Original Research Article

Comparison of the Fitting of Two Mathematical Models to Describe the Ruminal Fermentation Parameters of Some Sources of Plant and Animal Protein Using In Vitro Gas Method

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ABSTRACT

Aims: In this study of two mathematical models was used for described rumen fermentation parameters of plant and animal some protein sources using test gas method.
Study design: The two models include the exponential model Ørskov and McDonald (EXP) and sigmoid model the France (FRC).
Place and Duration of Study: The study was conducted at the University of Ardebil, between 2014 and 2016. In order to conduct the experiment, sources of plant protein (soybean meal, Rapeseed meal and cottonseed meal) and sources of animal protein (poultry offal meal, fish meal and blood meal) were obtained from the agricultural sector and the local slaughterhouse.
Methodology: Gas production tested for 6 feed in 3 repeat in 3 separate periods was conducted. The volume of gas produced at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 24, 36, 48 and 72 hours incubation were measured by two model gas production parameters and ruminal fermentation were fitted.
Results: The results showed that the amount of gas production potential (A) and the rate constant gas production (c) in both model of EXP and FRC was the same and had not significant difference together. However, two model at lag phase (T lag) had the significant difference that the amount lag phase in the model EXP than model FRC was higher.
Conclusion: Therefore, the FRC model instead EXP model can often be a useful technique for describe the gas production profiles.

Keywords: Gas test, Mathematical models, Protein sources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gas production in vitro, in related with fermentation parameters and ruminal digestion kinetics valuable descriptions in the evaluation feed provides [4]. In this in vitro gas production, a certain amount of feed in the rumen fluid incubated and the volume of gas produced at regular intervals and row that showed speed digestion feed is measured. Described the results of the tests mainly by fitting them by two models of EXP and FRC done [1]. Therefore, comparing the performance and capability of two models can highly be influential model for choosing. Some of the differences between the two models may be related to the test conditions and the type of feed. But some of these differences in the ability to model and flexible models at predict and describe the results related to fermentation [7].

Since the gas production curve is non-linear structure, the models that for describe it used, it should have such a structure [11]. Some of models, like the model France sigmoid structure have that due to the use of this structure; the presence of microbial activity in the rumen has been reported [11]. But some other of models likes mode of Ørskov and McDonald have non-Sigmoid structure. So today, for greater reliability of gas production test results by the researchers, a variety of models non- Sigmoid and Sigmoid structure is used and in this regard, various formulas have been proposed [3,8]. In most studies related to rumen fermentation parameters by in vitro gas production of the exponential equation Ørskov and McDonald (1979) as (EXP) y=A (1- e-ct) is used. McDonald and Ørskov model is one of the most well-known models in predict rumen fermentation parameters. This model assumes that the rate of gas production in the rumen depends only on the availability of feed [13]. One another of the models that used to predict gas production, is the model of France (FRC). As mentioned France model had sigmoid structure and great flexibility in fitting the data of gas production. France model assumes that the rate gas production is directly linked to the rate degradation feed and this condition is dependent on fermentation time and time identification or adherence of bacteria to feed components (lag phase) [1]. In addition, there are models that by other researchers for this purpose have been proposed that have received little attention [9]. according to the comprehensive comparison between the two models of France and Ørskov and McDonald for described ruminal fermentation parameters plant and animal some protein sources using gas test method and since the evaluation tests of feed has been done more than alfalfa hay as a standard feed and with important in ruminant nutrition. Therefore, in this study the accuracy of the proposed methods of terms of goodness of fit and to describe the ruminal fermentation parameters plant and animal some protein sources evaluated using gas method.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to conduct the experiment, sources of plant protein (soybean meal, Rapeseed meal and cottonseed meal) and sources of animal protein (poultry offal meal, fish meal and blood meal) were obtained from the agricultural sector and the local slaughterhouse. The chemical composition of the feed by conventional methods [12] was carried out. The in vitro method [4] was used to measure the amount of produced gas in laboratory conditions and the amount of gas production measured and recorded at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 24, 36, 48 and 72 hours of incubation, respectively. In this study, among of the different mathematical models have been developed to analyze gas production data by two models digestion France et al (1993) and Ørskov and McDonald (1979) with regard to the lag phase was used to evaluate the digestive process. For this purpose of 54 series data obtained from the tests (three separate periods with 3 repeat and 3 levels of feed and 2 feed per period) for fitted data's and T-test was used to compare their mean for each parameter of the model.

Models include:

Ørskov and McDonald model (1979) with regard to the lag phase

$$G=A\,(1-e^{-ct+L})$$

Model France et al., (1993).

$$G = A\,(1-e-c\,(t-L)-d\,(\sqrt{t} -\sqrt{L}\,))$$

Where G is equal to the accumulation of gas produced per unit time, A is equal to the total amount of gas produced (ml), c is equal to a fixed rate of gas production (ml per hour), d is equal to a fixed rate of gas production (ml at h1/2), L equal to the lag phase, t time and t ½ equal to half of the total gas production time is cumulative.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

The chemical compositions of test feed are presented in Table 1. Blood meal contents a higher percentage of protein than any of the other plant and animal protein. The maximum amount of crude fat 31.3% for POM and highest ash content of 20% was observed for FM. Highest of NDF and ADF (70.6% and 58.4%) for CM and the lowest NDF and ADF were obtained 45.7 and 33.3% for SM, respectively. The results related to predicted parameters by the model France (FRC) and the Ørskov and McDonald (EXP) are presented in Table 2. As observed the gas production potential (A) for all feed samples testing in the model FRC and EXP respectively, 133.407 and 131.790 ml per gram dry matter was predicted and significant difference was observed between the two models in terms of gas production potential. The gas production rate constant (c) for all feed tested in the FRC and EXP respectively 0.089 and 0.082 ml per hour, which was not significantly different between the two models.

Table 1. Chemical composition of some plant and animal protein sources

Protein sources	DM	CP	EE	Ash	NDF	ADF
Plant						
Soybean meal	92.4	50	1.6	6.1	45.7	33.3
Rapeseed meal	91.4	37	1.2	8	51.5	46.1
Cottonseed meal	93	24	1.4	4.7	70.6	58.4
Animal						
Poultry offal meal	94.4	55	31.3	7.3	48.9	34.8
Fish meal	93.6	50	18.1	20	61.2	40.6
Blood meal	70.6	59	1.6	5	55.3	33.4

**DM = dry matter (percent), CP = crude protein (%DM), EE= crude fat (%DM), Ash = ash (%DM) NDF = Neutral detergent fiber (%), ADF= Acid detergent fiber (%)*

However, when the individual feed was fitted in terms of the two models of France and Ørskov and McDonald, it was observed that rapeseed meal had a significant difference in gas production rate. Only the two models had a significant difference in terms of the lag time (T lag) except for cotton seed meal (P <0.05). According to the results of the tables, T lag was higher in the Ørskov and McDonald's model than the France model. T lag or the time colony production is an important parameter that is associated with feed fiber degradability [5]. Less time to start the colony by France the model for all plant and animal protein sources were received. The lag phase for the France 0.435 hours and against 1.964 hours for the Ørskov and McDonald were observed. The longer lag phase for all protein sources in the

Ørskov and McDonald model indicates that in this model, microorganisms were started to recognize and colonize on the digestible substrate in a delayed and time-consuming behavior compared to the France model.

Table 2. Comparison of two models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters these to between the plant and animal protein sources

		Model		
	Parameters	**France**	**Ørskov and McDonald**	**P value for T-test**
Total feeds	A	133.41	131.79	0.93
	c	0.09	0.08	0.59
	T lag	0.44	1.96	<0.001

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

It is desirable to reduce the production time of the colony for a fermentable substrate and easily fermented, and especially for samples containing fiber and cell wall and certain physicochemical characteristics in the cell wall. In the case of studied protein sources, cotton seed meal had a lower T lag in both models. However, other sources of plant and animal protein in this study, despite the fact that fiber and cell wall structure (NDF) were less than that of cottonseed meal but, two models in the T lag have shown significant different values for our protein sources. In this comparison, the France model has the lowest lag phase for these sources (P <0.05).

Table 3. Comparison of two models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters these to between the plant protein sources

		Model		
	Parameters	**France**	**Ørskov and McDonald**	**P value for T-test**
Plant protein	A	204.74	202.09	0.90
	c	0.06	0.05	0.27
	T lag	0.37	1.48	0.002

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

This shows that the Ørskov and McDonald model has an over estimate for lag phase. Therefore, it can be concluded that the French model estimates less lag phase for sources of protein with less fiber. Reis, Sidnei Tavares Dos, et al., (2016) stated that the correlation between the cumulative production phase and the total carbohydrate degradation is strong and high, but some differences in this relation are concerned to the used model for the analysis.

Table 4. Comparison of two models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters these to between the animal protein sources

	Model			
	Parameters	**France**	**Ørskov and McDonald**	**P value for T-test**
Animal protein	A	62.08	61.49	0.96
	c	0.12	0.11	0.74
	T lag	0.50	2.45	<0.001

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

T Lag represents the amount of time that microbes spent for attachment to raw material or substrate fermentable and adhesion to the insoluble substrate is as a predigesting condition and beginning the process of digestion. Shorter lag phase may be faster fermentation rate. So among those protein sources, those with a lower lag phase have been shown more fermentation or degradation rates, as well as more gas production. The structure of the solution fraction of each feed is as an energy substrate for rapid fermentation by attachment microbes, and the suitable colonization of microorganisms onto substrate materials, followed by increased fermentation and ultimately reduced lat phase.

However, the importance of the solution fraction to start the degradation and gas production is significant when larger amounts of cell wall components can be provided to microorganisms by better colony and more microbes [10].

Table 5. comparative models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters of these to between each sources of study

	Model		
	France	**Ørskov and McDonald**	
Source protein	**A**	**A**	**P value For T-test**
Soybean meal	287.04	287.48	0.96
Rapeseed meal	215.99	219.68	0.79

Cottonseed meal	111.16	99.12	0.28
poultry offal meal	118.33	117.75	0.95
Fish meal	38.12	37.67	0.94
Blood meal	29.78	29.03	0.81

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

Table 6. comparative models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters of these to between each sources of study

	Model		
	France	**Ørskov and McDonald**	
Source protein	**c**	**c**	**P value For T-test**
Soybean meal	0.08	0.07	0.23
Rapeseed meal	0.06	0.04	0.01
Cottonseed meal	0.04	0.04	0.89
poultry offal meal	0.12	0.10	0.29
Fish meal	0.10	0.09	0.60
Blood meal	0.13	0.14	0.89

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

Table 7. comparative models France and Ørskov and McDonald based the estimated parameters of these to between each sources of study

	Model		
	France	**Ørskov and McDonald**	
Source protein	**T lag**	**T lag**	**P value For T-test**
Soybean meal	0.34	1.35	0.02
Rapeseed meal	0.62	2.47	0.002

Cottonseed meal	0.16	0.63	0.31
poultry offal meal	0.52	2.21	0.002
Fish meal	0.51	2.39	0.008
Blood meal	0.46	2.74	0.001

**A = potential gas production (ml) c = constant rate gas production (ml per hour) T lag = lag phase (hours)*

4. CONCLUSION

According to the goodness of fitness is done between the two models, the French model seems to be a better model for describing the ruminal fermentation parameters than the model Ørskov and McDonald model because of the shorter lag phase or less colony production time. Also this fact does not lead to an underestimation of fermentation level or degradability and the potential of gas production for ruminant feeds.

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