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Effect of *Mentha spicata* L. infusión on the productive performance and organoleptic characteristics of Cobb 500 broilers

Efecto de la infusión de *Mentha spicata* L. en el rendimiento y las características organolépticas de canales de pollos de engorde Cobb 500

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Abstract

The objective of this research was evaluate the effect of *Mentha spicata* L. infusion on the productive performance and organoleptic characteristics of Cobb 500 broilers. The management, biosecurity and welfare of birds for open houses systems were followed using a completely random design (CRD). In order to evaluate treatments effects during 35 days, 200 1-day-old mixed chickens were distributed in five treatments, with four réplicas, of 10 birds each in the following groups: T₁ (control), T₂ (*M. spicata* infusion at 10%), T₃ (*M. spicata* infusion at 20%), T₄ (*M. spicata* infusion at 30%) and T₅ (*M. spicata* infusion at 40%). The variables studied were broilers productives performance, carcass weight, abdominal fat and organoleptic characteristics. The data was processed using statistical program Statgraphics Centurión XV.I, performing a multivariate analysis of variance and determining the factors with effect, and ANOVA of productive variables per week; contingency tables were prepared with organoleptic indicators data to determine differences (Chi-square test). Results show no effect on productive parameters up to 30% per liter because a decrease in feed consumption in the slaughter week for T₅ (40% of infusion) which indicate a limit of infusion use; the principal effects on infusion *M.*

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spicata L was on abdominal fat which was lower thickness in T₄ (30%) and T₅ (40%) maybe due to the presence of flavonoids in the mint plant, which have a positive effect on lipid metabolism, resulting in a lean product. Flavor, tenderness and juiciness showed a favorable acceptance for meat of animals receiving the infusion treatments in relation to the control group due to the tendency of the majority of the Ecuador population to consume products with markables organoleptics characteristiques coming from animals raised in tradicional form.

Key words: Broilers, abdominal fat, carcass weight and quality, organoleptic characteristics.

Resumen

El objetivo de esta investigación fue evaluar el efecto de la infusión de la menta (*Mentha spicata* L.) en el rendimiento y las características organolépticas de canal de pollos de engorde Cobb 500. Se siguió el manejo, la bioseguridad y el bienestar de las aves para los sistemas de casas abiertas, utilizando un diseño completamente al azar (CRD). Se utilizaron 200 pollos mixtos de 1 día de edad, para evaluar los efectos de los tratamientos durante 35 días. Estos fueron dispuestos en cuatro tratamientos (infusión -%/lt de *M. spicata*) más un control, con cuatro repeticiones de 10 aves cada uno, de la forma siguiente: T₁ (control), T₂ (10%), T₃ (20%), T₄ (30%) y T₅ (40%). Las variables estudiadas fueron: rendimiento de pollos de engorde, el peso de la canal y las características organolépticas. Los datos se procesaron utilizando el programa estadístico Statgraphics Centurión XV.I, realizando un análisis multivariado de la varianza y determinando los factores con efecto, y un Anova por semana para las variables productivas; se elaboraron tablas de contingencia con los datos de los indicadores organolépticos para determinar las diferencias (Prueba de Chi-cuadrado). Los resultados no mostraron efecto sobre los parámetros productivos hasta la dosis de infusión de 30% por litro debido a una disminución en el consumo de alimento en la semana de sacrificio para T₅ (40% de la infusión), lo que indica un límite en el uso de infusión. Los principales efectos de la infusión de *M. spicata* L. ocurrieron en la grasa abdominal, que presentó menor espesor en T₄ (30%) y T₅ (40%), posiblemente por la presencia de flavonoides en la planta de menta, que tienen un efecto positivo en el metabolismo de los lípidos, resultando un producto magro. El sabor, la terneza y la jugosidad mostraron una aceptación favorable para la carne de animales que recibieron

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los tratamientos de infusión en relación con el grupo control, de acuerdo con la preferencia de la mayoría de la población de Ecuador por productos con características organolépticas procedentes de animales criados en forma tradicional.

Palabras clave: Pollos de engorde, grasa abdominal, peso y calidad de la canal, características organolépticas.

Introduction

The need for the consumption of animal protein is constantly increasing, mainly due to the demographic growth of the population. This increase in demand means that the livestock production sector must continuously make improvement actions to increase industrial yields. In addition to this situation, the trend of today's society that demands safe meat, from farms that comply with quality and biosecurity regulations and specially apply and respect animal welfare, taking an increasingly growing interest in ecological management of the animals.

It is notorious the increasing demand for poultry products, as an alternative to red meats, which can promote diseases, such as diverticulosis (Böhm, 2015), diabetes (Pan et al., 2013) and the increased risk of suffering cancer (Wie et al., 2014). Under these circumstances of market demand, a lot of work has been done on genetic selection of birds (Sheng et al., 2015; Stratmann et al., 2016), especially in broiler (González-Cerón et al., 2015; Reyer et al., 2015), with the aim of obtaining a meat product in the shortest possible time and the reduction of the resources used in their production.

Increasing the production of poultry meat for the current demand, is no longer the only goal that the industry proposes, since it must consider demands of the market. This raises a reorganization of the production matrix, given that production systems must consider ecological aspects (Onrust et al., 2015; Ricke, 2015), and this is why the broilers industry has to evolve according to the market trend, becoming a great challenge

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for bird producers. It is meritorious all the research that has currently done in the area of new alternatives for avian management; and specially to replace artificial chemicals; such as antibiotics (Diaz-Sanchez et al., 2015) that can cause problems in the consumer's organism.

The disadvantage of finding traces of residues of different chemicals used in normal management for the production of white meat consumption is not the result of the absence of regulations that govern a country or international, because by law, these are worldwide. Rather, it arises when drug withdrawal times is not correctly established at the farm level (Beyene, 2016; Muhammad Danish Mund et al., 2017).

Although many replacement alternatives are currently used, combinations with artificial chemical substances also stand out (Samant et al., 2015), to look for possible effects with their administration. Additionally, it has been increased consumption of traditional foods, and it seems a return to flavors and colors reminiscent of field products. This is why research with medicinal plants attracts a lot of attention (Babak and Nahashon, 2014; Chiriboga Chuchuca et al., 2016; Sánchez et al., 2016), given the advantages they are showing and especially because it is a resource from which numerous active principles are being obtained due to the great variety of species that exist in the world.

In the present research was used *Mentha spicata* L. a Lamiaceae family, also known as mint, a perennial creeping plant with a fresh and intense aroma. This plant is traditionally used in Ecuador and other Latin American countries as a medicinal herb, in infusion, for the treatment of stomach disorders, diarrhea, coughing, wound healing due to its extraordinary source of aromatic compounds and essential oils containing biologically active constituents that possess antimicrobial action and insect repellent (Quevedo Guerrero, 2017). The general objective was evaluate the effect of the infusion

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of *M. spicata* L. on the performance and organoleptic characteristics of Cobb 500 broilers.

Materials and methods

The research was carried out at the Granja Santa Inés of the Agricultural Faculty of Sciences of the Universidad Técnica de Machala ubicada in Machala – Pasaje way, Machala Canton, Province El Oro, coastal region of Ecuador, in the geographic coordinates 79° 54' 05" longitude northeast and 3° 17' 16" south latitude. The environment temperature fluctuates from 22 to 35°C, in an altitude of 5 meters. Were adopted all possible management and biosecurity norms, for open cages in order to maintain total welfare in the birds. The disinfection of the vessel with formaldehyde and application of quicklime to the floor before the chickens enter. Wood chip was used as a litter, basic vaccination schedule was applied (New Castle 'La Sota' and Gumboro D78) and no antibiotics were administered. Two hundred 1-day-old mixed chickens of the COBB 500 line were distributed in five treatments, each with four replicates of 10 birds. Those were randomly assigned (40 birds per treatment) as follows: T1 control, T2 (*M. spicata* L. infusion at 10%), T3 (*M. spicata* L. infusion at 20%), T4 (*M. spicata* L. infusion at 30%) and T5 (*M. spicata* L. infusion at 40%). The infusion was offered as drinking water. Animals were fed with a commercial feed Proaves (Pronaca – Ecuador) ad libitum according to the age. Treatments were evaluated for 35 days; a 100-watt yellow bulb provided the heat source for each replica (10 chickens). For the preparation of the infusion method was applied the Chiriboga Chuchuca et al. (2016) methodology.

The variables measured were related with productive parameters: feed intake, water consumption, feed conversion ratio, mortality, live weight evolution, weight before slaughter, carcass weight, blood weight, weight feathers, weight viscera except lungs

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and kidneys, weight of head-neck and paws, average thickness of abdominal fat and organoleptic characteristics, flavor, tenderness and juiciness of breasts meat. To measure the weight of chickens and feed was use an electronic scale CAMRY model EK9332-F302 with a maximum capacity of 5 Kg and an error margin of ± 1 g. For water consumption, was used a container of volume with minimum measurements of 10 ml and for fat measuring was employed a digital calibrator.

Feed intake was weekly-recorded (10 chickens per replica) generating 100 data (5T x 4R x 5w), applying the following formula:

$$\text{Feed intake}(g) = \text{offered feed} - \text{leftover feed} ,$$

the water consumption was weekly measured (10 chickens per replica) registering 100 data (5T x 4R x 5w), with the following formula:

$$\text{Water consumption}(ml) = \text{offered water} - \text{leftover water} ,$$

the feed conversion ratio was weekly measured (10 chickens per replica) recording 100 data (5T x 4R x 5w), with the following formula:

$$\text{Feed Conversion Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total feed consumed (g)}}{(\text{Final live weight (g)} - \text{Initial live weight (g)})}$$

the mortality of the birds, as a percentage, was obtained by dividing the dead birds for which they started the trial:

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$$\text{Mortality (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of dead chickens}}{\text{Number of chickens started}} \times 100$$

the live weight of the broilers was determined weekly until day 35, registering individually and expressed in grams, with this 1000 data were obtained (5T x 4R x 10c x 5w) without discounting the mortality registered in the investigation.

To determine the yield of the carcass in grams, at day 35 of age, after fasting for 12 hours, broilers were slaughtered by cervical dislocation with suspension of the bird (hanging) for cutting the left jugular and bleeding for two minutes, and then underwent a blanching process at 60 °C. for approximately 30 seconds. Two birds per replicate, taken at random for 40 chickens (5T x 4R x 2c), to obtain weight data post-bleeding, post plucking, post-evisceration. For measuring thickness of abdominal fat, a digital caliper 0-150 mm (TACTIX Mark) was applied directly on it with moderate pressure. Weight data was obtained from head-neck-legs, wings, thighs, drumstick, shoulder, rump and breast (fresh, frozen, boneless and cooked). In addition, were recorded water losses by cooking the meat, taking the frozen breasts and left them at room temperature for two hours, then proceeded to make cuts of 1 cm of thick. Breasts were placed in baking shells identified individually, and then placed in a pot containing boiling water for 10 minutes. They were removed from the fire and the subsequent processes were continue, obtaining 600 data (5T x 4R x 2c x 15v).

For organoleptic characteristics, 105 personal surveys were carried out with standard discrimination questions applied to the consumer tasting methodology, giving a total of 2100 responses (5T x 105p x 4C), they were evaluated qualitatively in meat samples from the 5 treatments: flavor, tenderness, juiciness and smell, for all the pleasant and unpleasant criterion was applied.

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Experimental design. For the research, was used a completely randomized design (CRD), with five treatments, each with 4 replicas of 10 chickens, for 40 birds per treatment. The treatments design was as follows: T1 = Balanced feed only, T2 = Balanced feed + 2 ml of *M. spicata* L. infusion at 10% was administered per liter of drinking water, T3 = Balanced feed + 2 ml of *M. spicata* L. infusion at 20% was administered per liter of drinking water, T4 = Balanced feed + 2 ml of *M. spicata* L. infusion at 30% was administered per liter of drinking water, and T5 = Balanced feed + 2 ml of *M. spicata* L. infusion at 40% was administered per liter of drinking water.

Statistical analysis. The statistical analyzes were carried out according to Blasco (2010), a multivariate variance analysis was used for the variables under study and to determine which factors have a statistical effect on the variables. For live weight, feed intake, water consumption and feed conversion ratio was used an analysis of parametric variance (Anova one-way) per week, after checking the assumptions of normality and homocedasticity. To establish statistical differences between treatments Tukey's honest significant difference procedure (HSD), at a confidence level of 95.0% was used. For the analysis of criterio consumer, contingency tables were elaborate and chi-square test was used to establish the differences between treatments. All the analysis was carried out using the statistical program Statgraphics Centurión XV.I. ®.

Results and Discussion

Feed intake, water consumption, and feed conversion ratio

When performing multivariate analysis of variance in feed intake, it showed a significant difference in the week*treatment interaction. An additional Anova analysis was performed per week. Table 1 shows the averages of feed intake, with their intervals of confidence. From the first week, were detected statistical differences, being the T5 the

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one that maintained it until the end of the experiment (T5: 32525.8 ± 645.8^b vs T1: 34248.5 ± 645.8^a). In this treatment, lower intakes were detected, and this agrees with the results found by Darabighane et al. (2017). In that experiment using male broiler Ross 308, they evaluated a fresh leaves of *Mentha piperita* and the gel contained in the leaves of *Aloe barbadensis*, added in the feed, to compare it with an antibiotic, used as a growth promoter.

The water consumption did not show significance in their interaction, however, when was analyzed the data per week, it showed that birds in T4 consumed less water (T1: 14578.3 ± 792.7^a , T2: 14001.5 ± 792.7^{ab} , T3: 14064.3 ± 792.7^{ab} , T4: 12838.5 ± 792.7^b , T5: 13289.3 ± 792.7^{ab}) than T1 (Table 2). The feed conversion ratio did not show a significant statistical difference in their interaction. But when week effect was analyzed, statistical differences were observed in T1 and T3, but at the end of the experiment, no differences were detected (Table 3). These results agree with those found by Ameri et al. (2016), who administered dried ground leaves of *Mentha piperita* in the feed of broilers Ross 308 to evaluate performance, body temperature and the characteristics of the carcass.

Mortality

For all treatments the mortality observed in this research was as expected for tropical zones (less than 5%), therefore this variable was not influenced by treatments. This result is similar to that reported by Chiriboga Chuchuca et al. (2016) who prepared an infusion of *Plectranthus amboinicus* (Lour.) and vinegar in chickens *Gallus gallus domesticus* in the drinking water, without reporting an effect in this variable.

Live weight

When was analyzed the interaction of the live weight per week there were no significant statistical differences. After, analyzed the data per week, it was observed that there is

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no significance throughout the duration of the experiment (Table 4), agreeing with those results of Ameri et al. (2016), Chiriboga Chuchuca et al. (2016), Sánchez et al. (2016), the latter administered to Cobb 500 chickens, 3 ml of 10% infusions of *Cymbopogon citratus* (DC.) Stapf., *Plectranthus amboinicus* (Lour.), and *Tilia cordata* (Mill.) per liter of drinking water and they did not report differences in the weights of the birds. However, Darabighane et al. (2017) reported differences at the beginning, in the growth and in the total weight of the birds.

Carcass yield

Table 5 shows the data obtained measuring the weighing of broilers before slaughter, and after subtracting blood, feathers and the head-neck-paws weight. No statistical differences were detected; but, the visceral weight (T1: 305.8 ± 37.8^a , T2: 239.5 ± 37.8^{ab} , T3: 212.3 ± 37.8^b , T4: 190.3 ± 37.8^b , T5: 247.3 ± 37.8^{ab}) and abdominal fat thickness were different (T1: 4.95 ± 0.79^a , T2: 4.17 ± 0.79^{ab} , T3: 4.49 ± 0.79^{ab} , T4: 2.90 ± 0.79^c , T5: 3.31 ± 0.79^{bc}). Regarding the weight of wings, thighs, counter-thighs, shoulder, rump, breast, frozen breast, water loss by defrosting breast, boneless breast and cooked breast showed no significance. Table 6 show the data obtained for chicken breasts, only detecting significant statistical difference in the breast bone (T1: 51.25 ± 3.43^a , T2: 50.88 ± 3.43^a , T3: 45.75 ± 3.43^{ab} , T4: 47.25 ± 3.43^{ab} , T5: 43.38 ± 3.43^b) and the water losses of the breasts subjected to cooking (T1: 38.88 ± 4.41^{ab} , T2: 41.38 ± 4.41^a , T3: 33.38 ± 4.41^{ab} , T4: 30.25 ± 4.41^b , T5: 31.38 ± 4.41^b). The variables that show statistical differences tend to decrease, since they are the groups that received the infusion. This differs from that mentioned by Khursheed et al. (2017), who did not find significant statistical differences in data obtained from the commercial broiler chicken channel in an experiment where fresh mint leaves were administered with and without enzymatic supplementation to evaluate blood biochemistry, carcass characteristics and sensory attributes. It also

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differs from that reported by Ameri et al. (2016), regarding to the characteristics of the carcass.

Organoleptic characteristics

Regarding the taste of meat, not significant statistical differences between treatments was report. The flavor (Figure 1) of all the meats were agreeable for the majority of the respondents (T 1: 85, T 2: 93, T 3: 100, T 4: 94 and T 5: 103), when comparing with the control, all treatments showed an arithmetic difference, but only were detectec statistical differences between T3 and T5. The results of tenderness by criterio of meat mastication (Figure 2) show that the majority of respondents find it pleasant for all treatment whit statistical difference to T4. The juiciness (Figure 3) shows arithmetical differences in all treatments being pleasant for the majority of respondents, but statistically, T3, T4 and T5 differ from the control. These results differ from those reported by Khursheed et al. (2017), who used a panel of experts, not find significant statistical differences from sensory analysis of meat. Meat colour was not evaluate.

Conclusions

The administration of 2 ml of infusion of *M. spicata* L. in drinking water showed no effect on the productive parameters up to 30% per liter because a decrease in feed consumption in the slaughter week for T₅ (40% of infusion) was observed indicate a limit of infusion use. The principal effects on infusion *M. spicata* L was on abdominal fat which was lower thickness in T₄ (30%) and T₅ (40%) maybe due to the presence of flavonoids in the mint plant, which have a positive effect on lipid metabolism, resulting in a lean product. Flavor, tenderness and juiciness showed a favorable acceptance for meat of animals recibing the infusion treatements in relation to the control group due to

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the tendency of the majority of the Ecuador population to consume products with markables organoleptics characteristiques coming from animals raised.

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Table 1. Averages of weekly accumulative feed intake (g).

Treat.	Week				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	1692.5 ± 49.9 ^a	5221.3 ± 48.5 ^a	11940.3 ± 143.4 ^a	22061.3 ± 643.2 ^a	34248.5 ± 645.8 ^a
2	1590.5 ± 49.9 ^b	5123.5 ± 48.5 ^{bc}	11751.3 ± 143.4 ^a	21441.5 ± 643.2 ^{ab}	33901.0 ± 645.8 ^a
3	1565.0 ± 49.9 ^b	5155.3 ± 48.5 ^{ab}	11720.8 ± 143.4 ^a	21369.3 ± 643.2 ^{ab}	33824.3 ± 645.8 ^a
4	1582.0 ± 49.9 ^b	5114.8 ± 48.5 ^{bc}	11763.8 ± 143.4 ^a	21722.3 ± 643.2 ^a	34187.8 ± 645.8 ^a
5	1530.0 ± 49.9 ^b	5056.5 ± 48.5 ^c	10374.0 ± 143.4 ^b	20197.5 ± 643.2 ^b	32525.8 ± 645.8 ^b

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

Table 2. Average accumulated weekly water (ml) consumption.

Treat.	week				
	.	1	2	3	4
1	4722.0 ± 348.3 ^a	14578.3 ± 792.7 ^a	30169.3 ± 1340.5 ^a	55508.3 ± 2584.4 ^a	94309.5 ± 3455.8 ^a
2	4795.0 ± 348.3 ^a	14001.5 ± 792.7 ^{ab}	30280.5 ± 1340.5 ^a	53692.0 ± 2584.4 ^a	91544.0 ± 3455.8 ^a
3	4740.0 ± 348.3 ^a	14064.3 ± 792.7 ^{ab}	30113.3 ± 1340.5 ^a	54940.5 ± 2584.4 ^a	93045.8 ± 3455.8 ^a
4	4393.5 ± 348.3 ^a	12838.5 ± 792.7 ^b	27864.0 ± 1340.5 ^a	51029.3 ± 2584.4 ^a	88902.8 ± 3455.8 ^a
5	4604.5 ± 348.3 ^a	13289.3 ± 792.7 ^{ab}	27964.3 ± 1340.5 ^a	52758.5 ± 2584.4 ^a	91613.5 ± 3455.8 ^a

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

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Table 3. Averages of the weekly feed conversion ratio.

Treat.	week				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	0.90 ± 0.04 ^a	0.94 ± 0.03 ^a	1.15 ± 0.06 ^{ab}	1.42 ± 0.08 ^a	1.54 ± 0.08 ^a
2	0.83 ± 0.04 ^{ab}	0.92 ± 0.03 ^a	1.22 ± 0.06 ^b	1.34 ± 0.08 ^a	1.55 ± 0.08 ^a
3	0.82 ± 0.04 ^{ab}	0.94 ± 0.03 ^a	1.19 ± 0.06 ^b	1.34 ± 0.08 ^a	1.57 ± 0.08 ^a
4	0.84 ± 0.04 ^{ab}	0.95 ± 0.03 ^a	1.24 ± 0.06 ^b	1.40 ± 0.08 ^a	1.61 ± 0.08 ^a
5	0.81 ± 0.04 ^b	0.93 ± 0.03 ^a	1.05 ± 0.06 ^a	1.29 ± 0.08 ^a	1.48 ± 0.08 ^a

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

Table 4. Averages of the weekly live weights (g) of birds.

Treat.	Week				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	187.6 ± 4.9 ^a	494.3 ± 13.2 ^a	997.2 ± 30.1 ^a	1482.1 ± 42.8 ^a	2128.4 ± 71.6 ^a
2	179.8 ± 5.0 ^a	483.8 ± 13.9 ^a	993.9 ± 31.8 ^a	1506.3 ± 45.1 ^a	2173.5 ± 75.4 ^a
3	183.1 ± 4.9 ^a	480.1 ± 13.2 ^a	998.7 ± 30.1 ^a	1477.6 ± 42.8 ^a	2126.9 ± 71.6 ^a
4	184.1 ± 5.0 ^a	486.1 ± 13.5 ^a	1007.5 ± 31.3 ^a	1533.9 ± 45.1 ^a	2144.1 ± 75.5 ^a
5	180.5 ± 4.9 ^a	472.6 ± 13.2 ^a	996.1 ± 30.1 ^a	1497.2 ± 42.8 ^a	2149.3 ± 71.6 ^a

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

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Table 5. Data obtained with the slaughter of the birds on day 35.

Treat.	W. Slaugh.	Blood	Feathers	Viscera	Heat-neck-paws (g)	Abd.Fat (mm)
	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)	(mm)
1	2339.1 ± 187.7 ^a	86.4 ± 22.4 ^a	99.6 ± 39.1 ^a	305.8 ± 37.8 ^a	179.6 ± 28.2 ^a	4.95 ± 0.79 ^a
2	2429.5 ± 187.7 ^a	100.3 ± 22.4 ^a	102.8 ± 39.1 ^a	239.5 ± 37.8 ^{ab}	187.4 ± 28.2 ^a	4.17 ± 0.79 ^{ab}
3	2204.5 ± 187.7 ^a	89.1 ± 22.4 ^a	91.3 ± 39.1 ^a	212.3 ± 37.8 ^b	193.4 ± 28.2 ^a	4.49 ± 0.79 ^{ab}
4	2166.5 ± 187.7 ^a	68.6 ± 22.4 ^a	108.5 ± 39.1 ^a	190.3 ± 37.8 ^b	214.3 ± 28.2 ^a	2.90 ± 0.79 ^c
5	2213.0 ± 187.7 ^a	84.3 ± 22.4 ^a	89.4 ± 39.1 ^a	247.3 ± 37.8 ^{ab}	210.6 ± 28.2 ^a	3.31 ± 0.79 ^{bc}

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

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Table 6. Averages obtained from the chicken breasts at day 35.

Treat.	W. Breasts	Los.Bre.Thaw.	Bone Tissue	Wat. Loss Cook
	(g)	(g)	(g)	(%)
1	595.4 ± 40.8 ^{ab}	6.63 ± 1.58 ^a	51.25 ± 3.43 ^a	38.88 ± 4.41 ^{ab}
2	669.1 ± 40.8 ^b	6.50 ± 1.58 ^a	50.88 ± 3.43 ^a	41.38 ± 4.41 ^a
3	562.5 ± 40.8 ^a	7.63 ± 1.58 ^a	45.75 ± 3.43 ^{ab}	33.38 ± 4.41 ^{ab}
4	550.9 ± 40.8 ^a	7.75 ± 1.58 ^a	47.25 ± 3.43 ^{ab}	30.25 ± 4.41 ^b
5	558.5 ± 40.8 ^a	7.13 ± 1.58 ^a	43.38 ± 3.43 ^b	31.38 ± 4.41 ^b

Difference superindice, statistical differences (P < 0.05).

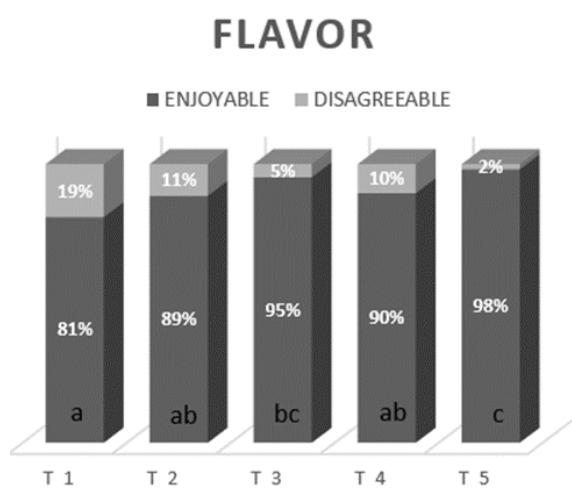


Figure 1. Flavor comparative results.

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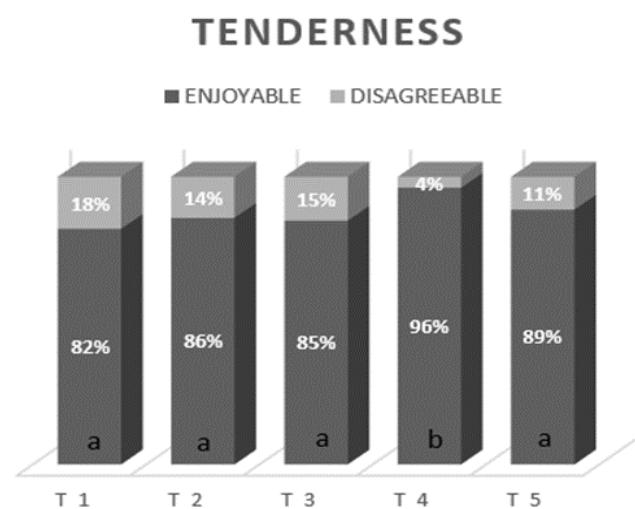


Figure 2. Tenderness comparative results (%).

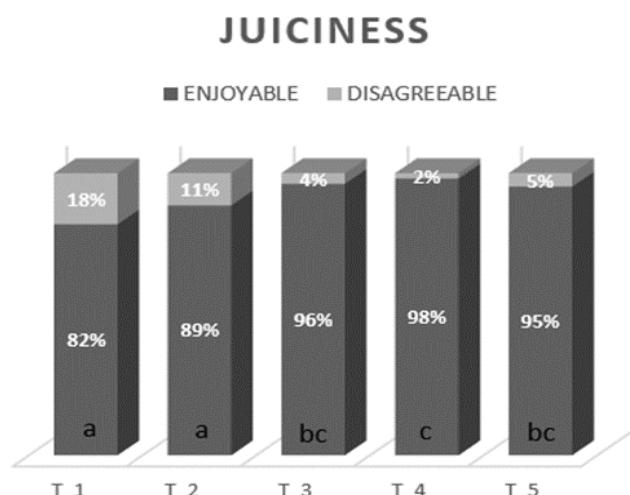


Figure 3. Juiciness comparative results (%).

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