

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Phenotypic characteristics of gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed

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**ABSTRACT** - The findings emerged out of the present study are confined to establish the physical characteristics of gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed. The main object of the study was to identify the different phenotypic characters of gaolao strain of Nagpur buffalo breed located in Wardha district. The observations of the present study clearly established that the studied population of gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed was homogeneous and possessed certain physical characters distinctly which could form the base for identification.

**KEY WORDS** - Nagpuri buffalo, Gaolao strain, Phynotypic characters

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### INTRODUCTION.....

Indian dairy industry seems to be buffalo oriented as buffaloes contribute to more than the 55 per cent of the total milk produced. It is observed that the choice of dairymen as well as individual milk producer in urban and rural area is buffalo, on account of its high butter fat content in milk and ability of animal to withstand adverse management conditions. In reference to this situation, more than 50 per cent of the world's buffalo population is confined to India. Obviously, the best buffaloes are only habitat in the country. They are grouped in over a dozen important breeds in India, of which Marathwada, Pandharpuri and Nagpuri/ Berari belong to Maharashtra (Kaikini and Pargaonkar, 1969). The number of high yielding cattle and buffaloes is increasing and there is decline in the population of indigenouse cattle. Nagpuri breed has its native area in Maharashtra. However, it is believed by the people that although the terms Nagpuri, Ellichpuri, gaolao, Shahi, Pandharpuri and Marathwadi are synonymous, but the population do indicate distinct differences in their body confirmation and physical characteristics, thereby forming different groups.

### RESEARCH METHODS.....

The findings emerged out of the present study are confined to establish the physical characteristics of gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed. The main object of the study was to identify different phenotypic characters of gaolao strain of Nagpur buffalo breed located in Wardha district. The Wardha district is considered to be the home tract of gaolao strain and therefore each village of the district was possessing the buffalo population. However, Karanja, Ashti and Arvi Tahsils of the districts are known for dairy business and cattle markets wherein typical gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed were maintained. Considering these subjective criteria, villages in each Tahsil were selected. Information with regards to qualitative and quantitative morphological characters of 1000 buffaloes were collected from three Tahsils namely, Karanja, Ashti and Arvi of Wardha district. For this purpose the data on 350, 300 and 350 buffaloes from Karanja, Ashti and Arvi Tahsils, respectively were recorded to make the total sampling on 1000 buffaloes. For the collection of requisite information, performa prescribed by NBAGR was used. The collected information of 1000 gaolao strain of Nagpuri buffalo breed was belonging to different age groups as I (4-5 years), II (6-7