

Performance of Heifer Camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) on Native Range Supplemented with Different Energy Levels

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Abstract : The study was conducted to assess heifer camel behavior and live weight changes on native range supplemented with different energy levels. A total of nine camels aged between 2 and 3 years were randomly allotted into three groups and supplemented with 3400, 3600 and 3800 Kcal and designated A, B and C, respectively. The data obtained was analyzed for variance in a Completely Randomized Design. The heifers utilized average of 371.70 min/day (64% of daylight time) browsing on native pasture and 2.30 min/day (6%) sand bathing. A significantly higher mean time was spent by heifers on browsing *Leptadenia hastata* ($P<0.001$), *Dichrostachys cinerea* ($P<0.01$), *Acacia nilotica* ($P<0.001$) and *Ziziphus spina-christi* ($P<0.05$) in early dry season (January). No significant difference was recorded on browsing time on *Tamarindus indica*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Piliostigma reticulatum*, *Parkia biglobosa* and *Azadirachta indica*. No significant ($P<0.05$) liveweight change was recorded on she-camels due to the three energy levels. It was concluded that nutritive browse species in the study area could meet camel nutrient requirements including energy. Further research on effect of period on camel nutrients requirement in different physiological conditions is recommended.

Keywords : heifer, camel, grazing, pasture

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