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# Canarymeter di Colore Barçante

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# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

Luiz Cesar Barçante, DSc.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Every household canary, of the *serinus-canaria*<sup>1</sup> species (WETMORE, 1923), has a few distinct characteristics that compose the color of its feathers – ground color, melanin color, categories and mutation – which, as combined, provide a different visual sensation. In addition, some characteristics are complementary, such as the black or red color of the eyes and the dark, light or red hues of the beaks and paws.

The ground colors are six – recessive white, dominant white, yellow, ivory yellow, red, and ivory red.

The melanin colors are four – non-melanic, black melanin, brown melanin, and fawn melanin. Non-melanic canaries are those that only present the ground color. Melanic canaries present stripes that follow the design of the ground color and come from the head, the end of the beak, up to the tip of the tail and wings, combining with the ground color. Black and brown melanin canaries are identical in design and form, changing only in color. Fawn melanin canaries present a light brown tone only in the edges of the feathers and the inner part remains with the ground color of the bird, providing a “marron-glacé” visual effect in the canary.

The categories are four – male mosaic, female mosaic, intense, and frosty. Mosaic canaries present dimorphism in connection with the sex and frosty canaries present little white feathers scattered randomly on the bird’s ground color.

Mutations are – cobalt, emus, onyx, opal, pastel and topaz.

We could combine all categories above and have  $6 \times 4 \times 4 \times 6 = 576$  different colors, but some of the characteristics cannot be observed, such as a white frosty canary, since, as previously mentioned the “frosty” trait is given by the introduction of little white feathers scattered randomly over the canary’s ground color, and a white feather over white is only white. Therefore, no recessive white or dominant white canary can have the frosty trait.

Other traits cannot be observed together either, such as the so called “diluted” (lighter) colors as well as the so called “oxidized” (darker) colors.

## 2. CANARIES WITH WHITE GROUND COLOR

### 2.1 Non-melanic

The recessive white canary is wholly white and presents no other color in its plumage. The difference between these two types lies in the feathers at the end of the dominant white canaries, which are yellowish. These two types present black eyes and beaks and light-colored paws. They do not present mutations; neither are they frosty or mosaic.



Figure 1: Dominant and recessive white

### 2.2 Non-melanic with red eyes

Recessive and dominant white canaries that have red eyes are called albino and dominant albino. They are also non-melanic and have light-colored paws and beaks. They do not present mutations; neither are they frosty or mosaic.



Figure 2: Albino canary

### 2.3 Black melanin

The visual sensation is that the canary is blue or dominant blue. It has dark eyes, beak and paws. They may present all mutations, but they are neither frosty nor mosaic.

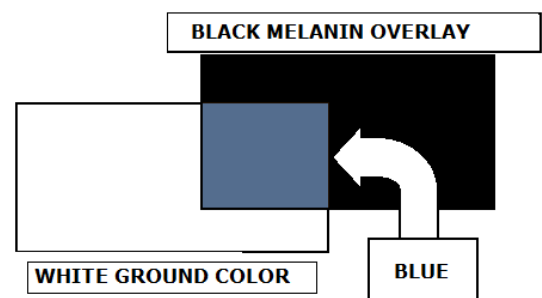


Figure 3: The blue color

<sup>1</sup> <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/species/island-canary-serinus-canaria>

## CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

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**Figure 4:** The opal blue canary

light-colored. They do not present mutations and can be frosty or mosaic.



**Figure 6:** The yellow male mosaic canary

### 2.4 Brown melanin

The visual sensation is that the canary is silver or dominant silver. It has black eyes and beak and light-colored paws. It is called silver cinnamon or dominant silver cinnamon. They may present a few mutations, but are not frosty or mosaic.



**Figure 5:** The opal silver dominant cinnamon canary

### 3.2 Non-melanic with red eyes

These canaries that have red eyes are called lutino and ivory lutino. They are also non-melanic and have light-colored paws and beaks. They do not present mutations; but are they frosty or mosaic.



**Figure 7:** The lutino canary

### 2.5 Fawnmelanin with red eyes

This canary has light-colored paws and red eyes. It is called fawn male or female albino or dominant fawn male or female albino. Canaries of this kind present dimorphism in connection with gender. They do not present mutations and cannot be frosty or mosaic.

## 3. CANARIES WITH YELLOW GROUND COLOR OR IVORY YELLOW GROUND COLOR

### 3.1 Non-melanic

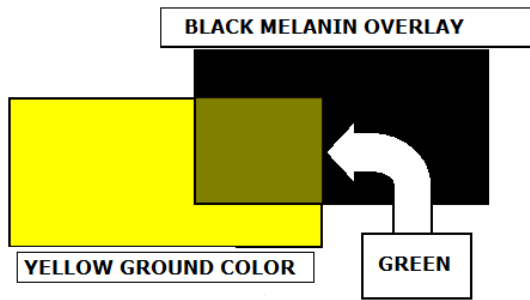
These are canaries that present a full yellow or light yellow plumage. The eyes are dark and the paws are

### 3.3 Black melanin

The visual sensation is that the canary is Green or ivory green. It has dark eyes, beak and paws. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty, and may present all six mutations.

# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

Luiz Cesar Barçante, DSc.



**Figure 8:** The green color



**Figure 9:** The green canary

### 3.4 Brown melanin

It has dark eyes and light-colored beak and paws. It is called cinnamon yellow or ivory cinnamon yellow. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty, and may present some of the six mutations.



**Figure 10:** The yellow cinnamon canary

### 3.5 Fawnmelanin with red eyes

It has light-colored beak and paws and red eyes. It is called fawn lutino male or female, and fawn ivory lutino male or female. These canaries present dimorphism in connection with gender. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty. They do not present mutations and can be neither mosaic nor frosty.



**Figure 11:** The lutino fawn canary

## 4. CANARIES WITH RED OR IVORY RED GROUND COLOR

### 4.1 Non-melanic

These are canaries that present a fully red or light red plumage. The eyes are dark and the beak and paws are light-colored. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty. These canaries do not present mutations.



**Figure 12:** The red canary

# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

Luiz Cesar Barçante, DSc.

If this canary presents red eyes, paws and beak, it is named *urucum*. In this case, it does not present mutations, nor is it mosaic or frosty.

## 4.2 Non-melanic with red eyes

These canaries that have red eyes are called rubino and ivory rubino. They are also non-melanic and have light-colored paws and beaks. They do not present mutations; but are they frosty or mosaic.



Figure 13: The rubino male mosaic canary

## 4.3 Black melanin

The visual sensation is that the canary is copper or ivory copper. It has dark eyes, beak, and paws. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty, and may present all six mutations.

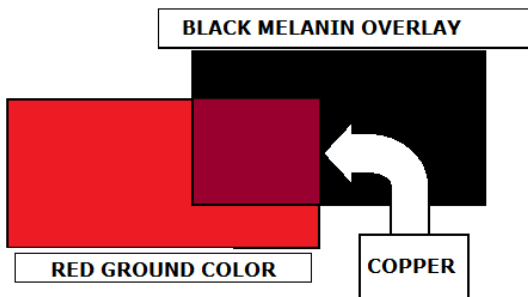


Figure 14: The copper color



Figure 15: The copper canary<sup>2</sup>

## 4.4 Brown melanin

It has a light-colored beak and paws. It is called red cinnamon or ivory red cinnamon. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense and frosty, and present some of the six mutations.



Figure 16: The red frosty cinnamon canary

## 4.5 Fawnmelanin with red eyes

It has a light-colored beak and paws and red eyes. It is called male or female fawn rubious or male or female ivory fawn rubious. They present dimorphism in connection with gender. It may also be male mosaic, female mosaic, intense or frosty. Canaries of this kind do not present mutations nor may they be frosty or mosaic.

<sup>2</sup> In USA classification is red bronze canary

# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

Luiz Cesar Barçante, DSc.



Figure 17: The rubino fawn canary

## 5. CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

The Canarimeter is made up of four concentric disks and a pointer. The inner disk has all canary colors with recessive and dominant white ground. The second disk contains all colors of canaries with yellow and ivory yellow ground. In the third disk are all the colors of canaries with red and ivory red ground color. The fourth and last disk contains the six mutations. The pointers indicate the four categories, two by two: intense & frosty male mosaic & female mosaic.

### 5.1 First Circle: White and Dominant White Ground Color

As mentioned before, the first circle contains all the colors with white and dominant white ground color. It is, therefore, filled by the white color with a yellow lateral line, as all canaries with dominant white ground color present a fully White color and a little yellow area in the feathers on the tips of the wings.

We have, therefore, designed the following figure.



Figure 18: The first circle

Inside the circle, are listed all canary colors that have a White or dominant White ground color, written inside text boxes. Canaries with black, oxidized or diluted melanin have their names written in Black or Gray ink.

Canaries with brown, oxidized or diluted melanin have their names written with Brown or beige ink. Canaries with fawn melanin have their names written in White over a rust-colored ground, since fawn melanin is deposited in the edges of the feathers and the inner part remains with the color of the canary, which, in this case, is white. The Satinet canary presents the letter “e” in red, since all Satinet canaries have red eyes. The same principle applies to all Albino canaries.

Text boxes have borders with different colors, and these colors indicate the color of the paws and beaks of the birds. Canaries with light-colored paws and beaks have a text box with light-colored borders and the only canary with white or dominant white ground that presents dark paws and beak is the blue one.

The inside of text boxes presents different colors and represents the visual impression of canaries. The blue canary is not really blue; it has a white ground covered with several Black stripes, with different sizes and widths, which provide a blue visual sensation.

The fawn canary provides a sensation of a rusty color, for reasons explained previously.

All other melanic canaries with a white ground appear to be silver.

Furthermore, Cinnamon\* and Blue\* canaries present an asterisk that indicates that they may have some or all of the six mutations located in the last circle.

### 5.2 Second Circle: Yellow and Ivory Yellow Ground Color

These follow the same rule described above.

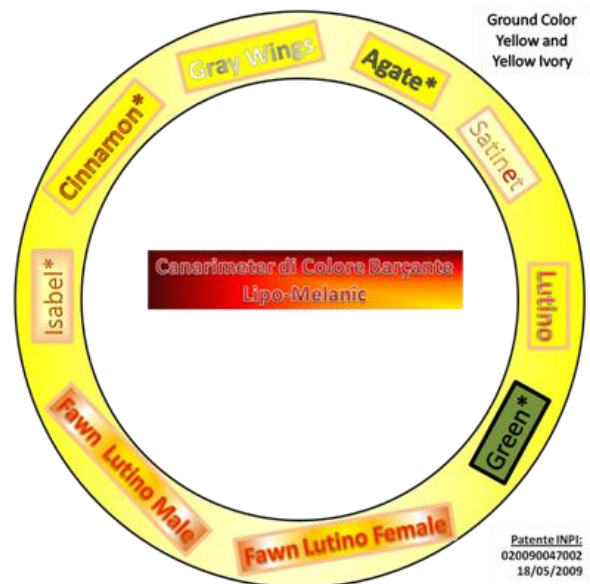


Figure 19: The second circle

### 5.3 Third Circle: Red and Ivory Red Ground Color

These follow the same rule described above. It is important to stress that there is a new color, officially

# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

Luiz Cesar Barçante, DSc.

acknowledged by the World Ornithology Confederation<sup>3</sup> in 2009, as the only color genuinely Brazilian, the color Urucum-Rubious, which present red ground color with paws, beaks and eyes red.

## 5.5 The Two Pointers

One of them represents Intense & Frosty canaries and the other represents Male & Female Mosaic canaries. They are opposed to each other and turn freely like clock hands. Please notice that they do not overpass the first circle, since there are no white or dominant white intense, frosty or male or female mosaic canaries. These are traits of canaries with yellow, red and ivory grounds. I may, for example, turn the pointer and place it on the Copper\* color, which means that I have a Copper Emus Male Mosaic canary or a Copper Frost Topaz one, or just a Copper Intense canary.

## 5.6 The Canarimeter di Colore Barçante

The set of all possibilities of combinations of colors is called Canarimeter di Colore Barçante, which is the roulette of the Canary Game.

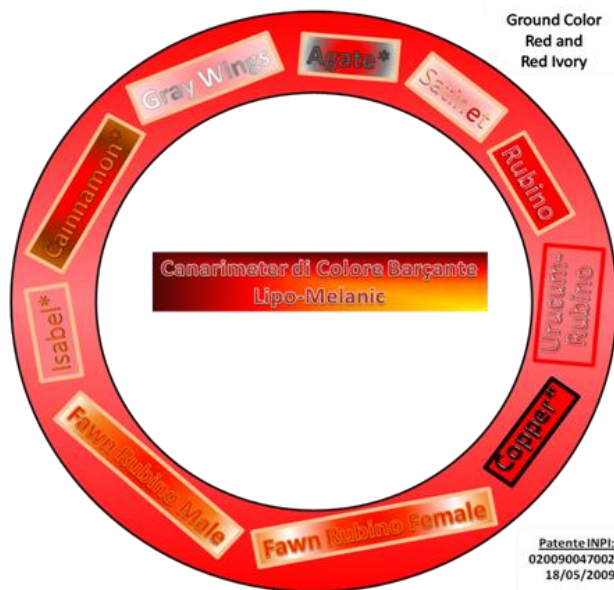


Figure 20: The third circle

## 5.4 Fourth Circle: Mutations

This circle is divided into six equal parts, each of them representing a mutation. Inside these parts are written the colors that present such mutation. For example, the Opal\* mutation may be observed in all Agates canaries, in all Cinnamon, and in Blue, Green and Copper ones. However, the Topaz mutation does not appear in a Cinnamon canary, and so forth.



Figure 21: The fourth circle

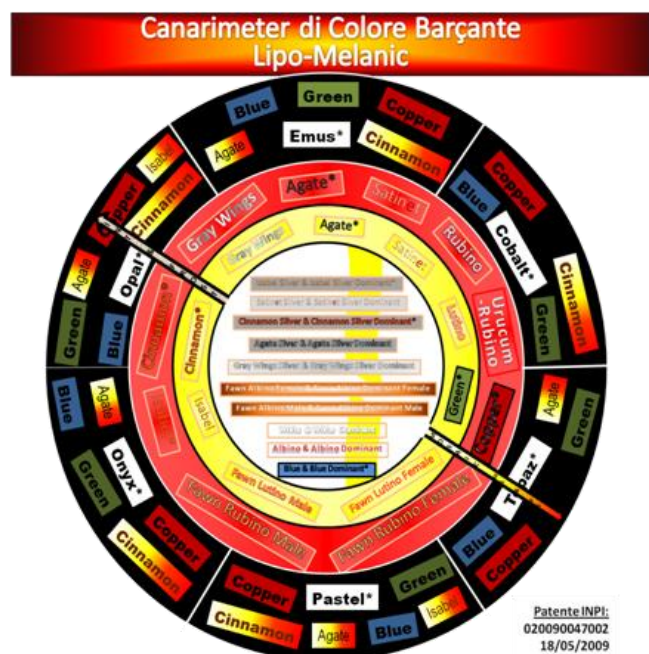


Figure 22: The canarimeter

## 6. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Knowing and mastering the vast list of household canary<sup>4</sup> colors in Brazil is a quite hard task, especially for beginning breeders, and even canary referees who need to have all such information handy.

The Canarimeter di Colore Barçante aims at making it easier to learn such colors, as its construction is based on the same principle – if you understand how to read a certain color, you will be able to read all the others, eliminating the need to memorize the whole list of 504 colors.

It is important to remember that colors are mutations that happen randomly and others may appear with time. The

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.conf.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://canonixred.wordpress.com/a-lista-completa-de-todas-as-cores-serie-codigo-de-cores-e-abreviatura/>

# CANARIMETER DI COLORE BARÇANTE

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Canarimeter may be adapted as new colors occur in the future.

Remember, it is easy because it is simple. It is simple because it is easy!

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