



Received : July, 2011; Accepted : September, 2011

Research
Paper

Effect of different levels of Azolla meal on feed intake of Osmanabadi kids

SHITAL.S. GHODAKE., A.P. FERNANDES., ROHINI V.DARADE AND B.G. ZAGADE

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

SHITAL.S. GHODAKE
R.C.D.P. on Cattle,
Mahatma Phule Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
AHMEDNAGAR
(MAHARASHTRA) INDIA
shital.g1983@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Eighteen osmanabadi kids of 3 months age were selected and distributed into three treatments viz., T₁ (control), T₂ (15% concentrate was replaced with azolla meal), T₃ (25% concentrate was replaced with azolla meal). The feeding was carried out for 3 months keeping roughages to concentrate ratio 67:33. The average crude protein, crude fibre, ether extract nitrogen free extract and cellulose were 24.98, 9.07, 3.35, 52.46 and 29.37 per cent, respectively. The average daily dry matter intake per kid was higher in treatments T₂ (0.35 kg) followed by T₁ and T₃ (0.34 and 0.33 kg, respectively), while the average FCE values in T₁, T₂ and T₃ were 20.46, 19.83 and 10.07, respectively.

Ghodake, Shital S., Fernandes, A.P., Darade, Rohini V. and Zagade, B.G. (2011). Effect of different levels of Azolla meal on feed intake of Osmanabadi kids, *Vet. Sci. Res. J.*, 2 (1 & 2) : 22-24.

Key words : Azolla meal, Osmanabadi kids, DMI.

INTRODUCTION

India possesses the largest livestock population in the world, consisting of 222 million cattle, 95 million buffaloes, 124 million goats and 59 million sheep (FAO, 2004). In many areas in India native or natural pastures make up the bulk of feed for livestock which are of poor quality so also there is a substantial decrease in fodder cultivation and forests and grass lands. The feasibility of using non conventional feed resources as the basis for livestock production is increasing slowly. A wide range of non conventional feed and fodders have been identified suitable for feeding of animal. Leguminous species are referred as they have high crude protein, calcium and phosphorus and low crude fibre. Among those grown in water azolla is one which cultivated and is fed to various categories of livestock. Azolla is important among aquatic plants due to the occurrence of both photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation in the leaves and also because of its growth habit it appears a greater potential than tree leaves as source of protein minerals and vitamins for animals. The water fern azolla consists of various varieties viz., *Azolla pinnata*, *A. maxicana*, *A. nilotica*. Looking to the beneficial effects of feeding Azolla meal in the ration

of different livestock.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Eighteen Osmanabadi kids of approximately similar weight irrespective of sex of three months age were randomly divided into three groups viz., T₁, T₂ and T₃ as treatments consisting 6 animals in each and each animal in the treatment was considered as replication. The kids subjected to different groups were fed for three months duration. The experimental concentrate feeds of T₁, T₂ and T₃ treatment groups prepared for feeding the respective treatments group animals were as below. The concentrate mixture was prepared by using 90 parts pelleted concentrate feed and 10 parts of groundnut cake. The proximate composition of feed ingredients used is given in Appendix I.

The observation recorded on feed intake, body weight and proximate analysis during the experimental period were subjected to statistical analysis in RBD.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was observed from Table 1, that the azolla meal