



NNGC symposium *Domesticatie en inteelt*Utrecht, November 13, 2010 J.A. Lenstra, Utrecht University





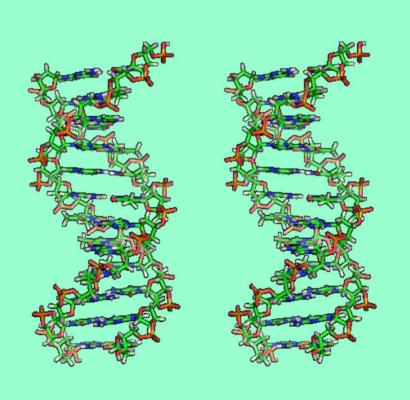


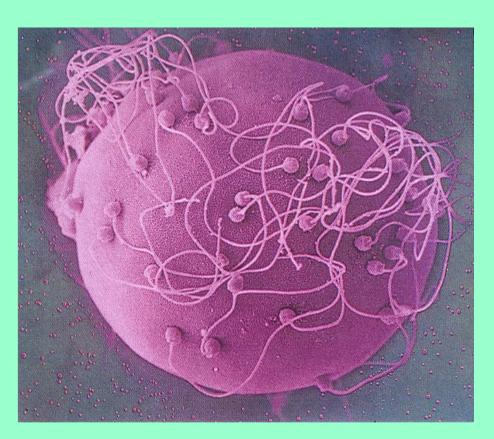




- DNA allows a reconstruction of the history of livestock, which is closely linked to our own history
- DNA analysis facilitates genetic management of livestock breeds

#### **Transmission of DNA**

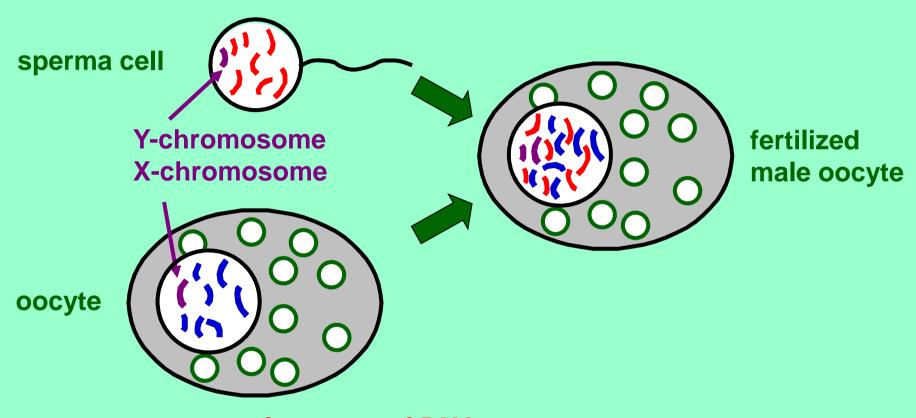




- Mammals are diploid: DNA
   Many sperm cells on oocyte comes from both parents

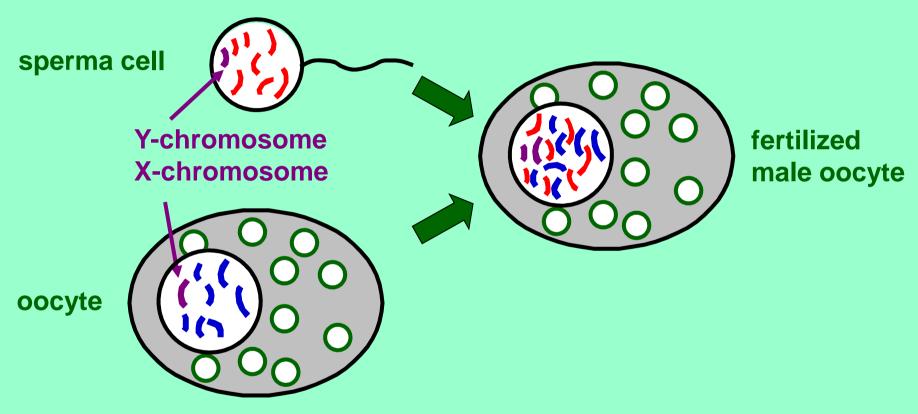
  - One will penetrate and deliver its DNA

#### **Transmission of DNA**



- ) paternal autosomal DNA
- ( maternal autosomal DNA
- male Y-chromosome: paternal transmission
- O mitochondrial DNA: maternal transmission

#### **Transmission of DNA**



- ) paternal autosomal DNA
- ( maternal autosomal DNA
- male Y-chromosome variants: origin of sires
- O mitochondrial DNA variants: origin of herds and flocks





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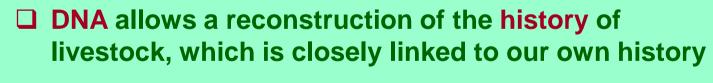












Each species has its own story





#### 1. Domestication

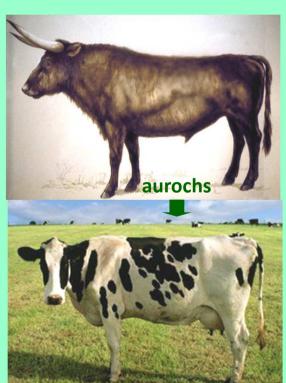
- Excavations, mitochondrial DNA:
   First sheep, goats, pigs, cattle in
   Mesopotamia, 10.000 6.000 BC
- The first farmers, the first cities
- Towards modern society















#### 2. Migration

In Europe via two routes: along Mediterranean coast along Danube

3. Contact with wild relatives
Sheep, goat, horses: no wild
relatives in Europe

Pigs: European wild boar replaced Asian imports

Cattle: ~ 1/1000 descends from aurochs cow, but role of aurochs bulls *a priori* likely





**Y1** 

Y2



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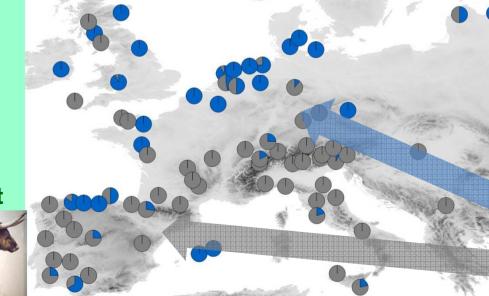
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Y-chromosomal variants: clear Y1-Y2 north-south contrast

Y1 from aurochs?







4. Specialization, since 200 yr breed formation
Worldwide now 1000s of livestock breeds

Y1





4. Specialization, since 200 yr breed formation Worldwide now 1000s of livestock breeds

Cattle, autosomal DNA: clear north-central-south contrast

2 major types of dairy cattle evolved separately



**Germanic** 



Helvetian, already in Roman era

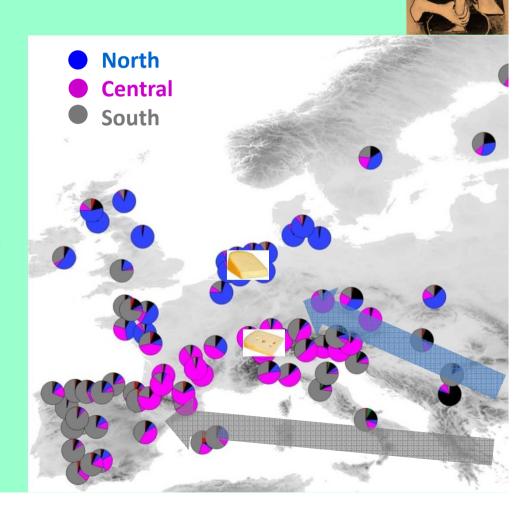
**Sheep:** original hair sheep were largely replaced by wool sheep



Mouflon



Merino



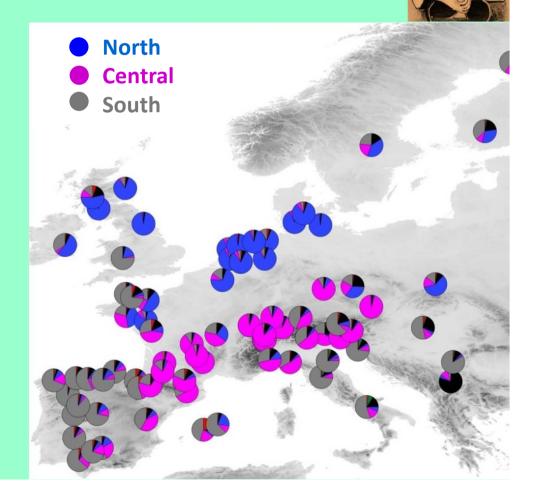




- 4. Specialization, since 200 yr breed formation
- 5. Cross-breeding
  Not all breeds are authentic landraces

**Pigs**: large-scale 19<sup>th</sup> century crossing with Chinese Meishan









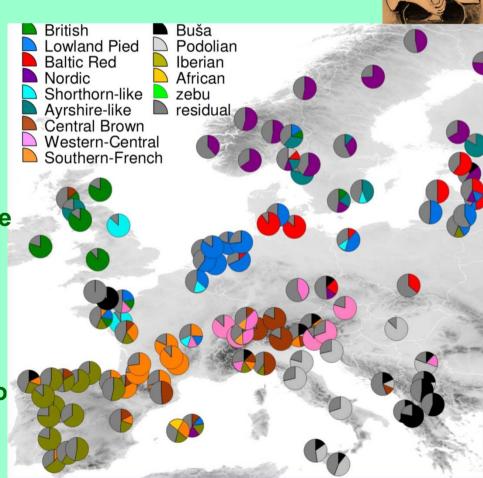
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Cattle: dairy breed clusters emerge by spreading of popular breeds: black-pied, red, Shorthorn, alpinebrown, alpine spotted

**Sheep:** in Middle Ages spreading of British and then Spanish Merino wool sheep. New data!







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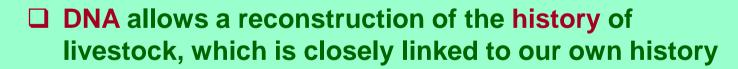












**Recent results with sheep** 



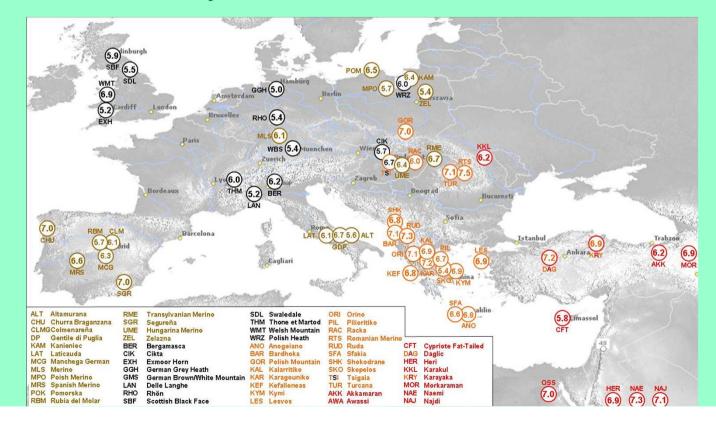
**International Sheep Genomic Consortium** 



## **Sheep DNA**On the origin of wool



- Mitochondrial DNA
  - » Southwest Asian origin
- 31 autosomal microsatellites, 1748 sheep, 57 breeds
  - » SW Asian/SE European/SW-European/NW-central clusters
  - » Within West-Europe weak geographic differentiation
  - » Loss of diversity from southeast to northwest





#### **Sheep DNA**On the origin of wool



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  - » Within West-Europe weak geographic differentiation
  - » Loss of diversity from southeast to northwest
  - **3** Uneven breed representation
  - **® Microsatellite markers not adequate**
- 50.000 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), 2819 sheep,
   74 breeds from 5 continents + 55 wild or feral sheep



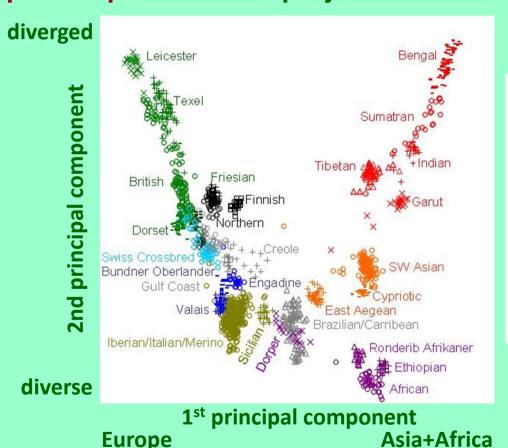


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A. Coordination analysis» division of variation over principal components » 2D projection of sheep



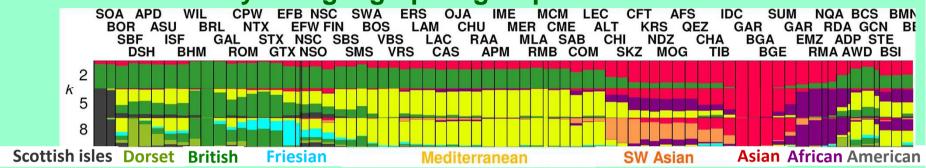
Asia
SW Asia
Africa
American
Spanish
Swiss
Swiss crossbred
N Europe
English

» Geographic clustering of sheep » global view of diversity









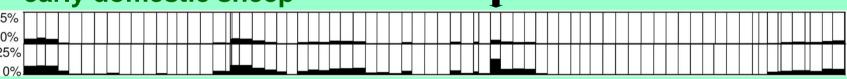
» ancestral gene pools

Hybrid Dorper

Supervised clustering with feral mouflons, descending from early domestic sheep

Sardinian Black





» remnants of most primitive sheep mainly in northern Europe







- C. Phylogenetic networks representing genetic distances
  - » lines of descent of 'pure' breeds

British

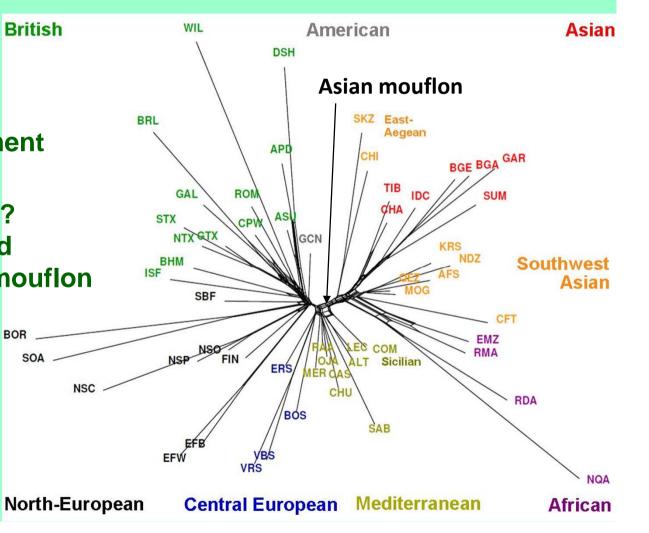
BOR

» geographic clusters

**Branch lengths** 

» breed development

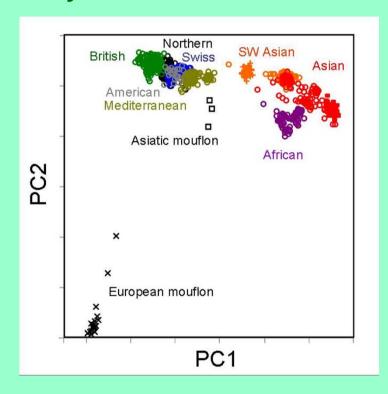
Where is the root? At position of wild ancestor: Asian mouflon







#### Coordination analysis of feral and wild mouflon



Position of wild ancestor Asian mouflon:
 near South Italian and Greek breeds, not in SW Asia!
 most breeds descend from Southern-Italian/Greek sheep





Primitive hair sheep were later replaced by wool sheep, but when and where?







- Columella (4-70): during Roman era still many hair sheep
- Plinius the Elder (25-79), Naturalis Historia 8, 190:

  Lana autem laudatissima Apula et quae in Italia Graeci pecoris appellatur, alibi Italica - Apulae breves villo nec nisi paenulis celebres; circa Tarentum Canusiumque summam nobilitatem habent.

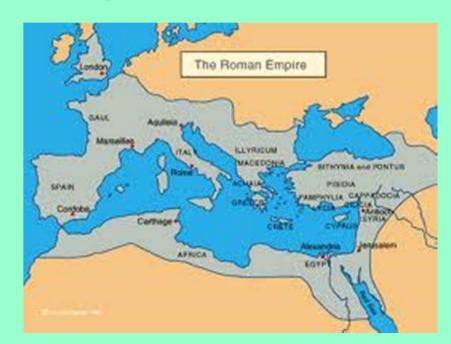
  [The most praised wool is that of Apulia, which in Italy is named the Greek sheep wool, but in other countries is named Italian - The wool of Apulia is of a short staple, and specially in request for cloaks and mantles, and nothing else. About Tarentum and Canusium, the richest of this kind are found.]
- Exactly where SNPs place the origin of sheep!
- Tarentine sheep exported to Syria, Black Sea, Spain, Britain





- Wool trading was a vital component of the Roman economy
- Hypothesis: demand of high-quality wool drove export and expansion of Southern Italian wool sheep. These became the ancestors of most sheep around the world.

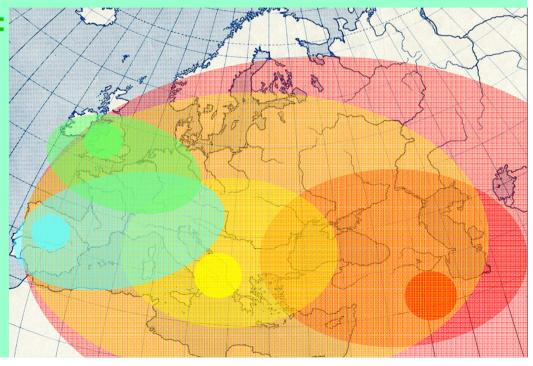








- > Successive expansions of profitable types of sheep.
- 1. 8.000-10.000 BCE Primitive hair sheep
- 2. Roman period: Tarentine wool sheep
- 3. From early Middle Ages: English wool sheep
- 4. From late Middle Ages: Spanish Merino wool sheep







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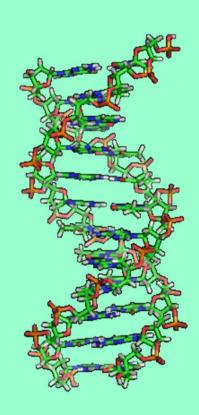
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#### Domestic DNA Molecular conservation of breeds



- > Original justification of diversity research
- DNA may indicate a high diversity
   valuable for conservation
   often primitive breeds near domestication site
- DNA may indicate a separate history
   valuable uniqueness
   Italian Chianina cattle, Scottish Soay sheep, etc.
- DNA may indicate a recent origin
   » conservation less urgent
   many synthetic or upgraded breeds
- > DNA does not (yet) always provide an answer





#### **Domestic DNA**



#### Non-molecular conservation of breeds

- Valuable traits:
  - E.g.: The Golden Fleece
    Local adaptation
    Does not imply large DNA diversity



- Most breeds only few 100 years old
- Most breeds of mixed origin
- Conserve the phenotype, but not 'genetic purity'. E.g.: Dutch Belted influenced by Galloway
- > Strict genetic isolation harmful for animal health The conservation dilemma of the Friesian horse:
  - unique appearance
  - despite careful management, more inbred than any other horse breed » genetic disorders
  - eradication of genetic defects » more inbreeding!
  - cross-breeding: loss of traits, but avoidable? Similar problems in many dog breeds











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