Growth Performance of Kasila Broiler Parent Stock Reared on Quantitative Feed Restriction under Bangladesh Condition

M.E. Hossain¹, S.D. Chowdhury², M. Ahammed³, M.A.H. Pramanik³ and M.R. Rahman⁴
¹Department of Dairy and Poultry Science, Dinajpur Government Veterinary College, Dinajpur, Bangladesh
²Department of Poultry Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh 2202, Bangladesh
³Gazipur Technical School and College, Gachha, Gazipur, Bangladesh
⁴School of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur, Bangladesh
E-mail: sdchow@royalten.net

Abstract: A total of 201 Kasila broiler parent chicks were reared in an open-sided house from one-day to 22 weeks of age and growth performance and uniformity were monitored. The birds were maintained on quantitative feed restriction and their adaptability was evaluated. The experimental period was divided into three phases, phase I (day-old to 2 weeks), phase II (3 to 8 weeks) and phase III (9 to 22 weeks). The birds were provided with identical care and management like feeding, watering, ventilation, lighting, vaccination and disease control programme. Female chicks followed standard growth and feed consumption curves very closely while, male followed standard growth curve irregularly. The body weight of females at the end of 2nd, 8th and 22nd weeks were slightly higher but close to the standard while, males were little higher at 2nd & 22nd week but little lower at 8th week. Body weight gain of both females and males were lower during 3 to 8 weeks and higher during 9 to 22 weeks of age. Kasila females exhibited acceptable uniformity ranges during the study period except at 20th week. But the males showed lower trends in uniformity in most of the growth period. The birds were more prone to Mycoplasmosis during the growing period in spite of adopting preventive measures including medication. Kasila broiler parents are adaptable under Bangladesh condition if environmental stress could be minimized by taking appropriate measures and following breeder’s instructions.

Key words: Kasila, parent stock, standard weight, achieved weight

Introduction
A good number of parent stocks having excellent genetic potentiality have been developed by breeders to augment production of commercial broiler chicks in the world but their performance varies from strain to strain and even within the same strain depending on the environment to which they are exposed. The parent stock growers are always interested to select a strain that is well adaptable under local condition and is capable of producing quality hatching eggs for the hatcheries in accordance with their inherent potentiality. Kasila is one of the broiler parent stock of Indian origin reared in India and Bangladesh. Kasila Farm Limited, the original breeder of the strain, established GPS by importing male and female lines from Hubbard Farms, USA. The response of Kasila broiler parent chicks in terms of growth performance resulting from feed allowances allocated to achieve target body weight has become an interest for parent stock growers. Body weight in poultry is one of the most important economic traits influenced by genetics, environment, management and feeding system. Most important indicators of broiler breeder performance during growing period is the achievement of body weight close to standard in relation to age and also their uniformity. Balanced diets and proper management would involve minimum cost and produce pullets of optimum weight with excellent uniformity.

Broiler breeders are restricted both in quality and quantity from three weeks of age until the point of lay and then depending on rate of lay. Standard body weight of broiler parent stock at the onset of sexual maturity is associated with increased egg production (Hocking et al., 1987; Katanbaf et al., 1989a), lower mortality (Wilson and Harms, 1986; Katanbaf et al., 1989b), improved fertility and hatchability (Bilgili and Render, 1985; Hocking, 1993). Although broiler parent stocks are raised by breeding farms for the production of quality chicks, data with regard to their growth pattern are scanty in research journals. Therefore, the objective of the study was to monitor growth performance i.e. body weight, body weight gain, feed intake and uniformity of Kasila broiler parent chicks resulting from quantitative feed restriction in an open-sided house and to compare these data with the standards and finally to assess their adaptability as well as welfare under Bangladesh condition.

Materials and Methods
Two hundred one Kasila broiler parent chicks were reared from one-day-old to 22 weeks of age in an open-sided house at Bangladesh Agricultural University Poultry Farm during the period between late autumn and spring. The experimental period was divided into 3 phases, phase I (Day old to 2 weeks), phase II (3 to 8
Results and Discussion

Growth performance of females during phase I and II:
The initial body weight of Kasila parent chicks was 36g. It was lower in comparison with other parent chicks (e.g. 49g of ISA 30 MPK). When achieved body weight was compared with standard body weight, it was found that the achieved body weight followed the standard curve very closely from 3 weeks and onwards (Fig. 1). The results agreed with Fattori et al. (1991) who found a similar trend in growth curve for Arbor Acres parent chicks. Body weight was slightly lower (9g to 16g/bird lower) from 1st week to 7th week except at 2nd week (29g/bird higher) and at 8th week (7g/bird higher) when it was higher than standards (Fig. 1). However, the body weight of 2 to 8 weeks rearing period was within the standard body weight range except at 2nd week when it was only 6g higher than the target. Fig. 2 shows that feed consumption curve was very close to the standard and the chicks consumed only 2.64g (per bird/day) higher than the standard at 3rd week and 1.53 g/bird and 1.28 g/bird lower at 5th and 6th week respectively. During this period, there was a slight difference between standard and achieved body weight gain (Table 2). This result coincided with the findings of Kwakkel et al. (1991). During this time, the chicks were affected by coccidiosis. Strain et al. (1965) and Lee et al. (1971) also observed that restricted birds were more prone to coccidiosis during their early period of life.

Growth pattern of female during 9 to 22 weeks of age (phase III): Fig. 1 shows that the body weight was little lower (22g to 45g/bird) during 9th to 11th week and at 14th weeks of age as compared to standards. The body weight was very close to the standard at 12th, 13th and 19th weeks of age. The achieved body weight was lower at 14th to 18th week. The highest difference was 144g/bird lower at 16th week. The average body weight of birds at 20th week was 2305 g/bird. The body weight differed from the observation of Asuquo (1994) who found 2624g/bird at 20th weeks of age in 2 lines of Lohmann brown broiler parent. The achieved body weight at 22nd week was 140g higher than the standard. The result contradicts with the findings of Wilson and Harms (1986) who observed body weight 120g below the standard weight at 22 week in one experiment (experiment-1) and similar to standard in another experiment (experiment-2). Brake (1991) reported that half of the broiler breeder females were near the standard and remaining females were below the standard body weight at 22 weeks of age. Fig. 2 shows that the real feed consumption were little lower at 11th to 13th and 19th week and were little bit higher at 16th, 17th and 18th week. Birds consumed higher amount

Record keeping and evaluation of data: Data on body weight, body weight gain, feed consumption, temperature, humidity, mortality and uniformity were recorded. Achieved body weight, real feed consumption and uniformity data were compared graphically against standards as suggested by the breeder.
Table 1: Body weight of Kasila broiler parent stock at different weeks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Standard body weight (g/bird)</th>
<th>Standard body weight range (g/bird)</th>
<th>Achieved body weight (g/bird)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day old</td>
<td>Straight-run chick</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 wks</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>203-248</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>239-292</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 wks</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>761-930</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>909-1111</td>
<td>994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 wks</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>2250-2750</td>
<td>2640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2963</td>
<td>2669-3262</td>
<td>3255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# = Standard was not available

Growth pattern of Kasila male broiler parent chicks during phase I & II: The body weight at first week was lower (32 g/bird lower) than the standard. This might be due to lower feed consumption (13.6 g/bird lower) during the first week. But at the end of 2nd week, chicks gained 27 g/bird more body weight than the standard. The results indicated that feed management influences feed consumption and body weight. The achieved body weight was lower (60 g/bird lower) than the standard at the end of 3rd week (Fig. 3). The growth curve showed little higher trend at the end of 7th week. During the period (3 to 8 weeks), achieved body weight was within the standard body weight ranges. The feed consumption followed the standard curve closely (Fig. 4). The results are consistent with the findings of Savory et al. (1996) who found similar weight gain in Ross 1 parent stock compared with the standard. During this period, the achieved body weight gain was slightly lower (43 g/bird lower) than the standard and the livability was 100%.

The results indicate that it is possible to obtain target body weight by feeding the parent stock according to the standard feed allocation.

Growth pattern of Kasila male broiler parent chicks during 9 to 22 weeks of age (phase III): During phase III, achieved body weight curve showed a lower trend during 8 to 12 weeks and then upward trend up to 22 weeks except at 15th week (Fig. 3). The upward trend of body weight from the standard body weight was more clearly visible from 16th week to 22nd week, but it was always within the standard ranges except at 17th, 18th and 20th week, which were higher (283 g/bird to 429 g/bird). Achieved body weight shows maximum variations at 11th and 20th week of age (142 g/bird lower and 429 g/bird higher respectively). Pearson and Herron (1981) and Zhang et al. (1999) reported that there was no significant difference in body weight at 22 weeks of age than that of standard. The result of this study contradicts with the findings of Hocking (1988) and Strighini (1993) who reported that restricted feeding reduced body weight. But Vieira (1997) found no significant effect on body weight with different feed restriction programmes.

The real feed consumption curve was irregular during this period. Fig. 4 shows that the feed consumption was slightly lower (2 g to 5 g/bird) than the standards at 11th,
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Table 2: Body weight gain of Kasila broiler parent stock at different phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Achieved body weight gain (g/bird)</th>
<th>Standard body weight gain (g/bird)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Day-old-2 week</td>
<td>Straight-run chick</td>
<td>223 #</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>3-8 week</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>9-22 week</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2261</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1785</td>
<td>1655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# = Standard was not available

Table 3: Feed consumption of Kasila broiler parent stock at different phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Real feed consumption (g/day/bird)</th>
<th>Standard feed allocation (g/day/bird)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Day-old-2 week</td>
<td>Straight-run chick</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>3-8 week</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>9-22 week</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# = Standard was not available

Fig. 2: Feed consumption of Kasila female broiler parent chicks (standard Vs. real)

Fig. 3: Growth curve of Kasila male broiler parent chicks(Standard Vs. achieved)
18th and 20th week. The feed consumption was 6.9 g lower per bird at 19 weeks of age. The real feed consumption curve was higher during the rest of the week except at 9th and 10th week, which were very close to the standards. The highest amount of feed consumption was observed at 15th week. Fluctuation of growth curve was observed during this period, but this was not considerable. This result disagreed with Goerzen et al. (1996) who found considerable fluctuation of male growth curve. Feed consumption during this period showed no remarkable difference. The results once again suggest that target body weight could be obtained by standard feed allocation. During phase III, mortality of Kasila male and female chicks were higher due to Mycoplasmosis-Colibacillosis complex. The result agreed with the observation of Borges et al. (1999) who reported that the birds affected with Mycoplasmosis during rearing period increased mortality. However, the situation in this study was brought under control by proper medication. This indicates that Mycoplasmosis and Colibacillosis were the major disease problem affecting survivability of broiler parent chicks under Bangladesh condition.

**Uniformity of Kasila broiler parent chicks:** The uniformity of Kasila female parent chicks are shown in (Fig. 5). The uniformity of female birds over the period (8 to 22 weeks) were within the breeder’s acceptable level (80% or above) except at 20th weeks of age. The highest uniformity was found at 8th week (99%) but Bartov et al. (1988) found higher uniformity at 11th week. The lowest uniformity was found at 20th week (69%) but Savory et al. (1996) found poor uniformity in female breeder at 22 week of age. Fig. 6 shows that the uniformity of Kasila male broiler breeder chicks were within the acceptable weight ranges (80%) at 8th, 9th, 10th and 13th week. The 100% uniformity was found at 8th week. The uniformity curve went downward after 15 weeks of age. It was slightly increased from 20th week to end of the period but failed to reach the acceptable level. The fluctuation of uniformity curve was higher during this period because of their illness (Mycoplasmosis) when more feed was supplied (2 to 5g/bird excess). Results of the present study coincide with the findings of Fattori el al. (1991) who found poorer uniformity during rearing period.
The results indicated that Kasila broiler parents are adaptable under Bangladesh condition in late autumn and spring but the birds specially the males are very sensitive to extreme cold and diseases. It might be suggested that efficient heating device and strict biosecurity coupled with an effective vaccination program are the keys for successful growing.

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References


