Proximate Composition and Mineral Contents of Major Muscles in Camel Carcasses

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to determine the chemical composition and mineral contents of major camel muscles. Twelve muscles [*semitendinosus , triceps brachii, recuts femoris, biceps femoris, triceps brachii LH, infraspinatus, gluteus medius, semimembranosus, supraspinatus , psoas major, longissimus lumborum, longissimus thoracis*] were removed from eight young male Najdi camels with similar background and weights (average carcass weight 120 kg). Samples were chilled (2 °C) for 24 h, trimmed all external fat and ground to homogenous. Moisture, crude protein, fat, ash and minerals (Fe, Mn, Ca, K, Na, and Zn) were determined. Significant ($P < 0.05$) differences were found among major camel muscles in moisture percentage with highest in *triceps brachii,* and *recuts femoris* and lowest in *longissimus lumborum,* and *longissimus thoracis*. Fat content ranged between 0.56 to 2.33 % in all camel muscles with the highest in *longissimus lumborum*, and *longissimus thoracis* and the lowest in *Recuts brachii* and *Triceps brachii.* Protein percentages of camel muscles ranged between 19.48 - 20.54% and have no significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among all muscles have been studied. Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found in ash content with a range between 1.05 - 1.43%. There were significant differences in all minerals that have been studied with highest element in potassium among all minerals followed by sodium, calcium and zinc. *Psoas major, Longissimus thoracis* and *Longissimus lumborum* muscles were among the lowest mineral contents in all camel muscles under investigation.

Key words: camel, carcass, muscles, proximate composition, mineral contents.