



Botanical Composition of the Diet of Goats and Sheep in Native Caatinga, Ceara, Brazil

Antonia Edna Do Nascimento and J. Maurice Shelto; Universidade Estadual do Ceará; Contact Author Email: engarcia@uece.br

Preliminary studies have shown that the combination of sheep and goats was the best option to exploit some of native caatinga ecological sites, considering the importance of studies on the botanical composition of the diet of ruminants and their variations over the year to determine the possible overlays and competitions between them. This work was aimed to assess through the technique of fecal analysis, the profiles of annual diets of breeds of sheep Morada Nova and Rabo Largo and goat breeds Moxot and Anglo Nubiano in native Caatinga. The order of preference of forage species was the same for sheep and goats, that is, grass more preferred than forbs and ligneous species, with the last two groups also consumed. The diet of sheep was richer in grasses than ligneous species than that of goats. In both animal species in the dry period, the preference for grass and leaves of trees and shrubs was high, decreasing the wet season. On the other hand, consumption of forbs was low in the dry season, increasing the wet season. The effect of race was significant only for the consumption of ligneous species. The goats Anglo Nubiano consumed more sheets of ligneous species that the breed Moxot and sheep breed morada nova surpassed Rabo Largo. The difference in botanical composition of the diets of ruminant breeds indicate the possibility of grazing combined, in the ecosystem of native caatinga.

2009. 62nd Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Paper No. 2030-14.