Abstract

Introduction. The Lotus uliginosus cv Maku legume is a forage plant with a good productive behavior. It is known because of its protein contribution and its content of condensed tannins, which can improve the use of the protein in the intestine. Objective. To determine the post-ruminal digestability of the Lotus uliginosus cv Maku’s protein that can not be degraded in rumen (DPPNDR) by the use of the mobile nylon bag technique with no pre-digestion in pigs. Materials and methods. Three Holstein cows, each one with a ruminal cannula, were used, and so were three 35 kg pigs in their growth stage. The animals were kept in corrals and/or independent cages. Three regrowth ages were used, and they conformed the treatments T1:15, T2:30 and T3:45 regrowth days, respectively. The data of raw protein disappearance in cows and pigs were analyzed by the use of a random blocks statistic design. Results. For the ruminal degradability variable and the total raw protein digestability, the highest value obtained was that of T1 (57.24 and 73.99 %, respectively). Nevertheless, no differences were observed in the not degradable in rumen raw protein between treatments (P>0.05). Discussion. The total quantity of raw protein degraded in T1 could be caused by the effect of the low fiber and tannins quantity in such a legume. Conclusion. The Lotus uliginosus cv Maku harvested after 15 days of regrowth is a good alternative to feed dairy cows in high tropic production systems in Colombia.

Keywords

Ruminal cannula, growing pigs, total digestibility, raw protein, mobile nylon bag technique.