

Proximate Composition and Fatty Acids and Cholesterol Content of Dhub's Meat (*Uromastys aegyptius* Blanford 1874) at the End of Winter and During Spring

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Abstract. The chemical composition and fatty acids and cholesterol content of dhub's meat at the end of winter and during spring were studied. Percentage of dry matter of meat decreased in spring as compared to winter. Percentage of fat (on dry basis) was low in both seasons and there were no significant differences between them for the male. Average fat content (12.02) was lower than that reported for camel, cattle, lamb and chicken breast. Average protein (on dry basis) was 82.64%; however, no significant difference was found between seasons for sex except for the tail meat of the female. Percentage of ash (on dry basis) was the highest for dhub's meat after lamb and averaged 5.35%. Cholesterol content in dhub's fat was more than twice the cholesterol content of camel, lamb and cattle fats. Cholesterol content was 531.85 and 561.45 mg/100g fat in the leg and dorsal in winter for male and female, respectively, while it was 399.53 and 439.38 mg/100g fat in spring season. The cholesterol content of the tail closely resembled the leg and dorsal. Despite the high cholesterol content of dhub, it had low saturated fatty acids with average of 37.74% and 33% for winter and spring, respectively. Palmitic acid and Archidic acid were the highest in winter and spring, respectively. However, oleic acid was the highest in both seasons. Linoleic acid averaged more than 7% in both seasons and that equals to more than three times its percent in cattle's and lamb's meat.

Potassium and sodium contents increased significantly in spring as compared to winter. Calcium also increased in tail while copper increased in leg and dorsal for male and female in spring. Iron content decreased in spring for male. However, zinc had no significant differences between the two seasons.