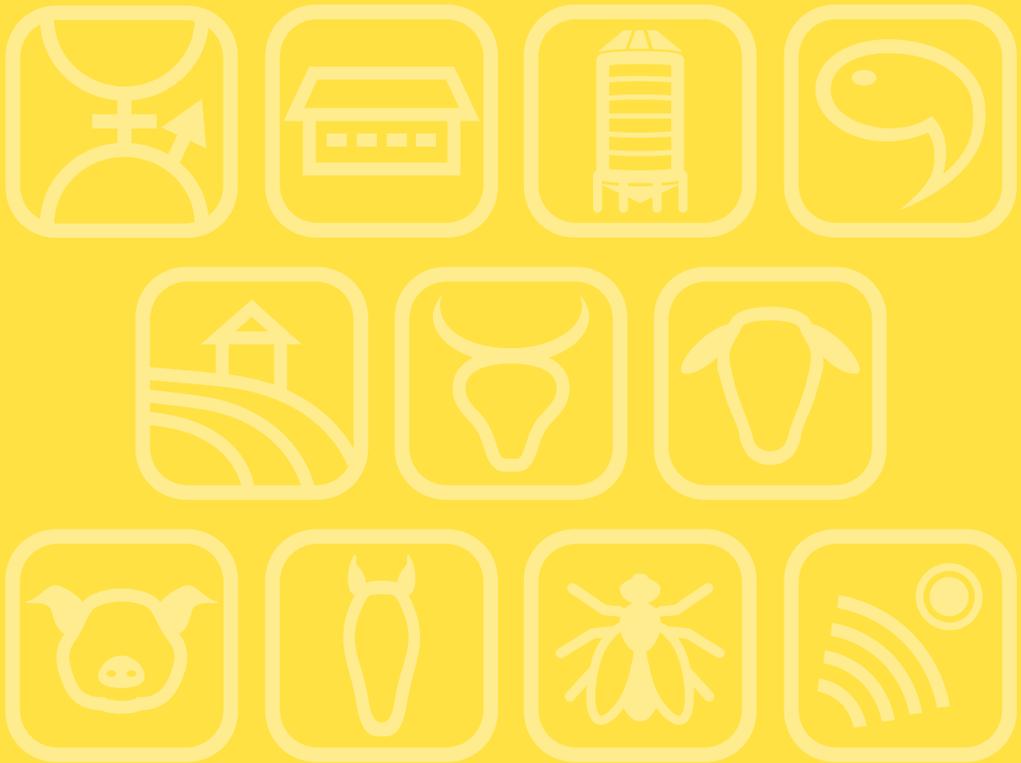


Book of Abstracts of the 70th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science



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Effect of *Cistus ladanifer* L. tannins as silage additives

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The effects of ensiling lucerne with *Cistus ladanifer* condensed tannins (CT) on in silo fermentative parameters and on *in vitro* organic matter digestibility (OMD) were studied. Lucerne forage was sprayed with different solutions of *C. ladanifer* CT extract in 60 ml of water to dose 0 (control), 40 (L40), 80 (L80) and 120 (L120) g of CT per kg of lucerne DM and was ensiled. The inclusion of CT in the silages caused a proteolysis reduction. Also the rumen undegradable protein increased linearly with CT inclusion ($P < 0.01$). However, a linear decrease of 5, 13 and 22% of OMD was observed for the silages L40, L80 and L120. A level of 40 g/kg DM of CT applied to ensiling lucerne seems adequate to reduce proteolysis in silo and improve protein utilization with a slight depression in OMD. So, a metabolic trial was conducted with six crossbred Romani rams averaging 69 ± 5 kg live weight, in three simultaneous 2×2 Latin square design. The rams were fed with Lucerne silage containing 9 l of molasses per ton, diluted in water (50:50 v/v) and treated with 0 (Control) and 40 g of *C. ladanifer* CT/kg of Lucerne DM (L40). The effect of *C. ladanifer* CT as lucerne silage additives on digestion, nitrogen balance, and nitrogen excretion was evaluated. No significant differences were observed between *in vivo* DMD and OMD between silages, that averaged 52 and 53%, respectively. The apparent digestibility of CP was lower in L40 than in control silage (64 vs 69%), but no differences in nitrogen retained by the animals were observed. The pattern of N excretion was affected by treatments, with lower urinary N and higher faecal N with L40 than in Control. The results suggest CT added to silage protect protein from ruminal degradation. The shift in N excretion from urine to faeces is environmentally beneficial since urine N can rapidly volatilized into the environment and faecal N is incorporated into soil increasing nutrient availability.

Supplementation of sheep fed low-quality *Eragrostis curvula*: a meta-analytical study

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The objective of this study was to evaluate relative effects of supplemental starch (1.407 and 5.210 g starch/kg BW) and urea (0.186 and 0.701 g urea/kg BW) on the efficiency of N utilisation in sheep fed low-quality *Eragrostis curvula* hay (ranging between 0.4% N and 0.7% N, >65% NDF) using meta-analytical methods. The dataset used was compiled from four supplementation studies and six trials, totalling 123 data points, using linear mixed model meta-analysis (REML analysis). Prior to meta-analysis, the discriminating variables were evaluated using canonical variate analysis (GenStat®). The relative importance of starch and/or urea supplementation were determined using Akaike's information criterion, as well as the R-square of the adjusted models. Neither starch nor urea supplementation had an effect on NDF intake or digestibility ($P > 0.05$). However, starch supplementation influenced the microbial N supply (MNS) model the most, with MNS increasing linearly as starch supplementation was increased ($P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.602$). In contrast, rumen ammonia N concentration (RAN) and the ratio between MNS and N intake (NI) models were best described by urea supplementation. As such the MNS: NI ratio decreased curvilinearly as urea supplementation was increased ($P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.402$), while RAN increased linearly as urea supplementation was increased ($P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.585$). In addition, a relationship was established between RAN and the starch supplemented to available crude protein (CP) intake ratio ($P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.761$), where available CP intake was calculated from CP intake from urea and forage intake – acid digestible insoluble CP intake. Sheep fed low-quality *E. curvula* hay needed to be supplemented with at least 2.2 g starch/kg BW/day to fulfil maintenance N requirements through MNS. Based on MNS: NI ratios, the minimum quantity of urea needed to be supplemented to sheep in this meta-analysis was 0.5 g urea/kg BW. In addition, the relationship between RAN and starch: available CP ratio suggested that the optimal ratio of starch supplemented and available CP needed to be at least 2:1.