



09th and 10th June 2026.
Hotel Hills Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Halal status of unconventional animal species as a source of human nutrition

Neira Fazlovic, PhD

Veterinary faculty-University of Sarajevo

Halal food

Only meat of animals slaughtered by People of the Book

Explicitly proclaimed as halal:

- cattle (sheep, goats, camels, buffaloes), seafood

Explicitly been described as haram:

- pigs, carnivorous animals and birds of prey

Darura (necessity): situations of extreme need where the consumption of haram food as a means of staying alive

Sustainable farming

- Conventionally farmed animals have a greater effect on the environment

New and healthier sources of protein

- Improving their nutrition and health

Unconventional animals

- Use limited to a certain area
- High in protein and necessary micronutrients
- Healthier than conventional meat

Frogs

Amphibians, family *Anura*

Only hind legs are consumed

- soups, screws, deep frying
- mild flavor
 - like chicken

France, China, Indonesia, Italy, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Ukraine.



Halal status

In dispute

- Killing frogs is forbidden
- The Safii, Hanafi, and Hanbali Islamic schools strictly forbid the consumption of frogs
- Maliki school permits certain types of frogs

Snails

Molluscs

- Invertebrates with an open circulatory system

Consumed in Europe,
Mediterranean and North
Africa

- A good source of protein



Halal status

Mostly classified as haram

- considered as filthy animals (*khabaith*)
- a distinction between land and aquatic (marine) snails
 - marine animals are all considered halal

Land snails (escargot)

- Halal according to the Maliki school
- Haram according to Hanafi, Shafi'i and Hanbali schools

Ruminants

Lama and alpacas-South America

Reindeers-Northern countries

Leaner meat

Good source of polyunsaturated fatty acids and vitamin C



Halal status

Ought to be permitted

- Herbivores
- Related to camels

If slaughtered by People of the Book

- most animals don't meet the criteria
- if these factors change, they ought to be allowed

Crocodiles

Grown from wild caught eggs

- Mostly for skins

Increase in the consumption of crocodile meat

- Delicate and tender meat
- Described as tasting like chicken and fish combined

Carry certain risks

- *Trichinella* spp



Halal status

Classified as haram

- Predators with fangs
- If considered as seafood?

Insects

Fast growth rate

- Great rate of conversion of food to mass

Small requirements for food, water and space

Popular idea for the future of animal-based protein sources



Halal status

Locust

- Considered halal
- Mentioned in Hadith
 - consumed by the Prophet Muhammad



Other insects

- In dispute
 - Halal as long as they are not poisonous,
 - *khabeeth* (filthy) and haram
- Mealworms: mostly prohibited
- Grasshoppers: often considered halal
- Other species require more information

Ostrich

Herbivores

Grown for meat, eggs, and leather

Highly adaptive species

- farmed in arid and semiarid areas of the world

Meat tasted like lean beef

- lower in saturated fatty acid content,
- low cholesterol level
- high in polyunsaturated fatty acid contents



Halal status

Generally considered halal

- if slaughtered in the proper way
- if the other requirements regarding food safety have been met

Red meat of choice for healthier lifestyles

Ostrich farming is a sustainable practice

Pigeons

Pets, messengers, food

Herbivores

Tender and moist meat

- Richer and fuller taste



Halal status

Ought to be considered halal

- Herbivores
- Without tallovs

If other requirements have been met

Nearly universal opinion among Islamic scholars

Considered halal

Llamas and alpacas

Raindeer

Ostrige

Pidgeon

Considered haram/in dispute

Frogs

Snails

Crocodiles

Insects

The main focus of rules regarding halal and haram food:

- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of consumers

Consumers need a guideline to choose appropriate

THANK YOU FOR ATENTION



Neira.fazlovic@vfs.unsa.ba;



Phone contact: +38766418625



Veterinary faculty-University of Sarajevo

