



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANIPULATIONS TO MINIMIZE THERMAL  
STRESS IN LAYING HENS IN A HOT HUMID CLIMATE**

**IZZELDIN BABIKER ISMAIL**

**FPV 2001 18**

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STRESS IN LAYING HENS IN A HOT HUMID CLIMATE**

**By**

**IZZELDIN BABIKER ISMAIL**

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of  
Philosophy in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

**March 2001**



**DEDICATION**

**TO MY PARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, MY WIFE HANAN, MY  
DAUGHTERS THOEIBA, NOESIBA, NAHLA AND MY SON MOHAMED  
FOR THEIR MORAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT**



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia  
in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANIPULATIONS TO MINIMIZE THERMAL  
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**March 2001**

**Chairman: Associate Prof. Dr. Kassim Hamid**

**Faculty: Veterinary Medicine**

Three experiments were carried out on laying hens (Hisex Brown) to investigate their performances and to determine the adverse effects of high environmental temperature. The hens were housed in light controlled rooms. Temperature treatment experiment (hot and cold), Light treatments experiment (light and dark) and acclimatization to acute heat (38.5) experiment. Rectal temperature, respiration rate, feed intake, egg production, eggshell quality, blood gas and plasma analysis were reported. The effects of high ambient temperature (35°C) and humidity (68.6%) on the physiology and production performance of laying hens showed a significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) increase in rectal temperature, respiratory rate, blood pH and efficiency of feed conversion. However the partial pressure of carbon dioxide ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ), blood bicarbonate ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) concentration, feed intake, egg production, egg weight, eggshell thickness and albumen quality were significantly decreased

( $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly the blood packed cell volume, haemoglobin, sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphorous concentrations were also significantly decreased ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Synchronization of the dark period with the hot period of the day ( $T_a$ ;  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ , RH; 68.6%) to minimize heat stress in laying hens showed significant increases in feed intake and egg production ( $p < 0.01$ ), eggshell thickness ( $p < 0.05$ ),  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) and blood  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, significant decreases in the efficiency of feed conversion ( $p < 0.05$ ), egg weight ( $p < 0.01$ ) and rectal temperature ( $p < 0.05$ ) were recorded. The blood pH, plasma calcium and phosphorous concentrations of the dark-treated and the light-treated groups were not significantly different. However, plasma cholesterol concentration of the light-treated group was significantly higher ( $p < 0.01$ ) than the dark-treated group when exposed to high ambient temperature. The heart was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) heavier and enlarged in the birds kept in the light during the high environmental temperature of  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Acclimatization studies on the dark-treated and light-treated laying hens to acute heat of  $38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  increases the rectal temperature to  $43.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $44.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  respectively on the first day of acute heat exposure. On the following days the rectal temperature gradually decreased reaching the lowest value on day three for the dark-treated and day four for the light-treated group. Similarly, a significant increase in shank and comb temperatures were observed reflecting the body heat load,

stimulating vasodilatation in an attempt to cool the body by heat dissipation. The blood pH of the dark-treated and the control groups increased to 7.59 and 7.58, respectively. The  $p\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentrations were significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) increased in the dark-treated group. Plasma cholesterol concentration was significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) increased during light and decreased during dark treatments. High temperatures during light or darkness did not affect plasma calcium or phosphorous concentration. The result concluded that the efficiency of feed conversion was improved under heat stress. However, egg production and feed intake were decreased. Dark treatment improved acclimatization to acute heat. Exposure to heat during the light increased plasma cholesterol and heart weight.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**MANIPULASI PERSEKITARAN UNTUK MEMINIMUMKAN TEKANAN  
TERMAL TERHADAP AYAM PENELUR DALAM  
IKLIM PANAS**

**Oleh**

**IZZELDIN BABIKER ISMAIL**

**Mac 2001**

**Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Dr. Kassim Hamid**

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Tiga kajian telah dijalankan terhadap ayam penelur (Hisex Brown) untuk menyelidik prestasinya dan untuk menentukan kesan buruk suhu persekitaran tinggi. Kesan suhu ambien tinggi ( $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) dan kelembapan (68.6%) terhadap fisiologi dan prestasi penghasilan ayam penelur menunjukkan peningkatan bererti ( $p < 0.01$ ) bagi suhu rektum, kadar penafasan, pH darah dan kecekapan penukaran makanan. Walau bagaimanapun tekanan separa karbon dioksida ( $p\text{CO}_2$ ), kepekatan bikarbonat ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) darah, pengambilan makanan, penghasilan telur, berat telur, ketebalan cangkerang telur dan mutu albumen menurun secara bererti ( $p < 0.05$ ). Begitu juga dengan isipadu sel padat darah, kepekatan hemoglobin, natrium, kalium, kalsium dan fosforus, turut turun secara bererti ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Penyelarasan tempoh gelap dengan suhu panas ( $T_a$ ;  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ , RH; 68.6%) pada sesuatu hari untuk meminimumkan tekanan haba dalam ayam penelur menunjukkan peningkatan bererti dalam pengambilan makanan dan penghasilan telur ( $p < 0.01$ ), ketebalan cengkerang telur ( $P < 0.05$ ),  $p\text{CO}_2$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) dan kepekatan  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  darah ( $p < 0.05$ ). Walau bagaimanapun, penurunan bererti dalam kecekapan penukaran makanan ( $p < 0.05$ ), berat telur ( $p < 0.01$ ), dan suhu rektum ( $p < 0.05$ ) telah direkodkan. Bagi pH darah, kepekatan kalsium dan fosforus plasma dalam kumpulan rawatan gelap dan rawatan cahaya tidak berbeza secara bererti. Walau bagaimanapun, kepekatan kolesterol plasma dalam kumpulan rawatan cahaya adalah lebih tinggi dan bererti ( $p < 0.01$ ) daripada kumpulan rawatan cahaya apabila didedahkan kepada suhu ambien tinggi. Berat jantung adalah tererti ( $p < 0.05$ ) tingginya dan membesar dalam kumpulan ayam rawatan cahaya semasa berada pada suhu persekitaran tinggi,  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Penyesuaian iklim ayam rawatan gelap dan rawatan cahaya kepada haba  $38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  menunjukkan peningkatan suhu rektum masing-masing kepada  $43.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  dan  $44.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  pada hari pertama pendedahan haba yang meruncing. Pada hari-hari berikutan, suhu rektum beransur turun mencapai nilai terendah pada hari ketiga untuk kumpulan rawatan gelap dan hari keempat untuk kumpulan perlakuan cahaya. Apa yang juga dicerap ialah peningkatan bererti bagi suhu betis dan balung yang mencerminkan beban haba badan, dan ini merangsang pemvasodilatan dalam usaha menyejukkan badan dengan menghilangkan haba. Bagi pH darah kumpulan rawatan



gelap dan kawalan, masing-masing meningkat kepada 7.59 dan 7.58.  $p\text{CO}_2$  dan kepekatan  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  meningkat ( $p < 0.01$ ) dengan bererti dalam kumpulan rawatan gelap. Kepekatan kolesterol plasma meningkat ( $p < 0.01$ ) dengan bererti dalam tempoh rawatan cahaya dan menurun dalam tempoh rawatan gelap. Suhu tinggi dibawah cahaya dan dalam kegelapan tidak memberi sebarang kesan terhadap kepekatan kalsium atau fosforus. Hasil kajian menunjukkan walaupun suhu ambien tinggi membesei kesan buruk terhadap suhu badan dan penghasilan telur, ia dapat meningkatkan kecekapan penukaran makanan masih meningkat. Kegelapan pada masa tekanan haba meminimumkan kesan buruk walaupun berat telur menurun. Rawatan gelap meningkatkan penyesuaikliman terhadap haba yang meruncing, walau bagaimanapun cahaya dan suhu ambien tinggi secara gabungan meningkatkan kepekatan kolesterol plasma dan berat jantung.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, my praise to Almighty Allah for giving me the power and will to complete this study and Peace be upon his final Prophet and Messenger Mohammed.

My sincere appreciation to my supervisory committee, who were involved in my training towards obtaining this degree. I have the highest regard for their professional courtesy. I wish to express my profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to Associate Professor Dr. Kassim Hamid, Chairman of my Supervisory Committee, for his kind help, guidance, criticisms, continuous encouragement and invaluable assistance during the course of the study. I am much indebted and grateful to Associate Professor Dr. Rasedee Abdullah and Dr. Ismail Idris, members of my Supervisory Committee, for their encouragement, constructive discussion, advice, comments and suggestions.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University Putra Malaysia for allowing me to use the facilities of his laboratories and unlimited assistance during the course of this study. I would also like to thank the staff members of Physiology and Clinical Pathology Laboratories in particular Dr. Goh Yong Meng, Mrs. Zainab Nasri, Mrs. Rosmawati Mohd. Hanipah, Mr. Johari Ripin, Mr. Kufli Che Noor, Dr. Ragavan Koran, Mr.

Mohd. Halmi Othman and Mr. Fauzi Othman Che Yusuf for their invaluable assistance during my study.

I am also thankful to Associate Professor Dr. Zulkifli Idrus, Associate Professor Ramlah Hamid, Mr. Mazlan Hamzah, Mr. M. Ponnusamy and Hj. Shahril Hassan from Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia for their collaboration.

It is worth to mention my friends and colleagues from whom I received direct and indirect support I would like to thank Mr. Mustafa Fadil, Dr. Wihandoyo, Mr. Elwaleed Awad Khidir, Dr. Isam Elgali, Dr. Omar Arabi, Dr. Mohammed Ali, Mr. Mahmoud Onsa, Dr. Mahgoub Osman, Dr. Musadag Elawad, Dr. Hatim Elsheik, Dr. Ibrahim Omar, Dr. Mohammed Osman Bushara, Sheikh Mohtady and Mr. Asaad for their companionship support and concern.

I am most grateful to the University of Khartoum (Sudan) and IRPA Grant (No. 01-02-04-226), Ministry of Science and Technology (Malaysia) for the financial support. Finally, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the staff of the Graduate School for all kinds of assistance and facilities provided to us as international students that make our life in UPM campus at ease.



I certify that an Examination Committee met on 19 March 2001 to conduct the final examination of Izzeldin Babiker Ismail his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled "Environmental Manipulations to Minimize Thermal Stress in Laying Hens in a Hot Humid Climate" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

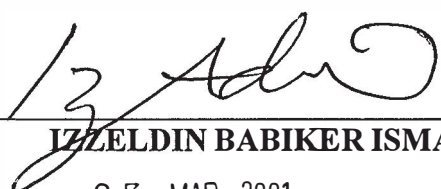
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I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or currently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

  
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**IZZELDIN BABIKER ISMAIL**  
23 MAR 2001

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AH	Albumen Height
ALF	<i>Ad libitum</i> Feeding
<i>ATPase</i>	<i>Adenosine Triphosphatase</i>
ACTH	Adrenocorticotropin
BL	Blue Light
BMLP	Biomittent Lighting Program
BW	Body weight
°C	Degree Celcius
C	Rate of convective heat transfer
CaBP	Calcium Binding Protein
CBF	Capillary Blood Flow
CE	Cholesterol Esterase
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
ChOD	Cholesterol Oxidase
CHOL	Cholesterol
CL	Continuous light
cm	Centimeter
CS	Corticosterone
CSF	Cerebrospinal Fluid
Cp	Specific Heat Of The Body Mass
D	Dark
dt	Change in Time
DTb	Change in Body temperature
EHL	Evaporative Heat Loss
g	Gram
GL	Green Light
GLU	Glucose
HCO <sub>3</sub>	Bicarbonate
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
H/L	Heterophil/lymphocyte ratio
h	hour time
IL	Intermittent Light
K	Rate of Conductive Heat Transfer
KCL	Potassium Chloride
L	Light
l	Liter
MHP	Rate of Metabolisable Heat Production
min	Minute
mm	Millimeter
mmol	Millimole
m/s	meter per second
NaCl	Sodium Chloride



NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	Sodium Bicarbonate
PCV	Packed Cell Volume
PTU	Propylthiouracil
pO <sub>2</sub>	Partial Pressure of Oxygen
pCO <sub>2</sub>	Partial Pressure of Carbon Dioxide
pH	Hydrogen Ions Concentration
R	Rate of radiant heat transfer
RH	Relative Humidity
RL	Red Light
RR	Respiratory Rate
SHL	Sensible Heat Loss
T	Time
T <sub>3</sub>	Triiodothyronine
T <sub>4</sub>	Thyroxine
T <sub>a</sub>	Ambient Temperature
T <sub>b</sub>	Body Temperature
THb	Total Haemoglobin
TNZ	Thermoneutral Zone
TP	Total protein
TRI	Triglycerides
TU	Thiouracil
Tr	Rectal Temperature
ZLTE	Zone of Least Thermoregulatory Effort
ZMM	Zone of Minimum Metabolism
THb	Total Haemoglobin
T <sub>com</sub>	Comb Temperature
T <sub>cu</sub>	Upper Critical Temperature
T <sub>sh</sub>	Shank Temperature
WL	White Light
VE	Ventilation