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## Change of some parameters of sperm production according to sperm concentration in boar ejaculates

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### SUMMARY

(Large White x Pietrain).

( 400 x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>; 400  
500 x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>, 500 x10<sup>6</sup>  
sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>).

(p<0.001),

p<0.05).

6.3 6.77%,  
6.15%.

The aim of the study was to follow the change of some semen parameters according to sperm concentration in boar ejaculates. The animals (Large White x Pietrain) was divided in three groups according to ejaculates concentration (to 400x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>; from 400 to 500 x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>, and over 500 x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>). The group in which the individual belongs according to sperm concentration has significant influence on the sperm concentration and the total concentration (p<0.001), as well as on the number of doses from one ejaculate, and on the percentage of dead sperms (p<0.05). The least number of insemination doses under the conditions of our experiment were obtained from the ejaculates from class two, followed by class one, as the greatest number insemination doses of ejaculates comes from the boars belonging to class three. The percentage of agglutinated spermatozoa increase with the increased concentration from 6.3 to 6.77%, but they sharply reduce in group three, where they reach their minimum of 6.15%. With dead spermatozoa, the increased concentration

0.86% 0.38 % I II III

(Dyck et al., 2011).

(Amann et al., 1995).

(Correa et al., 1997).

Kondracki et al. (2011)

- tends to result in decreased number, as
- the differences are within the range of 0.38 % between group II and III and up to 0.86% between group I and III.
- The performed cluster analysis based on main indicators of sperm production of boars may be used as an additional method increasing the efficiency of evaluating breeding boars.
- **Key words:** reproduction, sperm, boars, cluster analysis, concentration, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa, insemination doses

### INTRODUCTION

In the past few decades, the introduction of artificial insemination has had great influence on the genetic improvement in pig farming.

Despite that, the efficiency of production largely depends on the reproduction abilities of the breeding boars as not all boars and their ejaculates have equal fertilization abilities. That is why the ejaculates are to undergo a standard sperm analysis before they are used for artificial insemination (Dyck et al., 2011).

The routine sperm evaluation usually includes definition of the volume, concentration, and percentage of progressively motile spermatozoa and morphologically normal sperms (Amann et al., 1995). Although some of the defined parameters are connected to the fertility of breeding boars, other authors suppose that this information is not sufficient to predict whether the boars have high fertilization ability (Correa et al., 1997).

The fertility in breeding boars depends on the quality of gametes, which can be established with a sperm morphology analysis. According to Kondracki et al. (2011), the concentration of sperm in an ejaculate influences the morphological characteristics of cells, but not their

shape.

All this gave us a reason to follow the change of some semen parameters according to sperm concentration in boar ejaculates.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study includes a total of 249 ejaculates, obtained in the period from January 2011 to May 2014, from 11 breeding boars (Large White x Pietrain), bred in a pig farm located in the region around the town of Plovdiv. The animals were divided in three groups according to the concentration of spermatozoa, the semen was obtained at (up to  $400 \times 10^6$  sperm/cm<sup>3</sup> (n=73), from 400 to  $500 \times 10^6$  sperm/cm<sup>3</sup> (n=111), and above  $500 \times 10^6$  sperm/cm<sup>3</sup> (n=65). The animals were divided in three groups according to the age the semen was obtained at (up to 12 months, from 12 to 24 months, and above 36 months).

The ejaculates were obtained by the manual method, collected in a graduated semen-collection cup, covered with sterile gauze. Immediately after the collecting and filtering, the ejaculate was assessed for quantitative and qualitative traits, including:

- ejaculate volume (m<sup>3</sup>);
- sperm concentration ( $\times 10^6$  sperm/m<sup>3</sup>), measured in a sperm densitometer;
- motility (%), determined by a routine method, under microscope with standard magnification (Nikolov et al., 2012);
- Agglutinated and dead spermatozoa (%) – determined by a routine method under light microscope, with magnification 400 (Nikolov et al., 2012).

The grouping of the individuals by the main indicators of the sperm production, depending on the class in which they fall according to the sperm concentration in the ejaculates, is done by hierarchical cluster analysis. The method of between-group linkage (Ward, 1963; Dyuran and Odelly, 1977) was used with Euclidean distance as a measure of group similarity.

249  
 -  
 2011- 2014 ., 11 -  
 (Large White x Pietrain),  
 ,  
 ,  
 sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> (n=73); 400  $\times 10^6$   
 sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> (n=111), 500  $\times 10^6$   
 sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> (n=65), 500  $\times 10^6$   
 ( 12,  
 12 24, 36 ).  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 :  
 - ( m<sup>3</sup>);  
 -  
 - ( $\times 10^6$  sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>),  
 ;  
 - (%),  
 - (Nikolov et al., 2012);  
 - (%)  
 -  
 400 (Nikolov et al., 2012).  
 ,  
 ,  
 -  
 (Ward, 1963; Dyuran and Odelly,  
 1977),

SPSS version 19, IBM.

Cluster analysis and variational statistical data processing were performed with SPSS version 19 software, IBM.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The increasing popularity of artificial insemination requires that the quantity of sperm doses match the needs. Artificial inseminations seems to be an excellent instrument for the quick implementation of the genetic and production progress (Knecht et al., 2014). The quality and quantity parameters of sperm production have influence on the total number of insemination doses and the profitability of sperm production in artificial insemination stations (Smital et al., 2004). The identification and elimination of the factors which change the quality and quantity of ejaculates leads to obtaining of high-value insemination doses. This results in increased efficiency of the use of breeding boars (Knecht et al., 2014).

Table 1 shows the sperm production traits in boars, object of our study. The average volume of ejaculates is within the range of  $305.8 \pm 5.76 \text{ m}^3$ , with sperm concentration of  $412.9 \pm 2.13 \text{ (} \times 10^6 \text{ sperm/ m}^3 \text{)}$  and  $73.05 \pm 0.23 \%$  progressively motile spermatozoa. Regarding the percentage of agglutinated and dead spermatozoa, the values are  $6.41 \pm 0.16\%$  and  $8.18 \pm 0.16\%$ , respectively. The average number of doses obtained from one ejaculate is  $17.81 \pm 0.32$ .

(Knecht et al., 2014).

(Smital et al., 2004).

(Knecht et al., 2014).

1

$305.8 \pm 5.76 \text{ m}^3$ ,

$412.9 \pm 2.13 \text{ (} \times 10^6 \text{ sperm/ m}^3 \text{)}$   $73.05 \pm 0.23 \%$

$6.41 \pm 0.16$

$8.18 \pm 0.16$ ,

$17.81 \pm 0.32$ .

1.

**Table 1. Seminal characteristics of terminal boars**

/ Traits	LS	±SE	Cv, %
/ Volume, ( $\text{m}^3$ )	305.8	5.76	33
/ Concentration, ( $\times 10^6 \text{ sperm/ m}^3$ ),	412.9	2.13	21.02
/ Total concentration, ( $10^9$ )	121.5	2.29	30.4
/ Motility, (%)	73.05	0.23	5,13
/ Number of insemination doses per ejaculate	17.81	0.32	28.4
/ Agglutinated spermatozoa, (%)	6.41	0.16	37.9
/ Dead spermatozoa, (%)	8.18	0.16	29.9

The factors we studied have significant influence on the analysed

( 2). ,  
 (p<0.001),  
 (p<0.05).  
 (p<0.001),  
 (p<0.05),  
 (p<0.01).  
 ( <0.001).  
 2.

- semen parameters (Table 2). The group  
 - in which the individual belongs according  
 - to sperm concentration has significant  
 - influence on the sperm concentration and  
 - the total concentration (p<0.001), as well  
 - as on the number of doses from one  
 - ejaculate, and on the percentage of dead  
 - sperms (p<0.05). The age of the boars  
 - has significant influence on the volume,  
 - the total concentration, and the number of  
 - doses from an ejaculate (p<0.001), as  
 - well as on the progressive motility  
 - (p<0.05) and on the percentage of dead  
 - spermatozoa (p<0.01). The individual is a  
 - reliable source of variation in all the six  
 - studied parameters ( <0.001).

**Table 2. The effect of the concentration, the age class and the individual on the quality of sperm**

/ Model	/ Factor	/ F-criterion and degree of reliability						
		/ Volume	Concentration	Total concentration	Motility	Number of insemination doses per ejaculate	Agglutinated spermatozoa (%)	Dead spermatozoa (%)
1	1	36.5***	738.5***	10.3***	21.4***	7.0**	1.5	2.2
2	2	15.5***	10.3***	9.1***	42.5***	9.1***	3.2**	5.3***
3	3	21.4***	8.9***	5.3**	23.7***	15.4***	0.6	18.3***
4	4	2.7*	15.0***	2.1*	1.1	3.0*	1.9	4.7**
5	-1	0.2	309.1***	17.7***	1.3	3.9*	1.2	3.7*
	-2	14.9***	4.2***	12.8***	27.6***	7.4***	3.9***	4.9***
	-3	13.7***	0.4	8.6***	4.2*	9.4***	0.9	7.4**
	-1*3	8.8***	1.3	6.4***	1.0	1.5	0.8	2.9*

\*\*\*P<0,001, \*\*P<0,01, \*P<0,05  
 / Factor: 1- / Groups according to sperm concentration, 2- / Individual, 3- / Age class, 4- / Season, 1\*3 - Groups according to sperm concentration\* Age class

1  
 sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> ,  
 302.05 x10<sup>6</sup>  
 (376.44 m<sup>3</sup>),  
 (p>0.05).

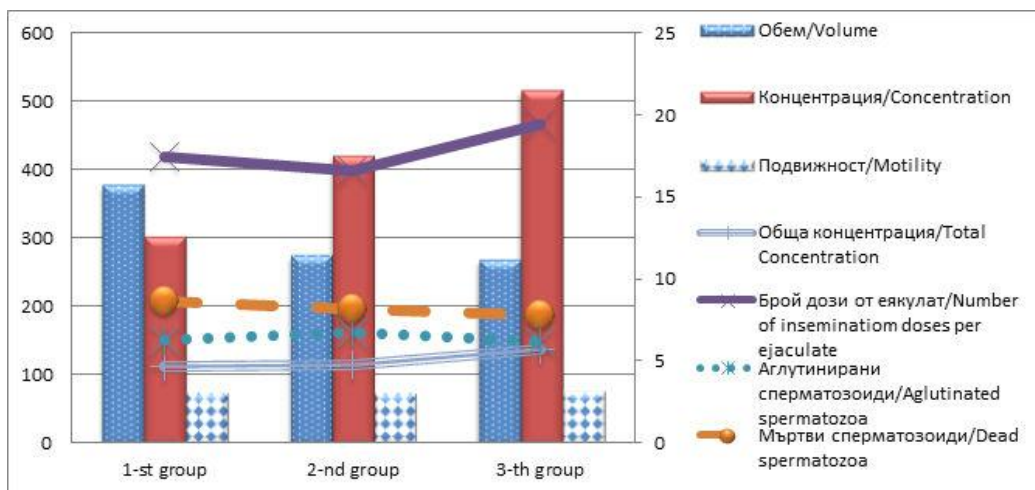
- Figure 1 shows the dynamics in the  
 - parameters of sperm production  
 - according to the group in which  
 - ejaculates belongs according to the  
 - sperms in them. The boars from group  
 - one are with sperm concentration of  
 - 302.05 x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> , as their sperm  
 - volume is greater (376.44 m<sup>3</sup>) and the  
 - motility is the lowest (p>0.05). The  
 - difference in sperm concentration and  
 - sperm volume are, respectively, 213.33

213.33  $\times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$   
 109.36  $m^3$  -

500 $\times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$ .

I  
 II III

$\times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$  more, and 109.36  $m^3$  less compared to the ejaculates in group three. The least number of insemination doses under the conditions of our experiment were obtained from the ejaculates from class two, followed by class one, as the greatest number of ejaculates comes from the boars belonging to class three, with sperm concentration of more than 500 $\times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$ . For this parameter, the difference between group I and II is almost one dose, and between group II and III it is nearly three doses of concentrated sperm.



1.

**Fig 1. Dynamics of sperm production depending on the group of ejaculates, according to the sperm concentration in them**

6.3 6.77%,  
 6.15%.

0.38 % II III

The increased sperm concentration does not have influence on the percentage of agglutinated sperm tozoa. Under the conditions of our study, the latter increase with the increased concentration from 6.3 to 6.77%, but they sharply reduce in group three, where they reach their minimum of 6.15%. With dead spermatozoa, the increased concentration tends to result in decreased number, as the differences are within the range of 0.38 % between group II and III and up to 0.86% between group

0.86% I III  
 Kondracki et al. (2011)

( 2)

3.6, 3.7, 3.11, 3.2 3.8, 3.5,

- 2.3, 2.11, 2.2 2.8.

2.9 2.10 2.4 2.7,

I and III. In study, Kondracki et al. (2011) examines the effect of the concentration of spermatozoa in the ejaculates of Duroc boars on some morphometric cell parameters. The authors established that the sperm concentration in ejaculate does not have any influence on the shape or the quality of cells.

The increased sperm concentration does not have significant influence on their motility or the rate of occurrence of spermatozoa with morphological abnormalities. The same study concludes that spermatozoa with major abnormalities decrease with the increasing concentration, and increase percentage those with minor abnormalities.

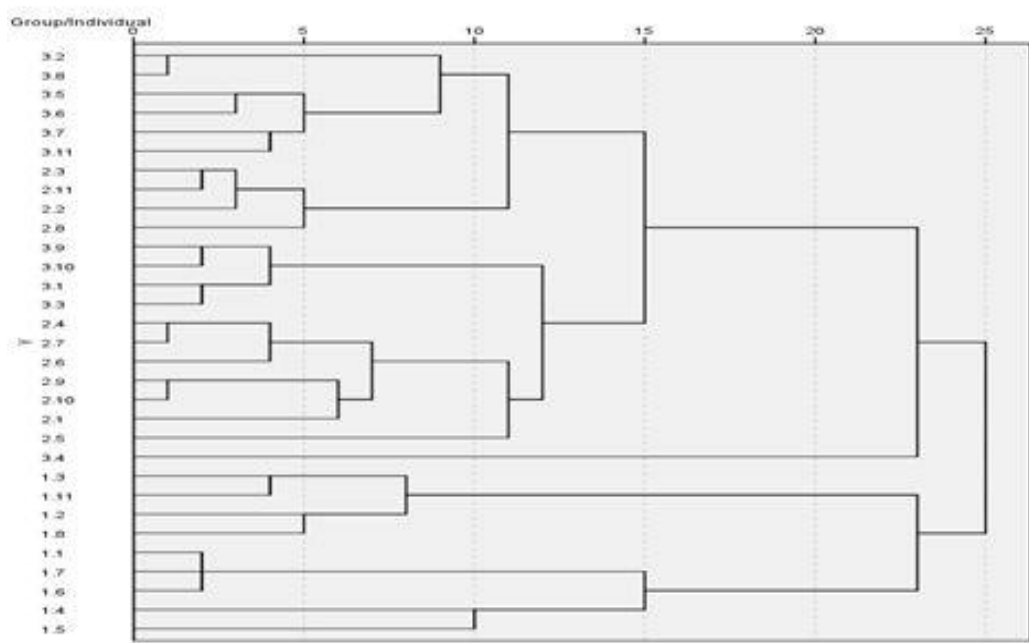
Along with the variation statistical analysis, the data were used for hierarchical cluster analysis aiming to make a complex assessment of the basis of the main parameters in sperm production. The dendrogram (Figure 2) shows clusterization based on the indications of sperm volume and motility, and sperm concentration in accordance with the group the individual fall into.

The figure shows that the data are divided in three basic clusters, each of which includes sub-clusters. The first sub-cluster is formed by individuals numbered 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.11, as well as 3.2 and 3.8, as there is no difference between the last two ones. All the above-mentioned individuals belong to the group with the highest sperm concentration.

The second sub-cluster includes four animals of group two, with intermediate concentration – 2.3, 2.11, 2.2 and 2.8. The second cluster again has two bigger sub-clusters in which the in are again divided in the same way as in variation statistical processing. Here, no difference is observed between 2.4 and 2.7, and between 2.9 and 2.10 either. All individuals from the group of the

1.7 1.6. 3.4 1.1,

minimum sperm concentration are in the third cluster. Although there is not such similarity as with the other sub-clusters, numbers 1.1, 1.7 and 1.6 have the greatest similarity of sperm production traits. Boar number 3.4 has the greatest Euclidean distance and is separated from the other clusters.



2.

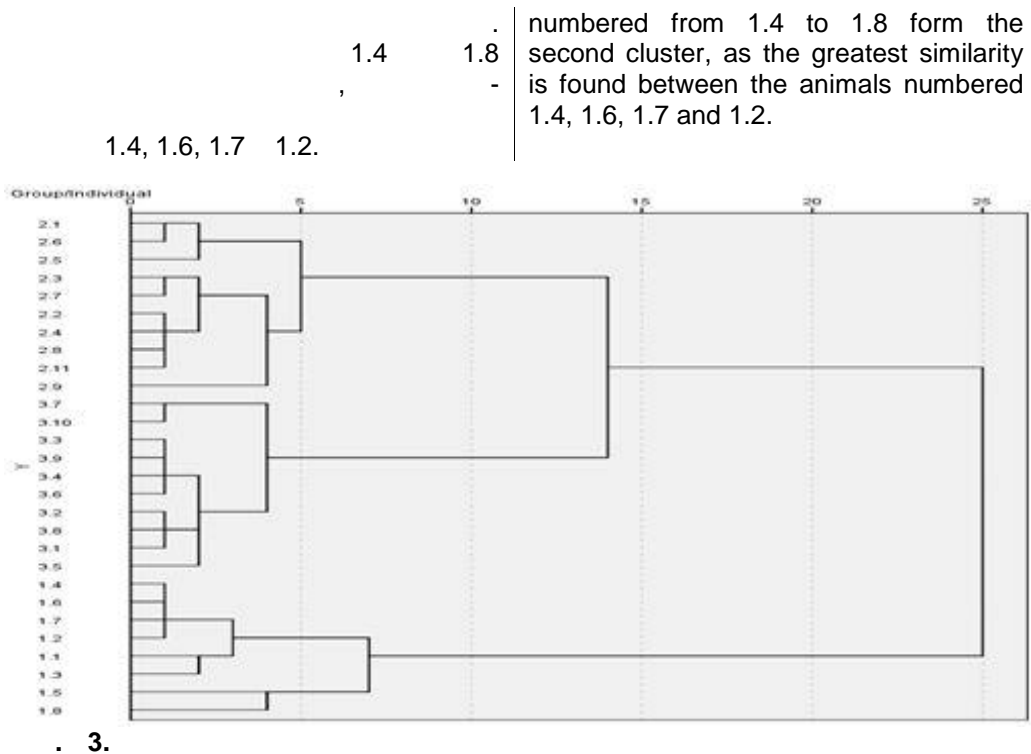
**Fig. 2. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the volume, motility and concentration of the sperm**

Dendrogram based on average between-groups linkage

3). 2,

With the second dendrogram, we have tried to clustering the individuals according to the experimental group on the basis of concentration, agglutinated, and dead sperms (Figure 3). Unlike Figure 2, most of the individuals are characterized with greater homogeneity of the studied traits. This fact mainly refers to the third experimental group, which animals form one sub-cluster. Together with the boars of group two, they form the first big cluster. Individuals





**Fig. 3. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the concentration of the sperm, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa**

Dendrogram based on average between-groups linkage

## CONCLUSIONS

- The group in which the individual belongs according to sperm concentration has significant influence on the sperm concentration and the total concentration ( $p < 0.001$ ), as well as on the number of doses from one ejaculate, and on the percentage of dead sperms ( $p < 0.05$ ). The age of the boars has significant influence on the volume, the total concentration, and the number of doses from an ejaculate ( $p < 0.001$ ), as well as on the progressive motility ( $p < 0.05$ ) and on the percentage of dead spermatozoa ( $p < 0.01$ ). The individual is a reliable source of variation in all the six studied parameters ( $< 0.001$ ).
- The least number of insemination doses under the conditions of our experiment were obtained from the

500 x10 <sup>6</sup> sperm/ m <sup>3</sup>			
	6.3	6.77%	
		6.15%	
0.38 %	I	III	0.86%

- ejaculates from class two, followed by class one, as the greatest number of ejaculates comes from the boars belonging to class three, with sperm concentration of more than 500x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>.

The percentage of agglutinated sperm tozoa increase with the increased concentration from 6.3 to 6.77%, but they sharply reduce in group three, where they reach their minimum of 6.15%.

- With dead spermatozoa, the increased concentration tends to result in decreased number, as the differences are within the range of 0.38 % between group II and III and up to 0.86% between group I and III.

The performed cluster analysis based on main parameters of sperm production of boars may be used as an additional method increasing the efficiency of evaluating breeding boars.

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## Influence of the interval between obtaining the ejaculate on some semen characteristics from terminal boars

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### SUMMARY

140 It was studied the influence of the interval between ejaculate obtaining on quality and quantity of boar semen. The study covers 140 ejaculates collected during the period from January 2011 to May 2014 obtained from 8 breeding boars (Large White x Pietrain), with intervals between ejaculate collection 5 (n= 21), 7 (n=54), 8 (n=23) and 9 (n=42) days. The interval between collections has significant impact on the concentration and percentage of agglutinated spermatozoa in the sperm ( $p < 0.05$ ). The sperm concentration increases with the increase of the interval between ejaculations, as from  $370 \times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$  at interval of five days, it reached  $414 \times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$  at interval of nine days. The percentage of agglutinated spermatozoa has the lowest values at 7-day intervals ( $5,07 \% \pm 0,359$ ), and the highest ones at 8-day intervals ( $7,3 \% \pm 0,522$ ).

The highest percentage of dead spermatozoa is observed again at 8 and 9-day intervals of obtaining – 9,1% and 8,9%, respectively, and the lowest at 5 and 7-day intervals of obtaining – 8 % and

2011- 2014 .., 8  
(Large White x  
Pietrain), 5 (n= 21), 7  
(n=54), 8 (n=23) 9 (n=42)

( $p < 0.05$ ). K

$370$   
 $414 \times 10^6 / m^3$

( $5,07 \% \pm 0,4$ ), 7-  
( $7,3\% \pm 0,5$ ). 8-  
8 9  
– 9,1% 8,9%,  
5 7

- 8 % 8,2 %,

- 8,2 %, respectively. Along with the variation and statistical, a hierarchical cluster analysis was conducted, aiming at performing a complex evaluation based on basic parameters of sperm production. Dendrograms was made for each interval between ejaculate collections. The conducted grouping of individual could be used to increase the assessment reliability and it complements the methods for determining the influence of the interval of obtaining the ejaculates on basic parameters of sperm production of boars.

**Key words:** boars, collection interval, spemen, cluster analysis, dendrograms

## INTRODUCTION

- Artificial insemination is major method for sows breeding in intensive pig production. Raising breeding boars is significant costs for pig farms.

- Therefore is essential to obtain a bigger number of insemination doses and respectively to reduce the number of breeding boars raised in the farm, without affecting the quality of the obtained ejaculates.

- Multiple factors affect the quality of the ejaculate, and the most important are the breed, age, individual and the frequency of obtaining (Miclea et al., 2008). A number studies have shown that high obtaining frequency of sperm from boars has negative influence on the quality of the ejaculate (Pruneda et al., 2005; Bajena et al., 2016). According to Frangez et al. (2005) the quality of the ejaculate decreases with the increase of the frequency of obtaining.

- Therefore, the aim of our research is to examine the influence of the interval between obtaining the ejaculate on some semen parameters of terminal boars.

(Miclea et al., 2008).

(Pruneda

et al., 2005; Bajena et al., 2016).  
Frangez et al. (2005)

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

140

2011-2014, 8 (Large White x Pietrain), 5 (n=21), 7 (n=54), 8 (n=23) 9 (n=42)

The study covers 140 ejaculates collected during the period from January 2011 to May 2014 obtained from 8 breeding boars (Large White x Pietrain), with intervals between ejaculate collection 5 (n=21), 7 (n=54), 8 (n=23) and 9 (n=42) days.

The ejaculates were obtained by manual method, collected in a graduated semen-collection cup, covered with sterile gauze. Immediately after the collecting and filtering, the material was assessed for quantitative and qualitative traits, including:

- ( m<sup>3</sup>);  
- (x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>),  
- (%),  
(Nikolov et al.,

- volume of the ejaculate ( m<sup>3</sup>);  
- concentration of the sperms (x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>), measured in a sperm densitometer;  
- motility (%), determined by a routine method, under microscope with standard magnification ( Nikolov et al., 2012);

2012);  
- (%)  
- 400 (Nikolov et al., 2012);  
- (x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>).

- Agglutinated and dead sperms (%) - determined by a routine method under light microscope, with magnification 400 (Nikolov et al., 2012);  
- Total concentration (x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup>).

(Ward, 1963; Dyuran and Odelly, 1977),

The grouping of the individuals by the main parameters of the sperm production, depending on the class in which they fall according to the sperm concentration in the ejaculates, is done by hierarchical cluster analysis. The method of between-group lincage (Ward, 1963; Dyuran and Odelly, 1977) was used with Euclidean distance as a measure of group similarity.

Cluster analysis and variational statistical data processing were performed with SPSS version 19 software, IBM.

SPSS version 19, IBM.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the influence of the interval between collections, the age group and individual on the volume, concentration, total concentration, percentage of progressively motile spermatozoa, percentage of agglutinated and dead spermatozoa in the boars semen.

1.

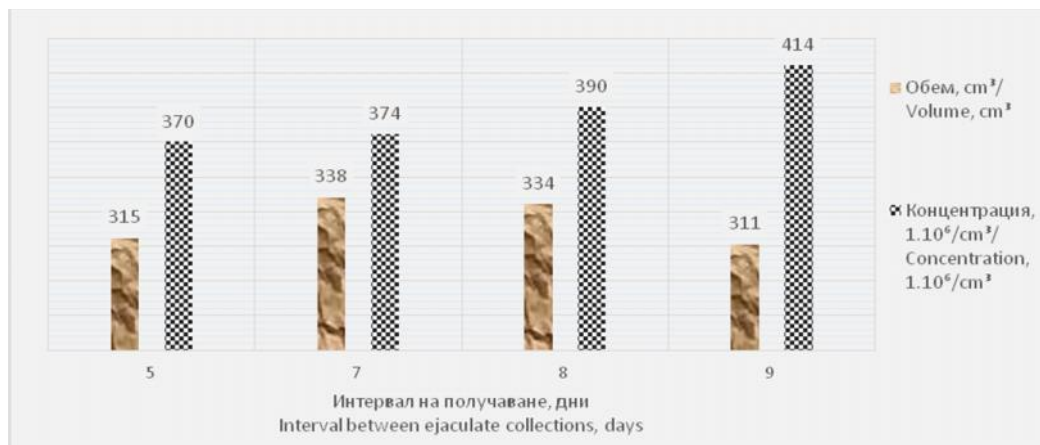
**Table 1. Influence of interval between ejaculate collections, age group and individual on some semen traits**

F-		/ F-criteria and level of confidence			
/ Model		1 / Model 1		2 / Model 2	
/ Factor					
	Interval between ejaculate collections	Age group	Interval between ejaculate collections	Age group	Individual
/ Volume, cm <sup>3</sup>	0,888	20,09***	1,149	0,250	25,09***
Concentration, x10 <sup>6</sup> / m <sup>3</sup>	2,936*	27,41***	4,729**	11,66***	7,433***
Total concentration, x10 <sup>6</sup>	0,777	1,948	0,755	3,944*	6,356***
/ Motility, %	0,335	12,51***	0,267	6,250**	6,125***
Agglutinated spermatozoa, %	3,084*	1,015	2,481	1,519	2,760**
Dead spermatozoa, %	1,748	4,721**	1,516	1,641	1,448

\*P<0,05; \*\*P<0,01; \*\*\*P<0,001

- The interval between collections  
 - has significant impact on the concentration and percentage of agglutinated sperms in the semen (p < 0.05).  
 - The age group has significant influence on all semen traits except the total concentration and the agglutinated sperms. The individual is a reliable source of variation between all examined semen parameters with the exception of the percentage of dead sperms in the ejaculate.

1 , - From Figure 1 it becomes obvious, that the sperm concentration increases with the increase of the interval between ejaculations, as from 370x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> at interval of five days, it reached 414x10<sup>6</sup> sperm/ m<sup>3</sup> at interval of nine days (P<0,05). Miclea et al. (2007) also establish an increase in the sperm concentration with the increase of the interval of semen collection. The volume of ejaculate increases from 315 cm<sup>3</sup> at five-day interval, to 338 cm<sup>3</sup> when ejaculates are obtained at seven- day intervals, thereafter starts to decrease, as on the ninth day intervals it became 311 cm<sup>3</sup>.

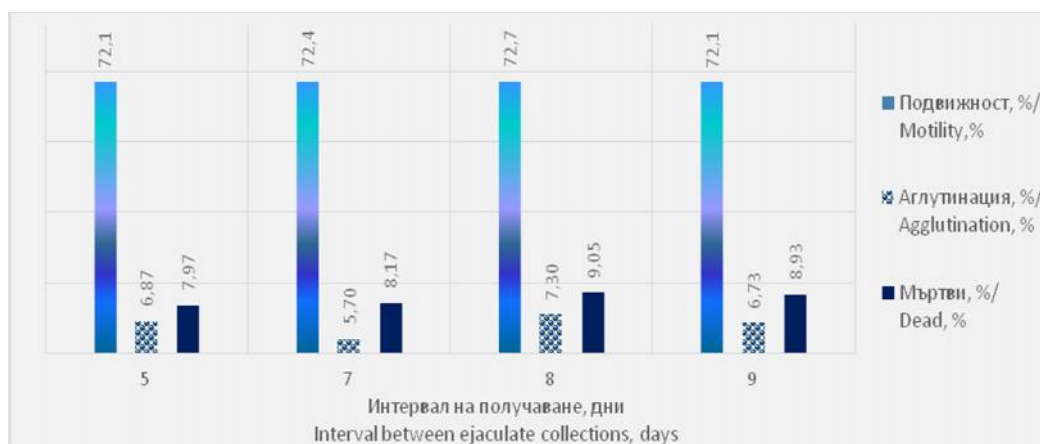


. 1.

**Fig. 1. Variability of the volume and sperm concentration depending on the interval between ejaculate collections**

2) Within the conditions of our experiment, is established that the percentage of motile spermatozoa in sperm (Figure 2) does not change significantly with different intervals of ejaculates obtaining. The highest percentage of progressively motile spermatozoa is found in the semen obtained in seven- or eight-day intervals – 72,4 and 72,7 %, respectively.

72,4 72,7 %, .



. 2.

**Fig. 2. Variability of the sperm motility, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa depending on the interval between ejaculate collections**

( $P < 0,05$ ),  
 (5,07 %  $\pm 0,359$ ),  
 9  
 9,1% 8,9%,  
 5 7  
 8 % 8,2 %, et al. (2005)

The percentage of agglutinated spermatozoa (Figure 2.) is significant influenced by the interval of obtaining ( $P < 0,05$ ), as the lowest values are reported at 7-day intervals (5,07 %  $\pm 0,359$ ), and the highest ones at 8-day intervals (7,3 %  $\pm 0,522$ ).

The highest percentage of dead sperms is observed again at 8 and 9-day intervals of obtaining – 9,1% and 8,9%, respectively, and the lowest at 5 and 7-day intervals of obtaining – 8 % and 8,2 %, respectively. According to Frangez et al. (2005) the insemination rate of the pigs and the number of piglets born are highest when the insemination was performed with semen obtained once a week.

The total concentration as a complex factor, depending on the ratio between the ejaculate volume and the sperm concentration and provides a clear image of the animals' sperm production. Figure 3 presents the dynamics of the studied trait, according to the interval between ejaculates obtaining.



. 3.

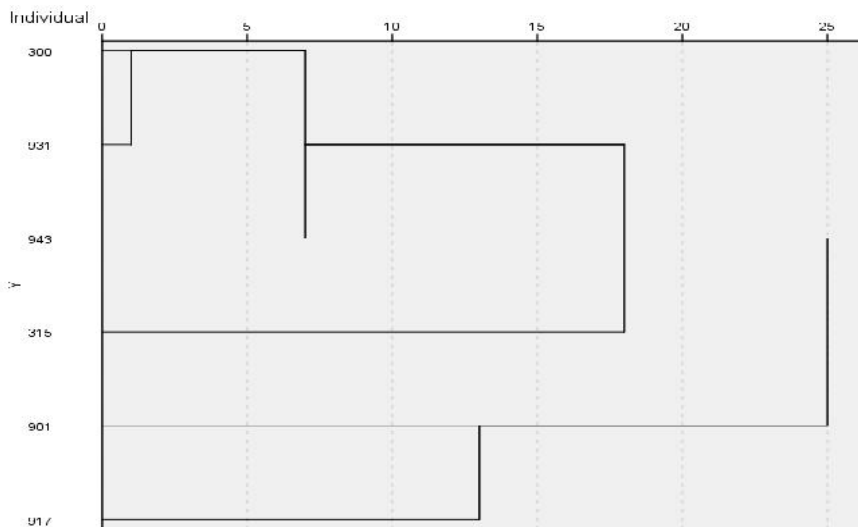
**Fig. 3. Variability of the total concentration of the sperm depending on the interval between ejaculate collections**



112187 10<sup>6</sup> 121894 10<sup>6</sup>,  
 5-7  
 7 8 2%,  
 8 9  
 - 0,5%.  
 (Popov,  
 2002; Kuneva and Tahsin, 2015),  
 ( 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 4.4)  
 4.1  
 5  
 300 931,  
 300 943  
 315.  
 901 917, 901 300

The values of this trait increase with the increase of the interval of obtaining the semen, as the most significant difference is observed between the 5 and 7-day intervals from 112187 10<sup>6</sup> to 121894 10<sup>6</sup>, respectively, which is around an 8 percent increase. The difference between intervals of obtaining of 7 days and intervals of 8 days is 2%, and between the intervals 8 and 9 days it is significantly smaller – 0,5%.

Along with the variation and statistical, a hierarchical cluster analysis was conducted with the data, aiming at performing a complex evaluation based on basic parameters of sperm production. The main goal of the cluster analysis is the organization of the data in order to obtain acceptable organizational structures (Popov, 2002; Kuneva and Tahsin, 2015), by grouping the observations which are similar to each other. On the dendrograms (Figure 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4) clusterization was made on basis of the traits volume and motility of the sperm, sperm concentration, as well as the agglutinated and dead spermatozoa, for each of the examined intervals for obtaining the ejaculate. Figure 4.1 presents the clusterization of the Individuals at interval of obtaining the ejaculates of 5 days. The data shows that the individuals are distributed in one main cluster. It includes breeding boars with number 300 and 931, which have the biggest similarity regarding the studied parameters of sperm production. Boar with number 943 is similar to number 300 in the following semen traits – volume of the ejaculate, percentage of agglutinated and dead spermatozoa, and more distant under the other parameters. During a following stage, individual with number 315 joins the formed sub-cluster. Individuals with No. 901 and 917 form a separate group, as variants 901 and 300 have the longest Euclidean distance between each other.



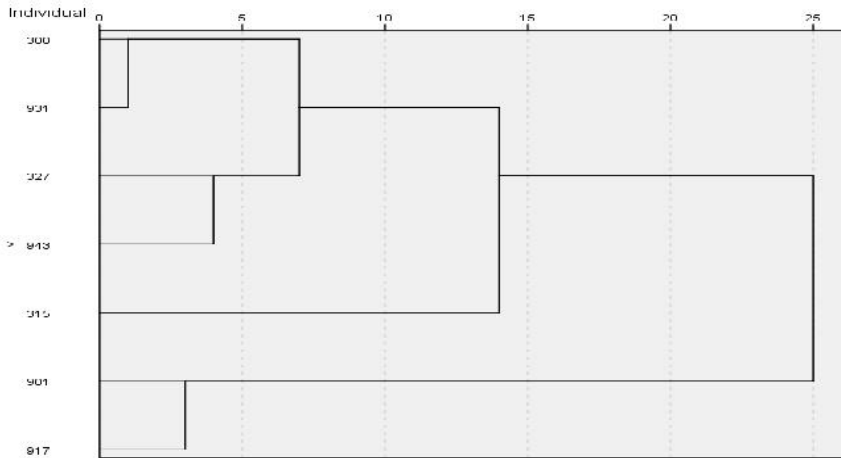
. 4.1.

**Fig. 4.1. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the volume and concentration of the sperm, motility of the spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa at five daily frequency**

Dendrogram based on average between-group linkage

7  
 ( 4.2),  
 300 931  
 (327 943),  
 901 917

On the dendrogram, describing the distribution of the individuals at 7-day frequency of obtaining the ejaculates (Figure 4.2), we established a certain similarity with the positioning of the animals as with shorter interval of ejaculation. Here, again breeding boars with numbers 300 and 931 are the most similar in the studied semen parameters, but this sub-cluster is joint by two more animals (327 and 943), similar in the parameters – sperm concentration, sperm motility, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa. At the studied frequency of obtaining the ejaculates between numbers 901 and 917, there is a bigger similarity compared to the 5-day period.



4.2.

**Fig. 4.2. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the volume and concentration of the sperm, motility of the spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa at seven daily frequency**

Dendrogram based on average between-group linkage

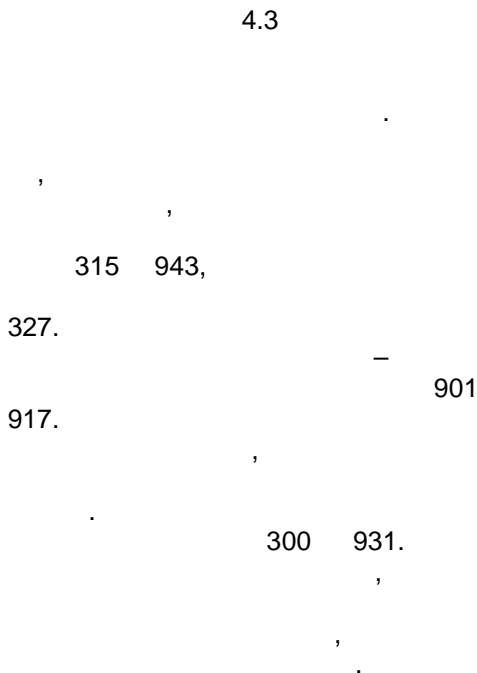
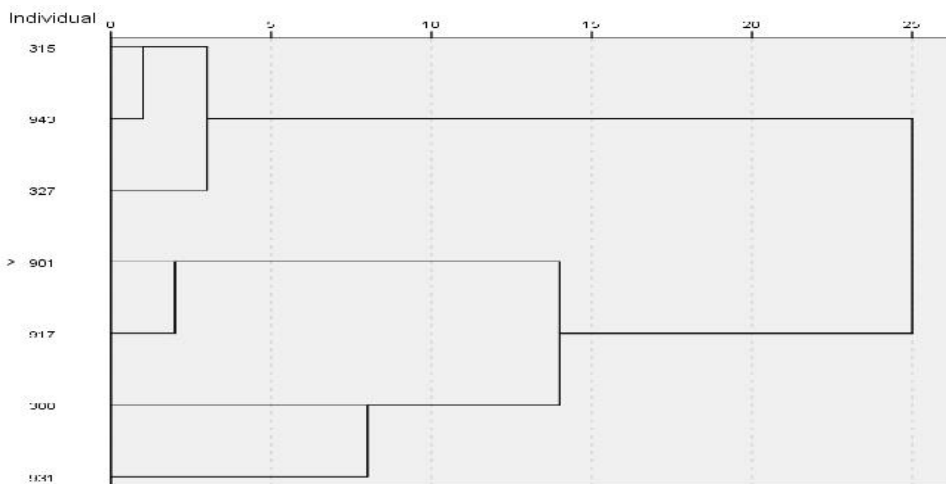


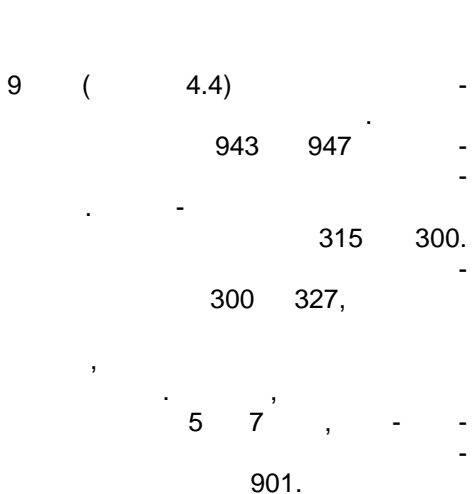
Figure 4.3 presents the results of the clusterization of the individuals at eight-day interval between obtaining the ejaculates. The dendrogram contains two main clusters, the first of which is formed by two animals, which practically do not have differences in the studied parameters – No. 315 and No. 943, which are later joined by breeding boar number 327. The second main cluster includes two sub-clusters – one of them is formed by animals with numbers 901 and 917. With them, the similarity is in the motility of the sperm, the sperm concentration and the percentage of dead cells. The other sub-cluster is formed from breeding boars 300 and 931. The similarity between these two individuals, reported through the Euclidean distance, is in the traits – the percentage of motile spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead.



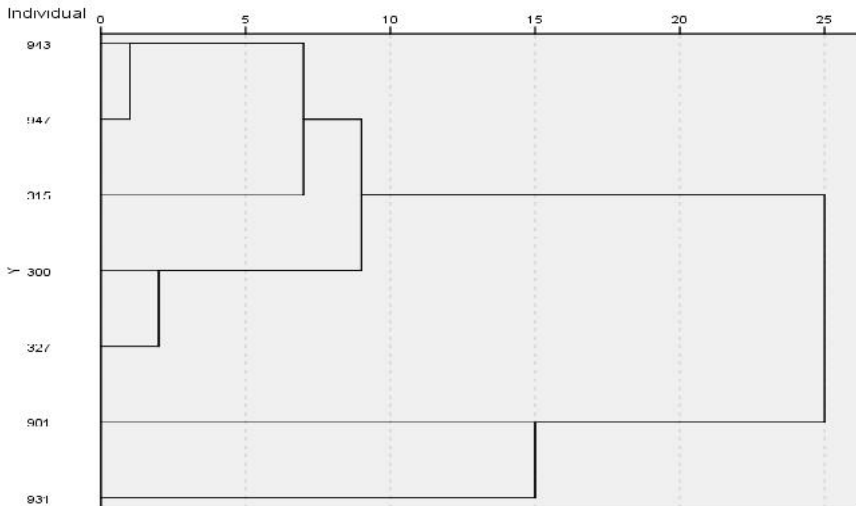
. 4.3.

**Fig. 4.3. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the volume and concentration of the sperm, motility of the spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa at eight daily frequency**

Dendrogram based on average between-group linkage



The grouping of the boars with interval of obtaining ejaculates of 9 days (Figure 4.4) shows the formation of one main cluster. Where, boars with numbers 943 and 947 are closest in semen parameters. At a later stage, the individuals 315 and 300 join them. The next ones in homogeneity are the ejaculates of boars 300 and 327, which are similar in the semen parameters – motility of spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead sperms. Here too, as in the intervals of 5 and 7 days, the individual with number 901 is the most distant in all indicators.



. 4.4.

**Fig. 4.4. Hierarchical cluster analysis depending on the volume and concentration of the sperm, motility of the spermatozoa, agglutinated and dead spermatozoa at nine daily frequency**

Dendrogram based on average between-group linkage

( $p < 0.05$ ).

370  $10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$

414  $10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$

7- (5,07 %  $\pm 0,359$ ), -

(7,3 %  $\pm 0,522$ ).

9 9,1% 8,9%, -

5 7 8 % 8,2 %, .

### CONCLUSIONS

- The interval between collections
- has significant impact on the concentration and percentage of agglutinated sperms in the sperm ( $p < 0.05$ ).
- The sperm concentration increases with the increase of the interval between ejaculations, as from  $370 \times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$  at interval of five days, it reached  $414 \times 10^6$  sperm/  $m^3$  at interval of nine days. The total concentration increased negligible with increasing ejaculate collection interval over 7 days.
- The percentage of agglutinated sperms has the lowest values at 7-day intervals (5,07 %  $\pm 0,359$ ), and the highest ones at 8-day intervals (7,3 %  $\pm 0,522$ ).
- The highest percentage of dead sperms is observed again at 8 and 9-day intervals of obtaining – 9,1% and 8,9%, respectively, and the lowest at 5 and 7-day intervals of obtaining – 8 % and 8,2 %, respectively.

- | The conducted hierarchical cluster analysis could be used to increase the assessment reliability and it complements the methods for determining the influence of the interval of obtaining the ejaculates on basic parameters of sperm production of boars.

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## Study of some morphological biochemical and immunological indicators of hybrid boars

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### SUMMARY

Some morpho-biochemical and immunological indicators of hybrid boars have been tested. It has been established that all indicators are within the borders of the physiological norms: leukocytes count  $11,2 \cdot 10^9$ , hemoglobin 107,6 g/l, total protein 83,4 g/l, phagocytic activity 55,7 %, phagocytic number 1,9, phagocytic index 3,1, lysozyme activity 39,8 %, bactericidal activity 60,5 %. The conclusion is made that hybrid boars have high general immune protection, which guarantees good adaptability to the factors of the production environment.

**Key words:** boars, leukocytes, hemoglobin, general resistance

### INTRODUCTION

The various factors of the of the environment (biotic and abiotic) as well as the complex interconnections between them, have significant influence on the overall exchange of substances in the organism, its health and productivity, its immunobiological reactivity, the thermal balance and the exchange of gases, the genetic potential, the reproduction and a number of other functions of the organism (Plyashchenko and Khokhlova, 1976;

11,2  $10^9$ ,  
83,4 g/l,  
55,7 %, 1,9,  
3,1,  
39,8 %, 60,5 %.

(Plyashchenko and Khokhlova,

1976; Petkov et al., 1979; Bildirev et al., 1989; Kuznetsov and Lysov, 2002; Voronin et al., 2002; Kunavongkrit et al., 2005; Tolon et al., 2008; Vasilevich and Borovina, 2009).

(Voronin et al., 2002).

(1989)

O'Brien et al.

(Zhemerkina et al., 2002).

(Khusainova, 2004; Gridnev and Gridneva, 2006; Podobed, 2007).

(Molyanova, 2011).

(Large White x Pietrain),

Petkov et al., 1979; Bildirev et al., 1989; Kuznetsov and Lysov, 2002; Voronin et al., 2002; Kunavongkrit et al., 2005; Tolon et al., 2008; Vasilevich and Borovina, 2009). Scientific research and practice prove that the higher genetic potential in the animals, the more complicated the relations between the environment factors become (Voronin et al., 2002). The strength and degree of these effects on the health, productivity and resistance of the pigs, according to O'Brien et al. (1989) are determined not only by the parameters of every hygiene indicator, but also by the duration of their impact.

The import of new genetic material has increased in the last years. The economic results of the imported animals, however, do not always meet the expectations (Zhemerkina et al., 2002). Placed under new living conditions, a lot of the environmental factors become stressful to them. All this turns out to be a reason for disturbance in the exchange of substances, for decrease in the productivity, and for their early exclusion from the breeding (Khusainova, 2004; Gridnev and Gridneva, 2006; Podobed, 2007).

The resistance of the organism is one of its most frequently used functions for characterization of the mechanism of adaptation, performing typical tasks for the maintenance of structural-functional homeostasis of the organism (Molyanova, 2011).

Keeping this in mind, we set ourselves a task to analyse the process of adaptation of the hybrid boars (Large White x Pietrain), imported from France, by using some morphological biochemical and immunological indicators.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The breeders were raised in a brick building with wooden roof construction, with inner and outer lime-sand mortar and a cement floor in the region of the town of



<p>2012/13</p> <p>PU 320,</p> <p>(Hristev and Zapryanova, 2014).</p> <p>12-24</p> <p>17 m<sup>2</sup>,</p> <p>6 m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>(Angelov et al., 1998).</p> <p>Staphylococcus albus (Voronin et al., 2002).</p> <p>Dorofeychuk (1968)</p> <p>Micrococcus lysodei ticus,</p> <p>Smirnov and Kuzmin (1966)</p> <p>E. coli.</p>	<p>- Plovdiv in the period November-March 2012/13. The building is positioned to the east-west and the windows are mounted on the south longitudinal wall. We measured the temperature and the relative humidity outside and inside of the building with weekly thermo-hygrographs and we controlled them with Assmann Psychrometer, the air movement and the cooling value – with a kata thermometer, the luminous intensity – with a light meter PU 320, and the ammonia concentration with a drager. The detailed results for the hygiene state of the building and the microclimate in it are presented in a different message (Hristev and Zapryanova, 2014).</p> <p>The boars were at the age between 12-24 months and were placed under one and the same nutritional regimen, in accordance with the normative requirements. They had permanent free access to the small yards for walking with total area for each of 17 m<sup>2</sup>, and from the building – 6 m<sup>2</sup> each.</p> <p>We took blood samples for testing in the morning before eating from the ocular sinus. We determined the leukocytes count with the Bürker chamber, the total protein – with the biuret method, and the hemoglobin – with the method of Drabkin (Angelov et al., 1998). The phagocytic activity, phagocytic number and index we determined by inactivated culture of Staphylococcus albus (Voronin et al., 2002). We determined the lysozyme activity of the serum with Dorofeychuk's method (1968) as we used Micrococcus lysodei ticus for test culture, and the bactericidal activity of the blood serum – under Smirnov and Kuzmin's method (1966) with E. coli test culture.</p> <p>We processed the data through variational and statistical methods.</p>
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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our previous surveys, we established that the information regarding the reaction of the organism to the

al., 1996).  
 (Hristev et al., 1996).  
 (Angelov et al., 1998).  
 Khrabustovskiy (1974)  
 Karmoliev (1988)  
 (Zaytsev et al., 2008).  
 ( 1)  
 – 83,4 g/l (Angelov et al., 1998).  
 Zaytsev et al. (2008)  
 (Hristev and Zapryanova, 2014 )  
 – 0,001,

- environmental factors should not be viewed unambiguously and the examination should include as large a set of examinations as possible – physiological, morphological, biochemical, immunological and others (Hristev et al., 1996).

- It is known that the role of the serum proteins in the organism is not limited only to regulation of the osmotic pressure and of the blood, the transport of the sugars, fats, hormones, etc. (Angelov et al., 1998). Hrabostovski (1974) concludes, and Karmoliev (1988) adds that exactly the proteins are the ones that give information for the satisfaction of the organism with plastic substances and are material base for the development of high resistance.

- This is why the content of total protein in the blood serum of the boars is essential not only in the examination of the swine physiology, but also for tracing of the processes of spermatogenesis itself (Zaytsev et al., 2008). The levels of total serum protein we measured (table 1) were within the reference range for this type and category of animals – 83,4 g/l (Angelov et al., 1998).

- According to the conclusion of Zaytsev et al. (2008) in the results we have obtained, we can accept that there are present conditions, guaranteeing the obtaining of complete sex cells from these boars. In previous surveys of ours (Hristev and Zapryanova, 2014) of the same animals, we established that the low temperatures and the high air humidity in winter and autumn have stimulating effect on the thickness of the semen and the activity of the sperms – 0,001, while summer temperatures decrease their count and motility, but increase the volume of the semen.

1. -

**Table 1. Morphological biochemical and immunological indicators of hybrid boars**

/ Indicators	( $\bar{X} \pm S_x$ )
/ Phagocytic activity, %	55,7 $\pm$ 2,2
/ Phagocytic number	1,9 $\pm$ 0,2
/ Phagocytic index	3,1 $\pm$ 0,3
/ Lysozyme activity, %	39,8 $\pm$ 2,7
/ Bactericidal activity, %	60,5 $\pm$ 3,3
/ Total protein, g/l	83,4 $\pm$ 2,8
/ Number leukocytes, $10^9$	11,2 $\pm$ 0,3
/ Haemoglobin, g/l	107,6 $\pm$ 1,8

11,2  $10^9$  . . .

- 107,6 g/l.

- 55,7%.

Zaytsev et al. (2008)

41,5 42,4 %

The average leukocyte count with this hybrid was 11,2  $10^9$ , i. e. within the reference range for the physiological norms. The same can be said for the level of hemoglobin – 107,6 g/l. Therefore we assume that with the examined boars the oxidation processes run normally, and the cell resistance of the leukocytes is preserved. This is also supported by the results, characterizing the phagocytic protection of the animals – 55,7%. Zaytsev et al. (2008) also report of high phagocytic activity for boars from the Duroc and Large White breeds, by indicating values of 41,5 to 42,4 % during the period of their most active use.

The bactericidal activity of the blood serum is an indicator which characterizes good resistivity of the organism to causes from various nature. Actually it reflects the total action of the entire complex of protection humoral factors (Hristev, 2007).

(Hristev, 2007).

- 60,5%.

The examinations of these hybrid boars showed high activity – 60,5%. This gives us reason to confirm the opinion we have stated that these animals have high resistance and preserved health status, regardless of their active reproductive use.

The muramidase of the blood serum is accepted to be adding to the activity of the complement and to

and Bonovska, 1983).  
 (Kostov  
 (Goranov, 1978).  
 39,8 %,  
 (Zaytsev et  
 al., 2008).  
 (Kontsevenko and Kogan,  
 1985). Makaganchuk and Yakimchuk.  
 (1974)

increase the digestive function of the macrophages (Kostov and Bonovska, 1983). In the same time it cannot be used as an indicator used to assess the functional condition of the neutrophiles circulating in the blood due to its absence in these blood elements of pigs (Goranov, 1978). Its activity is defined mainly from the condition of the tissues and organs it originates from. The serum lysozyme activity of the boars we observed was 39,8 %, which is within the reference range, corresponding to the age and activity of the animals (Zaytsev et al., 2008). The presence of sufficient quantities of zinc, calcium and vitamin A in the feed increase the activity of the serum lysozyme, slightly increase the bactericidal activity and the level of immunoglobulins (Kontsevenko and Kogan, 1985). Makaganchuk and Yakimchuk (1974) even register a reliable increase in the qualitative indicators of the semen of the boars.

## CONCLUSIONS

11,2 10<sup>9</sup>,  
 107,6 g/l, 83,4  
 g/l, 55,7 %,  
 1,9,  
 3,1, 39,8  
 %, 60,5 %.

It has been established that all indicators are within the borders of the physiological norms: leukocytes count 11,2 10<sup>9</sup>, hemoglobin 107,6 g/l, total protein 83,4 g/l, phagocytic activity 55,7 %, phagocytic number 1,9, phagocytic index 3,1, lysozyme activity 39,8 %, bactericidal activity 60,5 %.

In conclusion, based on the obtained results, we can conclude that the examined hybrid boars have high general immune protection which guarantees them good adaptability to the factors of the production environment.

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