

## Feeding Diets Containing Different Forms of Duckweed on Productive Performance and Egg Quality of Ducks

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mempelajari pengaruh pemberian pakan mengandung *duckweed* dengan penyajian berbeda pada itik lokal terhadap performan produksi dan kualitas kuning telur. Sebanyak 90 ekor itik berumur 24 minggu secara acak dibagi menjadi 18 kelompok dan ditempatkan masing-masing pada unit kandang berukuran 2 x 1 m<sup>2</sup>. Penelitian menggunakan rancangan acak lengkap dengan tiga perlakuan yang masing-masing terdiri atas 6 ulangan. Perlakuan P1 adalah kelompok itik yang diberi pakan komplit mengandung *duckweed* 20% dan disajikan dalam bentuk mash kering, P2 adalah kelompok itik yang diberi pakan komplit mengandung *duckweed* 20% dan disajikan dalam bentuk basah (bubur) dan P3 diberi ransum basal disajikan dalam bentuk mash kering dan *duckweed* disajikan secara terpisah dalam bentuk segar. Ransum disusun dengan kandungan nutrisi sama. Konsumsi, konversi pakan, dan pigmentasi kuning telur dipengaruhi oleh cara penyajian *duckweed*. Pemberian *duckweed* segar mempunyai potensi yang baik untuk diterapkan dalam mengurangi biaya pengolahan pakan.

*Kata kunci: itik lokal, duckweed, produksi telur, pigmentasi kuning telur*

### ABSTRACT

The present experiment was undertaken to study the feeding effect of diets containing different forms of duckweed for local ducks on their productive performance and egg quality or egg yolk pigmentation. A total of 90 birds of 24 wk old ducks were randomly divided into 18 experimental units of 2.0 x 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> of cages. The experiment was assigned in a completely randomized design (3 treatments with 6 replicates, 5 birds each). There were 3 dietary treatments, namely P1= ducks fed a complete diet containing 20 % of dried duckweed and given in the form of dry-mash; P2= a complete diet in P1 but it was offered in wet form (slurry); and P3= ducks were offered basal diet in the form of dry-mash and fresh duckweed was offered separately *ad libitum*. Diets were formulated to have similar nutritional contents. Feed consumption, feed conversion ratio (FCR), and egg yolk pigmentation were measured. The result of the study showed that these three parameters were affected by the feeding different forms of duckweed. Feeding diet with fresh duckweed brought about the best pigmentation than did the dry one. Fresh duckweed offers a promise as a potential feedstuff for ducks and has a good implication in reducing feed processing cost.

*Key words: local duck, duckweed, egg production, yolk pigmentation*

### INTRODUCTION

Ducks, known as water fowl, a type of poultry that has a considerable contribution in providing animal protein sources. In the year 2007, duck eggs production could supply as much as 14.66% of national needs (DGLS, 2008). The duck eggs are mostly obtained from

the traditional rearing in wet rural areas. Improvement of rearing ducks in a confined housing model to be a large scale has been limited by the low selling value of eggs which is not able to offset the cost of production. The unavailability of local feed/feedstuffs at low prices is one reason that brings about the farmers more reliant in feeding their ducks with commercial feed although the production cost get higher.

A possible effort can be alternatively selected to reduce production cost is that by feeding a mixture of rice bran and a commercial feed. However, it has a negative

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impact on egg quality, especially the yellow pigmentation of egg yolk. The low level of  $\beta$ -carotene in the diet, due to the low content of yellow corn, is the main cause of low egg yolk pigmentation. The use of duckweed, a potential local feedstuff with low price, is one alternative to overcome the problem, because it contains high  $\beta$ -carotene (111.24 mg/kg dry matter) and crude protein (29.05%) (Anderson *et al.*, 2011) and it can be cultivated to produce high biomass (Cheng & Stomp, 2009).

Duckweed that grew in wastewater contains protein of 35 to 45% on dry matter basis with high availability of essential amino acids (Islam, 2002; Khanum *et al.*, 2005). Duckweed grows well in the water with low N content, (Leng *et al.*, 1995; Islam, 2002; Goopy & Murray, 2003). It has rapid vegetative reproduction, easily adapt to unfavorable environmental conditions, and it has detoxication ability (Czerpak & Szamrej, 2003). Lysine content of duckweed as an animal feed also met the standard recommended by FAO and it is generally higher than that found in grain (Cheng & Stomp, 2009). Feeding duckweed has been studied in broiler chickens (Syamsuhaidi, 1997; Kabir *et al.*, 2005), native chickens (Khang & Ogle, 2004; Thuy & Ogle, 2007), laying hens (Anderson *et al.*, 2011), breeding ducks (Men *et al.*, 2001a), growing ducks (Men *et al.*, 2001b), and in laying ducks (Tamsil & Indarsih, 2003; Khandaker *et al.*, 2007).

Feeding duckweed in laying hens up to 40% in the diet did not interrupt egg production and considerably increased egg yolk pigmentation (Islam, 2002). In growing crossbred ducks, fresh duckweed could completely replace roasted soya beans and a vitamin-mineral premix in broken rice based diets without reduction in growth performance (Men *et al.*, 2001b). In broiler chickens, inclusion of duckweed up to 15% in diet did not reduce growth rate (Syamsuhaidi, 1997; Ahammad *et al.*, 2003). According to Thuy & Ogle (2007), when native chickens were offered a selection to paddy rice, fish meal and duckweed in confined and scavenging treatments up to 20 wk of age, duckweed intakes (g Dry Matter= DM/day) was higher in confined than scavenging chickens (8.40 and 4.84). However, fish meal intakes (g DM/day) were almost similar in both systems of rearing (7.95 and 7.64). Hen-day production was 3.4% significantly higher in confinement than scavenging (25.4% and 22.0%), with egg weight and egg yolk color were similar. It means that duckweed was more preferable and also able to be a supplementary crude protein source in confinement rearing. The inclusion of 20% duckweed into the rations of laying ducks did not hamper egg production, but increased feed conversion due to a large amount of feed scattered on the drinking water bucket (between 10% to 15%). Therefore, duckweed was suggested to be provided in fresh or dry pelleted form (Tamsil & Indarsih, 2003). Duckweed could replace up to 6% of sesame oil cake in broilers diet offered until 42 d of age (Ahammad *et al.*, 2003). Ducks which consumed fresh duckweed grew well (Burkmar, 2003; Forbes, 2003). However, the information concerning feeding fresh duckweed in relation to productive performance and egg yolk pigmentation is not available. Therefore, this study was carried out to confirm the potential of fresh duckweed as a feed ingredient and as a source of pigments for ducks.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Birds and Management Procedure

The total of 24 wk old local ducks (average body weight was 1401 $\pm$ 29 g) were used to study the response in terms of productive performance and egg yolk pigmentation due to the feeding effect of diets containing different forms of duckweed. A total of 90 ducks were randomly divided into 18 groups reared in bamboo cages of 2.0 x 1.0 m in size with 5 birds each. Each cage was equipped with one round plastic bucket 25 cm in diameter and 20 cm in deep for drinking water and one circular feeder except that for the groups fed fresh duckweed, another type of feeder was used. Body weight of birds and feed were weighed weekly.

### Dietary Treatments and Feeding Programs

Three dietary treatments (Table 1) composed of different forms of duckweed and formulated to have similar nutritional contents (calculated values). Dietary treatment of P1 was the basal diet containing 20% of duckweed and was provided in the form of dry mash representing a control diet used in the previous study (Tamsil & Indarsih, 2003). Dietary treatment of P2 was similar to that of P1, but the diet was offered in a wet form (slurry). Dietary treatment of P3 was the diet with similar composition as that of P1, but duckweed was offered separately *ad libitum* in fresh form three times per day to minimize spillage. The scattered feed in drinking

Table 1. Composition and nutritional content of experimental diets

Ingredients (%)	Dietary treatments		
	P1	P2	P3
Yellow corn	41.0	41.0	41.0
Soybeans	5.0	5.0	5.0
Rice bran	26.0	26.0	26.0
Local fish meal	4.0	4.0	4.0
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	3.0	3.0	3.0
Premix	1.0	1.0	1.0
Duckweed	20.0	20.0	offered fresh <i>ad libitum</i>
Total	100.0	100.0	
Calculated nutrient			
Crude protein (%)	17.43	17.43	16.71
Metabolizable energy (Kcal/kg)	2,806	2,806	2,879
Crude fiber (%)	6.87	6.87	6.87
Calcium (%)	1.6	1.6	1.7
Phosphor (%)	0.9	0.9	0.8

Note: P1=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of dry-mash; P2=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of a wet (slurry); P3= diet was given in the form of dry-mash and fresh duckweed was offered separately *ad libitum*.

water was filtered, dried and weighed for correction of the actual feed intake.

### Data Collection

Feed intake, feed conversion, egg production, and egg weight were observed. In case of P3, feed intake of the basal diet was weekly calculated, while consumption of fresh duckweed was calculated daily, and it was further converted into dry weight basis and summed with the consumption of basal diet without duckweed to obtain the cumulative feed intake (Table 3). Egg production was recorded daily until 8 wk of laying period. The egg quality data was collected weekly.

### Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis

The present experiment was assigned in a completely randomized design with 3 dietary treatments (P1, P2, and P3) and 6 replications each. Data were subjected to analysis of variance, and significant differences among treatment means were separated using Duncan's multiple range test at 5% probability (Steel & Torrie, 1993)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Productive Performance

Feed intake of birds offered the diet containing duckweed in wet form (slurry) was (P2) lower than those offered dry-mash (P1) or dry-mash with fresh duckweed (P3) ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Table 2). Feeding dry-mash form in P1 and P3 might change the eating behavior of the ducks. The eating behavior had an impact on the number of waste feed which was associated with the anatomy of the beak (Adeola, 2006). Tamsil & Indarsih (2003) suggested that feeding pellets or slurry form was beneficial. Forbes (2003) showed that wet feeding for laying hens can improve egg production from 58.6% to 76% and improved feed efficiency from 0.28 to 0.35. The advantage of feeding wet feed was to reduce the cost of feed processing mainly composed on cereal base ingredients. This study showed that feeding diet containing 20% duckweed in fresh form (P3) had no effect on feed

intake, but the reduction of feed intake was noted when the duckweed was dried and mixed with other component and offered in slurry form (P2).

Feed conversion ratio was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) affected by feeding system with the highest value was found in the group of P1 diet, while the lowest value was indicated by that of P2 diet (Table 2). The high feed conversion of the treatments of P1 and P3 was likely associated with the different in nutrients digestion characteristics. Addition of water to make slurry diet might improve the rate of passage and the contact between intestinal enzyme and feed particles leading to improvement in nutrients utilization and metabolism. Feed conversion found in the present study was quite high, ranging from 5.31 to 7.65. The performance of the laying ducks in the present study was lower compared to the finding of Ketaren & Prasetyo (2002) who reported that feed conversion of crossbred duck between Mojosari and Alabio (MA) at 22 to 42 wk of age was 2.88 and the egg production was almost two fold higher (83.31%). In this study the egg weight (62.2 to 65.4 g) and feed conversion (5.31 to 7.65) were higher than egg weight (51.9 to 54.9 g) and feed conversion values (9.03 to 15.14) at the same age reported by Tamsil & Indarsih (2003).

Feeding diets containing duckweed did not affect egg production and egg weight ( $P > 0.05$ ). However, egg production in this study was quite low (38.7% to 39.7%), whereas normal egg production when ducks were raised in traditional systems ranged from 26.9% to 41.3% (Ketaren, 2007). However, in an intensive rearing system, egg production could reach 55.6%, even Prasetyo & Susanti (2000) reported that egg production of dry system of raising ducks, regardless of genotype, was able to reach 66.75 eggs (73%) in the first 3 mo of laying period. The low egg production in this study was due to the period of data collection was only 2 mo and the egg production would increase in the rest of laying period. The present result was similar to the previous study reported by Tamsil & Indarsih (2003) that egg production of local Lombok ducks was 26.3% to 31.3% in the first 3 mo of egg-laying period.

### Egg Quality

Feeding of diets containing duckweed in different form did not affect egg weight, egg white and yolk weights, and shell thickness (Table 3), but it improved the pigmentation of egg yolk ( $P < 0.05$ ). These were due to the same nutritional value of diet offered (Table 1). Feeding a layer diet containing 12.6% dried duckweed in laying hens improved yolk color compared (Anderson *et al.*, 2011). However, a significant increased in the pigmentation of egg yolk color was indicated by the ducks given diet containing fresh duckweed. This was possibly due the deposition of  $\beta$ -carotene and xanthophylls supplied by fresh duckweed. Conversely, the availability of  $\beta$ -carotene and xanthophylls in the dried duckweed of diets P1 and P2 might be reduced by heat during drying resulting in low yolk pigmentation. Men *et al.* (2001b) reported that the carotene content of fresh duckweed was 1,025 mg/kg DM or in the range of 66-110 mg/kg (Dudley *et al.*, 1981). This study showed better result

Table 2. Actual feed intake, egg production, egg weight, and feed conversion of ducks at 8 wk of production period

Variables	Dietary treatments		
	P1	P2	P3
Feed intake (g/bird/d)	154.60±4.00 <sup>a</sup>	122.60±4.50 <sup>b</sup>	156.50±2.00 <sup>a</sup>
Feed conversion	7.65±0.51 <sup>a</sup>	5.31±0.56 <sup>b</sup>	7.25±0.10 <sup>a</sup>
Egg production (%)	38.70±4.50	39.70±7.50	39.40±7.60
Egg weight (g/egg)	64.60±3.00	62.20±1.90	65.40±1.10

Note: P1=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of dry-mash; P2=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of a wet (slurry); P3= diet was given in the form of dry-mash and fresh duckweed was offered separately *ad libitum*. Means in the same row with different superscript differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Table 3. Egg characteristics as responses to feeding systems of diets containing duckweed

Variables	Dietary treatments		
	P1	P2	P3
Egg shell weight (%)	13.3±2.0	14.5±2.8	11.9±2.5
Egg white weight (%)	50.3±3.7	49.5±3.2	50.3±2.9
Egg yolk weight (%)	34.3±2.2	33.6±2.7	33.6±2.4
Egg shell thickness (mm)	39.0±2.0	44.0±2.5	46.0±2.2
Egg yolk color	12.5±1.5 <sup>a</sup>	12.5±1.8 <sup>a</sup>	13.7±1.4 <sup>b</sup>

Note: P1=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of dry-mash; P2=diet with 20% dried duckweed was given in the form of a wet (slurry); P3= diet was given in the form of dry-mash and fresh duckweed was offered separately *ad libitum*. Means in the same row with different superscript differ significantly ( $P<0.05$ ).

than those observed by Anderson *et al.* (2011) where inclusion 12.6% duckweed containing 61.360 mg/lb carotene resulted lower yolk color. Thus, efficacy of duckweed as a natural pigmentation was affected by the level used in the diet and the dietary inclusion of 20% dried duckweed offered reasonable yolk pigmentation. High inclusion was due to low yellowness value of duckweed than the synthetic pigments (Santos-Bocanegra *et al.*, 2004). However, duckweed species is a promising sources of pigments (Chantiratikul *et al.* 2010).

### CONCLUSION

Feeding a diet containing duckweed in wet (slurry) form improved feed conversion ratio. However, feeding ducks allowing to free access of fresh duckweed improved egg yolk color.

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