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## Autochthonous races in danger of extinction in the Basque Country

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**Ollivier, Louis** (INRA-SGQA. F-78352 Jouy-en-Josas cedex): Situación y justificación de la conservación de los recursos genéticos animales en Europa (Situation and justification of the conservation of animal genetic resources in Europe) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 17-27

**Abstract:** This article offers a short historical compendium on how animal genetic resources have reached their current situation in Europe. Important efforts have been carried out to establish an inventory and a characteristics catalogue over the last fifteen years under the patronage of the European Federation of Zootechnics in close relationship with the FAO. Conservation of animal genetic resources in Europe is still badly organised, without objective arguments for justifying established programs. The need for an animal genetic resources management program coordination is insisted upon at the European level, based on an objective evaluation of diversity in each species.

**Key Words:** Animal genetic resources. Genetic distance. Diversity. Conservation.

**Orozco Piñán, Fernando** (I.N.I.A. Area de Mejora Genética Animal. Apartado 8111. 28080 Madrid): Problemática de la conservación de razas de animales domésticos en España. Algunas ideas a tener en cuenta en su estudio y proyección (Problems in the conservation of domestic animal races in Spain. Some ideas to take into account in their study and projection) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 29-36

**Abstract:** Among the several reasons that could be adduced to defend the animal domestic breeds conservation, the mere existence of the breed is considered the essential one, because they represent, the man's work transforming the wild material offered by nature, plus cultural and historical aspects. We point out the different approaches depending on the breed, particularly so differences when dealing with large or small species. We emphasize the need to understand thoroughly what constitutes a breed according to its use, clarifying genetic aspects sometimes confused or erroneous. Reasons are given to consider the cryoconservation of animal germplasm as merely auxiliary. Several types of programs, depending on private or public financing and/or large or small species are discussed. Finally the current situation in Spain is commented including the negative aspects to be corrected if a more efficient future is desired.

**Key Words:** Breeds. Conservation. Concepts. Programs. Spain.

**Avon, Laurent** (Institut de l'Elevage, D.G.I.C.P. 149, rue de Bercy. F-75595 Paris Cedex): La conservación de las razas de ruminantes domésticos en Francia (The conservation of domestic ruminant races in France) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 37-56

Abstract: From 1977 onwards, the Ministry of Agriculture has made credits available for the conservation of ruminant races and for a national framework of programs. However, the situation is not the same for all the species. In the case of bovines, systematical work has been carried out. This has been more parceling for ovines and even more so with recently extinguished caprine races. When there has been a technical presence adapted to the field and the possibility of accomplishing indispensable investments (as in the case of artificial insemination in the case of the bovines) we observe that the money made available to animals and cattle raisers has not stopped increasing over the last twenty years. Such measures are a preliminary of appraisalment actions.

Key Words : Conservation. Bovine cattle. Ovine cattle. Caprine cattle.

**Plazaola, José M<sup>a</sup>** (Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia. Nekazaritza Saila. Gipuzkoako plaza 21004 Donostia): Arrazaren berreskurapenerako programari buruzko informe teknikoa (Technical report on the races recovery program) (Orig. eu)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 57-60

Abstract: The characteristics of the wild cattle known as "betizu", generally coincide with those of the pyrenaic race and, it may perhaps be correct to assume they are its forerunners. Even though the "betizu" race was abundant in the mountains of the Basque Country until recently, cattle selection and the changes in the forms of production have set them aside and have provoked their almost definitive disappearance. There are, however, sufficient reasons that advocate in favor of their protection. The most important and the simplest perhaps is that "they are there" and consequently, that they have a right to exist. A second reason: they are considered a "living cultural heritage", and certainly, the origin of the "betizus" is as ancient as that of the Basque Country itself. The third reason is the "conservation of biodiversity" and, also, "to avoid the loss of the characteristics of the race as a consequence of the selection processes for meat production". Finally, for "ecological reasons". The future of the "betizus" is in our hands, We must save the "betizus"!

Key Words: Betizu race. Basque Country. Cultural patrimony. Biodiversity. Ecology.

**Mendizabal Egibar, Javier** (Etxe Ondo, 7 - 2<sup>o</sup> dcha. 20150 Billabona): Betizuak (The "Betizu" race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 61-66

Abstract: This study presents the Betizu as a variety of Pyrenean Cattle, which come from the Old Basque Race. The type from the coast was different and improved and the type from the mountain was smaller. Cattle selection, improvement of sperm providers and feeding has given us what today is called the Pyrenean Cattle Race in such a way that the Betizu has stopped evolving and has adapted to a mountain habitat, Adarra Mountain. They are small, females are 1,05 m. at the shoulder and have a net weight of 150 kg.

Key Words: Betizu. Pyrenaic bovine Race. Habitat. Zoometric measurements.

**Seiliez, Jean Pierre** (Maison Ondibar. Chemin de Lizarlan. F-64700 Biriadou): Breve presentación de la raza Betizu (Short presentation of the Betizu race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 67-72

Abstract: The Betizus are wild bovines - *Bos taurus* (Linneo)- that have always lived in the Basque mountainous regions. They are quite small animals, reddish, with non-pigmented mucosae and hoofs. They breed every two years, in March. Their senses are very developed. They are sedentary within a perimeter of a few square kilometers where they form small groups. It is a race which is about to become extinct due to the scarce interest in their conservation expressed by their owners, through the extermination of some flocks, the genetic absorption by other races, etc. Does the Betizu race have a future?

Key Words: Bovine. Wild. Basque Country.

**Legrand, Servane** ("Amarena". Rue de Terrasco. F-64250 Cambo): Conocimiento, valoración y gestión: palabras clave para la conservación del Betizu. (Knowledge, assessment and management: key words for the conservation of the Betizu) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 73-80

Abstract: This article is a general overview of the situation of the Betizu bovine race in Iparralde (French Basque Country).

Key Words: Betizu. Bovines. Iparralde.

**Pérez de Muniain Ortigosa, Alberto** (Instituto Técnico y de Gestión Ganadero S.A. Sección de monogástricos. Edificio "El Sario". 31006 Pamplona): La Betizu en Navarra (The Betizu race in Navarra) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 81-84

Abstract: The autochthonous Betizu bovine race is in danger of becoming extinct. It is, however, a genetic, cultural and social patrimony, which should be preserved. With this purpose, several measures have been taken since 1995.

Key Words: Race. Autochthonous. Measures.

**Rekagorri Barrenechea, Andoni** (Ganadería "Rekagorri". Barrio Arkaola. 48141 Dima): Raza bovina "Betizu" (The "Betizu" bovine race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 85-89

Abstract: In this article, the author refers to the causes that made him attempt to preserve this race, bearing in mind that for centuries it had been used in the villages of the Gorbea and Urkiola area for bullfights feasts. In my opinion, this race could have been part of the gestation of the Navarran bullfighting caste.

Key Words: Restoration. Wild. "Sokamuturra". Dima.

**Rosset, Olivier; Riberau-Gayon, Régis** (Conservatoire des Races d'Aquitaine. F-33670 Puynormand): Reflexiones sobre la Betizu a propósito de su estándar racial (Reflections on the Betizu bovine race and on their racial standard) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 91-96

Abstract: There are samples of the Betizu race in the Basque Country, on both sides of the frontier, some 50 or 60 of which are in the north, in the French part. The situation of such bovines is complex since, in addition to fact that it is located in different countries or autonomous regions, their regulatory statute is not defined. In effect, such animals live in a wild state and have been attributed various uses, especially in hunting. This analysis brings us to a reflection on wild animals and animals which are reared. In fact, the Betizu should be considered, first of all, such as they are, in their originality, considering that they are an element of genetic diversity. In this perspective, it was legitimate to propose a descriptive racial standard, originating from proposals of several competent people that have contributed to the characterization and to the official recognition of the animal.

Key Words: Betizu. Wild. Domestic and standard.

**Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): La raza bovina Betizu, ejemplo de trabajo de recuperación de una raza entre vascos de distintos territorios (The Betizu bovine race, an example of the recovery of a race by Basques from different territories) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 97-99

Abstract: This race has aroused a conservationist interest in distant places of the Basque Country. It is a race with a special symbology related to different Basque myths and popular legends. It is the predecessor of the Pyrenaic bovine race. At present it is conserved thanks to the tenacity of a reduced group of supporters of the conservation of the natural environment.

Key Words: Racial standard. Characterisation. In situ and ex situ conservation.

**Lauzirica Ortiz de Urbina, Javier** (Diputación Foral de Alava. Servicio de Ganadería. Vicente Goikoetxea, 6 - 4º. 01008 Vitoria-Gasteiz); **Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): La raza bovina Terreña (The Terreña bovine race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 101-104

Abstract: The Terreña race had not been studied until 1988, the year in which Francisco Javier González Angle makes the first description. This work collects the most relevant aspects of that description, analyzing the current situation of the race and informing of the various actions carried out as from that study to promote its conservation.

Key Words: Description of the race. Current situation. Conservation actions

**Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): La raza bovina Monchina, la más occidental de las razas vascas (The Monchina bovine race, the most westerly of the Basque races) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 105-107

Abstract: Bovines used traditionally in bullfights, feasts and other popular events in the villages researched. Cross-breeding with other more meat-producing races, both foreign and autochthonous, has provoked a situation in which the state of conservation of this race is considered critical, as the number of specimens in a pure state is quite frankly scarce.

Key Words: Adaptability. Brave character. Bullfight.

**Gorostiza Garay, Pedro José** (Montevideo 2, 3º. 48200 Durango): La cabra Azpi Gorri (The "Azpi Gorri" goat) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 109-113

Abstract: The Azpi Gorri is a goat that proceeds from the Pyrenees and which has a defined and uniform morphology. The colour of its hide is dark with reddish degradations in the abdomen area. Its area of distribution is limited to the wild stony mountains of the Basque Country. Its development has always been directed towards the obtainment of the sucking goats and, in a smaller proportion, to the production of milk. And although its current state of conservation is still critical, it is now possible to continue its maintenance by supporting the initiatives and recognising the work that is being carried out by a handful of young shepherds.

Key Words: Azpi Gorri. Hamlet. Reddish. Sucking goat.

**Rosset, Olivier; Riberau-Gayon, Régis** (Conservatoire des Races d'Aquitaine. F-33670 Puynormand): Enfoque morfológico y faneróptico de la cabra de los Pirineos (Morphological and Phaneroptic approach to the goat of the Pyrenees) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 115-120

Abstract: The race of goats that live in the French Basque Country is the designated "of the Pyrenees". Here survives an original kernel of pure goats that are used nowadays for the recovery of the race. In France, there were three races of recognized goats, all of which have been standardized. This is why it is especially interesting, in order to obtain its official recognition, "to rediscover" a caprine population which was substantially selected for its resistance in difficult rearing conditions and which has an important variability, at least in the genes with a visible effect. This article includes a morphologic and phaneroptic description of the goat of the Pyrenees.

Key Words: Goat. Pyrenees. Phaneroptics.

**Estonba Rekalde, Andone** (Univ. del País Vasco. Dpto. de Biología Animal y Genética. Apartado 644. 48080 Bilbao): Tipos de las razas Latxa y Carranzana (Types of the "Latxa" and "Carranzana" races) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 121-133

Abstract: The Latxa and the Karrantzar sheep breeds from the Basque Autonomous Community are a particular example of livestock population raised by a traditional breeding system. We have investigated the distribution of allele and genotype frequencies on a large number of herds applying classical electrophoretic methods for typing the HBB, DIA1, TFtp and ES loci. Moreover, we have set up new electrophoretic methods based on isoelectricfocusing to extend this analysis to the ME1, Pi1, Pi2 and TFstp polymorphisms. Furthermore, we have analysed the diversity within and between different levels of population subdivisions by grouping the herds in types, varieties and breeds. Our results suggest that, contrary to what we could have expected based on the morphological features of the animals, between the type Aizkorri of the Black Face variety and the White Face variety exists the closest genetic similarity, while the type Gorbea of Black Face differentiates from the other two. On the other hand, as we could expect, the Karrantzar breed shows the largest genetic differentiation.

Key Words: Latxa and Karrantzar sheep breed. Biochemical polymorphism. Genetic structure.

**Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº 9-2º. 48014 Bilbao): Sasi ardi, último reducto de ovejas asilvestradas "Sasi ardi", the last reboult with wild sheep (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 135-136

Abstract: This ovine race is conserved with a series of its own wild peculiarities, like remaining all year round in the mountains without any human intervention whatsoever. This traditional race has preserved its own characteristics, although the way of living of such cattle had almost disappeared today. Furthermore it contributes to the preservation of the natural environment in which it lives without altering the environment which has remained almost unchanged for centuries.

Key Words: Ruminant. Ovine. Growing wild.

**Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº 9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): Actualidad en la conservación del Asno de Las Encartaciones (Present situation in the conservation of The Encartaciones donkey) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 137-140

Abstract: The Jackass of The Encartaciones is the only elipometric jackass race in the Iberian Peninsula. Confronted with its practical disappearance, the race is recovering over the last few years thanks to action carried out by animal rights activists. This article covers the recovery plan which is being worked on at present.

Key Words: Jackass. Ethnological characterisation. Racial standard.

**Rosset, Olivier; Riberau-Gayon, Régis** (Conservatoire des Races d'Aquitaine. F-33670 Puynormand): Situación actual de los asnos en los Pirineos (Current situation of the Jackass in the Pyrenees) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 141-144

Abstract: The recovery of the jackass over the last few years in France has produced the official recognition of several races which have been the result of a strict standardization procedure. Although they have scarce numbers, they are not however inscribed within a true conservation process. It is rather a movement of creation of races such as they were known in the 19th century XIX. It is difficult to find traces of traditional local populations, even more so when the Pyrenees and especially the Basque Country were and still are mixing areas where different types of animals live together. It is also true that these regions preserve a living tradition in the use of the jackass in mountain for pastoral activities or, more recently, in tourism and that a greater knowledge of traditional jackass-raising practices would be welcome.

Key Words: Jackass. Race. Conservation. Pyrenees.

**Pérez Markínez, Koldo Gotzon** (Diputación Foral de Alava. Servicio de Ganadería. Vicente Goikoetxea, 6 - 4º. 01008 Vitoria-Gasteiz): El caballo de monte en Alava (Mountain horses in Alava) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 145-150

Abstract: Equine cattle-raising in the Basque Country and especially in Alava is deeply-rooted activity, some the background of which is mentioned in this article. Furthermore, many have been the factors that have influenced the current form of this equine population of such singular characteristics, some of which also are included in this article. Finally, the author briefly exposes the current state of equine cattle-raising, its organization and the tests carried out to establish the morphological characteristics that are the previous phase to the establishment of a conservation and improvement program.

Key Words: Equine cattle-raising. Extensive development. Race.

**Pérez de Muniaín Ortigosa, Alberto** (Instituto Técnico y de Gestión Ganadero S.A. Sección de monogástricos. Edificio "El Sario". 31006 Pamplona): La Jaca Navarra y Burguete (The Navarre and Burguete Pony) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 151-156

Abstract: This work analyzes the situation of two autochthonous equine races of Navarre. The Navarran Pony, of which we provide historical data, a description and describe the lines of action that are being carried out. The Burguete race, of a more recent origin and of which we provide a census and the action plan as well as a short description of the race.

Key Words: Equine, Recovery plan, Wild.

**Uarte Egurzegi, Eduardo; Armendariz Iraola, Arantxa** (CIMA-Granja Modelo. Dpto. Producción Animal. Apartado 46. 01080 Vitoria-Gasteiz): La raza equina Pottoka (The Pottoka equine race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 157-165

Abstract: This article scans the situation and projects accomplished on the Pottoka equine race until the specific publication of the Genealogical Book (L.G.). The article introduces the problems observed in the various sections of the L.G. and makes a proposal of unification of the Official L.G.s of the Spanish and French Basque Countries. The article finally introduces the first results of various genetic activities between territorial groups of Pottoka and Losino horses.

Key Words: Equine. Pony. Pottoka race. Genealogical book.

**Intxausti del Casal, Iñaki** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº 9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): Reflexiones sobre la raza Poni Vasco "Pottoka" (Reflections on the Basque pony or Pottoka breed) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 167-169

Abstract: Of the issues that currently affect the Basque and Navarran ponies, their differentiation in three different Studbooks is the probably the most ill-conceived aspect. In this respect, currently, the Pottok-ANP has nothing to do with the Basque Pony - Pottoka, since its tendency toward a commercial pony prevails over the criterion of the Original Type. In the Basque Autonomous Community, this model has been used, transforming itself into a standard that does not absolutely reflect the real situation of the Hegoalde pony or the majority criterion of defending the Original Type.

Key Words: Horse. Endangered breeds. Studbook. Breed standard.

**Orive Pedruzo, José Ramón** (Diputación Foral de Alava. Servicio de Ganadería. Vicente Goikoetxea, 6 - 4º. 01008 Vitoria-Gasteiz): El Chato vitoriano (The flat-nosed "Vitoriano") (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 171-174

Abstract: The Chato vitoriano race of pigs proceeds from the Celtic Trunk. Its area of distribution encompasses the Cantabrian area and zones of Navarre, La Rioja and Castile and Leon, this meaning more than 5% of the breeding census existing in the State in 1955. The Chato vitoriano was a pig which transformed the agrarian products that resulted from the exploitation of meat and fats destined for family consumption, obtaining some good indices in the fattening and meat yield tests. Their total extinction, occurred in the sixties, was due to the change of the nutritional mores, when preference was given to lean meat consumption, which meant the introduction of other races that absorbed our Chato vitoriano.

Key Words: Pig. Celtic. Alava. Extinction.



**Texier, Christophe** (Association "Le porc basque". Elevage Koxkorrea. F-64430 Aldudes): Evolución y funcionamiento del programa de conservación de la raza porcina vasca (Evolution and operation of the conservation program of the Basque porcine race) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 175-179

Abstract: In 1981 this race of pigs was found to be in a «critical situation». A simple conservation plan managed to avoid its complete extinction. In 1987 a spiced pork salesman from Aldudes marketed the race, thus managing to maintain it in «danger of extinction». From 1994, thanks to the national program of management of genetic resources and to a local economic development plan, the race is now going toward a zone of «no danger». The technique used based on an analysis of genealogies has allowed us to stabilize an increase in consanguinity and create an official genealogical register.

Key Words: Pig. Races. Autochthonous. Genetic. Basque Country.

**Gómez Fernández, Mariano** (Diputación Foral de Bizkaia. Servicio de Ganadería. Avda. Lehendakari Aguirre nº 9 - 2º. 48014 Bilbao): Diferentes razas y agrupaciones raciales caninas vascas (Different Basque canine races and racial groups) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 181-184

Abstract: With the data available up to now, it can be asserted that dogs in the Basque Country, as in other parts of the world, was the first animal to be domesticated by the human being. This article describes the various existing or disappeared canine races in the various Basque territories, grouped together according to their use.

Key Words: Race. Racial group. Carea.

**Iurramendi, Iñaki** (Kaskabeltza Baserría. 20140 Andoain): La actualidad de las Euskal Oiloa (The present situation of the "Euskal Oiloa") (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 185-189

Abstract: This work, briefly reviews the history of the race with the correct denomination of the five existing varieties. A description is then made of the different phases of research that were carried out with this race. And finally, concern is expressed for its current situation.

Key Words: Hen, Conservation, Selection.

**Rosset, Olivier; Riberau-Gayon, Régis** (Conservatoire des Races d'Aquitaine. F-33670 Puynormand): Las aves del Sudeste de Francia (The fowl of the Southeast of France) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 191-193

Abstract: This article is a succinct introduction to existing farm birds in the southwest of France, which denotes a difficult situation for the majority of local fowl races. The hen from Gascoigne, a traditional race in the western Pyrenees, is one of the best represented among farm races but it is now extremely rare in the Basque Country. Safeguard actions are being carried out to contribute to the development of the race. The hen the Landes, the Gascoigne turkey and the Toulouse goose are very threatened. Details are provided on the validity of some genetic resources.

Key Words: Hen. Gascoigne Hen. Turkey. Goose. Conservation.

**Peral Díez, Irene** (Gobierno Vasco. Dpto. de Industria, Agricultura y pesca. Duque de Wellington, 2. 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz.); **Lauzurica, Javier; Pérez, Koldo Gotzon** (Diputación Foral de Alava. Dpto. de Agricultura. Vicente Goikoetxea, 6 - 4º. 01008 Vitoria-Gasteiz): Estudio para la caracterización de la población de abejas de Euskal Herria (Study for the characterization of bees in the Basque Country) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 14, 195-198

Abstract: The growing interest in apiculture and in the conservation of autochthonous productive species brought about the elaboration of this characterisation work. The conclusions, without being spectacular, confirm the possibility of improving the autochthonous bee population as the best way of guaranteeing their conservation.

Key Words: *Apis mellifera iberica*. Morphological characteristics. Plan of conservation and improvement.