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The Effects of Silymarin on Oxidative Status and Bone Characteristics in Japanese Quail Subjected to Oxidative Stress Induced by Carbon Tetrachloride

Moradi F1, Samadi F1, Dastar B2 & Samadi S3

- ¹Department of Animal and Poultry Physiology, Faculty of Animal Science, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran
- ²Department of Animal and Poultry Nutrition, Faculty of Animal Science, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran
- ³PhD Student of Horticulture Department of Shiraz University, Iran

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Corresponding author

Firooz Samadi F.Samadi@gau.ac.ir

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Abstract

This experiment was conducted to assess the effects of Silymarin on oxidative status, bone characteristics, and some blood parameters in Japanese quail subjected to oxidative stress induced by carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄). The experiment was performed as a completely randomized design with four replicates, each with 30 birds, using a 2 × 2 factorial arrangement with two doses of Silymarin (0 and 1 mL/kg BW) and CCl₄ (0 and 1 mL/kg BW). Results revealed that the interaction between Silymarin and CCl4 on concentrations of total cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose, albumin, calcium, and alkaline phosphatase were significant (P < 0.05). In contrast, concentrations of phosphorus, total protein, and high density lipoprotein-cholesterol in blood serum did not differ between experimental treatments. Experimental treatments had a significant effect on superoxide dismutase activity in blood serum (P < 0.05), but not on glutathione peroxide activity and malondialdehyde concentration. Experimental treatments significantly affected the weight, thickness, and external and internal diameters of tibia bone (P < 0.05), but not its length, ash, volume, and density. This study shows that Silymarin has potential to attenuate adverse effects of oxidative stress induced by CCl4 in Japanese quail.



Poultry experience various stressors which can result in oxidative stress. Oxidative stress occurs when the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) exceeds their elimination by different antioxidant agents. ROS damage biomolecules by disrupting intracellular reduction-oxidation balance (Khan and Sultana, 2009).

Carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) is a model toxicant that has been assessed in both *in vitro* and *in vivo* toxicological studies (Manibusan *et*

al., 2007). CCl₄ causes serious damage to tissues by stimulating lipid peroxidation (Janbaz *et al.*, 2002). Bone tissue is sensitive to free radical damage (Basu *et al.*, 2001) as ROS influences bone mineralization by modulating bone cell function (Wauquier *et al.*, 2009).

It was reported that medical plants can remove hydrogen peroxide and have a role in the preventing the side effects of oxidative stress (Schaffer *et al.*, 2004; Sonkusale *et al.*, 2011). Milk

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thistle (Silybum marianum), known as Silymarin, is a herb with antioxidant properties and contains a mixture of flavonolignans with the active ingredients. The main substances in seed extract of this plant are silybin, isosilybin, silycristin, and silydianin (Ding et al, 2001). Silybum marianum has numerous functions including antioxidant (Katiyar, 2005), antiinflammatory (Horváth et al, 2001) and immune modulation (Katiyar, 2005), and protection against non-melanoma skin cancer (Vayalil et al, 2003). As an antioxidant polyphenol flavonoid, Silymarin has the natural ability to clean up free radicals (Skottova & krecman 1998). In this study, in vivo antioxidant function of Silymarin was assessed against oxidative stress induced by CCl₄ in Japanese quail.

Materials and Methods Plant preparation and extraction

Silybum marianum used in this experiment was collected in the summer from the heights of Ravansar (34° 52′ N 46° 27′ E; altitude: 1650 m), Kermanshah, Iran. The total values of phenolic compounds, flavonoids, and antioxidants were measured calorimetrically according to the Folin-Ciocalteu method (Chang et al., 2002). To prepare Silymarin, S. marianum seeds were powdered by a full electric mill (DM-WP120), then defatted by petroleum ether. Samples were dried and mixed (2:10 v/w) with 80% ethanol, then shacked for 24 hrs and passed through paper filter. The alcohol fraction was removed under vacuum (Harbone, 1998).

Birds, diets and experimental design

A total of 480 day-old Japanese quail chicks (BW±SE, 7±1 g) were obtained from a local commercial hatchery and raised over a 42-d experimental period. The birds were housed in an environmentally controlled poultry house with paper roll as litter at the research farm of Animal Science Faculty, Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Golestan, Iran. Ambient temperature was initially set at 38±1°C and then decreased by 1°C every 2 days until a constant temperature of 24°C was reached at day 35 of experiment. The lighting schedule provided 23 hrs of light per

The experiment was performed as a completely randomized design with four replicates of 30 birds each, using a 2 × 2 factorial arrangement with two doses of Silymarin (0 and 1 mL/kg BW) and CCl₄ (0 and 1 mL/kg BW). Experimental treatments were applied beginning on day 22 of the study. Silymarin was fed directly into crop via a syringe equipped with a plastic nozzle and feeding tube (Nova Cath®, No. 10). Intraperitoneal injection of CCl₄ was performed beginning on day 22, and again every three days (Sonkusale et al., 2011). In order to homogenize the stress, the control group received 1 mL/kg BW 0.9% sodium chloride solution via intraperitoneal injection (Sharma et al., 2006) and also 1 mL/kg BW of distilled water by oral gavage. Birds had free access to feed and throughout the experiment. composition of the basal diet is shown in Table

Table 1. Ingredients and chemical compositions of the basal diet1

Ingredients	%
Corn	49.16
Soybean meal (44% protein)	45.05
Soybean oil	2.76
Calcium carbonate	1.30
Dicalcium phosphate	0.75
Salt	0.35
Vitamin premix ²	0.25
Mineral premix ³	0.25
DL-Methionine	0.13
Calculated analysis:	
ME (Kcal/kg)	2900
CP (%)	24.00
Calcium (%)	0.80
Available phosphorus (%)	0.30
Sodium (%)	0.15
Lysine (%)	1.30
Methionine (%)	0.50
Methionine + Cystine (%)	0.88

¹Claculated composition was according to NRC (1994).

Traits measured

On day 42, two birds from each replicate were selected, and blood samples were collected in nonheparinized tubes from the brachial vein. Sera were obtained by centrifuging at $1500 \times g$ for 7 min at 4°C and stored at -20°C until biochemical analysis (Khodadust et al., 2015). The serum samples were analyzed for total

² Vitamin premix (each Kg contained): Vitamin A, 3600000 IU; Vitamin D3, 800000 IU; Vitamin E, 9000 IU; Vitamin K3, 1600 mg; Vitamin B1, 720 mg; Vitamin B2, 3300 mg; Vitamin B3, 4000 mg; Vitamin B5, 15000 mg; Vitamin B6, 150 mg; Vitamin B9, 500 mg; Vitamin B12, 600 mg; Biotin, 2000 mg. ³ Mineral premix (each Kg contained): Mn, 50000 mg; Fe,

²⁵⁰⁰⁰ mg; Zn, 50000 mg; Cu, 5000 mg; Iodine, 500 mg; Choline chloride 134000 mg.

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protein, albumin, glucose, triglyceride, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c), calcium, phosphorous, and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity using enzymatic related kits (Pars-Azmoon Co., Tehran, Iran).

The activities of the antioxidant enzymes superoxide dismutase (SOD) and glutathione peroxidase (GPX) were measured in red blood cells. Blood serum SOD activity was measured according to the Woolliams *et al.*, (1983). Briefly, the inhibition of nitroblu tetrazolium (NBT) reduction with xanthine-xanthine oxidase was used as a superoxide generator. One unit of SOD function was defined as the amount of protein that inhibits the rate of NBT reduction by 50%. Activity of GPX was determined according to methods described by Paglia and Valentine (1967).

Following the slaughtering on day 42, the right tibia from two birds of each replicate was collected. Tibia length was measured as distance between the two ends of the bone using a digital caliper (ACCUD SERIES 111). Tibia volume was measured under the assumption that the specific gravity of water is 1 g/cm³ at room temperature (Kim *et al*, 2004). External and internal diameters and tibia thickness were determined using a digital caliper. To measure tibia density, bones were placed for 48 hrs in an oven at 60°C to dry. Thereafter, they were cooled in desiccators and weighed. Bone density was calculated by dividing the dry weight of each bone to its volume (Zhang & Coon, 1997). Tibia ash was

determined following its defatting by chloroform (AOAC, 1980).

Statistical analysis

The data was analyzed using GLM procedures of SAS software (SAS, 2003). Duncan's multiple tests were used to compare the effects of treatment. Differences were considered statistically significant at P < 0.05.

Results

Total phenol, flavonoids, and antioxidant of Silymarin

In vitro examinations showed that the prepared Silymarin contained 2.606 mg/g total phenol, 1.964 mg/g flavonoids, and 74.231% antioxidants.

Blood biochemistary

The main effects of Silymarin, CCl₄, and their interactions on blood serum biochemistry in Japanese quail chicks are depicted in Table 2. In treated with Silymarin, concentration was greater, whereas ALP hepatic enzyme activity and cholesterol and glucose concentrations were lower (P < 0.05). Administration of CCl₄ resulted in lower concentrations of calcium and triglyceride and a higher concentration of glucose (P < 0.05). There were significant interactions between Silymarin CCl_4 on albumin, calcium, triglycerides, cholesterol, and glucose in blood sera (P < 0.05).

Table 2. Effect of Silymarin and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) on blood biochemical parameters of Japanese quail at 42 d

	Total protein (g/dL)	Albumin (g/dL)	Calcium (mg/dL)	Phosphor (mg/dL)	ALP¹ (U/L)	Triglyceride (mg/dL)	Cholesterol (mg/dL)	HDL ² (mg/dL)	Glucose (mg/dL)
Silymarin (mL/kg BW)									
0	2.97b	1.1 ^b	9.9	8.5	218.8a	156.4	165.9a	76.0	304.7a
1	3.25a	1.3a	10.1	8.5	188.7^{b}	156.9	151.4^{b}	70.6	294.3b
SEM	0.05	0.01	0.3	1.5	13.48	5.10	1.88	3.32	0.73
CCl ₄ (mL/kg BW))								
0	3.15	1.2	10.4^{a}	8.3	206.5	178.3a	162.7	74.2	297.5ь
1	3.07	1.1	9.5 ^b	8.7	201.0	135.0 ^b	154.6	72.4	304.5a
SEM	0.07	0.01	0.12	1.4	13.97	3.57	2.13	3.45	0.74
Silymarin × CCl ₄									
0×0	3.0	1.1 ^{bc}	10.3a	8.1	206.7a	179.3a	170.6a	81.2	301.4^{a}
1×0	3.3	1.3a	10.3a	8.5	206.4^{a}	177.4^{a}	154.8ab	67.2	287.6 ^b
0×1	2.9	1.1^{c}	9.3 ^b	8.8	231.0a	133.6 ^b	161.2^{ab}	70.8	308.0 a
1 × 1	3.2	1.2^{ab}	9.7 ^b	8.5	171.0 ^b	136.4^{b}	148.0^{b}	74.0	301.0^{a}
SEM	0.05	0.01	0.1	1.6	13.05	3.78	1.86	82.9	53.0
P-value									
Silymarin	0.01	0.00	0.36	0.95	0.02	0.97	0.01	0.23	0.01
CCl ₄	0.50	0.41	0.00	0.50	0.70	0.00	0.19	0.69	0.02

¹Alkaline phosphatase. ² High-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

a-c Means within a column without a common superscript differ significantly (P < 0.05).

Antioxidant status

The main effects of Silymarin, CCl₄, and their interactions on the activities of antioxidant enzymes and MDA content in sera of Japanese quails are shown in Table 3. The interaction

between Silymarin and CCl₄ was significant on SOD activity (P < 0.05), but not GPX activity and MDA content. Silymarin decreased activity of SOD hepatic enzyme in blood serum, while CCl₄ increased SOD activity (P < 0.05).

Table 3. Effect of Silymarin and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) on antioxidant enzymes and MDA of

Japanese quail at 42 d

Japanese quan at 42 a			
Treatments	SOD1 (U/gHb)	GPX ² (U/gHb)	MDA ³ (nmol/L)
Silymarin (mL/kg BW)			
0	1271.4a	50.26	2.08
1	1007.1b	47.08	2.22
SEM	3.89	2.36	0.11
CCl ₄ (mL/kg BW)			
0	1098.5	49.02	2.27
1	1180.0	48.32	2.03
SEM	4.86	2.51	0.10
Silymarin × CCl ₄			
0×0	1362.0a	51.84	2.34
1 × 0	835.0c	46.20	2.20
0×1	1180.8^{b}	48.68	1.82
1 × 1	1179.2 ^b	47.96	2.24
SEM	2.38	2.4	0.08
<u>P-value</u>			
Silymarin	0.00	0.14	0.36
CCl_4	0.42	0.75	0.11
Silymarin × CCl ₄	0.04	0.31	0.06

¹Superoxide dismutase. ² Glutathione peroxidase. ³ Malondialdehyde.

Table 4. Effect of Silymarin and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) on Index of Tibia Bone of Japanese quail at 42 d

Treatments	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Volume (cm³)	Density (g/ cm³)	Thickness (mm)	External diameter (mm)	Internal diameter (mm)	Ash (%)
Silymarin (mL/kg BW)								
0	0.78a	51.55	0.78	0.96	0.59	3.64^{a}	2.89	0.55
1	0.72b	51.23	0.74	0.96	0.53	3.44^{b}	3.11	0.53
SEM	0.002	0.44	0.002	0.000	0.004	0.02	0.08	0.002
CCl ₄ (mL/kg BW)								
0	0.76	51.60	0.78	0.97^{a}	0.60^{a}	3.63a	2.81 ^b	0.56^{a}
1	0.74	51.20	0.75	0.96^{b}	0.52^{b}	3.45^{b}	3.19a	0.52^{b}
SEM	0.003	0.43	0.002	0.001	0.004	0.02	0.06	0.001
Silymarin × CCl ₄								
0×0	0.80^{a}	51.54	0.81	0.97	0.56^{b}	3.44^{b}	2.87b	0.56
1×0	0.71^{b}	50.84	0.74	0.97	0.63^{a}	3.46^{b}	2.76b	0.57
0×1	0.71^{b}	51.56	0.75	0.96	0.50^{b}	3.45^{b}	2.92 ^b	0.51
1 × 1	0.72^{b}	51.61	0.74	0.96	0.54^{b}	3.81a	3.46^{a}	0.53
SEM	0.002	0.44	0.002	0.000	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.001
P-value								
Silymarin	0.01	0.44	0.12	0.4	0.07	0.01	0.11	0.44
CCl ₄	0.47	0.34	0.14	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.02
Silymarin × CCl ₄	0.04	0.52	0.08	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.12

^{a-b} Means within a column without a common superscript differ significantly (P < 0.05).

a-cMeans within a column without a common superscript differ significantly (P < 0.05).

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Bone indexes

The main effect of Silymarin, CCl₄, and their interactions on bone indexes of Japanese quail at day 42 are shown in Table 4. Silymarin and CCl₄ had significant interactions on weight, thickness, and external and internal diameters of tibia. Both Silymarin and CCl₄ decreased tibia weight (P < 0.05). Tibia thickness increased in quails treated with Silymarin, but CCl₄ did not have an effect (P < 0.05). The external and internal diameters of tibia bone increased in birds that received both treatments (P < 0.05). CCl₄ resulted in lower density and ash percentage of tibia bone (P < 0.05).

Discussion

Stressful conditions are unavoidable problems in poultry production systems. There is an increasing interest in the use of herbs and medicinal plants in poultry feeding to help overcome the stress. Medicinal plants have positive effects on performance of broilers due to their secondary metabolites, which can be ergogenic, antiphrastic, antibacterial, anti-flatus, antifungal, and antiseptic (Huang et al., 1992). It has been shown that Silymarin reduces the concentrations of glucose, cholesterol, and triglyceride in blood of broilers challenged with lead (Ebrahimi et al, 2013). Consistent with the current study, Case et al. (1995) reported that plant secondary metabolites (for example, thymol, carvacrol, and silybin) may inhibit the function of hepatic enzymes involved in the synthesis of cholesterol and fatty acids. Tollba et al. (2010) demonstrated that using various herbal ingredients can reduce blood lipids in broilers, hens and quails. Silymarin can also impact the kinetics of glucose 6-phosphatase and inhibit gluconeogenesis to decrease blood glucose (Guigas et al, 2007). Fanimakki et al., (2014) reported that Silymarin has no effects on total protein and albumin in blood serum, which contrasts our findings in albumin. It seems that this difference is due to the sensitivity of different species, as well as the form of Silymarin (powder or extract) used. It was reported that Silymarin has no effect on blood serum calcium and phosphorus (Amiridumari et al., 2013), which is consistent with the current Sonkusale et al (2011) reported that intraperitoneal injection of CCl₄ to broilers significantly increased blood concentrations of total cholesterol and decreased serum

concentrations of albumin, total protein and HDL-c. Samudram et al. (2008) reported a lower total protein levels in blood serum following the destructive effects of CCl4 on the function of rat liver. The decrease in blood serum levels of total protein and albumin could be due to its reduced biosynthesis, which could occur by impairing ribosomal protein biosynthesis of endoplasmic reticulum (Clawson, 1989). Similarly, Gad et al. (2011) showed that CCl₄ decreases serum protein and albumin levels, but increases serum lipid levels, showing the adverse effect of CCl₄ on liver function. Owen (1990) noted an increase in serum cholesterol under liver diseases related to undermining role of the liver to remove cholesterol from the blood stream.

CCl₄ can lead to liver damage and necrosis by inducing production of free radicals. Hepatic necrosis elevates blood serum enzymes such as ALP and decreases activities of antioxidant enzymes such as SOD and catalase (Eidi, 2010) which is consistent with our findings of SOD. Studies have shown that the antioxidant properties of Silymarin can increase cellular glutathione, superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase function in brain tissue of rat (Nencini et al, 2007) which contrasts the current experiment. These differences could be due to differences in the duration of the experiment, the amount of Silymarin used, experimental materials, and the studied tissues (brain or blood stream). The administration of Silymarin in rats with diabetes mellitus leads to appropriate changes in MDA (an index of lipid peroxidation) and antioxidant enzymes such as SOD (Baluchnejadmojarad et al, 2010). However, in our study, CCl₄ did not increase lipid peroxidation, which could be due to the sensitivity of experimental species and usage dose.

Studies in humans and animals have shown that secondary metabolites of plants have modulatory effects on bone mineralization (Sunita & Pattanayak, 2011). The current study shows that Silymarin has more positive effects on tibia thickness than CCl₄, perhaps due to the similarity between Silybin and estrogen in the mineralization of bone tissue (Gebhardt, 2002). Estrogen has positive effects on bone mineralization by increasing the function of the vitamin D receptor in intestinal mucosa and osteoblast cells, which leads to synthesis of bone

matrix protein and mineral storage (Liel et al, 1999). Similarly, Kim et al., (2012) documented osteoblastic function of Silymarin in tibiafractured mice. The positive effects of medicinal plants in the chemical composition and physical properties of tibia in broiler chickens were reported (Pisarski & Kwiecien, 2003). Tahmasebi et al. (2012) showed that herbal phytoestrogens such as Withania somnifera enhances bone calcification. Few studies have been conducted on the effects of toxins, especially CCl₄, on tissues and bone characteristics. It has been documented that CCl₄ can disrupt the balance between oxidants and antioxidants, which can cause oxidative damage to biological molecules (Soni et al, 2008), such lipid peroxidation in bone tissue. For example, teratogenic effects of the

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pesticide diazinon were reported on the growth of cartilage and bone (Meneely & Wyttenbach, 1989) in chicken and quail embryos. Field have correlated exposure studies organochlorines with loss of alveolar bone in gray seals (Bergman et al, 1992), reduced bone density in deer mice (Johnson et al., 2009), and mineralization in clapper (Rodriguez-Navarro et al., 2006). In general, it can be concluded that Silymarin has potential to attenuate adverse effects of oxidative stressors in Japanese quail by stabilizing lipid peroxidation.

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تاثیر سیلی مارین بر وضعیت اکسیداتیو و مشخصات استخوان بلدر چین ژاپنی در معرض استرس اکسیداتیو القاء شده توسط تتراکلریدکربن

Moradi F1, Samadi F1, Dastar B2 & Samadi S3

^۱ گروه فیزیولوژی دام و طیور، دانشکده علوم دامی، دانشگاه علوم کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی گرگان، گرگان، ایران ^۲ گروه تغذیه دام و طیور، دانشکده علوم دامی، دانشگاه علوم کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی گرگان، گرگان، ایران ^۳دانشجوی دکتری گروه علوم باغبانی دانشگاه شیراز، ایران

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ڃکيده

کلمات کلیدی شاخص استخوان بلدرچین ژاپنی تنش اکسیداتیو فراسنجههای خون

نويسنده مسئول

Firooz Samadi F.Samadi@gau.ac.ir

تاريخچه مقاله

دریافت: ۴ اگوست ۲۰۱۶ ویرایش: ۶ ژوئن ۲۰۱۷ پذیرش: ۲۳ ژوئن ۲۰۱۷ این آزمایش به منظور ارزیابی تاثیر سیلی مارین بر وضعیت اکسیداتیو، مشخصات استخوان و برخی فراسنجههای خونی در بلارچین ژاپنی درگیر شده با استرس اکسیداتیو توسط تتراکلرید کربن انجام شد. این آزمایش در قالب طرح کاملا تصادفی با چهار تکرار و ۳۰ پرنده در هر تکرار با چینش فاکتوریل 7×7 با دو دوز سیلی مارین (صفر و یک میلی لیتر به ازای هر کیلوگرم وزن بدن) و تتراکلرید کربن (صفر و یک میلی لیتر به ازای هر کیلوگرم وزن بدن) اجرا شد. نتایج نشان داد که تقابل بین سیلی مارین و تتراکلرید کربن بر غلظتهای کلسترول کل، تـری گلیسـرید، گلوکز، آلبومین، کلسیم و آلکالین فسفاتاز معنی دار بودند ($P < \cdot 1/\cdot 0$). در مقابل، غلظتهای فسفر، پروتئین کل و سوپراکسید دسموتاز سرم خون بین تیمارهای آزمایشی متاثیر معنی داری بـر فعالیت سوپراکسید دسموتاز سرم خون داشتند ($P < \cdot 1/\cdot 0$)، اما بر فعالیت گلوتاتیون پراکسیداز و غلظت مالون دی آلدهیـد تاثیری نداشـتند. تیمارهای آزمایشـی بـر وزن، ضخامت و قطـر خـارجی و داخلـی اسـتخوان ران مـوثر بودنـد تاثیری نداشـتند. که سیلی مارین توانـایی کاهش اثرات منفی استرس اکسیداتیو القاء شده توسط تتراکلرید کربن بر بلدرچین ژاپنی را دارد.

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