



UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "KING MIHAI I" FROM
TIMISOARA
"YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
IN APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES"

13-14 November, 2025



"Young people and multidisciplinary
research in applied life sciences"

CURRENT STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES OF MANGALITSA PIG BREEDING IN
ROMANIA

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Abstract: The paper analyzes the growth and reproductive potential of the Mangalitsa breed in Romania, based on data obtained from the semi-free-range farm in Pâncota, Arad County. Morphological measurements were carried out (body length, chest girth, withers height, chest depth, and shank circumference), and the main reproductive indices were evaluated (number of piglets per farrowing, survival rate, growth rate). The results highlight the rustic conformation, adaptability, and superior meat quality, confirming the Mangalitsa breed's potential for sustainable development and the conservation of native genetic resources.

• Introduction

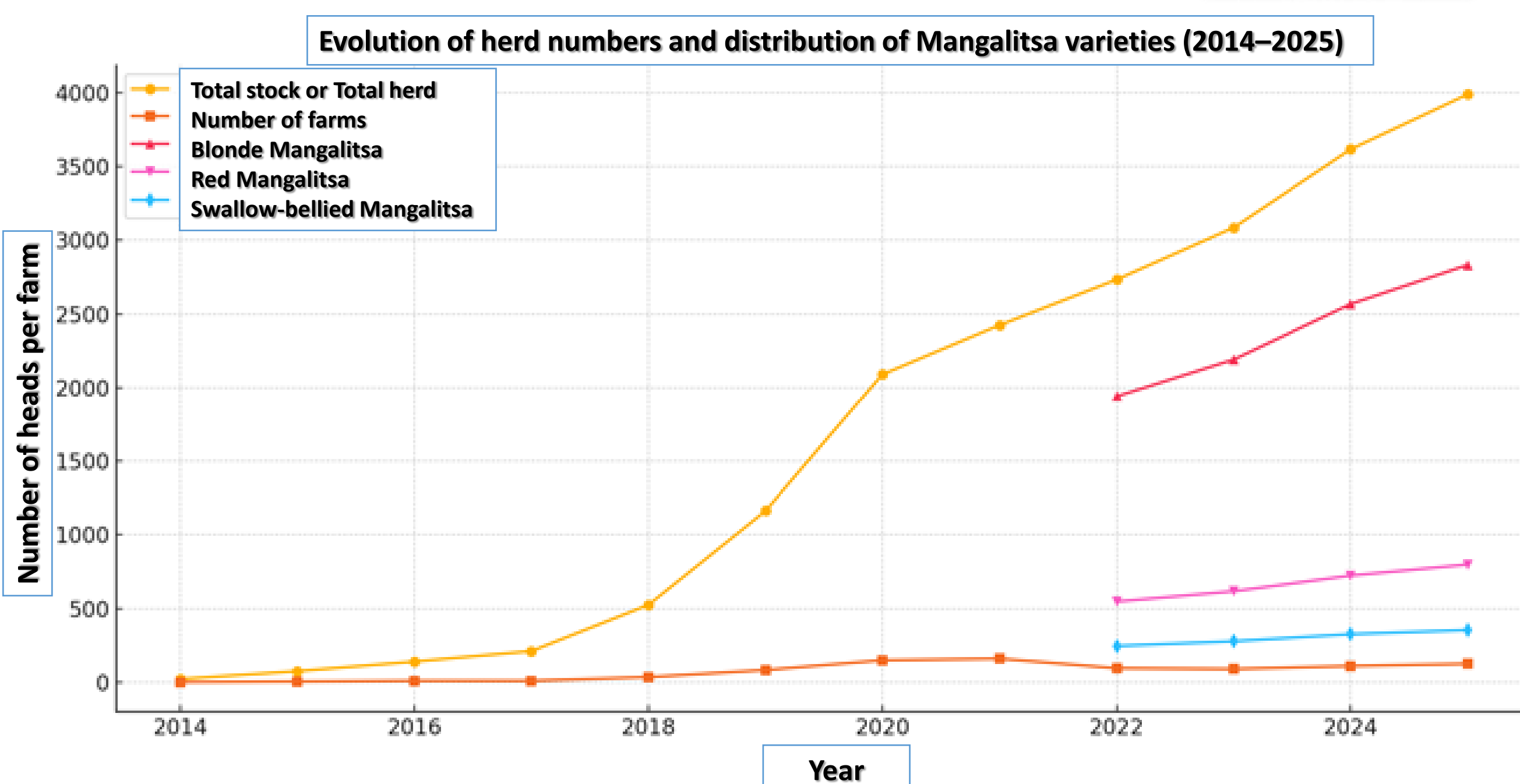
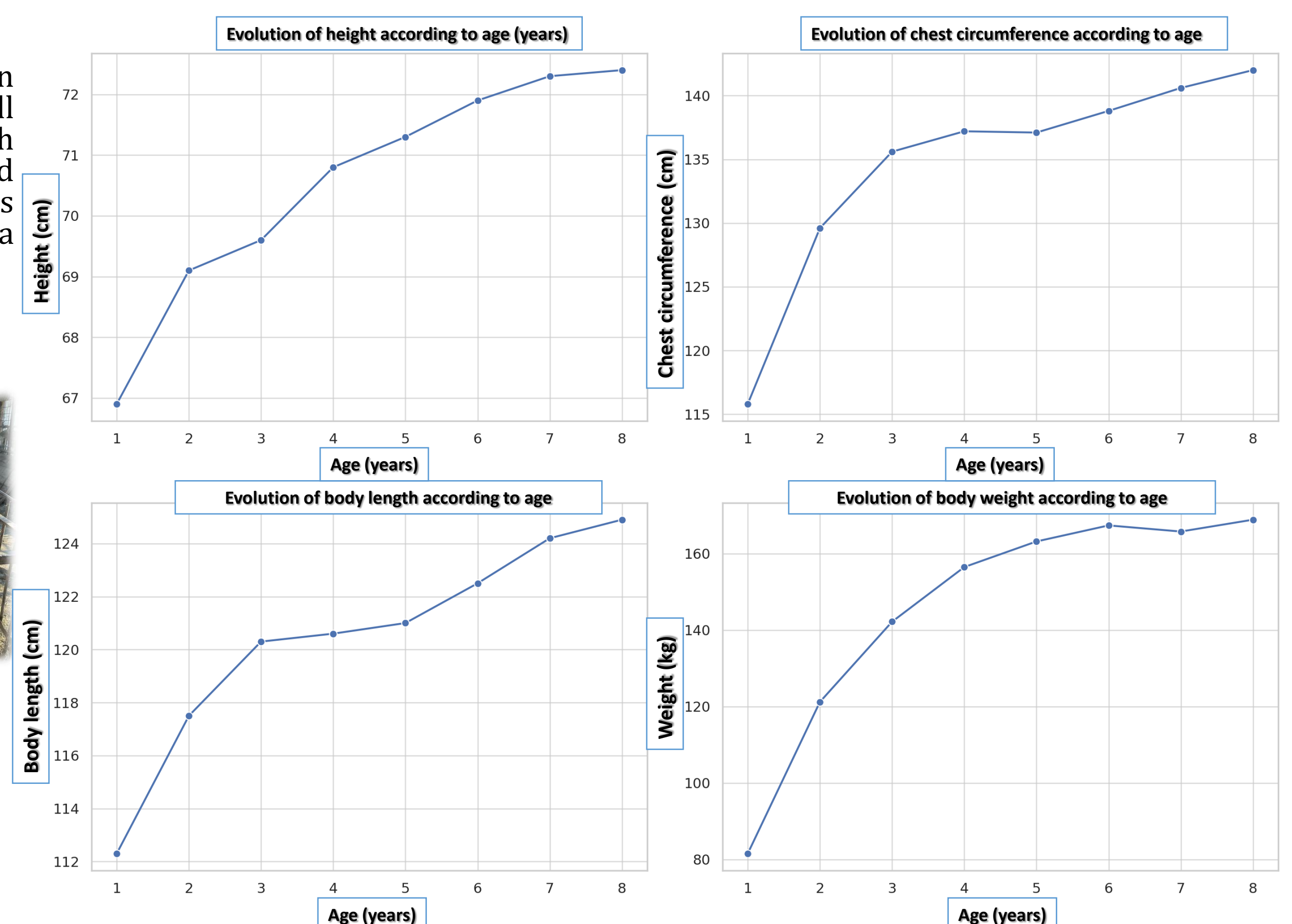
The Mangalitsa breed, known for its curly hair and superior marbled meat, represents a valuable native resource rediscovered in the context of the growing demand for traditional and sustainable products. After a period of decline, this breed has regained the attention of farmers due to its adaptability and gastronomic value. The study aims to analyze the current state of Mangalitsa breeding in Romania, focusing on morphological development, reproductive performance, and management practices applied in semi-free-range systems.

• Material and method

The research was conducted between 2024 and 2025 at the Mangalitsa farm in Pâncota, Arad County. The studied herd included 100 sows and 10 boars, all purebred Mangalitsa. The animals were raised in a semi-free-range system, with access to natural feed consisting of cereals, pumpkins, root vegetables, and alfalfa, supplemented with minerals. Standard morphological measurements were taken, and reproductive indices were recorded for each farrowing. The data were statistically analyzed to determine breed-specific variations and trends.

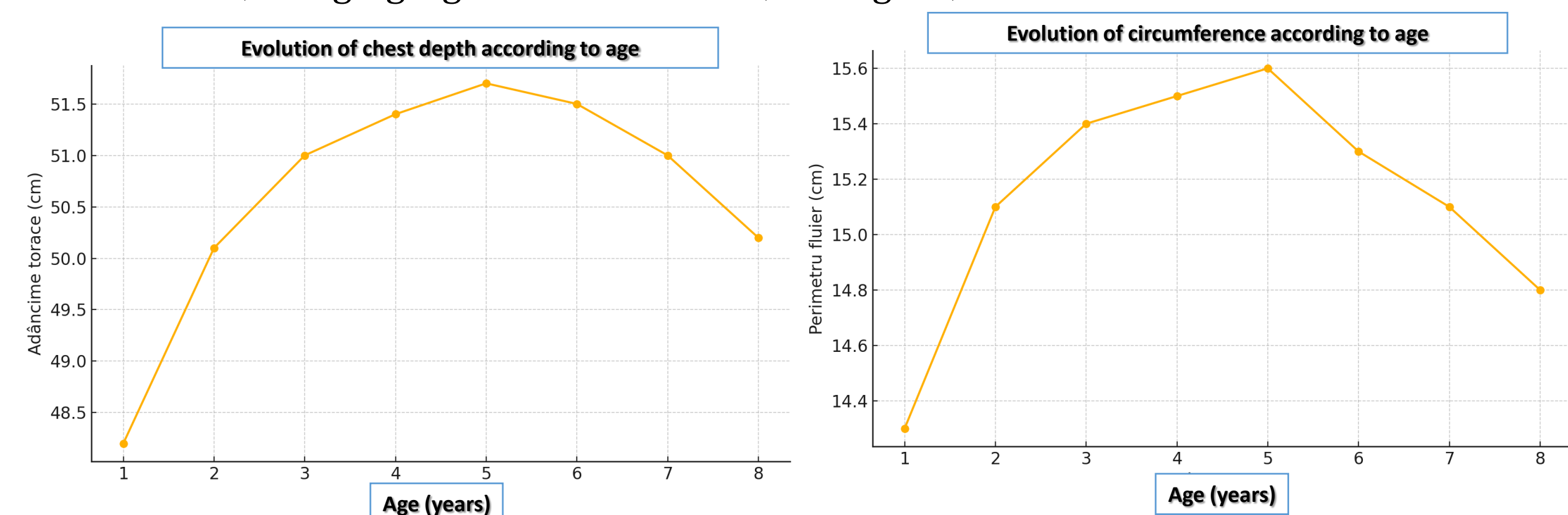
• Results and discussions

The Mangalitsa pigs showed a robust conformation, with an average withers height of 70 cm and a chest girth of 130 cm. The sows produced an average of 5–6 piglets per farrowing, with a survival rate of 84% up to weaning. The growth rate was approximately 10 kg per month, with body weight reaching 100–110 kg at 12 months of age. Although the growth rate is slower than that of commercial breeds, the meat quality rich in unsaturated fats and finely marbled provides a premium product suitable for traditional markets and sustainable farming systems.



• Conclusions

The Mangalitsa breed represents an essential component of Romania's livestock heritage. Its adaptability, hardiness, and exceptional product quality make it highly suitable for sustainable production systems. Promoting conservation programs, supporting breeders' associations, and encouraging local product valorization can ensure the long-term preservation and development of this native breed, bringing significant economic, ecological, and cultural benefits.



Acknowledgement: The authors would like to express their gratitude to the Association of Native Pig Breeders of the Mangalitsa and Bazna Breeds and to Mr. Ioan Rășinar, owner of the Mangalitsa farm in Pâncota, for their support, the data provided, and the field access granted for the completion of this study.

Mangalița-Bazna
Asociația Crescătorilor de Suine Autohtone Mangalița și Bazna

