































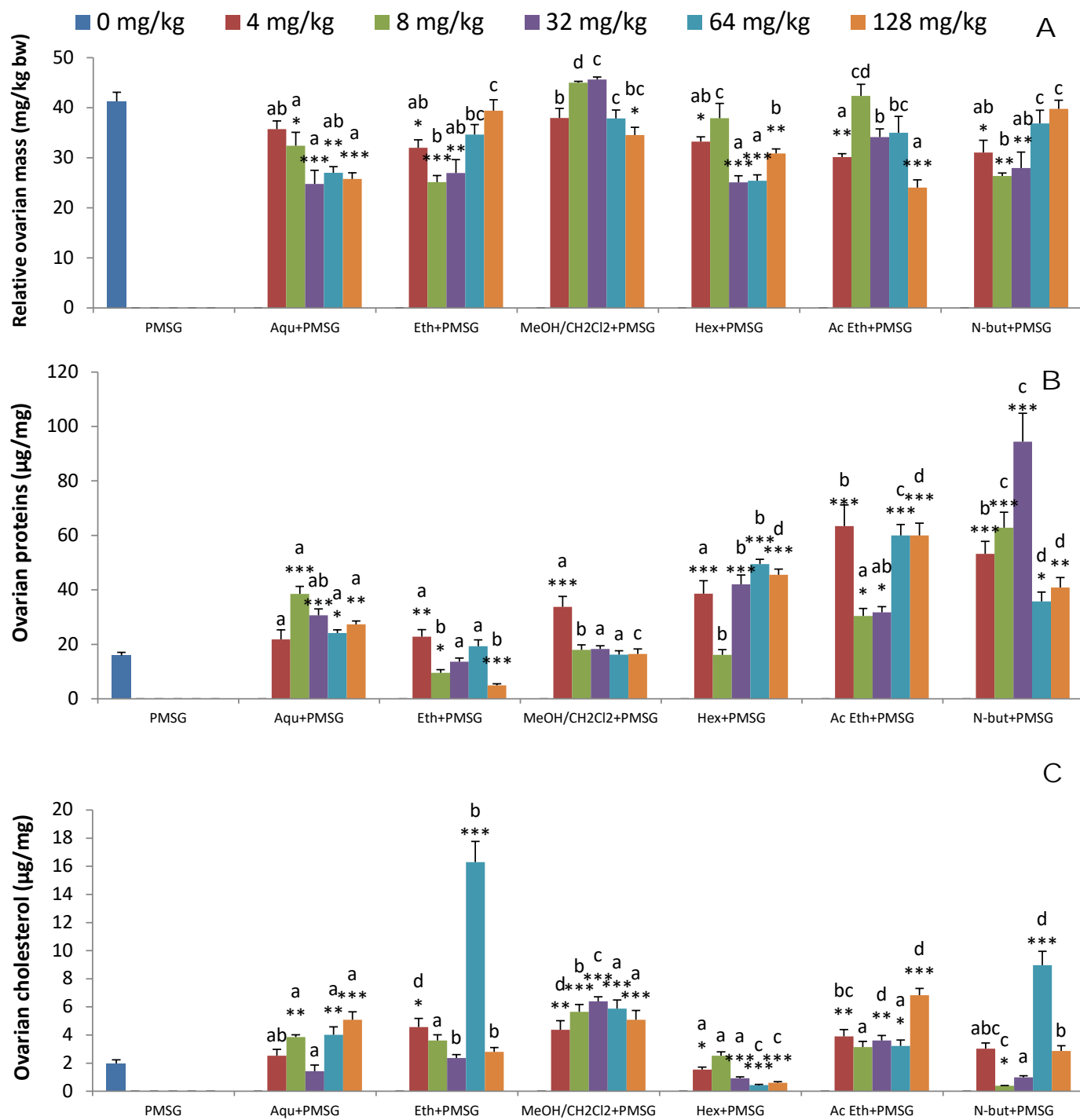






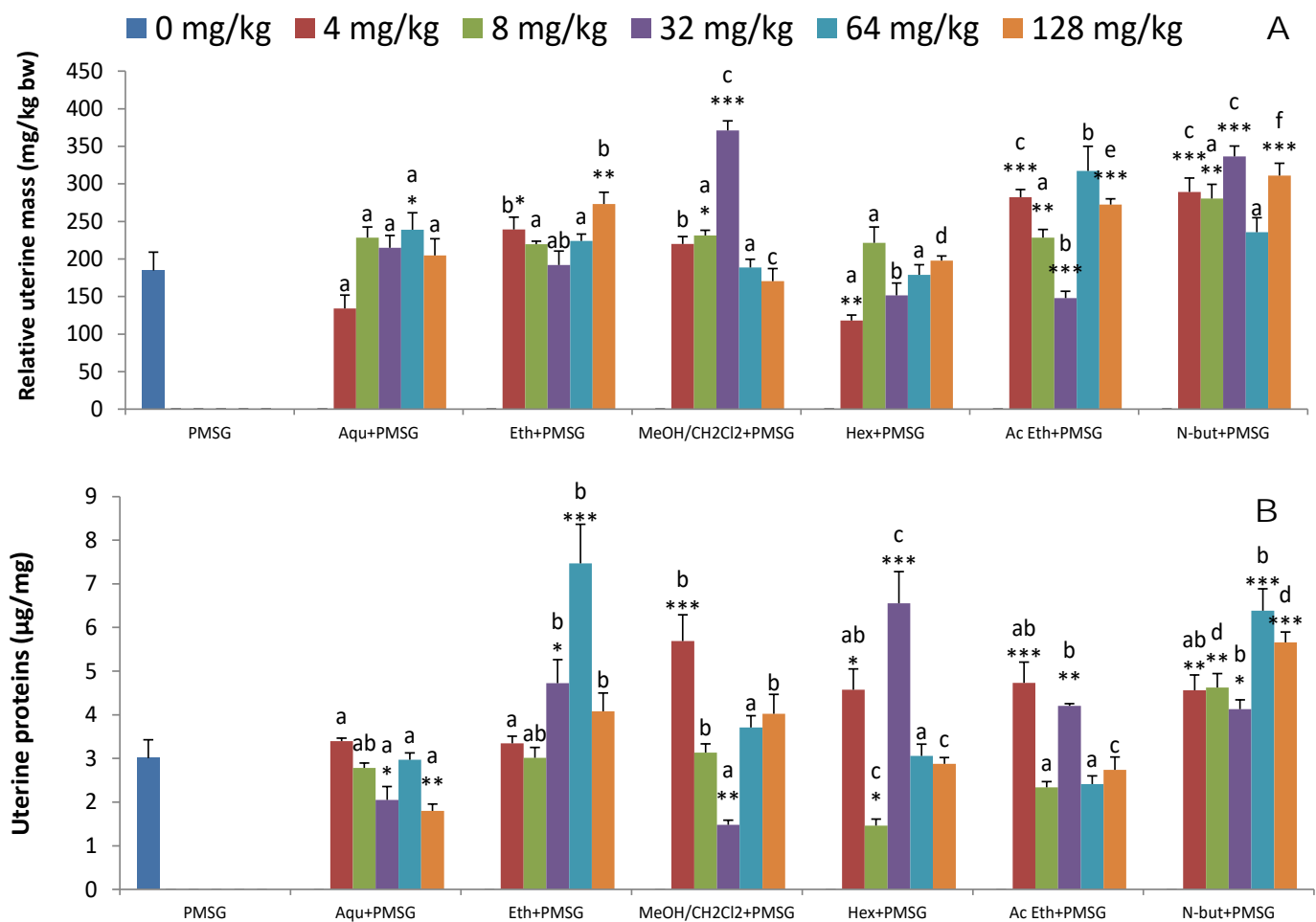
<b>proteins</b>	0.095	0.575	1.875	3.082	0.678	12.164	4.765	11.241	2.592	2.426	42.361
<b>(µg/mg)</b>											
<b>Vaginal</b>	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5
<b>openings</b>											

456       \*, \*\* and \*\*\* Values significantly different respectively at p<0.05, p<0.01 and p<0.001 from those of the control group (ANOVA and Fisher LSD). Each value represents  
457       the mean ± SE of the values for 5 animals.



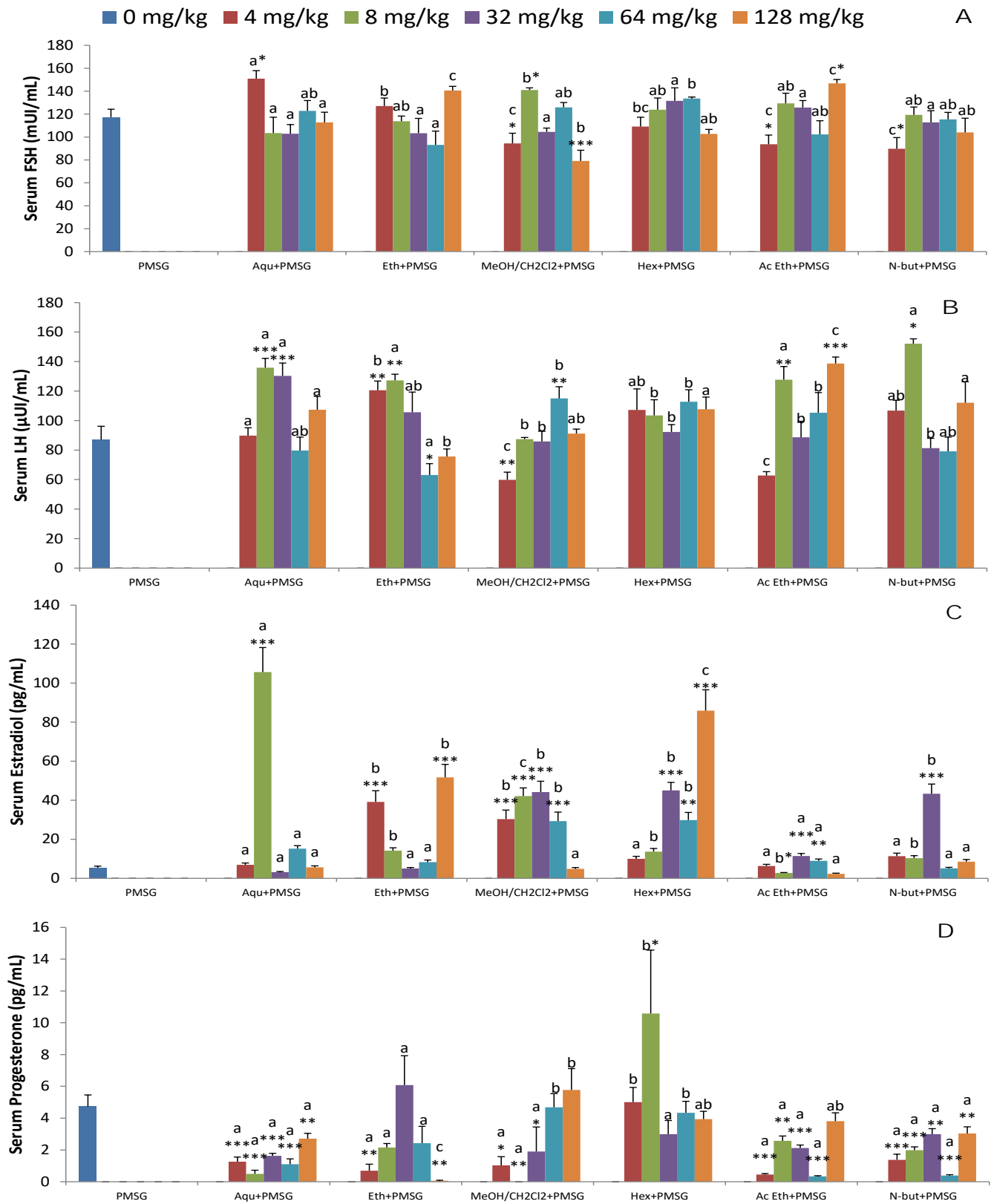
**Figure 1.** Effect of EFSb co-administered with PMSG on the ovarian mass (A), proteins (B) and cholesterol (C) levels.

\*, \*\* and \*\*\* Values significantly different respectively at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.001$  from those of the control group (ANOVA and Fisher LSD); different letters a, b, c, ... represent differences between the same doses of different extracts or fractions (SNK test). Each histogram represents the mean  $\pm$  SE of the values for 6 animals.



**Figure 2.** Effect of EFSb co-administered with PMSG on uterine mass (A) and proteins level (B).

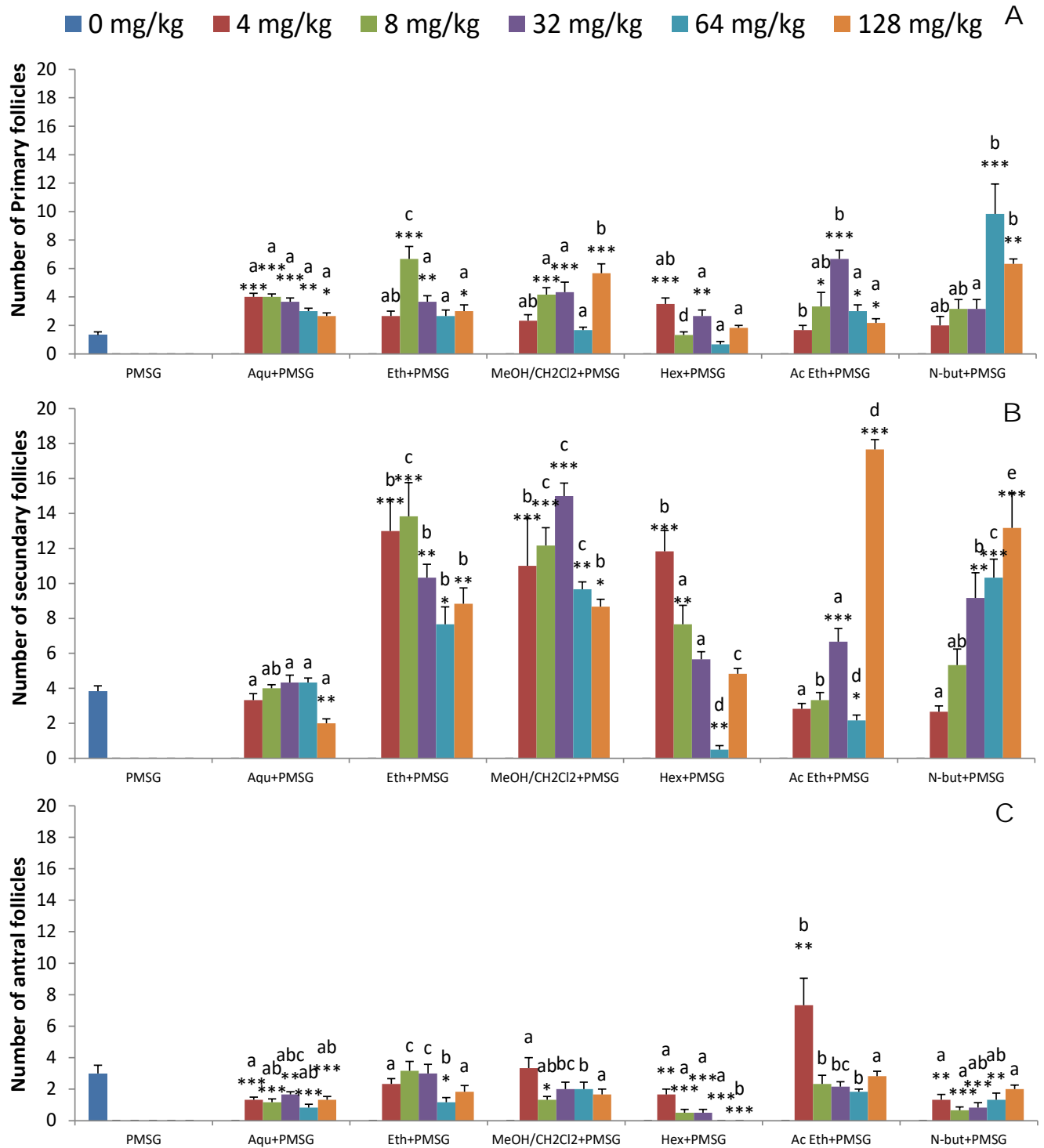
\*, \*\* and \*\*\* Values significantly different respectively at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.001$  from those of the control group (ANOVA and Fisher LSD); different superscript letters a, b, c, ... represent differences between the same doses of different extracts or fractions (SNK test). Each histogram represents the mean  $\pm$  SE of the values for 6 animals.



**Figure 3.** Effect of EFSb co-administered with PMSG on the levels of serum FSH (A), LH (B), estradiol (C) and progesterone (D).

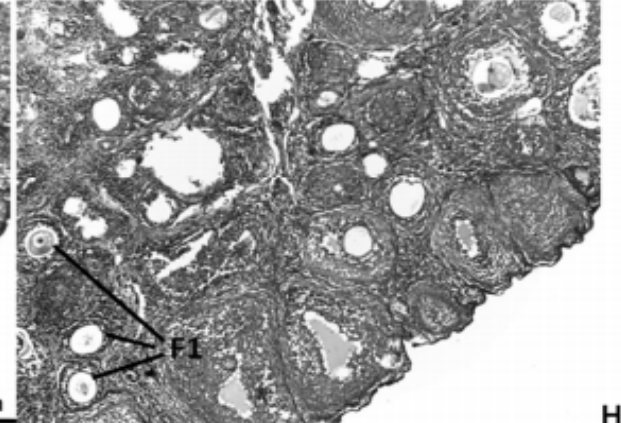
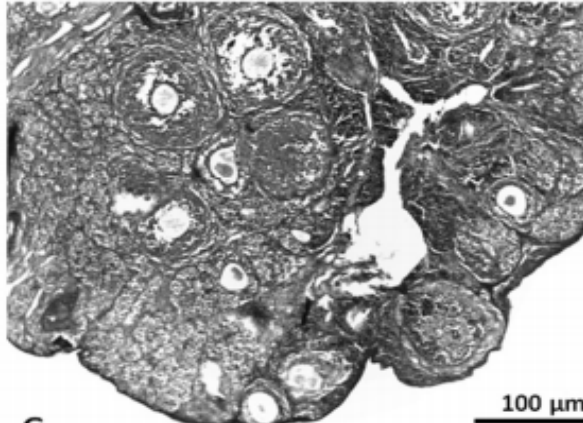
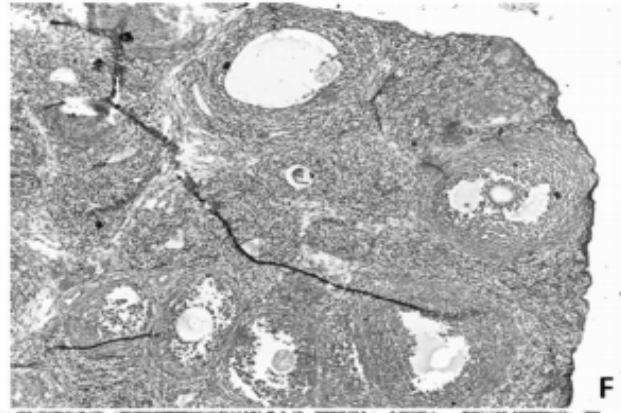
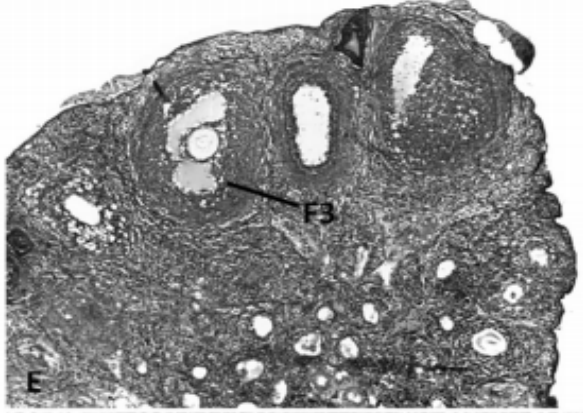
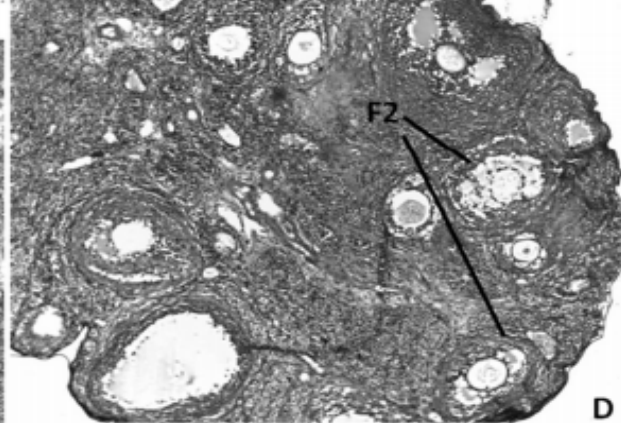
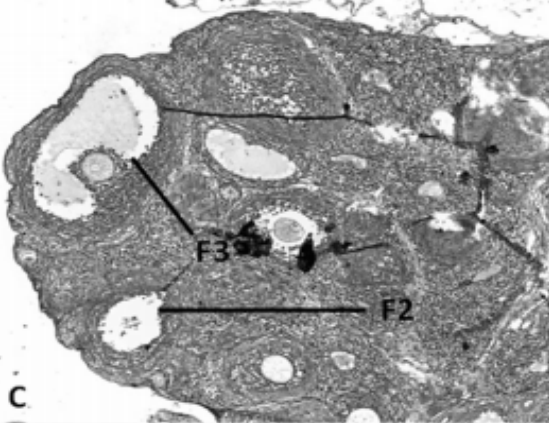
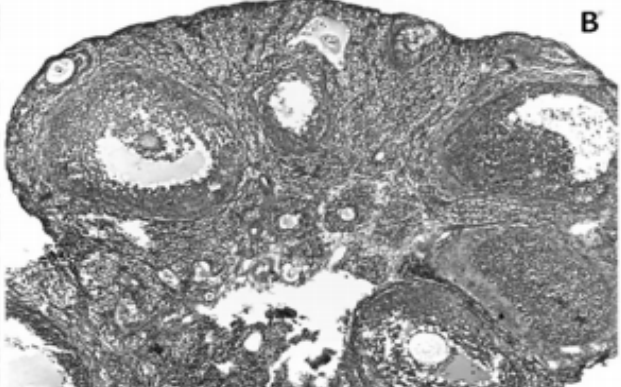
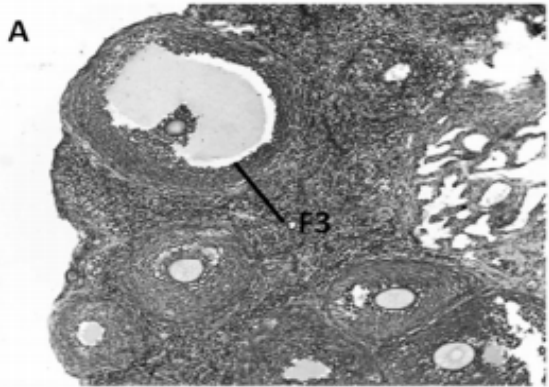
, \*\* and \*\*\* Values significantly different respectively at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.001$  from those of the con-

control group; different letters <sup>a, b, c, ...</sup> represent differences between the same doses of different extracts or fractions (ANOVA and Fisher LSD). Each histogram represents the mean  $\pm$  SE of the values for 6 animals. The values of the FSH rates are positively correlated to the LH values ( $p < 0.01$ ) while the P4 values are negatively correlated to E2 values ( $p < 0.01$ ).



**Figure 4.** Effect of EFSb co-administered with PMSG on the numbers of primary (A), secondary (B) and tertiary (C) follicles.

, \*\* and \*\*\* Values significantly different respectively at  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.001$  from those of the control group; different letters <sup>a, b, c,...</sup> represent differences between the same doses of different extracts or fractions (ANOVA and Fisher LSD). Each histogram represents the mean  $\pm$  SE of the values for 6 animals. The values of the FSH rates are positively correlated to the LH values ( $p < 0.01$ ) while the P4 values are negatively correlated to E2 values ( $p < 0.01$ ).



100  $\mu$ m

**Figure 5.** Representative Images of ovarian sections stained using haematoxin - eosin staining system. The photographs show sections presenting primary (F1), secondary (F2) and antral follicles (F3). Magnification: 100x

A= PMSG control,

B= 4 mg/kg dose of Ethyl acetate fraction + PMSG,

C= 32 mg/kg dose of Ethanol extract + PMSG,

D= 32 mg/kg dose of MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> extract + PMSG,

E= 64 mg/kg dose of Aqueous extract + PMSG,

F= 4 mg/kg dose of hexane fraction + PMSG,

G= 64 mg/kg dose of n-butanol fraction + PMSG,

H= 128 mg/kg dose of n-butanol fraction + PMSG