Energetic Values and Inclusion Levels of the Dry Residue of Cassava in Broiler Diet

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to evaluate the energetic values of dry residue of cassava (DRC) and the effects of its inclusion in broiler diets on performance, intestinal morphometry, protein and fat deposition rate, and carcass and cut yields. In experiment I, two metabolism trials were carried out from 11-21 and from 31-41 days of age. The birds were distributed in a completely randomized design and DRC was included at levels of 10, 20, 30 and 40% in the basal diet. In experiment II, 980 male chicks were distributed in a completely randomized design with seven treatments (0; 2; 4; 6; 8; 10; 12% DRC) and seven replicates. DRC levels did not influence \( p>0.05 \) the energetic values. From days 1-7, weight gain (WG) had a linear adjustment, and the inclusion of up to 6% of DRC from d 1-7, and the feed conversion ratio (FCR) had a tendency \( p=0.060 \) with quadratic effect \( p=0.001 \), and the worst FCR was observed with the inclusion of 5.81% of DRC. From d 1-21 of age, the WG decreased linearly, with the increasing of DRC while the FCR increased linearly. Breast yield decreased linearly with increasing levels of DRC inclusion. The addition of the residue reduced the protein deposition rate (PDR) and did not alter the (fat deposition rate) FDR. The metabolizable energy of DRC was 1534 kcal kg \(^{-1} \) (11-21 d), 1746 kcal kg \(^{-1} \) (d 31-42) and can be included up to 6% until d 42 in the broiler’s diet without harming the performance.

INTRODUCTION

Cassava (\textit{Manihot esculenta} Crantz) is an energetic feedstuff important in poultry diets, which has the potential to replace maize in diets, allowing a reduction in feed costs. However, the use of its products can be limited by its high fiber content and the presence of anti-nutritional factors such as hydrocyanic acid (HCN; Morgan & Choc, 2016).

Cassava has a high concentration of non-starch polysaccharides (NSPs), which have high hydration capacity and are responsible for increasing the viscosity of gastrointestinal contents and decreasing access of endogenous enzymes, reducing the intensity of contact between nutrients and enzymes, and affecting negatively nutrient digestibility and energy utilization (Brito et al., 2008; Nikan et al., 2016). Birds do not have endogenous enzymes capable of hydrolyzing NSP bonds, so they perform fermentation of the fibrous material in the cecum, producing short-chain fatty acids (Bindelle et al., 2008).

Processing cassava by heating with water and subsequent drying may cause gelatinization and retrogradation of starch that occurs mainly in the amylose portion, due to the nature of its structure that facilitates the formation of hydrogen bridges in its granules (Sajilata et al., 2006). Retrograded starch, also called resistant starch,
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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studies were carried out in the Poultry Sector of the Western Paraná State University, Campus Marechal Cândido Rondon – Paraná, Brazil. All experimental procedures were approved by the University ethical review committee (number 19/13).

The DRC was dried under the pressure of 9 kg h⁻¹ for 15 to 20 minutes. Upon receipt of the DRC, a sample was subjected to analysis of the chemical composition of dry matter (DM) (method 934.01), mineral matter (method 938.08), crude protein (CP) (method 981.10), ether extract (EE) (method 920.85) according to the methodology described by AOAC (2000). Gross energy (GE) was determined in a calorimetric bomb (IKA C2000), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF) were determined according to Van Soest et al. (1991). Starch and crude fiber content were determined by the São Camilo Group – Food and Water Laboratory (Maringá, PR).

Experiment I

A total of 250 male one-day-old Cobb 500 broiler chicks were used from 11 to 21 days of age in the first trial and a total of 125 male broiler chickens from 31 to 41 days of age in the second trial. The birds were distributed into a completely randomized design with five treatments and five replications per treatment, with ten birds per metabolic cage (experimental unit – EU) in Trial I, and five birds per EU in Trial II.

For both experiments, DRC replaced 10, 20, 30 and 40% of the reference rations (Table 1); the experimental diets were in mash form, isonitrogenous and isocaloric, and formulated according to Rostagno et al. (2011). Throughout the trial period, the room temperature was maintained within the zone of thermal comfort and feed and water were offered ad libitum.

The experimental period for both trials was ten days: five days for adaptation to cages and diets and five days for total excreta collection. The excreta were collected every 12 h and stored in plastic bags at −20 °C. At the end of the experimental period, the excreta were quantified, homogenized, air-dried, and ground. Then the DM, nitrogen (N), and crude energy (CE) contents were analyzed together with a sample of DRC (AOAC, 2000).

For the determination of apparent metabolizable energy (AME) and AME corrected by nitrogen balance (AMEₙ), the total excreta collection method was used, according to Sibbald and Slinger (1963). The apparent metabolizable coefficient (AMC) was calculated as a function of the metabolizable energy value by the GE value. AME and AMEₙ values were determined according to the methodology of Lesson and Summers (2001).

Experiment II

A total of 980 male one-day-old Cobb Slow broiler chicks were distributed in a completely randomized design with seven treatments (0, 2.0, 4.0, 6.0, 8.0, 10.0, and 12.0% inclusion of DRC), with seven replications and 20 birds per EU. For both experiments, DRC replaced 10, 20, 30 and 40% of the reference rations (Table 1); the experimental diets were in mash form, isonitrogenous and isocaloric, and formulated according to Rostagno et al. (2011). Throughout the trial period, the room temperature was maintained within the zone of thermal comfort and feed and water were offered ad libitum.

The lighting program used was following the recommendation of the lineage manual; the room temperature was maintained within the zone of thermal comfort, the cooling of the environment, and the renewal of the air was carried out by exhaust fans and evaporative plates.
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The experimental diets, isenergetic and isonutritive, were formulated to meet the nutritional requirements recommended by Rostagno et al. (2011) for pre-starter (1–7 d of age; Table 1), starter (8–21 d of age) and grower (22–42 d of age) phases (Table 2).

Birds and diets were weighed at 7, 21, and 42 d of age for feed intake (FI), weight gain (WG), and feed conversion ratio (FCR) evaluation. Mean individual bird weight and intake were corrected using the weight of dead birds, which was recorded daily, according to Sakomura and Rostagno (2016).

At 42 d of age, two birds per EU, ± 5% of the average weight per treatment, after six h of fasting, were euthanized by electronarcosis followed by exsanguination, according to Normative Resolution No. 37 of February 15, 2018, of CONCEA, for the evaluation of carcass yield, cuts and meat quality.

The eviscerated carcass weight was compared (without feet, head, neck, and abdominal fat) with the weight of the pre-slaughter bird. Breast, leg, and wing yields were calculated using the weight of the eviscerated carcass. The percentage of abdominal fat was obtained from fat removed from the cloaca and around the gizzard. Also, the relative weight of the liver (% of live weight) was determined.

For analysis of duodenal morphometry, the small intestine was removed by an incision in the ventro-caudal region, and cuts were taken to collect fragments in the approximately 5 cm ascending portion of this segment. The pieces, about 2 cm in length, were carefully collected, washed with distilled water and fixed in buffered formalin solution (10%), then dehydrated in a series of increasingly concentrated alcohol solutions, diaphanized in xylene and embedded in paraffin (Luna, 1968). After semi-serial microtomy, 7-µm sections were stained by the hematoxylin and eosin technique.

The histological sections were analyzed by an optical microscope, and ten villi and crypts were measured in different regions of the section. The villus height measurements were taken from the upper crypt base to the villus apex, and the crypt depth measurements were made between the villi from the lower plate to the upper crypt base.

To determine the protein and fat deposition rate in the carcass (g day⁻¹), the methodology adapted from Table 1 – Composition and nutrient specifications of the experimental diets used for broilers from metabolism and performance trials.

| Ingredients (g kg⁻¹) | Experiment I | Experiment II Pre starter 1-7d of age |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dry residue of cassava | 0.0          | 0.0                                  |
| Corn grain           | 567.8        | 567.2                                |
| Soybean meal (450 g kg⁻¹) | 359.5        | 276.7                                |
| Soybean oil          | 33.5         | 30.0                                 |
| Dicalcium phosphate  | 13.6         | 9.5                                  |
| Limestone            | 12.8         | 10.0                                 |
| NaCl                 | 4.8          | 4.4                                  |
| Premix¹              | 1.5          | 1.5                                  |
| L-Lysine.HCl (78%)   | 2.4          | 2.2                                  |
| DL-Methionine (99%)  | 3.1          | 2.4                                  |
| L-Treonine (98%)     | 0.8          | 0.5                                  |
| Choline chloride (60%) | 0.0           | 0.0                                  |
| Aditives²            | 0.2          | 0.2                                  |

Nutrient specification (g kg⁻¹)

| Met. Em. (kcal kg⁻¹) | Starter | Grower | Pre starter 1-7d of age |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| Crude protein        | 2.12    | 1.81    | 2.24                    |
| Calcium              | 8.4     | 6.4     | 9.2                     |
| Av. P                | 4.0     | 3.0     | 4.7                     |
| Digestible Lysine    | 12.2    | 10.1    | 13.2                    |
| Digestible Met+cys   | 8.8     | 7.4     | 9.5                     |
| Digestible Threonine | 7.9     | 6.6     | 8.6                     |
| Chlorine             | 3.4     | 3.2     | 3.5                     |
| Sodium               | 2.1     | 2.0     | 2.2                     |
| Potassium            | 8.2     | 7.0     | 8.7                     |

¹ Levels of guarantee per kilo of feed, vitamin (Lot BR0119Y025): Vit. A (min) 1350000 IU; Vit. D3 (min) 375000 IU; Vit. E (min) 3000 IU; Vit. K3 (min) 375 mg; Vit. B1 (min) 225 mg; Vit. B2 (min) 900 mg; Vit. B6 (min) 450 mg; Vit. B12 1800 mg; Pantothenic Acid (min) 1.8 g; Niacin (min) 3.75 g; Folic Acid (min) 120 mg; Selenium (min) 37.5 mg; Mineral (Lot BR01128375): Cu (min) 3g, Fe (min) 15g, Mg (min) 300mg, Zn (min) 15g. ² Antococcidian (Coxistac, 60 g ton⁻¹), Growth promoter (Enradin, 10 g ton⁻¹), Antioxidant (BHT, 20 g ton⁻¹).
Fraga et al. (2008) was used. At the beginning of the experimental period, a group of 20 broilers with average weight were slaughtered, weighed, plucked, and stored at −20 ºC. At 42 days of age, a bird within the EU average plucked weight was sacrificed by cervical dislocation. The carcass without feathers was ground in a meat grinder, pre-dried in a forced ventilation oven, ground in a ball mill and subjected to analysis of DM, EE and CP. Protein deposition rate (PDR) and fat deposition rate (FDR) were measured by comparing the respective metabolizable coefficients (AMC and AMCn) and energetic values (AME and AMEn), as well as their difference (p < 0.01) by Dunnett’s Test only in days 1–7, 3).

RESULTS

DRC has a low EE (3.1 g kg⁻¹) and CP (11.2 g kg⁻¹) contents and high concentrations of crude fiber (CF) (135.7 g kg⁻¹) and ADF (208.2 g kg⁻¹; Table 3). The energetic values (AME and AMEn), as well as their respective metabolizable coefficients (AMC and AMCn) were not influenced (p > 0.05) by the DRC substitution levels for birds in the starter and finisher phases (Table 3).

Inclusion of up to 12% of DRC in broiler diets reduced the birds’ WG (Table 4). WG showed a linear behavior in all phases of the growth, and birds fed an inclusion of up to 6% DRC from 1–7 d and 1–21 d of age showed the same WG compared with those that received the basal diet (0% DRC). Continued use of DRC from 1–42 d of age impaired broilers’ WG, and at this stage, only the inclusion of 2% provided the same gain as in birds fed the control treatment. FI showed a difference (p < 0.01) by Dunnett’s Test only in days 1–7,
while the inclusion of 8.0, 10.0 and 12.0% of DRC reduced the broilers’ intake compared to birds that received the basal diet. The FCR showed a quadratic effect from 1–42 d of age \( (p=0.003) \) with a better FCR obtained by the inclusion of 0.19% DRC. The FCR from days 1–7 had a tendency \( (p=0.060) \) with quadratic effect \( (p=0.001) \), and the worst FCR was observed with the inclusion of 5.81% of DRC. Inclusion above 5.81% may improve conversion.

Carcass \( (p=0.011) \) and breast \( (p=0.009) \) yields showed a decreasing linear effect, i.e., increasing the inclusion of DRC resulted in a linear decrease in carcass and breast yields (Table 5). Although there was a significant impact on relative liver weight \( (p=0.019) \), it was not possible to adjust an adequate response to a linear \( (p=0.261) \) or quadratic \( (p=0.420) \) equation. For carcass yield, only 2.0 and 6.0% DRC inclusion levels did not differ \( (p>0.05) \) from diets without DRC inclusion. The use of 10.0% of DRC resulted in a lower breast yield compared to control treatment, and 8.0% of DRC provided a heavier liver compared to control birds. The use of fibrous feeds provided a reduction in abdominal fat content, but in this study, no difference was found \( (p=0.196) \). Carcass FDR \( (g \text{ day}^{-1}) \) had no

### Table 3 – Chemical composition, energy values and metabolization coefficients of dry residue of cassava (DRC) for broilers.

| Chemical composition (g kg\(^{-1}\)) | 11.2 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|-----|
| Crude protein                  |      |     |     |
| Ethereal extract               |      |     |     |
| Crude energy (kcal g\(^{-1}\)) |      |     |     |
| Mineral matter                 | 15.3 |     |     |
| Neutral Detergent Fiber        | 382.2|     |     |
| Acid Detergent Fiber           | 208.2|     |     |
| Starch                         | 607.3|     |     |
| Crude fiber                    | 135.7|     |     |

### Table 4 – Performance of broiler chickens fed different levels of dry residue of cassava (DRC).

| DRC (%) | 1-7d of age | 1-21d of age | 1-42d of age |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
|         | WG\(^1\) (g) | FI (g) | FCR\(^2\) (g \text{ g}^{-1}) | WG\(^3\) (g) | FI (g) | FCR\(^4\) (g \text{ g}^{-1}) | WG\(^5\) (g) | FI (g) | FCR\(^6\) (g \text{ g}^{-1}) |
| 0.0     | 111         | 133         | 1.199        | 763         | 1142    | 1.497         | 2332        | 3970     | 1.702 |
| 2.0     | 110         | 130         | 1.183        | 774         | 1157    | 1.496        | 2303        | 3962     | 1.720 |
| 4.0     | 106         | 129         | 1.210        | 741         | 1149    | 1.551        | 2252*       | 3874     | 1.720 |
| 6.0     | 106*        | 133         | 1.260        | 741         | 1160    | 1.566        | 2251*       | 3910     | 1.737 |
| 8.0     | 100*        | 124*        | 1.235        | 721*        | 1125    | 1.561        | 2163*       | 3830     | 1.771* |
| 10.0    | 100*        | 120*        | 1.203        | 717*        | 1160    | 1.580        | 2106*       | 3928     | 1.865* |
| 12.0    | 104*        | 121*        | 1.166        | 714*        | 1134    | 1.590*       | 2091*       | 3935     | 1.866* |
| CV (%)  | 5.45        | 5.62        | 4.81         | 4.36        | 3.74    | 4.30         | 4.78        | 2.72     | 4.13  |
| SEM     | 0.820       | 1.020       | 0.008        | 4.604       | 6.182   | 0.010        | 15.116      | 15.232   | 0.011 |
| \(p\) Anova | <0.001   | <0.001     | 0.060         | <0.001      | 0.670   | 0.023        | <0.001      | 0.163    | <0.001 |
| \(p\) Linear | 0.003   | 0.072       | 0.012         | 0.066       | 0.705   | 0.071        | 0.040       | 0.022    | 0.924 |
| \(p\) Quadratic | 0.096  | 0.229       | 0.001         | 0.718       | 0.581   | 0.431        | 0.528       | 0.035    | 0.003 |

\(WG, FI, FCR\) are computed as g \text{ day}^{-1} ; \(WG, FI, FCR\) are corrected for nitrogen balance; \(SEM\): standard error of the mean; \(p\) (Anova): probability of analysis of variance; \(p\) (Linear): probability of linear effect; \(p\) (Quadratic): probability of quadratic effect.

**Table 5 –** Energy values and Inclusion Levels of the Dry Residue of Cassava in Broiler Diet

### ENERGETIC VALUES OF DRC INCLUSION LEVELS (%)

#### 11-21d old

| DRC (%) | AME kcal kg\(^{-1}\) | AME n kcal kg\(^{-1}\) | AMC % | AMC n % |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------|--------|---------|
| 10      | 1534                 | 1499                   | 42.6   | 41.6    |
| 20      | 1529                 | 1480                   | 42.5   | 41.1    |
| 30      | 1521                 | 1527                   | 42.5   | 42.4    |
| 40      | 1527                 | 1535                   | 42.4   | 42.6    |
| Mean    | 1530                 | 1510                   | 42.5   | 41.9    |
| SEM     | 20.6                 | 19.7                   | 0.6    | 0.6     |
| \(p\) value | 1.00                 | 0.78                    | 1.00   | 0.78    |

#### 31-41d old

| DRC (%) | AME kcal kg\(^{-1}\) | AME n kcal kg\(^{-1}\) | AMC % | AMC n % |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------|--------|---------|
| 10      | 1749                 | 1717                   | 48.4   | 47.4    |
| 20      | 1753                 | 1734                   | 48.5   | 48.0    |
| 30      | 1753                 | 1793                   | 49.8   | 49.6    |
| 40      | 1798                 | 1739                   | 48.8   | 48.1    |
| Mean    | 1763                 | 1739                   | 48.8   | 48.1    |
| SEM     | 26.7                 | 28.9                   | 0.8    | 0.8     |
| \(p\) value | 0.94                 | 0.78                    | 0.94   | 0.78    |

AME: apparent metabolizable energy; AME n: AME corrected for nitrogen balance; AMC: apparent metabolizable coefficient; AMC n: AMC corrected for nitrogen balance.
Table 5 – Carcass and yields cuts, protein deposition rate (PDR), and fat deposition rate (FDR), intestinal morphology of broilers chickens fed different levels of dry residue of cassava (DRC).

| DRC (%) | Carcass* (g kg⁻¹) | Breast* (g kg⁻¹) | Legs (g kg⁻¹) | Wings (g kg⁻¹) | Abd. Fat (g kg⁻¹) | Liver (g kg⁻¹) | PDR (g dia⁻¹) | FDR (g dia⁻¹) | Villus (µm) | Crypta (µm) | Villus:Crypta |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0.0     | 72.86             | 37.30            | 27.34        | 10.54         | 1.94             | 2.52           | 20.29         | 10.11        | 1024         | 190         | 5.40          |
| 2.0     | 71.50             | 37.40            | 27.90        | 10.70         | 1.97             | 2.69           | 19.83         | 10.62        | 1000         | 188         | 5.32          |
| 4.0     | 69.20*            | 34.70            | 28.13        | 11.10         | 1.94             | 2.87           | 16.15*        | 8.66         | 1000         | 194         | 5.17          |
| 6.0     | 71.90             | 35.50            | 29.10        | 11.20         | 1.69             | 2.44           | 19.83         | 9.79         | 961          | 197         | 4.96          |
| 8.0     | 69.80*            | 34.90            | 28.60        | 11.50         | 1.64             | 2.88*          | 17.27*        | 9.36         | 1016         | 201         | 5.08          |
| 10.0    | 69.80*            | 33.40*           | 28.20        | 11.50         | 1.88             | 2.74           | 16.63*        | 9.05         | 1011         | 209         | 4.86          |
| 12.0    | 70.30*            | 35.40            | 29.00        | 11.30         | 1.02             | 2.73           | 16.32*        | 10.42        | 1028         | 214         | 4.80          |

CV (%) 2.64 6.21 4.57 6.34 43.32 10.47 13.77 17.71 10.49 10.25 12.60
SEM 0.267 0.315 0.187 0.102 0.107 0.040 0.355 0.246 15.070 2.918 0.092
ρ (Anova) <0.001 0.003 0.128 0.063 0.196 0.019 <0.001 0.285 0.936 0.150 0.538
ρ (Linear) 0.011 0.009 0.076 0.020 0.651 0.261 0.132 0.106 0.371 0.833 0.426
ρ (Quadratic) 0.068 0.074 0.239 0.125 0.267 0.420 0.652 0.118 0.318 0.485 0.850

1Carcass = 72,53764893 – 0,57617384X; R² = 0,22; 2Breast = 37,71490877 – 0,68350793X; R²=0,25; * Differs from control treatment by the Dunnett’s Test at 5% probability.

DISCUSSION

DRC has a high starch and fiber concentration, similar to the values observed by Abrahão et al. (2006) and Khempaka et al. (2009). The low EE and CP contents are an indication that its primary energy source comes from carbohydrates present in its composition. CF and ADF concentrations are high; these provide high levels of cellulose, lignin, lignified protein, and silica. The CF value of DRC is 784% and 279% higher than those found in corn and soybean meal, respectively. For ADF concentrations, these values are 659% and 268% higher than those of corn and bran soybeans, respectively, according to Rostagno (2017). The high concentration of resistant starch that may have been formed by gelatinization and crystallization of amylose and amylpectin during the processing of the material. Starch digestion takes place mainly in the gastrointestinal tract in birds, where specialized cells for digestion and absorption are only fully developed two to three weeks after hatching (Moran Jr., 1989). Birds do not have some of the endogenous enzymes needed for fiber digestion, such as xylanases, cellulases, and glucanases, which hydrolyze some fibrous compounds. The viscosity of the gastrointestinal environment makes it difficult for enzymes and intestinal substrates to reach the proteins, fats, and starch, and impairs nutrient digestion and absorption, thereby compromising the birds’ performance (Brito et al., 2008).

The high fiber content and soluble NSPs in the diet can increase the digestion viscosity when in contact with water, forming gums, which increase the size of the bolus and consequently cause gastric distension, which in turn causes a feeling of satiety in the birds, reducing FI (Oliveira et al., 2012; Al-Harthi et al., 2020). The chemical composition of DRC shows that the cassava byproduct has a high starch content and a high fiber concentration, as also observed by Abrahão et al. (2006) and Khempaka et al. (2009), justifying the reduction in performance.

In addition to the high fiber content in DRC, one of the factors that may affect poor performance is the concentration of resistant starch that may have been formed by gelatinization and crystallization of amylose and amylpectin during the processing of the material. Starch digestion takes place mainly in the
small intestine, forming glucose, but if it reaches the large intestine intact, fermentation and the release of short-chain fatty acids produced by microorganisms will occur (Noblet et al., 1994).

In addition to the nutritional composition of the residue, the amount of oil added to the rations, which despite increasing digestibility (Furlan & Macari, 2002), contains lipids that stimulate the secretion of the intestinal hormone cholecystokinin (CCK) in the poultry duodenum, inhibiting gastric peristalsis and reducing FI and passage rate.

According to Khempaka et al. (2009) using dried manioc pulp at 4.0, 8.0, 12.0 and 16.0% inclusions for broiler chickens from 1–42 d of age, with 13.59% CF and starch content of 53.55%, resulting in a decrease in WG as well as increased inclusion and a reduction in abdominal fat. According to the authors, the loss in abdominal fat may be related to the inhibition of lipid synthesis in the liver and abdominal tissue due to the high raw fiber content of the feed used.

According to Promthong et al. (2004), birds fed diets containing cassava show increased liver size, which may result from the higher digestibility of cassava starch compared to corn, promoting increased glucose intake for hepatic blood glucose regulation and deposition as glycogen, resulting in increased liver weight.

The results of intestinal morphometry were not influenced by the inclusion of DRC. The crypt can be considered a villus factory, and a greater crypt depth indicates rapid tissue turnover and high demand for energy and protein, which may slow the growth and development of other tissues and organs (Markovic et al., 1994). Greater crypt depth may mean an increased rate of villus tissue replacement; this rapid replacement of enterocytes requires the rate of cell renewal that occurs in the crypts and thus increase their depth (Dierick et al., 1989). Jin et al. (1994) reported that fibrous feeds included in diets may reduce villus height due to the abrasive action of the fiber and may alter the crypt depth/villus height ratio.

Increased crypt depth may indicate high cell proliferative activity, which usually occurs as a response of the intestinal epithelium to some mucosal injury and has the function of renewing villus height loss (Furlan et al., 2004). In the present study, villus height did not show significant differences between treatments, so it can be considered that the fiber present in the DRC did not negatively affect the cellular intestinal epithelial cell turnover rate, maintaining the similarity to the birds of the control treatment.

Carcass FDR (g day−1) showed no significant effect, but lower PDRs were observed with the inclusion of 4.0, 8.0, 10.0, and 12.0% of DRC, which may be related to lower WG and to worsen FCR from 1–42 d of age, demonstrating that the birds were not efficient in depositing protein in the carcass when the DRC inclusion increased.

**CONCLUSION**

Inclusion of DRC negatively affects performance; up to 6% inclusion was similar to the control treatment. The highest value found for breast yield was at the 8.66% inclusion level. Crypt depth increased linearly as a function of inclusion levels, and PDR decreased linearly with DRC inclusion.

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