

Diet composition of goats grazing in mixed shrubs-grass rangeland

A.S. NASTIS

Range Sci. Lab. 236, Aristotelion University, 54006 Thessaloniki (Greece)

Measurements of time spent by goats grazing shrubs or herbaceous species (relative palatability) on a continuously grazed pasture were made in a herd of 32 local goats from 8 : 30 until 13 : 00 hrs the first 2-3 days of each month, all the year found. Periodically, the herd was placed in an ungrazed section of the pasture and similar measurements were obtained. The species present expressed as a percent of cover during May were : *Quercus coccifera* (54 %), *Carpinus duinencis* (3 %), *Fraxinus ornus* (2 %), *Cistus incanus* (9 %), *Dactylis glomerata* (7 %), *Festuca ovina* (2 %), legumes (10 %), etc. The average forage production was 2 460 kg/ha/year (57 % shrubs, 43 % herbage). The stocking rate was 0.5 AUM/ha.

In the continuously grazed section, during May when a broad array of species was available, relative palatability by groups of species was in the following order : Evergreen shrubs (ES) 22 %, gramineae (GR) 20 %, broad-leaved herbaceous species (BH) 28 % and deciduous shrubs and trees (DS) 29 %. In July, when herbaceous species were mature and their supply was limited, relative palatability for the above mentioned groups of species was in the following order : ES 74 %, GR 11 %, BH 12 %, DS 3 %. The relative palatability for the same groups in October and December was : ES 88 %, GR 3 %, BH 8 %, DS 1 % and ES 90 %, GR 3 %, BH 7 %, DS 0 %, respectively.

When animals were placed in the ungrazed section of the pasture where substantial amount of herbaceous species production was present, relative palatability was similar in May. The relative palatability ratings were : 1) in July ES 38 %, GR 28 %, BH 41 %, DS 4 %, 2) in October ES 54 %, GR 20 %, BH 25 %, DS 1 % and 3) in December ES 74 %, GR 13 %, BH 13 %, DS 0 %, respectively.

Herbaceous species were relatively more palatable from shrubs from March to September given that both were available. There was only an exception during the period of rapid twig elongation in May when shrubs were equally palatable to herbage. During the remaining months (October through February) shrubs were more palatable even when a relative abundance of dry herbage existed. This was mainly a result of the low quality after maturation rather than the availability of the herbaceous species.

Relative palatability for the four groups of species was not significantly associated with availability ($P \leq 0.05$). When availability was taken into consideration proportionally more time was spent for grazing broad-leaved shrubs in Spring, herbaceous species in Summer and regrowth of gramineae in Winter. It can be concluded that goats are adaptable mixed feeders rather than browsers even in a Mediterranean zone shrubland.

Key words : Goat, feeding behaviour, rangeland, shrub, grass.

Influence of the kind of compound feed on goat milk production and composition

Sylvie GIGER, D. SAUVANT, J. HERVIEU

*Station de Nutrition et Alimentation (INRA), Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon,
16, rue Claude-Bernard, 75231 Paris Cedex 05*

Milk composition influences cheese quality and is related to genetic and nutritional of feeding parameters. Present work deals with the influence of the carbohydrate nature of the concentrate on milk fat and protein content.