ABSTRACT
This experiment was carried out at El-Takamoly Poultry Project. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of diet propolis supplementation on performance and immune response of broiler chicks.
A total number of 200 unsexed one day-old Cobb broiler chicks were used in this experiment; the chicks were divided into five groups, with four replicates of ten chicks each. Chicks were fed a starter diet without propolis supplementation during the first 6 days of age. At the 7th day, birds were fed diets containing different levels of propolis (0, 200, 400, 600 and 800 mg/kg) till the end of 6th weeks of age. Ethanolic extract of propolis was added to mixed diets. Result showed that propolis supplementation in broiler chick diets have a positive effect on live body weight, body weight gain, feed intake, feed conversion ratio, crude protein conversion, caloric conversion ratio especially the group fed diet containing 600 mg propolis.
Concerning immune response the results indicated that there was significant effect of propolis on some immunological parameters. The results revealed that chicks fed diet added 600 and 800 mg propolis/kg diet had significantly improvement in immune response and some blood parameters.
Key words: Propolis, broiler chicks' nutrition, growth performance, growth promoter, immunostimulant, blood parameters.