Heliciculture

Joan Alfons Hernández Duch

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, June 2019

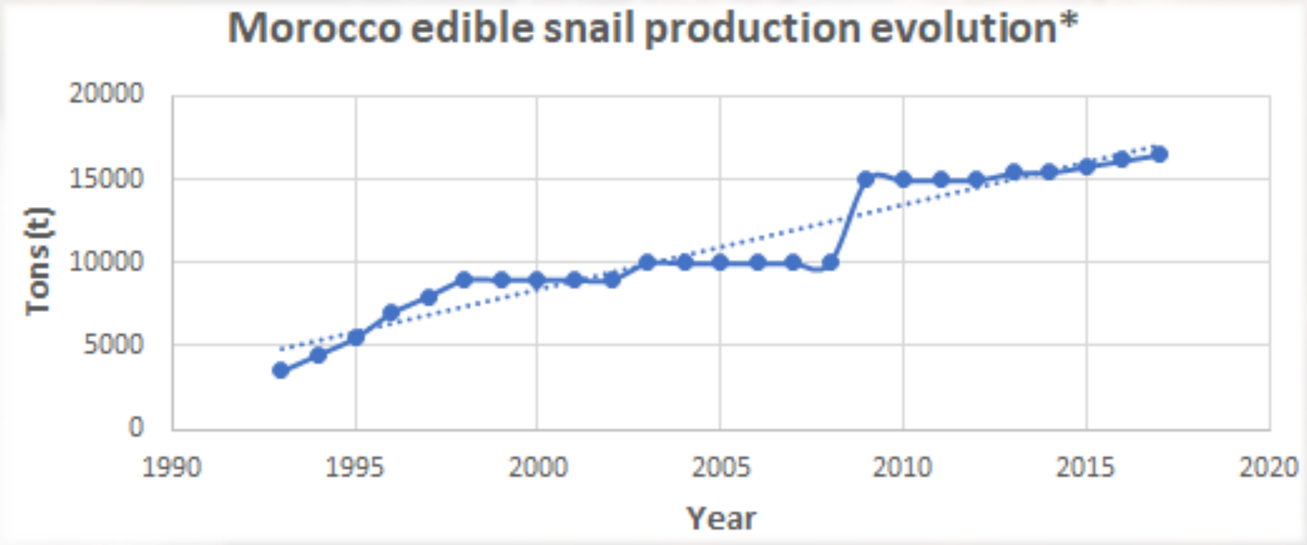
FACULTAT DE VETERINÀRIA DE BARCELONA

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

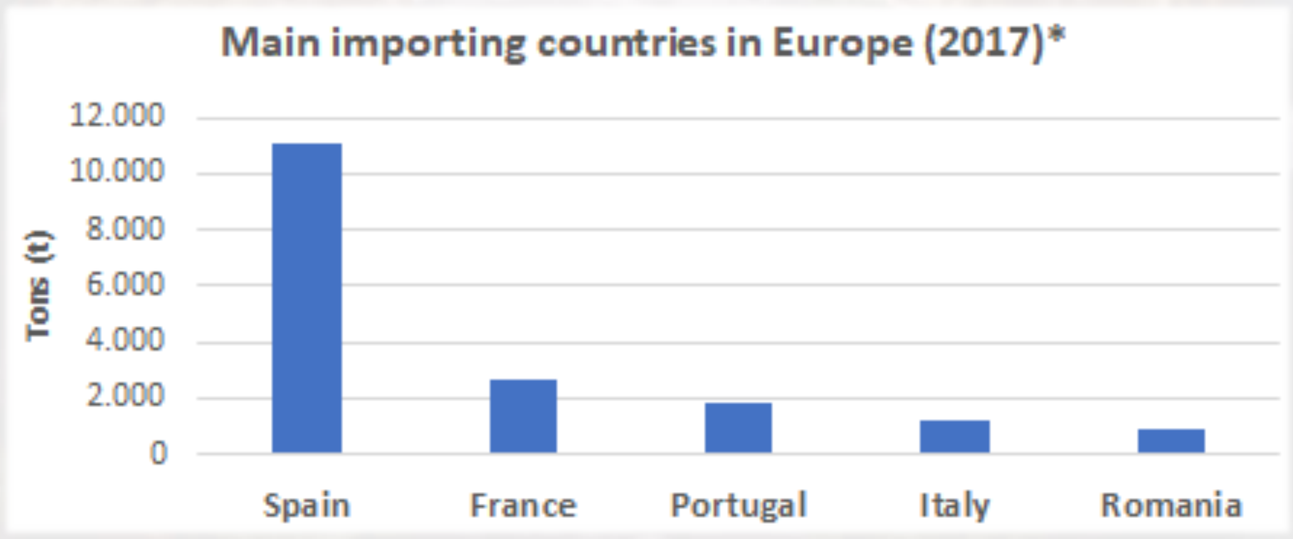
OBJECTIVES

- Understand the current situation of snail farming
- Promote the knowledge of this type of alternative production

CURRENT SITUATION



Morocco, one of the major producers of edible snails in the world, is a great example of the global growth in snail production during the last years. Moreover, there is an evident increasing trend for the next years. European countries, specially France and Spain, are the main consumers in the world. However, these countries have a large product deficit which they compensate with great imports



SNAIL REARING

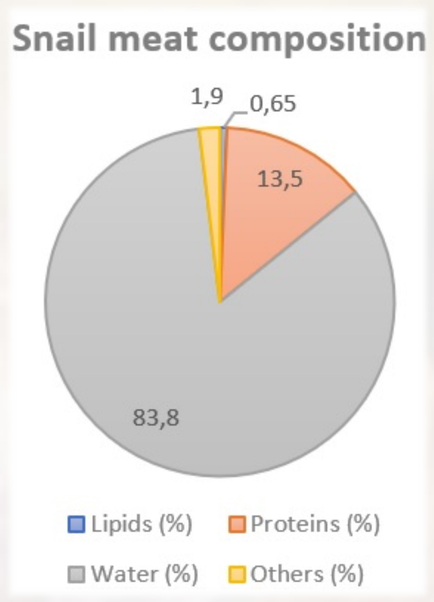
Due to its production traits and organoleptic properties, *Helix aspersa* is the most common species used in snail farming. These gastropods have peculiar needs; thus, environmental, behavioral and nutritional requirements have been widely studied. There are three main production systems: extensive, mixed and intensive which is the predominant in places like Catalonia. Ecological production type is increasing

Requirements	%
Protein	15.40
Crude Fibre	1.50
Crude Fat	6.10
Ash	46.30
Calcium	16.20
Sodium	0.24
Phosphorous	0.25

*FAOSTAT 2019

DERIVED PRODUCTS

The main product obtained from edible snails is their meat which has an excellent nutritional value. Other products such as their eggs, their mucus and their shell are profited. Furthermore, snails have been largely used as biomarkers



General view of a snail farm

Control Points (CP1-CP7)

CP1 (facilities and environment) Measurement of temperature (15-20ºC) and relative humidity (75-90%). Check biosecurity systems

CP2 (feed and water) The feed should be dry and absent from fungal proliferation. The water used in the farm should be potable

CP3 (snails) Inspection of the animals paying special attention to possible pathologies. Died animals should be removed daily

CP4 (data records) All farms must have a system for recording sanitary hygienic conditions

CP5 (laying) Eggs must have white and turgid appearance. Grey and yellow colourings together with weak consistency are indicators of the presence of fungi

CP6 (movements) Control movements of animals by recording farm entries and exits. It is specially important in reproduction stage

CP7 (plant cover) Good maintenance of plants where animals are raised is essential to keep the conditions they need

CONCLUSIONS

- Heliciculture is an emergent animal production
- *H. aspersa* is the main choice for rearing snails under controlled conditions (usually intensive systems)
- Meat is the main product obtained from snail rearing
- There are several main control points that ensure the proper operation of snail farms