Embryonic development in the sow on day 17 of gestation. Relationship with the size of the uterus horns

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Development of the embryo and of the trophoblastic vesicle was studied in 20 crossbred *Large White* × *Landrace* sows on day 17 of gestation.

The length of the embryo varied from 2 to 12 mm (average : 7 mm). In one and the same sow the size of the embryos was homogenous (variation coefficient under 20 p. 100). There was a close relationship ($r = 0.7$) between the size of the embryo and the number of somites (average : 18 somites).

The trophoblastic vesicles were more a less tight folded. They only overlapped each others exceptionally and occupied the whole uterus. On an average, 10 cm of uterus horn were occupied by 34 ± 2.4 cm of trophoblastic vesicle.

The individual length of the trophoblastic vesicles varied much in one and the same horn (for instance 48, 59, 73, 95, 147 cm). The longer the horn length and the smaller the number of embryos in the horn, the greater the mean length of the vesicles. In horns measuring between 100 and 120 cm, this mean length ranged between 115 and 55 mm for horns containing 2 and 6 embryos, respectively ; in horns between 140 and 170 cm long, the mean length of the trophoblastic vesicles were 170 and 102 cm for 2 and 6 embryos, respectively.

There was no relationship between the length of the trophoblastic vesicle and the size of the embryo.

On day 17 of gestation, the encumbrance of the uterus did not restrict the survival of the embryos. Only further development of the embryos might be favoured by uterus horns of greater size.