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Analysing the genetic diversity of domestic and wild goats in Spain

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and the Spanish Goat HapMap Consortium



Spain as an important reservoir of caprine biodiversity

1. With 2.9 millions heads, the goat census of Spain ranks 2nd (after Greece) in the EU.
2. Extraordinary ability to feed on poor pastures and excellent adaptability to low rainfall and extreme temperatures throughout the year.
3. So far, 22 goat breeds have been officially recognized in Spain, of which 17 have an endangered status.
4. Causes of breed regression or extinction: abandonment of low-income rural activities, competition with highly productive breeds and others.

Goals and experimental design

1. The aim of the Goat Adaptmap Initiative is to characterize goat biodiversity at a worldwide scale as well as to understand the genetics of environmental adaptation.
2. Experimental design: to genotype (Goat 50K Chip) and phenotype (pictures and body measurements) a total of 7 Spanish caprine breeds (N=25 approx.). Data submission to the Goat AdaptMap database.

ID animal	Sample ID	GPS info	date	sex	Breed	Birth date	Place	OWNER	Famacha Test (conjuntiva)					Measurements		
									A(1)	B(2)	C(3)	D(4)	E(5)	CG	HW	BL
ESPAÑA:CAN:13:101	E1G1-PALMERA		#####	H	Palmera	nov-06						X	98	71.5	74	21
ESPAÑA:CAN:13:102	E1G2-PALMERA	lat : 28,749699	#####	H	Palmera	nov-07		José			X	88	71	74	20	
ESPAÑA:CAN:13:103	E1G3-PALMERA	long : -	#####	H	Palmera	nov-05	Puntallana (La Palma)	Miguel			X	90	72	73	21	
ESPAÑA:CAN:13:104	E1G4-PALMERA	17,736238	#####	H	Palmera	nov-07		Martín			X	91	88	72	19	
ESPAÑA:CAN:13:105	E1G5-PALMERA		#####	H	Palmera	nov-08		Pérez			X	91	72	76	20	



Geographic distribution of the Spanish and foreign goat breeds genotyped with the 50K chip



North Spain

- Rasquera
- Mallorquina
- Bermeya

South Spain

- Florida
- Malagueña
- Murciano-Granadina

Canary I.

- Palmera



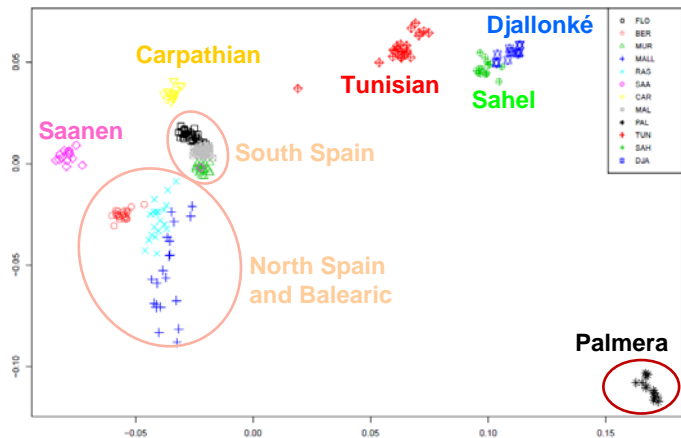
Europe

- Saanen (Switzerland)
- Carpathian (Romania)

Africa

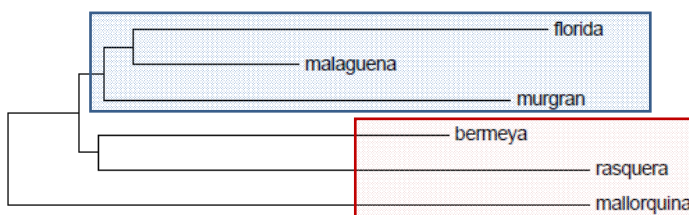
- Tunisian (Tunisia)
- Djallonké (Burkina-Faso)
- Sahelienne (Burkina-Faso)

Multidimensional scaling plot of Spanish goat breeds



1. The Spanish breeds cluster with the European ones (but not with African goats).
2. The Canarian Palmera breed shows a high genetic differentiation.
3. Northern and Southern Spanish breeds form distinct subclusters (close affinity between Blanca de Rasquera and Mallorquina)

Multidimensional scaling plot of Spanish goat breeds

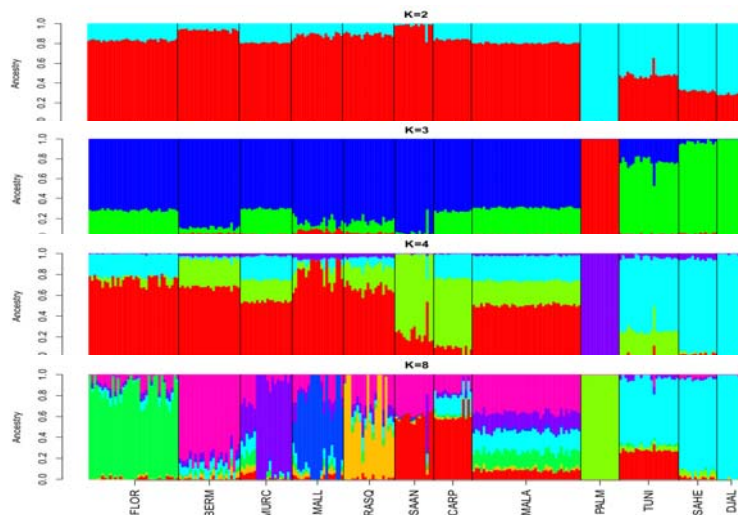


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Diversity of Spanish breeds

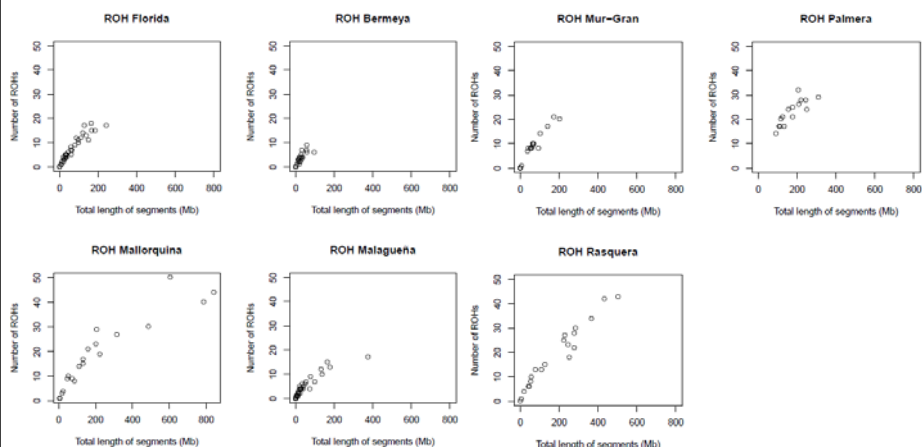
Population	Ho	He
Florida	0.409	0.390
Bermeya	0.407	0.397
Mallorquina	0.369	0.372
Malagueña	0.418	0.413
Murciano-Granadina	0.405	0.394
Palmera	0.295	0.285
Rasquera	0.381	0.383

Admixture analysis of Spanish goat breeds



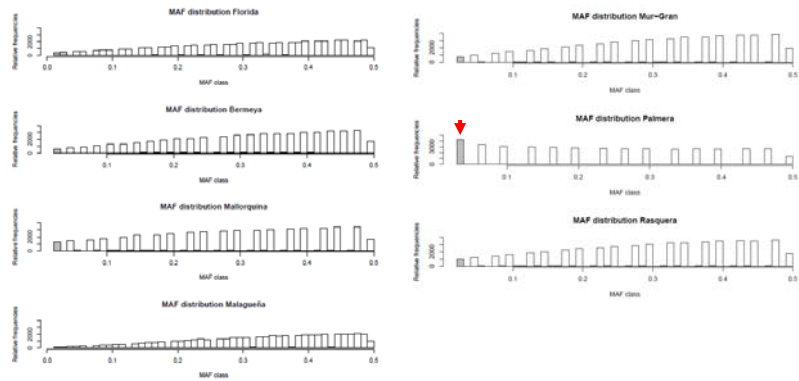
Some presence of putative African alleles (in green, K=3) in Southern Spanish breeds, suggesting an introgression event. However, this African pattern is also observed in the Carpathian breed from Romania, a finding that is very puzzling.

Detection of regions of homozygosity in Spanish goat breeds



- Runs of homozygosity (ROH): long stretches of consecutive homozygous genotypes. Caused by inbreeding, population size reduction, and natural selection.
- Prevalent in populations with small (Mallorquina) or declining census (Rasquera) or that have suffered strong founder effects (Palmera).

Allele frequency spectrum of Spanish goat breeds



The high frequency of rare alleles in the Palmera breed may be indicative of population growth. However, ascertainment bias may also produce such pattern.

Footprints of artificial selection in the genomes of Spanish goats

MEAT BREEDS



Blanca de Rasquera

Mallorquina

Bermeja

→ Growth traits

DAIRY BREEDS



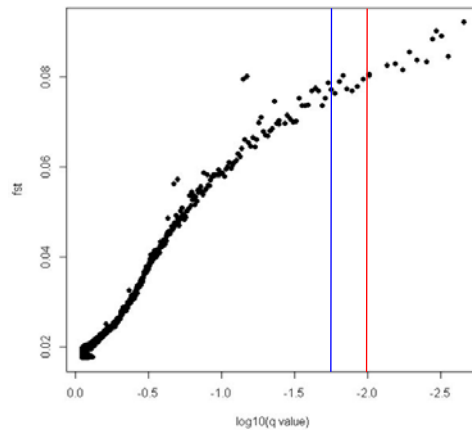
Florida

Murciano Granadina

Malagueña

→ Milk yield

Footprints of artificial selection in the genomes of Spanish goats



A total of X SNPs appear to be under selection when we compare meat vs dairy goats

BayeScan (Foll and Gaggiotti 2008): F_{ST} coefficients are partitioned into a population-specific component (β), common to all loci, and a locus-specific component (α) shared by all the populations

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