



Effect of Crude Extracts of Edible Mushroom Species of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* on Growth Performance of Broiler Chickens

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ABSTRACT

The current study aimed to evaluate the effect of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts as feed additives on the growth performance of broiler chickens. The samples included 240 one-day-old chicks randomly divided into 8 dietary treatments, each treatment consisted of 3 replicates with 10 chicks per replicate. The dietary treatment groups were control group (T0), basal diet + zinc bacitracin (T1), basal diets + 0.4% *Agaricus bisporus* extract (T2), basal diet + 0.8% *Agaricus bisporus* extract (T3), basal diet + 1.2% *Agaricus bisporus* extract (T4), basal diet + 0.4% *Auricularia auricula* extract (T5), basal diet + 0.8% *Auricularia auricula* extract (T6), and basal diet + 1.2% *Auricularia auricula* extract (T7). The measured variables included feed intake, body weight gain, feed conversion ratio, and production index. In addition, the study aimed to evaluate the reducing sugars level, antioxidant IC₅₀, and antimicrobial efficacy of mushroom extracts prepared using three different solvents (i.e., water, ethanol, and methanol). The findings indicated that methanolic extract contained higher reducing sugars and had better antimicrobial efficacy. The results of experimental research revealed that mushrooms crude extracts had no significant effects on the growth performance of broiler chickens.

Keywords: Antibiotic, Broiler performance, Extract, Mushroom

INTRODUCTION

Zinc bacitracin is one of the antibiotic growth promoters (AGP) that is usually used in the poultry industry (Sarmah et al., 2006). The AGP residues in animal products, such as meat or eggs, have negative effects on human health and immunity mainly due to the development of bacterial resistance. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to seek alternatives to AGP (Suresh et al., 2017).

Agaricus bisporus and *Auricularia auricular* are two types of mushroom species cultivated in the subtropical climate, such as Indonesia. They contain different polysaccharide compounds, including β -glucan, which has a significant pharmacological effect on activating innate immunity by macrophage cell activation (Minato and Abe, 2013). Chae et al. (2006) reported that broilers fed with β -glucan at 0.04% level had a significant increase in CD8+ cells at 42 days of age and a relative increase in CD4+ cells.

Lee and Kim (2005) reported that *Auricularia auricular* contains 8.86% glucan, out of which 0.31% is α -

glucan and 8.55% is β -glucan. On the other hand, *Agaricus bisporus* is made of 7.19% glucan, including 0.60% α -glucan and 6.59% β -glucan. Zeng et al. (2012) reported that *Auricularia auricula* extract contains a heteropolysaccharide composed of various monosaccharides, such as galactose, mannose, glucose, arabinose, and rhamnose. *Agaricus bisporus* extracted and semi-purified using hot water and 65% ethanol showed a higher polysaccharide content of up to 74.4%, encompassing 63.8% glucan content, 5.6% α -glucan and 58.2% in β -glucan (Kozarski et al., 2011).

Sulfated polysaccharides of *Auricularia auricula* extracted using 95% ethanol could enhance the immunity of white roman chickens (Nguyen et al., 2012). Another study demonstrated that extract from shiitake mushroom increased the total population of *Bifidobacteria* from 7.47 to 8.67 log¹⁰ CFU and reduced *Salmonella* counts from 5.98 to 5.81 log¹⁰ CFU (Willis et al., 2009). *Bifidobacteria* are known to improve animal production, gut morphology, and health. Another study conducted by Willis et al.

(2013) indicated that 5% oyster mushroom supplementation in broiler diets resulted in higher body weight than other mushroom types. The supplementation of *Agaricus bisporus* mushroom in turkey diets significantly increased body weight and weight gain. Moreover, it reduced feed conversion ratio (FCR) but had an insignificant effect on feed intake (Giannenas et al., 2011). With this background in mind, the present study aimed to evaluate the effects of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts prepared using microwave-assisted extractor (MAE) on broiler performance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethical approval

The *in vivo* trials were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Brawijaya University (certificate number: 065-KEP-UB-2020).

Mushroom preparation and extraction

Agaricus bisporus and *Auricularia auricula* were purchased from a local mushroom farmer in the Singosari sub-district, Malang District, East Java, Indonesia. The mushrooms were segmented into the fragments of 0.2-0.3 cm in size, then 100 g of each mushroom was added into a 500 mL flask and mixed and soaked with different solvents (200 mL of distilled water, ethanol 96%, and methanol 70%) for 24 h. In the next step, the solvents were evaporated using modified microwave heating as described by Purwanto et al. (2010). The modified MAE was used during the experiment at 50 °C for 15 minutes.

Determination of reducing sugars, antioxidant IC₅₀, and antimicrobial efficacy of mushrooms (Experiment 1)

The disk diffusion method was performed to investigate the antimicrobial activity of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts using nutrient agar medium (Merck KGaA, 64271 Darmstadt, Germany). The bacteria (*Salmonella Typhimurium*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Lactobacillus aureus*) were provided and cultured in nutrient agar at 37 °C for 24 hours at the Department of Plant Pest and Diseases, Brawijaya University. Afterward, *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts (in 50% concentration) were placed in the cylinders. Finally, the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24 hours, then the diameter of the inhibition zone was measured using calipers.

Lane-Eynon method was performed to determine the concentration of reducing sugar of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts (Afriza and Ismanilda, 2019). Approximately 5 g mushroom crude extract was added to 25 mL of distilled water and 1 mL of HCl 37%. The sample was then heated for 15 min at 80°C. Following that Na₂CO₃ 10% was added until greenish, and total volume was made to 125 ml by adding distilled water, then the final solution was stirred, and filtered. The filtrate was immediately transferred into the burette. Furthermore, 5 mL of Fehling A and Fehling B were mixed at the ratio of 50:50. The mixture of Fehling A and Fehling B was then added to 7.5 mL of the solution and the solution was boiled later. The color indicator was used by adding 75 µL of methylene blue. Finally, the solution was titrated until the blue color disappeared. The reducing sugars was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Reducing sugar} = \frac{\text{Dilution volume}}{\text{Titrated volume}} \times \frac{100}{\text{Sample weight}} \times 0.001$$

The antioxidant activity was performed according to (Osawa and Namiki, 1981). Briefly, 20 mg/mL of mushroom crude extract was dissolved in 4 mL of 95% (w/v) ethanol and mixed with linoleic acid (2.51%, v/v) in 99.5% (w/v) ethanol (4.1 mL), 0.05 M phosphate buffer pH 7.0 (8 mL), and distilled water (3.9 mL) and kept in screwcap containers at 40 °C in the dark. Then, 0.1 mL of this solution was then added to 9.7 mL of 75% (v/v) ethanol and 0.1 mL of 30% (w/v) ammonium thiocyanate. Precisely 3 min after the addition of 0.1 mL of 20 mM ferrous chloride in 3.5% (v/v) hydrochloric acid to the reaction mixture, the absorbance at 500 nm of the resulting red solution was measured, and it was measured again every 24 h until the absorbance of the control reached the maximum value. The percentage inhibition of linoleic acid peroxidation was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = 100 - [(\text{absorbance increases of the sample/absorbance increases of the control}) \times 100].$$

Effect of mushroom-supplemented diet on broiler growth performance (Experiment 2)

In this experiment, methanol was used as a solvent to extract the mushroom samples. To conduct the study, 240 one-day-old chicks (unsexed, average body weight of 37.6 ± 2.90 g/chick), strain Lohman Grade Platinum, were purchased from Multibreeder Adirama Company in Indonesia. The samples were randomly divided into eight dietary treatments with three replicates in each treatment and 10 chicks in each pen with the dimensions of 1 x 1.2 x 0.8 m³. All chicks were kept in the floor pens equipped

with hanging feeder, drinker, and rice husk as litter. Feed and water were offered *ad libitum*. During 10 days, all chicks got into the brooding phase with controlled room temperature of 26-35 °C and humidity of about 65-75%. The mushroom crude extract was diluted with distilled water in a ratio of 1:2, then sprayed on basal diets.

The experiment was performed for 35 days. The basal diet was formulated for the starter (1-21 days) and the finisher phase (22-35 days). Ingredients and chemical composition of starter and finisher diets are presented in Table 1. The treatment groups included basal diet without mushroom extract as the control group (T0), basal diet with 0.2% of zinc bacitracin as AGP-treated group (T1), and basal diet containing 0.4%, 0.8%, and 1.2% of *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract formed groups T2, T3, and T4, respectively. Furthermore, basal diet with 0.4%, 0.8%, and 1.2% of *Auricularia auricular* crude extract defined groups T5, T6, and T7, respectively. Feed was prepared every day and given twice a day in the morning and afternoon.

Table 1. Ingredients and chemical composition of basal diets^a

| Ingredients (%) | Starter diet | Finisher diet |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Yellow corn | 55.16 | 49.75 |
| Soybean meal | 23.34 | 23.25 |
| Rice bran | 0.00 | 5.00 |
| Fish meal | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Meat bone meal | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Palm kernel meal | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Salt | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| DL-Methionine | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| Palm oil | 2.07 | 2.93 |
| Premix ^c | 0.93 | 0.57 |
| Chemical composition | | |
| Dry matter (%) | 86.58 | 86.49 |
| Crude Protein (%) ^b | 23.09 | 20.93 |
| Ether extract (%) ^b | 6.07 | 5.25 |
| Crude fiber (%) ^b | 3.55 | 5.25 |
| Ash (%) ^b | 6.14 | 4.92 |

^aBased on Animal Feed Science and Technology Laboratory, Animal Science Faculty, Brawijaya University; ^bBased on 100 % dry matter; ^cComposition/10 kg: vitamin A=12.000.000IU, vitamin D3= 2.000.000IU, vitamin E=8.000.000, vitamin B1= 2.000mg, vitamin B2=5.000mg, niacin=40.000mg, methionine=30.000mg, lysine=30.000mg, manganese=120.000mg, iron=20.000mg, iodine= 200mg, zinc=100.000mg, cobalt=200mg, copper=4.000mg

The broilers were individually weighed weekly and body weight gain (BWG) was determined. The feed intake was weekly calculated as the difference between feed offered to broiler and remaining feed. The FCR was determined by feed intake divided by BWG of the broiler during the experiment. Mortalities were recorded per pen

from the beginning until the end of the experiment. The broiler production index was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Production index (PI)} = \frac{100 - \text{mortality (\%)} \times \text{BWG (kg)}}{\text{FCR} \times \text{days of rearing}} \times 100$$

Statistical analysis

Collected data in experiment 1 were analyzed descriptively while the collected data in experiment 2 were analyzed using one-way ANOVA. P-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant. The means of treatments were compared by Duncan multiple range test and additional orthogonal contrast test significance were considered up to 10% (0.10) in the F test in function of specificity and singularity comparisons. All data were tabulated and analyzed using Minitab[®] 18.1 (Minitab Inc., USA).

RESULTS

Reducing sugars, antioxidant IC₅₀, and antimicrobial activity

The concentration of reducing sugars and IC₅₀ values for the antioxidant activity of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts are shown in Table 2. Crude extracts prepared using methanol solvent had higher level of reducing sugar in comparison with other solvents. Mushrooms extracts prepared using ethanol showed the lowest antioxidant activity compared to other solvents.

Table 2. The effects of mushrooms crude extracts prepared by using different solvents on reducing sugar and antioxidant IC₅₀

| Mushroom Species | Solvents | Reducing Sugars (%) | Antioxidant IC ₅₀ (mg/mL) |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Agaricus bisporus</i> | Water | 0.020 | 100.7 |
| | Ethanol | 0.016 | 112.5 |
| | Methanol | 0.075 | 96.6 |
| <i>Auricularia auricular</i> | Water | 0.011 | 81.8 |
| | Ethanol | 0.014 | 102.0 |
| | Methanol | 0.024 | 88.7 |

The results of the antimicrobial sensitivity test are shown in Table 3. *Agaricus bisporus* extract prepared using methanol solvent showed a wider clear zone against *Salmonella* (0.75 mm), *Escherichia coli* (0.73 mm), and lactic acid bacteria (0.62 mm) compared to water or ethanol solvent. *Auricularia auricular* extract using ethanol showed a wider clear zone against *Salmonella* (0.63 mm) while *Auricularia auricular* extracts using methanol solvent showed a wider inhibition zone against *Escherichia coli* (0.82 mm) and lactic acid bacteria (0.71

mm). Therefore, the methanolic extracts of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* were more effective to inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria.

Table 3. The effects of mushrooms crude extracts prepared by using different solvents on bacteria inhibition zone (mm)

| Mushroom species | Solvents | <i>Salmonella</i> | <i>E. coli</i> | Lactic acid bacteria |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Agaricus bisporus</i> | Water | 0.49 | 0.45 | 0.46 |
| | Ethanol | 0.46 | 0.42 | 0.52 |
| | Methanol | 0.75 | 0.73 | 0.62 |
| <i>Auricularia auricula</i> | Water | 0.52 | 0.56 | 0.55 |
| | Ethanol | 0.63 | 0.61 | 0.58 |
| | Methanol | 0.52 | 0.82 | 0.71 |

Growth performance

Based on the analysis of variance, there were no significant differences among treatments in terms of broiler performance ($p > 0.05$, Table 4). The control group showed a better production index than the AGP-treated group (369.8 versus 358.3). Both mushroom crude extracts could be replaced with zinc bacitracin in broiler diets. Based on the obtained results of contrast orthogonal test (Table 5), the addition of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts in broiler diets showed no significant differences with regard to feed intake, BWG, FCR, and production index of broilers ($p > 0.05$). The comparison of T6 with T7 showed that 0.8% *Auricularia auricula* crude extract could reduce feed intake ($p = 0.086$, 3403 versus 3491 g/chick) and FCR ($p = 0.018$, 1.59 versus 1.66). However, 1.2% *Auricularia auricula* crude extract showed the side effect of β -glucan contained in both edible mushroom crude extracts on broiler performance by increasing feed intake and FCR as well as reducing BWG and production index of broilers. The comparison of T3 with T4 showed that 0.8% of *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract addition could significantly reduce FCR with increasing BWG and similar feed intake ($p = 0.047$).

Meanwhile, 0.8% of *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract significantly increased the production index while comparing T3 with T4 ($p = 0.046$). The addition of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts up to 1.2% showed the side effects of β -glucan that contained in both edible mushroom species. *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts at 0.8% could lead to better broiler performance, compared to those in the control and AGP-treated group.

DISCUSSION

Antioxidant IC₅₀ and antimicrobial activity

Major polysaccharide in *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* is β -glucan, a pathogenic associated molecular pattern (PAMP), which can stimulate and improve activity and maturity of macrophages and dendritic cells (Muta, 2006). In addition, it is reported that β -glucan could inhibit pathogenic bacteria development (Lee et al., 2020). The current study showed that *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts could inhibit the growth of pathogenic and non-pathogenic bacteria. Farzaneh et al. (2018) reported hydrolyzed *Agaricus bisporus* and *Terfezia clavaryi* effectively inhibited pathogenic bacteria development. While non-blanching *Agaricus bisporus* inhibited *Bacillus cereus*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Listeria monocytogenes*. Cai et al. (2015) reported that the ethanolic extract of *Auricularia auricula* had effective antimicrobial activity on *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* with no antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*. β -glucan contained in both mushroom crude extracts could improve antimicrobial activity through enhancing bacteriocins secretion by lactic acid bacteria (Perez et al., 2014). Bacteriocins are natural antimicrobial agents against pathogenic bacteria metabolism (Santos et al., 2017).

Wang et al. (2002) reported that microwave heating with high pressure could improve the dispersion of β -glucan in water without polymers degradation. The findings of a study conducted by Zeng et al. (2012) indicated that *Auricularia auricular* extraction using microwave improved antioxidant activity against 2,2-azinobis-3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonate, 1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl hydrazyl radical (DPPH), superoxide, and hydroxyl radical. Öztürk et al. (2011) found that methanolic extract of *Agaricus bisporus* had lower Fe³⁺ compounds (59.87 mg/kg) than hexane solvent (206.20 mg/kg). The ferric ion (Fe³⁺) is used as an indicator of antioxidant activity in the samples, which is characterized by the reduction of Fe³⁺ to Fe²⁺ (Kozarski et al., 2011).

Growth performance

The β -glucan content of both edible mushroom species has differences in terms of β - and α -chain. *Auricularia auricula* contains a β - chain higher than *Agaricus bisporus* (Lee and Kim, 2005). Supplementation of purified β -glucan 0.04% could improve the nutrient digestibility of weanling pig and affect the average daily BWG (Hahn et al., 2006). Giannenas et al. (2010) reported that 2% *Agaricus bisporus* in broiler diets could

significantly improve broiler performance parameters, including BWG and FCR. It was also indicated that the water-soluble polysaccharide of *Agaricus bisporus* could enhance broiler performance. Another study on β -glucan supplementation in broiler diets showed no significant differences among treatments with β -glucan, *Bacillus subtilis*, or combination of β -glucan plus *Bacillus subtilis* on broiler performance (Zhang et al., 2012). Giannenas et al. (2010) found that the addition of *Agaricus bisporus* to broiler diets at 20 g/kg diet increased the colonization of *Lactobacilli* spp. in ileum and caecum. Whereas, *Agaricus bisporus* did not affect small intestine development (Giannenas et al., 2010). In this regard, gut development could affect host performance, health, and nutrient absorption. In the previous study performed by Giannenas et al. (2011), it was reported that the inclusion of *Agaricus bisporus* on turkey diets significantly improved the villus height of the small intestine, also reduced the FCR. Phenolic compounds contained in *Agaricus bisporus* was 402 mg GAE/100g of dry weight (Keles et al., 2011) while *Auricularia auricula* contained phenolic compound in 3.76 mg/100g dry weight (Sikram et al. 2016). The methanolic extract of *Agaricus bisporus* contained phenolic content at about 85.45 μ g PE/mg extract (Öztürk et al., 2011), and *Auricularia auricular* water extract contained higher

phenolic compounds (2.90 mg GAE/g dry matter) than ethanol or diethyl ether solvent (Boonsong et al., 2016). Polyphenol dietary treatments could enhance barrier function of small intestine by gut microbiota breakdown complex polyphenols into short-chain fatty acids. However, short-chain fatty acids could improve the recovery rate of epithelial cells leading to tight junction protein assembly in epithelium and increased intestinal permeability (Zhu, 2018). Increased intestinal permeability could affect intestinal morphometric (villus and crypt) and improve nutrient utilization and absorption resulting in the improvement of immunity status and body weight of broiler (Yamauchi, 2002). Broiler mortality correlates with the innate immunity of broiler. Intestinal mucosa not only functions in nutrient absorption but also prevents pathogenic bacteria invasion. On the other hand, goblet cells in intestinal mucosa produce mucus to bind and eliminate pathogenic bacteria and could prevent physical and chemical injuries to the intestinal mucosa. Immunoglobulin A (IgA) secretion in intestinal mucosa was to maintain intestinal mucosa stable and also protect it against pathogenic bacteria. Zhang et al. (2008) reported 50 ppm β -(1,3) (1,6)-glucan from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in broiler diets significantly increased secretory IgA and IgG in broilers blood serum.

Table 4. The effects of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula* crude extracts on the growth performance of broiler chickens at 35 days of age^a

| Treatments ^b | FI ^c (g/chick) | BWG ^c (g/chick) | FCR ^c | PI ^c |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| T0 | 3517 ± 62.5 | 2133 ± 45.9 | 1.65 ± 0.04 | 369.8 ± 15.8 |
| T1 | 3483 ± 30.0 | 2126 ± 4.0 | 1.64 ± 0.01 | 358.3 ± 21.5 |
| T2 | 3433 ± 68.0 | 2117 ± 46.9 | 1.62 ± 0.02 | 348.1 ± 21.1 |
| T3 | 3498 ± 22.1 | 2178 ± 38.5 | 1.61 ± 0.03 | 387.7 ± 15.2 |
| T4 | 3451 ± 30.2 | 2070 ± 26.7 | 1.67 ± 0.01 | 342.6 ± 14.8 |
| T5 | 3476 ± 18.0 | 2126 ± 54.7 | 1.64 ± 0.04 | 371.5 ± 17.6 |
| T6 | 3403 ± 128.8 | 2144 ± 131.5 | 1.59 ± 0.05 | 374.4 ± 52.4 |
| T7 | 3491 ± 33.2 | 2101 ± 91.6 | 1.66 ± 0.06 | 361.6 ± 28.2 |

^adata are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. ^bT0: control group, T1: Zinc bacitracin group, T2: *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract (0.4%), T3: *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract (0.8%), T4: *Agaricus bisporus* crude extract (1.2%), T5: *Auricularia auricular* crude extract (0.4%), T6: *Auricularia auricular* crude extract (0.8%), T7: *Auricularia auricular* crude extract (1.2%). ^cFI: Feed Intake, BWG: Body Weight Gain, FCR: Feed conversion ratio, PI: Production Index of broiler

Table 5. Orthogonal contrast between the performance of treated broiler chickens with crude extracts of edible mushroom species of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricula*^a

| Set contrast | FI ^c | BWG ^c | FCR ^c | PI ^c |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| T0 versus T1-T7 | 0.153 | 0.812 | 0.433 | 0.700 |
| T1 versus T2-T7 | 0.525 | 0.944 | 0.723 | 0.715 |
| T2-T4 versus T5-T7 | 0.891 | 0.954 | 0.887 | 0.440 |
| T2 versus T3-T4 | 0.341 | 0.885 | 0.557 | 0.365 |
| T3 versus T4 | 0.349 | 0.057 | 0.047 | 0.046 |
| T5 versus T6-T7 | 0.496 | 0.950 | 0.692 | 0.854 |
| T6 versus T7 | 0.086 | 0.435 | 0.018 | 0.553 |

^a P-value of orthogonal contrast test. FI: Feed Intake, BWG: Body Weight Gain, FCR: Feed conversion ratio, PI: Production Index of broiler

CONCLUSION

The methanolic extracts of *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* had higher concentrations of reducing sugar and also showed a higher capacity to inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria and lactic acid bacteria. In addition, 0.8% inclusion level of both mushroom species crude extracts in broiler diets showed the optimum level of broiler performance. *Agaricus bisporus* and *Auricularia auricular* crude extracts could replace antibiotic growth promoters on the broiler diet.

DECLARATIONS

Authors' contributions

Reynaldy H. Ardyansyah worked on the field trial, formulation, data collection, statistical analysis, and writing. Muhammad Halim Natsir created the idea, and designed the study. Osfar Sjojfan performed experiment 1. Danung Nur Adli revised the manuscript grammatically.

Competing interests

The authors have declared no competing interest.

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