

## Microbial Load of Fecal Material of Broiler Birds Administered with Lagenaria Breviflora Extract

**Authors :** Adeleye O. O., T. M. Obuotor, A. O. Kolawole, I. O. Opowoye, M. I. Olasaju, L. T. Egbeyale, R. A. Ajadi

**Abstract :** This study investigated the effect of Lagenaria brevisflora on broiler poultry birds, including its effect on the microbial count of the poultry droppings. A total of 240-day-old broiler chicks were randomly assigned to six groups, with four replicates per group. The first group was the control, while the other four groups were fed water containing 300g/L and 500g/L concentrations of Lagenaria brevisflora twice and thrice daily. The microbial load was determined using the plate count method. The results showed that the administration of Lagenaria brevisflora in the water of broiler birds significantly improved their growth performance with an average weight gain range of 1.845g - 2.241g. Mortality rate was at 0%. The study also found that Lagenaria brevisflora had a significant effect on the microbial count of the poultry droppings with colony count values from  $3.5 \times 10^{-7}$  -  $9.9 \times 10^{-7}$  CFU/ml, The total coliforms (Escherichia coli, and Salmonella sp.) was obtained as  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  CFU/ml. The reduction in microbial counts of the poultry droppings could be attributed to the antimicrobial properties of Lagenaria brevisflora, which contain phytochemicals reported to possess antimicrobial activity. Therefore, the inclusion of Lagenaria brevisflora in the diets of broiler poultry could be an effective strategy for improving growth performance and immune function and reducing the microbial load of poultry droppings, which can help to mitigate the risk of disease transmission to humans and other animals.

**Keywords :** gut microbes, bacterial count, lagenaria brevisflora, coliforms

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