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# The Moka cattle, an element of the Reunion Island heritage to preserve

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## Introduction

The satisfaction needs in animal production are increasing in order to meet the growing demand for animal products. In this context, the genetic diversity of animal breeds is a key element for the sustainability of the sector. However, many breeds are at risk of extinction due to the loss of genetic diversity. In this context, the conservation of animal breeds is a key element for the sustainability of the sector. In this context, the conservation of animal breeds is a key element for the sustainability of the sector.

## Material and Methods

The data were collected from the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed. The data were collected from the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed. The data were collected from the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed. The data were collected from the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed. The data were collected from the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed.

## Results

The results show that the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed is high. The results show that the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed is high. The results show that the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed is high. The results show that the genetic diversity of the Moka cattle breed is high.

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Thirty-three animals typed as Moka by their owners were the subject of a phenotypical description and measurements. The mean value for the thoracic perimeter, the height at withers and the rump width are respectively 162.6 ± 15.2 cm, 116.6 ± 8.3 cm and 120.6 ± 17.6 cm; the mean liveweight of males and females are 430.6 ± 85 kg and 340.6 ± 45 kg respectively. These results constitute the initial values of a zootechnical description of the breed. They show the underaverage development of the animals, which can be qualified as medium sized. A photographic database of individual animals was created and could be used for the definition of the standard of the breed.

The genetic analysis showed that the population presents a good allelic richness (6.7 alleles/locus) and genetic diversity (measured by an unbiased heterozygosity of 0.75), and a low estimated consanguinity (3.3%). Some specific features have been identified, such as the presence of zebu specific alleles, but few admixtures of taurine cattle. The relationship of this breed with African breeds, especially from Madagascar, or with European or Creole cattle will be studied in more detail in the future.

Conclusion

This first approach provides initial results on breeding strategies and the need for attention to the genetic diversity of national breeds. In order to take into account the constraints that breeders are confronted with as an constraints and transmission roles in the different types of organization of these breeding activities, it is not a part of the program. It seems that the present breeding objectives are not a result of the selection of savanna foraging ruminant. The question is whether the observation of this breed and its characteristics is a first step towards a breeding objective. However, this research is the original characteristic that allows a valuable genetic resource for tropical environments. The presence of a selection signature for adaptation to tropical constraints that are present in this breed is being investigated.