

HYDROLYSABLE TANNIN MIXES USED AS FEED ADDITIVES

IN RABBITS

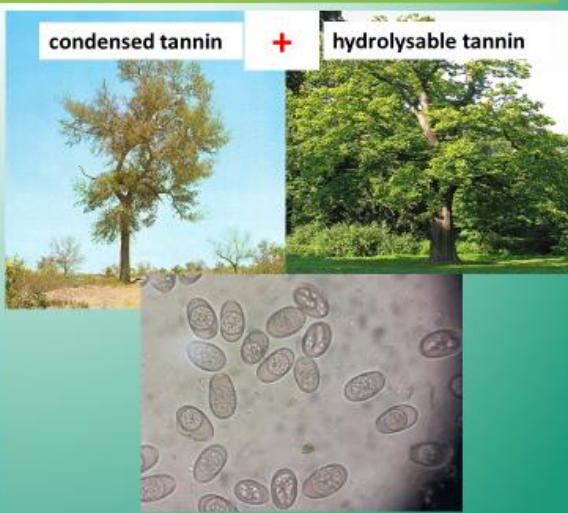
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INTRODUCTION

Coccidiosis is one of the most important rabbit diseases. Due to anticoccidial resistance issues and drug use limitations in farm rabbits, alternative strategies for the control of rabbit coccidiosis are needed.

This study was aimed to evaluate the coccidiostatic effects of two condensed and hydrolysable tannin mix concentrations in rabbits.



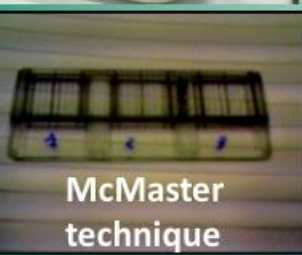
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals: 16 rabbits of 35 days in age and naturally infected by coccidia
Cages: 60 x 40 x 32 cm
Environmental Conditions: 18-22 °C, 60% R.H.



Rabbits (n. animals)	DIETS
Group C (4)	Commercial Pelleted Feed (Untreated Control)
Group CT (4)	Commercial Pelleted Feed + Diclazuril 1 ppm (Treated Control)
Group T 0.3% (4)	Commercial Pelleted Feed + 0.3% Tannin Mix
Group T 0.6% (4)	Commercial Pelleted Feed + 0.6% Tannin Mix

For the evaluation of the anticoccidial effects, individual faecal samples were collected weekly from each rabbit for a period of 9 weeks and quantitatively analysed for counting *Eimeria* spp. oocysts (oocyst number per gram of faeces, OPG).



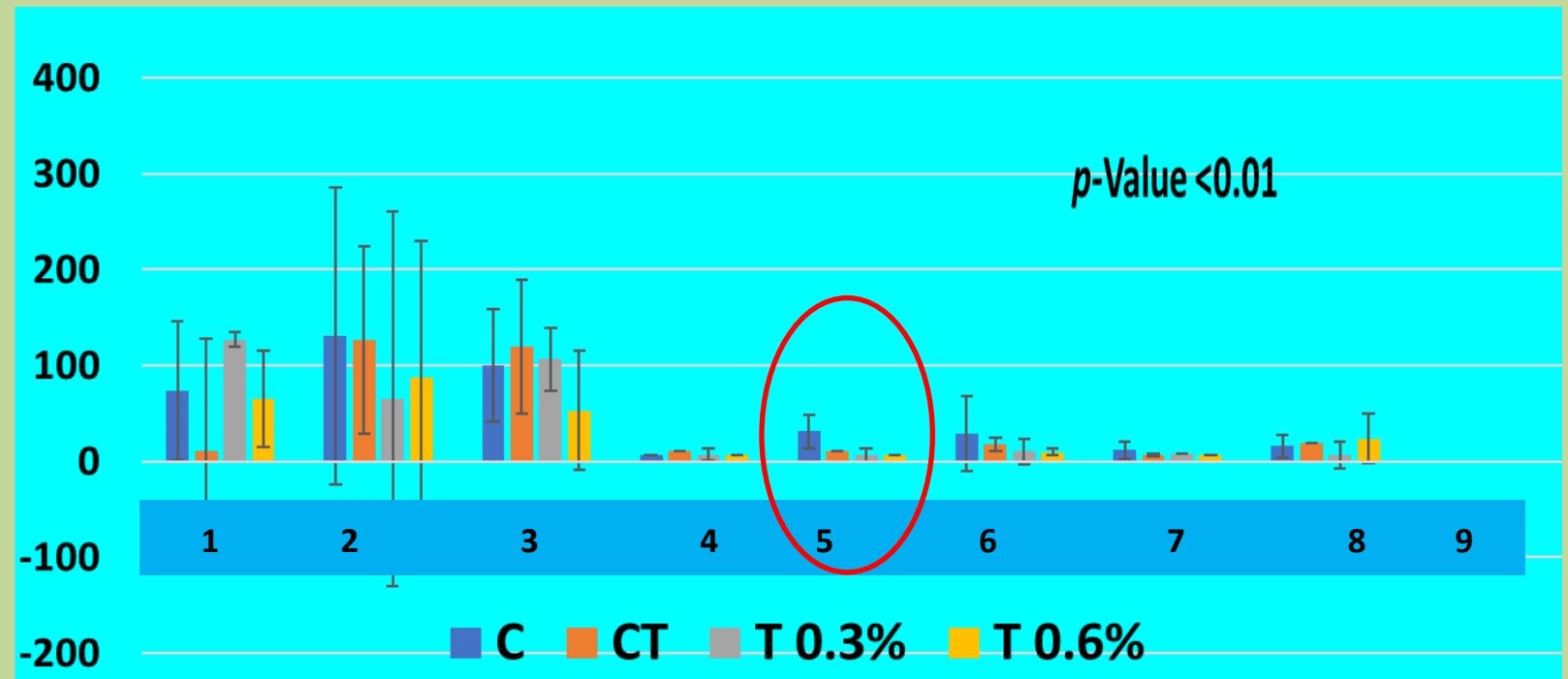
Eimeria species were identified based on their morphometrical (Coudert et al., 1995; Levine and Ivens, 1972), and molecular features (Oliveira et al., 2011)



Data were statistically evaluated via two-way ANOVA

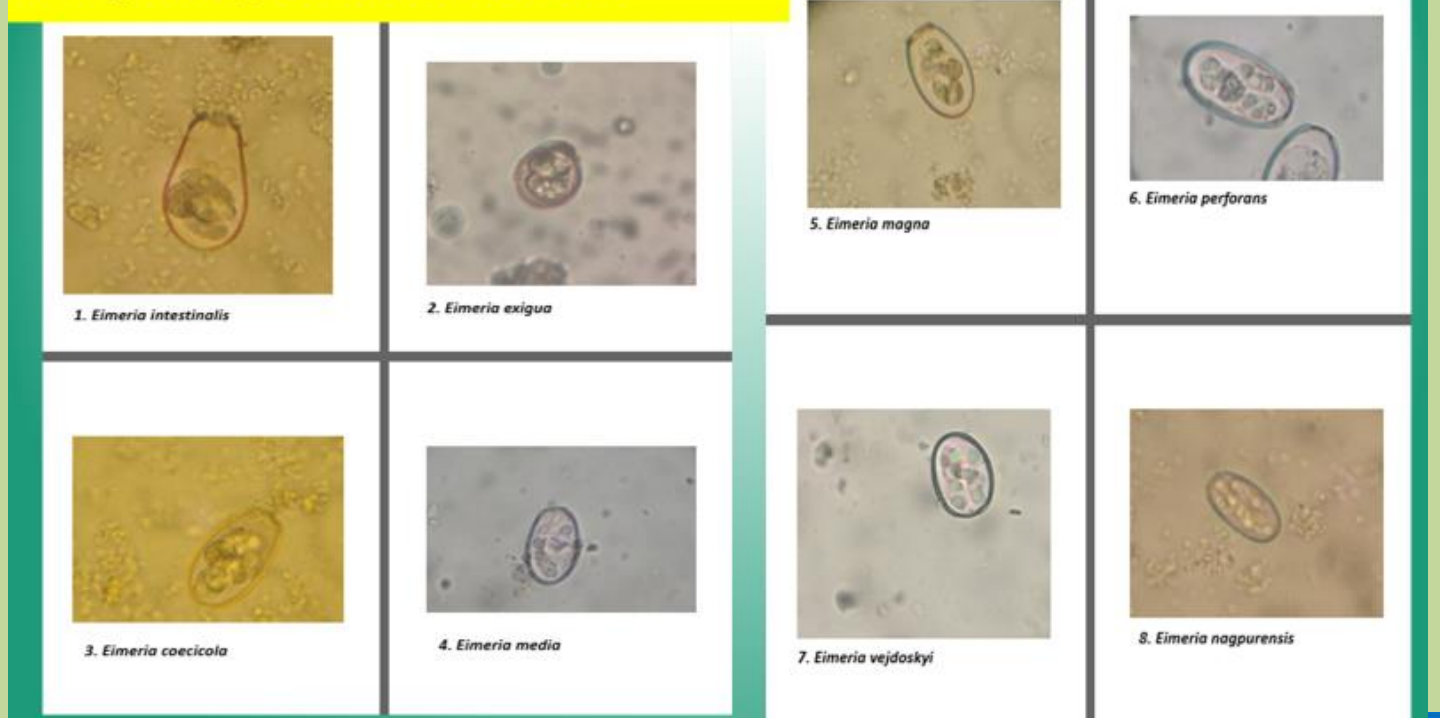
RESULTS

Overall, a lower mean *Eimeria* OPG number was observed in T 0.3% and T 0.6% groups compared to controls. Moreover, the mean *Eimeria* OPG number recorded in T 0.6% group at the 5^o sampling was significantly lower ($p < 0.01$) than that of all other groups.

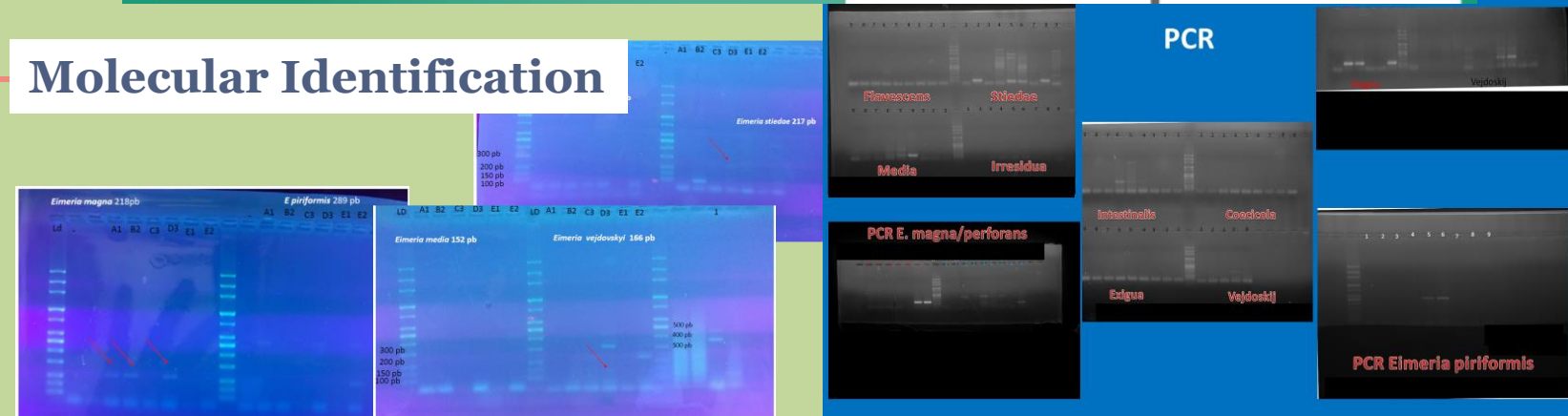


	Diets				
	C	TC	T 0.3%	T 0.6%	p-Value
Average daily growth g/rabbit	1.270	1.252	1.399	1.423	0.076

Morphological Identification



Molecular Identification



CONCLUSIONS

Obtained results confirm the anticoccidial properties previously reported for tannins and are promising about the use of the 0.6% tannin mix evaluated in this study as a coccidiostatic in rabbits.