

## SUMMARY

*Brachiaria humidicola* (Rendle) Schweick has shown good adaptation and productivity in acid and infertile soils of tropical America. However, animal production with this grass has been low under isohyperthermic savanna conditions, represented by the Llanos of Colombia, as a consequence of severe protein deficiency and low voluntary intake.

Because *B. humidicola* is highly spread in tropical forest areas, it was considered of interest to evaluate its nutritive value under similar conditions. A grazing trial was conducted in the CIAT Quilichao sub-station in Colombia (3°6' N, 76°31'

W) to measure quality attributes of *B. humidicola* CIAT 6013 under three stocking rates. Results indicated that with a rotational system of 7 days grazing and 42 days rest the grass had low nutritive value as indicated by low digestibility and voluntary intake. A high stocking rate (5.7 an/ha) resulted in an improvement in the crude protein content of the regrowth, but low availability limited intake. A reduction in stocking rate (1.9 an/ha) was associated with increased forage availability but reduced crude-protein content in the forage available and selected by esophageal-fistulated steers. This would explain the low levels of intake observed at this level of stocking.