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**THE INFLUENCE OF DRY AND GREEN SEASONS  
RATION ON SOME HORMONAL AND  
BIOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS IN THE  
FOLLICULAR FLUID OF NORMAL CYCLIC  
NON-PREGNANT BUFFALO – COWS**  
(With 3 Tables)

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**تأثير العليقة الجافة والخضراء على بعض القياسات الهرمونية والبيوكيميائية  
في سائل حويصلة جراف في الجاموس غير العشار أثناء طور الشبق**

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أجريت هذه الدراسة على عدد 60 جاموسة غير عشار تتراوح أعمارها بين 4 – 8 سنوات وذلك بعد الذبح والتجفيف الذى تم بمجزر المنصورة محافظة الدقهلية حيث تم اختيار 30 عينة في فصل الصيف و 30 عينة في فصل الشتاء وتلك العينات كانت عبارة عن المبايض النشطة والتي بها حويصلات جراف التي تراوح قطر الواحدة منها بين 1.5 – 2سم. لقد تم سحب وإعداد سائل الحويصلات وحفظه لحين إجراء التحاليل وتعيين مستوى هرموني الاستروجين والبروجيسترون وكل من البروتين الكلى-الالبيومين – الجلوبيولين وبعض إنزيمات الكبد وكذلك مستوى عناصر الفوسفور الغير عضوي الكالسيوم – المنجنيز – الزنك – النحاس. وقد أظهرت التحاليل زيادة معنوية عالية في مستوى هرمونى الاستروجين والبروجيسترون والبروتين الكلى والألبومين وكذلك في مستوى عناصر المنجنيز والحديد والزنك والنحاس في موسم الشتاء وهو موسم العليقة الخضراء. كما أظهرت التحاليل زيادة معنوية في مستوى الفوسفور الغير عضوي - الكالسيوم وأنزيمات الكبد في موسم الصيف وهو موسم العليقة الجافة. وتلاحظ زيادة غير معنوية في مستوى الجلوبيولين والنحاس في فصل الشتاء. كما أوضحت الدراسة ان التغذية على العليقة الخضراء تؤدي إلى زيادة معنوية في مستوى العناصر والهرمونات في فصل الشتاء مقارنة بفصل الصيف وهو موسم العليقة الجافة وبالتالي زيادة معدل الخصوبة في الجاموس في موسم العليقة الخضراء. لذلك نوصى بأن تكون العليقة المقدمة للحيوان متوازنة كما ونوعا على مدار العام وتحتوى دائما على مصدر غذائي اخضر لرفع مستوى الخصوبة.

**SUMMARY**

This study was carried out on 60 ovarian samples of normal cyclic non-pregnant buffalo-cows. The experimental period extended for eight months (four months for each of dry and green seasons). The samples were collected from 60 normal cyclic non – pregnant slaughtered buffalo – cows. (30 samples during the dry seasons and 30 samples during the green one). The age of the animals was ranging between 4 – 8 years old. This study was carried out to test possible the variations between some hormonal and biochemical constituents of the follicular fluid during these different seasons in normal non – pregnant cyclic. Buffalo - cows which were tested during proestrus and oestrus phases and samples were collected after slaughtering and evisceration. The study included the effect of nutrition on the determined parameters of oestrogens, progesterone, total protein, albumen, globulin, AST, ALT, inorganic phosphorus, calcium manganese, iron, Zinc and copper. The results revealed that, there was a high significant increase in both of follicular oestrogens and progesterone during the green season than the dry one. A high significant increase in the level of total protein and albumin during the green season than the dry one. Also a non significant increase in globulin level during the green season than the dry one. The study recorded also a significant increase in transminases AST and ALT levels during the dry seasons than the green one. The results revealed a high significant increase in inorganic phosphorus level and only a significant increase in calcium level during the dry season than the green one. This study showed also a significant increase in manganese and a nonsignificant increases in zinc and copper in the follicular fluid of the buffalo – cows during oestrus phases.

**Key words:** *Ovary, graffian follicle, estrogen, progesterone, ration*

## INTRODUCTION

The follicular fluid is the liquid that accumulates in the extracellular spaces within ovarian follicles (Edwards, 1974 and Mc Natty, 1978).

The follicular fluid is not a simple transudate of blood but a complex of restricted components of serum and follicular synthesized secretions, the fluid is derived from the plasma through thecal blood vessels and modified by secretions of follicular cells (Bellin and Ax., 1984). The ovaries of the cow are the major source of oestrogens and progesterone found in the peripheral blood (Kanchev *et al.*, 1976 and

Eissa, 1995). The reproductive insufficiency in buffaloes either directly or indirectly involves the ovarian follicles which are the main source of steroid hormones of the blood during its maturation (Hutchuson, 1993).

Seasonal changes may be caused either by changes in feeding or by changes of the ambient temperature. The longest calving intervals were noted when buffaloes gave birth during spring but the shortest intervals were observed when the animals delivered calves in autumn (Gharib *et al.*, 1964). The Egyptian buffaloes usually suffer from ovarian inactivity during summer and return to their normal sexual activity with the onset of autumn and winter (El- Wishy, 1965; El – Shawaf, 1979 and Younis, 1995).

The sexual activity of Phillipian buffaloes was increased during the rainy cold months and decreased during high atmospheric temperature and dry months (Perry, 1969).

During the follicular phase, serum oestrogen level rises in parallel to the growth of follicle size as well as to the increasing number of granulosa cells (Naveed Khan *et al.*, 2005).

The follicular fluid constituents are similar to blood plasma except it contains much lower level of fibrinogen and its protein, carbohydrate and steroid profile can fluctuate with the metabolic stage of the follicle (Lipner, 1988). The follicular growth and nutrition play a role in follicular estradiol production (Rone *et al.*, 1983). The follicular fluid is in close contact with the oocyte and granulosa cells, so alterations in the concentration of its different constituents may reflect the requirements of follicular structure (Younis, *et al.*, 1988 and Eissa, 1995). The increase of manganese and iron was by feeding on high quality of green fodders or to effect of day light period, temperature and humidify (El – Enany, 1994).

Follicular development and ovulatory process in mammals involve local biochemical changes as a result of substantial modifications in cellular metabolism, the most well known of which is steroid variation. (Gerard *et al.*, 2002). The ovine follicular fluid was analyzed for glucose, total protein, calcium, phosphorus and magnesium. As follicles became larger, the concentrations increased (Nandis *et al.*, 2007).

The aim of this study was to determine the levels of some hormonal and biochemical constituents in the follicular fluid of normal cyclic non – pregnant buffaloes and their relation to winter and summer ration.

## **MATERIALS and METHODS**

- **Clinical examination and sampling:**

Sixty pairs of buffalo ovaries were collected from the slaughter house in Mansoura city, thirty pairs during the period from August to November in the dry season and thirty pairs from January to April in the green one, 2007 – 2008 the samples were collected immediately after slaughtering and evisceration. The genitalia of 60 non – pregnant cyclic buffalo – cows aged from 4 – 8 years old were collected according to the presence of the Graffian follicles at various physiological stages of its development. The chosen ovaries were placed on ice until reach, to the laboratory within 1 to 2 Hours. The ovaries were examined again and follicles were measured by using a caliper. The diameter of the follicles ranged between 1.5–2cm representing the follicular stage of oestrus cycle (Sharawy, 1977).

All the protruding Graffian follicles fluid was aspirated by using 2 ml syringe to a clean centrifuge tubes within two hours after slaughtering (El-Sawaf and Schmidt, 1962).

Samples of the follicular fluid were centrifuged at 3000 r.p.m for 15 minutes to remove the cellular debris. The supernatant fluid was kept at – 20°c till biochemical analysis.

- Hormonal assays:

- **Oestrogen and progesterone:** They were determined by radioimmuno – assay (RIA) by using RIA kits (DPC, Diagnostic corporation, Los Angelus) at Atomic Energy Authority using the method of Abraham (1977), Agthe and Kolm (1975) respectively.

- **Biochemical analysis:**

- **Total protein, albumin and globulin:** They were estimated by using atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin Elemer model 3300, USA) according to Grant, *et al.*, (1987).
- **Transaminase enzymes (AST and ALT):** They were determined according to Henery (1965).
- **Inorganic phosphorus and calcium:** They were determined by using atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin Elemer model 3300, USA) according to Fraser, *et al.* (1987).
- **Manganese, iron, zinc and copper:** They were determined in the follicular fluid by using atomic absorption spectrophotometes (Perkin Elemer, model 3300, USA) as described by Meter and Henkin (1971).

**Nutrition:**

The case history revealed that, the animals were fed daily with 3kg concentrate mixture +30 kg barseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) + sufficient amount of rice straws in the green season and during the dry one 3kg of concentrate mixture + 4kg of barseem hay + sufficient amount of rice straws till satisfaction.

The obtained results were statistically analysed according to the method described by Snedecor and Conhran (1980).

**RESULTS**

Mean values of oestrogen, progesterone and biochemical constituents of the follicular fluid of normal cyclic non- pregnant buffalo-cows (oestrus phase) during the green and the dry seasons are presented in Table, 1, 2 and 3.

**Table 1:** Mean values of follicular fluid steroid levels during the dry and the green seasons in buffaloes.

Follicular fluid steroids	Green season (No =30)	Dry season (No =30)	T value
Oestrogens (ng/ml)	1038.44 ± 36.21**	910.20 ± 27.51	2.8
Progesterone (ng/ml)	35.26 ± 3.27**	21.18 ± 3.21	3.07

\*\* (P ≤ 0.01) High significant

\* (P ≤ 0.05) significant

± Standard deviation

**Table 2:** Mean values of follicular fluid total protein, albumin, globulin and transaminases (AST & ALT) in buffaloes.

Follicular fluid steroids	Green season (No =30)	Dry season (No =30)	τ value
Total protein (gm/dl)	7.98 ± 0.26**	7.29 ± 0.16	2.26
Albumin (gm/dl)	4.08 ± 0.14*	3.63 ± 0.10	2.61
Glubulin (gm/dl)	3.90 ± 0.12	3.66 ± 0.06	1.78
AST (U/L)	53.2 ± 3.6	62.7 ± 2.0*	2.306
ALT (U/L)	22.5 ± 2.0	33.9 ± 2.5*	2.342

\*\* (P ≤ 0.01) High significant

\* (P ≤ 0.05) significant

± Standard deviation

**Table 3:** Mean values of some mineral parameters of the buffalo follicular fluid during the green and the dry seasons.

Follicular fluid steroids	Green season (No =30)	Dry season (No =30)	$\tau$ value
Inorganic phosphorus (mg/dl)	4.58±0.23	5.72 ±0.27**	3.38
Calcium (mg/dl)	8.92 ± 0.47	10.64 ± 0.50*	2.50
Manganese (ug/ml)	1.20 ± 0.09**	0.75 ± 0.11	3.16
Iron (ug/ml)	62.50 ± 8.70*	32.30 ± 7.60	2.61
Zinc (ug/ml)	1.58 ± 0.08*	1.27 ± 0.09	2.574
Copper (ug/ml)	3.08 ± 0.10*	2.69 ± 0.12	2.496

\*\* (P ≤ 0.01) High significant

\* (P ≤ 0.05) significant

± Standard deviation

The oestrogen and progesterone levels were highly significant (P ≤ 0.01) increased during the green season than the dry one (Table, 1).

The follicular fluid total protein level was high significant increased while albumin was significant increased during the green season, when compared to those of the dry one (Table I).

Inorganic phosphorus and calcium levels in the follicular fluid during the oestrogenic stage were significantly increased during the dry season when compared to the green one (Table 3).

Manganese, Iron, Zinc and copper levels were significant increased during the green season than the dry one. (Table 3).

#### **Transaminase enzymes (AST & ALT):**

As shown from table (2) the AST & ALT levels were significantly increased during the dry season than the green one in the follicular fluid (oestrus phase).

## **DISCUSSION**

#### **Oestrogen and progesterone:**

The follicular fluid plays a major role in ovarian physiology including steroidogenesis, oocyte maturation and ovulation Edwards, (1974), while, Younis *et al.* (1988) and Eissa, (1995) mentioned that the follicular fluid is in close contact with the oocyte and granulosa cells, so alterations in the concentration of its different constituents may reflect the requirements of follicular structure. This supported our obtained

results which showed a high significant increase in the follicular oestrogen and progesterone levels during the (oestrus phase) in the green season than the dry one due to good quality and quantity of nutrition and temperature. Also, this result was in agreement with Rone *et al.* (1983) and Naveed Khan *et al.* (2005) who added that the follicular growth and nutrition play a role in follicular estradiol production. These results were in agreement with Lamming, *et al.* (1979); Arthue *et al.* (1982) and Younis (1995) who observed that the steroids had a significant increase during oestrus phase than other phases and during the green season than the dry one. On the others hand, Mekkiway, *et al.* (1988) obtained a lower follicular oestradiol concentration levels  $143.24 \pm 19.5$  ng/ml in large follicles and  $946.93 \pm 3.83$  ng/ml in small sized follicles during the dry season. The variations may be due to nutrition, age, size of follicles and environmental factors. While Gerrard *et al.* (2002) and Nandis *et al.* (2007) supported our results and cited that the larger the size of follicle the more steroid was detected in the follicular fluid.

#### **Total protein, albumin and globulin:**

The results of this study showed that, the follicular fluid total protein level was highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) increased in the follicular fluid of the cyclic buffalo cows (oestrus phase) during winter than summer due to the effect of season and nutrition. This result is in agreement with Nasr, *et al.* (1965) who explained the increase of total protein by the marked metabolic activity of the body under the oestrogenic effect. The higher concentration of total protein in preovulatory follicle of buffaloes may be due to the stretched pore phenomenon Parving, (1975).

Younis (1995) demonstrated that the serum total protein of buffalo cows during oestrus phases was  $10.26 \pm 0.46$  gm/dl during the green season and  $9.39 \pm 0.57$  gm/dl during the dry one, the increase was highly significant during the green season than the dry one.

Abdel- Raheim (1982) found an increase in the serum total protein level of fertile buffalo-cows and during the green season than the dry one, may be due to age, feeding and season. Lipner (1988) added in the same direction and reported that the follicular fluid constituents were similar to blood plasma Nandis *et al.* (2007) supported our results and proved that, the total protein concentration increased as follicles became larger.

The study showed a significant increase in globulin level during the green season than the dry one.

The obtained results were in agreement with Abd El-Aziz *et al.*, (2001) who found albumin and globulin levels were significantly high in the follicular fluid of normal buffaloes in the green season.

#### **Transaminases (AST & ALT):**

The obtained results revealed a significant increase ( $P < 0.05$ ) in AST & ALT concentrations in the follicular fluid during the oestrus phase in cyclic buffaloes in the dry season than the green one. Edwrds (1974) supported our results and mentioned that, the transaminases rise as the follicle developed, while McNatty (1978) found a wide range of enzyme within the follicular fluid which have intracellular function.

On the other hand Abbas *et al.* (2002) found a lower levels in AST ( $8.2 \pm 0.1$  U/L) and ALT ( $21.2 \pm 0.3$  U/L) in the follicular fluid of the large follicles of buffaloes during oestrus phase. Younis (1995) supported our findings and demonstrated a significant increase in serum AST&ALT levels in buffalo-cows during oestrus phases in summer than winter. The variations may be due to nutrition and climatic conditions.

#### **Inorganic phosphorus and calcium:**

The obtained results revealed a significant increase in inorganic phosphorus level in the follicular fluid of cyclic buffaloes during the dry season than the green one. These findings were in agreement with Eissa (1995) who found a high level of inorganic phosphorus ( $5.32 \pm 1.34$  mg/dl) and calcium level ( $10.51 \pm 2.5$  mg/dl) in the follicular fluid of buffalo-cows during oestrus phase in summer season and stated that, the follicular concentrations of calcium and inorganic phosphorus increased profoundly during the earlier days of oestrus cycle. McDonald (1980) demonstrated that, the higher level of serum phosphorus during oestrus phase may be due to the increased metabolic activity under the oestrogenic effect, while Nandis *et al.* (2007) showed that, the calcium and inorganic phosphorus levels increased in the follicular fluid as the follicular size increased.

#### **Manganese, iron, zinc, and copper:**

The obtained results showed a high significant increase in manganese level and a significant increase in iron, zinc and copper levels concentrations in the follicular fluid of oestrus phases of buffaloes during the green season than the dry one. These results are in agreement with El-Enany (1994) who mentioned that, the serum level of manganese and iron in fertile buffaloes was increased by feeding on high quality of green fodders or to effect of day light period, temperature or humidity, the significant increase in follicular fluid zinc during oestrus



may be attributed to oestrogen anabolic effect and increased prostaglandins which bind zinc Song and Adam, (1978).

Some zinc involvements may be mediated by influences on pituitary gonadotropin production Yarmol 'Chuck., *et al.* (1979).

The increased level of copper during oestrus phase may be due to the effect of oestrogen which induces the synthesis of ceruplasmin (copper containing globulin of blood plasma) Brandes, *et al.* (1980).

Our findings agreed with the result of Osman, *et al.* (1979) and El-Enany (1994) who found the higher levels of serum manganese, zinc and copper in the green season than in the dry one. The level of nutrition on green fodders and climatic conditions during winter season play an important role in significant increase and may be responsible for the difference.

It could be concluded that, the nutrition on green fodders and climatic conditions during the green season play an important role in variable significant increases in hormonal and mineral constituents of the follicular fluid during oestrus phase in buffalo- cows. Consequently the fertility rate will be increased.

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