

## **B-111 Body measurements of local goat types in the Matara district**

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Goat is becoming an important animal in the Matara district particularly for farmers with limited land and low income. The productivity of these animals is very low due to poor genetic constitution. The animals in the area can be classified as local, non-descriptive and cross-bred. The local type animals are found in the estate region and others are distributed in the town and adjacent villages.

The objective of this study was to characterize the animals in the area according to their morphometric measurements: body weight, body length, height at withers, girth and length of ears.

Animals above 3 years of age were selected randomly from smallholdings (5 - 10 animals) in estates, villages and town and they were categorized. They were mainly fed on jak leaves and no concentrates were given. The body measurements were taken from each animal according to the standard methods.

The data was statistically analysed and the mean and standard deviations were calculated. The difference between body weight of the animals was studied by 't' test.

The average body weight of the does were  $31.80 \pm 4.89$  kg,  $29.80 \pm 2.97$  kg and  $25.88 \pm 3.04$  kg from town, villages and estate areas respectively. A significant difference in body weight was observed between all 3 groups at  $p = 0.005$  level. However the difference between animals from town & estate, village & estate and town & villages were 22.87, 15.15 and 6.71% respectively. The local type animals in estates can be categorized as a small type.