



Rare Breeds and Varieties of Greece

Atlas 2010

Synonyms, Occurrence, Description of Rare Breeds and Varieties in Greece



Waltraud Kugler, Monitoring Institute 2009
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Introduction

Up to the 60s of the last century livestock breeds have been adapted by breeding-selection to their environmental conditions. Since multi use breeds are needed most (e.g. meat, milk and labour), not only the productivity of the animals was of importance, but also their adaptation to their environment and climate. Therefore traditional livestock breeds are generally smaller, but more frugal and more robust than modern power breeds. Especially in morphologically and climatically heterogeneous regions, different weights and interests in a livestock breed were made from valley to valley and from island to island. In such naturally heterogeneous countries like Greece with its mountains and islands, a rich diversity of livestock breeds could develop. Animal production in Greece is an important factor in agriculture, as is apparent from the following facts: More than two thirds of the country is hilly or mountainous. 9841 islands make up 20% of the land surface of Greece. Approximately 40% of agricultural land consists of meadows and pastures.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), in particular article 2, requires in-situ conservation of domesticated species. This can then be achieved if a comprehensive mapping provides an appropriate overview.

An accurate description, the region of origin and current distribution are essential information for monitoring of indigenous livestock breeds, to assess their situation and take appropriate action. Exactly this documentation is often lacking in those regions that are, due to their ecological niche, particularly rich in indigenous breeds, as it is the case in Greece.

The "Atlas of Rare Breeds and Varieties of Greece" is a basis for the further conservation work at national and private level, to raise awareness and create more publicity. For documenting of the conservation of animal genetic resources, FAO expects that there are verifiable facts and figures (DAD-IS database and "State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources"). This demand cannot be met by the Greek authorities at the moment. It is even difficult for private actors to provide this level of information. The Atlas of Rare Breeds and Varieties of Greece may, therefore, fill a previously existing information gap

This printed version is an addition to the database on the internet:

<http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/greece/>

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Buffalo

Mediterranean Water Buffalo

Local names: Domestic Buffalo, Domaci Bivo

The Mediterranean type of River buffalo, originating from the waterbuffalo was imported from Asia in the 8th century .



Details:

Official acceptance:	officially recognised
Area of distribution:	several countries of the Wetlands of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
Population size:	1400 animals in 9 breeding groups
Risk status:	endangered
Colour:	black grey, brown. White areas on the head, feet and tail; absence of pigment in the iris of the eyes
Horns:	2 big horns with large base, folded lower part, smooth upper part.
Weight:	600-700 kg (m); 500-550 kg (f)
Height:	138-139 cm
Use:	draught power, milk and butter; products are occasionally sold in the local market
Productivity:	meat and milk is of special palatability and dietary value
Source of information:	Prof. Dr. Andreas Georgoudis; Aristotle University; Dept. of Animal Production; GR-540 06 Thessaloniki



CATTLE

Acheloos Cattle

Brachyceros type; adapted to salty wetlands near the estuary of the Acheloos river. The pastures are very salty, with *Salicornia* grass, which is pastured by the cattle. Free range cattle of unclear identity, but mainly short horn type, reported by several sources from the Louros-Paliopotamos estuary-lagoon in west Etoloakarnania. A local website referred to the region as holding "a significant population of native free ranging cattle and horses". The relationship of these cattle, if any, to those reported from Acheloos estuary is not known.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Epirus; Acheloos-Delta
Risk status	critical
Colour	mainly whitish, dark head
Horns	lyre shaped horns
Source of information	T. Schultze-Westrum; J. Menegatos



Agrinio Cattle, dark type

They could not be classified among the known recognized breeds and were rejected as intermediates between the Katerini and Greek Short Horns. Though clearly of primitive Balkan type the Agrinio cattle differ in size, horn shape and colour to both Katerini and Greek Short Horn.



Size is intermediate between Katerini and Greek SH. Horns are different in being of a more upright carriage, growing closer together at the base, and with a tendency to turn/curl in at the tips. Colour range is entirely different to Greek Short horns. Superficially Agrinion cattle are of similar colour to Katerini, but on closer inspection differences become apparent. Katerini cattle have a tendency towards brownish/gray shades. Agrinion type are overall much darker with lighter silver/gray saddles/back but some silver and black specimens occur. Light saddles are often sharply demarcated from the lower darker body, a characteristic not seen in Katerini.

It is known from one foreign source that an "Epiros Cattle Breed" had been recorded at some point in the past. Agrinion is at the southern border of Epiros region. It is not known if the Agrinion type cattle are remnants of the Epiros breed or another localized breed entirely which was never described, recorded or recognised. Several enquiries to author who included an Epiros breed in a "World Listing of Cattle Breeds" have failed to yield any response.

Details:

Official acceptance	awaiting recognition
Area of distribution	Lepenou, Etolokarnania, W-Greece
Risk status	critical
Colour	greyish-black
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Agrinio Cattle, white ivory

Local names: Agrinion Cattle



Short horns found in the lowland locality of Lepenou. These ivory cattle are different to the dark type despite geographic proximity. They are a lowland form of the major population of Greek short horns occurring in higher elevations of Etoloakarnania such as Perdikaki. This ivory/white form is very localized and differs not only in colour but also in terms of size, horn shape and length. At the moment it is probably, but inconclusively, included and accepted within the greater Greek short horn group and officially treated as such for subsidy purposes. In effect it comprises and should be seen as at least a distinct strain or variety of Greek short horns. Two uniform herds of this type are reported to exist. Their origin or history is not known but clearly restricted distribution and local conditions played a major part in their formation.

Details:

Official acceptance	awaiting recognition
Area of distribution	Lepenou, Etolokarnania, W-Greece
Population size	150-200
Risk status	critical
Colour	white, ivory, light
Horns	short, but forward growing small horns
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Amorgos and Nysiros Cattle

There is no official information on cattle of these islands. Recent internet photos show that cattle of grey/black primitive pattern and unknown origin continue to exist in both.

Details:

Official acceptance: needs further research
Area of distribution: Cycladic Islands Amorgos and Nysiros
Risk status: unknown
Source of information: V. Lekkas



Andros Island Cattle

Local names: Cycladic Archipelago Cattle

An extinct form of Cycladic cattle. Several older and more recent sources classifying "Cycladic Archipelago cattle" included Andros, along Kea, Naxos and Tinos cattle. Loosely related, short horn derived forms probably evolved in Kea, Naxos and Andros. Tinos cattle were of different ancestry and type. None of the available sources described or established the distinct identity of Andros cattle.



Details:

Official acceptance: needs further research
Risk status: extinct
Remarks: Sporadic reports of native cattle from Andros must relate to crosses. Further reseach is needed
Source of information: V. Lekkas

Black Etolakarnania Cattle

An obscure strain/type of mainly black cattle was observed on steep hillsides between Agrinion and Anti-Rion fairly close to coastal regions. Conformation, horn shape and coat texture is different to both Lepenou strains and mountain short horns. Horn shape is close to some of the longer horned specimens in both Lepenou strains. Generally, horns are longer than in previous stains and of almost lyre shape but not as pronounced as in Katerini and Sykia breeds. In one of the three herds observed more closely, besides the majority black specimens there were a few white/black and chestnut/fawn ones. These constituted around 20% of the total. Though located at some distance, potential links to black cattle reported by Penny Turner in Vardousia Mountains must be investigated. Vasilis Mylonas spotted them in an area north to Agrinion. It seems that these cattles are distributed in a semi-circle on the periphery of Etolakarnania. The black colour is not attributable to imports of any specific foreign breed. Its worth remembering that Lepenou/Agrinion sources relayed that though sporadically present, black is not a typical colour of local cattle. Black cattle came to Lepenou fairly recently as part of the dowry of bride than married in the region. The origin of these black cattle is open to conjecture. Oral tradition relays that black cattle came to the region as the dowry of a bride from Epiros, who married locally. This was several human generation ago. Black cattle are a comparatively recent arrival and collective memory preserved the fact that this type is not native to the region.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Hillsides between Agrinion and Ant Roin ; NW Etolakarnania; W-Greece
Risk status	critical
Colour	black, white/black; chestnut/fawn
Horns	almost lyre shaped
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Brachyceros

Local names: Busha; Illyrian Cattle; Brachyceros; Brachkeratiki Rhodopi; Rodopy Shorthorn



The breed is adapted to altitudes above 1 800 m as well adapted to the local natural and climatic conditions. Different varieties are occurring: Rhodope, Prespa, (new)Kea, Sykia,

Details:

Official acceptance:	officially recognised
Area of distribution:	Balkan peninsula; Greece: mainly N-Greece
Risk status:	endangered
Colour:	black, red, tiger, grey, brown, white and blonde
Head:	white ring around the muzzle
Horns:	thin, lyre-shaped horns
Weight	240 - 350 kg
Height	97-115 cm
Use	milk, meat
Productivity	maturity: males: 22 months, females 16 months
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Dr. A. Georgoudis; University of Thessaloniki



Cretan Highland

Presumed extinct. Lowland and Highland breeds reported by foreign source. Local information is scant. Native cattle are unknown in Crete since mid-1980s. Early 1900s photo showed Cretan bull similar to type depicted in Minoan murals. Probably related to mainland short horns. Never recognised as a breed, studied or described. No research for locating surviving specimens.



Mason: Cretan Mountain (Crete); former var. of Greek Shorthorn

Details:

Official acceptance	no
Risk status	extinct
Colour	black with mealy markings, black tipped
Horns	Ivory horns
Remarks	recent information showed that some relicts may have survived up to now
Source of information	Lekkas; Mason; Manoussaki



Cretan Lowland

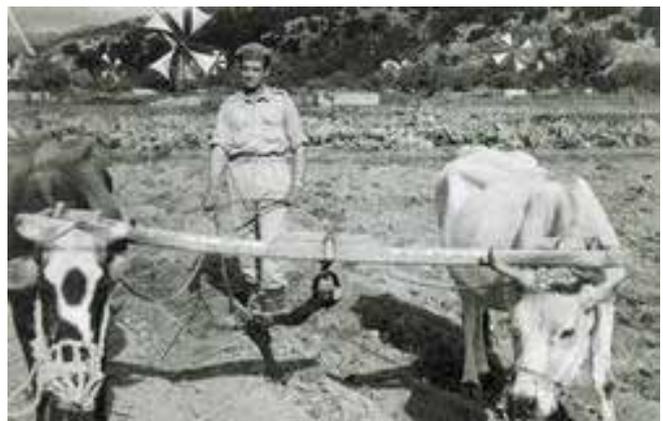
Local names: Messara

Presumed extinct. Lowland breeds reported by foreign source. Local information is scant. Native cattle are unknown in Crete since mid-1980s. Early 1900s photo showed Cretan bull similar to type depicted in Minoan murals: black with mealy markings, black tipped, ivory horns. Probably related to mainland short horns. Never recognised as a breed, studied or described. No research for locating surviving specimens. Web source.



Details:

Official acceptance	no
Area of distribution	Crete
Risk status	extinct
Colour	black with mealy markings, black tipped
Horns	ivory horns
Source of information	Lekkas



Cycladic Islands Cattle

Native cattle have been reported from Tinos, Andros and Kea/Tzia and Naxos islands. Their differences or breed status were never fully established. Present whereabouts are equally uncertain. All must be island adaptations of the native short horns. A popular speculation envisages admixtures of Alpine blood introduced during the long Venetian rule.



Tinos is well differentiated and of eastern origin. Kea, Naxos, Andros more likely related and probably variations on the short horn theme. Naxos and Andros cattle are now probably highly crossed with a variety of foreign breeds. Remnants of native cattle reported from Kythnos, Sifnos and Paros in various degrees of purity are locally attributed mostly to Kea type.

In Kythnos widely bred local cattle are of Alpine type but smaller, though larger than mainland short horns. Kythnos locals refer to them as "Svitsika" not realizing it is a corruption/derivation of Switzerland. Local cattle are seen as an old type that received no foreign blood. This perception can be interpreted as a dim and distorted memory of past importations of Kea cattle crossed with Swiss Brown.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Tinos, Andros, Kea/Tzia
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Epiros Cattle

Presumed extinct. Listed in foreign source. Presently unknown. May exist unacknowledged among native Short Horns of Mountain type or have merged with the remnant population. Mountains east of the middle Acheloos.



Details:

Risk status extinct
 Source of information Lekkas; Schultze-Westrum



Folegandros Cattle

Folegandros was never officially reported to have distinct local cattle. However, individual accounts, press reports and internet photos indicate that some form of local cattle have survived. They do not appear to be identical to or classifiable with those of neighbouring Cycladic islands.



Details:

Official acceptance needs further research
 Risk status unknown
 Source of information V. Lekkas

Gavdos Cattle-Crete

Extinct. Gavdos : a small isle off the coast of Crete. Very small, almost miniatures of standard sizes. Last herd slaughtered in the 1990s. Never formally described or recognised. Possibly related to main island Cretan forms.



Details:

Risk status extinct
 Remarks Private sources.
 Source of information Lekkas

Greek Shorthorn

Local names: Brachyceros; Brachykeratiki

Well described. Most numerous and widespread native cattle but declining. The smallest surviving Greek cattle. Solid shades. Old source reports Mountain and Plains forms which are no longer acknowledged. Mountain 250 kgs (males), Plains 300 kgs (males). Several herds with untypical animals may represent variants, transitional forms, crosses to Katerini Cattle or the obscure Epiros breed. Three herds of free ranging Greek Short Horn type of cattle were reported from highland areas of the Dervenohoria region. Dervenohoria region is in Viotia/Boiotia in south eastern Central Greece not far from Athens. This is the first time in recent years the short horn is reported from so much south and east in Greece. The reported herds are allegedly pure and each consisting of roughly 150 animals. An additional population of around 400 Greek Short Horns is therefore likely. It is suspected that these animals were never recorded and included and previous breed surveys. The Dervenohoria population may represent new blood lines or even a local strain or variation. The importance of its relative isolation from the stronghold of Greek SH distribution may not be initially apparent. Its status and classification must remain inconclusive until more detailed information is available.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Dervenohoria region; Mountains and highlands of Etoloakarnania, Epirus, Kefallonia, Eastern Macedonia
Population size	2150, 1800 cows; 350 bulls
Risk status	endangered
Colour	uni coloured: mainly black, grey, brown, white and blonde
Horns	thin and short horns
Weight	250kg males mountain, 300kg males plains
Height	115 cm males; 106 cm cows
Use	Mostly a carcass breed; The milk is used for the production of Metsovone, Mizithra cheese
Productivity	low milk yield
Remarks	indigenous breed, descended from Illyrian cattle that have the characters of Brachyceros; native breed, its history and origin needs to be studied (EFABIS database)
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis University of Thessaloniki (Photo)



Greek Steppe Cattle

Presumed extinct. Identity unclear. Old source lists Greek Steppe Cattle as different to Katerini, Sykia and Thessaly. Katerini and Sykia are of steppe type.

Details:

Risk status extinct
 Source of information V. Lekkas

Kastellorizo Cattle

few animals were found on Kastellorizo Island (east of Rhodes)



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Dodekanese; Kastellizizo Island
Risk status	unknown
Colour	bay, bay-brown or light chestnut
Coat	hairy coat, dorsal line on the spinal column
Head	white ring around dark muzzle
Horns	short, bent up-inwards; grey with black tips
Weight	less than 400 kg
Height	about 120 cm
Productivity	agile and reactive
Source of information	Riccardo Fortina



Katerini Steppe Cattle

Local names: Grey Steppe; Greek Steppe Type

Podolian; Croatian Steppe; Slavonski Podolac; Podolsko Govece; Greek Steppe; Boz Step; Slavonian Syrmian; Istrian Grey; Boskarin; Bulgarian Grey

Characters of a primigenius steppe breed; low feeding requirements and disease resistance; Highly endangered. Older source reported Mountain and Plains types. Perceptible nape hump and visible dewlap.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Bulgaria; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Croatia; Greece; Serbia;
Population size	198 (in 2005); 2 breeders
Risk status	critical
Colour	black (30%) and grey (70%)
Horns	round, smooth and long lyre shaped horns
Weight	males: 375 kg; females 280 kg
Height	males: 123 cm; females: 113 cm
Use	milk, meat, draught
Productivity	maturity: males: 24 months; females: 20 months
Source of information	Prof. Dr. Andreas Georgoudis; V. Lekkas; D. Dimos



Kea Cattle



Uncertain status. Regarded as both extinct and existing. Recent sightings of specimens in both Kea and south Karystos. Ministry of agriculture classified Kea Cattle as different to Tinos. Most likely of short horn type. At least three specimens observed and confirmed in Paros all three originating and as identified as Kea/Tzia cattle. Large if compared to the smaller Katerini specimens. Possibly more specimens in other Paros localities. Breed Monograph by Dimitrios Papadopoulos Dr. Ing. Agr. University of Thessaloniki, "Cattle of Kea Island-an attempt to improve Greek cattle". 1946. Thessaloniki. Data collected in 1930s-40s. Summary : Cattle population in 1946:1200. Kea cattle were bred in order of importance for (draught/agricultural) work, dairy production, carcass for local consumption, carcass for commercial purposes. Most owners kept 2-3 cows, no castrated adult bulls. Young bulls were sold for meat in the Athens-Pireas markets. Originally Kea cattle were of the same short horn type as mainland cattle. Later diverged due to improved feed, and serious selection endeavour, from within their own gene pool-always remaining pure until 1909. Kea Cattle became larger, more efficient at agricultural work and higher milk producers, than mainland s/h-mountainous forms.

Breed description : Colour is solid and dark fluctuating from fairly light mixed blood to shaded black. Often colours of Greek Short Horns and Swiss Brown occur practically undiluted. . Kea cattle are smaller than Swiss Brown, but larger than both the unimproved mainland short-horns and the improved/but uncrossed Messara (lowland) cattle of Crete. Horns are typical of short horns, larger than all four known (unspecified) types of Greek short-horns but smaller than Swiss Brown. Often horns were asymmetrical following different "routes".

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Kea, South Karystos, Paros Risk status critical
Colour	solid and dark fluctuating from fairly light mixed blond to shaded black; Reddish-brown, one showing faint/light dorsal stripe.
Coat	Sides of neck, shoulders and hind-quarters are darker
Head	white mealy markings around mouth. Inner ears, top of forehead and horn bases are light.
Horns	Horns small and turned to the front, horntips dark
Height	125 cm
Use	draught; meat; milk
Remarks	Pictures: Nikos Chrisogelos Med SOS.
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Kerkyra/Corfu Cattle

Presumed extinct. Stongly built. Employed for draft work in rural areas and as a dairy breed. Specimens in urban areas were smaller. The highest dairy yielding Greek cattle at the time (1930). Almost exclusively provided town of Corfu with milk and butter. Reported as old crosses of native short horns and European Alpine breeds.



Details:

Risk status	extinct
Colour	dark shades or black, underparts white
Horns	Medium size horns growing to the front and then upwards
Productivity	high dairy yield
Source of information	Lekkas; Eleftheroudakis Lexikon 1930

Kos Island Cattle

Unidentified type in Kos.
(Extinct Tinos cattle were brought to Kos and other Aegean Islands in earlier times.)



Details:

Country	GR
Species	Cattle
Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



151000 ©Doug Houghton www.doughoughton.com
+44 (0)1856 811316 Doug@doughoughton.com



151000 ©Doug Houghton www.doughoughton.com
+44 (0)1856 811316 Doug@doughoughton.com

Metsovo Red Cattle

A photo taken in the late 1990s or early 2000 shows in the background a type of native red cattle of known breed. The small herd was of uniform type and occurred in the background of a photo aimed at recorded a specimen of Greek Sheepdog/Hellenikos Poimenikos. "Mestove Red Cattle" is only used here advisedly for identification purposes. Practically nothing is known about these cattle. They cannot be assigned to any known native or foreign/imported breed. Definitely different to Greek Short Horns, Pomak Red Cattle, Katerini and Agrinion breeds/varieties/strains. Size was notable in terms of height, general conformation, body outline, horn carriage and colour. Size wise were larger than Short Horns, possibly closer to Katerini but different in colour and horns. A Kalambaka livestock breeder reports an extinct cattle breed from Thessaly/lower Epiros elevations. The said cattle were vaguely of steppe type but different to Katerini Cattle kept at Dimos farm with which the source was familiar. Internet pics of cattle kept today in some Metstovo/Epiros locations show probably crossbred cattle a number of which are of "red" colour. Local source reported a now not seen or extinct form of cattle similar but yet different to modern Katerini. Description of type and colour range are probably incomplete.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Thessaly / lower Epiros elevations
Risk status	unknown
Colour	Bodies were an reddish/orange, legs were flecked with irregular white splashes.
Horns	Horns were growing rather close together, carried quite uprightly and turning slightly inwards at the tips.
Remarks	information was provided by Stelios Makaritis.
Source of information	V. Lekkas, S. Makaritis

Peloponnesse Cattle

In 1806-1809 Colonel William Leake reported two breeds of cattle from north Peloponnese. Corinthian Cattle were the best in the Peloponnese, superior and cultivated. Elis/Elia cattle were inferior and hard to improve even with Corinthian blood. It is unclear if these were mountain or lowland forms or if they can be linked to any local cattle surviving in the 21st century. Not included among official Greek cattle breeds. Undescribed.



Free ranging, solid coloured cattle, of superficially native type, reported June 2005, from mountainous areas of north Peloponnese. Web photos of free ranging dark brown/blackish cattle of unspecified breed in Mani. A web source, June 2005, mentions "small statured, free ranging cattle, native breed of Mani". Peloponnesus cattle are included in world listing of cattle as a separate breed. More specimens of local cattle identified by Stelios Makaritis. Largely confirmed earlier observations.

Several sources confirmed small nuclei of mostly brindles especially in the south-west Messinia/Kipasisiria/Elia bordering region. Larger than short horns of Mani. About 1,30 m. horns relatively longer than short horns but not as long as in Katerini. North-west Peloponnese free range cattle reported as larger. Those found in Mani are smaller. An increasing number of crosses occur in lower elevations. Those found in inaccessible mountain regions appear less affected by crossing.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Mani
Risk status	unknown
Colour	Solid coloured. Some lighter coloured specimens but most were dark brown to black. Flesh coloured secretion glands.
Source of information	V. Lekkas; S. Makaritis



Perdikaki Short Horn

Greek Short Horns of standard/classic type, a minor population of an especially small size sub-type in north-west Etolakarnania. These Short Horns are found in a distant, isolated, mountainous area in relation to relatively low lying Lepenou. These must comprise the densest concentration of the breed in Greece. Officially recognized and receiving subsidies as a rare native breed. Perdikaki Short Horns must constitute at the very least a very localized sub-strain/type. It is not clear if similar cattle are found in other nearby areas. It must be stressed that not all cattle in the wider Perdikaki region were of this particularly small type.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Perdikaki, NW-Et olakarnania, W-Greece
Population size	800
Risk status	endangered
Source of information	Lekkas



Pieria Cattle

Presumed extinct. Reported not from the better known Pieria region north of Olympus Mountain, but from an area in Eastern Macedonia, defined by the estuaries of Strymon and Pravios rivers. Described as smaller and blonder than Katerini Cattle. Displayed all features of dairy breeds, such as besides the four main nipples an extra pair of subsidiary ones. (Eleftheroudakis Lexikon 1930). Another source mentions East Macedonian Cattle but not Pieria. Potential synonymy of Pieria and East Macedonian types.



Details:

Area of distribution; East Macedonia
 Risk status; extinct
 Source of information; V. Lekkas

Pomak Cattle

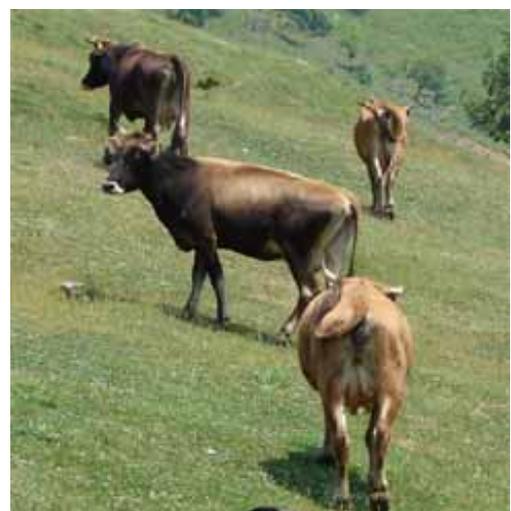
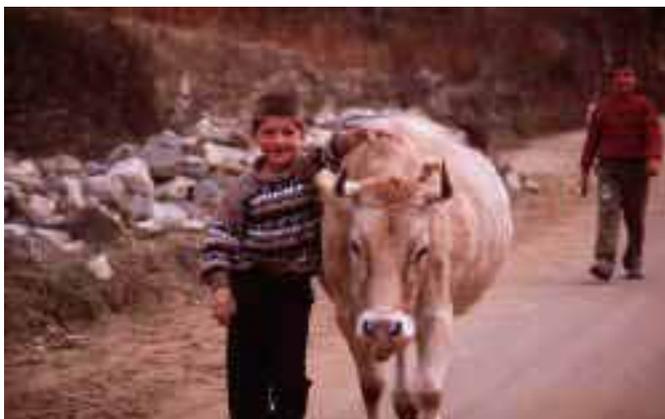
Local names: Pomak red Cattle

Reported in small numbers from isolated villages of Evros area (but exist in other parts of north-east Greece). Utilized in sustainable agriculture. Completely left to their fate. Not subsidized, known or controlled by Greek authorities. (Spyros Xleiounakis, vet and participant of first SAVE workshop). Some 1000 free on the mountain (every family have some animal) It seems to be crossed animals phenotype like Brachyceros, The colour is more like busha cattle red. (Abas, 2006)



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Evros
Risk status	critical
Coat	various shades of red
Weight	100-110cm
Source of information	Xleiounakis, Lekkas, Abas



Prespa Dwarf Cattle

Papadopoulos in 1946 among mainland short horns makes several references to short horns of western Macedonia. A sub-type of Brachyceros found in Prespa Lake may in fact comprise a fully independent variety. Investigations of the population are under way. Photos. by Yannis Kazoglou. A small nucleus has been transferred at some locations in Crete.



Details

Official acceptance	no
Area of distribution	Prespa Lake
Population size	12
Risk status	critical
Colour	blond, darkblond, reddish blond, all colours of brown and also black
Coat	darker along the spine
Head	big
Horns	small and short
Weight	180-200 kg
Height	100-115 cm
Use	meat, milk
Source of information	Lekkas; Kazoglou; Grunenfelder



Rodopi Cattle

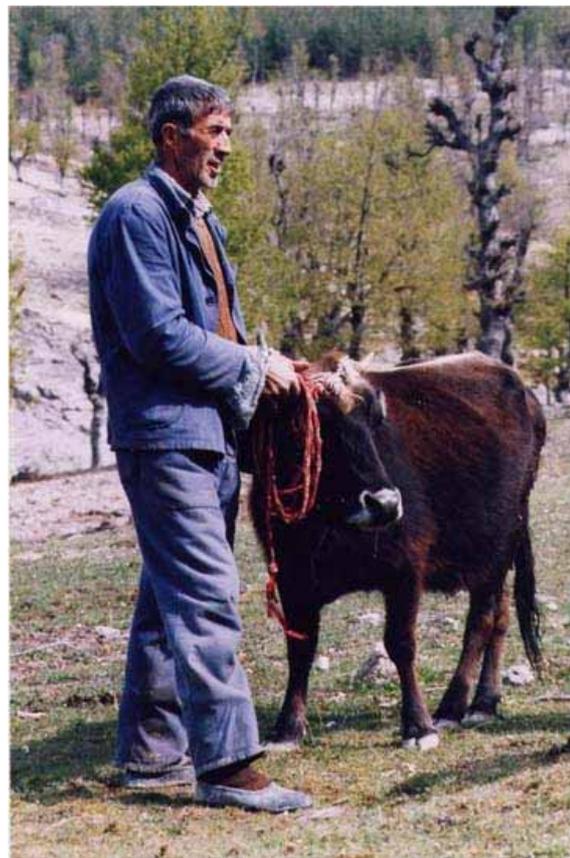
Observed since the 1980s but not fully confirmed. . No detailed description is available. Generally various shades of red. Rodopi cattle is found on both sides of Greek/Bulgarian border. No official acknowledgement in Greece.

Mason: dwarf var. of Greek Shorthorn; Spring 2007: 24 Rodopi cattle settled to Vertiskos, Prefecture of Thessaloniki to Mr. Katsioulas (organised by Amalthia, founded by SAVE Foundation)



Details

Official acceptance	Needs further research
Area of distribution	Rodopi; NE-Greece
Risk status	critical
Height	95-110cm
Source of information	Mason; V. Lekkas, Jerrentrup; K. Papaioannou



Rodos cattle

Formerly two types with distinct and well differentiated characteristics.

Asguru Cattle: Named after Asguru village near Rodos town. Mainly a dairy cattle, good quality carcass. Performed moderate draught work. Height 1.20-130 cm. Both sexes carried prominent excess throat skin. Colour: various shades of brown/chestnut. A good cow produced 10-15 litters of milk daily. Population 700-800,(1929) .Distributed along the north-west and the south-east coasts.

Mediterranean Anatolian Primitive type Cattle : Unselected primitive cattle distributed in the rest of Rodos. Medium size. Height 1.05-1.10 cm. Lightly constructed and not well conformed. Colour highly variable: mostly brownish-red with light dorsal stripes but black-white and solid black common. Rarely red-white or various shades of chestnut. Utilized in plowing, grain grinding and milk production.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Greece, north-west, south-east
Risk status	extinct
Colour	brown/chestnut
Height	1.05-1.30m
Productivity	5-7 l per day
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Samos Island Dwarf Cattle

Presumed extinct. A localized dwarf breed bred for its carcass. Very hardy. Kept outdoors year round in "Kakoperato" locale, Kerkis Mountain at 700-800 m altitude. Free ranging with minimum maintainance. Always numerically small. Last observed in 1985. Believed to be an old type known since the 1400s when inhabitants retreated to highland areas for avoiding pirate raids. Probably of Greek Short Horn type, but long isolation must have produced a different strain.



Details:

Area of distribution	Kerkis Mountain
Risk status	extinct
Use	meat
Remarks	Private sources.
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Sifnos Island Cattle

Three types of local cattle are bred in limited numbers in Sifnos. Type A is similar to the Kea breed. Type B is an unclassifiable black variant. Superficially resembles to the mainland black cattle like in Ektokarnania. Type C is a single specimen originated in Folegandros.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Skopelos Cattle

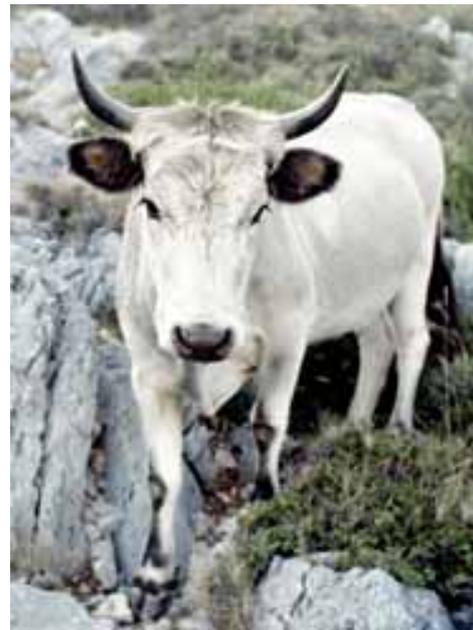
Gravely endangered. Never milked. Special adaptation to survive on little water. Feed between bushes unlike goats.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Piperi Island
Population size	A few specimens, probably around 10 isle.
Risk status	critical
Source of information	V.Lekkas

survived on Piperi



Skyros Cattle

Extinct in late 1970s.

Details:

Population size	extinct in late 1970s
Risk status	extinct
Source of information	Lekkas



Sykia Cattle

Local names: Sikia Chalkidiki Steppe Cattle

characters of *Bos Taurus Primigenius*; Exceedingly rare. Related to Katerini but there are conformation, horn and size differences. Officially only females are reported -low hundreds (300-400). According to recent info a small number of bulls is still kept in several herds. Frozen sperm is stored at the University of Thessaloniki. There are only two known herds.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Sykia village in Chalkidiki; Alonisos (Sporades)
Population size	300-400 females, few bulls
Risk status	critical
Colour	70% greyish, 30% black
Head	white ring around muzzle
Horns	lyre shaped
Weight	males: 210 kg; females: 190 kg
Height	males: 115 cm; females: 112 cm
Use	A carcass breed.
Productivity	Meat is of special palatability and dietary value.
Source of information	V. Lekkas; J. Vlaikos; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis; University of Thessaloniki



Thessaly Cattle

Presumed extinct. Old source lists separately Katerini, Sykia, Greek Steppe and Thessaly cattle as distinct breeds. Possibly pertains to Highland and Plains forms of Katerini which are no longer acknowledged. The Plains Katerini being potentially synonymous to Thessaly.



Details:

Risk status extinct
Source of information Lekkas

Thrace Cattle

A possible thus far unidentified breed from eastern Macedonia and Thraki region. Some resemblance to older photos from Neo Souli-Serres. A larger cattle with larger almost lyre shaped horns than Katerini or Sykia breeds. A photo of a specimen of the type from Evros river. A Greek tv programme showed a local breeder/owner of a small herd of native cattle that did not fit any of accepted breeds. More research is needed establishing the identity of this type. Papadopoulos in 1946 indicated that cattle of Thessaloniki, Kilikis, Evros, Serres, plains etc, were influenced by steppe cattle blood.



Thrace Cattle is a Steppe type cattle of uncertain identity, either pure or crossed, reported in mixed herds, in Nigrita and Evros/Soufli. The Soufli herd, 40 strong, is mostly brindled, a colour preferred by the owner who also keeps separately, for commercial purposes, a larger herd of crossed cattle. An example of how old type cattle, are kept by some owners, out of attachment and despite lack of official recognition.

Details:

Official acceptance needs further research
Risk status unknown
Source of information V. Lekkas



Tilos Island Cattle

Tilos Island in the Eastern Aegean formerly possessed its own breed of dwarf cattle. The breed reportedly became extinct in the early 70s when the last breeder slaughtered his herd and migrated to Australia. A recent photo of a small cattle in Tilos may represent a throwback to that old bloodline or may indicate its existence in dilute form.



Details:

Country	GR
Species	Cattle
Official acceptance	no
Area of distribution	Eastern Aegean Island
Risk status	extinct
Source of information	Lekkas



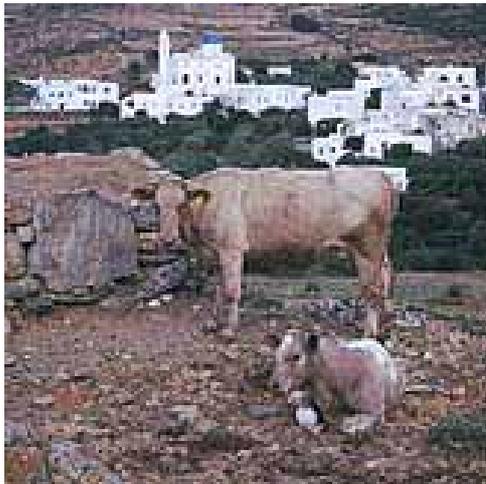
Tinos Cattle

composite of *Brachyceros* x Zebu cattle; Officially extinct. Best known of Cycladic cattle breeds. Described as elegant, finely built, sinewy, with a slight hump. One of the last pure specimens, a female, was photographed in the Syros village of Galisa in 1994. Phenotypically similar cattle are reported from the nearby Kythnos, Syros, Mykonos, Naxos and Paros islands. These are probably dilutes or throwbacks to the original form. Pure Tinos specimens among them may remain unacknowledged.



Details:

Risk status	extinct
Colour	Light silver gray with creamy shades, brown, yellowish-brown, creamy brown.
Horns	fine Horns upwards and forward.
Weight	females: 290 kg
Height	females: 126 cm
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, University of Thessaloniki



Chicken

Alonissos island Chicken

Local names: Double yoke chicken

Black with sparse tan feathers. A small elegant fowl with reduced red wattles. Locally known as "double yoke chicken".

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Colour	black
Source of information	V.Lekkas



Boufunes

A bearded/under-chin feathered strain occurring in various areas including Peloponnese. Not cultivated as a pure breed but known as a distinct native type.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Chios Fighting Chicken

Local names: Nysiriotiko

Current status unknown. A fighting breed widespread in Chios until 1940s-50s. Its local name was "Nysiriotiko" pointing to a potential origin from Nysiros island.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Curly Chicken Mutation

A Curly feathered mutation occurs sporadically. At earlier times (60s,70s) possibly constituted a more concrete, even cultivated strain. Reputed to be very broody. Originally observed in the Peloponnese. Lately re-emerged in Lamia region.

A small nucleus is cultivated in Chios at the advice of Stelios Makaritis.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V- Lekkas; S. Makaritis

Follidotes Chicken

Presumed extinct. Formerly known in Chalkidiki and Macedonia as an old native type. A naked legged chicken with unusually long leg follicles.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Greek Cuckoo spotted chicken

Old traditional breed. Now largely abandoned. A few dedicated breeders. Pictures: Vasilis Lekkas.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Hooded Greek Chicken

Local names: Katsouliara

Distinguished for its hood of soft feathers. May have naked neck but hood is always present. Body feathers are intermediate. Both single and double wattles occur. Very hardy. Tolerates cold well. Selectively bred for generations to perpetuate its particular features. Abandoned by most traditional breeders. Never commercially available to an appreciable degree. Two confirmed surviving flocks in Kapandriti and Levadia. Also reported from Peloponnese.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Kapandriti, Levadia, Peloponnese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	Colours variable in solids and flecked combinations. Leg skin is dark bluish or greenish olive.
Weight	2-4 kg
Productivity	Great laying capacity of around 150 eggs annually.
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Kalamata Chicken

An old breed known for 300 years. A slender, elegant chicken. Very hardy. Maintains wild instincts and is difficult to handle, breed and raise. Formerly, especially abundant in mountainous Kalamata villages. Abandoned by most traditional breeders. Attempts to artificially incubate eggs in greater Athens region proved unsuccessful. In urgent need of conservation.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Kalamata mountains
Population size	Only a single flock is locatable.
Risk status	critical
Colour	Black with occasionally silver flight feathers
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Karditsa Palama village Chicken

two varieties.

A Small size but not a dwarf or bantam chicken. Black with white ear loabs.

B Larger, high legged with erect carriage. A " Long Crow" breed. While performing males bend heads backwards almost touching the back. The posture is so extreme that sometimes fall over.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Komotini Black Chicken

A black, medium size chicken with short, slender legs but not a dwarf. Locally abundant. Raised for its good brooding ability. Mainly bred by Turkish minority, who were circumspect about providing the breeds local name. Any links to Palama or Kalamata black chickens are not established.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Colour	black
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Komotini Long Crow Chicken

A type of "Long Crow" Chicken is reported from Komotini. It may be identical to Palama variety of a different strain. Long Crow chicken are thought to exist for several centuries in the Balkans. The well established Turkish Denizli Crower is believed to originate in Albania.

High and short legged forms need to be differentiated. They are possibly synonymous. This subject requires further research.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Lesvos Dwarf Naked Necked Chicken

An old native breed. A dwarf but larger than true Bantams; extremely rare. Formerly very abundant. Naked neck, slender built, tight and shiny feathers, single wattled, clean legs.



Details:

Country	GR
Species	Chicken
Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Colour	Colours extremely varied.
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Lesvos Fillianes Chicken

Exceedingly rare. Size at lower end of medium range. Slender, stylish, tight feathered chicken. Few scattered feathers on legs. Outer legs are feathered, inner legs are naked. Wattle mostly single, small, always erect. Incubate year round. Eggs of average size and reddish. A curly mutation appears with some frequency among local flocks. First attempts of local people to selectively breed it were orchestrated by Stelios Makaritis during one of his visits. A Curly mutation sporadically occurs in various parts of the Greek mainland.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Its last stronghold is Filia village. Formerly all over Lesvos.
Risk status	critical
Colour	Black, black with red or silver neck. Dark leg pigmentation. Many are cuckoo spotted.
Productivity	A high legged breed.
Source of information	V. Lekkas; S. Makaritis

Milos Island Chicken

A little known old type/traditional chicken reported from Milos island. No detailed description.

Details:

Source of information Lekkas



Pomak Fighting Chicken

Local names: Hiliano

An old fighting breed possibly descended from Turkish lines. Allegedly, bred in Greece for 400-600 years. A distinct true breeding type has evolved. It resembles fighting breeds but has a less exaggerated conformation. "Hiliano" indicates a mistaken belief of "Chilean" origin.

Details:

Official acceptance needs further research
Risk status unknown
Source of information V. Lekkas



Short Legged Greek Chicken

No detailed description. Occurs in Trikala and Karditsa and reported by several sources. Bred in various small villages of the region.

Details:

Country GR
Species Chicken
Official acceptance needs further research
Area of distribution Trikala, Karditsa
Risk status unknown
Source of information V. Lekkas



Trikala Chicken

High legged traditional chicken bred in local villages
The high legged Trikala form possibly is related or synonymous to the form known locally as "Gyftokokoras-Gypsy Chicken".

Details:

Source of information Lekkas



Donkeys

Local Greek Ass

Local names: Ellinikon

Estimates of donkey numbers in Greece are not reliable since there is a considerable variation between different sources.

The population of donkeys decreased by 96% between 1955 and 2005 (508000 to about 21000). The lack of any breeding programme and the importation of jacks from foreign breeds

led to numerous crosses of donkeys. Donkeys in Greece are characterised by a large diversity in phenotypes as well as significant variation in their morphological characteristics. The chest is narrow, the back is short and acute and the buttocks quite sloping. The legs are relatively short but strong with small hoofs. The average body length is about 130 cm.



Details:

Area of distribution: whole country
Weight: 90-120kg
Height: male: 102 cm; female: 96-110 cm
Source of information: G. Arsenos; Lekkas



Arcadian Donkey

It belongs to the small-sized breeds. This type of ass was spread all over Greece and was the main breed. Later other breeds of larger sizes were imported and today varieties of types in size and colour are found in the country. However, the predominant type is that of small to medium height, light coloured with an eelstripe. It is a relative primeval breed with a big similarity to *Equus asinus*.



Details:

Risk status: critical
Colour: brown with grey muzzle, belly and underparts
Height: 100 cm
Source of information: G. Arsenos



Cyprus Ass

Local names: Kypriakòs ghàdharos

Largesized breed, almost certainly of African origin. well-proportioned confirmation, quiet and frugal character, adapted to heat and drought. Considered the best donkey breed in the Middle East and is widely distributed throughout Greece.



Details:

Area of distribution	Cyprus and Greece
Risk status	endangered
Colour	dark brown to black, belly, nose and around eyes white
Coat	short haired
Head	large head with convex forehead and straight profile
Weight	m: 300kg; f: 250kg
Height	m: 125-132cm; f: 120-125
Productivity	strong feet; suitable for mule production.
Source of information	SAVE-Monitoring Institute; Friends of the Cyprus Donkey



Perdikaki



Details:

Official acceptance distribution

needs further research Area of Perdikaki, NE of Aetolia-Acarnania, W-Greece

Risk status

unknown

Colour

grey, with a distinct shoulder cross and stripes on the

lower legs

Use

working power, riding

Remarks

Perdikaki donkeys are of relative small size in comparison to other greek donkeys

Source of information

Kostas Papaioannou, Amalthia



Goats

Amorgos

Local names: Amorgos, Folegandros

Reported by at least two sources but not entirely confirmed. Characterized by especially large size; attaining 1 m at the withers. It has never been numerous. Web photos indicate Amorgos goats are removed in type from Folegandros ones. It cannot be certain web photos depict the correct Amorgos goat. Originally Amorgos and Folegandros goats were speculated as identical.

Currently not known or included in any surveys but reported to HP in Kassos by a French citizen. Amorgos goats were described as very large even exceeding 1 m at the withers.

SM confirms that several years ago had observed very large goats in Amorgos. Possible photo records. The type is not or was not numerous. Web search yielded several photos of goats from Amorgos but it isn't clear if these are the same as the ones dealt with here. Photos show females only which are overall smaller. The Amorgos goat is stocky, long coated with small curved horns. Ears are fairly pricked. Colours are mainly solid black and to a lesser extent grizzles. A single parti-coloured specimen is also recorded but such observations can't be conclusive. Amorgos type is removed from Folegandros goat, originally suspected being of the same or similar conformation.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	E-Cyklades
Population size	was never very numerous
Risk status	unknown
Colour	solid black, sometimes grizzled
Coat	long coated
Head	ears are fairly pricked
Horns	small curved
Height	1m
Use	meat, milk
Source of information	V. Lekkas, Internet



Aridaia

Most notable feature are the very small ears or the total absence of ears. Also known for its smaller size and extremely long coat. Number estimated at several thousands. In no danger of extinction.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	N-Macedonia (ormos village, Loutra Pozari)
Population size	several thousands
Risk status	unknown
Coat	extremely long coat
Head	very small (nearly absent) ears
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Barbatsiko

Local names: Barbatsiki

It has been suggested that this goat breed comes from Albania. Barbastiko is often confused with the so called Hasia Goat which may originate in the same area and whose ranges may to some extent overlap. Synonymity can't be ruled out. Other reports suggest Hasia and Barbastiko Goats occur in geographically adjacent areas, are probably related and similar but not identical.



Details:

Area of distribution	Parnitha Mountain in Attika to Boiotia/Boetia
Population size	estimated 40-50.000
Risk status	Not at risk
Colour	Multi-coloured
Coat	short and smooth hair
Head	big goatee (beard)
Horns	large spiralling horns held at a lower angle than the Karystos breed; ears horizontal
Weight	46 kg
Height	Comparatively large size; 68 cm
Use	meat, milk
Productivity	High yield in carcass production; 60-80 l milk; 1.3 - 1.4 kids
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Dimos-Pappas



Chalkis-Mount Dyrfis Goat

Native goats bred in the villages of Gymno, Metohi and Stromboles of the Dyrfis mountain range, constitute a distinctive native type. Dyrfis range is in central Euboia island. The owner of a mixed goat herd pointed to a pure Chalkis goat specimen. (Confirmation pending.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	central Euboia island: Gymno, Metohi and Stromboles; Dyrfis mountain range
Risk status	unknown
Colour	greyish, lighter underparts
Coat	long coat
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Cretan Goat

Unconfirmed. The most common and uniform type is a stocky goat with blunt, somewhat convex head and long coat of variable colours. Males have large horns growing parallel to the ground. Females have smaller thick horns curved around the skull. There may be more than one native type(s). Cretan goats have never been studied. Hybridisation with Cretan Wild Goat is evident in specimens displaying the primitive colour pattern. The crossbred phenotypes are locally known as "Fouriariko". Feral populations of Fouriariko are now probably reproducing in isolation from both domestic and wild forms.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Crete
Colour	variable colours
Coat	long coat
Head	convex
Horns	males: long horns; Females small thick horns curved around the skull
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Dervenohoria-Polled Goat

Dervenohoria-Vagia region. A distinctive goat among a mixed herd. A large naturally polled, sterilized male. Tall, stocky, with a large heavy head, slight tendency for roman nose. Coat short with slight feathering. Black/white. Owner reported this was a local breed of uniformly polled both sexes.

Individual specimens of naturally polled males and females occur sporadically in localities of south/east Greek mainland.

Claims that these are relics of a formerly concrete native breed cannot be substantiated. A recently found ancient seal, kept at Atalanti Archaeological museum probably depicting a polled goat, strengthens the view that this is a very old domesticated form. Pics of specimens from Kakavoulas herd near Athens. Vasilis Lekkas.



Details:

Official acceptance	Needs further research
Area of distribution	Dervenohoria-Vagia region
Colour	black-white
Coat	short with slight feathering
Head	heavy head; tendency for roman nose
Horns	naturally polled
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Desfina Goat (Parnassos)

Desfina an important goat breeding village south of Delphi. A multi-coloured, beautiful goat bred mainly for carcass. Low milk yield. Exceptionally hardy. Goats are left to their own devices grazing in the mountains for much of the year. Reported by reliable source. Confirmation pending.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Elia Goat

Largely confirmed. Well fixed type. Stocky built. Breed is traditionally shaved in a particular fashion to ease discomfort from rain. Visit (2005) in mountain Elia: The Elia goat appeared plentiful. In certain flocks there were many grays and mostly females. Other herds were more multi-coloured, with many reds and black/tans (tan was either rust or yellow) and a few salt and pepper. In other herds silver/pepper predominated, a few reds/chocolates and very rarely whites occurred. Elia goats are confirmed as hairy, of a general Vlach type but smaller, with full heads and broad skulls. Well fixed.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Western Peloponese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	often salt and pepper
Coat	medium long
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Euthikeros

A tentative term for a goat with vertically growing horns. Description is incomplete. Uniform herds reported.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	C-Greece, Sterea Ellada: Dervenohoria region
Risk status	unknown
Horns	vertically growing horns
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Gorba Goat

Local names: Greek Black Goat; Black Landrace

Best types are bred in northern Greece. Sometimes "Gorba" denotes a goat of black colour in other areas of Greece regardless of breed. For research purposes, care should be taken in differentiating between the actual breed and generic colour term.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Halkidiki, Epiros and Thessaly
Risk status	unknown
Colour	solid black
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Photos S. Makaritis



Hasia Goat

Local names: Dervenohoria

Observed between Dervenohoria and Hasia localities. A large, stout goat of distinctive type. Several uniform herds. Detailed description is pending.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	C-Greece, Sterea Ellada: Dervenohoria region
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Ikaria Goat

Local names: Thymania, Fournoi



One of the smallest Greek goats. Fixed type. Coat medium long. However, it seems likely that many herds have mixed with male goats of the Vlachiki breed coming from neighboring islands, resulting in an alteration to their genetic material.

Fortunately, there are some herds in Ikaria and Thymaina islands, which seem to have remained pure there is a percentage of these animals which live in semi-wild condition, in distant places or rocky islets, not totally controlled by their owners.

These goats can be captured with ancient traps only, in order to be slaughtered, vaccinated, etc. This is a quite usual phenomenon in all three islands. In general, local inhabitants breed and rescue these goats because of the excellent quality of produced meat. They are really small in size, small breast, well attached to the abdominal wall.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	E-Aegean sea, S-Sporades; Ikaria, Fournoi, Thymaina
Risk status	unknown
Colour	solid or parti-coloured
Coat	medium long
Head	Both sexes sport a distinctive beard in the underjaw
Horns	length: 24 cm
Weight	29.5 kg
Height	about 60.6 cm
Source of information	V. Lekkas, V. Pappas



Karatza Goat

Known and bred locally for many generations. One of the smaller Greek goats. Well fixed. Colours are variable both solids and partis. Resemble larger, robust Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Their main attribute is resistance to cold. The only breed that can tolerate the harsh local climate. Exclusively bred for its carcass. Numbers not known but appear healthy. Many local breeders.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	NE-Greece; Rodopi Highland
Risk status	unknown
Colour	variable
Coat	medium long
Head	goatee
Horns	short horns
Use	meat: carcass
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Karystos Goat

Local names: Kymi Goat, Bartso



Goats are relatively short in size, similar in coloring, with smooth, short hair of dark color in most surface of their body, except for chest, abdomen and led areas where they have red-brown color. They have upright, spiral horns of relatively large size, located in such a way so that they form an angle of 45o between them. The left horn is spiraled to the right side. The ears are of regular size, horizontal or semi-upright. The breast is small and well attached to the abdominal wall. It is a tough animal, resistant to diseases and hard conditions. This breed offer small production, however its milk is of excellent quality.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	C-Greece: Sterea Ellada; South Euvoia, especially Karystos
Population size	15-50.000
Risk status	unknown
Colour	mainly black, brownish markings on the back of neck and shoulder set, light gray markings on the muzzle above the nose.
Coat	smooth, short hair
Head	Raised forehead with perceptible stop
Horns	upright spiral horns, two varieties: A. entirely vertical, B. growing at a moderate angle: length about 31 cm
Weight	41 kg
Height	63 cm
Use	meat
Productivity	60-80 l; fertility: 1.3 – 1.4 animals per birth
Source of information	V. Lekkas, D. Dimos; Vasileios, G. Pappas



Kassos

Population has been reduced from 8,000 to around 2,000 in less than year after the government ordered mass culling as means of controlling overgrazing. Each culled goat is subsidized with 300 € for the next five years. If vegetation shows signs of recovery more goats will be allowed to be bred. A goat of small size possible ranging from as low as 48 cm for small females to 57-57 cm for males.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Dodecaneses
Population size	2000-3000
Risk status	endangered
Height small:	48-57 cm
Use	meat, milk
Productivity	low milk yield (60-80 l), twin births (1.3-1.4)
Source of information	V. Lekkas; H-P. Grunenfelder



Kefalonia

Local names: Ithaki

Confirmed as a local fixed type. Fairly thick set, blunt heads. Horns small and curved around head. Medium long coat. Mostly solid dark colours. The type probably exists in neighbouring Ithaki Island with minor variations. An Ithaki strain cant be ruled out. Numbers appear healthy. In certain Kefalonia areas such as Agia Dymani mountain, free ranging goats sport golden or silver teeth as well some wild animals such as Hare. Chemical composition of local soil is thought to be the cause.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Ionian sea, Kefallinia
Population size	about 10000 Risk status vulnerable
Colour	dark colours are prominent
Coat	medium size
Head	ears of medium size, either up-standing, lateral or semi hanging, only few beard-bearing goats
Horns	up-standing horns, slightly spiral, which form an acute angle; length: 25 cm Weight 41 kg
Height	69 cm
Productivity	in rich bushy fields more than 150 lt milk; 1,3 – 1,4 kids / birth
Source of information	V. Lekkas; D. Dimos; Vasileios G. Pappas

Kyra Panagia Goat

Local names: Kyra Goat

Kyra Panagia is a small island of the Sporades group. Reported by Dr. Thomas Schultze-Westrum and Yannis Vlaikos in an article on the Alonnisos Marine Park. No specific details are known but described as "a distinct goat of which there is sufficient photographic documentation".



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Kyra Panagia Island, Sporades
Risk status	critical
Colour	white and black-white
Source of information	Lekkas; Schultze-Westrum, Vlaikos



Lesvos/ Mytilini Goat

A goat keeper claimed its a better performer than the selected Skopelos. Largely abandoned by its breeders who are switching to sheep. Always numerically small compared to well known and officially recognized Lesvos sheep, hence it remained relatively unknown. Herds are being disbanded or transferred to other locations such as Peloponnese. Lesvos goat superficially resembles or even appears identical to the Black Greek Landrace/Gorba from the mainland but is in fact larger, has longer horns carried not so close to skull.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Lesvos Island
Colour	black; occasionally dark gray or black-white
Coat	longcoated
Head	small or very small ears
Horns	long horns
Height	large
Productivity	high milk yield
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Levadia Goat (Kyriaki village).

Mainly bred in the village Kyriaki. A large black-white, or red-white goat. Reported by reliable source. Confirmation pending.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Martina Goat

Local names: **Matrinia**

Widely reported but not fully confirmed. A specific breed found in the smallest and most isolated villages of the Kalavryta region. Has minimal or no contact with goats of other areas. A tendency, to apply the term "Martina/Matrinia" to certain colours or young goats irrespective of breed, may hinder and confuse research.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	N-Peloponnese, Kalavryta region
Risk status	unknown
Colour	solid black or grey
Coat	very long coated
Horns	large spiralling horns
Height	large size
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Internet



Nafpaktos

Regarded as a local breed. Final confirmation of its status is pending. Undescribed. Specialist breeder exists

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Peloponnese, Korinthia
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



North-Peloponnese

Unconfirmed but reported by reliable local source. Known for its distinctive colour. Body various solid shades. Description is incomplete and unsatisfactory. Not numerous but a few herds are said to exist.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	North-Peloponnese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	white belly, white
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Nysiros Island Goat

Large numbers of indigenous goats of a particular type are bred. Free of outside blood admixtures either Greek or foreign. Reported by reliable source. Confirmation pending.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Pangaion Mountain

Selectively bred to a fixed type from variable stock. Results of breeding programme are reported as mixed. Further details are lacking.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	N-Greece: Panagonian Mountain
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Peloponnese

A 1980s undergraduate study revealed a uniform type to be predominating at a specific central Peloponnese locality. Research findings were not utilized and did not lead to the breed's official acceptance.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Central Peloponnese
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Perdikaki Small Goat

Mostly variable types and difficult to differentiate from goats of other areas. No goat breed is identified with Agrinio/Etolokarnania according to official and local sources. Especially, the latter denied the existence of goats exclusively native to the area. This does not mean that no distinctive strains extinct in isolated areas. The small goats observed near Perdikaki grazing along the small sub-type of Greek Short Horns, must count as a local strain. Some adult males barely exceeded 50cm at the withers. These goats were 50-55% smaller than those found in other areas. A proposed name could be "Perdikaki Small Goat". It is unclear how widespread the strain is or if it practically raised by a single breeder.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Etolokarnania and Agrinion
Risk status	critical
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Psarogessa Goat

Largely confirmed. Mountain areas. An old fixed type.
Possible web photo.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Peloponnese; Korinthia
Population size	5.000-10.000
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	body solid grey, legs below knees red. Two red lines along cheek
Coat	rel. short
Horns	M: long & winding, F: small & curved
Use	meat, milk
Productivity	carcass, low dairy yield (700g)
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Rodos goats

Two well differentiated types in 1929. Population 18000.

Domestic Rodos Goats

Locals attribute to Egyptian origin. Moderate population. Always kept in domestic confinement. Medium size, short coated. Colours various : dark red, red/white, black/white, also solid, black, white, yellow/orange. High dairy yield.

Free Range Rodos Goats

A cross of pre-existing native Rodos goats with Anatolians imported from Turkey. Weight 25-30 kg. Generous size, hardy and rustic. Very uniform type. Long coated. Mostly black but in southern areas white. Most numerous.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Rhodos Island; Dodekanese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	various
Weight	25-30kg



Samos

Unconfirmed. At least one native type seems to in Samos.
Uniform herd(s) of no known breed have been documented.
Requires investigation.

Web sources indicate as many as six different types occur in Samos.

Type A and B are quite distinctive and merit investigation.

Type B is different to A despite superficial similarities.

Somewhat resembles Karystos and to a lesser extent the vertical spiral horned Ulokeros sub-type.

Type C is superficially similar to A but essentially different.

Type D is fairly uniform and rather small.

Types E and F are closer to conventional mainland forms, especially E.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	N-E-Aegean Island Grup; Samos
Risk status	unknown
Colour	silver grey, offwhite
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Serres

Has received small amounts of Damascus breed. Breeding continues without any additions of alien blood. Has received some attention from the University of Thessaloniki.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Colour	black
Coat	long
Horns	variable
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Sfakia Goat-Crete

Sfakia in mountainous south-west Crete. Unrecognized. Distinct for its prominent roman nose. Known only locally.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas, S. Makaritis



Skopelos

Local names: Skopelos

Early on the decade of '80s the Center for Animal Genetic Improvement of Karditsa, in co-operation with the Directorate of Agriculture of Magnisia, noticed the existence of a different goat breed at Northern Sporades island complex, across Magnisia (Skopelos and Alonnisos islands). That breed was named after their location as the "Skopelos" breed, by the author. Nowadays there are approximately 8,000 goats of this breed; half of them are located at the islands of Northern Sporades, whereas the rest of them are bred at the mountain area of Magnisia, especially at the mountain Pilio. Male goats of this breed are used widely for reproduction in many farms and goat-herds all over Greece, for the improvement of the herd.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Skopelos, Northern Sporades; Magnisia (Mainland)
Population size	8000 (incl. crossbreeds)
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	reddish brown or black and fawn, occ. with white patches
Coat	short, smooth and glistening hair
Horns	horns are fairly spiral shaped. Female and male horns are 32 and 46 cm long respectively.
Weight	rams 87 kg; ewes 74 kg
Height	rams 81 cm; ewes 72 cm
Use	milk, meat
Productivity	5% fat Remarks EU study (ENQUÊTE CEE DG XI (1991): Etude C.E.E. sur les petites races de ruminants domestiques / E.E.C. study on small breeds of domestic ruminants (Annexe 1-3: Questionnaires.): height: 70-75/ 62-66 (m/f); weight: 50-65/40-50 (m/f)
Source of information	V. Lekkas; FAO; Internet; V. Pappas



Skyros

A small local goat. Free ranging. Its status as a valid breed is unsettled. Population reported at 60,000.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	N-Sporades
Population size	60000
Risk status	not at risk
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Small Ear Goat gene

Small ears or near absence of ears is a feature characterising several populations such as Aridaia, Karystos and Lesvos goats. Individual specimens may occur in variable herds of native goats throughout Greece. Kakavoulas herd.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas.



Spiral Horn Goat gene

The gene, for spiral, upwardly growing horns, has several manifestations in various Greek regions. In Karystos/Evoia, Lokris and Samos exist fairly concrete populations of goats displaying the feature. Individual specimens with spiralling horns growing at less steep, 35-45 degree angles, also occur in mixed herds of various regions.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Remarks	Pics Vasilis Lekkas from Kakavoulas herd
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Thiva

A large goat with impressive horns stretching sideways like extended arms with slightly twisted palms. Observed herds display considerable uniformity. Colours variable with many parti-coloureds. Information for this and several other types is often clashing and confusing especially the terminology employed by locals for identifying the various strains/types.

More research is needed for establishing the identities of the Thiva, Hasia, Barbastiko goat and the anonymous type from the adjacent inland (Hasia/Dervenohoria) region. Except pure herds there are probably mixed ones where several pure types co-exist as well their crosses.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Province Viothia; Central Greece
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Ulokeratiki, Oulokeratiki

Local names: Kourouta



A large size, robust goat with mediul long coat of variable colours. Horn carriage is most distinctive and hard to describe. Essentially horns form circle(s) or wreathe(es) turning in front of the head. Good photos achieve this best. To our knowledge Ulokeratiki Goat has a completely unique set of horns not found in the breeds listed in various sources and extensive web data . Normally horns can be placed in broad groups even by casual observers. Ulokeratiki horns cannot be comfortably categorized into any of the conventional classifications.

An alleged sub-type/variation of Ulokeros proper has vertically growing spiral horns. In certain herds the two types co-exist despite appearing drastically different. This sub-type has horns similar to the Italian/Sicilian Girgentana. According to Italian sources Girgentana was derived from Greek "Ulokeros" found in ancient Greek colonies in Sicily. This sub-type is little understood, generating much confusion*. Certain Greek sources report an "Orthokourouta". The term indicates an Ulokeros/Kourouta with vertically growing spiral horns,often, mistakenly listed as a synonym for the (very different) Barbastiko breed. All accounts point to an Ulokeros variation with vertical spiral horns-Orthokourouta-and strong links to Greco-Sicilian Girgentana. A recent, unconfirmed report, indicates that at least one herd exists where this type predominates. Sporadic specimens/phenotypes in other herds are probably remnants of a formerly concrete breed. The distribution of this relic population is unclear but becomes better known as research progresses.

*Karystos and Samos type F goats show similarities but are both island forms.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Boetia-Fthiotis region, Yliki Lakes (Viothia)
Population size	17 (pure 2004)
Risk status	critical
Coat	medium
Weight	45 kg
Height	65 cm
Use	meat milk
Productivity	meat(1.2-1.3/ delivery), dairy(60-70 l)
Source of information	V. Lekkas; V.Pappas



Valtestiotiki

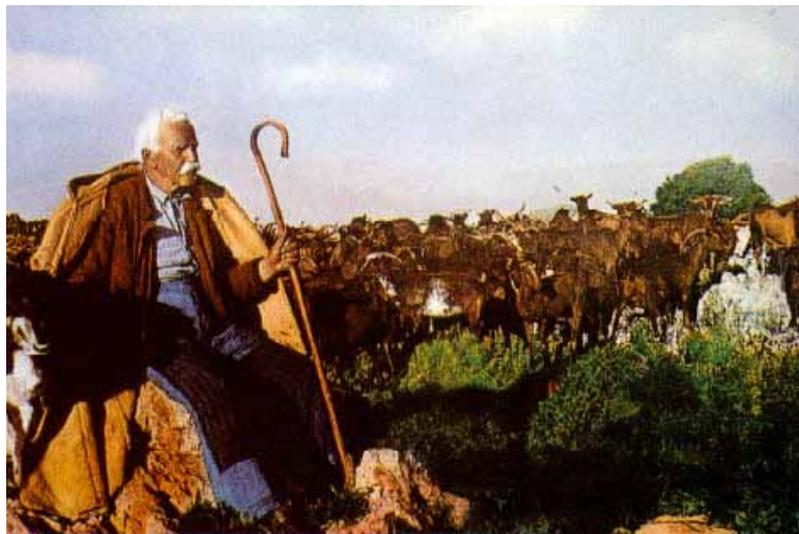
Local names: Valtetsi, Liaro, Liara

Partly confirmed. Superficially similar to Skopelos Goat but the latter are larger, higher on the leg and with slightly different horns. "Liara/Liara" in the Peloponnese describes red colour broken by white markings irrespective of breed. Sometimes Valtetsi Goats may be referred to as "Liara or Liares".



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Arcadia, central Peloponnese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	red, rarely minimal white markings on the underbelly and the muzzle
Coat	short
Head	Horns and ears are carried parallel to the ground
Remarks	Unconfirmed web photo from the Mainalo Mountain probably depicts a Valtetsi Goats herd.
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Vlahiki

It was only few decades ago when the official reports in bibliography mentioned the existence of only one goat breed, known as “native” breed and called as “Vlachiki” by many authors. This is the main breed in the majority of rural and island areas in Greece. It is a descendant of the wild breed *Capra Prisca* and it seems very likely that they have not changed their morphological characteristics for hundreds of years. An estimated number of about 2,000,000 goats of this breed have been suggested to be bred in pure herds all over the country. A great number of goats of this breed have been mixed with other breeds, mainly from foreign countries, such as Malta, Zaannen, Toggeburg, Alpine, Damaskus, etc.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognized
Area of distribution	Mountain areas mainland and islands
Population size	2 Mio
Risk status	not at risk
Coat	hair of regular size
Head usually no beard;	Their ears are of regular size, horizontal, occasionally slightly hanging.
Horns	sword-like horns which extend on a nearly parallel line. They decline backwards, as far as the animal's neck
Weight	46.8 kg
Height	62.5 cm
Use	milk
Productivity	90-100 l; fertility: 1,1- 1,2 kids per birth
Source of information	V. Lekkas; V. Pappas



Zarka Goat

Confirmed. A breed originally from Epiros, lately mostly bred in mountainous Thessaly- Farkadona environs- a few herds remain in Epiros. One of the largest and tallest native goats. Attains weight of 70 kgs. Long neck. Long head held at an upright position. Back straight. Croup sloping. A typical feature is very short, shiny coat with a total absence of feathering. Colour mostly black/tan, solid black common, a few reds with minimal black areas, very rarely red with white flanks and black with small white markings. Fairly good dairy yield, good fecundity-usually gives birth to twins. A very old pure breed, never crossed with other types either native or foreign. Total population is estimated at 2,000 distributed among four breeders.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Epiros, Thessaly
Population size	2000 (four breeders, 2004)
Risk status	critical
Colour	black/tan, solid black common, a few reds with minimal black areas, very rarely red with white flanks and black with small white markings.
Coat	short shiny coat
Head	long neck, long upright head
Weight	70 kg
Use	meat milk
Source of information	V. Lekkas

Horses

Ainos Horse

Local names: Ainos Kefalonia Feral Horse; Ainos Pony

On Kefalonia island (a feral Pindos descendant) should be secured by feeding in winter time. 25 heads survived with only 7 mares! A small group of feral horses roaming free in Ainos mountain range. Originally of Pindos type. Adaptation to harsh local conditions created a divergent strain. Widely known despite lack of official recognition.



Details:

Official acceptance	Feral or semi feral group
Area of distribution	Kefalonia island; in the forest of Ainos mountain
Population size	25
Risk status	critical
Head	big head
Height	115-125 cm
Use	riding, feral
Remarks	WWF Greece will contact the local environment organisation (2006)
Source of information	J. Menegatos, Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Amvrakikos Horse

not studied yet

Details:

Official acceptance	Feral or semi feral group
Area of distribution	Amvrakikos
Population size	200-500
Risk status	unknown
Use	Feral group
Source of information	M. Konstantin



Andravida Horse

Local names: Eilia, Eleia



The largest Greek horse. It was developed by crossing native Eleia mares with anglonormand stallions introduced during the middle ages. In the beginning of the last century it was crossed with Angloarabs and after the 1920 with Nonius horses. It was used as the foundation stock for the creation of the Zante horse population. It has a deep, muscular breast and rather short canon bones.

(The first reports of the ancestors of the Andravida horse came from the fourth century BC, where they were used by Athenians as cavalry horses. These animals were large, strong, and powerful, and could be used for working as well as fighting. In particular, they were used in conquest and on trade routes to carry goods.) It has to be noted that the Eleia plain, suitable for raising big horses, is still providing horses for work and sports.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Mainly W-Greece Andravida near Olympia, Peloponnese
Population size	35 pure; 75 crossbred
Risk status	critical
Colour	roan, bay, chestnut, brown,; sometimes white markings on the head or sides
Head	regular with slightly protruding forehead.
Height	140 –160 cm Use draft, riding
Remarks	Plain Type
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Aravani horse

Unrecognised. Somewhat controversial. A gaited Greek horse bred mainly in Siatista and Pella towns of western Macedonia. Its status remains unclear. It may be a locally bred, standardized, gaited horse from indigenous stock or a composite of various gaited Greek breeds/specimens. Selectively bred at a special farm by local equine society. Exported to Austria and Germany. A stud book for 60 German imports is established. Presently, no Greek stud book. "Aravani" is also a generic term describing a particular gait found in various Greek horses irrespective of breed. Confirmed "Aravani" gaited Greek horses are Messara 100%, and Penia 50%. Conceivably, a population of "Aravani" gaited horses concentrated in the Siatista and Pella regions, was cultivated eventually leading to a recognisable type. Conformation of Aravani horses on tv reports appeared uniform. Fairly high profile. Widely publicized.



Aravania is the name for the Greek species of single-footing horses. Before their replacement by machines, they were widely used in agriculture and cattle-breeding. Shoulder: rather steep; Neck: highlighted, strong, with great muscle mass, strong, wide, especially at its base, medium length; Back: well shaped chest, back is straight and usually inclined upwards; Croup: inclined, with the tail based on high spot. Legs: stead, dry; Hoof small but very hard .

Details:

Official acceptance	Local group, not officially recognised
Area of distribution	Slatista and Pelia region
Risk status	unknown
Colour	Mainly fishy colour, black, white, brown, brown-black, Seldom brown-red.
Head	Noble, rather long, with straight or slightly bent profile. Large eyes
Height	1.30-1.50m.
Use	draft; riding
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Yannis Vassilopoulos, M. Konstantinidou

Axios Horse

A population of 70 horses living in the Delta of Axios was recorded by “Amaltheia”. Another 20 horses are isolated in an island in Axios river a few Km away from the Delta. This population occurred from working horses of Greek breeds abandoned in 1960-70. They present an uniform type with characteristics of Pindos and Thessaly breed.



Details:

Official acceptance	Feral or semi feral group
Area of distribution	Axios River Delta, C-Macedonia
Population size	90
Risk status	critical
Colour	black, brown, bay, grey, grey sprinkled
Use	Feral group
Source of information	M. Konstantinidou, N. Kostaras, K. Papaioannou



Creta pony

Local names: Messara Horse

An indigenous Cretan breed. Imported about 1500. Evolved in the Cretan region of Messara. It has Arab features due to the importation of arab stallions during the Turkish occupation of the island. Famous as a gaited horse. Slight increase in numbers. Conservation efforts begin to bear results. herdbook since 1994.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Crete Island and other places in Greece, also expoted to Europe
Population size	203 (1994: 81 males 101 females)
Risk status	endangered
Colour	multi coloured: brown with fairly few tints (black and dark brown) or grey (dark, spotted, pale)
Weight	males: 130 kg; females 120 kg
Height	males: 140 cm, females: 134 cm
Use	pacer; riding
Remarks	The indigenous Greek horse and Pony breeds are originated from the Balkan Pony, which has been transformed in two types, mountain and and plain type.
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkas, M. Konsantinidou



Greek Warmblood

An attempt of owners of imported horses of different breeds ,mainly show jumpers, to register their horses and their offspring. An attempt to co-ordinate the breeding of foreign riding horses kept in Greece for several decades. A Greek Warmblood horse registry is under formation.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou

Lesvos pony

Local names: Midili

Unrecognised and not studied. Unrecognised and not studied. Reported as a confirmed native horse more or less like Skyros pony.before 1900. This little horse has disappeared during the war Today they call midili a bigger horse (pacer). The introduction of other breeds like thoroughbred led to an unknown situation that needs to be studied.



Details:

Official acceptance	Local group, not officially recognised
Population size	300
Risk status	endangered
Source of information	V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Lipsi Island Horse

Unverified information of feral horses on Lipsi isle. A need to investigate if these are of the Aegean miniature type; (Rodoss or Lesvos breeds) or other type(s).



Details:

Official acceptance	No information available
Area of distribution	Islet near Lipsi
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou

Peneia pony

Local names: Penia horse; Pineia, Geogalidiko, Geogaludiko, Ravani

The mountain horse of the Peloponnese; composite of Arab stallions and indigenous, local mares of the Greek Mountain Horse breed; Chest and pelvis are wide; herdbook since 1994.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	NW-Peloponnese, Ionia and Achaia Prefecture
Population size	69 stallions; 231 mares (2002)
Risk status	endangered
Colour	all solid colours: grey, brown, red-grey
Height	males 142 cm, females 136 cm
Use	pacers; riding; pack
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkas, M. Konstantinidou



Pindos Pony

Evolved and adapted to steep mountainous terrain of the Pindos mountain in Epirous and Thessaly but it is also found in Makedonia and Thrace. The Pindos pony is extremely hardy, sure-footed and can survive on very small rations, making it an excellent animal for carrying heavy loads through mountainous terrain. It is the most representative pony of the mountain type with a narrow body and a relatively big head with the nostrils relatively low near the mouth. The Pindos has strong thin legs, its tail is set high and the hooves are narrow and hard. Lack of muscles in the neck and quarters. Smaller, shorter backed than Thessalian horse.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Mountains of Thessaly, Epirus up to Central Greece, western and Central Macedonia
Population size	81 stallions + 464 mares (2002)
Risk status	endangered
Colour	multi coloured: dark brown, chestnut, grey
Height	males 115 - 135 cm, females 122 cm
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkass; M. Konstantinidou



Rodope

Local names: Rodopi

The mountain type horse spread all over Greece is Pindos pony variations depending on the work requirements (pack, riding, ploughing). The name Rodope was invented in 1997 (during the first official census) so that local owners could benefit from financial support, since the ministry of Agriculture had put geographical restrictions for the recognized breeds.

Under the name Rodope were also registered for the same reasons bigger horses found in the plains of Thrace that were closer to Thessaly breed.

Rodope horse mostly represents to our minds the feral horses that live in the mountains of Rodope and Xanthe. A population of more than 100 horses living in the mountain of Rodope and Xanthe with characteristics of Pindos and Thessaly breed. It is not studied yet.



Details:

Official acceptance	Local group, not officially recognised
Area of distribution	Northern mountainous communities of Rodopi and Xanthi
Population size	1000
Risk status	unknown
Colour	bay, gray and roan, rarely blond and isabella, with markings on head and legs.
Height	about 135cm (125 - 145cm)
Use	Feral group
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Rodos Small Horse

Local names: Rhodos small horse



Probably these horses belonged together with Midili and Skyros pony in a wider population of small horses spread in all Aegean islands. Formerly, more widespread but never numerous. During WWII Italian authorities registered 150 specimens. At earlier times Rodos horses were introduced to various Dodecanese isles such as Kos. Research for locating further genetic material in adjacent islands is imperative. Not officially recognised but fairly well studied. Lately has achieved some prominence due to press and tv coverage. Professor Alessandro Ghigi in 1926, mentioned a Plains Rodos Horse. Currently presumed extinct or un-reported. Larger than the small mountain horses but medium in actual terms. Ghigi speculated a different lineage of combined bloodlines with other breeds. 2007: 3 males, 8 females left. 4 of them are older than 10 years.. Population is not increasing, but old animals can be replaced by young ones.

Details:

Official acceptance	Local group, not officially recognised
Area of distribution	Rhodos, Dodecanese Islands
Population size	3stallions, 8 studs
Risk status	critical
Colour	Bay, chestnut, dull black/gray. No white markings tolerated, except white chest star
Height	80 - 115cm
Use	Working animal in lowland areas.
Remarks	Buletino di Zoologia, Publicato Napoli 1930, Ano 1, Vol.1, Unione Zoologica Italiana.
Source of information	Lekkas; K. Papaianou; M. Konstantinidou



Samothraki Horse

A native horse reported by reliable sources and subject to investigation. Mentioned along Rodos and Lesvos horses as belonging to the Aegean pony group. Probably larger than the last two. Markedly red colour.



Details:

Official acceptance	No information available
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas; M. Konsantinidou

Sifnos Horse

No detailed information

Details:

Official acceptance	No information available
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas, M. Konstantinidou



Serres Horse

Local names: Bosdakas

not studied yet

Details:

Official acceptance	Feral or semi feral group
Area of distribution	Serres: Menikio mountains (Bosdakas)
Population size	200
Risk status	unknown
Use	Feral group
Source of information	M. Konstantinidou



Skyros pony

Skyros and Rodos are the smaller Greek horses of mountain type. Three grades A, B, C. Type A is most undiluted. B slightly diluted. C tends to be larger due to crossbreeding. Judicious crossing of C mares to small stallions will reduce average height. Well studied and publicized. Fairly high profile. recognised by Ministry of Agriculture with permission to register all existing Skyros horses. Breeding cooperation under construction 2009. In the studbook of the Skyros horse society has been estimated 177 horses.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Skyros island, Thessaloniki, Corfu, Larissa, Athens
Population size	141 on Skyros. About 100 in the Greek mainland in small breeding nuclei
Risk status	endangered
Weight	180-220kg
Height	95-115cm
Use	riding
Remarks	2007: Union of Skyros horse breeders has been officially



Sykia Horse

No detailed information

Details:

Official acceptance	No information available
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Thassos Horse

Unconfirmed speculation. A source alluded to the presence of native horses on Thassos island. Historically, Thassos, Lesvos, Skyros and Rodos horses formed the Aegean miniaturized horse group. Skyros, Rodos and Lesvos types have modern descendants. No current data on the Thassos variety. It may survive as a local "non descript" working horse.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Thessalian Pony

Local names: Thessaly Horse

This breed has originated in the Thessaly plains since ancient times. It used to provide the Thessalian cavalry with good quality horses. Unfortunately this ancient breed is under extinction. The need for larger more powerful horses after the first world war led to the introduction of arab and angloarab stallions.

The Thessalian horse can be found mainly in Thessaly (mostly crossed with Pindos ponies) and Greek islands where it is used in carriages (eg Spetses).



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Spetses, Hydra, Santorini, Thessaly
Population size	stallions: 93; mares: 492 (2001)
Risk status	endangered
Head	big head, long ears and narrow neck
Height	135 - 145 cm Use riding, draft animal
Remarks	Plain Type
Source of information	J. Menegatos; V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Zante Horse

Local names: Zakynthos horse

Developed in early 1900s and interwar period. Cross of Elia mares and Anglo-Arab stallions. Exhibited as Anglo-Arabs at local shows. Widely considered most handsome of Greek horses. A few local families own most of them. It is a population not yet stabilized morphologically. The aim is a big black elegant horse suitable both for riding and carriages.



Details:

Official acceptance	Local group, not officially recognised
Area of distribution	Island of Zante (Zakynthos)
Risk status	unknown
Colour	mostly black, but other colours occur
Height	145 - 155cm
Use	mainly coach and riding
Source of information	J. Menegatos, V. Lekkas; M. Konstantinidou



Pigs

Agrinion pig

A certain number of non-descript, freely foraging pigs can be found in various localities. Many are various shades of brown, but a few solid black and parti-colours exist.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Agrinion area, C-Greece
Risk status	unknown
Colour	brown, black and parti-colours
Source of information	V. Lekkas



Black greek pig

Local names: Hassia pig

A traditional breed. Sometimes known as Hassia pig. Population roughly 400 showing a slight increase. Medium size, medium long coat. Usually solid black. A few brown variants are of questionable purity. Small nuclei in various localities. Formerly very abundant. Unconfirmed larger and smaller types.



1930 Greek source-Encyclopedia Eleftheroudaki- includes white based with black/dark spots as a valid original colour along the dominant black and dark gray. Dark spotted ivory based patterns still occur in unimproved, free ranging native pigs. Some experts perceive them as a result of recent alien blood infusion. Small mature body, characterised by long muzzle- this type-accounts more than 70% of the total population. Large mature body weight (90-130 kg) also occurring.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Xanthi, Etoloakarnania, Ileia (Peneia)
Population size	about 400
Risk status	critical
Colour	solid black
Coat	medium long
Weight	35-65 kg; long muzzle
Height	medium size
Use	meat: carcass
Productivity	two litters of 8-10 piglets; maturity: 8 months; Carcass: 50 kg; slaughter age: 240-300 days
Source of information	V. Lekkas; S. Deligiorgis (AuA)



Ikaria Island-Aegean

Native Ikaria pigs were formerly known but no longer extant. Description is not available but may have been similar to Cycladic, Cretan or the extinct Rodos types. The Cretan form may barely survive and related to Cycladic type. As in Tinos, Ikaria locals regret the loss of their breed and frustrated at the inability of imported breeds to match the high quality of its products. The distribution and conformation of the largely extinct Aegean native pigs remains obscure and uninvestigated. Internet Pics of free ranging Folegandros and Kassos pigs of uncertain identity.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Aegean Islands
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Karditsa Pig

Described as having short legs. This type is only sporadically mentioned and its validity as a breed is widely contested either in the past or present. VIMA newspaper 20/7/1997. There have been no recent reports or confirmation of its existence. Research on the fate of the last specimens is urgent. Its numbers must have further declined since 1997. The newspaper article stressed the urgent need to conserve the breed.



Details:

Area of distribution	Karditsa, Thessaly
Population size	200
Risk status	critical
Colour	white
Head	very long body and head, and drop ears.
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Peloponnese flat muzzled pig

Unconfirmed old native breed rumoured from Elia in Peloponnese. Similar to Black Greek Pig but with a flat muzzle and different ear carriage. Reputedly survives in a few isolated pockets. Never formally described.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Elia, Peloponnese
Risk status	unknown
Colour	black, flat muzzle
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Rodos Pig

Extinct according to Rodos sources

Not fixed, but two forms predominated in 1929. Per Vittorino Vezzani. Rodi e il suo Problema Zootecnico. A: Sub-concave profiled is more numerous; B: Concave profiled. Combined population: low hundreds. Mainly raised for fat and carcass. Generally low lying pigs. Coat texture not described but old photos show semi-long/rough coated pigs. Colour solid white or white with randomly distributed black spots, mostly confined to the anterior and posterior areas.



Details:

Risk status	critical
Colour	solid white or white with randomly distributed black spots, mostly confined to the anterior and posterior areas
Coat	semi-long/rough coated
Head	Ears very small, triangular, carried horizontally, rarely drop.
Use	meat: carcass and fat
Productivity	12 months: 50-65 Kg; 18 months 120 Kg
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Tinos native pig

Confirms earlier impression that the Tinos strain/variety was indeed different though perhaps related to Syros Pig. Also confirms suspicion formerly several pig strains existed in various Cycladic and Aegean islands. Tinos Pig was much appreciated for the quality of its carcass. Desperately sought and fondly remembered by inhabitants but specimens are no longer extant. No new/imported breed or attempted crosses proves adaptable to local conditions. (source: Kosmas Faroutza).



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Cycladic and Aegean Islands
Risk status	Unknown
Use	carcass
Source of information	V. Lekkas; K. Faroutza

Sheep

Aegean Sea Sheep

A breed indigenous to the Aegean islands and distributed throughout the Greek archipelago. Poorly defined. Description unavailable. Population is estimated at 100,000. Requires further investigation as to distribution and type variability between islands. East Aegean islands such as Lesbos, and Chios have their own breeds and Kasos is suspected to harbour a distinctive strain. Skyros, Skopelos, Ikaria have distinctive breeds. Crete has five breeds. Least documented are sheep from Cyclades, south-east & north Aegean, and Dodecanese islands. Presently, "Aegean Sheep" is best understood as a loose generic term.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Aegean Islands
Population size	100000
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Vasileios G. Pappas



Agrinion Oak Forest Sheep

Local names: Agriniou; Agrinio Sheep, Kalessa

Only three herds of which one in Kastika breeding station, Ioannina. A number of unregistered isolated individuals in mixed herds in the wider Arginio area. Two more probably unregistered herds identified in the Lamia coastal areas. A uniformly small sheep; A particular Kalessa sub-type (single herd) differs in having universally black heads. Unrecognized.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Lamia coast, Agrinio oak forest
Population size	673, three herds
Risk status	endangered
Colour	unicoloured white-fawn with black spots on the head
Horns	rams:spraled sideways; ewes polled
Weight	ram: 72kg; 60kg
Height	ram: 76cm; ewe: 67cm
Productivity	milkyield: 120-150kg; littersize: 1.1-1.3
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas, Apostolis Tzoganis, Antonios Kominakis; Prof Dr. A. Georgoudis



Alonisos Sheep

Unconfirmed identity. Described as very similar but not necessarily identical to Glossa Sheep from Skopelos.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Alonisos
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Anogia

Local names: Psiloritiko, Anogeiano, Metaksomallo



Mountain areas above 600 m. Larger than Asterousia and has several conformation differences; thin-tailed; Their special characteristic is their silk-like hair.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognized
Area of distribution	Crete: Mountain Psiloritis
Population size	4500 - 5000, 19 herds
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	80% have white bodies with red heads, legs, ears, white head blazes.
Coat	silky fleece; uniform Haired
Horns	Both sexes mostly polled.
Weight	ewes: 27 kg
Height	Ram: 62 cm; Ewe: 57cm
Productivity	milk yield: low; litter size: One lamb per birth
Remarks	picture 1: C. Ligda
Source of information	A. Kominakis; E. Rogdakis; University of Athens; C. Ligda, Univ. Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Argos Sheep

Local names: Argous

originally from Asia Minor. Population 500 but probably declining. Ammos village has two pure herds. An additional herd in Messinia. Isolated pure specimens in mixed herds. Six herds near Argos with over 50% purity.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Amos village, Messinia, Peloponnese
Population size	110 - 500
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with black head
Coat	fat tailed
Weight	ram: 70 kg; ewe: 59 kg
Height	ram: 85 cm; ewe: 70 cm
Use	milk, meat
Productivity	milk yield: 140-160kg; litter size: 1.5-1.8
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki, Vasileios G. Pappas



Arvanito vlahiko

mountain var. of Greek Zackel, usu. white with black round eyes; Gr. Arvanitovlahiko (= Albanian Vlach)

Details:

Remarks	extinct??
Source of information	Mason

Asterousia Mountain

Local names: Asterousiou; Asterousiano
Thin- tailed



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Crete: Asterousiana mountains
Population size	2500
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	60-70% white with red or spotted heads. 30% black. Negligible proportion of whites.
Coat	very silky fleece; mixed haired
Horns	rams: horned; ewes polled
Weight	ewe: 33kg
Height	ram: 60 cm; ewe: 56 cm
Productivity	Milkyield nearly 50 l per lactation period; One lamb per birth
Source of information	A. Kominakis; E. Rogdakis; University of Athens; Vasileios G. Pappas



Boutsiko Sheep

Local names: Orino of Epirus

descends from Vlahiko, crossed with Sarakatsaniko and Grammoustiano end of the 18th century



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	mountainous regions of Epirus and West Macedonia
Population size	9500
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	multi coloured: very diverse, most common is white with brown or black spots on face and legs
Horns	85% males usually have big spiral shaped horns; females polled or with very small horns
Weight	ram: 47.5 kg; ewe: 40 kg
Height	ram: 57.5 cm; ewe: 53.5 cm
Use	milk, meat, wool
Productivity	milkyield: 108 kg
Remarks	picture: http://www.kalarrites.com/photos/IMG_0472.JPG
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis



Chalkidiki

Local names: Chalkidikis



Details:

Area of distribution	Chalkidiki
Risk status	extinct
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki

Chania

Local names: Hania

Reported but unconfirmed variety.

Details:

Area of distribution Crete
Source of information Lekkas



Chios Island Sheep

Semi-fat-tailed. The tail is broad at base and cone-shaped;
Description by Mason: 81/70-76 (m/f); Weight: 65-80/48-52 (m/f); E:E:C:: 2000 purebred animals on the Island of Chios. Bred in Cyprus in even greater numbers, exported to Argentina. Original population on island of Chios is seriously declining.



Details:

Area of distribution	Chios Island, Aegean sea, Cyprus
Population size	10000-50000
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	white, black or chestnut spots around eyes, ears and note tip, legs
Coat	cylindrical locks of medium coarse wool; bare head, legs and belly
Head	Roman nose
Horns	rams: long spiral horns; ewes polled
Weight	60-80 kg
Height	Male: 84 cm, Female: 76 cm
Use	triple purpose (milk-meat-wool)
Productivity	Milk: nearly 250 kg in each milking period; fertility 2 -2.5
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Drama Sheep

A highly variable local type. Probably not well studied.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Drama
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Friessarta

Local names: Frizarta, Frislandomorfo of Arta

A cross between local Arta and Friessland sheep. Sheep of this breed cannot survive under dry hot conditions. The animals must be carefully managed, as it is a very sensitive and demanding breed. The sheep are housed at night and during bad weather. It is a breed adequate for small or medium size flocks with grazing near to the stable.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Arta, NW-Greece
Population size	57 000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	uni-coloured: white with red-brown rings around the eyes
Horns	both sexes are polled; males very rarely have horns
Weight	rams: 100 kg; ewes: 72.5 kg
Height	rams: 82.5 cm; ewes: 76.5 cm
Use	carcass and dairy
Productivity	high productive sheep; lambings twice a year; milkyield: 250 kg
Remarks	susceptible to pneumonic diseases
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis , Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Gramoustiani

Details

Population size extinct
Source of information Lekkas

Ikaria

Local names: Ikarian Eudylos Sheep; Evidilou

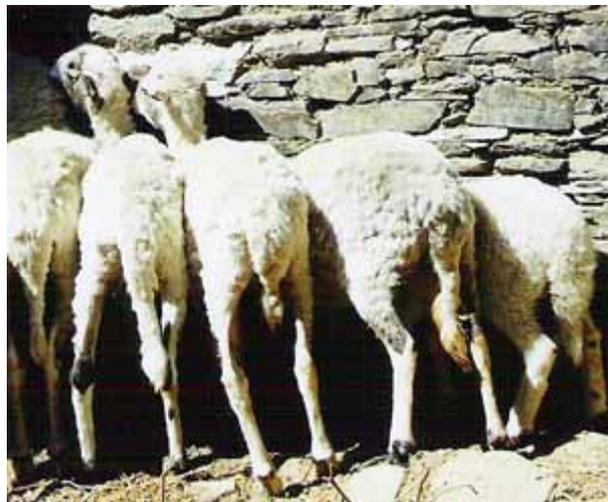
Possibly the rarest Greek sheep. Only one herd of 30 ewes and two rams exists. They are semi-wide-tailed. Urgent need of conservation.

No recent data or confirmation of its continual existence.



Details

Area of distribution Ikaria Island; Dodekanesos, SE Greece
Population size 30 ewes and 2 rams, 1 herd
Risk status critical
Weight ram: 60 kg; ewe: 40 kg
Height ram: 74 cm; ewe: 66 cm
Productivity milkyield: 90-150 kg; littersize: 1.3-1.6
Source of information Vasils Laekas; A Kominakis; E.Rogdakis, University Athens, Vasileios G Pappas



Kalaritiko

Local names: Kalarritiko; Kalaritiki; Kalarytiko

imported from south Italy probably from Comisana breed of Sicily 250 - 300 years ago; Ability to walk long distances and climb steep slopes, special historical value. Their special characteristic is their wide chest, which is separated in two halves by a longitudinal line; thin-tailed



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognized
Area of distribution	Ioannina: Kalarrytes, Syrako; Tzoumerka mountains in Epirus; plains of Thessaly during winter
Population size	2800
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	white with brown spots on head and feet
Coat	mixed-haired
Weight	ram: 64kg; ewe: 45 kg
Height	ram: 67cm; ewe: 58cm
Use	milk; meat
Productivity	milk: 80-100kg in 120 days lactation; litter size: 1.2-1.3
Remarks	picture1: Sirrako, Epirus 2002; DAD-IS
Source of information	Prof. Dr. Andreas Georgoudis; Aristotle University; Dep. of Animal Production; Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Karagouniko



Best type is Karditsa, Palama and Trikala. Many crossbred flocks and individual specimens in mixed herds, thin-tailed
Milk production measured in 18,000 ewes under usual feeding was 183 kg in each milking period. The best herd produced a mean milk amount of 368 kg. The best ewe produced 560 kg of milk.

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Plains of western Thessaly; Trikala, Palama. Karditsa types
Population size	220000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	uni colour: white with black spots on head and feet
Head	Prominent extended Roman nose
Horns	rams: big, spiral shaped horns. A small percentage have small horns; others are polled
Weight	rams: 80 kg; ewes: 57 kg
Height	rams: 78 cm; ewes: 68 cm
Use	triple purpose (milk-meat-wool)
Productivity	milkyield: 189 kg; littersize: 1.3; suitable for machine milking
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki, Vasileios G. Pappas



Karystos Sheep

Local names: Karystou

Distinguished for three gradations of small ears.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	S-Euboea Island, Karystos
Population size	64000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	Mostly white body, red head and legs.
Head	Males slightly Roman nosed.
Height	rams: 64 cm; ewes: 59 cm
Productivity	Milk: 80-100 kg; 1,15 lambs per birth
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Kassos Sheep

Unconfirmed sheep from Kassos Island. Small sized. Web photo of uniform herd.

Must be seen in the context of an Aegean breed with many local variations. Independent sources confirmed it is noted and known for its small size.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Head	very small ears
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; H.P. Grünenfelder



Katafygion Sheep

Local names: Katafygion; Katafygiou

Ruda type, finest in Greece; Exceedingly rare.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	SE-Macedonia
Risk status	extinct
Colour	usually white
Coat	bare head, belly and legs; coarse wool
Horns	rams horned; ewes polled
Use	triple purpose (milk-meat-wool)
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki

Katsika

Local names: Ioannina sheep; Karamaniko; Mavromatiko

One of the most productive sheep breed in the mountainous areas of Greece; high resistance to low temperatures and high agility



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Ioannina
Population size	1685
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with black circles round eyes and black ears
Weight	ram 69kg; ewe: 50kg
Height	ram: 70cm; ewe: 61cm
Productivity	milk yield: 110-130kg(cheese); litter size: 1.2-1.4; excellent meat quality
Remarks	In vivo programme 1998-2006
Source of information	Kominakis; E. Rogdakis, University Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, University Thessaloniki, Vasileios G Pappas



Kefalonia Sheep

Local names: Kefallinias, Katseno, Kefallinia

Superficially similar to Karystos mainly in terms of colour. Close inspection reveals conformation differences. Possibly found also in Ithaki Island and some Peloponnese localities. Zackel type, thin-tailed



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Keffalonia Island; Ionian Sea
Population size	2000
Risk status	vulnerable
Colour	White wool with brown/red head, and back of neck
Horns	males horned
Weight	ram: 58 kg; ewe: 44 kg
Height	rams: 65cm; ewes: 60 cm
Productivity	milkyield: 150-170 kg; litter size: 1.1-1.3
Remarks	pictures: C. Ligda; University of Thessaloniki
Source of information	Vasils Lekkas; A Kominakis; E.Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof Dr. A. Georgoudis, University of Thessaloniki, Vasileios G.Pappas



Kerkyra

Local names: Levkimi

Extinct. The original population was lost through officially encouraged crosses with other native breeds in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tall animal with a long body, long head, slightly convex profile; clean face, long, thin legs; kept in small flocks by fruit and vegetable growers for its high milk production.



Details:

Risk status	extinct
Head	long head; black eyes, ears and nose
Use	milk
Source of information	Lekkas; Mason;

Kivircik

Local names: Rounta-Rounta, Ghekiko Kivirzik , Dhitiki Thraki

Though mostly identified with Turkey, old sources (1930) include it with the native breeds. There is only one flock of Thraki sheep found at the village of Kehros, in Rodopi Prefecture (in Thrace, north-eastern Greece); Tsigai origin.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Kehros, Rodopi Prefecture, Thrace, NE-Greece
Population size	234
Risk status	critical
Colour	white with brown and black spots on head and feet
Coat	Very wavy to almost curly coated; thin tail
Horns	spiral shaped horns
Weight	ewe: 38 kg
Height	ram: 63 cm; ewe: 55 cm
Use	wool
Remarks	picture: http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5303t/y5303t09.htm
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis



Kokovitiko

Local names: Akovitiko

Derived from native mountain sheep. A small, hardy sheep. Gives birth to single young. Long thin tail.



Details:

Official acceptance	awaiting recognition
Area of distribution	Mountain regions of central Peloponnese;
Population size	Kontovazena village 700
Risk status	endangered
Colour	White body, head reddish or reddish/brown either solid or spotted. Mainly white, but many specimens with ticking on the face.
Coat	Wool is thick displaying two textures
Head	Small triangular head, small ears and sometimes entirely absent, straight face, small top knot on skull
Horns	Males are horned. Females polled, some may have small horns.
Weight	ram: 56kg; ewe: 41kg
Height	ram: 63 cm; ewe: 55 cm
Use	meat
Productivity	milk yield: 60-80kg; litter size: 0.9-1.1
Source of information	Vasils Laekas; A Kominakis; E. Rogdakis, University Athens; Vasileios G. Pappas



Kozani Sheep

Based on high percentage crosses of various native mountain breeds threatened with extinction. Not entirely fixed yet but population is selectively bred.

Source of information Lekkas

Kymi

Local names: Kimi

originating from Skopelos; thin tail. The breed contributes to the crossbred population of the Kymi area and on neighbouring islands and coasts. In these flocks single purebred animals can also be found in Moudania Station in a number of about 200 sheep.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Euboea Island; village Kymi
Population size	760
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with brown and black spots on face and feet
Horns	ca. 50% males big spiral shaped horns, females polled or rarely small horns
Weight	rams: 73 kg; ewes: 66kg
Height	rams: 69 cm; ewes: 65 cm
Use	twin births and a long breeding season reported
Productivity	milk yield: 180-200kg, suitable for machine milking; littersize: 1.4-1.7
Remarks	pictures: Dr. C. Ligda; University of Thessaloniki
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki, Vasileios G.Pappas



Lesvos Black Sheep

Local names: Agia Paraskevi

Agia Paraskevi village bred its own type of sheep distinct to the officially recognized Lesvos breed. In Agia Paraskevi sheep both sexes are uniformly horned, but otherwise similar to main Lesvos breed. In recent years both types were extensively crossed and now a percentage of horned females occur in the general population. Small numbers of the original Agia Paraskevi stock possibly survive at their source but currently this is unconfirmed. This type never became officially recognized. Reported by reliable source. Confirmation pending.



Details

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Agia Paraskevi village
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Lesvos Island Sheep

Local names: Mytilini, Mytilene, Agritiko

Semi-fat-tail, tail length 36-39 cm and width 8-12cm. Originated from crossbreds of local thin-tailed breeds (Zackel) with fat-tailed sheep of eastern origin. Breed is similar to the Kamakuyruk breed found in Turkey. Description by Mason: Height: 67-72/59-68(m/f); weight:61/42 (m/f);



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Mytilini (Lesvos) island in the Aegean
Population size	80000- 100000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	uni-colour: brown or white, white with black or brown spots on nose, ears, feet; some sheep are particularly black or very dark
Horns	36% of the females and 78% of the males have horns
Weight	rams: 67 kg; ewes: 50 kg
Height	rams: 71 cm; ewes: 64 cm
Use	dairy and carcass breed
Productivity	milkyield: 130 kg avg.
Source of information	Lekkas; Mason; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, University of Thessaloniki, Vasileios G.Pappas



Paros

A nearly extinct native sheep Paros.

Substantially smaller than other Aegean or mainland sheep.

Not to be confused with larger Karystos or Keffalonia sheep of similar colouration.

A small number survive.

The main breeder is a 75 year man breeding them pure for 50

years. A few specimens with other owners. Other Paros sheep

are of variable Aegean type. Undescribed, unrecorded, unrecognized.



Details:

Official acceptance

needs further research

Area of distribution

Cyclades: Paros island

Risk status

unknown

Colour

White with often reddish markings or spotting on face

Source of information

Vasilis Lekkas

Pelagonia

Local names: Florina

Saved at a breeding station at Koilon in Kozani region. Similar to Chalkidiki, Kymi, Kefalinea sheep. It is a composite of indigenous breeds, probably local mountain and lowland sheep; Thin tail; adapted to the local environment (mountains).



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	NW-Greece, Florina Prefecture, Western Macedonia.
Population size	500
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with black spots around the eyes and the nose, ears usually black
Coat	fine fibred wool
Head	ears predominantly black;
Horns	rams: spiral horns; ewes polled
Weight	ram: 76kg; ewe: 60kg
Height	ram: 72cm; ewe: 66cm
Use	milk, meat, wool
Productivity	milkyield: 90kg, easy milkers; littersize: 1.2-1.5
Remarks	Zackel type; picture: Wikipedia
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki, Vasileios G. Pappas



Piliouritiko

Local names: Pelion; Piliou; Piloioritiko

Originates probably from Kefallinias and Karystos breeds; Found only locally. 70% have very small ears, 15% medium size ears, 15% total absence of ears; thin tailed.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Pelio Mountains in Thessaly
Population size	2500; 30 breeders.
Risk status	endangered
Colour	White body, reddish/yellow face, legs, ears, belly. A few black faced with white blazes.
Coat	mixed-haired
Head	longer wool on the top of the head
Horns	ram: big spiral horns with their ends far from the head's sides
Weight	ram: 59kg; ewe: 44kg
Height	ram: 63 cm; ewe: 58cm
Use	milk, meat, wool
Productivity	10-15% twin births; milk yield: 110kg
Remarks	picture1: Dr. C. Ligda, University of Thessaloniki
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki; Vasileios G Pappas



Plain Sheep

Local names: Lokris-Aliartos

(Unidentified variety from the Lokris/Aliartos plain)
Unconfirmed, small primitive type sheep. Reported to be indigenous. A proportion displayed the dark bluish gray body and black legs known in some German and French primitive breeds such as the Seine and Grau Ghoernte Heideschnucke both unusual for Greek sheep.

Unconfirmed, unrecognized small primitive sheep from Aliartos plain.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Rhodes sheep

Italian authorities in the 1920s-1930s identified and described native breeds of Rhodes sheep and goat. People in Rhodes have established contact with a descendant of the original compiler and are in the process of obtaining a copy the document which describes among others the two types of local horse and local greyhound/sighthound dog. More details after the document is available.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Romeiko Sheep

Reported but unconfirmed. No description is available.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Rymoulkiou Sheep

Local names: Roumloukiou

Extinct

Details

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Risk status	extinct
Source of information	



Sarakatsan Sheep

Local names: Sarakatsaniko; Sarakatsaniki; Karakachan

Same breed as the Sarakatsan in Bulgaria. Isolated pure specimens exist among mixed herds in various Rodopi areas. Sarakatsaniko is considered to be one of the smallest sheep breeds. Its body length is with 56 cm the smallest of all Greek breeds. The sheep's whole body is covered with wool, which protects it from harsh weather conditions. The breed contributes to the crossbred population of several flocks in Northern and Central Greece.



Details

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Rhodopi Prefecture; Karditsa, Drama
Population size	300
Risk status	endangered
Colour	80% are white, black or brown; the remaining sheep are black with grey-black spots on face, eyes and ears
Horns	most rams have very strong, spiral-shaped horns
Weight	ram: 69kg; ewe: 41kg
Height	ram: 65cm; ewe: 56cm
Use	milk, meat, wool
Productivity	milk yield: 40-50kg; Littersize: 0.9-1.1
Remarks	Zackel origin
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki



Serres Sheep

Local names: Serrai

Ruda origin



Details

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution and Thrace	Western Macedonia (Plains of Serres)
Population size	7840
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	multi coloured: white with entire black or black spots around head and legs
Coat	Uniform-haired, thin tail
Head	Slightly Roman nosed.
Horns	rams:big and strong, spiral shaped horns; females: polled, or small horns (30%)
Weight	ram: 78 kg; ewe: 60 kg
Height	ram: 68cm; ewe: 73 cm
Use	milk, meat
Productivity	littersize: 1.54; milkyield: 138 kg, suitable for machine milking
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki, Vasileios G. Pappas



Sfakia Sheep

Local names: Sfakiana; Sfakiano; Adromalicha

Zackel origin; Mason 1967: Ram 38-45; ewe: 26-32;



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Apokoronos and Sfakia; Chania (Crete)
Population size	over 60000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	Solid white, rarely small black spots on head and legs.
Coat	carpet wool type; mixed-haired and thin-tailed
Head	roman nose; forehead and belly are bare
Horns	males have spiral shaped horns, females usually polled;
Weight	ram: 61kg; ewe: 41kg
Height	ram: 65cm; ewes: 58cm
Use	Satisfactory milk producer; milk is used for the production of various types of cheese: Graviera of Crete, Pichtogalo Chanion, Xynomyzithra Kritis, Kefalotiri, Mizithra, Anthotiros.
Productivity	littersize: 1.36; Milk: 128 kg in each milking period
Source of information	Prof. Dr. A. georgoudis, University of Thessaloniki; Mason;
Pic:	Stelios Makaritis; Vasileios G. Pappas



Sitia Sheep

Little known. Undescribed. A mountain type sheep from the Sitia region in Eastern Crete.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	E. Crete
Population size	30000
Risk status	not at risk
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Skopelos

Local names: Glossa Skopelou, Glossiotika;

Rare breed from Glossa village. Not free ranging. Maintained in small farmstead flocks. Population 600 in Skopelos. A few in mainland/Volos region; early maturing with higher prolificacy than observed in other local breeds; udder morphology is suitable for machine milking; thin tailed.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognized
Area of distribution	Skopelos Island; N.Sporades; Skiathos and Magnissia on the mainland
Population size	2973
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with black or red-black spots around the eyes and mouth and on the legs
Coat	uniform haired
Weight	ram:64kg; 51kg
Height	ram: 66 cm; ewe 60cm
Use	Good carcass producer.
Productivity	milk yield: 160-190kg; litter size: 1.6-1.8; high suckling performance-breeds twice annually.
Remarks	probably originating from Ruda Sheep
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, University of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki; V. G. Pappas



Skyros Island Sheep

Mentioned in old sources but later ignored. Recent confirmation. A small, free ranging sheep, native to Skyros Isle. Unrecognized.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Skyroa Island
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas



Small Ear Gene

Individual specimens of small eared sheep occur in a variety of mixed herds in various parts of Greece, such as central-south regions, and Thessaly.

Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	



Thrace

Local names: Thrace

It is the Pomakos' sheep. It is said that there are many herds of this breed in Southern Bulgaria. In Greece there is only one herd in Mikro Kechro village in Rodopi, consisting of 120 sheep. In the past they used to call it "Kivirtsik", a name coming from the known sheep breed of Minor Asia. They are thin-tailed

Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	N.E. Greece; Mikro Kechro
Population size	120
Risk status	critical
Weight	ram: 47 kg; ewe: 33 kg
Height	ram: 63 cm; ewe: 56 cm
Productivity	milkyield: 50-60kg; littersize: 1.0-1.1
Source of information	Vasils Lekkas; A Kominakis; E.Rogdakis, University Athens; Vasileios G. Pappas



Thraki-Pomak Sheep

A type of native sheep noted for their small size. Bred by members of Pomak minority in isolated villages such as "Kalotyhos". Most likely not the same as the officially accepted Thrace Sheep. Kathimerini newspaper article 12-8-2004. A second independent source largely confirmed above report. Until recently livestock bred by Pomaks was largely unrecorded but becomes better known after the regions restricted status was abolished. Requires further investigation.



Details:

Official acceptance	needs further research
Area of distribution	Kalotyhos village, Thrace
Risk status	unknown
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas

Vlahiko

Local names: Vlahiko, Vlahiki

Indigenous breed with Zackel origin. The breed is used for the production of Feta, Kefalograviera, Kefalotiri, Avenato, Batzos, Manouri, Graviera Agrafon, Anthotiros, Mizithra, Galotyri, Kasseri. Well adapted to a wide range of mountainous conditions.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Peloponissos (mainly), Macedonia, Thessaly
Population size	1000000
Risk status	not at risk
Colour	multi coloured : various colours, white, black, red-brown or spotted
Coat	thin tail, mixed haired
Head	small furrow below the forehead
Horns	ram: big, spiral shaped horns, ewe: polled
Weight	ram 56 kg; ewe 46 kg
Height	ram: 65 cm; ewe 58 cm
Use	Milk, wool, meat
Productivity	Wool production is of no significant economic importance, under current price conditions; weaning weight at 40-60 days: 12-16 kg
Source of information	V. Lekkas; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki; Vasileios G. Pappas



Zakynthos Sheep

Local names: Zante; Zakynthos

The largest Greek Sheep. Possibly derived from Italian Bergamasko; thin long tail, well adapted to Zakynthos environment, but low adaptability to different environments.



Details:

Official acceptance	officially recognised
Area of distribution	Zakynthos, Ionian Sea
Population size	900
Risk status	endangered
Colour	white with dark spots on the head and ears
Coat	mixed-haired
Head	Strong Roman nose; big, hanging ears; big and strong head; long, thin neck
Horns	Males and some females big spiral horns.
Weight	ram: 80kg; ewe:75kg
Height	ram: 83cm; ewe: 75cm
Use	milk, meat, wool
Productivity	milkyield: 150-180kg; littersize: 1.5-1.7; twin births and a long breeding season
Source of information	Vasilis Lekkas; A. Kominakis, E. Rogdakis, Univ. of Athens; Prof. Dr. A. Georgoudis, Thessaloniki ; V.G.Pappas

