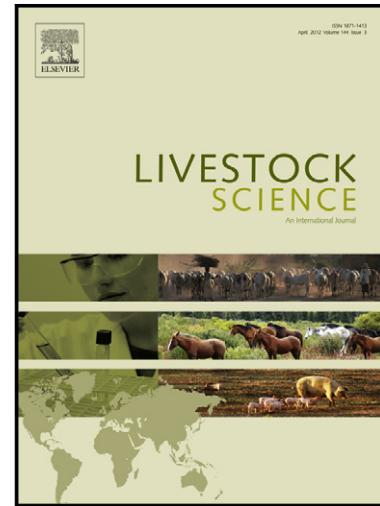


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Influence of *Acacia tortilis* leaf meal-based diets on growth performance of pigs

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Abstract

The objectives of the study were to assess nutritive value of *Acacia* leaf meals and to determine the optimum inclusion level of *Acacia tortilis* leaf meal in finishing pigs. Five dominant leguminous leaf meals namely; *Acacia tortilis*, *A. robusta*, *A. nilotica*, *A. nigrescens* and *A. xanthophloea*, were individually hand-harvested and analyzed for their chemical and physical properties. Although the crude protein content of *A. xanthophloea* and *A. tortilis* were similar, the latter was incorporated into the experimental diets as it had the lowest water holding capacity, swelling capacity and moderate levels of condensed tannins. *Acacia tortilis* was also the most abundant in the locality. Thirty finishing male F₁ hybrid (Landrace × Large White) pigs with an initial weight of 60.6 (s.d. = 0.94) kg were randomly allotted to six diets containing 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 g/kg DM inclusion levels of *A. tortilis* leaf meal. Each diet was offered *ad libitum* to five pigs in individual pens for 21 days. Average daily feed intake (ADFI), average daily gain

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