RESEARCH REGARDING NATIVE DOMESTICATED ENDANGERED ANIMAL BREEDS

CERCETĂRI PRIVIND RASELE AUTOHTONE DE ANIMALE DOMESTICE AFLATE ÎN PERICOL DE EXTINȚIE

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The research done in this paper was made in Transylvania and Banat. The autochthon domestic endangered animal breeds were inventoried, zonal maps on where to encounter these breeds being drawn. The list of these species contains: the gray cattle, the Mocanita (the mountain breed sheep), the Transylvanian Pinzgau, the black Pinzgau, the Transylvanian bull, the Nonius horse, the Western mountain hores breed, the Mangaliza breed, the Bazna breed, the black of Strei, the Transylvanian Merino, the curly haired sheep of Banat, the white goat of Banat, the hound of Ardeal region. In the last 20 years, in these species there was a significant drop in numbers and, in some cases, even in quality. If urgent measures to preserve these species will not be taken, there is a possibility that in the next 10 years, some of them will disappear. The protection plans for these breeds are, in the majority of the cases, just simple projects that no one is applying. Since 2007, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine there is a Data Base to monitor the native domestic animals from the western area of Romania. The data from this data base are used by farmers, pickers and specialists from the food industry.

Key words: protection, gene reserves, native domestic animals

Introduction

Knowing the number and the area of dissemination of the native animal breeds in Transylvania is a partially resolved problem. There are officially recorded animals as being extinct since the 30’s, but they are still numerically represented today. This paper inscribes itself in the problematic of protection of the animal resources, being in conformity with the FAO plan made in Interlaken (Switzerland) in 2007.

Materials and Methods

Field research was made for this paper, as well as theme questionnaires regarding the existence of some endangered native domestic animal breeds. The obtained data were compared to those from specialty literature or from official materials. The villages and area where these breeds exist have been identified and
there evolution has been followed in time. The appreciation that these animals are part of a certain breed was made only through genetic and corporeal measurements. The data have then been analyzed in a program conceived in the Data base for domestic animals from the discipline of general animal breeding and amelioration.

**Results and Discussions**

The list of endangered native domestic animal breeds has many species and breeds: the Gray cattle, Transylvanian type has been extinct since the middle of the 20th century. In the Western Mountains (the Codrii Moma area) there were identified six metizo of Romanian motley breed with the Transylvanian Pinzgau and with the Maramures brown that presented the phenotype of the Transylvanian type gray cattle. In Romania the immunogenic tests are only made in Bucharest and it is hard for someone to assess if an animal is a pure breed or a metizo based only on the phenotype of the animal. In the area of the Western Mountains, as well as in the area of Bistrita-Nasaud there have been identified five individuals that could be of pure breed Mocanitza (mountain breed) and 24 individual that could be metizos of the Maramures brown. Until 2007 there was no program to save these endangered species. In official data, the breed was extinct in the year 1963, something that is contradicted by the reality. The Transylvanian Pinzgau represents the bull race that can be very well raised in the higher area of the mountains, on poorer pastures. It is a rustic breed, disease and brusque temperature and humidity variations resistant, with an unusual agility and hard hooves (necessary elements for grazing on slopped terrains) but it is a breed that was supposed to have been extinct for over 30 years. This breed was represented in Transylvania, in 1993, through almost 70000 individuals, as opposed to 2007, when it was represented through 13000 individuals of pure breed (and the number is constantly decreasing). There were imports of Pinzgauer from Austria between 1994 and 1998, especially in the area of Baia de Aries, and these individuals were presented in exhibitions as being the Transylvanian Pinzgau. The situation of bulls belonging to the Black Pinzgau, a different breed form the Transylvanian Pinzgau (determined through different research), is alarming, their number being under 100 individuals; these individuals have not been ameliorated because they are of low biological quality and are now endangered in Transylvania and extinct in Banat. The official statistics present for the Transylvanian region a number of 180000 individuals in the year 2005. in reality, the number of these individuals is much more lower (it is hard to estimate the real figure). It appears that the akeratos population is extinct from this breed. A particular case is another breed, the buffalo. Buffalo breeding is traditional in the Transylvanian area. The Transylvanian breed buffalo is a massive animal, robust, with an excellent production of quality meat for the calves breded for fattening. The production of milk in buffalo cows is good. In 1986 there were in Transylvania almost 80000 individuals, as opposed to 2006, when the number dropped to 18-20000 individuals. The drop is still accentuated existing whole areas where this animal whose breeding represented a tradition is almost extinct. The
Transylvanian buffalo cows have not been ameliorated for mechanical milking and under this pretext, there are many imports of buffalos being made from Bulgaria that have a high percentage of Murach blood. In these buffalos the corporal development is more reduced, the meat is of mediocre quality, but the buffalo cows can be milked in a mechanized way. The first imports of seminal materials belonging to Bulgarian buffalos have been made in the year 1987 in the research unit of Sercaia, near Fagaras. Between 1990 and 1992 a small number of frozen embryos have been imported. This was given up because of weak economic performances obtained in this breed of buffalos. Without the existence of real protection programs of cattle and of Transylvanian buffalos breeds and without their strict monitoring, they will soon be history. The Nonius horse is bread in the Banat area, in a fairly large number in the Izvin haras. The type of horse bread here is different from the one bread in Hungary, in Hortobagy, but it is close, from the point of view of the corporeal development and its color to the one of Mezohegyes. Nevertheless, we can speak of the Transylvanian Nonius breed. The orientation on the selection of only traction horses makes the number of Transylvanian Nonius horses to decrease. In the Izvin haras, in 1992, there were 174 individuals of nonius, as opposed to 2007, when there were only 112 individuals and their number is still decreasing. The pig breeds of Mangalitza and Bazna are bread only in small areas, there are several nuclei in the research unit of Turda. Although from the meat of these pigs there can be prepared outstanding traditional products, the propaganda of some so-called specialists threatens these breeds with extinction. The black Strei pig was signaled through some individuals (11) in 2006. it appears that this population is extinct. The fall of the market for fine wool after 1989 lead to the drastic reduction of the Transylvanian merino sheep. In 2007 there were only 42000 individuals, to which there were added some 10000 metizo individuals, the majority of which were degenerated. The curly sheep of Banat had in 2007 almost 13-14000 individuals, the majority of which in a single area in the south of the Banat region as opposed to 80000 individuals in 1989. This is the same situation as with the Ratzka breed (2-3000 individuals). The white Banat goat, a breed with high potential for milk production, is also endangered. There is no official figure regarding this breed that could be credible. The situation is the same for the hound of Ardeal breed. The short legged variety (wrongly named Slovakian hound) is rarely encountered. The long legged variety has a larger number.

Conclusions

The animal breeds presented are in danger of extinction in these past years. These breeds must be preserved because they have a unique genetic luggage, being adapted to the Transylvanian environment conditions and have a high resistance to diseases. In the next years, with global warming, the domestic animals will have to deal with aggressive factors, a fact that is imperative for them to be able to withstand them. It is also imperative to create new breeds in which these breeds should participate. The products obtained from native breeds are the best for
obtaining traditional products. The decrease in number of the individuals is due to the fact that those who breed them are not supported by the authorities and there is an intense propaganda that everything that is imported is better.

Bibliography

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