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国立民族学博物館学術情報リポジトリ National Museum of Ethnology

Bangladeshにおける肉髯ブタ

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Wattled Pigs in Bangladesh

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In domestic animals the wattles of goats are a common trait, but in modern pig breeds it is not. However, wattled pigs have been recognized by several workers (KRONACHER, 1924; LUSH, 1926; COOK, 1939; ROBERTS and MORRILL, 1944; POTER, 1993) and these were found in local pigs of limited regions in Europe, America, and the Pacific islands, etc. KUROSAWA *et al.* (1988) first reported that wattled pigs existed in Bangladesh in local Asian pigs. Thereafter, we had the opportunity to conduct field surveys in detail in this country. The purpose of this report is to show the frequency distribution of wattled pigs in Bangladesh.

The survey was performed in twelve districts and divisions three times. A total of 391 pigs were examined in those areas.

The occurrence of wattled pigs studied in each district is summarized in Table 1 and their frequency is shown in Fig 1. As shown in Table 1, we can see that wattled pigs are widely distributed in the local pig population resembling the wild boar raised in plain areas, but not in the short-eared pigs. The local pig population resembling the wild boar is referred to as the native pig of the wild pig type; it has already been noted by KUROSAWA *et al.* (2010) that their distribution is different from that of the short-eared pig ranges on the east side of the country. That is, they are kept by some non-Muslim local farmers and people resembling nomads. Photos in Fig. 2 show wattled pigs that were found in each feeding style. The wattles were observed in both females and males. It was described that wattles are inherited as a simple dominant characteristic (ROBERTS and MORRILL, 1944).

The frequency of wattle pigs in Bangladesh was high in the local populations on the west side of Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers in comparison to those on the east side of those rivers. Specifically, as a point of interest, it was noted that a nomadic pig population with many wattled pigs was observed in the Kushtia district of the western region, with a high frequency of more than 50%. But the frequency is very low in the nomadic pig population of the Dhaka district. It was considered that the difference between these populations is caused by the random genetic drift as those populations are separated, due to the two great rivers. Also it might reflect that the gene interchange of each pig population between those rivers is low.

Table 1. Occurrence of the wattled pig in Bangladesh

District	Wattles		Type of pig
	+	-	
Rangamati		27	S
Bandarban		5	S
Chittagong	1	17	W
Sylhet		26	S
Comilla		5	S
Mymensingh	1	35	W
Tangail	1	30	W
Dhaka	2	115	W
Rajshai	1	5	W
Bogra		1	W
Kushtia	48	28	W
Jessore	21	22	W
Total	75	316	

Type of pig : S • Short eared pig W • Wild pig type

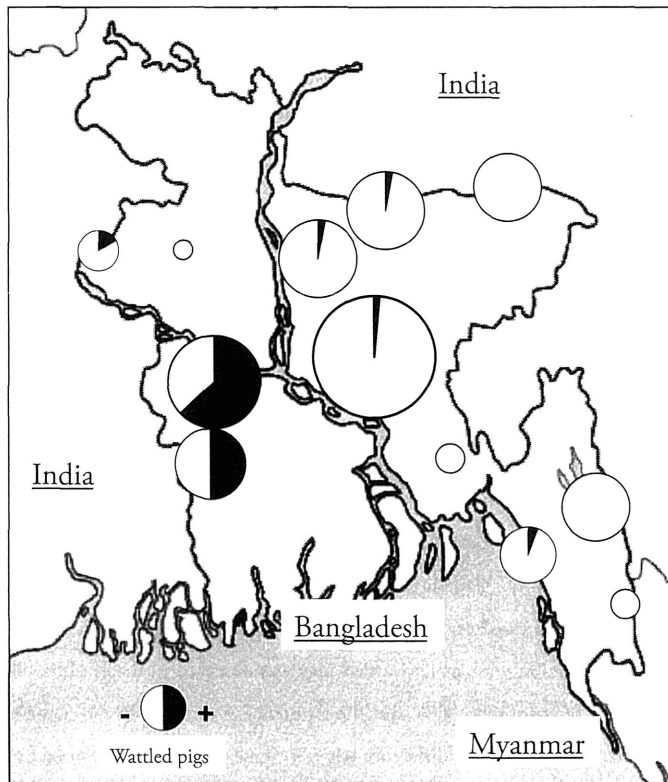


Fig. 1. Frequency distribution of wattled pigs of Bangladesh

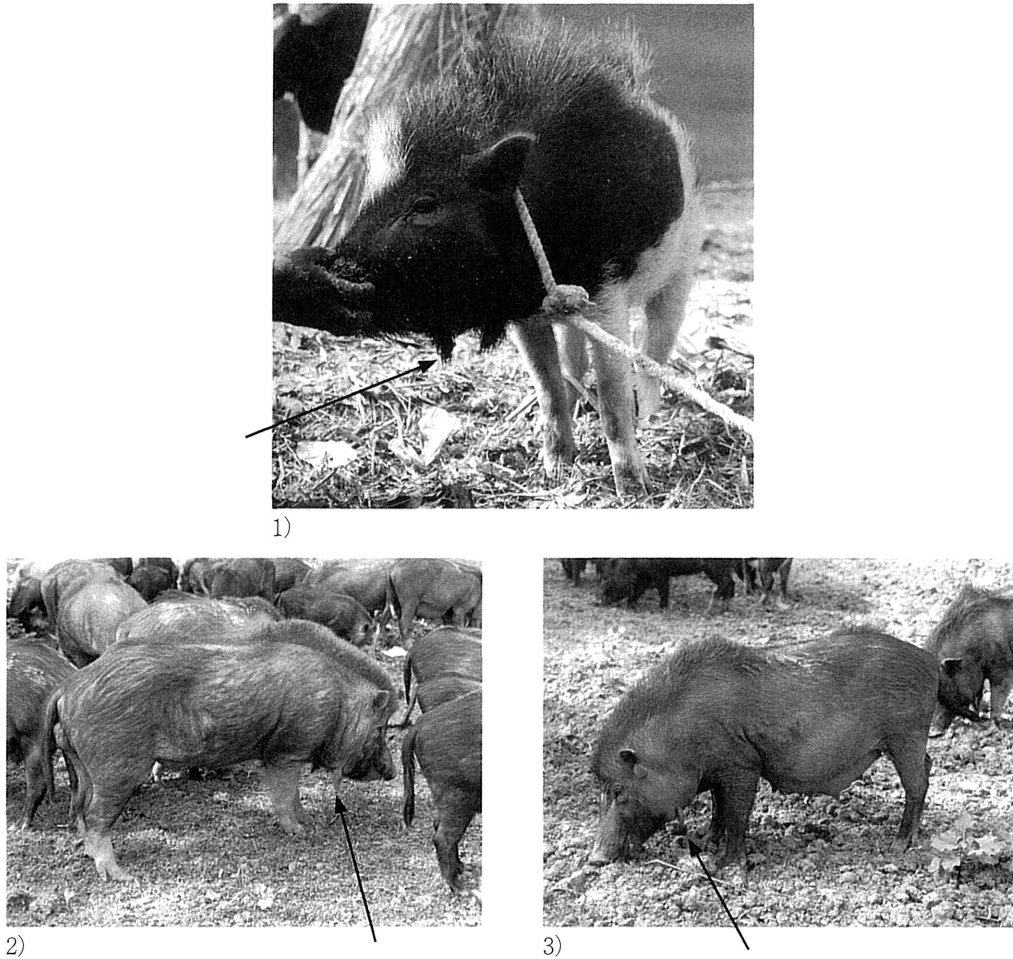


Fig. 2. Wattled pigs in Bangladesh.

- 1) A wattled pig kept by a local farmer.
- 2) A wattled male pig in nomadic feeding.
- 3) A wattled female pig in nomadic feeding.

The distribution of wattled pigs across countries follows no pattern and appears to be completely at random as was reported in local pig populations of limited regions of Europe, America and the Pacific islands, and those frequencies are not clear in detail. Moreover, it is interesting to ask, “Why do domesticated pigs have wattles?” considering that the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), their ancestor, doesn't have wattles. In order to clarify the origin and phylogeny of pigs having wattles, it is necessary to do a more advanced study of local pigs in many different areas in the future.

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