ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to investigate intake, palatability and preference class of the selected five browse species namely: *Balanites aegyptiaca, Tamarindus indica, Cordia sinensis, Ziziphus spina-christi* and *Grewia tenax*. Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*) was included as basal diet. In a Completely Randomized Design, four crossbred (Small East African x Toggenburg) growing goats with initial mean body weight (16.6 ± 0.04 kg) and 4-5 months of age were offered the above mentioned browse species each in an individual pen of (1.5m x 2.5m) using a cafeteria feeding approach. This was to determine the browse species DM intake, palatability and preference class.Results showed that the DM intake (g) and relative palatability index (%) ranked the same as follows in descending order: *G. tenax* > *Z. spina-christi* > *B. aegyptiaca* > *C. sinensis* > *T. indica.* Preference class was *G. tenax* and *Z. spina* (high>60%), *B. aegyptiaca* (medium 35-55%) and low (<25%) for *C. sinensis* and *T. indica*, respectively. It was concluded that *Grewia tenax* was the highest in DM intake, relative palatability index and relatively the most preferred whereas *T. indica* was the least.

Key words: *browse species, Cordia sinensis, Grewia tenax*