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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Microbial populations and ruminal fermentation of sheep and llamas fed low quality forages

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## Highlights

- The forestomach contents of llamas presented higher microbial activity than sheep, which was reflected in a higher NH<sub>4</sub>-N and VFA concentrations.
- The llamas had a higher density of total protozoa and of genus *Eudiplodinium*, whereas holotrich protozoa were not detectable.
- No differences were detected between llamas and sheep for total bacterial populations, total methanogens, and fibrolytic bacteria.

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