Nutritional Evaluation of Ber (*Ziziphus jujuba*) Tree in Konkan Geographical Region

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Abstract—*The aim of present research was to record out the nutritional evaluation of Ber (Ziziphus jujuba) tree in Konkan geographical region. Ziziphus jujuba have always played a role in feeding livestock. Ziziphus jujuba are increasingly recognized as important components of animal feeding, especially as suppliers of protein. In difficult environmental conditions, where the available grazing is not sufficient to meet the maintenance requirements of animals for part of the year, the contribution from Ziziphus jujuba is significant. Ziziphus jujuba contain moderate levels of crude protein and minerals and many show high levels of digestibility. This is readily accepted by livestock and presumably because of their deep-root systems, this continues to produce well into the dry season. The phytochemical and proximate analysis of Ziziphus jujuba leaves was determined using the methods of association of official analytical chemists (A.O.A.C., 1995). The samples of the Ziziphus jujuba were analyzed for the Dry matter, Crude protein, Crude fibre, Ether extract, Nitrogen free extract, Total ash and Acid insoluble ash, Calcium, Phosphorus and Tannin. The mean values showed that Ziziphus jujuba had moisture (59.82 %), 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 89.68, 40.18, 10.87, 3.16, 18.44, 57.21, 10.32, 3.86, 4.44, 1.08 and 0.24 per cent, respectively. It was concluded that though Ziziphus jujuba had higher tannin percentage but it is good source of nutrients for the livestock as feed supplement to meet the nutrient requirement during dry season.*