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Livestock in smallholder farming systems of Zimbabwe are depended on indigenous browse tree pods as sources of nitrogen and energy during the dry season. The chemical composition and nutritive value of these pods is largely unknown.

The aim of this experiment was to determine the chemical composition, content of antinutritive factors and *in vitro* organic matter digestibility (IVOMD) of pods of *Dichrostachys cinerea, Acacia ingrescens, Acacia tortilis* and *Bauhinia thonningii*. The content of antinutritive factors was determined by assaying for proanthocyanidins using the acid butanol method and by the radial diffusion method.

The IVOMD of the pods was low but this did not seem to be related to proanthocyanidin concentration or tannin binding effect on protein. The digestibility varied inversely with NDF content. The pods have a potential use as protein and energy supplements during the dry season, especially *A. tortilis* pods.

Pod Species	Dry matter (g/kg)	NDF (g/kg)	Crude Protein (g/kg)	IVOMD	Vanillin Radial Absorbance A 550/g	Tannins diffusion Activity
Dichrostarchys Cinerea	949	613	115	310	0.15	318
Acacia ingrescens	950	465	149	360	0.30	150
Bauhinia thonningii	957	557	52	343	0.45	139
Acacia tortilis	938	360	147	520	0.24	271