

**Characterisation of organic cereals and grain legumes as
feedstuffs for monogastric animals:
Effects of variety and environmental conditions on the
contents of crude nutrients, amino acids, thiamine,
riboflavin, and *in vitro* digestibility of crude protein and
amino acids**

Charakterisierung von Öko-Getreide und -Körnerleguminosen
als Futtermittel für Monogastrier:

Einfluss von Sorte und Umwelt auf die Gehalte an Rohnährstoffen, Aminosäuren,
Thiamin, Riboflavin und *in vitro* Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit

Dissertation

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Meinem Großvater

„Feed evaluation in its practical sense is and always will be a compromise between the need for simplicity, speed and low cost on the one hand, and the great complexity of feedstuffs and of the living organisms on the other.“

Low (1990)¹

¹ Low, A.G. (1990): Protein Evaluation in Pigs and Poultry.

In: Feedstuff Evaluation (Eds.: J. Wiseman and D. J. A. Cole), Butterworths. ISBN: 0-408-04971-5

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List of Abbreviations

Following abbreviations are used in addition to the abbreviations of the common international CGS-System of units as well as the symbols for chemical elements and compounds:

AA	Amino acid(s)
AAR	Amino acid ratio
Ala	Alanine
AME _N	Nitrogen corrected apparent metabolisable energy
ANF	Anti-nutritive factor(s)
anova	Analysis of variance
Arg	Arginine
Asp	Asparagine
BL	Blue lupin
CA	Crude ash
CF	Crude fibre
CN	Crude nutrient(s)
CP	Crude protein
CV	Coefficient of variation
Cys	Cystine
d21	21 days old broiler chicken
d42	42 days old broiler chicken
DM	Dry matter
e. g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> = for example
EAA	Essential amino acid(s)
EE	Ether extract
esp.	especially
FB	Field bean
FLD	Fluorescence detector
FP	Field pea
glm	Generalised linear model(s)
Glu	Glutamine
Gly	Glycine
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism(s)
His	Histidine
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
i. e.	<i>id est</i> = that is
IAAR	Ideal amino acid ratio

List of Abbreviations

Ile	Isoleucine
LED	light-emitting diode
Leu	Leucine
Lys	Lysine
ME	Metabolisable energy
Met	Methionine
n	Number
NfE	Nitrogen free extracts
O	Oats
pc	precaecal
pcADC	Apparent precaecal digestibility coefficient
pcSDC	Standardised precaecal digestibility coefficient
Phe	Phenylalanine
Pro	Proline
R ²	Coefficient of determination
SAA	Sulphur-containing amino acid(s)
SB	Spring barley
SD	Standard deviation of the mean
SE	Standard error of the mean
Ser	Serine
SW	Spring wheat
Thr	Threonine
Trp	Tryptophan
Tyr	Tyrosine
Val	Valine
WB	Winter barley
WR	Winter rye
WT	Winter triticale
WW	Winter wheat

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Summary

The sufficient supply of nutrients, in particular of protein and amino acids, for monogastric animals in organic farming is challenging. For one thing, some feedstuffs that are rich in crude protein and contain large amounts of valuable amino acids are not available in organic quality. Additionally, the use of synthetic amino acids to compensate imbalances of amino acids is not allowed according to EU regulations. To improve the situation in organic farming, efforts are made in animal breeding and husbandry as well as in plant breeding. Furthermore, alternative protein feedstuffs are studied with regard to their use in monogastric animal feeding. Besides the supply of amino acids, the supply of B vitamins is potentially challenging. Riboflavin supplements are primarily produced using fermentation. Thus, the market availability of GMO-free riboflavin supplements is inadequate. The knowledge on native contents of B vitamins in feedstuffs is scarce. Consequently, it is important to characterise commonly used feedstuffs. Since organic farming aims for a local production, cereals and grain legumes are frequently used as feedstuffs. The aim of this study was, therefore, to characterise organically produced cereal and grain legume seeds based on their contents of crude nutrients, amino acids, thiamine, and riboflavin considering influences of variety and environmental conditions.

For this purpose, more than 800 samples were derived in three years from organic variety trials, which were conducted by the German Chambers of Agriculture as well as the German experimental stations, and analysed for the aforementioned ingredients. Furthermore, the crude protein and amino acid digestibility in young broiler chicken was assessed *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The precaecal digestibility of the crude protein and the amino acids of a field bean and a field pea variety, which are commonly used in organic farming, was determined *in vivo* in 21-day-old broiler chicken. To predict the praecaecal digestibility of the crude protein and the amino acids of feedstuffs for broiler chicken, a multi-enzyme assay was adapted. The *in vitro* digestibility of the crude protein and amino acids of cereals and grain legumes was then determined using the adapted assay. The effect of variety and environment on the contents of crude nutrients, amino acids, thiamine and riboflavin, as well as on the *in vitro* digestibility of the crude protein and the amino acids in cereals and grain legumes was studied with generalised linear models. In addition, native contents of thiamine and riboflavin of exemplary diets for monogastric animals in organic farming were calculated.

As reported earlier in the literature, wide variations of the nutrient composition were also observed in the present study. However, the crude protein and amino acid contents of cereals and grain legumes were often lower and the starch content was often higher than reported in feed value tables.

The precaecal digestibility of crude protein of organic field beans and field peas was comparable to reported digestibility coefficients with 84% and 81%, respectively. Lysine,

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methionine, arginine, histidine and glutamic acid were highly digestible at the terminal ileum, while cystine and tryptophan were less digestible. The *in vitro* crude protein disappearance that was determined with the adapted multi-enzyme assay was highly correlated to the precaecal crude protein and the amino acid digestibility that was determined in preceding animal trials. The *in vitro* digestibility coefficients differed by more than 0.1 within a cultivar. They were mostly comparable to reported values in tables or digestibility studies. However, a comparison was difficult due to wide variations between table values and results of other studies. Since the number of samples with known precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility was small, further validation of the *in vitro* assay is recommended.

The composition and the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of the cereal and grain legume cultivars were significantly affected by variety and by environmental conditions. In most cases, the influence of the environmental conditions was stronger. However, the extent and the direction of the influence of these factors were not consistent and may be depending on interactions and the choice of the sample set. It was observed for all cultivars that variations of the crude protein content were accompanied by an altered amino acid profile. The content of essential amino acids, including lysine, methionine, and threonine, in the crude protein were often negatively correlated with the crude protein content. A positive correlation with the crude protein content was observed for glutamic acid, phenylalanine, and proline in the crude protein of different cereal grains as well as for arginine in the crude protein of grain legumes. This is most likely due to shifts in the relation of the protein fractions of the crops. Consequently, the crude protein quality tended to decrease with increasing crude protein contents of the feedstuffs.

Although the analysed amounts of thiamine in cereals and grain legumes were low compared to table values, calculated cereal-based diets contained sufficient amounts of native thiamine to meet current feeding recommendations. However, it must be noticed that the availability of thiamine was not taken into account. The native riboflavin contents of the exemplary diets were lower than the recommended amounts. Thus, it is necessary to use riboflavin supplements or feedstuffs rich in riboflavin to prevent deficiencies.

In conclusion, the observed wide variations of the nutrient contents as well as of the crude protein and amino acid digestibility of organically cultivated cereals and grain legumes must be considered in diet formulation. While amino acid contents can already be predicted with equations based on the crude protein content of the feedstuff, rapid and cheap analysis methods are needed to determine crude nutrient and possibly even B vitamin contents of each batch of a feedstuff. Consequently, the contribution of cereals and grain legumes to closing the amino acid gap in organic farming would be further improved. Moreover, their native thiamine and riboflavin content adds to the B vitamin supply.

Zusammenfassung

Die adäquate Versorgung monogastrischer Nutztiere mit Nährstoffen, vor allem mit Protein und Aminosäuren, ist im Ökologischen Landbau eine Herausforderung. Einerseits sind einige proteinreiche Futtermittel mit hohen Gehalten an essentiellen Aminosäuren nicht verfügbar, andererseits ist der Einsatz synthetischer Aminosäuren zum Ausgleich von Aminosäureimbilanzen laut EU Gesetzgebung nicht erlaubt. Um diese Situation zu verbessern, gibt es Bemühungen in der Pflanzen- und Tierzucht, sowie in der Tierhaltung, und es wird aktiv nach alternativen Proteinfuttermitteln gesucht. Neben der Aminosäureversorgung stellt auch die Versorgung mit B-Vitaminen potentiell ein Problem dar. Vor allem bei vorrangig fermentativ produzierten B-Vitaminen, wie Riboflavin, sind GMO-freie Supplemente nicht verfügbar. Das Wissen über native B-Vitamingehalte in Futtermitteln ist lückenhaft. Daher ist es notwendig, auch häufig eingesetzte Futtermittel zu charakterisieren. Da im Ökologischen Landbau eine regionale Erzeugung angestrebt wird, haben Getreide und heimische Körnerleguminosen eine große Bedeutung. Das Ziel dieser Arbeit war folglich die Charakterisierung von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen aus ökologischer Erzeugung anhand ihres Rohnährstoff-, Aminosäuren-, Thiamin- und Riboflavinegehalts unter Beachtung von Sorten- und Umwelteinflüssen.

Zu diesem Zweck wurden über 800 Proben aus drei Anbaujahren aus Öko-Sortenversuchen der deutschen Landwirtschaftskammern und Landesversuchsanstalten auf die Gehalte der oben genannten Inhaltsstoffe analysiert. Zudem wurde die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren bei 21 Tage alten Broilern exemplarisch an einer Öko-Futtererbse und einer Öko-Ackerbohne untersucht. Um die *praecaecale* Rohprotein- und Aminosäureverdaulichkeit für Broiler zu schätzen, wurde eine Multi-Enzym-Methode adaptiert. Mit Hilfe der adaptierten Methode ist die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren verschiedener Getreide- und Körnerleguminosenarten überprüft worden. Des Weiteren wurden der Einfluss von Sorte und Umwelt auf die Gehalte an Rohnährstoffen, Aminosäuren, Thiamin und Riboflavin sowie auf die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren in Getreide und Körnerleguminosen mittels generalisierter linearer Modelle bestimmt und der native Gehalt an Thiamin und Riboflavin in Beispielrationen für monogastrische Nutztiere berechnet.

Wie erwartet, schwankte die Nährstoffzusammensetzung stark. Zudem waren die Gehalte an Rohprotein- und vielen Aminosäuren häufig geringer und die Stärkegehalte in Getreide und Körnerleguminosen höher als tabellierte Werte.

Das in Erbsen und Ackerbohnen enthaltene Rohprotein war zu 84 und 81% *praecaecal* verdaulich. Dies war vergleichbar mit Ergebnissen anderer Studien. Lysin, Methionin, Arginin, Histidin und Glutamin waren hoch verdaulich. Die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit von Cystin und Tryptophan war jedoch geringer. Mit der adaptierten Multienzymmethode

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wurden Rohproteinverschwindensraten bestimmt, die stark mit der *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren, die in vorangegangenen Studien bestimmt wurde, korreliert waren. Die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeitskoeffizienten unterschieden sich zum Teil um mehr als 0,1 innerhalb einer Kultur. Insgesamt waren sie häufig vergleichbar mit Literaturangaben zur *praecaecalen* Rohproteinverdaulichkeit in Getreide und Körnerleguminosen. Ein Vergleich war aufgrund großer Unterschiede zwischen den Tabellenwerten und Literaturergebnissen jedoch schwierig. Da die Grundlage an *in vivo* Ergebnissen gering war, wird eine weitere Validierung der Methode empfohlen.

Die Nährstoffzusammensetzung und die *in vitro* Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen wurden signifikant von der Sorte und den Umweltbedingungen beeinflusst, wobei in den meisten Fällen der Einfluss der Umweltbedingungen überwog. Das Ausmaß und die Richtung dieser Effekte waren jedoch nicht konsistent. Wechselwirkungen und die Auswahl der Proben können Gründe dafür gewesen sein. Für alle Kulturen wurde beobachtet, dass eine Veränderung des Rohproteingehaltes ein verändertes Aminosäurenmuster zur Folge hatte. Die Gehalte an essentiellen Aminosäuren, wie Lysin, Methionin oder Threonin, im Rohprotein waren oft negativ mit dem Rohproteingehalt korreliert. In Getreide stieg die Konzentration an Glutamin, Phenylalanin und/oder Prolin mit steigenden Rohproteingehalten, in Körnerleguminosen stieg vor allem die Konzentration an Arginin im Rohprotein. Der Grund dafür war wahrscheinlich eine Veränderung im Verhältnis der Proteinfractionen zueinander. Diese kann zu einer veränderten Proteinqualität führen.

Getreidebasierte Beispielrationen enthielten ausreichende Mengen an Thiamin, um aktuelle Bedarfsempfehlungen zu decken, obwohl die Thiamingehalte in Getreide und Körnerleguminosen meist geringer waren als in der Literatur beschrieben. Es ist jedoch zu beachten, dass die Verfügbarkeit des Thiamins nicht berücksichtigt worden ist.

Die nativen Riboflavingehalte in den Beispielrationen reichten nicht aus, um den Bedarf zu decken. Um Mangelerscheinungen zu vermeiden, ist es daher notwendig, Riboflavin zu supplementieren oder riboflavinreiche Futtermittel einzusetzen.

Zusammenfassend kann aus der vorliegenden Arbeit die Empfehlung abgeleitet werden, dass die starken Schwankungen der Nährstoffgehalte und der *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren in Öko-Getreide und -Körnerleguminosen in der Rationsgestaltung berücksichtigt werden müssen. Während für die Aminosäuregehalte bereits zufriedenstellende Schätzgleichungen auf Basis des Rohproteingehalts existieren, werden zur Bestimmung der Rohnährstoff- und B-Vitamingehalte in Futtermittelchargen noch schnelle und günstige Analysemethoden benötigt. Dadurch könnten Getreide und Körnerleguminosen noch besser zur Schließung der Aminosäurenlücke im Ökologischen Landbau beitragen. Auch ihr nativer Gehalt an Thiamin und Riboflavin kann einen Beitrag zur bedarfsgerechten Versorgung monogastrischer Nutztiere leisten.

General Introduction

1 Feeding monogastric animals in organic farming

Challenges

Organic production is subject to strict regulations, the purpose of which is to ensure sustainable agricultural production². As a consequence, some of these regulations largely affect monogastric animal feeding. For instance, it is not allowed to use feedstuffs produced with solvents, such as extraction meals, which are important protein feedstuffs in conventional agriculture. Extraction meals are rich in crude protein (CP) and often contain considerable amounts of limiting amino acids (AA) (DLG 2006-2010, 2014). Furthermore, genetically modified organisms (GMO) are banned in organic farming. Most existing soybean varieties are genetically modified (Bachteler 2015) and, therefore, cannot be used. Due to production techniques that include fermentation with GMO (Ikeda 2003), the use of synthetically produced AA, a supplement commonly fed in conventional farming, is forbidden in organic farming. Since B vitamins, like riboflavin, are also often produced by fermentation with GMO (Stahmann *et al.* 2000, Schwechheimer *et al.* 2016), it is desired to supply sufficient amounts of B vitamins in the diet with native contents in the feedstuffs. Thiamine, for example, is supposedly contained in cereals in large amounts (Sauvant *et al.* 2004). Thus, cereal-based diets might contain sufficient amounts of thiamine (GfE 1999, 2006), while other B vitamins, like riboflavin, are more likely to be deficient. To avoid deficiencies, it is currently allowed to use some B vitamin supplements in diets for farm animals in organic farming. In addition, organic farming aims for 100% organic feeding. Thus, limitations in cultivation techniques further decrease the availability of valuable feedstuffs. For example, rapeseed, which is an oil seed with high amounts of sulphur-containing AA (SAA), is difficult to cultivate in organic farming due to pests (Velicka *et al.* 2016). The lack of some feedstuffs and of good alternatives makes it more difficult to meet the nutrient requirements of monogastric animals. Thus, it can be necessary to exceed the required amounts of crude protein of the diet to attain the needed amount of essential AA (EAA). This practice can lead to an imbalance of amino acids in the diets (Jongbloed & Lenis 1992, Chalova *et al.* 2016) and, consequently, to excessive N-excretions (Canh *et al.* 1998, Le Bellego & Noblet 2002, Wecke & Liebert 2013b, Chalova *et al.* 2016), which can burden the metabolism, the environment, and the staff working in the stalls. Moreover, unbalanced diets can cause a decreased performance (Sundrum *et al.* 2000) as well as a higher probability of cannibalism, feather pecking (Kjaer & Sørensen 2002, Van Krimpen *et al.* 2005), stunted growth, and health problems (Jongbloed & Lenis 1992, Nagaraj 2006,

² Framework can be found in Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and associated Commission Regulations

Oviedo-Rondón *et al.* 2006, Heo *et al.* 2009). In organic farming, the sufficient supply of AA is challenging in both swine and poultry. However, according to Weißmann & Bussemas (2014), it is most problematic in broiler and turkey nutrition. Furthermore, since the extent of poultry production is expanding, while the one of pig production is stagnating (Eurostat 2018, Moewius *et al.* 2018), the topic is more pressing for poultry.

Potential solutions

Negative effects of AA deficient diets on the health of monogastric animals in organic farming are to be avoided. Thus, their diet is currently allowed to contain 5% conventionally produced protein feedstuffs per year. Due to their high CP content and a favourable AA profile, potato protein (esp. for swine) and maize gluten (esp. for poultry) from conventional farming are commonly used to enhance the nutritive value of diets for monogastric animals (Hovi *et al.* 2003, Eriksson *et al.* 2009). Regarding 100% organic feeding, it seems obvious to replace the conventional protein isolates with organic ones. However, they are a by-product of starch production. Since the demand for organic potato and maize starch is low, protein isolates in organic quality are not available in sufficient amounts (Witten & Paulsen 2014). Consequently, other potential solutions are needed to close the amino acid gap for 100% organic feeding. Some farmers have found individual ways to feed their animals with 100% organic feed. However, it is not possible to use their concepts nationwide for all monogastric animals as they often depend on local producers of special feedstuffs (like organic potato protein). Thus, further endeavours have to be made to provide enough valuable protein feedstuffs for all monogastric animals. Since there is not one comprehensive solution, different strategies are discussed. It is likely that a combination of those approaches is needed to implement 100% organic feeding (Witten & Paulsen 2014).

The **first approach** is to use possibilities of the animals' genetics and metabolism. Monogastric animal breeding could adjust poultry for low protein diets in organic farming (Elwinger *et al.* 2008). The breeding of robust, modest, and efficient new turkey and dual-purpose chicken races would contribute to solving the problem. However, breeding of pigs for organic farming is difficult due to a small population and the lack of specialised breeders (Weißmann 2017). Berk & Weißmann (2012) suggested the use of compensatory growth for pigs. They found out that a decreased growth of piglets due to less crude protein in the diet can be compensated later on. Additionally, this strategy has the potential to be used in chicken feeding (Zhan *et al.* 2007). Another option would be to decrease the energy density of the feedstuff, which leads to an increased feed intake in poultry and therefore to an improved protein and AA intake (Bellof & Schmidt 2007). However, young poultry would have to be adapted to high feed intake (Baumann 2004, Joost Meyer zu Bakum 2004).

The **second approach** is to support plant breeding and cultivation. It is well known that due to genetic factors varieties of cultivated crops can differ in many characteristics, like yield quantity and stability, pest resistances, and even nutrient composition (Francis & Kannenberg 1978, Blumenthal *et al.* 1991, Khush 1995, Snape *et al.* 2007). Commonly used plants, like cereals, maize, peas, field beans, sweet lupins, sunflowers, canola, or soybeans, could be further improved and adapted for new environmental conditions and nutritional needs. Moreover, less popular plants, like vetch, millet, or buckwheat, could be further developed. Therefore, it is possible that plant breeding strategies can contribute to a regional 100% organic feeding. However, due to the priority of other breeding aims, like pest resistances or high yield, and the small purchase volume in organic farming, this approach is rather to be seen as a long-term solution.

The **third approach** is the use of alternative protein feedstuffs. Possible alternatives include insect protein, unsuitable meat from slaughtering, microorganisms (like bacteria, yeast, and algae), fish or mussel meal, milk products, egg products, treated legumes, or oil cakes. Unfortunately, the mentioned feedstuffs can yet not be used, are only available in small amounts, and/or are very expensive (Witten & Paulsen 2014). In addition, germinated grains (Schwediauier *et al.* 2017) and grassland-derived products (Wüstholtz *et al.* 2017a, Wüstholtz *et al.* 2017b) can be used as alternative protein feedstuffs to improve the amino acid supply of a diet.

The **fourth approach** is to improve feed evaluation and ration formulation. Organic farms often cultivate their own single feedstuffs to minimise nutrient input into the farm (Zollitsch 2007). Cereal grains and grain legumes are, therefore, major components of diets. The general nutrient composition of fodder crops is mainly known and summarised in different feed value tables (e. g., Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, DLG 2006-2010, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). However, the nutrient composition of crops can vary widely due to genetic and environmental factors (Canbolat *et al.* 2007, Shewry *et al.* 2011, Urbatzka *et al.* 2011). Thus, there is a lack of knowledge regarding the nutrient composition of batches of single feedstuffs produced on a local level. Laboratory analyses can generate specific information on each feedstuff.

Feed evaluation and ration formulation are important in addressing the above-described challenges regardless of the additional solutions pursued. Thus, the topic of the next chapter is the characterisation of feedstuffs.

2 Characterisation of feedstuffs

Since feed evaluation can add to animal health, animal performance, and nutrient conservation, it contributes to making animal feeding more sustainable and efficient (Le Bellego & Noblet 2002). It is, therefore, of special importance in agricultural production. This chapter provides an overview of selected feed ingredients and focuses on amino acids and their digestibility.

Crude nutrients

For the evaluation of feed quality on the basis of its nutrient composition, fractions consisting mostly of the nutrients that are important for feed quality are analysed with Weende analysis as a first step. Since those fractions also contain traces of foreign substances, they are called crude nutrients (CN). CP, for example, is calculated from the N content of the feedstuff. Thus, it contains also non-protein N compounds, like nucleic acids, and some secondary plant metabolites. The other CN fractions are crude fat (ether extract, EE), crude fibre (CF), crude ash (CA), and nitrogen-free extracts (NfE). The minerals are mostly contained in the CA fraction. CF and NfE can be further characterised by the amount of sugar, starch, neutral detergent fibre, acid detergent fibre, and acid detergent lignin (Van Soest 1967). CN contents can also be used to calculate the energy content of different feedstuffs.

All CN fractions contain vital compounds. However, this chapter focuses on a more detailed description of the composition and digestion of CP because its sufficient supply for monogastric animals is a challenging task in organic farming.

Amino acids

Monogastric animals require the AA, which are contained in the CP fraction, to build structural proteins and hormones. Of 21 proteinogenic AA, 20 AA are the canonical ones and, therefore, are encoded by the universal genetic code. Non-essential AA can be built *de novo* by the organism when nitrogen (N) is present in sufficient amounts. However, animals are not capable of building all AA. Essential AA (EAA) must be included in the diet in sufficient amounts, whereas semi-essential AA are either essential in specific metabolic states (like growth) or can be derived from essential AA. Thus, monogastric animals require semi-essential and essential AAs as well as AA building components (like N) or non-essential AA (Wu *et al.* 2013) in amounts depending on species, breed, age, and metabolic state (like maintenance, growth, gestation, lactation) of the animal (Fuller 2004). To build proteins (like tissues or animal products), animals require AA in a specific profile. Consequently, the use of excess AA by the metabolism is limited when one of the EAA is not supplied sufficiently. While lysine (Lys) is limiting the protein utilisation in common cereal-based diets for swine, the SAA, methionine (Met) and cystine (Cys), are limiting in

most diets for poultry. Besides Lys and the SAA, threonine (Thr) and tryptophan (Trp) are considered as limiting AA in common cereal-based diets for monogastric animals (Fuller 2004). Although the absolute amount of required AA is dependent on many factors, their optimal ratio is relatively stable (Baker *et al.* 2002, Baker 2003). Based on this knowledge, the quality of the dietary protein is measured using the ideal amino acid ratio (IAAR), which describes the required ratio of AA in relation to a reference AA (Table 1).

Table 1: Canonical proteinogenic amino acids and the ideal amino acid ratio in relation to lysine for fattening pig and growing chicken

Amino Acid	Essentiality	Class	Fattening pig ¹	Growing chicken ²
Lysine	Lys e	Basic	100	100
Methionine	Met e	Sulphur-containing		40
Cyst(e)ine	Cys s	Sulphur-containing	60*	74*
Threonine	Thr e	Aliphatic	65	66
Tryptophan	Trp e	Aromatic	18	16
Isoleucine	Ile e	Aliphatic	60	69
Leucine	Leu e	Aliphatic	100	110
Valine	Val e	Aliphatic	68	80
Arginine	Arg s/e#	Basic	42	105
Histidine	His e	Basic	32	34
Phenylalanine	Phe e	Aromatic		66
Tyrosine	Tyr s	Aromatic	95**	120**
Alanine	Ala n	Aliphatic		
Glycine	Gly n/s ⁺	Aliphatic		
Serine	Ser n/s ⁺	Aliphatic		
Proline	Pro n	Cyclic		
Asparagine	Asn n	Acidic Amid		
Aspartic acid	Asp n	Acidic		
Glutamine	Gln n	Acidic Amid		
Glutamic acid	Glu n	Acidic		

e=essential; s=semi-essential; n=non-essential; ¹Chung & Baker (1992); ²Wecke & Liebert (2013a); * Met+Cys; ** Phe+Tyr; # Arginine is essential for poultry because of the lack of ornithine cycle (Fuller 2004); + semi-essential in fast-growing poultry (Jeroch *et al.* 2012)

Lys is commonly applied as reference AA since it is often first-limiting and used mainly in the formation of body proteins (Baker *et al.* 2002). However, the Lys requirement, which must be known, depends on characteristics of the animal (Wecke *et al.* 2016). The IAAR concept aims to supply each AA in accordance with the rendered performance of the animal. The composition of dietary protein is ideal when neither an increased nor a decreased supply of an AA leads to an enhanced performance. The concept is used in swine and poultry nutrition (NRC 1994, GfE 1999, 2006, NRC 2012) to increase the efficiency and sustainability due to a decreased need for protein without a diminished performance (Mack *et al.* 1999). Since a decreased N uptake relieves the metabolism and decreases the N content of animal manure, the environment and the animal health benefit from the IAAR (Le Bellego & Noblet 2002, Boisen 2007b). Thus, it is of advantage for nutritionists to know the content of the AA in the diet. However, the animal is not able to digest the dietary protein entirely (Recoules *et al.* 2017). Thus, only dietary AA that can be digested and absorbed are potentially metabolically available for the animal.

Digestion of protein

In the digestive tract of monogastric animals, enzymes are used to split proteins into peptides and AA, which can then be absorbed, mostly in the small intestine, and used as building blocks of tissues, enzymes, and hormones. In this chapter, the digestion of protein is described specifically for chicken. As shown by Table 2, the transit time, the amount and composition of secretions, as well as the pH value of the digestive tract vary depending on characteristics of the animal and the ingested material (Farner 1943, Kokas *et al.* 1971, Shires *et al.* 1987, Fuller 2004, Denbow 2015). In chicken, the ingested feed is initially stored and soaked in the crop in a fluid of mucus and saliva. The pH depends on the characteristics and contribution of the feed and can vary widely (Shafey *et al.* 1991, Richter *et al.* 1992, Hinton *et al.* 2000, Józefiak *et al.* 2007, Jiménez-Moreno *et al.* 2009). Although no enzymes are secreted from the crop tissue, enzymes of the plant feedstuff itself (Harvey & Oaks 1974, Morita *et al.* 1994, Fahmy *et al.* 2004) and of microorganisms (Champ *et al.* 1983) can hydrolyse parts of the nutrients in the crop. However, the crop is mainly a storage organ (Denbow 2015). The feed is continuously released from the crop to be further digested.

Table 2: Transit time, pH value, and dry matter content of the digesta in the digestive tract of chicken*

Section	Transit Time [min]	pH	Dry matter content [%]
Crop	31 - 360	4.5 - 6.6	about 34 - 38
Glandular stomach ¹	1	4.3 - 4.8	
Muscular stomach ²	33 - 135	2.4 - 2.8	about 14 - 30
Duodenum	136 - 191	4.8 - 6.5	about 14 - 20
Jejunum		5.8 - 6.6	
Ileum		6.2 - 7.2	
Large intestine	ca. 180	5.5 - 7.0	
Pancreatic secretions		6.4 - 6.8	

*Farner (1942b), Herpol (1966), Barnes (1979), Mehner & Hartfield (1983), Hesselman & Åman (1986), Bedford *et al.* (1991), Petterson *et al.* (1991), Richter *et al.* (1992), Kadim & Moughan (1997), Hetland & Svihus (2001), Weurding *et al.* (2001), Engberg *et al.* (2002), Pang & Applegate (2007), Liu *et al.* (2014), Denbow (2015), Valentim *et al.* (2017); ¹Herpol (1966) found the pH in the glandular stomach to be averagely 1.4; ²Mabelebele *et al.* (2014) found the pH in the muscular stomach to be averagely 3.5

The oxynticopeptic cells in the glandular stomach secrete pepsinogen and hydrochloric acid (HCl). Pepsinogen is the proenzyme of the protein-hydrolysing enzyme pepsin, activated by HCl. Long (1967) observed a basal gastric secretory rate of 15.4 ml per hour with 93 mEq pepsin per litre. The optimal operating pH of pepsin is in the acidic range. Due to the low pH in the muscular stomach (Table 2), the structure of the dietary protein is altered, which enables pepsin to break it down into smaller peptides. The muscular stomach contains grit, which is supplied with the diet and assists in grinding the feed particles during the digestion with HCl and pepsin. A large amount of protein is released from the stomach in form of small peptides (Recoules *et al.* 2017).

In the small intestine, luminal digestion and digestion at the brush border membrane take place. Enzymes of the brush border membrane are aminopeptidases, cytosolic dipeptidases, and tripeptidases. Recoules *et al.* (2017) identified the proteins in the

digestive tract of broilers and found a variety of enzymes. The highest enzyme activity can be observed in the jejunum. However, little is known about the control mechanisms of intestinal secretions (Denbow 2015). Pancreatic secretions are the main factor accountable of protein digestion in the small intestine. They consist of an aqueous phase, which contains water and bicarbonate ions, and an enzymatic phase, which includes 10% trypsinogen, 20% chymotrypsinogen, and 30% procarboxipeptidase (Pubols 1991). The secretory rate is affected by characteristics of feedstuff and starvation time (Kokue & Hayama 1972, 1976) and is in part controlled by autonomic nerves and gastrointestinal hormones (gastrin, secretin, and cholecystokinin) (Burhol 1982, Polak & Bloom 1982). Pancreatic secretions are secreted into the distal duodenum. However, since there is a tailback of digesta, they can be found even in the proximal duodenum (Denbow 2015). The pH, therefore, increases between the proximal and distal duodenum and further in the jejunum and ileum (Table 2). AA absorption can be observed in the crop and the stomach. AA as well as small peptides are absorbed along the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum (Matthews 1972, Denbow 2015). When digesta has left the small intestine, it is subject to microbial digestion in the large intestine. The absorption of some AA (Met in the rectum and Pro, Leu, Phe, Met, Val in the caeca) has been observed in the large intestine of hens. However, the small intestine is presumed to be the main site of AA and peptide absorption (Moretó & Planas 1989, Fuller 2004).

Since AA must be absorbed to become available for metabolic use, the digestibility of the protein of a feedstuff is used as an indicator for the bioavailability of CP and AA. Therefore, knowledge on the CP and AA digestibility gained in importance in diet formulation (Dalibard & Paillard 1995, Perttilä *et al.* 2002). Microbial fermentation in the caeca of poultry modifies the CP content as well as the AA profile of their digesta (Ravindran *et al.* 1999). Therefore, there is a large difference between total tract digestibility and metabolic availability of CP and AA. Thus, the precaecal (pc) digestibility of CP and AA is used in diet formulation.

Predicting crude protein and amino acid digestibility

By now, the pc digestibility of most nutrients, including CP and some AA, is summarised in tables (Hess & Lemme 2018). However, table values vary widely dependent on characteristics of the assay methodology (Bryden *et al.* 2009) and are not able to display variations that occur between different batches of the same feedstuffs (Short *et al.* 1999, Rodehutsord & Kluth 2003, Wiseman *et al.* 2003). Anti-nutritive factors (ANF) and fibre contents of the diet affect nutrient digestibility. A treatment of a feedstuff, for example with heat or steam, can also alter the CP and AA digestibility (Toghyani *et al.* 2015, Hejdysz *et al.* 2016). To determine the apparent or true (corrected for endogenous losses) pc digestibility of CP and AA *in vivo* assays can be used. Furthermore, *in vitro* assays are able to estimate the pc CP and AA digestibility.

In vivo prediction of crude protein and amino acid digestibility in poultry

A selection of different assays exists to determine the digestibility of CP and AA in chicken. Some methods, like the surgical installation of an ileal cannula (Johns *et al.* 1986) are not commonly used. The digestibility of nutrients in feedstuffs for poultry is by now commonly determined using the excreta of cecectomised roosters or the ileal chyme of young broiler chicken (Doeschate *et al.* 1993, Ravindran & Bryden 1999, Kadim *et al.* 2002).

A cecectomy is usually conducted on adult animals and is fairly expensive. Therefore, operated animals are used for more than one study and repetitions are made continuingly with the same animal. Total excreta collection or a marker can be used in this method. However, since the gastro-intestinal-tract and its microflora develops continually until adulthood, the CP and AA digestibility can vary as well (Batal & Parsons 2002, Ravindran & Hendriks 2004). Thus, the results of rooster assays are not applicable for juvenile chicken. Broiler chicken in organic farming are fattened for about eight weeks. Thus the critical time regarding the sufficient supply of AA is during the juvenile phase. To determine the pc digestibility of younger animals at a specific age, ileal digesta samples are taken from killed animals after rearing them for a specific time-span. This methods require a marker to adjust for the passage rate of the digesta. Furthermore, this method requires more animals to gain enough digesta for the nutrient analyses and to ensure enough repetitions. A specific age is displayed and the influence of the individual is obliterated.

There are various effects of the method, like feeding technique (Kadim & Moughan 1997), sampling time after ingestion (Kadim & Moughan 1997) or sampling technique (Parsons 1985, Johns *et al.* 1986, Kadim *et al.* 2002) on the determined pc digestibility. Furthermore, effects of the animal, like age (Batal & Parsons 2002, Ravindran & Hendriks 2004), sex (Doeschate *et al.* 1993, Siriwan *et al.* 1993), or breed (Doeschate *et al.* 1993) were reported. Thus, it can be misleading to compare results obtained from different methods and to make a statement for animals in another metabolic state or age. To determine true or standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA, endogenous losses must be quantified (Karakas *et al.* 2001, de Coca-Sinova *et al.* 2008, Kim *et al.* 2011b, Adedokun *et al.* 2014). However, there is no standardised method to quantify endogenous losses (Donkoh & Moughan 1999, Cremers 2002, Jansman *et al.* 2002). The benefit of a regression approach, as used in different studies (Short *et al.* 1999, Kluth *et al.* 2005b), is that no correction for basal endogenous losses is necessary (Rodehutscord *et al.* 2004). The slope of the linear regression accounts practically for the standardised pc digestibility of the CP or the AA.

Consequently, Kluth & Rodehutscord (2009) suggested the use of a standardised method. They invented a method to measure the standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA in chicken (Kluth *et al.* 2005a, Kluth *et al.* 2009) with a linear regression approach

(Rodehutschord *et al.* 2004) using the amounts of nutrient intake and of nutrient residuals at the terminal ileum. This method was also used in the present study.

The advantage of animal experiments is that the animals' metabolism is naturally part of the study. Distinct statements regarding the *in vivo* digestibility of the observed nutrients in the used animals can be made after such an experiment. The difficulty is that the animals' ability to digest the nutrients is depending on their enzyme reaction. It is affected by genetic and environmental factors and can therefore differ in diverse experiments (Fuller *et al.* 1994). Changes in substrate intake lead to an adaption of the digestive enzymes and can therefore modify the digestive capacity (Eggum *et al.* 1989, Savoie *et al.* 1989). Even ANF can influence enzyme secretion (Mehanso *et al.* 1987). Lectins increase cellular turnover and protein secretion of the enterocytes (Pusztai 1989) and, therefore, endogenous losses. Fibre can lead to anatomical changes in the digestive tract (Eggum & Boisen 1991), reduce luminal enzyme activity, and protect proteins against degradation (Boisen *et al.* 1985). Furthermore, the gastro-intestinal microflora can influence digestion even in the stomach and small intestine, for example by degrading and synthesising individual AA (Mason 1984). Even genetic and environmental factors strongly affect feed utilization. In a study conducted by Elbers *et al.* (1989), the same diet had a varying organic matter digestibility when fed to pigs on different farms. This observation might be transferable to other nutrients and animals. Consequently, results of *in vivo* digestibility studies do not necessarily display the net absorbed AA. Another disadvantage of *in vivo* studies is that they are time-consuming and costly and that animals need to be operated or killed to generate results. Thus, *in vitro* methods can be of interest for a replicable, rapid, and cheap characterisation of feedstuffs.

In vitro prediction of crude protein and amino acid digestibility

In vitro assays for the estimation of CP and AA digestibility should be rapid, cheap, and robust. Regarding the described variations, which occur due to feed- and animal-related factors, respectively, as well as interactions between those factors, *in vivo* conditions cannot be replicated by *in vitro* assays. Thus, *in vitro* studies characterise feedstuffs mostly independent of the animal-related effects. Nevertheless, their applicability is dependent on a high correlation with results of *in vivo* studies (Butts *et al.* 2012). In the last decades, different assays were developed to predict the digestibility of nutrients for monogastric animals *in vitro*. A selection is described in the following text.

A simple approach is based on the assumption that the solubility of CP in different media, like water, NaCl, or KOH, is related to its digestibility. This method is usually applied to examine the success of a heat treatment, for example in soybeans. A lesser solubility of samples indicates protein destruction and, therefore, a decreased digestibility of the CP, while an increased solubility can indicate an increased digestibility (Parsons *et al.* 1991, Carbonaro *et al.* 1997, Pastuszewska *et al.* 2003).

There are two methods, which are based on an assumed correlation between the initial rate of peptide release and protein digestibility. Since cleaved peptide bonds release protons during proteolysis, the pH in a suspension declines. The pH-drop method measures the decrease in pH, while the pH-stat method measures the amount of NaOH, which is needed to keep pH constant (Hsu *et al.* 1977). In particular the pH-stat method seems to be valid, reliable, and repeatable to predict protein digestibility of highly digestible proteins in pigs (Boisen & Eggum 1991).

The dialysis cell method considers that end-products of digestion can suppress enzyme activity (Gauthier *et al.* 1986, Savoie & Gauthier 1986). Since low-molecular-weight products are continuously removed by dialyses during a pepsin-pancreatin digestion, an end-product inhibition is prevented and affecting factors can be studied. Furthermore, protein degradation in the small intestine as well as AA availability can be predicted (Galibois *et al.* 1989). However, the procedure is time-consuming and needs complex equipment. Similarly, computer-controlled systems to simulate the digestive tract of animals or humans were introduced by Minekus *et al.* (1995) and Wickham *et al.* (2009). Those complex systems require maintenance and are expensive. Therefore, they do not meet the requirements for a simple and cheap assay.

Furthermore, there are filtration methods to predict nutrient digestibility. Feed samples are incubated with enzymes. The insoluble residue is filtrated (or centrifuged) and analysed for residual CP and/or AA. Since *in vitro* solubility is expected to be correlated with *in vivo* digestibility, a prediction of the digestibility is possible. Studies have compared the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance with the total tract digestibility of CP. However, since no microbial digestion of the hindgut is simulated, it can be expected that a better correlation can be reached in a comparison with the *in vivo* digestibility of CP. One-, two-, or multi-enzyme systems can be performed. One-step methods with only one enzyme (for example pepsin or pronase, Büchmann 1979a, Rochell *et al.* 2013) can be misleading since enzymes are highly specific (Sibbald 1987). The incubation in intestinal fluids (duodenal fluid, ileal fluid, or faeces extract) is a multi-enzyme method with only one step (Goering & Van Soest 1970, Ehle *et al.* 1982, Löwgren *et al.* 1989). There are two-step multi-enzyme methods, where incubation with pepsin is followed by incubation for example with trypsin (Saunders *et al.* 1973), jejunal fluid (Furuya *et al.* 1979, Clunies & Leeson 1984), or pancreatin (Büchmann 1979a, Asp *et al.* 1983, Boisen & Fernández 1991). Boisen & Fernández (1991, 1995) and Boisen (2007a) invented a multi-enzyme method to determine the digestibility of different nutrients for swine. The assay of Boisen & Fernández (1995) was used in various studies to predict the standardised digestibility of CP and AA for pigs. Good correlations between the *in vitro* rate of disappearance with the apparent ileal digestibility of CP and AA in broiler chicken were also reported (de Coca-Sinova *et al.* 2008). These findings suggest that the

multi-enzyme assay of Boisen & Fernández (1995) is a promising and simple *in vitro* approach. Therefore, it was part of the present study.

Besides the CN and the AA other nutrients are important in animal feeding. It is, for example, possible that B vitamin deficiencies of mixed feeds occur, when B vitamin contents are not well regarded in ration formulation.

B vitamins: Thiamine (vitamin B₁) and riboflavin (vitamin B₂)

B vitamins are water-soluble vitamins. They are numbered in the order of their discovery. The first two B vitamins, thiamine and riboflavin, are considered in this work. Thiamine and riboflavin are continuously excreted in the urine of healthy individuals. Although animals continuously require a supply of B vitamins, they are not capable of synthesising these vitamins themselves (Squires 2011). In contrast, bacteria, plants, and fungi are capable of synthesising thiamine (Webb *et al.* 2007, Begley *et al.* 2008) and riboflavin (Bacher *et al.* 2000, Kemter 2002). B vitamins are also synthesised by some hindgut bacteria (Coates *et al.* 1968). However, the produced amounts are insufficient and not readily available for poultry and swine. Since the small intestine is the main site of absorption of thiamine and riboflavin, the majority of B vitamins that are synthesised by hindgut bacteria is excreted with the faeces. Thus, thiamine and riboflavin are primarily available for animals that practice coprophagy (Luckey *et al.* 1955). Therefore, they are dietary essential nutrients and must be supplied with the diet. Excess of thiamine and riboflavin in feedstuff is not a cause for concern since no negative consequences have been observed (Bates 2007, Rivlin 2007). However, since thiamine and riboflavin deficiencies can lead to severe health problems and decreased performance, they are often supplemented in feedstuffs to ensure a sufficient supply. Although a general supplementation is declared, information on the contained amount of specific B vitamins in mixed feed is often lacking. Even in organic farming, their application is allowed to prevent deficiencies.

Thiamine supplements are commonly produced via chemical synthesis (Revuelta *et al.* 2016). Although riboflavin can be produced using chemical synthesis, it is currently obtained mostly using biotechnological approaches that involve different microorganisms (Schwechheimer *et al.* 2016, Revuelta *et al.* 2017). These supplements are used regularly in feedstuffs for farm animals in conventional and organic farming in amounts that ensure a sufficient supply.

Objectives

The aim of the study was to characterise organically cultivated cereals and grain legumes as commonly used feedstuffs for monogastric animals. Emphasis was laid on the contents of the crude nutrients, amino acids, thiamine, and riboflavin as well as on the precaecal digestibility of the crude protein and amino acids for broiler chicken. The gathered information can be helpful in achieving 100% organic feeding.

The following questions were posed:

1. How can the nutrient composition of organically produced cereals and grain legumes be described and to what extent does the nutrient composition of organically cultivated cereals and grain legumes vary?
2. Is it possible to predict amino acid contents of organically cultivated cereals and grain legumes from crude protein content using equations?
3. What effect do the variety and the environmental conditions have on the nutrient contents of organically cultivated cereal grains and grain legumes?
4. What amount of crude protein and amino acids of commonly used field peas and field beans in organic farming is digestible at the terminal ileum of young broiler chicken?
5. Is it possible to use an adapted multi-enzyme-method to compare the precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids in single feedstuffs for broiler chicken?
6. What effect do the variety and the environmental conditions have on the *in vitro* digestibility of crude protein and amino acids of cereals and grain legumes?

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Chapter I

Effect of variety and environment on the contents of crude nutrients and amino acids in organically produced cereal and legume grains

Einfluss von Sorte und Umwelt auf die Roh Nährstoff- und Aminosäuregehalte
in ökologisch erzeugten Getreide- und Leguminosenkörnern

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Abstract

Cereals and home-grown grain legumes are main feedstuffs for monogastric animals. Thus, knowledge on variations of their crude nutrient and amino acid composition is of great interest in animal nutrition. Genetic and environmental factors are known to be able to affect the nutrient composition of crops. Thus, the aim of the study was to analyse a selection of grains of organic cereal and grain legume cultivars for their crude nutrient and amino acid contents and to determine the effect of variety and environmental conditions on the variations. Furthermore, it was tested, if equations can be used to predict amino acid contents from the crude protein content of cereals and grain legumes.

The content of the crude nutrients and 18 amino acids of 835 samples of ten different cereal and grain legume cultivars was analysed. Selected nutrients were subjected to correlation analyses. Furthermore, generalised linear models with multiple comparisons were conducted to assess the effect of cultivar as well as of variety, harvest site, and harvest year on the analysed ingredients.

Known differences in the nutrient composition between cultivars were confirmed. The contents of all crude nutrients and amino acids varied depending on the cultivar and the considered nutrient. The lowest variation coefficients (1.3 – 2.6% in cereals and 3.1, 3.5, and 6.8% in field peas, field beans, and blue lupins, respectively) were observed for the contents of nitrogen-free extracts. The crude protein contents varied widely, specifically in winter rye (Coefficient of variation: CV = 17.4%). However, compared to table values, the cereals and grain legumes of the present study tended to contain low amounts of crude protein and high amounts of starch. Due to the wide variations, there is no distinct consistency between table values and the results of this study.

High negative correlations between starch and crude protein contents were observed in eight cultivars. Furthermore, the amino acid profile of cereals and grain legumes varied depending on the crude protein contents. Higher crude protein contents were often related to lower contents of several essential amino acids in favour of glutamine/glutamic acid, proline, and phenylalanine in cereals as well as of arginine in grain legumes. Furthermore, variety, harvest site, and harvest year affected the contents of the analysed ingredients depending on the cultivar. However, the environmental factors had a greater influence than the variety. The observed variations must be regarded in diet formulation. Equations can be used to predict the amino acid contents of cereals and grain legumes from their crude protein content. However, additional analysis results are needed to improve the predictability with equations.

Keywords

organic farming, harvest site, cultivation year

Zusammenfassung

Getreide und heimische Körnerleguminosen sind wichtige Futtermittel für monogastrische Nutztiere. Daher ist das Wissen über Schwankungen ihrer Nährstoffzusammensetzung von großem Interesse für die Tierernährung. Neben den Rohnährstoffen haben Aminosäuren als wichtige Bausteine für körpereigene Proteine in den letzten Jahrzehnten an Bedeutung in der Rationsgestaltung gewonnen. Genetische und umweltbedingte Faktoren können die Nährstoffzusammensetzung von Ernteprodukten beeinflussen. Daher war das Ziel dieser Studie, eine Auswahl von Getreide- und Körnerleguminosen aus ökologischer Erzeugung auf ihre Gehalte an Rohnährstoffen und Aminosäuren zu analysieren, die Schwankungen abzubilden und den Einfluss von Sorte und Umweltbedingungen zu beschreiben. Zudem wurde geprüft, ob die Aminosäuregehalte zufriedenstellend aus dem Rohproteingehalt geschätzt werden können.

Zu diesem Zweck wurden die Gehalte an Rohnährstoffen und 18 Aminosäuren in 835 Proben von Körnern zehn verschiedener Getreide- und Körnerleguminosenkulturen analysiert und kulturartenweise Korrelationsanalysen unterzogen. Multiple Mittelwertvergleiche wurden zudem durchgeführt, um den Effekt der Kultur sowie von Sorte, Anbauort und Anbaujahr auf die Inhaltsstoffgehalte zu bestimmen.

Bekannte Unterschiede der Nährstoffzusammensetzung zwischen den Kulturen wurden bestätigt. Abweichungen der Aminosäuregehalte von Tabellenwerten waren nicht konsistent für alle Kulturen. Die Gehalte aller untersuchten Inhaltsstoffe schwankten abhängig von der betrachteten Kultur und dem Inhaltsstoff stark. Die geringsten Variationskoeffizienten (1.3 – 2.6% in Getreide, 3.1, 3.5, und 6.8% in Erbsen, Ackerbohnen und blauen Lupinen) wurden für N-freie Extraktstoffe beobachtet. Die Rohproteingehalte variierten jedoch stark zwischen den Proben, vor allem bei Roggen (CV = 17.4%). Im Vergleich zu Tabellenwerten wurden geringere Rohprotein- und höhere Stärkegehalte beobachtet. Das Verhältnis von Rohprotein- und Stärkegehalten war auch in einer starken negativen Korrelation dieser Nährstoffe zu sehen. Zudem veränderte sich das Aminosäureprofil zugunsten von Glutamin/-säure, Prolin und Phenylalanin in Getreide bzw. von Arginin in Körnerleguminosen bei steigendem Rohproteingehalt. Dabei wurden sinkende Gehalte einiger limitierender Aminosäuren beobachtet. Die beobachteten Schwankungen, die auch von Sorte, Anbauort und Anbaujahr beeinflusst werden, müssen in der Rationsgestaltung Beachtung finden. Der Einsatz von Gleichungen zur Schätzung der Aminosäuregehalte aus dem Rohproteingehalt ist dabei möglich.

Schlüsselworte

Ökolandbau, Anbauort, Anbaujahr

Introduction

Comprehensive knowledge on the nutrient composition of feedstuffs is essential in modern animal feeding. For this reason, several institutions summarised data on feed composition in various feed value tables (e. g., Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, DLG 2006-2010, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016). The reported values indicate wide variations of the nutrient contents of plant feedstuffs. It is challenging to formulate diets with an optimal nutrient composition using self-cultivated crops considering the variability of the contents of valuable ingredients. A dependence of this variability on genetic and environmental factors, like variety, weather conditions, soil characteristics, and cultivation management (Burstin *et al.* 2011, Shewry *et al.* 2011, Gronle 2014, Rodehutscord *et al.* 2016), has been reported. Besides crude nutrient (CN) contents, further components are valuable in describing a feedstuff. To further characterise the crude protein (CP) of feedstuffs, amino acid (AA) contents are of special importance in animal nutrition. It is especially challenging to achieve the sufficient supply of some essential AA in organic farming (Zollitsch & Baumung 2004, Weißmann & Bussemas 2014).

Diets for monogastric animals are often cereal-based. Cereals have high starch contents and are, therefore, an important energy supplier. They can be cultivated on any farm with comparatively low costs. Therefore, they also contribute to the intended circular ecology of organic farms. Cereal grains contain only about 10% CP. However, common diets for monogastric animals often have high inclusion rates of cereal grains. Thus, the dietary AA supply and profile are affected by the CP originating from cereals. Cereal protein has relatively low amounts of lysine (Lys) and threonine (Thr) but high amounts of the sulphur-containing amino acids (SAA) methionine (Met) and cystine (Cys) (Boisen *et al.* 2000).

In addition to cereals, different feedstuffs can be used, for example, to increase the supply of CP and AA and to adjust the relation between the essential AA in the diet. Due to legal regulations in organic farming, several protein feedstuffs are not allowed to be fed (EC 2007, 2008, EU 2014). Grain legumes, like soybeans, beans, peas, and lupins, which contain large amounts of CP and Lys, are important protein feedstuffs not only in organic but also in conventional farming (Jezierny *et al.* 2010). Many of them can even be cultivated on a local scale. Furthermore, they are beneficial in crop rotation through N-fixation and positive effects on soil fertility and yield potential of succeeding crops (Stockdale *et al.* 2006, Watson *et al.* 2006, Peoples *et al.* 2009). However, the cultivation of GMO-free soybeans is rare due to possible benefits of genetically modified soybeans (Brookes & Barfoot 2018a, b). Furthermore, there is a demand for soybeans, and specifically GMO-free soybeans, in human nutrition (Teuscher *et al.* 2005, Würschum *et al.* 2018). Consequently, the relevance of the other grain legumes is further increased in animal nutrition.

The objective of the study was, therefore, to determine the variation of the CN, starch, and AA contents in a selection of organic cereals and grain legumes and to evaluate effects of the variety and environmental conditions on the contents of CN, starch, and AA. Another aim of the study was to evaluate the value of regression equations to predict AA contents from the CP content of the studied cereals and grain legumes.

Materials and Methods

Sample Set

A selection of harvest samples of cereals and grain legumes from organically managed field trials was collected in the years 2011, 2012, and 2013. The sample set (Table I 1) was the same as in an earlier study by Witten & Aulrich (2018) and was equally adjusted.

Table I 1: Total number of samples (n total), number of samples considered for further statistical analyses (n subset), and number of factor manifestations for each cultivar

	n total	n subset	varieties	years	sites	areas ¹
Cereals						
Winter wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	106	70	3	3		5
Spring wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	45	25	4	3		3
Winter rye (<i>Secale cereale</i> L.)	106 ²	81	5	3	7	
Winter triticale (<i>Triticosecale</i>)	107 ³	92	7	3		5
Winter barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	30	15	3	2	5	
Spring barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	66	47	4	3		4
Oats (<i>Avena sativa</i> L.)	105 ⁴	80	7	3	6	
Grain legumes						
Spring field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	87	41	6	3	4	
Spring field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	73	59	6	2		3
Blue lupin (<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.)	110	31	5	3	3	
Total	835	541				

¹cultivation areas with homogenous climatic conditions according to JKI (2018);

²tryptophan n = 19; ³tryptophan n = 25; ⁴tryptophan n = 18

Laboratory analyses

Immediately after harvesting, the samples were sent to the laboratory of the Thünen Institute of Organic Farming. Subsequently, samples were dried at 40°C and either ground to pass through a 1.0 mm sieve for CN analyses or through a 0.5 mm sieve for AA analysis. The analysis of CN and starch contents was performed according to the official VDLUFA methods (VDLUFA 2012).

Contents of amino acids in cereals and grain legumes were analysed according to Directive (EC) No 152/2009 (EC 2009). The analysis was modified regarding derivatisation, separation, and detection of the hydrolysate AA according to Cohen & Michaud (1993). Therefore, after oxidation and/or acidic hydrolysis or base hydrolysis for tryptophan, the pH of the sample was adjusted with sodium hydroxide to 10.5 – 11.5.

An Agilent 1260 Infinity HPLC system equipped with an FLD (Waldbronn, Germany) was used for analytical HPLC separations. Reversed-phase chromatography was performed using a Gemini® 3 µm NX-C18 column (150 x 4.6 mm, Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg,

Germany). A volume of 2 µl of the prepared sample was injected. The system was run with a gradient as shown in Table I 2. The FLD operated at an excitation wavelength of 250 nm and an emission wavelength of 400 nm. Standard solutions were obtained from Merck.

Table I 2: Chromatographic gradient conditions for the analysis of amino acids

HPLC after hydrolyses			HPLC after oxidation and hydrolyses		
Time (min)	Eluent A ^{1a} (%)	Eluent B ² (%)	Time (min)	Eluent A ^{1b} (%)	Eluent B ² (%)
	100	0		90	10
0.1	90	10	0.1	90	10
14	86	14	14	86	14
18	83.4	16.6	18	83.4	16.6
33	63	37	25	73.9	26.1
34	0	100	26	0	100
35.5	38	62	27	0	100
37	90	10	31	90	10
39	100	0			

¹0.14 M Na-acetate, 0.0173 M triethylamine, 0.8 mM EDTA; apH 5.41; b pH 5.15; 60% acetonitrile

Statistics

For each cultivar, means, standard deviations, minima and maxima (ranges) as well as the coefficient of variation (CV) of the CN, starch, and AA were determined using the complete data set (n total in Table 1). The AA content in g/16g N and the relation of each AA to lysine (Lys) were calculated.

Further statistical analyses were conducted using R 3.4.0 (R Core Team 2017). Relationships between CP, EE, CF, and starch as well as between CP and AA were tested using Spearman correlation analyses (package PerformanceAnalytics; Peterson & Carl (2014)). Correlation coefficients higher than $r = 0.5$ were considered as marker for strong relations. Linear models (lm) were used to determine equations for each cultivar to estimate AA contents from the CP content.

The CN and AA contents in the cultivars were compared using generalised linear models (glm) with cultivar as factor, a following analysis of variance (Anova) and multiple comparisons (see below). Glm were also implemented on the adjusted data sets (n subset) to assess the influences of the main factors variety, year, and site or area (Table I 1). Interactions could not be tested due to unbalanced data and the absence of field replicates. The package glmulti (Calcagno 2013) was used to evaluate best-fitted models with only main factors by Akaike's Information Criterion with correction for sample size (AICc). Residuals of glm were checked for normal distribution with Shapiro-Wilk-Tests. If necessary, a model transformation was added for a better fit. However, small data sets (winter barley, spring wheat, spring barley, and blue lupin) were not transformed. Furthermore, influencing data points were viewed to find outliers, which were not excluded.

Table I 3: Contents of crude nutrients, starch, and amino acids (means, standard deviations, minimum, and maximum in % DM) in cereals and grain legumes

n	Winter wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L.	Spring wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L.	Winter rye <i>S. cereale</i> L.	Winter triticale <i>Triticosecale</i>	Winter barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L.	Spring barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L.	Oats <i>A. sativa</i> L.	Spring field pea <i>P. sativum</i> L.	Spring field bean <i>V. faba</i> L.	Blue lupin <i>L. angustifolius</i> L.
	106	45	106	107	30	66	105	87	73	110
CP	12.19 ± 1.21 ^c 8.91 - 15.38	12.65 ± 1.27 ^c 10.05 - 14.99	9.04 ± 1.57 ^a 6.09 - 12.47	9.95 ± 1.48 ^{ab} 7.01 - 13.09	9.04 ± 1.45 ^{ab} 7.39 - 11.80	9.77 ± 0.83 ^{ab} 7.34 - 11.67	10.46 ± 1.06 ^b 8.66 - 12.88	21.2 ± 2.13 ^d 14.74 - 25.22	29.67 ± 1.63 ^e 25.66 - 33.50	32.03 ± 3.41 ^f 23.53 - 38.40
EE	2.26 ± 0.22 ^c 1.69 - 2.74	2.50 ± 0.26 ^c 1.82 - 2.98	1.74 ± 0.17 ^a 1.30 - 2.17	1.83 ± 0.22 ^{ab} 1.30 - 2.33	3.00 ± 0.28 ^d 2.61 - 3.57	2.82 ± 0.15 ^d 2.55 - 3.34	4.77 ± 0.37 ^e 4.11 - 6.17	1.95 ± 0.2 ^b 1.37 - 2.47	1.75 ± 0.20 ^a 1.29 - 2.42	6.28 ± 0.59 ^f 5.11 - 8.03
CA	1.98 ± 0.19 ^b 1.51 - 2.43	1.96 ± 0.18 ^{ab} 1.62 - 2.40	1.81 ± 0.12 ^a 1.56 - 2.06	1.97 ± 0.09 ^b 1.77 - 2.28	2.57 ± 0.25 ^c 2.24 - 3.09	2.50 ± 0.23 ^c 2.05 - 2.93	2.99 ± 0.32 ^d 2.43 - 3.78	3.08 ± 0.24 ^d 2.46 - 3.50	3.95 ± 0.45 ^e 3.35 - 5.00	3.90 ± 0.24 ^e 3.35 - 4.75
CF	3.00 ± 0.29 ^c 2.44 - 3.73	2.86 ± 0.22 ^b 2.33 - 3.33	2.52 ± 0.20 ^a 1.98 - 3.05	2.88 ± 0.32 ^{bc} 2.02 - 3.74	5.75 ± 0.48 ^e 4.81 - 6.67	4.29 ± 0.45 ^d 2.78 - 5.18	11.79 ± 1.39 ^h 8.70 - 15.51	6.70 ± 0.37 ^f 5.81 - 7.82	9.55 ± 0.74 ^g 8.03 - 12.10	16.05 ± 0.83 ⁱ 14.15 - 19.62
NFE	80.59 ± 1.37 ^{ef} 77.26 - 83.46	80.03 ± 1.53 ^{ef} 77.19 - 83.09	84.86 ± 1.66 ^g 81.02 - 88.09	83.38 ± 1.53 ^g 80.21 - 86.19	79.63 ± 1.55 ^e 77.1 - 82.15	80.61 ± 1.05 ^f 77.91 - 83.4	70.02 ± 1.79 ^d 65.24 - 73.02	67.08 ± 2.05 ^c 62.85 - 72.67	55.09 ± 1.91 ^b 48.75 - 59.02	41.74 ± 2.84 ^a 35.79 - 48.77
Starch	69.48 ± 1.26 ⁱ 65.98 - 72.45	67.21 ± 1.28 ^h 64.52 - 69.63	65.78 ± 1.63 ^g 62.30 - 69.00	70.64 ± 1.78 ⁱ 66.99 - 74.73	61.45 ± 3.08 ^e 56.69 - 66.00	64.18 ± 1.07 ^f 60.62 - 66.69	47.69 ± 3.59 ^c 39.48 - 53.65	53.25 ± 1.65 ^d 49.54 - 56.31	42.87 ± 1.98 ^b 36.91 - 47.42	10.55 ± 1.38 ^a 7.59 - 13.72
AA	11.44 ± 1.15 ^c 8.21 - 14.58	12.09 ± 1.23 ^c 9.19 - 14.00	8.34 ± 1.48 ^a 5.62 - 11.63	9.42 ± 1.56 ^{ab} 6.41 - 12.89	8.31 ± 1.50 ^{ab} 6.58 - 11.19	9.21 ± 0.78 ^{ab} 6.92 - 11.09	9.80 ± 1.06 ^b 7.68 - 12.53	20.68 ± 2.06 ^d 14.49 - 24.72	26.40 ± 1.33 ^e 23.48 - 29.55	31.01 ± 3.32 ^f 23.08 - 36.47

CP = crude protein, EE = ether extract, CA = crude ash, CF = crude fibre, AA = total amino acids, superscripts mark statistically significant differences in rows (p<0.05)

Nevertheless, to validate the robustness of the model, it was tested whether a deletion of influencing data points in a model effectively altered the outcome of the following Anova and the multiple comparisons. Multiple comparisons were calculated using the multcomp package (Hothorn *et al.* 2008) with lsmeans (Lenth 2016) and Bonferroni-Holm adjustment. Since the assumptions were not met in all cases, the package sandwich (Zeileis 2004) was included regularly for a heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation consistent estimation of covariance with robust standard errors (vcovHAC). Due to the inclusion of this feature, differences between factor manifestations are not found in some cases although the factor is significantly influencing in the glm. Differences between lsmeans were considered significant if p-values were lower than 0.05.

Results

The CN contents in cereals and grain legumes varied widely. Cereals contained significantly more starch but less CP, and CA than grain legumes. CF and EE contents were the highest in oats and blue lupins (Table I 3).

Within the cereal cultivars, the highest CP content was observed in wheat ($p < 0.05$) with a maximum of 15.4 g/kg DM. The lowest CP content was determined in rye (6.1 g/kg DM), which differed significantly from oats. Oats contained the lowest amounts of NfE and starch, but the highest amounts of EE, CA, and CF ($p < 0.05$). While the contents of CA and CF in winter triticale were equal to those in wheat, the contents of CP, EE, and NfE were comparable to the ones in rye. The starch content was different in all tested cultivars, while the NfE content in wheat and barley was lower than that in triticale and rye. The spring varieties were observed to have lower CF contents than the winter varieties. The starch and NfE contents were higher in spring barley than in winter barley. However, in wheat, the spring and winter varieties did not have different NfE content, and the starch content was lower in spring wheat than in winter wheat.

Of the grain legume cultivars, blue lupins had the highest contents of CP, EE, CA, and CF. The contents of starch and NfE were very low in blue lupins and high in field peas. The CP content varied by 14% DM in blue lupins, by 10.5% DM in field peas, and by 7.8% DM in field beans.

Of the cereal cultivars, winter rye showed the widest variation of the CP content with a coefficient of variation (CV) of 17.4%, followed by winter barley and winter triticale. While the variation coefficient for the CP content in wheat and oats was about 10%, the CP content of spring barley varied less (CV = 8.5%). The widest variation of the EE content was observed in winter triticale (CV = 12.0%), while the lowest variation occurred in spring barley (CV = 5.3%). For the CA contents, variation coefficients of 4.6%, 6.6%, and about 9-11% were determined for winter triticale, winter rye, and the other cereal cultivars, respectively. Even CF contents varied widely (CV = 8-12%). With the exception of oats (CV = 7.5%) and winter barley (CV = 5.0%), the variations of the starch content were small (CV = 2.5% or lower).

In grain legumes, field beans (CV = 5.5%) showed a low variation of the CP content in comparison to field peas and blue lupins (CV = 10-11%). However, the EE, CA, and CF contents in field beans varied widely (CV = 11.4, 11.4, and 7.7%). Although blue lupins contained low amounts of starch, the variation of the starch content was wide (CV = 13.1%).

The content of the AA in the DM differed significantly between cereal cultivars as well as between grain legume cultivars (Table I 4).

Although wheat was the cereal cultivar that contained the highest amount of CP in the DM, its lysine (Lys) and asparagine/aspartic acid (Asp) contents were low. Spring wheat had significantly higher threonine (Thr) and serine (Ser) contents than winter wheat, and spring barley had high Asp content when compared to winter barley ($p < 0.05$). In contrast to the CP content, the Lys content in blue lupins was significantly lower than the one of the other grain legumes.

Wide variations of the contents of different AA were observed (CV = 8 – 26%). The CV were lower in wheat, spring barley, and oats than in the other cereal cultivars. Furthermore, wider variations were determined for the contents of proline (Pro), glutamine/glutamic acid (Glu), and phenylalanine (Phe) than for the other AA.

The AA contents in grain legumes mostly varied less widely than those in cereals. Furthermore, the variations of the AA contents were generally low in field beans, and the widest variations were determined for cystine (Cys, CV = 15.3%) and arginine (Arg, CV = 9.8%). In blue lupins and field peas, wide variations were observed for the content of Arg (CV = 15.7 and 15.1%) and histidine (His; CV = 22.3 and 22.2%).

The contents of Lys, Thr, leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), His, Arg, tyrosine (Tyr), Ser, and Asp were higher in the CP of grain legumes compared to the CP of cereals. While the glycine (Gly) content did not differ, the content of Met, Cys, tryptophan (Trp), valine (Val), Phe, alanine (Ala), Pro, and Glu was higher in the CP of cereals compared to the CP of grain legumes (Table I 5).

Table I 5: Contents of amino acids (means, standard deviations, minimum, and maximum in g/16g N) in cereals and grain legumes

n	Winter wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L.	Spring wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L.	Winter rye <i>S. cereale</i> L.	Winter triticale <i>Triticosecale</i>	Winter barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L.	Spring barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L.	Oats <i>A. sativa</i> L.	Spring field pea <i>P. sativum</i> L.	Spring field bean <i>V. faba</i> L.	Blue lupin <i>L. angustifolius</i> L.
	106	45	106	107	30	66	105	87	73	110
Lys	2.92 ± 0.21 ^a	3.03 ± 0.29 ^a	4.25 ± 0.56 ^{bcdde}	3.82 ± 0.28 ^b	4.06 ± 0.21 ^c	4.25 ± 0.24 ^d	4.43 ± 0.21 ^e	8.17 ± 0.67 ^h	6.38 ± 0.4 ^g	5.13 ± 0.32 ^f
Met	2.39 - 3.44	2.34 - 3.51	3.39 - 6.10	2.88 - 4.46	3.63 - 4.42	3.79 - 4.86	3.79 - 4.83	6.42 - 9.70	5.22 - 7.48	4.33 - 6.06
	1.66 ± 0.24 ^c	1.68 ± 0.11 ^c	1.79 ± 0.17 ^{cd}	1.71 ± 0.16 ^c	1.72 ± 0.16 ^{cd}	1.86 ± 0.15 ^d	1.74 ± 0.10 ^{cd}	1.02 ± 0.09 ^b	0.71 ± 0.07 ^a	0.67 ± 0.10 ^a
Cys	1.03 - 2.25	1.52 - 1.92	1.40 - 2.39	1.30 - 2.21	1.41 - 2.10	1.49 - 2.19	1.50 - 2.01	0.73 - 1.22	0.58 - 0.94	0.46 - 0.99
	2.39 ± 0.35 ^c	2.39 ± 0.13 ^c	2.53 ± 0.31 ^c	2.33 ± 0.24 ^c	2.33 ± 0.28 ^c	2.51 ± 0.29 ^c	3.14 ± 0.27 ^d	1.39 ± 0.2 ^b	1.09 ± 0.13 ^a	1.40 ± 0.27 ^b
Thr	1.64 - 3.29	2.10 - 2.68	1.76 - 3.36	1.65 - 2.96	1.77 - 3.04	1.75 - 3.14	2.47 - 3.68	0.85 - 1.78	0.82 - 1.43	0.99 - 2.30
	2.79 ± 0.18 ^a	2.98 ± 0.13 ^b	3.46 ± 0.22 ^{cde}	3.30 ± 0.22 ^c	3.35 ± 0.17 ^{cde}	3.36 ± 0.19 ^{cd}	3.49 ± 0.16 ^{de}	3.95 ± 0.15 ^f	3.40 ± 0.23 ^{cde}	3.58 ± 0.25 ^e
	2.34 - 3.19	2.69 - 3.23	3.03 - 3.95	2.60 - 4.31	3.09 - 3.64	2.78 - 3.68	3.15 - 3.86	3.64 - 4.28	2.68 - 3.97	3.17 - 4.15
Trp*	1.14 ± 0.10 ^d	1.12 ± 0.08 ^d	1.07 ± 0.09 ^d	1.11 ± 0.07 ^d	1.24 ± 0.06 ^e	1.24 ± 0.06 ^e	1.37 ± 0.05 ^f	0.91 ± 0.08 ^c	0.79 ± 0.03 ^a	0.84 ± 0.06 ^b
	0.92 - 1.37	1.01 - 1.27	0.93 - 1.21	0.92 - 1.21	1.15 - 1.35	1.12 - 1.37	1.28 - 1.45	0.70 - 1.17	0.72 - 0.87	0.71 - 1.18
Ile	3.23 ± 0.10 ^a	3.31 ± 0.14 ^a	3.24 ± 0.18 ^a	3.23 ± 0.27 ^a	3.26 ± 0.11 ^a	3.49 ± 0.11 ^b	3.59 ± 0.20 ^b	4.21 ± 0.18 ^e	3.83 ± 0.17 ^c	4.02 ± 0.14 ^d
	2.96 - 3.49	3.07 - 3.69	2.77 - 3.61	2.56 - 4.13	3.10 - 3.50	3.14 - 3.75	3.14 - 4.11	3.70 - 4.62	3.39 - 4.19	3.56 - 4.34
Leu	6.52 ± 0.19 ^b	6.64 ± 0.27 ^{bc}	6.20 ± 0.28 ^a	6.6 ± 0.40 ^{bc}	6.8 ± 0.19 ^c	7.06 ± 0.26 ^{de}	7.15 ± 0.33 ^{de}	7.23 ± 0.26 ^e	7.05 ± 0.31 ^{de}	6.87 ± 0.28 ^{cd}
	6.03 - 7.03	6.03 - 7.34	5.50 - 6.84	5.08 - 7.67	6.39 - 7.21	6.53 - 7.56	6.39 - 7.95	6.37 - 7.80	6.12 - 7.67	6.28 - 7.45
	4.14 ± 0.15 ^b	4.27 ± 0.19 ^{bc}	4.60 ± 0.26 ^{de}	4.54 ± 0.22 ^d	4.78 ± 0.16 ^f	5.01 ± 0.18 ^g	4.93 ± 0.27 ^g	4.74 ± 0.18 ^{ef}	4.30 ± 0.19 ^c	3.94 ± 0.18 ^a
Arg	3.81 - 4.49	3.91 - 4.73	3.92 - 5.17	3.78 - 5.15	4.33 - 5.07	4.48 - 5.39	4.32 - 5.60	4.19 - 5.20	3.83 - 4.72	3.55 - 4.38
	4.61 ± 0.25 ^a	4.76 ± 0.32 ^a	5.34 ± 0.35 ^c	5.24 ± 0.31 ^{bc}	5.03 ± 0.21 ^b	5.20 ± 0.22 ^c	6.61 ± 0.37 ^d	7.67 ± 0.56 ^e	8.70 ± 0.51 ^f	10.44 ± 0.65 ^g
	4.00 - 5.24	3.87 - 5.34	4.67 - 6.09	4.19 - 5.92	4.65 - 5.46	4.71 - 5.72	5.94 - 7.46	6.68 - 9.15	7.90 - 10.14	8.78 - 11.83
His	2.57 ± 0.3 ^{abc}	2.49 ± 0.31 ^{ab}	2.63 ± 0.19 ^{bc}	2.63 ± 0.19 ^{bc}	2.29 ± 0.2 ^a	2.41 ± 0.21 ^a	2.79 ± 0.27 ^{bcd}	3.20 ± 0.58 ^d	2.98 ± 0.2 ^{cde}	3.83 ± 0.59 ^e
	1.74 - 3.28	1.75 - 2.92	2.24 - 3.02	2.08 - 3.04	1.66 - 2.71	1.96 - 2.96	2.27 - 3.29	2.34 - 4.73	2.47 - 3.57	1.93 - 4.99
Phe	4.49 ± 0.19 ^b	4.62 ± 0.24 ^{bc}	4.48 ± 0.28 ^b	4.51 ± 0.27 ^b	4.66 ± 0.34 ^{bc}	4.79 ± 0.14 ^c	4.92 ± 0.28 ^c	4.97 ± 0.24 ^c	4.14 ± 0.28 ^a	4.02 ± 0.18 ^a
	3.98 - 5.20	4.04 - 5.05	3.61 - 5.11	3.44 - 5.16	4.16 - 5.34	4.50 - 5.23	4.30 - 5.49	4.40 - 5.87	3.49 - 4.90	3.57 - 4.61
Tyr	2.78 ± 0.13 ^b	2.87 ± 0.14 ^{bcd}	2.58 ± 0.14 ^a	2.80 ± 0.16 ^{bc}	3.01 ± 0.10 ^e	2.97 ± 0.11 ^{de}	3.29 ± 0.17 ^g	3.15 ± 0.15 ^f	2.94 ± 0.17 ^{cde}	3.32 ± 0.16 ^g
	2.42 - 3.25	2.43 - 3.15	2.31 - 2.89	2.19 - 3.27	2.76 - 3.20	2.74 - 3.23	2.95 - 3.67	2.78 - 3.63	2.60 - 3.33	2.98 - 3.95
Ala	3.45 ± 0.16 ^a	3.57 ± 0.19 ^a	4.40 ± 0.33 ^{cd}	4.26 ± 0.28 ^c	4.20 ± 0.23 ^c	4.36 ± 0.21 ^{cd}	4.80 ± 0.22 ^e	4.52 ± 0.15 ^{cd}	3.92 ± 0.18 ^b	3.52 ± 0.22 ^a
	3.04 - 3.88	3.24 - 4.15	3.90 - 5.34	3.43 - 5.02	3.83 - 4.60	3.88 - 4.98	4.26 - 5.29	4.00 - 4.90	3.56 - 4.40	3.03 - 4.06
Gly	3.98 ± 0.20 ^a	4.11 ± 0.19 ^{ab}	4.48 ± 0.29 ^{cd}	4.39 ± 0.27 ^{cd}	4.25 ± 0.23 ^{bc}	4.26 ± 0.22 ^{bc}	5.00 ± 0.26 ^e	4.55 ± 0.16 ^d	4.11 ± 0.18 ^{ab}	4.28 ± 0.17 ^c
	3.44 - 4.67	3.72 - 4.56	3.93 - 5.20	3.45 - 5.05	3.79 - 4.73	3.78 - 4.82	4.50 - 5.62	4.24 - 4.97	3.77 - 4.60	3.92 - 4.79
Ser	4.4 ± 0.29 ^{bcd}	4.56 ± 0.28 ^{de}	4.32 ± 0.22 ^{bc}	4.51 ± 0.27 ^{cd}	4.13 ± 0.12 ^a	4.25 ± 0.22 ^{ab}	4.74 ± 0.27 ^{ef}	4.76 ± 0.24 ^{ef}	4.46 ± 0.25 ^{bcd}	4.86 ± 0.22 ^f
	3.74 - 5.62	3.99 - 5.33	3.75 - 5.21	3.53 - 5.38	3.92 - 4.41	3.81 - 4.92	4.23 - 5.61	4.18 - 5.20	3.88 - 4.94	4.33 - 5.36
Pro	9.32 ± 0.36 ^d	9.29 ± 0.47 ^d	8.66 ± 1.12 ^d	8.97 ± 0.71 ^d	9.27 ± 1.23 ^d	9.19 ± 0.64 ^d	5.13 ± 0.34 ^c	4.29 ± 0.23 ^b	3.98 ± 0.22 ^a	4.25 ± 0.22 ^b
	8.55 - 10.54	7.79 - 10.09	6.16 - 11.07	6.45 - 10.51	7.45 - 11.15	7.40 - 10.62	4.36 - 5.82	3.73 - 4.96	3.37 - 4.50	3.70 - 4.99
Asp	4.86 ± 0.24 ^a	5.14 ± 0.34 ^b	7.51 ± 0.66 ^e	6.65 ± 0.45 ^d	6.20 ± 0.37 ^c	6.60 ± 0.36 ^d	8.19 ± 0.41 ^f	12.06 ± 0.65 ^h	10.55 ± 0.49 ^g	10.31 ± 0.46 ^g
	4.34 - 5.38	4.48 - 6.09	6.39 - 9.11	5.25 - 7.56	5.44 - 6.70	5.79 - 7.47	7.27 - 9.34	10.26 - 13.74	9.23 - 11.86	9.01 - 11.23
Glu	28.56 ± 1.24 ^f	28.73 ± 1.47 ^f	21.75 ± 2.21 ^d	24.84 ± 2.30 ^e	21.05 ± 1.92 ^{cd}	21.47 ± 0.87 ^d	19.61 ± 1.13 ^c	16.70 ± 0.61 ^b	15.91 ± 0.76 ^a	21.52 ± 0.90 ^d
	25.55 - 32.63	24.51 - 31.75	16.91 - 26.55	19.25 - 29.60	18.45 - 24.59	19.48 - 23.78	17.44 - 22.37	14.88 - 18.23	13.67 - 17.88	18.32 - 23.71

*n = 19, 25, and 18 for winter rye, winter triticale, and oats; superscripts mark statistically significant differences in rows (p<0.05)

The Glu content in the CP of wheat was significantly higher than that in the other cereal cultivars; however, wheat had the lowest Lys and Thr contents in the CP. Spring wheat had significantly higher contents of Thr and Asp in the CP than winter wheat. The CP of spring barley contained significantly higher amounts of Lys, Ile, Leu, Val, Arg, and Asp when compared to winter barley, wheat, rye, and triticale. Pro and Glu accounted for high contents of all other AA in oats. The widest variation of Lys content in the CP was observed in winter rye (CV = 13.2%). While the variation coefficient ranged between 4 – 8% for most AA in cereals and grain legumes, His varied wider in wheat, barley, oats, field peas, and blue lupins, Met and Cys varied wider in grain legumes and winter cereals, Glu and Pro varied wider in winter rye, winter triticale, and winter barley, and Lys varied wider in spring wheat and winter rye.

The CP in field peas contained high amounts of all amino acids (except for Arg and His) in comparison to the other grain legumes. However, due to the high Lys contents in field peas, the ratio of all AA to Lys was lower than in blue lupins and cereals. Only the ratio of Met to Lys content was higher in field peas than in field beans (Table I 6). While the amino acid profile in the CP did not differ between winter and spring wheat, the ratios of Tyr and Gly to Lys were higher in winter barley than in spring barley. Overall, the ratio of the AA to Lys varied widely among and within the cultivars. In cereals, the highest variation coefficient of the ratio to Lys was determined for His and Cys in winter and spring wheat (CV for His = 14.6 and 15.7%, CV for Cys = 12.0 and 10.1%), for Pro, Glu and Phe in winter rye (CV = 22.5, 19.1, and 25.9%), for Pro and Glu in winter triticale (CV = 11.0 and 12.4%), for His in oats (CV = 9.5%), and in winter and spring barley for Cys (CV = 10.5 and 11.9%), Pro (CV = 17.0 and 11.1%), and Glu (CV = 13.6 and 8.5%). In general, field peas had the widest variations of the AA ratio to Lys. The ratio of Arg and His to Lys varied widely in grain legumes. Furthermore, the variation coefficient was specifically high for the relation of Trp to Lys in field peas (CV = 18.2%), Cys to Lys in field beans (CV = 11.8%), and Met and Cys to Lys in blue lupins (CV = 15.4 and 14.7%).

With the exception of oats and spring wheat, the starch content of all cultivars was highly negatively correlated with the CP content ($r = -0.63 - -0.91$, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, the NfE content in all cultivars was negatively correlated with the CP content ($r = -0.4$ in oats, $r = -0.80 - -0.90$ in the other cultivars, $p < 0.05$) and with the exception of spring wheat positively correlated with the starch content. In blue lupins and winter barley, the EE content was negatively correlated with the CP content ($r = -0.62$ and -0.63 , $p < 0.05$) and positively with the starch content ($r = 0.55$ and 0.75 , $p < 0.05$). In oats, the CF content was negatively correlated with the content of starch ($r = -0.75$, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, the EE content of spring wheat was positively correlated with its CP content ($r = 0.63$, $p < 0.05$).

Table I 6: Amino acids related to lysine in cereals and grain legumes

	Winter wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L 106	Spring wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> L 45	Winter rye <i>S. cereale</i> L 106	Winter triticale <i>Triticosecale</i> L 107	Winter barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L 30	Spring barley <i>H. vulgare</i> L 66	Oats <i>A. sativa</i> L 105	Spring field pea <i>P. sativum</i> L 87	Spring field bean <i>V. faba</i> L 73	Blue lupin <i>L. angustifolius</i> L 110
n	57 ± 7 ^e	56 ± 5 ^e	43 ± 5 ^{cd}	45 ± 4 ^d	42 ± 4 ^d	44 ± 4 ^d	39 ± 2 ^c	13 ± 1 ^b	11 ± 1 ^a	13 ± 2 ^b
Met	34 - 69	49 - 71	31 - 57	29 - 55	36 - 51	37 - 55	34 - 46	10 - 16	8 - 14	10 - 18
Cys	82 ± 10 ^f	79 ± 8 ^f	60 ± 8 ^{cd}	61 ± 6 ^d	57 ± 6 ^c	59 ± 7 ^{cd}	71 ± 6 ^e	17 ± 2 ^a	17 ± 2 ^a	27 ± 4 ^b
Thr	55 - 103	67 - 101	42 - 80	42 - 75	47 - 74	41 - 75	56 - 84	11 - 22	12 - 22	20 - 45
	96 ± 8 ^g	99 ± 8 ^g	82 ± 7 ^{def}	83 ± 5 ^f	83 ± 4 ^{ef}	79 ± 5 ^{de}	79 ± 3 ^d	49 ± 4 ^a	53 ± 4 ^b	70 ± 4 ^c
Trp*	69 - 122	89 - 122	59 - 99	72 - 110	76 - 93	63 - 88	72 - 95	39 - 60	45 - 65	61 - 8
	39 ± 3 ^g	37 ± 4 ^g	26 ± 3 ^d	28 ± 2 ^e	31 ± 3 ^{ef}	29 ± 2 ^e	31 ± 2 ^f	11 ± 2 ^a	12 ± 1 ^b	16 ± 1 ^c
Ile	31 - 48	31 - 45	20 - 30	23 - 33	26 - 36	25 - 33	28 - 34	9 - 17	11 - 15	14 - 21
	111 ± 7 ^e	110 ± 10 ^e	77 ± 8 ^{cd}	85 ± 8 ^d	80 ± 5 ^{cd}	82 ± 4 ^d	81 ± 5 ^{cd}	52 ± 3 ^a	60 ± 3 ^b	79 ± 4 ^c
Leu	94 - 138	92 - 142	54 - 94	71 - 105	74 - 96	73 - 93	73 - 98	44 - 59	53 - 72	67 - 89
	224 ± 14 ^g	221 ± 19 ^g	148 ± 17 ^{cd}	173 ± 12 ^f	168 ± 8 ^{ef}	166 ± 8 ^{ef}	162 ± 6 ^{de}	89 ± 6 ^a	111 ± 6 ^b	134 ± 6 ^c
Val	188 - 274	183 - 279	104 - 179	142 - 204	154 - 185	151 - 188	148 - 179	76 - 106	99 - 134	120 - 149
	142 ± 8 ^f	142 ± 10 ^f	109 ± 11 ^{de}	119 ± 6 ^e	118 ± 5 ^e	118 ± 5 ^e	111 ± 6 ^d	58 ± 4 ^a	67 ± 3 ^b	77 ± 3 ^c
Arg	125 - 169	128 - 176	81 - 130	105 - 137	111 - 133	105 - 130	99 - 123	48 - 66	61 - 82	69 - 85
	158 ± 9 ^e	158 ± 8 ^e	127 ± 12 ^{bc}	138 ± 8 ^c	124 ± 3 ^b	122 ± 5 ^b	149 ± 7 ^d	95 ± 12 ^a	137 ± 12 ^c	205 ± 21 ^f
His	141 - 188	143 - 177	86 - 152	122 - 168	120 - 132	109 - 134	134 - 166	74 - 123	107 - 176	146 - 254
	89 ± 13 ^g	83 ± 13 ^g	63 ± 7 ^{cd}	69 ± 6 ^{cd}	57 ± 6 ^{cd}	57 ± 6 ^c	63 ± 6 ^{de}	39 ± 8 ^a	47 ± 4 ^b	75 ± 14 ^g
Phe	55 - 131	60 - 120	41 - 80	50 - 84	40 - 68	46 - 69	52 - 83	28 - 59	37 - 56	36 - 108
	155 ± 12 ^d	154 ± 15 ^d	107 ± 17 ^c	119 ± 10 ^c	115 ± 13 ^c	113 ± 8 ^c	111 ± 6 ^c	61 ± 6 ^a	65 ± 5 ^a	79 ± 5 ^b
Tyr	126 - 200	128 - 193	59 - 138	95 - 138	100 - 140	95 - 131	98 - 122	49 - 84	53 - 80	61 - 94
	95 ± 7 ^f	95 ± 9 ^f	61 ± 6 ^c	73 ± 5 ^e	74 ± 4 ^e	70 ± 4 ^d	74 ± 3 ^e	39 ± 4 ^a	46 ± 3 ^b	65 ± 5 ^c
Ala	78 - 122	80 - 121	41 - 76	60 - 84	68 - 85	63 - 79	68 - 83	31 - 52	37 - 55	54 - 81
	119 ± 9 ^g	119 ± 9 ^g	104 ± 7 ^{de}	112 ± 5 ^f	103 ± 3 ^d	103 ± 2 ^d	108 ± 4 ^e	56 ± 4 ^a	61 ± 3 ^b	69 ± 2 ^c
Gly	107 - 149	106 - 148	84 - 119	103 - 128	100 - 113	96 - 110	100 - 121	46 - 65	56 - 74	65 - 78
	137 ± 8 ^g	137 ± 11 ^g	106 ± 9 ^{def}	115 ± 5 ^f	105 ± 3 ^e	100 ± 3 ^d	113 ± 5 ^f	56 ± 5 ^a	65 ± 4 ^b	84 ± 4 ^c
Ser	120 - 171	124 - 168	75 - 126	102 - 135	100 - 111	95 - 111	100 - 139	45 - 68	56 - 76	73 - 94
	151 ± 11 ^g	152 ± 17 ^g	103 ± 14 ^{cd}	118 ± 8 ^f	102 ± 4 ^d	100 ± 5 ^{cd}	107 ± 5 ^e	59 ± 6 ^a	70 ± 5 ^b	95 ± 7 ^c
Pro	126 - 192	125 - 194	65 - 132	99 - 137	94 - 110	88 - 118	94 - 124	44 - 74	59 - 86	76 - 117
	321 ± 29 ^f	310 ± 36 ^f	209 ± 47 ^e	236 ± 26 ^e	230 ± 39 ^e	217 ± 24 ^e	116 ± 6 ^d	53 ± 5 ^a	63 ± 3 ^b	83 ± 6 ^c
Asp	259 - 411	255 - 403	117 - 295	177 - 286	182 - 307	152 - 276	98 - 127	43 - 67	56 - 74	67 - 99
	167 ± 9 ^{cd}	171 ± 18 ^{bcdef}	178 ± 11 ^{def}	174 ± 9 ^e	153 ± 5 ^a	155 ± 5 ^{ab}	185 ± 6 ^f	149 ± 16 ^a	166 ± 6 ^c	201 ± 9 ^g
Glu	149 - 217	146 - 218	147 - 199	156 - 214	145 - 171	147 - 164	171 - 199	116 - 189	154 - 187	176 - 221
	985 ± 97 ^g	959 ± 123 ^g	523 ± 100 ^e	654 ± 81 ^f	522 ± 71 ^{de}	507 ± 43 ^e	443 ± 20 ^{cd}	206 ± 19 ^a	250 ± 10 ^b	421 ± 27 ^c
	755 - 1247	727 - 1244	316 - 704	469 - 813	432 - 677	403 - 627	407 - 488	163 - 252	231 - 290	354 - 480

*n = 19, 25, and 18 for winter rye, winter triticale, and oats; superscripts mark statistically significant differences in rows (p<5)

In cereals and grain legumes, the contents of some AA (in g/16 N) were correlated with the CP content (Table I 7). In all cereals, except for oats, the contents of Glu and Pro and in some cases Phe (in g/16 g N) were positively correlated with the CP content. Furthermore, in winter barley, Trp increased significantly in the CP with increasing CP contents. In the CP of grain legumes, the contents of Arg and of His in blue lupins increased with increasing CP contents. In oats, a moderate negative correlation between the CP content and the content of Cys and Gly in the CP was found, while no correlations with the other AA were observed. In the other cereal cultivars, in field beans and in blue lupins, the Lys content of the CP decreased with increasing CP contents. With the exception of spring barley and oats, all cultivars had decreasing Met contents of the CP when CP contents increased. Further negative correlations were found mainly with Val, Arg, Ala, Gly, and Asp in cereals.

Table I 7: Spearman correlation coefficients of the amino acids (g/16 g N) and crude protein (% DM)

	WW	SW	WR	WT	WB	SB	O	FP	FB	BL
n	106	45	106	107	30	66	105	87	73	110
Lys	-0.73*	-0.77*	-0.80*	-0.60*	-0.76*	-0.77*	-0.36*	-0.18	-0.42*	-0.55*
Met	-0.48*	-0.41*	-0.61*	-0.58*	-0.64*	-0.10	-0.22*	-0.48*	-0.47*	-0.57*
Cys	-0.44*	-0.25	-0.53*	-0.29*	-0.45*	-0.16	-0.47*	-0.28*	-0.44*	-0.58*
Thr	-0.34*	-0.46*	-0.89	-0.33*	-0.84*	-0.30*	-0.25*	-0.60*	-0.38*	-0.46*
Trp [†]	-0.31*	-0.32*	-0.94	-0.60*	0.47*	-0.17	-0.10	-0.21	-0.27*	-0.48*
Ile	-0.21*	-0.36*	-0.34*	-0.38*	0.17	-0.27*	0.13	-0.24*	-0.38*	-0.25*
Leu	-0.33*	-0.29	-0.39	0.16	-0.02	-0.44*	0.00	-0.01	-0.37*	-0.58*
Val	-0.55*	-0.56*	-0.57*	-0.25*	-0.54*	-0.37*	0.00	-0.28*	-0.32*	-0.55*
Arg	-0.54*	-0.56*	-0.84*	-0.27*	-0.74*	-0.53*	0.01	0.49*	0.49*	0.73*
His	0.00	0.00	-0.25*	0.10	0.21	0.00	-0.11	0.05	-0.30*	0.49*
Phe	0.13	0.00	0.53*	0.46*	0.81*	0.50*	0.23*	0.00	-0.51*	-0.15
Tyr	0.00	0.00	-0.72*	0.00	0.00	-0.29*	-0.07	-0.17	-0.41*	-0.10
Ala	-0.60*	-0.54*	-0.90*	-0.54*	-0.91*	-0.67*	-0.35*	-0.58*	-0.35*	-0.59*
Gly	-0.46*	-0.40*	-0.90*	-0.43*	-0.82*	-0.69*	-0.43*	-0.40*	-0.31*	-0.33*
Ser	-0.18	0.14	-0.21*	0.00	-0.65*	-0.41*	-0.18	0.00	-0.40*	0.00
Pro	0.48*	0.25	0.84	0.68*	0.85*	0.51*	-0.24*	-0.40*	-0.42*	0.00
Asp	-0.56*	-0.25	-0.90*	-0.39*	-0.91*	-0.62*	0.00	-0.17	-0.29*	-0.26*
Glu	0.64*	0.58*	0.81*	0.71*	0.83*	0.64*	0.00	0.00	-0.26*	0.13

WW = winter wheat; SW = spring wheat; WR = winter rye; WT = winter triticale; WB = winter barley; SB = spring barley; O = oats; FP = field pea; FB = field bean; BL = blue lupin; * = $p < 0.05$; [†]n = 19, 25, and 18 for winter rye, winter triticale, and oats

Equations were calculated to predict AA contents from CP content in each cultivar. Most of the equations had a satisfying coefficient of determination ($R^2 > 0.5$). All equations to predict the AA contents in winter triticale were suitable. However, Cys contents in barley, rye, and oats and the contents of all SAA in grain legumes, could not be estimated with the equations from this study. Lys, the SAA, and His in wheat, except for spring wheat, could also not be predicted satisfyingly ($R^2 < 0.5$). Furthermore, the equations to estimate Lys and Trp contents of field peas were inappropriate. In field beans, only the equations to predict Trp and Arg contents from the CP contents can be used.

The following equations can be used to predict AA content from CP content (% DM):

Wheat

Lys =	0.014*CP+0.190	R ² = 0.37
Met =	0.008*CP+0.104	R ² = 0.17
Cys =	0.013*CP+0.134	R ² = 0.19
CysMet =	0.021*CP+0.238	R ² = 0.19
Thr =	0.024*CP+0.050	R ² = 0.66
Trp =	0.008*CP+0.038	R ² = 0.45
Arg =	0.034*CP+0.158	R ² = 0.64
Ile =	0.030*CP+0.030	R ² = 0.87
Leu =	0.060*CP+0.073	R ² = 0.88
Val =	0.034*CP+0.091	R ² = 0.83
His =	0.025*CP+0.003	R ² = 0.42
Phe =	0.047*CP-0.015	R ² = 0.83
Tyr =	0.028*CP+0.001	R ² = 0.80
Gly =	0.033*CP+0.093	R ² = 0.74
Ser =	0.044*CP+0.001	R ² = 0.70
Pro =	0.108*CP-0.183	R ² = 0.89
Ala =	0.026*CP+0.110	R ² = 0.74
Asp =	0.038*CP+0.134	R ² = 0.65
Glu =	0.362*CP-0.925	R ² = 0.93

Winter wheat

Lys =	0.015*CP+0.173	R ² = 0.49
Met =	0.006*CP+0.129	R ² = 0.07
Cys =	0.009*CP+0.182	R ² = 0.07
CysMet =	0.015*CP+0.309	R ² = 0.07
Thr =	0.022*CP+0.065	R ² = 0.65
Trp =	0.008*CP+0.040	R ² = 0.41
Arg =	0.033*CP+0.157	R ² = 0.69
Ile =	0.030*CP+0.025	R ² = 0.90
Leu =	0.059*CP+0.079	R ² = 0.91
Val =	0.034*CP+0.094	R ² = 0.87
His =	0.028*CP-0.028	R ² = 0.48
Phe =	0.046*CP-0.013	R ² = 0.85
Tyr =	0.027*CP+0.011	R ² = 0.8
Gly =	0.031*CP+0.105	R ² = 0.74
Ser =	0.041*CP+0.040	R ² = 0.67
Pro =	0.112*CP-0.226	R ² = 0.93
Ala =	0.025*CP+0.120	R ² = 0.77
Asp =	0.034*CP+0.171	R ² = 0.74
Glu =	0.362*CP-0.925	R ² = 0.93

Spring wheat

Lys =	0.008*CP+0.278	R ² = 0.14
Met =	0.012*CP+0.063	R ² = 0.60
Cys =	0.020*CP+0.045	R ² = 0.71
CysMet =	0.031*CP+0.115	R ² = 0.69
Thr =	0.023*CP+0.082	R ² = 0.83
Trp =	0.009*CP+0.033	R ² = 0.54
Arg =	0.030*CP+0.223	R ² = 0.53
Ile =	0.028*CP+0.067	R ² = 0.81
Leu =	0.058*CP+0.105	R ² = 0.84
Val =	0.032*CP+0.134	R ² = 0.80
His =	0.021*CP+0.044	R ² = 0.31
Phe =	0.045*CP+0.020	R ² = 0.79
Tyr =	0.028*CP+0.009	R ² = 0.79
Gly =	0.032*CP+0.117	R ² = 0.76
Ser =	0.048*CP-0.033	R ² = 0.74
Pro =	0.102*CP-0.115	R ² = 0.83
Ala =	0.025*CP+0.138	R ² = 0.74
Asp =	0.039*CP+0.156	R ² = 0.62
Glu =	0.364*CP-0.953	R ² = 0.90

Barley

Lys =	0.029*CP+0.118	R ² = 0.74
Met =	0.015*CP+0.028	R ² = 0.51
Cys =	0.019*CP+0.052	R ² = 0.35
CysMet =	0.035*CP+0.074	R ² = 0.45
Thr =	0.027*CP+0.065	R ² = 0.76
Trp =	0.013*CP-0.003	R ² = 0.82
Ile =	0.036*CP-0.016	R ² = 0.88
Leu =	0.067*CP+0.030	R ² = 0.89
Val =	0.046*CP+0.031	R ² = 0.88
Arg =	0.044*CP+0.068	R ² = 0.84
His =	0.027*CP-0.031	R ² = 0.68
Phe =	0.061*CP-0.131	R ² = 0.96
Tyr =	0.028*CP+0.016	R ² = 0.91
Gly =	0.029*CP+0.124	R ² = 0.82
Ser =	0.037*CP+0.050	R ² = 0.83
Pro =	0.144*CP-0.489	R ² = 0.88
Ala =	0.030*CP+0.121	R ² = 0.79
Asp =	0.046*CP+0.173	R ² = 0.68
Glu =	0.303*CP-0.840	R ² = 0.96

Winter barley

Lys =	0.029*CP+0.101	R ² = 0.92
Met =	0.012*CP+0.050	R ² = 0.67
Cys =	0.013*CP+0.095	R ² = 0.44
CysMet =	0.024*CP+0.144	R ² = 0.67
Thr =	0.024*CP+0.087	R ² = 0.95
Trp =	0.015*CP-0.018	R ² = 0.91
Arg =	0.042*CP+0.078	R ² = 0.94
Ile =	0.035*CP-0.020	R ² = 0.96
Leu =	0.066*CP+0.013	R ² = 0.97
Val =	0.043*CP+0.043	R ² = 0.95
His =	0.026*CP-0.025	R ² = 0.82
Phe =	0.067*CP-0.178	R ² = 0.98
Tyr =	0.030*CP+0.003	R ² = 0.95
Gly =	0.030*CP+0.113	R ² = 0.93
Ser =	0.037*CP+0.041	R ² = 0.97
Pro =	0.167*CP-0.653	R ² = 0.97
Ala =	0.028*CP+0.128	R ² = 0.96
Asp =	0.040*CP+0.195	R ² = 0.94
Glu =	0.332*CP-1.069	R ² = 0.99

Spring barley

Lys =	0.021*CP+0.212	R ² = 0.60
Met =	0.015*CP+0.033	R ² = 0.38
Cys =	0.020*CP+0.047	R ² = 0.25
CysMet =	0.037*CP+0.069	R ² = 0.33
Thr =	0.028*CP+0.052	R ² = 0.61
Trp =	0.011*CP+0.014	R ² = 0.67
Arg =	0.041*CP+0.111	R ² = 0.74
Ile =	0.031*CP+0.039	R ² = 0.85
Leu =	0.058*CP+0.120	R ² = 0.81
Val =	0.043*CP+0.074	R ² = 0.83
His =	0.026*CP-0.021	R ² = 0.51
Phe =	0.055*CP-0.072	R ² = 0.93
Tyr =	0.027*CP+0.031	R ² = 0.83
Gly =	0.025*CP+0.172	R ² = 0.66
Ser =	0.032*CP+0.101	R ² = 0.66
Pro =	0.133*CP-0.396	R ² = 0.83
Ala =	0.025*CP+0.176	R ² = 0.72
Asp =	0.037*CP+0.276	R ² = 0.58
Glu =	0.279*CP-0.626	R ² = 0.93

Winter rye

Lys =	0.018*CP+0.213	R ² = 0.51
Met =	0.013*CP+0.044	R ² = 0.69
Cys =	0.017*CP+0.073	R ² = 0.48
CysMet =	0.030*CP+0.114	R ² = 0.60
Thr =	0.023*CP+0.099	R ² = 0.93
Trp =	0.007*CP+0.033	R ² = 0.84
Ile =	0.029*CP+0.027	R ² = 0.89
Leu =	0.056*CP+0.052	R ² = 0.94
Val =	0.038*CP+0.069	R ² = 0.90
Arg =	0.036*CP+0.152	R ² = 0.91
His =	0.024*CP+0.018	R ² = 0.82
Phe =	0.054*CP-0.079	R ² = 0.95
Tyr =	0.020*CP+0.049	R ² = 0.92
Gly =	0.030*CP+0.129	R ² = 0.94
Ser =	0.041*CP+0.015	R ² = 0.92
Pro =	0.140*CP-0.470	R ² = 0.94
Ala =	0.028*CP+0.144	R ² = 0.91
Asp =	0.041*CP+0.294	R ² = 0.87
Glu =	0.321*CP-0.905	R ² = 0.95

Winter triticale

Lys =	0.026*CP+0.122	R ² = 0.72
Met =	0.012*CP+0.054	R ² = 0.65
Cys =	0.019*CP+0.046	R ² = 0.57
CysMet =	0.030*CP+0.106	R ² = 0.62
Thr =	0.026*CP+0.067	R ² = 0.78
Trp =	0.008*CP+0.031	R ² = 0.73
Ile =	0.024*CP+0.082	R ² = 0.69
Leu =	0.067*CP-0.011	R ² = 0.85
Val =	0.040*CP+0.051	R ² = 0.88
Arg =	0.044*CP+0.079	R ² = 0.83
His =	0.027*CP-0.007	R ² = 0.80
Phe =	0.052*CP-0.066	R ² = 0.90
Tyr =	0.028*CP+0.005	R ² = 0.85
Gly =	0.035*CP+0.089	R ² = 0.81
Ser =	0.043*CP+0.024	R ² = 0.83
Pro =	0.120*CP-0.294	R ² = 0.90
Ala =	0.030*CP+0.119	R ² = 0.78
Asp =	0.050*CP+0.157	R ² = 0.76
Glu =	0.354*CP-1.03	R ² = 0.90

Field bean

Lys =	0.023*CP+1.206	R ² = 0.12
Met =	ns	
Cys =	ns	
CysMet =	ns	
Thr =	0.020*CP+0.416	R ² = 0.20
Trp =	0.006*CP+0.060	R ² = 0.52
Ile =	0.026*CP+0.369	R ² = 0.45
Leu =	0.047*CP+0.702	R ² = 0.43
Val =	0.030*CP+0.393	R ² = 0.45
Arg =	0.131*CP-1.305	R ² = 0.72
His =	0.018*CP+0.342	R ² = 0.21
Phe =	0.019*CP+0.667	R ² = 0.14
Tyr =	0.019*CP+0.300	R ² = 0.31
Gly =	0.030*CP+0.336	R ² = 0.49
Ser =	0.027*CP+0.512	R ² = 0.27
Pro =	0.021*CP+0.544	R ² = 0.26
Ala =	0.025*CP+0.413	R ² = 0.44
Asp =	0.065*CP+1.204	R ² = 0.39
Glu =	0.102*CP+1.696	R ² = 0.38

Oats

Lys =	0.039*CP+0.059	R ² = 0.80
Met =	0.015*CP+0.025	R ² = 0.69
Cys =	0.017*CP+0.150	R ² = 0.34
CysMet =	0.032*CP+0.178	R ² = 0.53
Thr =	0.031*CP+0.042	R ² = 0.80
Trp =	0.013*CP+0.011	R ² = 0.90
Ile =	0.038*CP-0.018	R ² = 0.77
Leu =	0.071*CP+0.004	R ² = 0.83
Val =	0.048*CP+0.009	R ² = 0.76
Arg =	0.065*CP+0.012	R ² = 0.76
His =	0.023*CP+0.048	R ² = 0.42
Phe =	0.055*CP-0.058	R ² = 0.79
Tyr =	0.031*CP+0.015	R ² = 0.78
Gly =	0.038*CP+0.126	R ² = 0.73
Ser =	0.043*CP+0.048	R ² = 0.72
Pro =	0.040*CP+0.119	R ² = 0.60
Ala =	0.040*CP+0.084	R ² = 0.79
Asp =	0.082*CP+0.001	R ² = 0.80
Glu =	0.203*CP-0.071	R ² = 0.76

Field pea

Lys =	0.068*CP+0.297	R ² = 0.49
Met =	0.006*CP+0.096	R ² = 0.34
Cys =	0.010*CP+0.076	R ² = 0.23
CysMet =	0.016*CP+0.175	R ² = 0.29
Thr =	0.032*CP+0.166	R ² = 0.88
Trp =	0.008*CP+0.029	R ² = 0.48
Ile =	0.036*CP+0.128	R ² = 0.81
Leu =	0.067*CP+0.107	R ² = 0.87
Val =	0.041*CP+0.124	R ² = 0.85
Arg =	0.104*CP-0.580	R ² = 0.82
His =	0.041*CP-0.179	R ² = 0.32
Phe =	0.049*CP+0.017	R ² = 0.79
Tyr =	0.030*CP+0.039	R ² = 0.80
Gly =	0.039*CP+0.145	R ² = 0.88
Ser =	0.046*CP+0.038	R ² = 0.79
Pro =	0.033*CP+0.206	R ² = 0.74
Ala =	0.036*CP+0.189	R ² = 0.90
Asp =	0.109*CP+0.234	R ² = 0.74
Glu =	0.167*CP-0.001	R ² = 0.88

Blue lupin

Lys =	0.032*CP+0.607	R ² = 0.67
Met =	ns	
Cys =	ns	
CysMet =	ns	
Thr =	0.025*CP+0.357	R ² = 0.58
Trp =	0.005*CP+0.105	R ² = 0.53
Ile =	0.037*CP+0.090	R ² = 0.90
Leu =	0.053*CP+0.498	R ² = 0.88
Val =	0.029*CP+0.327	R ² = 0.82
Arg =	0.149*CP-1.404	R ² = 0.94
His =	0.066*CP-0.887	R ² = 0.68
Phe =	0.038*CP+0.081	R ² = 0.84
Tyr =	0.032*CP+0.050	R ² = 0.82
Gly =	0.036*CP+0.209	R ² = 0.86
Ser =	0.049*CP+0.001	R ² = 0.85
Pro =	0.040*CP+0.093	R ² = 0.80
Ala =	0.021*CP+0.434	R ² = 0.66
Asp =	0.091*CP+0.384	R ² = 0.84
Glu =	0.223*CP-0.258	R ² = 0.88

The factors variety, harvest year, and harvest site or area affected the nutrient composition of the cultivars differently (Table I 8). There was only one model with variety as the only factor (Phe in spring wheat). Tyr, Arg, and His contents of spring wheat as well as CF and EE contents of winter barley were not affected by the test factors. Information on the F- and p-values of the anova for each model and on the lsmeans and standard errors of factor manifestations can be found in the Appendix (Tables A I 1-25).

Table I 8: Factors affecting the content (g/kg DM) of crude nutrients and amino acids in selected cereals and grain legumes

	WW	SW	WR	WT	WB	SB	O	FP	FB	BL
n	70	25	81	92	15	47	80	41	57	31
CP	(A)	VY	SY	AY	S	VA	VS	SY	VA(Y)	VS
EE	VY	Y	VY	VY		(A)	VS	VS	V(Y)	VS
CA	Y	Y	VY	VAY	S	AY	SY	S(Y)	VA	S
CF	VAY	(A)	VY	VA		A	SY	SY	VAY	VY
NfE	VY	VY	SY	A	S	VA	SY	VS	VA	VS
Starch	VY	V(A)Y	VS	VAY	S	A(Y)	SY	VS	VAY	VS
Lys	VAY	(Y)	VS	VAY	S	VAY	VS	SY	VY	S
Met	(Y)	Y	SY	VAY	S	AY	VS	S	VY	Y
Cys	(A)Y	VY	SY	VAY	S	VAY	VS	SY	AY	Y
Thr	VY	Y	SY	AY	S	AY	VS	S(Y)	VY	S
Trp	Y	VY	*	*	S	A	*	SY	VY	S
Ile	VY	VY	SY	AY	S	VA	VS	SY	VAY	VS
Leu	VY	VY	SY	VAY	S	VA	VS	SY	VAY	VS
Val	VY	VY	SY	VAY	S	VA	VS	S(Y)	VAY	VS
Arg	VAY		SY	VAY	S	VA	VS	SY	VA	VS
His	VY		SY	VAY	S	AY	VS	SY	A(Y)	V(Y)
Phe	Y	V	SY	AY	S	VA	VS	S	AY	S
Tyr	VY		VS	VAY	S	VA	VS	S	AY	VS
Ala	VY	Y	SY	AY	S	VA	VS	VS	VY	S
Gly	V(A)Y	Y	VS	VAY	S	VA	VS	VS	VA	S
Ser	VAY	Y	SY	AY	S	VA	VS	S	VA	VS
Pro	Y	VY	VS	AY	S	VA	VS	VS	VAY	S
Asp	Y	Y	VS	AY	S	VAY	VS	SY	VA(Y)	VS
Glu	Y	VY	VS	AY	S	VA	VS	S(Y)	VAY	VS

WW = winter wheat; SW = Spring wheat; WR = winter rye; WT = winter triticale; WB = winter barley; SB = Spring barley; O = Oats; FP = field pea; FB = field bean; BL = blue lupin; CP = crude protein; EE = ether extract; CA = crude ash; CF = crude fibre; Lys = lysine; Thr = threonine; Met = methionine; Cys = Cystine; Trp = tryptophan; Ile = isoleucine; Leu = leucine; Val = valine; His = histidine; Phe = phenylalanine; Tyr = tyrosine; Arg = arginine; Ala = alanine; Gly = glycine; Ser = serine; Pro = proline; Asp = aspartic acid; Glu = glutamic acid; A = area; V = variety; S = harvest site; Y = year; factors illustrated in brackets were part of the glm although their effects were not statistically significant; *number of samples too small to be subjected to statistics

The CN and AA contents of cereals and grain legumes were mainly affected by the factors year and site or area. However, the variety was the main factor affecting EE contents in spring barley and oats and CF contents in winter wheat, winter rye, and winter triticale. Furthermore, it mainly affected Arg contents in winter wheat, spring barley, and field beans, Ala and Val contents in spring barley, Leu, Ile, Phe, and Pro contents in spring wheat, and Ala, Asp, and Glu contents in field beans.

Generally, CP and starch or NfE contents were affected inversely. Although the CP content of winter wheat was not affected by the variety, harvest area, or harvest year, the content of some AA was affected. Naturastar had significantly higher Lys, Thr, Leu, Val, Arg, His, Tyr, Ala, Gly, and Ser contents than the other two winter wheat varieties. Furthermore, the Lys content of winter wheat was lower in samples taken in area 2 than in area 3. In spring

wheat, the variety and year had an impact on the content of CP and simultaneously on several AA. In winter rye and winter triticale, the variety had no influence on the CP content. However, the effect of the variety on the contents of some AA, including Lys, was observed. The winter rye variety Palazzo contained low amounts of Lys, Tyr, Gly, Ser, Asp, and Glu. The winter triticale variety Cosinus had high contents of Lys, Met, Cys, Leu, Arg, His, Tyr, and Gly. Harvest year and site affected the contents of CP, NfE, starch, and all AA in winter rye, while the variety and year affected EE, CA, and CF contents. The variety had no effect on the nutrient composition of winter barley. However, the cultivation environment affected the contents of CP, CA, NfE, starch, and all AA. The spring barley varieties Grace and Marthe contained low amounts of NfE but high amounts of CP and AA. In 2011, high contents of the SAA, Thr, His, and Asp were observed in these two cultivars. In addition, the effect of the area was small. The oat variety Ivory contained high amounts of CP and AA. Although the effect of the year was small in oats, in 2012 Cys contents were higher and contents of Leu, Arg, His, Phe, and Ser were lower than in the other two years. The samples harvested on two sites in area 1 contained significant amounts of CP and AA. While environmental conditions affected the content of all nutrients in field peas, variety had no effect on the contents of CP, CA, CF, and most of the AA. In 2012, starch and His contents in field peas were low, while CP, Lys, Cys, and Ile contents were high. In field beans, the variety did not affect all AA contents. However, there were shifts in the ranking of the AA contents between the varieties. In blue lupine, the contents of the CP and the affected AA (Table A I 25) were high in the variety Probor. The SAA were contained in higher amounts in samples harvested in 2011 than in 2012. The other AA contents were affected by the harvest site.

Discussion

In the present study, the contents of all nutrients varied widely in all cultivars (Table I 3-6). Wide variations of the CN and AA contents have already been described for conventionally and organically produced cereals (DLG 2006-2010, Rodehutschord *et al.* 2016) and grain legumes (DLG 2006-2010, Jezierny *et al.* 2011, Kyntäjä *et al.* 2014). They can be seen when comparing different feed value tables (e. g., Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, DLG 2006-2010, Bryden *et al.* 2009, Agroscope 2011-2016, Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2014, DLG 2014, Kyntäjä *et al.* 2014, Evonik 2016, Blok & Dekker 2017, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). Depending on the origin and the size of the sample set, the mean content as well as the minimum and maximum content of a nutrient can differ between feed value tables. In an overall comparison, the contents of EE, CA, and CF determined in the present study were within the range of the existing table values. However, the minimum content of CP in rye, spring barley, and winter triticale was about 1.7, 0.1, and 1.0% lower than the minimum content reported by Evonik (2016), who reported the lowest and highest

contents, respectively. Additionally, the maximum starch contents of winter triticale and spring wheat were about 1.2 and 0.7% higher than reported by Evonik (2016). While the mean CF and EE contents of most cultivars were comparable to the table values, blue lupins and field peas contained high amounts of CF, while the EE content of oats was low compared to INRA-CIRAD-AFZ (2018), Evonik (2016) and Agroscope (2011-2016). Furthermore, the mean CP contents of the cereals, field peas, and blue lupins tended to be lower than table values, while mean starch contents tended to be higher in those cultivars with the exception of wheat (e. g., (Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, Rodehutschord *et al.* 2016). A connection between starch and CP contents, which has been previously described by Kim *et al.* (2003), can be due to nutrient shifts during ripening or can be genetically determined (Hughes *et al.* 2001). Dangour *et al.* (2009) conducted a meta-analysis with 42 studies and found that N contents were on average 6.7% lower in organically than in conventionally produced foodstuffs. However, they did not observe systematic differences in specific proteins or carbohydrates.

It is striking that in most feed tables winter and spring forms of the cultivars are not declared, although the present study showed differences. Similarly to the tables provided by Evonik (2016), higher CP and starch contents as well as lower CF contents were determined for spring barley in the present study. However, DLG (2014) conversely reported lower CP contents and higher CF contents in spring barley varieties. The values of the DLG (2014) feed tables specified also the differences between spring and winter forms of wheat. Although DLG (2014) reported higher CP and lower starch contents, the EE, CA, and CF contents and the direction of the deviations between spring and winter wheat were comparable to the present findings.

There are table values that report the AA content of single feedstuffs and AA contents in the CP of single feedstuffs (e. g., Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, Bryden *et al.* 2009, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, Blok & Dekker 2017, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). Evonik (2016) also reported mean ratios of the essential AA to Lys. The AA contents of all samples of winter wheat and oats were within reported ranges (Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). However, the minimum content of all AA in winter rye and winter triticale and of most amino acids in barley and field peas of the present study was below the minimum table values. The minimum content of Cys and Thr in field beans and the minimum content of Trp and Ile in blue lupins was lower than the minimum content of these AA reported in feed tables. Furthermore, their maximum His content exceeded the maximum content described in feed tables. The mean His content of wheat, winter rye, oats, and the grain legume cultivars was higher than reported in feed tables. In barley, the contents of all AA and in winter triticale the contents of all AA except for His were lower than reported in feed tables. Although Lys

and Met contents in the other cultivars were comparable to the contents reported in feed tables, the contents of the several AA, essential and non-essential, were lower in the sample set of the present study.

The concentration of the AA in the crude protein of the organic cereals and grain legumes of the present study varied wider than values reported in feed tables (Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). The mean concentration of the AA in the CP were mostly similar in the present study and in feed tables. However, high concentrations of Lys and His led in most cereals and grain legumes to a high ratio of His and a low ratio of most of the other AA to Lys, when compared to Evonik (2016). Compared to ratios reported in feed tables, the ratio of the sulphur-containing amino acids that are reported to be limiting in common diets for monogastric animals in organic farming was higher in wheat and comparable or slightly lower in the other cultivars.

The AA composition in crops can vary widely and depends on the occurrence of various protein fractions (e. g., albumins, globulins, glutenins, and gliadins), which are specific for each cultivar. The proportion of protein fractions can differ between grain samples depending on the environmental conditions of the year (Casey & Short 1981, Casey *et al.* 1982, Hanell *et al.* 2004) and variety (O'Kane *et al.* 2006). For example, albumins and globulins are low in Pro and Glu but high in Arg, Lys, and Asp, while prolamins or the storage proteins gliadin and glutenin are high in Pro and Glu but low in Lys, Thr, and Trp (Draper 1973, Simpson 2001, Shewry & Halford 2002, Shewry 2007). Legumin is a storage protein fraction in grain legumes and contains large amounts of amides, including Arg, Asp, and Glu (Derbyshire *et al.* 1976). Vicillin contains high levels of Ile, Leu, and Lys (Jackson *et al.* 1969, Rubio *et al.* 2013). The correlations between AA and CP contents that were observed in the present study can be a result of shifts between protein fractions. The CP content of cereals was positively correlated with Glu and Pro contents in the CP indicating that more prolamins are contained in the CP. In grain legumes, the Arg content increased with increasing protein contents in the grain indicating that legumin contents were enhanced and vicillin fractions diminished. This was in accordance with findings of Gueguen & Barbot (1988) and Casey *et al.* (1982), who found Met and Cys contents of peas rising when the legumin:vicillin ratio increased. The increase and decrease of specific proteins led to an altered AA profile of the CP. Thus, the AA ratio of the feedstuff was also affected. This must be considered in diet formulation along with the fact that the dietary CP level and the AA balance can affect the optimal Lys level for performance (Abdel-Maksoud *et al.* 2010).

Most of the equations derived from regression analyses had a high coefficient of determination indicating that they can be used to predict the AA contents on the basis of the result of CP analysis. This practice is already common in practical feed evaluation in

Germany. The German Agricultural Analytic and Research Institutes (VDLUFA) provide information on the AA contents in different feedstuffs obtained using the available equations provided by Evonik (2016). Despite some deviations where AA contents would be slightly overestimated, the results obtained using the currently available equations (Evonik 2016) were generally comparable to the values calculated with the equations derived from the present sample set (example in Figure I 1). Thus, equations are valuable tools, which can be used to calculate approximate AA contents, when the CP content of cereals and grain legumes is known.

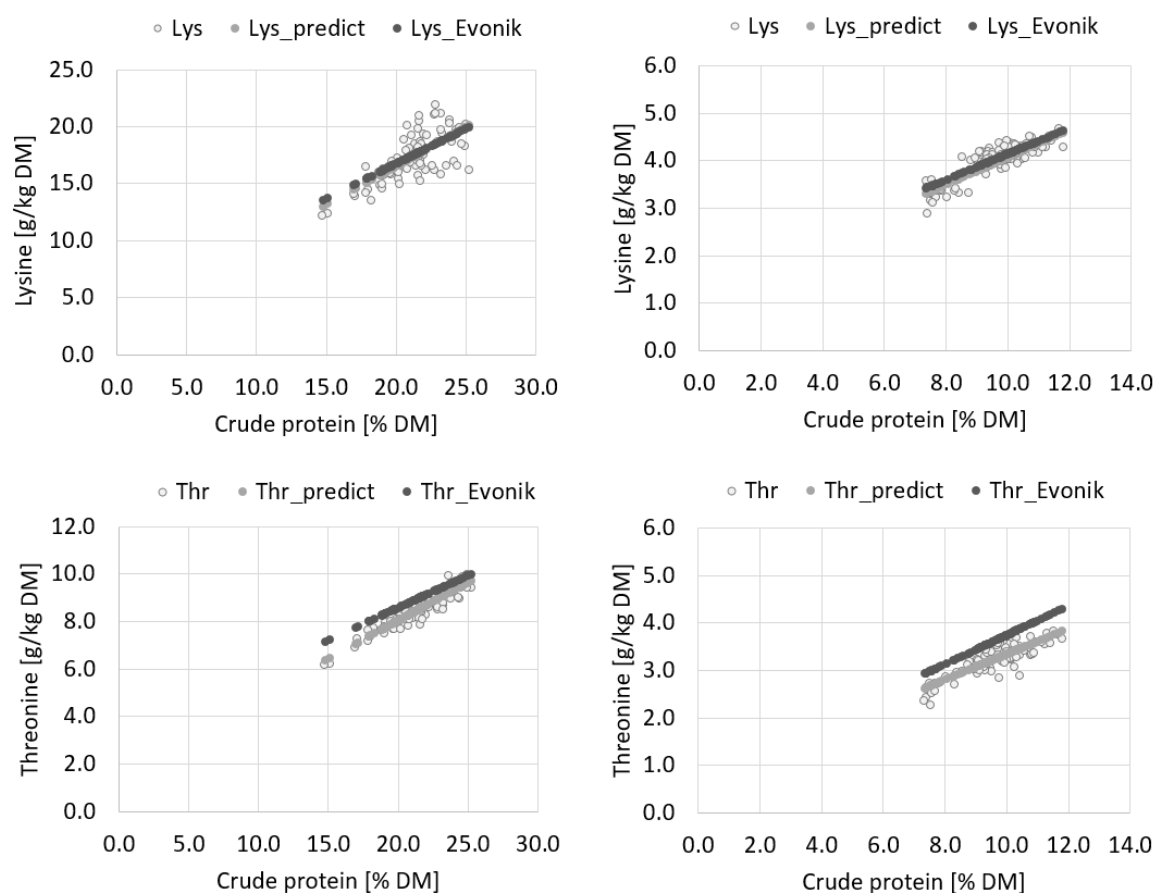


Figure I 1: Contents of lysine and threonine in field peas (left) and barley (right) determined by HPLC and predicted by the equations developed in the present study (_predict) and AminoDat 5.0 (_Evonik, Evonik 2016)

The AA composition of field beans cannot be predicted using the equations from the present study. However, the equations from Evonik (2016) provided satisfying coefficients of determinations (157 samples) and thus can be used to predict it, although the goodness of the prediction is better in the equations for the other grain legumes as well as in the equations for cereals. The SAA amounts contained in blue lupins, field beans, and field peas cannot be predicted satisfactorily as yet. A less accurate prediction of Lys, like in wheat, field peas, and rye in the present study, can have consequences in diet formulation when the IAAR (ideal amino acid ratio) concept with Lys as the reference AA is applied. Additionally, since the SAA are often limiting in common organic diets (Sundrum 2001, Blair

2008), their prediction should be improved as well. The decreased predictability might be due to wider variations in the crops or to less accurate analysis results for the SAA (Rubio *et al.* 2013).

Several studies found an effect of the variety and the environmental conditions during cultivation and storage on the nutrient composition of grains of different cereal and grain legume cultivars. Environmental conditions can include cultivation management, which can substantially differ between cultivation sites and years. For example, Gronle (2014) reported that the crop stand as well as the cultivation technique had an influence on the CN composition of field peas. Climate and soil conditions can also add to the environmental effect. Nikolopoulou *et al.* (2007) concluded that these two factors are the main reason for differences in the nutrient composition of field peas. The variety and site can also affect the NfE composition of wheat (Longstaff & McNab 1986, Shewry *et al.* 2010). The effect of the harvest year on the nutrient composition of cereals and grain legumes was strong in the present study. This was also reported by (Kim *et al.* 2003), who found the nutrient composition of wheat to be affected by the variety and harvest year and concluded that the annual precipitation level can be a major influence. Metayer *et al.* (1993) analysed the nutrient composition of a selection of cereals and found that the harvest site and year affected the nutrient composition of their cereals.

Even the AA contents were affected by the variety and environmental conditions. The influence of the environment, i. e. the cultivation management and climate conditions, was described in earlier studies. Nitrogen fertilisation does for example have an impact on the AA composition of different barley varieties (Jørgensen *et al.* 1999) and the AA composition in field beans can vary not only between harvest years but also between varieties (Kotlarz *et al.* 2011). The effect of the factor variety can be due to the fact that high CP yield is a major breeding aim. Varieties that have the potential to have high CP yields most likely differ in their CP composition from varieties without this characteristic. Wheat that is bred for human or animal nutrition, respectively, is one example for systematic differences between breeding lines. Although every wheat variety can be used as a feedstuff, varieties with good baking qualities often contain more glutenin and less albumin and globulin, which are contained in varieties cultivated for animal feeding (Krejčířová *et al.* 2006, Krejčířová *et al.* 2007). The winter varieties that were analysed and compared in the present study are wheat varieties with good baking quality. They did not differ in their CP content. However, the high-quality variety Naturastar had significantly lower contents of Lys, Thr, Leu, Arg, His, Tyr, Ala, Gly, and Ser than the elite-quality varieties Butaro and Capo. This result is in general accordance with the above reported results.

When compared to reported concentrations of AA in the CP of organically produced cereals and grain legumes from Germany, UK and Finland (DLG 2006-2010, Kyntäjä *et al.* 2014) ,

it became obvious that the environmental conditions have effects within the production system.

The reported genetic variability obviously depends on the choice of varieties and on genotype-environment interactions. The effects of the harvest year and site are most likely a combination of weather conditions, soil conditions, and cultivation management. This was also observed in the present study. In most cases, the occurrence of differences in the nutrient composition seemed to be random. That is partly because of a lack of knowledge with regard to the underlying cultivation conditions and partly because the interactions between genetic and environmental factors are often difficult to comprehend. In general, the environmental conditions had a larger impact on the nutrient content than the variety (Appendix Table A I 1-5). Yet, CF contents of wheat, rye, and triticale and EE contents of oats were largely affected by the variety. Thus, breeding progress could have had an effect and can probably lead to further alterations of the content of the named nutrients (Murphy *et al.* 2009).

Conclusions

The contents of CN and AA in organically produced cereals and grain legumes vary widely and depend on the variety and environmental conditions. When comparing table values that describe the nutrient composition of feedstuffs, it becomes clear that a comparison of mean values is deceptive and the use of table values in animal nutrition is misleading. Many tables contain the minimum and maximum values for nutrient contents. This practice allows a general characterisation of feedstuffs. However, it is not possible to predict the amount of CN in feedstuffs even when the variety, the cultivation site, and the harvest year are known. Since variations in the CN and AA composition must be considered in diet formulation, it is recommended to analyse the CN composition of each batch of a feedstuff.

Changes in the CP contents of cereals and grain legumes are accompanied by an altered AA profile. The content of Glu, Pro, and Phe in cereals and Arg in grain legumes increase with increasing CP contents. Thus, the prediction of the AA contents from the CP content is considered a suitable technique and can be applied in practical diet formulation. However, the equations for the prediction need to be further improved using additional analysis results.

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Chapter II

Short Communication

Precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids of a field bean (*Vicia faba* L.) and a field pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) variety for broilers

*Ileale Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit von je einer ökologisch erzeugten Ackerbohnen- (*Vicia faba* L.) und Futtererbsensorte (*Pisum sativum* L.) bei Broilern*

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Abstract

A linear regression approach was used to determine the precaecal digestibility of organic field beans and field peas in young broiler chickens. Diets with field beans of the variety Taifun (283 g crude protein/kg DM) and field peas of the variety Alvesta (173 g crude protein/kg DM) in three inclusion rates (30, 50, and 70 %) were fed *ad libitum* to 15- to 21-day-old broiler chickens. Digesta was sampled pen-wise and obtained from the gastrointestinal tract between Meckel's diverticulum and 2 cm anterior to the ileo-caeco-colonic junction. Despite the high inclusion rates of the test feedstuffs, all diets were accepted by the birds. Feed intake and body mass gain, as well as precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility, were higher in chickens fed field bean diets than field pea diets. The precaecal crude protein digestibility of the tested field beans and field peas was 0.84 and 0.81, respectively. In comparison to lysine, methionine, histidine, and arginine, which were highly digestible at the terminal ileum, tryptophan was less digestible. The precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids of the tested organic field beans and field peas is comparable to literature values for non-organic samples. In conclusion, compared to the literature the test results indicate that systematic differences between organic and non-organic samples do not exist. Field beans and field peas can serve as a suitable crude protein and amino acids source for broilers.

Keywords

ileal, organic farming, poultry, chicken

Zusammenfassung

Die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von Ackerbohnen und Futtererbsen aus ökologischer Erzeugung bei 21 Tage alten Masthühnern wurde mit Hilfe eines linear regressiven Ansatzes ermittelt. Rationen mit Ackerbohnen der Sorte Taifun (138 – 234 g Rohprotein/kg T) und Futtererbsen der Sorte Alvesta (108 – 166 g Rohprotein/kg T) in drei Inklusionsraten (30, 50 und 70%) wurden zwischen dem 15. und dem 21. Lebenstag *ad libitum* an Masthühner verfüttert. Trotz der hohen Inklusionsraten der Testfuttermittel war die Akzeptanz der Diäten gut. Am 21. Lebenstag wurde der Chymus aus dem Gastrointestinaltrakt zwischen dem Meckel'schen Divertikel bis 2 cm vor Einmündung in die Blinddarmsäcke buchtenweise gesammelt. Die Futteraufnahme und die Lebendmassezunahme sowie die *praecaecalen* Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeiten waren höher in den Ackerbohnen- als in den Futtererbsendiäten. Die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins betrug 0,84 bei Ackerbohnen und 0,81 bei Futtererbsen. Lysin, Methionin, Histidin und Arginin waren hoch verdaulich, während Cystein und Tryptophan eine geringere *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit aufwiesen. Die *praecaecale* Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit der geprüften ökologisch erzeugten Futtermittel war vergleichbar mit Ergebnissen aus Studien mit konventionell erzeugten Proben. Es sind keine systematischen Unterschiede zwischen ökologisch und konventionell erzeugten Futtererbsen und Ackerbohnen hinsichtlich ihrer *praecaecalen* Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit zu beobachten. Ökologisch erzeugte Ackerbohnen und Futtererbsen sind daher eine gute Quelle für Rohprotein und Aminosäuren in der Fütterung von jungen Masthühnern.

Schlüsselworte

ileal, Ökologischer Landbau, Geflügel, Masthühner

Introduction

High amounts of specific essential amino acids (AA) must be available for poultry (Zollitsch *et al.* 2004). Thus, the precaecal (pc) digestibility of crude protein (CP) and AA has become an important descriptor in feed evaluation for chickens (Ravindran *et al.* 1999). Since the estimation of endogenous losses is inaccurate (Donkoh & Moughan 1999), it is more favourable to use approaches without a separate determination of endogenous losses for the evaluation of test feedstuffs. Linear regression approaches fulfil this condition and can be applied when at least three inclusion rates of the test feedstuffs to a basal diet are used (Short *et al.* 1999, Rodehutschord *et al.* 2004). Home-grown grain legumes, like field beans and field peas, can supply CP and some of the required AA for poultry. They are also advantageous in view of supporting regional agricultural production. This is important in organic farming, especially, where the sufficient supply with AA is difficult due to legal restrictions. The composition of field beans and field peas varies depending on variety and cultivation environment (Witten *et al.* 2015). Thus, even their pc digestibility may vary (Kluth *et al.* 2005a).

This study aimed to determine the pc CP and AA digestibility of a field bean variety and a field pea variety, commonly used in organic farming, in three-week-old broiler chickens.

Materials and Methods

The animal trial was carried out at the Research Farm for Agriculture “Unterer Lindenhof” of the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart, Germany) according to the European Directive EU (2010) and approved by local authorities.

As test feedstuffs, the field bean variety Taifun and the field pea variety Alvesta were cultivated in 2015 in Southern Germany (Hohenkammer GmbH, Gut Eichethof) according to current eco-directives (Table II 1). In poultry feeding, varieties that are used are presumed to contain low contents of anti-nutritive factors. Taifun is a field bean variety that is advertised as tannin-free and is available in organic quality. The field pea variety Alvesta, which is high-yielding and used throughout Germany, is white-flowering and, therefore, also low in tannin.

Table II 1: Analysed amounts of crude nutrients and amino acids (g/kg DM) in the test feedstuffs

	Field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	Field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)
Variety	Taifun	Alvesta
Crude protein	283.3	173.5
Crude ash	57.3	33.3
Ether extract	18.6	22.6
Crude fibre	81.3	54.5
Lysine	18.73	13.96
Methionine	2.34	2.23
Cystine	3.87	3.49
Threonine	9.92	7.48
Tryptophan	2.06	1.42
Leucine	20.37	12.66
Isoleucine	10.97	7.33
Valine	12.21	8.26
Arginine	25.82	12.41
Histidine	8.77	5.14
Phenylalanine	12.08	8.87
Tyrosine	8.55	5.73
Alanine	11.56	8.06
Glycine	11.74	7.72
Serine	13.36	8.24
Proline	12.00	7.78
Aspartic acid	30.56	20.94
Glutamic acid	46.39	29.27

Animals and housing

Day-old Hubbard ISA JA 757 mixed-sex broilers, which are commonly used in organic farming, were obtained from Couvoirs de L'Est hatchery in France. The chicks were randomly allocated to cleaned and disinfected pens and housed in groups on wood shavings. The size of the pens was 2.25 m² permitting a maximum of 5 kg body mass per m² and 0.125 m² floor space per broiler at day 21. The room was thermostatically controlled with an initial temperature of 32°C that was decreased continually to 26°C on day 21. For the first three days, the room was illuminated all day using artificial LED light with a light intensity of more than 20 Lux. From day four, eight hours of darkness and 16 hours of illumination time were applied. The chicks were vaccinated against Newcastle disease via drinking water and controlled twice daily. Feed and water were provided *ad libitum*. Prior to the trial period, which began on day 14, birds were fed with a starter diet (Table II 2). The diet was formulated to meet nutrient requirements according to GfE (1999).

On day 14, broilers were weighed and, if necessary, exchanged between pens to achieve similar average body mass across all pens. The overall initial body mass was 352.8 g. Groups were then assigned to trial diets. Each trial diet was fed to 17 or 18 birds in six replicate pens for one week from day 15 to day 21 of life. Feed intake was determined. On day 21, all broilers were killed pen-wise by asphyxiation with carbon dioxide. To ensure gut fill, birds were fed for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to killing. After killing, the carcasses were weighed, and the ileal section of the gut was immediately gathered and examined for

anomalies. The terminal two-thirds of the ileal section between Meckel's diverticulum and 2 cm anterior to the ileo-caeco-colonic junction were excised (Kluth *et al.* 2005b) and cut into short segments. The digesta was flushed out gently with distilled water and pooled pen-wise.

Table II 2: Ingredients and calculated composition of the starter diet

Ingredients	g/kg DM	Composition	g/kg DM
Soybeans*	399.90	Crude protein	205.0
Wheat*	389.90	Crude fibre	44.7
Maize*	109.95	Ether extract	86.9
Alfalfa green meal	50.00	Methionine	4.1
Wheat gluten	5.00	Lysine	11.0
Sunflower oil*	0.50	Threonine	7.4
Limestone	14.00	Tryptophan	2.6
Mono-Ca-Phosphate	20.00		
Sodium-Bicarbonate	2.50	AME _N (MJ/kg DM) ³	12.2
Salt	2.00		
Mineral-Premix ¹	0.80		
Vitamin-Premix ²	2.00		
DL-Methionine	1.20		
L-Lysine	1.10		
Choline chloride	1.00		
Antioxidans	0.15		

*Organically produced; ¹Trace elements (mg/kg): Fe 81, Mn 108, Zn 72, Cu 14, J 1.44, Se 0.45; ²Vitamin premix (kg): A 12,600 IU, D₃ 3,150 IU, E 41 mg, K 3 mg, B₁ 3 mg, B₂ 6 mg, B₁₂ 32 µg, niacin 53 mg, pantothenic acid 13 mg, folic acid 1050 µg, biotin 105 µg; ³WPSA (1984)

Trial diets

All diets were manufactured at the Research Farm for Agriculture "Unterer Lindenhof", pelleted, and stored at ambient temperature. The basal diet contained titanium dioxide as an inert marker, soybeans and wheat gluten as protein feedstuffs, sunflower oil to provide a low-dust feedstuff, minerals, vitamins, and maize starch. It was supplemented with methionine, lysine, and threonine to cover the birds' requirements according to GfE (1999). Each test feedstuff was added at inclusion rates of 30, 50, and 70% in exchange for maize starch (40, 20, and 0%; Table II 3).

Chemical Analysis

The diets and the test feedstuffs were analysed for their dry matter and crude nutrient contents, including starch, according to VDLUFA official methods (VDLUFA 2012). Digesta samples were frozen immediately, freeze-dried, ground to pass a 0.5 mm sieve, and stored at -18°C until CP (N*6.25) and AA analyses were performed. Contents of AA in test feedstuffs, diets, and in the digesta of birds were analysed according to Directive (EC) No 152/2009 (EC 2009); however, the analysis was modified according to Cohen & Michaud (1993) regarding derivation, separation, and detection of the hydrolysate amino acids. The inert marker titanium dioxide was determined photometrically (Brandt & Allam 1987).

Table II 3: Ingredients and analysed composition (g/kg DM) of the diets with the test feedstuffs bean (*Vicia faba* L.) and pea (*Pisum sativum* L.)

Ingredients	Bean			Pea		
	300	500	700	300	500	700
Bean/Pea	300	500	700	300	500	700
Maize starch	400	200	0	400	200	0
Soybeans*		170			170	
Wheat gluten*		64			64	
Sunflower oil		10			10	
Limestone		13			13	
Mono-Ca-Phosphate		23			23	
Sodium-Bicarbonate		10.2			10.2	
Choline chloride		1.0			1.0	
Salt		2.2			2.2	
Mineral-Premix ¹		0.8			0.8	
Vitamin-Premix ²		2.0			2.0	
DL-Methionine		2.8			2.8	
L-Lysine		2.8			2.8	
L-Threonine		1.8			1.8	
L-Tryptophan		0.4			0.4	
TiO ₂		5.0			5.0	
Composition						
ME (MJ)	14.5	13.7	13.0	14.5	13.9	13.1
Crude protein	206.5	259.9	316.1	169.8	207.1	239.2
Crude fibre	30.7	37.4	68.3	20.2	34.1	45.0
Ether extract	71.9	71.7	73.6	66.4	68.7	72.3
Methionine	4.7	5.4	5.7	5.4	6.0	6.5
Lysine	13.4	17.1	20.5	11.6	15.3	17.7
Threonine	7.8	9.9	12.8	7.5	9.4	11.7
Tryptophan	2.3	2.7	3.2	2.0	2.5	2.7

*organically produced; ¹Trace elements (mg/kg): Fe 81, Mn 108, Zn 72, Cu 14, J 1,44, Se 0,45 ²Vitamin premix (/kg): A 12,600 IU, D₃ 3,150 IU, E 41 mg, K 3 mg, B₁ 3 mg, B₂ 6 mg, B₁₂ 32 µg, niacin 53 mg, panthotenic acid 13 mg, folic acid 1050 µg, biotine 105 µg

Calculations and Statistics

Apparent pc digestibility coefficients (pcADC) of CP and AA of the diets were calculated pen-wise using the following equation:

$$pcADC_{aa} = 1 - \frac{aa_{dig} * TiO_2_{feed}}{TiO_2_{dig} * aa_{feed}}$$

where aa_{dig} represents the content of the AA or CP in the digesta, aa_{feed} represents the content of the AA or CP in the treatment diet, TiO_{2dig} represents the TiO_2 content in the digesta, and TiO_{2feed} represents the TiO_2 content in the treatment diet.

A one-way anova was used to test the effect of the diet. The standardised pc digestibility coefficients (pcSDC) of AA and CP of the test feedstuffs were determined according to Rodehutschord *et al.* (2004) by linear regression analyses (procedure lm, R Core Team 2017). The intake of the AA or CP was related to the apparently precaecally digestible amount of the test AA or CP, (intake*pcADC). Since the test feedstuffs are the sole sources of additional protein and AA in the trial diets, the CP and AA content of the basal diet, as well as basal endogenous CP and AA losses, are reflected in the estimate of the intercept. Therefore, the estimated slope is unaffected by these factors (Rodehutschord *et al.* 2004).

The linearity was tested with scatter plots, and the slope of the regression was taken as a measure of the pcSDC (Rodehutschord *et al.* 2004, Kluth *et al.* 2009).

Results

The bird performance was similar to previous experiments conducted at the farm. Depending on the test feedstuff inclusion rate of 30, 50, and 70%, the broiler chickens increased their initial body mass to 607, 623, and 615 g with the test diets containing field beans, and to 571, 596, and 609 g with the test diets containing field peas, respectively. We observed average gain/feed ratios of 0.70, 0.76, and 0.73 for field bean diets and 0.60, 0.67, and 0.69 for field pea diets.

The pcADCs of the diets, which were used for the regression analyses, are shown in Table II 4. They did not differ significantly for AA and CP of diets with different inclusion rates of a test feedstuff.

Table II 4: Coefficients of apparent precaecal digestibility (pcADC) of crude protein and amino acids in trial diets containing organically cultivated field beans (*Vicia faba* L.) and field peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) at three inclusion levels (g/kg DM) determined in 21-day-old broiler chickens

Inclusion rate	Bean				Pea			
	300	500	700	SE	300	500	700	SE
Crude protein	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.007	0.79	0.81	0.79	0.007
Lysine	0.84	0.85	0.85	0.010	0.81	0.85	0.84	0.009
Methionine	0.86	0.87	0.87	0.010	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.007
Cystine	0.60	0.64	0.66	0.023	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.009
Threonine	0.75	0.77	0.79	0.014	0.73	0.78	0.77	0.011
Tryptophan	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.010	0.75	0.78	0.74	0.010
Leucine	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.009	0.78	0.81	0.79	0.008
Isoleucine	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.010	0.76	0.80	0.77	0.009
Valine	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.010	0.73	0.78	0.75	0.010
Arginine	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.007	0.81	0.85	0.83	0.008
Histidine	0.82	0.85	0.86	0.009	0.80	0.84	0.83	0.008
Phenylalanine	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.009	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.007
Tyrosine	0.80	0.80	0.83	0.009	0.78	0.80	0.78	0.008
Alanine	0.77	0.79	0.80	0.010	0.73	0.77	0.75	0.011
Glycine	0.73	0.75	0.76	0.011	0.71	0.75	0.74	0.010
Serine	0.76	0.78	0.79	0.012	0.74	0.77	0.75	0.009
Proline	0.85	0.86	0.86	0.006	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.006
Aspartic acid	0.76	0.80	0.80	0.008	0.71	0.75	0.73	0.009
Glutamic acid	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.004	0.89	0.90	0.88	0.005
Amino acids	0.83	0.83	0.85	0.008	0.80	0.83	0.81	0.007

The relation between ingested and digested amounts was linear for all AA and for CP in field peas and field beans. The pcSDC of CP was 0.84 and 0.81 for the beans and the peas, respectively (Table II 5).

Table II 5: Coefficients of standardised precaecal digestibility (pcSDC) of crude protein and amino acids in organically cultivated field beans (*Vicia faba* L.) and field peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) determined with a linear regression approach in 21-day-old broiler chickens

	Bean			Pea		
	pcSDC	SE	r ²	pcSID	SE	r ²
Crude protein	0.84	0.048	0.95	0.81	0.050	0.94
Lysine	0.90	0.050	0.95	0.91	0.042	0.97
Methionine	0.97	0.096	0.85	0.90	0.078	0.89
Cystine	0.80	0.099	0.81	0.70	0.053	0.91
Threonine	0.88	0.058	0.93	0.87	0.050	0.95
Tryptophan	0.81	0.081	0.86	0.78	0.071	0.88
Leucine	0.87	0.048	0.95	0.83	0.050	0.94
Isoleucine	0.86	0.050	0.95	0.82	0.050	0.94
Valine	0.86	0.051	0.95	0.81	0.054	0.93
Arginine	0.93	0.024	0.99	0.89	0.040	0.97
Histidine	0.93	0.034	0.98	0.90	0.039	0.97
Phenylalanine	0.87	0.048	0.95	0.82	0.043	0.96
Tyrosine	0.86	0.047	0.95	0.82	0.049	0.94
Alanine	0.86	0.050	0.95	0.82	0.057	0.92
Glycine	0.83	0.055	0.93	0.80	0.051	0.94
Serine	0.86	0.060	0.92	0.79	0.054	0.93
Proline	0.89	0.041	0.97	0.86	0.045	0.96
Aspartic acid	0.86	0.033	0.98	0.77	0.044	0.94
Glutamic acid	0.92	0.029	0.99	0.89	0.036	0.97
Amino acids	0.90	0.042	0.97	0.84	0.045	0.95

Methionine, lysine, histidine, and arginine were well digestible in both test feedstuffs. Tryptophan and cystine were less digestible.

Discussion

Both test feedstuffs (Table 1) contained low amounts of CP and AA compared to literature values (Partanen *et al.* 2001, Kluth *et al.* 2005a). However, the CP and AA concentrations fell within the range of earlier reports of organic field beans and field peas (Kyntäjä *et al.* 2014, Witten *et al.* 2015). The methionine content was high in both test feedstuffs but similar to table values (Kyntäjä *et al.* 2014).

High inclusion rates of grain legumes can be detrimental in poultry. Yet, Masey O'Neill *et al.* (2012) and Gabriel *et al.* (2008) formulated diets containing more than 70% field peas or field beans to determine nutrient digestibility. In our study, high inclusion rates of grain legumes did not lead to health problems or feed refusal. This observation was probably related to the short feeding period of the diets or to low concentrations of anti-nutritive factors (ANF) of the chosen varieties of the test feedstuffs.

The pcSDCs of the CP and AA of field beans and field peas of the present study were either comparable with or higher than compared to values reported in the literature (Simon 2004, Kluth *et al.* 2005a, Masey O'Neill *et al.* 2012, Blok & Dekker 2017). Arginine, glutamic acid, methionine, and lysine of field peas were highly digestible, while cystine and tryptophan were less digestible. Contrary to literature results, histidine of field beans and field peas was

highly digestible in our study. The findings for the field pea variety Alvesta were similar to the results reported by Kluth *et al.* (2005a). Low contents of ANF might be responsible for the high pcSDCs of the AA (Brufau *et al.* 1998, Crépon *et al.* 2010). However, ANF contents were not analysed.

Conclusions

We were able to show that the pc digestibility of CP and AA of organic field peas and field beans is not inferior to the one of non-organic ones tested in other studies. Field bean and field pea varieties are valuable sources of CP and AA in broiler feeding during the starter period. Moreover, the use of these legumes can reduce the deficit of amino acids in organic broiler feed.

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Chapter III

***In vitro* multi-enzyme approach to determine crude protein and amino acid digestibility of cereals and grain legumes in broiler chicken**

In vitro-Multienzymmethode zur Bestimmung der Rohprotein- und Aminosäureverdaulichkeit von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen bei Broilern

Abstract

The knowledge of the precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids has gained importance over the last decades. However, since animal welfare is given high priority, animal digestibility experiments are not recommended unless unavoidable. Thus, *in vitro* approaches to predict the precaecal digestibility of dietary crude protein and amino acids are of interest for feed evaluation. The present study aimed for an adaption of a promising and simple multi-enzyme assay, which uses pepsin and pancreatin to predict the true and standardised precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids in feedstuffs for swine. The adapted *in vitro* assay should predict the standardised precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids in feedstuffs for broiler chicken. The adaptation of the approach as well as arising complications were described in this chapter.

The conditions of the gastro-intestinal tract of chicken were simulated in three steps, representing the crop, the stomach, and the small intestine. In the adapted *in vitro* assay, samples are incubated at 41°C for 30 minutes in a buffer solution at pH 6.0, for 135 minutes with pepsin at pH 2.6 and for 120 minutes with pancreatin at pH 6.4. The *in vitro* rate of crude protein disappearance of sixteen different feedstuffs was correlated to their standardised precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility in broiler chicken. Regressions between the *in vitro* rate of crude protein disappearance and the precaecal digestibility of crude protein for 42-day old broiler chicken had high coefficients of determination ($R^2 = 0.94$). Furthermore, the precaecal amino acid digestibility could be estimated on the basis of the *in vitro* rate of crude protein disappearance ($R^2 > 0.70$).

The adapted method can be used to predict the precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids in feedstuffs for young broiler chicken. An extension of the calibration with further samples of single and mixed feed with known precaecal digestibility of crude protein and amino acids is recommended.

*Keywords**pepsin, pancreatin, ileal*

Zusammenfassung

Das Wissen über die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von Futtermitteln für monogastrische Nutztiere hat in den letzten Jahrzehnten an Bedeutung in der Geflügelernährung gewonnen. Da dem Tierwohl aber auch eine wachsende Bedeutung zukommt, sollten Versuche mit lebenden Tieren möglichst vermieden werden. Daher sind *in vitro* Ansätze zur Verdaulichkeitsschätzung von Interesse. Das Ziel dieser Studie war es, eine vielversprechende und einfach umsetzbare *in vitro* Multienzymmethode zur Bestimmung der Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit von Futtermitteln für Schweine so zu adaptieren, dass die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren für junge Broiler schnell geschätzt werden kann. Das Vorgehen sowie einige aufgetretene Komplikationen während des Adaptationsprozesses werden in diesem Kapitel beschrieben.

Die Bedingungen des Verdauungstraktes von Broilern wurden in drei Schritten, die den Kropf, den Magen und den Dünndarm simulieren, nachgestellt. In der adaptierten Methode werden die Proben bei 41°C zunächst 30 Minuten in einem Puffer mit pH 6,0 eingeweicht und danach für 135 Minuten bei pH 2,6 mit Pepsin und für 120 Minuten bei pH 6,4 mit Pankreatin inkubiert. Die *in vitro* Verschwindensrate des Rohproteins von 16 unterschiedlichen Einzelfuttermitteln war mit ihrer bekannten *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren für junge Broiler korreliert. Das Bestimmtheitsmaß der Regressionen für die Schätzung der *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit sowohl des Rohproteins ($R^2 = 0.94$) als auch der Aminosäuren ($R^2 > 0.70$) in 42 Tage alten Broilern aus der *in vitro* Verschwindensrate des Rohproteins war zufriedenstellend.

Die modifizierte und gekürzte Methode kann daher zur Schätzung der *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren in Futtermitteln für junge Broiler eingesetzt werden. Eine Erweiterung der Kalibration mit Einzel- und Mischfuttermitteln wird empfohlen.

Schlüsselworte

Pepsin, Pancreatin, ileal

Introduction

Over the last decades, the digestibility of crude protein (CP) and amino acids (AA) has gained importance in feed evaluation for monogastric animals (Dalibard & Paillard 1995, Ravindran & Bryden 1999, Perttilä *et al.* 2002). Thus, results of animal trials were used to derive table values that are applied in ration formulation (Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). However, the digestibility of CP and AA can differ between batches of feedstuffs (Masey O'Neill *et al.* 2012, Zuber *et al.* 2016a, Zuber *et al.* 2016b, Zuber & Rodehutschord 2016). Furthermore, *in vivo* approaches are diverse and their outcome depends on many factors. Characteristics of the animal, like age, race, or sex, and of trial characteristics, like management (e. g., feeding technique or temperature management) or sampling method and site (ileal digesta or excreta from intact or cecaectomised animals) can affect the trial results (Ravindran *et al.* 2017). In addition, such trials are time-consuming, costly, and problematic in terms of animal welfare, which is currently of special and growing importance (BMEL 2017). To improve the prediction of the pc CP and AA digestibility of different batches of feedstuffs without the need for animal trials, various *in vitro* approaches have been introduced. The most realistic *in vitro* assays use digestive enzymes to illustrate the processes of the digestive tract. Such assays are not supposed to duplicate the *in vivo* digestion, which is a very complex process. However, the results of the simplified simulation of the digestion must be replicable and correlated with the *in vivo* digestibility (Sibbald 1987, Butts *et al.* 2012) to be valuable.

Boisen & Fernández (1991, 1995) introduced a multi-enzyme method to predict the pc CP and AA digestibility in swine. They used pepsin and pancreatin to simulate the digestion of CP and AA in the stomach and in the small intestine, respectively. Their approach is used in scientific projects in its original or in modified forms (Pastuszewska *et al.* 2004, Jezierny *et al.* 2010b, Aarhus University 2015, Hoischen-Taubner *et al.* 2016), because it is simple and realistic. Furthermore, de Coca-Sinova *et al.* (2008) found the apparent digestibility of soybean meal in broiler chicks to be correlated to the *in vitro* digestibility, which was determined with the method of Boisen & Fernández (1995). This makes the approach promising in terms of the prediction of the pc CP and AA digestibility for broiler chicken. However, the original method is rather time-consuming for a minimum of four days is needed to obtain the results.

The aim of the present study was to adapt the *in vitro* approach of Boisen & Fernández (1995) to predict the pc CP and AA digestibility of feedstuffs for broiler chicken and to shorten the analysis time. In this chapter, information on the effects and the complications of the adaptation process are outlined. Furthermore, the adapted method is described.

Materials and Methods

Sample set

For the calibration of the approach, 16 samples (Table III 1) with known pc digestibility of CP and AA in broiler chicken were available from prior studies, in which the linear regression approach of Rodehutschord *et al.* (2004) was used. On the one hand, samples of 14 different organic feedstuffs of a completed project, which dealt with the pc digestibility of CP and AA in 21- and 42-day old broiler chicken, were available (Ritteser 2015). Furthermore, samples of an organic field pea variety and an organic field bean variety, which were used to determine the pc digestibility of CP and AA in 21-day old broiler chicken (Witten *et al.* 2018, chapter II), were also available.

Table III 1: Content of crude protein (CP) and amino acids of feedstuffs available for the calibration of the *in vitro* method (% DM)

	BW	M	NB	NO	S	SB	WR	WT	WW	MKS	FP	FB	LR	AL	CS	CSe
CP	14.6	13.3	13.8	14.0	15.1	11.6	7.9	10.9	13.8	10.8	17.4	28.3	28.4	21.3	23.6	23.4
Lys	0.81	0.21	0.49	0.57	0.41	0.46	0.32	0.37	0.34	0.26	1.40	1.87	1.56	1.09	1.08	1.12
Met	0.23	0.33	0.17	0.23	0.20	0.21	0.12	0.16	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.33	0.33	0.33
Cys	0.32	0.20	0.23	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.21	0.35	0.39	0.28	0.20	0.19	0.18
Thr	0.52	0.40	0.46	0.48	0.44	0.42	0.26	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.75	0.99	0.89	0.91	0.96	0.95
Trp	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.13	0.09	0.10	0.14	0.07	0.21	0.14	0.23	0.35	0.27	0.25
Ile	0.51	0.52	0.46	0.50	0.48	0.39	0.24	0.32	0.40	0.37	0.73	1.10	0.99	0.81	0.98	0.94
Leu	0.87	1.67	0.92	1.00	0.95	0.76	0.45	0.64	0.83	1.43	1.27	2.04	1.78	1.49	1.69	1.63
Val	0.66	0.62	0.66	0.68	0.62	0.56	0.35	0.45	0.52	0.51	0.83	1.22	1.16	1.03	1.29	1.25
Arg	1.27	0.44	0.67	0.93	0.64	0.57	0.40	0.51	0.59	0.39	1.24	2.58	1.94	0.99	0.61	0.71
His	0.44	0.31	0.37	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.22	0.29	0.37	0.31	0.51	0.88	0.84	0.58	0.52	0.51
Phe	0.62	0.75	0.71	0.70	0.66	0.55	0.31	0.44	0.58	0.55	0.89	1.21	1.19	1.00	1.04	0.92
Tyr	0.39	0.49	0.41	0.47	0.40	0.34	0.19	0.28	0.36	0.41	0.57	0.85	0.71	0.66	0.51	0.62
Ala	0.59	1.41	0.54	0.65	0.52	0.52	0.34	0.41	0.44	0.83	0.81	1.16	1.03	1.08	1.30	1.39
Gly	0.80	0.30	0.54	0.68	0.61	0.55	0.35	0.43	0.52	0.36	0.77	1.17	1.03	0.98	1.02	1.01
Ser	0.67	0.83	0.56	0.66	0.75	0.68	0.32	0.44	0.61	0.49	0.82	1.34	1.16	0.88	0.93	0.90
Pro	0.54	0.96	1.42	0.76	1.40	1.02	0.53	0.88	1.26	1.00	0.78	1.20	1.19	1.07	1.23	1.25
Asp	1.30	0.82	0.80	1.16	0.79	0.81	0.58	0.63	0.63	0.67	2.09	3.06	2.92	2.35	2.66	2.60
Glu	2.35	2.95	3.27	2.88	4.10	2.41	1.44	2.43	3.80	2.00	2.93	4.64	4.41	2.13	1.88	2.02

BW = buck wheat; M = millet; NB = naked barley; NO = naked oats; S = spelt; SB = spring barley; WR = winter rye; WT = winter triticale; WW = winter wheat; MKS = maize kernel silage; FP = field pea; FB = field bean; LR = lentil rest; AL = alfalfa leaves; CS = clover silage; e = expanded

Laboratory analyses of crude protein and amino acids

To calculate the *in vitro* rate of the CP and AA disappearance, the CP and AA contents were determined in the original samples and the residuals. The CP analyses were conducted according to Dumas (vario MAX CUBE, Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH, Hanau, Germany; N*6.25). Contents of AA were analysed according to Directive (EC) No 152/2009 (EC 2009) regarding sample preparation via oxidation and hydrolysis. The subsequent derivatisation and chromatography were performed according to Cohen & Michaud (1993). See Chapter I for further details on AA analysis.

***In vitro* method development**

We based our experiments on a multi-enzyme assay to predict the CP and AA digestibility of feedstuffs for pigs. The assay was introduced by Boisen & Fernández (1995). In the assay, 1 g sample material (ground to pass a 1 mm sieve) is incubated at 39°C with pepsin (2000 FIP U/g; Merck No 7190) at pH 2.0 for six hours and afterwards at pH 6.8 with pancreatin (Sigma No P-1750) for 18 hours. The residual of the sample is filtrated and the content of CP (Kjeldahl N*6.25) and 18 AA is determined. The rate of CP and AA disappearance is correlated to the CP and AA digestibility in swine. Equations are used to calculate true digestible CP and AA, specific endogenous losses of CP and AA, and standardised digestible CP and AA.

There were, however, some difficulties in the practical implementation of the original method.

It must be ensured that the incubation temperature is constant over time for all samples. A heating chamber was not available in the experimental setup. Thus, the use of a drying cabinet as an incubator (Jezierny *et al.* 2010b) was tested. However, it was difficult to insert a stirring plate into the cabinet (kelvitron®, Heraeus Holding GmbH, Hanau, Germany) without damaging the cable. Furthermore, to add chemicals and enzymes to each sample, the samples must be removed from the drying cabinet. The incubation temperature cannot be held constant while the samples are handled at room temperature. As an alternative, a shaking water bath (1083, GFL Gesellschaft für Labortechnik mbH, Burgwedel, Germany) and a stirring water bath (UNITHERM WAM 15, UniEquip Laborgerätebau- und Vertriebs GmbH, Planegg, Germany) with a circulation thermostat (Corio c, Julabo, Seelbach, Germany) were tested. The samples tended to agglutinate in the vessels when the shaking water bath was used. In this case, they were not soaked with the fluid containing the enzymes, and the results varied widely. The application of the stirring water bath turned out to be suitable to establish a consistent movement of the whole sample in the fluid at a constant incubation temperature. Furthermore, the application of the ANKOM 2000 Automated Fiber Analyzer (ANKOM Technology, Macedon, NY, USA) was tested. In this system, filter bags containing the weighed sample are incubated in a moving strainer, which is placed in a tempered water pot. The handling of the samples and the incubation conditions was simple and accurate in this system.

However, the separation of the residual from the fluid with filters turned out to be difficult as well. The residuals clogged the filters, and, consequently, filtration was stopped. Thus, different filters (filter papers, filter syringes, and glass sample tubes with frits) were tested with and without applying a vacuum. No filter variant was applicable for the filtration of the residuals. In addition, the samples could not be cleanly removed from the filters after drying. This included the filter bags used in the ANKOM system. During the separation of the filter

and the sample, filter fibres contaminated the sample, which distorted the results of the CP analyses of the residuals. Moreover, centrifugation was tested to separate the residual from the fluid. The separation of the samples from the fluid was satisfactory when centrifuged at 4000 rotations/s (equivalent to 3321*g; Multifuge 1S-R with swing-out rotor Sorvall®, Heraeus Holding GmbH, Hanau, Germany). The fluid could then be decanted, and the centrifuge tubes containing the samples could be dried in a drying cabinet prior to further analyses. Since their weight was more stable than the weight of polypropylene tubes and the sample could be cleanly removed, glass centrifuge tubes (45 ml) were used. Another advantage of using glass centrifuge tubes was that they could be inserted into the stirring water bath. Thus, there was no need to transfer the sample into another vessel until the CP and AA analyses of the residuals. After those first difficulties were solved, the adaption of the assay got started.

To represent the digestive tract of the chicken, a methodological step was added that embodied the crop. A phosphate buffer (0.1M, pH 6.0) was tested against a citrate buffer (0.1M, pH 4.5) by soaking different samples for 30 minutes. No difference between the buffer solutions in terms of the rate of CP disappearance was found when both were used at body temperature (41°C). Jezierny *et al.* (2010b) reported using the incubation temperature of 40°C. In the present study, increasing the incubation temperature in all steps from 39°C to 41°C tended to increase the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance.

Further, adaptations were conducted regarding the pH value and the DM content of the “digesta”, and the duration of the analyses were adapted to meet the conditions of the digestive tract of the broiler chicken.

The literature on the pH as well as on the retention time of digesta in the gastro-intestinal tract of broiler chicken shows wide variations. The pH and retention time in chicken are feedstuff- and animal-dependent (Rougière & Carré 2010, Recoules *et al.* 2017). Slight changes of the pH did not affect the outcome of the analysis. Although a shortening of the incubation time did decrease the rate of CP disappearance, it did not have a negative effect on its variability and reliability. However, an addition of fluid, which altered the DM content of the sample, led repeatedly to increased rates of disappearance. Thus, it is of importance to accurately regulate the supply of sample DM and fluid. Consequently, the fluid supply was adapted on the basis of information on the DM content in the digesta in chicken (Bedford *et al.* 1991, Pettersson *et al.* 1991).

The enzymes in the digestive tract of broiler chicken are assumed to be roughly the same as in the digestive tract of swine (Recoules *et al.* 2017), although differences in the pH range and the rate of destruction have been reported between pig and chicken pepsin (Crevieu-Gabriel *et al.* 1999). Furthermore, enzyme secretion is depending on the feedstuff (Kokas *et al.* 1971). However, little is known about avian digestive enzymes, their specifications,

and their activity. Due to the lack of availability of avian enzymes, porcine pepsin (Merck No 7190) and pancreatin (Sigma No P-1750) were used as in the original method.

Pancreatin can be dispersed in demineralised water or in phosphate buffer with pH 6.0 or 6.8. There were no differences between these fluids regarding solubility or functionality. However, pancreatin was not fully dispersed in either fluid and particles were floating in the solution. When pancreatin was filtrated through a coarse filter (tea filter), particles were removed and the variation between the rate of CP disappearance of the sample replications was decreased.

Additionally, the effect of the omission of chloramphenicol, the particle size of the sample, and the amount of sample on the outcome of the *in vitro* analyses was examined.

The omission of chloramphenicol, which was used in the original method to prevent result variations due to bacterial growth, did not affect the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance or its variability. It could be used to test feedstuffs with a high natural stock of bacteria. However, it has been reported that the digestive tract including the crop is highly populated by bacteria (Guan *et al.* 2003, Abbas Hilmi *et al.* 2007). Bacteria which occur naturally on plant feedstuffs could contribute to the CP digestibility *in vivo*. Due to their role in digestion, the elimination of bacteria with antibiotics can be detrimental in the *in vitro* assay.

Löwgren *et al.* (1989) reported that larger particles need more time to be digested. In the present study, the use of a sample that was ground to pass a 0.5 mm sieve instead of a 1.0 mm sieve also decreased the variation of the rate of CP disappearance between the replications of a sample.

Boisen & Eggum (1991) found larger sample sizes to be more reliable and suggested to use a minimum of 0.5 g. Although Boisen & Fernández (1995) used 1.0 g of the test sample, the official method protocol (Aarhus University 2006) instructs the user to use 0.5 g. In the tests of the present study, the low weight of the test sample led to unstable results due to an increased error probability. Thus, tests were conducted to determine the effect of the amount of the test sample on the rate of CP disappearance. Increasing amounts of the weighed sample decreased its CP disappearance rate (Figure III 1). The error possibility and variability of the rate of CP disappearance was also decreased with increasing sample weight. To improve the reliability on the analysis results, the weight of the test sample was increased to 1.5 g. Hoischen-Taubner *et al.* (2016) did also increase the weight of the test sample in their analyses and simultaneously increased the amount of enzyme. However, since according to Parsons *et al.* (1997) and Johnston & Coon (1979) excessive addition of digestive enzymes in *in vitro* processes can lead to difficulties in assessing differences of the CP degradation rate between samples, the amount of enzyme per sample was not adapted.

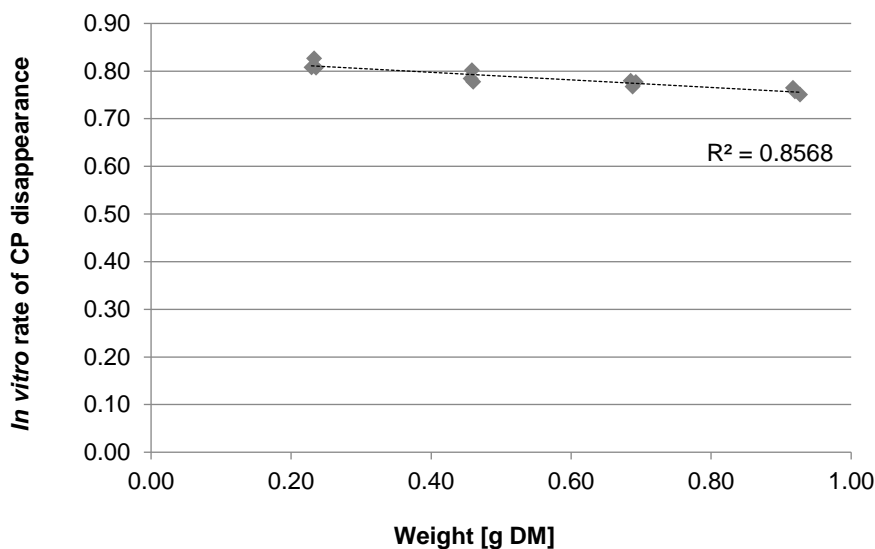


Figure III 1: *In vitro* rate of crude protein disappearance as a function of sample weight for one field pea sample

Implementation of the final adapted *in vitro* assay

Based on a selection of literature reports on retention times in the digestive tract of chicken e. g., (Farner 1942a, Richter *et al.* 1992, Pang & Applegate 2007, Denbow 2015, Valentim *et al.* 2017), the simulation of the crop lasted 30 minutes, the one of the stomach 135 minutes and the one of the small intestine 120 minutes in the adapted assay. An increase of the retention time by 60 minutes in step two or three of the simulated digestive tract did not lead to a smaller variation of the rate of disappearance between repetitions or to an alteration in the sample ranking.

In the adapted method, the incubation temperature was 41.0°C. The water bath was tempered to 41.3°C to ensure a sample temperature of 41.0°C. To simulate the environment of the crop for 30 minutes (20% DM), 7.5 ml phosphate buffer (1M, pH 6.0) were added to the sample. Afterwards, 1.5 ml HCl (0.2M) containing 0.015 g pepsin were added to simulate the environment of the stomach with a pH of 2.6 and a retention time of 120 minutes (16% DM). Finally, 0.0375 ml NaOH (0.6M) plus 1.5 ml phosphate buffer (2M, pH 6.8) containing 0.075 g pancreatin were added to simulate the environment of the small intestine with a pH of 6.4 for 135 minutes (14% DM).

Two stirring water baths with 15 slots each and tubes (45 ml) with 20 mm agitator sticks were used to analyse the *in vitro* rate of CP and AA disappearance (Figure III 2).

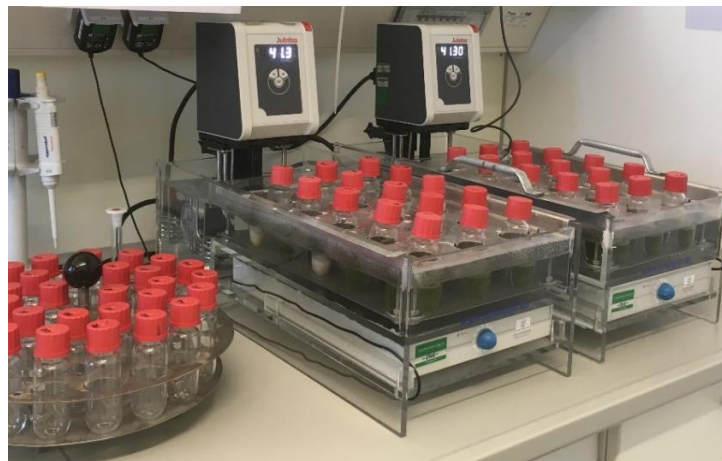


Figure III 2: Stirring water baths with circulation thermostats

Since each transfer of the sample material from one vessel to another increases the probability of sample loss, glass centrifuge tubes (45 ml) were used for the entire analysis. Gloves were worn to handle the tubes in order to avoid electrostatic charging, which would affect the outcome of the weighing and thus the result of the analysis. For the same reason, a de-ioniser was used during weighing. To ensure replicable results, buffer solutions must be disposed and renewed after one week if they have not been used and enzyme solutions must be prepared directly before their application in the analysis.

Wheat was used as a standard in each water bath during each series to evaluate and monitor the quality of the analysis. When the rate of CP disappearance in the standard sample deviated more than 0.01 from the observed results the analysis of the day was repeated as a whole. Blanks did not differ in various tests. Thus, they were not included regularly in the analyses. However, when a new batch of an enzyme was opened, blanks were tested again to ensure the repeatability of the analysis. Since outliers can occur, a minimum of three replicates (four for field beans and five for grassland-derived products) was weighed in for each sample. Another replicate, which was not included in further analyses was used to adjust the pH value during the analyses.

Following centrifugation (3321*g in a swing-out rotor as described above), the residuals were gently dried at 40°C until weight constancy was reached. To further shorten the procedure, a vacuum oven (Vacutherm, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Waltham, MA, USA) was used to dry the residuals. A drying cabinet can be used alternatively. However, instead of about 12 hours (depending on the sample material) in the vacuum oven, the residuals must be dried for two days in the drying cabinet to reach weight constancy.

Once replicable results (N disappearance rate ± 0.01) were achieved with the adapted method, we calibrated it using the samples with known pc CP and AA digestibility. A mixed sample consisting of the replicates was used to analyse CP and AA in the residual of the

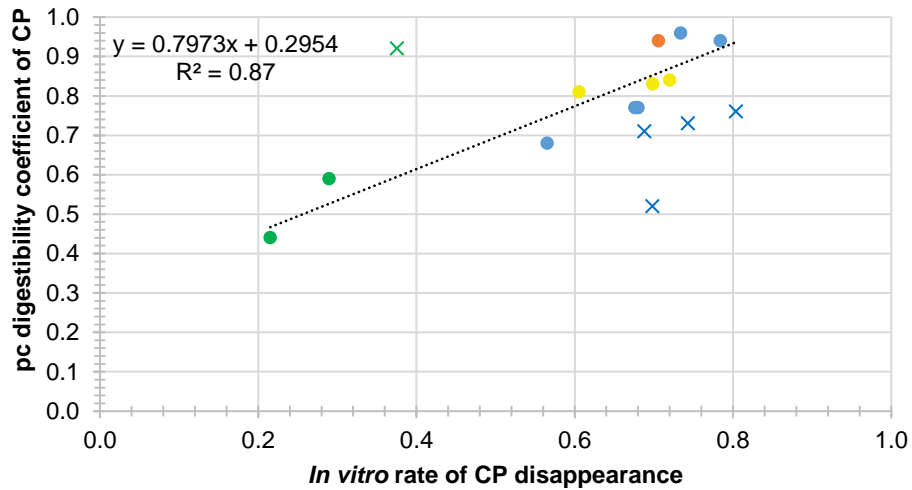
test feedstuffs. The *in vitro* rate of disappearance of CP (CP_d), and analogous for AA (AA_d), was calculated using the following equation:

$$CP_d = 1 - (CP \text{ in residual (g)}/CP \text{ in sample (g)})$$

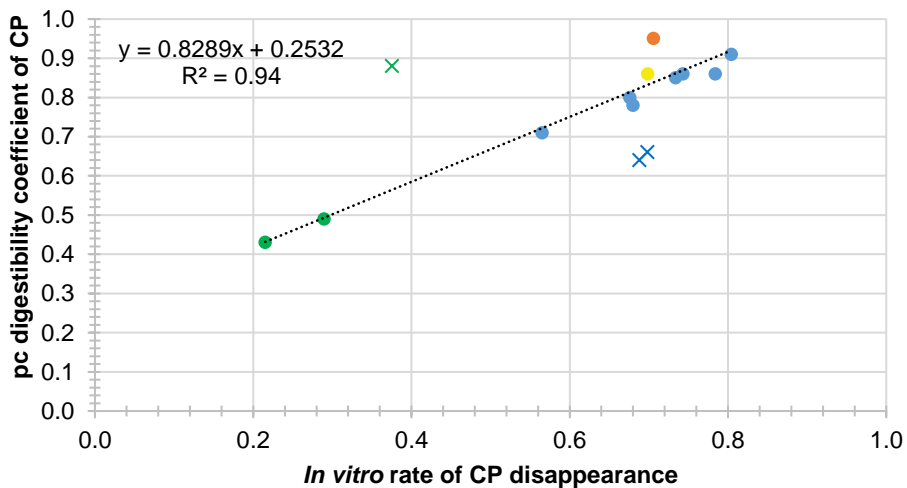
Regression analyses to calculate *in vitro* digestibility coefficients

The calibration of the *in vitro* method was conducted by regression analyses. The *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance was related to the *in vivo* pc CP and AA digestibility of feedstuffs in 21- and 42-day old broiler chicken (Figure III 3). Furthermore, for each AA, the *in vitro* rate of its disappearance as well as the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance was related to its *in vivo* pc digestibility.

● Cereals ● Grain legumes ● Fodder legumes ● Maize corn silage x not used



a)



b)

Figure III 3: Relation of the rate of crude protein (CP) disappearance *in vitro* with the *in vivo* precaecal (pc) digestibility coefficient of CP in a) 21-day old and b) 42-day old broiler chicken

The *in vitro* rate of CP and AA disappearance of naked barley could not be determined reliably since the residual could not be separated from the fluid during centrifugation.

Therefore, naked barley was excluded from the regression analyses. Furthermore, the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance would suggest a lower pc digestibility of alfalfa leaf CP. The CP of the alfalfa leaf sample was highly digestible in the animal trials, but the feed intake and the daily weight gain were reduced (Ritteser 2015). Thus, a possible explanation for this finding is that decreased contents of AA in the diet led to an increased absorptive capacity and thus to high digestibility coefficients (Corzo *et al.* 2011). However, for the estimation of the pc digestibility of the CP for 21- and 42-day old broiler chicken (d21 and d42), alfalfa leaves were also removed from the equation. Moreover, the *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance of winter rye for d21 and d42 and spelt for d21 did not fit into the equations. The R^2 of the regression slope (pc digestibility) was low for winter rye for d21 and d42-day and for spelt and naked oats for d21. That might be due to the intake of wood shavings by chickens that were fed diets containing winter rye and spelt (Ritteser 2015). Consequently, these values were also removed. Although higher deviations of the *in vitro* rates of disappearance were observed for silages (clover and corn), they were included into the equations.

For d21, the pc digestibility of the CP and AA was known for only three grain legumes and for d42 for only one grain legume. Thus, equations for grain legumes only were not expedient to predict the pc CP and AA digestibility. Nevertheless, ten cereal grains with known pc CP and AA digestibility were available, of which five could be used for the prediction of the pc CP and AA digestibility for d21 and seven for the prediction of the pc CP and AA digestibility for d42. The coefficient of determination was high for the pc CP digestibility for d21 ($y=1.3586x+0.6593$, $R^2 = 0.84$) and even higher for the pc CP digestibility for d42 ($y=0.8009x+0.2539$, $R^2 = 0.96$).

The same samples were also used in regression analyses to estimate the pc digestibility of the AA. For single AA, the coefficient of determination was higher when the rate of its disappearance was used. However, the rate of N disappearance was highly correlated with the pc digestibility of all AA. Since the present study aimed for a short time-span of the analysis, it was suitable to use the rate of N disappearance as the basis for all estimations. However, shifts in the ranking of the pc digestibility of single AA cannot be illustrated sufficiently by this calculation. When only cereals were used to relate the *in vitro* rate of disappearance to the *in vivo* pc digestibility of CP and AA in d42, the use of the *in vitro* rate of AA disappearance improved the coefficient of determination. Thus, further calibration with samples derived from different categories (cereals, grain legumes, forages) can improve the assay. Still, the modified multi-enzyme method is already suitable for the estimation of the standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA in d21 and d42.

Method protocol

1. Purpose:

Determination of the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of feedstuffs for broiler chicken.

2. Principle:

The feed sample is incubated at 41°C with a phosphate buffer (30 minutes, pH 6.0), pepsin (135 minutes, pH 2.6), and pancreatin (120 minutes, pH 6.4). The sample residual is separated from the fluid using centrifugation. Its dry matter and crude protein content is then determined.

3. Materials:

1. Scale with four decimal places
2. Crucibles for dry matter determination
3. Glass centrifuge tubes with screw caps (45 ml)
4. Magnetic stirring rods (20 mm)
5. Water bath with a magnetic stirrer and circulation thermostat (Julabo Corio C)
6. Pipette
7. Beakers
8. pH meter and electrode
9. Magnetic stick
10. Freezer (run at -18°C)
11. Centrifuge (Heraeus Multifuge 1S-R with swing-out rotor Sorvall®)
12. Drying cabinet (Heraeus kelvitron® t)
13. Vacuum oven (ThermoScientific Vacuotherm)
14. Desiccator
15. Mortar

4. Reagents:

All chemicals used are of analytical grade.

1. Phosphate buffer A (PPA), pH 6.0 (0.1 M):
12.1 g $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 1.732 g Na_2HPO_4 are dissolved in ca. 750 ml H_2O demin. using a magnetic stirrer. The pH-value is adjusted with 5 M NaOH or 5 M HCl. The solution is then filled up to 1000 ml with H_2O demin.
2. Pepsin solution (0.01 g/ml) for 30 places:
20 ml HCl (32%) are dissolved in H_2O demin. and filled up to 1000 ml (HCl, 0.2 M). Immediately before use, 1.05 g pepsin (Merck No 7190) are dissolved with a magnetic stirrer (200 rotations/min) in 52.5 ml 0.2 M HCl.

3. HCl solution (5 M):
100 ml HCl (32%) are dissolved in H₂O demin. and filled up to 200 ml with H₂O demin.
4. NaOH solution (5 M):
40.0 g NaOH are dissolved in H₂O demin. in a beaker and filled up to 200 ml.
5. Pancreatin solution (0.05 g/ml) for 30 places:
7.04 g NaH₂PO₄ H₂O and 6.96 g Na₂HPO₄ are dissolved in ca. 200 ml H₂O demin. in a beaker using a magnetic stirrer. The pH-value is adjusted with 5 M NaOH or 5 M HCl. The solution is then filled up to 250 ml with H₂O demin. (phosphate buffer B (PPB), pH 6.8, 0.2 M).
Immediately before use, 2.625 g pancreatin (Sigma No P-1750) are dissolved with a magnetic stirrer (200 rotations/min) in 52.5 ml PPB for 15 minutes and filtered through a tea filter.
6. NaOH solution (0.6 M):
24.0 g NaOH are dissolved in H₂O demin. in a beaker and filled up to 1000 ml.

Procedure:

1. For a double determination of the dry matter ca. 2 g of the sample (3.1., 3.2.) are weighed. They are dried at 105°C (3.12.) for at least four hours or until weight constancy, cooled in a desiccator (3.14.), and weighed again (3.1.) afterwards.
2. 1.50 g of a sample with known crude protein and dry matter contents are weighed (3.1.) in centrifuge tubes (3.3.) for a fourfold determination of the *in vitro* digestibility. A magnetic stirring rod (3.4.) is inserted into each tube. A standard sample is weighed for each series and each water bath in a fourfold determination.
3. The tubes are inserted into a preheated (41.3°C → 41.0°C sample temperature) water bath (3.5.) and 7.5 ml PPA (4.1.) are immediately added to each sample using a pipette (3.6.). The samples are then gently stirred (200 rotations/min).
4. The centrifuge tubes are closed with screw caps and incubated at 41°C under constant stirring for 30 minutes.
5. Pepsin solution (4.2.) is freshly prepared in a beaker (3.7.).
6. 1.5 ml pepsin solution are added to one selected replicate of each sample. The pH value of the selected replicates is adjusted to 2.6 with HCL (4.3.) and NaOH (4.4.) by using a pH meter (3.8). 0.0375 ml H₂O demin. are used to rinse the electrode. The same amount of HCl or NaOH that was used in the adjusted sample is now added to the other repetitions of the sample. 0.0375 ml H₂O demin. and 1.5 ml pepsin solution are also added to the other repetitions of the sample.
7. The centrifuge tubes are closed with screw caps and incubated at 41°C under constant stirring for 135 minutes.
8. Pancreatin solution (4.5.) is freshly prepared in a beaker (3.7.).

9. 0.0375 ml NaOH (4.6., 0.6 M) and 1.5 ml are added to the selected repetition of each sample. The pH value of those samples is adjusted to 6.4 with HCL (4.3.) and NaOH (4.4.) by using a pH meter (3.8.). H₂O demin. is used to rinse the electrode. The same amount of HCl or NaOH that was used in the adjusted sample is now added to the other repetitions of the sample. 0.0375 ml NaOH (0.6 M) and 1.5 ml pancreatin solution are also added to the other repetitions of the sample.
10. The centrifuge tubes are closed with screw caps and incubated at 41°C under constant stirring for 120 minutes.
11. The stirring rods are removed with the magnetic stick (3.9.) and samples are chilled (3.10.) until centrifugation.
12. The samples are centrifuged for 10 minutes at 4°C at 3321 *g (4000 rotations/min in a swing-out rotor; 3.11). The fluid is decanted.
13. The samples are dried in a drying cabinet (3.12.) or vacuum oven (3.13.) at 40°C until weight constancy is reached and cooled in a desiccator (3.14.)
14. The centrifuge tubes with the samples are weighed and the rate of DM disappearance (DM_d) is checked for uniformity among replicates. The selected sample for pH adjustment is disposed if its DM_d deviates.
15. When DM_d is satisfactory (SD<0.01), the dried sample residuals are transferred into a suitable vessel and finely ground with a mortar (3.15.) for further analysis.
16. The crude protein content in the residuals is determined.

Calculations:

1. Dry matter (DM):
 $DM = \text{weight of the dried sample (g)}/\text{weight of the initial sample (g)}$
2. Rate of DM disappearance (DM_d):
 $DM_d = 1 - (\text{weight of the residual (g)}/\text{weight of the initial sample (g in DM)})$
3. CP in weight of the initial sample (CP_i in g):
 $CP_i = \text{CP concentration (\%)} * \text{weight of the initial sample (g in DM)}$
4. CP in the undigested residual (CP_r in g):
 $CP_r = \text{CP concentration (\%)} * \text{weight of the residual (g in DM)}$
5. Rate of CP disappearance *in vitro* (CP_d):
 $CP_d = 1 - (CP_r/CP_i)$

The following equations are used to estimate the pc CP and AA digestibility in broiler chicken at 21 (d21) and 42 (d42) days of age ($x = CP_d$):

d21

CP: $y = 0.7973x + 0.2954, R^2 = 0.87$

Lys: $y = 1.0824x + 0.1431, R^2 = 0.84$

Met: $y = 1.0207x + 0.2020, R^2 = 0.90$

Cys: $y = 1.8210x - 0.4764, R^2 = 0.77$

Thr: $y = 0.8211x + 0.2911, R^2 = 0.73$

Trp: $y = 0.9902x + 0.1487, R^2 = 0.91$

Ile: $y = 0.5051x + 0.5139, R^2 = 0.63$

Leu: $y = 0.5480x + 0.4877, R^2 = 0.54$

Val: $y = 0.6237x + 0.4281, R^2 = 0.64$

Arg: $y = 1.0815x + 0.1596, R^2 = 0.78$

His: $y = 1.0977x + 0.1244, R^2 = 0.76$

Phe: $y = 0.8367x + 0.2672, R^2 = 0.72$

Tyr: $y = 0.7226x + 0.3718, R^2 = 0.75$

Ala: $y = 0.5873x + 0.4439, R^2 = 0.58$

Gly: $y = 0.9472x + 0.1802, R^2 = 0.79$

Ser: $y = 0.8574x + 0.2582, R^2 = 0.80$

Pro: $y = 0.7022x + 0.3721, R^2 = 0.78$

Asp: $y = 0.5678x + 0.4719, R^2 = 0.67$

Glu: $y = 1.0137x + 0.1789, R^2 = 0.83$

d42

CP: $y = 0.8289x + 0.2532, R^2 = 0.94$

Lys: $y = 0.9315x + 0.1828, R^2 = 0.92$

Met: $y = 0.8886x + 0.2769, R^2 = 0.97$

Cys: $y = 1.1389x - 0.0529, R^2 = 0.95$

Thr: $y = 0.7672x + 0.2611, R^2 = 0.90$

Trp: $y = 1.1215x + 0.0210, R^2 = 0.90$

Ile: $y = 0.9657x + 0.1322, R^2 = 0.94$

Leu: $y = 0.7222x + 0.3485, R^2 = 0.92$

Val: $y = 0.8340x + 0.2496, R^2 = 0.89$

Arg: $y = 0.9917x + 0.1487, R^2 = 0.91$

His: $y = 1.3203x - 0.1245, R^2 = 0.93$

Phe: $y = 0.8589x + 0.2319, R^2 = 0.94$

Tyr: $y = 0.7974x + 0.2641, R^2 = 0.90$

Ala: $y = 0.4962x + 0.4746, R^2 = 0.85$

Gly: $y = 0.9577x + 0.1027, R^2 = 0.96$

Ser: $y = 0.7791x + 0.2846, R^2 = 0.97$

Pro: $y = 0.8654x + 0.2433, R^2 = 0.95$

Asp: $y = 0.5072x + 0.4168, R^2 = 0.73$

Glu: $y = 0.7334x + 0.3605, R^2 = 0.93$

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Chapter IV

Effect of variety and environmental conditions on *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of cereals and grain legumes for broiler chicken

Einfluss von Sorte und Umweltbedingungen auf die in vitro Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen bei Broilern

Abstract

Since the small intestine is the main site of amino acid absorption, dietary crude protein and amino acids that are precaecally digested, can possibly be used in the metabolism of chicken. Thus, the knowledge on the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility of feedstuffs is of interest in ration formulation. Due to variations of the nutrient composition of cereals and grain legumes depending on genetic and environmental factors, the digestibility of crude protein and amino acids can also vary. The aim of the study was to use an adapted *in vitro* multi-enzyme assay to evaluate the variation of the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of selected cereals and grain legumes as feedstuffs for broiler chicken. Additionally, the effect of variety, harvest year, and harvest site on the *in vitro* digestibility of crude protein and amino acids was determined.

The *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of samples of organically produced barley (54), wheat (43), rye (50), triticale (48), field peas (37) and field beans (44) was determined using a multi-enzyme assay with pepsin and pancreatin. The effect of variety, year, and/or site/area was evaluated with generalised linear models.

Although variety only affected the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of winter rye, year and site/area affected the *in vitro* digestibility of crude protein and amino acids in all cultivars.

The results indicate that wide variations of the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility of cereals and grain legumes occur. Furthermore, they indicate that the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility is more strongly affected by environmental factors than by the variety.

The *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility of all cultivars varied widely and was plausible, when compared to table values and literature results. Thus, the assay has the potential to be used in the prediction of the crude protein and amino acid digestibility of cereals and grain legumes. However, the prediction of the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility must be further validated with combined *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies.

Keywords

variety, site, year, ileal

Zusammenfassung

Der Hauptabsorptionsort von Aminosäuren und Peptiden ist der Dünndarm. Die Nutzung von Rohprotein und Aminosäuren aus dem Futter im Stoffwechsel von Geflügel ist daher nur dann möglich, wenn sie dünndarmverfügbar sind. Aus diesem Grund wird die Kenntnis der *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von Futtermitteln in der Rationsgestaltung eingesetzt. Durch die starken Schwankungen der Nährstoffzusammensetzung von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen in Abhängigkeit von genetischen und umweltbedingten Faktoren kann auch die *praecaecale* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren variieren. Das Ziel dieser Untersuchung war daher, die Variation der *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von ausgewählten Getreide- und Körnerleguminosenarten zu bestimmen und den Einfluss von Sorte, Anbauort und Anbaujahr auf die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren zu ermitteln.

Die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren von 54 Gersten-, 43 Weizen-, 50 Roggen-, 48 Triticale-, 37 Futtererbsen- und 44 Ackerbohnenproben aus ökologischer Erzeugung wurden mittels einer Multienzymmethode analysiert. Die Effekte von Sorte, Anbauort und Anbaujahr wurden mit generalisierten linearen Modellen bestimmt. Die Sorte hatte nur bei Winterroggen einen signifikanten Effekt, aber die Umweltbedingungen beeinflussten die *in vitro* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren in allen Kulturen.

Die Ergebnisse weisen darauf hin, dass starke Schwankungen der *praecaecalen* Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren bei den ausgewählten Kulturen auftreten. Diese Schwankungen sind bei der zur Verfügung stehenden Stichprobe eher durch das Anbaumanagement und die Umweltbedingungen beeinflussbar als durch genetische Faktoren der Sorte. Die *in vitro* Methode hat Potential, zur Schätzung der Rohprotein- und Aminosäurenverdaulichkeit von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen eingesetzt zu werden. Die Schätzung der Verdaulichkeit des Rohproteins und der Aminosäuren muss jedoch mit kombinierten *in vivo* und *in vitro* Studien weiter validiert werden.

Schlüsselworte

Sorte, Anbauort, Jahr, praecaecal

Introduction

Knowledge of the precaecal (pc) crude protein (CP) and amino acid (AA) digestibility of feedstuffs for monogastric animals is of benefit for an optimised diet formulation (Hoehler *et al.* 2005, Kluth & Rodehutschord 2009). Thus, *in vivo* studies are repeatedly performed to assess the pc CP and AA digestibility. However, animal trials are time-consuming, costly, and problematic with regard to animal welfare. Due to these properties of animal trials, the number of studied feedstuffs is generally low. Mostly, direct comparisons of a small number of feedstuffs are conducted. Since the results are influenced not only by the feedstuffs but also by the chosen method (Kadim & Moughan 1997, Kadim *et al.* 2002, Kim *et al.* 2011), characteristics of the used animals (Huang *et al.* 2005, Huang *et al.* 2006, Kim & Corzo 2012, Ritteser 2015), and environmental conditions during the trials (Wallis & Balnave 1984, Elbers *et al.* 1989), comparisons between studies are difficult. Consequently, *in vitro* techniques designed to estimate the pc digestibility of CP and AA are valuable tools in analysing larger sample sets and performing comparisons over time. However, to be useful predictors for the pc CP and AA digestibility, the results obtained with *in vitro* techniques need to have a high correlation with the actual pc digestibility determined in animal trials (Sibbald 1987, Jezierny *et al.* 2010). A method with high correlation coefficients is described in Chapter III.

Since the nutrient composition of feedstuffs varies widely (Rodehutschord *et al.* 2016) and thus affects ration formulation for farm animals, it can be assumed that the pc digestibility of the CP and the AA can also vary. Furthermore, it is known that variety and environmental conditions during cultivation and storage can affect the nutrient composition (see Chapter I) and the nutrient digestibility of feedstuffs (e. g., Rosenfelder *et al.* 2015, Strang *et al.* 2016, Zhang *et al.* 2017).

The aim of the study was to evaluate the application of an adapted *in vitro* assay and to assess the variation of the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA of selected feedstuffs for young broiler chicken. Furthermore, the effect of variety, harvest year and harvest site on the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA of selected feedstuffs for young broiler chicken was determined.

Materials and Methods

Sample set

In total, 835 samples of organic cereal grains and grain legumes with known contents of CP and AA were available. The samples were cultivated in various variety field trials throughout Germany in the years 2011, 2012, and 2013 (Witten & Aulrich 2018). Thus, the possible influencing factors known were variety, harvest year, and harvest site. The harvest sites could be aggregated into homogenous climatic areas according to JKI (2018) for further

statistical analyses. Since the sample set was too extensive to be analysed wholly, it had to be reduced.

The following criteria were applied to select samples in order to evaluate the influence of variety, harvest year, and harvest site:

1. The sample amount should be sufficient to be homogenised and analysed thrice.
2. Factor level manifestations were not taken into consideration when less than three repetitions were available.
3. The repetitions of a factor (variety, harvest year, and harvest site or area; JKI 2018) had to include a minimum of two manifestations of the other two factors.

The reduced sample set contained 54 barley, 50 winter rye, 48 winter triticale, 43 winter wheat, 44 field bean, and 37 field pea samples (Table IV 1).

Table IV 1: Number of samples considered for statistical analyses (n), crude protein contents (CP in % DM, N*6.25), and number of manifestations of the factors (variety, year, and site or area) for each cultivar

	n	CP	varieties	years	sites	areas ¹
Cereals						
Winter wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	43	8.9 - 15.4	3	3	8	
Winter rye (<i>Secale cereale</i> L.)	50	6.1 - 12.4	5	3	4	
Winter triticale (<i>Triticosecale</i>)	48	7.0 - 13.0	3	3	9	
Winter barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	15	7.4 - 11.8	3	2	5	
Spring barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	39	7.3 - 11.7	3	3		4
Grain legumes						
Spring field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	37	14.8 - 24.9	5	3	5	
Spring field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	44	27.3 - 33.5	4	2		3
Total	276					

¹cultivation areas with homogenous climatic conditions according to JKI (2018)

Laboratory analyses

The *in vitro* digestibility was analysed according to the method described in Chapter III.

Statistics

R 3.4.0 (R Core Team 2017) was used for all statistical analyses. The *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA in different cultivars was compared using generalised linear models (glm). Glm were also implemented to assess influences of the main factors variety, harvest year, and harvest site or area. The aggregated factor area was used for the cultivars spring barley and field bean due to their distribution of harvest sites. The package glmulti (Calcagno 2013) was used to evaluate best-fitted models by Akaike's Information Criterion with correction for sample size (AICc).

Multiple comparisons were calculated using multcomp package (Hothorn *et al.* 2008) with lsmeans (Lenth 2016) and Bonferroni-Holm adjustment. The package sandwich (Zeileis 2004) was included for a heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation consistent estimation of covariance with robust standard errors (vcovHAC). Due to the inclusion of this feature

differences between factor manifestations were not found in some cases although the factor was significantly influencing in the glm. Differences between lsmeans were considered significant if p-values were lower than 0.05.

Results

Wide variations of the *in vitro* digestibility of all cultivars were observed. The *in vitro* digestibility of arginine and methionine predicted in winter wheat as feedstuff for 21-day old broiler chicken (Table IV 2) was high and reached 100% for one sample.

Table IV 2: *In vitro* crude protein (CP) and amino acid digestibility coefficients* of selected cereals and grain legumes as feedstuffs for 21-day old broiler chicken

	Winter wheat (43) <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Winter rye (50) <i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Winter triticale (48) <i>Triticosecale</i>	Winter barley (15) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Spring barley (39) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Field pea (37) <i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Field bean (44) <i>Vicia faba</i> L.
CP	0.88 ± 0.02 ^e 0.82 - 0.92	0.83 ± 0.03 ^c 0.78 - 0.87	0.85 ± 0.02 ^d 0.82 - 0.91	0.80 ± 0.03 ^b 0.75 - 0.85	0.78 ± 0.02 ^a 0.74 - 0.84	0.84 ± 0.04 ^{cd} 0.76 - 0.90	0.77 ± 0.03 ^a 0.70 - 0.87
Lys	0.94 ± 0.03 0.86 - 0.99	0.86 ± 0.03 0.80 - 0.93	0.90 ± 0.03 0.85 - 0.98	0.83 ± 0.04 0.76 - 0.90	0.80 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.88	0.89 ± 0.05 0.77 - 0.96	0.79 ± 0.04 0.70 - 0.92
Met	0.95 ± 0.03 0.88 - 1.00	0.88 ± 0.03 0.82 - 0.94	0.91 ± 0.02 0.87 - 0.99	0.85 ± 0.04 0.78 - 0.91	0.82 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.90	0.90 ± 0.05 0.79 - 0.97	0.81 ± 0.03 0.72 - 0.94
Cys	0.86 ± 0.06 0.73 - 0.95	0.74 ± 0.06 0.62 - 0.85	0.80 ± 0.04 0.72 - 0.92	0.68 ± 0.07 0.56 - 0.79	0.63 ± 0.05 0.54 - 0.77	0.77 ± 0.09 0.58 - 0.90	0.62 ± 0.06 0.45 - 0.84
Thr	0.90 ± 0.03 0.84 - 0.93	0.84 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.89	0.86 ± 0.02 0.83 - 0.92	0.81 ± 0.03 0.76 - 0.86	0.79 ± 0.02 0.75 - 0.85	0.85 ± 0.04 0.77 - 0.91	0.78 ± 0.03 0.71 - 0.88
Trp	0.88 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.92	0.81 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.87	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.91	0.78 ± 0.04 0.71 - 0.84	0.75 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.83	0.83 ± 0.19 0.72 - 0.90	0.75 ± 0.03 0.65 - 0.86
Ile	0.89 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.91	0.85 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.88	0.87 ± 0.01 0.85 - 0.90	0.83 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.86	0.82 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.86	0.86 ± 0.02 0.81 - 0.89	0.82 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.88
Leu	0.89 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.92	0.85 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.89	0.87 ± 0.01 0.85 - 0.91	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.87	0.82 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.86	0.86 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.90	0.82 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.88
Val	0.89 ± 0.02 0.84 - 0.92	0.84 ± 0.02 0.81 - 0.88	0.86 ± 0.02 0.84 - 0.91	0.82 ± 0.02 0.78 - 0.86	0.81 ± 0.02 0.78 - 0.85	0.86 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.90	0.80 ± 0.02 0.75 - 0.88
Arg	0.96 ± 0.03 0.88 - 1.00	0.88 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.94	0.91 ± 0.03 0.87 - 0.99	0.85 ± 0.04 0.77 - 0.91	0.82 ± 0.03 0.76 - 0.90	0.90 ± 0.05 0.79 - 0.97	0.81 ± 0.04 0.71 - 0.94
His	0.93 ± 0.03 0.85 - 0.98	0.86 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.92	0.89 ± 0.03 0.84 - 0.97	0.82 ± 0.04 0.75 - 0.89	0.79 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.87	0.88 ± 0.05 0.76 - 0.95	0.78 ± 0.04 0.68 - 0.92
Phe	0.88 ± 0.03 0.82 - 0.92	0.83 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.87	0.85 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.91	0.80 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.85	0.77 ± 0.03 0.73 - 0.84	0.84 ± 0.04 0.75 - 0.90	0.77 ± 0.03 0.69 - 0.87
Tyr	0.90 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.94	0.85 ± 0.02 0.81 - 0.90	0.88 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.93	0.83 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.87	0.81 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.87	0.87 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.92	0.81 ± 0.02 0.74 - 0.89
Ala	0.88 ± 0.02 0.83 - 0.90	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.87	0.85 ± 0.01 0.83 - 0.90	0.82 ± 0.02 0.78 - 0.85	0.80 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.85	0.85 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.89	0.80 ± 0.02 0.74 - 0.87
Gly	0.88 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.92	0.81 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.87	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.91	0.78 ± 0.04 0.72 - 0.84	0.75 ± 0.03 0.71 - 0.83	0.83 ± 0.04 0.73 - 0.89	0.75 ± 0.03 0.66 - 0.86
Ser	0.89 ± 0.03 0.83 - 0.93	0.83 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.88	0.86 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.92	0.80 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.85	0.78 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.84	0.85 ± 0.04 0.76 - 0.90	0.77 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.88
Pro	0.89 ± 0.02 0.84 - 0.92	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.88	0.86 ± 0.02 0.83 - 0.91	0.82 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.86	0.80 ± 0.02 0.76 - 0.85	0.86 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.90	0.79 ± 0.02 0.73 - 0.88
Asp	0.89 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.92	0.85 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.88	0.87 ± 0.01 0.84 - 0.91	0.83 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.87	0.82 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.86	0.86 ± 0.03 0.80 - 0.90	0.81 ± 0.02 0.76 - 0.88
Glu	0.92 ± 0.03 0.85 - 0.97	0.85 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.91	0.89 ± 0.02 0.84 - 0.96	0.82 ± 0.04 0.75 - 0.88	0.79 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.87	0.83 ± 0.04 0.76 - 0.89	0.79 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.91

*means and standard deviations as well as ranges; superscripts mark significant differences between columns (p<0.05) and are analogous for CP and all amino acids

Since the equations to estimate the *in vitro* AA digestibility were based on the rate of *in vitro* CP disappearance, variations of all AA digestibility coefficients were analogous to the ones

of the *in vitro* CP digestibility coefficient. The *in vitro* digestibility equations, which were used to predict the pc digestibility of CP and AA in 21-day old broiler chicken, yielded higher digestibility coefficients than the equations for 42-day old broiler chicken. Thus, the coefficients of the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility in all cultivars were lower for 42-day old broiler chicken than the ones for 21-day old broiler chicken (Table IV 3).

Table IV 3: *In vitro* crude protein (CP) and amino acid digestibility coefficients* of selected cereals and grain legumes as feedstuffs for 42-day old broiler chicken

	Winter wheat (43) <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Winter rye (50) <i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Winter triticale (48) <i>Triticosecale</i>	Winter barley (15) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Spring barley (39) <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Field pea (37) <i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Field bean (44) <i>Vicia faba</i> L.
CP	0.86 ± 0.03 ^e 0.80 - 0.90	0.81 ± 0.03 ^c 0.75 - 0.85	0.83 ± 0.02 ^d 0.80 - 0.89	0.78 ± 0.03 ^b 0.72 - 0.83	0.76 ± 0.02 ^a 0.71 - 0.82	0.82 ± 0.04 ^{cd} 0.73 - 0.88	0.75 ± 0.03 ^a 0.68 - 0.85
Lys	0.87 ± 0.03 0.80 - 0.91	0.80 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.86	0.83 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.90	0.77 ± 0.04 0.71 - 0.83	0.75 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.82	0.82 ± 0.04 0.72 - 0.88	0.74 ± 0.03 0.66 - 0.85
Met	0.93 ± 0.03 0.87 - 0.97	0.87 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.92	0.90 ± 0.02 0.86 - 0.96	0.84 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.89	0.82 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.88	0.89 ± 0.04 0.79 - 0.95	0.81 ± 0.03 0.73 - 0.92
Cys	0.79 ± 0.04 0.70 - 0.84	0.71 ± 0.04 0.64 - 0.77	0.74 ± 0.03 0.69 - 0.82	0.67 ± 0.04 0.59 - 0.74	0.64 ± 0.03 0.58 - 0.72	0.73 ± 0.05 0.61 - 0.81	0.63 ± 0.04 0.53 - 0.77
Thr	0.83 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.86	0.77 ± 0.02 0.72 - 0.82	0.80 ± 0.02 0.76 - 0.85	0.75 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.79	0.73 ± 0.02 0.69 - 0.79	0.79 ± 0.04 0.71 - 0.84	0.72 ± 0.03 0.65 - 0.81
Trp	0.85 ± 0.04 0.77 - 0.90	0.77 ± 0.04 0.70 - 0.84	0.80 ± 0.03 0.76 - 0.88	0.73 ± 0.04 0.66 - 0.80	0.70 ± 0.03 0.65 - 0.79	0.79 ± 0.07 0.67 - 0.87	0.70 ± 0.04 0.59 - 0.83
Ile	0.84 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.89	0.78 ± 0.03 0.72 - 0.83	0.81 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.88	0.74 ± 0.04 0.68 - 0.80	0.72 ± 0.03 0.67 - 0.79	0.79 ± 0.05 0.69 - 0.86	0.71 ± 0.03 0.62 - 0.83
Leu	0.88 ± 0.02 0.83 - 0.91	0.83 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.87	0.85 ± 0.02 0.82 - 0.90	0.81 ± 0.03 0.76 - 0.85	0.79 ± 0.02 0.75 - 0.84	0.84 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.89	0.78 ± 0.02 0.72 - 0.87
Val	0.86 ± 0.03 0.80 - 0.90	0.81 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.86	0.83 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.89	0.78 ± 0.03 0.72 - 0.83	0.76 ± 0.02 0.71 - 0.82	0.82 ± 0.04 0.73 - 0.88	0.75 ± 0.03 0.68 - 0.85
Arg	0.88 ± 0.03 0.81 - 0.92	0.81 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.87	0.84 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.91	0.78 ± 0.04 0.71 - 0.84	0.75 ± 0.03 0.70 - 0.83	0.83 ± 0.05 0.72 - 0.90	0.74 ± 0.03 0.65 - 0.86
His	0.85 ± 0.04 0.75 - 0.91	0.76 ± 0.04 0.67 - 0.83	0.80 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.89	0.71 ± 0.05 0.63 - 0.79	0.68 ± 0.04 0.61 - 0.78	0.78 ± 0.06 0.64 - 0.87	0.67 ± 0.04 0.55 - 0.83
Phe	0.86 ± 0.03 0.80 - 0.90	0.80 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.86	0.83 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.89	0.78 ± 0.03 0.72 - 0.83	0.75 ± 0.03 0.71 - 0.82	0.82 ± 0.04 0.73 - 0.88	0.75 ± 0.03 0.67 - 0.85
Tyr	0.85 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.89	0.80 ± 0.03 0.75 - 0.84	0.82 ± 0.02 0.79 - 0.88	0.77 ± 0.03 0.72 - 0.82	0.75 ± 0.02 0.71 - 0.81	0.81 ± 0.04 0.73 - 0.87	0.74 ± 0.03 0.67 - 0.84
Ala	0.81 ± 0.01 0.78 - 0.84	0.78 ± 0.01 0.75 - 0.81	0.80 ± 0.01 0.78 - 0.83	0.77 ± 0.02 0.74 - 0.80	0.75 ± 0.01 0.73 - 0.79	0.79 ± 0.02 0.74 - 0.82	0.75 ± 0.02 0.71 - 0.81
Gly	0.81 ± 0.03 0.74 - 0.85	0.74 ± 0.03 0.68 - 0.80	0.77 ± 0.02 0.73 - 0.84	0.71 ± 0.04 0.65 - 0.77	0.68 ± 0.03 0.64 - 0.76	0.76 ± 0.05 0.66 - 0.82	0.68 ± 0.03 0.59 - 0.79
Ser	0.86 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.89	0.80 ± 0.02 0.76 - 0.85	0.83 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.88	0.78 ± 0.03 0.73 - 0.83	0.76 ± 0.02 0.72 - 0.82	0.82 ± 0.04 0.74 - 0.87	0.75 ± 0.03 0.68 - 0.85
Pro	0.88 ± 0.03 0.82 - 0.92	0.82 ± 0.03 0.77 - 0.87	0.85 ± 0.02 0.81 - 0.91	0.79 ± 0.03 0.73 - 0.84	0.77 ± 0.03 0.73 - 0.83	0.84 ± 0.04 0.74 - 0.90	0.76 ± 0.03 0.68 - 0.87
Asp	0.79 ± 0.02 0.75 - 0.81	0.75 ± 0.02 0.72 - 0.79	0.77 ± 0.01 0.75 - 0.81	0.74 ± 0.02 0.70 - 0.77	0.72 ± 0.02 0.70 - 0.76	0.76 ± 0.02 0.71 - 0.80	0.72 ± 0.02 0.68 - 0.78
Glu	0.90 ± 0.02 0.85 - 0.93	0.85 ± 0.02 0.80 - 0.89	0.87 ± 0.02 0.84 - 0.92	0.83 ± 0.03 0.78 - 0.87	0.81 ± 0.02 0.77 - 0.86	0.86 ± 0.03 0.79 - 0.91	0.80 ± 0.02 0.73 - 0.89

*means and standard deviations as well as ranges; superscripts mark significant differences between columns ($p < 0.05$) and are analogous for CP and all amino acids

The differences between the cultivars were analogous to the ones described for 21-day old broiler chicken. In winter wheat and similarly in winter triticale, CP and AA were highly digestible. Winter rye and field peas had also a high *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility. However, it varied somewhat more and its minimum was lower. The *in vitro* digestibility of

CP and AA was the lowest in spring barley and field beans (statistically significant, $p < 0.05$). Furthermore, the widest variation was observed for field beans (0.17).

The variety had a significant effect on the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility exclusively in winter rye. However, the factor harvest site or area affected the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA of all cultivars. The factor year was included in the glm for winter wheat, winter rye, spring barley, and field pea. However, the effect of the factor year was not always significant in these cultivars (Table IV 4). The effects were the same for the *in vitro* digestibility of each AA. They differed only slightly by their p - and F -values.

Table IV 4: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the *in vitro* crude protein digestibility of selected cultivars for 21- and 42-day old broiler chicken

		n	df*	21-day old			42-day old		
				variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals									
Winter wheat	F-Value	43	2;2;7		8.317	4.0652		8.229	4.096
<i>Triticum aestivum L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>				<i>0.003</i>	<i>0.007</i>		<i>0.002</i>	<i>0.007</i>
Winter rye	F-Value	50	4;2;3	3.183	44.234	3.0121	3.175	44.594	3.1184
<i>Secale cereale L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>			0.023	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.041</i>	<i>0.234</i>	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.037</i>
Winter triticale	F-Value	48	2;2;8			2.992			3.047
<i>Triticosecale</i>	<i>p-Value</i>					<i>0.010</i>			<i>0.009</i>
Winter barley	F-Value	15	2;;4			8.313			8.283
<i>Hordeum vulgare L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>					<i>0.003</i>			<i>0.003</i>
Spring barley	F-Value	39	2;2;3		3.021	3.840		3.006	3.861
<i>Hordeum vulgare L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>				<i>0.062</i>	<i>0.018</i>		<i>0.063</i>	<i>0.018</i>
Grain legumes									
Field pea	F-Value	37	3;2;4		6.182	14.528		3.1246	14.372
<i>Pisum sativum L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>				<i>0.056</i>	<i>0.001</i>		<i>0.058</i>	<i>0.001</i>
Field bean	F-Value	44	3;1;2			4.433			4.396
<i>Vicia faba L.</i>	<i>p-Value</i>					<i>0.018</i>			<i>0.019</i>

*variety;year;site/area

A statistically significant effect of the harvest site or area, respectively, on the *in vitro* digestibility coefficients of CP was found for all cultivars (Figure IV 1). Although differences of the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility were observed between the harvest years (winter wheat) and the harvest site or area (all cultivars), there was no consistent pattern between the cultivars (Appendix Table A IV 1).

The *in vitro* CP digestibility coefficient of spring barley and field beans was statistically significantly different between the areas by up to 0.03. A large variability of the *in vitro* digestibility coefficient of CP of up to 0.09 between two sites was determined in field peas. In winter wheat, winter triticale, and winter barley, the *in vitro* CP digestibility coefficient differed by 0.05 - 0.07 between two sites, which were both located in the same area. The differences of the *in vitro* digestibility of all AA between factor manifestations were analogous to the ones of the *in vitro* CP digestibility.

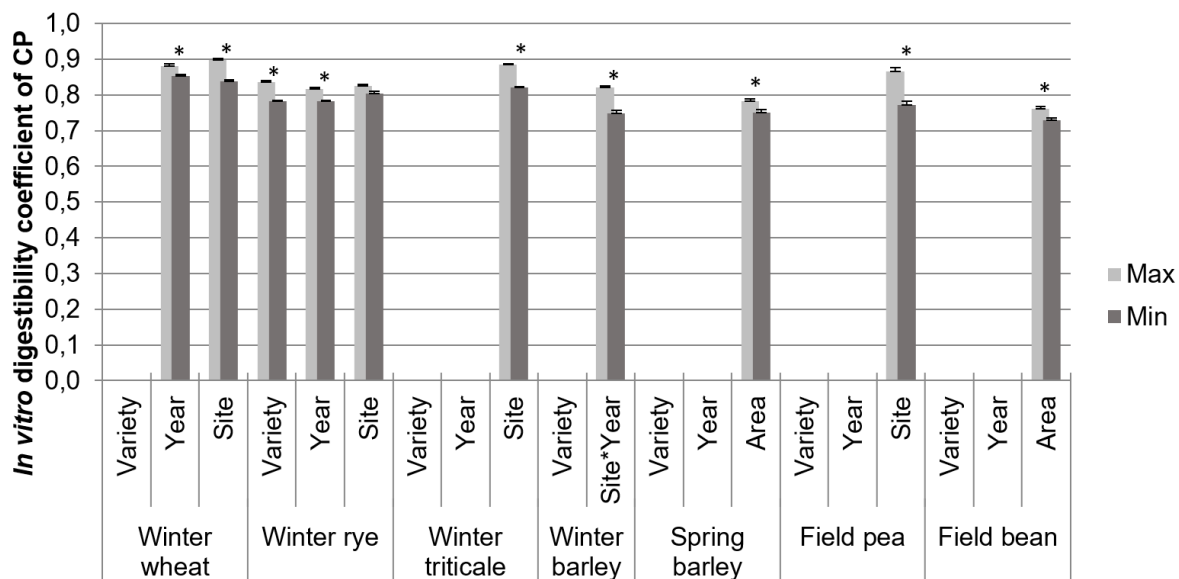


Figure IV 1: *In vitro* crude protein digestibility coefficient of selected cereals and grain legumes in 42-day old broiler chicken. Bars illustrate factor manifestations of variety, year, and harvest site or area with the minimum and maximum contents (Ismeans and standard errors), *mark significant differences ($p < 0.05$). See Appendix for more detailed information.

Discussion

When compared to feed tables (Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2003-2013, Agroscope 2011-2016, Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018), the ranking of the CP digestibility among cultivars was as it would be expected. The *in vitro* digestibility coefficients varied widely in each cultivar and especially in the grain legume cultivars. This was probably due to a large number of samples from different varieties, harvest sites, and harvest years with varying concentrations of nutrients (Chapter I) and possibly also anti-nutrients (Guillamón *et al.* 2008). However, wide variations of the pc CP and AA digestibility can also be observed within and among table values and different studies.

When the equations were used that predict the standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA for 21-day old broiler chicken, the *in vitro* digestibility coefficients were very high. The prediction of the standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA in 42-day old broiler chicken was more realistic in comparison to table values. Thus, the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA for 42-day old broiler chicken is further discussed in this chapter.

Wheat showed the highest digestibility coefficients followed by triticale. Most of the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility coefficients for these cultivars were comparable to the digestibility coefficients reported by Lemme *et al.* (2004), Bandegan *et al.* (2011), Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group (2003-2013), Evonik (2016), and INRA-CIRAD-AFZ (2018). Nevertheless, the pc digestibility of some AA, including Lys and Arg, in wheat and triticale might be overestimated by the *in vitro* assay. The variability was high between the 47 wheat samples used in the present study. However, Owens *et al.* (2009), who studied 61 wheat samples,

and Bryden *et al.* (2009), who studied 27 wheat samples, reported even wider variations of the apparent pc digestibility of CP. The apparent pc digestibility coefficients of Met differed by up to 0.22 in wheat samples described by Bryden *et al.* (2009).

The *in vitro* CP and Lys digestibility of barley was in accordance with the standardised pc digestibility of CP and AA of five barley samples from a study conducted by Bandegan *et al.* (2011). Furthermore, the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility was comparable to reported digestibility coefficients of Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group (2003-2013), but lower than the standardised pc digestibility of AA of barley reported by Evonik (2016) and INRA-CIRAD-AFZ (2018). Since there is no information on the difference between winter and spring varieties regarding their CP and AA digestibility, the statistically significant difference between winter and spring barley cannot be extensively discussed. It is surprising that the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility coefficients of winter barley were higher, since the content of crude fibre was also significantly higher in winter barley (Chapter I) and crude fibre was reported to have a detrimental effect on the nutrient digestibility (Jørgensen *et al.* 1996). However, cereal proteins consist of different protein fractions of which some are less digestible than others (Carbonaro *et al.* 2000, Rubio *et al.* 2013). Significantly lower amounts of Arg, Asp, Lys, Leu, Ile, and Val in the CP of winter barley in comparison to spring barley (see Chapter I) indicate an altered protein composition, which might have affected the *in vitro* CP digestibility. In accordance with the results of the present study, Büchmann (1979) observed wide variations of the *in vitro* digestibility in 321 spring barley lines, which depended on fertilisation and, to a lesser extent, on genetic and environmental differences.

Little information is given on the pc digestibility of rye. The standardised pc digestibility of the essential AA of winter rye reported in Evonik (2016) was in accordance with the *in vitro* digestibility of the essential AA. However, Blok & Dekker (2017) reported a lower pc digestibility of all AA except Met in winter rye ($n = 2$) than predicted *in vitro* in the present study and Zuber *et al.* (2016b) found the apparent pc digestibility of the AA of rye to be very low in hens. This might be due to non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) and pentosans, which can negatively affect the nutrient absorption due to a viscous chyme (Almirall *et al.* 1995). However, the *in vitro* rate of disappearance would not necessarily be affected by these compounds (Moughan 1999). The rye sample, for which the pc CP and AA digestibility was known, could not be used in the calibration of the *in vitro* method (Chapter III). Due to the results of the present follow-up study, the assay cannot be recommended to be used with rye samples as yet. The *in vitro* digestibility coefficient can be used, nevertheless, to rank winter rye samples according to their possibly digestible CP and AA at the terminal ileum. The assay might be further adaptable when more rye samples with known *in vivo* pc digestibility of CP and AA are available.

The field bean sample used for the calibration of the *in vitro* method had surprisingly higher digestible CP and AA contents than the field pea sample (Chapter II). Conversely, as was expected (Masey O'Neill *et al.* 2012, Koivunen *et al.* 2016), the mean of the sample set showed that field beans contained a lower proportion of *in vitro* digestible CP and AA than field peas. This finding shows the potential of the *in vitro* assay for the prediction of the pc CP and AA digestibility of grain legumes. However, with the exception of Lys and Arg (and His in field peas), the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility coefficients of field beans and field peas were comparable to the pc digestibility coefficients of seven field bean and six field pea varieties studied by Masey O'Neill *et al.* (2012), although they observed somewhat less variation. Nevertheless, the variation of the digestibility coefficients of CP and Lys varied by up to 0.16 and 0.20, respectively, in the tables of Bryden *et al.* (2009). It could be suggested that the sample selection and the number of samples account for these differences. This makes a comparison with mean values difficult. When compared to mean values of the present study, positive and negative deviations from the mean *in vitro* AA digestibility coefficients can be observed for the pc digestibility of the AA of field beans and field peas reported by Evonik (2016). Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group (2003-2013) and INRA (2018) reported higher AA digestibility coefficients except for Met.

Differences of the CP and AA digestibility in swine and poultry between genotypes of cereals are known (Crépon *et al.* 2010, Rosenfelder *et al.* 2015, Spindler *et al.* 2016, Zuber *et al.* 2016, Zuber & Rodehutschord 2016). In the sample set of the present study, winter rye was the only cultivar, in which the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA differed between varieties. However, the sample set of winter rye included the largest number of different varieties, was most balanced and the samples were grown in only four different harvest sites. These characteristics of the sample set might be the cause for observing effects of all three tested factors, but a small effect of the harvest site. Masey O'Neill *et al.* (2012) observed that variety only affected the standardised pc digestibility of Leu in field peas and of CP in field beans. Koivunen *et al.* (2016) also found only occasional varietal differences.

This leads to the assumption that the selection and the number of varieties was the reason for the absence of an effect of the variety in most studied cultivars. The test varieties were of equal value in cultivation and feeding. Consequently, the differences were small. A test with more varieties with differing characteristics might show an effect of this factor. Furthermore, environmental conditions could be overlapping with differences between varieties. The cultivation environment and management can largely affect the nutrient composition of crops (Longstaff & McNab 1986, Zebarth *et al.* 1992, Metayer *et al.* 1993, Witten & Aulrich 2018). For example is it possible that soil or weather, as well as the occurrence of pests and diseases during growth, affect the grain composition of crops (Shewfelt 1990, Gutiérrez-Alamo *et al.* 2008). Thus, it is plausible that digestibility can also

be affected by environmental conditions. However, studies on this topic are scarce. Gehring *et al.* (2012) and Ravindran *et al.* (2014) reported that the source of corn or soybean meal, respectively, is an important influencing factor on the ileal nutrient digestibility. Simon (2004) studied the effects of two harvest sites and two varieties of field beans and blue lupins on the pc CP and AA digestibility and found wide variations (up to 0.07). However, no significant differences of the pc CP and AA digestibility between varieties or sites were observed in field beans while statistically significant differences between lupin varieties were detected. In other studies, the cultivation environment is not mentioned. For example, the wide variation of the pc CP digestibility as well as the effect of the variety on the pc CP digestibility of three wheat varieties (0.78-0.88, Kluth *et al.* 2009) might have been affected by environmental conditions. The environmental conditions, including pests and diseases, during plant maturation have an impact on the actual formation of plant ingredients. In the present study, the harvest site or area had an even stronger impact on the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility than the harvest year. Furthermore, the *in vitro* digestibility differed between harvest sites even when they were located in the same area of homogenous climatic conditions. This result indicates that characteristics of the site, including the cultivation management, not only affect the nutrient composition but also the CP and AA digestibility of cereals and grain legumes. Since varieties can adapt to production systems (Murphy *et al.* 2007), this effects might have been even stronger due to organic cultivation management.

Conclusions

This study confirms that the digestibility of CP and AA varies widely and is affected by the cultivar, the variety, and the environmental conditions. However, variations are largely depending on characteristics of the sample set. Since animal performance and health can be affected by these wide variations, valid predictions of the pc digestibility can be beneficial. The modified multi-enzyme assay to predict the pc CP and AA digestibility of feedstuffs for young broiler chicken led in many cases to plausible results. However, it is recommended to further improve the validity of the multi-enzyme assay for the prediction of the pc digestibility of CP and especially of AA using combined *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies.

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Chapter V

Effect of variety and environment on the amount of thiamine and riboflavin in cereals and grain legumes

Einfluss von Sorte und Umwelt auf die Gehalte an Thiamin und Riboflavin in
Getreide und Körnerleguminosen

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Abstract

Comprehensive information on B vitamin contents in cereals and grain legumes used for animal feeding is scarce. Thus, the objective of this study was to determine the contents of thiamine and riboflavin uniformly in a selection of cereals and grain legumes. Additionally, the evaluation of varietal and environmental effects on the amounts of both B vitamins was targeted. We analysed contents of thiamine and riboflavin with HPLC in 855 samples of different organically cultivated cereal and grain legume cultivars. Since the sample set was unbalanced, it had to be adapted for further statistical analyses. Data of 541 samples of ten cereal and grain legume cultivars was used to assess the influence of variety and environment with generalised linear models. Cereal grains contained 1.27 - 3.53 mg thiamine and 0.62 - 1.58 mg riboflavin/kg DM, which was less than expected from table values. Thiamine and riboflavin contents of grain legumes were mostly comparable with table values. Their thiamine contents ranged from 2.55 to 8.97 mg and their riboflavin contents from 1.00 to 3.84 mg/kg DM. Furthermore, variety, harvest site, and/or year affected B vitamin contents in all cultivars of our sample set. Due to wide variations of the contents of thiamine and riboflavin, we recommend to express values in food- and feed tables as ranges and to mention the number of underlying analysed samples. It must be considered that thiamine contents of cereal grains might be lower than expected from food- and feed tables.

Keywords

Organic farming, Vitamin B₁, Vitamin B₂

Zusammenfassung

Umfassende Informationen zu den B-Vitamingehalten von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen für die Fütterung landwirtschaftlicher Nutztiere sind rar. Daher war das Ziel dieser Untersuchung, die nativen Gehalte an Thiamin und Riboflavin in einer Auswahl von Getreide und Körnerleguminosen einheitlich zu bestimmen. Zusätzlich sollten Sorten- und Umwelteffekte auf die Thiamin- und Riboflavinegehalte untersucht werden. Zu diesem Zweck wurden 855 Proben von verschiedenen Getreide- und Körnerleguminosenarten mittels HPLC auf ihre Gehalte an Thiamin und Riboflavin untersucht. Da die Stichprobe stark unbalanciert war, musste sie für die weitere Auswertung angepasst werden. Ergebnisse von 541 Proben von 10 Getreide- und Körnerleguminosenkulturen wurden genutzt, um den Einfluss von Sorte und Umwelt mit generalisierten linearen Modellen zu untersuchen. Getreidekörner enthielten 1,27 – 3,53 mg Thiamin und 0,62 – 1,58 mg Riboflavin/kg T und unterschritten damit die Tabellenwerte. Die Gehalte beider B-Vitamine in den Körnerleguminosen waren vergleichbar mit Tabellenwerten und schwankten für Thiamin zwischen 2,55 und 8,97 mg und für Riboflavin zwischen 1,00 und 3,84 mg/kg T. Die B-Vitamingehalte aller Kulturarten wurden durch die Sorte und die Umwelt beeinflusst. Da sehr starke Schwankungen der Gehalte beobachtet werden konnten, wird empfohlen, Tabellenwerte unter der Angabe der zugrundeliegenden Probenzahl als Schwankungsbreiten und nicht als Mittelwerte anzugeben. Zudem muss in Betracht gezogen werden, dass die Thiamingehalte von Getreidekörnern geringer sein könnten, als erwartet.

Schlüsselworte

Ökologischer Landbau, Vitamin B₁, Vitamin B₂

Introduction

Providing water-soluble vitamins with cereal-based diets for monogastric animals is challenging. Thiamine and riboflavin are important coenzymes in energy metabolism (Depeint *et al.* 2006, Fattal-Valevski 2011). Thus, deficiencies lead to decreased enzyme activity and therefore to health issues with specific symptoms, including decreased performance and even death (Blair & Newsome 1985, Balk *et al.* 2016). Since the capacity of monogastric animals to store B vitamins in the organism and to microbially synthesise them in the digestive tract is low, B vitamins must be fed continuously to prevent deficiencies (McDowell 2000).

However, comprehensive information on contents of thiamine and riboflavin in cereals and grain legumes used for animal feeding is scarce. Since B vitamin analyses are relatively expensive, native amounts in the feed are usually not determined. Most values used even in food and feed tables (Sauvant *et al.* 2004, Souci *et al.* 2008, USDA 2016) originate from early studies. There have not been representative analyses of B-vitamins in cereal and legume grains for a long time. Furthermore, underlying laboratory methods are often unknown. Various methods used to determine B vitamins can lead to different results (Hollman *et al.* 1993). Besides differences arising from analytical methods, environmental and genetic factors might also affect the actual contents of B vitamins in plant material (Bognar & Kellermann 1993, Shewry *et al.* 2011). Moreover, storage conditions (Bayfield & O'Donnell 1945, Finglas 2003) or further processing (Gołda *et al.* 2004, Lebidzińska & Szefer 2006) can alter the amounts of B vitamins.

The objective of this study was to determine the contents of thiamine and riboflavin uniformly in a selection of cereals and grain legumes. We also wanted to evaluate varietal and environmental (harvest year and harvest site) effects on the contents of B vitamins in some cereals and grain legumes.

Materials and Methods

Sample set

Organically managed variety field trials of cereals and grain legumes are undertaken throughout Germany by independent institutions. Those institutions collected a selection of 855 available harvest samples of cereals and grain legumes from trials in the years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Laboratory analyses

Immediately after harvesting samples were sent to the laboratory of the Institute of Organic Farming. Impure samples were cleaned using an air separator. We did not further process them before they were dried at 40°C, ground to pass a 0.5 mm sieve, and stored in the dark

at 8°C. Contents of thiamine and riboflavin were analysed using high-performance liquid chromatography methods (HPLC) with fluorescence detection (FLD) according to EN14122 (2014) and EN14152 (2014). Oxidation of thiamine to thiochrome was necessary for FLD. We used the pre-column derivatisation for thiamine.

An Agilent 1260 Infinity HPLC system equipped with an FLD (Waldbronn, Germany) was used for analytical HPLC separations. Reversed-phase chromatography was performed using a SecurityGuard™ Standard Gemini-NX C18 pre-column (Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany) and a Kinetex 5.0 µm C18 column (150 x 4.6 mm, Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany). A volume of 20 µl was injected.

Thiochrome separation was performed at a column temperature of 25°C and a flow rate of 0.8 ml/min. The mobile phase consisted of methanol and 0.5 M sodium acetate (30/70, v/v, isocratic conditions, pH 5.2). The FLD operated at an excitation wavelength of 366 nm and an emission wavelength of 435 nm. The results were expressed as the total thiamine using the factor 0.787 for conversion from thiamine hydrochloride to thiamine.

Riboflavin was analysed at a flow rate of 1 ml/min at 35°C. The mobile phase consisted of a phosphate buffer (5 mM potassium dihydrogen phosphate, 10 mM sodium heptanesulfonate, 36 mM trimethylamine, pH 3.0) and 60% methanol. We ran the system with a binary gradient as shown in Table V 1. The FLD operated at an excitation wavelength of 468 nm and an emission wavelength of 520 nm.

Table V 1: Chromatographic gradient conditions for the analysis of riboflavin

Time (min)	Eluent A ¹	Eluent B ²
0	95	5
3	95	5
12	53	47
12.1	2	98
17	2	98
17.1	95	5
25	95	5

¹10 mM sodium heptanesulfonate; 5 mM potassium dihydrogenphosphate; 36 mM triethylamine pH 3.0; ²60% methanol

Statistics

All statistical analyses were conducted using R 3.4.0 (R Core Team 2017). For each cultivar, mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum (range) were determined using the complete dataset (n total in Table V 2). The relationships between B vitamins were tested using Pearson correlation analyses (package PerformanceAnalytics) (Peterson & Carl 2014).

We used Wilcoxon rank sum tests to compare B vitamin contents in cereals with contents in grain legumes. Residuals of a combined data set containing all grain legume samples for a comparison between cultivars were not normally distributed. Thus, Wilcoxon rank sum tests were also used to compare the B vitamin contents of grain legume cultivars.

Generalised linear models (glm) were used to identify the effects of cultivar on thiamine and riboflavin contents in cereals.

An uneven availability of samples resulted in an unbalanced sample set for each cultivar. For our analysis, we used variety, site, and harvest year as factors. The following adjustments of the dataset were necessary to enable further analyses regarding the influence of variety, year, and site on the contents of B vitamins:

- When cultivars were harvested on many different sites with few repetitions, the sites were aggregated into areas with homogenous climatic conditions in Germany according to JKI (2018). This aggregation was used for winter triticale, winter wheat, spring barley, spring wheat, and spring field bean.
- Factor level manifestations were not taken into consideration when less than four repetitions were present.
- The repetitions of a factor (variety, year, and site/area) had to include a minimum of two manifestations of the other two factors.

Steps two and three reduced our sample set to a subset containing the factors variety, year, and harvest site or area (Table V 2). In contrast to all other cultivars, for winter barley only variety and site were used as factors, because three varieties were available from five different trials (harvest site*year) in a balanced dataset.

Glm were implemented on the adjusted data sets (n subset) to assess influences of the main factors variety, year, and site or area. Interactions could not be tested due to the unbalanced data and the absence of field replicates. The package glmulti (Calcagno 2013) was used to evaluate the best fitting models with only main factors by Akaike's Information Criterion with correction for sample size (AICc). Residuals of glm were checked for normal distribution with Shapiro-Wilk-Tests. When necessary, a model transformation was added for a better fit. Furthermore, influential data points were viewed to find outliers. To assess the stability of a model, it was tested whether a deletion of influential data points in the model effectively altered the outcome of the following analyses of variance.

Table V 2: Total number of samples (n total), number of samples considered for further statistical analyses (n subset), and number of factor manifestations for each cultivar

	n total	n subset	varieties	years	sites	areas
Cereals						
Winter wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	106	70	3	3		5
Spring wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	45	25	4	3		3
Winter rye (<i>Secale cereale</i> L.)	106	81	5	3	7	
Winter triticale (<i>Triticosecale</i>)	107	92	7	3		5
Spring triticale (<i>Triticosecale</i>)	3	-				
Winter barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	30	15	3	2	5	
Spring barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	66	47	4	3		4
Oats (<i>Avena sativa</i> L.)	105	80	7	3	6	
Naked barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L., var nudum)	1	-				
Naked oats (<i>Avena sativa</i> L., var nuda)	1	-				
Grain legumes						
Spring field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	87	41	6	3	4	
Spring field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	73/82*	57/59*	6	2		3
Blue lupin (<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.)	110	31	5	3	3	
Yellow lupin (<i>Lupinus luteus</i> L.)	4	-				
Winter field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	1	-				
Winter field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	1	-				
Total	846/855*	539/541*				

*thiamine/riboflavin

Multiple comparisons were calculated using multcomp package (Hothorn *et al.* 2008) with least square means (lsmeans; Lenth 2016) and Bonferroni-Holm adjustment. The package sandwich (Zeileis 2004) was included for a heteroscedasticity and autocorrelation consistent estimation of covariance with robust standard errors (vcovHAC). We also calculated the maximum differences in thiamine and riboflavin contents between the factor manifestations for each cultivar.

Results

Vitamin contents in cereals and grain legumes

Grain legumes exceeded cereal grains significantly regarding thiamine and riboflavin contents. In cereal grains, winter rye and winter wheat had the lowest amounts of thiamine and riboflavin, respectively (Table V 3).

Oats contained high amounts of both B vitamins, but rye had the highest content of riboflavin. In grain legumes, the thiamine content was significantly higher in field peas than in field beans and blue lupins. The riboflavin content was significantly higher in field beans than in blue lupins and field peas. Ranges of B vitamin contents were wide within most of the cultivars and especially within grain legume cultivars. Contents of thiamine and riboflavin in single samples of naked barley, winter field peas, winter field beans, and yellow lupins were in the same range as the ones of barley, spring field peas, spring field beans, and blue lupins, while naked oats had high contents of both B vitamins (Table A V 1 in the appendix).

The amount of thiamine was positively correlated with the amount of riboflavin in blue lupins ($R^2=0.48$, $n=110$, $p=1.051e^{-07}$) and winter barley ($R^2=0.44$, $n=30$, $p=0.016$).

Table V 3: Contents of thiamine and riboflavin in different cereal and legume grains [mg/kg DM]

		n	Thiamine	Riboflavin
Cereals				
Winter wheat	Mean ± SD	106	2.31 ± 0.27 ^c	0.74 ± 0.06 ^a
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Range		1.61 - 2.96	0.62 - 0.89
Spring wheat	Mean ± SD	45	2.22 ± 0.27 ^{bc}	0.85 ± 0.12 ^b
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Range		1.58 - 2.80	0.69 - 1.19
Winter rye	Mean ± SD	106	1.76 ± 0.3 ^a	1.06 ± 0.10 ^d
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.	Range		1.16 - 2.35	0.84 - 1.28
Winter triticale	Mean ± SD	107	1.83 ± 0.24 ^a	0.91 ± 0.11 ^{bc}
<i>Triticosecale</i>	Range		1.27 - 2.38	0.65 - 1.17
Winter barley	Mean ± SD	30	2.21 ± 0.30 ^{bc}	0.80 ± 0.11 ^{abc}
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Range		1.76 - 3.01	0.65 - 1.06
Spring barley	Mean ± SD	66	2.05 ± 0.31 ^{ab}	0.94 ± 0.10 ^c
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Range		1.27 - 2.64	0.79 - 1.22
Oats	Mean ± SD	105	2.71 ± 0.39 ^d	1.00 ± 0.15 ^{cd}
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.	Range		1.87 - 3.53	0.71 - 1.54
Grain legumes				
Spring field pea	Mean ± SD	87	5.82 ± 1.31 ^b	1.73 ± 0.22 ^a
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	Range		2.66 - 9.56	1.00 - 2.28
Spring field bean	Mean ± SD	73/82*	4.97 ± 1.19 ^a	2.75 ± 0.36 ^c
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.	Range		2.55 - 7.37	2.13 - 3.84
Blue lupin	Mean ± SD	110	4.91 ± 1.00 ^a	2.39 ± 0.25 ^b
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.	Range		2.81 - 8.97	1.94 - 3.05

*thiamine/riboflavin; superscripts mark significant differences in columns ($P<0.05$)

Effect of variety, harvest site, and harvest year

Variety statistically affected B vitamin contents in cereals and grain legumes with some exceptions (Table V 4). In barley, field peas, and blue lupins the thiamine content did not differ between the observed varieties. The content of riboflavin was not affected by variety in winter barley, oats, and blue lupins. The environmental conditions, which were represented by harvest site/area and year, had an effect on all observed cultivars. Further detailed information can be found in the supplements (Tables A V 2 – 12 in the Appendix).

Table V 4: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the amounts of thiamine and riboflavin

	n	df°	Thiamine		Riboflavin		
			variety	year	variety	year	
Cereals							
Winter wheat <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	70	2;2;4	25.02 <i>1.163e-08</i>	5.02 <i>0.0096</i>	3.71 <i>0.0091</i>	4.50 <i>0.0148</i>	12.29 <i>2.963e-05</i>
Spring wheat <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	25	3;2;2	3.58 <i>0.0332</i>	3.91 <i>0.0378</i>		8.70 <i>0.0008</i>	9.18 <i>0.0016</i>
Winter rye <i>Secale cereale</i> L.	81	4;2;6	13.77 <i>2.830e-08</i>	9.68 <i>0.0002</i>	10.21 <i>4.954e-08</i>	3.67 <i>0.0092</i>	65.74 <i><2.2e-16</i>
Winter triticales <i>Triticosecale</i>	92	5;2;4	3.66 <i>0.0049</i>		9.21 <i>3.382e-06</i>	3.70 <i>0.0046</i>	11.72 <i>3.442e-05</i>
Winter barley <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	15	2;4			20.81 <i>7.757e-05</i>		17.96 <i>0.0002</i>
Spring barley <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	47	3;2;3		17.71 <i>2.28e-06</i>		3.01 <i>0.0420</i>	11.06 <i>0.0002</i>
Oats <i>Avena sativa</i> L.	80	6;2;5	3.17 <i>0.0085</i>	16.61 <i>1.436e-06</i>	8.23 <i>4.346e-06</i>		9.75 <i>0.0002</i>
Grain legumes							
Spring field pea <i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	41	5;2;3		11.73 <i>0.0001</i>	10.78 <i>3.666e-05</i>	4.04 <i>0.0060</i>	105.45 <i>2.686e-14</i>
Spring field bean <i>Vicia faba</i> L.	57/59*	5;1;2	11.31 <i>3.070e-07</i>	256.60 <i><2.2e-16</i>	12.50 <i>4.268e-05</i>	48.99 <i><2.2e-16</i>	13.75 <i>1.677e-05</i>
Blue lupin <i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.	31	4;2;2			24.16 <i>8.001e-07</i>		3.04 <i>0.0651</i>

*thiamine/riboflavin; ° degrees of freedom; variety; year; site/area

Cereal grains

The thiamine content differed between varieties of winter wheat, spring wheat, winter rye, and oats, respectively, by about 0.4 mg/kg DM (Figure V 1). Differences of about 0.2 mg thiamine/kg DM were observed between winter triticale varieties. Although statistically significant, the differences between the amounts of riboflavin in varieties of winter wheat, winter rye, winter triticale, and spring barley were rather low (0.04 – 0.12 mg/kg DM). In the spring wheat variety Granny, the riboflavin contents were about 0.2 mg/kg DM higher than in the other observed varieties.

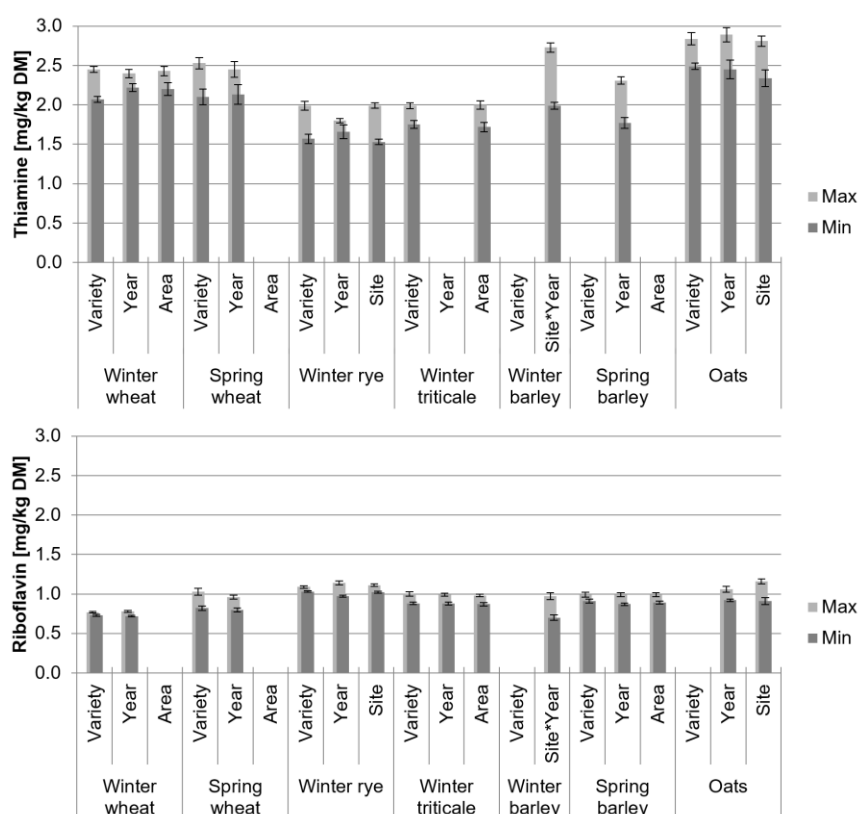


Figure V 1: Content of thiamine and riboflavin in cereal grains; Bars illustrate factor manifestations of variety, year, and harvest site or area with the minimum and maximum contents. See supplements for more detailed information

The amount of thiamine in winter triticale and winter barley did not differ between the years. However, there were maximum differences between the years of 0.2 mg thiamine/kg DM in winter wheat, spring wheat, and winter rye, of 0.4 mg/kg DM in oats and of 0.5 mg/kg DM in spring barley. The riboflavin content of the winter variants was lowest in 2012, while the spring variants had the lowest riboflavin contents in 2013. The observed differences varied between 0.06 and 0.17 mg/kg DM.

While thiamine contents of spring wheat and spring barley were not affected by the harvest area, they differed by a maximum of 0.2 and 0.3 mg/kg DM in winter wheat and winter triticale, respectively. We found wider variations of the thiamine content of winter rye and oats when harvest sites were compared. There was no impact of the harvest area on

riboflavin contents of wheat. In winter triticale and spring barley as well as in winter rye was a difference of 0.1 mg riboflavin/kg DM between harvest areas as well as harvest sites.

Grain legumes

We found wider variations of thiamine in grain legumes than in cereal grains (Figure V 2).

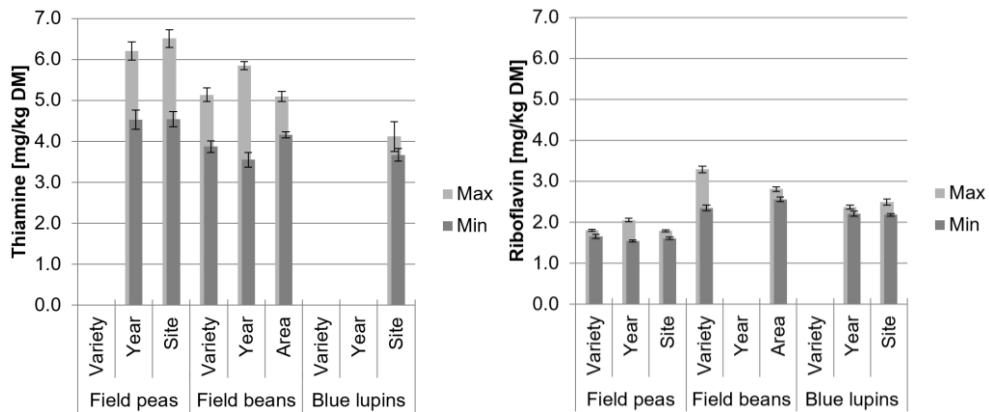


Figure V 2: Content of thiamine and riboflavin in grain legumes; Bars illustrate factor manifestations of variety, year, and harvest site or area with the minimum and maximum contents. See supplements for more detailed information

Our field peas for this evaluation were all semi-leafless, white-flowering varieties with smooth yellow seeds. Their thiamine content did not differ between varieties. However, there were differences of riboflavin content of up to 0.1 mg/kg DM between varieties. While variety affected the contents of both B vitamins strongly in field beans, it had no effect in blue lupins. With 3.3 mg/kg DM, high amounts of riboflavin were found in the field bean variety Alexia, while Divine contained only 2.4 mg riboflavin/kg DM.

In field peas, there were differences between the years of up to 1.7 and 0.5 mg thiamine and riboflavin per kg DM, respectively. In our study, the thiamine content of field beans was predominantly affected by harvest year. Years differed by up to 2.3 mg thiamine /kg DM. In blue lupins year only affected the riboflavin content. However, when one influential measure was removed from the model for blue lupins, the factor year became nonsignificant.

While the thiamine content of field peas and field beans differed by up to 2.0 and 0.9 mg/kg DM, respectively, between harvest sites, the riboflavin content differed by less than 0.2 mg/kg DM. Blue lupins were primarily affected by harvest site.

Discussion

Due to the lack of knowledge about the origins of samples used for obtaining table values of B vitamins as well as the utilised preparation procedures and analysis methods, comparisons of our results with table values can be deceptive. Differences between analysed B vitamin contents could arise due to many factors, such as varietal effects or environmental influences (Shewry *et al.* 2011) as well as varying methods used for analysis

(Hollman *et al.* 1993). The most common analysing methods for B vitamins are microbiological assays and HPLC methods. Except for winter rye, our results showed slightly lower levels of thiamine in cereal grains than the findings of Buchholz *et al.* (2012), who themselves found comparably low thiamine contents in cereals. Sauvant *et al.* (2004) collected table values for feedstuffs and reported higher contents of both B vitamins in cereals. However, thiamine contents of the three grain legumes and riboflavin contents of field peas and field beans matched our results (Table 3). In the food tables of the USDA (2016), the amounts of both B vitamins in cereal grains were mostly higher than our findings. Only the thiamine contents of grain legumes as well as the riboflavin contents of field beans and oats equalled our results. Although table values of Sauvant *et al.* (2004) for blue lupins were higher, our riboflavin content was in accordance with the results of Olkowski (2008), who found 2.24 mg/kg DM. Piironen *et al.* (2009) reviewed even wider variations of B vitamins in wheat grains. Overall, we found rather low mean amounts of both B vitamins in cereal grains and grain legumes. However, we expressed our thiamine results as thiamine. We do not know if other authors stated their results as thiamine chloride hydrochloride, as thiamine chloride (thiamine chloride hydrochloride * 0.892), or also as thiamine (thiamine chloride hydrochloride * 0.787). Thus, it is possible that our results are underestimated compared to the reviewed literature.

The variety and environmental conditions both affected B vitamin contents in cereals and grain legumes (Table 4). Differences were often rather small between factor manifestations and therefore lacked practical significance. However, results are dependent on the selected varieties and environments. Moreover, interactions of the factors are highly possible. Unfortunately, we were not able to test interactions within our data.

We could confirm results of O'Donnell (1943) as well as Nordgren & Andrews (1941), who found that variety and environment affect thiamine content in wheat. Similarly to Conner & Straub (1941), we observed that environment had a smaller effect on the riboflavin content in wheat than on its thiamine content. Although absolute measures differed greatly, our findings regarding the influence of variety and environment on wheat grains are also in accordance with Shewry *et al.* (2011). They found a larger genotypic variance of thiamine than riboflavin in wheat lines.

An effect of the harvest year on B vitamin contents in wheat and rye has previously been reported by Bognar & Kellermann (1993). We could confirm this effect in our sample set in the years 2011-2013. Since high contents of thiamine and riboflavin in rye are located in the germ (Ihde & Schuette 1941), varietal variations of grain size might have affected the amounts of B vitamins. We found that rye variety Helltop, which has a very high corn mass, had a very high thiamine content, while its riboflavin content was similar to other varieties.

In contrast to Michela & Lorenz (1976), we found the B vitamin contents of winter triticale to be only roughly comparable to wheat and rye. However, the analysed results showed a considerably wide variation. Differences in B vitamin contents between sites in the same area as we found it in the case of oats can depend on local influences like cultivation management or weather. Since thiamine contents are known to decrease with an increasing degree of ripeness (Buchholz *et al.* 2012), harvest time can be one of the influencing factors. Moreover, mineral deficiencies are known to decrease riboflavin content in the leaves and tops of immature oat plants (Watson & Noggle 1947). Thus, it can be suspected that mineral supply also affects the amount of riboflavin in oats and maybe even in other cereal grains.

Investigations of varietal differences of B vitamin contents in legumes are scarce. We did not find relevant information on field beans, field peas, and blue lupins. However, Burkholder & McVeigh (1945) found varietal differences in soybeans and mung beans. In our sample set, we also found that the variety specifically influences the thiamine contents in field beans. Very high differences between the thiamine contents of field bean varieties lead to the assumption that breeding could alter them.

In blue lupins, growth type (determinate vs. indeterminate) did not have an influence on B vitamin contents. Variations of thiamine and riboflavin contents between the harvest sites might be primarily due to the differences in soil and weather.

Conclusions

We determined the contents of thiamine and riboflavin uniformly in a selection of cereals and grain legumes. Compared with food- and feed tables, we found rather low thiamine and riboflavin contents especially in cereal grains. It might be of interest to assess if thiamine contents in cereal grains are generally lower than would be expected. We observed an influence of variety, harvest year, and cultivation site on thiamine and riboflavin in cereals and grain legumes. Due to wide variations, it is difficult to estimate the amounts of both B vitamins in samples of cereals and grain legumes. Thus, the use of mean values can be deceptive. It is recommended to express table values as ranges under the mention of the number of underlying samples and to make further analyses. Our data can be used to update existing food- and feed tables.

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Chapter VI

Exemplary calculations of native thiamine (vitamin B₁) and riboflavin (vitamin B₂) contents in common cereal-based diets for monogastric animals

Beispielkalkulationen von nativen Gehalten an Thiamin (Vitamin B₁) und Riboflavin (Vitamin B₂) in gewöhnlichen getreidebasierten Rationen für monogastrische Nutztiere

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Abstract

B vitamins, such as thiamine and riboflavin, are often supplemented in diets for farm animals to prevent deficiencies. However, information on the content of these two B vitamins in organic feedstuffs is scarce. Recently, up-to-date information was published by our group. The objective of this work was to use present data to determine the native contents of thiamine and riboflavin in diets used for monogastric animal feeding in organic farming.

We used the results of our recent study on the native thiamine and riboflavin contents of organic wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), rye (*Secale cereale* L.), triticale (*Triticosecale*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), oats (*Avena sativa* L.), field peas (*Pisum sativum* L.), field beans (*Vicia faba* L.), and blue lupins (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) from various variety field trials, which were conducted throughout Germany over three years, to calculate the minimum and maximum native amounts of thiamine and riboflavin in exemplary practical diets for swine and poultry.

We found that exemplary common cereal-based diets in organic farming exceeded the thiamine recommendations for swine and poultry. However, riboflavin was deficient in most exemplary diets. To increase native riboflavin contents in the diet (e. g., for 100% organic diets), feedstuffs other than cereals and home-grown grain legumes are needed in monogastric animal feeding. In organic farming, roughage plays an important role. The inclusion of grass-clover silage has the potential to increase the native riboflavin contents in the diet. Evaluation of the use of grassland-derived or other products as suppliers of B vitamins, especially for monogastric animal feeding in organic farming, seems promising to improve riboflavin supply.

Keywords

grain legumes, cereals, swine, poultry

Zusammenfassung

B-Vitamine, wie Thiamin und Riboflavin, werden in Rationen für Nutztiere häufig zugesetzt, um Mangelsituationen zu verhindern. Die Mengen, in denen diese B-Vitamine in ökologisch erzeugten Futtermitteln enthalten sind, sind jedoch nicht hinreichend bekannt. Daher war das Ziel dieser Studie, die nativen Gehalte an Thiamin und Riboflavin in Rationen für Monogastrier im Ökologischen Landbau zu ermitteln.

Um die minimalen und maximalen nativen Gehalte an Thiamin und Riboflavin in praktischen Beispielrationen für Schweine und Geflügel zu berechnen, wurden Ergebnisse aus einer Untersuchung zu den nativen Gehalten an Thiamin und Riboflavin in Winterweizen (*Triticum aestivum* L.), Winterroggen (*Secale cereale* L.), Wintertriticale (*Triticosecale*), Wintergerste (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), Hafer (*Avena sativa* L.), Futtererbsen (*Pisum sativum* L.), Ackerbohnen (*Vicia faba* L.) und blauen Lupinen (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) aus ökologischen Sortenversuchen, die in drei Jahren an verschiedenen Standorten in Deutschland durchgeführt wurden, genutzt.

Getreidebasierte Beispielrationen, die in der Praxis im Ökologischen Landbau eingesetzt werden können, hatten sehr hohe native Thiamingehalte, die die aktuellen Empfehlungen für Schweine und Geflügel überschreiten. Jedoch war Riboflavin in den meisten Beispielrationen im Mangel. Um die nativen Riboflavingehalte zu erhöhen (zum Beispiel für eine 100%-Biofütterung), müssen alternative Futtermittel genutzt werden. Im Ökologischen Landbau spielen Grün- und Raufutter eine wichtige Rolle. Der Einsatz von Kleegrassilage hat das Potential, die nativen Riboflavingehalte in der Ration zu erhöhen. Es wird eine Evaluation von Futtermitteln vom Grünland oder aus Ackerfutterbau sowie von anderen Produkten, die Riboflavin liefern können, empfohlen.

Schlüsselworte

Vitamin B₁, Vitamin B₂, Körnerleguminosen, Getreide, Schweine, Geflügel

Introduction

Information on native amounts of thiamine and riboflavin in single feedstuffs and in mixed feed is scarce. New data was provided recently by Witten & Aulrich (2018). Native thiamine and riboflavin contents were analysed in more than 800 samples of organically cultivated cereals and grain legumes. Consequently, the supply situation for monogastric animals in organic farming should be evaluated on the basis of this new data. It is known that the content of B vitamins in plant feedstuffs can vary depending on genetic and environmental factors (Shewry *et al.* 2011, Witten & Aulrich 2018) and can change during storage (Finglas 2003) and processing (Gołda *et al.* 2004, Lebidzińska & Szefer 2006). Cereal-based diets are suspected to contain low amounts of riboflavin but sufficient amounts of thiamine (GfE 2006, Jeroch *et al.* 2008). Nevertheless, since B vitamins are important coenzymes (Depeint *et al.* 2006, Fattal-Valevski 2011) and their deficiencies can cause severe health and performance problems (Blair & Newsome 1985). Thus, even in organic farming, both B vitamins are regularly supplemented in mixed feed in amounts that cover animal requirements with an additional safety margin. Knowledge of the amounts of native thiamine and riboflavin in organic diets can help to assess the additional need for these vitamins. This need can be addressed in diet formulation and covered using feedstuffs with high amounts of thiamine and/or riboflavin or supplements.

B vitamins for supplements can be produced using chemical synthesis (McDowell 2000, Albers *et al.* 2002) or fermentation (Burgess *et al.* 2009, Capozzi *et al.* 2012). While thiamine is generally chemically synthesised (Revuelta *et al.* 2016), the use of fermentation in producing riboflavin has replaced the use of chemical synthesis in the last decades (Schwechheimer *et al.* 2016, Revuelta *et al.* 2017). Microorganisms used for the fermentation of vitamins are often genetically modified organisms (GMOs). However, GMOs, as well as their products, are banned in organic farming (EC 2007, 2008). Thus, feedstuffs must provide sufficient amounts of B vitamins without GMO-based supplements. Pasture and roughage are encouraged to be used in organic farming and are assumed to have the potential to enhance the supply of B vitamins. Depending on temperature, age, and performance, diets for pigs and poultry can contain 6-20% of grassland-derived silage (Edwards 2003, Crawley 2015b, a). Thus, the potential of grassland-derived feedstuffs as GMO-free suppliers of B vitamins for monogastric animals is of interest, especially in organic farming.

The objective of this study was to determine how variations of thiamine and riboflavin contents in cereals and grain legumes affect the total thiamine and riboflavin content in diets for monogastric animals. We also aimed to determine the gap between the recommended and the actual native supply of thiamine and riboflavin for monogastric animals in organic

farming as well as the potential of grass-clover silage as a supplier of riboflavin. Among other things, this knowledge is necessary to support 100% organic feeding.

Materials and Methods

Data on thiamine and riboflavin contents in cereals and grain legumes from an earlier study (Witten & Aulrich 2018) were used to calculate native thiamine and riboflavin contents in organic diets for monogastric animals. Additionally, three samples of organically produced grass-red clover silage, which was harvested in May 2016 (first cut) and is used for swine feeding on our experimental farm in northern Germany, were additionally taken out of round bales, freeze-dried and analysed for their amounts of riboflavin.

Exemplary cereal-based organic diets for swine and poultry in Germany were selected from articles and reports. For further evaluation, we chose diets for sows, growing pigs, and fattening pigs (Table VI 1), as well as for poultry of different use (Table VI 2), which contained

- a minimum proportion of 70% (with exceptions for growing pigs and broiler chicken) of cereals and grain legumes for which samples had been analysed (Witten and Aulrich 2018; winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), winter rye (*Secale cereale* L.), winter triticale (*Triticosecale*), winter barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), oats (*Avena sativa* L.), field peas (*Pisum sativum* L.), field beans (*Vicia faba* L.), and blue lupins (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) from various variety field trials, which were conducted throughout Germany over three years), and
- additional feedstuffs, for which thiamine and riboflavin contents were available in the feed composition tables of Sauvant *et al.* (2004).

Subsequently, the minimum and maximum of our analysis results for thiamine and riboflavin contents were used to calculate the minimum and maximum amounts of thiamine and riboflavin originating from cereals and grain legumes in the diets. The amounts of thiamine and riboflavin originating from other feedstuffs were estimated using the table values published by Sauvant *et al.* (2004). The sum of both values equals the total content of thiamine and riboflavin, respectively, in the diets.

Furthermore, we tested the effect of an inclusion of 10% grass-red clover silage in the dry matter (DM) of each diet on the riboflavin content. All other feedstuffs were reduced simultaneously.

Table VI 1: Exemplary diets for swine in organic farming [g/kg DM]

Diet	Gestation					Lactation			Growing/Rearing						Pre-fattening						Fattening												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
Triticale					360	250	400	300				275	300						305	250	200	210	60	180									
Rye																																	
Wheat				320		200	400			330	330	365		245	350	150	255	240	205														
Barley	720	400	385	180	160	165	160	255		155	180	250	200	270	240	225	225	300	445	300	420	425	205	265									
Oats			370	385									100																				
Blue lupins																																	
Field peas				100	115	50	150	150	150	200	150	150	200	200	100	100	200	250	100	200	250	200	150	100	100								
Field beans	200	150	100	190	200	200	100	150	100						100	100																	
Sum	920	920	970	805	770	800	815	860	855	635	660	615	775	870	685	775	775	805	885	905	875	875	705	725	980	925	710						
Wheat bran			50	130.5	140																												
Rapeseed meal				25	60				50					50																			
Soybean meal									60	270	150	260	143	48																			
Milk powder (s)										50	150	100		70																			
Milk powder (w)																																	
Whey powder						100																											
Green meal						50																											
Soybeans																																	
Corn																																	
B-vitamin-free	30	30	30	39.5	30	50	35	40	35	45	40	25	32	32	45	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	20	25	20							
Reference	a	a	a	a	b	c	a	a	a	c	a	a	a	d	d	e	a	a	a	a	c	a	a	a	a	c	c	c					

^aLindermayer *et al.* (2011); ^bStalljohann & Patzelt (2007); ^cWitten *et al.* (2014); ^dBaldinger *et al.* (2017); ^eStalljohann (2006); B-vitamin-free = oil and minerals; Cereals & Legumes = cereals and grain legumes (own results available); Other = feedstuffs other than cereals and grain legumes (no own results); (s) = skimmed; (w) = whole

Table VI 2: Exemplary diets for poultry in organic farming [g/kg DM]

Diet	Starter	Laying Hens					Broiler	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cereals & Legumes	Triticale			300	200	300	300	
	Rye				200		200	
	Wheat	460	350	350				350 200
	Barley		50			100		100 200
	Oats		100			200		100 103
	Blue lupin				200		200	
	Field peas	200	150	200		150		70 120
	Field beans	80	60		50			150
	Grass-clover-silage			50	50	50	50	
	Sum	740	710	900	700	800	750	770 623
Others	Corn				190	100	180	180
	Linseed				10			
	Soybean meal			100		100	50	100
	Sunflower meal							30
	Linseed meal						20	30
	Maize gluten	170	120					100
	Brewer's yeast	20	20					30
	Green meal		30					50
	Maize gluten feed				100			
	B vitamin-free	70	120					50 37
Reference	a	a	b	b	b	b	a c	

^aDeerberg (2000); ^bSteinhöfel & Lippmann (2005); ^cBellof *et al.* (2005); B vitamin-free = oil and minerals; Cereals & Legumes = cereals and legumes (own results available); Other = feedstuffs other than cereals and grain legumes (no own results)

We compared thiamine and riboflavin recommendations (NRC 1994, GfE 1999, GfE 2006, NRC 2012) with thiamine and riboflavin contents in all exemplary diets for swine and poultry.

Results

The contents of both B vitamins varied widely in our sample set (Table VI 3).

Table VI 3: Contents of thiamine and riboflavin in different cereals and legumes [mg/kg DM]

	n	Thiamine	Riboflavin
Cereals			
Winter wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	106	1.61 - 2.96	0.62 - 0.89
Winter rye (<i>Secale cereale</i> L.)	106	1.16 - 2.35	0.84 - 1.28
Winter triticale (<i>Triticosecale</i>)	107	1.27 - 2.38	0.65 - 1.17
Winter barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	30	1.76 - 3.01	0.65 - 1.06
Oats (<i>Avena sativa</i> L.)	105	1.87 - 3.53	0.71 - 1.54
Legumes			
Spring field pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.)	87	2.66 - 9.56	1.00 - 2.28
Spring field bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	73/82*	2.55 - 7.37	2.13 - 3.84
Blue lupin (<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.)	110	2.81 - 8.97	1.94 - 3.05
Grass-red clover silage	3		5.37 - 7.61

*thiamine/riboflavin; adapted from Witten & Aulrich (2018)

Diets for swine

The total thiamine content in all exemplary diets for swine exceeded the recommendations of GfE (2006) and NRC (2012). The amount of thiamine originating from cereals and grain legumes without considering thiamine in additional feedstuffs met the NRC (2012) recommendations in all diets for sows (Table VI 4) and fattening pigs (Table VI 5), as well as in five out of six diets for growing pigs (Table VI 4) weighing more than 5 kg and even GfE (2006) recommendations could be met.

The riboflavin recommendations for sows and fattening pigs of GfE (2006) and NRC (2012) are comparable. However, for growing pigs weighing more than 10 kg, NRC (2012) recommends lower amounts of riboflavin, which decrease with increasing age/weight. Due to high required amounts, no diet for gestating and lactating sows could meet the official recommendations for riboflavin (GfE 2006, NRC 2012). However, in diets 6 and 7 for lactating sows, the inclusion of 100 g milk powder and either 50 g green meal or soybeans per kg DM led to considerably higher riboflavin contents than in the other diets for sows. Diets 10, 12, 13, and 14 for growing pigs, diets 16, 17, and 19 for pre-fattening pigs, and diets 23, 25, and 26 for fattening pigs, which only contained oilseed meals as additional feedstuffs, were also not able to cover the recommendations. While 50 g green meal and 20 g soybeans contained just enough riboflavin to possibly lead to sufficient amounts in diets 22 and 27 for fattening pigs, diets 11 and 15 for growing pigs, diet 18 for pre-fattening pigs, and diets 20, 21, and 24 for fattening pigs covered the official recommendations of both GfE (2006) and NRC (2012). Those diets contained milk products, green meal, and/or soybeans. Only diet 14 for growing pigs could not meet the minimum recommendation of NRC (2012).

A replacement of a part of the diet with grass-clover silage increased its riboflavin supply. When 10% grass-clover silage were included, diets 6 and 7 for lactating sows, diet 12 for growing pigs weighing more than 10 kg, diet 16 and 17 for pre-fattening pigs, as well as diets 23 and 25 for fattening pigs could cover the riboflavin recommendations of GfE (2006), when single feedstuffs with high native riboflavin contents were used.

Table VI 4: Recommended and actual contents of B vitamins in exemplary diets for sows in organic farming [mg/kg DM]

	Gestation			Lactation			Growing/Rearing								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Thiamine															
GfE (2006)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
NRC (2012)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1	1.7 ¹ /1.1
C&GL	1.4-3.4	1.6-3.5	1.7-4.1	1.5-3.9	1.3-5.6	1.5-5.7	1.4-6.2	1.6-4.1	1.5-6.0	1.1-2.8	1.2-2.9	0.9-1.7	1.4-5.8	1.5-6.1	1.2-3.1
Other	0.3	0.5	0.0	1.3	1.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.4	1.0
Total	1.7-3.7	2.1-4.0	1.7-4.1	2.8-5.2	2.8-7.1	2.1-6.3	2.0-6.8	2.1-4.6	1.9-6.4	2.3-4.0	2.4-4.1	2.2-3.0	2.1-6.5	1.9-6.5	2.2-4.1
Riboflavin															
GfE (2006)	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4 ² /3.7	4.4 ² /3.7	4.4 ² /3.7	4.4 ² /3.7	4.4 ² /3.7	4.4 ² /3.7
NRC (2012)	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.3-4.4 [*]	3.3-4.4 [*]	3.3-4.4 [*]	3.3-4.4 [*]	3.3-4.4 [*]	3.3-4.4 [*]
C&GL	1.0-1.6	0.9-1.6	0.9-1.7	0.9-1.5	0.9-1.4	0.9-1.5	0.8-1.3	0.8-1.5	0.9-1.4	0.5-0.8	0.5-0.9	0.4-0.6	0.8-1.3	0.9-1.5	0.7-1.1
Other	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.9	2.3	2.7	1.6	0.4	2.0	3.7	3.0	1.9	0.4	3.7
Total	2.0-2.6	1.1-1.8	0.9-1.7	1.6-2.2	1.8-2.3	3.2-3.8	3.5-4.0	2.4-3.1	1.3-1.9	2.5-2.8	4.2-4.6	3.4-3.6	2.7-3.2	1.3-1.9	4.4-4.8
+10%GCS	2.3-3.1	1.5-2.4	1.3-2.3	1.9-2.7	2.2-2.9	3.5-4.2	3.7-4.4	2.8-3.5	1.7-2.4	2.7-3.3	4.3-4.8	3.6-4.0	3.0-3.2	1.7-2.4	4.5-5.1
Reference	^a	^a	^a	^b	^c	^a	^a	^a	^c	^a	^a	^a	^d	^d	^e

C & GL = only from cereals and grain legumes (calculated with own results); Other = feedstuffs other than cereals and grain legumes (calculated with values of Sauvant *et al.* (2004)); Total = total content of the diet (C & GL + Other (see Table 1)); + 10% GCS = 10% of the diet DM replaced by grass-clover silage (Table 1); ^aLindermayer *et al.* (2011); ^bStalljohann and Patzelt (2007); ^cWitten *et al.* (2014); ^dBaldinger *et al.* (2017); ^eStalljohann (2006); *decreasing with increasing weight; ¹up to 5 kg; ²up to 10 kg

Table VI 5: Recommended and actual contents of B vitamins in exemplary diets for fattening pigs in organic farming [mg/kg DM]

	Pre-fattening					Fattening						
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Thiamine												
GfE (2006)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
NRC (2012)	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
C&GL	1.4-3.3	1.3-4.7	1.5-3.9	1.5-3.6	1.6-6.3	1.5-4.1	1.4-5.3	1.3-4.9	1.3-4.6	2.1-6.2	1.5-3.7	1.1-3.6
Other	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.2	1.4
Total	2.1-4.0	2.1-5.5	2.1-4.5	1.8-3.9	1.9-6.6	1.9-4.5	1.8-5.7	2.5-6.1	2.4-5.7	2.1-6.2	1.7-3.9	2.5-5.0
Riboflavin												
GfE (2006)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
NRC (2012)	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
C&GL	0.7-1.2	0.6-1.1	0.6-1.2	0.8-1.4	0.9-1.4	0.7-1.3	0.8-1.2	0.8-1.4	0.8-1.3	1.2-2.0	0.8-1.4	0.7-1.1
Other	1.6	1.6	2.5	0.3	2.0	1.7	1.1	0.5	2.2	0.0	0.2	1.2
Total	2.3-2.8	2.2-2.7	3.1-3.7	1.1-1.7	2.9-3.4	2.4-3.0	1.9-2.3	1.3-1.9	3.0-3.5	1.2-2.0	1.0-1.6	1.9-2.3
+10%GCS	2.6-3.2	2.5-3.1	3.4-4.1	1.5-2.3	3.1-3.8	2.7-3.4	2.2-2.9	1.7-2.5	3.3-4.0	1.6-2.6	1.4-2.2	2.2-2.8
Reference	^a	^a	^a	^c	^a	^a	^a	^a	^a	^c	^c	^c

C & GL = only from cereals and grain legumes (calculated with own results); Other = feedstuffs other than cereals and grain legumes (calculated with values of Sauvant *et al.* (2004)); Total = total content of the diet (C & GL + Other (see Table 2)); + 10% GCS = 10% of the diet DM replaced by grass-clover silage (Table 2); ^aLindermayer *et al.* (2011); ^cWitten *et al.* (2014)

Diets for poultry

Recommendations for the supply of thiamine in poultry diets vary, with GfE recommendations being higher than those of the NRC. While all poultry diets met the NRC recommendations, the minimum thiamine content of diet 8 for broilers did not meet GfE recommendations when only single feedstuffs with minimum amounts of thiamine were used (Table VI 6).

Like in diets for swine, riboflavin was often deficient in poultry diets. GfE (1999) and NRC (1994) recommend similar amounts of riboflavin. Only diet 7 for broiler chicken and diet 2 for laying hens, which contained brewer's yeast and green meal, provided the recommended amount of riboflavin when the riboflavin content of the single feedstuffs was high. The other diets contained mostly corn and oilseed meals in addition to cereals and grain legumes.

The inclusion of grass-clover silage led to an increased total amount of riboflavin in all diets. However, most of the diets still did not meet the recommended amount of riboflavin.

Table VI 6: Recommended and actual contents of B vitamins in exemplary diets for poultry in organic farming [mg/kg DM]

	Starter		Laying Hens				Broiler	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Thiamine								
GfE (1999)	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.8	2.8
NRC (1994)		0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.0	2.0
C&GL	1.5-3.9	1.4-3.4	1.5-3.7	1.2-3.1	1.3-3.1	1.2-3.0	1.4-3.4	1.1-2.6
Other	1.8	2.0	0.3	1.1	0.8	1.1	3.0	1.4
Total	3.3-5.7	3.4-5.4	1.8-4.0	2.3-4.3	2.1-3.9	2.3-4.1	4.4-6.4	2.5-4.0
Riboflavin								
GfE (1999)	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1-3.7*	3.1-3.7*
NRC (1994)		2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0-3.6*	3.0-3.6*
C&GL	0.7-1.2	0.6-1.1	0.9-1.4	1.1-1.6	0.9-1.4	1.1-1.5	0.8-1.3	0.5-0.9
Other	1.2	1.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	0.8
Total	1.9-2.4	2.3-2.8	1.3-1.8	1.6-2.1	1.4-1.9	1.6-2.0	3.3-3.8	1.3-1.7
+10%GCS	2.2-2.9	2.6-3.3	1.7-2.3	2.0-2.7	1.8-2.5	2.0-2.6	3.4-4.2	1.7-2.3
Reference	a	a	b	b	b	b	a	c

C & GL = only from cereals and grain legumes (calculated with own results); Other = feedstuffs other than cereals and grain legumes (calculated with values of Sauvant *et al.* (2004)); Total = total content of the diet (C & GL + Other (see Table 3)); + 10% GCS = 10% of the diet DM replaced by grass-clover silage (Table 3); ^aDeerberg (2000); ^bSteinhöfel and Lippmann (2005); ^cBellof *et al.* (2005); *decreasing with increasing age

Discussion

Recommendations for the supply of thiamine and riboflavin are ambiguous, and research in this field is encouraged. There have been only a few investigations on this subject and most were conducted decades ago (GfE 2006, McDowell & Ward 2008, de Lange 2013). More recent investigations tend to recommend higher amounts of thiamine and riboflavin for poultry (summarised in Jeroch *et al.* 2011, Jeroch *et al.* 2012). Furthermore, requirements depend on the performance of the animal. In organic farming, animal husbandry is normally less intensive (Hovi *et al.* 2003), and especially for poultry, strains with less rapid growth are often used (Blair 2008). Husbandry systems including pasture

and outdoor areas affect animal performance and energy needs (Edwards 2003). Since thiamine and riboflavin are needed in energy metabolism, the dietary B vitamin needs of monogastric animals in organic farming could also be affected. For example, the environmental temperature can affect the daily weight gain and feed intake and consequently also the thiamine requirements of pigs (Peng & Heitman 1974). However, although knowing that further investigations and possibly revisions are needed, we used official German and American recommendations to determine if the native thiamine and riboflavin content of the mixed feed would be sufficient for swine and chicken.

Thiamine

Since our results suggest that the supply of native thiamine in cereal-based diets for monogastric animals in organic farming is usually sufficient, thiamine supplementation for organic cereal-based diets does not seem necessary. However, supplementation might be required, when thiamine availability is poor. Thiamine can be inhibited by antagonists or destroyed due to heat (McDowell & Ward 2008). Thus, heat treatment and pelleting can reduce its availability.

Riboflavin

Skinner *et al.* (1992) fed a diet based on corn and soybean meal with 50 g/kg fish meal analogue as a protein source without B vitamin supplementation to broilers and found no effect on health or performance. However, this dietary composition is hardly comparable to common European cereal-based diets. In most of our cereal-based diets, the amounts of riboflavin were lower than recommended. Only an inclusion of other feedstuffs could possibly lead to a sufficient supply. It should also be considered that riboflavin is not stable under the exposure to light McDowell & Ward (2008) and its availability must be taken into account. Cereal-based diets in organic farming should, therefore, contain specific feedstuffs with high amounts of riboflavin (Oehen *et al.* 2011). In the absence of our own analysis results for those feedstuffs, we used table values to calculate the total content of thiamine and riboflavin in the exemplary diets. However, those values cannot display the variability of the composition. Soybeans supposedly contain about 11 mg riboflavin/kg DM (Sauvant *et al.* 2004). They might, therefore, contribute to the supply of riboflavin. Yet, since we found wide variations of the riboflavin content in home-grown grain legumes, it is quite possible that there are also wide variations of the riboflavin content in soybeans. Milk products contain high amounts of riboflavin (Marconi & Panfili 1998, USDA 2016). Whey powder or milk powder are often used in diets for piglets and lactating sows but are not as common in diets for other adult pigs or for poultry. Brewer's yeast is known to contain high amounts of B vitamins, including thiamine with 91 mg/kg DM and riboflavin with 43 mg/kg DM (Sauvant *et al.* 2004), and other favourable components (Yamada & Sgarbieri 2005). Thus, the inclusion of small amounts of brewer's yeast strongly increased B vitamin supply of our

exemplary diets. Provided that brewer's yeast can be obtained for feed production, its use can be recommended.

Grassland-derived products like green meals from grass, alfalfa, and/or clover can also improve riboflavin supply. However, data on the contents are scarce. Moreover, roughage and pasture, which are already used in organic farming (Crawley 2015b, a), can contribute to the supply of B vitamins. Grass-clover silage has proved to be promising to increase the supply of riboflavin. In our study, we included 10% grass-clover silage in the diets. It can be assumed that pigs would take up even more silage on top of their normal feed intake (Carlson *et al.* 1999).

In addition to the use of those feedstuffs, it might be possible to improve the riboflavin content of cereals and grain legumes. Since germination of grains from cereals and legumes is known to increase riboflavin contents (Prodanov *et al.* 1997, Sierra & Vidal-Valverde 1999, Flamme *et al.* 2003), germination of those grains might also help to close the gap in riboflavin supply. However, further investigations on this topic would help to evaluate the benefit.

Conclusions

Variations of thiamine and riboflavin in single feedstuffs strongly affect their contents in exemplary diets for monogastric animals. Average cereal-based diets mostly exceed the thiamine requirements of monogastric farm animals. Thus, no gap between the recommended and the actual native supply was observed. It should be noted, however, that thiamine availability could not be taken into account. The amount of riboflavin, on the other hand, was found to be insufficient in most of our exemplary diets. Therefore, supplementation is recommended. The extent of the deficiency depends on the amount of cereals and grain legumes in the diet, animal performance, and the recommendations used. In our example, the extent of the deficiency is the highest for gestating sows with up to 3.3 mg riboflavin/kg DM in a diet consisting only of cereals and home-grown grain legumes and for broiler chicken with up to 2.4 mg/kg DM. The addition of alternative feedstuffs to meet riboflavin requirements in monogastric animal feeding can reduce the need for supplementation and, therefore, contribute to 100% organic feeding. Further research on products derived from grassland or other alternative products, like germinated seeds, as suppliers of riboflavin is needed. Moreover, thiamine and riboflavin recommendations should be verified under the consideration of advances in animal production for conventional and organic farming.

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General Discussion

The optimisation of diets for farm animals contributes to the improvement of their health and performance and also allows to use resources more effectively (Le Bellego & Noblet 2002). However, the nutrient composition of single feedstuffs must be known to formulate optimal diets that prevent nutrient deficiencies and also enhance the efficiency of nutrient utilisation due to the adjustment of their composition. Thus, the sample set of the present study was used to give an overview of the nutrient composition of organic cereals and grain legumes from across Germany. Organic farming aims for 100% organic feeding. Thus, the needs of animals should be met with the native nutrient contents of the feedstuffs. This makes the results of the characterisation of commonly used feedstuffs on the basis of their nutrient composition very important.

In addition, protein evaluation can contribute to a more efficient and sustainable animal feeding. An adjustment of the AA supply allows to reduce the CP concentrations in the diet and, therefore, preserves the environment and relieve the animal metabolism due to lower nitrogen loads. Due to the AA gap being a major concern in organic farming, the focus is often laid on protein evaluation. Furthermore, to describe the quality of a feed protein, the amount of bioavailable AA contained in the feedstuff is of interest (Kong & Adeola 2014). For practical feeding, CP and AA digestibility coefficients are used to estimate the amount of potentially bioavailable CP and AA (Stein *et al.* 2007, Fuller 2012), although the metabolic availability of CP and AA is not only determined by their digestibility but, for example, also by factors limiting their absorption. However, for diet formulation, the CP and AA digestibility, which benefits from its additivity (Angkanaporn *et al.* 1996, Stein *et al.* 2005), is a good approximation.

Nutrient digestibility can be determined *in vivo*. However, the *in vivo* determination of the CP and AA digestibility is costly, time-consuming, and problematic regarding animal welfare. Since the digestibility and the availability of CP and AA can vary widely within and among feedstuffs (Jezierny *et al.* 2011), the use of an *in vitro* assay to rapidly and accurately predict the CP and AA digestibility is desirable. However, the quality of the results derived from the underlying *in vivo* studies is a determinant for the quality of an *in vitro* assay.

In the present study, the prediction of the precaecal (pc) digestibility was preferred to the prediction of the total tract digestibility because microbial digestion in the caeca as well as endogenous losses in the large intestine alter the amount and composition of the excreted protein (Parsons 1984, Sibbald 1987). Therefore, the calculated digestibility coefficient for the total tract digestibility is a less accurate predictor of the available CP and AA than the calculated digestibility coefficient for the pc digestibility. Furthermore, when digestibility is studied, a decision must be made regarding the use of apparent, standardised, or true

digestibility. The apparent pc digestibility is, for example, summarised in feed value tables of Bryden *et al.* (2009). Due to the correction for basal endogenous losses (Stein *et al.* 2007), standardised pc digestibility coefficients were described as more accurate in diet formulation than apparent pc digestibility coefficients (Kong & Adeola 2014). In addition to basal endogenous losses, specific endogenous losses, which depend on characteristics of the test feedstuff (Sklan & Hurwitz 1980, Golian *et al.* 2008) and can therefore increase with increasing proportions of the test feedstuff (Figure 1), are considered in the true pc digestibility (Stein *et al.* 2007).

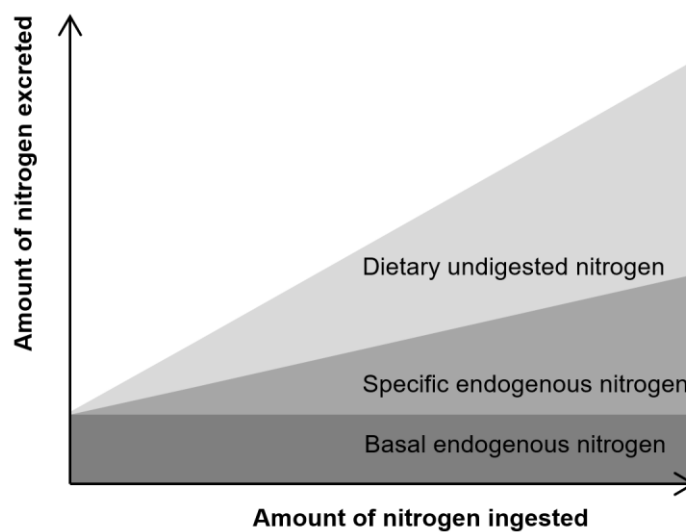


Figure 1: Origin of excreted nitrogen
(adapted from McDonald *et al.* 2002)

Thus, the difference between standardised and true pc digestibility of the CP and AA contained by the test feedstuff depend on the inclusion rate of the test feedstuff as well as its ability to increase endogenous losses. High dietary fibre contents can increase the secretion of digestive enzymes (Parsons *et al.* 1983, Angkanaporn *et al.* 1997). In addition, specific endogenous losses can be caused by the protein source (Angkanaporn *et al.* 1997) or increased due to high concentrations of starch and sugar (Kong & Adeola 2013) or antinutritive factors (Cowieson & Ravindran 2007, Cowieson *et al.* 2008). Thus, it is difficult to make reliable corrections for specific endogenous losses.

A major problem is that it is often not clearly stated which digestibility - apparent, true, standardised, or real total tract or pc digestibility - is displayed in tables and whether it was determined using ileal chyme or excreta (of cecectomised animals). Since the table values are descriptors for different measures, they cannot be easily subjected to comparison. Even if it is known which kind of digestibility is shown, the underlying assay that was used for the determination could have affected the displayed values. There are diverse reports regarding the comparability of the results of various *in vivo* studies on poultry of different origin and performance. Although some studies did not find significant differences, for example

between three *in vivo* assays with chicks and roosters (Kim 2010), differences between assay methods were observed in other studies (Huang *et al.* 2006, Ravindran *et al.* 2017). As a consequence, Ravindran *et al.* (2017) stated the importance of the implementation of a standard method. To exclude a possible effect of different assay methods and to ensure that a prediction of the digestibility is possible using an *in vitro* assay, one underlying *in vivo* method was used for all tested feedstuffs of the present study.

In the linear regression approach that was deployed to determine the pc digestibility of the calibration samples (Rodehutsord *et al.* 2004), the CP or AA intake of broiler chicken fed three diets containing different proportions of the test feedstuff is related to the amount of residual CP or AA at the terminal ileum via regression analysis. The slope of the regression is equivalent to the pc digestibility, which is already corrected for basal endogenous losses but includes specific endogenous losses as an important determinant of nutritive protein quality (hereafter pc digestibility). The majority of the test feedstuffs used in the present study contained high amounts of at least one of these ingredients, indicating high specific endogenous losses, which affected the digestibility coefficients.

Altogether, the capabilities of *in vitro* assays to predict the *in vivo* digestibility of nutrients are limited because the digestibility of the nutrients is not only dependent on the feedstuff but also on the animal and its housing environment. There are many interactions between the feedstuff and the animal. A feedstuff can, for example, affect the microflora of the digestive tract, the viscosity of the digesta, and, consequently, the performance of the chick (Saki *et al.* 2010). However, this can also be an asset of the method because predictions that are independent of the animal are better descriptors of the feedstuff itself. Thus, *in vitro* methods can be used as an indicator of *in vivo* measures and give valuable predictions for diet formulation.

In vitro assays typically cannot be used to simulate endogenous losses or microbial digestion. Due to this fact, they are also used to predict the bioavailability of CP and AA (Galibois *et al.* 1989). Moreover, as a consequence of the inability of *in vitro* assays to simulate endogenous losses and microbial digestion *in vitro* rates of disappearance display the true pc CP and AA digestibility rather than the apparent one. The *in vitro* rate of CP disappearance in the present study was used to predict the pc CP and AA digestibility, which is comparable to the standardised CP and AA digestibility because it is corrected for basal endogenous losses (Kong & Adeola 2014). The prediction was accurate although high specific endogenous losses can be assumed for the majority of the tested feedstuffs.

The adaption of the multi-enzyme assay of Boisen & Fernández (1995) showed that the lack of robustness can be a difficulty in the *in vitro* prediction of the digestibility of CP and AA of plant feedstuffs. Yet, robustness is a major requirement for laboratory analyses (Butts *et al.* 2012). Thus, measures must be taken to make the analysis results replicable and

valid. In the present study, the use of centrifuge tubes during the whole analysis and the increase in the amount of finely ground sample material contributed to an enhanced robustness. This can also contribute to the comparability of results from different laboratories.

By now, the equations used to predict the CP and AA digestibility in the described *in vitro* assay were based on a regression including *in vivo* results of eleven different feedstuffs. Although the regressions had satisfying coefficients of determination, it is recommended to expand the number of feedstuffs used for method calibration to increase its validity. Furthermore, it would be of interest to relate the *in vitro* rate of CP and AA disappearance to the pc digestibility of a selection of samples originating from the same type of feedstuff to validate the method. The need for calculations with a selection of samples originating from the same type of feedstuff became specifically apparent, as wide variations have been reported in the literature and differences among literature/table values were large. Thus, a comparison with the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility, which also varied widely, was difficult.

Since rapid, cheap, and simple analyses are required, it is desirable to use the *in vitro* CP disappearance also to predict the AA digestibility, as it is currently done within the described *in vitro* assay. However, a further characterisation of the *in vitro* disappearance of the AA could be suitable to develop better predictions of the pc digestibility of the AA in broiler chicken.

Even though it is generally known, it must be mentioned that the analysis method and the laboratory where analyses are conducted largely affect the results. The same plant feedstuffs were analysed for their CN and AA contents in a study by Ritteser (2015) and in the present study. However, the analysis results differed. This must be considered when results are to be compared or used in the same equation. Consequently, for animal trials or *in vitro* analyses, the feedstuffs and the digesta/residuals must be analysed in the same laboratory. All samples of the present study were analysed in the same laboratory and using the same methods. They are, therefore, comparable with each other. When compared with values reported in the literature, the effect of the analysis method and the laboratory must be considered.

Although it is commonly assumed that organically produced crops differ in their nutrient composition from conventionally produced crops (Strobel *et al.* 2001, Rossi *et al.* 2006, Böhm *et al.* 2007), little evidence for regular differences of the CN and AA composition can be found in the literature (Dangour *et al.* 2009). Some studies were conducted on foods used in human nutrition. Meta-studies report the tendency of lower CP and nitrate concentrations in organically produced crops (Bourn & Prescott 2002, Magkos *et al.* 2003,

Rossi *et al.* 2006, Brandt *et al.* 2011). Additionally, a better protein quality as measured by its concentration of essential AA (specifically lysine) was reported (Wolfson & Shearer 1981, Worthington 2001, Winter & Davis 2006). This observation is most likely due to differences in the fertilisation management (Brandt *et al.* 2011) Nitrogen excess has been reported to result in an enhanced CP synthesis, a decreased carbohydrate synthesis, and an increased deposition of nitrate (Worthington 2001). The present study did not aim to compare production forms but rather to characterise organic cereals and grain legumes as feedstuffs for monogastric animals in organic farming. Due to the large selection of organically produced crops that were analysed for their CN, AA, thiamine, and riboflavin concentrations, the present study had the potential to describe organically produced cereal and grain legume seeds comprehensively. Nevertheless, the available information on the composition and nutrient digestibility of feedstuffs is either mostly derived from conventionally cultivated crops or information on their underlying production is lacking. Thus, a comparison with table values is often most likely a comparison with values derived from conventionally produced crops. Such a comparison with the tables provided by INRA-CIRAD-AFZ (2018) and Evonik (2016) showed that the minimum CP and AA content of the sample set was in some cases lower than the minimum values in feed value tables and vice versa for starch contents. This could also be observed for the mean values. The Lys concentration in the CP of oats, peas and blue lupins, as well as the His concentration of all cultivars except for barley, were higher than the table values. However, the shifts in the AA composition strongly depended on the cultivar and the CP level. The observed ranges of the other CN contents of cereals and grain legumes were in accordance with the existing table values (Evonik 2016, INRA-CIRAD-AFZ 2018). The results were in agreement with the above-described tendencies for differences between organic and conventional plant foods.

Due to their high contents of starch, cereals are important energy suppliers. They are major components of mixed feed because large amounts are available in good quality for a reasonable price. Furthermore, high proportions can be applied in the diet without detrimental effects. However, variations of the CN and AA composition can make it difficult to formulate a diet. For example, in the present study, CP, starch and NfE contents varied by about 6% of the DM in each cereal cultivar. Furthermore, in the present study, wheat had the highest mean CP contents. Its CP contained low amounts of EAA, Ala, Gly, and Asp but high amounts of Pro and Glu and was therefore not of high quality. Winter rye and winter barley had the lowest CP content. However, the CP contained more Lys and Met and less Glu than the CP of wheat. Wide variations of the AA contents in the CP of all cereals are most likely due to shifts in the proportion of different protein fractions that differ in their AA composition (Casey *et al.* 1982, Shewry 2007, Carbonaro *et al.* 2015). They lead also to widely varying amino acid ratios (AAR) of the protein, which can be problematic in

practical feed formulation based on the ideal AAR (IAAR). Altogether, cereals contribute greatly to the supply of SAA, which is of special importance in organic agriculture. The *in vitro* CP digestibility, which predicts the standardised pc CP digestibility in 42-day old broiler chicken, was with 0.71 - 0.83 the lowest for barley and with 0.80 – 0.90 the highest for winter wheat. These results were comparable with reports of Bandegan *et al.* (2011), who determined a standardised pc CP digestibility of five barley samples between 0.74 – 0.83 and of five wheat samples between 0.86 – 0.89. Altogether, the CP and AA digestibility coefficients reported in the literature vary widely. A comparison with table values is specifically difficult as often only mean values (or even a single value) are reported. The variations of the nutrient content and the CP digestibility make it even more difficult to predict the nutritive value of different batches of cereals for monogastric animal feeding cereals can be of great value not only as the energy supplier but also as the supplier of other nutrients including such AA as the SAA, Thr, and Trp. However, to be used precisely in diet optimisation, analysis or good predictions of the nutrient composition and the pc CP and AA digestibility are required.

The amino acid gap has been extensively discussed in the last two decades and is a persisting problem in monogastric animal feeding in organic farming (Weißmann *et al.* 2005, Zeltner & Maurer 2009, Smith *et al.* 2014). The allowance to feed some conventionally produced protein feedstuffs is a compromise that was made to ensure animal health and welfare. Legumes are valuable crops regarding their ecological and agricultural benefits (e. g., soil fertility, biodiversity)(Stockdale *et al.* 2006, Watson *et al.* 2006, Köpke & Nemecek 2010) as well as in terms of their nutritional quality (Fernández *et al.* 1996, Urbano *et al.* 2005, Sujak *et al.* 2006, Koivunen 2016). Due to high CP contents with large amounts of Lys, they can enhance the CP content of the diet and compensate for low Lys contents in cereals. Thus, they can be beneficial in closing the AA gap. Home-grown grain legumes can partially replace soybean meal in diets for monogastric animals (Koivunen *et al.* 2016). However, like in other crops, the CN and AA composition as well as the pc digestibility of CP and AA can vary widely in grain legumes. In the present study, the CP content of blue lupins varied by 14% of the DM, their NfE content by 13%, and their starch content by 6% of the DM. Similar variations were observed in peas and beans. The CP content of peas varied by 10.5% of the DM. Some pea samples had CP contents that were comparable to the ones of winter wheat. Evonik (2016) reported a mean CP content of field peas of 23.6% DM, which is nearly 9% higher than the lowest content and more than 2% higher than the mean content determined in the present study. These wide variations were mirrored in the AA composition of the CP and in the *in vitro* CP and AA digestibility coefficients. They make diet formulation particularly challenging and nutrient analyses or predictions necessary.

The ability of practical diets to meet the IAAR, which depends on the animal species and a variety of further factors (e. g., age and performance), is limited. Still, the knowledge of the AA contents can improve diet formulation to achieve effective use of N and, thus, decrease its excretion and improve animal performance, health, and welfare (Jongbloed & Lenis 1992, Van Krimpen *et al.* 2005, Rodenburg *et al.* 2008, Chalova *et al.* 2016) also in organic farming. However, when CP contents of the diet are deliberately decreased, it is important to consider not only the effect on performance and overall health but also on animal welfare. Diets with low CP levels can for example decrease broiler performance and lead to hunger reactions, like feather eating and feed spillage, although it need not affect the immune reaction of broiler chicken negatively (Eriksson *et al.* 2009). An improved AA profile of a low CP diet has the potential to reduce these reactions and is known to prevent growth depression and other deficiency symptoms in piglets (Le Bellego & Noblet 2002). Since AA analyses are quite expensive, the prediction of their contents from the CP content of a feedstuff by equations is common in agricultural practice (e. g., Evonik 2016, Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition Group 2014). Although the values obtained by using equations can deviate from the results obtained via analysis, they can be used to predict an approximate AA composition of cereals and grain legumes and are supported by the results of the present study.

In farm animal feeding in organic farming, another compromise is made with regard to the B vitamin supply. B vitamins are water-soluble, readily excreted, and thus not stored in the body. Therefore, the dietary oversupply is continuously excreted with urine (Roth-Maier *et al.* 1999) despite the constant requirement for B vitamins in metabolism (McDowell 2006). This makes their continuous dietary supply necessary. Since B vitamin deficiencies have strong negative effects on animal health, some supplements are allowed to be used in organic farming but native contents must be considered, nevertheless. The thiamine and riboflavin contents in cereals determined in the present study were mostly lower than expected from table values, while grain legumes contained also low but more similar amount of both B vitamins (Sauvant *et al.* 2004, USDA 2016). However, comparably low contents have been repeatedly reported in the literature (Olkowski 2008, Buchholz *et al.* 2012). The differences between the studies might be related to the used analysis method (Hollman *et al.* 1993), the storage time and conditions (Finglas 2003), or different cultivation conditions (Shewry *et al.* 2011). However, the value of cereals and grain legumes as suppliers of thiamine and riboflavin was confirmed in the present study.

It was shown in this study that recommended amounts of thiamine are usually supplied without any supplementation in exemplary diets for pigs and chicken in organic farming. However, it is important to consider the bioavailability of thiamine. The availability of thiamine in the diet can be affected by naturally occurring antagonists. The enzyme

thiaminase can be found in raw fish, in some plants, fungi, and microorganisms (Kawasaki & Ono 1968, Plitt 1995). Plants can also contain antagonistic hydroxypolyphenols, like caffeic acid, chlorogenic acid, and tannic acid, which are heat-stable and render the thiamine unable to be absorbed (Baker 1995, McDowell 2000). Additionally, plant flavonoids, like quercetin and rutin, can be antagonistic to thiamine (Murata *et al.* 1974, Murata *et al.* 1976) and thiamine analogues can affect thiamine availability (Hemming & Gubler 1980). Furthermore, metabolic rate (i.e. age, body size, health status) affect thiamine requirement (McDowell 2000). Thiamine contents in feedstuffs can decrease due to suboptimal storage conditions, since thiamine is heat labile at neutral pH and freely water-soluble (Prodanov *et al.* 2004). In addition, it is unstable under alkaline conditions (Finglas 2003, Combs Jr. & McClung 2017). However, the stability of thiamine in compounds can be different (Baker 1995). Shurson *et al.* (2011) reported a decrease of thiamine concentration in premixes during storage at ambient temperature. Nevertheless, thiamine deficiency appears rather unlikely when healthy animals are fed a cereal-based diet that was stored under dry and cool conditions. P_c digestibility coefficients of 0.94 for barley thiamine, 0.89 for wheat thiamine, and 0.84 for rye thiamine were reported (Roth-Maier *et al.* 1999, Roth-Maier & Paulicks 2003). Due to the above-described factors, a thiamin deficiency can occur. However, it is rather unlikely, when the feedstuffs are carefully handled and processed and are not stored over a long period of time.

Considering the results of the present study, riboflavin is likely to be deficient in diets for monogastric animals in organic farming. This is rather problematic because riboflavin supplements are generally produced via fermentation with GMO (Stahmann *et al.* 2000, Schwechheimer *et al.* 2016, Revuelta *et al.* 2017), which are banned in organic farming. Furthermore, it must be considered that the riboflavin content in feedstuffs can decrease during storage and processing. Extrusion was reported to decrease the amount of available thiamine and riboflavin in peas (Frias *et al.* 2011). Storage conditions must therefore be well monitored. Although riboflavin remains stable when exposed to heat and oxygen and is only moderately soluble in water and ethanol, it is sensitive to sunlight (Choe *et al.* 2005) and unstable under alkaline conditions and irradiation as well as in the presence of metals and reducing agents (Finglas 2003, Combs Jr. & McClung 2017). It is of benefit to choose a storing place in consideration of these conditions and store feedstuffs in a dark and dry place. In addition, it must be considered that some antagonists and analogues diminish the bioavailability of riboflavin (Mack & Grill 2006, Combs Jr. & McClung 2017). As a consequence, the native riboflavin contents should be considered in diet formulation with caution. It is necessary to find ways to improve the supply of riboflavin, although it has been reported that riboflavin supply 18% below the recommendations does not necessarily impair the growth performance of broiler chicken (Roth-Maier & Kirchgeßner 1997 in Roth-Maier

& Paulicks 2002). In cereals, riboflavin is contained by the germ and the hulls (Batifoulier *et al.* 2006). Since cereal refining for animal feeding is not common, maximum contents of riboflavin are contained in feed cereals. The only way to improve the riboflavin content in cereals and grain legumes seem to be germination (Bau *et al.* 1997, Prodanov *et al.* 1997, Sierra & Vidal-Valverde 1999, Mehta *et al.* 2007). Germination is also known to decrease the contents of some anti-nutritive factors (Gefrom *et al.* 2013). However, Schwediauer *et al.* (2017) concluded that germination of faba beans is not suitable in terms of nutrients and acceptance. Since riboflavin can mainly be found in milk products, eggs, meat, and green vegetables (Batifoulier *et al.* 2006), the use of egg or milk powder seems to be another promising solution. However, animal products are not primarily supposed to be used in farm animal nutrition. Furthermore, the present study confirmed the value of grass-land derived products in the contribution of riboflavin. Since pasture and roughage are commonly used in organic farming, their contribution to the riboflavin (and thiamine) supply should be further evaluated. An inclusion of yeast in diets for farm animals can also be beneficial in feedstuffs for monogastric animals. Yeast can be added in small amounts, but it contains large amounts of CP (58% DM), minerals, and vitamins, including riboflavin (7.2 mg/100g DM) and thiamine (5.6 mg/100g DM; (USDA 2018). When native contents of dietary riboflavin are not sufficient after all, supplements could be produced by chemical synthesis (Bretzel *et al.* 1999). Due to the growing consumer demand for GMO-free foods, the production of riboflavin by chemical synthesis might increase again. In conclusion, a sufficient supply of riboflavin remains a major issue in organic farming.

For practical ration formulation, it would be useful to have a tool to approximately predict the nutrient composition of the single feedstuffs. Both the results of the present study and reports in the literature showed that variety and environmental conditions can strongly affect nutrient composition (Kim *et al.* 2003, Murphy *et al.* 2009, Shewry *et al.* 2010, Rodehutschord *et al.* 2016) and nutrient digestibility (Ravindran *et al.* 2014, Rosenfelder *et al.* 2015, Spindler *et al.* 2016, Zuber *et al.* 2016). However, a large number of influencing factors as well as interactions between variety and environmental conditions prevent the prediction of the nutrient composition based on variety and environmental conditions. Balanced studies, repeatedly conducted under the same conditions with the same varieties, could provide information that is more accurate. Yet, the environmental conditions cannot be held constant in the field, and breeding programs continually provide new varieties. Due to repeatedly conducted variety trials, some studies of the plant breeding companies, and some research experiments (e. g., Daveby *et al.* 1993, Jørgensen *et al.* 1999, Kim *et al.* 2003, Gutiérrez-Alamo *et al.* 2008, Hornick 2009, Kotlarz *et al.* 2011, Shewry *et al.* 2011), several regularities of effects are known. For example, it is known that the time and intensity of rainfall alter the CN and vitamin concentrations, that the ripening state at harvest affects

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nutrient content and is crucial for the relation between starch and CP content, and that specific varieties contain low amounts of ANF or high amounts of CP with a specific composition. The present study confirmed the existence of varietal and environmental effects on the concentration of CN, starch, thiamine, and riboflavin as well as on the *in vitro* digestibility of CP and AA. However, it does not allow to draw conclusions on the direction and extent of the varietal and environmental effects on the nutrient composition and digestibility of specific samples. It is unlikely that it will be possible to precisely predict the nutrient composition of crops in the future.

Conclusions

The results of the present study confirmed wide variations of the crude nutrient, amino acid, thiamine, and riboflavin contents of organic cereals and grain legumes. In comparison to table values, the crude protein, thiamine, and riboflavin content of cereal and grain legumes tended to be lower and the starch content tended to be higher. Additionally, the amino acid profile of the crude protein differed from literature values. Decreasing crude protein contents were associated with decreasing concentrations of the amino acids phenylalanine, proline, and glutamine/glutamic acid in the crude protein of cereals and arginine in the crude protein of grain legumes, while the concentration of some other amino acids, including lysine, methionine, threonine, and tryptophan, increased. In terms of the amino acid gap in organic farming, which is foremost based on the lack of sulphur-containing amino acids in diets for monogastric animals, the results indicated a better protein quality in cereals and grain legumes with low crude protein contents. Low crude protein contents of organically cultivated crops could therefore have an advantage in the formulation of diets with decreased levels of crude protein. However, low crude protein, amino acid, and riboflavin contents of cereals and grain legumes, which are commonly used feedstuffs for monogastric animals, could also add to already existing shortcomings.

Either way, the nutrient composition of single feedstuffs must be known to optimise a diet. The enormous variability of the nutrient contents and the strong but unpredictable effects of genetic and especially environmental factors on the nutrient composition of cereals and grain legumes make it difficult to predict it. Furthermore, the use of table values becomes deceptive, when wide variations of the tabulated nutrients occur unpredictably. However, crude protein analysis can be conducted with quick and cheap methods. When the crude protein content of a sample is known, the contents of the amino acids of cereals and grain legumes can be satisfactorily predicted using equations, which were provided by the present study. An accurate estimation of the amino acid contents can also give information on the amino acid profile of the dietary protein.

Furthermore, the content of digestible amino acids in single feedstuffs is commonly used in diet formulation for monogastric animals. As observed in the present study, the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility of organically cultivated grain legumes in broiler chicken can be high. Nevertheless, wide variations of the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility were reported in the literature. Data tables that provide information on the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility of cereals and grain legumes are less extensive than tables providing information on the nutrient composition. Thus, it is crucial to improve the data situation. The adapted *in vitro* assay of the present study can be used to predict the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility in feedstuffs for

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broiler chicken and thus to enhance the data basis with little impact on animal welfare. However, the standardisation of the underlying *in vivo* method is recommended. The effect of the environmental conditions on the *in vitro* crude protein and amino acid digestibility was high. An optimised cultivation management might be more important for improving the precaecal crude protein and amino acid digestibility and the nutrient composition of cereals and grain legumes than the choice of variety. Further validation of the assay using combined *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies are recommended to improve the applicability of the introduced assay.

The supply of B vitamins, especially riboflavin, and the supply of precaecally digestible essential AA remains a complex topic. Since animal health and welfare are of utmost importance in animal keeping per se, the sufficient dietary supply of nutrients must be ensured by supplementing critical nutrients if necessary. To enable 100% organic feeding, it is of interest to study the composition and applicability of feedstuffs with high contents of limiting amino acids as well as riboflavin. Furthermore, an improved applicability of simple predictions for the nutrient composition and digestibility can be beneficial in 100% organic feeding.

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Chapter I

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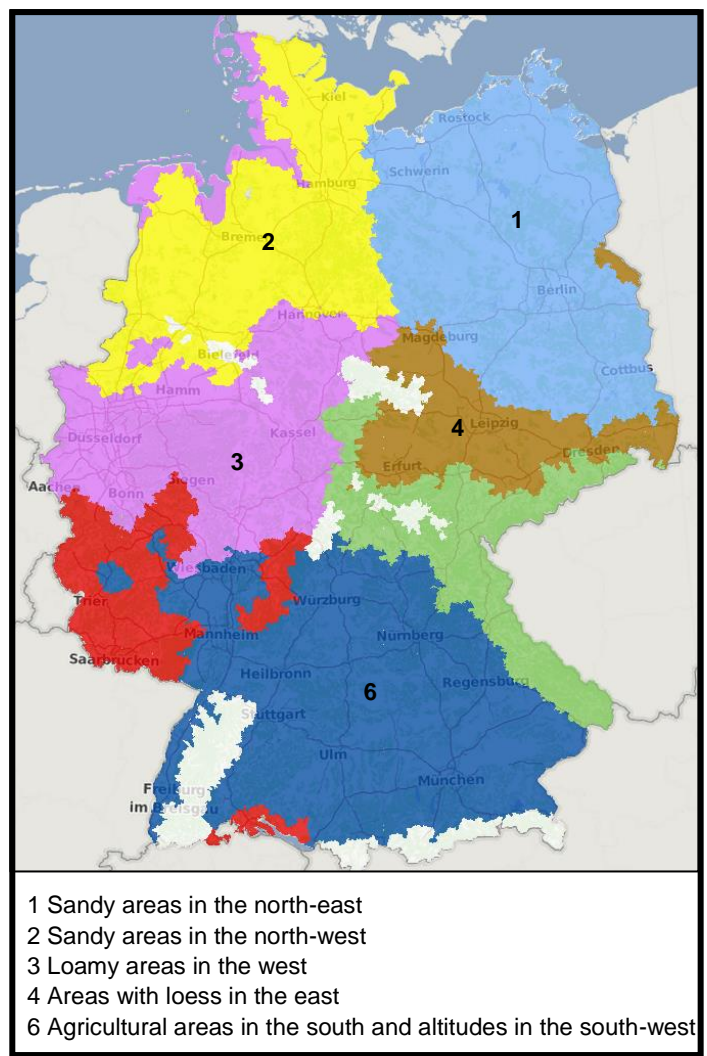


Figure A 1: Organic agricultural production areas with homogenous climatic conditions used in the present study; adapted from JKI (2018)

Table A1 1: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the contents of ether extract (EE), crude ash (CA), crude fibre (CF), nitrogen-free extracts (NfE) and starch of selected cultivars

	n	df	EE			CA			CF			NfE			Starch		
			variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals																	
Winter wheat	70	F-Value	2;2;4	23.274	13.959		6.613	26.723	9.340	3.598	3.767	9.595	9.480	12.752			
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.000		0.002	0.000	0.000	0.011	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Spring wheat	25	F-Value	3;2;2	22.023		12.739				3.437	4.156	31.239	11.320	6.752	1.712		
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value		0.000		0.000				0.050	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.210		
Winter rye	81	F-Value	4;2;8	5.172	3.054	10.874		7.616	3.940			24.118	4.933	23.405	10.265		
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.022	0.000		0.000	0.024			0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000		
Winter triticale	92	F-Value	5;2;4	33.857	5.085	5.915		12.770		3.405			12.347	31.067	31.703		
<i>Triticosecale</i>		p-Value		0.000	0.000	0.004		0.000		0.013			0.000	0.000	0.000		
Winter barley	15	F-Value	2;-;3			71.051						18.304			129.000		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value				0.000						0.000			0.000		
Spring barley	47	F-Value	3;2;3	2.765		7.642		12.594		4.510	6.290		16.211	3.094	2.592		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		0.053		0.002		0.000		0.008	0.001		0.000	0.037	0.087		
Oats	80	F-Value	6;2;5	21.267	5.874	57.554		12.038	32.085	3.053		38.156	12.873	121.09	6.616		
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.015		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Grain legumes																	
Spring field pea	41	F-Value	5;3;2	3.372	48.995		3.235	4.123	5.637	4.669	4.090	12.721	10.864	5.895	23.359		
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		p-Value		0.016	0.000	0.051		0.013	0.008	0.008	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000		
Spring field bean	59	F-Value	5;1;2	10.074	2.640	3.508		22.875	10.586	7.665	6.003		19.015	5.034	12.288	28.581	
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.110	0.009		0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000		0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	
Blue lupin	31	F-Value	4;2;2	6.554	16.720		7.077	10.397	21.094	6.506	6.506	4.214	26.067	8.584	35.734		
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		p-Value		0.001	0.000		0.003	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.000		

*variety;year;site/area

Table A I 2: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the contents of crude protein and amino acids of selected cultivars

	n	df	CP			Lys			Met			Cys			Thr		
			variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals																	
Winter wheat	70	F-Value 2;2;4			2.507	4.284	10.889	3.695	2.396	12.809	2.376	5.570	15.687				
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value	0.050	0.018	0.000	0.009	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.061	0.006	0.000				
Spring wheat	25	F-Value 3;2;2	4.888	21.019	2.954	0.073	5.220	4.427	9.928	0.001	0.016	0.000	11.355				
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Winter rye	81	F-Value 4;2;8	29.351	11.926	11.086	2.931	62.053	13.298	12.454	63.023	14.393	23.673	13.275				
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Winter triticale	92	F-Value 5;2;4	8.316	23.064	34.228	2.421	4.604	20.321	5.342	13.829	19.587	11.420	18.835				
<i>Triticosecale</i>		p-Value	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.001	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Winter barley	15	F-Value 2;-;3	21.630	32.603	0.000	0.000	0.000	13.357	13.306	0.000	0.000	13.954	0.000				
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Spring barley	47	F-Value 3;2;3	3.138	7.096	4.956	3.821	7.477	15.257	5.311	3.380	24.413	8.586	4.984				
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value	0.036	0.001	0.005	0.031	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.072				
Oats	80	F-Value 6;2;5	5.259	14.241	61.648	5.423	38.008	3.718	34.340	10.715	21.761	4.334	49.234				
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000				
Grain legumes																	
Spring field pea	41	F-Value 5;3;2	6.852	27.904	10.996	11.613	27.776	39.321	31.925	8.360	0.000	0.000	0.000				
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		p-Value	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Spring field bean	59	F-Value 5;1;2	6.787	4.955	12.444	3.383	3.409	14.987	34.583	32.253	8.896	9.447	0.000				
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.030	0.000	0.010	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Blue lupin	31	F-Value 4;2;2	5.369	3.834	21.621	10.458	33.376	18.911	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		p-Value	0.003	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				

*variety;year;site/area

Table A I 3: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the contents of crude protein and amino acids of selected cultivars

	n	df	Trp ¹			Ile			Leu			Val			Arg		
			variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals																	
Winter wheat	70	F-Value 2;2;4		6.507		2.851	5.410		3.383	6.745		4.027	4.906		9.538	5.674	4.853
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value		0.003		0.065	0.007		0.040	0.002		0.022	0.010		0.000	0.005	0.002
Spring wheat	25	F-Value 3;2;2	3.439	6.526		5.786	4.493		5.998	5.470		4.388	4.905		2.455	13.439	23.486
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value	0.038	0.007		0.006	0.025		0.005	0.013		0.017	0.019		0.040	0.000	0.000
Winter rye	81	F-Value 4;2;8		20.955	17.294					19.357			23.465	19.312		34.613	14.122
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000
Winter triticale	92	F-Value 5;2;4		18.702			3.544	9.612	4.539	9.612		3.276	18.672	32.745		13.439	23.486
<i>Triticosecale</i>		p-Value		0.000	0.000		0.033	0.000	0.029	0.000		0.010	0.000		0.040	0.000	0.000
Winter barley	15	F-Value 2;-;3		43.967	38.041								38.041			48.830	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.000								0.000			0.000	0.000
Spring barley	47	F-Value 3;2;3		6.057	6.299	3.974			4.422			6.498	5.533	5.720		5.140	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		0.002	0.001	0.014			0.009			0.001	0.003	0.002		0.004	
Oats	80	F-Value 6;2;5		5.790	30.941	5.301	5.950	4.331	5.301	4.331		2.769	39.683	5.077	4.125	34.953	
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.017	0.000	0.017		0.018	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.021	
Grain legumes																	
Spring field pea	41	F-Value 5;3;2		6.907	8.325		3.655	8.133		8.133		13.469	2.668	10.403	3.931	12.492	
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		p-Value		0.003	0.000		0.036	0.001		0.001		0.000	0.084	0.000	0.007	0.000	
Spring field bean	59	F-Value 5;1;2	7.910	14.914		5.637	12.604	28.350	6.549	28.350		7.434	8.862	6.608	5.782	4.310	
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		p-Value	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.004	0.003	0.000	0.019	
Blue lupin	31	F-Value 4;2;2		14.017	4.397							17.294	3.578	19.710	5.033	24.597	
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		p-Value		0.000	0.008		0.000	0.006	0.006	0.006		0.000	0.020	0.000	0.004	0.000	

*variety;year;site/area; ¹not tested for winter rye, winter triticale, and oats because of small counts (n=22, 18, and 14)

Table A 14: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the contents of amino acids of selected cultivars

	n	df	His			Phe			Tyr			Ala			Gly		
			variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals																	
Winter wheat	70	F-Value	2;2;4	3.283	5.381			4.982	4.615	9.404	4.670	11.146	6.103	8.915	2.014		
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.044</i>	<i>0.007</i>			<i>0.010</i>	<i>0.013</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.013</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.004</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.104</i>		
Spring wheat	25	F-Value	3;2;2			4.857				10.748		4.319					
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value				<i>0.010</i>				<i>0.001</i>		<i>0.026</i>					
Winter rye	81	F-Value	4;2;8	26.102	11.614			22.529	2.634	19.817	10.636	14.352	0.885	27.988	13.942		
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>			<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.042</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.029</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		
Winter triticale	92	F-Value	5;2;4	3.028	21.217	25.183		11.430	4.801	13.788	31.204	17.608	3.418	18.808	19.089		
<i>Triticosecale</i>		p-Value		<i>0.015</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.008</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		
Winter barley	15	F-Value	2;-;3	12.251				35.977		48.627		38.415		19.697			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.000</i>				<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>			
Spring barley	47	F-Value	3;2;3	4.135	5.539	3.324		7.092	2.842	6.288	5.206	5.206	3.746	8.687			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.023</i>	<i>0.003</i>	<i>0.029</i>		<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.050</i>	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.002</i>	<i>0.004</i>	<i>0.018</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		
Oats	80	F-Value	6;2;5	3.006	8.502	28.165		51.933	5.012	7.556	47.047	3.705	6.765	37.253			
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.012</i>	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.030</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		
Grain legumes																	
Spring field pea	41	F-Value	5;3;2	8.972	4.328			20.320		16.586	3.341	14.831	4.173	3.338	14.564		
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.011</i>			<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.016</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.005</i>	<i>0.049</i>	<i>0.000</i>		
Spring field bean	59	F-Value	5;1;2	3.298	17.624			47.612		10.031	8.862	7.063	4.681	3.345			
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.075</i>	<i>0.000</i>			<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.003</i>	<i>0.005</i>	<i>0.010</i>	<i>0.001</i>	<i>0.043</i>			
Blue lupin	31	F-Value	4;2;2	3.178	16.883			13.916	3.306	14.955	10.146			15.421			
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		p-Value		<i>0.058</i>	<i>0.000</i>			<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.027</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>0.000</i>		<i>0.000</i>			

*variety;year;site/area

Table A I 5: F- and p-values (in italics) of main factors in models describing varietal and environmental impact on the contents of amino acids of selected cultivars

	n	df	Ser			Pro			Asp			Glu		
			variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals														
Winter wheat	70	F-Value	2;2,4	4.383	13.206	2.551	6.619	6.364	6.364	6.254	6.254	6.254	6.254	6.254
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value		0.017	0.000	0.048	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
Spring wheat	25	F-Value	3;2,2		7.511	8.477	4.798	14.987	14.987	7.250	7.250	7.250	10.417	10.417
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		p-Value			0.003	0.001	0.021	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.009	0.009
Winter rye	81	F-Value	4;2,8		23.626	9.486	25.588	15.045	15.045	2.937	2.937	2.937	15.371	15.371
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		p-Value			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.000	0.000
Winter triticale	92	F-Value	5;2,4		9.371	16.675	8.001	29.439	29.439	22.858	22.858	22.858	28.539	28.539
<i>Triticosecale</i>		p-Value			0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Winter barley	15	F-Value	2;-;3		45.260	69.663	17.217	17.217	17.217	35.992	35.992	35.992	35.992	35.992
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Spring barley	47	F-Value	3;2,3	6.738	8.924	3.848	4.758	3.768	3.768	4.334	4.334	4.334	7.087	7.087
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		p-Value		0.001	0.000	0.016	0.007	0.032	0.032	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.001	0.001
Oats	80	F-Value	6;2,5	4.564	4.270	46.033	3.482	21.645	21.645	35.341	35.341	35.341	42.079	42.079
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		p-Value		0.001	0.018	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.011	0.011
Grain legumes														
Spring field pea	41	F-Value	5;3,2		11.948	3.434	24.296	20.376	20.376	9.823	9.823	9.823	8.342	8.342
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		p-Value			0.000	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054
Spring field bean	59	F-Value	5;1,2	4.287	8.843	4.942	17.977	4.430	4.430	6.804	6.804	6.804	16.981	16.981
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		p-Value		0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.017	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.002
Blue lupin	31	F-Value	4;2,2	4.439	23.3942	18.497	5.705	20.624	20.624	5.879	5.879	5.879	16.904	16.904
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		p-Value		0.008	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.000	0.000

*variety;year;site/area

Table A I 6: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of winter wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Butaro	24	0.025 ^b	2.41	1.94	0.048 ^a	79.97	68.64
Capo	26	0.027 ^a	2.24	1.99	0.034 ^a	80.84	69.72
Naturastar	20	0.035 ^a	2.21	2.12	0.048 ^c	80.84	69.81
Year							
2011	16	0.041 ^a	2.15	1.94	0.048 ^a	81.02	69.62
2012	22	0.020 ^b	2.27	1.99	0.06 ^b	80.97	69.95
2013	32	0.037 ^c	2.43	2.12	0.035 ^b	79.67	68.60
Area							
1	8				0.120 ^{ab}		
2	17				0.068 ^{ab}		
3	23				0.041 ^a		
4	10				0.040 ^{ab}		
6	12				0.066 ^b		

Table A I 7: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of spring wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Eminent	8	0.169 ^b	2.37	1.83	0.061 ^a	79.43	68.01
Granny	4	0.129 ^a	2.72	1.97	0.014 ^b	80.27	66.46
KWS Chamsin	4	0.281 ^{bc}	2.74	2.19	0.077 ^c	79.4	66.01
KWS Scirocco	9	0.191 ^c	2.74	2.19	0.068 ^b	78.85	66.29
Year							
2011	8	0.213 ^a	2.37	1.83	0.061 ^a	80.72	67.20
2012	8	0.092 ^b	2.72	1.97	0.014 ^b	78.26	67.02
2013	9	0.236 ^a	2.74	2.19	0.068 ^b	79.49	65.85
Area							
1	5						
2	12						
3	8						

Table A I 8: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of winter rye samples (*Secale cereale* L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Conduct	18	1.71	0.044 ^{ab}	1.80	0.024 ^{ab}	2.61	0.032 ^b
Dukato	18	1.68	0.020 ^a	1.82	0.020 ^b	2.44	0.039 ^a
Helltop	17	1.80	0.046 ^b	1.74	0.024 ^a	2.35	0.045 ^a
Likoro	10	1.80	0.051 ^{ab}	1.86	0.030 ^b	2.52	0.049 ^{ab}
Palazzo	18	1.65	0.043 ^a	1.79	0.022 ^{ab}	2.61	0.048 ^b
Year							
2011	16	9.98	0.348 ^b	1.77	0.044 ^{ab}	2.60	0.046 ^b
2012	33	7.88	0.213 ^a	1.76	0.020 ^a	2.45	0.036 ^a
2013	32	9.28	0.173 ^b	1.87	0.037 ^b	2.49	0.03 ^a
Site/Area							
7/1	14	8.40	0.425 ^{ab}			85.70	0.414 ^{bc}
45/1	14	7.77	0.453 ^a			86.13	0.486 ^c
4/2	13	9.50	0.451 ^{abc}			84.47	0.457 ^{abc}
53/2	10	9.84	0.278 ^{bc}			84.16	0.295 ^{ab}
5/3	10	10.56	0.182 ^c			83.23	0.284 ^a
46/4	7	8.73	0.340 ^{ab}			85.17	0.449 ^{bc}
1/6	13	8.52	0.706 ^{abc}			85.41	0.740 ^{abc}

Table A I 9: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of winter triticale samples (*Triticosecale*) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Benetto	21	1.92	0.034 ^b	1.98	0.014 ^{bc}	2.95	0.042 ^{cd}
Cosinus	19	1.89	0.039 ^b	2.01	0.019 ^c	2.56	0.058 ^a
Moderato	8	1.70	0.071 ^{ab}	1.95	0.017 ^{abc}	3.12	0.055 ^e
Sequenz	18	1.83	0.027 ^{ab}	1.94	0.017 ^{ab}	3.08	0.058 ^{de}
Tarzan	9	1.80	0.037 ^{ab}	2.00	0.025 ^{bc}	2.73	0.067 ^{ab}
Tulus	17	1.70	0.043 ^a	1.90	0.020 ^a	2.85	0.071 ^{bc}
Year							
2011	23	10.14	0.193 ^a	1.94	0.025 ^a	69.89	0.216 ^a
2012	35	9.48	0.231 ^a	1.94	0.017 ^a	71.53	0.184 ^b
2013	34	10.30	0.242 ^a	2.01	0.014 ^b	69.56	0.265 ^a
Area							
1	32	8.83	0.254 ^a	1.93	0.018 ^a	84.49	0.282 ^c
2	24	11.38	0.332 ^c	2.02	0.026 ^b	81.95	0.300 ^a
3	15	10.80	0.353 ^{bc}	1.96	0.032 ^{ab}	82.24	0.242 ^a
4	10	10.21	0.169 ^b	1.94	0.022 ^{ab}	83.11	0.414 ^{ab}
6	11	9.07	0.298 ^a	1.95	0.021 ^{ab}	84.41	0.358 ^{bc}

Table A I 10: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of winter barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Site/Area	Year	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
4/2	2012	3	7.88	0.174 ^a	2.45	0.016 ^b	81.30	0.231 ^c
3/3	2013	3	9.52	0.233 ^b	3.00	0.037 ^d	78.79	0.196 ^b
5/3	2013	3	9.80	0.298 ^b	2.29	0.022 ^a	79.09	0.157 ^b
9/3	2012	3	7.88	0.406 ^a	2.47	0.035 ^b	81.10	0.466 ^c
54/3	2013	3	11.45	0.155 ^c	2.82	0.019 ^c	77.54	0.106 ^a

Table A I 11: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of spring barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Catamaran	12	9.41	0.149 ^a			81.01	0.088 ^b
Grace	13	9.89	0.180 ^b			80.46	0.145 ^a
Marthe	14	10.04	0.285 ^b			80.16	0.267 ^a
Zeppelin	8	9.23	0.256 ^a			81.37	0.249 ^b
Year							
2011	5		2.35	0.026 ^a			
2012	19		2.54	0.032 ^b			
2013	23		2.62	0.034 ^b			
Area							
1	10	9.78	0.216 ^a	2.37	0.016 ^a	81.06	0.247 ^{bc}
3	11	10.18	0.183 ^a	2.64	0.044 ^b	79.95	0.181 ^a
4	11	8.83	0.483 ^a	2.38	0.056 ^a	81.79	0.411 ^c
6	15	9.78	0.315 ^a	2.62	0.044 ^b	80.20	0.273 ^{ab}

Table A I 12: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of oat samples (*Avena sativa* L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NFE	Starch
Variety							
Flämingsgold	6	10.40	0.155 ^a	5.17	0.082 ^b		
Flocke	15	10.42	0.105 ^a	4.52	0.060 ^a		
Gabriel	9	10.33	0.093 ^a	5.03	0.053 ^b		
Ivory	14	11.19	0.142 ^b	5.01	0.065 ^b		
Max	15	10.50	0.121 ^a	4.56	0.046 ^a		
Scorpion	10	10.65	0.147 ^a	4.47	0.066 ^a		
Simon	11	10.39	0.106 ^a	4.98	0.052 ^b		
Year							
2011	23			2.94	0.034 ^a	11.18	0.319 ^a
2012	30			2.80	0.058 ^a	10.95	0.201 ^a
2013	27			3.36	0.074 ^b	13.01	0.098 ^b
Site/Area							
4/2	16	9.77	0.110 ^a	3.12	0.112 ^{abc}	11.19	0.148 ^a
7/1	16	9.84	0.298 ^a	5.05	0.059 ^b	11.55	0.451 ^{ab}
45/1	18	12.02	0.158 ^d	4.80	0.060 ^a	11.97	0.239 ^{ab}
46/4	10	9.61	0.471 ^{ab}	4.80	0.031 ^a	12.64	0.268 ^b
54/3	10	10.88	0.127 ^b	4.80	0.055 ^a	11.30	0.162 ^a
55/3	10	11.22	0.128 ^c	4.63	0.060 ^a	11.64	0.304 ^{ab}
				4.85	0.054 ^{ab}	71.06	0.155 ^c
				5.05	0.059 ^b	70.78	0.275 ^{bc}
				4.80	0.060 ^a	68.38	0.281 ^a
				4.80	0.031 ^a	69.80	0.358 ^b
				4.80	0.055 ^a	69.92	0.261 ^b
				4.63	0.060 ^a	69.48	0.452 ^{ab}
						49.58	0.294 ^b
						48.07	0.768 ^{ab}
						46.47	0.951 ^a
						47.33	0.288 ^a
						47.29	0.856 ^{ab}
						48.27	0.342 ^a

Table A I 13: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of field pea samples (*Pisum sativum*, L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NFE	Starch
Variety							
Alvesta	9			1.97	0.024 ^{ab}	68.36	0.328 ^b
Auckland	6			1.96	0.024 ^{ab}	68.03	0.511 ^{ab}
Casablanca	5			1.98	0.053 ^{ab}	66.31	0.483 ^a
KWS La Manscha	5			1.85	0.042 ^a	66.79	0.292 ^a
Navarro	8			2.05	0.038 ^b	67.45	0.275 ^{ab}
Salamanca	8			1.92	0.028 ^{ab}	67.12	0.260 ^a
Year							
2011	12	20.94	0.705 ^{ab}	1.73	0.027 ^a	67.85	0.508 ^b
2012	12	21.60	0.416 ^b	2.02	0.017 ^b	66.12	0.406 ^a
2013	17	19.86	0.451 ^a	2.12	0.03 ^c	68.06	0.374 ^b
Site/Area							
7/1	9	18.63	1.104 ^a	2.21	0.045 ^b	68.97	0.865 ^{bc}
4/2	16	20.17	0.438 ^a	1.91	0.021 ^a	67.88	0.345 ^c
5/3	8	22.17	0.445 ^b	1.84	0.026 ^a	66.41	0.393 ^{ab}
54/3	8	22.23	0.523 ^b	1.86	0.024 ^a	66.12	0.350 ^a
				2.93	0.125 ^a	7.03	0.110 ^a
				3.15	0.064 ^a	6.78	0.075 ^a
				3.04	0.136 ^a	6.50	0.155 ^a
				3.22	0.044 ^a	6.61	0.101 ^a
						54.45	0.069 ^c
						54.24	0.268 ^{bc}
						53.40	0.383 ^{ab}
						51.92	0.461 ^a

Table A I 14: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of field bean samples (*Vicia faba* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Alexia	7	27.74	1.58	3.65	9.21	57.81	44.88
Bioro	9	30.48	1.68	3.81	8.83	55.08	43.44
Divine	9	30.43	1.68	4.04	9.38	54.45	41.80
Fuego	13	29.21	1.91	3.86	10.18	54.84	42.44
Isabell	13	30.16	1.84	4.09	9.16	54.75	43.09
Julia	8	29.79	1.51	3.74	9.00	55.94	43.57
Year							
2012	22				9.05		43.89
2013	37				9.54		42.51
Area							
2	12	28.39	3.66	8.90	8.90	57.36	45.45
3	32	30.09	3.69	9.28	9.28	55.18	42.62
6	15	30.43	4.26	9.70	9.70	53.90	41.54

Table A I 15: Crude nutrient contents (LSMean and SE in % DM) of blue lupin samples (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	CP	EE	CA	CF	NfE	Starch
Variety							
Boregine	7	30.50	6.77	15.59	15.59	43.14	11.48
Borlu	7	30.42	6.39	15.30	15.30	43.97	11.83
Boruta	6	29.23	6.44	16.72	16.72	43.65	11.57
Haags Blaue	4	28.44	6.64	16.41	16.41	44.47	11.77
Probor	7	33.87	5.90	16.15	16.15	40.06	9.85
Year							
2011	10		5.94	16.77	16.77	41.96	
2012	8		6.50	15.38	15.38	42.99	
2013	13		6.84	15.96	15.96	44.22	
Site/Area							
7/1	13	30.73	6.46	3.89	3.89	42.97	11.35
45/1	9	26.41	6.92	4.17	4.17	46.50	12.73
59/2	9	34.33	5.90	3.86	3.86	39.71	9.82

Table A I 16: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of winter wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Butaro	24	3.57	0.035 ^b		3.49	0.051 ^b		8.12	0.116 ^b	5.80
Capo	26	3.54	0.055 ^b		3.41	0.065 ^b		7.99	0.168 ^b	5.69
Naturastar	20	3.40	0.042 ^a		3.22	0.056 ^a		7.58	0.139 ^a	5.31
Year										
2011	16	3.40	0.039 ^a	2.73	0.064 ^a	1.32	0.017 ^a	7.79	0.238 ^a	5.56
2012	22	3.45	0.056 ^{ab}	3.08	0.038 ^b	1.39	0.044 ^{ab}	7.61	0.195 ^a	5.45
2013	32	3.66	0.088 ^b	3.18	0.069 ^b	1.47	0.044 ^b	8.28	0.210 ^a	5.80
Area										
1	8	3.33	0.162 ^{ab}							5.21
2	17	3.45	0.050 ^a							5.52
3	23	3.60	0.044 ^b							5.81
4	10	3.52	0.13 ^{ab}							5.84
6	12	3.62	0.105 ^{ab}							5.64
Manifestation	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Butaro	24	3.17	0.093 ^b	3.52	0.049 ^b	5.02	0.067 ^b	5.49	0.094 ^b	
Capo	26	3.12	0.093 ^b	3.40	0.077 ^b	4.85	0.108 ^b	5.47	0.121 ^b	
Naturastar	20	2.85	0.122 ^a	3.21	0.065 ^a	4.61	0.097 ^a	5.09	0.117 ^a	
Year										
2011	16	3.21	0.188 ^a	3.36	0.108 ^{ab}	4.74	0.145 ^{ab}	5.07	0.165 ^a	34.43
2012	22	2.80	0.153 ^a	3.19	0.083 ^a	4.66	0.094 ^a	5.21	0.111 ^a	32.84
2013	32	3.13	0.096 ^a	3.58	0.101 ^b	5.08	0.143 ^b	5.76	0.157 ^b	37.09
Area										
1	8							4.98	0.369 ^a	
2	17							5.28	0.184 ^a	
3	23							5.57	0.108 ^a	
4	10							5.48	0.181 ^a	
6	12							5.45	0.090 ^a	

Table A I 17: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of spring wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg				
Variety														
Eminent	8			3.16	0.050 ^b	1.46	0.025 ^b	4.31	0.050 ^b	8.63	0.084 ^b	5.49	0.056 ^b	
Granny	4			2.98	0.041 ^a	1.36	0.021 ^a	4.02	0.044 ^a	8.24	0.100 ^a	5.31	0.067 ^a	
KWS Chamsin	4			3.20	0.047 ^b	1.51	0.050 ^b	4.47	0.069 ^b	9.13	0.118 ^c	5.80	0.065 ^c	
KWS Scirocco	9			3.33	0.060 ^b	1.54	0.041 ^b	4.48	0.060 ^b	8.96	0.1100 ^c	5.69	0.081 ^{bc}	
Year														
2011	8		2.05	0.059 ^a	3.68	0.069 ^a	1.38	0.048 ^a	4.18	0.063 ^a	8.45	0.105 ^a	5.40	0.083 ^a
2012	8		2.27	0.024 ^b	4.11	0.043 ^c	1.47	0.016 ^{ab}	4.46	0.029 ^b	9.02	0.045 ^b	5.76	0.032 ^b
2013	9		2.23	0.065 ^{ab}	3.88	0.069 ^b	1.56	0.034 ^b	4.32	0.071 ^{ab}	8.75	0.138 ^{ab}	5.56	0.088 ^{ab}
Area														
1	5													
2	12													
3	8													
Manifestation														
	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu				
Variety														
Eminent	8		5.96	0.060 ^b						38.13	0.641 ^b			
Granny	4		5.72	0.076 ^a						34.23	0.613 ^a			
KWS Chamsin	4		6.29	0.120 ^c						39.47	1.148 ^{bc}			
KWS Scirocco	9		6.36	0.140 ^c						40.75	0.768 ^c			
Year														
2011	8				4.37	0.100 ^a	5.15	0.124 ^a	5.64	0.134 ^a	11.64	0.263 ^a	6.08	0.196 ^a
2012	8				4.85	0.030 ^c	5.52	0.043 ^b	6.25	0.080 ^b	12.74	0.215 ^b	7.14	0.059 ^c
2013	9				4.72	0.050 ^b	5.53	0.117 ^b	6.41	0.181 ^b	12.28	0.282 ^{ab}	6.64	0.117 ^b
Area														
1	5													
2	12													
3	8													

Table A I 18: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of winter rye samples (Secale cereale L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp*	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Conduct	18	3.81	0.046 ^b							
Dukato	18	3.83	0.066 ^b							
Helitop	17	3.76	0.058 ^b							
Likoro	10	3.90	0.066 ^b							
Palazzo	18	3.58	0.050 ^a							
Year										
2011	16	3.98	0.100 ^b	2.65	0.099 ^c	3.31	0.104 ^b	6.05	0.240 ^b	5.11
2012	33	3.79	0.056 ^b	1.98	0.030 ^a	2.86	0.047 ^a	5.08	0.128 ^a	4.31
2013	32	3.57	0.058 ^a	2.26	0.036 ^b	3.16	0.041 ^b	5.77	0.104 ^b	4.88
Site/Area										
7/1	14	3.51	0.057 ^a	2.17	0.039 ^b	2.95	0.082 ^{ab}	5.31	0.214 ^{ab}	3.87
45/1	14	3.53	0.154 ^{abc}	1.44	0.060 ^a	2.77	0.106 ^a	4.83	0.264 ^a	3.54
4/2	13	3.92	0.082 ^c	2.46	0.077 ^{cd}	3.25	0.103 ^{bc}	5.92	0.275 ^{abc}	4.46
53/2	10	4.07	0.141 ^{bcd}	1.72	0.053 ^{bc}	3.28	0.073 ^{bc}	6.09	0.153 ^b	4.53
5/3	10	4.26	0.080 ^d	1.79	0.029 ^c	3.50	0.067 ^c	6.61	0.124 ^c	4.88
46/4	7	3.52	0.120 ^{ab}	2.31	0.059 ^{bc}	3.10	0.094 ^{ab}	5.48	0.163 ^{ab}	4.04
1/6	13	3.61	0.197 ^{abc}	1.54	0.082 ^{abc}	2.92	0.169 ^{ab}	5.18	0.440 ^{ab}	3.84
Manifestation	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Conduct	18			2.35	0.030 ^b	4.13	0.041 ^b	8.44	0.242 ^b	21.01
Dukato	18			2.31	0.042 ^b	4.02	0.059 ^b	8.20	0.295 ^b	20.46
Helitop	17			2.36	0.041 ^b	4.04	0.066 ^b	8.53	0.358 ^b	21.14
Likoro	10			2.35	0.056 ^b	4.08	0.076 ^b	8.41	0.335 ^b	21.03
Palazzo	18			2.16	0.032 ^a	3.83	0.039 ^a	7.08	0.235 ^a	18.12
Year										
2011	16	2.69	0.115 ^c	2.46	0.087 ^b	4.29	0.112 ^b	9.07	0.581 ^b	22.99
2012	33	2.12	0.045 ^a	2.10	0.060 ^a	3.69	0.069 ^a	6.58	0.42 ^a	17.16
2013	32	2.28	0.047 ^b	2.38	0.041 ^b	4.08	0.045 ^b	8.74	0.289 ^b	20.90
Site/Area										
7/1	14	2.25	0.060 ^{ab}	2.21	0.093 ^a	3.83	0.108 ^{ab}	7.46	0.739 ^{ab}	18.42
45/1	14	2.03	0.128 ^a	2.01	0.112 ^a	3.56	0.149 ^a	6.17	0.702 ^a	15.58
4/2	13	2.53	0.079 ^{bc}	2.44	0.079 ^{ab}	4.19	0.123 ^{bc}	8.68	0.778 ^{abc}	21.91
53/2	10	2.45	0.076 ^{ab}	2.42	0.045 ^a	4.20	0.066 ^b	9.64	0.477 ^{bc}	23.59
5/3	10	2.78	0.053 ^c	2.66	0.074 ^b	4.52	0.071 ^c	10.33	0.286 ^c	26.12
46/4	7	2.31	0.067 ^{ab}	2.31	0.067 ^a	3.98	0.105 ^{ab}	7.63	0.407 ^{ab}	19.11
1/6	13	2.19	0.194 ^{ab}	2.19	0.169 ^{ab}	3.86	0.232 ^{abc}	7.02	1.126 ^{ab}	17.74

*Trp was excluded due to a small sample count (n = 18)

Table A I 19: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of winter triticale samples (*Triticosecale*) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp*	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Benetto	21	3.80	0.048 ^{ab}	1.67	0.026 ^a	2.25	0.043 ^a	6.53	0.141 ^a	5.19
Cosinus	19	3.97	0.064 ^b	1.82	0.025 ^b	2.56	0.042 ^c	7.10	0.134 ^c	5.60
Moderato	8	3.77	0.057 ^{ab}	1.63	0.031 ^a	2.24	0.073 ^{ab}	6.74	0.174 ^{abc}	5.32
Sequenz	18	3.72	0.065 ^a	1.64	0.028 ^a	2.31	0.039 ^{ab}	6.57	0.129 ^a	5.27
Tarzan	9	3.82	0.093 ^{ab}	1.75	0.056 ^{ab}	2.48	0.100 ^{bc}	6.84	0.156 ^{bc}	5.33
Tulus	17	3.69	0.072 ^{ab}	1.66	0.029 ^a	2.27	0.043 ^{ab}	6.52	0.142 ^{ab}	5.13
Year										
2011	23	3.77	0.089 ^a	1.71	0.035 ^a	2.19	0.048 ^a	3.19	0.071 ^a	3.23
2012	35	3.55	0.088 ^a	1.63	0.036 ^a	2.33	0.059 ^a	3.17	0.105 ^a	3.16
2013	34	4.05	0.060 ^b	1.75	0.024 ^a	2.53	0.045 ^b	3.50	0.060 ^b	3.37
Area										
1	32	3.56	0.087 ^a	1.56	0.033 ^a	2.11	0.060 ^a	2.99	0.090 ^a	2.93
2	24	4.14	0.126 ^c	1.86	0.059 ^b	2.59	0.083 ^b	3.59	0.126 ^b	3.57
3	15	4.05	0.119 ^{bc}	1.78	0.053 ^b	2.49	0.090 ^b	3.54	0.103 ^b	3.18
4	10	3.73	0.051 ^{ab}	1.70	0.035 ^b	2.39	0.056 ^b	3.30	0.054 ^{ab}	3.42
6	11	3.49	0.097 ^a	1.58	0.025 ^a	2.17	0.039 ^a	3.06	0.132 ^a	3.15
Manifestation	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Benetto	21	2.55	0.047 ^a	2.71	0.053 ^{ab}	4.29	0.062 ^a	8.91	0.242 ^a	6.63
Cosinus	19	2.81	0.046 ^c	3.02	0.049 ^d	4.65	0.066 ^b	8.42	0.316 ^a	6.18
Moderato	8	2.71	0.068 ^{abc}	2.83	0.085 ^{bc}	4.41	0.089 ^{ab}	9.50	0.317 ^a	7.15
Sequenz	18	2.66	0.054 ^b	2.70	0.050 ^{ab}	4.31	0.065 ^a	7.68	0.348 ^a	6.13
Tarzan	9	2.62	0.071 ^{ab}	2.83	0.066 ^c	4.34	0.101 ^a	10.78	0.423 ^d	7.26
Tulus	17	2.54	0.077 ^{ab}	2.69	0.051 ^a	4.23	0.078 ^a	10.29	0.553 ^{cd}	7.02
Year										
2011	23	2.53	0.072 ^a	2.78	0.074 ^{ab}	4.23	0.092 ^a	8.91	0.242 ^a	6.63
2012	35	2.51	0.098 ^a	2.64	0.106 ^a	4.05	0.151 ^a	8.42	0.316 ^a	6.18
2013	34	2.92	0.063 ^b	2.98	0.049 ^b	4.53	0.066 ^b	9.50	0.317 ^a	7.15
Area										
1	32	2.37	0.084 ^a	2.47	0.093 ^a	3.89	0.117 ^a	7.68	0.348 ^a	6.13
2	24	3.00	0.068 ^d	3.14	0.117 ^c	4.63	0.128 ^{bc}	10.78	0.423 ^d	7.26
3	15	2.82	0.122 ^{cd}	3.10	0.119 ^c	4.52	0.133 ^c	10.29	0.553 ^{cd}	7.02
4	10	2.67	0.043 ^{bc}	2.85	0.044 ^{bc}	4.32	0.020 ^{bc}	8.93	0.311 ^{bc}	6.88
6	11	2.39	0.175 ^{ab}	2.54	0.146 ^{ab}	3.99	0.200 ^{ab}	7.80	0.426 ^{ab}	6.05

*Trp was excluded due to a small sample count (n = 22)

Table A I 20: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of winter barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Site/ Area	Year	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg									
4/2	2012	3	3.28	0.046 ^a	1.42	0.027 ^a	2.16	0.061 ^b	2.71	0.071 ^a	0.97	0.024 ^a	2.51	0.025 ^a	5.28	0.075 ^a	3.81	0.037 ^a	4.00	0.058 ^a
3/3	2013	3	3.88	0.056 ^b	1.62	0.039 ^b	2.27	0.007 ^b	3.10	0.058 ^b	1.20	0.053 ^{bc}	3.18	0.055 ^b	6.45	0.105 ^b	4.58	0.057 ^b	4.84	0.060 ^b
5/3	2013	3	3.86	0.025 ^b	1.63	0.091 ^{abc}	2.22	0.030 ^b	3.15	0.062 ^b	1.29	0.054 ^c	3.28	0.113 ^b	6.64	0.046 ^b	4.72	0.092 ^b	4.91	0.038 ^b
9/3	2012	3	3.13	0.075 ^a	1.48	0.053 ^{ab}	1.70	0.152 ^a	2.77	0.166 ^{ab}	0.99	0.094 ^{ab}	2.50	0.107 ^a	5.31	0.216 ^a	3.76	0.155 ^a	3.94	0.132 ^a
54/3	2013	3	4.33	0.042 ^c	1.87	0.051 ^c	2.51	0.026 ^c	3.61	0.025 ^c	1.49	0.009 ^d	3.88	0.109 ^c	7.87	0.068 ^c	5.48	0.087 ^c	5.59	0.028 ^c
Site/ Area	Year	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu									
4/2	2012	3	1.80	0.074 ^a	3.46	0.075 ^a	3.44	0.047 ^a	3.47	0.059 ^a	6.71	0.090 ^a	3.29	0.054 ^a	5.00	0.079 ^a	15.51	0.235 ^a		
3/3	2013	3	2.32	0.096 ^b	4.53	0.142 ^b	3.98	0.046 ^b	4.02	0.062 ^b	9.70	0.034 ^b	3.96	0.042 ^b	5.95	0.114 ^b	20.77	0.600 ^b		
5/3	2013	3	2.43	0.114 ^{bc}	4.71	0.077 ^b	3.99	0.021 ^b	4.08	0.033 ^b	9.99	0.310 ^b	4.06	0.033 ^b	5.87	0.108 ^b	21.90	0.942 ^b		
9/3	2012	3	1.89	0.143 ^a	3.45	0.227 ^a	3.38	0.116 ^a	3.37	0.138 ^a	6.34	0.386 ^a	3.27	0.131 ^a	5.08	0.142 ^a	15.64	1.228 ^a		
54/3	2013	3	2.65	0.029 ^c	5.85	0.048 ^c	4.44	0.036 ^c	4.52	0.031 ^c	12.62	0.206 ^c	4.60	0.060 ^c	6.41	0.004 ^c	27.52	0.685 ^c		

Table A I 21: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of spring barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg									
Variety																			
Catamaran	12	4.04	0.030 ^a	2.49	0.036 ^{ab}		3.27	0.060 ^{ab}	6.70	0.123 ^{ab}	4.74	0.075 ^{ab}	4.82	0.089 ^a					
Grace	13	4.24	0.041 ^b	2.59	0.047 ^b		3.46	0.048 ^{bc}	6.95	0.089 ^{bc}	4.95	0.068 ^{bc}	5.13	0.070 ^b					
Marthe	14	4.29	0.055 ^b	2.72	0.055 ^c		3.53	0.083 ^c	7.22	0.156 ^c	5.15	0.115 ^c	5.30	0.141 ^b					
Zeppelin	8	4.08	0.052 ^a	2.47	0.040 ^a		3.24	0.086 ^a	6.56	0.151 ^a	4.55	0.113 ^a	4.81	0.130 ^a					
Year																			
2011	5	4.30	0.065 ^a	3.09	0.046 ^b	3.63	0.078 ^b												
2012	19	4.15	0.052 ^a	2.27	0.084 ^a	3.24	0.112 ^a												
2013	23	4.04	0.071 ^a	1.77	0.044 ^a	3.14	0.140 ^a												
Area																			
1	10	4.09	0.057 ^a	1.82	0.023 ^a	2.36	0.039 ^a	3.29	0.029 ^a	1.20	0.010 ^a	3.38	0.070 ^a	6.83	0.069 ^a	4.83	0.091 ^a	4.99	0.134 ^a
3	11	4.31	0.112 ^a	2.02	0.046 ^b	2.80	0.076 ^b	3.42	0.057 ^a	1.26	0.014 ^b	3.53	0.080 ^a	7.17	0.110 ^a	5.07	0.107 ^a	5.11	0.040 ^a
4	11	3.97	0.088 ^a	1.77	0.077 ^{ab}	2.42	0.119 ^{ab}	3.09	0.193 ^a	1.09	0.067 ^{ab}	3.12	0.128 ^a	6.36	0.305 ^a	4.52	0.201 ^a	4.71	0.249 ^a
6	15	4.28	0.062 ^a	1.93	0.059 ^{ab}	2.68	0.074 ^b	3.54	0.193 ^a	1.25	0.063 ^{ab}	3.48	0.113 ^a	7.07	0.207 ^a	4.96	0.148 ^a	5.25	0.154 ^a
Manifestation																			
	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pto	Asp	Glu									
Variety																			
Catamaran	12		4.46	0.115 ^{ab}	4.08	0.036 ^a	4.08	0.072 ^{ab}	8.51	0.312 ^{ab}	6.19	0.054 ^a	20.17	0.498 ^{ab}					
Grace	13		4.75	0.097 ^{bc}	4.33	0.059 ^b	4.27	0.050 ^{bc}	9.16	0.345 ^{bc}	6.67	0.074 ^c	21.24	0.541 ^{bc}					
Marthe	14		4.83	0.142 ^c	4.41	0.067 ^b	4.32	0.072 ^c	9.24	0.373 ^c	6.61	0.089 ^{bc}	21.98	0.760 ^c					
Zeppelin	8		4.40	0.136 ^a	4.13	0.088 ^a	3.85	0.077 ^a	7.92	0.352 ^a	6.42	0.088 ^{ab}	19.27	0.627 ^a					
Year																			
2011	5	2.62	0.099 ^b								6.80	0.130 ^b							
2012	19	2.22	0.061 ^a								6.31	0.090 ^a							
2013	23	2.37	0.091 ^{ab}								6.31	0.133 ^{ab}							
Area																			
1	10	2.29	0.045 ^a	4.71	0.088 ^b	2.88	0.038 ^a	4.21	0.081 ^a	4.07	0.069 ^a	9.03	0.215 ^a	6.38	0.103 ^a	20.97	0.320 ^a		
3	11	2.54	0.085 ^b	4.89	0.072 ^b	3.04	0.045 ^a	4.38	0.084 ^a	4.33	0.053 ^b	9.08	0.338 ^a	6.66	0.195 ^a	22.21	0.465 ^a		
4	11	2.18	0.130 ^{ab}	4.16	0.231 ^a	2.67	0.143 ^a	4.04	0.115 ^a	3.92	0.141 ^{ab}	7.70	0.705 ^a	6.19	0.189 ^a	18.42	1.280 ^a		
6	15	2.60	0.087 ^b	4.68	0.187 ^{ab}	2.96	0.088 ^a	4.32	0.072 ^a	4.26	0.076 ^{ab}	9.04	0.410 ^a	6.65	0.124 ^a	21.05	0.933 ^a		

Table A I 22: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of oat samples (*Avena sativa* L.) from different varieties, years, and sites

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp*	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Flämingsgold	6	4.40	1.86	3.38	3.55	0.081 ^{ab}	3.53	0.075 ^a	5.08	0.091 ^a
Flocke	15	4.64	1.84	3.39	3.61	0.037 ^a	3.73	0.059 ^{ab}	5.11	0.103 ^a
Gabriel	9	4.51	1.81	3.23	3.57	0.048 ^a	3.69	0.043 ^b	5.15	0.069 ^a
Ivory	14	4.95	1.92	3.57	3.84	0.052 ^b	4.12	0.097 ^c	5.50	0.116 ^b
Max	15	4.57	1.78	3.21	3.57	0.035 ^a	3.73	0.052 ^{ab}	5.16	0.055 ^a
Scorpion	10	4.61	1.84	3.32	3.61	0.060 ^a	3.85	0.076 ^b	5.14	0.086 ^a
Simon	11	4.52	1.77	3.17	3.63	0.043 ^a	3.76	0.077 ^{ab}	5.12	0.082 ^{ab}
Year										
2011	23		3.67	3.27	3.67	0.042 ^a	3.87	0.111 ^a	7.60	0.163 ^{ab}
2012	30		3.55	3.45	3.45	0.042 ^b	3.63	0.076 ^a	7.29	0.107 ^a
2013	27		3.65	3.25	3.25	0.056 ^a	3.82	0.069 ^a	7.58	0.114 ^b
Site/Area										
4/2	16	4.31	1.72	3.28	3.37	0.061 ^a	3.49	0.054 ^a	4.74	0.018 ^a
7/1	16	4.33	1.70	3.04	3.47	0.049 ^a	3.50	0.127 ^a	4.79	0.188 ^a
45/1	18	5.30	2.06	3.50	4.16	0.057 ^c	4.27	0.093 ^b	5.88	0.086 ^b
46/4	10	4.23	1.68	3.07	3.32	0.074 ^a	3.33	0.185 ^a	4.60	0.136 ^a
54/3	10	4.70	1.89	3.53	3.82	0.089 ^b	4.02	0.112 ^b	5.54	0.177 ^b
55/3	10	4.72	1.94	3.54	3.80	0.074 ^b	4.03	0.092 ^b	5.54	0.177 ^b
Manifestation										
	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Flämingsgold	6	2.90	5.00	3.39	4.86	0.085 ^a	4.86	0.120 ^a	8.10	0.158 ^a
Flocke	15	2.97	5.11	3.40	5.02	0.058 ^a	4.99	0.044 ^a	8.52	0.133 ^b
Gabriel	9	2.90	5.14	3.49	4.90	0.064 ^a	4.93	0.108 ^{ab}	8.42	0.111 ^{ab}
Ivory	14	3.19	5.55	3.68	5.39	0.071 ^b	5.31	0.076 ^b	9.29	0.159 ^c
Max	15	2.95	5.11	3.36	4.97	0.049 ^a	4.88	0.044 ^a	8.45	0.088 ^b
Scorpion	10	3.00	5.16	3.42	4.93	0.059 ^a	4.92	0.106 ^{ab}	8.51	0.094 ^b
Simon	11	2.91	5.15	3.39	5.00	0.054 ^a	4.93	0.070 ^a	8.53	0.105 ^b
Year										
2011	23	2.96	5.23	3.19	5.03	0.075 ^a	5.07	0.067 ^b	7.83	0.156 ^a
2012	30	2.86	4.99	3.19	4.91	0.072 ^a	4.85	0.056 ^a	8.14	0.395 ^{abc}
2013	27	3.10	5.30	3.09	5.08	0.069 ^a	5.00	0.065 ^{ab}	9.86	0.186 ^d
Site/Area										
4/2	16	2.59	4.67	3.19	4.67	0.084 ^a	4.58	0.080 ^a	7.70	0.271 ^{ab}
7/1	16	2.76	4.87	3.19	4.73	0.107 ^a	4.70	0.064 ^a	8.80	0.282 ^a
45/1	18	3.20	6.02	3.96	5.64	0.075 ^c	5.66	0.075 ^c	8.80	0.282 ^a
46/4	10	2.75	4.55	3.09	4.59	0.158 ^a	4.43	0.113 ^a	7.70	0.271 ^{ab}
54/3	10	3.27	5.44	3.62	5.22	0.113 ^b	5.22	0.081 ^b	8.80	0.282 ^{bcd}
55/3	10	3.27	5.50	3.63	5.21	0.073 ^b	5.25	0.103 ^b	8.94	0.235 ^{cd}

*Trp was excluded due to a small sample count (n = 14)

Table A I 23: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of field pea samples (*Pisum sativum*, L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Alvesta	9									14.22 0.439 ^a
Auckland	6									15.04 0.712 ^{ab}
Casablanca	5									16.67 0.694 ^b
La Manscha	5									16.65 0.622 ^{ab}
Navarro	8									15.79 0.208 ^b
Salamanca	8									16.06 0.344 ^b
Year										
2011	12	17.04 0.561 ^a		2.51 0.050 ^a	7.47 0.436 ^a	1.98 0.052 ^b	8.64 0.261 ^{ab}	14.54 0.341 ^a		
2012	12	19.40 0.267 ^b		3.16 0.052 ^b	8.05 0.169 ^a	1.86 0.061 ^{ab}	9.14 0.175 ^b	15.05 0.470 ^{ab}		
2013	17	16.17 0.437 ^a		3.09 0.035 ^b	8.63 0.159 ^a	1.74 0.031 ^a	8.65 0.192 ^a	15.92 0.326 ^b		
Site/Area										
7/1	9	15.92 0.887 ^a	1.85 0.022 ^a	2.41 0.053 ^a	7.47 0.436 ^a		7.91 0.473 ^{ab}	13.57 0.869 ^{ab}	8.88 0.494 ^a	13.81 1.146 ^{ab}
4/2	16	16.73 0.423 ^a	2.18 0.042 ^b	3.11 0.043 ^b	8.05 0.169 ^a		8.57 0.181 ^a	14.57 0.338 ^a	9.68 0.193 ^a	15.14 0.377 ^a
5/3	8	18.12 0.347 ^a	2.28 0.019 ^b	3.03 0.033 ^b	8.63 0.159 ^a		9.25 0.156 ^{bc}	16.21 0.333 ^b	10.32 0.187 ^{ab}	16.81 0.282 ^c
54/3	8	19.37 0.310 ^b	2.28 0.031 ^b	3.13 0.062 ^b	8.64 0.239 ^a		9.50 0.218 ^c	16.33 0.360 ^b	10.58 0.252 ^b	17.20 0.696 ^{bc}
Manifestation	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Alvesta	9									
Auckland	6									
Casablanca	5									
La Manscha	5									
Navarro	8									
Salamanca	8									
Year										
2011	12	6.11 0.367 ^{ab}		5.55 0.192 ^{ab}	9.05 0.106 ^a	8.88 0.115 ^a		8.49 0.114 ^a		
2012	12	5.84 0.421 ^a		9.85 0.167 ^b	9.33 0.244 ^{abc}	9.25 0.218 ^{abc}		8.72 0.226 ^{abc}		
2013	17	7.30 0.249 ^b		9.02 0.142 ^a	9.66 0.131 ^{bc}	9.61 0.170 ^{bc}		9.14 0.119 ^{bc}		
Site/Area										
7/1	9	5.23 1.19 ^a	8.97 0.426 ^a	5.75 0.222 ^a	8.58 0.377 ^a	8.47 0.427 ^a	8.79 0.475 ^a	7.92 0.426 ^a	22.52 1.586 ^{ab}	31.06 2.201 ^{ab}
4/2	16	6.51 0.443 ^a	9.94 0.334 ^a	6.34 0.140 ^a	9.31 0.145 ^a	9.36 0.164 ^a	9.44 0.291 ^a	8.81 0.152 ^a	23.81 0.619 ^a	33.18 0.882 ^a
5/3	8	6.89 0.202 ^a	11.01 0.024 ^b	6.90 0.047 ^b	9.90 0.119 ^b	9.84 0.118 ^b	10.56 0.197 ^b	9.31 0.096 ^b	26.41 0.582 ^b	36.85 0.913 ^b
54/3	8	7.06 0.318 ^a	11.09 0.172 ^b	6.93 0.114 ^b	10.1 0.192 ^b	10.00 0.244 ^b	10.34 0.368 ^{ab}	9.69 0.239 ^b	26.46 0.684 ^b	36.97 1.232 ^b

Table A I 24: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of field bean samples (*Vicia faba* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg					
Variety															
Alexia	7	18.14	0.280 ^a	2.02	0.065 ^{ab}	2.02	0.039 ^a	10.71	0.162 ^a	20.02	0.322 ^a	11.82	0.18 ^a	23.52	0.61 ^a
Bioro	9	18.95	0.279 ^{abc}	2.08	0.049 ^a	2.08	0.043 ^c	11.60	0.152 ^c	21.59	0.223 ^c	12.92	0.174 ^{bc}	27.24	0.768 ^b
Divine	9	19.39	0.318 ^{bc}	2.06	0.022 ^a	2.06	0.042 ^c	11.66	0.137 ^c	21.60	0.223 ^c	13.11	0.154 ^c	26.87	0.568 ^b
Fuego	13	18.47	0.259 ^{ab}	2.07	0.037 ^a	2.07	0.024 ^b	11.03	0.114 ^{ab}	20.30	0.204 ^{ab}	12.38	0.127 ^{ab}	24.50	0.251 ^a
Isabell	13	19.59	0.340 ^c	2.26	0.049 ^b	2.26	0.035 ^c	11.56	0.117 ^c	21.18	0.226 ^c	13.05	0.140 ^c	26.48	0.494 ^b
Julia	8	19.50	0.373 ^{bc}	2.12	0.064 ^{ab}	2.12	0.036 ^{bc}	11.46	0.233 ^{bc}	21.03	0.308 ^{bc}	13.01	0.274 ^{bc}	27.07	0.729 ^b
Year															
2012	22	19.31	0.274 ^a	2.02	0.030 ^a	2.02	0.051 ^b	11.58	0.124 ^b	21.56	0.199 ^b	12.96	0.152 ^b		
2013	37	18.70	0.157 ^a	2.18	0.022 ^b	2.18	0.021 ^a	11.09	0.076 ^a	20.35	0.138 ^a	12.48	0.087 ^a		
Area															
2	12			3.67	0.074 ^c			11.15	0.092 ^a	20.54	0.167 ^a	12.56	0.098 ^a	24.74	0.498 ^a
3	32			3.09	0.048 ^a			11.66	0.114 ^b	21.58	0.204 ^b	13.08	0.129 ^b	26.61	0.449 ^b
6	15			3.27	0.078 ^b			11.20	0.144 ^a	20.73	0.201 ^a	12.51	0.185 ^a	26.49	0.845 ^{ab}
Manifestation															
	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu					
Variety															
Alexia	7			8.96	0.133 ^b	11.39	0.158 ^a	11.24	0.190 ^a	30.02	0.636 ^{ab}	44.21	0.926 ^a		
Bioro	9			8.52	0.118 ^a	12.24	0.200 ^{bc}	12.14	0.184 ^{bc}	32.04	0.4 ^c	48.48	0.585 ^c		
Divine	9			8.84	0.166 ^a	12.66	0.205 ^{bc}	12.23	0.094 ^c	32.08	0.345 ^c	49.01	0.535 ^c		
Fuego	13			8.97	0.087 ^a	11.43	0.100 ^b	11.50	0.155 ^{ab}	30.01	0.324 ^a	45.68	0.567 ^{ab}		
Isabell	13			8.42	0.210 ^a	11.90	0.169 ^{bc}	12.06	0.158 ^c	32.16	0.469 ^{bc}	48.04	0.569 ^c		
Julia	8			8.42	0.210 ^a	11.90	0.180 ^{bc}	12.00	0.245 ^{bc}	32.34	0.411 ^c	47.40	0.650 ^{bc}		
Year															
2012	22			8.96	0.133 ^b	11.85	0.139 ^b	12.19	0.146 ^b						
2013	37			8.52	0.118 ^a	11.50	0.071 ^a	11.53	0.117 ^a						
Area															
2	12	8.85	0.268 ^{ab}	8.84	0.166 ^a	12.02	0.067 ^a	11.90	0.149 ^a	31.12	0.322 ^a	46.22	0.496 ^a		
3	32	9.23	0.094 ^b	8.97	0.087 ^a	12.42	0.098 ^b	12.11	0.115 ^a	32.09	0.308 ^a	48.46	0.414 ^b		
6	15	8.28	0.118 ^a	8.42	0.156 ^a	12.06	0.220 ^{ab}	11.57	0.187 ^a	31.12	0.545 ^a	46.72	0.760 ^{ab}		

Table A I 25: Amino acid contents (LSMean and SE in g/kg DM) of blue lupin samples (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) from different varieties, years, and areas

Manifestation	n	Lys	Met	Cys	Thr	Trp	Ile	Leu	Val	Arg
Variety										
Boregine	7						11.26	0.540 ^a	11.41	0.489 ^{ab}
Borlu	7						12.13	0.286 ^a	12.53	0.220 ^{bc}
Boruta	6						12.30	0.389 ^{ab}	11.98	0.311 ^{ab}
Haags Blaue	4						11.56	0.157 ^a	11.52	0.139 ^a
Probor	7						13.30	0.267 ^b	12.84	0.252 ^c
Year										
2011	10		2.26	0.031 ^b						
2012	8		1.97	0.051 ^a						
2013	13		2.11	0.058 ^a						
Site/Area										
7/1	13	16.04	0.457 ^b		11.13	0.262 ^b	12.30	0.382 ^b	12.15	0.532 ^b
45/1	9	14.38	0.212 ^a		9.78	0.225 ^a	10.60	0.275 ^a	18.72	0.335 ^a
59/2	9	17.00	0.303 ^b		12.29	0.237 ^c	13.42	0.222 ^c	22.71	0.314 ^c
Manifestation										
	n	His	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Pro	Asp	Glu
Variety										
Boregine	7			9.86	0.247 ^a		14.25	0.381 ^a	28.57	1.215 ^a
Borlu	7			10.58	0.441 ^{ab}		14.76	0.489 ^a	32.07	0.806 ^{ab}
Boruta	6			9.47	0.627 ^{ab}		13.76	0.752 ^a	31.91	0.942 ^{ab}
Haags Blaue	4			9.33	0.259 ^a		13.72	0.368 ^a	30.14	0.426 ^a
Probor	7			11.03	0.159 ^b		16.23	0.245 ^b	34.38	0.760 ^b
Year										
2011	10									
2012	8									
2013	13									
Site/Area										
7/1	13	10.11	0.601 ^b	10.31	0.410 ^b	13.27	0.467 ^b	12.98	0.406 ^b	65.39
45/1	9	8.77	0.791 ^a	8.68	0.201 ^a	11.43	0.207 ^a	10.89	0.309 ^a	27.64
59/2	9	13.84	0.743 ^c	11.17	0.179 ^b	14.41	0.295 ^c	14.43	0.425 ^c	71.87

Table A IV 1: *In vitro* crude protein digestibility coefficients (LSMeans and SE) exemplary for 21-day old broiler chicken in selected cultivars from different harvest years and sites or areas¹

	WW	WR	WT	WB	SB	FP	FB
Variety							
Conduct		0.83 0.004 ^{ab}					
Dukato		0.83 0.003 ^{ab}					
Hellitop		0.84 0.003 ^b					
Likoro		0.85 0.002 ^c					
Palazzo		0.82 0.005 ^a					
Year							
2011	0.88 0.006 ^a	0.86 0.006 ^c					
2012	0.87 0.006 ^a	0.80 0.002 ^a					
2013	0.90 0.005 ^b	0.84 0.004 ^b					
Site/Area							
7/1	0.88 0.013 ^{abc}	0.83 0.006 ^a	0.86 0.004 ^a		0.80 0.005 ^b	0.79 0.012 ^a	
45/1		0.83 0.006 ^a	0.84 0.003 ^a				
4/2	0.92 0.005 ^c	0.83 0.004 ^a	0.85 0.009 ^a	0.78 0.014 ^{ab}		0.86 0.007 ^b	0.78 0.006 ^b
53/2	0.86 0.006 ^{ab}	0.85 0.004 ^a	0.85 0.007 ^a				
65/2			0.90 0.003 ^b				
3/3				0.77 0.010 ^a	0.78 0.006 ^a	0.88 0.011 ^b	0.78 0.006 ^b
5/3				0.82 0.005 ^b			
9/3				0.80 0.005 ^b			
48/3	0.88 0.006 ^{ab}						
51/3	0.88 0.009 ^b						
54/3			0.86 0.007 ^a	0.84 0.004 ^c		0.83 0.010 ^a	
46/4	0.89 0.006 ^b		0.85 0.008 ^a		0.77 0.008 ^a		
1/6	0.88 0.009 ^{abc}		0.85 0.011 ^a		0.78 0.007 ^{ab}	0.86 0.008 ^b	0.75 0.004 ^a
56/6	0.89 0.009 ^{abc}		0.85 0.000 ^a				

¹ cultivation areas with homogenous climatic conditions according to JKI (2018); values, which are written in grey colour, are calculated for a harvest area and not for a specific site

Appendix

Table A V 1: Contents of thiamine and riboflavin in selected cereals and grain legumes [mg/kg DM]

	Variety	Thiamine	Riboflavin
Cereals			
Spring triticale	Dublet	2.05	0.98
<i>Triticosecale</i>	Kulula	2.01	0.94
	Nagano	1.90	0.86
Naked barley	Nora	1.90	1.03
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L., var nudum			
Naked oats	Nihao	3.51	1.58
<i>Avena sativa</i> L., var nuda			
Legumes			
Winter field pea	James	6.23	1.64
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.			
Winter field bean	Hiverna		2.42
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.			
Yellow lupin	Mister (n=2)	6.67/7.76	2.55/2.70
<i>Lupinus luteus</i> L.	Taper (n=2)	6.21/6.97	2.68/2.76

Table A V 2: Maximum differences of thiamine and riboflavin contents between factor manifestations of cereals and grain legumes [mg/kg DM] – absolute as well as relative to mean content

	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
		variety	year	site/area	variety	year	site/area
Cereals							
Winter wheat	70	0.38	0.18	0.23	0.04	0.06	-
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		16.5%	7.8%	10.0%	5.4%	8.1%	-
Spring wheat	25	0.43	0.22	-	0.21	0.16	-
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.		19.4%	9.9%	-	24.7%	18.8%	-
Winter rye	81	0.42	0.23	0.46	0.06	0.17	0.09
<i>Secale cereale</i> L.		23.9%	13.1%	26.1%	5.7%	16.0%	8.5%
Winter triticale	92	0.24	-	0.28	0.12	0.11	0.12
<i>Triticosecale</i>		13.1%	-	15.3%	13.2%	12.1%	13.2%
Winter barley	15	-	-	0.74	-	-	0.27
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		-	-	33.5%	-	-	33.8%
Spring barley	47	-	0.54	-	0.08	0.12	0.10
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.		-	26.3%	-	8.5%	12.8%	10.6%
Oats	80	0.35	0.44	0.47	-	0.14	0.25
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.		12.9%	16.2%	17.3%	-	14.0%	25.0%
Grain legumes							
Spring field pea	41	-	1.68	1.97	0.14	0.51	0.18
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.		-	28.9%	33.9%	8.1%	29.5%	10.1%
Spring field bean	57/59*	1.25	2.30	0.94	0.94	-	0.15
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.		25.2%	46.3%	18.9%	34.2%	-	5.3%
Blue lupin	31	-	-	1.90	-	0.16	0.31
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i> L.		-	-	38.7%	-	6.7%	13.0%

*Thiamine/Riboflavin

Table A V 3: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of winter wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Butaro	24	2.45	0.036	b	0.76	0.007	b
Capo	26	2.07	0.036	a	0.77	0.010	b
Naturastar	20	2.38	0.042	b	0.73	0.011	a
Year							
2011	16	2.28	0.042	ab	0.76	0.017	ab
2012	22	2.40	0.053	b	0.72	0.010	a
2013	32	2.22	0.052	a	0.78	0.013	b
Area ¹							
1	8	2.20	0.080	ab			
2	17	2.21	0.033	a			
3	23	2.43	0.058	b			
4	10	2.32	0.063	ab			
6	12	2.37	0.075	ab			

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 4: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of spring wheat samples (*Triticum aestivum* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Eminent	8	2.10	0.098	a	0.82	0.027	a
Granny	4	2.29	0.151	ab	1.03	0.043	b
KWS Chamsin	4	2.53	0.162	ab	0.83	0.032	a
KWS Scirocco	9	2.42	0.072	b	0.84	0.021	a
Year							
2011	8	2.13	0.124		0.88	0.031	ab
2012	8	2.42	0.085		0.96	0.024	b
2013	9	2.45	0.101		0.80	0.025	a
Area ¹							
1	5						
2	12						
3	8						

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 5: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of winter rye samples (*Secale cereale* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest sites in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Conduct	18	1.80	0.043	b	1.07	0.011	abc
Dukato	18	1.76	0.041	b	1.08	0.015	abc
Helltop	17	1.99	0.055	c	1.04	0.013	ab
Likoro	10	1.76	0.057	b	1.09	0.015	c
Palazzo	18	1.57	0.060	a	1.03	0.011	a
Year							
2011	16	1.66	0.089	a	1.14	0.025	c
2012	33	1.77	0.039	a	0.97	0.013	a
2013	32	1.89	0.029	b	1.08	0.010	b
Site/Area ¹							
7/1	14	1.71	0.064	ab	1.07	0.027	ab
45/1	14	1.53	0.035	a	1.03	0.006	a
4/2	13	1.99	0.035	c	1.11	0.015	b
53/2	10	1.77	0.055	bc	1.08	0.018	b
5/3	10	1.80	0.039	b	1.02	0.013	a
46/4	7	1.95	0.035	c	1.08	0.013	b
1/6	13	1.70	0.087	abc	1.05	0.023	ab

thiamine: intervals are back-transformed; ¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 6: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of winter triticale samples (*Triticosecale*) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Benetto	21	1.92	0.043	bc	0.96	0.020	bc
Cosinus	19	1.75	0.050	a	0.88	0.015	a
Moderato	8	1.84	0.070	abc	0.92	0.021	ab
Sequenz	18	1.99	0.038	c	0.90	0.014	ab
Tarzan	9	1.89	0.062	abc	1.00	0.027	c
Tulus	17	1.86	0.018	ab	0.88	0.022	ab
Year							
2011	23				0.99	0.017	
2012	35				0.88	0.018	
2013	34				0.91	0.014	
Area ¹							
1	32	1.72	0.046	a	0.87	0.020	a
2	24	1.96	0.049	b	0.98	0.016	b
3	15	2.00	0.054	b	0.94	0.026	ab
4	10	1.84	0.105	ab	0.94	0.027	ab
6	11	1.86	0.068	ab	0.89	0.024	ab

riboflavin: intervals are back-transformed; ¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 7: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of winter barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different harvest sites in mg/kg DM

Site/Area ¹	Year	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
4/2	2012	3	2.31	0.062	b	0.72	0.019	a
9/3	2012	3	2.05	0.052	a	0.70	0.033	a
3/3	2013	3	2.23	0.023	b	0.97	0.044	b
5/3	2013	3	1.99	0.045	a	0.90	0.009	b
54/3	2013	3	2.73	0.060	c	0.92	0.014	b

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 8: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of spring barley samples (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Catamaran	12				0.92	0.023	ab
Grace	13				0.98	0.017	b
Marthe	14				0.91	0.022	a
Zeppelin	8				0.99	0.031	b
Year							
2011	5	1.77	0.068	a	0.99	0.041	b
2012	19	2.31	0.045	b	0.99	0.026	b
2013	23	1.99	0.037	a	0.87	0.018	a
Area ¹							
1	10				0.93	0.017	ab
3	11				0.98	0.021	ab
4	11				0.89	0.018	a
6	15				0.99	0.023	b

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 9: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of oat samples (*Avena sativa* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest sites in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Flämingsgold	6	2.67	0.133	abc			
Flocke	15	2.77	0.070	c			
Gabriel	9	2.49	0.042	a			
Ivory	14	2.54	0.058	a			
Max	15	2.58	0.060	ab			
Scorpion	10	2.72	0.079	bc			
Simon	11	2.84	0.080	c			
Year							
2011	23	2.45	0.117	a	1.06	0.038	b
2012	30	2.68	0.091	ab	0.99	0.035	ab
2013	27	2.89	0.070	b	0.92	0.016	a
Site/Area ¹							
7/1	16	2.70	0.140	ab	0.94	0.039	a
45/1	16	2.66	0.095	ab	1.16	0.033	b
4/2	18	2.34	0.106	a	0.91	0.042	a
54/3	10	2.81	0.066	b	0.96	0.063	ab
55/3	10	2.72	0.091	ab	0.98	0.077	ab
46/4	10	2.78	0.116	ab	1.01	0.060	ab

thiamine, riboflavin: Intervals are back-transformed; ¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 10: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of field pea samples (*Pisum sativum* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest sites in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Alvesta	9				1.78	0.035	bcd
Auckland	6				1.67	0.020	a
Casablanca	5				1.65	0.050	abc
KWS La Manscha	5				1.75	0.022	cd
Navarro	8				1.66	0.032	ab
Salamanca	8				1.80	0.029	d
Year							
2011	12	4.53	0.231	a	1.57	0.021	a
2012	12	6.02	0.335	b	2.05	0.043	b
2013	17	6.21	0.221	b	1.54	0.027	a
Site/Area ¹							
7/1	9	4.54	0.187	a	1.79	0.024	c
4/2	16	6.51	0.220	c	1.78	0.033	bc
5/3	8	5.61	0.223	b	1.69	0.034	ab
54/3	8	5.69	0.490	abc	1.61	0.032	a

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Appendix

Table A V 11: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of field bean samples (*Vicia faba* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Alexia	7	4.34	0.189	ab	3.29	0.082	d
Bioro	9	4.54	0.104	bc	2.77	0.048	bc
Divine	9	5.14	0.163	d	2.35	0.062	a
Fuego	13	3.87	0.145	a	2.83	0.028	c
Isabell	13	4.69	0.158	bc	2.46	0.029	a
Julia	8	4.86	0.127	cd	2.64	0.047	b
Year							
2012	22	3.55	0.179	a			
2013	37	5.85	0.098	b			
Area ¹							
2	12	4.16	0.074	a	2.56	0.055	a
3	32	4.46	0.175	b	2.67	0.022	a
6	15	5.10	0.125	c	2.81	0.053	b

all intervals are back-transformed; ¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Table A V 12: Thiamine and riboflavin contents (LSMean and SE) of blue lupin samples (*Lupinus angustifolius* L.) from different varieties, harvest years, and harvest areas in mg/kg DM

Manifestation	n	Thiamine			Riboflavin		
Variety							
Boregine	7						
Borlu	7						
Boruta	6						
Haags Blaue	4						
Probor	7						
Year							
2011	10				2.28	0.045	ab
2012	8				2.21	0.060	a
2013	13				2.37	0.021	b
Site/Area ¹							
7/1	13	4.12	0.210	a	2.20	0.040	a
45/1	9	3.67	0.150	a	2.18	0.033	a
59/2	9	5.57	0.365	b	2.49	0.076	b

¹ JKI (2018); superscript letters mark significant differences in columns with P<0.05

Declaration of Academic Integrity

I hereby confirm that the present thesis is solely my own work and that if any text passages or diagrams from books, papers, the Web or other sources have been copied or in any other way used, all references – including those found in electronic media – have been acknowledged and fully cited.

Stephanie Witten

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