

PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION AND MILK QUALITY VARIATION OF TWO TYPE TSIGAI SHEEP BREED

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ABSTRACT

In this study the phenotypic characterization and milk quality variation of two type Tsigai sheep breed, Cokan and Pivnicki are presented. The Cokan type mostly prevailing in Banat region (East part of Vojvodina), the Pivnicki could be located between river Tisa and Danube. The study was carried out on several sheep farms in Central-Backa region. From every flock, from each type 30 sheep were selected. Phenotypic characteristics of Pivnicki Tsigai type were: the average value of forehead spread 12.25 cm, height at withers 76.62 cm, body length 87.6 cm, bust size 102.87 cm and shinbone size 9.62 cm, and for the Cokan type the following values were determined: forehead spread 12.25 cm, height at withers 76.62 cm, body length 87.62 cm, bust size 102.87 cm and shinbone size 9.62 cm. The fat content in milk from Pivnicki type - 10.25%, was higher than that from Cokan type, 9.28%. In the case of all other milk substances lower average values were recorded in milk from Pivnicki Type. Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found in density, minerals, milk protein and freezing point values.

Keywords: Tsigai breed, phenotypic characterization, milk quality, Cokan, Pivnicki.

INTRODUCTION

Local sheep breeds have preserved and held up as unique genetic resource because of their better adaptability and unpretentious to the condition of breeding. On the other hand, including the local sheep breeds in breeding schemes as a basis to create new breeds and lines has accounted for object of researches (ALEXIEVA, 1979; NEDELČEV AND STOJANOV, 2004). The *Tsigai* sheep is one of the oldest Southeast European sheep breed, used for milk, meat and wool production and is associated with local traditions and food culture. The breed might have originated from Turkey and subsequently spread to the Balkan region, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Moldavia and Russia (RYDER, 1983). *Tsigai* sheep arrived in the former Yugoslavia in the 18th century, (OGRIZEK, 1948). During the 20th century, both officially recorded governmental and poorly documented private sheep sectors existed in the former Yugoslavia. In Serbia, the governmental farms raised purebred *Tsigai* sheep, which form the core of the current Old *Tsigai* type, (ĆINKULOV, 2008). ANTUNOVIĆ et al. (2011) determined the phenotypic characterization of Croatian Tsigai sheep in organic breeding. In Hungary KUKOVICS and JÁVOR (2002) investigated the Tsigai breed characteristics. The most prevalent Tsigai types in Central –Europe are described. The aim of this study was to present phenotypic characteristics and milk quality variation of two type Tsigai breed: the Cokan and the Pivnicki (Sombor) type.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study was carried out on several sheep farms in Central-Backa region. Nowadays the pure Tsigai breed is very rare in Vojvodina. The Cokan type mostly prevailing in Banat region (East part of Vojvodina), the Pivnicki could be located between river Tisa and Danube.

The production system of both type are based on seasonal use of communal flood basin pastures – from April to November. In winter period the sheeps are indoors. The use of Alfalfa hay, grass hay, corn silo, beet pulp, as well as the barley, oat and grits are traditional. The shepherds are mostly owner of the flocks, the manpower is familiar. The size of flocks approximately are between 50 – 350 head.

Measuring of phenotypic characteristics were carried out by using of Lidtyn stick and tape measure. From every flock, from each type 30 sheep were selected. The following measurements were recorded: forehead spread, height at withers, length of body, bust size and shinbone size. The milk quality analysis was made by LACTOSCAN Milk analyser, Standard automat SA – Milkotronic Ltd. calibrated for sheep milk. As a material for milk examination we have taken ewes at different ages, different lactation, in period of march – april – may. The obtained results were analysed statistically using the “Microstat” statistical software package programme by Ecosoft Inc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The measurement results of different Tsigai types are presented in next tables. Table 1. shows the exterior characteristics of Pivnicki type.

Table 1. Measured exterior characteristics (cm) of Pivnicki type

| Exterior characteristics/cm | Min. | Mean ± SD | Max. |
|-----------------------------|------|---------------|------|
| Forehead spread | 10 | 12.25 ± 1.67 | 15 |
| Height at withers | 70 | 76.62 ± 4.47 | 84 |
| Length of body | 80 | 87.62 ± 9.13 | 103 |
| Bust size | 96 | 102.87 ± 4.55 | 110 |
| Shinbone size | 9 | 9.62 ± 0.52 | 10 |

It was observed that the average value and standard deviation of forehead spread was 12.25±1.67, height at withers 76.62±4.47, length of body 87.62±9.13, bust size 102.87±4.55 and shinbone size 9.62±0.52 cm.

Table 2. present the measurement results of Cokan type. The results indicate that mean and standard deviation of exterior characteristics were for forehead spread 12.25±1.67, height at withers 76.62±4.47, length of body 87.62±9.13, bust size 102.87±4.55 and shinbone size 9.62±0.52 cm.

Table 2. Measured exterior characteristics (cm) of Cokan type

| Exterior characteristics/cm | Min. | Mean ± SD | Max. |
|-----------------------------|------|---------------|------|
| Forehead spread | 13 | 13.75 ± 0.87 | 15 |
| Height at withers | 65 | 71.50 ± 5.93 | 84 |
| Length of body | 71 | 74.86 ± 2.54 | 78 |
| Bust size | 97 | 112.12 ± 8.15 | 123 |
| Shinbone size | 8 | 8.50 ± 0.53 | 9 |

It was reported that average value of height at withers for Tsigai ewes and hoggets was in range of 67 – 75 cm, (BALIĆ, 2010). Different values were recorded by ANTUNOVIĆ et al. (2011), in organic breeding. Means of phenotypic characteristics were as follows: height at withers 81.20±0.81cm, body length 91.21±0.82 cm and bust size 111.67±0.96.

Varying records of exterior characteristics in neighboring countries were described by several authors, (GASPARDY et al., 2001; ĆINKULOV et al., 2003; JOITOIU, 2004; POPOVICI, 1954 and NIKOLIĆ, 1937.).

The average values for the milk composition in different Tsigai breed milk are listed in the table 3. Considering the milk components of examined milk samples the fat content in Pivnicki type - 10.25 %, was higher than these from Cokan type, 9.28 %. At the same time in the case of other milk substances lower average values were recorded in Pivnicki Type, as follows: non fat dry matter 9.3 %, lactose 5.36 %. Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found in density, minerals, milk protein and freezing point values. Compared to our results milk fat and lactose content achieved in our experiment (9.28, 5.58 %) were higher than that established by ALEKSIEV (2011), (5.74 and 5.38 %) in morning and afternoon milk.

Table 3. The milk composition of Cokan and Pivnicki Tsigai breed

| Milk quality | Cokan | Pivnicki |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Mean ±SE | Mean ±SE |
| Fat (%) | 9.28±0.34 | 10.25±0.52 |
| Non fat dry matter (%) | 9.54±0.08 | 9.30±0.35 |
| Density (%) | 28.97±0.74 ^a | 26.52±0.78 ^b |
| Lactose (%) | 5.58±0.04 | 5.36±0.14 |
| Minerals (%) | 0.91±0.01 ^a | 0.87±0.02 ^b |
| Protein (%) | 3.00±0.04 ^a | 2.76±0.08 ^b |
| Freezing point °C | - 0.74±0.01 ^a | - 0.66±0.01 ^b |

Mean values of the same parameter with different letters in superscript are significantly different ($p < 0.05$)

Similar lower values for milk fat percentage were described by SPÁNIK et al. (1996), 8.72%, by MARGHETÍN et al. (1998), 8.70%, and ORAVCOVÁ et al. (2005), 8.0%. The same authors found higher protein content: 5.97, 5.70 and 6.0%. Comparing the milk components variability from Hungarian Tsigai ewes CSANÁDI et al. (2006) concluded average values for milk fat: 7.05%, non fat dry matter: 11.27%, lactose 4.81%, minerals: 0.97% and protein: 5.49%.

CONCLUSION

Based on research carried out on two type of Tsigai sheep breed the following conclusions could be made:

Determined were phenotypic characteristics of different Tsigai types: for the Pivnicki type It was observed that the average value of forehead spread was 12.25 cm, height at withers 76.62 cm, length of body 87.6 cccm, bust size 102.87 cm and shinbone size 9.62 cm.

For the Cokan type the average values were: for forehead spread 12.25 cm, height at withers 76.62 cm, length of body 87.62 cm, bust size 102.87 cm and shinbone size 9.62 cm.

The fat content in milk from Pivnicki type, 10.2 5%, was higher than that from Cokan type, 9.28 %.

In the case of all others milk substances lower average values were recorded in milk from Pivnicki Type.

Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found in density, minerals, milk protein and freezing point values.

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