Summary

Fifty-five germplasm accessions of Arachis pintoi, were introduced to Colombia in 1984-1994 (most in 1993/ 1994) and evaluated in the mid-altitude coffee zone (Tropical Premontane Wet Forest ecosystem, according to Holdridge, 1997) at the research station of the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones del Café (CENICAFE), located in Chinchiná, Caldas, Colombia. Two different germplasm sets of the legume were planted by rooted cuttings in small plots, consisting of two rows of legume alternating with three rows of the grass Brachiaria decumbens or B. humidicola, respectively. After a 6-month establishment phase, monthly mob grazing by cattle was carried out. Phenological, agronomic and quality evaluations were performed during establishment and a 2-year production phase. A wide range of performance was observed in all attributes evaluated. Due to the environmental conditions, grass growth was very vigorous, however, several A. pintoi accessions adapted well to the environment and the experimental conditions, while the three accessions of A. glabrata disappeared early from the trial and five of A. repens yielded little. Outstanding accessions were classified according to their potential uses. Ten accessions were considered suitable either for pastures with competitive grasses (CIAT 18744, 18746, 18747, 18748, 18751, 22160, 22257, 22260, 22268, and 22269), green manure or cover under typical commercial perennial crops of the region, such as

coffee, fruit trees or banana. Similar characteristics were observed in accessions 22236, 22238, and 22241: however due to low seed production these accessions would need to be propagated with vegetative material.