Session 36

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Growth performance and feeding behaviour of cattle supplemented with babasu palm (*Orbignya phalerata*) silage

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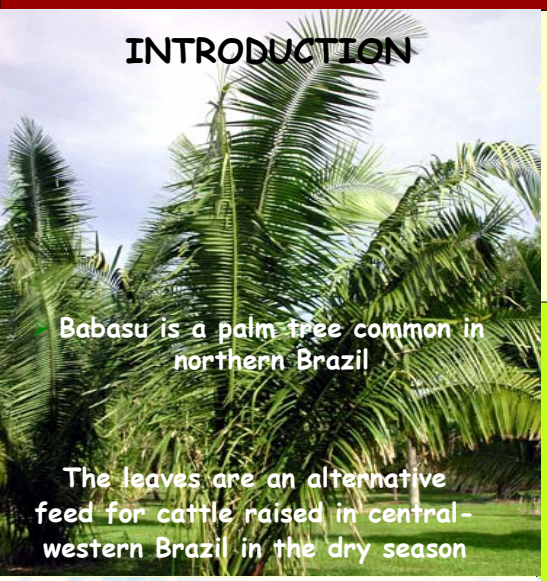
INTRODUCTION



- Babasu is a palm tree common in northern Brazil

The leaves are an alternative feed for cattle raised in central-western Brazil in the dry season

Crude protein in the leaves surpasses the minimum requirements for maintenance of ruminants

OBJECTIVES

Evaluate the effect of Babasu silage on growth performance, feed intake and feeding behavior (time spent ingesting feed, ruminating, resting and ingesting water)

CONCLUSIONS

Substitution of corn silage by Babasu silage above 25% of the roughage intake caused:

- a decline in feed intake and growth rate
- a change in feeding behaviour (↑ resting time, ↓ rumination time)

MATERIALS & METHODS

- Castrated Nelore males (n = 25) with initial live weight of 256 kg
- Animals were given commercial concentrate (1 % of live weight / d), and assigned to five treatments.
  - Corn silage (BO) - *ad libitum*
  - 25% Babasu silage (B25)
  - 50% Babasu silage (B50)
  - 75% Babasu silage (B75)
  - 100% Babasu silage (B100)

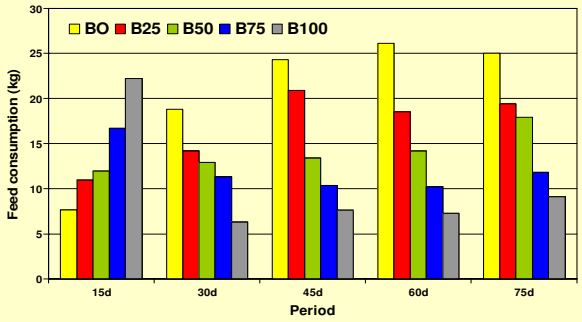
Ingredients and composition of concentrate

Ingredients	(%)
corn	60
soybean meal	36
urea	2
mineral salts	2
Composition	**Values**
calcium	0.52
ash	3.67
metabolizable energy (Mcal/kg)	2.73
crude fiber	3.30
total phosphorus	0.48
Dry matter	86.35
NDF	75.48
crude protein	27.04
sodium	0.36

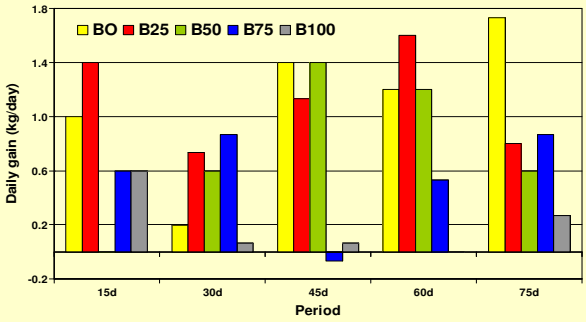
- After an adaptation period (14 d), cattle were kept in individual pens
- Parameters measured over 75 d: feed consumption; average daily gain; time spent ingesting feed, ruminating, resting and ingesting water
- Visual observations for 12 h, with data collected at intervals of 15 minutes

RESULTS

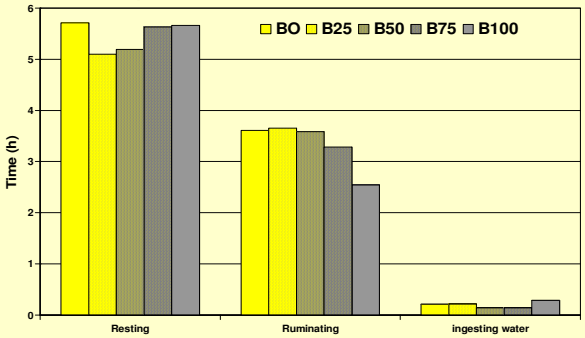
Feed consumption by treatment-period



Weight daily gain by treatment-period



Time spent resting, ruminating and ingesting water



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