

Summary

In order to check the influence of silica content in dry-matter digestibility (IVDMD) of tropical grasses, nine different tropical grasses were sampled under grazing conditions in Colombia. After drying and grinding, the samples were analyzed to determine IVDMD and silica content. Data were analyzed by simple regression and the correlation and determination coefficients (R^2) were established. The correlation analysis was variable showing inverse and direct relations, with a value of 0.221 ($P < 0.001$) for all 369 samples, and a determination coefficient of 0.05. The nine tropical grasses analyzed did not follow the trend common in temperate forages of being directly influenced by high levels of silica. Instead, in tropical areas, other factors such as acid and neutral detergent fibers can have an additive action with the silica levels.