

Original Research Article

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Qualitative and Morphometric Characters of Aseel Male Chicken

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ABSTRACT

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A study was conducted at department of Poultry science, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai to record the qualitative characters of Aseel male chicken and to measure the biometric Characters of the birds. The skin, shank and eye colour were yellow and the colour was red in all the birds (100%). Sixty per cent of bird had red ear lobe and remaining 40% had pinkish red ear lobe. The comb type was 'Pea' in 80% of the birds, while it was 'Rose' in the remaining birds (20%). The beak colour was either brownish yellow (60%) or blackish yellow (40%). None of the birds had wattles (0%). The mean values of body weight (kg), beak length (cm), comb height (cm), shank length (cm), spur length (cm), body girth (cm), wing span (cm), keel bone length (cm), breast angle (degree), height of bird (cm) and body length (cm) were 1.87, 2.92, 0.96, 7.84, 2.10, 31.60, 75.00, 12.52, 30.80, 44.70 and 53.80 respectively.

Introduction

Aseel is one of the important chicken breed of India and is well known for its pugnacity, majestic gait, agility, high stamina and dodged fighting qualities (Singh, 2001). To increase the productivity of backyard and rural farming, improved or exotic varieties are being introduced in rural areas or in their breeding traits leading to a dilution of genetic purity of the breeds or a complete replacement of the native germplasm; hence, these breeds are under threat of extinction (Singh, 2009). The studies on indigenous breeds is scanty barring a very few reports (Kumar *et al.*, 2013; Kumar *et al.*, 2016; Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017).

Therefore, the present study was carried out with the aim to record the qualitative characters and biometric measurements of Aseel breed of chicken.

Materials and Methods

The phenotypic and metric characters were studied from Aseel breed of chicken (n=5) reared at department of poultry science, madras veterinary college, Chennai. The birds were 22 weeks of age at the time of study. The phenotypic characters were recorded by physical examination and the characters studied were skin colour, shank colour, ear lobe colour, eye colour, comb type, comb

colour, comb position, presence of wattle and beak colour.

The body weight was measured using electronic bird weighing machine with the accuracy of 10 gm. The beak length was measured using vernier calliper with the accuracy of 0.1 cm. Comb height to the accuracy of 0.1 cm from the base to tip of the spikes measured using vernier calliper. Shank length and spur length were also recorded with vernier calliper with the accuracy of 0.1 cm. Girth of the body was measured at the point of keel bone and wing span by extending the wing when the bird was in standing posture was measured using measuring tape with the accuracy of 0.5 cm. The length of keel bone from the point to the tip was measured with the help of vernier calliper with accuracy of 0.1 cm. Breast angle was also measured at the point of keel bone. Height of the bird was measured up to the tip of the comb when bird was in normal standing posture. Body length from the tip of the beak to the tip of tail was measured after restraining the bird on table and extending the neck straight.

The data so collected was entered in Microsoft excel worksheet and the mean and standard error were calculated.

Results and Discussion

The frequency of different qualitative characters observed in this study is given in Table 1. The skin colour was yellow (100%) in all the birds. However, a much contrasting finding of white skin colour in 90% of the birds was reported by (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017). (Negassa *et al.*, 2014) observed the predominance of yellow skin in a study on phenotypic characterization of indigenous chicken of Ethiopia. The shank colour was also yellow (100%) in all the birds subjected to this study. However, three shank colours of yellow (65%), black (19%) and white (16%)

has been reported in Aseel chicken by (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017). On the other hand (Dana *et al.*, 2010) recorded yellow (60%), white (28%) and black (12%) in the indigenous chicken population of Ethiopia. In this study, the authors observed two ear lobe colours namely red (60%) and pinkish red (40%). (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017) also recorded high proportion of 92% of red ear lobe in Aseel chicken. In Ethiopia the indigenous chicken population had predominately red (52%) or white (40%) ear lobes (Dana *et al.*, 2010). The eye colour was yellow (100%) in all the birds of this study. However in contrast to this (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017) reported black eye colour predominantly (99%) in Aseel chicken.

Eighty per cent of the birds in this study had pea comb and remaining 20% had rose comb. A similar observation of 92% of pea comb was reported earlier in Aseel chicken (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017). The comb colour was red (100%) in this study, which was in close agreement with the findings of (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017) who reported 82% dark red, 11% medium red and 7% pale red comb in Aseel chicken. All the birds examined in this study had erect (100%) comb position. The wattles was absent in all the birds subjected for observations. However (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2017) reported the presence of wattle in 72% of the birds. The beak colour was brownish yellow (60%) or blackish yellow (40%) in the present study. Similarly a highly predominant yellow beak (95%) has been reported earlier by (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2012) in Aseel breed of chicken.

The results of biometric measurements of adult Aseel males subjected in this study are presented in Table 2. The body weight of adult Aseel chicken at the age of 22 weeks was 1.87 kg with the values ranging from 1.75 to 1.95 kg. However the indigenous chicken population in Ethiopia had comparatively

lower body weight ranging from 1.29 to 1.69 (Negassa *et al.*, 2014) and 1.41 to 1.70 kg (Bekele *et al.*, 2015), 1.37 to 1.40 (Dana *et al.*, 2010).

Table.1 Qualitative characters of Aseel male chicken

Sr. No.	Parameter	Frequency
1.	Skin colour	
	a) Yellow	100
2.	Shank colour	
	a) Yellow	100
3.	Ear lobe colour	
	a) Red	60
	b) Pinkish red	40
4.	Eye colour	
	a) Yellow	100
5.	Comb type	
	a) Pea	80
	b) Rose	20
6.	Comb colour	
	a) Red	100
7.	Comb position	
	a) Erect	100
8.	Presence of wattle	0
9.	Beak colour	
	a) Brownish yellow	60
	b) Blackish yellow	40

Table.2 The biometrical value of Aseel male chicken

Sr. No	Parameter	Range	Mean± SE
1.	Body Weight (Kg)	1.75 to 1.95	1.87 ± 0.03
2.	Beak length (cm)	2.80 to 3.00	2.92 ± 0.05
3.	Comb height (cm)	0.50 to 1.40	0.96 ± 0.17
4.	Shank length (cm)	7.20 to 9.00	7.84 ± 0.32
5.	Spur length (cm)	2.00 to 2.50	2.10 ± 0.10
6.	Body girth (cm)	29.0 to 38.0	31.60 ± 1.63
7.	Wing span (cm)	68.0 to 79.0	75.00 ± 1.95
8.	Keel bone length (cm)	11.5 to 13.3	12.52 ± 0.33
9.	Breast angle (Degree)	30.0 to 33.0	30.80 ± 0.58
10.	Height of bird (cm)	42.0 to 50.0	44.70 ± 1.41
11.	Body length(cm)	49.0 to 60.0	53.80 ± 1.93

The mean beak length was 2.92 cm ranging from 2.80 to 3.00 cm which was slightly higher than the beak length of indigenous chicken of Western Ethiopia (2.11 cm)

(Bekele *et al.*, 2015). The comb height is rudimentary in Aseel chicken with the height ranging from 0.50 to 1.40 cm with the average of 0.96 cm. However in other indigenous chicken, the comb height reported is ranging from 1.99 to 2.27 cm as reported by the (Bekele *et al.*, 2015) in south western Ethiopia

The shank length was 7.84 cm ranging from 7.20 to 0.00 cm in the adult Aseel males in this study. A similar shank length of 9.98 to 10.45 cm (Bekele *et al.*, 2015), 9.10 cm (Dana *et al.*, 2010) and 7.37 to 7.5 cm (Negassa *et al.*, 2014) reported in indigenous chicken population of Ethiopia. The spur length of Aseel chicken at the age of 22 week was 2.10 cm with the values ranging from 2.00 to 2.50 cm among birds. The body girth measured at the point of keel bone was ranging between 29.00 and 38.00 cm with the mean value of 31.60 cm. The wing span measured between the tips of wings at extended position was 75.00 cm.

The length of keel bone measured from the point to the tip was 12.52 cm in Aseel birds. A similar keel length of 12.02 was reported in South-bench Ethiopian indigenous chicken (Bekele *et al.*, 2015). However, a lower value of 9.7 cm was reported in Lowland indigenous chickens of Ethiopia. The breast angle measured at the point of keel bone was 30.80 degree in Aseel males at 22 weeks of age in this study. However a higher breast angle of 46.40 degree in high⁻¹ and indigenous populations of Ethiopia. The average height of bird was 44.70 cm and the value ranged from 42.0 to 50.0 cm among the individuals. The body length of Aseel chicken measured in this study was ranging from 49.00 to 60.00 cm with the overall mean of 53.80 cm. The perusal of literature revealed that the indigenous chickens of the Ethiopia had comparatively shorter bodies of 38.27 to 40.38 cm (Bekele *et al.*, 2015) and 22.8 cm (Negassa *et al.*, 2014).

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