

Milled legume grain as urease source for the ammonization of elephant grass hay

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Abstract – The objective of this work was to evaluate the use of soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), and jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*) as urease sources for elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea. The experimental design was completely randomized in a double factorial arrangement with one additional treatment: 4 urease source levels x 3 urease sources + 1 control. Chemical-bromatological analyses and carbohydrate fractionation were performed in the hay, and cumulative gas production in vitro was determined. There were interactions between urease level and source for neutral detergent fiber and acid detergent fiber, in which 1 and 2% jack bean lowered acid detergent fiber values, and 2% jack bean and 3% soybean reduced lignin content. The addition of milled legume grains reduces fiber components and increases non protein nitrogen content in elephant grass hay ammoniated with urea. Adding 4% milled soybean increases gas production in the soluble fraction.

Index terms: *Cajanus cajan*, *Canavalia ensiformis*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, non-protein nitrogen, roughage.

Grãos de leguminosas moídas como fonte de urease para amonização do feno de capim-elefante

Resumo – O objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar o efeito da inclusão de soja (*Glycine max*), feijão-guandu (*Cajanus cajan*) e feijão-de-porco (*Canavalia ensiformis*) como fonte de urease para feno de capim-elefante (*Pennisetum purpureum*) amonizado com ureia. O delineamento experimental foi inteiramente casualizado, em arranjo fatorial duplo, com um tratamento adicional: 4 níveis de fonte de urease x 3 fontes de urease + 1 controle. Realizou-se a análise química-bromatológica e o fracionamento de carboidratos no feno, e a produção cumulativa de gás in vitro foi determinada. Houve efeito da interação entre o nível e a fonte de urease para fibra em detergente neutro e fibra em detergente ácido, em que a adição de 1 e 2% de feijão-de-porco resultou nos menores valores de fibra em detergente ácido, e a adição de 2% de feijão-de-porco e 3% de soja, nos menores valores de lignina. A adição de grãos moídos das leguminosas reduz os componentes da fibra e aumenta o teor de nitrogênio não proteico do feno de capim-elefante amonizado com ureia. A adição de 4% de grão de soja moído aumenta a produção de gás proveniente da fração solúvel.

Termos para indexação: *Cajanus cajan*, *Canavalia ensiformis*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, nitrogênio não proteico, volumosos.

Introduction

Ammonization of low-quality forage with urea is cheap and accessible for farmers (Vadiveloo & Fadel, 2009). Urea has advantages over anhydrous ammonia, such as greater commercial availability and transportability.

Moisture and urea activity in forage interfere with ammonization efficiency and, consequently, with ammonia production (Ramírez et al., 2007). Ammonia reacts with water to form ammonium hydroxide, which degrades ester links between lignin, cellulose, and hemicellulose; increases the access of ruminal

microorganisms to carbohydrates; and improves digestibility by changing fiber structure (Wanapat et al., 2009; Polyorach & Wanapat, 2015).

Soybean (Medeiros-Silva et al., 2014) and jack bean (Piovesan et al., 2014) are common urease sources. Other legumes like pigeon pea, however, also contain this enzyme (Balasubramanian et al., 2013).

In ruminant production, urease sources are added to roughage subjected to urea ammonization for the purpose of increasing ammonia release. As urease sources for forage treatments, Sarmento et al. (2001) and Carvalho et al. (2007) cited soybean, and Bertipaglia et al. (2005), *Brachiaria decumbens* hay, *Pennisetum purpureum*, and *Leucaena leucocephala*. However, these authors did not refer to either jack bean or pigeon pea for this use. In addition, little information is available on the costs of adding urease sources in the treatment of forage ammoniated with urea, on the length of the treatment period, or on its effects on forage dry matter content.

The objective of this work was to evaluate the use of soybean, pigeon pea, and jack bean as urease sources for elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at the Instituto de Zootecnia of Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, located in the municipality of Seropédica, in the state of Rio de Janeiro (22°46'59"S, 43°40'45"W, at 33 m of altitude). The experimental procedures were approved by the research ethics committee, process No. 23083.010666/2014-11.

Two factors were tested: urease sources (soybean, jack bean, and pigeon pea) and their concentrations (equivalent to 1, 2, 3, and 4% dry matter), including a control (no urease source). The experimental design was completely randomized in a factorial arrangement with four replicates.

Elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum* Schumach. 'Cameron') was grown as a hay source. It was harvested, chopped, and converted to hay at flowering after five months of regrowth on a 400-m² area. Hay samples were set aside and analyzed for chemical composition (Table 1), and then the material was sent to a laboratory for ammonization.

The ammonization process was done by placing 500 g hay in 15-kg pails, adding 4% w/v aqueous urea, which is enough to reduce the dry matter to 70%. Simultaneously, one of the following urease sources was added to the hay-urea mixture: soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), or jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*). These were milled and added to the hay at the rates of 1, 2, 3, and 4% dry matter.

The chemical compositions and the urease activity indices of the milled legume seeds were determined according to the methodology described by Gomes & Oliveira (2011). The obtained results are shown in Table 2.

After the additions of the urea suspension with milled grains, the pails were hermetically sealed for 30 days. The lids were then removed, and the pails were left open for 48 hours to eliminate excess ammonia. The ammoniated material free of milled grains was then sampled for chemical analysis. The samples were dried in a forced-air circulation oven at 55°C for 72 hours and ground in Wiley mills to 1-mm particle size (Silva & Queiroz, 2002).

Dry matter, ash, ether extract, and total nitrogen were determined according to the 934.01, 924.05, 960.39, and 984.13 methods of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, respectively (Helrich, 1990). Neutral detergent fiber (NDF), acid detergent fiber (ADF), lignin, and cellulose were evaluated according to the methodology proposed by Van Soest et al. (1991). Hemicellulose was derived from the difference between the NDF and ADF contents. Soluble non protein nitrogen (NPN) was obtained using the difference between the amount of precipitated protein in trichloroacetic acid (TCA) solution and the quantity of soluble protein remaining in it. Neutral detergent insoluble nitrogen (NDIN) and acid detergent insoluble nitrogen (ADIN) were estimated by nitrogen dosing in the NDF and NDA residues, respectively, according to the method described by Licitra et al. (1996).

The carbohydrate fractions were determined according to the protocol in Sniffen et al. (1992).

In vitro incubations were conducted in 100-mL amber flasks containing 0.50-g incubated sample, 40 mL culture medium, and 10-mL ruminal inoculum sealed with rubber stoppers and aluminum foil. The ruminal inoculum was obtained from three rumen-fistulated sheep fed once daily with corn silage and soybean meal in the proportion of nine parts forage to

one part concentrate. The culture medium was prepared according to Hall & Mertens (2008). It consisted of 40-mL reduced solution and 10-mL ruminal inoculum under CO₂ aspersión. The flasks were sealed and kept in a water bath maintained at 39°C.

The time profiles of accumulated gas production were obtained using a nonautomated device similar to that described by Abreu et al. (2014). The gas pressure was determined from manometric readings, and the volume was measured with a graduated pipette (25 mL with 0.1 mL gradations). For these determinations, a manometer (0–8 psi; 0.05 psi gradations) was coupled to a three-way plastic valve in a wood frame. Pressure and volume measurements were performed on each bottle at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20, 30, 36, 48, 72, and 96 hours. The volume at each time interval and the total gas volume were used in a model to estimate kinetic parameters.

Gas production data were analyzed using a the biphasic model, composed by the monomolecular and GNGI models (Vieira et al., 2008), according to the equation:

$$V_t = V_{f1} \times (1 - \exp(-k_1 t)) + V_{f2} \times \left(1 - \frac{\delta^N \exp(-k_2 t) + \exp(-\lambda t) \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \frac{(1 - \delta^{N-i})(\lambda t)^i}{i!}}{\delta^N} \right)$$

in which V_t is the final volume of gases accumulated (mL) in time (t); V_{f1} is the gas volume from the soluble fraction (mL); k_1 is the fermentation rate of the soluble fraction (% h⁻¹); V_{f2} is the gas volume from the fibrous

fraction (mL); k_2 is the fermentation rate in the fibrous fraction (% h⁻¹); N is a positive whole number indicating the order of time dependency; λ is the asymptote of the rate of preparation for digestion (% h⁻¹); δ^N is a constant; and i is a subscript denoting the order of time dependency ranging from 1 to N_a or N_b . This model presented the best fit according to the Akaike criterion, and was determined using the NLMIXED module of SAS (SAS Institute, Inc, Cary, NC, USA).

The data were subjected to the analysis of variance, and the means for urease sources and their levels were analyzed by Tukey's test and the regression analysis, respectively, at 5% probability, using the ExpDes.pt package from the Rstudio software (Ferreira et al., 2013).

Results and Discussion

There were no significant differences between the control and the interaction of the factorial arrangements for dry matter, ash, and ether extract. However, an effect of urease source on ether extract content was observed (Table 3). The hay treated with soybean had a higher ether extract content than that treated with jack bean or pigeon pea because soybean itself yielded a higher ether extract content than either jack bean or pigeon pea (Table 2). Ahmed et al. (2002) reported that the ether extract content in roughage ammoniated with urea and treated with 6% soybean was 18.5 g kg⁻¹ higher than that of the control.

For the NDF content, significant differences were observed between the control and the treatment

Table 1. Chemical composition of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay harvested after flowering.

Component	Mean (95% CI)
Dry matter (g kg ⁻¹)	893.7±6.01
Ash (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	83.2±1.61
Ether extract (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	14.6±0.47
Neutral detergent fiber (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	758.7±5.14
Acid detergent fiber (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	470.6±3.91
Hemicellulose (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	347.6±5.50
Cellulose (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	288.5±3.18
Lignin (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	91.1±2.55
Crude protein (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	485.6±1.07
Neutral detergent insoluble nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ N)	212.3±17.28
Acid detergent insoluble nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ N)	108.0±9.22

⁽¹⁾CI, confidence interval.

Table 2. Chemical composition of milled soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), and jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*) grains used as urease sources.

Components	Urease source (95% CI)		
	Jack bean	Pigeon pea	Soybean
Dry matter (g kg ⁻¹)	884.3±8.27	879.2±9.27	902.6±7.27
Ash (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	32.5±2.27	39.4±2.36	48.7±1.89
Ether extract (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	21.1±0.95	19.6±0.81	28.3±0.73
Crude protein (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	316.5±2.79	206.6±1.23	334.5±1.73
NDF (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	255.9±5.79	375.3±6.23	296.8±4.23
ADF (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	122.3±3.92	174.6±3.79	126.9±4.23
Hemicellulose (g kg ⁻¹ DM)	133.6±2.38	200.7±3.14	169.9±2.68
Urea activity index (Δ pH)	1.78±0.20	2.21±0.13	2.76±0.18

CI, confidence interval, NDF, neutral detergent fiber; ADF, acid detergent fiber.

combinations. However, urease source level had no effect (Table 4). A significant interaction was observed between the factors analyzed for NDF, ADF,

and lignin content. The addition of 3% jack bean as a source of urease increased NDF more than the same amount of soybean or pigeon pea. The addition of 1

Table 3. Chemical composition of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea, using soybean (*Glycine max*), jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*), or pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) as a urease source⁽¹⁾.

Urease source	Control	Mean (US)	Level (% DM)				Factorial mean	CV (%)	p-value			
			1	2	3	4			L	US	USxL	FAxC
Dry matter (DM, g kg ⁻¹)												
Soybean		742.0	740.9	738.5	753.6	735.1						
Jack bean	742.4	736.8	739.0	739.0	736.0	733.2	741.9	1.52	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		743.6	750.8	745.9	740.2	737.3						
Ash (g kg ⁻¹ DM)												
Soybean		84.3	85.4	83.1	81.6	87.5						
Jack bean	84.9	81.7	82.6	80.8	81.4	82.1	83.7	4.88	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		85.1	85.8	84.3	84.6	86.0						
Ether extract (g kg ⁻¹ DM)												
Soybean		16.1a	16.1	16.4	16.0	16.1						
Jack bean	14.0	13.8b	13.6	14.0	13.1	14.6	14.59	11.56	ns	**	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		13.8b	13.1	15.1	12.8	14.4						

^{ns}Nonsignificant. ^{**}Significant by Fisher's test, at 1% probability. US x L, interaction between urease source and level and FA x C, factorial and control difference.

Table 4. Fibrous fraction components (g kg⁻¹ DM) of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea, using milled soybean (*Glycine max*), jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*), or pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) as a urease source⁽¹⁾.

Urease source	Control	Mean (US)	Level (% DM)				Factorial mean	CV (%)	p-value			
			1	2	3	4			L	US	US x L	FA x C
Neutral detergent fiber												
Soybean		740.4	744.4a	741.6a	736.5b	739.1a						
Jack bean	749.2A	741.9	744.5a	737.4a	751.5a	734.2a	740.8B	0.93	ns	ns	*	**
Pigeon pea		741.2	742.5a	742.5a	737.4b	742.3a						
Acid detergent fiber												
Soybean		453.3	457.0a	455.3a	452.3a	449.2a						
Jack bean	448.0	446.5	442.7b	441.0b	456.1a	446.4a	450.5	1.84	ns	ns	*	ns
Pigeon pea		451.8	446.8ab	456.5a	446.7a	455.9a						
Hemicellulose												
Soybean		289.6	287.3	289.4	292.4	289.2						
Jack bean	301.1	297.1	304.4	298.5	296.3	289.3	293.4	3.44	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		293.0	299.3	290.2	293.3	289.2						
Cellulose												
Soybean		340.0	341.4	338.6	346.9	333.2						
Jack bean	331.9	333.7	331.3	331.5	340.8	331.3	336.3	2.25	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		335.3	330.7	338.4	332.7	339.2						
Lignin												
Soybean		79.2	81.8a	82.3a	72.4b	80.3a						
Jack bean	84.4	78.6	77.3a	75.8b	82.0a	79.4a	80.1	5.61	ns	ns	*	ns
Pigeon pea		82.5	84.4a	83.1a	81.0a	81.5a						

⁽¹⁾Means followed by equal letters, lowercase in the rows and uppercase between control and factorial mean, do not differ significantly by Tukey's test, at 5% probability. L, urease level; US, urease source; US x L, interaction between urease source and level; and FA x C, factorial and control difference. DM, dry matter; and CV, coefficient of variation. ^{ns}Nonsignificant. *and**Significant by Fisher's test, at 5 and 1% probability, respectively.

and 2% jack bean resulted in the lowest ADF content, whereas adding 2% jack bean or 3% soybean yielded the lowest lignin value. These findings corroborate those reported by Khan et al. (1999), who added milled jack bean and soybean to ammoniated wheat straw and found that a 1:1 ratio of milled legume seeds to urea reduced fiber content the most. When Sarmiento et al. (2001) ammoniated sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) bagasse with 4% urea and added ground raw soybean as a urease source, they observed a reduction of 2.9% in NDF content, compared with the control, with the addition of 7.5% soybean. These results confirmed the hypothesis that adding a urease source at the time of ammonization accelerates urea hydrolysis and ammonia liberation (Khan et al., 1999).

There were significant differences between the control and the combination of factorial arrangements for the A + B1 fraction. However, neither the urease source nor its concentration had any significant effect on the carbohydrate fractions (Table 5).

The increase in the A + B1 fraction (nonfibrous carbohydrate) content indicates a rise in rapidly degradable soluble compounds, such as sugars, and a reduction in the fibrous carbohydrate content. The urease source only had a significant effect on the nitrogenous compounds NPN and ADIN (Table 6). Regardless of its concentration, jack bean lowered ADIN more than soybean or pigeon pea. Soybean increased NPN the most, so its urease activity is higher than that of the others legumes evaluated in the present study (Table 2). Therefore, as a urease source,

Table 5. Carbohydrate fractions of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea, using milled soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), or jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*) as a urease source⁽¹⁾.

Urease source	Control	Mean (US)	Level (% DM)				Factorial mean	CV (%)	p-value			
			1	2	3	4			L	US	US x L	FA x C
Total carbohydrate (g kg ⁻¹ DM)												
Soybean		785.6	784.8	786.8	794.2	776.7						
Jack bean	781.0	786.0	792.0	796.5	793.2	790.3	788.2	1.47	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		785.6	786.8	787.7	788.4	781.6						
Neutral detergent fiber corrected for ash and protein content (g kg ⁻¹ TC)												
Soybean		688.7	686.0	686.9	694.1	697.5						
Jack bean	691.9	686.5	689.9	683.5	695.7	677.2	687.4	1.56	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		687.0	685.2	684.9	688.5	689.5						
Nonfibrous carbohydrates (g kg ⁻¹ TC)												
Soybean		95.2	88.7	105.9	109.2	88.8						
Jack bean	93.6B	105.3	99.3	111.7	97.5	113.1	100.7A	13.02	ns	ns	ns	**
Pigeon pea		101.6	96.6	102.7	109.9	97.5						
Potentially biodegradable neutral detergent fiber (g kg ⁻¹ TC)												
Soybean		500.5	495.8	494.8	522.5	499.8						
Jack bean	502.9	497.6	507.1	503.7	493.6	486.4	495.3	3.7	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		487.7	487.6	480.6	495.1	487.8						
Nondegradable fraction (g kg ⁻¹ TC)												
Soybean		192.5	200.3	197.1	174.2	198.7						
Jack bean	184.5	190.1	185.6	182.0	202.1	190.8	194.7	8.25	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		201.5	202.6	204.3	194.5	204.9						

⁽¹⁾Means followed by different letters between control and factorial mean differ significantly by Tukey's test at 5% probability. L, urease level; US, urease source; US x L, interaction between urease source and level; and FA x C, factorial and control difference. DM, dry matter; and CV, coefficient of variation. ^{ns}Nonsignificant. ^{**}Significant by Fisher's test, at 1% probability.

soybean can be applied in smaller amounts than jack bean or pigeon pea. Reis et al. (2001) reported increases in the NPN/TN content of ammoniated Jaragua grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*) hay when lablab (*Lablab purpureus*) was used as the urease source. Pereira et al. (2010) highlighted that the increase in NPN content indicates that higher amounts of nitrogen are available for the ruminal bacteria that degrade fibrous carbohydrates, due to their capacity of assimilating this form of nitrogen.

There was a significant interaction between urease source and application rate for the gas volume generated from nonfibrous carbohydrates (V_{f1}). However, there was no significant interaction between these factors for the fermentation rate of nonfibrous carbohydrates (k_1), latency (L), gas volume produced by fibrous carbohydrates (V_{f2}), or fermentation rate of fibrous carbohydrates (k_2). A positive linear correlation was observed for V_{f1} when soybean was used as the urease source (Table 7). The increase in gas production from the fibrous fraction can be attributed to the addition of non protein nitrogen and

soluble carbohydrates to the roughage (Velásquez et al., 2010). It is also the result of the improvement of fiber quality, as the ammonia-promoted breakage of cellulose and lignin bonds improves the access of ruminal microorganisms to the fiber and increases gas production (Abo-Donia et al., 2014).

Sarmiento et al. (2001) treated ammoniated sugarcane bagasse with 4% urea then added 0, 2.5, 3.75, or 7.5% ground soybean to it as a urease source. These authors reported a quadratic response of in vitro dry matter digestibility as a function of soybean content and concluded that 3.75% ground soybean improved the digestibility of the dry matter in sugarcane bagasse. Ahmed et al. (2002) ammoniated rice (*Oryza sativa*) straw with 4% urea, adding 0, 4, or 6% ground soybean, and found that the total digestibility coefficient significantly increased, compared with the control treatment, when up to 6% milled legume seeds were added to the ruminant diet.

Table 6. Nitrogenous fractions of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea and to which milled soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), or jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*) was added as a urease source⁽¹⁾.

Urease source	Control	Mean (US)	Level (% DM)				Factorial mean	CV (%)	p- value			
			1	2	3	4			L	US	US x L	FA x C
Total nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ DM)												
Soybean		18.2	18.2	18.2	17.3	19.2						
Jack bean	18.1	17.9	17.9	17.4	18.0	18.1	18.7	6.15	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		18.4	18.3	18.1	18.3	18.9						
Neutral detergent insoluble nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ total nitrogen)												
Soybean		255.4	254.8	251.3	264.2	251.2						
Jack bean	248.2	270.3	279.8	256.5	271.3	273.4	264.1	8.88	ns	ns	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		266.6	268.2	299.1	254.6	244.5						
Acid detergent insoluble nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ total nitrogen)												
Soybean		111.5b	108.4	106.8	108.7	122.2						
Jack bean	84.5	99.3a	94.0	105.4	104.8	93.1	107.7	9.32	ns	**	ns	ns
Pigeon pea		112.2b	101.9	112.0	121.5	113.3						
Non protein nitrogen (g kg ⁻¹ total nitrogen)												
Soybean		493.3a	520.0	471.4	485.2	496.6						
Jack bean	436.9B	455.4b	479.1	448.2	432.4	461.9	461.1A	8.99	ns	*	ns	**
Pigeon pea		434.5b	468.4	421.1	440.1	408.3						

⁽¹⁾Means followed by different letters between control and factorial mean differ significantly by Tukey's test at 5% probability. L, urease level; US, urease source; US x L, interaction between urease source and level; and FA x C, factorial and control difference. DM, dry matter; and CV, coefficient of variation. ^aNonsignificant. * and **Significant by Fisher's test, at 5 and 1% probability, respectively.

Table 7. In vitro gas production kinetic parameters (P) of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay treated with urea, using milled soybean (*Glycine max*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), or jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*) as a urease source⁽¹⁾.

Urease source	Control	Mean (US)	Level (% DM)				Factorial mean	CV (%)	Regression	R ²
			1	2	3	4				
Gas volume from soluble fraction (V _{f1} , mL)										
Soybean		9.0a	8.2	8.2	8.4	11.2			** $\hat{Y} = 6.72 + 0.92x$	0.67
Jack bean	8.5B	8.5b	8.3	8.6	8.3	8.6	8.9A	7.13	ns	-
Pigeon pea		8.1b	8.3	7.8	7.8	8.4			ns	-
Fermentation rate of soluble fraction (k ₁ , % h ⁻¹)										
Soybean		0.20	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.20			ns	-
Jack bean	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.19	0.19	6.11	ns	-
Pigeon pea		0.20	0.19	0.19	0.2	0.20			ns	-
Latency (L, h)										
Soybean		1.55	1.46	1.66	1.6	1.46			ns	-
Jack bean	1.49	1.44	1.44	1.41	1.5	1.39	1.6	27.2	ns	-
Pigeon pea		1.51	1.43	1.38	1.62	1.59			ns	-
Gas volume from fibrous fraction (V _{f2} , mL)										
Soybean		17.0	17.6	16.6	17	16.6			ns	-
Jack bean	16.0	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.8	4.61	ns	-
Pigeon pea		16.9	16.9	16.4	16.4	17.9			ns	-
Fermentation rate of fibrous fraction (k ₂ , % h ⁻¹)										
Soybean		0.015	0.013	0.016	0.016	0.016			ns	-
Jack bean	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.014	14.61	ns	-
Pigeon pea		0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	0.013			ns	-

⁽¹⁾Means followed by different letters between control and factorial mean differ significantly by Tukey's test at 5% probability. DM, dry matter; and CV, coefficient of variation. ns Nonsignificant. * and **Significant by Fisher's test, at 5 and 1% probability, respectively.

Conclusion

Adding milled soybean (*Glycine max*), jack bean (*Canavalia ensiformis*), and pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) as urease sources to elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) hay ammoniated with urea contributes to the reduction of neutral detergent fiber and acid detergent insoluble nitrogen, and promotes an increase in nonfibrous carbohydrates and non protein nitrogen content for elephant grass hay ammoniated with urea.

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