

## INTRODUCTION

Studies in grazing behaviour of cattle have been made over a number of years in several different countries, but most of them have been confined to temperate areas. Some of the original studies suffered from poor technique, but modifications and improvements have since been made to remove the errors to enable later studies to provide accurate information concerning the grazing animal in relation to its environment.

Most of the information obtained from work on grazing behaviour in countries outside the Tropics has been concerned with the assessment of the relative usefulness of different pastures and systems of grazing management. Within the Tropics however, the scope of these studies is extended as they enable an assessment of the effects of a severe heat load on grazing animals, induced by high temperatures and high relative humidities.

An important method of improving the production of dairy cattle in the Tropics, is the use of European dairy breeds to grade up the local stock in an attempt to introduce greater milking potential into heat tolerant animals. The use of grazing behaviour studies on these animals would indicate their adaptation to particular environments.

This project was designed to study the effects of lactation on the grazing behaviour of Holstein Zebu cows on a good pasture under the dry-season conditions in Trinidad. It was hoped that the results would provide further information on the difficulties of keeping higher producing grade cows under the local conditions.