ed. Iowa State University Press, Ames. p633-641.
2. Guanzon, J.E., Philip, C.J., Whithbear, K.G. and Browning, G.F. (2006) The cellular immune response in the tracheal mucosa to *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* in vaccinated and unvaccinated chickens in the acute and chronic stages of disease. Vaccine, 24: 2627-2633.
3. Winner, F., Rosengarten, R. and Citti, C. (2000) *In vitro* cell invasion of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. Infect. Immun., 68: 4238-4244.
4. Athamna, A., Rosengarten, R., Levisohn, S., Kahane, I. and Yogev, D. (1997) Adherence of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* involves variable surface membrane proteins. Infect. Immun., 65: 2468-2471.
5. Imtiaz, F., Shafique, K., Mirza, S.S. (2012) *Neutrophil lymphocyte* ratio as a measure of systemic inflammation in prevalent chronic diseases in Asian population. *Int. Arch. Med.*, 5: 2.
6. Golab, N.B.G., Asasi, K., Afsharifar, A.R. and Pourbaksh, S.A. (2008) Susceptibility of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *Mycoplasma synoviae* isolates to antimicrobial agent in *vivo*. *Int. J. Poultry Sci.*, 7(11): 1058-1064.
7. Murugaiyah, V. (2008) Phytochemical, Pharmacological, and Pharmacokinetic Studies of *Phyllanthus niruri* Linn. Lignans Potential Antihyperuricemic Agents. Thesis. University Sains Malaysia.
8. Ates, D.A. and Erdogrul, O.T. (2003) Antimicrobial activities of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *Mycoplasma synoviae* isolates to antimicrobial agent in *vivo*. *Int J. Phytomed.*, 27: 157-162.
9. Eze, C. (2014) Immunomodulatory activities of methanol extract of the whole aerial part of *Phyllanthus niruri* L. *J. Pharmacog. Phytother.*, 6: 41-46.
10. Bagalkotkar, G., Sagineedu, S.R., Saad, M.S., Stanslas, J. (2006) Phytochemicals from *Phyllanthus niruri* Linn. and their pharmacological properties: A review. *J. Pharm. Pharmacol.*, 58: 1559-1570.
11. Kazama, S., Yagihashi, T. and Nunoya, T. (1986) Properties of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* grown in a medium supplemented with liposomes as a substitute for serum. *Microbiol. Immunol.*, 30(9): 923-929.
12. Cummings, T.S. and Kleven, S.H. (1986) Evaluation of protection against *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* infection in chickens vaccinated with the F strain of *M. gallisepticum* in the acute and chronic stages. *Avian Dis.*, 30(1): 169-171.
13. Kempf, L., Reeve-Johnson, L., Gesbert, F. and Guittet, M. (1997) Efficacy of tilimicosin in the control of experimental *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* infection in chickens. *Avian Dis.*, 41(4): 802-807.
14. Chechik, B.E., Sengupta, S. and Fernandes, B. (1986) Novel heterophile chicken antigen: Immunochemical localization using antisera to *Mycobacterium smegmatis* and possible association with lymphocyte maturation. *Histochem. J.*, 18: 36-40.
15. Mdlolo, C.M., Shandu, J.S. and Oyedeji, O.A. (2008) Phytochemical constituents and antimicrobial studies of two South African *Phyllanthus* species. *Afr. J. Biotechnol.*, 7(5): 639-643.
16. Khusboo, S., Manju, P., Sangeeta, K., Uma, C. and Jaya, P.Y. (2014) Green silver nanoparticles of *Phyllanthus amarus*: As an antibacterial agent against multi-drug resistant clinical isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *J. Nanobiotechnol.*, 12: 40-48.
17. Campbell, T. (1994) Hematology. In: Ritchie, B.W., Harrison, G.J. and Harrison, L.R., editors. *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application*. Wingers Publishing Inc., Lake Worth, FL, p176-198.
18. Doneley, B. and Doneley, R. (2010) *Avian Medicine and Surgery* in Practice: Companion and Aviary Birds. Manson Publishing Ltd., London, UK.
19. Irizarry-Rovira, A.R. (2004) Avian and Reptilian Clinical Pathology (Avian Hematology and Biochemical Analysis), Section XI. In: Cowell, RL., editor. Veterinary Clinical Pathology Secrets. Elsevier Inc., St. Louis, MO, USA. p282-313.

20. Vleck, C.M., Vertalino, N., Vleck, D. and Bucher, T.L. (2000) Stress, corticosterone, and heterophil to lymphocyte ratios in free-living adelic penguins. Condor, 102: 392-400.

21. Tamzil, M.H., Noor, R.R., Hardjosworo, P.S., Manalu, W. and Sumantri, C. (2014) Hematological response of chicks with different heat shock protein 70 genotypes to acute heat stress. Int. J. Poult. Sci., 13(1): 14-20.

22. Maxwell, M.H., Robertson, G.W., Mitchell, M.A. and Carlisle, A.J. (1992) The fine structure of broiler chicken blood cells, with particular reference to basophils, after severe heat stress. Comp. Haematol. Int., 2(4): 190-200.

23. Mitchell, E.B., Johns, J. (2008) Avian hematology and related disorders. Vet. Clin. North Am. Exot. Anim. Pract., 11(3): 501-522.

24. Latimer, K.S. and Bienzle, D. (2010) Determination and interpretation of the avian leukogram. In: Weiss, D. and Wardrop, K.J., editors. Schalm’s Veterinary Hematology. 6th ed. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Ames, IA. p345-357.

25. Huff, G.R., Huff, W.E., Farnell, M.B., Rath, N.C., De Los Santos, F.S., and Donoghue, A.M. (2010) Bacterial clearance, heterophil function, and hematological parameters of transport-stressed turkey pouls supplemented with dietary yeast extract. Poult. Sci., 89(3): 447-456.

26. Gross, W.B. and Siegel, H.S. (1983) Evaluation of the heterophil/lymphocyte ratio as a measure of stress in chickens. Avian Dis., 27: 972-979.

27. Andreasen, C.B., Latimer, K.S., Harmon, B.G., Glisson, J.R., Golden, J.M. and Brown, J. (1991) Heterophil function in healthy chickens and in chickens with experimentally induced staphylococcal tenosynovitis. Vet. Pathol., 28: 419-427.

28. Tomiyama, K., Yoshiharu, M., Masahiro, S., Kiyoko, W., Hidefumi, K., Tomotaro, N., Nobushiro, H. and Toshio, T. (2016) Antibacterial action of a condensed tannin extracted from astringent persimmon as a component of food additive pencil PS-M on oral polymicrobial biofilms. BioMed Res. Int., 2016: 1-7.

29. Smith, A.H. and Roderick, I.M. (2004) Effect of condensed tannins on bacterial diversity and metabolic activity in the rat gastrointestinal tract. Appl. Environ. Microbiol., 70(2): 1104-1115.

30. Hsu, M., Shiu-Sheng, L., Shao, T.L. and Wan-Wan, L. (2003) Signaling mechanisms of enhanced neutrophil phagocytosis and chemotaxis by the polysaccharide purified from Ganoderma lucidum. Br. J. Pharmacol., 139(2): 289-298.

31. Barbour, E.K., Sagherian, V.K., Talhouni, R.S., Harakh, S. and Talhouni, S.N. (2004) Cell-Immune modulation against Salmonella enteritidis in herbal extract-treated broilers. J. Appl. Res. Vet. Med., 2: 67-73.

32. Putri, D.U., Rintiswati, N., Soesatyo, M.H. and Haryana, S.M. (2018) Immune modulation properties of herbal plant leaves: Phyllanthus niruri aqueous extract on immune cells of tuberculosis patient-in vitro study. Nat. Prod. Res., 2(4): 463-467.

33. Kiemer, A.K., Hartung, T., Huber, C. and Vollmar, A.M. (2003) Phyllanthus amarus has anti-inflammatory potential by inhibition of iNOS, COX-2, and cytokines via the NF-kappaB pathway. J. Hepatol., 38(3): 289-297.

34. Parslow, T.G., Stites, D.P., Terr, A.I. and Imboden, J.B. (2003) Medical Immunology. 10th ed. McGraw-Hill, Singapore.

35. Gewirtz, A.T., Rao, A.S., Simon, P.O. Jr., Merlin, D., Carnes, D., Madara, J.L., Neish, A.S. (2000) Salmonella typhimurium induces epithelial IL-8 expression via Ca (2+)-mediated activation of the NF-kappaB pathway. J. Clin. Invest., 105: 79-92.

36. Ilanvekov, M., Jantan, I., Bukhari, S.N. (2016) Phyllanthin from Phyllanthus amarus inhibits cellular and humoral immune responses in Balb/C mice. Phytomedicine, 23(12): 1441-1450.

37. Kaur, N., Baljinder, K. and Geetika, S. (2017) Phytochemistry and pharmacology of Phyllanthus niruri L.: A review. Phytother. Res., 31: 980-1004.