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Comparative study of maggots' production in brewery wet grains, dung and rumen content of cattle with or without addition of attractant

Gilbert Comlan ZOUGOU TOVIGNON^{1*}, Abdourhamane Ibrahim TOURE¹, Cédric SIMA OBIANG², Arsène Valery MBOKO¹, Férence Ndzani MATUMUINI¹, Taffarel Juani MEKOSSANGOYE NDOUNGA¹, Kady Divine MOUSSOUNDA GASSAMA¹, Frédéric Christol NGANSOP NONO³, Joseph-Privat ONDO², Louis Clément OBAME ENGONGA², Franck MOUNIOKO⁴, Fernand TENDONKENG⁵, Emile MIEGOUE⁵, Benoit BOUKILA¹ and Etienne PAMO TEDONKENG⁵

¹National Higher Institute of Agronomy and Biotechnology (INSAB), University of Science and Techniques Masuku (USTM), P. O. Box 941, Franceville, Gabon.

²Laboratory of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Science and Techniques Masuku (USTM), P. O. Box 941, Franceville, Gabon.

³Technical School of Agriculture (TSA) Bambili, P. O. Box 15, Bambili (Bamenda), Cameroon.

⁴Laboratory of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Science and Techniques Masuku (USTM), P. O. Box 941, Franceville, Gabon.

⁵Laboratory of Animal Nutrition, Department of Animal Science, FASA, University of Dschang, P. O. Box 222, Dschang, Cameroon.

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The objective of this study was to compare maggots' production in different substrates following an experimental design of six treatments (S1, 1000 g of brewery wet grains - BWG; S2, 900 g of BWG and 100 g of blood; S3, 1000 g of dung; S4, 900 g of dung and 100 g of blood; S5, 1000 g of rumen content; and S6, 900 g of rumen content and 100 g of blood) repeated trice. 121 flies were collected and identified and 5 days after putting in place the experimental set up, larvae were collected. 6 families of flies, namely Calliphoridae (50.41%), Muscidae (18.18%), Sacrophagidae (12.40%), Strationomiydae (8.26%), Piophilidae (5.79%) and Syrphidae (4.96%) were identified. The highest fresh biomass (41.67 \pm 3.51 g) was obtained with S6 and S2 (21.33 \pm 15.63 g). The mean highest length (2.62 \pm 1.01 cm) was obtained with S3. The highest dry matter (DM) (23.89 \pm 2.90%) was obtained with S2 and the lowest DM with S6 (13.56 \pm 2.90%). The lowest values of crude proteins (CP) were obtained in S4 (32.82 \pm 10.05%) and S6 (33.82 \pm 0.18%). Highest fats contents were obtained in S2 (43.93 \pm 1.46%) and S4 (26.99 \pm 1.12%). In short, S2 can be used for maggots' production.

Key words: Identification, flies, production, larvae, insect breeding, bovine blood.

INTRODUCTION

In Africa, high costs of dietary protein sources constitute a real challenge on livestock development (Bouafou, 2000). This situation is largely due to the unavailability of inputs, competition between humans, animals and

industries over basic feed ingredients for livestock (Dronne, 2018). Gabon in particular is not on the sidelines of this observation and FAO (2016) pointed out that this country imports 96% of its needs in animal products and due to the increasing demand, the local livestock sector is facing many challenges to be addressed, among which the limited access to expensive animal feed. So, efforts have been made in order to valorize new and cheap locally and easily accessible protein sources for livestock feed, namely, flours from maggots, cockroaches, termites, grasshoppers, earth worms, etc., in order to boost the animal production sector (Hardouin et al., 2000). Among all these insects, maggots' production is easier and maggots' flour has an interesting nutritive value. Maggots are rich in reserve nutrients such as fats and proteins (47.50 and 52.23%) and potentially in essential amino acids (Bouafou et al., 2007). They can contribute in improving feeding in nonruminants such as fishes, poultry and rodents (Mensah et al., 2002). Nutrient content in maggots depends on the type of substrate used (Sogbessan et al., 2006; Bouafou et al., 2008). All fast decaying organic matters can serve as substrates for fly laying and maggot development (Hardouin et al., 2000). Considering the high cost and the scarcity of protein sources commonly used in livestock feeding and in local markets, it seems that getting the right substrates of maggots' production can contribute in the reduction of animal production costs. The objective of this work was to determine best substrates for maggots' production.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The substrates

The fresh cattle dung was collected at the stable of the National Higher Institute of Agronomy and Biotechnology (INSAB) of the University of Science and Techniques Masuku (USTM), at Franceville in the Haut-Ogooué province. This zone is situated at a latitude of 1°37'59" south, a longitude of 13°35'00"and an altitude of 405 m above the sea level (FDNS, 2004).

The blood and the rumen content from cattle were collected fresh at a slaughter house of the town, and the BWG was also collected from a brewery industry of the same town. The blood is used as attractant meanwhile the BWG, the cattle dung and rumen content were used as basic substrates.

Experimental design

The completely randomized experimental design is made up of six treatments of 1000 g each, repeated 3 times in plastic basins of 86 cm of diameter and 14 cm of height. The substrates' composition according to the treatments is as follows: S_1 , 1000 g of BWG; S_2 , 900 g of BWG + 100 g of blood; S_3 , 1000 g of cattle dung; S_4 , 900 g

of cattle dung + 100 g of blood; S_5 , 1000 g of rumen content; S_6 , 900 g du rumen content + 100 g of blood.

The breeding was conducted in a semi-hard building, isolated, ventilated, and sheltered from bad weather where flies could enter and leave freely. The entire design was placed in two boxes of 3.0 m length \times 2.5 m width (7.5 m²). The boxes were left open during 24 h for colonization (Bouafou et al., 2006). 24 h after putting in place the experimental set up, basins remained open to allow the flies to lay eggs on the substrates, then they were covered using lids (Figure 1). These lids had small aeration holes made with the help of a nail. The daily follow up of the experimentation was done trice (at 8 am, 12 am and 5 pm). The basins were open during the periods for a good aeration of the culture media.

Data collection

Identification of flies

For the identification of different colonizing flies in the substrates, 121 flies were collected with the help of a cage covered with a mosquito net treated with a RAMBO brand insecticide (Figure 2) mixed with Trafluthrin (0.25%) and Permethrin (0.25%) active ingredients. The cage contained plates in which were placed small quantities of substrates (cattle dung, rumen content, BWG) as well as the attractant (bovine blood).

Collection of maggots

Once the flies were trapped in the cage, they were killed by the insecticide, collected and conserved in alcohol at 70°C. Collected flies were identified by observation of morphological characters using an OPTIKA brand binocular loupe at X2 magnification. Harvesting of fly larvae was done 5 days after setting up the treatments. Two harvesting methods were used:

(1) The first method consisted of spreading the substrate on a harvesting device made up of a sieve and a receptacle, both exposed to sunlight. Maggots fleeing the sunlight fall to the bottom of the receptacle and are collected. This method is only for the substrate S_2 (BWG + blood). This substrate is very compact and makes manual sorting difficult.

(2) The second method is the manual sorting. It consists of soaking the substrates in hot water (60°C) in order to kill the maggots. Maggots' mobility makes the collection difficult. Once the substrates are soaked, parts of the killed larvae float in hot water and are then picked up with the help of a strainer, meanwhile the others (dead and alive) are trapped in the substrate. For the maggots' collection, 2 basins, one strainer, a plastic pot for each substrate and a filter were used. Trapped larvae were picked up by removing small quantities of substrates over time. After collection, all the maggots were transferred in 18 labelled pots according to different substrates. To kill the still alive larvae, hot water was introduced into the pots containing them.

Chemical analyses

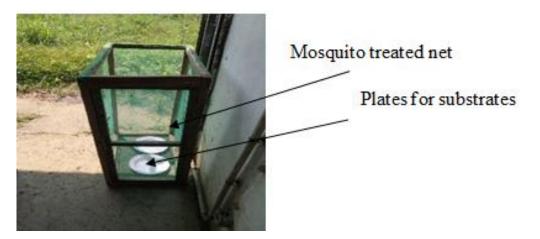
For chemical analyses, dried maggots were ground manually with the help of a bowel and conserved in labelled plastic sachets

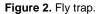
*Corresponding author. E-mail: zougou.g@gmail.com; Tel. (00241) 74 33 67 84.

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Figure 1. Experimental design 24 h after setting up.





(Figure 3). The analyses of flour samples were carried out in the laboratory to determine their chemical characteristics (water content (%); dry matter - DM (%), crude proteins - CP (%); fats content (%)) with two repetitions. The DM content was determined according to the method described by AOAC (1990). The water content was obtained via the determination of the humidity rate = [(fresh weight - dry weight) / fresh weight] × 100. The CP content was obtained using the Bradford method (1976) and the fats content using the extraction method with the help of the Soxhlet design.

Productivity of substrates: Fresh weight and dry weight

In order to determine the biomass of maggots produced, their fresh

and dry weights were recorded according to substrates. After having removed water from pots, larvae are exposed on LOTUS[®] paper (Figure 4) during about 20 min before recording the fresh weight. This paper absorbs the water present on maggots' body. Weighing was done using a digital SARTORIUS[®] brand balance (capacity 500 g and precision 0.1 g).

After recording fresh weight, larvae were dried in an oven at 55°C during 24 h. After cooling, larvae were once weighed with the same balance.

Measurements in larvae

The length of a maggot was determined using 10 fresh maggots



Figure 3. Maggots' flour conditioned in labelled sachets.



Figure 4. Larvae exposed on LOTUS® paper.

randomly selected per substrate. The measurement is done using a ruler labelled in centimeters. A total of 60 maggots were measured for all the substrates.

Statistical analyses

Data on biomass, measurements and chemical composition of maggots were submitted to the analysis of variance at one factor (substrate) following the procedure of the general linear model (GLM proc.) with SPSS 20.0[®] software. In case of significant differences between the treatments, separation of means was done using the Waller Duncan test at 5% significant level (Steel and Torrie, 1980).

RESULTS

Results are related to the identification of colonizing flies

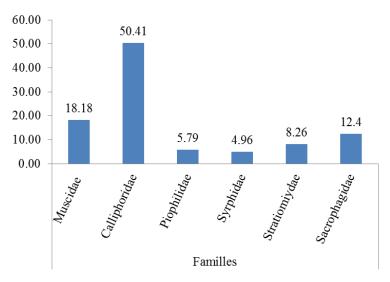


Figure 5. Proportions of identified flies according to families.

 Table 1. Biomass and average measurements of maggots according to substrates.

Demonster		Substrates						
Parameter		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	S ₄	S₅	S ₆	
Number		10	10	10	10	10	10	
Biomass (g)	Fresh (g) Dry (g)		21.33± 15.63 ^b 5.24± 4.81 ^b	13.33± 3.21 ^{ab} 1.91± 1.11 ^{ab}	3.33 ± 1.53^{a} 0.65 ± 0.20^{a}	11.67±6.11 ^{ab} 1.81± 0.48 ^{ab}	41.67± 3.51 [°] 5.67± 0.98 ^b	
Measurements (cm)		1.02± 0.14 ^ª	0.90± 0.16 ^a	2.62± 1.01 ^b	1.52± 0.36 ^a	1.03± 0.20 ^a	1.28± 0.14 ^a	

a, b, c : Means bearing the same letters on the same line are not significantly different (P>0.05). S₁: Simple brewery wet grains (BWG); S₂: BWG + blood; S₃: Simple cattle dung; S₄: Cattle dung + blood; S₅: Rumen content only; S₆: Rumen content + blood.

in substrates, biomass and mean measurements of maggots produced and their chemical composition.

Identification colonizing flies in substrates

The proportions of identified fly families are presented in Figure 5. This shows that the most represented family is Calliphoridae (50.41%) followed by Muscidae (18.18%). Less represented families are Piophilidae (5.79%) and Syrphidae (4.96%).

Biomass and average measurements of maggots produced

The biomass distribution in fresh and dry maggots as well as the respective mean length according to substrates is shown in Table 1. It reveals that the maggots from the substrate S_6 had the highest fresh matter content (41.67 ± 3.51 g) followed by maggots from the substrate S_2 (21.33 ± 15.63 g). There is no significant difference

(p>0.05) for the values presented by the substrates S_1 and S_4 (3.33 ± 2.52^a versus 3.33 ± 1.53^a, p>0.05) and between the substrates S_3 and S_5 (13.33 ± 3.21^{ab} versus 11.67 \pm 6.11^{ab} p>0.05). The same observation was made for the dried larvae whose weights are higher in the substrates S₂ and S₆ which are comparable, the couple of substrates S_3 and S_5 , same for S_1 and S_4 . So, except in S_3 (only cattle dung), the addition of blood caused an increase in fresh biomass from the substrates S_2 and S_6 , respectively BWG + blood and the rumen content + blood. The growth in length of maggots has been more pronounced in the substrate S₃ compared to the maggots from the other substrates. The difference could be due to the quality of substrates: addition of blood could lead to the reduction in maggots' length against the substrate containing only dung.

Chemical composition of maggots' flour

The Table 2 presents the chemical composition of maggots' flour according to different substrates. Maggots

Parameter	Substrates								
	S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	S ₄	S₅	S ₆			
Water (%)	82.25±3.73 ^{ab}	76.11±6.66 ^a	86.38±4.44 ^b	79.30±4.50 ^{ab}	82.08±7.15 ^{ab}	86.44±12.77 ^b			
DM (%)	17.76±2.90 ^{ab}	23.89±2.90 ^b	13.62±2.90 ^a	20.70±2.90 ^{ab}	17.92±2.90 ^b	13.56±2.90 ^a			
CP (%)	53.81±0.96 ^b	55.09±2.25 ^{bc}	62.20±1.52 ^c	32.82±10.05 ^a	56.45±1.16 ^{bc}	33.82±0.18 ^a			

Table 2. Chemical composition of maggots' flour according to different substrates.

a, b, c, d, e, f: Means bearing the same letters on the same line are not significantly different (P>0.05). S₁: BWG only; S₂: BWG + blood; S₃: Cattle dung only; S₄: Cattle dung + blood; S₅: Rumen content only; S₆: Rumen content + blood.

from the substrate S₆ had the highest water content $(86.44 \pm 12.77\%)$ while the lowest water content (76.11 ± 6.66%) was observed in the substrate S2. The addition of blood had no effect on the water content of maggots in all the substrates. The opposite trend is observed in terms of DM content, and inversely revealed that the substrate S₂ has the highest DM content (23.89 ± 2.90%), meanwhile the lowest DM content is from the substrate S_6 (13.56 ± 2.90%). These results showed that the addition of blood in the substrate made up of rumen content caused a decrease in DM content of maggots' flour. The CP substrates ranked content in is as follows: $S_5 > S_2 > S_1 > S_6 > S_4$. It can be concluded that the addition of blood in substrates (dung and rumen content) caused a decrease in CP content of maggots' flour. Concerning fats, the highest content was obtained with maggots' flour from the substrate S_2 (43.93 ± 1.46%) and the lowest content was obtained in the substrate S_6 (14.02 ± 0.51%). This means that in substrates made up of BWG and dung, the addition of blood led to an increase in lipid content unlike the level of substrate which basically constituted rumen content.

DISCUSSION

The most represented fly family was Calliphoridae with 50.41% of identified individuals. The same observation was made by Bouafou et al. (2006) during a study on fly inventory carried out on different by-products. The marked presence of this family could be justified by its large size, its social and cosmopolitan character. In fact, according to Byrd and Castner (2010), this family contains more than 1000 species and the members can be found worldwide; in addition, Calliphoridae like flying in groups and when a fly detects an excrement to lay on, it sends out pheromones to prevent the others (Claude and Daniel, 2013). Then, they arrive massively and firstly colonize the medium. Muscidae is the second most represented family (18.18%). The site chosen for this study and the great height of these species could justify that position. In fact, according to Byrd and Castner (2010), Muscidae are the flies belonging to a large synanthropic family, having a cosmopolitan distribution with more than 4000 species in the world. Both Piophilidae (5.79%) and Syrphidae (4.96%) are less represented. The height of Piophilidae as well as their uneven distribution in the world could justify this low rate. In fact, according to Byrd and Castner (2010), Piophilidae represents a small family with 69 species found in the world. As the family Syrphidae is concerned, the scarcity of flowers on the study site could justify their low abundance; in fact, the adults from this family live on flowers (Dussaix, 2009).

The addition of blood has caused an increase in fresh biomass from the substrates S₂ and S₆. These results are in the same line with those of Tendonkeng et al. (2017) who showed that the addition of 10% of fresh bovine blood in rumen content, in swine dung and in the mixture of both improves on the biomass of maggots produced. These authors obtained a fresh biomass of 66.10 g in the rumen content + blood versus 31.30 g in simple rumen content, 189.00 g in swine dung + blood versus 89.40 g in simple swine dung and 128.00 g in the mixture of both (rumen content + swine dung) + blood versus 58.50 g in the mixture of both (rumen content + swine dung) without blood. The fresh biomass obtained with the maggots from substrate S_6 (41.67 ± 3.51 g) is higher than that of Ndadi (2010), obtained with bovine rumen content (10.05 g) and of Keyi (2014) with simple fowl droppings; but close to that obtained by this last author $(47.00 \pm 5.4 \text{ g})$ with fowl droppings + blood. This difference could be explained by the type of substrates used (Ekoue and Hadzi, 2000; Bouafou, 2007). On the other hand, the substrate S_4 revealed less productive $(3.33 \pm 1.53 \text{ g})$; this low biomass obtained could be explained by the fact that, cattle dung being already attractive, addition of blood could have led to an increase in the number of flies on the substrate, hence, increasing the number of eggs laid and the number of maggots, hence limiting the nutrient content; so, many larvae die and the resistant ones do not develop well due to insufficient nutriments in the substrates. The addition of blood attracts not only flies but also improves on the nutritional value of the rumen content and the brewery wet grains, favoring the proper development of larvae.

The attractiveness of substrates and the nutrient availability could equally justify the results on measurements. It appears that the greatest length (2.62 \pm 1.01 cm) was obtained with maggots from the substrate S₃.

The cattle dung being attractive, the quantity of eggs laid and the number of hatched eggs, proportional to the nutrient availability in the substrate could justify the good development of larvae. The mean lowest length (0.90 ± 0.16 cm) was recorded with the substrate S₂; this value is comparable to the norm indicated by Hardouin et al. (2000), Hardouin and Mahoux (2003), Bouafou et al. (2006), and Keyi (2014). According to these authors, larvae can measure averagely 1 cm (a length comprised between 0.4 and 1.5 cm according to their age in days). The greatest length $(2.62 \pm 1.01 \text{ cm})$ was recorded with the substrate S_3 ; this value is higher than that obtained by Tendonkeng et al. (2017) (1.22 cm); this difference could be explained by the good nutritional value in cattle dung and that consequently permits the increase in height of maggots over time (Ekoue and Hadzi, 2000; Bouafou et al., 2006).

The highest humidity rate (86.44 ± 12.77%) from maggots in the substrate S_6 was comparable (p > 0.05) to those from maggots in substrates S_5 (82.08 ± 7.15%), S_4 $(79.30 \pm 4.50\%)$, S₃ (86.38 ± 4.44%) and S₁ (82.25 ± (p > 0.05) that were also comparable (p > 0.05) to the lowest rate obtained with maggots from the substrate S_2 $(76.11 \pm 6.66\%)$. Generally, these values were lower than that recorded by Bouafou et al. (2007) (92.51%); this difference could be explained by the quantity of water present in these substrates. In another hand, this value of 86.44 \pm 12.77%, obtained with maggots from S₆, was close to that obtained by Keyi (2014) who recorded a water content of 87.47 ± 4.49% with maggots from the substrate constituting swine dung + blood. The highest DM (23.89 ± 2.90%) was obtained with maggots' flour from the substrate S_2 and the lowest DM (13.56 ± 2.90%) with flour of maggots from the substrate S_6 . It appears from all these values that the DM content is inversely proportional to the humidity rate.

The highest CP content (62.20 ± 1.52%) was obtained with maggots' flour from the substrate S₃; it was comparable (p > 0.05) to those in the maggots' flours from substrates S_2 (55.09 ± 2.25%) and S_5 (56.45 ± 1.16%); these values are superior to those found by Sogbessan et al. (2006), Bouafou et al. (2007) and Bouafou et al. (2008), respectively comprised between and 54.00% and 52.23 and 50.17% but 47.50 comparable to those recorded by Tendonkeng et al. (2017) and Keyi (2014), respectively 53.10 and 57.14%. Fats contents of maggots' flour were significantly different (p < 0.05) in all the substrates. The lowest value (14.02 ± 0.51%) was recorded with the maggots' flour from S_6 . This value is inferior to those obtained by Sogbessan et al. (2006), Bouafou et al. (2007) and Bouafou et al. (2008), respectively 19.30, 24.43, and 35.41%. As far as CP and fats contents are concerned, the difference at the level of the results could be justified not only by the nutrient content in different substrates but also by the developmental stage of the larvae. In fact, Ekoue and Hadzi (2000) and Bouafou et al. (2007) outlined that the chemical composition of maggots' flour may depend on

the developmental stage of the larvae. So, the most interesting stage is the maggot but the closest stage prior to its transformation into pupa so as to have all the nutritive elements (protides, lipids and minerals) (Hardouin et al., 2000).

Conclusion

At the end of this study, six families of flies namely, Calliphoridae, Muscidae, Sacrophagidae, Stratiomiydae, Piophillidae and Syrphidae were identified. The most represented family was Calliphoridae. The addition of blood has influenced the biomass, the average length and the chemical composition of maggots' flour.

Based on these results obtained, the substrate S_2 consist of brewery wet grains associated with blood which can be used to produce maggots for the non-ruminants' diets.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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