

# **The Malopolski horse bred from French Anglo-Arabians – a retrospective analysis of state breeding**

**Joanna Kania-Gierdziewicz**

## **Summary**

The study aimed to trace the breed origin and genetic relationships of French Anglo-Arabian horses bred in the last period of the Ochaby-Pruchna state stud. The pedigrees of 97 half-bred Anglo-Arabian horses (38 stallions and 59 mares) born in 1991-2011 were used for the analysis. Pedigree data going back to mares imported from France were used to analyse the contribution of founder and ancestor genes. The breed affiliation of the founders and ancestors and the consanguineous relationships between them were examined. The total number of founders was 981, and the total number of ancestors was 58. Among the founders and ancestors of both sexes, Thoroughbred horses predominated. Anglo-Arabians were second among the ancestors, but there were significantly fewer of them among the founders. The founding mares of the female lines in Ochaby were mostly related to each other. The leading stud stallions were also related to each other; the largest group comprised descendants of the stallion Quidam de Revel. Some of the leading stallions belonged, through their mothers, to specific female lines. The genetic potential of the founding mares at the Ochaby stud was developed and maintained in a thoughtful and methodical manner by successive breeding managers. Unfortunately, for many years there has been little interest in Anglo-Arabian or Malopolski horses from this stud. Privatization led to the dispersion of the potential of Anglo-Arabians of French origin, which had previously been grouped in one place and under the same management. The current breeding programme aims to breed horses for various equestrian disciplines; however, without extensive advertising acclaiming the high quality of native horse breeds, potential users' interest in Malopolski horses will not increase.

**KEY WORDS: Anglo-Arabian horse, breeding, founders, ancestors, Ochaby stud**