

## MORPHOPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION OF PHEASANT (*PHASIANUS COLCHICUS COLCHICUS*) FROM THE BIHOR COUNTY AREA

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### **Abstract**

*The study presents the partial results regarding the morphoprodutive properties of the birds of the order Galliformes, the genus Phasianus, the species Phasianus colchicus colchicus from the territory of Bihor county. The study was carried out in three private farms in Oradea, as well as in the territory of Bihor county, being analyzed 205 specimens from the population of pheasants, respectively 29 males and 176 females. The analyzed parameters refer to morpho-productive index: body weight in young female and male birds, weight in adult birds, food consumption in both young and adult birds, age of sexual maturity, numerical egg production and egg curve.*

**Key words:** Morphological and production index, dynamics, body weight, pheasant males and females.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The pheasant has its origins on the Asian continent. In Europe, it is widespread, both in the natural environment, in the hilly and valley areas, as well as in specialized farmers. In the western part of the country, namely in Bihor county, there are small populations of pheasants in the breeding poultry farms. Farmers appreciate the outstanding quality of the meat, which is sweet and juicy, as well as the value of these birds as exemplars of exhibition. At the same time the County Forestry Department has a number of farms in which young people are obtained for the continuous popularity of the forest areas.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The paper presents data collected from private breeders, namely: in farm C1, 64 heads (6 males and 58 females), farm C2, 82 heads (11 males and 71 females), farm C3.59 heads (8 males and 51 females). Birds of both sexes, at different ages (hatching, in juvenile age, reaching sexual maturity, during active reproduction period) were used as biological material.

The working materials and devices used are: digital technical and analytical scales, scrapers, Petri dishes and flat glass plates, small capacity incubators (50-200 eggs / series), portable ovoscope, camera, computer

equipped with computer software table, depending on the experimental method approached.

The results obtained were compared with the reference values in the literature (Sauveur B., 1988; Usturoi M. G., 1999; Vacaru-Opriş I. et al., 2002).

The data obtained experimentally were centralized and statistically processed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The birds from the studied populations are classified, from the age of one day and up to the age of 45 weeks, in the youth category, following to enter the breeding activity at 46 weeks of life.

In adults, the evolution of body weight has gone through a curve characterized by a slow growth.

The adult pheasants continued their growth reaching an average weight of 1381.9g at the age of 57 weeks, under the conditions in which the populations became very heterogeneous (fig. 1).

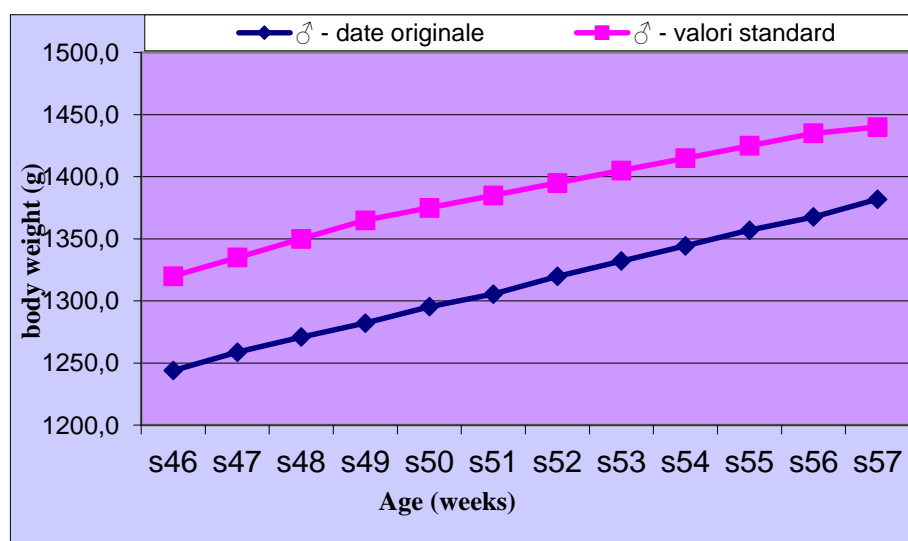


Fig. 1. – Dynamic of the body weight in the adult pheasant males

In females it has been reached a weight of 1002.8g / head at the end of the productive period (fig. 2). The values obtained were lower than in the literature (Vacaru-Opriş I, 2002). C2 for both sexes.

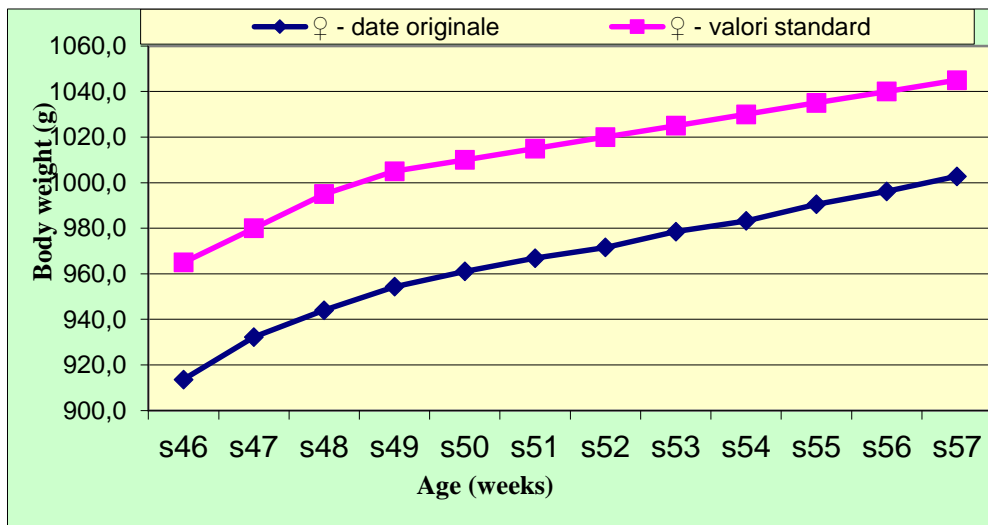


Fig. 2. – Dynamic of the body weight in the adult pheasant females

The earliest population was in farm C2, while the most recent birds were found in farm C3 (table 1).

Table 1.

Age of sexual maturity onset in the 3 studied Pheasant population

Specification	C2	C3	C5	Average population
Age of laying the first egg (days)	318	323	320	320,3

## CONCLUSIONS

The specimens of the population of *Phasianus colchicus colchicus*, existing in the private farms in Bihor County, were characterized by a higher growth rate in the first 10 weeks of life, increasing daily feed consumption but also achieving high values for food conversion.

The multiplication of the common pheasant herds in private breeders is uncertain because part of the existing herd is strictly controlled by the state farms that produce the biological material for the repopulation of the hunting fund.

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