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-mail: vaarnaudov@abv.bg

Harmful mite species and their natural enemies in the walnut orchards in the region of Plovdiv

Veselin Arnaudov

Institute of Fruit Growing, "Ostromila" 12, 4004 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

The aim of this study was to identify harmful species mites and their natural enemies in walnut orchards located in the surroundings of Plovdiv, Southern Bulgaria. The study was conducted by inspecting the collected leaves and shaking of branches of the walnut trees in the period from May to September in 2014-2015. A total of 100 leaf samples and 100 branches samples from walnut orchards were examined for mites and predatory insects. As a result, 5 species of phytophagous mites, 10 species of predatory mites and 3 species of predatory insects were found. The harmful mites were represented by 3 spider mite species: *Eotetranychus carpini* (Oudemans), *Tetranychus urticae* Koch and *Tetranychus turkestanii* Ur. et Nik. (Acarina: Tetranychidae) and 2 eriophyid species: *Eriophyes erineus* Nal. and *Eriophyes tristriata* Nal. (Acarina: Eriophyidae). *E. carpini* (Oudemans) and *E. erineus* Nal were the most common and widespread species among all phytophagous mites. As predators of the harmful mites, 7 phytoseiid species: *Euseius finlandicus* (Oud.); *Kampimodromus aberrans* (Oud.);

Kampimodromus aberrans (Oud.),
Amblyseius andersoni (Chant),
Paraseiulus soleiger (Ribaga),
Paraseiulus triporus (Chant Yoshida-Shaul),
Neoseiulella tiliarum (Oud.)
Neoseiulella aceri (Coll.) (Acari: Phytoseiidae), 2
Tydeus californicus (Banks) and *Tydeus caudatus* (Duges) (Acarina: Tydaeidae), 1
: *Zetzellia mali* (Ewing) (Acarina: Stigmaeidae) 3
: *Stethorus punctillum* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Scolothrips sexmaculatus* (Perg.)
Scolothrips longicornis (Priesner) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). *E. finlandicus*

Amblyseius andersoni (Chant),
Paraseiulus soleiger (Ribaga),
Paraseiulus triporus (Chant and Yoshida-Shaul),
Neoseiulella tiliarum (Oud.)
Neoseiulella aceri (Coll.) (Acari: Phytoseiidae), 2 tydeid species: *Tydeus californicus* (Banks) and *Tydeus caudatus* (Duges) (Acarina: Tydaeidae), 1 stigm eid species: *Zetzellia mali* (Ewing) (Acarina: Stigmaeidae) and 3 predatory insect species: *Stethorus punctillum* (Weise) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Scolothrips sexmaculatus* (Perg.)
Scolothrips longicornis (Priesner) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) were observed. *E. finlandicus* was the main and most effective species among all predatory mites inhabiting the crown of the walnut trees.

Key words: walnut, phytophagous mites, predatory mites, predatory insects, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

INTRODUCTION

The English (Persian) walnut is one of the traditional fruit crops for Bulgaria. Its fruits are a valuable and irreplaceable food for us, which makes it popular, not only in Bulgaria but also in many parts of the world. The soil and the climatic conditions in Bulgaria favor the cultivation of this fruit species.

Over the last twenty years in our country there is an increasing interest in the cultivation of nut crops, due to the implemented by the state policy, providing substantial subsidies and stimulating of walnut production, but also on the unmet needs of the European market for walnut kernels.

(Warabieda, 2000; Skorupska, 2003; Lenort et al., 2005).

Panonychus ulmi Koch (Acarina: Tetranychidae)
Eriophyes erineus Nal., *Eriophyes tristriata* Nal.
Aculus juglans Natch. (Acarina: Eriophyidae) (Balevski et al., 1982).

This fruit species attacked by a large number of pests that can cause economic damage to walnut trees and significantly reduce yield.

The phytophagous mites are part of this complex of pests that have a negative impact on walnut trees.

The tetranychid mites are one of the important pests on fruit trees, including walnut. They are known more as pests of apple, plum and peach and rarely myrobalan plum, cherry, pear, medlar and quince (Balevski et al., 1982). Some authors consider that the species composition of spider mites strongly is influenced not only by the plant host and variety, but also by geographical location and environmental conditions (Warabieda, 2000; Skorupska, 2003; Lenort et al. 2005).

In Bulgaria targeted research to identify the harmful species mites and their natural enemies in walnut orchards were not conducted.

Three hytophagous mite species were identified as pests of walnut trees in our country until now: tetranychid mite species *Panonychus ulmi* Koch (Acarina: Tetranychidae), Eriophyid mite species *Eriophyes erineus* Nal., *Eriophyes tristriata* Nal. (Acarina: Eriophyidae) and *Aculus juglans* Natch. (Acarina: Eriophyidae) (Balevski et al., 1982).

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(50
10) 2014-2015 .

4 .

70% .

Krantz (1975), Gutierrez (1985 , b) Kreiter (1993).

- The aim of this study was to identify harmful species mites and their natural enemies in walnut orchards located in the surroundings of Plovdiv (Southern Bulgaria).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study to identify harmful species mites and their natural enemies in the crowns of walnut trees was conducted in walnut orchards located in the surroundings of Plovdiv (Southern Bulgaria) in 2014-2015 . During the period from May to September from different parts of the crown of the trees were collected leaf samples (50 leaves per tree from 10 trees for orchard), which were stored in plastic bags in a refrigerator at 4°C. All collected leaves were examined under stereomikroskop in entomological laboratory of the Fruit Growing Institute f Plovdiv; the available mites were registered and stored at the 70% solution of ethyl alcohol. Found in reviewing mites were counted, described and stored as 70% solution of ethyl alcohol. From the collected specimens were later prepared permanent microscopic preparations to determine their species composition. The identification of the mites was carried out according to known acarological methods described by Krantz (1975), Gutierrez (1985a, b) and Kreiter (1993).

- Predatory insects that feed on phytophagous mites were

Steiner (1962).

established with the help of an entomological bag using the method of shaking, described by Steiner (1962). By predatory insects collected in the course of the study were prepared entomological collections or microscopic preparations to determine their species identity. The identification of predatory insects is carried out with the help of key determinant of insect species in the adult stage in Dorokhova et al. (1989).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the research, in the walnut orchards have been established total of 5 species of phytophagous mites, 3 species from Tetranychidae family and 2 species from the Eriophyidae family (Table 1-2).

Tetranychidae 3
Eriophyidae (2 1-2).

1.

Table 1. Harmful species mites found in walnut orchards in the region of Plovdiv

Mite species	Location of the collected leaf samples									
	Plovdiv	Asenovgrad	Sadovo	Markovo	Pyrenevc	Brestovitza	Joachim Gruevo	Orizari	Tsaratsovo	Rogosh
Tetranychidae										
Eotetranychus carpini (Oud.)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tetranychus urticae (Koch)	+		+					+		
Tetranychus turkestanii (Ur. et Nik.)	+		+					+		
Eriophyida										
Aceria erinea (Nal.)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Eriophyes tristriatus (Miller)	+	+	+			+		+	+	

2.

Table 2. Predatory mite specieses found in walnut orchards in the region of Plovdiv

Mite species	Location of the collected leaf samples									
	Plovdiv	Asenovgrad	Sadovo	Markovo	Pyrenelec	Brestovitza	Joachim Gruevo	Orizari	Tsaratsovo	Rogosh
Phidoseiidae										
<i>Euseius finlandicus</i> (Oud.)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Kampimodromus aberrans</i> (Oud.)	+	+	+	+		+			+	+
<i>Amblyseius andersoni</i> (Chant)	+	+		+				+		
<i>Paraseiulus soleiger</i> (Ribaga)		+			+	+	+			
<i>Paraseiulus triporus</i> (Chant)				+						+
<i>Neoseiulella tiliarum</i> (Oud.)	+			+				+		
<i>Neoseiulella aceri</i> (Coll.)			+					+		
Tydeidae										
<i>Tydeus californicus</i> (Banks)	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	
<i>Tydeus caudatus</i> Duges)		+		+	+	+			+	+
Stigmaeidae										
<i>Zetzelia mali</i> (Ewing)	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+

(3),

Eotetranychus carpini (Oud.).

Tetranychus urticae Koch

Tetranychus turkestanii Ur. et Nik.

E. carpini.

The tetranychid mites were represented by relatively small number of species (3), among which the most common and dominant was *Eotetranychus carpini* (Oud.). This species is found to be present in all surveyed walnut orchards. It occurs in the crown of the trees almost all vegetation, but most often in low numbers. *Tetranychus urticae* Koch and *Tetranychus turkestanii* Ur. et Nik. are other tetranychid mite species. These species are relatively rare in the crown of walnut trees than *E. carpini*. Their presence was found only in isolated walnut orchards, usually

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E. erineus

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E. tristriata

4 mm

- surface of the leaves, where they feed and reproduce.

The galls of *E. erineus* are concave on the opposite side of the leaf and form cavities whose walls are covered with whitish or pale yellow cloth - erineum.

The galls of *E. tristriata* are located mostly around the main and lateral veins of a leaves. They are hard, dark brown, semi-spherical with a size up to 4 mm in diameter. On the underside of leaves galls are concave with rare hairs.

Phytophagous mites occurring in walnut trees are attacked by a large number of natural enemies that can be attributed to two main groups: predatory insects and predatory mites. The first group includes a number of insect predator species such as predatory ladybugs, predatory bugs and larvae of hoverflies, lacewing flies and others. These predators are mostly polyphagous or oligofagi. They feed mainly on aphids, scale insects, small caterpillars and others insects and only exceptionally with spider mites.

Insects that are characterized by a narrow food specialization and more strongly prefer to feed tetranychid mites have greater importance as *mitephagous*. From predatory insects group were identified following major species: *Stethorus*

- : *Stethorus punctillum* Weise (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Scolothrips sexmaculatus* (Perg.) *Scolothrips longicornis* Priesner (Thysanoptera: Thripidae).

punctillum Weise (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Scolothrips sexmaculatus* (Perg.) and *Scolothrips longicornis* Priesner (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). These insect species are found usually in walnut orchards that are treated with pesticides. In these orchards density of tetranychid mites was relatively higher in comparison with orchards without pesticide treatments.

Predatory mites are another important group of antagonists, which are of great importance for regulating population density of herbivorous mites. In this study, in the crown of the walnut trees were established a total of 10 species of predatory mites belonging to three families: Phytoseiidae (7), Stigmaeidae (1) and Tydaeidae (2) (Table 1-2).

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: Phytoseiidae (7), Stigmaeidae (1) Tydaeidae (2) (1-2).

Phytoseiid mites (Acarina: Phytoseiidae), which were among the most numerous and the most common predatory mites in this study were presented by the following species: *Euseius finlandicus* (Oud.); *Kampimodromus aberrans* (Oudemans), *Amblyseius andersoni* (Chant), *Paraseiulus soleiger* (Ribaga), *Paraseiulus triporus* (Chant and Yoshida-Shaul), *Neoseiulella tiliarum* (Oud.) and *Neoseiulella aceri* (Coll.). *E. finlandicus* was the most common and dominant species among all phytoseid mites,

(Acarina: Phytoseiidae),

: *Euseius finlandicus* (Oud.); *Kampimodromus aberrans* (Oudemans), *Amblyseius andersoni* (Chant), *Paraseiulus soleiger* (Ribaga), *Paraseiulus triporus* (Chant and Yoshida-Shaul), *Neoseiulella tiliarum* (Oud.) *Neoseiulella aceri* (Coll.). *E. finlandicus*

K. aberrans and *A. andersoni*.
 (Arnaudov, 1993, 2000; Arnaudov, 1997)
 (Arnaudov, 2005).
P. soleiger
 (Arnaudov, 1982),
N. aceri
 -
Zetzellia mali (Ewing)
 (Acarina: Stigmaeidae); *Tydeus californicus* (Banks)
Tydeus caudatus (Duges) (Acarina: Tydaeidae).
 . Phytoseiidae
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 ,
Eriophyes erineus Nal. -

followed by *K. aberrans* and *A. andersoni*. These phytoseiid species are known in our country as important predators of herbivores mites on apple trees (Arnaudov, 1993; 1997; 2000) and ground vegetation growing under them (Arnaudov and Rankova, 2005).

Two of established species (*T. tiliarum* and *P. soleiger*) have been found in previous studies on the leaves of other fruit crops such as cherry and plum (Balevski et al., 1982), but not walnut trees. Phytoseiid species *P. triporus* and *N. aceri* are new to the fauna of Bulgaria and reported for the first time.

In this study we identified other predatory mite species as *Zetzellia mali* (Ewing) (Acarina: Stigmaeidae); *Tydeus californicus* (Banks) and *Tydeus caudatus* (Duges) (Acarina: Tydaeidae). These families unlike Phytoseiidae family are poorer species, but they are rich in number of individuals, indicating that they are food-related eriofidnite mites.

In support of this hypothesis is the fact that these predators were found more frequently leaves of walnut trees infested by *Eriophyes erineus* Nal. and less frequently in the leaves which are not attacked by this pest.

CONCLUSIONS

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5 : 3
Tetranychidae (*Eotetranychus carpini* Oud., *Tetranychus urticae* Koch, *Tetranychus turkestanii* Ur. et Nik.), 2
Eriophyidae (*Eriophyes erineus* Nal., *Eriophyes tristriata* Nal.), 7
Phytoseiidae (*Euseius finlandicus* Oud.; *Kampimodromus aberrans* Oud., *Amblyseius andersoni* Chant, *Paraseiulus soleiger* Rib., *Paraseiulus triporus* Chant and Yoshida-Shaul, *Neoseiulella tiliarum* Oud., *Neoseiulella aceri* Coll.), 1
Stigmaeidae (*Zetzellia mali* Ewing), 2
Tydaeidae (*Tydeus californicus* Banks, *Tydeus caudatus* Duges), 3
Paraseiulus triporus, *Neoseiulella aceri*
: *Stethorus punctillum* Weise (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), *Scolothrips sexmaculatus* (Perg.) and *Scolothrips longicornis* Priesner (Thysanoptera: Thripidae).

- This is the first targeted
- research in Bulgaria to establish
- the species composition of
- phytophagous mites and their
- natural enemies in walnut. In the
- crown of the walnut trees are
- established a total of 15 species of
- mites belonging to 5 families: 3
- from Tetranychidae (*Eotetranychus
carpini* Oud., *Tetranychus urticae*
Koch and *Tetranychus turkestanii*
Ur. et Nik.), 2 from Eriophyidae
(*Eriophyes erineus* Nal. and
Eriophyes tristriata Nal.), 7 from
the Phytoseiidae (*Euseius
finlandicus* Oud., *Kampimodromus
aberrans* Oud., *Amblyseius
andersoni* Chant, *Paraseiulus
soleiger* Rib., *Paraseiulus triporus*
Chant and Yoshida-Shaul),
Neoseiulella tiliarum Oud. and
Neoseiulella aceri Coll.), one from
the Stigmaeidae (*Zetzellia mali*
Ewing), and 2 from the Tydaeidae
(*Tydeus californicus* Banks and
Tydeus caudatus Duges). Two of
these species *Paraseiulus triporus*
and *Neoseiulella aceri* are new to
the fauna of Bulgaria phytoseiid
mites that were reported for the
first time.

Many predatory insects are
established to feed on herbivorous
mites, but only 3 of them can be
regarded as their typical predators-
mitephagous: *Stethorus punctillum*
Weise (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae),
Scolothrips sexmaculatus (Perg.)
and *Scolothrips longicornis*
Priesner (Thysanoptera: Thripidae).

The arthropod species established in this study was first reported in Bulgaria on walnut trees and in this respect, the study is original.

The results of this study provide valuable biotic information on the species composition of phytophagous mites and their natural enemies in walnut trees, which can serve as a basis for developing an integrated system for control of phytophagous mites on walnut trees within in the integrated pest management programs in walnut.

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INTRODUCTION

Cacopsylla pyri (L.) (Hemiptera Psyllidae)

(*Pyrus communis* L.).

C. pyri

C. pyri *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma pyri* (Seemüller and Schneider, 2004),

„ear decline“ (),

pyri ()

C. pyri

(Stamenkovi

Pear psylla, *Cacopsylla pyri* (L.) (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) is one of the most important pests of European pear (*Pyrus communis* L.). In our country it is usually 5 generations per year. The larvae and nymphs cause damage by sucking sap from young leaves of the shoots, buds and fruits of pear trees. *C. pyri* damage include the occurrence of necrosis on leaves and tissues of fruit and "honeydew" excretion causing sooty mould,, reducing the market value of the fruit.

C. pyri is also a vector of *Candidatus* *Phytoplasma pyri* (Seemüller and Schneider, 2004) the causal agent of the disease 'Pear decline' that reduces tree vigour and can be fatal to trees.

During the past two decades, the damage caused by *C. pyri* in the region of Plovdiv (Southern Bulgaria) is significant and most often due to wrong choice of active substance, the wrong time for insecticide application, which is not consistent with the developmental stages of the pest or weather conditions.

The successful control of *C. pyri* populations in the beginning of vegetation is essential to preventing subsequent problems during the growing season (Stamenkovi et al., 1993; Carraro,

et al., 1993; Carraro, 1998; Horton, 1999; Duduk et al., 2008).

1998; Carraro, et al., 2001; Horton, 1999; Duduk et al., 2008). The most suitable period of treatment is, when in the leaves and the shoots have enough eggs laid by the females that are in the process of hatching or at an initial occurrence of the hatched larvae. In the climatic conditions of Bulgaria dormant females begin to lay eggs in mid-February; nymphs of the first generation appear during the first half of April, coinciding with the start of phenophase blossoming of pear trees and nymphs second generation – In late April and early May, or about two weeks after blossoming pear trees.

Numerous chemical compounds commonly referred to as conventional insecticides (organic-phosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids), and some acaricides are widely used to control of pear psylla population. The frequent and continuous use of the same products causes for the emergence of resistance in populations of *C. pyri* in many countries of the world (Buès et al., 1999). In our country also reported on the occurrence of resistance in populations of *C. pyri* and registered a decline in the effectiveness of some commonly used insecticides in practice (Harizanov, 1982; Arnaudov and Kutinkova, 2001).

C. pyri
(Buès et al., 1999).

C. pyri

(
1982; Arnaudov and Kutinkova, 2001).

The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of various chemicals used to control against *Cacopsylla pyri*, in order to

Cacopsylla pyri,

- improve the management of populations of this pest in pear orchards.

Cacopsylla pyri L.

2013 2014 .

C. pyri.

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1- 14-

1.

C. pyri (

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(MF)

) 1- , 3- , 7- 14-

(T+1, 3, 7,

14).

Henderson and Tilton (1955).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Studies to evaluate the efficacy of various chemical products to control *Cacopsylla pyri* L. were conducted in fruit bearing pear orchard located in the village Tsalapitsa near Plovdiv in 2013 and 2014. Pesticide treatments were conducted in the beginning of the hatching of larvae of second generation of *C. pyri*. The experiments are set up on a block random scheme in 3 replicates (by four trees for each replicate) for each treatment, on 6-year pear trees with spindle-shaped form, from the 'Cure' cultivar. The assessment of efficacy was made on the marked shoots without collecting samples, from 1 to 14 days after treatment. The characteristics of the tested pesticides are presented in Table 1.

The assessment was made based on the base of the population numbers of *C. pyri* (number of eggs (E) and larvae (L) before treatment (T-1) and the number of mobile forms (MF) of infested shoot) of 1, 3, 7 and 14 days after treatment (T + 1, 3, 7, 14). The efficacy of the tested chemicals was evaluated according to the formula of Henderson and Tilton (1955).

1.

***Cacopsylla pyri* L.**

Table 1. Characteristics of the test pesticides for control against *Cacopsylla pyri* L.

Commercial product	Active substance	(g/l kg) Active substance (g/l or kg)	Dose (ml/hl)
Vertimec 18EC	Abamectin	18	150
Vertimec 18 EC + mineral oil	Abamectin + mineral oil	18	150 + 250
Aktara 25WG	Thiametoxam	250	200
Aktara 25WG + mineral oil	Thiametoxam + mineral oil	250	200 + 250
Calypso 480SC	Thiacloprid	480	500
Calypso 480SC + mineral oil	Thiacloprid + mineral oil	480	500 + 250
Trebon	Etofenprox	300	70
Sumi-alfa 5EC	Esfenvalerate	50	30
Decis 2,5EC	Deltamethrin	25	30
Bi-58	Dimethoate	400	150
<i>Dursban 4</i>	Chlorpyrifos-ethyl	480	150
Dimilin 25 WP	Diflubenzuron	250	80
Dimilin 480 SC + Silwet L-77	Diflubenzuron + mineral oil	250	80 + 25
Isystin 25 WP	Triflumoron	250	60

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The results of studies related to evaluate the efficacy of various chemical means to control *Cacopsylla pyri* L. are presented in Table 2 and 3.

Cacopsylla pyri L.
2 3.

2.
2013 .

C. pyri,

Table 2. Efficacy of the test insecticides for control of *C. pyri*, Plovdiv 2013

Active substance	Insecticide	ml/hl Dose ml/hl	Efficacy after ()									
			T-1		T+1		T+3		T+7		T+14	
			E+L	MF	%	MF	%	MF	%	MF	%	
Abamectin	Vertimec 18EC	150	147.5	0.9	94.0	1.3	98.8	1.4	97.6	3.8	96.8	
Thiametoxam	Aktara 25WG	20	140.0	1.5	89.5	1.7	94.3	2.4	95.6	5.3	96.6	
Etofenprox	Trebon 30 EC	70	152.0	2.9	81.3	2.1	93.5	5.5	90.8	13.0	89.5	
Esfenvalerate	Sumi-alfa 5EC	30	158.5	3.0	81.4	2.7	91.9	7.2	88.4	17.1	86.7	
Deltamethrin	Decis 2,5 EC	30	142.0	2.8	80.6	2.9	90.3	8.3	85.1	20.5	82.2	
Dimethoate	Bi -58	150	153.5	3.1	80.2	5.2	84.0	10.5	82.6	30.2	75.8	
Chlorpyrifos-ethyl	<i>Dursban 4E</i>	150	148.0	3.4	77.5	6.9	77.9	17.4	70.0	40.5	66.3	
Diflubenzuron	Dimilin 25 WP	80	146.5	5.9	60.5	7.4	76.1	12.1	79.0	35.5	70.1	
Triflumoron	Isystin 25 WP	60	155.0	6.9	56.3	8.7	73.4	15.4	74.7	38.2	69.6	
Untreated			132.5	13.5		28.0		52.0		107.5		

Table 3. Efficacy of the test insecticides for control of *C. pyri*, Plovdiv 2014

Active substance	Insecticide	ml/hl Dose ml/hl	Efficacy after (days)								
			T-1	T+1		T+3		T+7		T+14	
			EL	MF	%	MF	%	MF	%	MF	%
Abamectin	Vertimec 18 EC	150	115.0	0.6	96.4	1.0	97.6	1.6	97.8	3.6	96.7
Abamectin + mineral oil	Vertimec 18 EC + mineral oil	150 + 250	119.5	0.4	97.7	0.6	98.2	0.8	98.7	2.3	98.0
Thiametoxam	Aktara 25 WG	20	124.0	1.1	93.8	1.3	96.1	2.1	96.8	4.9	95.8
Thiametoxam + mineral oil	Aktara 25WG + mineral oil	20 + 250	121.5	1.0	94.2	0.8	97.5	1.6	97.5	3.8	96.9
Thiacloprid	Calypso 480 SC	50	120.0	1.0	94.2	1.2	96.2	1.9	97.0	4.6	96.0
Thiacloprid + mineral oil	Calypso 480 SC + mineral oil	50 + 250	117.5	0.7	95.8	0.7	97.8	1.4	97.7	3.3	97.1
Diflubenzuron	Dimilin 480 SC	80	113.5	6.1	62.4	8.0	73.4	14.6	75.6	29.5	72.7
Diflubenzuron + adjuvant	Dimilin 480 SC + Silwet L-77	80 + 25	115.5	5.6	66.1	7.5	75.5	13.7	77.3	28.4	74.1
Untreated			122.5	17.5		32.5		64.0		116.5	

The data shows that not all chemicals are equally effective against larvae (nymphs) of *C. pyri*. Most of the tested insecticides demonstrate low initial toxicity to juvenile forms of *C. pyri*. Some of these insecticides such as esfenvalerate, deltamethrin, dimethoate, chlorpyrifos-ethyl, diflubenzuron and triflumuron reach high levels of toxicity to 7 days, after which their effectiveness is greatly reduced. Abamectin was the most effective among all the tested insecticides with efficacy varying between 96.8-98.0%. Neonicotinoids – thiomethoxam and thiacloprid also demonstrated high efficacy, similar to that of abamectin, varying between 95.8-96.6%. Followed by the synthetic pyrethroids etofenprox, esfenvalerate and deltamethrin, whose efficacy fluctuates between 89.5 and 75.8%. In this study

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- organophosphorus insecticides –
 - dimethoate, chlorpyrifos-ethyl, as
 - well as the insecticides of the
 - group consisting of chitin synthesis
 - inhibitors showed insufficient high
 - efficacy against juvenile forms of
 - *C. pyri* (> 75%).
 - In 2014 to some insecticides,
 - shown good results in the previous
 - year were added adjuvants
 - (mineral oil or Silwet L-77 C) in
 - order to improve their efficacy to
 - *C. pyri*. The results of these
 - studies (Table 2) showed that the
 - addition of mineral oil (250 ml/hl)
 - to the insecticides abamectin,
 - thiametoxam and thiacloprid
 - significantly improves their
 - efficacy. The addition of the
 - adjuvant Silwet L-77C (at a dose
 - of 25 ml/hl) to insecticide
 - diflubenzuron also contributes to
 - increasing its effectiveness, but it
 - was not high enough to provide an
 - adequate control.

CONCLUSIONS

- After withdrawal of amitraz
 - and some other conventional
 - insecticides from market abamectin
 - has become one of the most
 - commonly used products in practice
 - for the control of *C. pyri*. In
 - Bulgaria there is still no reliable
 - evidence of increasing resistance
 - of *C. pyri* to this insecticide,
 - although in other countries there
 - are already indications of the
 - emergence of resistance in
 - populations of this pest (Civolani et
 - al., 2007). Abamectin in this study

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<p><i>C. pyri</i> > 96%.</p>	<p>shows high levels of efficiency to the juvenile forms of <i>C. pyri</i> > 96%. This active substance demonstrates higher efficacy against the eggs and larvae of <i>C. pyri</i> than against the nymphs. The addition of mineral oil at a dose of 250 ml/hl significantly contributes to increasing its efficacy.</p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i>, 250 ml/hl</p>	<p>The neonicotinoids thiomethoxam and tiacloprid also demonstrates high efficiency (between 95-96%), comparable with that of abamectin. These insecticides similar to abamectin show better biological activity against eggs and larvae than against nymphs. Because of their high efficacy and low side-effect on the natural enemies of <i>C. pyri</i>, they are considered as a possible alternative to abamectin in control of this pest. Synthetic pyrethroids also demonstrate relatively high efficacy against the populations of <i>C. pyri</i>, ranging between 82 and 89%. The use of these products during the vegetation period should be limited to a minimum, regardless of their good efficacy against <i>C. pyri</i>, because of their poor selectivity for natural antagonists.</p>
<p>(95-96%),</p>	<p></p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i>,</p>	<p></p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i>, 82 89%.</p>	<p></p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i>,</p>	<p></p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i>.</p>	<p>Frequent use of these insecticides in the season can lead to disruption of biological balance in agroecosystems and cause mass multiplication of <i>C. pyri</i>. Therefore synthetic pyrethroids are regarded as an inappropriate tool</p>

<p><i>C. pyri</i></p>	<p>- to control <i>C. pyri</i> in the integrated pest management programs in pears.</p>
<p>(Arnaudov and Kutinkova, 2001)</p>	<p>- organophosphorus insecticides and chitin synthesis inhibitors showed no satisfactory efficacy against populations of <i>C. pyri</i> in this study and previous ones (Arnaudov and Kutinkova, 2001)</p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i></p>	<p>- showed poor efficacy against <i>C. pyri</i>. One of the possible reasons for the low efficiency of these insecticides can be emergence of resistance in populations of <i>C. pyri</i>, arising from frequent and continuous use of insecticides on the same basis and with a similar mechanism of action. Adding adjuvants to chitin synthesis inhibitors does not contribute to significantly improve their efficiency. This fact suggests the problem is not associated with good adherence of insecticides to the leaves.</p>
<p><i>C. pyri</i></p> <p>1. bamectin (Vertimec 18EC), thiomethoxam (Aktara 25WG) thiocloprid (Calypso 480 SC)</p>	<p>- Based on the results obtained can be made the following conclusions and recommendations:</p> <p>1. bamectin (Vertimec 18EC), thiomethoxam (Aktara 25WG) thiocloprid (Calypso 480 SC) applied alone or in combination with mineral oil at the recommended doses are the best products to control the populations of <i>C. pyri</i> during vegetation of pear trees.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>- 2. The synthetic pyrethroids, regardless of their good efficacy, are not suitable for the control of pear psylla populations during the growing</p>

C. pyri

3.

C. pyri

season, due to their low selectivity in respect of key antagonists of this pest. Their use against *C. pyri* is permissible only during the dormant sprays and early spring treatments of pear trees.

3. To minimize the use of insecticides from the group of chitin synthesis inhibitors and organophosphorus insecticides because of their unsatisfactory efficacy against populations of *C. pyri* and possible signs of resistance development.

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PPV

The presence of PPV in the leaf samples of 'Pestilka', 'Sakarka', 'Byala Razgradska' and 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo' was definitely proven. They had symptoms of sharka on leaves in the range from slight to well-pronounced, while there were slight or no symptoms on fruits, and therefore could be defined as tolerant to the disease.

Key words: plums, local varieties, resistance to PPV

PPV

INTRODUCTION

The broad dissemination of plum pox virus and its economic importance, as a limiting factor for plum production, require study on the susceptibility of some local plum cultivars.

The local plum cultivars, in the Experimental Station on Plum-Dryanovo, are grown as a rich collection of the gene pool available in the region. Some cultivars have been preserved, which are suitable for the specific agro-ecological conditions, well-adapted to their habitat, and have good economic qualities.

(1961)

Marinov (1961) published some data on the biological characteristics of 50 local plum cultivars from that region, as the more interesting ones have been used in the selection work. The evaluation of the reaction of local cultivars to PPV is important, both for the wider distribution of more valuable cultivars, and for their use as a material in the selection for creation of new cultivars, which are resistant or tolerant to sharka.

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(PPV)

(1977)

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PPV.

(1984), Bivol et al. (1987), Bivol et al. (1988), (1990), (1990).

- Vitanov (1977), uses some of their valuable qualities, such as resistance to diseases, good taste, a high content of dry matter and sugars, include them successfully in genetic researches.

The aim is: To determine the attitude of local plum cultivars in the collection of the Experimental Station on Plum – Dryanovo towards the virus of sharka, with a view to recommend them for distribution and upcoming selection work.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The local plum cultivars – 'Sinya rakiynitsa', 'Duninka', 'Dupla', 'Pestilka', 'Sakarka', 'Byala Razgradska', 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo', 'Sinakvitsa', 'Zaeshka', 'Bumbalka', 'Babini Markini', 'Medenka', 'Tarkulka', 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Elena', 'Drebna byala rakiynitsa' – in the collection of the Experimental Station on Plum-Dryanovo were investigated. The garden is located in a region of a high density infection of PPV.

The manifestation and intensity of symptoms on leaves were reported in the period of May-June, and fruits in August, according to methods used by Verderevskaya et al. (1984), Bivol et al. (1987), Bivol et al. (1988), Iliev et al. (1990), Gerginova (1990).

Average samples were taken from 50 leaves, respectively fruits.

The disease index-Di was

(Disease index-DI)

Bivol: | calculated according to formulae
by Bivol:

$$DI = \frac{(n_1.m_1+n_2.m_2+ \dots+n_n.m_n)/N.m}{N.m} \cdot 100 \%$$

n = () ;
 mi = ;
 N = () ;
 m = ;
 0 -) ;
 1 - , ;
 2 - ;
 3 - ;
 4 - 5 10 1/2 ;
 5 - 10 1/2 ;
 0 -) ;
 1 - , , ;
 10% ;
 2 - 25% ;
 3 - ;
 4 - 10%

where:

n = number of damaged fruits (leaves) with the respective index of infection;

mi = index of infection;

N = total number of fruits (leaves);

m = the highest index of infection;

The index of infection was determined according to the following scale:

a) leaves

0 – no symptoms;

1 – single, scarcely noticeable leaves;

2 – distinctly noticeable leaves covering up to 1/4 from the leaf blade;

3 – distinctly noticeable spots up to 5, covering 1/4 of the leaf blade;

4 – from 5 to 10 leaves covering 1/2 of the leaf blade;

5 – over 10 spots covering more than 1/2 of the leaf blade;

b) fruits

0 – no damages

1 – single, scarcely noticeable, surface spots, covering up to 10% of the fruit surface;

2 – well-noticeable surface spots up to 25% on the fruit surface;

3 – single hollow spots;

4 – well-formed hollow rings, taking 10% of the fruit surface;

5 – ;
 10% ;
 -
 -
 1. | 5 – well-formed hollow rings, taking more than 10% of the fruit surface;
 The assessment of the resistance of cultivars was made according to the scale represented in Table 1.

1.
Table 1. Resistance of cultivars

	/ Resistance level	DI %
/ Immune		0
/ Resistant		0,1 - 1
/ Tolerant		1,1 - 10
/ Slightly susceptible		10,1 - 25
/ Averagely susceptible		25,1 - 50
/ Highly susceptible		50.1 - 75
/ Very highly susceptible		> 75

Scale for determination of attitude of cultivars towards sharka virus:
 - field resistance – cultivars that are difficult to infect naturally;
 - asymptoms –no symptoms on the leaves and fruits, although they are infected;
 - tolerant – the infection is proven, there are symptoms on the leaves, but there are no or very slight symptoms on the fruits, which do not fall off prematurely and are ready to be used;
 - slightly susceptible – the infection is proven, with or without symptoms on the leaves, but there are very slight symptoms on fruits, which do not fall off prematurely up to 10%;
 - highly susceptible – strong symptoms and damages on fruits,

PPV, DAS ELISA
 Clark and Adams (1977).
 IgG IgG-AP-conjugate
 LOEWE Phytodiagnostica
 1:200.
 STRIP READER,
 ELISA photometer, optical,
 405 nm.

the manifestation of symptoms on leaves is not significant.

Serological diagnostics was conducted for PPV in the virological laboratory of RIMSA-Troyan, by means of DAS ELISA according to Clark and Adams (1977). IgG and IgG-AP-conjugate of LOEWE Phytodiagnostica was used in a solution of 1:200. The reaction was reported by STRIP READER – ELISA photometer, optical, at a wavelength of 405 nm. The threshold light absorption value of positive samples was three times that of the uninfected control.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When assessing the attitude of cultivars towards disease (Table 2), we take as a leading factor the presence or lack of symptoms, respectively damages on fruits, which has a practical importance.

Cultivars such as 'Sinya rakiynitsa', 'Duninka' and 'Dupla' had pronounced and strong symptoms on leaves and slight symptoms on fruits (slight hollows on the skin, with a slight change of the fruit flesh), as up to 10% of them fell off prematurely. PPV was proven, by means of ELISA, only in 'Sinya rakiynitsa' cultivar, which could be determined as slightly susceptible.

ELISA PPV

2.

(PPV)

Table 2. Attitude of some local plum cultivars from Dryanovo region towards plum pox virus (PPV)

/Cultivars	DAS ELISA				Assessment of the attitude towards disease	
	Visual assessment of symptoms			Assessment of reaction		
	on leaves	on fruits	^{405nm}			
rakiynitsa'	/Sinya			0.189	+	Slightly susceptible
	/Duninka	/strong			-	?
	/Dupla	/strong			-	?
	/Pestilka	/strong		0.085	+	/tolerant
	/Sakarka	/strong		0.262	+	/tolerant
Byala razgradska		/average		0.727	+	/tolerant
		/strong		2.098	+	Highly tolerant
tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo	/Lyatna					
	/Sinakvitsa	/none	/weak	2.421	+	/tolerant
	/Zaeshka	/none	/weak		-	?
	/Bumbalka	/none	/weak	0.020	-	?
		/none	/weak		-	?
Babini Marinkini						
	/Medenka	/none	/none		-	Field resistance
	/Turkulka	/none	/none		-	Field resistance
		/none	/none		-	Field resistance
/Lyatna trunkosliva ot Elena		/none	/none		-	Field resistance
	/Drebna byala rakiynitsa	/none	/none		-	Field resistance
	/Control (+)					
	/Control (-)					

- There could not be given a definite evaluation about the attitude towards the virus of the other two cultivars ('Duninka' and 'Dupla') at this stage, because the symptoms might be due to infection by another virus, which should be examined further. There is a similar situation with the evaluation of 'Zaeshka' and 'Babini Markinini slivi', where the virus was not found either (Table 2).

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(2).

'Pestilka', 'Sakarka', 'Byala Razgradska' and 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo' had strong symptoms on leaves and slight or no symptoms on fruits. The symptoms on leaves of these cultivars were expressed by ring-shaped spots in the whole crown, typical for that disease.

Symptoms on fruits in 'Byala Razgradska', 'Pestilka' and 'Sakarka' cultivars were in the shape of slightly noticeable surface spots and patterns. Fruits did not fall off prematurely and were suitable for consumption and processing. They had the slightest expression in 'Byala Razgradska' and were rarely manifested.

The virus was serologically determined in the four cultivars, as there were no signs on the fruits of 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo', despite the high value of light absorption ($A_{405nm}=2,098$) in the leaf sample.

There were no symptoms on leaves and slight symptoms on fruits in 'Sinakvitsa' cultivar, where PPV presence was proven with a high value of reported light absorption ($A_{405nm}=2,421$).

PPV was not found in leaf samples of 'Zaeshka' and 'Bumbalka' cultivars. They showed certain signs on fruits, which might be due to presence of infection by another virus.

According to the study so far on sixteen-year old local plum cultivars in the presence of high natural infection background, the

2015

- following cultivars had no signs on leaves and fruits - 'Medenka', 'Tarkulka', 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Elena', 'Drebna byala rakiynitsa'. Their serological analysis in 2005 was negative about the virus, which confirmed data of the observations in the previous years, about their field resistance.

CONCLUSIONS

- As a result of the observation and serological tests, the following assessment could be made about the attitude of cultivars to plum pox:
 - field resistance – 'Medenka', 'Tarkulka', 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Elena' and 'Drebna byala rakiynitsa' cultivars, which have not been infected till their sixteen-year vegetation, despite the high density infection in the neighbouring plantations. They could be recommended for distribution and growing even in highly infected regions;
 - tolerant – 'Sinakvitsa', 'Pestilka', 'Sakarka'. 'Byala Razgradska' and 'Lyatna tr nkosliva ot Gabrovo'. They are proven as infected, without or having symptoms on their leaves, but without or very slight symptoms on fruits, which do not fall off prematurely and suitable for consumption, therefore could be recommended for distribution and growing.

- slightly susceptible is 'Sinya rakiynitsa' cultivar, as its infection was proven, but there were slight symptoms on fruits, which fall off prematurely up to 10%.
- not proven viral status for 'Duninka', 'Dupla', 'Zaeshka', 'Bumbalka' and 'Babini Markini slivi', with symptoms on leaves and fruits, but without proven PPV infection, which requires further testing for presence of other viruses that cause similar symptoms.

- slightly susceptible is 'Sinya rakiynitsa' cultivar, as its infection was proven, but there were slight symptoms on fruits, which fall off prematurely up to 10%.
- not proven viral status for 'Duninka', 'Dupla', 'Zaeshka', 'Bumbalka' and 'Babini Markini slivi', with symptoms on leaves and fruits, but without proven PPV infection, which requires further testing for presence of other viruses that cause similar symptoms.

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*E-mail: rankova_zarya@abv.bg

The effect of chemical weed control on growth of young nectarines

Zarya Rankova*, Argir Zhivondov

Fruit-Growing Institute, 12 Ostromila Str., 4004 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

2010-2013 .

() + pH+ 50
() + 360
() + pH+
360 () + pH+

130-150 50

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Studies were carried out in the period 2010-2013 in a young nectarine plantation established on the territory of the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv. The effect of the herbicide combinations Pledge 50 WP (flumioxazin) + Nasa 360 EC (glyphosate) + Teknophyt pH+ and Metofen (oxyfluorfen + metolachlor) + Nasa 360 (glyphosate) + Tecnophyt pH+, on the growth habits of two nectarine cultivars – 'Gergana' and 'Fantasia', was studied.

The results confirmed that the applied herbicides show very good efficiency in the control of the weed species forming the weed association in the row-strip of the plantations. The period of the efficient herbicide post-effect of the soil herbicides Pledge 50 WP and Metofen is about 130-150 days.

External symptoms of phytotoxicity and a depressing effect on the vegetative habits of the trees were not established. That gave the grounds to recommend the soil herbicides Pledge 50 WP and Metofen to be used as alternative measures for chemical weed control in

young nectarine plantations.

Key words: herbicides, weeds, nectarines, growth habits

INTRODUCTION

- Maintaining the soil surface in good agrotechnical condition and eliminating weed competition are essential for the success of modern fruit production.

- The problem is particularly crucial in the first few years after establishing the plantation, when the trees have shallow root systems and respond strongly to the competition of weeds for water and nutrients.

- During the juvenile period, the fruit species are also susceptible to herbicide application. Studies showed that during the first three years after establishing young peach and nectarine orchards, it is possible to carry out the weed control by applying soil and leaf herbicides based on the active substances pendimethalin, oxyfluorfen, napropamid, etc., without the risk of causing phytotoxicity and growth inhibition (Ben-Arie, 1992; Rankova, 2006; Zhivondov, Rankova, 2007; Rankova et al., 2011; Rankova et al., 2012; Hembree, 2012; Ritchie et al., 2014; Dittmar et al., 2015).

It is necessary to look for alternative possibilities for applying herbicides in young orchards in

(Ben-Arie, 1992; Rankova, 2006; Zhivondov, Rankova, 2007; Rankova et al., 2011; Rankova et al., 2012; Hembree, 2012; Ritchie et al., 2014; Dittmar et al., 2015).

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order to effectively control weeds without the risk of compensation processes and soil contamination with residual amounts of herbicides.

Adding the physiologically acid liquid fertilizer Teknofit pH+ to the herbicide solution of the total leaf herbicide glyphosate can be used to reduce the rate of the active substance, including in the control of stubborn perennial weeds (Rankova, 2014).

The aim of the present trial was to study the efficacy and selectivity of the soil herbicides Pledge WP (flumioxazin) and Metofen (oxyfluorfen + metolachlor), applied together in a system with the total leaf herbicide and the physiologically acid fertilizer – Nasa 360 EC (glyphosate) + Teknophyt pH+, on growth habits of young nectarine trees.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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		50 – 40 g/da:	
1.	–		;
2.	–		;
3.	–		;
4.	–		

		– 240 ml/da:	
1.	1-40 –		;
2.	1-40 –		;
3.	–		;
4.	–		

The following variants were included in the trial:

Nectarine cultivars treated with Pledge 50 WP – 40 g/da:

1. 'Gergana' – control, untreated;
2. 'Gergana' – treated;
3. 'Fantasia' – control, untreated;
4. 'Fantasia' – treated.

Nectarine cultivars treated with Metofen – 240 ml/da:

1. Elite 1-40 – control, untreated;
2. Elite 1-40 – treated;
3. 'Gergana' – control, untreated;
4. 'Gergana' – treated.

The efficacy of the soil herbicides against the weed species forming the weed association in the row strip was followed up, as well as the duration of the efficient herbicide post-effect.

The control of secondary weed infestation during vegetation was provided by twice treatment with the total leaf herbicide glyphosate supplemented with the physiologically acid fertilizer Teknophyt pH+ for increasing the efficacy of the herbicide application.

Thus, two herbicide combinations of soil and leaf herbicides were formed, applied as a system:

- Pledge 50 WP (flumioxazin) + Nasa 360 EC (glyphosate) + Teknophyt pH+;

- Metofen (oxyfluorfen + metolachlor) + Nasa 360 (glyphosate) + Tecnophyt pH+.

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 + () + 360
 () + pH+.

Visual observations were made during vegetation for external symptoms of phytotoxicity caused to trees.

At the end of vegetation (in October) the following biometric characteristics were reported: mean annual increment (cm) and stem cross-section area (cm²). The results obtained were processed following standard statistical methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results about the herbicide efficacy showed the same tendency in the separate years of the trial. During the study period 10 annual grassy weed species forming the weed association in the row strip of the plantation were found: common chickweed (*Stellaria media* L.), ivy leaf speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia* L.), blackgrass (*Alopecurus myosuroides* L.), loose silky-bent (*Apera spica-venti* L.), purple deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum* L.), white goosefoot (*Chenopodium album* L.), redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.), prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare* L.), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum* L.), common sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus* L.).

Data about the herbicide efficacy of the soil herbicides Metofen and Pledge 50 WP showed that both herbicides, at the rates applied, provided an efficient control on the annual grassy and

(*Stellaria media* L.),
 (*Veronica hederifolia* L.),
 (*Alopecurus myosuroides* L.),
 (*Apera spica-venti* L.),
 (*Lamium purpureum* L.),
 (*Chenopodium album* L.),
 (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.),
 (*Polygonum aviculare* L.),
 (*Solanum nigrum* L.),
 (*Sonchus oleraceus* L.).

130-150-

(*Sorghum halepense* L.),
(*Convolvulus arvensis*
L.), (*Cirsium arvense* L.)
(*Artemisia vulgaris* L.).

360 – 500 ml/da
+ (18 ml/da).

7-10

+ 360
+ 50
360 + +

- broad-leaved weeds. The herbicide
- post-effect continued for about
130-150 days after treatment.

The good herbicide efficiency
against all the annual weeds
- created favourable conditions for
- the development of compensatory
- processes for the benefit of
- perennial weeds, mainly
- Johnsongrass (*Sorghum*
halepense L.), field bindweed
(*Convolvulus arvensis* L.),
- creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*
L.) and mugwort (*Artemisia*
vulgaris L.). Twice treatment with
- Nasa 360 EC – 500 ml/da,
- supplemented with the
- physiologically acid liquid fertilizer
Teknophyt pH+ (18 ml/da) was
carried out against those species
during vegetation.

A very rapid herbicide effect
was observed, expressed in
chlorosis, followed by necrosis and
dying of the weed plants in 7-10-
day interval after treatment.

The applied herbicide
combination of soil herbicides
+ Metofen + Nasa 360
+ (glyphosate) + Tecnophyt pH+ and
- Pledge 50 WP + Nasa 360 EC +
- Teknophyt pH+ destroyed
efficiently the weed competition
throughout the vegetation period.

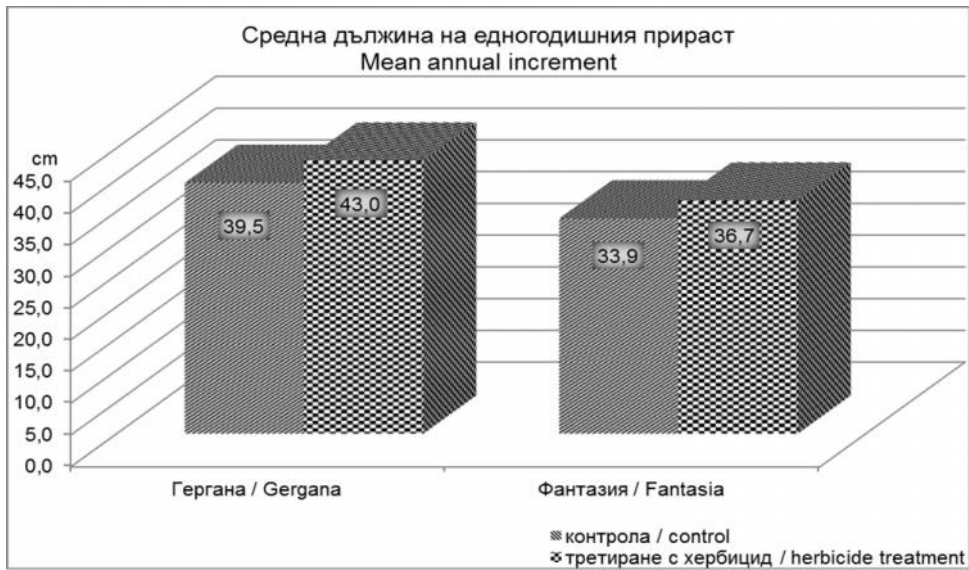
- External symptoms of
phytotoxicity and obvious
depression in tree growth were not
observed after the application of
the herbicides.

- The results of the biometric
analysis showed that the studied
herbicides did not have a

(1, 2, 3, 4).

(Rankova, Popov, 2011; , 2011; ., 2014).

depressing effect on the growth of young nectarine and elites. A tendency to higher values of the biometric characteristics of the trees from the treated variants was reported (Figure 1, 2, 3, 4). Those results were explained by the elimination of weed competition during vegetation and the provided possibility for better tree growth. Analogous results, showing a lack of a phytotoxic effect of Pledge 50 WP and Metofen at the rates applied, was also established in similar studies on other fruit species (Rankova, Popov, 2011; Gerasimova, Rankova, 2011; Rankova et al., 2014).



n.s

. 1.

+

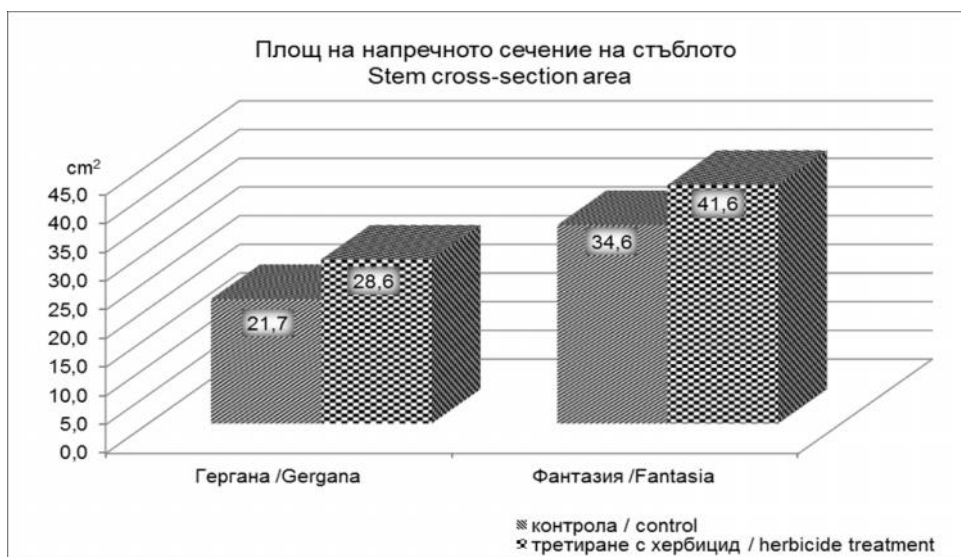
50

+

360

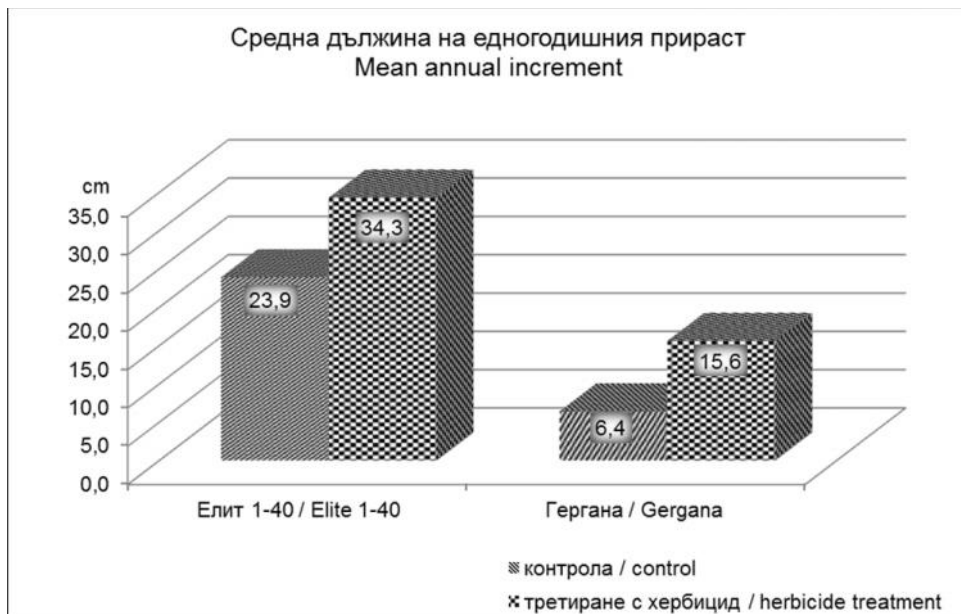
+

Fig. 1. Effect of the herbicide combination Pledge 50 WP + Nasa 360 EC + Teknophyt pH+ on the mean annual increment in young nectarine trees



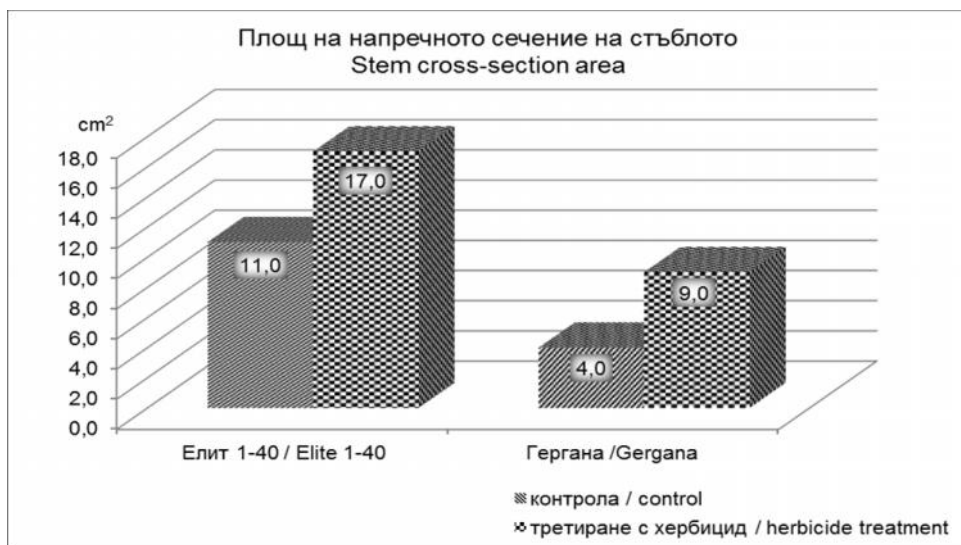
. 2. + 50 + 360 +

Fig. 2. Effect of the herbicide combination Pledge 50 WP + Nasa 360 EC + Teknophyt pH+ on the stem cross-section area of young nectarine trees



. 3. + 360 +

Fig. 3. Effect of the herbicide combination Metofen + Nasa 360 EC + Teknophyt pH+ on the mean annual increment in young nectarine trees



n.s.

. 4. + 360 +

Fig. 4. Effect of the herbicide combination Metofen + Nasa 360 EC + Teknophyt pH+ on the stem cross-section area of young nectarine trees

CONCLUSIONS

The applied herbicide combinations Pledge 50 WP (flumioxazin) + Nasa 360 EC (glyphosate) + Teknophyt pH+ and Metofen (oxyfluorfen + metolachlor) + Nasa 360 (glyphosate) + Tecnophyt pH+ showed very good herbicide efficacy against weed species forming the weed association in the row strip of the plantations. The duration of the efficient herbicide post-effect of the soil herbicides Pledge 50 WP and Metofen is about 130 - 150 days.

External symptoms of phytotoxicity and depression of the vegetative habits of the trees were not established. That gives the grounds to recommend the soil

herbicides Pledge 50 WP and Metofen for use as alternative possibilities for chemical weed control in young nectarine plantations.

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