

## Influence of Integral and Decaffeinated Coffee Brews on Metabolic Parameters of Rats Fed with Hiperlipidemic Diets

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to evaluate the influence of integral and decaffeinated coffee brews (*Coffea arabica* L and *C. canephora* Pierre) on the metabolic parameters of rats fed with hyperlipidemic diet. Thirty male Wistar rats (initial weight of 270 g  $\pm$  20 g) were used in the study, which were divided into six groups five each. The treatments were normal diet, hyperlipidemic diet, hyperlipidemic diet associated with integral coffee arabica or canephora brews (7.2 mL/kg/day) and hyperlipidemic diet associated to decaffeinated arabica, or canephora brews, using the same dosage. After 41 days, performance analyses were conducted. The rats were then euthanized and the carcasses were used for the analysis of dried ether extract and crude protein. Fractions of adipose tissue were processed for histological analysis. There was a reduction in weight gain and accumulation of lipids in the carcasses, lower diameter of adipocytes and a lower relative weight of the liver and kidneys of rats fed with hyperlipidemic diet associated with integral coffee brew. Integral coffee brew reduced the obesity in the rats receiving hyperlipidemic diet, but the same effect did not occur with the decaffeinated types.

**Key words:** Lipids, Adipocytes, Hyperlipidemia, Caffeine, Decaffeination

### INTRODUCTION

Coffee is one of the most valuable products of the global economy, and the varieties Arabica (*Coffea arabica* L.) and Robusta (*Coffea canephora* Pierre) are considered as the most important because they correspond to more than 90% of world production (Briandet et al. 1996; Ky et al. 2001). Coffee has received significant scientific attention due to various epidemiological and experimental studies that point to its therapeutic effects (Azam et al. 2003; Jonhston et al. 2003; Wirdefeldt et al. 2011). Moreover, the market for decaffeinated coffee has grown over the years,

adding more economic value to the product (ABIC 2010).

Studies have shown the influence of coffee on lower risk of developing obesity (Tanaka et al. 2009) and type 2 diabetes (Huxley et al. 2009), as well as its effects on lipid metabolism (Kobayashi-Hatori et al. 2005), or as a kidney (Bolignano et al. 2007) and liver protector (Muriel and Arauz 2010). However, few studies have discussed the effects of decaffeination to the health and the differences between the varieties of coffee. In the hepatic parenchyma, the protective effects of coffee are characterized by alleviating the oxidative stress and inflammation reduction (Lv et

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al. 2010). Other studies have also reported the effect of caffeine on weight reduction (Shin et al. 2010) due to increased thermogenesis, increasing the rate of lipolysis and fat oxidation (Greenberg et al. 2006) and speed up the metabolism energy and reduce lipogenesis (Murase et al. 2011). However, caffeine also has some adverse effects involving the cardiovascular system (Papamichael et al. 2005), association with the occurrence of spontaneous abortion and stillbirth (Bech et al. 2005) and withdrawal effects, such as sleep problems and fatigue (Phillips-Bute and Lane 1997). These factors have contributed to increase the consumption of decaffeinated coffee.

In this sense, studies relating the influence of decaffeination and coffee varieties on the metabolism may contribute significantly to health professionals, and especially with the coffee drinkers. Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of decaffeination and the varieties *Coffea arabica* L. and *C. canephora* Pierre on weight gain, relative weight of kidneys, liver, heart and adipose tissue and also on protein and lipid deposition on the carcasse of rats fed with hiperlipidemic diet.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee for Animal Research at the Federal University of Lavras (CEUA), protocol number 027/2010.

### Collection and sample preparation

The samples of coffee (*Coffea arabica* L. and *C. canephora* Pierre) were donated by the COCAMAR Catanduva - SP, which were roasted (Probat electric grinder) and then the beans were ground into fine-grained (70% retention sieve 20), packaged in polyethylene / aluminum, sealed and stored at -20°C until the use.

### Preparation of feed for induction of hyperlipidemia

The hiperlipidemic diet was prepared from the commercial diet added with cholesterol and cholic acid. The feed was ground in industrial blender, mixed with the other components in the proportion of 10 g of cholesterol and 2 g cholic acid per kilogram of feed (Ramos et al. 2008) and subsequently hydrated and repelleted.

### Coffee Brewing

The coffee brewing was performed immediately prior to the administration. For this, 10 g of coffee

powder was placed on a filter paper (Whatman n° 3) and then 100 mL of deionized water at 90°C was poured over the powder (Nicoli et al. 1997).

### Experimental Procedure

A total of 30 male *Wistar* rats, initially weighing 270 g  $\pm$  20g, were used in this study, which were obtained from the Vivarium of the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA - MG). The rats were acclimated for one week prior to the experiment, kept in polyethylene boxes at 23°C with light-dark period of 12 h, receiving water and food *ad libitum*. Subsequently, the rats were divided into six groups of five each distributed in a completely randomized factorial scheme 2x2 +2 (two types - arabica and robusta and two coffee varieties - integral and decaffeinated - and two additional control treatments with five replicates of one animal per plot. The experimental period lasted 41 days.

The treatments were normal diet (negative control), hiperlipidemic diet (positive control), hiperlipidemic diet associated with brews of coffee Arabica integral (AI) and canephora (RI) and decaffeinated arabica brews (AD) and canephora (RD) associated with the hiperlipidemic diet. The coffee brews were provided to the rats daily by gavage, on volume of 7.2 mL/kg of body weight. Control groups received the same volume of distilled water.

### Laboratory Analysis

At the end of the experiment, the rats were euthanized by exsanguination after anesthesia with thiopental (35 mg / kg) intraperitoneally. Then the skin was dissected and the viscera were removed. The carcasses of the rats were weighed and dried for the analysis of ether extract and crude protein. Weight gain was calculated as the difference between the initial and final weight of the rats. The relative weights of liver, kidneys and heart as well as the fatty tissue of the epididymal region (Page et al. 2004) and carcass were obtained by the ratio of absolute weight: live weight at the time of euthanasia. The percentage of fat in the carcass were obtained by the Soxhlet method and protein by Kjeldahl method (AOAC 2000).

### Histological analysis

The fractions of epididymal adipose tissue were collected and fixed in Bouin's solution for 24 h and subsequently stored in 70% ethanol until histological processing. All the samples were

subjected to routine techniques for paraffin embedding. Sections of 5mm thickness were obtained and stained with hematoxylin-eosin. Digital images were obtained using a capture system and image analysis, consisting of trinocular Olympus CX31 microscope (Olympus Optical do Brazil Ltda, São Paulo, SP) and camera (SC30 Color CMOS Camera for Light Microscopy, Olympus Optical Ltd. Brazil, São Paulo, SP). About 120 adipocytes per animal were randomly analyzed in ImageJ software (NIH). The following parameters were evaluated (1) diameter, measuring from the longest distance between the two ends of the cell (Velasco et al. 2008), (2) area, from its delimitation, and (3) density, using a square of known area superimposed on certain fields of the captured images. For the analysis of the density of adipocytes (number of adipocytes per unit area of tissue) (NA), two edges of the square were disregarded. Hence, adipocytes was counted entirely within the square, or overlapped by at least one of its two remaining edges. Approximately 15 areas were evaluated for each rat and the calculation of NA followed the formula described by Howard and Reed (1998):  $NA = \frac{\sum N}{\alpha \cdot \sum P}$  (adipocytes):  $[\alpha \cdot \sum P \text{ (tissue)}]$ , where  $\sum N$  (adipocytes) is the total number of adipocytes counted in all fields examined,  $\alpha$  is the area of the square used, and  $\sum P$  (tissue) is the number of fields analyzed.

### Statistical Analysis

The data were subjected to the analysis of covariance (initial weight). Firstly, a global analysis of variance was carried out to calculate the overall error. Then, the analysis considering only the factorial design to deployment was carried out. In this case, means were compared by F test, considering the global error calculated initially. To compare each control with the other treatments, Dunnett's test was used to 5%. All the tests were performed using the statistical program SISVAR (Ferreira 2010).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparing the hyperlipidemic diets with normal diets, it was observed that the former resulted ( $P < 0.05$ ) in higher weight gain, but did not affect ( $P > 0.05$ ) the carcass yield and the percentage of protein in the carcass (Table 1). On the other hand,

considering the factorial arrangement of treatments, it was observed that all the rats receiving hyperlipidemic diets associated with integral coffee brews, regardless of the variety used, showed ( $P < 0.05$ ) lower weight gain and a lower percentage of lipids in housing in relation to decaffeinated brew, but the same effect was not observed ( $P > 0.05$ ) in the yield and protein percentage in the carcass.

Several studies performed with caffeine, a substance present in the integral coffee have shown similar results to the present study reducing the weight gain (Tanaka et al. 2009; Swithers et al. 2010) and inhibition of the deposition of adipose tissue in rodents (Inoue et al. 2006; Tanaka et al. 2009; Franco et al. 2011), despite its association with hyperlipidemic diets. Coffee brew did not influence the protein deposition and carcass yield of the rats. These data were similar to the study of Franco et al. (2011), who found no difference between the percentages of protein in the rats that received caffeine and control groups.

These effects could be related to the inhibition of lipogenesis and increased lipolysis (Tanaka et al. 2009). Caffeine is known to inhibit the activity of the phosphodiesterase, increasing the serum levels of cAMP and reducing the activity of lipase, which leads to an increased rate of lipolysis (Butcher et al. 1968). According to a study conducted with the rodents, which received caffeine and hyperlipidemic diet (Kobaiashi-Hattori et al. 2005), caffeine led to increased serum levels of catecholamines (epinephrine, norepinephrine and dopamine). In addition, caffeine intake can increase the free fatty acids mobilization (Acheson et al. 2004; Greenway et al. 2004), not using muscle glycogen (Hespel et al. 2002), which possibly results in less weight gain.

The histology of the retroperitoneal adipose tissue (Table 2 and Fig 1) showed that the rats, which received integral coffee brew ( $P < 0.05$ ) had higher density and smaller diameter of adipocytes when compared with the rats which received the decaffeinated brew. The arabica resulted ( $P < 0.05$ ) in smaller diameter of adipocytes in relation to canephora. Just decaffeinated variety canephora increased the diameter of adipocytes compared to controls. Caffeine also has the property to suppress the intracellular accumulation of lipids in mature adipocytes (Nakabayashi et al. 2008), suggesting that in the presence of caffeine, the cells of the

epididymal adipose tissue of the animals fed with hyperlipidemic diet and coffee brew had smaller diameter and higher density for the lower amount of intracellular lipid.

**Table 1** - Final weight, weight gain, carcass yield and percentage of lipid and protein in the carcass of rats fed hiperlipidemic diet and brews of different types and varieties of coffee.

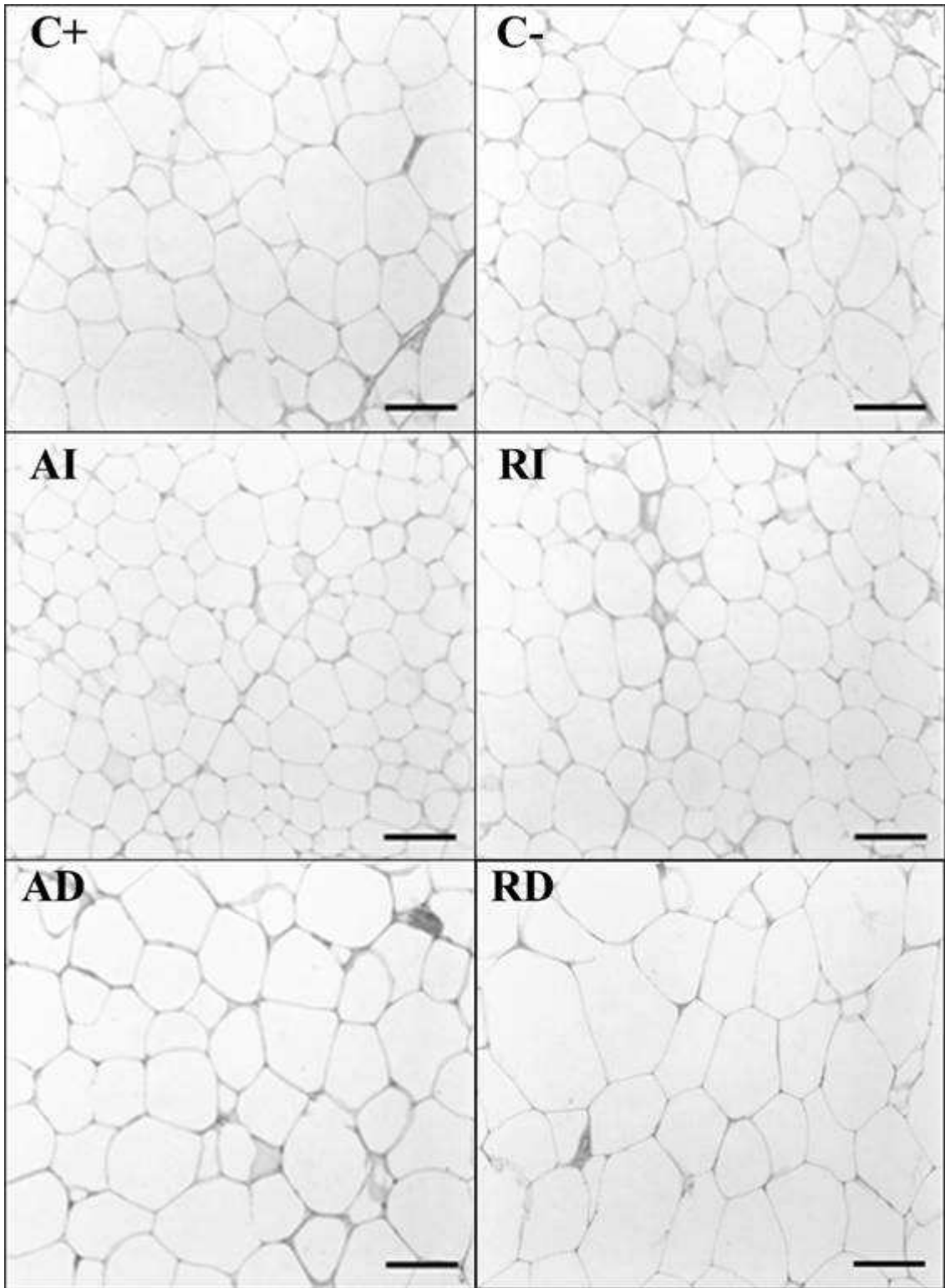
| Type                                 | Variety              |                      | Average |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
|                                      | <i>C. arabica</i>    | <i>C. canephora</i>  |         |
| <b>- Weight gain (g /day) -</b>      |                      |                      |         |
| Integral                             | 39.00 b <sup>#</sup> | 41.67 b <sup>#</sup> | 40.34 b |
| Descafeinated                        | 52.50 a <sup>#</sup> | 60.00 a <sup>#</sup> | 56.25 a |
| Average                              | 45.75                | 50.84                |         |
| Positive control                     | 83.75                |                      |         |
| Negative control                     | 54.00                |                      |         |
| CV (%)                               | 22.31                |                      |         |
| <b>- Carcass yield (%) -</b>         |                      |                      |         |
| Integral                             | 83.67                | 82.80                | 83.23   |
| Descafeinated                        | 82.88                | 79.69*               | 81.28   |
| Average                              | 83.28                | 81.25                |         |
| Positive control                     | 81.79                |                      |         |
| Negative control                     | 83.35                |                      |         |
| CV (%)                               | 2.75                 |                      |         |
| <b>- Percentage of lipids (%) -</b>  |                      |                      |         |
| Integral                             | 7.55 <sup>#</sup>    | 8.30                 | 7.93 b  |
| Descafeinated                        | 9.88                 | 10.55*               | 10.21 a |
| Average                              | 8.72                 | 9.43                 |         |
| Positive control                     | 10.10                |                      |         |
| Negative control                     | 7.76                 |                      |         |
| CV (%)                               | 14.74                |                      |         |
| <b>- Percentage of protein (%) -</b> |                      |                      |         |
| Integral                             | 20.19                | 19.44                | 19.82   |
| Descafeinated                        | 19.82                | 19.37                | 19.59   |
| Average                              | 20.01                | 19.41                |         |
| Positive control                     | 19.62                |                      |         |
| Negative control                     | 20.09                |                      |         |
| CV (%)                               | 835                  |                      |         |

Means followed by different lowercase and uppercase letters in the column on the line differ by the F test <sup>#</sup>Differs from the positive control by Dunnett's test (P <0.05) \* Differs from the negative control by Dunnett's test (P <0.05).

**Table 2** - Histology of the retroperitoneal adipose tissue of rats fed hiperlipidemic diet and brews of different types and varieties of coffee.

| Type                           | Variety           |                     | Average |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|
|                                | <i>C. arabica</i> | <i>C. canephora</i> |         |
| <b>- Adipocytes Diameter -</b> |                   |                     |         |
| Integral                       | 72.52             | 81.08               | 76.80 a |
| Decaffeinated                  | 82.47             | 99.57* <sup>#</sup> | 91.02 b |
| Average                        | 77.49 A           | 90.33 B             |         |
| Positive control               | 80.76             |                     |         |
| Negative control               | 82.19             |                     |         |
| CV (%)                         | 11.13             |                     |         |
| <b>- Adipocytes Density -</b>  |                   |                     |         |
| Integral                       | 293               | 242                 | 267 a   |
| Decaffeinated                  | 225               | 199                 | 212 b   |
| Average                        | 259               | 221                 |         |
| Positive control               | 275               |                     |         |
| Negative control               | 231               |                     |         |
| CV (%)                         | 17.79             |                     |         |

Means followed by different lowercase and uppercase letters in the column on the line differ by the F test <sup>#</sup>Differs from the positive control by Dunnett's test (P <0.05) \* Differs from the negative control by Dunnett's test (P <0.05).



**Figure 1** - Optical microscopy of epididymal adipose tissue: (C +) positive control (C-) negative control (AI) arabic integral (RI) integral robust, (AD) arabic decaffeinated (RD) decaffeinated robust. Adipocytes of animals treated with integral coffee showed a smaller diameter and a higher density in relation to the groups treated with decaffeinated coffee. Bar = 100 $\mu$ m.

The amount of lipid in the diet and coffee brews had no effect ( $P > 0.05$ ) relative to heart weight (Table 3). The data for heart weight coincided with the study of Inoue et al. (2006), who found no difference in the weight of this organ among the animals that received caffeine and control groups,

possibly because caffeine did not act directly on heart muscle tissue, only in skeletal muscle, where it increased the transmission of neural stimulation in neuromuscular junction (Kalmar and Cafarelli 2004).

**Table 3** - Relative weight (%) of the heart, kidneys, liver and epididymal adipose tissue of rats fed hiperlipidemic diet and brews of different types and varieties of coffee.

| Type                                     | Varietys            |                     | Average |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------|
|  | <i>C. arabica</i>   | <i>C. canephora</i> |         |
| <b>- Heart (%) -</b>                     |                     |                     |         |
| Integral                                 | 0.228               | 0.225               | 0.227   |
| Decaffeinated                            | 0.218               | 0.221               | 0.219   |
| Average                                  | 0.223               | 0.223               |         |
| Positive control                         | 0.228               |                     |         |
| Negative control                         | 0.274               |                     |         |
| CV (%)                                   | 9.83                |                     |         |
| <b>- Kidney (%) -</b>                    |                     |                     |         |
| Integral                                 | 0.554 *             | 0.523 *             | 0.539   |
| Decaffeinated                            | 0.505 *             | 0.508*              | 0.506   |
| Average                                  | 0.529               | 0.509               |         |
| Positive control                         | 0.544               |                     |         |
| Negative control                         | 0.716               |                     |         |
| CV (%)                                   | 6.69                |                     |         |
| <b>- Liver (%) -</b>                     |                     |                     |         |
| Integral                                 | 2.870* <sup>#</sup> | 2.747* <sup>#</sup> | 2.809 b |
| Decaffeinated                            | 3.084*              | 3.208*              | 3.146 a |
| Average                                  | 2.977               | 2.978               |         |
| Positive control                         | 3.181               |                     |         |
| Negative control                         | 2.338               |                     |         |
| CV (%)                                   | 4.51                |                     |         |
| <b>- Epididymal adipose tissue (%) -</b> |                     |                     |         |
| Integral                                 | 0.765 <sup>#</sup>  | 0.807 <sup>#</sup>  | 0.786   |
| Decaffeinated                            | 0.873 <sup>#</sup>  | 0.828 <sup>#</sup>  | 0.851   |
| Average                                  | 0.819               | 0.818               |         |
| Positive control                         | 1.225               |                     |         |
| Negative control                         | 0.880               |                     |         |
| CV (%)                                   | 10.19               |                     |         |

Means followed by different lowercase and uppercase letters in the column on the line differ by the F test # Differs from the positive control by Dunnett's test ( $P < 0.05$ ) \* differs from the negative control by Dunnett's test ( $P < 0.05$ ).

There was a reduction ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the relative weight of kidneys in all the rats receiving hyperlipidemic diets associated with coffee brews in relation to normal diet. There was no effect ( $P > 0.05$ ) of coffee brews on the rats fed hiperlipidemic diets in the relative weight of the kidneys. Mühlfeld et al. (2004), assessing the effect of hyperlipidemic diet on kidney function, also found a reduction in kidney mass and an increase in proteinuria and serum urea nitrogen in the rats treated with hyperlipidemic diet. According to the author, the effect of declining kidney function due to the increase of glomerular

cells in the array, increased the proliferation of tubular epithelial cells and macrophage infiltration.

Was observed that hyperlipidemic diets associated with coffee brews increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) values for liver weight, regardless of the variety used, and that only the integral coffee brews reduced ( $P < 0.05$ ) when only hyperlipidemic diets were compared. Considering the factorial arrangement of treatments, it was found that decaffeinated coffee increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) relative liver weight in relation to coffee decaffeinated, regardless of the variety used. The rats that received the coffee brew

in the integral form showed lower liver weight, suggesting a reduction in the process of fat deposition in the liver induced by caffeine. Yamauchi et al. (2010) reported that the reduction in the level of liver fat was a consequence of decreased gene expression related to fatty acid synthesis in the liver. Another study found that coffee consumption had a protective effect on liver damage caused by the fatty diet, mediated by a reduction in hepatic fat accumulation by increasing beta-oxidation of fatty acids (Vitaglione et al. 2010).

In analyzing the effect of coffee brew on the relative weight of epididymal adipose tissue in the rats fed with hyperlipidemic diets, it was observed that there was a reduction ( $P < 0.05$ ) regardless of the type and variety used. It was observed that the relative amount of adipose tissue in the rats fed with hyperlipidemic diets associated with coffee brews was similar ( $P > 0.05$ ) to that presented by the rats receiving normal diets. There was no difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) between the coffee brews.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the decaffeination process seemed to influence negatively the effectiveness of coffee in suppressing fat accumulation for both arabica and robusta varieties. Moreover, the reduction in weight gain accompanied by a lower percentage of lipids in the carcass and smaller diameter of adipocytes, suggested the protective action of caffeine on the rats subjected to hyperlipidemic diet.

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