

THE NATIVE SPANISH POULTRY BREEDS AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN CASTROPOL, ASTURIAS, SPAIN 9 - 11 NOVEMBER 2007

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Photos: Aviculture Europe.

Today there are over 20 native poultry breeds recognised in Spain. A lot of those were unknown to me, and I presume most of you never heard of them. Not all breeds were present at the National Show in Asturias but those that were, we tried to photograph as best as we could; partly in our own 'studio', but due to lack of time (judging, festivities) the other part could only be photographed inside their pens. We still hope you get a picture of these interesting breeds.



Left: A well-known but rare breed: The Spanish, with their characteristic large white face. This is a cockerel. Ear lobes are wanted much larger.

ESPAÑOLA NEGRA CARA BLANCA – THE WHITE FACED BLACK SPANISH

The White faced black Spanish is probably the oldest breed of the Mediterranean classes. The large white face (Cara = face) is an unique characteristic of the breed. Actually this is an over developed earlobe. Keeping the white face in top-condition for showing is the aim of the breeders of this both utile and attractive fowl.

The general appearance is vigorous but graceful and elegant, with a rich feathered tail. The breed comes only in the black variety; the black plumage has a dark green sheen. It has a rather large, single crest; dark brown eyes and dark blue legs. The hens are non-broody and lay a large pure white egg.



Weight according to the Spanish Standard:
Cock 3 kg. 170 gr.
Hen 2 kg. 720 gr.
Cockerel 2 kg. 720 gr.
Pullet 2 kg. 270 gr.

Right: White faced black Spanish pullet. Ear lobes wanted much larger.



GALLINA DE MOS **Region Galicia**

Created around 1940, from two types of hens that existed in Galicia, the one of the coast and interior, of more volume and weight, and the one of the mountain, smaller stature.

Due to focussing towards industrialized high performances poultry crossings the Galiña de Mos almost became extinct.

In the middle of year 2000, the Xunta of Galicia began a Program of Recovery and Conservation of the race Galiña de Mos. Thanks to the morphologic data on the breed in the historical archives of Galicia, the pattern of the breed wrote up itself and the Galina de Mos was re-created by mating the best found birds. Since 2001 recognised in the Spanish Poultry Standard and in 2003 listed in the Catálogo Oficial de Razas de Ganado de España.

Left: Pullet Gallina de Mos, colour: *leonado*.

A race of good volume and weight, good lay and of white and exquisite meat, although of slow development. The breed only comes in *leonado* colour; a warm buff colour, lighter in neck and saddle hackles, etwas darker in shoulders. The tail feathers and sickles are black. The inner vanes of the flights are also black. Down colour is buff.

General Characteristics:

Head: Rather small.

Face and ear lobes: Red.

Comb: Triple or pea comb.

Eyes: dark orange.

Body: Wide, deep, long.

Chest: Wide, deep and prominent.

Tail: Of rather small size, the sickles of great volume, but are short. Carried in angle of 45°.

Wings: Small, fitted to the body.

Legs: Yellow, without feathers, 4 toes.

Plumage: Shiny, abundant and compact.

Eggs: 50 grams minimum, light brown.

Weight:

Cock 3,5 to 4 kg.; hen 2,5 a 3 kg.

Size of Leg ring (in mm.):

Cock 22 - Hen 20.



GALLINA MALLORQUINA Region Islas Baleares

Another very old breed of Mediterranean origin and according to old publications a breed from Mallorca Island, although it could also have originated in the west of the Iberian Peninsula. To preserve the true breed, there have been publications in March 2003, stating that the breed was almost extinct, and *l'Associació d'aviram de les Illes Balears* (Breeders Club of the Balearic Island) achieved in having the breed standardized. A number of birds are also kept in the *Conservatori d'Aviram de les Illes Balears de la Fundació Natura Parc*.



General Characteristics

Type: a lively, elegant, and peasantlike chicken.

Comb: rather large, single, five or six serrations, to fold in the hens.

Ear lobes: white.

Abundant hackles, large wings, but carried close to the body.

Tail is abundant with many nicely curved sickles, of black colour, very shiny.

Legs: Blanc, four toes.

The breed comes in one colour only: Paja. (= soft yellow, hens look like 'our' wheaten).

Weight: Cocks between 2,5 and 3,0 kilos. Hens between 1,8 and 2,2 kilos.

Eggs: 55 grams minimum, of cream colour.



EUSKAL OILOA - Region Euskadi

General origin and Characteristics:

In 1975, within a program of location, conservation and study of native poultry breeds that was made in the Animal Department Genetic of the INIA, Dr. Fernando Orozco and his equipment, introduced typical chickens of the small Basque villages. They came in various colours and were selected to obtain pure varieties. Being based on this work, Dr. Jose Antonio Mendizábal wrote up the standard of the breed.

It is a medium large bird, a rustic breed and of double utility: acceptable as much in egg production as in meat production.



Euskal Oiloa pullet (above) and cockerel (right), variety naked neck (*leposoila*)

Comb: single and medium sized.

Eyes: chestnut.

Ear lobes: red.

Legs: yellow, 4 toes.

Eggs: Rather large, 60 grams and of brown colour.

Weight: Cock around 3.6 kg. Hen 2.5 kg

Diameter of leg ring (in mm.):

Cock 20 - Hen 18.



The breed is recognised in 5 colour varieties:

belza (black);

gorria (looks like red black columbia)

leposoila (naked neck, only in *gorria* colour variety),

marradune (cuckoo variety of *gorria*);

zillara (looks like white black columbia).



Above: Euskal Oiloa cockerel in the *marradune* variety.



CASTELLANA NEGRA Region Castilla La Mancha

This breed is known for over a century. It originated from local black chickens and today it is mainly kept in Extremadura by fanciers and as backyard poultry. Except for fancy and egg production they are also kept for insect control in the garden!

Only 2 of each 5 hens get broody, but if they do, they wonderfully take care of the chicks. They are known as good layers of 200 to 220 eggs per year.

General Characteristics

It is a light, vigorous and very pretty bird of medium size with the characteristics of a Mediterranean type of chicken; a cylindrical body, with the trunk slightly inclined backwards and the fitted plumage, abundant tail and large wings.

The single comb is fairly large size, with preferably 4 to 6 serrations and of intense red color. The blade is slightly raised from the line of the neck. The comb of the hen is folded from the third serration, but without covering the eye.

The wattles are long, wide and of red color.

Ear lobes are white, not very large.

The eyes are auburn.

The legs are black, 4 toes.



The breed only comes in the black colour. The plumage is totally black with metallic green reflections.

Weight: Cock 2,8 to 3 kg. Hen 2 to 2.6 kg.

The eggs are white and weigh about 55 grams.

LA GALLINA PIÑEIRA - Region Galicia

This is a native breed that is being recovered, thanks to a completely financed project for the Colexio de Veterinarios of A Corunna. On the whole, chickens can be classified in 4 types; the very heavy Asian breeds, the Mediterranean ones, of lighter type and with white ear lobes, the Game breeds, and the Atlantic ones, of medium size and with red ear lobes. The Piñeira belongs to this last category, with the belonging type of plumage.

Characteristics:

This breed comes i.e. in the Black Red colour with a Partridge hen, so the males and the females do not have the same colour. This particularity indicates that it is a very old breed. This phenomenon is common between the wild fowl, in which the male usually displays a very showy plumage, whereas the female, generally has a 'camouflage' plumage making her less visible with the surroundings.

The comb is a broad, flat rosecomb. Earlobes are red. The eyes are orange-yellow. The legs are yellow.

Eggs: 55 to 65 grams, crème coloured.

Weight: Cock 3,2 to 4 kg. Hen 2 to 2,3 kg.

The breed comes in three colour varieties: the *aperdizado* (the one that has been described above), the *asalmonada*, (salmon colour) and the *blanco* (white).

The existence of the breed is thanks to the personal dedication of Jesus Garcia Rodriguez, veterinarian of Arzúa (To Corunna).



In the photos you see an *aperdizado* (Black Red) cock.

At the note at the pen of the hen in the picture on the left, we noticed an alteration, saying this is a '*silvestre*' coloured hen. The judging wasn't yet done at the time. As far as we know it is neither a *silvestre* nor an *asalmonada* hen (as originally noted, see insert) but an *aperdizado* hen.

The breed is not yet recognised in the Spanish Poultry Standard.

SEPTIEMBRE	II CAMPEONATO DE ESPAÑA DE RAZAS AUTÓCTONAS - CASTROPOL 2007	Asociación de Avicultores de Galicia "La Piñeira"
Nº JAULA: 210		
ESPECIE:	GALLINAS	
GRUPO:	ESPAÑOLA	
RAZA:	PIÑEIRA	
COLOR:	ASALMONADO SILVESTRE	
Nº Animales:	1	Sexo: H
Nº Anillo:		
PRESENTACIÓN:		
CUALIDADES:		
DESCOS:		
DEFECTOS:		



Above: Extremeña cockerel and pullet in *blanco sucio*.

EXTREMEÑA **Region Extremadura**

These chickens are very well adapted to the climat of this region (Extremadura) and capable of living outdoors.

The breed is recently recognised in the Spanish Poultry Standard. There is an aviculture association (in Extremadura, Spain) interested in its rearing and preservation, and it is very much in demand as backyard poultry and fancy breed.

The native breeds of Extremadura are considered part of the region's identity; they therefore enjoy protection and their rearing is encouraged. For this reason, the Research and Technological Development Dept. of the Extremadura Regional Government (Servicio de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico de la Junta de Extremadura) maintains the Valdesequera Farm in Badajoz. This facility has a population of Extremeña Azul chickens, the morphology and productive capacity of which have been the subject of research since the year 2000 (Muriel, 2002). The intention is to encourage the rearing of this breed not only as a fancy bird or backyard poultry but also as a utility breed (meat), although they are said to develop rather slow.

Characteristics: A medium large bird with yellow beak and red earlobes. Single comb and dark eyes. Yellow skin, yellow legs (a black sheen tolerated)

The breed was present at the Castropol National Show in the following colour varieties: *Azul* (blue), *blanco sucio* (splash white) and *negro* (black).

Unfortunately we have no further information on this breed.



GALLINA DE RAZA SOBRARBE



This is an old breed from the Region of Sobrarbe (Pyrenean of Huesca). In 1995, after consulting Dr. Amadeu Francesch, a program of conservation was started by D. Ricardo Azon together with the last criadores of the breed. At those time the situation of the breed was critical. Under the direction of Dr. Amadeu Francesch, pure varieties were obtained and standardized.

Sobrarbe cock (l) and pullet (r) in *barrada com pajizo*.



Insert: the small crest

General Characteristics:

It is a light bird, of short back and medium high tail. They have a single and straight comb of fine texture, medium size, with 5 or 6 serrations, and a small crest, behind the comb, following the line of the neck. At the mature cocks, the crest tends to be confused with the abundant neck hackles. Eyes are *miel* (honey) coloured. The ear lobes are white with some red. Legs are rather short and yellow, but some dark is allowed in the varieties *negro*, *cenizosa* and *franciscana*.

Eggs: 55 gr. minimum; cream coloured; 170 per year.

Weight: Cock 2,5 to 3 kg. Hen 1,7 to 2 kg.
Size of Leg ring: Cock 18 mm - Hen 16 mm.

Right: Pullet and cockerel in *Negra con pajizo*.



According to the Standard of February 2006, the Sobrarbe is recognised in 6 colour varieties:

1. *Roya* or *Trigueña* (Red with black neck hackle and tail)
2. *Negra con pajizo* (Black with soft yellow)
3. *Cenizosa* or *azul con pajizo* (Blue with soft yellow)
4. *Blanca armiñada en negro* (White with black)
5. *Franciscana* or *barrada con pajizo* (as number 2, but with cuckoo pattern)
6. *Blanca* (White)

Left: Cockerel in *Blanca armiñada en negro*. The crest is hard to distinguish (see photo in the right).



PINTA ASTURIANA – Region Asturias

This is a native breed of the Region Asturias, so this show was a sort of 'home match' and 140 Pinta Asturiana were entered. The most known colour pattern of the Pinta Asturiana is the *negro moteado de blanco* (black-and-white colour pattern). The white colour should dominate the black.

Cockerel (l) and pullet (r) in *negro moteado de blanco*.



Below: Pullet (r) and cockerel in *roxo moteado de blanco*.



However, the breed is also recognised in *roxo moteado de blanco* (red-and-white colour pattern) *negro* (black), *blanco* (white) and *abedul* (black with silvergrey neck hackles). And there is also a naked neck variety.

The hens are good layers of cream coloured eggs, weighing 60 to 65 gr.

An extended article about origin, keeping and breeding the Pinta Asturiana was published in our October 2007 issue.



Middle: Pinta Asturiana Cockerel in *abedul*.

Right: Pinta Asturiana cockerel in *blanco*.





THE COMBATIENTE ESPAÑOL

A very popular breed. These slender, light and extremely beautiful birds have a world-wide fame as a show bird but also as game fowl. Spanish Game cocks fight with natural spurs and although most of us don't like the idea of cockfighting, without these games the breed would surely have disappeared long ago.

Characteristics:

It is a chicken of medium size. The head is small, resembling the head form of a reptile. The beak is short, yellowish colour. The eyes are large and vivacious. The long, strong and curved neck is covered with abundant hackles, also the saddle hackles are rich. The tail is long and somewhat forked. The spurs are very developed and the toes are strong and well separated, the back one touching the ground.

The breed is recognised in many colours: i.e. Pinto, Retinto, Bayo, Blanco, Negro and Giro in several varieties.



Left, from the top

downward: abedul cock; aperdizado pullet; azul hen; negro moteado de blanco pullet; giro cockerel. Not top-animals, just to show you some colours.



The 2 birds in the pictures at the right side were excellent: a giro cockerel and a dorado cockerel.



NEW BREEDS

The name of this new breed is **SERRANO DE TERUEL**. (Teruel is a province in Spain, belonging to the region of Aragón.)

The entered cockerel was *aperdizada* colour (Black-Red) and the pullet was *negro* (Black). In particular the comb was very striking, almost as large as the comb of the Redcap. (See picture in the right.)



Left: Black pullet Serrano de Teruel.



A new bantam breed, entered at this show, was the **KIKA EXTREMEÑA ENANA**, in a blue partridge colour. Both hen and cock have a cute crest behind the single comb.

Left: Bantam Hen and Cock; according to the leg ring they were born in the year 2004.

Right: Head study of the hen.

We have no further information about both new breeds.



GALLINA NANA FLOR D'AMETLLER – Region Cataluña

Another bantam, which is already standardised since many years, is the Flor d'Ametller, originating in the Region Catalan. It is a small bird, very rustic, vigorous, elegant and vivacious. The name refers to the flowering almond tree, and so it comes only in the speckled pattern, remembering the petals of the flowers of this tree. Known colour varieties are: *dorada moteada de blanco*, *canela moteada de blanco*, *negra moteada de blanco*, *azul moteada de blanco y blanco cenicienta*. (gold, cinnamon, black, and blue white mottled.) Legs and ear lobes are preferably white.

The cock weighs around 1100 grams and the hen 800 grams. The eggs weigh about 38 grams. The hens are praised for their broody capacities; they can incubate 10 of her own eggs, or 6 of large fowl, 15 of partridge, 20 of quail, 4 of duck or turkey and 2 of geese. A specialized Catalan company in poultry keeping of native breeds 'AVIRAUT' cares about the breed and you can annually admire them in: the "Exposició the International d'Aus Ciutat de Valls" in Valls (Tarragona), the third weekend of January; and in the "Exposició d'Aus of Camallera" in Camallera (Girona), the last weekend of September. Of course also several Flor d'Ametller were present at this National Show in Castropol.



**Above and right: Pullet and Cockerel in Dorada moteada de blanco.
Below: In Negra moteada de blanco.**



On the more 'common' Spanish breeds like Andalusian, Minorca and Prat, we will do a breed special in due time.