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Nutritive Value of Green Lucerne (Anand-2) (*Medicago Sativa* Linn) for Camels

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Camel is a domestic animal of great economic importance in some parts of this country. It is a pseudoruminant and has its habitat in areas where scarcity is predominant and lives in conditions where feed resources are meager. Digestibilities of the fodders varies according to species also.

Therefore, to assess the nutritive value of green lucerne (Anand-2) a conventional method of digestibility trial was conducted using five male camels. The animals were fed *adlib*. After a 25 days preliminary feeding a 7 days collection was made. The feed and faeces were analysed by A.O.A.C. (1970) methods.

The chemical composition of lucerne used for feeding to camels was 18.53, 2.59, 22.30, 45.17 and 10.31 per cent C. protein, E.Ext., C. fibre, NFE and ash respectively on dry matter basis.

Chemical composition of the lucerne was almost similar as reported by Anon (1970).

The average total dry matter intake was 8.85 ± 0.47 kg/day/animal.

The data on nutrients intake and their digestibility coefficients are given in Table-1.

The average digestibility coefficient of crude protein was 77.57. Anon (1970) reported somewhat higher digestibility of crude protein in cattle. The dry matter digestibility was as per the value reported by Anon (1970) in cattle. However, the crude fiber and ether extract digestibility was considerably lower in camels as compared to the values reported by Anon (1970). This may be due to the species difference.

The DCP and TDN values worked out to be 14.37 and 64.61 per cent on dry matter basis. The corresponding values were 19.34 and 69.71 per cent respectively for cattle (Anon, 1970).

TABLE 1

Nutrients intake and their digestibility coefficients.

Nutrients	*Average daily intake (g/day)*	*Digestibility coefficients*	*DCP %*	*TDN%*
Dry matter	8851 ± 0.47	70.10 ±1.80	14.37	64.61
Crude protein	1708 ±78.12	77.57 ±2.75		
Ether extract	231 ±12.38	48.52 ±4.63		
Crude fiber	1792 ±147.82	49.57 ±1.66		
N F E	4086 ±194.44	80.50 ±1.66		

On an average the camels consumed daily 1271 g DCP and 5718 g TDN on dry matter basis, which are more than their requirements as reported by Mathur (1984).

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