Nutritive value of three tropical forage legumes and their influence on growth performance, carcass traits, and organ weights of pigs\*

Bienvenu Kambashi1,2, Gaetan Kalala1, Denis Dochain3, Jacques Mafwila1, Xavier Rollin3, Christelle Boudry2, Pascale Picron2, Jérôme Bindelle2,4

1Université de Kinshasa, Mont-Amba, Lemba, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

2University of Liège, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Precision Livestock and Nutrition Unit, Passage des Déportés, 2, 5030, Gembloux, Belgium

3University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

4To whom correspondence should be addressed: jerome.bindelle@ulg.ac.be, phone: +3281622609 fax: +3281622115

\*Parts of this paper were presented at the Digestive Physiology of Pigs symposium in 2015 in Kliczkow (Poland).

Paper accepted for publication on Tropical Animal Health and Production on April 27, 2016.

DOI 10.1007/s11250-016-1070-1

http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11250-016-1070-1/fulltext.html

Abstract

The effects of tropical forage legumes on feed intake, growth performance and carcass traits were investigated in 16 groups of 2 Large White × Duroc pigs. The diets consisted of a commercial corn-soybean-meal diet as the basal diet and 3 forage-supplemented diets. Four groups of control pigs received daily 4% of body weight of the basal diet and 12 groups of experimental pigs were fed the basal diet at 3.2% of body weight completed with fresh leaves of one of the 3 forage legumes(*Psophocarpus scandens*, *Stylosanthes guianensis* and *Vigna unguiculata*) *ad libitum.* The study lasted 90 days. The *in vitro* digestion and fermentation of the forage legumes was also determined. The *in vitro* digestible energy content of the legumes was between 0.72 and 0.77 that of the basal diet (14.4 MJ/kg DM). *Vigna* *unguiculata* was the most digestible forage legume expect for crude protein digestibility. Feeding forage legumes lowered the dry matter intake by 4.5 to 9.6% (P<0.05), final body weight (P=0.013), slaughter weight, average daily gain and hot carcass weight (P<0.05) without affecting the feed conversion ratio (FCR), dressing percentage and back fat thickness. In conclusion, using forage to feed pig could be interesting in pig smallholder production with limited access to concentrate as FCR were not significantly affected.

Keyword

Forage legumes, nutritive value, pigs, growth

1. Introduction

In the Western part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as in most developing countries in tropical America, Africa and Asia, pig farming is practiced mainly by smallholders with low input and limited resources (Kagira et al., 2010; Kumaresan et al., 2007; Lapar et al., 2003). Rearing pigs plays a vital role as a source of high quality proteins, as a source of income and as part of the household insurance system (Kumaresan et al., 2009; Phengsavanh et al., 2011). Pig farming is often integrated with other agricultural activities by providing manure for crops while crop residues are in turn used as feed (An et al., 2004). In this production scheme, feeding varies according to market opportunities and the availability of the feed ingredients. Commercial concentrates are used by a small number of producers (e.g. < 5% in Western DRC) (Kambashi et al., 2014c), mostly around and near highly populated cities and in market-oriented production systems. Other producers feed unbalanced diets made of various agro-industrial by-products such as brewer’s grains and bran, while in the remote countryside, pigs are fed all sorts of agricultural by-products from local food processing units, such as cassava roots, rice bran, or corn. Often, pigs are supplemented with green forage plants that grow naturally in forests, along rivers banks, or in fallowed and cropped fields (An et al., 2005; Kumaresan et al., 2007). The use of these resources, especially plant materials, seems to be the most profitable alternative to commercial diets (Lemke et al., 2007) and is often the only option in times of shortages. Some tropical forage species known and used by pig smallholders seem to be a good alternative to address protein and mineral deficiencies in unbalanced diets. Earlier studies have shown indeed that some species not only have a high protein content (Bindelle et al., 2007; Kambashi et al., 2014a; Phuc and Lindberg, 2000) and high digestibility (An et al., 2004; Leterme et al., 2009), but can also, to some extent, partially replace conventional sources of protein in pig diets without affecting the growth performance as well as the quality of the carcass (Kaensombath and Lindberg, 2013; Kaensombath et al., 2013).

Among the tropical forage resources used in pig feeding systems in the Bas-Congo and Kinshasa provinces of DRC,Psophocarpus(*Psophocarpus scandens)*, Stylosanthes(*Stylosanthes guianensis*) and Vigna (*Vigna unguiculata*) seem quite promising owing to their high protein value and reasonable energy digestibility as forage in non ceacotrophic monogastrics (Kambashi et al., 2014b). Psophocarpusis a common wild plant that grows in lowlands up to an altitude of 1,000 m, in areas with an average annual rainfall of 1,220–1,800 mm and a mean annual temperature of 25°C. Psophocarpuswas introduced as leafy vegetable in several African countries, but it has received limited acceptance (Schippers, 2004). Stylosanthesgrows from an altitude of 0 to 1,600 m, between 600 mm to over 3,000 mm of annual rainfall and in a temperature range from 23 to 35°C. It performs exceptionally well in humid tropical climates and those of medium altitude, even with a marked dry season (Husson et al., 2008; Tropical forages, 2014). Vignais drought tolerant and has a short growing period. Dual-purpose varieties, suiting the different cropping systems existing in Africa, have been selected to provide both grain and forage (Gómez, 2004; Singh et al., 2003), which allow farmers to diversify their sources of income, improve their livelihood and promote sustainable agriculture.

Most data available on these species is limited to the nutritive value in pigs, namely total tract digestibility in Sarria et al. (2010) for Vigna and in Kambashi et al (2014a) for Stylosanthes, Psophocarpus, and Vigna. The present study aimed at assessing how feeding forage legumes to pigs actually affects the *in* *vivo* feed intake and growth performance of pigs fed a restricted amount of corn-soybean meal-based diet but supplemented with fresh forage from Psophocarpus, Stylosanthes, and Vigna. It also aimed at understanding the relationship between the growth performances, on the one hand, and the chemical composition and the *in vitro* digestibility of those forage legumes, on the other hand.

1. Material and methods

Forage legumes were produced on a farm field of the SOGENAC (Société des grands élevage de Ndama en Afrique centrale) in the DRC, located at 5°25’ latitude South and 14°49’ longitude East, about 180 km southwest of Kinshasa. The annual rainfall during the growing season was 1,418 mm in 2012 (SOGENAC, personal communication). The average monthly temperature ranged from 21.5 to 25.4°C. The field had a ferralitic soil with sand-clay texture (Renard et al., 1995). The first harvest was carried out after 2 months for Vigna and Psophocarpusand 2.5 months for Stylosanthes. Because of its short growing period, to avoid differences in forage composition due to differences in growth stages along the 90 d experiment, Vigna was grown 3 times in 3 different plots at the same field, each time with an interval of 1 month to yield leaves that were harvested until the initial pod set. Psophocarpusand Stylosantheswere grown once, and only the leaves and soft stalks were harvested on regular basis. Since the experiment on pigs lasted for 90 d, forage samples for chemical composition were taken daily and pooled over 10-days periods to make up a total of 9 independent samples for each forage species. The chemical composition as well as the amino acid profiles of the forage legumes used in the experiment are displayed in Table 1. Amino acids were determined only on 6 randomly chosen samples out of the 9 that were available as explained previously.

Animals, feeding and management

Thirty-two castrated male growing pigs (Large White × Duroc) with an average body weight (± SD) of 25.5 ± 4.2 kg at the beginning of the experiment and 74.3 ± 8.0 kg at the end were used. On arrival, the pigs were kept and observed for one week. During this period, they were treated against intestinal parasites and fed a commercial corn and soybean-based diet free of antibiotics. The pigs were then divided in 16 groups of 2 pigs (average weight: 50.0 ± 1.2 kg) randomly while ensuring that piglets of a same litter were split over in each of fourthe different diets. Each group was randomly assigned to one diet for 90 d, from June 12, 2012 to September 10, 2012. The diets consisted either of a commercial corn and soybean-based diet (MIDEMA, Matadi, Bas-Congo, DRC) (basal diet) as control fed at 4% of body weight on DM basis or the basal diet fed at 3.2% of body weight on DM basis (80% of the allowance of the control groups) supplemented with fresh leaves of one of the 3 forage legumes fed *ad libitum*. The pigs were fed twice a day (8 a.m. and 4 p.m.). Forage was harvested every morning and chopped (2–3 cm) to avoid selection. A sample of the distributed control diet and forage was collected daily. A subsample was dried at 105°C for DM determination and another subsample was dried at 60°C and pooled over 10-days periods for further chemical analyses as explained above. The refusals underwent the same treatment. Since the experiment lasted for 90 d, there were a total of 9 samples for the basal diet and for each of the forage species. Those samples were dried (60°C for 48h) and ground to pass a 1 mm mesh screen in a Cyclotec 1093 Sample Mill (FOSS Electric A/S, Hilleroed, Denmark). The pigs had permanent access to water.

The experiment was conducted in a renovated pigsty in Kolo-Fuma (Bas-Congo, DRC). The pens had concrete floors and were disinfected and repainted with lime two weeks before the experiment. They were cleaned daily with water, before feeding, during the experiment. Each box had two areas, one area of about 4 m² under shelter and 6 m² without shelter as exercise area. Animals were weighed at the start of the experiment and every 10 d until the end of the experiment that lasted 90 d. Subsequently, animals were kept on their respective experimental diets until they reached market weight (>75kg), for a period which lasted from 1 to 7 d depending on the animals weight after the 90-d period. All pigs were slaughtered after an overnight fasting and the empty carcasses and major organs were weighed to compare carcasses quality at market weight. Back fat was measured at the P2 position, 65 mm away from the midline, at the level of the last rib.

*In vitro* nutrient gastro-intestinal digestion and fermentation

An *in vitro* nutrient gastro-intestinal digestion and fermentation analysis was done on the control diet and the forages. For this purpose, four randomly chosen samples of each forage legume and the basal diet were assessed for the digestibility of their nutrients using the *in vitro* model developed by Bindelle et al. (2007a) which simulates the digestion in the pig gastro-intestinal tract by an enzymatic hydrolysis. Briefly, 2-g samples were hydrolysed in 100 ml of a phosphate buffer (0.1 M) with porcine pepsin (100 mg, 2h, 39°C, pH 2), and subsequently in 140 ml of a phosphate buffer (0.13 M) with porcine pancreatin (200 mg, 4h, 39°C, pH 6.8) . The recovered indigestible residue was afterwards fermented with faecal bacteria of sows in a carbonate-based buffer (72h, 39°C, pH 6.8) to simulate the fermentation processes occurring in the large intestine with measurement of kinetics of gas production. Fermentation broth collected after 72 h was centrifuged at 13 000 g for 15 min and the supernatants were sampled and frozen at -18°C until further short-chain fatty acid (SCFA) analysis.

For each of the 4 samples of each forage species, enzymatic hydrolysis was performed 8 times on 2-g samples to yield sufficient amounts of indigestible residues for the subsequent analyses and fermentation. *In vitro* fermentation was performed in quadruplicate on the pooled residues of each initial sample.

Chemical analyses

Dry forage legumes and the basal diet were analysed for their content in dry matter (DM) by drying at 105 °C for 24 h (method 967.03; AOAC, 1990), ash by burning at 550 °C for 8 h (method 923.03; AOAC, 1990), nitrogen (N) according to the Kjeldahl method and calculating the crude protein (CP) content (N × 6.25; method 981.10; AOAC, 1990), gross energy by means of an adiabatic oxygen bomb calorimeter (1241 Adiabatic Calorimeter, PARR Instrument Co., Illinois, USA), and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) using thermostable amylase (Termamyl®, Novo Nordisk, Bagsværd, Denmark) and corrected for ash. Feed samples were also analysed for their content in acid detergent fibre (ADF) corrected for ash, acid detergent lignin (ADL) according to Van Soest et al. (1991) using an ANKOM-Fiber Analyzer (ANKOM-Technology, Fairport, NY), and amino acids by HPLC (Alliance 2690, Waters, Milford, MA, USA) after hydrolysis with a mixture of 6 mol HCl/l containing 1 g phenol/l at 110 °C for 24 h and derivatization with the AccQ-Fluor reagent Kit (Waters, USA). Methionine and cystine underwent performic oxidation before hydrolysis. The supernatants of the fermentation broth were analysed for SCFA contents after 72 h of fermentation with the same HPLC instrument ﬁtted with an HPX 87H column (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) and an UV detector (210 nm, Waters, Milford, MA, USA).

Calculations and statistical analysis

The *in vitro* dry matter disappearance (IVDMD), crude protein (IVCPD) and gross energy (IVED) disappearance during the pepsin-pancreatin hydrolysis were calculated as follows:

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where X is the weight of the sample before hydrolysis and Y the weight of the residue.

,where X is the nutrient content (CP, energy) in the sample before hydrolysis and Y the nutrient content in the residue after hydrolysis.

The volume of gas produced during fermentation was modelled to calculate 4 fermentation kinetics parameters: final gas volume (*A*, ml/gDM)), mid-fermentation time (*B*, h), maximum rate of gas production (*RM*, ml/[h × g DM]) and time at which the maximum rate of gas production is reached (*tRM*, h) (Groot et al., 1996).

Potential contribution of fermentation in the large intestine to energy supply through SCFA was calculated as explained in Kambashi et al (2014a) by multiplying the energy value of each SCFA (acetate 14.56 kJ/g, propionate 20.51 kJ/g, and butyrate 24.78 kJ/g) by the SCFA production.

*In vivo* and *in vitro* data were tested for normality and homoscedasticity. Subsequently, they were subjected to a one-way analysis of variance using the MIXED procedure of the SAS 9.2 software (SAS Inc., Cary, NC) with the group of 2 pigs as experimental units (N=4) for *in vivo* data and the individual ingredient sample for *in vitro* data. Growth performance parameters were analysed both per 10 d period independently and over the 90 d duration of the whole trial. In the case of a significant difference (P < 0.05), least square means were used as multiple range tests. Correlation between variables was assessed using the CORR procedure in SAS 9.2 software.

3. Results

Nutritive value

Digestible energy content of the forage legumes, as measured using an *in vitro* method, was between 0.72 and 0.77 that of the basal diet (Table 2). Differences between forage species were limited to 0.8 MJ/kgDM with Vigna being the most digestible forage legume expect for CP disappearance. The IVCPD of Vigna and Psophocarpus were lower than the basal diet and Stylosanthes. However, their high CP content compensated for this lower disappearance yielding similar estimated digestible protein values for all forage species and the basal diet. Higher values for Vigna and Stylosanthes were not significant (P=0.304). Fermentability of the fibre residue was lower in all forage legumes compared to the basal diet as indicated by lower final gas production (*A*) and maximum rate of gas production (*RM*), higher times for maximum fermentation (*tRM*.) and lower SCFA productions (Table 2). In terms of SCFA profile, the basal diet produced more butyrate than the forage legumes and, compared to the other forage legumes, Psophocarpus produced less acetate and more propionate and butyrate.

Feed intake

Forage legumes intake was highest with Stylosanthes (321 g/d) as opposed to Vigna (232 g/d) and Psophocarpus (214 g/d) making up less than the 20% expected from the reduction in basal diet allowance. It resulted in a reduction in dry matter intake (DMI) (P<0.001). However, the Stylosanthes- supplemented diets had a higher DMI than the Vigna- and Psophocarpus-supplemented diets (Table 3). This difference between Stylosanthes- and the two other forage-supplemented diets was mainly observed when pigs were reaching 60 kg of bodyweight (Figure 1A) after 70 d of experiment (Figure 1B). Finally, when considering forage intake alone, it was highest with Stylosanthes (321 g/d) as opposed to Vigna (232 g/d) and Psophocarpus (214 g/d).

Growth performance

Over the whole experimental period, the average daily gain (ADG) ranged from 515 to 597 g/day and feed conversion ratio (FCR) from 3.52 to 3.67 (Table 3). The ADG was higher (P<0.05) in control pigs than those on the Psophocarpus- and Vigna-supplemented diets, while no difference was found between control pigs and those supplemented with Stylosanthes. These differences in ADG were mainly observed at the end of the experiment, namely after 80 and 90d (Figure 1C). Nevertheless, differences in ADG between forage species were not significant throughout the study. However the FCR remained unaffected during the study (Figure 1D) (P>0.05).

Carcass composition and organ weights

The dressing percentage of the hot carcasses was similar in control and forage-based diets (P>0.05) ranged from 73 to 75% and no difference was found between forage species. Among organ weights, the stomach varied from 640 to 756 g and differed (P<0.05) between treatments (Table 4). The Stylosanthes-supplemented diet had heavier stomach than the control diet (P>0.05). The control diet had also heavier kidneys while Psophocarpus-supplemented diets had the lightest. Other organs were unaffected by the treatments.

4. Discussion

Results from this growth study should be interpreted with caution owing to the fact that unbalanced diets were used: (1) the control diet was partly replaced by unbalanced forage legumes, and (2) the composition of the control diet was not adjusted to the growth phases of the pigs. Indeed, according to NRC (1998), the crude protein (CP) must be reduced from 18 to 15.5% for CP for pigs between 20-50 kg and 50-80 kg respectively while metabolizable energy (ME) remains unchanged to 3,265 kcal/kg. This was not the case here because the experiment was intended to reflect the practices of the farmers who use only one single growth diet and dilute concentrate diets with other fibre-rich ingredients. Moreover, the *in vitro* model used to investigate the nutritive value did not consider possible antagonist effect when forages are mixed to the control diet.

Pigs were not able to fully compensate the 20% reduction in basal diet feeding allowance using forage legumes. It resulted in lower DMI, and therefore, in lower growth performance and lower slaughter hot carcass weight. While digestible protein contents appeared to be similar to that of the basal diet, forage legumes had lower digestible energy contents which on the top of the reduction in intake induced these lower performances. The reduction in digestible energy content of the forage legumes was mainly caused by their higher NDF content as well as the difference in hemicellulose (i.e. NDF – ADF), cellulose (i.e. ADF – ADL) and lignin (i.e. ADL) fractions. The latter considering that cellulose and lignin are less fermentable than hemicellulose (Noblet and Le Goff, 2001). Indeed, with hemicellulose values of 157, 160 and 107 g/kg DM, for Psophocarpus, Stylosanthes and Vigna, respectively, forage legumes did not supply more highly fermentable hemicellulose than the control diet (168 g/kg DM). Moreover, the basal diet probably contained corn. It is known for supplying resistant starch which are not included in the hemicellulose fraction but is also highly fermentable (Sajilata et al., 2006). This explains why the intestinal fermentation of the fibre residues of forage legumes could not compensate through SCFA productions for the lower ileal digestibility (Table 2). The low DMI for forage-supplemented diets, in this study is related to the high water and high fibre content of the forage-supplemented diets compared to the control diet (Table 1). Moreover, the high water-holding capacity of some dietary fiber fractions of forage plants leads to bulkiness and reduced intake as showed by Ndou et al. (2013). Bulky diets give a sensation of a full stomach and, thereby, prevent animals from continuing to eat and fulfil their nutritional requirements. The amount of bulky feed that an animal can eat depends on its own capacity to cope with bulk and the bulkiness of the feed itself. A study with pigs fed Stylosanthes and *Aeschynomene histrix*-supplemented diets showed a similar decrease in DMI when forage was included, as leaf meal, to the diets in levels of 13, 21 and 37% in the pig diet (Phengsavanh and Lindberg, 2013). However, Keoboualapheth and Mikled (2003) reported an increase in individual feed intake from 942 to 1309 g DM/d when pigs fed a protein deficient corn and rice bran-based diets were supplemented with fresh Stylosanthes. The intake in Stylosanthesrepresented less than 12% of the total intake, showing that supplemented pigs ate more of both the protein deficient basal diet and forage. In the present experiment, the average daily forage DMI for Psophocarpus, Stylosanthes and Vigna was 11.5, 16.2 and 12.3% of the total DMI, respectively. The results of this study show that pigs could not ingest the forage legumes as extensively as the control diet leading to a lower total intake in forage supplemented pigs. Stylosantheswas more consumed than the other forage species which could be explained by its higher DM content (Table 1). Indeed, the DMI of each individual forage legume was positively related to the DM content of the forage (R² = 0.74, P <0.05). The DMI of forage resources can be improved by processing methods such as ensiling, drying, chopping, or milling, reducing water content and bulk effect, with a subsequent reduction of anti-nutritional compounds such as tannins and trypsin inhibitory activity as well as oxalic acid, which improves digestibility, and potential absorbability of protein and minerals for pigs (Martens et al., 2012; Martens et al., 2014).

As the FCR was not different between the diets, the reduction in growth performance observed in this study was probably mainly caused by the lower DMI. These results are consistent with those of Phengsavanh and Lindberg (2013) who found a decrease in DMI and growth rate (14%) with 11% legume leaf meal incorporation level but just like in the present study, FCR were unaffected.

In contrast with growth performance, carcass quality and dressing percentage was not influenced by the inclusion of forage. However, pigs fed forage-supplemented diet had heavier stomachs than those on control diets. Pigs fed Stylosanthes tended to have a high stomach weight probably due to its high fibre content (Len et al., 2009; Ngoc et al., 2013).

Moreover, the low growth performance (e.g. ADFI, ADG) of pigs fed forage-supplemented diets originates from the fact that those diets were compared with a commercial balanced diet in pigs with a high growth potential but also high nutritional requirement. However, as mentionned before, the one phase feeding applied in this experiment is not in line with NCR (1998) recommendations which, in combination to fact that pigs reared in the tropics display lower growth performances due to heat load, lead to the high FCR of 3 to 3.5 while values when 2.5 were expected for animals of that age. Moreover, differences between forage legumes in forage-supplemented diets were higher at the end of the experiement, when pigs were older. Possibly because heavier animals have higher digestive capacity when it comes to fibre fermentation (Le Goff and Noblet, 2001; Bindelle et al., 2007). Therefore, among the three legume species, the best performing one was Stylosanthes which also displayed the highest fermentability of its fibre fraction. Earlier studies have shown that when pigs are fed an unbalanced and fibre-rich diet, generally made of crop residues and by-products available to the smallholding farmer, the provision of forage legumes to those animals (*Aeschynomene histrix* and *Stylosanthes guianensis*) improves growth (Keoboualapheth and Mikled, 2003; Phengsavanh and Lindberg, 2013).

In conclusion, feeding forage legumes to pigs in replacement to a reduction of 20% of feed allowance of a well-balanced basal diet in this study decreases global feed intake by 4.5 to 9.6% as well as growth performance depending on the forage species without affecting feed conversion ratio.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI), the development cooperation agency (DGD), the Commission de la Coopération au Développement de l’Académie de Recherche et d’Enseignement supérieur (ARES-CCD) (Brussels, Belgium), for funding this study (CAVTK and Systèmes intégrés projects) and the workers in Kolo-Fuma (SEBO, Bas-Congo, DRC) for their support.

Statement of Animal Rights

All experimental animals were handled with respect according to the rules and regulations in force in the European Union following similar procedures to those usually accepted by the Ethical Committee of the University of Liège (Belgium) for experiments performed in Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (Belgium).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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Table 1. Proximal composition of tropical forage legumes and essential amino acid contents of a corn-soybean and forage legumes fed to the pigs (g/kg DM) (N=9 except for amino acids where N=6)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Control diet | Psophocarpus scandens | Stylosanthes guianensis | Vigna unguiculata |
|  |  | Mean±SD1 | Min-Max | Mean±SD | Min-Max | Mean±SD | Min-Max |
| Dry matter of fresh forage | 885±8 | 201±23 |  | 216±25 |  | 156±16 |  |
| Ash | 69±3 | 95±9 |  | 92±11 |  | 131±31 |  |
| Crude protein (N x 6.25) | 192±7 | 230±18 | 194-252 | 194±24 | 150-226 | 212±29 | 172-263 |
| Neutral detergent fibre | 228±19 | 473±28 | 431-524 | 507±64 | 419-596 | 359±61 | 259-446 |
| Acid detergent fibre | 60±2 | 316±27 | 271-354 | 347±59 | 234-460 | 252±58 | 155-311 |
| Acid detergent lignin | 17±1 | 70±10 | 55-82 | 64±13 | 48-80 | 51±14 | 23-65 |
| Gross energy (kcal/kg DM) | 4455±18 | 4457±91 | 4263-4557 | 4335±54 | 4224-4408 | 4233±95 | 4206-4472 |
| Essential amino acids (g/Kg DM) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arginine | 12.3±0.9 | 10.3±0.7 |  | 9.6±0.8 |  | 12.6±0.7 |  |
| Histidine | 5.0±0.3 | 4.3±0.1 |  | 3.8±0.4 |  | 4.4±0.4 |  |
| Isoleucine | 7.3±0.6 | 8.8±0.4 |  | 7.8±0.9 |  | 10.0±0.9 |  |
| Leucine | 14.1±0.9 | 14.2±0.6 |  | 13.0±0.9 |  | 16.5±0.9 |  |
| Lysine | 7.7±0.6 | 9.4±0.6 |  | 8.1±0.7 |  | 9.7±0.9 |  |
| Methionine | 3.4±0.3 | 3.5±0.4 |  | 3.2±0.2 |  | 4.2±0.4 |  |
| Phenylalanine | 8.7±0.5 | 9.4±0.5 |  | 8.8±0.8 |  | 10.9±0.9 |  |
| Threonine | 7.8±0.5 | 10.1±0.4 |  | 8.5±0.9 |  | 10.5±0.9 |  |
| Tyrosine | 4.9±0.3 | 5.0±0.3 |  | 4.6±0.5 |  | 5.5±0.7 |  |

1Standard deviation

Table 2. *In vitro* dry matter (IVDMD). SCFA, energy (IVED) and crude protein (IVCPD) disappearance during enzymatic hydrolysis and kinetic parameters of the gas production curves modelled according to Groot et al. (1996) for the hydrolyzed ingredients incubated with pigs faeces (N = 4).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ingredients |   | Basal diet | *Psophocarpus scandens* | *Stylosanthes guianensis* | *Vigna unguiculata* | SEM8 | P-value |
| IVDMD | (−) | 0.666a | 0.397c | 0.396c | 0.475b | 0.024 | <0.001 |
| IVED | (−) | 0.658a | 0.390d | 0.406c | 0.482b | 0.023 | <0.001 |
| IVCPD | (−) | 0.855a | 0.651c | 0.834ab | 0.742bc | 0.026 | <0.001 |
| DP | (g /kg DM) | 164 | 154 | 182 | 180 | 7.880 | 0.304 |
| Acetate | (mol/mol) | 0.467d | 0.480c | 0.524a | 0.507b | 0.004 | <0.001 |
| Propionate | (mol/mol) | 0.344b | 0.360a | 0.335b | 0.343b | 0.002 | <0.001 |
| Butyrate | (mol/mol) | 0.116a | 0.086b | 0.065c | 0.071c | 0.006 | <0.001 |
| BCFA | (mol/mol) | 0.074 | 0.074 | 0.076 | 0.079 | 0.002 | 0.740 |
| Total SCFA3 | (mg/g hydrolysate) | 382.0a | 321.6b | 308.7b | 296.5b | 6.967 | <0.001 |
| SCFA energy1 | MJ /kg DM | 2.12c | 3.19a | 2.97a | 2.50b | 0.243 | <0.001 |
| Total DE2 | MJ /kg DM | 14.4a | 10.4c | 10.3c | 11.1b | 0.222 | <0.001 |
| *A*4 | (ml/g DM) | 230a | 138b | 169b | 157c | 4.485 | <0.001 |
| *RM5* | (ml/[h × gDM]) | 14.4a | 7.9c | 11.4b | 10.5b | 0.333 | <0.001 |
| *tRM6* | (h) | 10.5c | 14.4a | 13.0b | 13.0b | 0.247 | <0.001 |

1 Energy supplied to the animal in the form of short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) produced during intestinal fermentation of undigested residue calculated by the SCFA production.

2 Sum of the digestible energy during enzymatic hydrolysis and the contribution of SCFA from intestinal fermentation of undigested residue.

3Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) produced during intestinal fermentation of undigested residue calculated by the SCFA

4*A*. final gas volume

5*RM*. maximum rate of gas production

6*tRM*. time at which the rate of gas production reaches *RM*

7For one parameter, means followed by different letters in the column differ at a significance level of 0.05.4

8SEM. standard error of the means

Table 3. Effects of reducing feed allowance in pigs fed either a corn-soybean alone or supplemented with forage legumes on growth performance, daily feed intake and feed conversion ratio (FCR) in pigs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Control  | Psophocarpus scandens  | Stylosanthes guianensis  | Vigna unguiculata  | P- values | SEM1 |
| Initial BW (kg) | 24.4b2 | 25.1a | 25.5a | 25.0 ab | 0.026 | 0.14 |
| Final BW (kg) | 78.7a | 71.3b | 73.8ab | 73.3b | 0.013 | 0.88 |
| Average daily gain (g/day) | 597a | 515b | 543ab | 537b | 0.013 | 11.0 |
| Total DMI (g/day) | 2077a | 1876c | 1983b | 1894c | <0.001 | 19.5 |
| Ingested forage (g/day) | - | 214b | 321a | 232b | 0.001 | 12.4 |
| Total DMI (g/kg0.75BW) | 110a | 105b | 108a | 105b | 0.005 | 0.84 |
| FCR (kg feed/kg gain) | 3.52 | 3.66 | 3.67 | 3.55 | 0.619 | 0.04 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1SEM, standard error of the means

2Values within row with differing superscript letters are significantly different (P<0.05)

Table 4. Effects of reducing feed allowance in pigs fed either a corn-soybean alone or supplemented with forage legumes on carcass composition and organ weight in pigs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Basal diet1  | Psophocarpus scandens  | Stylosanthes guianensis  | Vigna unguiculata  | P values | SEM1 |
| Slaughter weight (kg) | 79.5a2 | 72.2b | 74.6ab | 74.2b | 0.038 | 0.14 |
| Hot carcass weight (kg) | 59.7a | 52.7b | 54.2b | 54.7b  | 0.017 | 0.76 |
| Back fat at P2. (mm) | 18 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 0.197 | 0.59 |
| Stomach (g)  | 640b | 691ab | 756a | 679ab | 0.045 | 14.5 |
| Dressing carcass (%) | 75.1 | 73.0 | 72.7 | 73.5 | 0.190 | 0.43 |
| Liver  | 1395 | 1306 | 1382 | 1401 | 0.650 | 29.1 |
| Lung  | 706 | 752 | 725 | 801 | 0.361 | 23.6 |
| Kidney  | 299a | 238c | 251bc | 276ab | 0.001 | 7.00 |
| Kidney (g/kg carcass weight) | 5.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 0.125 | 0.12 |

1SEM, standard error of the means

2For one row, means followed by different letters differ (P<0.05)



Figure 1: Evolution of body weights (A), average daily gains (B), total dry matter feed intakes (C), and feed conversion ratios (D) over the course of the experiment for pigs fed ◇, control diet; △, *Psophocarpus scandens*-supplemented diet ; 🞵, *Stylosanthes guianensis*- supplemented diet; ○, *Vigna unguiculata*- supplemented diet. Each number on the abscissa relates to the 10-d periods between two consecutive weighings of the animals. Values with differing letters differ in the classification of means for *P* < 0.05.