

Summary

Herbage of 27 germplasm accessions of the shrub legume *Codariocalyx gyroides*, agronomically evaluated in the humid tropics of Colombia, showed a considerable range in quality traits, such as crude protein (CP), extractable condensed tannins (ECT), and in vitro dry matter digestibility (IVDMD). Significant differences between accessions were found, independent of maturity of the herbage. IVDMD was negatively related to ECT and those bound to protein or to fibre. Accessions with acceptable nutritive value were not among the most productive and persistent, while the most productive accessions were among those with the lowest CP content and low IVDMD. There was high acceptability of *C. gyroides* by lactating cows, with little difference among accessions, while grass was available. However, cattle usually rejected the legume when all other vegetation was removed.