Original article

The addition of egg yolk to the physiological saline extender improved the motility and viability of kampung rooster spermatozoa at cool temperatures

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the motility and viability of kampung rooster (Gallus gallus domesticus) spermatozoa in 0.9% Sodium chloride (NaCl) solution as an extender with the addition of egg yolk at different concentrations at cool temperature (5°C). This study was performed using two 1.5 years old healthy local roosters. Semen was collected through massage in the morning. The pooled semen sample was divided into four treatment groups. In the T0 group the semen was diluted in 0.9% NaCl, while in the T1, T2 and T3 groups the semen was diluted in 0.9% NaCl added with 5, 10 and 15% egg yolk. The results showed that the motility and viability of spermatozoa decreased when stored at cool temperatures for ten hours (p <0.05). Semen of roosters stored at 5° C in saline solution without the addition of egg volks showed the lowest motility and viability of spermatozoa (p < 0.05). The addition of egg yolk into the saline extender increased the motility and viability of spermatozoa. Concentration of 15% egg yolk in saline solution resulted in the highest spermatozoa motility and viability when stored for up to 8 hours (p <0.05). However, motility and viability of spermatozoa at 10 hours of storage were not significantly different (p > 0.05) with the addition of 10% and 15% egg yolks. Therefore, it could be concluded that the addition of 15% egg yolk into a saline solution as an extender could maintain the motility and viability of kampung rooster spermatozoa when stored at 5°C for 10 hours.

Keywords: egg yolk, kampung rooster, physiological NaCl, sperm motility, sperm viability

INTRODUCTION

Kampung chickens (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) are very valuable germplasm for Indonesia (Sartika *et al.*, 2023) and for people's

lives of in rural areas as a source of meat, eggs, and additional income (Setyanovina *et al.*, 2021). Kampung chickens are more profitable than purebred chicken because they are more resistant to diseases, have high adaptability to the

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environment, and are relatively easy to raise. While the weaknesses of kampung chickens are slow growth, low productivity, slow sexual maturity, hatching characteristics, long egglaying intervals due to broodstock, and low genetic quality. In addition, kampung chickens are more expensive than other poultry because high demand is not matched by high production (Pettersson *et al.*, 2016).

Kampung chickens are reared in a freerange system, with natural mating. Selective mating between roosters and hens, resulted in a limited number of mated hens, thereby, the spermatozoa of roosters are not utilized optimally (Hidayat and Asmarasari, 2015). The artificial insemination technique allowed one male ejaculate to fertilize 24-40 females (Silyukova et al., 2022). By using superior roosters, artificial insemination technology can increase the population, productivity and genetic quality of kampung chickens. The success of artificial insemination in chickens depends on several factors, including the quality of the inseminated semen. Frozen liquid or spermatozoa can be used for artificial insemination (Yaman et al., 2022).

One of the determining factors for the success of artificial insemination in kampung chickens is the quality of semen. Rooster semen quality was determined based on macroscopic (semen volume, color, and pH), and microscopic (sperm motility, viability, and concentration) evaluation (Mussa et al., 2023). Semen must be mixed with an extender that ensures its physiological and chemical needs and stored at certain temperatures and conditions that maintain the life of the spermatozoa for the desired time. Extenders are very important to maintain sperm quality during storage and ensure their fertility for artificial insemination (Chankitisakul et al., 2022). Semen extender solutions must be isotonic with body fluids, including seminal cells and seminal plasma. Saline solution meets the requirements for an isotonic solution but does not contain food sources or substances that protect against oxidative stress (Bustani and Baiee, 2021). Egg yolk contains 0.2 - 1.0% glucose, 68% lowdensity lipoproteins, 16% high-density lipoproteins, 10% lecithin, and others (Réhault-Godbert et al., 2019). Lipoprotein and lecithin help to maintain and protect the integrity of the spermatozoa lipoprotein sheath (Yendraliza et al., 2019). Saline solution and egg yolk are easy to obtain, so it is hoped that they can be used for artificial insemination in kampung roosters. Studies on simple extenders for preserving kampung rooster semen are needed so that they can be easily applied by rural communities. Storage at 5 °C is expected to inhibit the metabolic rate, so that they can live longer (Salmah, 2014). Therefore, this study aims to determine the percentage of egg yolk in saline solution to extend the storage time of kampung rooster spermatozoa at cool temperatures based on the motility and viability of spermatozoa.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research proposal and procedures were reviewed and approved by the review board. This study was an experimental study with a completely randomized design. Kampung rooster ejaculates were devided into four volumes equally for T0, T1, T2 and T3 groups. In the control (T0) group, fresh semen was diluted in physiological (0.9%) NaCl; while in T1, T2, T3 groups fresh semen was diluted in physiological NaCl contained 5, 10, and 15% (v/v) eggyolk. each with five replicates.

Rooster semen collection

Semen samples were collected from two healthy male kampung roosters aged 1.5 years with a body weight of approximately 2.3 kg. Semen was collected twice a week in the morning at 8 am to obtain five ejaculates from each rooster. Prior to collection, the rooster's cloaca must be cleaned to ensure that the semen was not contaminated with faeces and feathers. Semen collection was performed by abdominal massage according to the Burrows and Quinn method, a modified non-invasive method for spermatozoa collection from roosters (Getachew, 2016). Semen collection was performed by two individuals, with one holding

and massaging the rooster while the other collected semen. The rooster was sandwiched between the arms and body of the first person, with one hand used to massage and the other hand holding the two legs of the rooster. The massage was done on the lower part of the pubic bone from front to back, lifting the rooster with pressure on the end of the phallus. The massage was done quickly and regularly 5-7 times until the rooster responded and protruded the papilla. When the papillae came out, the bottom of the pubis was pressed with the index finger and thumb which made the cock stretch its feathers upwards, then the bottom of the rooster was pressed to make the papillae released semen. After ejaculation, the thick white semen that was released was immediately collected by the second person into a microfuge tube.

The fresh semen was examined macroscopically (pH, color, thickness) and microscopically (examination of concentration with a spectrophotometer, motility, and viability of the spermatozoa).

Sperm concentration

Spermatozoa concentration was measured using a Turner Model 330 Spectrophotometer (GiMiTEC, USA). The spectrophotometer was turned on for 10 minutes, the wavelength was set at 546 nm, and then 4 mL of physiological NaCl was put into the cuvette and measured on the spectrophotometer. The cuvette was taken, and 40 μ L of semen were added and stirred gently until homogeneous. The cuvette was put back into the spectrophotometer then the result was printed on paper (Yin *et al.*, 2019).

Extender

Fresh chicken eggs for laboratory use (CV. Redjo, Surabaya) were cleaned with 70% alcohol cotton. Egg shell was cracked and the entire egg white and yolk coated with vitelline membrane were moved out. Egg yolk was transferred onto a filter paper, and then poured into a measuring cylinder without the vitelline membrane. Four test tubes were prepared for T0, T1, T2, and T3 groups, each filled with 0, 0.5, 1, and 1.5 mL of egg yolk, respectively, and made up to a volume of 10 mL with physiological saline solution. Penicillin 1000 IU and Steptomycin 1 mg per mL of extender were added to the semen extender to suppress bacterial growth. Each ejaculate obtained was divided equally into four parts and diluted in the extender according to the group with a ratio (v/v) of one part of semen and ten parts of the extender. The extended semen was homogenized, spermatozoa motility and viability were examined (precooled), then stored in a refrigerator at 5°C (Pitaloka et al., 2023). Spermatozoa motility and viability were then observed every two hours for up to ten hours.

Macroscopic evaluation

The volume of each ejaculate was measured using a graduated microcentrifuge tube used for semen collection. Evaluation of semen viscosity was carried out by tilting the microcentrifuge tube. Thick semen is chracterized by the flow of semen going down slowly and leaving marsk on the tube wall. On the other hand, dilute semen showed that semen flows down quickly without leaving mark on the tube wall. Semen color was observed visually, and semen pH was determined using pH indicator paper stick (Yaman *et al.*, 2022).

Spermatozoa motility

Sperm motility of fresh and diluted semen was assessed using the same method. Semen in sample microtube was gently stirred with a small bored pasteur pipette; a drop of the mixture and a drop of physiological saline solution were mixed homogeneously on an object glass, and covered with a cover glass. The percentage of spermatozoa with progressive movement was examined under a light microscope (Nikon Eclipse E100 LED) at 400x magnification in five fields of view at room temperature (Sari *et al.*, 2023).

Spermatozoa viability

Semen in sample tube was first homogenized, then one drop of each semen sample was mixed with one drop of eosinnegrosin on an object glass; mixture was thinly

smeared and fixed over a Bunsen flame. Observations were made under a microscope (Nikon Eclipse E100 LED) with 400x magnification. Live spermatozoa showed translucent (clear) head, while dead spermatozoa showed purplish red head (Sari *et al.*, 2023).

Data analysis

Analysis using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test showed that data were normally distributed (homogeneous) (p > 0.05). ANOVA results showed a significant difference (p > 0.05), and Duncan's New Multiple Range Test was carried out. All statistical tests were performed with a confidence level of 95% using SPSS for Windows version 23.0 software.

RESULTS

Table 1 Characteristic of kampung rooster fresh

 semen

macroscopic				
volume (mL)	0.64 ± 0.26			
color	creamy white			
consistency	thick			
pH	7			
microscopic				
mass movement	+++			
concentration (million/mL) 1272.00 ± 262.91				
viability (%)	95.20 ± 0.45			
progressive motility (%)	87.60 ± 1.67			

Characteristics of kampung rooster fresh semen, including macroscopic (volume, color, consistency, and pH) and microscopic (mass movement, individual movement, concentration, viability, and motility of spermatozoa), are shown in Table 1.

Spermatozoa motility (Table 2) and viability (Table 3) decreased (p < 0.05) up to 10 hours in the two-hour evaluations, with spermatozoa motility exceeding 40% in all cases. Rooster semen stored at 5°C in physiological saline solution without the addition of egg yolk showed the lowest spermatozoa motility and viability (p <0.05). The addition of egg yolk to the saline solution increased spermatozoa motility and viability. Concentration of 15% egg yolk in saline extender solution resulted in the highest spermatozoa motility and viability when stored for up to 8 hours (p <0.05). However, spermatozoa motility and viability at 10 hours of storage did not show a significant difference (p >0.05) between egg yolk concentrations of 10 and 15% in saline extender.

Table 2 Spermatozoa motility (%, means ± SD) of kampung rooster in physiological saline solution
with various concentrations of egg yolk stored at 5°C

	TO	T1	T2	T3
0 hours	81.20 ± 1.79 ^a	83.80 ± 0.84 ^b	85.80 ± 1.64 ^b	88.00 ± 2.00 ^c
2 hours	74.80 ± 1.48 ^a	78.20 ± 1.92 ^b	79.00 ± 3.54 ^b	84.20 ± 1.00 ^c
4 hours	68.00 ± 2.12 ^a	71.00 ± 1.41 ^b	74.60 ± 1.67 ^c	81.00 ± 0.71 ^d
6 hours	56.00 ± 1.22 ^a	64.60 ± 0.55 ^b	67.20 ± 0.45 ^c	73.00 ± 1.00 ^d
8 hours	51.20 ± 1.10^{a}	55.20 ± 1.30 ^b	59.60 ± 1.34 ^c	64.00 ± 1.73 ^d
10 hours	$42.80\pm1.48~^{a}$	45.20 ± 1.64 ^b	50.40 ± 1.67 ^c	52.60 ± 1.82 ^c

Different supersripts in the same row were significantly different (p <0.05); T0: fresh semen was diluted in physiological NaCl; T1, T2, T3: fresh semen was diluted in physiological NaCl contained 5, 10, and 15% (v/v) egg yolk, respectively.

Table 3 Spermatozoa viability (%, means ± SD) of kampung rooster in physiological saline solution

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	TO	T1	T2	Т3
0 hours	$87.40 \pm 1.82^{\text{ a}}$	89.80 ± 0.84 ^b	91.80 ± 1.64 ^b	94.00 ± 2.00 ^c
2 hours	81.80 ± 1.48 ^a	85.20 ± 1.92 ^b	88.00 ± 1.58 ^c	$92.20 \pm 1.30^{\text{ d}}$
4 hours	76.20 ± 1.79 ^a	79.00 ± 1.41 ^b	82.60 ± 1.67 ^c	89.00 ± 0.71 ^d
6 hours	64.60 ± 1.14 ^a	72.60 ± 0.55 ^b	74.20 ± 2.59 ^b	85.20 ± 0.84 ^c
8 hours	61.20 ± 1.10^{a}	65.20 ± 1.30 ^b	69.60 ± 1.34 ^c	74.00 ± 1.73 ^d
10 hours	54.20 ± 1.48 ^a	57.20 ± 1.64 ^b	62.40 ± 1.67 ^c	64.60 ± 1.82 ^c

with various concentrations of egg yolk stored at 5°C

Different supersripts in the same row were significantly different (p <0.05); T0: fresh semen was diluted in physiological NaCl; T1, T2, T3: fresh semen was diluted in physiological NaCl contained 5, 10, and 15% (v/v) egg yolk, respectively.

DISCUSSION

Kampung rooster fresh semen was creamy white in color, had a thick consistency, and a pH of 7 (1-14 scale). Semen pH was affected by the temperature of the cage environment, contamination of germ, and the number of dead spermatozoa in the semen, which triggers the formation of ammonia (Abioja et al., 2023). Semen volume of kampung rooster collected in this study was 0.64 ± 0.26 mL. Semen volume variation can be affected by breed (Hambu et al., 2016; Mussa et al., 2023), semen collection frequency and seasonal variations (Pimprasert et al., 2023), age (Shanmugam et al., 2014), degree of stimulation, quality of the feed given and the health status of the rooster (Mussa et al., 2023).

Routinely, the ejaculate of roosters for artificial insemination is examined for volume. spermatozoa concentration, motility, and viability (Silyukova et al., 2022). The concentration of spermatozoa in the fresh semen of kampung rooster in this study was 1272.00 ± 262.91 million per mL of ejaculate. Semen concentration varies and is influenced by the frequency of semen collection, libido, diet, temperature, and season (Mustagim et al., 2021). Volume, color. consistency, pH, and mass movement were generally consistent with those of Pitaloka et al. (2023). However, the spermatozoa concentration $(1272.00 \pm 262.91 \text{ million/mL})$ and spermatozoa viability (95.20 ± 0.45) were higher than those of Pitaloka et al. (2023) (1068 ± 360.99 million/mL and $88.80 \pm 2.28\%$, respectively).

Duration of storage

Spermatozoa motility and viability decreased when stored at cool temperatures for ten hours (p < 0.05). Motility, viability, and fertilization ability of avian spermatozoa are affected by in vitro storage conditions, including storage temperature and extenders (Sarkar, 2020). The use of a simple extender that is easy to obtain is useful in practical application in small-scale chicken breeding. However, the extender must maintain the viability and fertilization ability of the spermatozoa (Chankitisakul et al., 2022). Storage at 5 °C can extend the shelf life of semen without significantly changing the quality of chicken spermatozoa (Blank et al., 2021; Azzam et al., 2022). The quality of spermatozoa decreased with increasing storage time. However, spermatozoa motility. viability. and mitochondrial function can be maintained with the right extenders (Kheawkanha et al., 2023).

Several studies have reported the use of egg yolk as an additive in chicken semen extenders. The addition of 15-25% egg yolk to skim milk, maintained semen quality for up to three hours at 5°C (Saleh *et al.*, 2021). The addition of egg yolk to skim milk extender maintained the motility, viability, and abnormal rooster spermatozoa stored at 5°C for nine hours (Yuniar *et al.*, 2021). Coconut water egg-yolk glucose extender maintained progressive motility and viability of kampung rooster spermatozoa stored at 5°C for 72 hours (Khaeruddin and Amir, 2019).

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Spermatozoa motility

The control group with physiological NaCl extender showed the lowest results in this study. The buffer content in the saline solution has no effect on the optimal motility of spermatozoa at cool temperatures (5°C), but it can still be used for artificial insemination. In the group that used saline solution buffer added with 5% and 10% egg yolk, the motility was lower than in the 15% group. The results of observations in the group with 5% egg yolk were lower than in the group with 10% egg yolk, but both of them can still be used for artificial insemination. The addition of 5% and 10% egg yolk failed to provide optimal spermatozoa motility at cool temperatures (5° C). The group with the extender added with 15% egg yolk was added had the highest percentage of spermatozoa motility compared to the other groups. This showed that the higher the concentration of egg yolk, the higher the motility. High motility spermatozoa of spermatozoa increases the chances of fertilization because only motile spermatozoa qualify for fertilizing an egg (Chankitisakul et al., 2022). Spermatozoa that move forward (progressive) are the main criteria for calculation, while spermatozoa that move around, move in place, or do not move are not counted. In this motility assessment, the number of progressively moving spermatozoa was compared to the number of all spermatozoa examined (Parker et al., 2000).

Spermatozoa storage time also affects spermatozoa motility. The decrease in spermatozoa motility is consistent with storage duration of (Vašíček and Chrenek, 2013; Vašíček et al., 2015). This was because storage was carried out at cool temperature (5°C), which allows the metabolism of spermatozoa to continue (Blank et al., 2021). Egg volk contains energy sources in the form of fructose and glucose (Réhault-Godbert et al., 2019). Egg yolk serves as a nutrient medium, energy source, and extracellular protection for spermatozoa from cold shock during freezing, as a protective agent, buffering which provides a effect on spermatozoa (Santiago-Moreno et al., 2012). Egg yolk contains components in the form of lipoprotein and lecithin, which can maintain and protect the integrity of the lipoprotein sheath of spermatozoa (Ola *et al.*, 2020). The Low-Density Lipoprotein fraction can protect spermatozoa from cold shock (Moussa *et al.*, 2002; Bustani and Baiee, 2021).

Spermatozoa viability

The control group with saline solution showed the lowest spermatozoa viability. The buffer content in the saline solution failed to maintain the optimal viability of rooster spermatozoa at chilled temperatures (5°C). The addition of egg yolk to the buffered saline solution increased the viability of kampung rooster spermatozoa. In the groups with 5% and 10% egg yolk, the viability was lower than in the group with 15% egg yolk. The viability of the group with the addition of 5% egg yolk was still lower than the group with the addition of 10% egg yolk. The addition of 5% and 10% egg yolks could not provide an optimal effect on spermatozoa at cool temperatures (5°C).

The group with the addition of 15% egg yolk showed the highest viability compared to the control group (without egg yolk) and the group with the addition of 5% and 10% egg yolk. Egg yolk has a good source of energy to provide a suitable environment for spermatozoa and protect the membrane so that membrane permeability is maintained (Rochmi and Sofyan, 2019). In this study, the viability of spermatozoa of kampung roosters extended in saline solution with 15% egg yolk ($64.60 \pm 1.82\%$) was higher than that reported by Azzam et al. (2022) (viability was $60.60 \pm 1.81\%$ after 10 hours storage at 5°C), in which semen was extended in 5% Dextrose Ringer's extender with the addition of 10% egg yolk.

CONCLUSION

The addition of egg yolk at a concentration of 5 - 15% in saline solution extender maintained the motility and viability of kampung rooster spermatozoa. The best motility and viability were achieved by the addition of 15% egg yolk.

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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Lucky Diba Gitayana (LDG), Nusdianto Triakoso (NT), Tjuk Imam Restiadi (TIR), Suherni Susilowati (SS), Suzanita Utama (SU), Dwi Wijayanti (DW).

LDG: compiling ideas, designing frameworks, data acquisition, and drafting manuscripts. SU and NT: data analysis and interpretation, supervision, and manuscript drafts. TIR, SS, and DW: read and critically revised manuscripts for intellectual content. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no competing interests regarding this study

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