Nutritional Evaluation of Kanchan (*Bauhinia variegata*) Fodder Tree in Konkan Geographical Region

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Abstract—*Study on common feeding practices and proximate analysis of Kanchan (Bauhinia variegata) tree leaves used as fodder was undertaken at department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Science, college of agriculture, Dapoli, Maharashtra. Tree forages form an integral part of ruminant feeds and use of tree forages as components of diets is a widespread practice in many countries. Kanchan tree is an alternative source of livestock feeding and tree leaves have the potential for alleviating some of the feed shortages and nutritional deficiencies for small ruminant and important component of goats and sheep diets. Kanchan trees are an important source of supplementary protein, vitamins and minerals in small ruminants. Kanchanara is a famous Ayurveda herb. Its fame comes from being an important ingredient of Kanchnar Guggul, an Ayurvedic tablet. It is a tree, growing commonly in India. The chemical analysis of Kanchan 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 optimum (14.18 %) in Kanchan compared to crude fibre (23.79 %). The concentration of tannin in Kanchan was 1.94 %, 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 87.28, 39.66, 60.34, 3.40, 45.91, 12.72, 4.18, 1.62 and 0.32 %, respectively. It shows that the Kanchan is the better source of nutrients, whereas it should be utilized as a feed with or without combination for the livestock.*