Phenotypic Characterization of Erashy Cattle Type in El-Gash Area (Kassala State) Compared to Kenana and Butana main Diary Cattle of the Sudan

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Abstract

The objective of the study was to assess the phenotypic characteristics of one of the most promising dairy cattle (Erashy cattle) in eastern Sudan. The present investigation was carried out in Elgash area, Kassala State. Animal's data were collected from 118 mature cows. The coat colors varied between white, bright red brown, and multi color, represented 63%, 32% and 5% respectively. The color of eyes and eyelids are black, eyelids are white and brown, eyelashes are white and black, the tip hair are black and the hoof are black, brown. The muzzle, brown and black, represented 95%, 54%, 33%, 13%, 68.6%, 31.4%, 70%, 40.7%, 59.3%, 40% and 60% respectively. Dewlap is well developed in all studied animals, goes down in front of the forelegs forming few folds, and it is predominant in both sexes. Hump extended in male and restricted in female, and may be cervical or cervico–thoracic. The temperament of the animals concerned was varied from docile to aggressive. Body measures were done for fifty one cows divided into three groups on the basis of number of calving. Data was analyzed by using completely randomized design to compute analysis of variance. For meaningful comparison, least significant difference (LSD) test were performed. Analysis of variance revealed that there were no significant differences among animals under this study except some of them, like Heart girth and Pelvic width at significant differences (P<0.05). The overall averages of body measurements (cm) as height at withers, heart girth, barrel circumference, chest depth, chest skin sickness, back length, pelvic width, neck length, body length, ear length, horn length, face length, tail length, anterior udder length, posterior udder length, udder base length, cranial teats length, caudal teats length, pin bone width, dewlap depth, height at rump, neck skin sickness, body weight were all close to the phenotypic characteristics of Kenana and Butana Sudanese dairy cattle, studied by many researchers.

Keywords: Phenotypic, Characterization, Erashy Cattle, Beja