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## Effect of *Azolla* feeding on dry matter intake of osmanabadi goat kid's

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**Abstract**

Studies on supplementation of green *Azolla* (*Azolla pinnata*) on growth performance of Osmanabadi Goat kid's was conducted. The object of the experiment was to studies on supplementation of green *Azolla* (*Azolla pinnata*) and its effect on Dry Matter intake and growth performance of Osmanabadi Goat kid's. The average daily dry matter intake per 100 kg body weight in T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> treatment group were 4.00, 4.02, 4.05 and 4.12, kg respectively. The corresponding figure of per day dry matter intake of the treatment groups T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> were 0.57, 0.58, 0.62 and 0.64 kg, respectively. The difference among different treatment groups were statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ).

The dry matter intake was noticed more in T<sub>4</sub> followed by T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>1</sub>. It indicates the influence of supplementation of green *Azolla* and concentrate mixture improves the dry matter intake.

**Keywords:** *Azolla*, goat kid's, dry matter

**Introduction**

Goat had occupied the position as much important domestic animal as they are the hopes for the poorer people of Indian sub continent. Especially those people who are below poverty line viz.; landless, small and marginal farmers. Goat are small sized animal, highly adaptable to varied range of climatic and geographic conditions and their appealing nature choose them as a popular livestock species than the other mammalian breeds.

Osmanabadi is medium size breed and reared mainly for meat and milk purpose (dual purpose). This breed is originated and habitat of Osmanabad District and its adjacent area of Maharashtra States. Osmanabadi goats are mainly black in colour (73%), remaining are patches with black white, tan or patches with tan-white are also observed. Twining percentage is approximately 35% to 40%, triplets are 3-5% and quadruplet's is 1-3%, remaining are singles.

Goats can thrive well on wide range of feed and fodder. In India there are very poor methods of managing goat. The use of *Azolla* can improve the growth of goat kids. *Azolla* contains useful amount of crude protein up to (26.4% CP) (Prabina and Kumar 2010) [5]. Keeping in view, the economic aspect of sheep and goat rearing, it was suggested that the underprivileged families (those from lower socio-economic strata) prefer sheep and goat rearing (Conroy and Rangnekar 2000, Rangnekar 2006, Misra *et al.* 2006) [2, 6, 3].

**Materials and Method**

Twenty osmanabadi goat kids between the age group of 03 to 06 months and weighing between 08 to 12 Kg were divided into four equal groups of five goat kids, in such a way that all the group were having approximately same body weight at the beginning of experiments.

**Table 1:** Details of allotment of treatment in feeding trials

Treatments	Details
T <sub>1</sub>	Extensive feeding + Conc. (As per Thumb rule) + Control
T <sub>2</sub>	Extensive feeding + Conc. (As per Thumb rule) + 100 gm Green <i>Azolla</i>
T <sub>3</sub>	Extensive feeding + Conc. (As per Thumb rule) + 200 gm Green <i>Azolla</i>
T <sub>4</sub>	Extensive feeding + Conc. (As per Thumb rule) + 300 gm Green <i>Azolla</i>

Experimental goat kids allotted for grazing from 9.30 am to 11.30 am for 2 hours in morning and 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm for 2 hours for total 4 hour grazing in T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> treatment respectively. Where as in treatment T<sub>1</sub> experimental goat kids allowed to full grazing up to 8 hours.

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All the four groups of goat kids were kept under identical standard management practices. The kids were groomed twice daily at 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. The kids were kept free in open paddock for an hour. Fresh and clean water was provided to the experimental goat kids throughout the course of investigation.

Animals were offered ad libitum drinking water through measuring bucket twice daily at 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. Daily

water intake of each kid was recorded throughout the investigation period.

### Result and Discussions

Dry matter is the most important component of the feeds and fodder. It excludes the moisture content of feed and fodder. The feed requirement of animal is based on the DM content of feed.

**Table 2:** Mean daily dry matter intake by experimental goat kids under different Treatments. (Kg)

Treatments	Average initial body weight (kg)	Average final body weight (kg)	Mean Daily Dry matter intake (kg)	Mean Daily dry matter intake/100 kg body weight
T <sub>1</sub>	10.40	14.24	0.57	4.00
T <sub>2</sub>	10.50	14.40	0.58	4.02
T <sub>3</sub>	10.60	15.48	0.62	4.05
T <sub>4</sub>	10.45	15.95	0.64	4.12
F test	N.S.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.
SE (M) ±	---	0.41	0.016	0.027
C.D. at 5%	---	1.251	0.050	0.082

The value of daily dry matter intake per 100 kg body weight of the treatment group T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> were 4.00, 4.02, 4.05 and 4.12 kg respectively. The daily dry matter intake (DMI) through roughages and concentrate with green *Azolla* was affected significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ), (Table 2). The corresponding figure of per day dry matter intake of the treatment groups T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> were 0.57, 0.58, 0.62, and 0.64 kg respectively. The dry matter intake was noticed more in T<sub>4</sub> followed by T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>1</sub>. It indicates the influence of incorporation of green *Azolla* and concentrate mixture improves the dry matter intake of the experimental goat kids.

The past worker like Parthasarathy *et al.* (2003) [4] reported inclusion of *Azolla* in concentrate mixture without any adverse effect in pigs. Wadhawani *et al.* (2007) [8] reported 20 per cent of *Azolla* meal in ration of lambs without having any adverse effect.

Shital *et al.* (2011) [7] reported that the average daily dry matter intake (0.35kg) per Osmanabadi kid was higher in 15 per cent concentrate was replaced with *Azolla* meal without any adverse effect. Bhilawade *et al.* (2015) [1] reported *Azolla* meal and concentrate mixture improves the dry matter intake.

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