

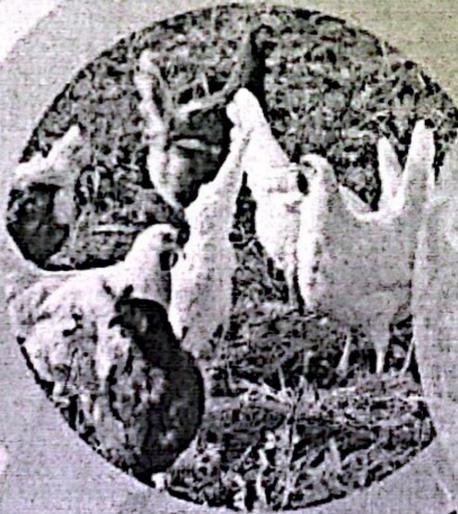
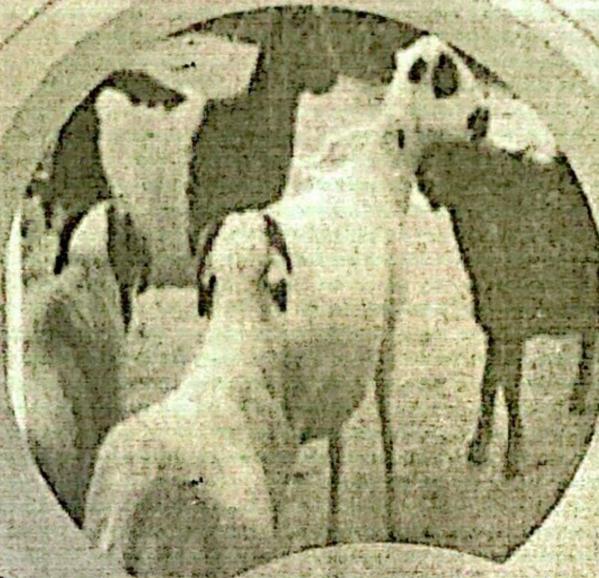
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**NIGERIAN SOCIETY
FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION (NSAP)**



**43RD |
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THEME:

**Exploring Science and Technology
INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE
Livestock Development**

18th – 22nd March 2018

New SAAT Auditorium
Federal University of Technology Owerri

Book of Proceedings

Editors: I. C. Okoli, I. P. Ogbuwu, O. O Emenalom and B. O. Esonu

APR -29 Inadvertent Slaughter of Female Goats and Foetal Wastages at Rumuokoro Abattoir in Port Harcourt, Rivers State	913
<i>P.K. Ajuogu, A.O. Aniebo, S.N. Wekhe, N.S. Herbert and O.U. Anyaso</i>	
APR 030 Influence of Multi-enzyme Supplementation on Broilers Fed Normal Energy and Protein Level Diet in South-East Tropical Zone of Nigeria	917
<i>R.A. Amaefule, G. Daniel- Igwe, K.U. Amaefule and M.A. Oguike</i>	
APR -31 Carcass Yield of Broiler Chickens Fed Turmeric (<i>Curcuma Longa</i>) Powder and Cayenne Pepper (<i>Capsicum Frutescens</i>) Powder	920
<i>K.A. Sanwo, A.V. Adegoke, I. Abanikanda, L.T. Egbeyale J. A.Abiona, R.A. Sobayo, O.A. Oso</i>	
APR -32 Assessment of Physicochemical, Microbial and Sensory Characteristics of Fresh White and Red Sorghum Extract Preserved West African Soft Cheese Retailed in Ogbomoso, South-Western Nigeria	923
<i>G.O. Tona, G.A. Ibhaze², A.O. Ajala, A.O. Babatunde¹ and T. Adelokun</i>	
APR -33 Economic Characteristics and Sensory Properties of Broiler Chicken Administered Roselle (<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>), Garlic (<i>Allium sativum</i>) and Ginger (<i>Zingiber officinale</i>) Extracts	927
<i>A.A. Malik, E.Z. Jiya, B.A. Ayanwale and D.L. Kasimi</i>	
APR -34 Growth Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Broilers Fed Varying Levels of <i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> Leaf Meal	930
<i>C.O. Osita*, C.U. Emezie, A.O. Ani, M.C. Ogwuegbu and I.E. Ezemagu</i>	
APR-35 Carcass Measurements and Weights of West African Dwarf Goat as Affected by Dressing Methods	935
<i>I.P. Okoh and E.E. Adomeh</i>	

Animal Health and Disease Control (AHC)

AHC -01 Blood Parameters and Prevalence of Caprine Babesiosis at Azare Abattoir of Bauchi State, Nigeria	939
<i>A. Maidala, A.M. Dunya, I.C. Mohammed O.J. Makinde, I.O. Adejumo and I.J. Dantata</i>	
AHC -02 Pathological Changes in the Liver of Albino Rats Fed Raw or Processed Sickle pod (<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>) Seed Meal Based-Diets	942
<i>C. Augustine</i>	
AHC -03 Poultry Production Methods and Common Diseases Associated With Poultry in Kogi Central	945
<i>M. Abubakar, I. Sani A. Nuratu, O.K. Yusuf and A.M. Umar</i>	
AHC -04 Ameliorative Effects of Kaempferol on Erythrocyte Osmotic Fragility induced by Experimental <i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> Infection in Mice	949
<i>Y. Muhammad, M.M. Suleiman, I.D. Jatau and A.M. Umar</i>	
AHC -05 A Preliminary Study of Prevalence of Laminitis in Nigerian Trade Horses at Obollo-Afor, Enugu State, Nigeria	952
<i>K.C. Ogbanya, C.A. Eze, J.I. Ihedioha, T.O. Nnaji and P.C. Ugwu</i>	
AHC -06 Blood Changes Observed in Laminitic Nigerian Horses	954
<i>K.C. Ogbanya, C.A. Eze, J.I. Ihedioha and P.C. Ugwu</i>	
AHC -07 Comparison of Point-of-Care Glucometers for Blood Glucose Determination in Cows, Goats and Fish	957
<i>C.O. Okorie-Kanu, C.E. Igbokwe, O.J. Okorie-Kanu, P.E. Aba and N.D. Nwagbara</i>	
AHC -08 Methanol Extract of <i>Spondias Mombin</i> Leaf Protects the Liver against Acetaminophen-Induced Hepatotoxicity in Albino Rats	960
<i>P.E. Aba, V.U. Omoja, N.E. Obioma and C.O. Okorie-Kanu</i>	
AHC -09 Participatory Epidemiology and Sero-Surveillance for Avian Influenza in Local Chicken at Live bird Market and House Holds in Enugu State, Nigeria	963
<i>S.C. Okoli, J.A. Nwanta and E.V. Ezenduka</i>	
AHC -10 Knowledge Attitude and Practice of Meat Inspection among Stakeholders in Owerri, South-Eastern Nigeria	967
<i>C. Unamba-Oparah, I.C. Unamba-Oparah, V.U. Odoemelam and B.O. Obasi</i>	
AHC -11 Influence of Body Weight and Methods of Castration on the Growth Performance and Nutrient Digestibility of Savanna Brown Goats	971
<i>B. Abdulkareem, A.I. Osuolale, M.A. Olaoye, D.N. Tsado, A.A. Malik and O.O.A. Fasanya</i>	
AHC -12 Socio-Cultural Characteristics and Drug Use Habit of Poultry Farmers in Akwa Ibom	974

State	
I.O. Basse, O.H. Ogegbuna, C.C. Achonwa, C.C Ugwu and I.C. Okoli	
AHC -13 Hepatoprotective Activity of Methanol Tuber Extract of <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> Linnon CCL₄-Induced Hepatotoxicity in Albino Rats (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	977
T.E. Ihedioha, R.I. Odo, C.E. Chiwetalu and J.I. Ihedioha	
AHC -14 Assessment of Degree of Spoilage of Meat in a Daily Simulated Market Style of Southwest Nigeria	981
O.D. Ilori, O.O. Adekolurejo and T.A.M. Awoniyi	
AHC -15 Current Anticoccidials Used in Nigeria; Benefits and Challenges: Review	984
M.O. Otu, I.A. Lawal, B.D. George, M.S. Abubakar, I.A. Adeyinka, A.A. Sekoni, B.I. Nwagu, F.O. Abeke	
AHC -16 Biosecurity Assessment of Selected Poultry Farms in South-West, Nigeria	988
B.O. Oyebanji, I.T. Akintoke and T.F. Ayodele	
AHC -17 Prospective Use of Anthelmintic Plants for Sustainable Worm Control in Nigeria	992
M.I. Udobi, C.O. Nwosu and A. Onyeabor	
AHC -18 Vaccination: The Future of Helminth Parasite Control	996
M.I. Udobi, A. Onyeabor and E. Uwalaka	
AHC -19 Influence of Body Weight and Methods of Castration on the Growth Performance and Nutrient Digestibility of Savanna Brown Goats	1000
B. Abdulkareem, A.I. Osuolale, M.A. Olaoye, D.N. Tsado, A.A. Malik and O.O.A. Fasanya	
AHC -20 Abundance of Ectoparasites on Ruminant Animals in Langtang South Local Government Area of Plateau State	1004
J.A. Yohana, I.Z. Abu and S.E. Alu	
AHC -21 Assessment of Antimicrobial Properties of Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) And Moringa (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>) Leaf Meal in Broiler Chicken Production	1008
M.O. Oladele-Bukola, I.O. Olatoye, B.A. Makanjuola, O.O. Olaseinde, O.A. Morakinyo and S.O. Omotoso	
AHC -22 Prevalence of Parasites among Dogs Undergoing Treatment at Polo Veterinary Clinic Jos, North Central Nigeria	1011
D.D. Pam, V.A. Pam, L.R. Felix ¹ , V.A. Adejoh, A. Ombugadu, S. Terhemen	
AHC -23 Prevalence of Human Parasites Associated with Vegetables Sold in Maikatako Market of Bokkos L.G.A Plateau State, Nigeria	1015
V.A. Pam, A.V. Adejoh, A. Ombugadu and D. Kumbak	
AHC -24 Studies on Parasitic Contamination of Soil and Local Drinking Water Source in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria	1019
V.A. Pam, A.A. Idris, A. Ombugadu, A.V. Adejoh, D.D. Pam S. K. Dogo and D. Kumbak	
AHC -25 Fatal Haemorrhagic Enteritis due to Helminthosis in a One-Year- Old Male-Camel-Calf (<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>): A Case Report	1023
M. Abdullahi, Z.M Wunti, M. Hussaini, I. Haruna and A.K Mohammed	
AHC-26 Performance and Histological Responses of Albino Rats Fed <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Seed Meal	1025
E.E. Akangbe and O.A. Abu	
Microlivestock Production (MLP)	
MLP -01 Replacing Soybean with <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> Leaf in the Diets of Growing Rabbits	1029
O.A. Abu, M. Orunmuyi, O.M. Jesuyon, F.A. Opawoye and G.O. Balogun	
MLP -02 Growth Response and Nutrient Digestibility of Japanese Quails (<i>Coturnix coturnix japonica</i>) Fed Sun-Dried and Honey-Flavored Cassava Peel Meal Diets	1033
H.I. Abdullahi, A.T. Ijaiya, A.A. Malik and S.S.A. Egena	
MLP -03 Effect of Yam-Peel Meal Diets on Performance and Nutrients Digestibility of Grower Rabbits	1036
M.S. Tamburawa, M.A. Suraj, A.G. Khaleel and S. Madaki	
MLP -04 Effect of Dietary Garlic Powder on the Haematology and Cholesterol Level of Japanese Quail	1039
F.U. Udeh, C.C. Onah, C.M. Nwakor, M.O. Onodugo, V.C. Udeh and D. Ozor	

AHC -19

Influence of Body Weight and Methods of Castration on the Growth Performance and Nutrient Digestibility of Savanna Brown Goats

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Abstract

This study was designed to investigate the influence of castration methods on the growth performance and nutrient digestibility of Savanna Brown goats. 24 animals were allocated to six treatment groups on weight bases. Each treatment contained four animals with two replicates and two animals per replicate. Treatment 1 (T₁) contained goats weighing 4-8 kg, non-castrates; Treatment 2 (T₂) contained goats weighing 0-4 kg castrates (open castration-surgical); Treatment 3 (T₃) were goats weighing 4-8 kg castrates (close castration-burdizzo); Treatment 4 (T₄) were goats weighing 8-12 kg castrates (open castration-surgical); Treatment 5 (T₅) were goats weighing 8-12 kg castrates (close castration-burdizzo) and Treatment 6 (T₆) were goats weighing 8-12 kg non-castrates. Digestibility trial was conducted at the end of the feeding trial that lasted for 14 weeks. During digestibility determination, 12 goats were transferred to metabolism cages. After three days of adaptation in the metabolism cages, faeces were collected for a period of seven days and analyzed to determine nutrient digestibility. Results obtained revealed that there were significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in the initial and final body weights due to the different weight ranges; the total weight gain, average daily weight gain and feed conversion ratio were not significant among the treatments. Significant ($p < 0.05$) differences were observed in total feed intake and average daily feed intake. Results also show that there was a significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between open, close and the non castrates in dry matter, crude protein, crude fibre, ash, fat and nitrogen free extract digestibility. It can be inferred that castration had no significant effect on the growth performance of Savanna Brown goats, while the nutrient digestibility was significantly affected by the castration methods.

Keywords: Savanna Brown goat, castration, growth performance and nutrient digestibility

Introduction

Goat is an important animal serving man in numerous ways by producing milk, meat, fibre and different byproducts. Nsoso *et al.* (2004) reported that goats play a significant role by providing milk and meat as a source of protein and are a major source of income, especially for rural people. They proved useful to man throughout the ages due to their productivity, small size, and non-competiveness with man for food (Mahmoud, 2010). It is believed that goats are clever, independent, agile, and tolerant to numerous diseases and parasites and can take care of themselves to a large extent better than other domestic animals. However, the strong taint of male goat is always considered to be one of the problems militating against goat farming especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and castration is the proven way of either reducing or eliminating this problem (Tsfaye *et al.*, 2008). Castration is one of the major management strategies used to produce carcasses with higher percentages of fat tissues than intact kids (Kebede *et al.*, 2008). Tsfaye *et al.* (2008) found that un-castrated and sexually mature goats are difficult to sell or they may have low market prices because of their strong male taints.

There are various types of castration methods; however, they can be classified into three major groups: physical, chemical, and hormonal. Nsoso *et al.* (2004) reported that castration is achieved by cutting blood supply to the testis both by crushing the blood vessels, cutting and elevating the temperature of the testis. Among the castration methods reported in the literature, the commonly used method of castration is the physical castration which involves the surgical elimination of the testicles of the goat through the application of a contracting elastic band (rubber ring) at the bottom of the scrotum. There is also a bloodless castration method that involves the use of external clamping with a suitable device such as burdizzo clamp (Johann *et al.*, 2010). Despite the wide acceptance of physical castration as a means of controlling taint in goat, there is controversy on the best weight and method of castration that will produce the highest weight gain in goats.

Hence the objective of this research study was to determine the influence of body weight and method of castration on body weight gain in Savanna Brown goats.

Materials and Methods

Twenty for Savanna Brown goats, obtained from goat markets within Minna, were allocated to six treatment groups on weight bases. Each treatment contained four animals with two replicates and two animals

per replicates. Treatment 1(T₁) were goats weighing 0-4 kg non-castrates, Treatment 2(T₂) were goats weighing 0-4 kg castrates (open castration –surgical), Treatment 3(T₃) were goats weighing 0-4 kg castrates (close castration-burdizzo), Treatment 4(T₄) were goats weighing 4-8 kg castrates (open castration-surgical), Treatment 5(T₅) were goats weighing 4-8 kg castrates (close castration-burdizzo) and Treatment 6(T₆) were goats weighing 4-8 kg non-castrates. Animals were castrated using the close castration method (Burdizzo) following the procedure of Olaifa and Opara (2011); while open castration (surgical) was accomplished using the procedure of Tibary and Van Metre (2004).

The animals were managed under semi-intensive system in a cross-ventilated pens within the animal house. Before the arrival of the animals, the pen was washed and disinfected with izal and allowed to dry. On arrival, the animals were vaccinated against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). The animals were provided with feed and mineral salt lick. Routine health care practices such as vaccination, ecto-parasites control and deworming were carried out. Fresh drinking water was provided *ad libitum*. Goats were fed at 3 % of their body weights, with concentrate diet in the morning (08:00 am – 09:00 am) before they were allowed to graze from 10:00 am- 04:00 pm. The experiment lasted for fourteen (14) weeks during which time data were collected on feed intake and weight gain. Digestibility trial was conducted at the end of the feeding trial.

Collected data were analyzed using SAS Statistical Package (2002, Version 10.0) based on a Completely Randomized Design using a 2 x 3 factorial arrangement. Where treatment means were significant ($p < 0.05$), they were separated using Duncan multiple range test as contained in the Package.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the main and interaction effects of body weight and methods of castration on growth performance of Savanna Brown goats. There were no significant ($P > 0.05$) differences between open castration, close castration and non-castration in the initial body weight, final body weight, body weight gain, average daily body weight gain and feed conversion ratio. These results are similar to those of Phad *et al.* (1995), where methods of castration had no significant ($p > 0.05$) effect on the live weight of goats. El- Waziri *et al.* (2011) found that castration by elastrator had no significant effect on slaughter weight, feed intake, body weight gain, feed to gain ratio, carcass weight and dressing percentage. However, there were significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in between open, close and non castration methods in total feed intake and average daily feed intake. Interaction effects between castration and weight show that there was a significant ($p < 0.05$) difference in initial body weight and final body weight due to the different weight ranges of the experimental animals used.

Table 1: Main and interaction effects of body weight and methods of castration on growth performance of Savanna Brown goats

Factor	Initial body weight (kg)	Final body weight (kg)	Body weight gain (kg)	Average daily body weight gain (kg)	Total feed intake (kg)	Average daily feed intake (kg)	Feed conversion ratio
Castration							
Non Castrate	8.50	10.75	2.25	0.02	11.67 ^b	0.13 ^b	5.44
Close Castrate	8.81	10.94	2.13	0.02	13.49 ^a	0.15 ^a	5.82
Open Castrate	8.56	10.63	2.06	0.02	12.69 ^{ab}	0.14 ^{ab}	6.54
SEM	0.245	0.333	0.197	0.002	0.349	0.004	0.676
L.S	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS
Weight							
4-8(W ₁)	7.71 ^b	9.88 ^b	2.17	0.02	12.60	0.14	6.07
8-12(W ₂)	9.54 ^a	11.67 ^a	2.13	0.02	12.64	0.14	5.79
SEM	0.199	0.271	0.160	0.002	0.286	0.003	0.552
L.S	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Interaction							
NC X W ₁	7.25 ^b	9.88 ^b	2.63	0.03	11.44 ^b	0.13 ^b	4.50
NC X W ₂	9.75 ^a	11.63 ^a	1.88	0.02	11.90 ^{ab}	0.13 ^{ab}	6.39
CC X W ₁	7.88 ^b	9.88 ^b	2.00	0.02	13.51 ^a	0.15 ^a	6.75
CC X W ₂	9.75 ^a	12.00 ^a	2.25	0.02	13.49 ^a	0.15 ^a	4.88
OC X W ₁	8.00 ^b	9.88 ^b	1.88	0.02	12.86 ^{ab}	0.14 ^{ab}	6.97
OC X W ₂	9.13 ^a	11.38 ^{ab}	2.25	0.02	12.52 ^{ab}	0.14 ^{ab}	6.11
SEM	0.346	0.470	0.278	0.003	0.495	0.005	0.957
L.S	*	*	NS	NS	*	*	NS

^{ab}Means in the same row with different superscripts were significantly different ($P < 0.05$) * = Significant level ($P < 0.05$), N S = Not significant

Goats of 4-8 kg differed significantly ($p < 0.05$) from those of 8-12 kg, however, there was a statistical similarity between the goats of both groups, this is in agreement with result of Nsoso *et al.* (2004) who reported that there was no significant difference ($p > 0.05$) in live weight between the groups of goats at the same age and stage of development. There was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the total feed intake and average daily feed intake between open castration, close castration and non-castration. Total feed intake and average daily feed intake was high in castrates than non-castrated goats. In collaboration with the findings in this study, Bello and Adama (2012) in their research with Savanna Brown goats reported that castrates consumed significantly more ($p < 0.05$) dry matter (DM) than non castrates.

Table 2 shows the main and interaction effects of body weight and methods of castration on nutrient digestibility of Savanna Brown goats. There were no significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between open, close and the non castrates in dry matter (DM) digestibility; however, for crude protein, crude fibre, ash, fat and nitrogen free extract digestibility, there were significant ($p < 0.05$) differences between open castration, close castration and the non-castration.

Table 2: Main and interaction effects of body weight and method of castration on nutrient digestibility of Savanna Brown goats

Factor	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	Crude Fibre	Ash	Fat	Nitrogen Free Extract
Castration						
Non Castrate	76.10	60.66 ^b	84.15 ^b	53.79 ^b	51.69 ^c	79.65 ^c
Close	75.55	64.95 ^a	82.54 ^c	54.98 ^a	55.62 ^b	84.69 ^a
Castrate						
Open	76.80	64.29 ^b	87.69 ^a	55.20 ^a	57.12 ^a	81.16 ^b
SEM	0.179	0.954	0.121	0.234	0.094	0.042
L.S	NS	*	*	*	*	*
Weight						
4-8(W ₁)	74.70 ^b	61.77 ^b	85.07 ^a	54.30 ^b	55.08 ^a	80.46 ^b
8-12(W ₂)	76.93 ^a	64.83 ^a	84.52 ^b	55.01 ^a	54.54 ^b	83.22 ^a
SEM	0.147	0.779	0.098	0.191	0.077	0.034
L.S	*	*	*	*	*	*
Interaction						
NC X W ₁	74.30 ^d	60.09 ^b	84.25 ^d	54.36 ^{bc}	53.08 ^d	80.11 ^d
NC X W ₂	76.30 ^b	61.23 ^b	84.05 ^d	53.22 ^c	50.29 ^e	79.20 ^e
CC X W ₁	74.50 ^{cd}	62.80 ^{ab}	84.85 ^c	54.05 ^{bc}	56.30 ^b	81.21 ^c
CC X W ₂	76.60 ^b	67.10 ^a	80.24 ^e	55.90 ^a	54.94 ^c	88.19 ^a
OC X W ₁	75.30 ^c	62.42 ^{ab}	86.10 ^b	54.50 ^b	55.85 ^b	80.07 ^d
OC X W ₂	77.90 ^a	66.15 ^a	89.28 ^a	55.90 ^a	58.39 ^a	82.26 ^b
SEM	0.254	1.349	0.171	0.331	0.134	0.059
L.S	*	*	*	*	*	*

^{abcd}Means in the same row with different superscripts were significantly different ($P < 0.05$) * = Significant level ($p < 0.05$), N S = Not significant,

This is in contrast to the report of Adeloye (1992) who found no significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between castrates and intact males except for the dry matter (DM). Goats of 8-12 kg had significantly ($P < 0.05$) higher values in dry matter, crude protein, ash and nitrogen free extract than goats of 4-8 kg castrates, except for crude fibre and fat where, goats of 4-8 kg had significantly higher value than those of 8-12 kg.

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the results obtained in this study, it can be concluded that castrations methods had no significant effects on the body weight of Savanna Brown goats. However, castrates gained more body weights compared to the non castrates. Also, castrates had higher digestibility coefficient than non castrates. It is therefore

recommended that castration of male Savanna Brown goats that is not required for breeding programmes should be carried out, although it may take longer than fourteen weeks to get the full effects of castration.

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