

Performance, growth and carcass characteristics of alternatives lineages of broiler chickens created with access to paddock

Desempenho, crescimento e características de carcaça de linhagens alternativas de frangos de corte criados com acesso a piquete

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SUMMARY

The aim of this study was to evaluate the performance of alternative lineages of broiler chickens created with access to paddock. Were used 312 one day broiler chickens, house data density of 6.4birds/m² in the internal area and 2m²/animal in the pasture area. The treatments consisted of each lineage used in the experiment: *Redbro Cou Nu*, *Gris Barré Cou Nu*, *Master Gris Cou Plume* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume*. The statistical design was completely randomized with four treatments and six repetitions. For study the growth, the Gompertz equation showed a better adjustment compared with others. The lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume* got the greatest asymptotic weight, absolute growth rate and lowest viability, higher average weight and weight gain when compared to lineage *Gris Barré Cou Nu*. Even with the differences in zoo technical performance among the lineages studied, not the significance of differences between means indicates there is a ratio of body weight after fasting and weight of the eviscerated carcass. Showed higher carcass weight, chest, thigh + drumstick, wing and back in the lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume*, compared to *Gris Barré Cou Nu* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume*. The lineages *Redbro Cou Nu* and *Master Gris Cou Plume* had similar performance, but the *Redbro Cou Nu*, showed growth characteristics more suitable to alternative creations with access to paddock area.

Keywords: animal growth rate, french redneck chicken, poultry farming family

RESUMO

Objetivou-se com este estudo avaliar o desempenho de linhagens alternativas de frangos de corte, criados em sistema com acesso a piquete. Foram utilizados 312 pintos de corte de um dia de idade, alojados com uma densidade de 6,4 aves/m² na área interna e 2 m²/animal na área de pastejo. Os tratamentos adotados corresponderam a cada linhagem: *Redbro Cou Nu*, *Gris Barré Cou Nu*, *Master Gris Cou Plumé* e *Gris Barré Cou Plumé*. O delineamento estatístico adotado foi inteiramente casualizado, com quatro tratamentos e seis repetições. Para o estudo do crescimento a equação de Gompertz apresentou melhor ajuste, quando comparadas às demais. A linhagem *Master Gris Cou Plumé* obteve maior peso assintótico, taxa de crescimento absoluto máximo e menor viabilidade, maiores valores de peso médio e ganho de peso, quando comparada à linhagem *Gris Barré Cou Nu*. Mesmo com as diferenças de desempenho zootécnico entre as linhagens estudadas, não a diferenças significativas entre médias de peso do corpo após o jejum e peso das carcaças evisceradas. Foram observados maiores pesos de carcaça, peito, coxa+sobrecoxa, dorso e asa para a linhagem *Master Gris Cou Plumé*, quando comparado a *Gris Barré Cou Nu* e *Gris Barré Cou Plumé*. As linhagens *Redbro Cou Nu* e *Master Gris Cou Plumé* apresentaram desempenho similar, no entanto a aves da linhagem *Redbro Cou Nu* demonstraram características de crescimento mais adequadas a criações alternativas, com acesso a área de piquete.

Palavras chave: avicultura familiar, frango caipira francês, taxa de crescimento animal

INTRODUCTION

The expansion of intensive system of production of broiler chickens, together with the increased number of birds per square meter, provides an optimization of production by area. In contrast, this system of total confinement creates an environment unfavorable to the welfare of the birds that can promote a fall in production indices (HEMISTTER FILHO, 2003).

The environment of the creation system has a direct influence on the condition of comfort and animal welfare. These factors have prompted a search for new products and production technologies that respect the conditions of welfare (NAZARETH et al., 2009). In this context have grown alternative farming systems, which can be defined as production totally extensive, free food, "free-range" or semi-intensive, Label Rouge and even organic production. Each of these provides unique constraints and specific production methods (NARINC et al., 2010). Especially in Brazil exist for a significant share of consumers who have a preference for consuming the denominated "Redneck Chicken or Colonial Chicken" (BRAZIL, 1999).

To achieve profitability in this segment of the poultry industry, research in genetics has been conducted with the aim of develop birds more adapted to improve the rates of productive alternatives creations (FARMER et al., 1997, LEWIS et al., 1997; BOELLING et al, 2003). Several companies have setup in Brazilian order to provide genetic material of slow growth. However, few studies have focused on the growth performance of these lineages, as well as the adaptation of these in different Brazilian biomes.

The scientific community has had little interest to the challenges and opportunities of family farming. The high flexibility to adapt to different production processes and the variety of sources of income become a fundamental element of family farming and agricultural modernization, particularly of certain agro-industrial chains (GOMES, 2004). The broiler production in the system that have access to paddocks is employed, mostly by family farmers due to low cost, and Amazon is certainly one of the regions where this activity is manifested more clearly. (GALVÃO et al., 2005). Because it is aimed at evaluating the performance different strains of broilers raised with access to the paddock.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Were used 312 broiler chicks a day, unsexed, from a commercial incubatory, vaccinated against Marek's disease, Gumboro and Bouba Avian, housed at a density of 6.4birds/m² in the internal area and 2m²/animal grazing area, created in semi-intensive system. The statistical design was completely randomized with four treatments and six replications and the experimental unit covers 13birds, totaling 78birds for each treatment.

The standard treatment corresponded to each lineage: 1- *Redbro Cou Nu* (lineage with red feathers and naked neck); 2- *Gris Barré Cou Nu* (lineage with pigmented feathers of black and white and naked neck); 3- *Master Gris Cou Plume* (lineage with dominance of white feathers rarely alternating with black feathers and feather neck); and 4- *Gris Barré Couplume* (lineage with pigmented feathers of black and white and feathered neck).

The experimental aviary used, had 20m of length and 10m of wide, ceiling of 3.5m, covered with fiber cement shingle, consisting of 24 experimental units, each containing two parts, one internal and one external. The internal was composed of a tubular feeder, semiautomatic, with a capacity of 15 kilos, and a pressure type water cooler with a capacity of 5 liters. The external area was surrounded and had a diverse vegetation composition, predominantly *Brachiaria brizantha* and *Brachiaria humidicola* previously planted, chosen for their occurrence in abundance in the region.

Before the arrival of animals, installations and equipment were cleaned, removing, initially the organic matter, cleaning and application

of commercial disinfectant quaternary ammonium compound. After drying, the sawdust was distributed evenly with about five centimeters of tall. The equipments were distributed in the aviary.

In the beginning of experimental phase the broiler chicken with one day old, were individually weighed and classified according to their weight. Later, the experimental plots were distributed to form homogeneous groups. The experimental units had an average of chickens weight was 38.43 grams \pm 1.8 grams. For heating the

animals were installed in an experimental phase electric lamps of 120 watts with almost 30cm of high, being connected in the first seven days, according to the temperature inside the shed and with the behavior of the animals.

From the first to the seventh day of age were administered through the water, a multivitamin supplement, in the dosage recommended in the package leaflet. At seven days of age the birds were vaccinated against Newcastle disease, Cepa La Sota, by water, as recommended by the agency health protection in the region.

The feeding of the animals was performed ad libitum, and the feed program divided in to two phases: the initial phase was 1 to 28 days, and the fattening phase of 28 to 84 days. At 21 days of age, the doors were opened access to pasture every day, from 8:00 to 16:00 hours. The formulations of these diets as well as the chemical composition calculated are shown in Table 1. The diets were formulated based on ingredients such as corn, soybean meal, meat and bone meal, soybean oil, salt and limestone. The vitamin and mineral supplement was used to broiler chicken, according to the phase of the feeding program.

Table 1. Composition of the diet of broilers

Calculated composition	Initial phase (1 -28 days)	Fattening phase (29 -84 days)
EM-Bird Kcal/ kg	3,100	3,200
Crude proteing/ kg	220.00	200.00
Gross fiberg/ kg	35.20	32.70
Mineral matterg/ kg	53.10	50.80
Lysineg /kg	12.20	10.80
Calciumg /kg	10.00	10.00
Total phosphorusg/ kg	6.80	6.60
Available phosphorusg/ kg	4.80	4.80
Sodiumg /kg	1.70	1.70

At 84 days of age two birds each were selected from the average of chicken's weight of the treatment and put under fasting for 12 hours. Was performed the conventional slaughter (stunning, bleeding, plucking and evisceration), and then make up the cuts following the standard procedures of the slaughterhouse.

$$y = Ae^{Bt(-kt)} + \varepsilon, \text{ and Logistics, } y = A(1 - e^{-kt})^{-m} + \varepsilon,$$

where y is the weight at age t , A , asymptotic weight when tends to infinity over, that is, this parameter is interpreted as weight in adult age, B , an integration constant related to the initial weight of the animal and without a well-defined biological interpretation. The value of B is determined by initial values of Y et, K is interpreted as

$$TC = Pm.B \left(\text{Exp} \left(-\text{Exp}(-b(Tt*)) \right) \right) \cdot (\text{Exp}(-b.(tt *))).$$

The parameters for the models were estimated by Gauss Newton modified by the NLIN procedure of SAS (SAS Institute, 1999).

Data about zoo technical performance evaluated were the average weight (kg), feed consumption (kg/bird), weight gain (grams/bird/day), feed conversion (grams/ grams) and viability (%) of the birds. The hot carcass weight (kg) was measured immediately after slaughter and carcass yield (%) calculated the relationship between hot carcass weight eviscerated and weight fasting. The commercial cuts (kg) were breast, drumstick + thigh, back, wing.

The analysis of variance of the evaluated parameters was realized with the aid of statistical analysis program Minitab 14, and compare of means were made using the Tukey test with $\alpha=0.05$.

For determination of growth curves was used the same methodology of Oliveira et al. (2000), where were used three nonlinear models to see which best described the average growth curve, as follows: Von Bertalanffy,

$$y = A(1 - Be^{-kt})^3 + \varepsilon; \text{ Gompertz,}$$

maturation rate, which must be understood as the change in weight relative to the weight at maturity, or as an indicator of the speed with which the animal is approaching of its adult size.

Growth rates (g /day) were calculated by the derivative of the Gompertz equation:

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The estimates of the equations of growth curves showed higher settings with determination coefficients above 0.93 (Table 2), with the Gompertz equation showed a better adjustment, when compared to others.

The results are similar to studies conducted by Goliomytis et al. (2003) and Norris et al. (2007) who found good adjustment for the growth of lineages to equations of Gompertz, Logistic and Von Bertalanffy still while the analyzes performed by the models Richards and Brody have not converged. The parameters of the growth curve and the growth rate of broilers lineages studied, are presented in Table 3. *Master Gris Cou Plumegot* greater asymptotic weight and maximum absolute growth rate (AGR maximum), followed of

lineages *Redbro Cou Nu*, *Gris Barré Couplume* and *Gris Barré Cou Nu*. All lines showed high determination coefficient. The inflection point of the growth rate was lower in *Master Gris*

Cou Plume lineage compared to other lineages, and the lineage *Gris Barré Cou Plume* got the biggest inflection point. The *Redbro Cou Nu* lineage showed the greater weight in inflection.

Table 2. Parameters of growth of broilers raised with access to the paddock curve, according to the models of Gompertz, Logistic and Von Bertalanffy

Parameter	Models		
	Gompertz	Logístico	Van Bertalanffy
A – Asymptotic Weight (Kg)	3.53	2.69	4.61
B – Interaction Constant	4.723	31.640	0.088
K – Maturity Rate	0.0302	0.0655	0.0182
r ² - Coefficient of determination	0.94	0.93	0.93

Table 3. Parameters of growth and rate of growth of strains of chickens raised created with access to the paddock set the Gompertz curve model

Parameter	Lineages			
	<i>Redbro Cou Nu</i>	<i>Gris Barré Cou Nu</i>	<i>Master Gris Cou Plume</i>	<i>Gris Barré Cou Plume</i>
A – Asymptotic weight (Kg)	3.694	3.277	3.7229	3.5918
B - Interaction constant	4.663	4.426	5.1079	4.7453
K - Rate maturity	0.030	0.028	0.0345	0.0267
R ² - Coefficient of determination	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97
Weightat inflection	1.448	1.205	1.369	1.321
Inflection point	33.01	35.46	28.98	37.45
Maximum TCA	0.041	0.034	0.047	0.035

*TCA-maximum absolute growth rate.

Gompertz to body weight, indicate greater mature weights in lineages of rapid growth when compared to slow-growing lineages. The differences in the parameters of the Gompertz equation suggested that the studied lineages have different growth potential, where the lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume* grew faster, followed by the *Redbro Cou Nu*, and even strains *Gris Barré Cou Nu* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume* present growth curve similar.

In the literature, there were no reports of the growth of these lineages studied, however observed birds lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume* are earlier indicating

that this lineage is not suitable for alternate farming systems(with access to the paddock), where there is a need late animals. According to Blagojević et al. (2009), when the estimated parameters of the Gompertz equation, found greater weight maturity Sasso lineage when compared to birds the ISA Label.

The growth curves and growth rates of the lines studied are presented in Figure 1 and 2. The lineages studied presented curve overlapped up to 21 days old, 28 days for *Master Gris Cou Plume* line and 35 for *Redbro Cou Nu* line. The curves were more upside when

compared to lineage *Gris Barré Cou Nu* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume*, however, they showed overlapping curves throughout the period analyzed. Santos et al. (2005) reported that birds intended for production alternative, must be slaughtered with at least 85

days old, and the use of lines with greater growth potential must be accompanied by management practices such as dietary restriction, which modify the growth curve of these birds so that they achieve market weight at age stipulated.

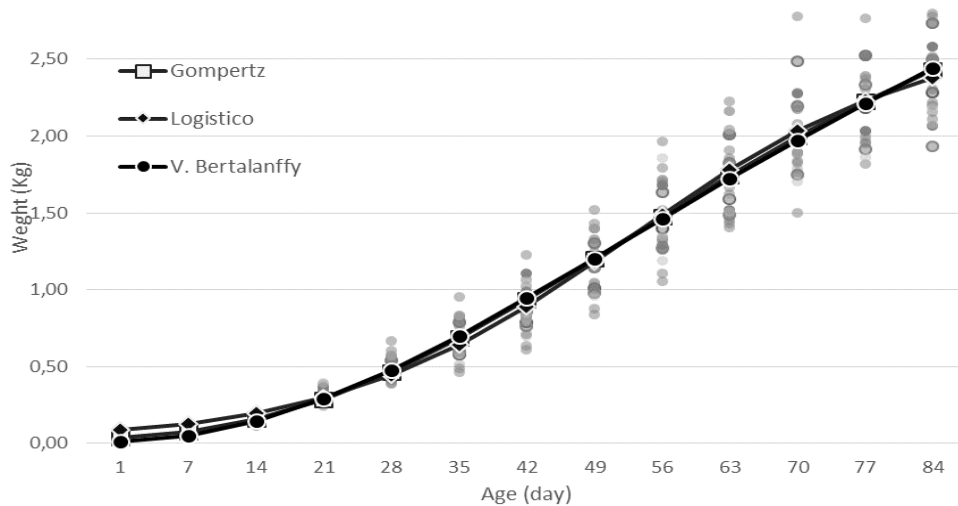


Figure 1. Growth curve of broilers reared in system with access to paddock equations adjusted by Gompertz, Von Bertalanffy and Logistics

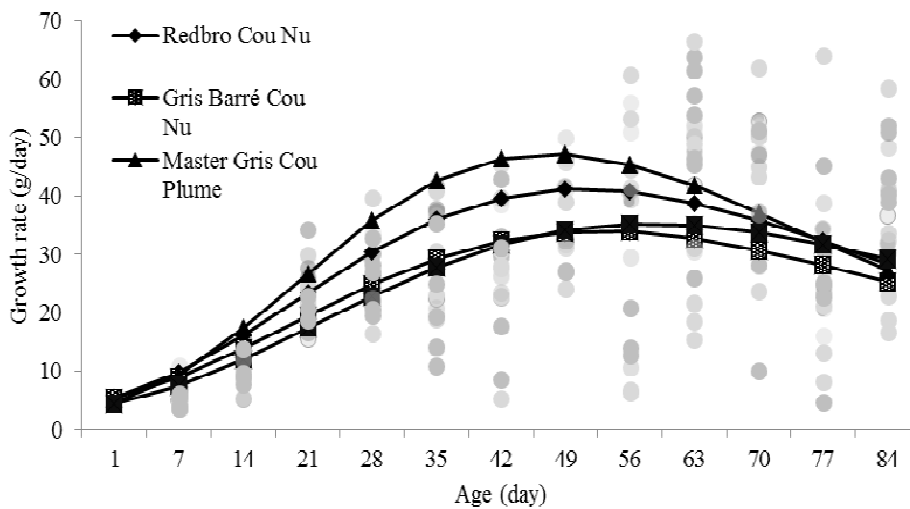


Figure 2. Growth rate of broiler chickens with different growth rates, created in the system with access to paddock adjusted by Gompertz equation

The French Red Caipira lineage showed growth curve suitable to the creation systems with access to paddocks for 84 days to provide weight of 2.5kg, considered the average slaughter weight of these animals. In another research Hellmeister Filho et al. (2003) recommended to Label Rouge lineage meet recommendations for the creation of DIPOA Circular No 007/99, says that

the birds "Redneck type" must be created for at least of 85 days.

The performance results at 84 days of creation are shown in Table 4. There were no significant differences among the lineages studied for feed conversion. The lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume* had the lowest viability, higher average weight and weight gain, when compared to lineage *Gris Barré Cou Nu*.

Table 4. Mean (standard deviation) of growth performance of strains of broiler chickens raised with access to the paddock(1 -84 days)

Lineage	Weight (g)	Feed intake(g/bird)	Weight gain (g/bird/day)
<i>Redbro Cou Nu</i>	2497.0 ^{ab} ± 15.0	5703.0 ^{ab} ± 34.0	28,71 ^{ab} ± 1,75
<i>Gris Barré Cou Nu</i>	2126.0 ^b ± 13.0	5151.0 ^b ± 26.0	24,35 ^b ± 1,52
<i>Master Gris Cou Plume</i>	2708.0 ^a ± 34.0	6441.0 ^a ± 11.3	31,31 ^a ± 4,02
<i>Gris Barré Cou Plume</i>	2123.0 ^{ab} ± 54.0	5720.0 ^{ab} ± 62.0	24,48 ^b ± 6,41
CV (%)	7.20	13.42	9,54
Value P	0.015	0.030	0,015
	Feed conversion (g/g)	Viability (%)	
<i>Redbro Cou Nu</i>	2.36 ± 0.08	85.90 ^{ab} ± 3.14	
<i>Gris Barré Cou Nu</i>	2.53 ± 0.21	96.15 ^a ± 6.43	
<i>Master Gris Cou Plume</i>	2.46 ± 0.38	75.64 ^b ± 16.43	
<i>Gris Barré Cou Plume</i>	3.08 ± 1.43	82.05 ^{ab} ± 10.50	
CV (%)	10.03	12.23	
Value P	0.373	0.020	

^{a,b}Means with different letters in the same column differ statistically by Tukey test ($\alpha=0.05$).

The growth rate influences on the viability of animals created under alternative systems (with access to paddock) according Quentin et al. (2003) for chickens created under semi-confinement systems, fast growing strains have lower viability when compared to slow-growing lineages. Other results realized by Varoli Junior et al. (2000), indicate a lower viability of Ross birds, compared with ISAS757-N (naked neck and slow growth), at 49 days of age.

Showed higher carcass weight, chest, thigh + drumstick, back, and wing for *Master Gris Cou Plume* lineage compared to *Gris Barré Cou Nu* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume* (Table5). There were

no significant differences in carcass yield among the lineages studied.

The lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume* showed similar performance with lineage *Red Bro Cou Nu* and *Gris Barré Cou Plume*. According to Gonçalves & Ramos (2010), the birds of lineage *Redbro Cou Nu* had a higher average weight gain in relation to a lineage *Plume Gris Barré Cou*, however similar the birds of lineage *Master Gris Cou Plume*.

Almeida & Zuber (2002) report on research evaluating commercial strains (X44N -naked neck, and X44-neckcovered), created on a system with access to grazing, the results indicate the superiority of the neck plumed

animals in compeer with animals naked neck. In this study there was no predominant effect of the plumage of the neck in the zoo technical performance. For carcass characteristics Thutwa et al. (2012) found no influence of the neck plumage.

Even with the differences in zoo technical performance among the lineages studied, not the significance of differences between means indicates

there is a ratio of body weight after fasting and weight of the eviscerated carcass. Different results of Lopez et al. (2011) evaluated when two strains intended commercialization, to creation so henery, that despite the lineages did not differ in weight, the birds lineage had a significantly higher carcass yield and breast meat yield, thus exemplifying the differences between strains, in terms of income.

Table 5. Yield caracaça and commercial cuts strains of chickens bred with access to paddock

Lineages	Carcass eight (g)	Carcass yield (%)	Chest (g)
<i>Redbro Cou Nu</i>	2037.0 ^b ± 0.189	77.04 ± 2.70	508.0 ^a ± 0.048
<i>Gris Barré Cou Nu</i>	1634.0 ^c ± 0.106	76.32 ± 2.03	379.0 ^b ± 0.031
<i>Master Gris Cou Plume</i>	2253.0 ^a ± 0.249	76.69 ± 2.76	569.0 ^a ± 0.083
<i>Gris Barré Cou Plume</i>	1735.0 ^c ± 0.170	74.88 ± 2.09	410.0 ^b ± 0.047
CV (%)	9.70	3.17	11.99
Value P	> 0.001	0.153	> 0.001
	Thigh + drumstick (g)	Back (g)	Wing (g)
<i>Redbro Cou Nu</i>	582.0 ^{ab} ± 0.061	441.0 ^a ± 0.068	214.0 ^{ab} ± 0.026
<i>Gris Barré Cou Nu</i>	478.0 ^c ± 0.061	352.0 ^b ± 0.042	178.0 ^c ± 0.021
<i>Master Gris Cou Plume</i>	653.0 ^a ± 0.061	489.0 ^a ± 0.075	231.0 ^a ± 0.029
<i>Gris Barré Cou Plume</i>	510.0 ^{bc} ± 0.061	358.0 ^b ± 0.044	196.0 ^{bc} ± 0.023
CV (%)	12.35	14.50	12.22
Value P	> 0.001	> 0.001	> 0.001

^{a,b}Means with different letters in the same column differ statistically by Tukey test ($\alpha=0.05$).

The differences among the lineages studied were found on carcass characteristics, where the lines *Master Gris Cou Plume* and *Redbro Cou Nu*, showed similar weight sonhischest, thigh + drumstick, wings and back indicating a similarity between these lineages, although no differences between carcass yields of these lineages.

The lineages *Redbro Cou Nu* and *Master Gris Cou Plume* showed similar performance, and the birds of the *Redbro Cou Nu* lineages showed growth characteristics more suitable for

alternative creations, with access to the paddock area.

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