

## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SPLANCHNOCRANIUM OF THE “RUDA” SHEEP, IN ALBANIA

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### Abstract

Sheep are a species with very economic importance because they provide three products: meat, milk and wool. In Albania are widespread and left over 2 million heads. In many breeds of sheep found in Albania, there is a well-known sheep called “Ruda”, which represents about 7% of the total number. “Ruda” is a native breed that is found mostly in the north-eastern Albania. The head of this sheep is without wool, distinguished orbits with very protruding eyes and a quite convex profile. So far in the literature there are no investigations concerned with morphometric parameters of the skull, especially of splanchnocranium of this mutton. The purpose of this study is to identify crucial splanchnocranium parameters with clinical importance of “Ruda” sheep and to compare with other ruminants. In the period January - March 2015 were measured and evaluated skulls of 17 head of “Ruda” sheep (8 females and 9 males) aged over 2 years, after the slaughter. The skulls are prepared in Laboratory of Veterinary Anatomy near the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Tirana, by using the boiling maceration techniques for skeleton preparation described by Simoens et al., (1994). Measurements were made by measuring scale, electronic Calibre, goniometer and thread fibre. We have evaluated in total 16 defined morphometric parameters of splanchnocranium. All results were evaluated and presented as average and standard deviations. The skull total length, skull width, facial length and facial width of the “Ruda” sheep were 258.22 mm ( $\pm 9.01$ ), 109.35 mm ( $\pm 5.53$ ), 154.81 mm ( $\pm 9.37$ ) and 80.60 mm ( $\pm 6.01$ ), respectively. Distance of infraorbital foramen from processes alveolar is maxillae and tuber facial were 17.05 mm ( $\pm 1.97$ ), 27.50 mm ( $\pm 1.44$ ), respectively. Also supraorbital foramina distance, nasal length and the highest point of nasal bone were 50.64 mm ( $\pm 3.67$ ), 100.48 mm ( $\pm 6.13$ ) and 94.33 mm ( $\pm 4.89$ ), respectively. The facial index was 79.79 ( $\pm 3.39$ ). The bony orbits in sheep is formed by: 47.79 ( $\pm 2.27$ ), 16.79 ( $\pm 1.99$ ), 35.42 ( $\pm 2.39$ ) percentage of the frontal, lacrimal and zygomatic bones, respectively. The length and the width of the orbit in sheep was 42.73 mm ( $\pm 1.37$ ) and 39.03 mm ( $\pm 1.60$ ), respectively. As conclusion, this study provided us, valuable data on morphometric parameters of splanchnocranium of “Ruda” sheep. These data will serve us a base for comparison study with other ruminates species and important data on the clinical anatomy such as regional anaesthesia, dentistry, etc.

**Keywords:** *Ruda sheep, nasal bone, bony orbit, morph metric parameters*