

**THE EFFECT OF CROSSBREEDING BETWEEN  
GABALI AND BAUSCAT RABBIT BREEDS  
ON PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE  
OF THEIR CROSSES**

By

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## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>VI</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1. Doe Litter Traits	3
2.1.1. Litter size:	3
2.1.2. Litter weight	6
2.1.3. Mortality	11
2.1.4. Crossbreeding effects	13
2.1.4.1. Crossbreeding and heterotic effect	13
2.1.4.2. Maternal additive effect	14
2.1.4.3. Direct additive effect	15
2.2. Milk production traits	16
2.2.1. Means and variation	17
2.3. Progeny Traits	18
2.3.1. Means	19
2.3.2. Daily weight gain.	20
2.3.3. Sex	21
2.3.4. Crossbreeding effects	23
2.3.4.1. Direct heterosis effect	23
2.3.4.2. Maternal additive effect	24
2.3.4.3. Direct additive effect	25
2.4. Carcass traits	28
2.4.1. Means	29
2.4.2. Sex	30
2.4.3. Crossbreeding effects	30
2.4.3.1. Direct heterosis effect	30
2.4.3.2. Maternal additive effect	32
2.4.3.3. Direct additive effect	34
<b>3. MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	<b>36</b>

## II

3.1. Location and period	36
3.1. Animals	36
3.4. Breeding plan	36
3.5. Housing	36
3.6. Management	37
3.7. Feeding and rations	37
3.8. Milk production traits	38
3.9. Carcass test	39
3.10. Data	40
3.11. Statistical analysis	40
<b>4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>42</b>
4.1. Doe Litter Traits	42
4.1.1. Litter size	42
4.1.2. Litter weight	45
<b>4.1.3. Crossbreeding effects</b>	<b>46</b>
4.1.3.1. Direct heterosis effect	46
4.1.3.2. Direct additive effect	47
4.1.3.3. Maternal additive effect	49
4.2. Milk production traits	50
4.2.1. Means	50
4.3. Progeny Traits	53
4.3.1. Means	53
4.3.2. Sex	57
4.3.3. Crossbreeding effects	57
4.3.3.1. Direct heterosis effect	57
4.3.3.2. Maternal additive effect	58
4.3.3.3. Direct additive effect	60
4.4. Carcass traits	62
<b>4.4.1. Means</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>4.4.2. Sex</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>4.4.3. Crossbreeding effects</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>4.4.3.1. Direct heterosis effect</b>	<b>66</b>



### III

<b>4.4.3.2. Maternal additive effect</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>4.4.3.3. Direct additive effect</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>5. SUMMARY</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>5.1. Doe litter traits</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>5.2. Progeny Traits</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>5.3. Carcass traits</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>6. REFERENCES</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>ARABIC SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>



## LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
1	Distribution of mating groups, number of sire, dam and litters used in different genetic groups study	36
2	Composition and calculated chemical analysis of the ration.	38
3	Actual means and standard errors (SE), for litter size and litter weight in Gabali, Bauscat rabbits and their crosses of the study.	44
4	Estimates of heterosis ( $H^i$ ), maternal additive effect ( $G^m$ ) and direct additive effect ( $G^i$ ) on litter size traits.	48
5	Estimates of heterosis ( $H^i$ ), maternal additive effect ( $G^m$ ) and direct additive effect ( $G^i$ ) on litter weight traits.	49
6	Presents actual means and standard errors (SE) for milk yield traits.	51
7	Presents actual means and standard errors (SE) for milk production traits.	52
8	Presents actual means and standard errors (SE) for body weight traits.	54
9	Presents actual means and standard errors (SE) for body weight gain traits.	55
10	Estimates of heterosis ( $H^i$ ), maternal additive effect ( $G^m$ ) and direct additive effect ( $G^i$ ) on body weight traits.	56
11	Actual means and standard error for carcass traits in Bauscat and Gabali rabbits	63
12	Presents actual means and standard errors (SE) for Carcass traits.	64
13	Estimates of heterosis ( $H^i$ ), maternal additive	65

effect ( $G^m$ ) and direct additive effect ( $G^i$ ) on Carcass traits.

**LIST OF FIGURE**

<b>Fig. No.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	Actual means for litter size in Gabali, Bauscat rabbits and their crosses of the study.	44
<b>2</b>	Actual means for litter weight in Gabali , Bauscat rabbits and their crosses of the study.	46
<b>3</b>	Presents actual means for milk production traits.	52
<b>4</b>	Presents actual means for body weight traits.	53
<b>5</b>	Presents actual means for body weight gain traits.	56



## ABSTRACT

**Ahmed Ibrahim Abdelmaboud Eldomyati: The Effect of crossbreeding Between Gabali and Bauscat Rabbit Breeds on Productive Performance of their Crosses. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Poultry Production, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2018.**

Data of 518 litter traits (litter size at birth, LSB, and at weaning, LSW, and litter weight at birth, LWB, and at weaning, LWW) produced from 4 genetic groups (2 purebreds and 2 crossbreds) were used. Data were analyzed using crossbreeding effect program to estimate crossbreeding components (additive, heterosis and maternal effect) .

Generally the experiment was conducted on Bauscat (B) and Gabali (GAB). The rabbits were fed pellets *adlibitum*, and slaughtered at 12 weeks of age . The following traits were recorded: body weight and average daily gain at birth to slaughter, average feed consumption from weaning to slaughter, slaughter age, carcass weight, meat, bone and fat content of carcass, prime cuts weight (fore part, loin and hind part), and dressing percentage. The results indicated that reciprocal crossbred B  $\times$  GAB and GAB  $\times$  B rabbits were heavier than purebred animals. B  $\times$  GAB crosses attained the slaughter body weight earlier, and had lower feed consumption. The dressing percentage in B  $\times$  GAB crosses was highest, while the lowest was observed in Gab rabbits. For other slaughter traits, except the fat content of carcass, effects of crossing rabbits were small. The magnitude of the crossbreeding effects depended on the direction of crossbreeding. Maximum effects in crosses for slaughter age, body weight and dressing percentage were obtained when the Bauscat breed was used as a maternal component.

Results showed that differences between Bauscat and Gabali breeds were significant for all the studied litter traits. The differences among some crossbred groups and purebreds were significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). Estimates of dominance (direct heterosis) effect were of moderate importance on LSB as these were negative (decreased the general mean