

## Technology on mixed forage nutrition collocation and development of grass-based stockbreeding in the karst rocky desertification area

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**Abstract** In order to study forage mixture skills and solve livestock's nutrient deficiency for the adaptive development of grassland stockbreeding in the karst rocky desertification areas, this paper chose the alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and rescuegrass (*Bromus catharticus*) which grow well in the karst areas for the nutrition degradability measurements of six castrative Guizhou white goats installed perpetual rumen fistula by *Nylon Bag Technique*. Test group is 100% rescuegrass (Control group I), 10% alfalfa and 90% rescuegrass (Experiment group I), 30% alfalfa and 70% rescuegrass (Experiment group II), 50% alfalfa and 50% rescuegrass (Experiment group III), 70% alfalfa and 30% rescuegrass (Experiment group IV), 90% alfalfa and 10% rescuegrass (Experiment group V) and 100% alfalfa (Control group II). The results indicate that the degradation rate to dry matter (DM) of the mixed forage is bigger than that of single forage; the degradation rate of crude protein (CP) is increasing with percentage of legume; there is no obvious variation tendency of the degradability of neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF). However, the degradation rate in experiment group II is the biggest. The comprehensive analysis for digestion and utilization situations of the white goats with the forages above shows that the nutrition conversion of the mixed forage is bigger than that of the single forage; the best mixture percentage between legume and grasses forage is 3:7. As a result, we suggest this configuration proportion in the grassland construction and the grassland stockbreeding development of the national rocky desertification control.

### Introduction

Guizhou is considered as typical karst fragile environment with complex human-land eco-system in the world. Because of human beings' unreasonable actions, there exist such phenomena in the karst areas as follows: rock bareness, soil depletion; fragile environment; extensive rocky desertification, which have been the most serious eco-environment problems<sup>[1]</sup>. How to break this vicious cycle of "poverty-seize resource -gradual environmental degradation and deterioration-further poverty" is the primary task to restore the rocky desertification ecological environment<sup>[2]</sup>. Academician Yuan<sup>[3]</sup> pointed out that the pattern of grassland stockbreeding development was a systematic engineering of rocky desertification control, and the control of rocky desertification could not get rid of the development of herbivorous animal husbandry<sup>[4]</sup>. And, karst rocky desertification region in southern China could provide superior natural geography conditions for developing grassland stockbreeding. Meanwhile, promoting the development of grassland stockbreeding is an effective method to solve the problem of rural poverty and to improve the ecological environment in karst areas. How to make full use of forage resources to improve the forage utilization efficiency for development of grassland stockbreeding is the main task of the national rocky desertification control project in the *Planning Outline of Karst Rocky Desertification Comprehensive Control (2006-2015)* approved by the State Council in 2008.

There are more mountains than hills in karst rocky desertification areas of southwest China, with broken and complex terrain, steep slope shrub and rich scrub-grassland resources. Compared with sheep, goats have a strong climbing and jumping ability and are good at climbing, making them active in the mountains. Simultaneously, the omnivorous goats, easy to raise, fast-breeding animal,

with good meat and pelt quality, little muttoney odour, are highly favored by the local market<sup>[5,6]</sup>. But the feeding of goats has some destructive effects on the ecological environment, so it is essential to develop fence livestock and combine grazing with stall-feeding. In order to meet the nutritional needs of stall-feeding in karst areas, the main problem we are facing is to choose drought-tolerant forage to nutrition arrange nutrition in extremely arid conditions. *Medicago sativa L.*, known as “king of forage” and “feed queen”, is a kind of firstly used and the most widely cultivated legume forages with high nutritional value and good palatability, so it can be described as an important representative of legumes<sup>[7,8,9]</sup>. *Bromus cartharticus Vahl.*, a species of perennial gramineous forage grasses, has the characteristics of cold resistance, drought tolerance, acid and alkali resistant, fast growth rate, high tillering ability, strong stress resistance, high yields, good regenerability, long grass supply period, and so on<sup>[10]</sup>. Mingkun Zhao<sup>[11]</sup> researches on planting forage in Guizhou karst areas indicate that *Bromus cartharticus Vahl.*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Dactylis glomerata L.*, and other indicators have good characters after comprehensive analysis and can be widely cultivated in development and utilization in future. *Bromus cartharticus Vahl.* has a wide planting area in karst rocky desertification areas at present. Based on the previous researches, the mixture sowing of legume and grasses could not only improve nitrogen nutrition balance in grass eco-system, promote the formation of grass animal protein<sup>[12,13]</sup>, improve the quality and quantity of grass<sup>[14]</sup>, but also increase soil fertility. Xie<sup>[15]</sup> and others also mentioned that the planting technology of mixture sowing of grass could promote the output of forage and meet the needs of flocks and herds. However, the researches on using the matching technology of mixed forage nutrition collocation to develop grassland stockbreeding are quite new at present. Determining the proportion of composition and collocation of mixture sowing is an extremely complex issue, and the choice is reasonable or not can affect the potential of the mixture sowing directly<sup>[16]</sup>. Therefore, this research focused on Guizhou white goats, and chose representative and superior legume alfalfa and grasses rescuegrass, adopted nylon bag technique, evaluated the nutritive value of forage by measuring the in-vivo digestive rate of the white goats to forage, and suggested a superior matching technological scheme for the mixed forage to promote the adaptive development of grassland construction and grass-based stockbreeding in the national rocky desertification control project.

## Materials and methods

### Collection and process of forage grass samples

Four species of forage were planted in the scientific demonstration plot for the rocky desertification integrated control and the mixed agriculture and forestry of karst plateau-mountains in Salaxi Bijie in March 2013. The soil physical and chemical properties in Karst demonstration zone are listed in (Table 1). Alfalfa and rescuegrass were clipped with a stubble height of 4 centimeters in October 2014. They were killed out in the oven at the temperature of 105°C for 15 minutes and then oven-dried to a constant weight at the temperature of 65°C. The oven-dried plant materials were smashed, sieved and sealed.

**Table 1** Physical and chemical properties of soil in karst demonstration area

Physical properties of soil	Content	Chemical properties of soil	Content
Moisture capacity (%)	16.87	PH value	6.55
Bulk density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.1	Organic matter content (mg/kg)	47.52
Field moisture capacity (%)	35.6	Total nitrogen content (g/kg)	2.46
Capillary moisture capacity (%)	45.16	Total phosphorus content (g/kg)	2.44
Total porosity (%)	69.12	Total potassium content (g/kg)	5.81
Capillary porosity (%)	69.12	Hydrolysis nitrogen content (mg/kg)	112.66
Non-capillary porosity (%)	27.31	Available phosphorus content (mg/kg)	5.65
Upper strata saturated permeability (mm/mm)	17.74	Available potassium content (mg/kg)	95.87
Lower strata saturated permeability (mm/mm)	12.66		

## Experimental animals and diet composition

This experiment totally chose six castrated Guizhou white goats with the average weight  $39.18 \pm 1.45$  kg, operated perpetual rumen fistula according to the operation method of Lu Dexun *et al.* [17], and evaluated the changing situations of degradation rate of the mixed forage nutrient substance by *Nylon Bag Technique* with different proportion of alfalfa and rescuegrass in rumen for 4 h, 8 h, 16 h, 24 h, 48 h and 72 h. The forage-to-concentrate ratio of the Guizhou white goats was 3:7, and basic ration composition and nutritional level were shown in (Table 2).

**Table 2** Diet composition and nutritional level (air drying)

Diet composition	Content, %	Nutrient level	Content, %
Corn straw	60	CP	14.51
Corn	23	NDF	55.36
Rapeseed meal	12	ADF	36.01
Salt	0.5	EE	1.35
Urea	2	Ca	0.96
Mineral	1.5	P	0.6
Premix	1	Ash	7.95
Total	100		

## Feeding and management

Cleaning, disinfecting, expelling parasite and other related prevention work of sheep cots are in the preliminary trial period before the experiments for 15 days. During the experiment, the white goats were fed with nutritional materials under the level of 1.4 times that required. The daily feeding time was 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and white goats could drink water freely.

## Experimental methods

Experiment is divided into test group is 100% rescuegrass (Control group I), 10% alfalfa and 90% rescuegrass (Experiment group I), 30% alfalfa and 70% rescuegrass (Experiment group II), 50% alfalfa and 50% rescuegrass (Experiment group III), 70% alfalfa and 30% rescuegrass (Experiment group IV), 90% alfalfa and 10% rescuegrass (Experiment group V) and 100% alfalfa (Control group II).

The Nylon Bag Technique<sup>[18]</sup> was adopted to measure in this experiment. Nylon cloth with apertures of 400 meshes was cut into sample sacks of 12 cm length and 6 cm width. In each sample sack, there were about 3.5 g samples. Every three sacks were tied together and regarded as one group. The sample sacks were let sit and sampled at 4 h, 8 h, 16 h, 24 h, 48 h and 72 h, respectively. The samples of 0 h was a mixture of paralleling subsamples in nylon bags, and was steeped for 1 hour with 37°C water bath. All samples were washed with tap water slowly until the washed water was clear. And then, the nylon bags were oven-dried to a constant weight at 65°C for about 48 hours. The measurement method of Dry matter (DM) was to use an oven to dry to constant weight, the crude protein (CP) was measured by *Kjeldahl Nitrogen Determination Method* (GB/T6432-94), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF) by *Fiber Bag Method*.

## Calculation method of fodder degradation rate

The degradation rates of DM, CP, NDF and ADF were calculated as a balance of the nutrient composition of the forage grass before and after degradation as below:

Degradation Rate (%) =  $\frac{\text{Concentration before degradation} - \text{Concentration after degradation}}{\text{Concentration before degradation}} \times 100\%$

The dynamic degradation rate of sample was calculated in accordance with formula proposed by φrskov *et al.* [19].

$$p = a + b(1 - e^{-ct}) \quad (1)$$

Where  $p$  and  $t$  are the degradation rate of  $t$  time, time of fodder stay in rumen, respectively;  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are rapidly degradable fraction, slowly degradable fraction, degradation constant of  $b$ , respectively.

The effective degradation rate was calculated as following.

$$ED = a + b[c/(c + k)]$$

(2)

Where  $ED$  and  $K$  are effective degradation in test fodder, efflux speed of chyme in rumen (%/h), forage  $0.02/h^{[20]}$ , respectively.  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  ditto.

### Statistic analysis

ANOVA was performed to test the significance using SPSS version 13.0 software package. A level of 0.05 was used as a standard of significance. Repeated measures ANOVA in a generalized linear model were used to examine the differences of parameter.

### Results

#### Digest regularity of white goats to forage DM

The degradation rate of DM was increasing with the degradation time of forage, and the degradation rates of both the group IV and the control group II in different periods showed a great difference ( $P < 0.05$ ). The degradation rates of the mixed forage at 48 and 72 h in the experiment group showed an incremental but not significant tendency with the increasing replacing proportion of alfalfa. The DM degradation rate of the white goats' to mixed forage at 48h and 72h was higher than that of the control group to single forage. The degradation rate of DM was the group V > the group IV > the group III > the group II > the group I > the control group II > the control group I (Table 3).

**Table 3** Dynamic degradation rate of the forage DM in Guizhou white goats' rumen

Item	Degradation time (h)					
	4	8	16	24	48	72
Control group I	20.66±1.53 <sub>aD</sub>	24.07±3.80 <sup>ef</sup> <sub>D</sub>	30.37±8.08 <sup>c</sup> <sub>BC</sub>	36.7±10.68 <sup>dB</sup>	45.52±4.42 <sup>bcd</sup> <sub>eA</sub>	46.52±4.42 <sup>eA</sup>
Experiment group I	16.14±0.01 <sub>bD</sub>	19.99±0.02 <sup>f</sup> <sub>D</sub>	29.87±0.02 <sup>c</sup> <sub>C</sub>	40.97±0.02 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>dB</sub>	51.9±0.03 <sup>adA</sup>	56.19±0.10 <sup>ad</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Experiment group II	18.23±0.03 <sub>bD</sub>	32.36±0.04 <sup>b</sup> <sub>cC</sub>	45.40±0.12 <sup>a</sup> <sub>B</sub>	48.59±0.07 <sup>ab</sup> <sub>B</sub>	51.31±0.02 <sup>acB</sup>	60.32±0.01 <sup>ac</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Experiment group III	11.94±0.02 <sup>c</sup> <sub>B</sub>	23.99±0.03 <sup>d</sup> <sub>fB</sub>	33.7±0.02 <sup>cB</sup>	41.12±0.02 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>dB</sub>	53.96±0.03 <sup>acB</sup>	60.89±3.23 <sub>abA</sub>
Experiment group IV	17.96±0.01 <sub>bF</sub>	32.52±0.02 <sup>b</sup> <sub>E</sub>	40.00±0.06 <sup>ab</sup> <sub>D</sub>	45.78±0.01 <sup>ac</sup> <sub>C</sub>	54.00±0.04 <sup>abB</sup>	61.04±0.04 <sup>aA</sup>
Experiment group V	17.63±0.03 <sub>bD</sub>	39.17±0.02 <sub>aC</sub>	42.46±0.05 <sup>a</sup> <sub>C</sub>	50.86±0.04 <sup>ab</sup> <sub>B</sub>	58.43±0.07 <sup>aA</sup>	61.22±0.01 <sup>aA</sup>
Control group II	16.78±2.50 <sub>bF</sub>	28.24±5.83 <sup>c</sup> <sub>dE</sub>	35.51±4.15 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>D</sub>	43.13±7.48 <sup>ad</sup> <sub>C</sub>	49.66±3.95 <sup>bcde</sup> <sub>B</sub>	54.26±3.93 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>dA</sub>

Values with different small letter superscripts in the same column or values with different capital letter superscripts in the same row mean significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ), and without or with same letter superscripts mean no difference ( $P > 0.05$ ). The same as below.

The Rapidly degradable fraction ( $a$ ) in the control group I was up to 15.01% ( $P < 0.05$ ), the lowest in group III was 6.42% ( $P < 0.05$ ). Slowly degradable fraction ( $b$ ) and potentially degradable fraction ( $a+b$ ) in the experiment group were higher than those in control group. The highest effective degradation was in the group II ( $P < 0.05$ ), followed by the group V, the group IV, the group III, the control group II, the group I, the control group I (Table 4).

**Table 4** Model parameters of DM dynamic degradation for different forage

Species	Rapidly degradable fraction (a, %)	Slowly degradable fraction (b, %)	Degradation rate of b (c, %/h)	Potentially degradable fraction (a+b, %)	Effective degradation (ED, %)
Control group I	15.01±0.48a	34.35±4.09g	0.0401±0.0158 f	49.36±3.73g	37.93±2.01g
Experiment group I	7.5±3.06d	52.40±3.02d	0.0379±0.0078 g	59.88±5.12e	41.0±3.97f
Experiment group II	6.42±7.05f	55.11±6.59c	0.1050±0.0237 a	61.55±8.44b	52.71±7.96a
Experiment group III	4.03±1.77g	58.13±1.8537a	0.0444±0.0044 e	62.34±2.56a	44.36±2.63d
Experiment group IV	10.59±2.93b	49.04±2.7993e	0.0580±0.0087 d	60.23±2.99d	47.06±5.11c
Experiment group V	6.88±4.92e	53.49±4.6224b	0.0753±0.0013 b	60.45±5.26c	49.14±5.19b
Control group II	8.57±0.97c	45.06±2.61f	0.0602±0.009c	53.63±1.60f	42.39±1.66e

Values with different small letter superscripts in the same column mean significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ), and with same letter superscripts mean no difference ( $P>0.05$ ). The same as below.

### Digest regularity of the white goats to forage CP

The degradation rate of CP was gradually increasing with the time. There existed significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ) in six timings among the group IV and control group II. The degradation rates of the group II rarely changed at between 16 h and 72 h, and were much higher but indistinctly different ( $P>0.05$ ) before 16 h, which was good for fast absorption and utilization of forage. The degradation rate of the control group I (forage grasses) at any time was lower than that of other experiment groups and the control group II. The degradation rate had a quick increase with the increasing proportion of legume at 24, 48 and 72 h (Table 5).

**Table 5** Dynamic degradation rate of the forage CP in Guizhou white goats' rumen

Item	Degradation time (h)					
	4	8	16	24	48	72
Control group I	21.29±1.85 dD	26.14±4.56 <sup>c</sup> CD	31.66±8.18 <sup>d</sup> C	41.29±10.34 <sup>f</sup> B	45.18±8.12 <sup>d</sup> AB	54.13±4.31 <sup>d</sup> A
Experiment group I	28.53±0.85 cE	30.73±1.49 <sup>d</sup> E	38.52±1.79 <sup>c</sup> D	50.21±2.14 <sup>eC</sup>	60.61±2.73 <sup>bc</sup> B	66.77±7.78 <sup>b</sup> cA
Experiment Group II	36.58±3.46 aC	53.44±1.70 <sup>a</sup> B	61.64±8.18 <sup>a</sup> A	62.77±6.75 <sup>ab</sup> A	63.23±4.08 <sup>ac</sup> A	69.75±0.25 <sup>a</sup> cA
Experiment group III	33.43±1.2 <sup>be</sup>	45.70±2.62 <sup>c</sup> D	57.84±1.41 <sup>a</sup> C	62.45±3.70 <sup>ad</sup> B	64.66±1.83 <sup>ab</sup> B	70.04±1.35 <sup>a</sup> bA
Experiment group IV	33.52±0.95 bF	47.40±1.81 <sup>bc</sup> E	55.24±4.56 <sup>a</sup> bD	62.67±0.56 <sup>ac</sup> C	66.81±3.55 <sup>a</sup> B	71.95±1.23 <sup>a</sup> A
Experiment group V	36.19±2.46 aE	51.88±1.47 <sup>ab</sup> D	57.76±3.47 <sup>a</sup> C	68.78±2.49 <sup>aB</sup>	67.50±2.72 <sup>a</sup> B	72.87±2.06 <sup>a</sup> A
Control group II	33.32±2.00 bF	44.91±4.48 <sup>c</sup> E	50.50±3.19 <sup>b</sup> D	58.35±5.48 <sup>bc</sup> dC	67.97±2.51 <sup>a</sup> B	73.89±2.24 <sup>a</sup> A

The CP rapid degradable fraction (a) of each group had a significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ), in which the highest figure occurred in the group IV with 22.29%, followed by the group I and V with over 20%. The slow degradable fraction (b) also had a significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ), in which the highest one was the group II, followed by the group I and III, the control group II, all over 50%. Degradation rates of b in test group II and III were relatively higher and were more than 0.1%. There were significant differences in potentially degradable fraction ( $P<0.05$ ), and they were higher in experiment group I and II. The highest of effective degradation rate was in experiment group II, followed by the group IV, V and III, the control group II, the group I, the control group I (Table 6).

**Table 6** Model parameters of CP dynamic degradation for different forage

Species	Rapidly degradable fraction (a, %)	Slowly degradable fraction (b, %)	Degradation rate of b (c, %/h)	Potentially degradable fraction(a+b, %)	Effective degradation (ED, %)
Control group I	9.89±0.33 <sup>g</sup>	40.07±3.51 <sup>g</sup>	0.0594±0.014 <sup>e</sup>	49.96±0.96 <sup>g</sup>	39.87±2.12 <sup>f</sup>
Experiment group I	21.31±2.30 <sup>b</sup>	52.29±3.26 <sup>c</sup>	0.0287±0.0062 <sup>g</sup>	73.54±3.11 <sup>a</sup>	52.13±3.24 <sup>e</sup>
Experiment group II	16.67±6.11 <sup>d</sup>	55.99±4.14 <sup>a</sup>	0.1050±0.0237 <sup>a</sup>	72.46±10.22 <sup>b</sup>	63.70±10.24 <sup>a</sup>
Experiment group III	16.47±2.57 <sup>c</sup>	50.99±2.39 <sup>d</sup>	0.1032±0.0091 <sup>b</sup>	67.16±3.65 <sup>f</sup>	59.18±4.34 <sup>c</sup>
Experiment group IV	22.29±2.64 <sup>a</sup>	47.84±2.47 <sup>f</sup>	0.0787±0.0087 <sup>c</sup>	69.96±2.13 <sup>c</sup>	60.44±1.77 <sup>b</sup>
Experiment group V	20.72±4.38 <sup>c</sup>	49.64±4.13 <sup>e</sup>	0.0753±0.0142 <sup>d</sup>	70.34±4.86 <sup>d</sup>	59.9±5.09 <sup>bc</sup>
Control group II	16.19±0.89 <sup>f</sup>	54.73±2.33 <sup>b</sup>	0.0729±0.0074 <sup>e</sup>	70.92±0.92 <sup>c</sup>	59.14±4.36 <sup>d</sup>

### Digest regularity of white goats to forage NDF

The neutral detergent fiber (NDF) degradation rate increased gradually with the extension of forage degradation time in goats' rumen in each experiment group. The degradation rates changed slowly in the group I and the differences were not significant during 4-24 h, ( $P>0.05$ ). The values of the group II in 16h were the highest and had great differences, compared with other groups at 4-16 h and 72 h ( $P<0.05$ ). The value of the group II at 16 h was the highest and the differences were significant ( $P<0.05$ ) compared with other experiment groups. The degradation rate at 72 h did not appear a distinct changing tendency with the decreasing of forage grass. The degradation rate of the group II at 72 h was the highest, followed by those of the control group I, the group I, the group V, the control group II, the group IV and the group III (Table 7).

**Table 7** Dynamic degradation rate of the forage NDF in Guizhou white goats' rumen

Item	Degradation time (h)					
	4	8	16	24	48	72
Control group I	12.94±3.20 <sup>b</sup> <sub>D</sub>	15.77±4.50 <sup>bd</sup>	21.08±11.53 <sup>b</sup> <sub>CD</sub>	28.56±15.41 <sup>ab</sup> <sub>BC</sub>	39.15±18.98 <sup>abd</sup> <sub>AB</sub>	45.47±7.02 <sup>ba</sup>
Experiment group I	9.60±0.91 <sup>dB</sup>	11.8±2.96 <sup>cdeB</sup>	16.2±2.02 <sup>bb</sup>	18.73±3.50 <sup>bb</sup>	33.86±4.59 <sup>acA</sup>	41.02±13.82 <sub>ba</sub>
Experiment group II	15.42±1.23 <sup>a</sup> <sub>C</sub>	20.01±2.60 <sup>aC</sup>	30.11±14.90 <sup>a</sup> <sub>BC</sub>	36.91±16.86 <sup>aB</sup>	45.12±1.62 <sup>aAB</sup>	58.44±0.35 <sup>aA</sup>
Experiment group III	11.60±1.71 <sup>b</sup> <sub>dE</sub>	13.45±2.50 <sup>bd</sup> <sub>D</sub>	16.82±1.54 <sup>bc</sup>	18.82±3.38 <sup>bc</sup>	25.70±2.13 <sup>cB</sup>	30.84±3.87 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>eA</sub>
Experiment group IV	12.46±1.63 <sup>b</sup> <sub>cD</sub>	15.04±1.78 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>D</sub>	18.75±1.99 <sup>bc</sup>	21.06±0.85 <sup>bc</sup>	27.76±7.72 <sup>bcB</sup>	37.11±2.37 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Experiment group V	10.35±1.04 <sup>c</sup> <sub>dD</sub>	13.46±0.60 <sup>bd</sup> <sub>CD</sub>	15.28±1.15 <sup>bc</sup>	17.05±6.62 <sup>bc</sup>	26.77±1.81 <sup>cB</sup>	38.28±2.41 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Control group II	6.73±1.86 <sup>cE</sup> <sub>D</sub>	12.70±3.62 <sup>be</sup> <sub>D</sub>	16.91±3.24 <sup>bd</sup>	22.30±4.17 <sup>bc</sup>	27.50±3.81 <sup>cdB</sup>	37.96±3.85 <sup>bd</sup> <sub>A</sub>

The rapidly degradable fraction of NDF of the group II, III and IV were relatively higher and were more than 10%. The lowest one of 5.28% was in the control group II. Slowly degradable fraction of the group II was up to 53.88%, which was significantly different from those in other groups ( $P<0.05$ ). The highest degradation rates of b were in the control group I and the group II. The rate differences were not significant in these two groups ( $P>0.05$ ), but significant in between these two groups and other groups ( $P<0.05$ ). The highest of potentially degradable fraction was in the group II, the slowest one was in the group IV. The highest of effective degradation was in the group II, followed by the control group I and II, the group IV, V, III and I (Table 8).

**Table 8** Model parameters of NDF dynamic degradation for different forage

Species	Rapidly degradable fraction (a, %)	Slowly degradable fraction (b, %)	Degradation rate of b (c, %/h)	Potentially degradable fraction(a+b, %)	Effective degradation (ED, %)
Control group I	7.4±1.59 <sup>f</sup>	45.44±11.37 <sup>b</sup>	0.0251±0.015 <sup>1<sup>a</sup></sup>	52.84±12.34 <sup>b</sup>	32.69±8.65 <sup>b</sup>
Experiment group I	6.83±3.19 <sup>c</sup>	40.54±2.45 <sup>c</sup>	0.0125±0.007 <sup>2<sup>cd</sup></sup>	47.62±3.11 <sup>c</sup>	22.42±2.64 <sup>f</sup>
Experiment group II	10.48±5.19 <sup>b</sup>	53.88±12.56 <sup>a</sup>	0.0260±0.015 <sup>8<sup>a</sup></sup>	64.24±10.36 <sup>d</sup>	40.93±13.00 <sup>a</sup>
Experiment group III	10.05±1.11 <sup>c</sup>	34.01±11.72 <sup>f</sup>	0.0130±0.007 <sup>2<sup>bd</sup></sup>	43.25±9.96 <sup>g</sup>	23.45±12.89 <sup>e</sup>
Experiment group IV	11.71±1.24 <sup>a</sup>	33.11±3.76 <sup>g</sup>	0.0141±4.901 <sup>2<sup>bc</sup></sup>	44.82±4.18 <sup>f</sup>	25.40±6.11 <sup>c</sup>
Experiment group V	9.33±1.24 <sup>d</sup>	41.43±1.90 <sup>d</sup>	0.0123±2.330 <sup>0<sup>cd</sup></sup>	50.76±3.10 <sup>c</sup>	25.11±5.90 <sup>d</sup>
Control group II	5.28±0.72 <sup>g</sup>	44.25±8.64 <sup>c</sup>	0.0171±0.006 <sup>5<sup>b</sup></sup>	49.53±9.66 <sup>d</sup>	25.68±4.62 <sup>c</sup>

### Digest regularity of white goats to forage ADF

The degradation rate of acid detergent fiber (ADF) was increasing with the degradation time of each group. The digestive regularity was the highest in these six points of time in the group II, and the degradation rate at 48h of this group was significantly different from those of other groups ( $P<0.05$ ). Compared with the degradation rates at 4 h, 8 h, 16 h, 24 h and 72 h in between the groups and the control groups, only the degradation rate in the group II was higher than those in the control groups. The degradation rates were all lower in other experiment groups than in the control groups. The order of the degradation rates at 72 h in all the groups were the group II > the control group I > the control group II > the group I > the group V > the group IV > the group III (Table 9).

**Table 9** Dynamic degradation rate of the forage ADF in Guizhou white goats' rumen

Item	Degradation time (h)					
	4	8	16	24	48	72
Control group I	7.74±1.28 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>eE</sub>	13.16±3.48 <sup>cC</sup> <sub>DE</sub>	25.45±8.30 <sup>aBD</sup>	26.66±15.82 <sup>b</sup> <sub>BC</sub>	34.29±17.31 <sup>b</sup> <sub>AB</sub>	46.40±17.38 <sup>a</sup> <sub>BA</sub>
Experiment group I	7.62±1.10 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>eB</sub>	10.8±0.88 <sup>ceB</sup>	11.6±0.80 <sup>bB</sup>	14.56±3.68 <sup>bB</sup>	33.58±4.61 <sup>BA</sup>	41.00±13.82 <sup>b</sup> <sub>DA</sub>
Experiment group II	17.60±1.91 <sup>a</sup> <sub>E</sub>	26.10±1.14 <sup>aD</sup> <sub>E</sub>	32.24±14.45 <sup>aB</sup> <sub>CD</sub>	39.76±16.10 <sup>a</sup> <sub>AC</sub>	45.89±1.68 <sup>aA</sup> <sub>B</sub>	52.25±0.40 <sup>aA</sup>
Experiment group III	9.45±1.26 <sup>bE</sup>	11.82±1.07 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>DE</sub>	14.14±2.88 <sup>bD</sup>	21.85±3.25 <sup>bc</sup>	28.96±2.02 <sup>bB</sup>	34.25±3.68 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Experiment group IV	8.46±0.98 <sup>be</sup> <sub>D</sub>	10.78±1.59 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>FD</sub>	14.23±1.55 <sup>bc</sup>	17.33±1.25 <sup>bc</sup>	30.66±7.41 <sup>bB</sup>	35.79±2.42 <sup>cd</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Experiment group V	8.90±0.82 <sup>bd</sup> <sub>B</sub>	9.02±2.78 <sup>defB</sup>	15.47±0.77 <sup>BA</sup>	19.61±6.41 <sup>BA</sup>	31.02±1.02 <sup>BA</sup>	40.99±2.31 <sup>acd</sup> <sub>A</sub>
Control group II	9.01±1.82 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>D</sub>	22.93±3.19 <sup>bc</sup>	25.78±2.90 <sup>aC</sup>	26.99±3.92 <sup>abB</sup> <sub>C</sub>	30.58±3.64 <sup>bB</sup>	41.03±3.66 <sup>bc</sup> <sub>A</sub>

The rapidly degradable fraction of ADF was the highest in the group II, and was the lowest in the group I. Rapidly degradable fraction of ADF in control group I was significantly different from those in other groups ( $P<0.05$ ). Slowly degradable fraction was the highest in control group I, and was the lowest in control group II ( $P<0.05$ ). Degradation rates of b of the control II and the group II were the highest. Potentially degradable fraction was the highest in the control group I, and was the lowest in the control group II. Effective degradation was the highest in the group II, followed by those in the control group I and II, the group V, III, I and IV (Table 10).

**Table 10** Model parameters of ADF dynamic degradation for different forage

Species	Rapidly degradable fraction (a, %)	Slowly degradable fraction (b, %)	Degradation rate of b (c, %/h)	Potentially degradable fraction(a+b, %)	Effective degradation (ED, %)
Control group I	4.54±1.42 <sup>c</sup>	47.91±12.12 <sup>a</sup>	0.0247±0.0014 <sup>g</sup>	52.45±12.45 <sup>a</sup>	31.01±9.32 <sup>b</sup>
Experiment group I	6.50±2.98 <sup>b</sup>	41.45±11.92 <sup>d</sup>	0.0123±0.0043 <sup>c</sup>	47.95±12.45 <sup>c</sup>	22.28±8.12 <sup>c</sup>
Experiment group II	11.49±6.08 <sup>a</sup>	40.20±6.10 <sup>e</sup>	0.0489±0.0230 <sup>b</sup>	51.59±7.14 <sup>b</sup>	40.02±8.10 <sup>a</sup>
Experiment group III	6.37±1.30 <sup>b</sup>	34.49±7.23 <sup>f</sup>	0.0173±0.0064 <sup>d</sup>	40.58±8.24 <sup>f</sup>	22.37±5.10 <sup>e</sup>
Experiment group IV	5.83±1.27 <sup>cd</sup>	43.21±3.10 <sup>b</sup>	0.0101±0.0058 <sup>f</sup>	49.45±5.43 <sup>c</sup>	20.33±10.23 <sup>f</sup>
Experiment group V	5.78±1.45 <sup>d</sup>	42.29±4.89 <sup>c</sup>	0.0169±0.0051 <sup>d</sup>	48.33±4.16 <sup>d</sup>	25.11±5.56 <sup>d</sup>
Control group II	6.16±0.55 <sup>bc</sup>	31.20±2.45 <sup>g</sup>	0.0551±0.0125 <sup>a</sup>	37.36±3.11 <sup>g</sup>	29.05±1.42 <sup>c</sup>

## Discussion

### Digest regularity of mixed forage DM and development of grassland stockbreeding

Dry matter is an important indicator to measure the accumulation of plant organic matter and the number of nutritional matter. The degradation rate of DM in rumen is considered as a major factor in influencing DM intake<sup>[21]</sup>, and it is also regarded as an important indicator in improving synergy emission reduction and evaluating forage grass quality. This experiment results indicate that the degradation rate of DM would increase gradually with the increasing incubation time of forage in rumen, because the digesting process of nutrient substance was complex and was influenced by both rumen microbes and enzyme. For the hardly degradable substance, much more sufficient fermentation time was needed. The longer the degradation time, the longer the rumen microbial action time, and the degradation of nutritional substance in forage will be more sufficient, which is consistent with previous findings of Qi<sup>[22]</sup> and Mehrez<sup>[23]</sup>. This experiment found that the degradation rate in the grasses and legume mixed forage at 72h was bigger than that in single forage, the effective degradation was bigger than control group except the experiment group I. It indicates that the mixed match of the grasses and the legume could contribute to improving the nutrition percent conversion of forage and could also improve the quality. For the future governing of rocky desertification, developing grass stockbreeding should strengthen the planting techniques in mixed match of the grass family and legume, which could not only improve the quality of soil but also was suitable to the development of grassland stockbreeding in rocky desertification areas.

### Digest regularity of mixed forage CP and development of grassland stockbreeding

The degradation rate of CP is an indicator to reflect the nutrition absorption and utilization situations of forage<sup>[24]</sup>. It was inferred that, with the increasing proportion of legume alfalfa, the degradation rate of CP shows an increasing trend in 24-72h. The reason is that legume plants are of high protein and low fiber. Fiber is a sort of hard degradable substance; the higher forage protein level was accordant with the higher degradation rate of CP, and the higher forage fiber accordant with the lower degradation rate, which was similar to the results of Huang<sup>[25]</sup>. The control group II is of the biggest degradation rate in legume CP. But legume could not be eaten much for a long time, because the forage could produce a lot of gas in the rumen causing a death of livestock for the expansion of rumen. The degradation rate of the experiment group II at 16-72h did not change a lot and the differences were not so distinct ( $P>0.05$ ). The degradation rate was bigger before 16h, which contributed to the quick protein absorption and utilization of Guizhou goats to forage, at the same time, the effective degradation rate of the Experiment group II was the biggest. It is comprehensively thought that the best mixed proportion is 3:7, which could stimulate bigger rate of

absorption and utilization of protein within a short time. The grassland stockbreeding in the rocky desertification should consider much more on the speed of forage nutrition absorption and utilization, so some legume such as alfalfa, white clover high quality legume should be added in the livestock's fodder in order to acquire better economic benefit, which is just the same as the finding of Liu<sup>[26]</sup> and other researchers.

### **Digest regularity of mixed forage NDF, ADF and development of grassland stockbreeding**

The rumen elimination rate of NDF and ADF is an indicator of degree for coarse fodder digestion. The experiment results indicate that the best proportion should be 3:7 under the mixed situation of legume and grasses of NDF and ADF and the degradation rate was the biggest in six points of time, which might be excessive exercise of the white goat in the karst mountain area and the goat needs much crude fiber. It indicates that the replacement number of legume alfalfa is lower or higher and the degradation rate of dietary fiber decreased or even smaller than the control group, which might be the influence on the absorption ability of rumen to nutrition ingredient. The over-content of fiber could lead to the bearing of rumen degradation and lead to the slow degradation. The lack of significant differences in feed intake, nutrient digestibility and nitrogen utilization following the inclusion of the TMR<sup>[27]</sup>. The dynamic degradation of NDF and ADF in forage would increase gradually with time's lengthening staying in rumen; however, the degradation rate became slowly relatively within the former 8h, which because that NDF and ADF are the main ingredients in plant cell wall and rumen microbe firstly attaches to the bottom just to digest, which are the reasons making the degradation speed slow. This result was the same as the founding of Yu<sup>[28]</sup>. Wang<sup>[29]</sup> proposed that more mixed feed were fed to livestock, ADF digestibility will be higher than control group and it has some differences in these experiment. It may be due to different composition of dietary.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the former researches, it can be seen that both the matching technology of mixed forage and the development of grassland stockbreeding in rocky desertification are helpful each other. The collocation technology of mixed forage is to integrate the existing high quality forages, and to do scientific feeding, which not only to improve the eco-environment but also promote the development of local stockbreeding. The study draws that the nutrition conversion of the mixed forage is higher than that of the single forage; the best mixture percentage between legume and grasses is 3:7. As a result, we suggest this configuration proportion in the grass land construction and the grassland stockbreeding development of the national rocky desertification control.

Ecological intensification in grasslands can be regarded as a process for increasing forage production while maintaining high levels of ecosystem functions and biodiversity<sup>[30]</sup>. Obviously the matching technology of mixed forage is the main development direction of developing grassland stockbreeding in rocky desertification areas. How to increase the proportion of multispecies forage matching seeding is waiting for us to solve.

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