INTAKE AND DIGESTIBILITY OF *GLIRICIIDIA SEPIUM* BY BUNAJI BULLS

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to evaluate the feeding value of *Gliricidia sepium* (GS) for growing cattle. Twenty Bunaji bulls of average weight 110.5kg between 1-2 years of age were used in a feeding trial which lasted 90 days. The bulls were randomly allotted to four treatment groups in which GS replaced Cotton Seed Cake (CSC) at 25, 50 and 75% w/w in a Completely Randomized Design consisting of five animals per treatment. The results showed that intakes of concentrate and total DM increased ($P<0.05$) as proportions of *G. sepium* increased in the diets up to 50% inclusion level and declined afterwards. The variation in the inclusion levels had no significant ($P>0.05$) effect on nutrient digestibility across the treatments except on crude fibre digestion. There were significant ($P<0.05$) differences in nitrogen retention but it was positive for all diets. It is concluded that *Gliricidia sepium* leaves can be successfully utilized at 50% level of inclusion as a protein source for cattle

KEYWORDS: *Gliricidia sepium*, Intake, Digestibility, Bunaji Bulls