

# Summary

The chemical composition, apparent digestibility, and voluntary intake of hay of rubber bush [*Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R. Br.], which occurs spontaneously in the

Caatinga areas of Sertânia Experiment Station (Pernambuco, Brazil), were determined using five 12-month-old castrated sheep, with an initial weight of 28.9 kg. The routine methodology of total collection of feces was used. Hay was sun-dried. Components and digestibility coefficients of hay (% dry base) were as follows: dry matter, 89.98 and 61.90; organic matter, 89.23 and 75.04; crude protein, 11.45 and 45.84; crude fiber, 26.50 and 73.68; ether extract, 6.48 and 63.82; and nitrogen-free extract, 38.55 and 54.36, totalizing 59.98% of total digestible nutrients (TDN). Voluntary intake (g/kg LW<sup>0.75</sup>) of dry matter was 60.21, crude protein 6.99, and TDN 38.96.