In situ degradation of dairy cattle feedstuffs using reusable local nylon fabric bags

Despal Despal1, Ouldy Fasya Alifianty2, Adinda Putri Pratama3,4, Fransiska Febrianti5, Dwierra Evyermie1, Indah Wijayanti1, Norma Nuraina1, Indri Agustiyanii6, and Annisa Rosmalia7

1. Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology, Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia; 2. Study Program Nutrition and Feed Technology, Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology, Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia; 3. Study Program Nutrition and Feed Science, Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology, Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia.

Corresponding author: Despal Despal, e-mail: despal@apps.ipb.ac.id
Co-authors: OFA: ouldyafasyaa@gmail.com, APP: adinda_pratama@apps.ipb.ac.id, FF: fransiska_febrianti@apps.ipb.ac.id, DE: erniedea8492@gmail.com, IW: wijayanti@apps.ipb.ac.id, NN: norma_na@apps.ipb.ac.id, IA: indriagustiyanii@apps.ipb.ac.id, AR: rosmalia_annisa@apps.ipb.ac.id

Accepted: 08-08-2022, Published online: 18-09-2022

How to cite this article: Despal D, Alifianty OF, Pratama AP, Febrianti F, Evyermie D, Wijayanti I, Nuraina N, Agustiyanii I, and Rosmalia A (2022) In situ degradation of dairy cattle feedstuffs using reusable local nylon fabric bags, Veterinary World, 15(9): 2234–2243.

doi: www.doi.org/10.14202/vetworld.2022.2234-2243

Abstract

Background and Aim: Disposable imported nylon bags used in an in situ digestibility measurement restrict the effort of scientists to obtain more accurate information about ruminant feed quality due to their low affordability and environmentally unfriendly characteristics. This study aimed to find reusable local nylon fabrics to substitute imports.

Materials and Methods: Five local fabrics (B1 = Abutai, B2 = Taffeta, B3 = Organza, B4 = N57, and B5 = M100) were used to make nylon bags and compared with the imported bag (B6 = Ankom technology). The research consisted of three steps: (1) Observing the similarity of the local nylon bag’s hole number to the imported bag. (2) Testing feed in situ degradation (F1 = Napier grass, F2 = Cornmeal, and F3 = Dairy cattle total mixed ration) using bags B1–B6. (3) The reusability of the bag was tested using different washing methods (under running water [R1], rinse [R2], and ultrasonic water bath [R3]).

Results: It was shown that the hole numbers of B1 (1223 hole numbers) and B2 (1245 hole numbers) were not significantly different from B6 (1248 hole numbers). It was shown with dry matter degradability measurement using the in situ method that there was no significant difference in feed solubility (a), potential degradability (b), and the effective degradation between local fabrics (B1–B5) and B6. According to the degradation rate (c), there were interactions between the feeds and fabrics. For F1, all local fabrics were similar to B6, while for F2, only B1 was different from B6. For F3, only B5 was different from B6. It was also shown by the organic matter degradability measurements that there was a similar trend. The exception was the solubility (a) component in F3, in which it was shown that B1 was also different from B6. It was shown in the reusable test that there was no difference in the weight of the bag before and after all washing methods. In contrast, the hole number increased due to the shrinking of the bag after drying in a 60°C oven.

Conclusion: According to this in situ study, local nylon bag B2 can substitute imported bags. A lower drying temperature is suggested to prevent shrinking and make the bag reusable.

Keywords: digestibility, feed quality, in situ, local fabrics, nylon bag.

Introduction

Ration formulation based on digestible nutrients information is more accurate than based on chemical composition [1] in estimating dairy cattle performance. Digestible nutrients are generated through several methods, including feeding trials (in vivo) [2], in vitro [3], and in situ [4]. Among these methods, in vitro is more accurate but highly variable, costly, and time-consuming [5]. In addition, this method requires large quantity of samples [2,6]. The in vitro method can accurately estimate in vivo digestibility, requiring a small quantity of samples and measure the digestibility rapidly [7]. However, this method requires sophisticated laboratory equipment. Consequently, in situ can be the choice to determine feedstuff degradation. Orskov and McDonald [8] developed the in situ method and used different incubation times, enabling researchers to study the fermentation kinetics of feeds in the rumen [9,10]. It was possible to study feed digestibility by incubating feed in the rumen using this method. The feed was placed in a nylon bag (in sacco) inside the rumen of a fistulated cow. Some advantages of the in situ method are considered less expensive [11], simple, quick, and reproducible [12]. In addition, such methods do not require chemicals. The in situ method can measure digestibility in a natural rumen environment [13]. Therefore, this method is more reliable in estimating in vivo organic matter digestibility and microbial protein synthesis [5].
Several factors influence the precision of feed digestibility measurement using the in situ method. Among such factors, it is possible to include digestion rate, bag porosity, preparation method, feed particle size, microbial contamination, rinsing method, incubation in different cows, days, bags, and chemical analysis of residues [13]. The material used to make the bag for the in situ methods includes the Dacron fabric [5, 14], polyester [15, 16] (ANKOM Co., Fairport, NY), polyamide [17], the blend of polyester and silk [4], and nylon (mononylon cloth #3-270-53 ASTM, B and SH Thompson and Co. Ltd., Montreal) [18] materials. Ankom technology produces the most frequent bags in the current in situ method. It is a disposal bag that uses a sealer to form the bag. It is unaffordable for most researchers in developing countries due to its price and complicated import procedures. The disposal bag is less environmentally friendly [19]. Bags used in the in situ methods should have several characteristics to avoid bias in measurement. The bag material should not be digested or interfere with microbial activity in the rumen. It should facilitate microbial movement in and out of the bag to digest the feed and release the digestion product. The bag should be sealed to prevent undigested feed particle loss from the bag [16]. Many researchers have tried to use local materials to make sample bags for the in situ method [4, 20]. Natural and synthetic fibers are produced in Indonesia. The country is also one of the largest synthetic fiber-producing nations, exporting about 130,000 tons of artificial fiber for yarn, staples, and textiles [21]. Fibers are used in the textile industry, primarily synthetic fiber, such as nylon and polyester [22]. Therefore, local fabric materials for in situ methods are available, such as abutai, taffeta, organza, N57, and M100. Fabric materials are commonly available in Indonesia and its neighboring countries. However, some limited tests have been conducted on local fabric materials used in making nylon bags for the in situ method.

Therefore, this study aimed to find local fabrics in situ bags that produce feed degradation kinetics similar to Ankom technology. The bag seal method using micro-nylon thread on the sewing machine was also tested for its reusability to improve environmental friendliness.

**Materials and Methods**

**Ethical approval**

The cannulation surgery of animals was carried out by a licensed veterinarian and followed the protocol for handling and care of animals, according to the IPB University Animal Ethics Committee.

**Study period and location**

This study was conducted from January 2021 to March 2022 in the Field Laboratory of Dairy Nutrition Division, Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University, Indonesia.

### Hole number measurement and physical characteristics

Each type of the fabric (abutai [B1], taffeta [B2], organza [B3], N57 [B4], M100 [B5], and Ankom [B6]) was cut into 1 × 1 cm in size. Cuttings of the fabrics were observed under Nikon Eclipse E100 microscopes in triplicate with 40×. After that, the fabric hole was calculated manually. The physical characteristic image of the fabrics was produced using a smartphone (Samsung Note 10+, made in Korea) camera (16 megapixels) on the binocular surface.

### In situ study

The in situ study was conducted in the rumen of two fistulated bull Frisian Holstein (body weight [BW] ± 510 kg, 4 years old). The bulls were fed forage and concentrate with a 60:40 w/w dry matter (DM) forage to concentrate ratio. The daily DM requirement was calculated based on 2% BW. The nutrient content of the forage and concentrate is shown in Table-1 [23].

The experiment used a 6 × 3 factorial randomized block design. Factor 1 was the fabric type used in nylon bag making (B), while factor 2 was the feed type (F). The feed tested was forage (F1), cornmeal (F2), and total mixed ration (TMR) (F3). The sample for in situ studies was prepared by drying, grinding, and sieving the feeds to pass a 1 mm screen. Five grams samples (F1, F2, and F3) were put into nylon bags (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6), sealed using an impulse sealer, tied using cable ties, and incubated in the rumen of the fistulated bull for 0, 3, 6, 12, 24, 48, and 72 h. Each treatment was repeated 4 times. The size of the bags used was adjusted according to feed type. A 10 × 20 cm for F1, 5 × 10 cm for F2, and 7.5 × 15 cm for F3. The F3 was formulated according to the requirements of a high-producing lactating cow (BW = 445.21, milk production = 20.2 L/d, and milk fat = 3%). The nutrient content of the feeds tested is shown in Table-2 [23]. Before inserting bags into the fistulated rumen, the bags were grouped according to incubation time using a different color of plastic rope. After incubation, each group was removed by pulling out the distinctive color rope.

Dry and organic matter degradation was measured after a certain incubation time in the rumen. The bags were cleaned using running water for about 5 min to remove rumen feed particles, liquids, and solids. After that, the bags were dried in an oven at 60°C for 24 h and weighed. The bag porosity was calculated as [24]:

\[
\text{Porosity} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Dry weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100
\]

The feed tested was divided into samples (F1, F2, and F3) and put into nylon bags (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, and B6), sealed using an impulse sealer, tied using cable ties, and incubated in the rumen of the fistulated bull for 0, 3, 6, 12, 24, 48, and 72 h. Each treatment was repeated 4 times. The size of the bags used was adjusted according to feed type. A 10 × 20 cm for F1, 5 × 10 cm for F2, and 7.5 × 15 cm for F3. The F3 was formulated according to the requirements of a high-producing lactating cow (BW = 445.21, milk production = 20.2 L/d, and milk fat = 3%). The nutrient content of the feeds tested is shown in Table-2 [23]. Before inserting bags into the fistulated rumen, the bags were grouped according to incubation time using a different color of plastic rope. After incubation, each group was removed by pulling out the distinctive color rope.

### Table-1: Feed nutrient content of donor animal (fistulated bull) ration

| Feedstuff       | DM (%) | Ash (%) | CP (%) | EE (%) | CF (%) | NFE (%) | TDN* (%) |
|-----------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| Napier grass    | 21.40  | 13.59   | 12.48  | 1.56   | 35.58  | 36.79   | 52.01    |
| Concentrate     | 90.85  | 10.35   | 6.91   | 5.25   | 15.89  | 61.60   | 71.71    |

DM=Dry matter, CP=Crude protein, EE=Ether extract, CF=Crude fiber, NFE=Nitrogen-free extract, TDN=Total digestible nutrient. *TDN=−14.8356 + 1.3310 (%CP) + 0.7923 (%NFE) + 0.9787 (%EE) + 0.5133 (%CF). Wardeh [23]
and microbes. The washed nylon bag was placed in the oven at 60°C for about 7 days. Then, it was opened one by one to remove the feed sample residue. After that, the residue was then analyzed for its dry and organic matter according to the Association of Official Analytical Chemists [24]. Determining dry matter (DM) and organic matter (OM) degradations were referred to the exponential equation [8]:

\[ Pt = a + b(1-e^{-ct}) \]

where \( Pt \) = Fraction degraded at time \( t \), \( a = \) The soluble fraction, \( b = \) Potential degradation, \( e = \) Natural log, \( c = \) The degradation rate of b component, and \( t = \) Incubation time. While, the effective DM degradability (effective degradation [ED]) was calculated using the equation: 

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

where \( k = \) rumen outflow rate (k assumption 0.05 h\(^{-1}\)), \( a, b, \) and \( c \) are as described above and \( k \) is rumen outflow rate (k assumption 0.05 h\(^{-1}\) for F1 and 0.06 h\(^{-1}\) for F2 and F3).

**Results**

**Hole number**

The similarity between local fabrics (B1, B2, B3, B4, and B5) and standard bags (B6) was observed from the hole numbers and microscopic images, as shown in Table-3. The statistical analysis showed that only B1 and B2 had hole numbers similar to those of B6. At the same time, B3, B4, and B5 had more hole numbers. Microscopic images of B1 and B2 also resembled those from B6.

**In situ study**

The DM degradation characteristics of the feed tested are shown in Table-4. It is shown in the table that \( a + b \), and ED values were not significantly different among the nylon bags. Nevertheless, the values differed significantly between the feeds tested, where F3 was bigger than F1 and F2. The B6 (Ankom) solubility value \( (a) \) was not significantly different from the other bags (B1–B5). However, the solubility value \( (a) \) of B3 (13.24%) and B4 (14.26%) were significantly different from B5 (9.37%).

The value of \( c \) ranged from 1.58% to 19.0%/h. There was an interaction between the bag type and the feeds tested. In F2, B1 (19.0%/h) was different from B6 (6.39%/h). At the same time, in F3, B5 (15.2%/h) was different from B6 (7.40%/h). Other bags and feeds tested produced a DM degradability rate \( (c) \) similar to the standard bag (B6).

Organic matter degradability characteristics are shown in Table-5. Coefficient \( b \) was not significantly influenced by the treatments. At the same time, \( a + b \) was influenced by the feeds tested only. The \( a + b \) value of F1 and F2 (42.72% and 43.62%, respectively) was significantly lower than F3 (76.91%). The \( a \) and \( c \) coefficients show interactions between the treatments. The \( a \) values in F1 and F2 did not significantly differ between the bag types. Still, only B1 (22.29%) was similar to B6 in F3. The \( c \) coefficient was influenced by the interaction between the bag type and feed tested. There was no difference in the \( c \) coefficient between the bags type in F1. Only B1 coefficient (17.5%) was different from B6 (4.12%/h) in F2. At the same time, B4 (13.2%/h) and B5 (15.0%/h) were significantly different from B6 (3.97%/h) in F3. Both factors significantly influenced the ED values, but there was no interaction between them. Only the B4 (31.50%) bag type produced a significantly different result than B6 (22.06%). The ED values of F1 (13.90%) and F2 (18.03%) were significantly lower than F3 (49.87%).

The DM and OM disappearance of feeds tested using different bag types during observations are shown in Figures-1a-f. The (a) graph shows an overlap curve between B1, B2, and B6, while B3, B4, and B5 were located above B6 at all observations. The (b) graph shows an overlap curve between all bag types.

---

**Table-2: Nutrient content of feed tested.**

| Feedstuff  | DM (%) | Ash (%) | CP (%) | EE (%) | CF (%) | TDN* (%) |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Napier grass | 21.40  | 13.59   | 12.48  | 1.56   | 35.58  | 52.01    |
| Cornmeal   | 91.82  | 0.93    | 10.29  | 3.56   | 2.06   | 73.47    |
| TMR        | 88.57  | 11.72   | 12.63  | 4.45   | 10.20  | 59.90    |

DM=Dry matter, CP=Crude protein, EE=Ether extract, CF=Crude fiber, NFE=Nitrogen-free extract, TDN=Total digestible nutrient.

\[ *TDN=14.8356 + 1.3310 \times (%CP) + 0.7923 \times (%NFE) + 0.9787 \times (%EE) + 0.5133 \times (%CF) \]

Wardeh [23]

---

**Statistical analysis**

The data for hole number measurement before usage were analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance followed by Duncan’s multiple range test. The data from the in situ study were analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance by SPSS 20.0 version (IBM Corp., NY, USA). p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Duncan’s multiple range test was used to analyze the differences in the significant results. Then, the data of the reusable tests (weight and hole number changes) were analyzed using the paired t-test.
except for B4. In (c) graph, until 6 h of observation, only the B5 curve lay above other curves. However, after 6 h, the TMR DM in B6 disappeared rapidly to reach a similar point with B5 at the incubation period of 72 h.

The OM disappearances of forage (d) followed a similar pattern to the (a) graph. In contrast, B1 and B4 produced a different pattern from B6 in cornmeal (e). The (f) graph showed a more varied disappearance of TMR between different bag types. The B1 and B5 curves were laid above the others. Nonetheless, B4 and B3 in specific hour observations were lower than B6.

### Table-3: Hole number of various types of nylon bags on a microscope 4×10.

| Nylon bag | Hole number | Figure | Nylon bag | Hole number | Figure |
|-----------|-------------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| B1        | 1223±32a    |        | B4        | 6373±46a    |        |
| B2        | 1245±40c    |        | B5        | 1765±84c    |        |
| B3        | 4447±70b    |        | B6        | 1248±42d    |        |

Different superscripts show significant different (p < 0.05). B1=Abutai, B2=Taffeta, B3=Organza, B4=N57, B5=M100, B6=Ankom

### Table-4: DM degradation parameters on different feed and nylon bags.

| Parameters | Feed | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | B5 | B6 | Mean |
|------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| a (%)      | F1   | 10.34 | 10.80 | 12.38 | 12.81 | 11.31 | 10.44 | 11.34b |
| b (%)      | F2   | 11.73 | 9.56 | 8.38 | 11.88 | 8.12 | 10.30 | 10.00b |
| c (%)      | F3   | 14.21 | 15.52 | 20.88 | 19.35 | 8.46 | 13.37 | 15.30a |
| Mean       | F1   | 11.90ab | 11.63ab | 13.24a | 14.26a | 9.37b | 11.19ab | 13.37a |
| F2         | 17.94 | 40.46 | 17.31 | 50.13 | 36.15 | 33.93 | 32.66b |
| F3         | 57.63 | 55.06 | 70.85 | 55.31 | 54.25 | 74.09 | 61.20a |
| Mean       | 32.75 | 39.92 | 38.98 | 47.86 | 41.75 | 43.70 |

Means in the same row and column with different superscripts significantly different (p < 0.05). B1=Nylon bag abutai, B2=Taffeta, B3=Organza, B4=N57, B5=M100, B6=Ankom, F1=Napier grass, F2=Cornmeal, F3=TMR, a=The soluble fraction, b=Potential degradation, c=The degradation rate of b component, ED=DM degradability

### Reusable tested

The bags did not have any physical damage after the *in situ* study. The weight and hole changes of nylon bags after washing with different methods are shown in Tables-6 and 7. The weight of nylon bags before and after *in situ* using different washing systems had an insignificant result in almost all bags, except for B1 and B4 using the R2 washing system and B2 bags using the R3 washing system.

The hole number of nylon bags before and after *in situ* in different washing systems showed a significant result in almost all bags. The exceptions were for B1 with the R2 washing system and B5 bags with the...
R3 washing system. The hole number of nylon bags after in situ treatment has increased.

Discussion

Hole number

As shown in Table-3, B1 and B2 have hole numbers and physical characteristics similar to B6. The B3 has almost identical fiber characteristics to B6 but a smaller thread diameter, resulting in a higher number of holes per cm² and a larger pore size. The highest number of holes in B4 resulted from the smallest thread diameter and narrow distance between the threads, which resulted in a smaller pore size. In contrast to B4, the higher number of holes resulted from the small diameter of the thread with a broader distance between threads in B5, resulting in a larger pore size.

For in situ studies, the number of holes alone cannot explain the usability of fabrics to facilitate microbial movements. Fabrics of suitable quality should allow rumen microbes in and out to degrade the feed and flow freely the fermentation product out of the bags [16]. The current standard bags have 1248/cm² hole numbers with thick thread, resulting in a small pore size. The company released a pore size of 53 with a standard deviation of ±1.82 microns. The smaller the pore size of the fabrics, the less microbial movement, resulting in lower feed degradability. At the same time, the larger the pore size in higher feed degradability, the higher the undigested feed particle loss from the bags, and counted as a degradable part.

Depending on the feed particles tested, a pore size from 42 to 206 microns can still be used to facilitate the movement of ciliates [25]. Bender et al. [26] showed that a bag with 25 micron pore size resulted in a suitable model for predicting in vivo value. Combining bags with a small pore size (12 microns) with prolonged incubation is a good choice for measuring forage NDF concentration [27]. The pore size used by Franzolin et al. [28] (50–100 microns) was in the range recommended by Michałowski et al. [25] and has been proven to facilitate ciliate movement. According to Czerkawski [29], bacteria sizes ranged from 0.6 to 2.3 microns, while protozoa ranged from 22 to 81 microns. Thus, the 42–206 micron pore size can still facilitate all the movements of bacteria and the majority of protozoa (Entodinium simplex, Entodinium caudatum, and Entodinium dasytrica) in and out of the bags freely, as required for the in situ studies [29].

In addition to the free movement of microbes, a bag used in an in situ study must prevent undigested feed loss from the bag [16]. Therefore, the particle size used must be larger than the pore size. Rahmat et al. [9] used a 5 mm forage particle size, while Rosmalia et al. [10] used 2 mm for concentrate. The 1 mm (1000 microns) feed particle used in the study was larger than the pore size of the fabric (50–100 microns), preventing undigested feeds from spilling out of the bags. The 1 mm particle size used in this study was based on Franzolin et al. [28], who reported that a 1 mm feed particle was better than 2 mm in DM, neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and acid detergent fiber (ADF) degradability. In addition, smaller particle sizes can increase the feed surface, which increases substrate exposure to microbes [30].

Table-3 shows the weak characteristics of the B3 thread, which may easily lead to damage during in situ studies. The risk of pore size change is high in such fabrics, leading to loss of undigested feeds from the
In situ study

The insignificant value (a) produced from local fabrics compared to the standard bag (B6) showed that the pore size used was larger than the feed particle size. The soluble part (a) was feed particles smaller than the bag pore size. This can result from the grinding process or solubility in water. Using a laboratory mixer and sieved with a 1 mm screen, the grinding process produced less than a 1 mm feed particle size. A feed particle size less than the pore size left the bags without incubation in the rumen and counted as solubility. The fraction that disappears rapidly during incubation is known as solubility [8]. In this study, feed solubility ranged from 9.37% to 13.24%. The values were comparable to Guadayo et al. [4] for Napier grass in an in situ study with buffalos, but the cornmeal was lower than that reported by Ali et al. [31].

The soluble part of the feed mainly consists of sugar and starch [32]. Sugar is highly soluble in water [32], while starch depends on its type. Starch has a mainly semi-crystalline structure composed of amylpectin polymers and amylose [33]. Starch reduces its size after absorbing water and loses its stable crystalline structure during rinsing under running water. Sugar and starch contents in forage were lower than in concentrate [22], which showed a value of F1 smaller than F3. Although cornmeal is rich in starch, cornstarch is not soluble in cold water. Cornstarch mainly consists of linear and helical amylose and branched amylpectin [33]. Therefore, its solubility is similar to F1 and smaller than F3.

The b value represents the degradation of feed particles after incubation in the rumen [8]. Degradation of OM feeds by rumen microbes produces smaller...
Table 6: Weight of nylon bags on different washing method.

| Nylon bags | Washing method | Mean |
|------------|----------------|------|
|            | R1             | R2   | R3   |
| B1         | Before in situ | 1.840 ± 0.050 | 1.820 ± 0.047 | 1.810 ± 0.074 | 1.823 ± 0.101 |
|            | After in situ  | 1.850 ± 0.057 | 1.838 ± 0.048 | 1.840 ± 0.061 | 1.843 ± 0.052 |
|            | t-test         | 0.097 | 0.001 | 0.403 | 0.090 |
| B2         | Before in situ | 1.226 ± 0.042 | 1.217 ± 0.048 | 1.217 ± 0.050 | 1.220 ± 0.044 |
|            | After in situ  | 1.224 ± 0.037 | 1.207 ± 0.056 | 1.212 ± 0.050 | 1.215 ± 0.046 |
|            | t-test         | 0.649 | 0.267 | 0.044 | 0.077 |
| B3         | Before in situ | 1.143 ± 0.055 | 1.148 ± 0.048 | 1.170 ± 0.052 | 1.176 ± 0.058 |
|            | After in situ  | 1.394 ± 0.374 | 1.149 ± 0.086 | 1.166 ± 0.060 | 1.236 ± 0.240 |
|            | t-test         | 0.172 | 0.218 | 0.514 | 0.341 |
| B4         | Before in situ | 1.268 ± 0.027 | 1.259 ± 0.019 | 1.261 ± 0.016 | 1.263 ± 0.020 |
|            | After in situ  | 1.264 ± 0.037 | 1.262 ± 0.008 | 1.256 ± 0.008 | 1.261 ± 0.023 |
|            | t-test         | 0.528 | 0.041 | 0.512 | 0.568 |
| B5         | Before in situ | 0.704 ± 0.015 | 0.667 ± 0.037 | 0.690 ± 0.017 | 0.687 ± 0.028 |
|            | After in situ  | 0.704 ± 0.014 | 0.683 ± 0.022 | 0.588 ± 0.228 | 0.658 ± 0.135 |
|            | t-test         | 0.155 | 0.292 | 0.349 | 0.408 |
| B6         | Before in situ | 1.469 ± 0.181 | 1.469 ± 0.181 | 1.569 ± 0.076 | 1.502 ± 0.153 |
|            | After in situ  | 1.533 ± 0.038 | 1.470 ± 0.151 | 1.570 ± 0.065 | 1.524 ± 0.101 |
|            | t-test         | 0.352 | 0.990 | 0.909 | 0.592 |

B1=Nylon bag abutai, B2=Taffeta, B3=Organza, B4=N57, B5=M100, B6=Ankom, R1=Under running water, R2=Rinse, R3=Ultrasonic water bath

molecules, such as volatile fatty acids and ammonia [32], which have a smaller molecular size and are, therefore, able to pass the bag pore size [16]. In this study, the degradation of feeds was not influenced by the bag type but by the feed tested. This means that the pore size of bags used in this study was in the range to facilitate microbial movement in and out of the bag, digest feeds, and release the product digestion but can prevent undigested feed loss from the bags.

The b values were different between the feeds tested, which were influenced by their nutrient content and characteristics. Forage such as Napier grass (F1) is rich in crude fiber (CF) [34]. It comprises hemicellulose, cellulose, lignin, and silica. The linkage of hemicellulose and cellulose to lignin makes it difficult for rumen microbe enzymes to digest CF [34]. Although F2 did not contain high CF, the lower b value of F2 was caused by the insolubility characteristics of its starch [33]. The feed should be soluble to be digested by rumen microbes. The rumen microbe in rumen fluid subsists on the soluble feed particle [35]. The insoluble characteristics of cornstarch caused the starch to produce clumping and floating on the rumen surface, lower contact with the rumen microbe, and be easily washed out from the rumen before it degraded. Such features result in lower rumen degradation [13]. The high b value in F3 resulted from the low CF and higher crude protein (CP) and ether extract (EE) of TMR. Fu et al. [6] showed that lowering fiber content (ADF and NDF) by adding some supplement in corn stalk and oat can increase OM and CP digestibility in an in situ study.

The c value was influenced by the interaction between the nylon bag type and the feed tested. Although almost all combination treatments produced similar c values to B6, the B1 in F2, B4, and B5 in F3 differed significantly from B6. The c value of B1 in F2 was larger than in B6, which showed that it degraded faster. However, due to its lower total degradability (a + b), the rapid degradation will stop and make the curve flat.

It was shown in the curve that in almost all feed-stuff tested that the B2 bags produced a similar result to B6. This means that the B2 bags can be used as an alternative to the imported bag in ruminant feed degradability using an in situ study. In addition to its similar degradability pattern, similar results were also shown in the kinetics degradability (a, b, c, and ED). The similarity of the feed degradation curve and kinetics degradability was also supported by the physical resemblance between the fabrics of the two bags. These findings improved the accuracy of feeds quality evaluation by providing more affordable bags to evaluate feed degradability. Many researchers have tried to use local materials for routine in situ analysis. Figroid et al. [36] tested six nylon bags to estimate rumen utilization of grains. Two of the nylon bags used were local sources. It was shown in studies conducted by Valente et al. [20] and Kuwahara et al. [37] that F57 Ankom and non-woven textiles (NWT) have similar results. Ali et al. [38] also used nylon bags with pore size 37 from Nybolt, Zürich, Switzerland, to test grass silage degradation. From the physical and in situ utility characteristics, it can be concluded that B2 had similar results to B6.
Reusable tested

Synthetic fibers, such as Dacron fabric [5, 14], polyester (ANKOM Co., Fairport, NY) [15], polyamide [17], the blend of polyester and silk [4], and nytex (mononylon cloth #3-270-53 ASTM, B and SH Thompson and Co. Ltd., Montreal) [18], have been used for bag fabrics in in situ studies. As one of the synthetic fiber producers, Indonesian local nylon fabrics have the potential to be used in the in situ study. The total amount of synthetic fiber exported by Indonesia was about 130,000 tons, and the total production was more than the national requirement [21]. The insignificant difference in weight before and after in situ conditions showed that rumen microbes did not digest the bags because the fabrics were not natural fibers.

The synthetic fiber was preferable in the feed ruminal degradation study using the in situ method [11].

The indifferent weight before and after the in situ experiment and the absence of observed physical damage demonstrated the reusability of the bag. The F57 Ankom had less decreased tension of rupture (resistance) after ruminal incubation than nylon and NWT [20], making it possible for reuse after incubation [37]. The major problem with the disposable bag is the closure system using impulse sealer, which might break during handling and washing. This situation may be overcome by double sewn on all edges to prevent fraying [36], as used in this study.

Different washing systems used in this study were attempted to obtain cleaner reusable bags. However, insignificant differences in weight between the washing systems showed that all cleaning methods could be used. Although some researchers reported that the washing system influenced the bag clean [30, 39], all methods produced clean bags ready to be reused in this study. For safety considerations, the R3 method can be suggested in addition to R1. The R2 method was not recommended since it might damage the bags and potentially vary the fabric stretching after rinsing.

The increase in the hole number of the fabrics after the in situ study and similar bag weight showed that material shrinking might occur while drying the bags. This statement was also supported by Tian et al. [40]. For the reusability of the bag, it is necessary to measure the pore size of the used bag to guarantee that the size is larger than rumen microbes. Rumen microbes must move in and out of the bag to digest the feed [16, 20]. Adjusting the oven temperature during bag drying is also an alternative to prevent shrinking fabrics. Nocek [13] used 55°C for 48 h drying the nylon bag. Franzolin et al. [28] dried the bags in an oven at a temperature of 55°C for 72 h. A lower temperature for a more extended period can be tested.

Conclusion

It is concluded that local nylon bags made from taffeta fabrics (B2) can substitute imported Ankom bags in an in situ study. A lower drying temperature is suggested to prevent shrinking and make the bag reusable.

Authors’ Contributions

DD: Conceptualization and designed the study. DD, DE, AR, and IW: Supervised the experimental

Table 7: Hole number of nylon bags after washing on different methods.

| Nylon bags | Washing method | Mean  |
|------------|----------------|-------|
|            | R1             | R2    | R3    |
| B1         | Before in situ | 1202 ± 44 | 1194 ± 51 | 1192 ± 41 | 1202 ± 41 |
|            | After in situ  | 1291 ± 60 | 1213 ± 37 | 1236 ± 38 | 1240 ± 60 |
|            | t-test         | 0.008  | 0.544  | 0.045  | 0.023  |
| B2         | Before in situ | 1149 ± 27 | 1133 ± 41 | 1139 ± 50 | 1140 ± 39 |
|            | After in situ  | 1238 ± 37 | 1264 ± 39 | 1227 ± 36 | 1243 ± 38 |
|            | t-test         | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.041  | 0.000  |
| B3         | Before in situ | 4156 ± 164 | 4147 ± 107 | 4148 ± 75 | 4150 ± 114 |
|            | After in situ  | 4660 ± 66 | 4581 ± 130 | 4556 ± 22 | 4599 ± 92  |
|            | t-test         | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.000  |
| B4         | Before in situ | 7886 ± 148 | 7962 ± 170 | 7963 ± 179 | 7937 ± 161 |
|            | After in situ  | 8722 ± 93 | 8851 ± 151 | 8757 ± 233 | 8777 ± 168 |
|            | t-test         | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  |
| B5         | Before in situ | 1407 ± 78 | 1400 ± 65 | 1413 ± 65 | 1407 ± 65 |
|            | After in situ  | 1607 ± 64 | 1633 ± 60 | 1538 ± 81 | 1593 ± 77 |
|            | t-test         | 0.005  | 0.001  | 0.065  | 0.000  |
| B6         | Before in situ | 944 ± 35 | 944 ± 42 | 943 ± 37 | 944 ± 36 |
|            | After in situ  | 1083 ± 36 | 1040 ± 34 | 1087 ± 37 | 1070 ± 40 |
|            | t-test         | 0.000  | 0.014  | 0.001  | 0.000  |

B1 = Nylon bag abutai, B2 = Taffeta, B3 = Organza, B4 = N57, B5 = M100, B6 = Ankom, R1 = Under running water, R2 = Rinse, R3 = Ultrasonic water bath
work. OFA, APP, FF, and IA: Conducted the experimental work. DD, IA, AR, and NN: Data interpretation, statistical study, collected literature, and drafted and edited the manuscript. DD, IW, and DE: Reviewed the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments
IPB University funded this research within the Indonesian Research Collaboration Scheme with contract No 3336/IT3.L1/PT.01.03/P/B/2022. The authors wish to thank for technical assistance from the Laboratory of Dairy Nutrition and Laboratory of Animal Logistics, Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University.

Competing Interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Publisher’s Note
Veterinary World remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published institutional affiliation.

References
1. Despal, D., Manik, D.T.P., Evvyernie, D. and Zahera, R. (2022) The accuracy of several in vitro methods in estimating in vivo digestibility of the tropical dairy ration. IOP Conf. Earth Environ. Sci., 951(1): 012012.
2. Despal, D., Mubarok, Ridla, M., Permana, I.G. and Toharmat, T. (2017) Substitution of concentrate by ramie (Boehmeria nivea) leaves hay or silage on digestibility of Jawaranud goat ration. Pak. J. Nutr., 16(6): 435–443.
3. Riestanti, L.U., Retnani, Y. and Despal, D. (2020) Fermentability and digestibility responses of prill fat supplementation in dairy ration. IOP Conf. Earth Environ. Sci., 411(012037): 1–8.
4. Guadayo, G.F., Rayos, A.A., Merca, F.E., Tandang, A.G., Loresco, M.M. and Angeles, A.A. (2019) Prediction of in situ ruminal degradability of forages in buffaloes using the in vitro gas production technique. Trop. Anim. Sci. J., 42(2): 128–136.
5. Arenti, A., Matjjeesh, S.J., Shabi, Z., Bruckental, I., Aharon, Y., Zamwel, S. and Taguri, H. (1998) In situ assessment of degradability of organic matter in the rumen of the dairy cow. J. Dairy Sci., 81(7): 1985–1990.
6. Fu, Q., Shen, W., Wei, X., Zheng, P., Xin, H. and Zhao, C. (2019) Prediction of the diet nutrients digestibility of dairy cows using gaussian process regression. Inf. Proc. Agric., 6(1): 396–406.
7. Despal, D. (2000) Ability of feed chemical composition and in vitro digestibility to estimate in vivo digestibility value. Med. Pet., 23(3): 84–88.
8. Orskov, E.R. and Mcdonald, I. (1979) The estimation of protein degradability in the rumen from incubation measurements weighted according to rate of passage. J. Agric. Sci., 92(2): 499–503.
9. Rahmat, S.F.I., Permana, I.G. and Despal, D. (2021) Rumen degradation properties of tropical legumes feed under in sacco studies rumen degradation properties of tropical legumes feed under in sacco studies. IOP Conf. Earth Environ. Sci., 888(012071): 1–8.
10. Rosmilia, A., Permana, I.G., Despal, D. and Zahera, R. (2021) Estimation rumen degradable protein of local feeds in dairy cattle using in sacco method. IOP Conf. Earth Environ. Sci., 883(012010): 1–6.
11. Pagella, J.H., Mayes, R.W., Pérez-Barberia, F.J. and Orskov, E.R. (2018) The development of an intraruminal nylon bag technique using non-fistulated animals to assess the rumen degradability of dietary plant materials. Animal, 12(1): 54–65.
12. Mehrez, A.Z. and Orskov, E.R. (1977) A study of the artificial fibre bag technique for determining the digestibility of feeds in the rumen. J. Agric. Sci., 88(3): 645–650.
13. Nocek, J.E. (1988) In situ and other methods to estimate ruminal protein and energy digestibility: A review. J. Dairy Sci., 71(8): 2051–2069.
14. Andi, M.A., Mortezaeec, R. and Qotbi, A.A.A. (2018) Nutritive value and digestibility of Rumex obtusifolius in three phenological stages by chemical, nylon bag and gas production methods. J. Rangel. Sci., 8(2): 156–165.
15. Raffrenato, E., Ross, D.A. and Van Amburg, M.E. (2018) Development of an in vitro method to determine rumen undegisted aNDFom for use in feed evaluation. J. Dairy Sci., 101(11): 9888–9900.
16. Krizsan, S.J., Jančík, F., Ramin, M. and Huhtanen, P. (2013) Comparison of some aspects of the in situ and in vitro methods in evaluation of neutral detergent fiber digestion. J. Anim. Sci., 91(2): 838–847.
17. Baek, Y. and Choi, H. (2017) Evaluation of non-conventional feeds for ruminants using in situ nylon bag and the mobile bag technique. J. Korea Acad. Ind., 19(7): 73–83.
18. Rahman, M.D.M., Theodoridou, K. and Yu, P. (2016) Using vibrational infrared biomolecular spectroscopy to detect heat-induced changes of molecular structure in relation to nutrient availability of prairie whole oat grains on a molecular basis. J. Anim. Sci. Biotechnol., 7(1): 52.
19. Olaisen, V., Mejdeli, T., Volden, H. and Nesse, N. (2003) Simplified in situ method for estimating ruminal dry matter and protein degradability of concentrates. J. Anim. Sci., 81(2): 520–528.
20. Valente, T.N.P., Detmann, E., de Campos Valadares Filho, S., da Cunha, M., de Queiroz, A.C. and Sampalo, C.B. (2011) In situ estimation of indigestible compounds contents in cattle feed and feces using bags made from different textiles. Rev. Bras. Zootec., 40(3): 666–675.
21. Badan Pusat Statistik. (2014) The Central Bureau of Statistics. Bulletin Statistik Perdagangan Luar Negeri (Eksport). Badan Pusat Statistik, Jakarta, Indonesia.
22. Despal, D., Permana, I.G., Safarina, S.N. and Tatra, A.J. (2011) Addition of water-soluble carbohydrate sources prior to ensilage for ramie leaves silage qualities improve. Med. Pet., 34(1): 69.
23. Wardeh, M.F. (1981) Models for estimating energy and protein utilization for feeds. All Graduate Theses and Dissertations. Utah State University, Utah, US.
24. Association of Official Analytical Chemists (2005) Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International. 18th ed. AOAC International, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA.
25. Michalowski, T., Belzecki, G. and Pajak, J.J. (2002) Use of nylon bags of different porosity to study the role of different groups of rumen ciliates in in situ digestion of hay in sheep. J. Anim. Feed Sci., 11(4): 611–625.
26. Bender, R.W., Cook. D.E. and Combs, D.K. (2016) Comparison of in situ versus in vitro methods of fiber digestion at 120 and 288 hours to quantify the indigestible neutral detergent fiber fraction of corn silage samples. J. Dairy Sci., 99(7): 5394–5400.
27. Krizsan, S.J. and Huhtanen, P. (2013) Effect of diet composition and incubation time on feed indigestible neutral detergent fiber concentration in dairy cows. J. Dairy Sci., 96(3): 1715–1726.
28. Franzolini, R., Silva, H., Goldenberg, D.C. and Alves, T.C. (2014) Evaluation of Forage Particle Size Used In situ Degradability Technique with Buffalo. Proceedings of the 16th AAAP Animal Science Congress, Vol. II (November). p1792–1794.
29. Czerkwinski, J.W. (1986) An Introduction to Rumen Study. Robert Maxwell, M., Oxford, England.
30. Weakley, D.C., Stern, M.D. and Satter, L.D. (1983) Factors affecting disappearance of feedstuffs from bags suspended in the rumen. *J. Anim. Sci.*, 56(2): 493–507.

31. Ali, M., de Jonge, L.H., Cone, J.W., van Duinkerken, G., Blok, M.C., Bruinenberg, M.H. and Hendriks, W.H. (2016) Comparison of fractionation methods for nitrogen and starch in maize and grass silages. *J. Anim. Physiol. Anim. Nutr. (Berl)*, 100(3): 526–531.

32. Rosmalia, A., Permana, I.G. and Despal, D. (2022) Synchronization of rumen degradable protein with non-fiber carbohydrate on microbial protein synthesis and dairy ration digestibility ruminant protein requirements can be divided into rumen degradable protein (RDP) and rumen undegradable protein (RUP). *Vet. World*, 15(2): 252–261.

33. Cornejo-Ramírez, Y.I., Martínez-Cruz, O., Del Toro-Sánchez, C.L., Wong-Corral, F.J., Borboa-Flores, J. and Cinco-Moroyoqui, F.J. (2018) The structural characteristics of starches and their functional properties. *CyTA J. Food*, 16(1): 1003–1017.

34. Despal, D., Sari, L.A., Permana, I.G., Zahera, R. and Anzhany, D. (2021) Fibre feeds impact on milk fatty acids profiles produced by smallholder dairy farmers. *Int. J. Dairy Sci.*, 16(3): 98–107.

35. McAllister, T.A., Bae, H.D., Jones, G.A. and Cheng, K.J. (1994) Microbial attachment and feed digestion in the rumen. *J. Anim. Sci.*, 72(11): 3004–3018.

36. Figroid, W., Hale, W.H. and Theurer, B. (1972) An evaluation of the nylon bag technique for estimating rumen of grains. *J. Anim. Sci.*, 35(1): 113–120.

37. Kuwahara, F.A., de Souza, G.B., de Paula Ferreira, R., Costa, C. and de Lima Meirelles, P.R. (2016) Avaliação de digestibilidade *in situ* de alfafa em diferentes moagens e tecidos. *Acta Sci. Anim. Sci.*, 38(1): 37–43.

38. Ali, M., Cone, J.W., van Duinkerken, G., Klop, A., Kruisdijk, J., Blok, M.C., Bruinenberg, M. and Hendriks, W.H. (2014) Relationship between chemical composition and *in situ* rumen degradation characteristics of grass silages in dairy cows. *Netherlands J. Life Sci.*, 70–71(1): 9–15.

39. Cherney, D.J.R., Patterson, J.A. and Lemenager, R.P. (1990) Influence of *in situ* bag rinsing technique on the determination of dry matter disappearance. *J. Dairy Sci.*, 73(2): 391–397.

40. Tian, L., Wang, D. and Wei, Q. (2019) Study on dynamic mechanical properties of a nylon-like polyester tire cord. *J. Eng. Fiber Fabr.*, 14(1): 1–7.

**********