

Anaerobic cellulolytic rumen fungal populations in goats fed with and without *Leucaena leucocephala* hybrid, as determined by real-time PCR

ABSTRACT

The effect of *Leucaena leucocephala* hybrid-Bahru (LLB), which contains a high concentration of condensed tannins, on cellulolytic rumen fungal population in goats was investigated using real-time PCR. The fungal population in goats fed LLB was inhibited during the first 10 days of feeding, but after 15 days of feeding, there was a tremendous increase of fungal population (157.0 g/ml), which was about fourfold more than that in control goats (39.7 g/ml). However, after this period, the fungal population decreased continuously, and at 30 days of feeding, the fungal population (50.6 g/ml) was not significantly different from that in control goats (55.4 g/ml).

Keyword: Condensed tannins; *Leucaena*; Real-time PCR; Rumen fungal population