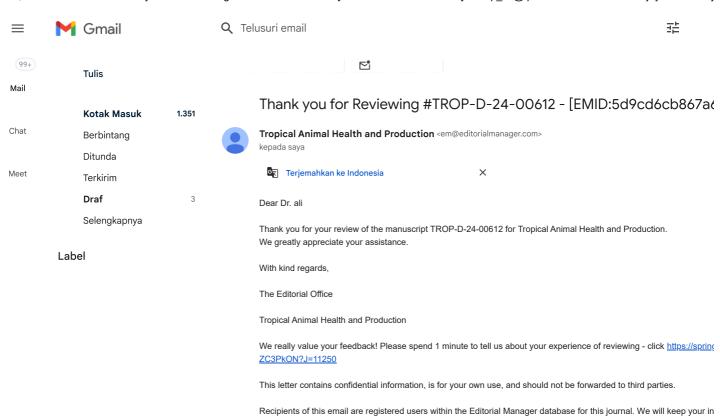
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## TROP-D-24-00612

"Feed intake, growth performance and carcass characteristics of Damara lambs fed bush-based rations from four encroacher bush species"

This study evaluated the feeding of bush as alternative grass hay.

The work is well presented. However noticeable concerns are: The feed (with a 60:40 concentrate roughage ratio) was mixed during the feeding trial which makes it difficult to compare the intake of concentrate, bush, and grass hay separately. The comparable intake of roughage (Bush versus grass-hay) is important during the feeding evaluation.

It is not easy to correlate the intake with the composition of feed in Table 2 since the natural sorting behavior of the animal is always present during the feeding trial (lines 299-301) resulting in the difference in composition of feed offer and intake.

Feedback has been provided below to improve the manuscript:

Abstract	T1-T4: codification for the treatment. Writing the name of the bushes without
	codification will be easier for the reader
Line 64	the bush name (S. mellifera, D. cinerea) after first appearance
Line 88	1.9 kg is standard deviation or error?
Line 157	FCR: feed conversion ratio?
Table 2	Chemical composition. Dry matter basis or as fed?
	How to estimate Metabolizable energy?
Table 3	P value for daily gain and FCR: < 0.05? Not clear
	Body weights (kg) for males/females. This is final body weight? Not clear
Line 295-298	The data of DM, OM, CP intake and digestibility was not present? It is important to
	validate the data of intake