



Practical aspects of phytobiotic (Veto-Acid[®]) supplemented to Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) diets and its susceptibility to *Aeromonas hydrophila* challenge

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Abstract : Objective: The present study was carried out to investigate the effect of a phytobiotic feed additive on growth performance, feed utilization, body composition and susceptibility of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) fingerlings to *Aeromonas hydrophila* challenge. **Methodology:** 240 all-male Nile tilapia (0.55g fish⁻¹) were fed basal diet (29.7% crude protein kg⁻¹, 4425 kcal kg⁻¹ gross energy) supplemented with different concentrations (0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 g kg⁻¹ diet) of the phytobiotic feed additive (Veto-Acid[®]). Fish were randomly distributed in triplicate into four treatment groups. Treatments were performed in twelve aquaria (20 fish / aquarium). Fish were fed their respective diets twice a day for 8 weeks at 8% of their body weight for the first 2 weeks then 6% for 2 weeks, finally 3% for the last four weeks. At the end of feeding trial, fish were challenged with pathogenic *Aeromonas hydrophila* by intraperitoneal injection. **Results:** The results detected no improvement in growth performance or feed utilization in fish fed tested diets. However the resistance against *A. hydrophila* was obtained at 1.5 g phytogenic feed additive (Veto-Acid[®]) /kg diet. **Conclusion:** phytobiotic feed additive (Veto-Acid[®]) are promising for protection against *A. hydrophila* infections in Nile tilapia.

Key word : Phytobiotic, Nile tilapia, Growth Performance Resistance, *Aeromonas hydrophilla*.

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