

ZOOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS OF CEPHALIC CONFORMATION IN ADULT BOVINE MALES AND FEMALES (*Bos taurus*)

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Summary. A sample of 578 bovine whole, fresh adult skulls (sample of 76 adult males and 502 adult females) belonging to 16 different domestic cattle breeds from Spain and France was examined. The studied breeds descend from different European ancestral trunks. The heads were obtained from slaughtered animals and in all cases were from pure-bred animals according to their racial standard. A total of 9 cephalic lineal measurements and 7 derived indices were obtained from each skull. The values between sexes were compared in order to distinguish measurements and differentiate between male and female skulls.

Given their number-based nature, cephalic measurements and indices allow comparisons between breeds from very different geographical areas as well as permitting the development of research into breeds using exclusively bone material. Moreover, the statistics presented could act as reference values for further morphological craniological studies on sexual dimorphism.

Key words: skull measurements, domestic cattle breeds, sexual dimorphism.