Summary

An evaluation was made of the effect of animal stocking rates on productivity and botanical composition of an associated pasture of *Brachiaria humidicola* CIAT 6013-*Desmodium ovalifolium* CIAT 350, managed under alternate grazing with occupation periods between 12 and 20 days. This evaluation was made in an Ultisol of the Centro de Investigaciones ICA-Macagual (01º north latitude, 75º 31' west longitude), Caquetá, Colombia, in the tropical rain forest ecosystem.

At the beginning of the trial, in December 1987, the dry matter (DM) availability was 56 kg/100 kg of liveweight, and the stocking rate was 1.22 AU/ha. When the latter was raised to 2.77 AU/ha, pasture degradation occurred, probably due to compaction and soil runoff, which caused grazing to be suspended for 67 days. At the end of the experiment (404 days of grazing), it was found that the percentage of pasture components was not affected by animal

stocking or time of the year, but that these factors affected component availability. In addition, the invasion of the pasture by *Axonopus* sp., *Paspalum notatum, P. conjugatum,* and *Homolepis aturensis,* makes the introduction and management of improved pastures in the region difficult.