

## Histopathological changes in superficial pectoral muscle of meat and egg type quails

### Summary

The aim of the investigations was the histopathological estimation of the superficial pectoral muscle of quails. The Japanese quails of egg production type and Pharaoh quails of meat type were used as the experimental material. Birds were reared for 42 days and then slaughtered. Directly after slaughter, specimens of the superficial pectoral muscle were taken for histological examination. Preparations of muscle were stained with H+E method. Then, estimation of histopathological changes was performed. In both types of the quails a small number of fibers with the structural changes were noted. In majority, there were the atrophic and giant fibers, as well as the fibers with changed shape. In the quails of egg production type a significantly higher share of fibers (23.3%) with changed shape was found than in the meat type (11.62%). Besides, the pectoral muscle of egg producing quails contained a greater percentage of the giant and splitting fibers than the muscle of meat type quails, but the difference was insignificant. The results of the study indicate that the improvement of meat traits of Pharaoh quails in the consequence of conducted selection does not result in the increasing frequency of pathological changes in muscles of birds.