

Nutritional Evaluation of Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus calastachyus*) Tree Leaves in Konkan Geographical Area

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Abstract—The Intent of this experiment was to figure out the nutritive value of fodder tree leaves of Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus calastachyus*) in Dapoli, Konkan region of Maharashtra. Bamboo tree leaves are an alternative source of livestock feeding in scarcity period, especially in prolonged winter. The bamboo tree leaves are harvested from protected hillside rangelands and are stored as hay. Fodder tree leaves from ranges and uneven areas are also harvested several times during summer and are fed to livestock. Rangeland grasses are, although the main way of procuring feed, yet bamboo trees plays an important role in livestock raising. As there is little information regarding the nutritive value of locally available *Dendrocalamus calastachyus* leaves, so the study was conducted to establish the nutritive value of the fodder tree. The chemical analysis of *Dendrocalamus calastachyus* 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 lower (12.94 %) in Bamboo compared to crude fibre (23.48 %). The concentration of tannin in *Dendrocalamus calastachyus* was lower (0.92 %), 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 86.51, 39.42, 60.58, 2.06, 48.03, 13.49, 4.59, 1.18 and 0.23 %, respectively. It shows that the *Dendrocalamus calastachyus* is the good source of nutrients, whereas it can be utilized as a feed for the livestock.