

Influence of Three Medicinal Plants Extract on The Histology of the Duodenum, Liver and Caecum of broiler chickens

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the influence of three medicinal plants extract (*Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum* and *Occium grattissium*) on the histology of the duodenum, liver and caecum of broiler chickens. A total of 300 marshal broiler chicks were used for this experiment. Birds were brooded for two weeks and the experiment lasted six weeks. The birds were distributed into five treatments; Treatment 1 (positive control, which received synthetic drug), treatment 2 (negative control, without antibiotic or phytobiotics), treatments 3 (herbal extract of *A.ringens* at 20ml/litre of water), treatment 4 (herbal extract of Garlic (*A.sativum*) bulb at 20ml/litre of water) and treatment 5 (*O.gratissium* leaves extract at 20ml/litre of water). Each treatment was subdivided into three replicates consisting of 20 birds per replicate. Twenty percent 20% concentration of plant extracts were given at the rate of 20ml per liter of water. Experiment was arranged in a Completely Randomized Design. On the 56th day of experiment, one bird per replicate was slaughtered, skinned to remove segments (1 cm) were removed from the duodenum and caecum and part of the liver was cut. The segments were examined by light microscope to determine the histological differences. Inclusion of 20ml of *Aristolochia ringens* and *Allium sativum* aqueous extract into 1ml of water improved duodenal villi histology as well as the liver histology of broiler chickens at 56 days. Furthermore administration of the three medicinal plants extract *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum* and *Occium grattissium* at 20ml/litre of water inclusion level had no deleterious effect on the caecum histology of broiler chickens. Hence, 20ml/litre of water inclusion level of aqueous extract of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum* was recommended for improved intestinal histology and liver health of broiler chickens.

Keywords: *Aristolochia ringens*; *Allium sativum*; *Occium grattissium*; intestinal histology; liver histology; caecum histology; marshal broiler strain.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Intestinal development and maturation are known to play a major role in poultry health, with a long-term effect on broiler performance (Sklan, 2001). Different types of antibiotics and chemotherapeutic agents are used in the treatment of diseases and as growth promoters in

livestock production. The emergence of resistant bacteria drove the European Union to ban antibiotics usage in animal production (Yang *et al.*, 2012). This situation motivated researchers to find new alternatives for antibiotics growth promoters, the possibility of antibiotics ceasing to be used as growth stimulants for poultry and the concern about the side effects of their use as therapeutic agents has produced a climate in which both consumer and manufacturer are looking for alternatives. Yang *et al.* (2012) opined that feed additives of plant origin with beneficial therapeutic helps in eliminating antibiotics from poultries diets (Yang *et al.*, 2012), since they are rich source of essential nutrients (Yang *et al.*, 2012), chemicals and other active component (Klaunig *et al.*, 2003), leaving no residual effect or creating the occurrence of resistant microbes. Countries in West Africa especially Nigeria are richly blessed with forests containing arrays of different herbs, shrubs and trees. These plant materials have being used in recent years in poultry production. Natural products such as *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum* and *Ocimum gratissimum* have the potential to improve broiler production because of their phytobiotic properties (Alexander. 2016; Divya *et al.*, 2017 and Obanga *et al.*, 2018).

Allium sativum, commonly known as garlic, belongs to the family Amaryllidaceae. Garlic and its preparations have been used extensively in health benefits, resulting in numerous research reports over the last decade alone. Garlic is widely consumed spices in food, while also consumed in the form of drink (Joshua *et al.*, 2014). Garlic contains sulfur-containing compounds (Wichtl. 2004). The fresh bulb contains an alliin, allicin and volatile oils when the garlic clove is crushed, the odourless compound alliin is converted to allicin via the enzyme allinase. Allicin gives garlic its characteristic pungent smell (Joshua *et al.*, 2014). It contains vitamins, minerals and trace elements (Divya *et al.*, 2017). On the other hand, garlic is an herbal medicine which is used for prevention and treatment of many diseases such as, cold and flu symptoms through immune enhancement and exhibits anticancer, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anti-stress, hypocholesterolemic, hypoglycemic, and hypotensive activities. And it is used to treat diabetes, atherosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, and gastrointestinal infection (Divya *et al.*, 2017).

Aristolochia ringens is a perennial plant in the *Aristolochiaceae* family. In the south-western Nigeria (Yoruba), the plant is commonly known as ‘Akogun’ (Obanga *et al.*, 2018). The plant contains alkaloids and aristolochic acids. (Osho and Lajide 2014 and Mabberley 1993). The antimicrobial potential and phytochemical composition of *Aristolochia ringens* root and bark have been investigated (Fashola. 2015). In addition, *Aristolochia ringens* have been reported to be have various antioxidant and antimicrobial effects and also helped to reduce oxidative stress and loss of cellular function (Obanga *et al.*, 2018).

The plant *Ocimum gratissimum* is one of those plants widely known and used for both medicinal and nutritional purposes (Alexander. 2016). *Ocimum gratissimum* is used through West Africa as anti-malarial and anti-convulsant. The crushed leaf juice is used in the treatment of convulsion

and stomach pain. Oil from the leaves have been found to possess antiseptics, antibacterial and antifungal activities (Edeoga and Eriata, 2001).

The beneficial effect of *Allium sativum*, *Aristolochia ringens* and *Ocimum gratissimum* on growth performance and immune response on broiler have been reported (Rifat *et al.*, 2012 and Olorunsogbon. 2017), but there are limited reports on the influence of *Allium sativum*, *Aristolochia ringens* and *Ocimum gratissimum* on the intestinal histology of broiler chickens. Therefore, this study was aimed at determining the influence *Allium sativum*, *Aristolochia ringens* and *Ocimum gratissimum* extract on the duodenal, liver and caecum histology of broiler chickens.

2.0 MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1 Experimental site

The experimental trial was carried out over a period of 56 days in a deep litter house at the Parasitology Unit of the Teaching and Research Farm of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA).

2.2 Source and preparation of medicinal plant extract

2.2.1 Preparation of *Allium Sativum* extract

500g of fresh garlic bulb cloves were purchased from the Local market in Akure, Ondo state were shade dried and peeled off. They were milled to a fine powder using a mechanical grinder. The powder was macerated with water for 24 hours. The extract was then filtered with filter paper (Whatman No. 1). Serial dilution was done to obtain 20% *Allium Sativum* extract (20ml of *Allium Sativum* extract into 80ml of distilled water) and the newly formed extract was stored in a refrigerator until when needed.

2.2.2 Preparation of *Aristolochia ringens* extract

The air-dried leaves of *Aristolochia ringens*, was pulverized and the powdered materials (500g) was macerated with 1 litre of water for 24 hours. The extract was then filtered with a filter paper. Serial dilution was done to obtain 20% *Aristolochia ringens* extract (20ml of *Aristolochia ringens* extract into 80ml of distilled water) and the newly formed solution was kept in a dark-colored recipient (to prevent photolysis due to light penetration) and then stored in the refrigerator.

2.2.3 Preparation of extract *Ocimum gratissimum* extract

The air-dried leaves of *Ocimum gratissimum*, was pulverized and the powdered materials (500g) was macerated with 1 litre of water for 24 hours. The extract was then filtered with a filter paper. Serial dilution was done to obtain 20% *Ocimum gratissimum* extract (20ml of *Ocimum*

gratissimum extract into 80ml of distilled water) and the newly formed solution was kept in a dark-colored recipient (to prevent photolysis due to light penetration) and then stored in the refrigerator.

2.3 Experimental animal and design

A total of 300 marshal broiler chicks, obtained from a reputable hatchery in Oyo state. Birds were brooded for two weeks and the experiment lasted 6 weeks. The birds were divided into 5 treatments. Treatment 1 served as the positive control which received synthetic drug, treatment 2 served as negative control, treatments 3 received herbal extract of *A.ringens* at 20ml/litre of water, treatment 4 received herbal extract of Garlic (*A.sativum*) bulb at 20ml/litre of water and treatment 5 received *O.gratissimum* leaves extract at 20ml/litre of water. Each treatment had three replicates of 20 birds per replicate. Twenty percent 20% concentration of plant extracts were given at the rate of 20ml per liter of water. These were served prophylactically for four weeks before the birds were challenged with coccidial oocyst and continuous as therapeutics. The experiment was in a Completely Randomized Design (CRD). Feed and water were supplied *ad libitum* and all necessary vaccination was given.

2.4 Histology Examination

At the 56th day of experiment, one bird per replicate was slaughtered, skinned to remove segments of the small intestine, liver and caecum. Samples from the three treatments were dehydrated, cleared, and embedded in 10% formalin (100ml formalin, 900ml distilled water). Segments (1 cm) were removed from the duodenum and caecum and part of the liver was cut. The segments were examined by light microscopy (Uni *et al.*, 1998) with 10 × 10 magnification to determine the histological differences.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Effect of administration of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum*, and *Occium grattissium* on duodenal villi histology of broiler chickens

The effect of administration of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum*, and *Occium grattissium* on duodenal villi histology of broiler chickens at 56 days of age is presented in Plate 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The results gotten from the histology of the duodenum shows no visible lesion or degeneration in the villus and crypts of birds administered *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum* and birds not administered either antibiotics or phytobiotics (negative control), while the villus of birds administered antibiotics (positive control) showed severe erosion and appeared stunted. The duodenal villi histology of birds administered *Occium grattissium* also showed severe erosion at the tail end of the villi and erosion of the crypts. These results supported the study of Diarra and

Malouin. (2014) that use of antibiotics in poultry production increases the selection pressure for antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and these bacteria are mostly stored in the small intestine, thus can negatively affect the intestinal tissues. Birds administered *Allium sativum* and *Aristolochia ringens* had better representation of the villi as well as enhanced intestinal histological development observed in birds with numerous tall intestinal villi, intact enterocytes and slightly high and more prominent crypts in the small intestine villi histology as a result of administration of *Aristolochia ringens* as well as *Allium sativum*. The improved villi histology result can be adduced to the presence of linoleic acid, flavonoid and phenolic acid in *Allium sativum* and *Aristolochia ringens* which helps in biosynthesis of glands and cell membrane and also the tissue protection ability and antioxidant ability of these compounds present in *Allium sativum* and *Aristolochia ringens*. Also, the antioxidant ability of *Allium sativum* due to the presence of vitamin C aided the improved villi histological representation. Results corroborated the study of Faisal *et al.* (2019) that reported that use of phytobiotics alone as a replacement for antibiotics can improve intestinal health and development of broilers. Ripon *et al.* (2019) also reported that use of phytobiotics in broiler production is beneficial for intestinal health of broilers.

3.2 Effect of administration of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum*, and *Occium grattissium* on liver histology of broiler chickens

Plate 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 revealed the histology of the liver of broiler chickens at 56 days of age administered phytobiotics. Result of the histology of the liver of broiler under the positive control group showed mild erosions of the hepatocellular atrophy with the hepatocyte not closely packed, while the liver histology of broilers under the negative control group showed moderate diffuse vacuolar hepatocellular degeneration. A hepatocyte is a cell of the main parenchymal tissue of the liver. Hepatocytes make up 55-65% of the liver's mass. These cells are involved in: Protein synthesis. (Richard Bowen. 2001). Hepatocytes are also the chief functional cells of the liver and perform an astonishing number of metabolic, endocrine and secretory functions. Roughly 80% of the mass of the liver is contributed by hepatocytes. (Richard Bowen. 2001). Heat stress and the fat content in the feed can be adduced as the reason why the hepatocyte in the liver histology of broilers under the control groups were not closely packed.

Aristolochia ringens and *Allium sativum* has been reported to be very rich in various antioxidating enzymes such as linoleic acid, flavonoid, phenolic acid, catalase, glutathione

peroxidase, and glutathione reductase (Divya *et al.*, 2017; Obanga *et al.*, 2018), thus preventing cellular damage.

3.3 Effect of administration of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum*, and *Occium grattissium* on caecum histology of broiler chickens

The effect of administration of *Aristolochia ringens*, *Allium sativum*, and *Occium grattissium* on duodenal villi histology of broiler chickens at 56 days of age is presented in Plate 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. No visible lesion was observed in the histology of the caecum. This proves that all medicinal plants used for this experiment had no detrimental effect on the caecum tissue of broiler chickens.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the findings of this experiment, it can be concluded that administration of *Aristolochia ringens* and *Allium sativum* improved the intestinal and liver health of broiler chickens. Therefore, *Aristolochia ringens* and *Allium sativum* at 20ml/litre of water is can be beneficial to intestinal development and liver health of broiler.

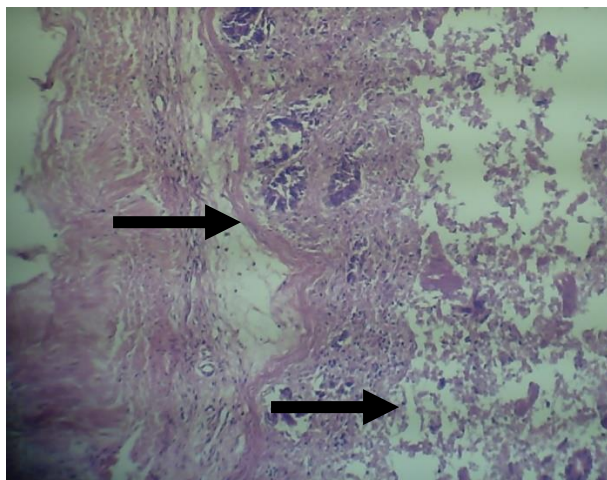


Plate 1: Duodenal villi Histology of Broiler chickens under the positive control group at 56 days of age (Magnification 100X).

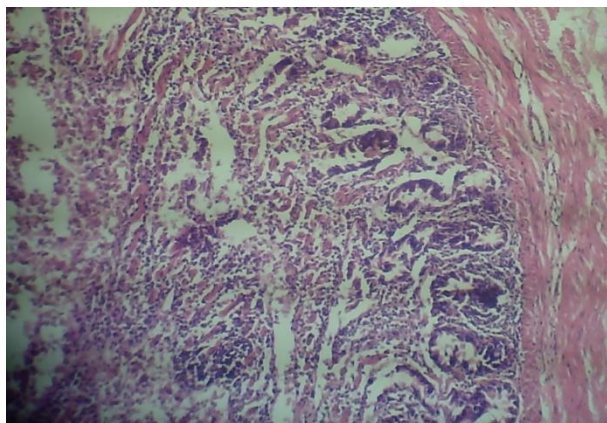


Plate 2: Duodenal villi Histology of Broiler chickens under the negative control group at 56 days of age (Magnification 100X).

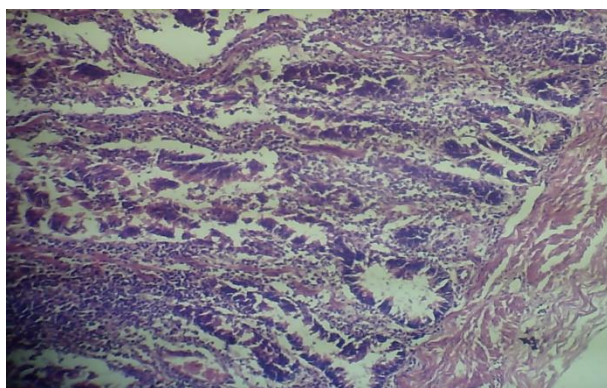


Plate 3: Duodenal villi Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Aristolochia ringens* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 56 days of age (Magnification 100X).

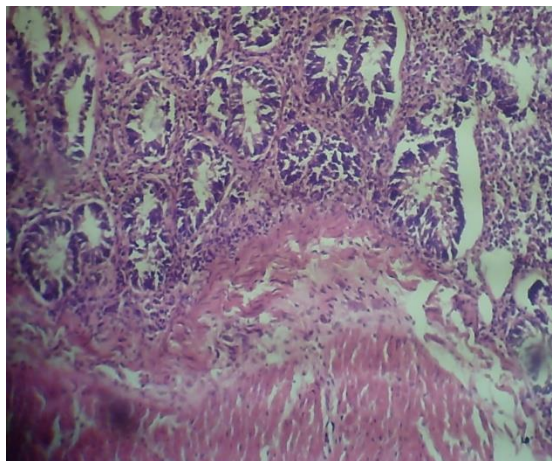


Plate 4: Duodenal villi Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Allium sativum* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

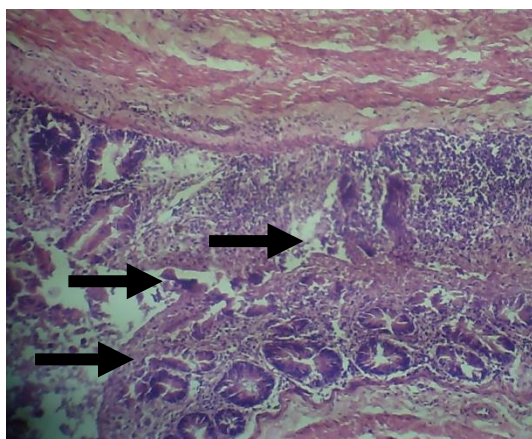


Plate 5: Duodenal villi Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Ocimum gratissimum* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

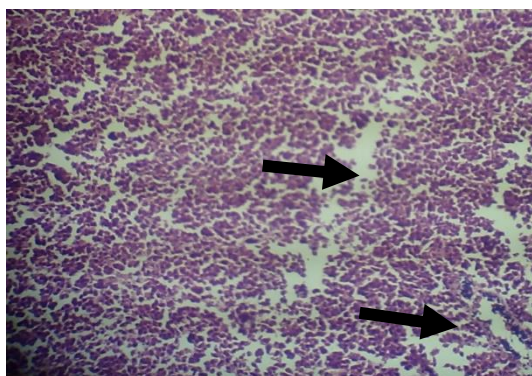


Plate 6: Liver Histology of Broiler chickens under the positive control group at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

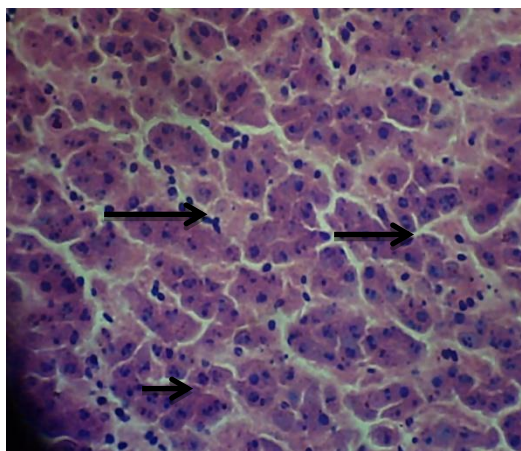


Plate 7: Liver Histology of Broiler chickens under the negative control group at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

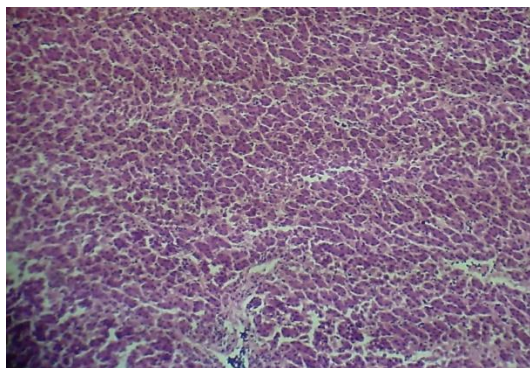


Plate 8: Liver Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Aristolochia ringens* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

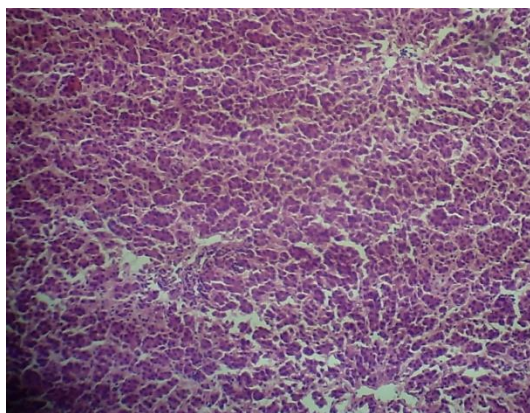


Plate 9: Liver Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Allium sativum* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

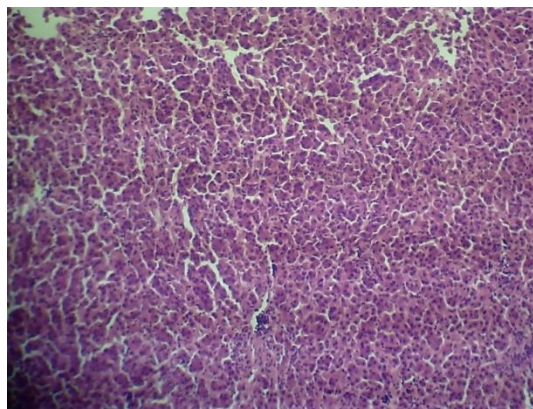


Plate 10: Liver Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Occium grattissium* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

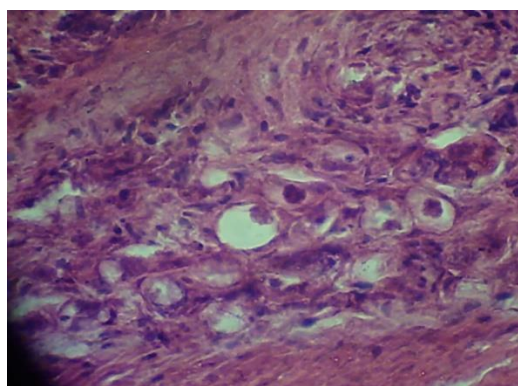


Plate 11: Caeca Histology of Broiler chickens under the positive control group at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

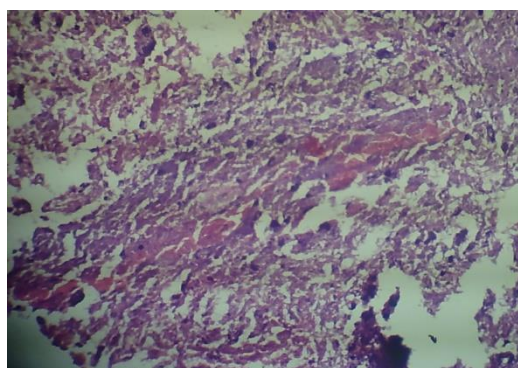


Plate 12: Caeca Histology of Broiler chickens under the negative control group at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

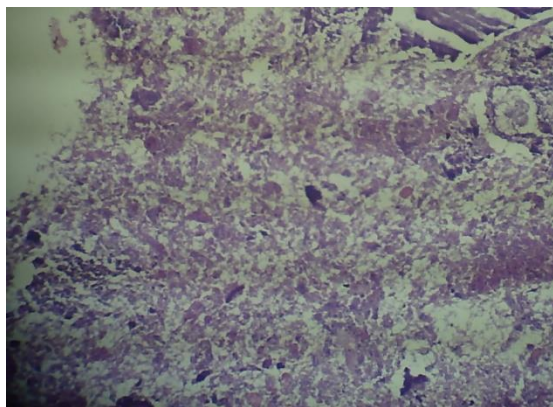


Plate 13: Caeca Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Aristolochia ringens* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

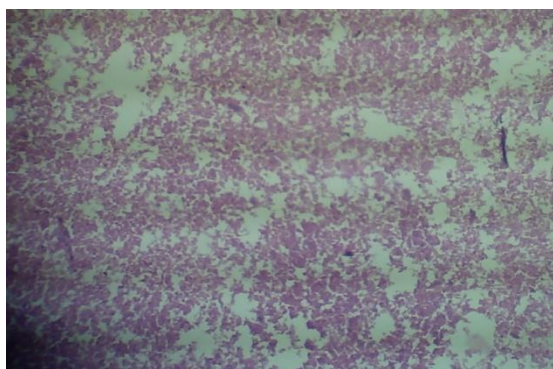


Plate 14: Caeca Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Allium sativum* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

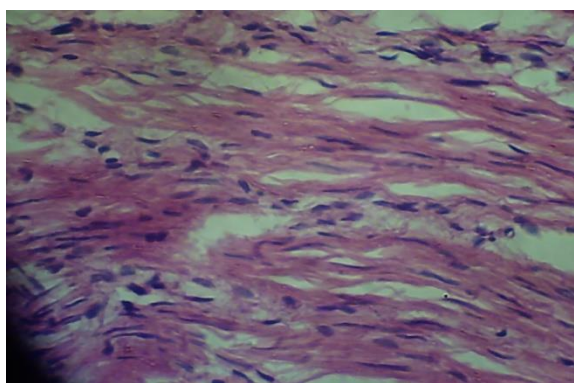


Plate 15: Caeca Histology of Broiler chickens administered *Ocimum grattissium* extract at 20ml/1liter of drinking water at 42 days of age (Magnification 100X).

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