

Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) whey product as protein source for growing pigs

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Abstract. A digestibility and balance trial was performed with three growing pigs to evaluate the nutritive value and protein utilization of a carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) whey product used to replace 50 % or 100 % of the dried skim supplement in a barley-based diet. The effect of CMC whey on clinicalchemical blood parameters was also investigated. The CMC whey protein contained 39.6 % crude protein and 36.0 % true protein in DM. The proportion of CMC in the product was 18.3 % of DM. CMC whey had high contents of lysine, cystine, methionine and threonine: 10.3, 2.9, 2.1 and 5.6 g/16 g N, respectively. NFE digestibility was lower on the CMC whey diet than on the skim milk diet ($P < 0.05$). Faecal excretion of CMC averaged 59.0 %. Protein utilization was effective on the CMC whey diet: 69.9 % of absorbed N was retained. Judging from the blood analyses, the CMC whey product did not have any detrimental effect on the metabolism or health of the pigs. The CMC whey product is well suited as a protein supplement in pig feeding because of its high contents of essential amino acids.

Introduction

Whey is widely used as a feedstuff for pigs having a high energy content and being useful as a protein source in cereal diets. Moreover, due to the growth of the cheese industry, increasing amounts of whey are becoming available for feed purposes. Liquid whey deteriorates rapidly and high transport costs restrict its use, but drying of whey is becoming too expensive. Further, large whey supplements, over 30-40 % of the energy intake for growing pigs, cause slow growth and digestional disturbances due to the high lactose and mineral content of whey (BARBER et al. 1978, MITCHELL 1978, ALAVIHKOLA et al. 1979).

Whey proteins are digested well by pigs and owing to its suitable amino acid composition whey is a valuable protein supplement in cereal-based diets (DIGGS et al. 1965, HANRAHAN 1971). As the protein content of whey is low (13 % of DM) compared to its energy value, concentration of the protein content makes whey more suitable as a protein supplement and allows a decrease in the lactose intake.

Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) is as cellulose hydrocolloid (cellulose ether) produced from wood cellulose in reaction with sodium hydroxide and

monochloroacetic acid. CMC produces complexes with proteins within the pH limits of 3.0 and 3.5 (HIDALGO and HANSEN 1971). It is used widely in the food industry as a coagulation and gelation additive (EC no. E 466).

The present metabolic study was undertaken to assess the nutritive value and utility of a CMC whey product as a protein supplement for growing pigs.

Materials and methods

A digestibility and nitrogen balance trial was carried out with three castrated Landrace pigs weighing 35–65 kg. A total collection method was used and the experiment was designed as a 3×3 Latin square, in which skim milk was replaced by the CMC whey product at two levels, 50 % and 100 % of the protein supplement. The transition period between diets was five days and the standardization and collection periods were both six days.

The basic feed was barley meal, milled with a 3-mm sieve and enriched with a mineral mixture (Seleeni-Terki) 40 g/d and a vitamin mixture (Vita-miini-Nasu 15 g/d). The feed was supplemented with 15 % skim milk powder, or 7.5 % skim milk powder and 7.5 % CMC whey product, or 15 % CMC whey product (CMC whey ration calculated on a DM basis). The crude protein content of the diets averaged 15.8 % of DM.

The CMC whey product was made at the Porlammi Co-operative Dairy from Emmental cheese whey. Whey, 5000 l at 45–50° C was adjusted with HCl to pH 3.2 and 7.5 kg carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) was added in 350 l 50°C water, so that the CMC content was 1.5 g/l whey. The whey was allowed to stand while the precipitate settled on the bottom of the tank. The supernatant above the CMC protein precipitate was pumped away. The CMC whey product ca. 500 l was mixed and stored in a plastic container and kept deep frozen until used. After thawing it was fed to the pigs.

The daily rations in the different periods were 1.8, 2.2 and 2.4 kg. They were given as liquid feed and the pigs were fed twice daily. Water was given after feeding and the remains of the feed were collected and subtracted from the feeds.

The faeces and urine were collected twice daily, and representative samples were stored frozen until analysed. The details of the procedure are described by NÄSI (1982).

Blood samples were taken from the anterior vena cava before feeding on the two days following each collection period. The treatment of the samples and the methods used were the same as described by NÄSI and TANHUAN-PÄÄ (1981).

The chemical analyses of the feeds and faeces were performed according to the official procedures. The CMC content was measured by the method of ZIEGEMAYER et al. (1951). Lactose was determined by the method of the IDF standard 28 (ANON. 1964). Amino acid was determined with a Technicon TSM autoanalyser. Minerals were measured with a Varian Techtron AA 1000 atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

Results and discussion

The CMC whey product contained 39.6 % crude protein (CP) and 36.0 % true protein (TP). The CP content of whey or dried whey is 13 % of DM and so by this CMC precipitation the protein content can be increased over threefold. Allowing the whey to stand for a longer time gives a wet whey product with a CP content of 50.7 % of DM. The protein content of the product used here corresponds quite closely to the value of skim milk (Table 1). The lactose content of the CMC whey was 37.1 % of DM, which is lower than that of skim milk powder. The ash content was about half that of skim milk (Table 1). The carboxymethyl cellulose content of the CMC whey averaged 18.3 % of DM (CMC added at the rate of 1.5 g/kg whey). Calculated per kg DM, the mineral contents of the CMC whey product were P 3.30 g, Ca 2.18 g, Mg 0.40 g, K 9.40 g, Na 40.6 g, Fe 12.7 mg, Cu 5.2 mg and Zn 2.2 mg. The mineral contents of CMC whey are much lower than those of dried skim milk or whey except that of sodium, which is higher in CMC. Most of the values are only one fourth or fifth of those of skim or whey.

The essential amino acid composition of the CMC whey product was very suitable for supplementing a barley-based diet (Table 1). The high lysine

Table 1. Chemical composition of the experimental feeds.

In dry matter	Barley	Skim milk powder	CMC whey product
Dry matter, %	88.5	95.7	10.1
Ash, %	2.8	8.2	4.4
Crude protein, %	11.6	39.1	39.6
True protein, %	9.7	35.5	36.0
Ether extract, %	3.5	0.1	0.6
Crude fibre, %	5.7	0.0	0.0
NFE, %	76.4	52.6	55.4
Amino acids g/16 g N			
Alanine	4.3	3.3	4.9
Arginine	4.4	3.1	3.1
Aspartic acid	6.3	8.3	11.8
Cystine	2.3	0.8	2.9
Glutamic acid	19.5	21.7	16.0
Glycine	4.4	2.1	2.7
Histidine	2.4	3.1	3.1
Isoleucine	3.4	5.0	5.3
Leucine	6.8	9.7	11.0
Lysine	3.8	8.1	10.3
Methionine	1.3	2.9	2.1
Phenylalanine	4.9	4.9	4.3
Proline	10.3	10.4	5.4
Serine	4.4	5.3	5.3
Threonine	3.7	4.7	5.6
Tyrosine	2.3	4.5	3.7
Valine	4.6	6.0	5.5

Table 2. Digestibility coefficients of diets with and without the CMC whey product.

	Protein supplement					
	Skim milk powder 100 %		Skim milk 50 % CMC whey 50 %		CMC whey product 100 %	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
Dry matter	84.0	0.9	82.6	0.7	82.1	1.7
Organic matter	85.7	0.7	84.3	0.7	83.7	1.6
Ash	55.8	2.8	52.6	1.8	53.0	2.6
Crude protein	82.9	1.4	82.7	2.5	82.4	3.3
True protein	89.2	1.7	88.0	1.2	88.3	2.0
Crude fat	53.5	5.7	48.3	1.3	47.0	8.4
Crude fibre	17.9	8.6	12.6	7.5	13.4	12.2
NFE	92.1 ^a	0.2	90.8 ^{ab}	0.2	90.1 ^b	0.6

Mean with different letters were significantly different ($P < 0.05$).

content, 10.3 g/16 g N, is especially promising and the contents of sulphur-containing amino acids are also high, methionine 2.1 g and cystine 2.9 g/16 g N. Threonine amounted to 5.6 g/16 g N, which exceeded the value of skim milk.

The digestibilities of the diets containing CMC whey, skim milk or the combination of CMC whey and skim milk are presented in Table 2. The CMC whey diet had lower apparent digestibilities than the skim milk-supplemented diet for dry matter, organic matter, crude fat and crude fibre, but the differences were not statistically significant ($P > 0.05$). NFE digestibility was significantly lower in the CMC whey diet ($P < 0.05$). Faecal excretion of CMC averaged 59.0 ± 9.6 % of intake (47–75 %). The CMC intakes averaged 54.9 g/d at 100 % CMC whey protein supplementation and 27.4 g/d at 50 % CMC whey supplementation. CMC has been reported to be almost completely indigestible, excretion being 90 % of intake in rats, 50 % in rabbits and 90 % in man (ZIEGELMAYER et al. 1951, ANON 1963). In pigs and rabbits the activity of microorganisms in the large intestine is high and it is possible that some bacterial strains can hydrolyse CMC. This, together with decomposition cellulose, will give lower recoveries of CMC in the faeces. The energy value of the CMC whey product is about 15 % lower than that of skim milk, due to the indigestibility of CMC. The protein value is about the same, but can vary with the manufacturing procedure.

The apparent digestibility of the protein in the CMC whey product was on average 0.5 % (CP) and 0.9 % (TP) lower than the value for skim milk ($P > 0.05$). The nitrogen balance was, however, higher on the CMC whey diet and the ratio of retained to absorbed nitrogen was fairly high, 69.9 %, exceeding the value for the skim milk diet by 3.8 % ($P > 0.05$). The biological value was also 3.7 % higher than for skim milk (Table 3). The pigs on the CMC whey diet had an average lysine intake of 18.8 g/d; the pigs on the skim milk diet 16.1 g/d. The corresponding values for threonine were 12.8 and 11.7 g/d. On barley-based diets supplementation of lysine and threonine is of great importance, improving the utilization of the protein in the diet.

Table 3. Nitrogen balance of pigs and biological value on diets containing skim milk powder or CMC whey product as protein supplement.

	Protein supplement		
	Skim milk powder 100 %	Skim milk 50 % CMC whey 50 %	CMC whey product 100 %
<i>Nitrogen</i>			
Intake, g/d	48.7	47.8	48.8
Faeces, g/d	8.3	8.2	8.6
Absorbed, g/d	40.4	39.6	40.2
Urine, g/d	13.7	13.4	12.1
Retained, g/d	26.7	26.2	28.1
% of intake	54.8	54.8	57.6
% of absorbed	66.1	66.2	69.9
Biological value	78.4	78.8	82.1

Table 4. Blood composition in pigs fed diets with and without the CMC whey product.

	Protein supplement					
	Skim milk 100 %		Skim milk 50 % CMC whey 50 %		CMC whey 100 %	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
PCV, %	37.9	4.4	39.5	3.2	39.9	5.3
Hb, g/l	124.8	10.7	127.2	12.6	128.2	16.3
Plasma glucose, mmol/l	5.7	0.5	5.3	0.2	5.5	0.5
Urea, mmol/l	3.1	0.5	2.4	0.6	2.1	0.9
Total protein, g/l	66	4	66	4	66	4
Albumin, g/l	43	4	42	3	43	4
Creatinine, $\mu\text{mol/l}$	173	19	172	17	161	13
Cholesterol, mmol/l	2.9	0.1	3.0	0.2	2.9	0.3
Total bilirubin, $\mu\text{mol/l}$	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.3	0.5
P, mmol/l	2.7	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.7	0.1
Ca, mmol/l	3.0	0.2	2.9	0.1	3.0	0.3
Mg, mmol	0.90	0.03	0.83	0.05	0.79	0.07
AP, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	12.6	2.6	12.7	2.0	12.9	1.9
ALAT, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	0.54	0.10	0.52	0.06	0.45	0.08
ASAT, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	0.62	0.19	0.64	0.10	0.62	0.22
CK, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	30.0	3.6	25.3	13.6	26.1	10.9
γ -GT, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	0.77	0.85	0.54	0.29	0.72	0.55
LDH, $\mu\text{kat/l}$	25.4	6.4	24.7	5.6	26.2	9.9

The data on the composition of the blood in pigs fed on the CMC whey product or skim milk are presented in Table 4. The differences between the pigs on the various diets are very small and none was statistically significant ($P > 0.05$). The values correspond fairly closely to those obtained in other experiments (NÄSI et al. 1978, NÄSI and TANHUANPÄÄ 1981) and all lie within the normal range (SCHMIDT 1979). Blood urea was a little lower on the CMC whey diet, which EGGUM (1970) considers to be a sign of improved

protein utilization. The plasma Mg content can also be seen to be lower, which is in line with lower Mg content in CMC whey.

When used instead of skim milk to supplement a barley-based diet for pigs, the CMC whey product gave as good or slightly better values for protein retention and utilization. Judging from the blood analysis, CMC did not have any harmful effects on the metabolism or health of the pigs. These findings indicate that the CMC whey product is very suitable as a protein supplement for pigs. Due to its low pH 3.2 the product can also be stored for two-three weeks without deteriorating. Some technical questions regarding the production of CMC whey remain to be resolved and the economic aspects must also be considered.

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Karboksimetyyliselluloosalla (CMC) saostettu hera lihasikojen valkuaislähteenä

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Sulavuus- ja tasekokeessa tutkittiin karboksimetyyliselluloosalla saostetun heraproteiinin rehuarvoa ja valkuaisen hyväksikäyttöä lihasioilla. CMC-heran raakavalkuaispitoisuus oli 39.6 % kuiva-aineesta. Välttämättömiä aminohappoja CMC-hera sisälsi runsaasti. Lysiiniä oli 10.3, kystiiniä 2.9, metioniinia 2.1 ja treoniiniä 5.6 g/100 g raakavalkuaista. Typettömien uuteaineiden sulavuus oli merkitsevästi ($P < 0.05$) alempi CMC-heradieetillä kuin kurri-jauhodieetillä. CMC:stä erittyi sonnassa 59.0 %. Valkuaisen hyväksikäyttö oli CMC heradieetillä tehokasta, 69.9 % imeytyneestä raakaproteiinista pidättyi sian elimistöön. Verianalyysien perusteella CMC heralla ei ollut mitään haitallisia vaikutuksia sikojen aineenvaihduntaan tai terveyteen. CMC hera osoittautui hyväksi valkuaislähteeksi lihasikojen ruokinnassa erityisesti korkean lysiinipitoisuuden takia.