MORPHOLOGICAL DYNAMICS OF THE SHAGYA ARABIAN HORSE BREED AT RĂDĂUȚI STUD FARM

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Abstract

The Shagya Arabian horse breed is highly appreciated for its unique combination of elegance, strength, and character. Regarding contributions to its morphological dynamics, the present study examined the height at withers, heart girth, and cannon girth of mares registered over a 30-year period and stallions registered over a 15-year period at the Rădăuți Stud Farm. The results showed that, for mares, the average height at withers ranged from 154.30 ± 0.26 cm to 154.80 ± 0.25 cm, the heart girth from 176.20 ± 0.80 cm to 177.10 ± 0.77 cm, and the cannon girth from 18.70 ± 0.19 cm to 18.90 ± 0.70 cm. For stallions, the average height at the withers ranged from 157.66 ± 1.21 cm to 161.22 ± 0.84 cm, the heart girth from 177.25 ± 4.09 cm to 183.33 ± 1.83 cm, and the cannon girth from 18.50 ± 0.77 cm to 19.16 ± 0.31 cm. In all cases, the coefficient of variation indicated that the studied traits are homogeneous. However, as the breeding objectives to improve these traits were not fully met for the cannon girth, changes should be implemented in the breeding management for this population.

Key words: *Shagya, broodmares, stallions, breeding, management*