

Abstract

A palatability study was conducted using fifteen indigenous multipurpose tree leaf forages offered to twenty intact male Small East African Goats, 7 to 8 months and 18kg \pm 2.1kg. The CP (gkg⁻¹DM) of the best five species were: *M. angolensis* (321), *A. senegal*, (249), *Z. mucronata*, (200), *G. bicolor*, (196) and *A. brevispica*, (187). The NDF and ADF contents ranged from 218-601 for *A. hockii* and *A. amara*, and 160-462 for *A. hockii* and *A. abyssinica*, respectively. The palatability ranking of the forages was in the order: *A. tortilis* > *M. angolensis* > *B. aegyptiaca* > *Z. mucronata* > *A. coriaria* > *A. Senegal* > *A. abyssinica* > *A. mellifera* > *A. brevispica* > *A. elatior* > *A. amara* > *G. bicolor* > *A. nilotica* > *B. micrantha* > *A. hockii*. *M. angolensis* and *Z. mucronata* had OMD of 68.0 and 73.8%, respectively. *M. angolensis*, *Z. mucronata* ranked highly on the parameters studied. It is concluded that *Maerua angolensis* and *Zizyphus mucronata* being high in nutritive value and palatability, are potential protein supplements to low quality basal diets.