

Summary

In a review dealing with the distribution of *Stylosanthes guianensis* (Aubl.) Sw. in Peru, it was found that this legume extends from the humid

tropics (Pucallpa, Tarapoto) to some northern coastal sites with less precipitation (Piura, Chiclayo, Lambayeque), and from sea level (Tumbes, Piura) up to 2,500 m.a.s.l. (Cuzco).

As early as 1941, examples can be found in the herbarium of the "Javier Prado" Museum of Natural History in Lima, Peru. *Stylosanthes guianensis* is a natural colonizer and it is believed that it came into Peru from Brazil passing through El Beni, Bolivia.

This legume is very important for cattle development in Peru because of its excellent forage

qualitites, its adaptation to low-fertility soils, and its characteristic of being easily propagated. Accession CIAT 184 has recently been released as cv. 'Pucallpa'.

A botanical description of *S. guianensis* is included, along with a list of the most used common names, and a map showing where the collection of ecotypes was done.