

**BODY COMPOSITION AND DEGREE  
OF WEIGHT MATURITY IN RABBITS  
OF SEVERAL GENOTYPES**

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avec la collaboration technique de Danièle DELMAS et C. JACQUIN

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Variation in the chemical composition of rabbit carcasses of six genotypes was studied during growth. The six genotypes were the result of mating sires of three lines : *Géant Blanc du Bouscat*, *New-Zealand*, *Petit Russe* with dams of the two latter lines. The adult weight of the three sire lines were different, *Petit Russe* being the lightest (2.5 kg). Three rabbits per genotype were studied at six stages of growth : 14, 28, 42, 70, 84 and 182 days.

Between 14 and 182 days, the two components of overall growth : multiplication of nucleoli as estimated by the level of DNA and protein synthesis ( $N \times 6.25$ ) did not vary with the same relative rate for the six genotypes. The proteinogenesis, relative to the rate of DNA synthesis, was more intense when the adult size was small.

A relation between the water content of the carcass ( $y$ ) and the degree of maturity in terms of live weight ( $p$ ) at 84 days of age is presented :

$$\log y = -0.294 \log p + 4.933 \quad (r = -0.987)$$

The correlation between water and lipid contents of the carcass was quite high ( $r = -0.993$ ) between genotypes and between the logarithmic values).

With respect to young animals, the carcasses of more mature animals showed relatively higher dry matter and lipid contents.

**VARIATION IN THE NUMERICAL PRODUCTIVITY  
AT WEANING AND IN ITS COMPONENTS BETWEEN GENOTYPES  
OF CROSSBRED AND PUREBRED RABBITS**

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