

Influence of defoliation on crude protein content of two Karoo shrub species

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Introduction

Limited information on influence of Defoliation (intensity and frequency) on nutritive value of Nama Karoo shrubs.

Crude protein (CP) content

Nenax microphylla (Daggapitkaroo)

Pentzia incana (Ankerkaroo).



Material and methods

Greenhouse trial

Defoliation frequencies: three, six and twelve months.

Defoliation intensities: to heights of 50, 125 and 200 mm.

Separated into: edible (leaves and twigs with diameter < 2 mm), and non-edible (twigs with diameter > 2 mm)

Edible portions were analysed for CP with Leco CN Determinator.



Nenax microphylla

Frequency (months)	CP (%)	Intensity (to heights of, mm)	CP (%)
3	13.3	50	13.6
6	10.4	125	12.3
12	8.1	200	11.9



Pentzia incana

Frequency (months)	CP (%)	Intensity (to heights of, mm)	CP (%)
3	14.9	50	14.4
6	11.9	125	13.7
12	9.5	200	13.3



Conclusion

- Although frequent, high intensity defoliation results in a higher CP content,
- edible DM yield as well as root growth need further investigation under the same treatments.



THANK YOU

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