

Comparative analysis of growth, carcass, meat quality traits and blood physiological and biochemical indexes of Etong Two-End-Black and Tongcheng pigs

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Abstract Tongcheng pig is an excellent representative of local pig breeds in China. It has the advantages of good motherhood, tolerance to roughage, and tender, juicy and delicious meat, but it also has the problems of slow growth, thick back fat and low lean meat rate. Therefore, in order to make use of the good meat quality of Tongcheng pig and improve its disadvantageous traits, the lean meat type large white pig was introduced to cultivate a new breed of Etong Two-End-Black. To evaluate the breeding effect of Etong Two-End-Black (Tongcheng pig female \times lean-meat large white male), the growth traits, carcass traits (carcass length, backfat thickness, loin eye area, percentage of lean meat, etc.), meat quality traits (meat color, dripping loss, marbling and intramuscular fat content, etc.) and blood physiological and biochemical indexes were measured in Etong Two-End-Black and Tongcheng pigs. The results showed that the daily gain of the Etong Two-End-Black pig was (596.27 ± 90.24) g/d, which was significantly higher than that of the Tongcheng pig ((513.28 ± 90.31) g/d, $P < 0.01$). The lean meat percentage of Etong Two-End-Black was $49.56\% \pm 2.21\%$, which was significantly higher than that of Tongcheng ($43.47\% \pm 1.39\%$, $P < 0.01$). The backfat thickness of Etong Two-End-Black was (34.73 ± 0.94) mm, which was significantly lower than that of Tongcheng ((38.80 ± 0.96) mm, $P < 0.01$). The Marbling score and intramuscular fat content of Tongcheng were 3.47 ± 1.16 and $3.45\% \pm 1.11\%$, respectively. There were no significant differences in other meat quality traits between the two breeds, except for intramuscular fat content ($2.72\% \pm 0.87\%$), which was lower in Etong Two-End-Black. In addition, only part of the blood physiological and biochemical indexes between the two breeds were significant different. The results illustrated that Etong Two-End-Black has improved the growth and carcass traits while retaining the excellent meat quality traits of Tongcheng pigs. Therefore, the study can provide scientific basis for further popularization and utilization of Etong Two-End-Black.

Keywords Tongcheng pig; Etong Two-End-Black; growth traits; carcass traits; meat quality traits; protection list of breeds

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