





Quantitative variation of melanins in llama (*Lama glama* L.)

Cecchi, Teresa , Valbonesi, A., Passamonti, Paolo , Frank, Eduardo Narciso  and Renieri, Carlo  (2007) *Quantitative variation of melanins in llama (*Lama glama* L.)*. *Small Ruminant Research*, 71 (1/3). pp. 52-58. ISSN 0921-4488

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RESUMEN

The amount of melanin pigments was investigated in 80 Argentinean llama, representative of seven phenotypes and four different fleece colours, by means of spectrophotometric assays: SpEM (spectrophotometric eumelanin), SpPM (spectrophotometric pheomelanin), SpASM (spectrophotometric alkali soluble melanin), and SpTM (spectrophotometric total melanin). It was found that, although to a different extent, the quantitative variation of these pigments was affected both by phenotypes and fleece colours and, hence, it was possible to identify and to distinguish homogeneous groups on the basis of these two factors. In particular, SpEM revealed the most reliable parameter for a discrimination among these groups. Low concentrations of this pigment characterize red, wild, and red black phenotypes and distinguish them from black and tan and non-agouti black ones, both showing high concentrations; low concentrations also distinguish reddish brown fleece colour from very dark red and black ones.

TIPO DE DOCUMENTO: Artículo

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2006.04.011>

PALABRAS CLAVE: Llama. Spectrophotometric alkali soluble melanin. Spectrophotometric eumelanin. Spectrophotometric pheomelanin. Spectrophotometric total melanin.

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