

The effect of enzyme treatment of cooked barley and supplementation of piglet diets on the digestibility of barley and piglet performance

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Abstract. A digestibility trial, designed as a 5*5 Latin square, with growing pigs was conducted to investigate the effect of cooking and enzyme treatment of barley on digestibility and nitrogen utilization. In addition, two piglet performance trials were conducted to investigate the effect of hydrothermal processing of barley and soybean meal and enzyme supplementation of piglet feeds on performance and health status.

Five pigs, averaging 40 kg LW, were fitted with T-shaped cannulas in the terminal ileum and fed the experimental diets for five consecutive 12-day experimental periods. Chromic oxide was used as marker.

Cooking of barley significantly improved the apparent faecal digestibility (AD) of DM, OM, CP and EE ($p < 0.5$). AD of ash, CF, CCH and NDF was also improved by cooking, but not significantly. Treating cooked barley with enzymes decreased AD values for most nutrients to a level slightly higher than that of ground barley. Nitrogen retention and biological value of protein, however, was markedly improved by cooking and to a greater extent by the enzyme treatment.

Ileal digestibility results were confusing, mainly due to problems in getting representative samples and recovering the marker. Consequently, these results are not reported.

The energy content of cooked barley was calculated to be 1.17 FU/kg DM (15.32 MJ ME/kg DM) and that of ground barley 1.09 FU/kg DM (14.27 MJ ME/kg DM), the values of the enzyme treated barleys being intermediate.

In trial 1, a total of thirty-six litters were allotted to three treatments of twelve replicates. Piglets were fed the experimental diets ad. lib. from two to eight weeks and were weaned at five weeks of age. Treatments were: 1. basal diet containing untreated barley and SBM, 2. basal diet, containing cooked barley and extruded SBM and 3. diet 2 with added enzymes.

Final weights and live weight gains on treatment 2 and 3 were significantly ($p < 0.05$) inferior to treatment 1. There were no differences in feed intake and utilization between treatments. Health status of piglets on treatment 2 and 3 was inferior to that of treatment 1. No piglets were medicated due to diarrhoea.

In trial, 2, forty-eight early-weaned piglets were allotted to two treatments of four replicates. Piglets had free access to the experimental diets during the 19-day experimental period.

Diets were formulated to have the same composition. In treatment 2, however, an enzyme mixture was added at a five times higher inclusion rate than in treatment 1 (0.5 vs. 0.1 %, respectively). Piglets on treatment 2 gained 8 % faster weight than those on treatment 1. Feed intake was slightly higher on treatment 2, but feed conversion ratio was 7 % lower. Due to high variation within treatments the differences between treatments were not significant ($p > 0.05$). There were no differences in health status between treatments.

Index words: barley, cooking, enzyme treatment, enzyme supplementation, digestibility, piglet performance

Introduction

The purpose of hydrothermal processing of feed raw materials is to rupture the cell wall matrix and modify the chemical structure of the constituents in order to render them more susceptible to enzyme degradation in the small intestine, thus improving the digestibility and utilization of the nutrients. Furthermore, heat treatment of soybeans, beans and peas has been shown to decrease the content of antinutritional factors such as trypsin inhibitors, lectins and tannins leading to an increased feeding value (HUISMAN and VAN DER POEL, 1987).

Starch is the main constituent in cereals and hydrothermal processing causes changes in the structure of the starch granules, which increase their degradability (FERNANDES *et al.*, 1975; LAWRENCE, 1972; 1973 a). Carbohydrates present in the gut for a long time may constitute substrates for microbial proliferation, resulting in the formation of useful or noxious substances.

Non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) and lignin, a mixture of compounds known as fibre, are poorly digested by the pig. The amount and type of dietary fibre influence the digestibility of nutrients. The higher the content of fibrous material in the diet, the greater also the proportion of dietary and endogenous fat, starch etc. being transferred to the large intestine probably due to a reduced transit time allowing less time for enzymatic digestion in the small intestine (JUST, 1983).

Gel-forming polysaccharides such as the

beta-glucans together with pentosans are the main components in barley endosperm cell walls. Like barley, oats also contains relatively high amounts of beta-glucans, whereas wheat only contains small amounts (ÅMAN, 1987). Soluble beta-glucans form viscous solutions and in the intestine and tend to gel the contents. These gels restrict diffusion of products of digestion and make it difficult for the nutrients to reach the absorptive surface (KROGDAHL, 1987). Both water and more effectively beta-glucanase treatment of barley have been shown to reduce extract viscosity and decrease the molecular weight of soluble beta-glucans and pentosans (HESSELMAN, 1983).

The effect of hydrothermal processing on the digestibility and feeding value of cereals has been elucidated in many experiments. The results from processing e.g. wheat and barley have not been consistently positive (DANIELSEN, 1986, LAWRENCE, 1973 b, KNEALE, 1972). An explanation for this could be a decreased availability of the amino acids due to heating. In fact, heat processing of cereals has been shown to decrease nitrogen solubility (PAPASOLOMONTOS and WILKINSON, 1976) and to reduce the availability of e.g. lysine (HURRELL and CARPENTER, 1981).

Alternatives to the conventional processes are of great interest, while it seems that they are connected with some risks regarding the effect on protein quality and production efficacy. In addition, these processes require

substantial amounts of energy, which increases the costs of the processed raw materials.

The objective of this report was to elucidate the effect of enzyme treatment of cooked barley on ileal and faecal digestibility and nitrogen balance in pigs. In addition, two performance trials were conducted with piglets to investigate the effect of hydrothermal processing of barley and SBM and enzyme supplementation of piglet diets.

Materials and methods

Digestibility trial

This trial was carried out at the Department of Animal Husbandry of the University of Helsinki.

Animals and management

Five crossbred (L*Y) castrates, averaging 40 kg LW, were surgically fitted with metallic T-shaped cannulas in the terminal ileum, approximately 15 cm anterior the ileocaecal junction, according to the technique described by JONSSON (1985). Five days after surgery, the pigs were transferred to metabolism cages, where they were housed during the trial. The design of the cages permitted separate collection of urine and faeces.

Equal amounts of feed, mixed with water (ratio 1 : 1), were offered three times a day at 0700, 1500 and 2100 h. The average feed intake was 1600, 1800, 2000, 2200 and 2400 g per day during the five consecutive experimental periods, respectively. Additional water was offered ad. lib. after each feeding, and consumption was recorded during the collection periods.

Each experimental period consisted of a 6-day standardisation, a 4-day faecal collection and a 2-day ileal collection period. Faeces were collected for 96 hours starting at 0830 h on day 6 of each experimental period. During days 11 and 12, samples of ileal digesta

(50 ml) were collected eight times a day with two hour intervals, starting at 0700 h. Each sample was frozen immediately after collecting. Prior to analysis, samples were thawed and mixed.

Design and treatments

The experiment was a 5*5 Latin Square design. Five diets, containing differently treated barley, casein, barley starch (Bst), barley protein (Bpr) and chromic oxide as an indigestible marker, were offered to each pig during the 60-day experiment. Barley was ground (B) and cooked (BC) in diets 1 and 2, respectively. In diet 3, cooked barley was treated with alfa-amylase (Novo Industries, Denmark) (BC + A), in diet 4 with alfa-amylase and glucoamylase (Finnish Sugar Co. Ltd.) (BC + AG) and in diet 5 with alfa-amylase and cellulase (Finnish Sugar Co. Ltd.) (BC + AC).

The diets were formulated to contain 15 % CP. Due to the low CP content of BC, 2.5 % Bpr was added to diet 2 instead of Bst, which was added to the other diets at the same inclusion level. In addition to the experimental diets, pigs were given 40 g mineral mix (Fosfori-Hertta) daily and vitamins once a week. Chromic oxide was added at a level of 0.25 % in the diets. The composition of the experimental diets is shown in table 1.

Preparation of the raw materials

Ground barley (B) was steam heated at 90–100°C for 60 seconds to a moisture content of approximately 30 % followed by toasting in an oil-heated drum, for about 30 seconds, resulting in a gelatinization of 50–60 % of the starch (BC). The enzyme preparations were sprayed onto the cooked barley during mixing and allowed to act for about 30 min. prior to drying (BC + A, BC + AG and BC + AC). The effect of the treatments on the release of reducing sugars is shown in table 3.

The soybean meal used in diets 2 and 3 of trial 1 was extruded by a single-screw extruder.

Table 1. Composition of the experimental diets, %.

Treatment	1	2	3	4	5
Barley (B)	91.75	—	—	—	—
Barley, cooked (BC)	—	91.75	—	—	—
BC + A	—	—	91.75	—	—
BC + AG	—	—	—	91.75	—
BC + AC	—	—	—	—	91.75
Casein	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Bst	2.50	—	2.50	2.50	2.50
Bpr	—	2.50	—	—	—
Chromic oxide	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

The exit temperature was approximately 130°C.

Analytical methods

Dry matter, ash, crude protein, ether extract and crude fibre were determined according to standard methods. NDF and ADF were assayed according to GOERING and VAN SOEST (1970). Reducing sugars were determined with the dinitrosalicylic acid (DNS) method (MILLER, 1959) using glucose as a standard. Chromic oxide was analysed by AAS.

Amino acids were assayed at the National Laboratory of Agriculture with an automatic amino acid analyser (Chromakon 400) following hydrolysis and separation by ion-exchange chromatography, and available lysine was determined by difference following pretreatment of the samples with flourodinitrobenzene (PAO et al., 1963). Energy values were calculated according to Finnish feed tables by using

the digestibility coefficients obtained from the digestibility trial (SALO et al., 1982).

Statistical analysis

Analysis of variance for Latin square experiments was used for digestibility measurements.

Performance trials

Experimentals

Trial 1. This trial was carried out at the Swine Research Station in Hyvinkää. A total of thirty-six new-born litters of L-, Y- and L*Y crossbred sows, comprising 7 or more piglets, were allotted to three treatments of twelve replicates each. Litters from sisters or closely related sows were allocated to different treatments, which included litters from both gilts and multiparous sows.

Table 3. Chemical composition of the raw materials, g/kg DM.

Raw material	B	BC	BC + A	BC + AG	BC + AC	Casein	Bpr	Bst
Dry matter	945	948	951	955	947	956	965	939
Ash	26	25	26	26	26	82	42	2
Crude protein	129	122	126	128	127	882	376	7
Ether extract	33	34	38	40	40	10	62	—
Crude fibre	64	55	66	70	72	—	—	15
N-free extracts	748	746	744	736	735	76	520	976
NDF	202	173	200	198	202	—	—	—
ADF	55	42	60	59	62	—	—	—
Reducing sugars*		6	135	201	128			
Glucose*		<1	11	115	18			

* determined in BC, BC + A, BC + AG and BC + AC.

Table 2. Composition of the experimental diets, g/kg.

Diet	Trial 1			Trial 2	
	1	2	3	1	2
Barley	457	—	—	—	—
Barley, cooked	—	445	444	—	—
Barley, hydrotherm.	—	—	—	421	417
Dehulled oats, steamed	300	300	300	370	370
Soybean meal (SBM)	88	—	—	—	—
SBM, extruded	—	100	100	—	—
SBM, hydrotherm.	—	—	—	75	75
Fish meal	60	60	60	60	60
Fat blend	5	5	5	—	—
Skim milk powder	25	25	25	—	—
Whey powder	—	—	—	20	20
Glucose	35	35	35	20	20
Dicalcium phosphate	19	19	19	19	19
Calcium carbonate	3	3	3	5	5
Sodium chloride	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0
L-lysine HCl	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.1
DL-methionine	—	0.1	0.1	—	—
L-threonine	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Premix*	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Carbadox, ppm	50	50	50	50	50
Enzyme-premix	—	—	1.0	1.0	5.0
ME, MJ/kg, calculated	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.0	14.0
FU/kg, calculated	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05

* vitamins and trace elements according to requirements.

The piglets were accustomed to the experimental diets from one week of age and had free access to the diets from two weeks to the end of the trial at seven weeks of age. The feeds were provided in self-feeders. Water was provided through nipples and available continuously.

The piglets were weaned at 5 weeks by removing the sow from the farrowing pen, in which piglets stayed until the end of the trial.

The diets were formulated to have similar chemical composition. In diet 1, barley and SBM were untreated. In diet 2 and 3, all barley and SBM were replaced with cooked barley and extruded SBM, respectively. Because the raw materials were processed at a different feed mill than the one in which the feeds were compounded, different batches were used for diet 2 and 3 than for diet 1. These unfortunate circumstances resulted in a lower CP levels in the first diet. To get diet 3, an enzyme mixture containing alfa-amylase, cellulase and

protease was added to diet 2. Crude protein, lysine and energy contents of the diets were calculated to be 185 g/kg, 11.5 g/kg and 1.05 FU/kg (14.1 MJ ME/kg, respectively). The composition of the diets is shown in table 2.

Piglets were individually weighed at birth, at weaning and at the end of the trial. Feed consumption, mortalities and the occurrence and severity of diarrhoea were recorded (scale of severity in table 10). Scouring piglets were treated with antibiotics.

Trial 2. In this trial, carried out at Munkkila Experimental Station in Paimio, forty-eight crossbred (L*Y) piglets, weaned at an age of five weeks and averaging 13 kg in live weight, were allotted to two treatments of twenty-four animals, each group comprising 12 gilts and 12 castrates. Piglets on each treatment were allocated to four replicates into pens with six piglets, on sex and live weight basis. There were two pens with gilts and two pens with castrates on each treatment. Dur-

ing the 19-day experimental period, piglets were fed ad. lib. from self-feeders, having access to one feeder per pen. Water was provided through nipples (one per pen) and was available for the animals continuously.

All piglets were penned in the same row of an automatically air-conditioned enclosed section with a row of pens on each side of the central passage. One third of the 1.6*2.4 m concrete floor of the pens was slatted. Pens were partitioned by a 60 cm high solid steel wall and an additional 30 cm steel-pipe construction. During the first week, the air temperature was 25°C and decreased 2°C weekly.

The diets were formulated to contain different levels of enzyme activities by supplementing different amounts of an enzyme-premix containing beta-glucanase (Finnish Sugar Co. Ltd.), alpha-amylase and protease (Novo Industries). The basal diet contained hydrothermally treated cereals and SBM, fish meal, whey powder and glucose. The inclusion levels of the enzyme-premix was 0.1 % and 0.5 % in diets 1 and 2, respectively. The lower level represents the inclusion rates used in some commercial feeds. Unfortunately, due to limited facilities it was not possible to include a negative control in this trial. The composition of the diets is shown in table 2. The feeds were compounded at the Sampola feed mill, pelleted and then crumbled.

The piglets were individually weighed at the beginning and at the end of the trial. The feeders were refilled once a day according to feed consumption and the amounts were recorded.

During the trial, the health status of the piglets was monitored and in case of diarrhoea, affected piglets were treated with an antibiotic (Orimysin).

Analytical methods

Feed and amino acid analyses were carried out according to the methods described above. Enzyme activities of the feeds were measured at the Finnish Sugar Research Centre. Alfa-amylase activity was determined by using the Phadebas Amylase Test (Pharmacia). Beta-

glucanase activity was determined by measuring the rate of production of reducing sugars (MILLER, 1959) when beta-glucan was used as a substrate at pH 5.0 and 30°C. Protease activity of the feeds was determined according to the method by MATSUBARA et al. (1958) using casein as a substrate.

The energy content of the diets was calculated according to referred values of the Finnish feed tables (SALO, et al. 1982).

Statistical analysis

Analysis of variance (one way classification) was used for the performance measurements in trial 1. The diarrhoea index values were compared by the Chi²-test and mortality values of treatments 2 and 3 were compared to the values of treatment 1 one at a time by using the unpaired Student's T-test. Mean values of the measurements of trial 2 were compared by unpaired Student's T-test.

Results and discussion

Digestibility trial

Chemical composition of the diets

The chemical composition and amino acid content of the raw materials are shown in tables 3 and 4, respectively. Cooking of barley resulted in a small decrease in the crude protein content. Similar results have been reported when barley was either micronized (FERNANDES et al., 1975; LAWRENCE, 1973 a) or heated (KNEALE, 1972). Ether extract and crude fibre content of the enzyme-treated barleys were somewhat higher than in BC. Also the NDF and ADF content of the enzyme-treated barleys were higher than in BC. The increased levels of NDF may contain some Maillard products, which had escaped the hydrolyzation of the analysis (VAN SOEST, 1982).

The effect of enzyme-treatment on the release of reducing sugars and glucose is shown in table 3. Barley contains about 0.1 % of glu-

Table 4. Amino acid contents of the raw materials, g/16 g N.

Raw material	B	BC	BC + A	BC + AG	BC + AC	casein	Bpr
Ala	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.2	3.9
Arg	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.1	3.9	4.0
Asp	5.6	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	7.7	5.0
Cys	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	0.6	2.2
Glu	23.1	23.1	22.4	21.5	20.3	22.0	21.3
Gly	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	1.9	3.7
His	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.2
Ile	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	5.5	3.4
Leu	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.0	10.5	7.1
Lys	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.6	8.0	3.2
Met	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.6	2.9	1.8
Phe	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.8
Pro	11.0	10.9	10.3	9.5	9.1	11.5	12.2
Ser	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	5.9	4.3
Thr	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.5	3.4
Tyr	3.2	4.5	3.2	3.3	3.4	6.2	3.6
Val	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	6.6	4.7
Available lys	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	7.1	3.1

cose in DM (ÅMAN and HESSELMAN, 1984) and according to the results cooking of barley did not have any effect on the glucose content. Alfa-amylase in combination with glucoamylase yielded the highest amounts of sugars.

The content of first limiting amino acids (lysine, threonine, methionine and cysteine) was lower in the enzyme-treated barleys than in untreated and cooked barley. Also the amount of available lysine was smaller in the enzyme-treated barleys. This indicates that some browning reactions (Maillard-reactions) have occurred. These reactions between the carbonyl group of a reducing sugar and a free amino group of an amino acid or protein reduce the availability of susceptible amino acids, especially lysine (HURRELL and CARPENTER, 1981). The marked increase in the concentration of reducing sugars in the enzyme treated barleys seems to have increased the incidence of these reactions.

Apparent digestibility

Due to problems in obtaining representative samples of the ileal digesta and in recovering the chromic oxide, the results of the ileal di-

gestibility of the diets were too confusing to be interpretable. Therefore, these results will not be presented in this paper.

The apparent digestibility (AD) coefficients of the diets, determined by direct assay, are presented in table 5. The AD of ground barley was similar to that reported by NÄSI (1984), with the exception of AD of CF, which was higher in the present trial.

Micronization of barley increases the digestibility of DM, nitrogen and gross energy (FERNANDES et al., 1975; LAWRENCE, 1973 a). In this present trial, cooking of barley significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased the AD of DM, ash, OM, CP and EE. Also the AD of CF was improved, but not significantly. AD of DM ($p < 0.05$) and OM ($p < 0.01$) in BC was significantly higher than in B, BC + A and BC + AG and approximately the same as in BC + AC.

Enzyme treatment of BC decreased the AD of most nutrients to the same level as in ground barley. Only the AD of EE was higher in the enzyme treated barleys than in B ($p < 0.05$). The AD coefficients of BC + AC were the highest among the enzyme-treated barleys. There were no significant differences in AD of CP between B and the enzyme-

Table 5. Apparent digestibility of the diets, % (direct assay).

Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	SEM
DM	80.6 ^b	85.4 ^a	80.6 ^b	80.7 ^b	81.9 ^{ab}	0.681
Ash	38.5	48.0	41.4	39.8	45.2	2.632
OM	82.6 ^{bd}	87.1 ^{ac}	82.5 ^{bd}	82.7 ^{bd}	83.7 ^{bcd}	0.592
CP	78.0 ^b	84.6 ^a	82.9 ^{ab}	82.4 ^{ab}	84.1 ^{ab}	1.138
EE	39.8 ^d	59.2 ^c	60.9 ^c	59.9 ^c	65.7 ^c	2.376
CF	19.9	31.0	7.4	19.5	17.6	3.675
NFE	90.6 ^{ab}	92.6 ^a	89.3 ^b	89.5 ^b	90.3 ^{ab}	0.450
CCH	85.1 ^{abcd}	88.5 ^{ac}	83.2 ^{bd}	83.6 ^{bcd}	84.3 ^{bcd}	0.646
NDF	44.1 ^{abcd}	53.9 ^{ac}	32.9 ^{bd}	37.4 ^{bcd}	40.3 ^{abcd}	2.6
ADF	3.7	18.1	-5.7	3.3	9.1	4.198

^{a, b} ($p < 0.05$); ^{c, d} ($p < 0.01$)

treated barleys. The AD of NFE and CCH in BC + A and BC + AG were significantly lower than in BC ($p < 0.05$). This may be a consequence of the browning reactions that occurred, resulting in poorly digestible complexes of sugars and amino acids.

The AD of OM and CCH was significantly lower in BC + AC than in BC. OM and CCH include crude fibre. Treating cooked barley with enzymes markedly decreased the AD of CF, which consequently also was seen as a reduced AD of OM and CCH. The low AD coefficients of CF and the detergent fibre fractions of the enzyme treated barleys are probably a result of the action of the enzymes. Treating BC with enzymes yielded reducing sugars mainly from starch, but to some extent from some fiber fractions leaving more insoluble fractions intact. The residual fibres are thus even less digestible.

In young pigs, beta-glucanase supplementation of barley has improved performance and the digestibility of energy (THOMKE et al., 1980) and crude protein (MARKSTRÖM et al., 1985). In a digestibility trial with pigs from 30 to 50 kg LW GRAHAM et al. (1986) did not obtain any significant improvement of the digestibility when a barley-based diet was supplemented with beta-glucanase. The apparent ileal digestibility of beta-glucan was found to be 68 % in the unsupplemented and 72.3 % in the supplemented diet ($p > 0.05$). These values corresponds well to the ones of 76–82.2 % reported by WELTZIEN and AHERNE

(1986) working with somewhat heavier pigs. THACKER et al. (1988) reported improvement in the digestibility of dry matter, crude protein and digestible energy of beta-glucanase supplemented hulless barley in pigs weighing 40 kg. However, these improvements in the digestibility were not reflected in significant improvements in the performance of the pigs. In performance trials, enzyme supplementation of barley based diets have improved the feeding value of the diets for pigs (COLLIER and HARDY, 1986; NEWMAN, 1983). In the present trial, cooking markedly increased the digestibility of barley leaving less potential for improvements by the enzyme treatments.

The N-balance of the treatments is shown in table 6. Nitrogen intake and absorption was highest on treatment 2 and lowest on treatment 1, resulting in the highest apparent digestibility of N on treatment 2 with slightly lower values for the enzyme treatments. Urine nitrogen excretion, however, was highest on treatment 2 and lowest on treatment 3, resulting in the highest N retention for this latter treatment. The amount of nitrogen retained, calculated as per cent of both N intake and absorption, was higher on all enzyme treatments than on treatment 1 and 2. Consequently, biological value of the nitrogen was improved by the enzyme treatments. Due to large variation within treatments, none of the parameters was significantly different.

ZEBROWSKA (1973) showed that nitrogen absorbed from the large intestine was excreted

in the urine, and did not contribute to the protein synthesis of the pig. JUST (1982) calculated the energy excretion into the urine to be 30.6 kJ/g nitrogen (included in urea and other nitrogenous substances).

It is a well known fact that the higher the nitrogen intake the higher the AD of the nitrogen. The unabsorbed nitrogen arriving in the large intestine will, depending on the amount of fermentable substrates available for the microbes, either be incorporated in to the microbial tissue or deaminated and absorbed as NH_4 and subsequently excreted in the urine as urea. The decreased N excretion in the faeces and the increased N (and urea) excretion in the urine on treatment 2 (BC) suggest that cooking of barley improved the absorption of carbohydrates in the small intestine leaving less substrates for microbial fermentation and proliferation in the large intestine. This is in good accordance with the AD values of OM and NFE. On the enzyme treatments the average N intake, absorption and urinary N were approximately 4 g/d less than on treatment 2, resulting in a relatively better N utilization, shown as higher BV values.

LAWRENCE (1973 a) did not find any improvement in nitrogen retention, when barley and maize were micronized and fed to pigs. The results from this present trial, however, indicate an increased nitrogen (amino acid) absorption in the small intestine resulting in an improved protein utilization following both cooking and the subsequent enzyme treatment

of barley. The decrease in available lysine content of the enzyme treated barleys did not seem to have any adverse effect on protein utilization.

In the small intestine starch is hydrolyzed by a variety of enzymes including e.g. amylases, maltases and glucoamylases, and is degraded into glucose, which can be rapidly absorbed by the mucosa (KIDDER and MANNERS, 1978). The rate of glucose absorption from various sources varies from one carbohydrate to another and from one intake level to another (RERAT, 1985). The first peak of sugars in the portal blood was reached very quickly (45 min.) after glucose and sucrose intake, but later (2 hrs.) after intake of maize starch. Large amounts of starch were found in the digestive tract 8 h after the meal, whereas absorption of glucose and digestion of sucrose was much advanced.

Irrespective of the type of carbohydrate, its degradation in the large intestine leads to the production of acetic, propionic, butyric (VFAs) and lactic acid and small amounts of other organic acids in addition to ethanol, carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen and small amounts of other gases. The organic acids are readily absorbed and serve the body as an energy source (JUST, 1983). According to Low (1980), VFA may provide 2–3 % of the apparently absorbable energy intake of growing pigs. However, the higher the VFA concentration in faeces, the lower the utilization of ME (JUST, 1983).

Table 6. N-balance, protein utilization and biological value of the diets.

Treatment	1	2	3	4	5
N intake, g/d	38.3	48.0	44.1	45.4	43.0
N in faeces, g/d	8.0	7.4	7.6	7.8	6.8
N absorbed, g/d	30.4	40.7	36.5	37.6	36.1
Apparent dig., %	78.0	84.6	82.9	82.4	84.1
N in urine, g/d	15.4	18.4	13.6	15.6	15.7
N retained, g/d	14.9	22.3	22.9	22.0	20.4
— % of intake	37.2	45.8	52.8	47.8	47.4
— of absorbed	46.9	53.9	63.8	58.0	56.4
— g/kg $W^{0.75}$	0.74	1.02	1.16	1.07	1.08
BV	57.1	61.8	71.2	65.8	64.0
Urea excreted, g/d	22.2	24.8	19.9	19.5	21.5
— g/kg $W^{0.75}/d$	1.05	1.11	0.94	0.95	1.13

Table 7. Calculated energy values and digestible crude protein.

Raw material	B	BC	BC + A	BC + AG	BC + AC
FU/kg DM	1.09	1.17	1.10	1.11	1.12
Kg/FU	1.05	0.98	1.01	1.01	0.99
ME MJ/kg DM	14.27	15.32	14.45	14.53	14.75
NE MJ/kg DM	8.82	9.61	8.96	9.02	9.13
DCP, g/kg DM	91.5	96.7	98.2	98.8	101.2
DCP, g/FU	83.91	82.65	89.11	89.26	90.13

Feeding values of the differently treated barleys were calculated using the digestibility coefficients of the nutrients obtained from the digestibility trial. The results are presented in table 7. Cooked barley had the highest energy value followed by BC + AC, BC + AG, BC + A and B, in that order. On ME basis, the energy content of BC was 7.3 % and that of BC + A, BC + AG and BC + AC 1.3, 1.8 and 3.4 % higher than that of B, respectively. Digestible crude protein (DCP) content of the enzyme treated barleys was higher than in B and BC. An increased absorption of degraded carbohydrates from the small intestine and the increased nitrogen retention following cooking and enzyme treatment of barley may explain the increased energy values.

Performance trials

Trial 1

The chemical composition of the diets is shown in table 8. Different batches of barley and SBM were used for processing and, consequently, the crude protein content of diets 2 and 3 was 0.8 % higher than in diet 1. Also the sodium chloride content was higher in diets 2 and 3. The amino acid contents of the diets were similar. Due to a dosage mistake, however, double amounts of L-threonine was added to diet 2, which can be seen as a higher threonine content in that diet.

Piglets on treatment 1 had significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher live weights at 8 weeks of age and gained significantly ($p < 0.05$) more

Table 8. Chemical composition of the experimental diets, g/kg.

Diet	Trial 1			Trial 2	
	1	2	3	1	2
Dry matter	891	893	888	893	892
Crude protein	183	191	191	175	176
Ether extract	34	36	39	34	31
Crude fibre	34	35	36	32	31
Ash	54	64	60	54	52
N-free extracts	586	567	562	598	602
Salt (NaCl)	5.6	10.1	8.2	5.7	5.2
Calcium	10.3	11.2	11.1	8.7	8.2
Phosphorous	10.0	10.0	10.2	7.2	7.6
Lysine	10.8	11.3	11.2	10.3	11.0
Available lysine	10.1	10.7	10.5	—	—
Methionine	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.7
Threonine	7.5	8.8	7.8	7.3	7.4
Tryptophan (cal.)	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Alfa-amylase, U/kg				nd*	1850
Beta-glucanase, U/kg				2700	3750
Protease, U/kg				5140	6000

* not detectable

Table 9. Piglet performance during the experimental period, mean values.

Treatment	1	2	3	sign.	SEM
Piglets	120	139	131		
Live weight, kg/piglet					
— at birth	1.58	1.53	1.57	NS	0.027
— at 5 weeks of age	9.61	9.05	9.33	NS	0.181
— at 8 weeks of age	19.34 ^a	18.14 ^b	18.39 ^b	*	0.315
Live weight gain, g/d/piglet					
— from birth to 5 weeks	230	215	222	NS	4.85
— from 5 to 8 weeks	464 ^a	427 ^b	430 ^b	*	9.15
— from birth to 8 weeks	317	297	300		
Feed intake, kg/piglet					
— from birth to 5 weeks	0.49	0.44	0.63	NS	0.107
— from 5 to 8 weeks	15.88	14.33	15.31	NS	0.708
— from birth to 8 weeks	16.37	14.77	15.94		
Feed conversion, kg feed/kg gain					
— from 5 to 8 weeks	1.66	1.59	1.70	NS	

^a ^b treatment means with different superscripts are significantly different ($p < 0.05$)

weight from weaning to the end of the experimental period than piglets on treatment 2 and 3 (table 9). Feed intake was not significantly affected by treatment, but was highest on treatment 3 and lowest on treatment 2. There were no difference in feed utilization between treatments.

Extrusion of barley decreased DWG and resulted in a higher feed conversion ratio than untreated barley (DANIELSEN, 1986). A decreased availability of amino acids, caused by the heat treatment (140°C), could explain the inferior performance. In the present trial, however, the amount of available lysine was slightly higher in diets 2 and 3. Steam-cooking (autoclaving, 100 and 120°C), drum drying (120°C) (DANIELSEN, 1986), steam flaking (AUMAITRE, 1976) and micronization (80–140°C) (DANIELSEN 1986; LAWRENCE, 1973 a) of barley improved DWG and feed utilization compared with untreated barley. In contrast, extrusion of a barley-wheat mixture (50 : 50) did not improve piglet performance. Neither did drum drying (115–155°C) of wheat, rye and barley improve performance of early-weaned piglets from three to seven weeks of age (DANIELSEN, 1986). Performance of pigs between 33 and 80 kg LW was not improved by micronization of barley (FERNANDES et al.,

1975). Also flaking of barley resulted in poorer growth rates and feed utilization in bacon pigs (LAWRENCE, 1972). Again, a decreased availability of amino acids, caused by the heat treatment, could possibly explain the poor performance results.

As was reported above, cooking barley significantly increased the apparent digestibility and energy value. In addition, extrusion of SBM increased the digestibility and improved performance of pigs, although not significantly (NÄSI, 1987). According to these results, an improved piglet performance could be expected when cooked barley and extruded SBM are fed together in the same diet. However, the results from the present trial suggest that the heat processing methods used ($T > 130^\circ\text{C}$) had a negative effect on the nutritive values of the feeds.

Enzyme supplementation of diet 2 (treatment 3) did not improve piglet performance. If, as could be concluded from these results, cooking and extrusion had a negative effect on the nutritive values of barley and SBM, respectively, enzymes cannot be expected to reverse this effect usually being a result of irreversible reactions (e.g. Maillard). Consequently, the lack of response seems quite logical.

Table 10. Health status of the piglets during the experimental period, mean values of litters.

Treatment	1	2	3	signific.
Diarrhoea index ^A	148 ^a	284 ^b	304 ^b	**
Mortality, %				
— from start to 5 weeks	0.83	1.44	1.53	NS
— from 5 to 8 weeks	0.00 ^a	2.19 ^b	1.55 ^a	*
— from start to 8 weeks	0.83	3.60	3.05	NS
Litters with no diarrhoea	7	6	4	
Litters medicated due to diarrhoea	—	—	—	

^a ^b treatments means with different superscripts are significantly different (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.005$)

^A scale of severity; 1 = normal faeces, 2 = soft faeces, 3 = fluid faeces, 4 = moderate diarrhoea, 5 = severe diarrhoea
index = severity * number of affected piglets * days

Health status of the piglets on treatments 2 and 3 was inferior to that of piglets on treatment 1 (table 10). Diarrhoea index of treatment 3 was on the same level as on treatment 2, whereas treatment 1 had a markedly lower index ($p < 0.005$). Mortality percentage on treatment 2 was higher ($p < 0.05$) than on the other treatments. As mentioned above, the elevated levels of sodium chloride in diets 2 and 3 may have increased the incidence of diarrhoea on those treatments. AUMAITRE (1976) reported increased frequency of diarrhoea following steam flaking and popping of barley. This was explained by the slightly higher feed intake from the very first days following weaning. In the present trial, however, feed intake was highest on treatment 1. Piglets on treatment 2 had the highest mortality both before and after weaning. Seven litters out of twelve on treatment 1 were not affected by diarrhoea. Corresponding figures for treatment 2 and 3 were 6 and 4, respec-

tively. None of the litters were medicated due to diarrhoea.

The sodium chloride content of diets 2 and 3 was markedly higher than in diet 1. It is well known that high intake of salt causes symptoms such as increased water consumption, which can lead to diarrhoea and edema (WRIGHT, 1972). An increased occurrence of diarrhoea was recorded on treatments 2 and 3 (table 10). It is not possible to find out to what extent this was caused by the elevated sodium chloride levels.

Trial 2

The chemical composition of the diets did not differ except regarding the lysine content and enzyme activity (table 8). The lysine content of diet 2 was slightly higher than in diet 1. The results from the enzyme activity analysis indicate high levels of natural activity, especially of beta-glucanase and protease.

Table 11. Performance during the experimental period, mean values per piglet.

Treatment	1	sd	2	sd	sign.
Piglets	24		24		
Initial weight, kg	13.2	1.3	13.4	1.3	
Final weight, kg	23.5	3.0	24.5	2.4	NS
Weight gain, kg	10.3	2.6	11.1	1.8	NS
Daily weight gain, g	542	135	586	92	NS
Feed intake, kg	18.8	1.0	19.0	1.4	NS
Feed/gain, kg/kg	1.83	0.13	1.70	0.04	NS

NS = not significant

Piglets on treatment 2 had higher live weights at the end of the trial, gained more weight and consumed more feed than piglets on treatment 1. Feed utilization was improved on treatment 2. Due to considerable variation within the treatments, none of the performance parameters was significantly different between treatments.

The marked improvement of performance by the higher inclusion level of enzyme activities indicate that the digestive capacity of young pigs can be enhanced by enzyme supplementation of the diet. Enzyme pre-treatment of barley, using a mixture of carbohydrate, starch and protein degrading enzymes, markedly decreased the incidence and severity of post-weaning diarrhoea (INBORN and OGLE, 1988). THOMKE et al. (1980) reported improved performance of piglets when fed high viscosity barley supplemented with beta-glucanase. Accordingly, COLLIER and HARDY (1986) and NEWMAN (1983) reported improved performance of pigs following enzyme supplementation of barley-SBM based diets.

Conclusions

Cooking of barley significantly improved the digestibility of barley. A subsequent en-

zyme treatment of the cooked barley decreased the digestibility to the same level as before cooking. This may have been a consequence of the browning reactions between reducing sugars and lysine resulting in poorly digestible complexes. This was indicated by the markedly elevated concentrations of glucose and the decreased amounts of available lysine in the enzyme treated barleys.

The results from the N balance measurements indicate a change in the availability of the energy following the treatments of barley. All treatments seemed to improve the energy uptake from the small intestine, but the enzyme treatments resulted in a relatively better N utilization than cooking.

In the piglet performance trials enzyme supplementation of the diets did not give any conclusive results. In trial 1, the lack of response was probably a consequence of the inclusion of heat damaged raw materials (cooked barley and extruded SBM, $T > 130^{\circ}\text{C}$), resulting in impaired performance. In trial 2, an increased enzyme activity inclusion rate in a diet containing hydrothermally treated barley and SBM ($T < 60^{\circ}\text{C}$) resulted in improved performance, suggesting that more gentle heat processing methods would be preferable in order to leave more potential for supplemental feed enzymes.

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Entsyymikäsittelyn vaikutus esikypsennetyn ohran sulavuuteen sekä entsyymilisäyksen vaikutus porsasrehun tuotantovaikutukseen

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Kasvavilla sioilla tehdyssä sulavuuskokeessa tutkittiin esikypsennyksen ja esikypsennyksen jälkeen suoritettujen entsyymikäsittelyn vaikutusta ohran sulavuuteen ja valkuaisen hyväksikäyttöön. Kahdessa porsaskokeessa tutkittiin ohran ja soijarouheen lämpökäsittelyn sekä rehuun lisätyn entsyymiseoksen vaikutusta kasvuun, rehun hyväksikäyttöön ja ripulin esiintymiseen.

Sulavuuskokeessa oli viisi sikaa, joiden keskimääräinen elopaino kokeen alkaessa oli 40 kg. Koe toteutettiin 5 x 5 latinalaisena neliönä ja jaksojen pituus 12 päivää.

Esikypsennys paransi merkittävästi jauhetun ohran kokonaissulavuutta ja energia-arvoa. Esikypsennetyn ohran entsyymikäsittely alensi sulavuutta jauhetun ohran tasolle. Esikypsennys paransi tyypin hyväksikäyttöä ja biologista arvoa (BV). Entsyymikäsittelyn vaikutus tyypin hyväksikäyttöön ja biologiseen arvoon oli suurempi kuin esikypsennyksen.

Esikypsennetyn ohran rehuarvo oli 1,17 ry/kg k.a. (15,32 MJ ME/kg k.a.) ja jauhetun ohran 1,09 ry/kg k.a.

(14,27 MJ ME/kg k.a.). Entsyymikäsiteltyjen ohrien rehuarvot olivat esikypsennetyn ohran ja jauhetun ohran välillä.

Ensimmäisessä porsaiden kasvatuskokeessa 36 pahnuetta jaettiin kolmeen ryhmään. Koerhut olivat vapaasti saatavilla toisesta viikosta syntymän jälkeen kahdeksanteen elinviikkoon asti. Porsaat vieroitettiin viiden viikon iässä. Kontrollirehussa (ryhmä 1) oli jauhettua ohraa ja soijarouhetta. Toisessa koerhussa (ryhmä 2) oli esikypsennettyä ohraa ja ekstrudoitua soijarouhetta. Kolmas koeryhmä sai toisen koeryhmän rehua, johon oli lisätty entsyymiseos (ryhmä 3).

Ryhmien 2 ja 3 porsaiden keskimääräinen loppupaino ja painonlisäys olivat merkittävästi ($p < 0,05$) pienemmät kuin kontrolliryhmän. Rehujen syöntimäärissä ja hyväksikäytössä ei ryhmien välillä ollut eroja. Ripulia esiintyi koeryhmässä merkittävästi enemmän kuin kontrolliryhmässä.

Toisessa kasvatuskokeessa 48 vastavieroitettua porsasta jaettiin kahteen ryhmään. Kummankin ryhmän porsaat jaettiin neljään kuuden porsaan ryhmään. Rehut olivat vapaasti saatavilla koko 19 päivän koejakson ajan. Rehujen koostumus oli sama, mutta koerehuun (ryhmä 2) entsyymiseoksen lisäystaso oli viisinkertainen (0,5 %) verrattuna kontrollirehuun (0,1 %).

Koeryhmän lisäkasvu oli 8 % ja rehun hyväksikäyttö 7 % parempi kuin kontrolliryhmän. Erot eivät olleet merkittäviä ($p < 0,05$). Terveystilassa ei ollut eroa ryhmien välillä.