

ergocryptine did not alter body weight, food consumption, paired testes weights or seminal vesicle weights. The constancy of testes and seminal vesicle weights is good indication that the 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine treatment of this invention has no effect on the animals' fertility.

Since body weight was not adversely affected by treatment with 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine, it is apparent that the method of this invention causes the animal to direct metabolic energy away from lipogenesis and towards protein formation.

For the Examples shown in Table II, the treatment was for 10 days using the same dosage and prolactin-inhibitor as was used for the Examples of Table I. The animals had an initial average body weight of 100 g.

effective dosage of an ergot-related prolactin-inhibiting compound for a period of at least 7 days and until a predetermined amount of said body fat stores is reduced.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said ergot-related prolactin inhibiting compound is 2-bromo- α -ergocryptine or its salts formed from pharmaceutically acceptable acids.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said dosage is administered over a period of at least 10 days.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said vertebrate animal in need is of a species which is for commercial slaughter and wherein said method additionally comprises ceasing said dosage at least 5 days before slaughtering of said vertebrate animal.

TABLE I

TREATMENT	N	BODY WT. (% INCR.)	INDICES OF BODY FAT STORES			
			EPIDIDYMAL FAT PAD		ABDOMINAL FAT PAD	
			(g)	(% B.W.)	(g)	(% B.W.)
<u>Experiment 1 - (3-4 months of age)</u>						
Control	9	11.5 \pm 4.0	1.73 \pm 0.06	1.37 \pm 0.05	0.84 \pm 0.03	0.67 \pm 0.03
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	10	16.3 \pm 2.4	1.17 \pm 0.07 ¹	0.93 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.43 \pm 0.02 ¹	0.38 \pm 0.01 ¹
<u>Experiment 2 - (7 months of age)</u>						
Control	8	3.3 \pm 0.9	1.35 \pm 0.07	1.10 \pm 0.05	0.96 \pm 0.08	0.77 \pm 0.06
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	8	5.4 \pm 1.2	1.07 \pm 0.09 ²	0.76 \pm 0.04 ¹	0.72 \pm 0.07 ²	0.54 \pm 0.04 ¹
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (2.00 mg/kg/day)	7	3.0 \pm 1.1	1.08 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.90 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.75 \pm 0.08 ³	0.63 \pm 0.08 ³
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (.15 mg/kg/day)	8	1.6 \pm 1.2	0.91 \pm 0.06 ¹	0.86 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.60 \pm 0.04 ¹	0.56 \pm 0.04 ¹
TREATMENT	LIVER WT. (g)	FOOD CONSUMED (g/day/animal)	REPRODUCTIVE INDICES			
			TESTES (g)	SEMINAL VESTICLES (g)	ACCESSORY SEX ORGAN (g)	
<u>Experiment 1 - (3-4 months of age)</u>						
Control	5.2 \pm 0.2	8.8 \pm 0.2	4.0 \pm 0.1	1.62 \pm 0.08	0.98 \pm 0.10	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	5.3 \pm 0.3	8.8 \pm 0.2	3.9 \pm 0.1	1.68 \pm 0.10	0.90 \pm 0.10	
<u>Experiment 2 - (7 months of age)</u>						
Control	4.9 \pm 0.5	10.4 \pm 0.3	3.5 \pm 0.2	1.42 \pm 0.05	0.84 \pm 0.05	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	5.6 \pm 0.7	11.2 \pm 0.3	3.6 \pm 0.2	1.53 \pm 0.06	0.78 \pm 0.05	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (2.00 mg/kg/day)	5.0 \pm 0.3	9.8 \pm 0.3	3.3 \pm 0.2	1.57 \pm 0.03	0.79 \pm 0.05	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (.15 mg/kg/day)	4.5 \pm 0.2	9.2 \pm 0.5	3.3 \pm 0.1	1.40 \pm 0.07	0.76 \pm 0.06	

¹Significantly less than control (P less than 0.01)

²Significantly less than control (P less than 0.05)

³Not significantly different from control

⁴Number of Hamsters

TABLE II

TREATMENT	N	FINAL BODY WT.	INDICES OF BODY FAT STORES				LIVER WT. (g)	FOOD CONSUMED (g/day/ animal)
			EPIDIDYMAL FAT PAD		ABDOMINAL FAT PAD			
			(g)	(% B.W.)	(g)	(% B.W.)		
<u>Experiment 1 - (3-4 months of age)</u>								
Control	5	116 \pm 12	1.23 \pm 0.08		0.88 \pm 0.08		4.5 \pm 0.2	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	5	109 \pm 7	0.85 \pm 0.14 ¹		0.42 \pm 0.06 ¹		4.3 \pm 0.3	
<u>Experiment 2 - (7 months of age)</u>								
Control	5	103 \pm 6	1.50 \pm 0.18	1.43 \pm 0.11	1.17 \pm 0.22	1.10 \pm 0.16	8.6	
2-Bromo- α -ergocryptine (6.00 mg/kg/day)	5	91 \pm 3	0.98 \pm 0.05 ¹	1.07 \pm 0.04 ¹	0.46 \pm 0.05 ¹	0.50 \pm 0.05 ¹	8.5	

¹Significantly less than control (P less than 0.05)

N Number of hamsters

We claim:

1. A method for treating a vertebrate animal to reduce its body fat stores without substantial concomitant loss in its body weight, which method comprises administering to said animal in need of such treatment an

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said dosage is maintained for about 10 days.