

MORPHOLOGY AND MORPHOMETRY OF THE ANTEBRACHIAL SKELETON AND BONES OF HAND OF THE DOMESTIC PEKIN DUCK

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Summary. The aim of the present study was to study the feature and to analyse the morphometry of the antebrachial skeleton and bones of hand of the domestic pekin duck (*Anas platyrhynchos f. domestica*). The morphological studies covered 84 immature ducks (42 females, 42 males) and 40 adult ducks (34 females, 6 males). Mean body weight and absolute parameters of all bones were determined separately for each sex of ducks and for the total sample. There were found statistically significant differences ($p < 0,05$) in the respective bones traits between males and females - quality of dimorphism and between immature and adult ducks – ontogenetic nature. The obtained results can be used in the breeding research and in the definition of remains of bones of the fossil birds during excavation.

Keywords: duck, bones, morphology, morphometry.