

Summary

The chemical composition, total phenols, and tannin content of native and exotic forages collected in the municipality of Sertânia, located in semi-arid Pernambuco, Brazil, were assessed. Total tannins were determined in 200-mg samples of each species, using the FAO procedure, and total phenols, with the Follin-Ciocalteau method. Bromatology analyses were also made (Silva, 1990). Most native species presented total tannins levels below the recommended threshold (4%) for satisfactory animal performance. Of all forage species evaluated, the tannin levels of only *Anadenanthera macrocarpa* (11.74%), *Astronion urundeuva* (17.17%), and *Amburana cearensis* (5.34%) were higher than recommended. These species should therefore not be use as sole source of feed for animals. Crude protein availability ranged between 11.64% and 21.37%, being highest in *Medicago sativa* (20.45%), *A. cearensis* (21.23%), and *Gliricidia sepium* (21.37%). Total phenols varied from 0.74 mg in *Herissantia tiubae* to 19.35 mg in *A. urundeuva*, in determinations without polyvinyl polypirrolidone (PVPP). Native species show higher phenol values than exotic ones.