



## Effects of compound organic acid calcium on growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of male broilers under heat stress

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**OBJECTIVE:** To investigate the effects of compound organic acid calcium (COAC) on growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of male broilers under heat stress. **Methods:** A total of 180 1-day-old male broilers were randomly divided into 6 groups (3 replicates/group) and fed with different levels of COAC (0%, 0.4%, 0.8%, 1.2%, 1.6%, and 2.0%) for 6 weeks. **Results:** The results showed that COAC significantly improved the growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of male broilers under heat stress. **Conclusion:** The addition of COAC can improve the growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of male broilers under heat stress.

### INTRODUCTION

Heat stress is one of the most important environmental factors affecting the growth performance and health of broilers. Under heat stress, the broilers will experience a decrease in feed intake, an increase in mortality, and a decrease in body weight gain. In addition, heat stress will also lead to oxidative stress and damage to the intestinal barrier, which will further affect the health and growth performance of broilers. Therefore, it is necessary to find effective measures to alleviate the damage of heat stress to broilers. Compound organic acid calcium (COAC) is a new type of calcium supplement, which can improve the growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of broilers. In this study, we investigated the effects of COAC on the growth performance, hepatic antioxidation and intestinal barrier of male broilers under heat stress.



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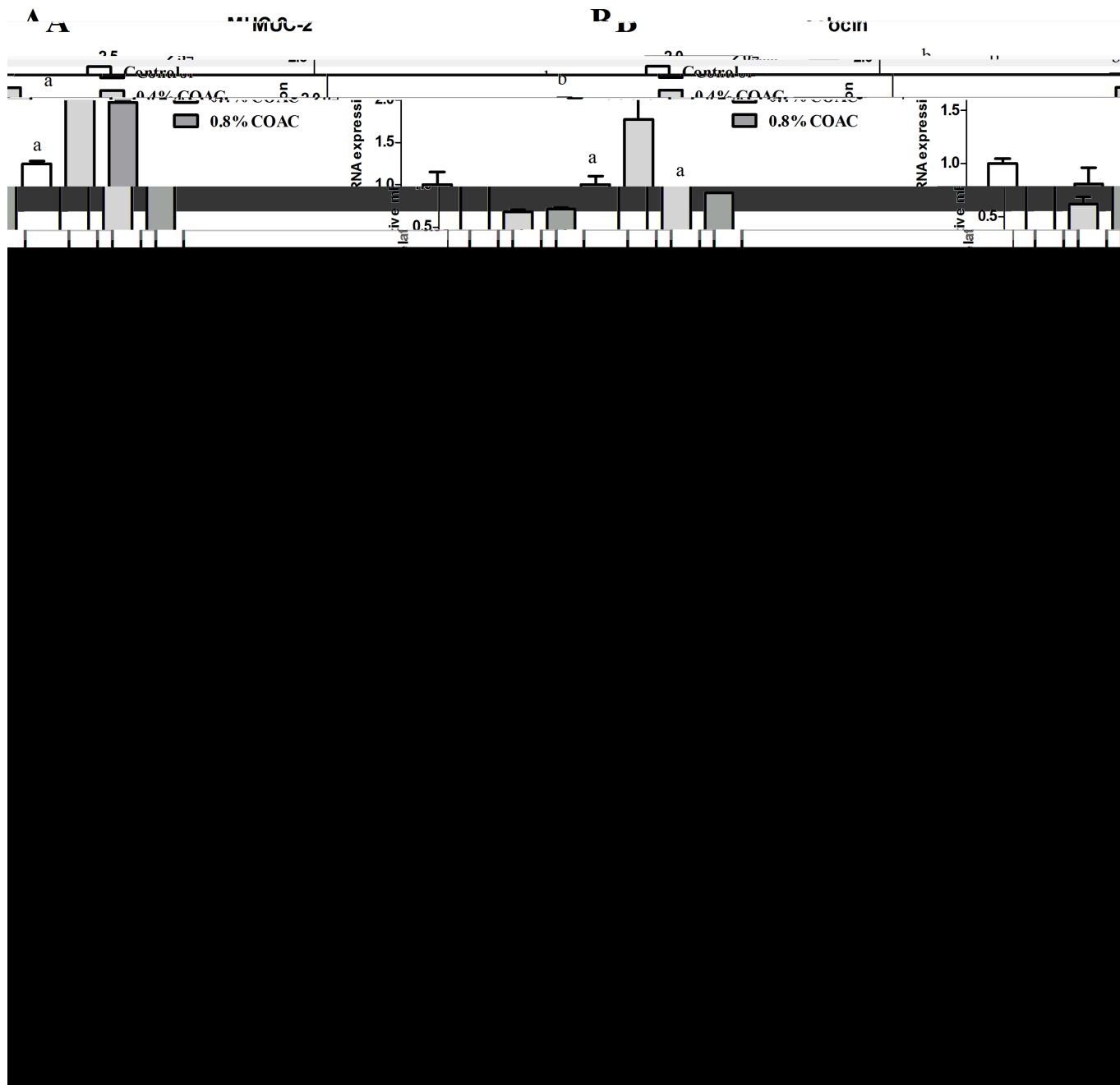
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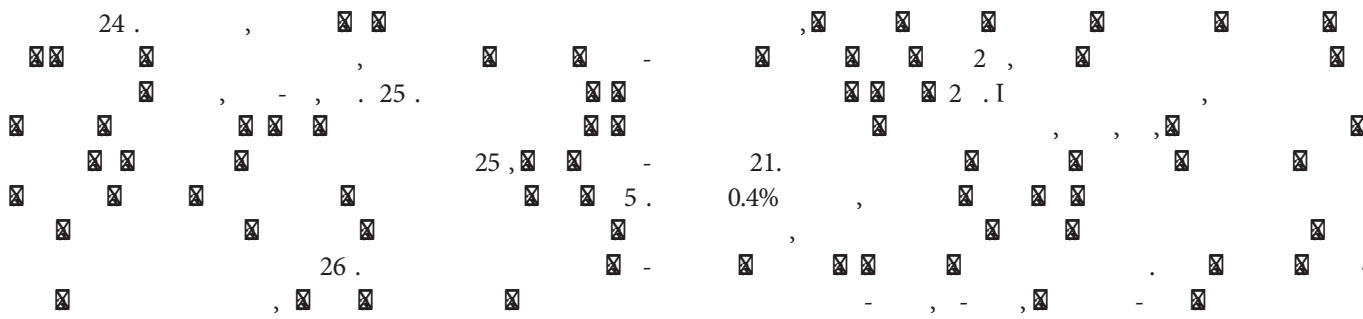
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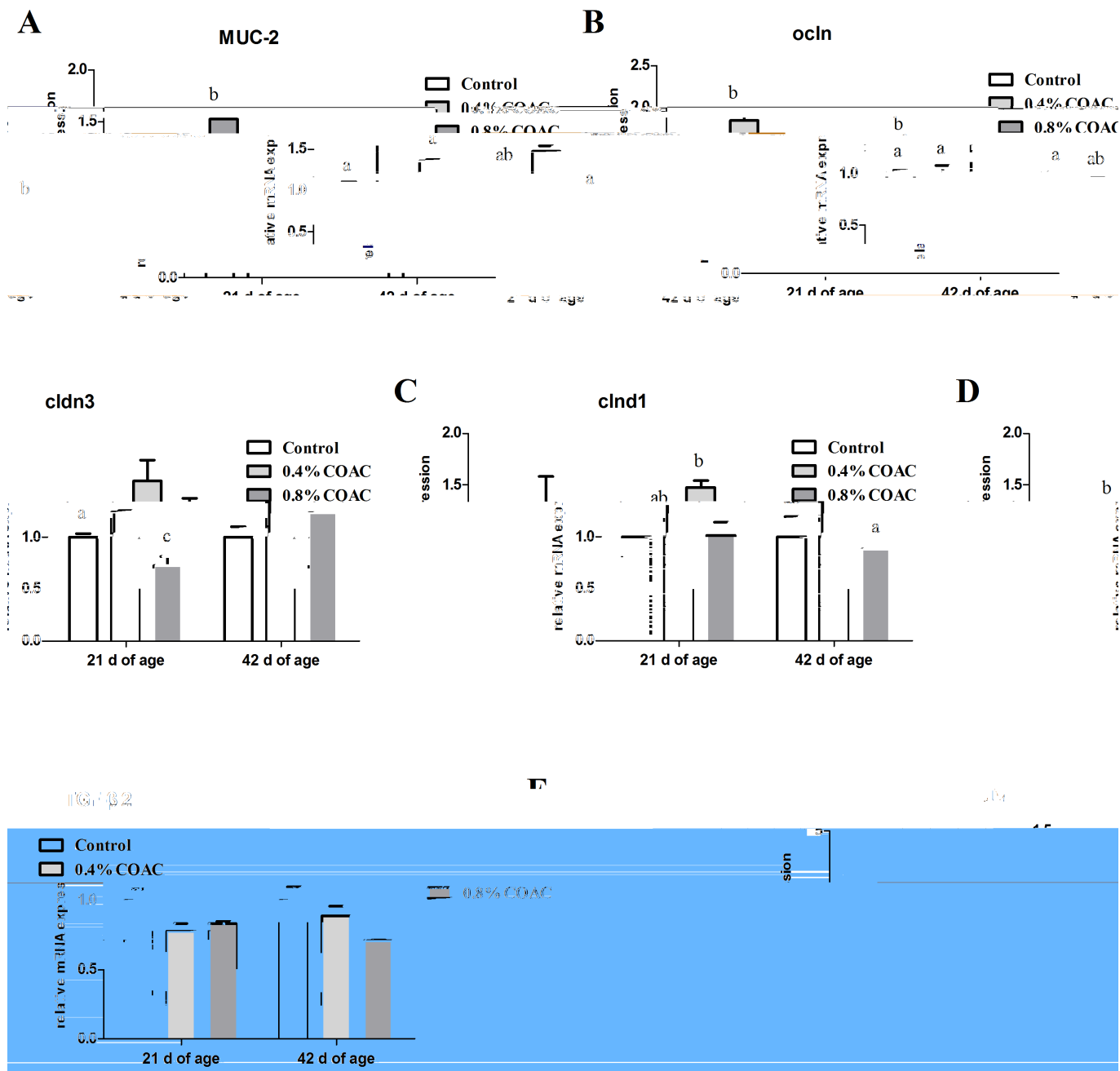






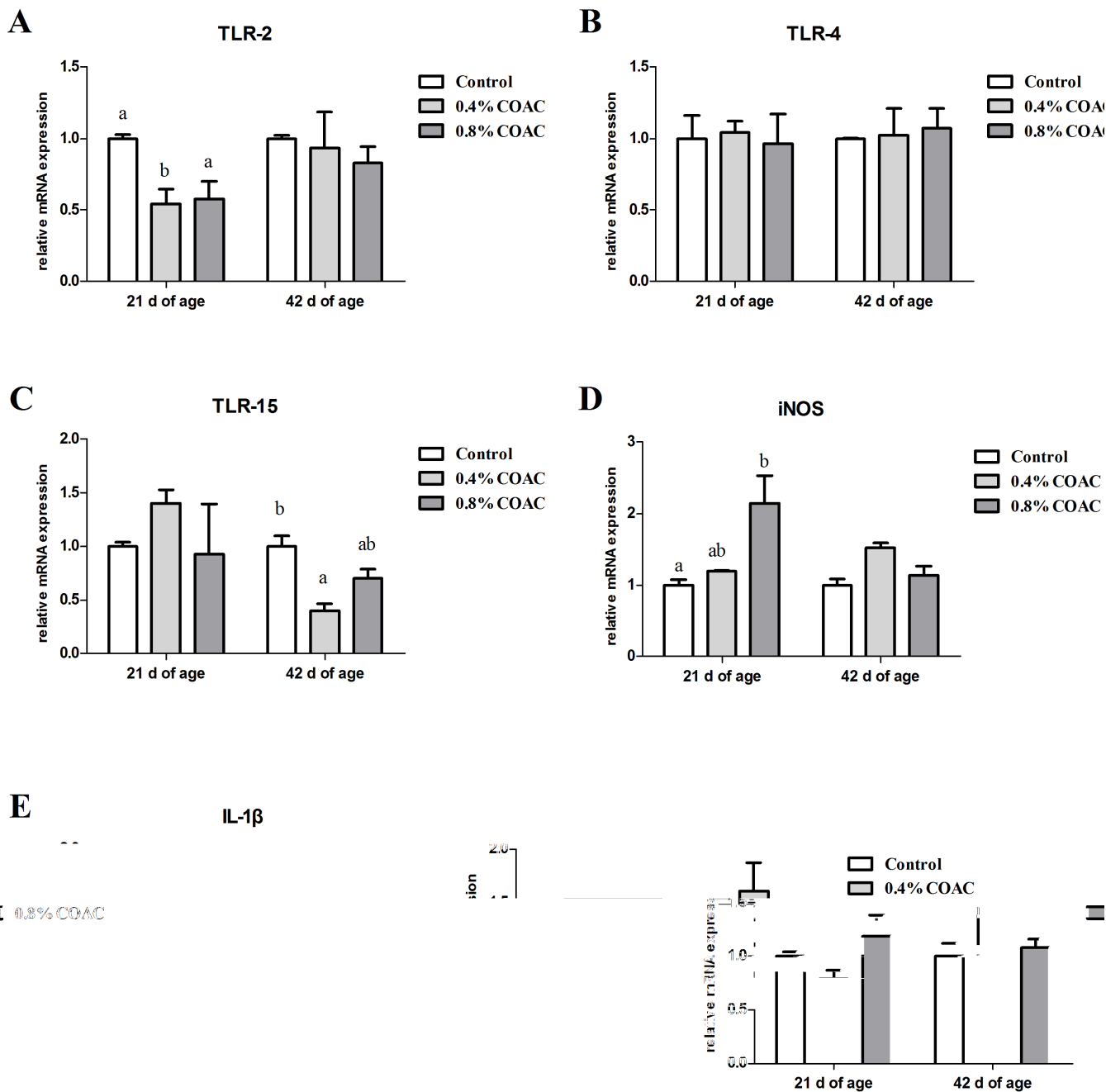
**Figure 1.** Effects of compound organic acid calcium on MUC-2, ocln, cldn1, cldn3 and TGF- 2 mRNA expression in jejunum of broilers. At 21 and 42 days of age, the expression of MUC-2 (A), ocln (B), cldn1 (C), cldn3 (D) and TGF- 2 (E) were measured by real-time polymerase chain reaction. MUC-2, mucin 2; Ocln, occluding; Cldn, claudin; TGF- 2, transforming growth factor-beta 2. Different letters (a-c) denote a statistical difference (p<0.05).



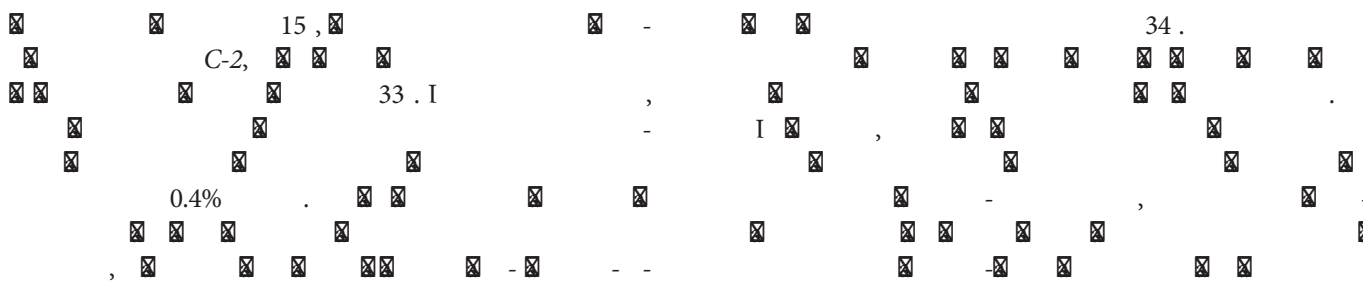


**Figure 2.** Effects of compound organic acid calcium on ocln, cldn1, cldn3 and TGF- 2 mRNA expression in ileum of broilers. At 21 and 42 days of age, the expression of ocln (A), cldn1 (B), cldn3 (C) and TGF- 2 (D) were measured by real-time polymerase chain reaction. Ocln, occluding; Cldn, claudin; TGF- 2, transforming growth factor-beta 2. Different letters (a-c) denote a statistical difference (p<0.05).

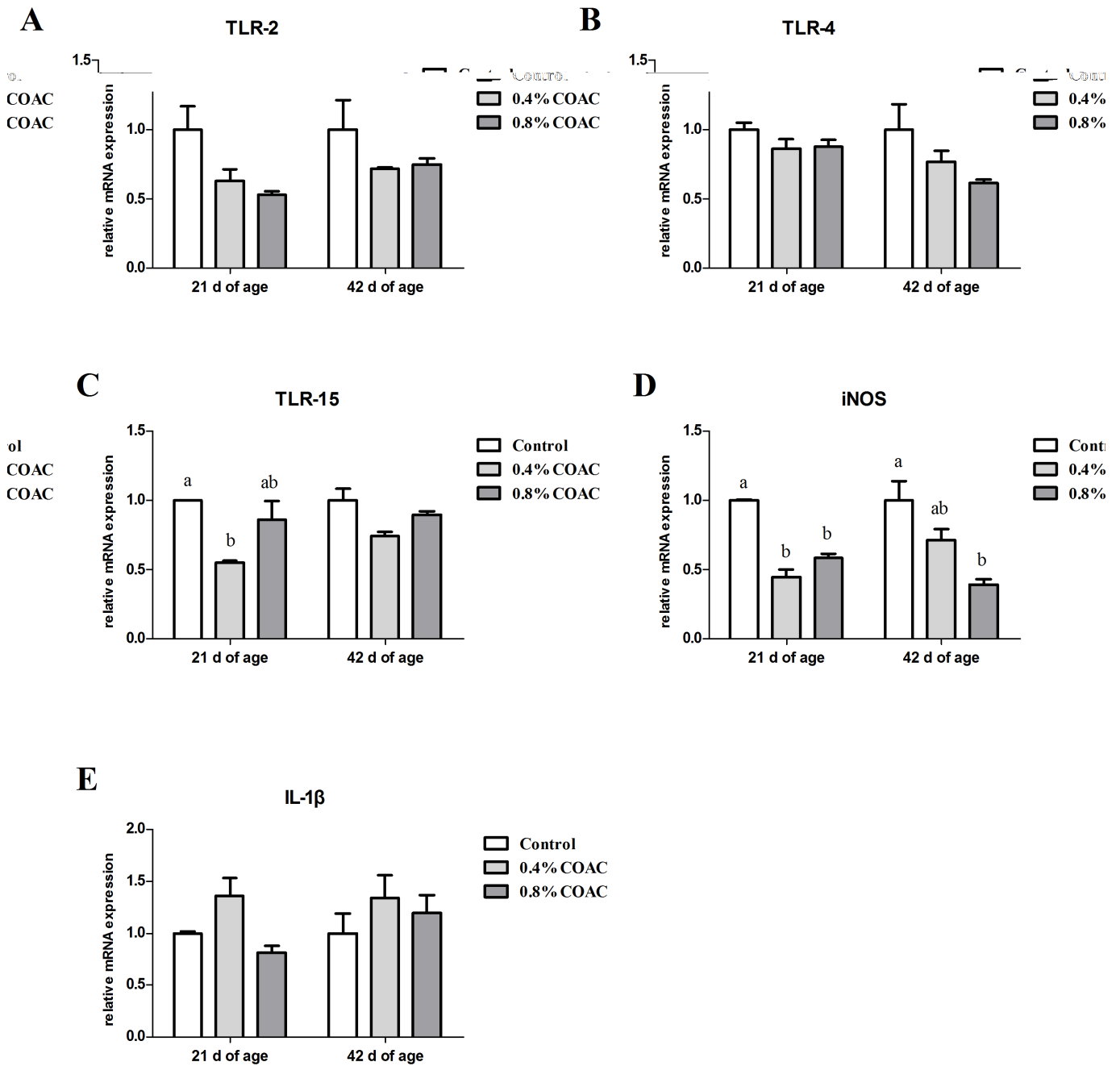




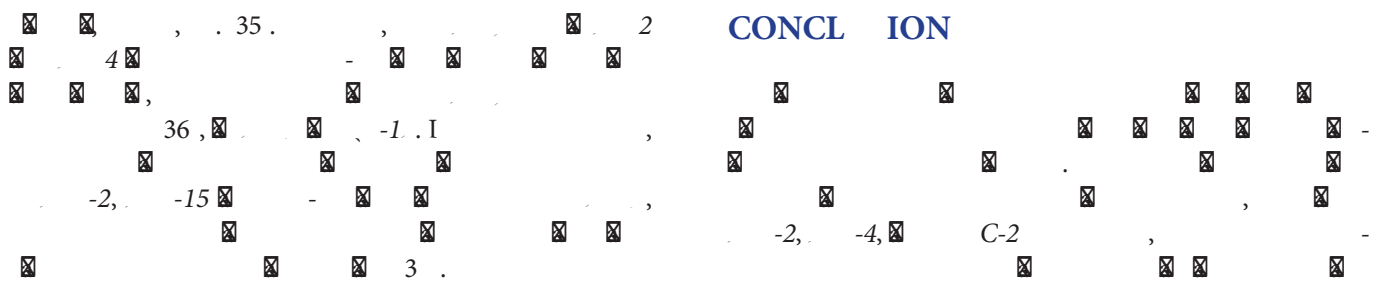
**Figure 3.** Effects of compound organic acid calcium on TLR, iNOS and IL-1 mRNA expression in jejunum of broilers. At 21 and 42 days of age, the expression of TLR-2 (A), TLR-4 (B), TLR-15 (C), iNOS (D) and IL-1 (E) were measured by real-time polymerase chain reaction. TLR, toll-like receptor; iNOS, inducible nitric oxide synthase; IL-1, interleukin 1. Different letters (a, b) denote a statistical difference ( $p < 0.05$ ).







**Figure 4.** Effects of compound organic acid calcium on TLR, iNOS, and IL-1 mRNA expression in ileum of broilers. At 21 and 42 days of age, the expression of TLR-2 (A), TLR-4 (B), TLR-15 (C), iNOS (D), and IL-1 (E) were measured by real-time polymerase chain reaction. TLR, toll-like receptor; iNOS, inducible nitric oxide synthase; IL, interleukin. Different letters (a, b) denote a statistical difference ( $p < 0.05$ ).



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