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Digestibility of cracked and whole soybean in lactating Holstein/zebu cows.  
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A tropical cultivar of soybean (Glycine max L. Meryl cv Doko) was studied for digestibility in situ and by the mobile nylon bag technique in lactating Holstein/zebu cows. Cracked (CS) and whole (WS) seeds were incubated in the rumen for 2,6,12,24 and 48 h. Post-ruminal degradability was determined using the mobile bags after 6,12 and 24 h of ruminal exposure. Rapidly degraded DM was 18.5% for CS and 6.8 for WS. Ruminal and post-ruminal degradabilities of DM and CP were greater for CS than WS. Ruminal disappearance of WS occurred mainly after 24 h and most of the whole seeds were totally or partially degraded by 48 h. Most of the mobile nylon bags passed in feces in less than 12 h. Intestinal degradation showed interaction with ruminal incubation time for cracked but not for whole soybeans.

	DM			CP		
	CS	WS	(SE)	CS	WS	(SE)
Ruminal degradation in 24h (%)	77.6	36.5	(1.7)	77.9	25.3	(2.4)
Rate of degradation (% / h)	3.6	1.4	(.1)	2.9	1.2	(.2)
Post-ruminal degradation (%)	21.9	5.2	(1.3)	27.5	5.3	(3.6)