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The use of a novel combination of diagnostic molecular and cytogenetical approaches in horses with sexual karyotype abnormalities: A rare case with an abnormal cellular chimerism

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2 The use of a novel combination of diagnostic molecular and cytogenetical approaches in
3 horses with sexual karyotype abnormalities: A rare case with an abnormal cellular
4 chimerism.

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18

19 **Summary**

20 Sexual chromosomal aberrations are known to cause congenital abnormalities and
21 unexplained infertility in horses. Most of these anomalies remain undiagnosed because of
22 the complexity of the horse karyotype and the lack of specialized laboratories that can
23 perform such diagnoses. On the other hand, the utilization of microsatellite markers is a
24 technique widely spread in horse breeding, mostly due to their usage in parentage tests. We

25 studied the usage of a novel combination of diagnostic approaches in the evaluation of a
26 very uncommon case of chromosomal abnormalities in a Spanish Purebred colt, primarily
27 detected using a commercial panel of short tandem repeat (STR) makers. Based on these
28 results we performed a full cytogenetical analysis using conventional and fluorescent *in situ*
29 hybridization (FISH) techniques with individual ECAX (*Equus caballus* chromosome X)
30 and ECAY (*Equus caballus* chromosome Y) painting probes. We also tested the presence
31 of two genes associated with the sexual development in horses and an extra novel panel of
32 8 microsatellite markers specifically located in the sex chromosome pair. This is the first
33 case reported of a leukocyte chimerism between a chromosomally normal (64,XY) and
34 abnormal (63,X0) cell lines in horses. Our results indicate that the use of the STR markers
35 as a screening technique and as a confirmation utilizing cytogenetic techniques can be used
36 as a very interesting easy and non-expensive diagnostic approach to detect chromosomal
37 abnormalities in the domestic horse.

38

39 Keywords: Horse infertility diagnosis; Chromosomal abnormalities; Microsattellitite
40 analysis; *In situ* fluorescent hybridization.

41 1. Introduction

42 The association between atypical chromosome constitutions and developmental and
43 phenotypical abnormalities has been widely described in domestic animals with the usage
44 of clinical cytogenetics [1]. In horses, these types of determinations are performed in a low
45 number of laboratories in the entire world, probably due to the complexity of *Equus*
46 *caballus* karyotype and the lack of commercially available hybridization probes to evaluate
47 each one of their 33 different chromosomes [2]. Because of this, some horses with
48 abnormal karyotypes could be misdiagnosed due to the inability of conventional and
49 molecular cytogenetic techniques to precisely determine aberrations such as mosaicism or
50 chimerism [3]. Additionally, the number of misdiagnoses could be higher if we consider that
51 a great percentage of horses with this type of chromosomal aberrations are associated with
52 normal phenotypes [4].

53 On the other hand, short tandem repeat (STR) markers, a fast molecular analysis widely
54 employed in parentage tests, could be used as a powerful screening technique to detect the
55 existence of most of the karyotype anomalies present in certain chromosomes and even
56 more, to detect some particular abnormalities that cannot be diagnosed using other
57 cytogenetic techniques [5].

58 Currently, to perform a parentage test, the International Society for Animal Genetics
59 (ISAG) recommends the use of a set of 17 standardized STR markers. As a disadvantage,
60 this set of microsatellites usually has only one marker (*LEX003*) linked to ECAX (*Equus*
61 *caballus* chromosome X) and none linked to ECAY (*Equus caballus* chromosome Y). This
62 may be problematic because most of the chromosome abnormalities reported in horses are
63 those related to the sex chromosomes, such as the equine Turner Syndrome (X chromosome
64 monosomy) and XY sex reversal syndrome [6, 7]. For this reason, the use of extra specific

65 microsattellite markers located in the X and Y chromosomes will make it possible to detect
66 this kind of chromosomal disorder.

67 Due to this, we developed a novel diagnostic approach combining the use of cytogenetic
68 and molecular biology techniques in order to detect horse chromosomal abnormalities in a
69 way which is quick, simple and much cheaper [3]. In this study we investigated the case of
70 a Spanish Purebred horse showing an aberrant karyotype detected by using a specific set of
71 sex chromosomes-related STR markers and molecular cytogenetic techniques. We also
72 compared the results obtained in the analysis of different tissue samples to determine the
73 existence of blood or true chimerism.

74

75 **2. Material and methods**

76 **2.1. Physical examination**

77 The colt was physically examined at the age of 14 mo. It showed a normal external
78 morphology according to the standards of the Spanish Purebred Breeders Association and it
79 was approved to enter the official register book of the breed. External genitalia of the colt
80 appeared to be morphologically normal without any signs of dysfunction. To date, the
81 animal has not shown any abnormality in its behaviour. Seminal parameters were not yet
82 evaluated due to the colt sperm not being collected. However, the animal showed a normal
83 sexual behaviour in the presence of a mare in heat.

84 The pregnancy of which the colt was conceived was reported to the database of the Spanish
85 Purebred Association as a single pregnancy and also the foal was delivered as a single
86 offspring. Moreover, the mother of the colt was examined by a veterinarian. It did not show
87 any symptoms of phenotypic or physiological abnormalities.

88

89 **2.2 Animal samples**

90 Hair and blood samples were collected from the studied animal. Blood samples were
91 obtained by jugular venopunction using Tri-sodium EDTA BD Vacutainers™ (MBL,
92 Cordoba, Spain) for DNA isolation and sodium heparin BD Vacutainers™ (MBL) for cell
93 culture. At the same time, 50 hair bulbs were collected for DNA isolation.

94

95 **2.3. Cell Cultures and Chromosome Analysis**

96 The chromosome slides were made from peripheral blood lymphocyte cultures using our
97 standard protocol [8]. After centrifugation white cells were cultured in 7 mL of RPMI 1640
98 medium (R4130, Sigma Aldrich, Madrid, Spain) supplemented with 5 µg/mL of Pokeweed
99 Lectin (L9379, Sigma Aldrich) 10mL per liter of antibiotic antimicotic 100X solution
100 (A5955, Sigma Aldrich,) and 0.7 mL of autologous plasma. Cultures were incubated in 12
101 mL sterile culture tubes (Techno Plastic Products, Trasadingen, Switzerland), in horizontal
102 position at 38°C for 72 h. One hour before harvesting, 1 µg /mL of colcemid™ (N-
103 Deacetyl-N-methylcolchicine, D1925, Sigma Aldrich) was added to each tube. After that,
104 cells were re-centrifuged, harvested and incubated for 25 min in 0.075 M KCl (Scharlau,
105 Barcelona, Spain) hypotonic solution. Finally, cells were fixed twice in a cold methanol:
106 acetic acid (3:1) (Qemical, Esparraguera, Spain) solution and stored for 24h at 4°C.
107 Chromosome spreads were obtained by cell dropping and air drying.

108 Giemsa stained metaphases [9] were assessed using a Polyvar microscope (Reichert Jung,
109 Austria) with a x1250 magnification. A total of 100 analyzable metaphases (those with
110 intact and non-overlapping chromosomes) were counted.

111

112 **2.4. *In situ* hybridization**

113 Metaphase spreads were analyzed by fluorescent *in situ* hybridization with two whole
114 chromosome painting probes (WCPPs) specific to ECAX and ECAY. Probes were
115 prepared by chromosome microdissection and degenerated oligonucleotide primers (DOP) -
116 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification using our routine protocols and labeled for
117 double color fluorescence simultaneous hybridization [10]. The ECAX probe was DOP-
118 labeled by biotin-16- deoxyuridine triphosphate (dUTP) (Roche Applied Science,
119 Penzberg, Germany) and the ECAY probe by Cyanine 3 dye (PerkinElmer, Waltham,
120 USA). A standard FISH protocol [11] with some minor modifications was applied. The
121 labeled probes were denatured at 70°C for 10 min. Metaphase spreads were digested in:
122 RNase (10mg/mL) at room temperature for 60 min and then in 0.02% pepsin solution at
123 37°C for 10 min. After RNase and pepsin digestion, target metaphase spreads were
124 denatured in a hybridization solution containing 30% of 2x saline-sodium citrate (SSC) and
125 70% formamide (Sigma-Aldrich) at 70°C for 2.5 min. Thereafter, the probes were applied
126 onto the metaphase spreads, covered, sealed with rubber cement and hybridized overnight
127 in a dark moisture chamber at 37°C. The post-hybridization washes were as follows: twice
128 in 50% formamide in 2xSSC and twice in 1xSSC at 42°C. Signals were detected and
129 amplified using avidin-Fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) and anti-avidin antibodies
130 (Sigma-Aldrich). Chromosome staining was performed with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
131 (DAPI) (Cambio, Cambridge, UK). The slides were analyzed under the fluorescence
132 microscope (Axiophot, Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Jena, Germany) equipped with a
133 digital CCD camera driven by Lucia software (Laboratory Imaging LTD, Prague, Czech
134 Republic). A 365 nm filter (UV light was used to detect the DAPI staining and a 450/490
135 nm filter (Blue light) was used to detect the FITC signal.

136

137 **2.5. Molecular analyses**

138 **2.5.1. ECAX and ECAY linked genes**

139 DNA was obtained from blood and hair follicles using the QIAamp DNA mini kit (Qiagen,
140 Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer protocol. DNA from a stallion and a
141 mare served as a positive and a negative control. DNA was amplified by PCR using primers
142 for two genes strongly related to sex development in mammals (sex-determining region Y
143 gene (SRY); amplified according to Hasegawa et al. [12] and zinc finger X-chromosomal
144 protein gene (ZFX) and zinc finger Y-chromosomal protein gene (ZFY); amplified
145 according to Han et al. [13]). The amplified products were assessed in a 2% agarose gel
146 (80v, 70min run).

147 **2.5.2. Microsatellite genotyping**

148 A total of 24 STR markers were genotyped for blood and hair DNA samples. Initially, a set
149 of 16 standard STR markers used for paternity tests in horses was assessed according to our
150 previous studies [14]. *Loci* were amplified using a commercially available fluorescently-
151 labeled primers (StockMarks® kit for horses, PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA,
152 USA). PCR reactions were performed following the manufacturer's instructions.

153 Five extra X-linked (*LEX003* [15], *LEX0026* [16], *TKY38* [17], *TKY270* [18] and
154 *UCEDQ502* [19] and three extra Y linked (*ECAYH12*, *ECAYA16* and *ECAYM2*; [20])
155 additional markers were amplified according to Kakoi et al. [21]. Primers for all markers
156 were labeled using 6-carboxyfluorescein (FAMTM, Sigma-Aldrich Biochemie GmbH,
157 Hamburg, Germany) or HEX Phosphoramidite dye (HEXTM, Applied Biosystems) and
158 amplified in two multiplex PCRs: one containing all the ECAY linked markers (EcaYH12,
159 6-FAM; EcaYA16, HEX and EcaYM2, HEX) and the second containing all the ECAX
160 markers (*LEX003*, 6-FAM; *LEX026*, 6-FAM; *TKY38*, 6-FAM; *TKY270*, HEX and

161 *UCDEQ502*, 6-FAM). Each PCR was performed in a 23 μ L reaction mixture containing:
162 20–60 ng of genomic DNA, 1.5–7.5 pmol of each primer pair, 0.33 mmol/L of dNTPs, 2.5
163 mmol/L of MgCl₂, 1x PCR reaction buffer and 1.5 U of MBL Taq polymerase (Canvax
164 Biotech, Cordoba, Spain). Samples were initially denatured at 95°C for 10 min, followed by
165 33 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 57°C for 1 min and 72°C for 30 s. The final elongation step was
166 performed at 72°C for 10 m. Amplification products were frozen and genotyped afterwards
167 by capillary electrophoresis using an Applied Biosystems 3130 *xl* DNA sequencer (SCAI
168 genomics core, University of Cordoba, Spain). Allele sizes were determined after
169 processing the raw data with the Genotyper 4.0 software package using a LIZ 500 bp
170 internal size standard (Applied Biosystems).

171

172 **3. Results**

173 **3.1. Cytogenetic analysis.**

174 Two different karyotype lines were detected in the metaphases derived from the blood
175 cultures. A high percentage of the spreads (98%) showed 64 chromosomes, 27 of which
176 were diagnosed as bi-armed chromosomes. These metaphases were diagnosed as 64, XY.
177 The remaining 2% of the analyzed spreads showed 63 chromosomes with the same number
178 of bi-armed chromosomes. In these metaphases we detected the absence of one unidentified
179 small chromosome (probably the ECAY). The first presumptive diagnose was a presence of
180 a sex chromosomal blood mosaicism 63,X0?/64,XY.

181

182 **3.2. *In situ* hybridization**

183 The preliminary diagnosis was confirmed by using *in situ* hybridization in a total of 96
184 lymphocyte spreads. The high percentage of the analyzed metaphases (95.8%) have shown

185 a large X chromosome with a green signal and a smaller Y-chromosome with a red signal
186 (Figure 1). The remaining metaphases (4.2%) have shown only one X-chromosome with a
187 green signal.

188

189 **3.3. ECAX and ECAY linked genes**

190 PCR analysis performed on the DNA obtained from blood and hair samples showed the
191 same results. ECAY specific sequences (SRY; 429bp fragment; Figure 2a and ZFY; 553bp
192 fragment; Figure 2b) were detected in the DNA samples obtained from the studied colt and
193 male positive control, but were not detected in the female positive control. Conversely, the
194 specific sequence linked to ECAX (ZFX; 604 bp) was detected only in the DNA samples
195 obtained from the studied colt and female positive control.

196

197 **3.4. STR analysis.**

198 The results obtained from parentage tests of STRs markers in blood and hair DNA samples
199 are shown in Table 1. Two markers (*AHT5* and *ASB17*) showed three different alleles
200 compatible with abnormal chromosomal complements only in DNA from blood samples
201 (Figure 3). The remaining 14 markers were normal with 11 heterozygous and 3
202 homozygous loci detected. The genotype obtained from DNA acquired from hair follicles
203 showed 16 loci with normal results (13 heterozygous and 3 homozygous loci).

204 The results obtained from the extra ECAX and ECAY linked microsatellites showed a
205 similar pattern (Table 2). In DNA obtained from blood samples two of the ECAX-linked
206 markers (*LEX026* and *UCDEQ502*) showed two different alleles (Figure 4). This result is
207 only compatible with the existence of two X chromosomes originating from different

208 cellular lines. The remaining markers (three ECAX-linked and 3 ECAY-linked markers)
209 and all results of DNA obtained from hair follicles showed only one allele.

210

211 **4. Discussion**

212 To our knowledge, this is the first reported and proved case of a 64,X0/XY blood
213 chimerism in horses in which the different cell lines derived from twin siblings of different
214 sex in which one of the fetuses had also an abnormal karyotype 63,X0.

215 There are few reports estimating the incidence of chromosomal abnormalities in horses and
216 only one was performed on a large population, estimating an overall rate of individuals
217 with karyotype abnormalities at 1.6% [22]. However, in this study the rate of aberrant
218 karyotypes was 0% for males and 3,7% for females. We suggest that these results could be
219 influenced by the fact that chromosomal abnormalities in horses are normally linked with
220 reproductive problems [2]. In this sense, the number of males that are reproductively active
221 is much lower than in mares. Furthermore, some stallions could be not diagnosed as carriers
222 of a chromosomal abnormalities because they often remain asymptomatic.

223 This is the fourth reported case with a 63,X0/64,XY karyotype, all of which were
224 diagnosed as mosaicisms. The previous three reports were only diagnosed using
225 conventional cytogenetic techniques in lymphocyte cultures [23-25]. With these techniques
226 it is not possible to determine if an individual was a chimera or a mosaic or if the
227 abnormality was present in the blood or in the whole individual. It is noteworthy that one of
228 these previous studies speculates about the possibility of a cellular chimerism or mosaicism
229 [24]. However, at that particular time (1981), there were no available methodologies (such
230 as PCR, FISH, etc.) to perform such determinations.

231 The most probable cytogenetic explanation of our results would be that the individual was
232 carrying a cellular mosaicism in which one of the cell lines had an abnormal chromosomal
233 complement, similar to the case previously described by Bugno et al. [26]. In both cases,
234 the most likely hypothesis was that the two different cell lines originated from the same
235 embryo due to an abnormal mitotic segregation. During that, the ECAY would be lost
236 producing a different cell line with an aberrant karyotype (63,X0). However, this case is
237 incompatible with the two different alleles observed in the *LEX026* and *UCDEQ* ECAX-
238 linked loci and with the three different alleles observed in the autosomal loci *AHT5* and
239 *ASB17* in the DNA obtained from blood samples. This observed microsatellite pattern and
240 the fact that STR results from hair follicle DNA were normal, can be only compatible with
241 the mixture of blood cells belonging to two different fetuses in the maternal womb.
242 Therefore, our case could only be derived from a blood cellular chimerism, in which one of
243 the embryos had additionally an abnormal 63,X0 karyotype. Thus, the combination of these
244 two chromosomal abnormalities in a single individual is extremely rare and to our
245 knowledge, has not been yet reported in horses.

246 Another interesting finding was that the foal evaluated in this study did not show any
247 morphological or physiological abnormality in both the external and internal physical
248 examination. This is in agreement with previous findings observed in horses carrying a
249 64,XX/64,XY chimeric karyotype. These animals are normally derived from twin
250 heterosexual pregnancies and the fetuses and foals were completely normal [14, 27, 28].
251 This occurs because the vascular anastomosis responsible for the Freemartin syndrome in
252 other species is developed after the sexual differentiation of the horse [29], without without
253 causing the typical female sterility observed in cattle [30].

254 In the present study, both ZFX/ZFY and SRY fragments were amplified in the blood and
255 hair DNA samples. These results (ZFY (+), ZFX (+) and SRY (+)) are in agreement with
256 the observed phenotypic sex of the colt, confirming that the majority of the analyzed cells
257 had ECAY present, presumptively derived from the 64,XY normal male embryo.

258

259 The total absence of physical abnormalities is noteworthy suggesting that there was no
260 influence of the 4% of blood cells carrying the abnormal karyotype (63,X0) on the foal's
261 health. These findings are totally opposite to those observed in the previously reported
262 cases of horses carrying this type of karyotype abnormality: one horse with bilateral
263 ovotestes, an underdeveloped penis, bilateral seminal vesicles and uterine tissue [24]; one
264 externally phenotypically normal mare with small, firm ovaries consisted of
265 undifferentiated ovarian stroma [23] and more recently a Thoroughbred colt with
266 ambiguous external genitalia and a short penis that faced backward between its hind limbs
267 [25]. These three cases were reported as true hermaphrodites. We suggest that the absence
268 of phenotypical abnormalities observed in the studied foal was probably originated because,
269 unlike the others, this was an individual carrying a blood cell chimerism. As in the case of
270 leukocyte chimerism 64,XX/64,XY previously described in horses, individuals carrying
271 this chromosomal aberration have a normally developed genital organs.

272

273 Chromosomal abnormalities in livestock animals are routinely diagnosed using
274 conventionally available cytogenetic techniques (chromosome banding), fluorescent *in situ*
275 hybridization (FISH) [10] and more recently comparative genomic hybridization [31]. The
276 conventional techniques are often inaccurate in identifying individual chromosomes [32].
277 On the contrary, FISH techniques can determine precisely chromosomes involved in an

278 aberration; however, it is a method routinely applied only in a few laboratories around the
279 world encountering obstacles due to the complexity of the horse karyotype [2]. More
280 recently, Holl et al. [33] performed the first aneuploidy detection in horses using SNP array
281 comparative genome hybridization (SNP-CGH). This robust diagnostic tool, increasingly
282 used in prenatal genetic diagnostic (PGD) in humans [34] is based on allelic ratios from
283 genotyping arrays what allows an estimation of chromosome copy numbers. However, this
284 expensive technique is currently being used commercially only in human embryos [35] and
285 was only reported as a research tool in a very few domestic animals cases [36]. We,
286 therefore, propose the use of this combination of diagnostic molecular and cytogenetical
287 approaches that allow for a rapid screen of the presence of chromosomal abnormalities in
288 the sex chromosomes of the horse based on the extended set of STR markers. This is a fast
289 and accurate technique that could be utilized in a standard genetic laboratory, thus
290 providing the possibility of being an interesting diagnostic tool in places in which other
291 techniques may not be performed.

292

293 **5. Conclusion**

294 In present study the use of molecular markers widely employed for routine parentage
295 analysis has been demonstrated to be a simple and efficient tool to detect the presence of
296 chromosome abnormalities among horses. With the use of this method, we were able to
297 report for the first time the occurrence of a chromosomal chimerism between a
298 chromosomally normal and chromosomally aberrant cell line in horses. The use of this
299 combined molecular technique will allow for detection and a more precise diagnosis of sex
300 chromosome abnormalities which are known to be a severe and usually undiagnosed
301 problem connected with reproductive failures in horses.

302

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308 Spain and by the Laboratory of Genomics, National Research Institute of Animal
309 Production, Poland.

310

311 **7. Conflict of Interest**

312 The authors does not have any conflict of interest.

313

314 **8. References**

315

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411
412

413 Table 1: Results of Short Tandem Repeats (STR) parentage test using DNA obtained from
 414 blood and hair samples from a Spanish purebred colt.

415

Microsatellite loci	Size Range (bp)	Blood	Hair	ECA
AHT4	140-166	HJ	HJ	24
AHT5	126-147	KLN	LN	8
ASB17	104-116	HMR	HR	2
ASB2	237-268	KN	KN	15
ASB23	176-212	IJ	IJ	3
CA425	224-247	N	N	28
HMS1	166-178	IL	IL	15
HMS2	215-236	J	J	10
HMS3	146-170	MN	MN	3
HMS6	154-170	KN	KN	4
HMS7	167-187	LO	LO	1
HTG10	83-110	OS	OS	21
HTG4	116-137	KM	KM	9
HTG6	74-103	JO	JO	15
HTG7	114-128	O	O	4
VHL20	83-102	LQ	LQ	30

416

417 Footnote

418 Results obtained from a set of 16 standard STR markers used for paternity tests in horses,
 419 standardized by the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG). Loci were amplified
 420 using a commercially available fluorescently-labeled primers (StockMarks® kit for horses,
 421 PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA). Bp: base pair; blood: DNA obtained from
 422 blood tissue; Hair: DNA obtained from hair follicles; ECA: *Equus caballus* chromosome
 423 number

424

425 Table 2: Results of Short Tandem Repeats (STR) markers linked to the sexual chromosome
 426 pair using DNA obtained from blood and hair samples from a Spanish purebred colt.

427

Microsatellite loci	Size Range (bp)	Blood	Hair	ECA
LEX003	194-214	210	210	X
LEX026	300-314	300 / 314	300	X
TKY38	105-131	129	129	X
TKY270	154-172	154	154	X
UCDEQ502	164-176	166 / 170	166	X
EcaYH12	95	95	95	Y
EcaYA16	154	154	154	Y
EcaYM2	118	118	118	Y

428

429 Footnote

430 Results obtained from a set of 8 specific ECAY and ECAX linked STR markers (X-linked
 431 (*LEX003*, described by Coogle et al. [15] *LEX0026*, described by Coogle et al. [16];
 432 *TKY38*, described by Hirota et al. [17], *TKY270*, described by Kakoi et al. [18];
 433 *UCEDQ502*, described by Eggleston-Stott et al. [19] and three extra Y linked (*ECAYH12*,
 434 *ECAYA16* and *ECAYM2*, described by Wallner et al. [20]. Bp: base pair; blood: DNA
 435 obtained from blood tissue; Hair: DNA obtained from hair follicles; ECA: *Equus caballus*
 436 chromosome number

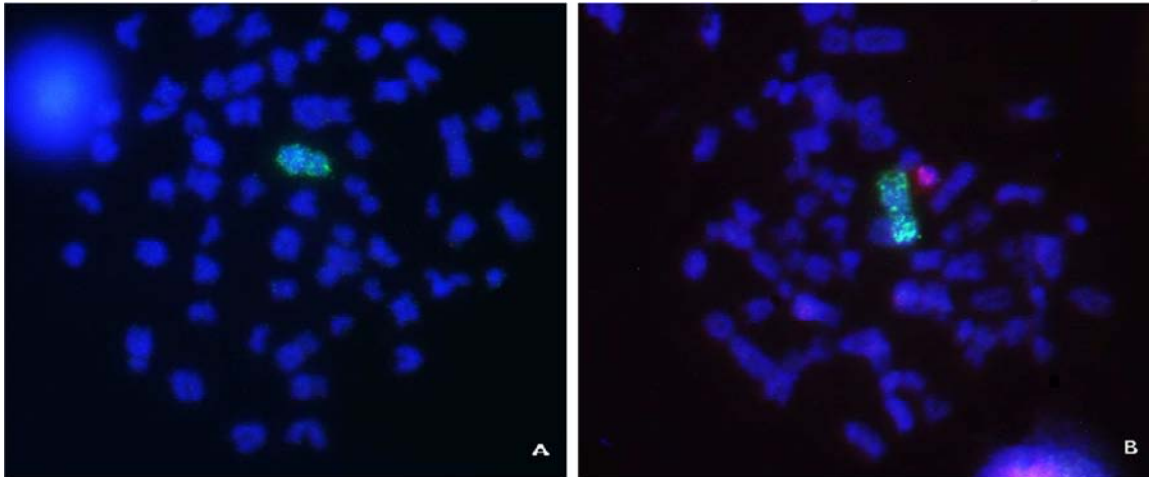
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440 Figure 1: Fluorescent in situ hybridization of horse metaphases showing 63,X0 and 64,XY
441 karyotypes.

442



443

444 Footnote

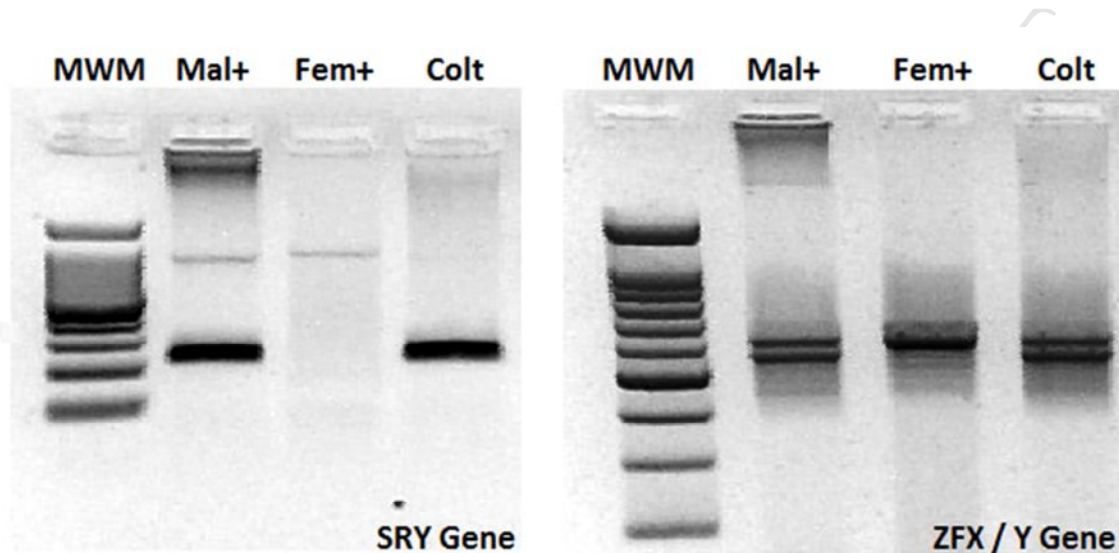
445 Horse metaphase spreads hybridized using two specific *Equus caballus* Y chromosome
446 (ECAY) and *Equus caballus* X chromosome (ECAX) fluorescent labelled probes according
447 to Bugno et al. [10].

448 Fig 1A: 63,X0 metaphase showing 62 autosomal chromosomes (Blue stained) and a single
449 large green signal from the hybridization of the ECAX.

450 Fig 1B: 64,XY metaphase showing 62 autosomal chromosomes (Blue stained), a single
451 large green signal from the hybridization of the ECAX and a small red signal from the
452 hybridization of ECAY. 1250X magnification.

453

454 Figure 2: Molecular analysis of the zinc finger X and Y protein (ZFX/Y) and sex-
455 determining region Y (SRY) genes amplified using blood and hair follicle DNA obtained
456 from the studied Spanish Purebred colt.



457

458

459 Footnote:

460 Electrophoretic gels from SRY (Fig 2a) and ZFX/Y (Fig 2b) genes.

461 A positive SRY single fragment (429 bp) was observed in the male control and in the
462 sample horse (Left figure). A positive ZFX fragment (604 bp) was observed in the three
463 tested animals. The ZFY fragment (553 bp) was only observed in the male control and in
464 the evaluated horse (right figure).

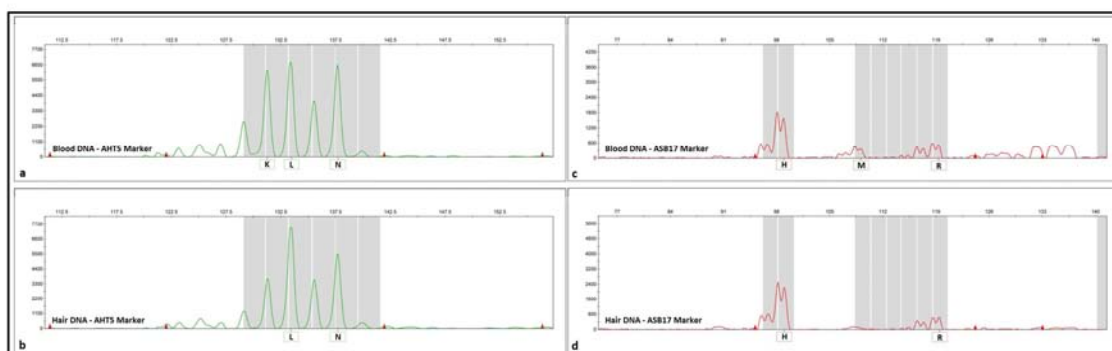
465 MWM: molecular weight marker; Mal+: male positive control; Fem+: female positive
466 control; Colt: studied colt

467

468 Figure 3:

469 Short Tandem Repeats (STR) markers from paternity test obtained from hair and blood

470 DNA samples from the studied Spanish Purebred colt..



471

472 Footnote

473 STRs electropherograms obtained from AHT5 and ASB17 markers acquired from blood

474 and hair follicle DNA. Three alleles were observed in AHT5 blood samples (K, L and N;

475 Fig 3a) and only two were observed in AHT5 hair samples (L and N; Fig. 3b). The same

476 pattern was observed in ASB17 loci: Three alleles in blood samples (H, M and R; Fig 3c)

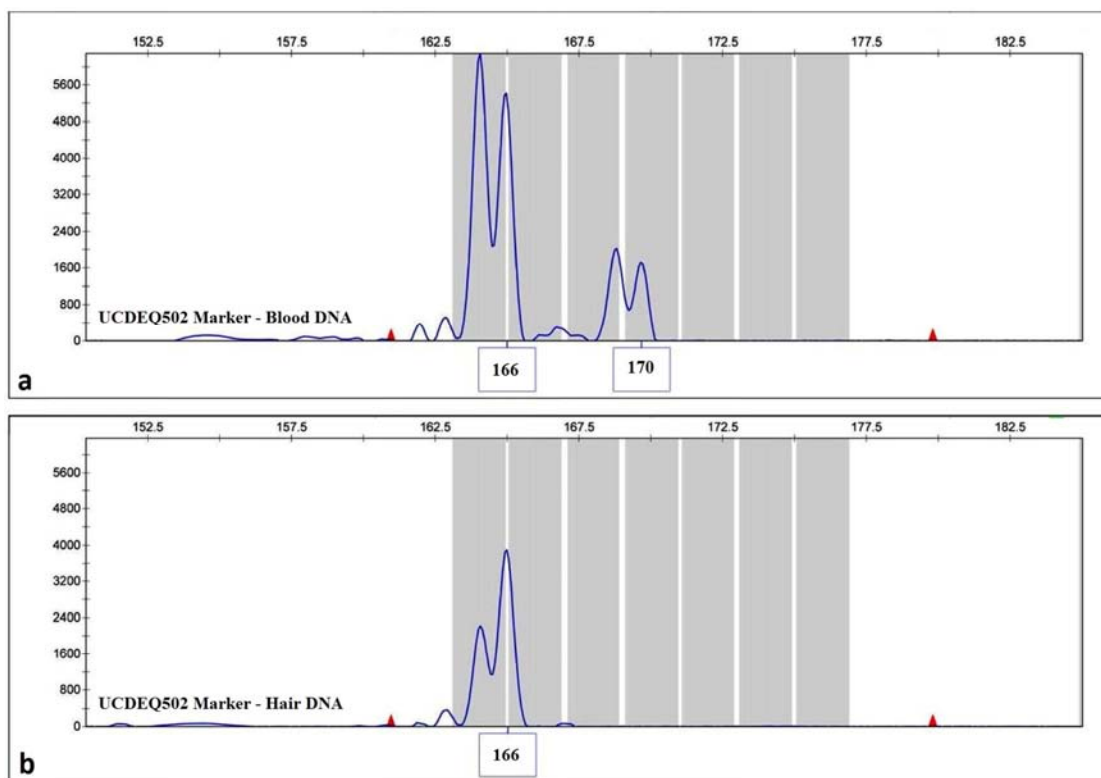
477 and only two alleles in hair samples (H and R; Fig 3d).

478

479 Figure 4:

480 Result obtained from an expanded Short Tandem Repeats (STR) panel linked to the sexual

481 chromosome pair of hair and blood DNA samples from the studied Spanish Purebred colt..



482

483

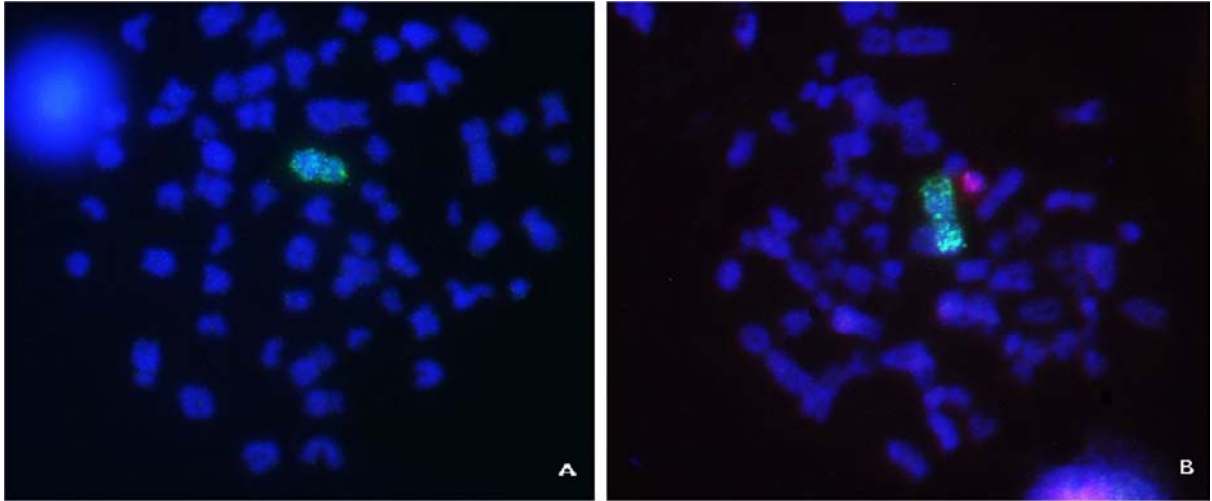
484 Footnote

485 STRs electropherograms of X-linked UCDEQ502 locus acquired from blood (a) and hair

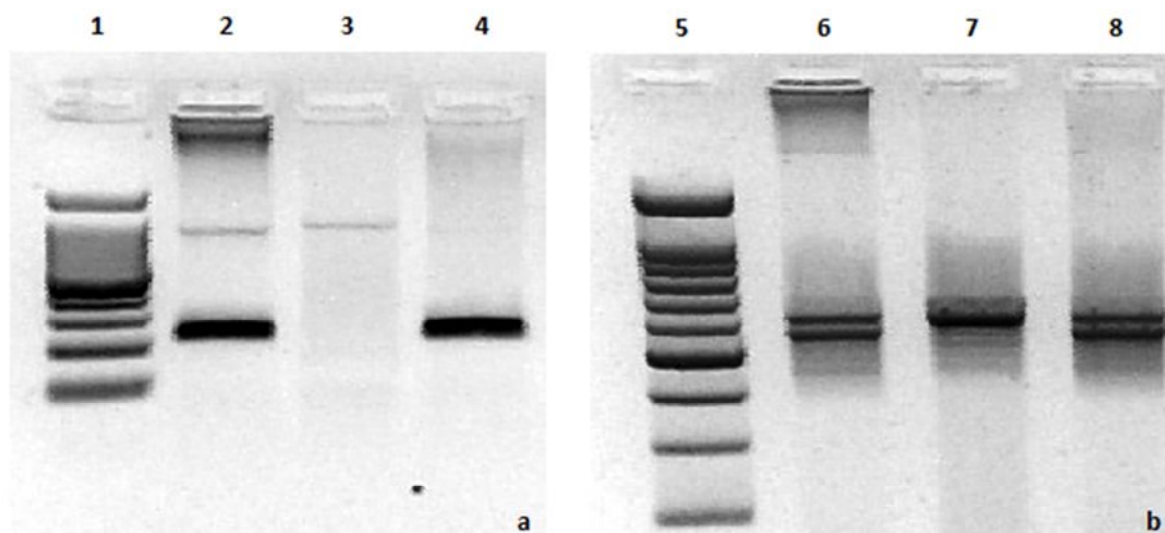
486 (b) DNA samples. Two alleles were observed in blood DNA samples (166 and 170; Fig 4a)

487 and only one was observed in hair DNA samples (166; Fig. 4b).

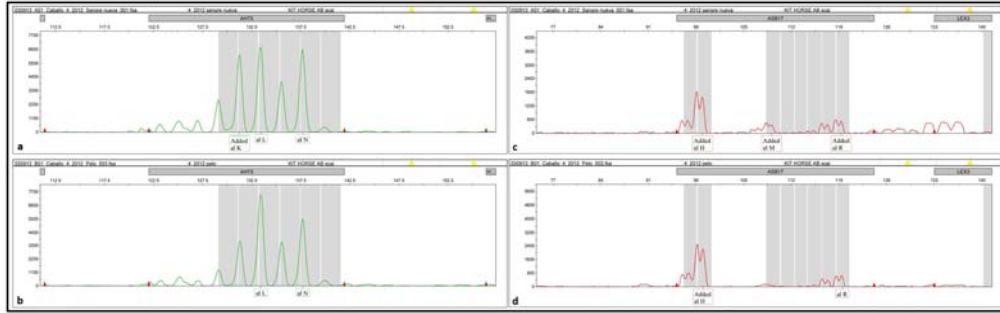
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