Nutritional Evaluation of Subabul (*Leucaena leucocephala*) Tree in Konkan Geographical Region

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Abstract—*The aim of present research was to record out the nutritional evaluation of Subabul (Leucaena leucocephala) tree leaves. Subabul tree have considerable potential in mixed crop livestock production systems to supplement livestock feeds. The leaves of leucaena are highly nutritious for ruminants and many excellent animal production data have been published confirming the fodder value of Leucaena. Leucaena can be used in cropping systems. Leucaena is capable of producing a large volume of a medium-light hardwood for fuel with low moisture and a high heating value, and makes excellent charcoal, producing little ash and smoke. The younger leaves of leucaena can also be used by human for consumption. Hence, field experiment was conducted aiming to evaluate potential of Subabul as a fodder tree species for their adaptability and nutritional contents in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. The chemical analysis of Leucaena was done for the proximate principles viz., Dry matter, Crude protein, Crude fibre, Ether extract, Nitrogen free extract, Total ash and Acid insoluble ash, calcium and phosphorus (AOAC, 1995). Results showed that crude protein (CP) value was at higher (22.72 %) in Subabul compared to crude fibre (9.82 %). The concentration of tannin in Leucaena was lower (0.66 %), whereas the values for organic matter, dry matter, moisture content, ether extract, nitrogen free extract, ash, acid insoluble ash, calcium and phosphorus were recorded as 85.07, 40.62, 59.38, 3.14, 49.39, 14.93, 5.88, 1.39 and 0.22 %, respectively. It shows that the Leucaena is the better source of nutrients, whereas it should be utilized as a feed with or without combination for the livestock.*