

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Supplementation of Amla Powder on Biochemical Parameters in Summer Stressed Murrah Buffaloes

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### ABSTRACT

The effect of amla powder supplementation was investigated on biochemical parameters in summer stressed buffaloes. The study was carried out with 24 apparently healthy Murrah buffaloes during pre-summer and summer seasons. The results revealed that the plasma glucose, creatinine, urea and bilirubin were significantly higher in Summer Control group (Group II) as compared to Pre-Summer group (Group I), clearly confirming the adverse effect of summer stress and on supplementation with antioxidant (vitamin C in the form of amla powder) to Summer Treatment group (Group III) buffaloes, there was decrease in plasma glucose, creatinine, urea and bilirubin. Plasma Protein and plasma cholesterol were found to be significantly lower in summer control group (Group II) as compared to pre-summer group (Group I) and there was increase in Plasma Protein and plasma cholesterol in Group III (summer treatment group) as compared to Group II (summer control group) on supplementation with antioxidant (vitamin C in the form of amla powder). Biochemical parameters showed negative and significant correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) with Temperature Humidity Index (THI) except cholesterol and urea. Thus, it can be concluded that amla powder supplemented to heat stress buffaloes can be useful in order to maintain biochemical parameters.

#### Keywords

Amla,  
Antioxidant status,  
Biochemical  
parameters.

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### Introduction

Buffalo is well suited to tropical regions; it exhibits signs of distress when exposed to hot and humid weather conditions. In terms of Temperature Humidity Index (THI), the value  $>68.5$  is considered as stressful and  $>83.5$  is considered very severe heat stress to buffaloes. This is due to the fact that buffalo's body absorbs a great deal of solar radiation because of its dark skin, sparse hair coat and less efficient evaporative cooling system (Das *et al.*, 1999). Exposure of buffaloes to the hot conditions evokes a series of drastic changes in biological functions (Marai and Habeeb, 2010). Heat stress occurs in an animal when

there is an imbalance between heat production within the body and its dissipation. Stress is the state manifested by a specific syndrome, which consists of all the non-specifically induced changes within a biological system. Both external and internal stressors cause pronounced behavioral, physiological and hematological alterations in tropical livestock. Environmental stress has a profound effect on some biochemical parameters (Marai and Habeeb, 2010).

Recently, use of antioxidant supplementation in order to enhance the endogenous

antioxidant capacity of animal has been of interest in various species. Vitamin C is a classic example of antioxidants and its supplementation has been found to ameliorate the heat stress in goats (Kumar 2009), cows (Ul-Haq *et al.*, 2013) and buffaloes (Sunilkumar *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, use of amla powder as an antioxidant can be of practical importance to ameliorate the adverse effect of heat stress in buffaloes. No work seems to have been done on such beneficial effects of amla powder supplementation in buffaloes. Therefore, the present study was planned.

### **Materials and Methods**

The study was conducted on 24 apparently healthy adult female Murrah buffaloes maintained under standard management conditions during pre-summer (March-April; Mean THI=68.5) and summer (June –August; Mean THI=83.5) seasons. The animals were divided into three groups of 8 each viz. Pre-Summer group (group I): No supplementation; Summer Control Group (Group II): No supplementation; Summer Treatment Group (Group III): Supplemented with amla powder @ 200 mg/Kg body wt. / day for 30 days. The biochemical parameters viz., Plasma glucose level was estimated by standard technique using Siemens Autopak kits on RA50 chemistry analyser by glucose oxidase / per oxidases method as described by Trinder (1969).

Total protein level in plasma was estimated by using Siemens Autopak kits on RA50 chemistry analyser by Biuret method (Henry *et al.*, 1974). Plasma cholesterol estimation was done by enzymatic method using Siemens Autopak kits on RA50 chemistry analyser by CHOD/PAP method described by Allain *et al.*, (1974). Plasma creatinine was estimated by Picrate method using Siemens Autopak kits on RA50 chemistry analyser as

described by Henry *et al.*, (1974). Total bilirubin in plasma was analysed by kinetic method using Siemens Autopak kits on RA50 chemistry analyser. Plasma urea was estimated by kinetic method using Siemens Autopak kits on fully automatic biochemistry analyser.

The data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) for comparison of means among different groups, and group-differences were detected by the Fisher's least-significant-difference test. All analyses were performed with the statistics package SYSTAT VERSION 6.0.1 Copyright (c) 1996, SPSS INC.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Plasma Glucose**

Studies revealed that mean plasma glucose concentration was found to be higher in summer stressed buffaloes (Group II) as compared to pre summer group (Group I) probably due to the greater catabolic effect of corticosterone, and increased gluconeogenesis yielding more of glucose (Sahin *et al.*, 2003). The higher glucose level in heat stress buffaloes is in agreement with the studies conducted by Singh *et al.*, (2008) in ewes, Chaiyabuter *et al.*, (1987) in buffaloes and by Marai *et al.*, (1992) in mature Ossimi ewes.

Plasma glucose concentration in treatment group buffaloes (Group III) supplemented with amla powder was significantly ( $P<0.05$ ) lowered as compared to Group II (summer control group). The decrease in the glucose concentration in Group III may be due to the effect of antioxidant activity on the insulin and corticosterone levels, as ascorbic acid supplementation increases insulin concentration and decreases corticosterone level (Sahin *et al.*, 2003). Significantly decreased plasma glucose level ( $P<0.05$ ) in

Group III indicates the positive effectiveness of amla powder supplementation on reverting the adverse effect caused by heat stress. Similar findings on effect of amla powder have been reported by Ul-Haq *et al.*, (2013) on crossbred cattle.

No significant difference in the mean levels of plasma glucose concentration was observed between Group I and Group III suggesting that amla supplementation @ 200 mg/kg body weight was sufficient to bring the plasma glucose level back to normal pre summer levels justifying the positive effect of supplementation of amla powder in relieving the effects of heat stress in buffaloes.

### Plasma Total protein

Mean plasma total protein concentration was lower in Group II as compared to Group I. The significant decline in plasma total protein

with rising temperature seems to be due to decrease of protein synthesis as a result of depression of anabolic hormonal secretion (El-Masry and Habeeb, 1989). Similar findings were reported by Yousef (1985) and Ronchi *et al.*, (1995) in Egyptian buffalo calves and Friesian heifers respectively and Verma *et al.*, (2000) in lactating Murrah buffaloes. Das *et al.*, (2013) reported that plasma protein in Nili-Ravi lactating buffaloes was slightly lower during hot humid season indicating a decline in total protein with increase in environmental stress.

### Plasma cholesterol

Result revealed lowered level of cholesterol in Group II to as compared Group I. Similar decrease in plasma cholesterol level with heat stress has been reported by Gudev *et al.*, (2007) during summer season.

**Table.1** Biochemical parameters in summer stressed buffaloes supplemented with amla powder

Groups	Biochemical Parameters					
	Plasma glucose (mg/dl)	Plasma protein (g%)	Plasma cholesterol (mg/dl)	Plasma creatinine (mg/dl)	Plasma urea (mg/dl)	Plasma bilirubin (mg/dl)
I Pre-Summer group	52.78±2.76 <sup>a</sup>	6.90±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	137.39±6.19 <sup>a</sup>	1.02±.09	32.39±0.89 <sup>a</sup>	0.64±0.32 <sup>a</sup>
II Summer Control Group	75.00±4.05 <sup>b</sup>	5.07±0.28 <sup>b</sup>	129.78±5.52 <sup>b</sup>	1.23±0.10	37.11±1.38 <sup>b</sup>	0.72±0.23 <sup>b</sup>
III Summer Treatment Group: (supplemented with amla powder @ 200 mg/Kg body wt. /day	51.11±2.96 <sup>a</sup>	6.51±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	133.06±3.31 <sup>a</sup>	1.24±0.12	30.61±1.00 <sup>a</sup>	0.65±0.22 <sup>a</sup>

Means bearing different superscripts (a, b, c) differ significantly (P<0.05) within the columns

**Table.2** Correlation of Temperature Humidity Index (THI) with Biochemical parameters in summer stressed buffaloes supplemented with amla powder

Parameters	THI	Plasma glucose	Plasma protein	Plasma cholesterol	Plasma creatinine	Plasma urea	Plasma bilirubin
THI	1.000						
Plasma glucose	-0.442**	1.000					
Plasma protein	-0.398**	0.152	1.000				
Plasma cholesterol	-0.103	-0.025	-0.217	1.000			
Plasma creatinine	-0.474**	-0.265	-0.192	-0.183	1.000		
Plasma urea	-0.155	0.138	0.193	0.254	-0.125	1.000	
Plasma bilirubin	<b>-0.467**</b>	0.134	0.162	-0.135	-0.487**	0.154	1.000

Das *et al.*, (2013) reported negative impact of summer stress on plasma cholesterol. As observed that an increase in mean plasma cholesterol concentration with supplementation of amla powder indicates a positive effect of amla. Similar finding were reported by Kumar *et al.*, (2010) and Randhawa (2013) in goats.

### Total bilirubin

Bilirubin is an endogenous compound and is the ultimate breakdown product of haemoglobin. Total bilirubin concentration (mg/dl) was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher in Group-II as compared to pre summer group indicating the adverse effects of summer heat stress on buffaloes. Similar findings have been reported by Cincovic *et al.*, (2011) in Holstein cows. With supplementation of amla, the bilirubin level was restored close to pre-summer values.

### Creatinine and Urea

There was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in plasma creatinine and urea concentrations during summer as compared to pre summer

season. Under heat stress conditions, there is more reabsorption of urea-N from the blood to the rumen in order to compensate for the decrease in rumen ammonia – N as a result of decrease in feed intake and digestible nitrogen consumption, which could lead to increase in blood urea nitrogen (BUN) associated with heat stress (Yousef, 1985). Habeeb *et al.*, (2007) reported a significant increase in creatinine concentration under heat stress conditions in Egyptian buffaloes. Gudev *et al.*, (2007) reported that plasma urea level tended to be higher ( $P > 0.05$ ) when the heat load was the highest could be due to the negative effect of the elevated core temperature on rumen micro-flora activity. On supplementation of amla powder, there was significant decrease in plasma urea level in Group III. However no significant change in plasma level of creatinine was observed.

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