



EFFECT OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF *Aspergillus awamori* AS PROBIOTIC ON THE PRODUCTION AND EGG QUALITY OF LAYING JAPANESE QUAIL UNDER SUMMER CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT: This experiment was conducted to study the effect of probiotic supplement (contains *Aspergillus awamori*) on performance, egg production, egg quality and serum blood characteristics of quails. A total of 135 laying Japanese quails were randomly assigned to one of five treatments with three replicates (n = 9 quails per replicate). The experimental treatments were: the 1st group received a layer basal diet without supplement and served as control. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th groups were fed the control diet supplemented with 250, 500, 750 and 1000 mg Tomoko® (contains *Aspergillus awamori*)/Kg diet for 12 weeks through summer season. Results indicated that the supplementation of 750 and 1000 mg *Aspergillus awamori*/kg diet recorded a significant (P≤0.05) improvement in egg production by 8.4 and 14.9 % and eggs mass/hen/day (P≤0.05) by 5.0 and 10.7 %, respectively, as compared to the control. However, aforementioned groups improved feed conversion ratio, but differences were not significant compared to the control. No significant differences were observed in feed consumption and most of studied egg quality (egg, yolk and albumen weights, shell percentage, egg specific gravity, albumen index, and yolk index) among treatments. Laying quails fed with 1000 mg of *Aspergillus awamori* improved albumen height. Inclusion of *Aspergillus awamori* led to a greater egg shell weight, whereas egg shell thickness was improved in supplemented groups with 250, 500 and 750 mg *Aspergillus awamori*/kg diet as compared to the control. Yolk total lipids and total cholesterol was decreased significantly and the lowest value was observed in group given 1000 mg *Aspergillus awamori*/kg diet. Also, birds fed different levels of *Aspergillus awamori* in diet had serum low density lipoprotein values significantly (P≤0.05) lower than the control. Malondialdehyde (MDA) level of *Aspergillus awamori* supplemented groups was significantly lower than the control. However results showed insignificant increase in total antioxidant capacity and significant (P≤0.05) increase in glutathione peroxidase in the *Aspergillus awamori* groups. In conclusion, the results showed that supplementation of probiotic contains *Aspergillus awamori* improves performance, egg production, and antioxidant status as a feed additive in the diet of laying quails under summer conditions.

Key Words: Quail, *Aspergillus Awamori*, Probiotic, Egg production, Summer condition

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INTRODUCTION

Heat stress is a prime consideration in poultry production systems and has a profound effect on animal health and productivity (Humphrey, 2006). Heat stress has been shown to influence bird physiology and induce multiple physiological disturbances, such as systemic immune dysregulation, endocrine disorders and electrolyte imbalance (Sohail *et al.*, 2010; Sohail *et al.*, 2012). As the heat load increases, the rise in body temperature results in tissue damage by heat stress-induced production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Khan *et al.*, 2012). Reactive oxygen species, which are produced in mitochondria under physiological conditions, are essential for the body to function (Khan *et al.*, 2012); i.e., defense against infectious agents, functioning of cellular signaling systems, and induction of the mitogenic response (Valko *et al.*, 2007). However, ROS are neutralized by the antioxidant system in the physiological state because a higher level of ROS production is potentially harmful to the maintenance of homeostasis (Surai, 2002). Intracellular, ROS are removed by antioxidant enzymes. The most important antioxidant enzymes, which act as catalysts in many important reactions related to antioxidant defense, are glutathione peroxidase (GPX), catalase (CAT), and superoxide dismutase (SOD). These enzymes are localized in the cytosol or mitochondria (Ercal *et al.*, 2001; Pinto *et al.*, 2003).

In recent years, some reports have indicated that heat stress negatively affects intestinal mucosa and microbiota (Burkholder *et al.*, 2008; Quinteiro-Filho *et al.*, 2010). Mucosal defense mechanisms in the small intestine are able to maintain a crucial barrier to microbial invasion yet allow efficient nutrient absorption (Elphick and Mahida, 2005). Damage to the mucosal epithelium can directly affect its barrier function. Conversely, alteration of this

protective barrier may leave the host more susceptible to colonization by enteric pathogens (Durant *et al.*, 1999). The intestinal bacterial populations have an important physiological and pathological effect on host. Stable intestinal microflora can protect the host from pathogen colonization by competing for epithelial binding sites and nutrients, strengthening the intestinal immune response, and by producing antimicrobial bacteriocins (Burkholder *et al.*, 2008). Recent research has focused on the effects of probiotics as functional feed additives to influence bird performance, intestinal microarchitecture, and microbial profiles (Fuller, 1989). The use of probiotics has also been proven beneficial in alleviating the adverse effects of heat stress (Eid *et al.*, 2003, 2008; Lin *et al.*, 2006; Sahin *et al.*, 2009). Kaminishi *et al.* (1999) reported that several strains of *Aspergillus* produce antioxidative substances. Yokoyama *et al.* (2001) described detailed identification, classification and phylogeny of the *Aspergillus* family. *Aspergillus awamori*, which is called “koji” in Japan and has been used for the processing of shochu (a major distilled liquor in Japan). The products containing *Aspergillus awamori* have been given GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) status from the Food Drug Administration (Bigelis and Lasure, 1987). Quite a few researches have shown the beneficial effects of probiotic in birds exposed to high temperature (Sohail *et al.*, 2010; Deng *et al.*, 2012; Zeweil *et al.*, 2015). Therefore, the aim of the current study was to assess the effects of probiotic feed additive containing *Aspergillus awamori* on laying performance, egg quality and blood serum lipids of Japanese quail under summer condition in Egypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out at the Poultry Research Laboratory, Department of Animal and Fish Production, Faculty of Agriculture (Saba

Basha), Alexandria University, Egypt. The experiment was conducted in summer season and temperature was ranged from 25 – 30 °C. A total of 135 laying Japanese quail hens, which had been in production for 12 weeks, were randomly distributed into five treatments with three replicates of 9 quails in each in a completely randomized design. The birds were selected on the basis of more than 70 % egg production rate after a two-week observation period. The quails were then fed 1 of 5 diets: a layer basal diet with no supplement and served as control and basal diet supplemented with 250, 500, 750 and 1000 mg/ kg Tomoko® which contains 12.5×10^4 , 25×10^4 , 37.5×10^4 and 50×10^4 *Aspergillus awamori* spores/kg diet respectively. Tomoko is the product of Biogenkoji Research Institute - 876-15 Mizobe, Kagoshima, Japan. The basal diet was formulated to meet the birds dietary nutrient requirements (NRC, 1994). The composition of basal diet is shown in Table 1.

All quails were reared in wire batteries under the same managerial, hygienic and environmental conditions. Feed and water were available *ad libitum* and light regimen was of 16 h of light (16L: 8D) for three months from July to September. Body weight and feed consumption were recorded weekly. Feed conversion ratio was calculated (g feed / g egg). Egg production, number of eggs, egg weights and mortality rate were monitored daily. Egg quality measurements were conducted using an average of 21 eggs from each treatment and were performed through two consecutive days per month. Shell thickness was determined from measurements of the mean thickness at three locations on the egg (air cell, equator and sharp end) using a dial pipe gauge (Mitutoyo, 0.01–20 mm, Tokyo, Japan). Yolk cholesterol was determined by nine eggs from each treatment and measured by the method of Folch *et al.*, (1956) as modified by Washburn and Nix (1974). At

the end of the experiment, blood samples were collected from the brachial vein of 3 hens randomly chosen from each group then serum were immediately centrifuged at 3500 r.p.m. for 15 min. and stored at -18°C until use. Serum total protein, albumin, total lipids, cholesterol, low density lipoprotein, high density lipoprotein, total antioxidant capacity, glutathione peroxidase and malondialdehyde were calorimetrically determined using commercial kits (Biomerieux, Poains, France). The proximate chemical analysis of diet was determined according to AOAC (2005). Data were analyzed by analysis of variance using the general linear model procedure (Proc GLM; SAS Institute, 1996). For the overall means, data was classified according to 5 treatments and the mean of each treatment was used. Differences among means were determined using Duncan test (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As shown in Table 2, dietary supplementation of probiotic *Aspergillus awamori* at level 750 and 1000 mg caused a significant ($P \leq 0.05$) improvement in egg production by 8.4 and 14.9 % and egg mass/hen/day by 5.0 and 10.7 %, respectively, as compared to the control. Body weight gain and egg weight of laying quails fed supplemented diets was not significantly affected by treatments. Probiotic inclusion did not influence the egg weight significantly; this was in agreement with Chen (2003). Balevi *et al.* (2001) were fed commercial multi strain probiotic to 40-week-old layers and showed no statistically significant differences in egg production and egg weight compared with the control. It should be pointed out that any gain in body weight after commencement of egg production should be minimal as the hen is essentially, at its mature body weight. Kurtoglu *et al.* (2004)

showed significant increase in egg production by probiotic supplementation were seen on days 60-90 of their experiment and this may refer to better utilization of feed ingredients as affected with the action of *Aspergillus awamori* .

It could be noticed that egg weight did not decline by the increase of egg production as a result of adding *Aspergillus awamori* supplementation in laying quails diets. These results are in agreement, more or less, with those of Zeweil *et al.* (2010) and Abdel-Azeem (2005), who indicated that egg production, egg weight and egg mass were improved in laying hens fed on probiotic-supplemented diets. The significant improvement in laying rates for birds given supplemented diets with *Aspergillus awamori* may due to the enzymes secreted by *Aspergillus awamori* fungi in birds gut which improve and maximize the utilization of feed components, also enabled the good bacteria to compete against the colonization of the *E. coli* resulting in a better performance due to affecting the intestinal pH (Mountzouris *et al.*, 2007). Similer results using bacteria as probiotic obtained by Higgins *et al.* (2008) where oral administration of 10^6 or 10^8 cfu of *Lactobacilli* based probiotic significantly reduced *salmonella enteritis* disinfection but lower dosage of the probiotic had no effect on the bacteria. The positive effect of Tomoko supplementation, observed in the present study is in agreement with the result obtained by Alloui *et al.* (2013).

No significant differences were observed in feed consumption among treatments. The results showed that the supplementation of 750 and 1000 mg *Aspergillus awamori* / kg diet improved feed conversion ratio, but differences were not significant compared to the control. This result agreed with that reported by Mahdavi *et al.* (2005) who found that using the different levels of probiotic had no significant effects on feed consumption and feed conversion ratio.

Egg quality measurements (egg, yolk and albumen weights, shell percentage, egg specific gravity, albumen index, and yolk index) didn't affected by *Aspergillus awamori* probiotic supplementation (Table 3). Laying quails fed with 1000 mg of *Aspergillus awamori* improved ($P \leq 0.05$) albumen height. Inclusion of *Aspergillus awamori* led to a enhancing egg shell weight compared to control. Egg shell thickness in all treatment was higher than control and this showed the positive effects of *Aspergillus awamori* probiotic supplementation during summer condition. Hosseini *et al.* (2006) reported that addition of yeast in commercial layer hen diet had not any positive effect on egg shell thickness and egg shell quality. Mahdavi *et al.* (2005) realized that using the different levels of probiotic had no significant effects on shell thickness. Similarly, Asli *et al.* (2007), Simeamelak *et al.* (2013) who stated that egg quality parameters was not significantly difference in the treatments received different levels of probiotic microorganisms, as compared to the control. However, Yousefi and Karkoodi (2007), reported improvement in egg quality, as a result of addition of 100 to 750 mg of probiotic microorganism /kg to feed. Güçlü (2011) reported that supplementation of 0.5 kg/ton probiotic improved ($P \leq 0.05$) egg shell thickness. However, *Aspergillus awamori* supplementation to the diets had insignificant effects on egg weight, egg specific gravity, albumen index and yolk index, on other words, none of the egg quality parameters were negatively affected with the inclusion of *Aspergillus awamori* in diets comparing to the control.:

It was notably, that significant differences were existed among dietary treatments in the yolk total lipids and total cholesterol which recorded the lowest significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) values in the group given 1000 mg Tomoko/ kg diet (Table 4). The decrease reached to 24.6 for total lipids and 9.1 % for total cholesterol in comparison

with the control group. The reduction in serum cholesterol and total lipids due to feeding *Aspergillus awamori* may be due to its metabolic role in the transportation of long chain fatty acids into the metaconderial matrix or β - oxidation (Bremer, 1983). The mechanism underlying the cholesterol-lowering effect of *Aspergillus* could be related to an inhibitor of 3-hydroxyl-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme (HMG-CoA) reductase. It is well known that an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor (statin) was extracted from a fungus (Endo, 1985). Li *et al.* (2011) showed significant decrease in egg yolk triglycerides and total cholesterol in the group of laying hens fed diet containing probiotic composed of *Bacillus subtilis* as compared to the control group. Other researchers observed also beneficial effects of the tested probiotic on egg quality such as a lower cholesterol content, (Awaad *et al.*, 2005; Mikulski *et al.*, 2012).

The effect of *Aspergillus awamori* on some blood constituents of laying Japanese quails are presented in Table (5). The studied serum constituents (total protein, albumin, globulin, cholesterol, high density lipoprotein and total lipids) for laying Japanese quails fed *Aspergillus awamori* diets were not significantly affected except of serum low density lipoprotein. Feeding laying quails on *Aspergillus awamori* supplemented diets resulted in significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) lower low density lipoprotein value than those fed the control diet. The results of LDL are consistent with previous results (Saleh *et al.*, 2012) indicating that *A. awamori* feeding increases the mRNA levels of FAS, ACC and delta-6 desaturase in chickens. On the other hand, obtained results were in disagreement with those presented by Abo-Mahara (2015) who illustrated that probiotic reduced total cholesterol levels in blood serum as compared to the control group in Japanese quail. Li *et al.* (2011) showed significant decrease in blood cholesterol in the laying hens fed probiotic

diet containing *Bacillus subtilis* as compared to the control group.

The results presented in Table 5 showed none significant increase in serum total antioxidant capacity in all treated groups compared to control. However, the levels of serum glutathione peroxidase appeared to antagonize the effect of high temperature during summer with significant increase especially in the high levels comparing to control group. Heat stress causes increased free radical production (Halliwell and Gutteridge, 1989) and lower the concentrations of antioxidant vitamins and minerals such as E, C, A and Zn in serum and tissues (Sahin and Kucuk, 2003). Free radicals trigger the metabolic disorder, cell death and growth retardation (Okada, 1996).

By using MDA as a marker of the oxidative stress, we studied the effect of summer conditions and *Aspergillus awamori* supplement on lipid peroxidation in serum. Exposing laying Japanese quail hens to high temperature conditions during summer season resulted in elevated ($P \leq 0.05$) serum MDA as compared to the control group (Table 5); however, supplementation of *Aspergillus awamori* to antagonize this effect. Stress leads to a generation of free radicals which can damage cell membranes by inducing lipid peroxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane (Luadicina and Marnett, 1990), destroying membrane integrity during stress. Results of Li *et al.* (2011) showed significant decrease in blood MDA in the group of laying hens fed diet containing *Bacillus subtilis* as compared to the control group.

CONCLUSION

The results of the present study suggests that (*Aspergillus awamori*) as probiotic supplementation offers a feasible way to reduce the losses in performance, improves egg production and oxidative status of Japanese quail reared under summer conditions.

Table (1): Composition and calculated analysis of the experimental basal diets

Ingredints	Experimental diets %
	Laying
Yellow corn	59.50
Soybean meal (44 %)	22.60
Concentrate (50 %) *	10.00
Di-calcium phosphate	0.40
Limestone	5.50
Sunflower oil	1.00
Vit. and min. mix.**	0.50
Salt (NaCl)	0.50
Total	100
Calculated analyses ¹ :	
Crude protein, %	20.00
ME (Kcal/ Kg diet)	2903.89
Ether extract, %	2.60
Crude fiber, %	3.04
Methionine, %	0.71
Methionine + cystine, %	0.90
Lysine, %	1.15
Calcium, %	2.58
Av. phosphorus	0.40

* Concentrate : ME (K cal/kg) 2870, Crude protein 50%, Crude fiber 1.51%, Crude fat 1.54%, Calcium 4.29%, Phosphorus 2.39%, NaCl 0.8%, Methionine 4.6%, Methionine & Cystine 5.38%, Lysine 3.90%.

** Each kg of vitamin and minerals mixture contained: Vit. A, 4,000,000 IU; Vit. D3, 500,000 IU; Vit. E, 16.7 g., Vit. K, 0.67 g., Vit. B1, 0.67 g., Vit. B2, 2 g., Vit. B 6, .67 g., Vit. B12, 0.004 g., Nicotinic acid, 16.7 g., Pantothenic acid, 6.67 g., Biotin, 0.07 g., Folic acid, 1.67 g., Choline chloride, 400 g., Zn, 23.3 g., Mn, 10 g., Fe, 25 g., Cu,1.67 g., I, 0.25 g.,Se, 0.033 g. and,Mg, 133.4 g.

¹ According to NRC (1994).

Table (2): Performance of laying Japanese quails fed diets supplemented with different levels of *Aspergillus awamori* (Means \pm SE)

Parameters	Control	<i>Tomoko</i> (mg/kg diet)			
		250	500	750	1000
Body weight gain, (g)	19.64 \pm 3.45	26.84 \pm 3.70	25.01 \pm 3.48	22.69 \pm 3.29	24.59 \pm 2.25
Egg production %, hen-day	74.90 \pm 0.91 ^c	74.75 \pm 2.38 ^c	76.63 \pm 2.33 ^{bc}	81.20 \pm 0.92 ^{ab}	86.06 \pm 0.80 ^a
Mean egg weight, (g)	12.83 \pm 0.16	12.74 \pm 0.33	12.97 \pm 0.19	12.43 \pm 0.14	12.36 \pm 0.11
Egg mass / hen / day, (g)	9.61 \pm 0.12 ^{bc}	9.52 \pm 0.29 ^c	9.93 \pm 0.17 ^{bc}	10.09 \pm 0.04 ^{ab}	10.64 \pm 0.01 ^a
Feed consumed / hen day, (g)	29.51 \pm 0.76	28.79 \pm 0.22	29.37 \pm 0.55	29.21 \pm 0.42	30.56 \pm 0.49
Feed conversion ratio, (g feed / g egg)	3.07 \pm 0.09	3.03 \pm 0.07	2.96 \pm 0.08	2.90 \pm 0.03	2.87 \pm 0.05

a, b and c: Means with different superscript in the same row differ significantly (P \leq 0.05).

Table (3): Egg quality for laying Japanese quail fed diets supplemented with different levels of *Aspergillus awamori* (Means \pm SE)

Parameters	Control	<i>Tomoko</i> (mg/kg diet)			
		250	500	750	1000
Egg weight, (g)	13.70 \pm 0.22	14.45 \pm 0.18	14.06 \pm 0.49	14.33 \pm 0.12	14.78 \pm 0.45
Egg specific gravity	1.079 \pm 0.01	1.077 \pm 0.02	1.080 \pm 0.02	1.080 \pm 0.02	1.075 \pm 0.02
Albumen weight, (g)	7.59 \pm 0.23	7.96 \pm 0.14	7.59 \pm 0.37	7.91 \pm 0.09	8.19 \pm 0.30
Albumen (%)	55.38 \pm 1.21	55.09 \pm 0.91	53.96 \pm 1.74	55.21 \pm 0.42	55.36 \pm 0.49
Albumen height, (mm)	2.96 \pm 0.23 ^b	2.90 \pm 0.12 ^b	3.50 \pm 0.22 ^{ab}	3.03 \pm 0.23 ^b	3.72 \pm 0.16 ^a
Yolk weight, (g)	4.82 \pm 0.18	5.07 \pm 0.15	5.03 \pm 0.31	4.99 \pm 0.08	5.11 \pm 0.14
Yolk (%)	35.23 \pm 1.24	35.06 \pm 0.75	35.71 \pm 1.68	34.85 \pm 0.48	34.61 \pm 0.43
Egg shell weight, (g)	1.28 \pm 0.04 ^b	1.42 \pm 0.05 ^a	1.45 \pm 0.03 ^a	1.42 \pm 0.04 ^a	1.48 \pm 0.05 ^a
Egg shell (%)	9.39 \pm 0.36	9.85 \pm 0.29	10.33 \pm 0.27	9.94 \pm 0.23	10.03 \pm 0.29
Egg shell thickness, (mm)	0.231 \pm 0.01 ^c	0.272 \pm 0.02 ^{ab}	0.284 \pm 0.01 ^a	0.258 \pm 0.01 ^{ab}	0.255 \pm 0.01 ^{bc}
Yolk index	386.96 \pm 4.96	402.44 \pm 4.51	413.44 \pm 9.76	418.07 \pm 7.66	427.51 \pm 9.04

a, b and c: Means with different superscript in the same row differ significantly (P \leq 0.05).

Table (4): Yolk total lipids and total cholesterol of laying Japanese quails fed diets supplemented with different levels of *Aspergillus awamori* (Means \pm SE)

Parameters	Control	<i>Tomoko</i> (mg/kg diet)			
		250	500	750	1000
Yolk total lipids (mg/g yolk)	347.33 \pm 18.17 ^a	301.67 \pm 16.41 ^{ab}	264.00 \pm 14.41 ^b	290.33 \pm 10.67 ^{ab}	262.00 \pm 9.17 ^b
Yolk total cholesterol (mg/g yolk)	18.70 \pm 0.28 ^a	18.63 \pm 0.39 ^a	18.64 \pm 0.09 ^a	18.30 \pm 0.23 ^a	17.00 \pm 0.13 ^b

a, b and c: Means with different superscript in the same row differ significantly ($P \leq 0.05$).

Table (5): Effect of different levels of *Aspergillus awamori* on serum blood constituents of laying Japanese quail (Means \pm SE)

Parameters	Control	<i>Tomoko</i> (mg/kg diet)			
		250	500	750	1000
Total protein (g %)	3.23 \pm 0.04	3.28 \pm 0.08	3.21 \pm 0.02	3.44 \pm 0.29	3.57 \pm 0.21
Albumin (g %)	2.03 \pm 0.07	2.23 \pm 0.07	2.03 \pm 0.03	2.05 \pm 0.20	2.05 \pm 0.03
Globulin (g %)	1.19 \pm 0.10	1.04 \pm 0.03	1.18 \pm 0.04	1.40 \pm 0.16	1.52 \pm 0.24
Cholesterol (mg / dl)	110.30 \pm 9.20	100.07 \pm 5.75	106.33 \pm 2.40	103.50 \pm 0.76	107.33 \pm 6.89
Total lipids(mg / dl)	291.67 \pm 16.34	281.00 \pm 4.62	273.00 \pm 21.00	286.33 \pm 4.91	266.00 \pm 4.36
Low density lipoprotein (mg / dl)	23.33 \pm 2.19 ^a	15.67 \pm 0.67 ^b	16.00 \pm 0.58 ^b	14.67 \pm 0.88 ^b	17.00 \pm 0.58 ^b
High density lipoprotein (mg / dl)	71.33 \pm 7.26	78.67 \pm 4.67	66.33 \pm 4.41	73.33 \pm 2.03	79.33 \pm 3.71
Total antioxidant capacity (mM/L)	0.699 \pm 0.04	0.811 \pm 0.03	0.787 \pm 0.03	0.786 \pm 0.03	0.840 \pm 0.03
Glutathione peroxidase (mU/ml)	23.53 \pm 0.62 ^d	24.77 \pm 0.55 ^{cd}	27.83 \pm 1.03 ^{bc}	31.00 \pm 0.61 ^b	35.33 \pm 1.84 ^a
Malondialdehyde (nmol/ml)	9.61 \pm 0.06 ^a	9.20 \pm 0.07 ^{ab}	8.35 \pm 0.68 ^b	6.62 \pm 0.28 ^c	6.24 \pm 0.33 ^c

a, b and c: Means with different superscript in the same row differ significantly ($P \leq 0.05$).

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تأثير مستويات مختلفه من الاسبرجلس أوامورى كبروبيوتك فى علائق السمان البياض على الانتاج وجودة البيض تحت ظروف الصيف

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أستخدم فى هذا البحث ١٣٥ سمان بياض تم وزنها وتوزيعها عشوائيا فى تصميم عشوائى كامل على خمس معاملات تجريبية وكل معاملة تحتوى على ٢٧ طائر تم توزيعهم على ٣ مكررات وبكل مكررة ٩ طيور حيث تم بدء التجربه فى موسم الصيف. تم إختيار الطيور على أساس إنتاج بياض أكثر من ٧٠%. تم تكوين خمسة علائق حيث كانت المعاملة الأولى تحتوى على عليقة أساسية بدون أى إضافات وأستخدمت كمجموعة مقارنة سلبية (الكنترول). المعاملة الثانية والثالثة والرابعة والخامسة إحتوت على عليقة أساسية مضاف لها بروبايوتك من أصل فطري *Aspergillus awamori* (Tomoko®) بمعدل ٢٥٠، ٥٠٠، ٧٥٠، ١٠٠٠ مجم/كجم علف لمدة ١٢ اسبوع.

أوضحت النتائج أن هناك تحسن معنوى فى معدل إنتاج البيض بمعدل ٨،٤% و ١٤،٩% نتيجة لإضافة ٧٥٠ و ١٠٠٠ مجم مقارنة مع مجموعة الكنترول خلال مدة التجربة بينما لوحظ تحسن غير معنوى فى الكفاءة التحويلية للغذاء لنفس المجموعتان السابقتان على التوالي مقارنة بمجموعة الكنترول. لم تؤثر الإضافات فى أستهلاك العليقة فى المجاميع المعاملة. لم تتأثر صفات جودة البيضة مثل معدل وزن البيض، وزن الصفار والبياض ووزن قشره البيض والكثافة النوعية للبيض ومعامل الصفار والبياض، ولكن بالنسبة لارتفاع البياض سجلت المجموعة التي تناولت ١٠٠٠ مجم كجم علف أعلى ارتفاع للبياض، كما سجلت كل المجاميع المعاملة أفضل مستويات لوزن لقشره البيض مقارنة بالكنترول. كما سجلت مجاميع الطيور التي تناولت ٢٥٠، ٥٠٠ و ٧٥٠ مجم أفضل سمك لقشره البيض مقارنة بمجموعة الكنترول. كما سجلت المجموعة المعاملة ب ١٠٠٠ مجم انخفاض معنوى فى نسبة الدهون الكلية ونسبه الكولسترول الكلية فى صفار البيضة. أيضا سجلت مجاميع الطيور التي تناولت المستويات المختلفه من *Aspergillus awamori* فى العليقة انخفاضا معنويا فى مستوي كثافة الليبوبروتين عن مجموعه الكنترول. سجلت جميع المعاملات التجريبية إنخفاض معنوى فى تركيز المالوندييد (MDA) نتيجة للإضافات المختلفة المستخدمة فى التجربة مقارنة بالكنترول. بينما أوضحت النتائج إرتفاع فى السعة الضد تأكسدية بصورة غير معنوية وزيادة معنوية فى تركيز الجلوتاثيون بيروكسيداز نتيجة للمعاملات المختلفة ب *Aspergillus awamori* مقارنة مع مجموعة الكنترول. وقد خلصت الدراسة الى أن إضافة *Aspergillus awamori* لعلائق السمان كبروبيوتك أدى لتقليل الفقد فى الأداء الانتاجي مما أدى إلي تحسين معدلات وضع البيض كما أدى لتعزيز الصفات المناعية والصفات الضد تأكسدية للسمان تحت ظروف الصيف الحار.