**GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND HAEMATOLOGICAL PROFILE OF BROILER CHICKENS FED DIETS SUPPLEMENTED WITH BLACK PEPPER *(Piper nigrum)* ORZINC BACITRACIN**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT**

**BY**

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**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF AGRICULTURE (B.AGRIC) IN ANIMAL SCIENCE**

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**DECLARATION**

This project is authentic and original work carried out by; **Udo, Samuel Samuel** with the Registration Number **AK16/AGR/ANS/046** in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Agriculture (B. Agric.) in Animal Science.

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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research work titled: **EFFECT OF *Vernonia amygdalina* AND *Jathropha tanjorensis* LEAF MEAL SUPPLEMENTATION ON THE HAEMATOLOGICAL AND LIPID PROFILE OF GROWING PIGS** was dully carried out by, **TOM, SAMUEL UDO** with the Registration Number: **AK16/AGR/ANS/044** in partial fulfillment of the award of bachelor of Agriculture in Animal Science.

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**DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to God Almighty and my parents, Mr. /Mrs. Samuel Solomon Udo.

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study was carried out to evaluate the effect of zinc bacitracin (ZnB) and black pepper (BP) (Piper nigrum) on growth performance and haematological parameters of broiler chickens. A total of one hundred (100), Arbor Acre plus strain day-old broilers was used for the study. They were managed on deep litter system and fed formulated starter and finisher basal diets ad-libitum. All standard broiler management protocols were observed. On day seven (7), the birds were weighed, and divided into five treatment (5) groups. Each group was further replicated twice having ten (10) birds per replicate. The experiment was conducted using a completely randomized design. Group one birds received only the basal diet. The group two birds received basal diet + Zinc bacitracin at 0.2% inclusion level. The group three birds received basal diet + Zinc bacitracin at 0.5% inclusion level. Groups four and five birds received the basal diet with inclusion of black pepper at 0.2% and 0.5% respectively. All the treatments were administered for five (5) weeks and in-feed. Data collected included feed intake of birds, initial and weekly weights of birds, blood samples for haematological analysis. The results showed that inclusion of black pepper (BP) at 0.2% and 0.5% significantly improved (p<0.05) the final weight, total weight gain and feed conversion rate in the birds compared to the control group. The inclusion of black pepper at 0.2% level also significantly ameliorated (p<0.05) packed cell volume (PCV), haemoglobin concentration (Hb) and red blood cell count in compared to birds that received 0.5% black pepper in their diet. In conclusion, the inclusion of black pepper at 0.5% in broiler chicken diet improved growth performance and did not negatively affect haematological parameters in the birds and therefore recommend that black pepper at 0.5% inclusion should be considered as an alternative to Zinc Bacitracin Zn-B in broiler production.*