

Proximate Analysis of *Thespesia populnea* Leaves in Konkan Region.

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Abstract—The aim of this study was to find out the nutritional value of *Bhend* (*Thespesia populnea*) of Konkan region which are traditionally used in diet of the goats. The plant *Thespesia populnea*, were collected from the fodder unit of the Agriculture College, Dapoli; and nearby area. *Thespesia populnea* (L.) is widely used in traditional medicines, particularly in the Indian System of Medicine for its astringent, cooling, depurative, haemostatic, anti-inflammatory and antidiarrhoeal properties. The samples of the *Thespesia populnea* were analyzed for the proximate principles viz., Dry matter, Crude protein, Crude fibre, Ether extract, Nitrogen free extract, Total ash and Acid insoluble ash (AOAC, 1995). In the present study it was found that the mean values exhibited that *Thespesia populnea* excelled in high moisture contents, fat, carbohydrate, protein might be considered a good nutritive plant that contained the lower fibre than protein. The *Thespesia populnea* also contained maximum protein and gross energy. The proximate composition of this medicinal plant might be attributed to the habitat, environment and time of harvest. The mean values showed that *Thespesia populnea* had high moisture (65.82 %), whereas the figures for organic matter dry matter, crude protein, ether extract, crude fibre, nitrogen free extract, total ash, acid insoluble ash, tannin, calcium and phosphorus were recorded as 92.57, 34.18, 18.49, 7.63, 16.51, 49.64, 7.43, 2.62, 0.68, 1.73 and 0.52 per cent, respectively. The cultivation of *Thespesia populnea* should be encouraged on large scale to utilize it as a feed component that will ensure better nutritional status of the livestock.