

Trait (genetics)

Trait refers to **observable characteristics of an organism**. Traits arise from the mere expression of genes, or from gene expression and the effects of the external environment. The set of all traits of an organism is called the **phenotype**. According to the nature of the traits, we distinguish:

- **Quantitative traits** (measurable): male and female height, growth parameters, weight, blood pressure, IQ. A specific category of quantitative traits are **meristic traits**, described by counting integers (number of fingers, number of pups in a litter, etc.).
- **Qualitative traits** (not measurable): morphological developmental defects, eye colour, psyche, talent.

Links

Related articles

- Genes
- Genotype
- Phenotype
- Mendel's experiments

Source

- ŠTEFÁNEK, Jiří. *Medicína, nemoci, studium na 1. LF UK* [online]. [cit. 03.04.2010]. <<http://www.stefajir.cz>>.