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digestibility (IVOMD) and mineral constituents. The IVOMD values were determined using standard procedures using rumen liquor collected from two fistulated goats.

Most of the leaf samples had crude protein contents in the higher range (55% of samples in the range of 20.5 - 31.3% crude protein). The high proteinaceous leaves included Leucaena leucocephala (31.3%), Tithonia diversifolia (27.8%). Phaseolus aconitifolius (26.2%), Mikania scandens (28.6%), Mimosa pudica (26.8%) and Moringa oleifera (25.8%). The IVOMD values of the leaves ranged widely from 24.6% for Borassus flabellifer to 84.4% for Phaseolus aconitifolius. Other species with very high IVOMD values include N.Oleifera (78.8%), M. scandens (70.0%), Gliricidia maculata (68.9%), Ipomea piolora (68.9%) and Manihot esculenta (65.5%). The IVOMD values were, however, high for most samples analysed (60% of samples > 55% IVOMD).

Although calcium levels were satisfactory (85% of samples >1.5% calcium), the phosphorus levels tended to be low (all samples <0.30% phosphorus). Most leaves were found to be good sources of K, Mg, Zn, Mn, Fe and Cu. The data show that leaves of trees and shrubs can play a useful role in the diets of ruminants as sources of protein and minerals. The study highlights the need for conservation and propagation of these species as drought fodder reserves.

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SUITABILITY OF KITTUL (CARYOTA URENS) FIBRES AS A COLLECTING MATERIAL OF EGGS OF COMMON CARP (CYPRINUS CARPIO) DURING SPAWNING

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Common carp is a popular fish, chiefly cultured in ponds and seasonal tanks in Sri Lanka, while it is bred semi-artificially at breeding Stations.

During artificial spawning of the common carp, 'kakabans' made of various materials are hung in water for sticky eggs to get deposited. Post-larvae production depends on the total number of suitably deposited eggs and on the rate of fertility, which in turn depends on the type of kakaban. Kakabans made of kittul fibres and those made of grass leaves (Panicum maxicum) and tied to 1.0 m long bamboo sticks were tested for their suitability as substratum for egg deposition in this experiment.