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Effect of harvest time on forage yield of vetch and oat mixtures

Jordan Markovi *, Tanja Vasi , Mirjana Petrovi ,
Jasmina Milenkovi , Ivica Kostić , Dragan Terzi , Dragoslav Šoki

Institute for Forage Crops d.o.o. Globoder, 37251 Kruševac, Serbia

**E-mail: jordan.markovic@ikbks.com*

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SUMMARY

(*Vicia sativa* L.) (*Avena sativa* L.)

a

60:40. 40:60, 50:50

+

-

Forage mixtures are common agricultural practices for the energy and protein needs of animals. In this study, common vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.) and oat (*Avena sativa* L.) mixtures in different seeding rates were investigated in terms of forage yield.

- The field experiment was arranged as a randomized complete block design with three replications. Vetch and oat were grown in pure, as well as in mix seeding ratio of 40:60, 50:50 and 60:40% on experimental field of Institute for forage crops, Kruševac, R Serbia.

- The objective of the present research study was to determine the effects of different mixture ratio on yield of common vetch + oat harvested at different growth stage. The study also investigated the competition effects among different species.

The highest dry matter yield was recorded at the second development stage for the

50:50 60:40.
 (LER), (A),
 (CR)
 (AYL),
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 (Anil et al., 1998).
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 (Lithourgidis et al., 2006),
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 et al., 2009),
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 et al, 2004).
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 . Caballero and Goicoechea
 (1986) Thomson et al. (1990)
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- 50:50 and 60:40 vetch:oat mixtures. Land equivalent ratio (LER), aggressivity (A), competitive ratio (CR) and actual yield loss (AYL) indexes showed that common vetch was the dominant species in common vetch : oat mixtures.

Key words: Common vetch : oat mixtures, forage yield, competition among species

INTRODUCTION

Combining annual crop species for improved forage productivity should clearly have nutritional and financial benefits in the overall livestock production. Intercropping of winter cereals with annual legumes is extensively used in many regions for forage production.

- These mixtures improve growth conditions and forage harvesting (Anil et al., 1998).

- Advantages of mixed cropping include higher feed quality owing to the higher crude protein (CP) concentration of legumes and increased biomass yield (Lithourgidis et al., 2006), reduced N fertilizer used and improved livestock production (Umuna et al., 1995).

- Mixed cropping of cereals with forage legumes can improve both quantity (Erol et al., 2009) and quality of forages over a pure cereal crop.

Many factors influence the yield of feed in the combined crop, including the variety, the proportion of seeds in the mixture and the qualitative properties of the components in the mixture (Carr et al, 2004). Numerous authors point out that the combined crops of annual legumes and winter cereals give higher yields and a better balance of nutrients.

- Caballero and Goicoechea (1986) and Thomson et al. (1990) reported that the most suitable cereal for mixtures with common vetch is oat (*Avena sativa* L.),

(*Avena sativa* L.), Thomson et al. (1992) Roberts et al. (1989) (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), (*Triticum aestivum* L.),

(Caballero et al., 1995).

(Vandermeer, 1990).

whereas Thomson et al. (1992) and Roberts et al. (1989) reported that barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), respectively, are the most suitable cereals for mixtures.

Competition normally reduces yield of mixtures compared with cereal monocultures (Caballero et al., 1995), although higher yields have been reported when competition between the two species of the mixture was lower than competition within the same species (Vandermeer, 1990). Despite the fact that competition is one of the factors that can affect forage yield and quality, there are not enough reports on the effect of different seeding rates on the growth rate of legume – cereal mixtures. Competition can also have a significant impact on growth rate of the different species used in the mixtures.

The main aim of this study was to determine the effects of different proportions of oat and vetch in sowing mixtures on botanical composition at harvest, forage yield and competition between the species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was designed with three replications according to a randomized complete block. Experiment was established in autumn in 2012, on October the 20th and the samples were taken in spring in 2013. Vetch and oat were grown in binary mixtures at the experimental field of Institute for forage crops, Kruševac - Serbia (21°19'35'' E, 43°34'58'' N). The vetch and oat were tested at five different mixture rates: pure oat; 60% oat + 40% vetch; 50% oat + 50% vetch; 40% oat + 60% vetch and pure vetch. All mixtures were sown on plots of 20 m². Initial soil test from 0-30 cm soil depth before the trial commenced showed 0.16% N, 4.9 mg P₂O₅ / 100 g of soil, 23.1 mg K₂O / 100 g of soil, 3.5% organic matter and a pH of 5.7 in N KCl.

2012

m²

(21°19'35"E, 43°34'58 "N).

2013

; 60% + 40% ; 50%
+ 50% ; 40% + 60%

0.16% N, 4,9 mg P₂O₅ / 100 g , 23,1
mg K₂O / 100 g , 3,5%
5,7 N KCl.

300 kg ha⁻¹

NPK (15:15:15).

(10% : (2/3), (2/3)).

6-7 cm (5 kg)

LER ()

(Conolly et al., 2001),

Y_{vp} Y_{op}

$$LER = (Y_{vm} / Y_{vp}) + (Y_{om} / Y_{op})$$

Y_{vm} Y_{om}

(CR)

(Dhima et al., 2007)

$$CR_{vo} = (Y_{vm} / Y_{om}) \times (R_o / R_v)$$

$$CR_{ov} = (Y_{om} / Y_{vm}) \times (R_v / R_o)$$

CR_{vo} CR_{ov}

R_v R_o

()

McGilchrist (1965),

One level of fertilizer was applied, 300 kg ha⁻¹ NPK (15:15:15) before the seeding. Plant samples were taken in spring 2013, at three different cutting stages: beginning of vetch flowering – 10% of flowering, forming the first pods on 2/3 vetch plants and forming green seeds on 2/3 pods.

Forage yield was determined by harvesting the crops by hand approximately 6-7 cm above the soil surface and weighting the fresh material. Samples (5 kg) of green forage were separated into legume, cereal and volunteer species to determine botanical composition and the subsamples were dried in a forced-draught oven to constant weight to determine dry matter (DM) percentage. DM yields were calculated.

The LER (Land Equivalent Ratio) value, which is widely used as an indicator of productivity or land use efficiency (Conolly et al., 2001) was determined by the formula:

where Y_{vp} and Y_{op} are yields of common vetch and oat in pure stands, respectively, and Y_{vm} and Y_{om} are yields of common vetch and oat in mixtures.

The CR (Competitive Ratio) is a method for assessing inter-specific competition between components of mixtures, giving an estimate of the competitive ability of the component crops (Dhima et al., 2007). The CR was calculated according to the following formula:

where CR_{vo} and CR_{ov} are competitive ratios of common vetch over oat and oat over common vetch in mixtures, respectively, and R_v and R_o are the original proportions of common vetch and oat at sowing.

Another index used to determine the competitive relationship between two crops in mixtures is aggressivity (A), formulated by McGilchrist (1965) as follows:

(Banik, 1996)

$$A_v = (Y_{vo} / Y_v R_v) - (Y_{ov} / Y_o R_o)$$

$$A_o = (Y_{ov} / Y_o R_o) - (Y_{vo} / Y_v R_v)$$

(AYL)

: The actual yield loss (AYL) (Banik, 1996) was calculated as:

$$AYL_v = ((Y_{vo} / R_{vo}) / (Y_v / R_v)) - 1$$

$$AYL_o = ((Y_{ov} / R_{ov}) / (Y_o / R_o)) - 1$$

where R_v and R_o are the original proportions of common vetch and oat at sowing.

The experimental data were analyzed by a two-way analysis of variance using a model that accounted for the main effects of vetch:oat mixtures and stage of growth. Effects were considered different based on significant ($p < 0.05$) F ratio. The significance of differences between arithmetic means was tested by LSD test.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data regarding green matter yield recording during this study are presented in Table 1. There are significant differences among the green matter yield in different vetch-oat mixtures and pure stands at different crop growth stage. In pure stand, oat crop produced the highest green forage yield than all other crops. The results of these investigations are similar with those of Canan and Orak (2007), who investigated oat + vetch mixtures in different ratio and recorded the highest herbage yield in oat and the lowest in vetch in pure stands.

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1. (t ha⁻¹),
Table 1. Green matter yield (t ha⁻¹) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch (%)	I	II	III	Means
	I stage of growth	II stage of growth	III stage of growth	
/Pure oat	59.7 ^a	49.9 ^a	49.0 ^a	52.86^A
60 : 40	55.2 ^b	46.6 ^b	38.7 ^b	46.83^B
50 : 50	46.5 ^c	44.1 ^b	33.0 ^c	41.20^C
40 : 60	38.6 ^d	34.5 ^c	29.5 ^d	34.20^D
/ Pure vetch	29.2 ^e	22.8 ^d	20.0 ^e	24.00^E
/Means	45.84^A	39.58^B	34.04^C	

($P < 0.05$)

Different letters denote significantly different means ($P < 0.05$)

2. 14.15 t ha⁻¹ (12.48 t ha⁻¹). 60% + 40% (2). 14.68 t ha⁻¹ III - 5.81 t ha⁻¹. Tuna Orak (2007) + Assefa Ledin (2001).

Data regarding dry matter yield recording during this study, presented in Table 2 showed statistically significant differences among treatment means. The maximum dry matter yield of 14.15 t ha⁻¹ was produced by oat monoculture, followed by 60% oat + 40% vetch mixture (12.48 t ha⁻¹). With the advancement of growth stages, dry matter yield increased from the first to the second stage of growth, but after that decreased (Table 2). In pure stand treatments maximum dry matter yield of 14.68 t ha⁻¹ was produced by oat crop at the III stage of growth, and the lowest by vetch of 5.81 t ha⁻¹ at the same stage of growth.

While dry matter yields of mixtures generally exceeded those of pure vetch, no combination produced significantly more than pure oat. In general, the mixtures produced higher forage yield than the pure stands, except the oat pure stand.

Tuna and Orak (2007) also found high dry matter yield in oat+vetch mixtures. Similar results were reported by Assefa and Ledin (2001).

2. (t ha⁻¹),
Table 2. Dry matter yield (t ha⁻¹) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch (%)	I	II	III	Means
	I stage of growth	II stage of growth	III stage of growth	
/Pure oat	13.82 ^a	13.97 ^a	14.68 ^a	14.15^A
60 : 40	13.13 ^a	12.81 ^b	11.50 ^b	12.48^B
50 : 50	11.06 ^b	12.12 ^b	9.86 ^c	11.01^C
40 : 60	9.56 ^c	10.60 ^c	9.06 ^c	9.74^D
/ Pure vetch	7.00 ^d	6.21 ^d	5.81 ^d	6.34^E
/Means	10.91^A	11.14^A	10.18^B	

(P < 0.05)

Different letters denote significantly different means (P < 0.05)

(3), Caballero et al. (1996).

The proportion of common vetch in dry forage was very similar to the proportion of common vetch in the seed mixture (Table 3). This contrasts with the findings of Caballero et al. (1996). They

70%
50%

recommended that common vetch should represent at least 70% of seed in a mixture if 50% vetch in dry forage was an objective.

3.

(%),

Table 3. Vetch contribution in dry matter (%) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch (%)	I stage of growth	II stage of growth	III stage of growth
/Pure oat	98.06	97.85	98.20
60 : 40	37.00	32.40	30.50
50 : 50	42.50	43.90	43.00
40 : 60	63.60	59.20	55.00
/ Pure vetch	99.30	97.80	99.00

(P< 0.05)

Different letters denote significantly different means (P< 0.05)

LER (

)

Land equivalent ratio (LER) is the relative land area under sole crops that is required to produce the yields achieved in inter-cropping.

4

LER 1.361

50%

+ 50%

60% + 40%

1.340 LER,

36.1% 34%

Data regarding land equivalent ratio presented in Table 4 showed the significant differences among the growth stages. The highest LER value of 1.361 was recorded in 50% vetch + 50% oat seeding ratio at the second development stage, followed by 60% vetch + 40% oat seeding ratio with 1.340 LER value, which means that 36.1 and 34% more land was required to produce similar yield to pure stands.

Shobeiri et al. (2010),

Similar results were reported by Shobeiri et al. (2010) who conducted an experiment to determine the best mixture combination of legume and cereal for forage production under the agroecological conditions of Iran.

Data indicated that all mixtures showed yield advantages over comparable proportions of pure stands.

4. (LER),

Table 4. Land Equivalent Ratio (LER) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch (%)	I	II	III	Means
	I stage of growth	II stage of growth	III stage of growth	
/Pure oat	1.00 ^c	1.00 ^c	1.00 ^c	1.00^C
60 : 40	1.298 ^a	1.287 ^b	1.132 ^b	1.239^A
50 : 50	1.127 ^b	1.361 ^a	1.121 ^b	1.203^B
40 : 60	0.892 ^d	1.340 ^a	1.209 ^a	1.191^B
/ Pure vetch	1.00 ^c	1.00 ^c	1.00 ^c	1.00^C
/Means	1.175^B	1.329^A	1.128^C	

(P< 0.05)

Different letters denote significantly different means (P< 0.05)

Intercropped common vetch had higher competitive ratios in all investigated mixtures with oat, except in 40:60 oat-vetch mixture at the first stage of growth (Table 5) indicating that common vetch is more competitive than oat in these intercropping systems. In the second and third stage of growth, the CR of oat decreased as the proportion of common vetch increased in the mixtures.

5. (CR_v: CR_o),

Table 5. Competitive Ratio (CR_v : CR_o) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch	I	II	III	Means CR _v : CR _o
	I stage of growth CR _v : CR _o	II stage of growth CR _v : CR _o	III stage of growth CR _v : CR _o	
/Pure oat	-	-	-	-
60 : 40	1.745 ^a : 0.572 ^c	1.691 ^c : 0.589 ^a	1.747 ^c : 0.571 ^a	1.727^{NS} : 0.577^B
50 : 50	1.498 ^b : 0.667 ^b	1.806 ^b : 0.553 ^a	1.914 ^b : 0.522 ^a	1.739^{NS} : 0.580^B
40 : 60	0.660 ^c : 1.513 ^a	2.248 ^a : 0.444 ^b	2.349 ^a : 0.425 ^b	1.752^{NS} : 0.794^A
/ Pure vetch	-	-	-	-
Means CR_v : CR_o	1.301^C : 0.917^A	1.915^B : 0.528^B	2.003^A : 0.506^B	

CR_v – Competitive Ratio of vetch; CR_o – Competitive ratio of oat; Different letters denote significantly different means (P< 0.05)

CR_v – Competitive Ratio of vetch; CR_o – Competitive ratio of oat; Different letters denote significantly different means (P< 0.05)

(A) ,
 (Bhatti et al., 2006).
 40:60 , -
 A , , -
 - (6). -
 - ,
 -

Another index used to determine the competitive relationship between two crops in mixtures is aggressivity (A), (Bhatti et al., 2006). All treatments (mix proportions), except for 40:60 oat-vetch intercropping at the first stage of growth had negative A_{oat} values, indicating that vetch was dominant species in oat-vetch intercropping (Table 6).
 The higher vetch proportions resulted in higher aggressivity values than the lower vetch proportion in the mixtures.

6. (A_o),
Table 6. Aggressivity (A_o) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch (%)	I	II	III	Means
	I stage of growth	II stage of growth	III stage of growth	
/Pure oat	-	-	-	-
60 : 40	-0.745 ^c	-0.702 ^a	-0.650 ^a	-0.699^B
50 : 50	-0.442 ^b	-0.782 ^a	-0.702 ^a	-0.642^B
40 : 60	0.380 ^a	-0.955 ^b	-0.903 ^b	-0.492^A
/ Pure vetch	-	-	-	-
/Means	-0.269^A	-0.813^B	-0.751^B	

A_o – Aggressivity of oat; Different letters denote significantly different means (P < 0.05) (P < 0.05)

(AYL)
 (Dhima et al., 2007).
 AYL AYL
 (Dhima
 et al., 2007).
 LER,
 (CR)
 (AYL).
 (60:40 50:50)

The actual yield loss (AYL) is the proportionate yield loss or gain of intercrops in comparison to the respective sole crop. To be precise, it takes into account the actual sown proportion of the component crops with its sole stand (Dhima et al., 2007).
 In addition, partial AYL_{vetch} or AYL_{oat} represent the proportionate yield loss or gain of each species when grown as intercrops, relative to their yield in sole planting (Dhima et al., 2007). A similar trend to that of LER, aggressivity and CR was also observed for AYL.
 In particular, AYL_{vetch} had positive values in oat-vetch (60:40 and 50:50) mixtures at all three stages of growth (Table 7), which indicates a yield advantage for

(7),

AYL

0.658 (60:40 -)

0.344 (40:60 -),

65.8 34.4

(7).

7.

common vetch when grown in association with oat.

The mean values for AYL_{vetch} were positive in all investigated intercropping system and ranged from 0.658 (60:40 oat-vetch mixture) to 0.344 (40:60 oat – vetch mixture), which means increase from 65.8 to 34.4 in yield of common vetch in the oat-vetch mixtures as compared to its sole crop yield. The highest yield gain of vetch was recorded at the second stage of growth (Table 7).

(AYLv: AYLo),

Table 7. Actual Yield Loss (AYLv : AYLo) recorded at different crop growth stage

Mixture rate oat : vetch	I	II	III	Means AYLv : AYLo
	I stage of growth AYLv : AYLo	II stage of growth AYLv : AYLo	III stage of growth AYLv : AYLo	
/Pure oat	-	-	-	-
60 : 40	0.744 ^a : -0.001 ^b	0.709 ^{ns} : 0.007 ^a	0.521 ^{ab} : -0.129 ^a	0.658^A : -0.041^A
50 : 50	0.352 ^b : -0.098 ^b	0.752 ^{ns} : -0.029 ^a	0.471 ^b : -0.231 ^b	0.525^B : -0.119^B
40 : 60	-0.258 ^c : 0.121 ^a	0.721 ^{ns} : -0.233 ^b	0.571 ^a : -0.332 ^c	0.344^C : -0.148^B
/ Pure vetch	-	-	-	-
Means AYLv:AYLo	0.279^C : 0.007^A	0.727^A : -0.085^B	0.521^B : -0.230^C	

AYLv – Actual Yield Loss of vetch; AYLo – Actual Yield Loss of oat; Different letters denote significantly different means (P < 0.05)

CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained in the present study indicate that intercropping of common vetch with oat at three different seeding ratios affects forage and dry matter yield and competition between the two species. Results obtained from competition indices of the vetch-oat mixture indicated a significant advantage harvesting those mixtures at the second development stage which was attributed to better land use efficiency than the other stages of growth. The competitive index values showed that common vetch was the dominant species in the mixtures. And our recommendation for harvesting those mixtures could be at the second stage of

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Colletotrichum

1* , 1 , 1 , 2
1 , 1 ,
1 , 37251 ,
2 , 19,
3200 ,

Quick methods of the pathogenicity test on isolates of the genus *Colletotrichum* on alfalfa

Tanja Vasi^{1*}, Jordan Markovi¹, Snežana Andjelkovi¹,
Mirjana Petrovi¹, Snežana Babi¹, Aleksandar Leposavi²

¹Institute for Forage Crops, Globoder, 37251 Kruševac, Republic of Serbia

²Fruit Research Institute, Kralja Petra I 9, 32000 Rača, Republic of Serbia

*E-mail: tanjavasic82@gmail.com

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SUMMARY

Colletotrichum trifolii C.
destructivum.

Colletotrichum

18

- In Serbia, the occurrence of
- anthracnose on alfalfa has been recorded
- during the last several years. During the
- summer and autumn diseased plants start
- to appear in the field. The most common
- anthracnose inducers are *Colletotrichum*
- *trifolii* and *C. destructivum*. The fungus
- grows down infected stems into the crown
- and taproot, causing the necrosis of
- tissue, predisposition to winter injury and
- wilting or plant death. It was determined
- by pathogenicity test that 18 strains of the
- gens *Colletotrichum* can cause stem
- lesions on inoculated alfalfa plant. Two
- methods were used to determine
- patogenicity of sampled strains.

Alfalfa seedling were inoculated in
a Petri dish in order to determine
differences in virulence between the
studied isolates and susceptibility of
alfalfa in the growth stage of
development. Inoculation of seedling roots
was carried out by the method of Chi et al.

(1964),
 (Krnjaja, 2005).
 25 °.
 Coll-AS
 Coll-8
 Coll-9,
 Colletotrichum destructivum, C. trifolii

(1964), as well as the inoculation parts of the alfalfa root (Krnjaja, 2005). Inoculation of root cuttings of alfalfa in the Petri dish was conducted in order to determine differences in virulence among selected isolates. Petri dishes were incubated at 25°C. Our research shows differences in the pathogenicity to the alfalfa plants, the reactions of tested isolates were different depending on the method of inoculation. The most pathogenic isolate was Coll-9, while Coll-AS had shown medium pathogenicity. Isolate Coll-8 caused significant necrosis in the alfalfa root bits.

Key words: Alfalfa, Anthracnose, *Colletotrichum destructivum*, *C. trifolii*

INTRODUCTION

(Mijuškovi , 1993).

The relatively low yields of alfalfa in Serbia are certainly the result of the influence of inadequate agro-technology, even because of inadequate soil, and the appearance of pests and plant pathogens (Mijuškovi , 1993). Many diseases are characterized by symptoms in the form of wilting plants, which reduces the yields and quality of alfalfa. The causative agents of diseases attacks certain parts or the whole plant in various phenophases of development (Vu kovi , 1999). For a number of years, the reduced lifespan of alfalfa crops has been one of the main problems in the production of this fodder plant worldwide.

(Vu kovi , 1999).

(O'Rourke and Millear, 1966; Krnjaja, 2005a).

Frost damage, root mycoses, and bacterial wilting are common factors that can cause this problem (O'Rourke and Millear, 1966; Krnjaja, 2005a). The pathogens that cause the disease of the above the ground part of the stem, canopy and alfalfa root can cause great damages to this culture. The most damaging parasitic fungi of the above ground part of the stem, canopy and root are *C. trifolii* and *C. destructivum* – the causative agents of anthracnose in alfalfa.

C. destructivum –

C. trifolii

C. trifolii

5

C. trifolii reduces green mass yield up to 5

t/ha, 30 60% (Roboti and Kloko ar-Šmit, 1983). Vasi (2007) states that in Serbia the yield reduction is up to 30%.

Colletotrichum (*C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* *C. linicola*),

18
Colletotrichum: *C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* *C. linicola*.

(Chi et al., 1964), (Krnjaja, 2005b). *in vitro*. K-28

95%
 10
 7%
 10
 10
 5 mm²
 PDA
 2 cm
 15

t/ha, while yield of hay can be reduced by 30 to 60% (Roboti and Kloko ar-Šmit, 1983). Vasi (2007) states that in Serbia the yield reduction is up to 30%.

The aim of this study is to find the fast metadata for checking the pathogenicity of the isolates of *Colletotrichum* genus fungi (*C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* and *C. linicola*), obtained from the infected alfalfa stems in order to obtain the results faster and to allow for more precise comparison, repeatability of the experiments and open possibilities for methods to be used for the preliminary assessment of the resistance and sensitivity of alfalfa genotypes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this study, 18 monospore isolates of three species belonging to the genus *Colletotrichum* were included: *C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* and *C. linicola*.

Determination of the pathogenicity of the selected isolates was carried out using two methods of inoculation of alfalfa seedlings in Petri dish (Chi et al., 1964), as well as the inoculation of the alfalfa root cuttings (Krnjaja, 2005b). Both tests were carried out *in vitro*. In both tests, the varieties of alfalfa K-28 from the Institute for forage crops, Kruševac, were also used.

Inoculation of seedling roots. The first way of checking pathogenicity was done by inoculating the roots of the alfalfa seedlings. The seed was surface sterilized in 95% ethanol for 10 minutes, then in a solution of 7% sodium hypochlorite for 10 minutes, washed in sterile water and dried at room temperature.

Ten days old cutting of colony of the studied isolate of diameter 5 mm², was placed in the center of the Petri dish on a PDA substrate. Around the colony cuttings, at the distance of 2 cm in diameter, 15 seeds of alfalfa were distributed. Then the Petri dishes were

25° .
 ,
 , 10
) (:
 - (;
 + (;
 ++ (;
) ;
 +++ (;
 " ") .

 .
 .
 5 cm
 .
 7
 ,
 1,5 cm
 .
 5%
 5 ,
 ,
 10 ,
 PDA 25° .
 3 .
 25° . 8

- incubated at a temperature of 25°C.

The experiment was set in three
 - reps. As a negative control, the seed of
 alfalfa was placed on a substrate without
 an inoculum. After 10 days, the degree of
 pathogenicity (virulence) of the isolates
 was evaluated by the visual examination
 of necrotic surfaces according to the
 scale:

- avirulent (no necrotic surfaces on the root);
- + low virulent (necrosis at the top of the root);
- ++ medium virulent (the root and the ground part of the stem are necrotic, while the leaves in the upper part of the stem are not affected by necrosis or by the fungi mycelium);
- +++ high virulence (root, stem and le ves are completely affected by necrosis or by fungi mycelium, and in some cases, the so-called "melting" of seedlings can occur).

Inoculation of alfalfa root cuttings.
 In the second pathogenicity test, fragments of the roots of healthy alfalfa plants were used. The alfalfa seed was sown in plastic containers at a depth of 5 cm on the sterile substrate. At the time of inoculation, the plants were at the age of 7 weeks.

The roots were first well-washed under a stream of tap water to remove particles of the substrate from their surface. Then, using the sterile scalpel, they were cut into fragments of 1.5 cm long. The cut fragments were surface disinfected in a 5% solution of sodium hypochlorite for 5 min, washed in sterile water, strained and planted into cultures of examined isolates aged 10 days, grown on PDA at 25°C.

The experiment was performed in 3 reps. The planted Petri dishes were incubated at the temperature of 25°C. After 8 days from seeding, the necrosis length was measured on the longitudinal section of

(ANOVA)
30

= 0.05.

(-28)

Colletotrichum sp.

18 *Colletotrichum* (*C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum*, *C. linicola*)
1.

1.

1.

Colletotrichum sp.

the root cuttings. From the roots in which the symptoms developed, a re-isolation was performed using the same methods as in isolation.

- The results obtained in the second pathogenicity test were statistically analyzed using the single-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) in a completely normal plan with 30 fragments of plants per isolate, or three repetitions. The significance of the difference between the individual data values was determined using the Duncan test, at $p = 0.05$.

RESULTS

- In the first method of checking pathogenicity, by inoculation of alfalfa (genotype K-28) in laboratory conditions, it was found that all studied isolates of *Colletotrichum* sp. exhibited significant pathogenicity. The pathogenicity of 18 isolates of the species from the genus *Colletotrichum* (*C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum*, *C. linicola*) in alfalfa is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum* sp. isolates on alfalfa seedlings in laboratory conditions

/Groups	/Isolates	/Pathogenicity	/Control
<i>C. trifolii</i> (I)	Coll-4	+++	-
	CBS158.83	++	-
	CC-86-2	++	-
<i>C. destructivum</i> (II)	Coll-3	+++	-
	Coll-8	++	-
	Coll-9	+++	-
	Coll-10	+++	-
	Coll-11	++	-
	Coll-18	+++	-
	Coll-29	+++	-
	Coll-32	+++	-
	Coll-35	+++	-
	Coll-37	++	-
	Coll-38	+++	-
	Coll-48	+++	-
	Coll-68	+++	-
	Coll-75	++	-
	Coll-Aš	++	-
Coll-Bk	++	-	
<i>C. linicola</i> (III)	CC657	++	-
	Coll-44	+++	-

Legend: - avirulent; + low virulent; ++ medium virulent; +++ high virulent



1. *C. destructivum*:

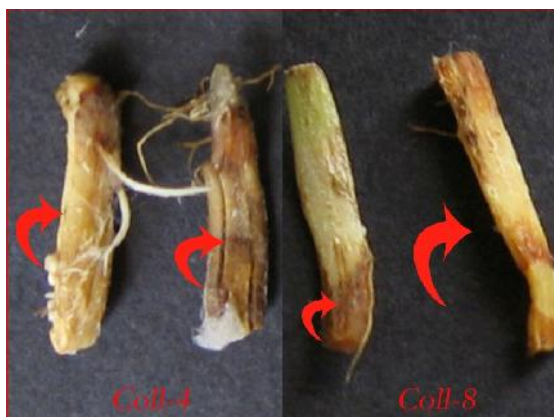
Coll-68

Fig. 1. *C. destructivum*: Melting and necrosis of alfalfa seedlings after artificial inoculation with the Coll-68 isolate

10
K-
28),
Colletotrichum sp.
Coll-9, Coll-10, Coll-11, Coll-18, Coll-29,
Coll-32, Coll-37 (*C. destructivum*) Coll-44
(*C. linicola*) C-86-2 (*C. trifolii* , 1),
2).

Necrosis at the root tips occurred in all of the studied isolates two days after the contact of roots with the fungi. Necrosis then spread longitudinally, and with highly virulent isolates, after 10 days, the root, young stems and leaves were completely affected.

Another way of assessing the pathogenicity of the selected isolates, by inoculating the alfalfa root cuttings (K-28 genotype), has shown that all of the studied *Colletotrichum* sp. isolates showed pathogenicity as the appearance of necrotic zones on the root cuttings. The infected root tissue showed necrosis of brown, reddish brown or dark brown color. In isolates Coll-9, Coll-10, Coll-11, Coll-18, Coll-29, Coll-32, Coll-37 (*C. destructivum*), Coll-44 (*C. linicola*) and C-86-2 (*C. trifolii*, race 1), necrosis fully enveloped the cuttings. Such cuttings were soft with disintegrating tissues with symptoms of wet rot (Figure 2).



2. *Colletotrichum* sp:

Coll-4 () Coll-8 ()

Fig. 2. *Colletotrichum* sp: necrosis on the root cuttings caused by examined isolates Coll-4 (left) and Coll-8 (right)

- After eight days of placing the cuttings on the colony of the studied isolate, the necrosis length was measured (Table 2).

(2).

2.

***Colletotrichum* sp.**

Table 2. Average estimate of the necrosis reaction in the root cuttings inoculated by the examined isolates *Colletotrichum* sp.

/Species	/Isolates	/Mean value
<i>C. trifolii</i> (I)	Coll-4	0.5333
	CBS158.83	0.9333
	C-86-2	1.0333
<i>C. destructivum</i> (II)	Coll-3	0.9333
	Coll-8	0.3667
	Coll-9	1.1333
	Coll-10	1.0667
	Coll-11	1.0667
	Coll-18	1.2333
	Coll-29	1.0333
	Coll-32	1.0000
	Coll-35	0.9000
	Coll-37	1.0000
	Coll-38	0.8333
	Coll-48	0.8000
	Coll-68	0.8000
	Coll-75	0.5333
	Coll-Aš	0.9333
Coll-Bk	0.8333	
CC657	0.8333	
<i>C. linicola</i> (III)	Coll-44	1.1333

(C. *destructivum*), Coll-9, Coll-10, Coll-11, Coll-18, Coll-29, Coll-32 Coll-37
-
.

In the second group of isolates (C. *destructivum*), Coll-9, Coll-10, Coll-11, Coll-18, Coll-29, Coll-32 and Coll-37 showed the highest intensity of necrosis.

3. *destructivum*

ANOVA C.

Table 3. Results of single-factor analysis of ANOVA variance for C. *destructivum*

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Variance	F-ratio	p-value
Between the groups	2.140	16	0.134	5.684	0.000
/The group	0.800	34	0.24		
/Total	2.940	50			

ANOVA
3. 0.01 (0.000),

The results of a single-factor ANOVA variance analysis are shown in Table 3. As the value of p is less than 0.01 (p 0.000), it means that the average value of necrosis length is affected by the isolate.

4.

C. *destructivum*

Table 4. Homogeneous groups for the length of necrosis of the tested isolates for the species C. *destructivum*

Isolates	/Homogeneous groups (/necrosis length)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Coll-8	0.3667				
Coll-75	0.5333	0.5333			
Coll-48		0.8000	0.8000		
Coll-68		0.8000	0.8000		
Coll-38		0,8333	0,8333	0.8333	
Coll-Bk		0,8333	0,8333	0,8333	
CC657		0,8333	0,8333	0,8333	
Coll-35			0.9000	0.9000	
Coll-3			0.9333	0.9333	0.9333
Coll-Aš			0.9333	0.9333	0.9333
Coll-32			1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Coll-37			1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Coll-29			1.0333	1.0333	1.0333
Coll-10			1.0667	1.0667	1.0667
Coll-11			1.0667	1.0667	1.0667
Coll-9				1.1333	1.1333
Coll-18					1.2333
p - value	0.192	0.051	0.082	0.051	0.114

C. Double comparisons of the length of necrosis of the tested C. *destructivum* isolates showed the separation of five

destructivum, (4).
trifolii (Coll-4) -
 I (5 7).
C. trifolii,
 (5).

homogeneous groups that statistically differed significantly (Table 4).

Among the studied isolates, *C. trifolii* (Coll-4) exhibited statistically significantly lower necrosis intensity compared to other studied isolates of the I group (Table 5 and 7). Double comparisons of the length of necrosis of the examined isolates of the species *C. trifolii* showed the separation of two homogeneous groups that statistically differed significantly (Table 5).

5.

ANOVA *C.*

trifolii

Table 5. Results of the single-factor analysis of ANOVA variance for the species *C. trifolii*

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Variance	F-ratio	p-value
Between the groups	0.420	2	0.210	7.875	0.021
/The group	0.160	6	0.027		
/Total	0.580	8			

6.

C. trifolii

Table 6. Homogeneous groups for the length of necrosis of the studied isolates of the species *C. trifolii*

Isolates	Homogeneous groups (necrosis length)	
	1	2
Coll-4	0.5333	
CBS 158.83		0.9333
C-86-2		1.0333
p-value	1.000	0.482

C. linicola (Coll-44),
 -
 (7).
C. trifolii, *C. destructivum* *C. linicola*,

The third group, consisting of *C. linicola* (Coll-44) isolates, exhibited statistically significantly higher necrosis intensity compared to isolates of the other two groups (Table 7).

By double comparison of the necrosis length of the studied species *C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* and *C. linicola*, two homogeneous groups were distinguished which were statistically significantly different. In the first homogeneous group,

C. destructivum,
C. linicola.

C. trifolii | the species *C. trifolii* and *C. destructivum* are classified, while the other homogeneous group was comprised of only *C. linicola* isolate.

7.

***Colletotrichum* sp.**

Table 7. Homogeneous groups for the necrosis length of studied isolates of the species *Colletotrichum* sp.

Species	()	
	Homogeneous groups (necrosis length)	
	1	2
<i>C. trifolii</i>	0.83333	
<i>C. destructivum</i>	0.9000	
<i>C. linicola</i>		1.1333
<i>p</i> - /value	0.460	1.000

DISCUSSION

18
Colletotrichum sp. -
18 -
K-28.
10
C. trifolii, *C. destructivum* *C. linicola*,
Graham et al. (1976); O'Neill et al. (1997); (2007); (2013 .); Latunde-Dada Lucas (2007) Frasyssinet (2008). Graham et al. (1976)
Colletotrichum (*C.trifolii*, *C. destructivum*, *C. dematium* *C. truncatum*),
in vitro

The infectivity of 18 selected isolates of *Colletotrichum* sp. was tested using two methods, which proved to be equally successful. All of 18 examined isolates caused the appearance of strong symptoms of anthracnose on inoculated alfalfa K-28.
In the inoculation of the seedlings in the Petri dish, there were symptoms two days after the inoculation. Symptoms were observed in the form of necrosis at the root tips in all of the studied isolates. Necrosis then expanded longitudinally, and after 10 days, in all of the isolates, roots, stems and leaves of the seedlings were completely affected. The time required to develop the symptoms corresponds to the results of the pathogenicity test for *C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* and *C. linicola* species, as reported by Graham et al. (1976); O'Neill et al. (1997); Vasi , (2007); Vasi , (2013); Latunde-Dada and Lucas (2007) and Frasyssinet (2008). Graham et al. (1976) have shown in their studies the different infectivity of four *Colletotrichum* species (*C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum*, *C. dematium* and *C. truncatum*) a well as different resistance of alfalfa genotypes in *in vitro* conditions.

Colletotrichum sp.

(2005b). O'Neill et al. (1996) Krnjaja
trifolii, *destructivum* C.
gleosporioides
in vitro

Using another method of pathogenicity testing, by inoculating the alfalfa root cuttings, all of the studied isolates of *Colletotrichum* sp. showed pathogenicity in the form of necrotic zones on the root cuttings. The infected root tissue showed necrosis of brown, reddish brown or dark brown color. Such cuts were soft and with disintegrating tissues, with symptoms of the wet rot. In the longitudinal section of the cuttings, more intense necrosis was observed in the central part of the root tissue. Eight days after placing the cuttings in the colonies of the studied isolates, all of the examined isolates showed significant necrosis on the root. The development of symptoms is similar to that of Krnjaja (2005b). O'Neill et al. (1996) found that *C. trifolii*, *C. destructivum* and *C. gleosporioides* exhibited pronounced pathogenicity in alfalfa seedlings in *in vitro* conditions.

CONCLUSIONS

Pathogenicity tests were performed using two methods, artificial inoculation of the seedling roots and inoculation of the cuttings of alfalfa genotypes K-28 *in vitro*, and the pathogenicity was demonstrated for all of 18 selected isolates.

The applied methods of pathogenicity testing did not differ, both methods have advantages because the result could be obtained faster and a uniform and precise amount of inoculum is used, which allows for more accurate comparison, repeatability of the experiments and opens the possibility that the methods could be used for the preliminary assessment of the resistance/sensitivity of alfalfa genotypes.

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TR 31057.

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(*Plagionotus floralis* Pall.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

„ „, 7007 „

Sexual dimorphism and sex ratio of alfalfa longhorn beetle (*Plagionotus floralis* Pall.) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

Evgeniya Zhekova

*Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov chiflik", 7007, Rousse, Bulgaria
-mail: e.d.zhekova@abv.bg*

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SUMMARY

In Bulgarian entomological literature, there is little information of alfalfa longhorn beetle, which necessitates the addition of new data about the pest. In the alfalfa fields and the laboratory of entomology of IASS "Obraztsov chiflik" - Rousse, during the period 2010-2015, observations and measurements were made on adult insects with aim to establish clear morphological features for sex recognition and sex ratio calculation.

The length of the body, the width of the prothorax and the weight of the female and male individuals were measured. The sex ratio was calculated by Bremer's formula. Sexual dimorphism was clearly detected to be expressed in length and weight of female insects (13,81 mm and 0,062 mg) compared to male insects (13,00 mm and 0,05 mg); different antenna lengths; differences in the color of the scapus, coxa, trochanter and femur of the three leg couples in female and male individuals were detected.

(13,81 mm 0,062 mg)
(13,00 mm 0,05 mg),

(61,34%-63,64%),
 (60,72%-75,00%).
 : *Plagionotus floralis*,

The sex ratio of alfalfa longhorn beetle was in favor of females in two of the years surveyed (61.34% -63.64%), while the remaining four of the years in the species population dominated males (60.72% - 75.00%).

Key words: *Plagionotus floralis*, sexual dimorphism, sex ratio

INTRODUCTION

In Europe and big part of America alfalfa is the most important forage bean culture grown for hay, dehydrated fodder, silage and sometimes for grazing (Veronesi et al., 2010). It has occupied and will occupy the first place among the grass feed crops in the country (MAF, 2015). Along with its many positive qualities, it is a serious difficulty to protect crop from the large number of insect pests in its cultivation (Popova, 1968). At least 1000 species have been reported for alfalfa in the US, 100-150 of them causing damage to some degree (Flanders and Radcliffe, 2000). Over 100 species have been identified in our country, of which about 40 are economically important (Yankov et al., 2002). In recent years there has been an increase in the population density of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall., as well as the damage caused to alfalfa (Nikolova and Kertikova, 2008).

In Europe and big part of America alfalfa is the most important forage bean culture grown for hay, dehydrated fodder, silage and sometimes for grazing (Veronesi et al., 2010). It has occupied and will occupy the first place among the grass feed crops in the country (MAF, 2015). Along with its many positive qualities, it is a serious difficulty to protect crop from the large number of insect pests in its cultivation (Popova, 1968). At least 1000 species have been reported for alfalfa in the US, 100-150 of them causing damage to some degree (Flanders and Radcliffe, 2000). Over 100 species have been identified in our country, of which about 40 are economically important (Yankov et al., 2002). In recent years there has been an increase in the population density of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall., as well as the damage caused to alfalfa (Nikolova and Kertikova, 2008).

This necessitates the addition of existing and new data on the morphology and biology of the enemy, which is also the aim of this study.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In the alfalfa fields of the IASS „Obraztsov Chiflik“ - Rousse during the period 2010-2015, observations were made on the dynamics of adult insect flyage of alfalfa longhorn beetle. Samples were taken from alfalfa fields with a total area of 3 da in two replicates by mowing with a standard entomological sweeping net in the diagonals, at two places in 25

In the alfalfa fields of the IASS „Obraztsov Chiflik“ - Rousse during the period 2010-2015, observations were made on the dynamics of adult insect flyage of alfalfa longhorn beetle. Samples were taken from alfalfa fields with a total area of 3 da in two replicates by mowing with a standard entomological sweeping net in the diagonals, at two places in 25

25 .

,

„OHAUS”.

mg mm

+

(/ +):

$I = m/m+f,$

: I - , m -

, f - .

M

SPSS 16.0 for Windows
P 0,05.

(

)

(1.)

-

8 mm

12 mm. -

- 14 mm 23 mm.

-

7 mm

10 mm. -

- 14 mm

17 mm. -

,

(14,00-

14,28 mm)

(12,64-13,00 mm) 1 1,64 mm,

swaths. In the laboratory, adult insects are divided by sex and measured the length, width of the prothorax and the weight of each individual.

The length and width of the prothorax are measured in millimeters with a ruler, and the weight in mg with the electronic scale "OHAUS".

The sex ratio was calculated by Bremer's formula as a male: male + female ratio (/ +):

$I = m / m + f,$
where: I - sex ratio, m - number of males, f - number of females.

The meteorological data are obtained from a stationary meteorological station located contiguity of the experimental field.

Statistical data processing was calculated with the SPSS 16.0 for Windows program at a confidence level of P 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The studied indicators (length, width of the prothorax and weight of the adults) fluctuated to varying degrees between both sexes and between individual years of study (Table 1).

The smallest female body length measured for the indicated period ranges from 8 mm to 12 mm. The maximum recorded lengths vary in wider ranges – 14 mm to 23 mm.

In males, the smallest established length ranges from 7 mm to 10 mm. The maximum length is much narrower than that of females – from 14 mm to 17 mm.

In a comparative analysis of the results it was found that in four of the six studied years the average length of the female individuals (14.00-14.28 mm) exceeds that of the male (12.64-13.00 mm) with 1 to 1,64 mm, with a statistically significant difference in three years –

2015.	2012 .	- 2010, 2011,	2010, 2011, 2015. In 2012, both sexes
		(12,00 mm),	have the same body length (12,00 mm),
mm)	2013 .	(13,37	and in 2013 males (13,37 mm) slightly
	(13,18 mm).	-	exceeds the length of females (13,18
		Makarov (1968).	mm).
	10	-	Makarov (1968) reported data on the
		10,4	length of the bugs of the alfalfa longhorn
mm	15,3 mm	13,4 mm,	beetle. On the basis of 10 measured
		-	adults, the author establishes a length of
		-	10.4 mm to 15.3 mm or an average of
		-	13.4 mm, but there is no sex information
		-	on the measured individuals.
		-	The width of the alfalfa longhorn
		-	beetle prothorax is the most insignificant
		-	in the years of study in both sexes. The
		-	smallest measured value for females over
		-	the entire period is 2 mm, and for males –
		2 mm,	1 mm (2013) and 2 mm for the rest of the
	- 1 mm (2013 .)	2 mm	years. The maximum width for both sexes
		-	is the same, as in four of the years of
		-	study is 4 mm and in 2013 – 5 mm.
		-	
5 mm.	4 mm,	2013 .	The reported differences in the mean
		-	width of the prothorax between males and
		-	females have not been statistically
		-	proven.
		-	
		-	Compared to the width of the
		-	prothorax, the weight of the alfalfa
		-	longhorn beetle fluctuates in a larger
		-	interval between the two sexes and the
		-	individual years. The fluctuations in the
0,01 mg	0,03 mg,	0,07 mg	minimum weight of females are from 0.01
mg.		0,12	mg to 0.03 mg and the maximum values
		-	are from 0.07 mg to 0.12 mg. In males,
		-	the variation in the minimum weight over
		-	the years is in a narrower range of 0.01 to
		0,01	0.02 mg. Registered maximum values are
		0,02 mg.	in a larger range – from 0.06 to 0.11 mg.
		-	
		-	A proven difference was found in 2010,
0,11 mg.		0,06	2011 and 2015, when the weights of
	2010, 2011 2015 .,	(0,065	female individuals (0.065 mg, 0.060 mg
		-	and 0.064 mg) were 0.014 mg, 0.010 mg
mg, 0,060 mg	0,064 mg)	0,014 mg	and 0.014 mg higher than male (0.051
0,014 mg,	0,010 mg	(0,051 mg,	mg, 0.050 mg and 0.050 mg).
0,050 mg	0,050 mg).	-	

1. () ()

Plagionotus floralis Pall. (2010-2015)

Table 1. Body size and weight of female () and male () individuals of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. (2010-2015)

Year	Number	Min-max	m±SE	CV%	RSE%	Median	Q ₂₅ -Q ₇₅
/Length, mm							
2010	60	12,0-17,0				14,0 ^a	13,00-15,00
	60	10,0-17,0				13,0 ^b	12,25-14,00
							P=0,001*
2011	55	9,0-17,0				14,0 ^a	12,00-15,00
	99	10,0-15,0				13,0 ^b	12,00-14,00
							P=0,001*
2012	11	9,0-14,0	12,00±0,50	13,97	4,17		
	17	9,0-14,0	12,00±0,30	10,17	2,50		
2013	27	10,0-16,0	13,18±0,31	12,44	2,35		
	81	8,0-16,0	13,37±0,20	13,31	1,50		
2014	21	9,0-23,0	14,28±0,63	20,17	4,41		
	11	7,0-15,0	12,64±0,68	17,80	5,38		
2015	14	8,0-17,0				14,0 ^a	13,00-15,00
	46	9,0-17,0				13,0 ^b	12,00-14,00
							P=0,016*
/Width of prothorax, mm							
2011	55	2,0-4,0	2,94±0,08	21,09	2,86		
	99	2,0-4,0	2,86±0,43	15,03	1,50		
2012	11	2,0-4,0	3,00±0,23	25,67	7,67		
	17	2,0-4,0	3,00±0,19	26,33	6,33		
2013	27	2,0-5,0	3,55±0,13	19,72	3,66		
	81	1,0-5,0	3,78±0,09	22,22	2,38		
2014	21	2,0-4,0	3,26±0,14	19,02	4,29		
	11	2,0-4,0	3,26±0,14	18,87	5,66		
2015	14	2,0-4,0	3,11±0,15	18,00	4,82		
	46	2,0-4,0	3,01±0,08	18,27	2,66		
/Weight, mg							
2010	60	0,03-0,11				0,065 ^a	0,05-0,08
	60	0,01-0,08				0,051 ^b	0,04-0,06
							P=0,001*
2011	55	0,01-0,11				0,06 ^a	0,06-0,06
	99	0,02-0,08				0,05 ^b	0,05-0,05
							P=0,001*
2012	11	0,01-0,07	0,043±0,0065	48,84	15,12		
	17	0,01-0,06	0,039±0,0036	35,90	9,23		
2013	26	0,02-0,11	0,060±0,005	40,00	8,33		
	80	0,01-0,10	0,055±0,0023	36,36	4,18		
2014	21	0,02-0,12	0,065±0,0058	41,08	8,92		
	11	0,02-0,07	0,053±0,0052	32,83	9,81		
2015	14	0,02-0,11	0,064 ^a ±0,007	39,06	10,47		
	46	0,01-0,11	0,051 ^b ±0,003	35,29	5,88		
							P=0,035**

Mann-Whitney U test; Q₂₅-Q₇₅ - (25%) (75%); ** - One way ANOVA test; CV% - ; a, b - P<0,05.

In addition to the size and weight of the adult insects' body, other differences were found in morphology between females and males (Table 2).

(2).

2.

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Plagionotus floralis Pall.

Table 2. Morphological differences between female () and male () individuals of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall.

/Indicator *	Female individuals	Male individuals
1. Length of body, mm		
Min-max	8,00-23,00	7,00-17,00
/Average	13,81	13,0
2. Width of prothorax, mm		
Min-max	2,00-5,00	2,00-5,00
/Average	3,00	3,00
3. /Weight of the adults, mg		
Min-max	0,01-0,12	0,01-0,11
/Average	0,062	0,05
4. First antenna joint	Light brown /	brown to black /Dark
5. Antenna lengths	1/2 /To 1/2 of the body length	2/3 /To 2/3 of the body length
6. / Basic joint, femur ring and thigh of the three leg coples	/Light brown, the other joints also light brown	/Dark brown to black, the other joints light brown
7. Fifth abdominal sternit	- / Longer than the width	- / Wider than the length

(2010–2015) 1272 , . . 385 /The reported morphological differences between the female and male individuals of the alfalfa longhorn beetle (2010-2015) were observed in 1272 specimens, incl. 385 coupling pairs.



. 1.)

Plagionotus floralis Pall.

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() ()

Fig. 1. Morphological differences between male () (to the left) and female () (to the right) individuals of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall.

Coleoptera, Cerambycidae

As members of the order Coleoptera, the beetles are distinguished by the characteristic Cerambycidae - a slender, oblong body, covered with densely arranged yellow and black short hairs. The head is black and slightly elongated. The prothorax is also black and oval rounded with two transverse yellow strips – the first in the front part and the second – a little behind the middle part. The scutellum is wider than its length and is covered with yellow hairs that give it a yellow color. The wing-cases are slender, long, slightly narrow at the back end. There are five transverse strips of yellow hairs over them. The alternating black and yellow stripes give beetles their characteristic coloration similar to that of the wasps (alosemantic coloring). The underside of the body is covered with bright hairs. The last abdominal joint not covered by wing-cases. There are two spikes on the tip of the tibia (from the feet). There are two spikes (spurs) on the tip of the tibia (from the feet). On the inside of the femurs there are well-defined recess, in which the tibias retract partially during contraction of the legs. The metatarsus consists of five joints, the last joint finishing with two claws.

From the data of the proportion of females and males, and sex ratio of alfalfa longhorn beetle for the six-year study period shows that females dominate the population in only two years – 2010 (61.34%) and 2014 (63.64%). During the remaining years more involved are males – from 60.72% (2012) to 75.0% (2013) (Table 3, Figure 2).

Year	Sex	Proportion (%)
2010	Females	61.34%
2010	Males	38.66%
2011	Females	55.2%
2011	Males	44.8%
2012	Females	39.28%
2012	Males	60.72%
2013	Females	25.0%
2013	Males	75.0%
2014	Females	63.64%
2014	Males	36.36%

3. () () *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. (2010-2015)

Table 3. Proportion of female () and male () individuals of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. and sex ratio (2010-2015)

Year	Total number of individuals	/Proportion				Sex ratio = / +
		/Females		/Males		
		Number	%	Number	%	
2010	357	219	61,34	138	38,66	0,39
2011	154	55	35,71	99	64,29	0,64
2012	28	11	39,29	17	60,72	0,61
2013	108	27	25,00	81	75,00	0,75
2014	33	21	63,64	12	36,36	0,36
2015	63	17	26,98	46	73,02	0,73

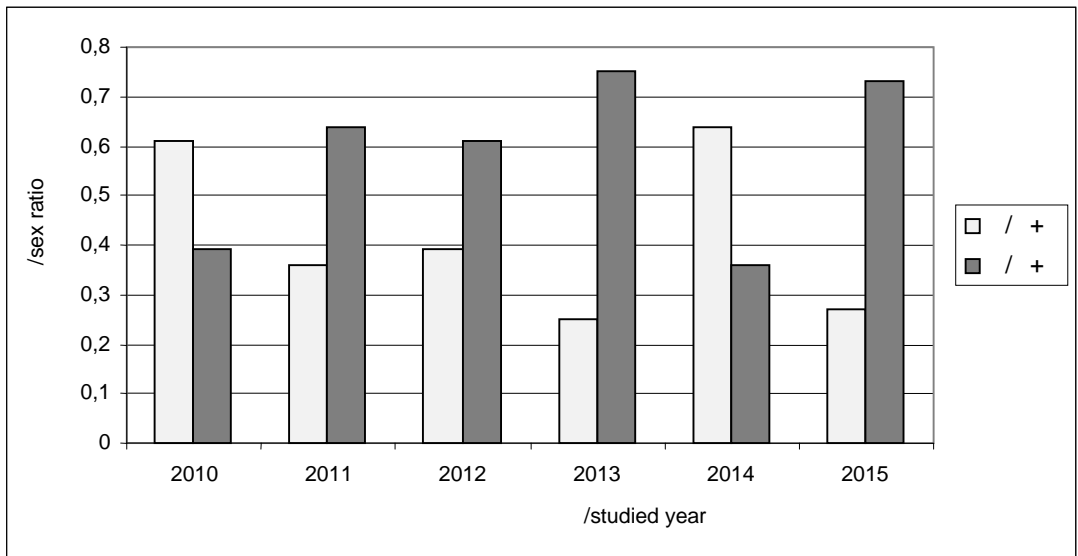


Fig. 2. Sex ratio of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. (2010-2015)

mm 120 mm
43 (2010) 50 (2014) (3).
17,8 mm (2012) 270,2 mm (2013),
23 (2011) 43 (2015),

Years in which the females have a higher proportion are with precipitation of 118 mm to 120 mm for the entire period of flight of the beetles constituting of 43 days (2010) and 50 days (2014) (Figure 3).

Years in which the males have greater participation in the population are characterized by significant fluctuations both in the amount of precipitation – from 17,8 mm (2012) to 270,2 mm (2013) and the period of the flight - from 23 days (2011) to 43 days (2015), which gives reason to conclude that males tolerate better the dry and over moisture periods of flight during the studied years.

(4).

Unlike the sum of precipitation, the average daily temperatures during the flight (June, July) do not differ significantly in the years (Figure 4).

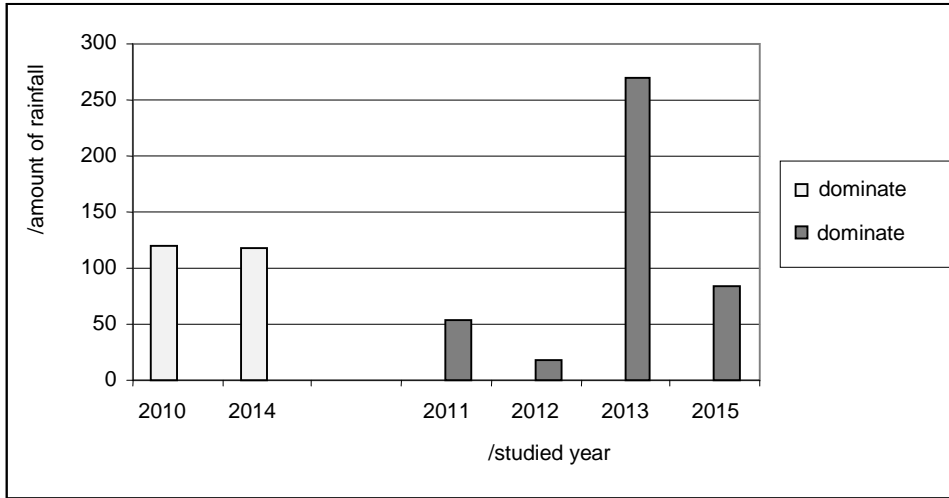


Fig. 3. Amount of rainfall for the flight period of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. in the years dominated by females (2010, 2014) and males (2011, 2012, 2013, 2015)

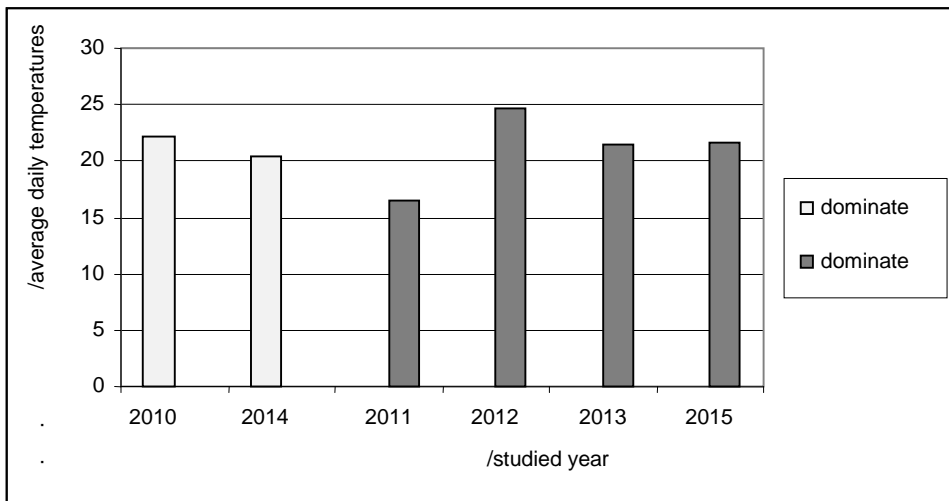


Fig. 4. The average daily temperatures for the flying period of *Plagionotus floralis* Pall. in the years dominated by females (2010, 2014) and males (2011, 2012, 2013, 2015)

Empoasca fabae Harris
 Hoffman & Hogg (1991) Hoffman et al.
 (1990, 1991).

Data on the influence of climatic conditions on the proportion of males and females of *Empoasca fabae* Harris reported Hoffman & Hogg (1991) and Hoffman et al. (1990, 1991). The authors found that potential fertility, rate of development, laying period and rate of increase in the population of the enemy significantly decreased under water stress conditions, such as males being more sensitive than females.

CONCLUSIONS

1.
 (13,81 mm 0,062 mg)
 (13,00 mm 0,05 mg),
 1272
 385
 2.
 (61,34%-63,64%),
 (60,72%-75,00%).

1. Sexual dimorphism was clearly detected, which is expressed in the proven greater average length and weight of females (13.81 mm and 0.062 mg) compared to males (13.00 mm and 0.05 mg), in the different antenna lengths, the different color of the first antenna joint, the basic joint, the femur ring and the thigh of the three leg coples, in the different sizes of the fifth abdominal sternit in the female and male. The identified morphological differences between males and females were observed in 1272 specimens, incl. 385 coupling pairs.

2. The sex ratio of alfalfa longhorn beetle is in favor of females in two of the studied years (61.34%-63.64%), the other four in the population dominate the males (60.72%-75.00%).

Years in which males have greater participation in the population are characterized by dry and warm periods of flight or periods of intense rainfall, which proves that they are better able to withstand unfavorable weather conditions than females.

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(*Cuscuta epithymum* L.)
(*Medicago sativa* L.)

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5800 , . 89,

Opportunities of use of the Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect) for control of dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.)

Plamen Marinov-Serafimov*, Irena Golubinova,
Daniela Kertikova, Todor Kertikov

*Institute of Forage Crops, 89 Gen. Vladimir Vazov Str.,
5800 Pleven, Bulgaria*

**E-mail: plserafimov@abv.bg*

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SUMMARY

2014-2016 . - During the period 2014-2016 on the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven a study was conducted with the purpose to determine possibilities of using the Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect against weeds) as a means of control on dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) the in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.). It was found that: Segador can be applied alone at 5.0% and in combination with adjuvant Melamiel (400.0 ml/ha) in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) during the establishing year of the stand in a growth stage third-fourth trifoliate leaves and in beginning of button formation in old crops in seed production years for control against dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.); after treatment of Segador alone and in

95.0%), (80.0 100.0%;

() :

(*Medicago sativa* L.),

(Arregui et al., 2001; Dimitrova, 2007; Raofi and Alebrahim, 2017).

Bouton (2012), Rubiales (2012), Pacanoski et al. (2017).

(Dimitrova, 2007; Radovi et al., 2009; Roux et al., 2014; Pacanoski et al., 2017; Raofi and Alebrahim, 2017).

(Frolisek, 1987; Cudney et al., 1992; Lanini and Kogan, 2005; Boydston and Anderson, 2017).

Lanini and Kogan (2005); Saric-Krsmanovic et al. (2015) Soliman and Hamza (2010)

combination with adjuvant Melamiel at the indicated doses, alfalfa plants had a high regrowing percentage (from 80.0 to 95.0%) and the efficacy of the ready-to-use trade product for control against dodder is 100.0%. Segador can be used successfully control against dodder in alfalfa crops in a conversion period to organic (organic) production.

Key words: alfalfa, dodder, weed control

INTRODUCTION

Weed control an important role in the cultivation technology of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) which is why used herbicides (proven by their efficacy, ease of application and rapid initiation) occupy the largest share of pesticide use (Arregui et al., 2001; Dimitrova, 2007; Raofi and Alebrahim, 2017).

Modern ecological and economic requirements require the need for developing new pest control strategies Bouton (2012), Rubiales (2012), Pacanoski et al. (2017).

Herbicides with high selectivity to alfalfa and high efficacy to the major weed infestance (mono and dicotyledonous weed species) in culture have been found by many authors (Dimitrova, 2007; Radovi et al., 2009; Roux et al., 2014; Pacanoski et al., 2017; Raofi and Alebrahim, 2017).

Studies on parasitic weed control, a serious problem in the production of forage and alfalfa seeds, are relatively limited – they cause considerable losses in the formation of the yield and aggravate the quality of the resulting production (Frolisek, 1987; Cudney et al., 1992; Lanini and Kogan, 2005; Boydston and Anderson, 2017). Summarized studies of Lanini and Kogan (2005); Saric-Krsmanovic et al. (2015) and Soliman and Hamza (2010) show that technological solutions and effective means against

parasitic weed dodder, by applying conventional methods are limited due to the close physiological link between the parasite weed plants and the host plant.

The objective of this study was to test a ready-to-use trade product Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect against weeds) as a means of control on dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) in the alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.).

parasitic weed dodder, by applying conventional methods are limited due to the close physiological link between the parasite weed plants and the host plant.

The objective of this study was to test a ready-to-use trade product Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect against weeds) as a means of control on dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) in the alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2014-2016 .

(*Medicago sativa* L.)

(*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) (1)

(2)

3 m².

(

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1.

During the period of 2014-2016 two field trials were carried out in the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven on a slightly leached chernozem soil under non-irrigating conditions at artificially background infestation with dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) (*Trial 1*) alfalfa during the establishing year of the stand and (*Trial 2*) alfalfa in old crops in seed production years. The experiment was set up using the perpendicular method in three replicates and the size of the harvested plot of 3 m². The study was conducted with a ready-to-use trade product Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect). Experimental treatments are presented in Table 1.

1.

Table 1. Trial treatments

at the during establishing year of the stand			in old crops in seed production years		
	Variants	, %/ ml/ha Dose, % / ml/ha		Variants	, %/ ml/ha Dose, % / ml/ha
1	-	/ Control - untreated	1	-	/ Control - untreated
2	Reglon Forte	4.0 l/ha	2	Reglon Forte	4.0 l/ha
3	- Segador	5.0%	3	- Segador	5.0%
4	- Segador	8.0%	4	- Segador	8.0%
5	- Segador	12.0%	5	- Segador	12.0%
6	+ Segador + Melamyel	5.0%+400 ml/ha	6	+ Segador + Melamyel	5.0%+400 ml/ha
7	+ Segador + Melamyel	8.0%+400 ml/ha	7	+ Segador + Melamyel	8.0%+400 ml/ha
8	+ Segador + Melamyel	12.0%+400 ml/ha	8	+ Segador + Melamyel	12.0%+400 ml/ha

e L.) „ „ (*Medicago sativa*) - Kertikov and Kertikova (2016). - (10590-) Kertikov and Kertikova (2016). - 400 l/ha "PTP 18" P max 3 bar, V max 1.64 l Q max 0.64 l/min, 1 - - 2 - - - - - : (*Medicago sativa*) L.) 7, 14 21 (DAT), 1-9 - EWRS (European Weed Research Society), (1 9); - (0 100%) - (0 100%) - ; e (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) 9- EWRS (0-100% 9 1); (IR%) : IR%=[(C-T)/C].100. T -

For the field experiments was used alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) variety „Dara“ created at the Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven Kertikov and Kertikova (2016). The variety has a high vigour, persistence and resistance to fusarium and lucerne chalcid (Certificate 10590-description) Kertikov and Kertikova (2016).

The application of the tested trade product Segador on the alfalfa crops were applied with 400 l/ha water solutions using a spreading machine „PTP 18“ with conic nozzle, pressure P max 3 bar, V max 1.64 l, and Q max 0.64 l/min, in Trial 1 treatment was done in the growth stage third – fourth trifoliolate leaves during establishing year of the stand, and Trial 2 in growth stage beginning of button formation in old crops in seed production years.

During the alfalfa vegetation period for all treatments in the trials, weeds are removed manually to eliminate their negative impact and to study the impact of a ready-to-use trade product Segador on crop plants.

The following characteristics were assessed: phytotoxicity on a ready-to-use trade products to the alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) on 7, 14 and 21 days after treatment (DAT), using the 1-9 logarithmic scale of EWRS (European Weed Research Society) (score 1 – no damage and score 9 – completely destroyed crop); ground cover (0 to 100%) and regrowing plants (0 to 100%) of alfalfa; efficacy of Segador against dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) was recorded in permanent one m² sampling plots by the quantitative method and according to a 9-score scale of EWRS (0-100% killed weeds, score from 9 to 1); phytotoxic effect of Segador was evaluated by degree of inhibition (IR%) at accumulation alfalfa fresh and dry biomass per unit area IR% and is calculated as following:

$IR\% = [(C-T)/C].100.$ T – formed fresh or dry biomass in

; -
 : (mm)
 (°).
 Martonne (*Iar-DM*).
 e
 STATGRAPHICS
 Plus Statistika 10.

treatment variants; C – formed fresh or dry biomass in control variants.

Major agro-meteorological characteristics of the period of study were recorded: rainfall amount (mm) and average 24^{-hour} air temperature on (°).

The Marton's index (*Iar-DM*) was used to characterize the aridity during the growing season on the crops. All experimental data were statistically processed using the software STATGRAPHICS Plus and Statistika 10.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Estimating the complex effect of
 - some major meteorological factors, rainfall amount and average 24^{-hour} air temperatures, with regard to alfalfa organic requirements during the crop growing season during the studied years 2014-2016 can be determined with favorable conditions for the development for alfalfa at aridity (*Iar-DM*) of the growing season – *Iar-DM*₂₀₁₅ – 25.9, *Iar-DM*₂₀₁₅ – 28.1 (semi-humid) and *Iar-DM*₂₀₁₆ – 19.5 (semi-humid) compared to the multiannual period (1964-2014) *Iar-DM*₍₁₉₆₄₋₂₀₁₄₎ – 22.6 (mediterranean) (Table 2).

2014-2016 ,
 (*Iar-DM*)
 – *Iar-DM*₂₀₁₄ – 25.9, *Iar-DM*₂₀₁₅ – 28.1 (-)
 (*Iar-DM*₂₀₁₆ – 19.5 (-)
 (1964-2014) *Iar-DM*₍₁₉₆₄₋₂₀₁₄₎ – 22.6 (-) (2).
 2. (mm), (°C)
 (*Iar-DM*)

Table 2. Rainfall amount, air temperature and index of aridity (*Iar-DM*) for the March – September period

/ Years	Monthly rainfall, mm		a / The average monthly temperature of the air, °C		(Iar-DM) III – IX Index of aridity
	1964–2014 / For the 1964-2014 period				
	III – IX 403.3 mm	Deviation, %	IV – IX 16.8°C	Deviation, °C	
2014	484.8	120.2	18.1	1.3	(Iar-DM) for the III – IX
2015	512.9	127.3	17.4	0.6	28.1
2016	373.6	92.6	18.7	1.9	19.5

,
 - The organic product Segador, applied alone and in combination with the adjuvant Melamiel at the alfalfa in a dose

5.0% 400.0 ml/ha
 ()
 ,
 (3).
 8.0 12.0%
 400.0 ml/ha,
 14 21
 ,
 (2-3)
 8.0%
 -
 (12.0%)
 - , - 2 5 ,
 (3).
 4.0 l/ha
 -
 ,
 ,
 21
 - 1 5%.
 (4) 21
 ,

of 5.0% and 400.0 ml/ha in the year of creation and in old crops in seed production years, causes a rapid initial effect of defoliation and desiccation of the above-ground biomass of the culture several hours after crop treatment, regardless of the dynamics agrometeorological conditions (Table 3). With an increase concentration of Segador of 8.0 to 12.0% solutions with or without the adjuvant Melamiel at a dose of 400.0 ml/ha, no significant differences were found on the studied parameters.

With increasing the growing season to 14th and 21st days after treatment, was found regrowing of alfalfa in all variants of the treatments, but the growth retention was maintained (2-3 score) at a concentration of 8.0% solution as well as in the treatments with added of the adjuvant Melamiel.

An exception is observed at the highest applied concentration of Segador (12.0%) with or without a adjuvant, where a relatively higher phytotoxic effect of 2 to 5 score and inhibition of alfalfa growth (Table 3). As a result of the highly phytotoxicity of the herbicide Reglon Forte 4.0 l/ha and the low regenerative capacity of the alfalfa in the growth stage the third-fourth trifoliate leaf of the crop at the during establishing year of the stand does not was found regrowing of the alfalfa, while in old crops in years of seed production 21st day after treatment the regrowing capacity of alfalfa is very low – from 1 to 5%.

Similar results are obtained in the recovery of the regrowing capacity and the crop cover (Table 4) 21st day after treatment with Segador during the establishing year of the stand and in old crops in seed production years of alfalfa.

3.

Table 3. Phytotoxicity of Segador in the alfalfa, average for the study period

Variants	Dose % / ml/ha	/ Phytotoxicity								
		0 DBT	7 DAT	14 DAT	21 DAT	0 DBT	7 DAT	14 DAT	21 DAT	
		in the year of creation of the crop				in old crops in seed production year				
1	- / Control - untreated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
2	/ Region Forte	4.0 l/ha	1	9	9	9	1	9	5	3
3	- Segador	5.0%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	- Segador	8.0%	1	9	1	1	1	9	1	1
5	- Segador	12.0%	1	9	4.5	3	1	9	3	2
6	+ Segador + Melamyel	5.0%+400 ml/ha	1	9	1	1	1	9	1	1
7	+ Segador + Melamyel	8.0%+400ml/ha	1	9	2	1	1	9	1	1
8	+ Segador + Melamyel	12.0%+400 ml/ha	1	9	5	4	1	9	4	2

Legend: DBT – days before treatment; DAT – days after treatment; EWRS: (score 1 – no damages; score 9– completely destroyed above-ground biomass)

4.

Table 4. Regrowing and ground cover of alfalfa after treatment with Segador, average for the study period

Variants	Dose % / ml/ha	0 DBT	7 DAT	14 DAT	21 DAT	0 DBT	7 DAT	14 DAT	21 DAT	
		in the year of creation of the crop				in old crops in seed production years				
		/ Regrowing								
1	- /Control - untreated	-	95	100	100	-	95	100	100	
2	/Region Forte	4.0 l/ha	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	5
3	- Segador	5.0%	-	-	95	100	-	-	95	100
4	- Segador	8.0%	-	-	80	95	-	-	95	95
5	- Segador	12.0%	-	-	40	45	-	-	50	60
6	+ Segador + Melamyel	5.0%+400 ml/ha	-	-	100	100	-	-	95	100
7	+ Segador + Melamyel	8.0%+400ml/ha	-	-	95	95	-	-	95	95
8	+ Segador + Melamyel	12.0%+400 ml/ha	-	-	40	45	-	-	50	50
/ Ground cover										
1	- Control - untreated	30	5	15	40	85	40	65	70	
2	Region Forte	4.0 l/ha	30	0	0	0	85	0	5	10
3	- Segador	5.0%	30	0	15	40	85	0	60	70
4	- Segador	8.0%	30	0	15	40	85	0	60	60
5	- Segador	12.0%	30	0	5	10	85	0	40	40
6	+ Segador + Melamyel	5.0%+400 ml/ha	30	0	15	40	85	0	60	70
7	+ Segador + Melamyel	8.0%+400ml/ha	30	0	15	40	85	0	60	70
8	+ Segador + Melamyel	12.0%+400 ml/ha	30	0	10	20	85	0	40	40

Legend: DBT – days before treatment; DAT – days after treatment

5.0 8.0% ()

95 100%,

12.0%,

2.2 3.3

2.0

1.7

(*Cuscuta epithymum* L.)

(SEGADOR, ETIQUETA, 2010)

(

25,5% (P₂O₅) 0,20% (Zn).

100%.

21

At the lower applied concentrations of Segador from 5.0 and 8.0% (with or without adjuvant Melamiel) the regrowing of the alfalfa ranged from 95 to 100%, with an increase concentration of the ready-to-use trade product to 12.0% the regrowing capacity of crop declines sharply – from 2.2 to 3.3 times during establishing year of the stand and from 1.7 to 2.0 times was reduction in old crops in seed production year, compared to control variants.

Inoculation area with dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.) is very good precondition for assessing the herbicide efficacy of the organic product Segador.

According to manufacture label (SEGADOR, ETIQUETA, 2010) Segador is organic fertilizer with a non-selective contact herbicide effect against weeds. Segador is a complex natural hydroxyphosphate (detergents), in the form of an emulsion, and natural surfactant. Contains phosphorus (P₂O₅) 25.5% water-soluble and zinc (Zn) water-soluble 0.20%. As regards the spectrum the product has a contact effect. It successfully controls annual broadleaf weeds and slightly annual cereal weeds.

Observations show that the efficacy of the organic product Segador applied alone or with a adjuvantat all doses studied was 100%. The lack of differences in the values of the studies indicator between along and with or without adjuvant suggests that it is appropriate to be the only one applied, during the establishing year of the stand and alfalfa in old crops in seed production years.

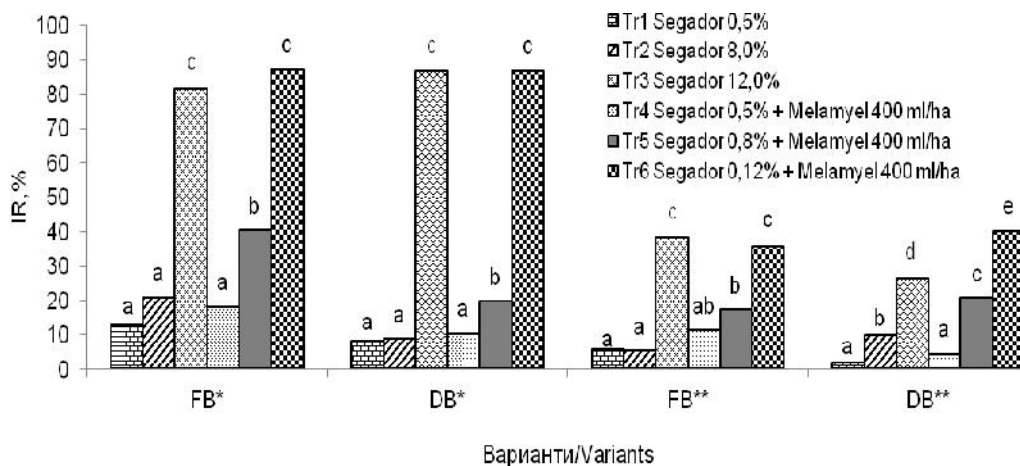
The applied doses of Sepador reflect on the ground covered by grassiness in the formation of fresh and dry biomass on the 21st day after treatment of alfalfa. Despite the difference in the relative values of these

indicators, the trends between the different variants remain. The higher doses of Segador had a negative effect on the ground covered by alfalfa and the formation of fresh and dry biomass per unit area on the 21st day after treatment of the crops.

The amount of the formed of fresh and dry biomass at the lower applied doses of Segador alone was reduced from 2.2 to 10.2%. When combined Segador with the adjuvant Melamiel, the reduction of the formed fresh and dry biomass is from 4.6 to 20.9% compared to the control variants and the differences were statistically proven ($P=0.05$) (Figure 1).

A high positive correlation was determined between applied doses of the organic product Segador and the accumulation of fresh biomass of alfalfa of a unit area during establishing year of the stand (r from 0.900 to 0.993) and in old crops in seed production years (r from 0.944 to 0.999).

2.2 10.2%
4.6 20.9%
($r = 0.900$) ($r = 0.993$)
($r = 0.944$) ($r = 0.999$)



Legend: Degree of inhibition ($IR_{\%}$) in accumulating: I. from fresh FB^* and dry DB^* biomass at the during establishing year of the stand and II. fresh FB^{**} and dry DB^{**} biomass in old crops in seed production years in alfalfa; a, b, c, statistically proven differences at the $P = 0.05$

1. ($IR_{\%}$)

Fig. 1. Percentage of inhibition ($IR_{\%}$) of fresh and dry alfalfa biomass after treatment with Segador, average for the study period

CONCLUSIONS

(
)
(5,0%
a
)
(40 ml/da)
(*Medicago sativa* L.)
-
(*Cuscuta*
epithymum L.).
,
(80.0
95.0%),
100.0%.
(
)
()

Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect) can be applied alone at 5.0% and in combination with a adjuvant Melamiel in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) during the establishing year of the stand at a dose of 5.0% solution in a growth stage third-fourth trifoliolate leaves and in beginning of button formation in old crops in seed production years for weed control with the dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum* L.).

After treatment of Segador alone and in combination with adjuvant Melamiel at the indicated doses, alfalfa plants had a high regrowing percentage (from 80.0 to 95.0%) and the efficacy of the ready-to-use trade product for weed control against dodder is 100.0%.

Segador (organic fertilizer with contact herbicidal effect) can be used successfully control against dodder in alfalfa crops in a conversion period to organic (organic) production.

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”, 7007

A study on the effects of some soil herbicides on the productivity and structural elements of yield in “Dunaviya” wheat variety

Svetlana Stoyanova

Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik, 7007 Ruse, Bulgaria
E-mail: sv_stoianova@mail.bg

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SUMMARY

2013-2016
“ - ”
45 (450 g.l⁻¹)
330 (330 g.l⁻¹)
70 (700 g.kg⁻¹)
4
50 m²
7th, 17th, 30th
45 330
70 45
330
70

A field experiment was carried out during 2013-2016 in the experimental fields of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik”, Ruse, to study the effects of herbicides Afalon 45SK (450g.l⁻¹ linuron), Stomp 330EK (330g.l⁻¹ pendimethalin) and Zenkor 70BG (700 g.kg⁻¹ metribuzin), applied in optimal and double increased doses. The experiment was started after the block method in four replications, the experimental plot being 50 m² and randomized location of the variants.

The selectivity of the herbicides was recorded on the 7th, 17th and 30th day after spraying. It was found that Afalon 45SK and Stomp 330EK do not have a negative effect on crop plants and are selective to them compared to the application Zencor 70BG soil herbicide.

The use of Afalon 45SK and Stomp 330EK results in higher grain yields in comparison with the application of Zencor 70BG.

The highest yield compared to the untreated control it is obtained from the

330
400
ml.da⁻¹ – 427 kg.da⁻¹.

Stomp 330 EK variant at a dose of 400 ml.da⁻¹ – 427 kg.da⁻¹.

The used soil herbicides and applied doses do not affect negative of the main biometric indicators of “Dunaviya” wheat variety – height of plants, cm; number of spikes per one ear; mass of spikes per one ear, g; number of grains per one ear; mass of grains per one ear, g and yield of seed, kg.da⁻¹.

Key words: wheat, herbicides, selectivity, structural elements, productivity

INTRODUCTION

The creation of high productive wheat stands and obtaining high-quality grain requires effective weed control.

This necessitates constant use of new herbicides, and the effects of the different products depend heavily on the environmental conditions (Mihova and Stoimenova, 2006). In order to achieve a good herbicidal effect it is necessary to know thoroughly the used herbicides and their influence on the tested varieties and hybrids (Camele and Rana, 1995; Kumar and Singh, 1997).

The elements of high yield and quality in agricultural crops and in wheat, in particular are a complex of interrelated factors, such as: correct crop rotations, quality soil treatment, selection of suitable varieties or hybrids for the particular agro-ecological area, and the use of high quality seed (Mungova end Veleva, 1986; Yanchev et al., 2000; Delibaltova et al., 2009; Mitkov et al., 2009). Plant protection measures and fertilization are an integral part of this complex of factors, as evidenced by a large number of scientific studies (Tityanova et al., 2007; Tityanova et al., 2010). The treatment of wheat with herbicides is a major agro-technical practice, as over the years a tendency to increase the areas with weed infestation of *Papaver rhoeas* L., *Delphinium consolida* L., *Matricaria spp* has been

(Mihova and Stoimenova, 2006).

(Camele and Rana, 1995; Kumar and Singh, 1997)

(Mungova end Veleva, 1986; Yanchev et al., 2000; Delibaltova et al., 2009; Mitkov et al., 2009).

(Tityanova et al., 2007; Tityanova et al., 2010).

Papaver rhoeas L., *Delphinium consolida* L., *Matricaria* spp. (Tonev et al., 2007; Tonev, 2012).

observed. (Tonev et al., 2007; Tonev, 2012).

The objective of that study was to study the reaction of "Dunaviya" wheat variety to some soil herbicides applied at optimal and double-increased doses under conditions of Northeastern Bulgaria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the period 2013-2016 in the experimental fields of the IASS "Obraztsov chiflik" - Ruse, a field experiment was carried out in order to study the influence of Afalon 45SK (450 g.l⁻¹ linuron), Stomp 330 (330 g.l⁻¹ pendimethalin) and Zencor (700 g.kg⁻¹ metribuzin) herbicides, applied at optimal and double increased doses, on the structural yield elements and the productivity of Dunaviya wheat variety (Table 1).

Table 1. Variants of the experiment

1	Variants	Doses - herbicides, g.da ⁻¹ (ml.da ⁻¹)	Doses - active substance, g.da ⁻¹
1	Control (K)	-	-
2	45 (450 g.l ⁻¹) Afalon 45S (450 g.l ⁻¹ linuron)	300	135
3	330 (330 g.l ⁻¹) Stomp 330 EK(330 g.l ⁻¹ pendimethalin)	400	132
4	70 (700 g.l ⁻¹) Zenkor 70VG (700 g.l ⁻¹ metribuzin)	80	56
5	45 (450 g.l ⁻¹) Afalon 45S (450 g.l ⁻¹ linuron)	600	270
6	330 (330 g.l ⁻¹) Stomp 330 EK(330 g.l ⁻¹ pendimethalin)	800	264
7	70 (700 g.l ⁻¹) Zenkor 70VG (700 g.l ⁻¹ metribuzin)	160	112

The experiment was set after the block method in four replications, the size of the harvesting plot being 50m² and randomized location of the variants (Shanin, 1977).

The soil type was strongly leached chernozem and was characterized with poor humus content – 1.98%, slightly stocked with mineral N (10.75 mg. 1000 g⁻¹ soil) and mobile P₂O₅ (6.31 mg. 1000 g⁻¹ soil) and well stocked with K₂O (22.50 mg. 1000 g⁻¹ soil) in the layer 0-40 cm.

mg.1000 g⁻¹) 0-40 cm.
 (pH KCL – 5.01%).

The soil reaction was medium acidic (pH in KCL – 5.01%). The mechanical composition of the soil was heavily sandy-clayey. Leached chernozems are soils of high natural fertility and, when properly treated, the highest yield of field crops is obtained.

(7-14
 –
 30 l.da⁻¹,

The sowing was carried out in the optimal period for the region (7-14 October) after a predecessor – winter oilseed rape. The herbicides were introduced with a back sprayer at 30 l.da⁻¹ working solution applied after sowing before crop emergence. The control plot was kept pure from weeds throughout the growing season by hand weeding.

:
 7th , 17th 30
 (1-9) EWRS 1 –
 9 –
);
 , cm; 1 ;
 1 , g;
 , g ; 1 , kg.da⁻¹.

For the purpose of the study, the following traits were reported: phytotoxicity of herbicides on the 7th, 17th and 30th days after application (according to the logarithmic scale (1-9 grades) of EWRS at grade 1 - without damages and at grade 9 – the crop is completely destroyed); height of plants, cm; number of spikes per one ear; mass of spikes per one ear, g; number of grains per one ear; mass of grains per one ear, g and yield of seed, kg.da⁻¹.

SPSS.

Mathematical processing of the experimental data was performed by dispersion and correlation analysis with SPSS.

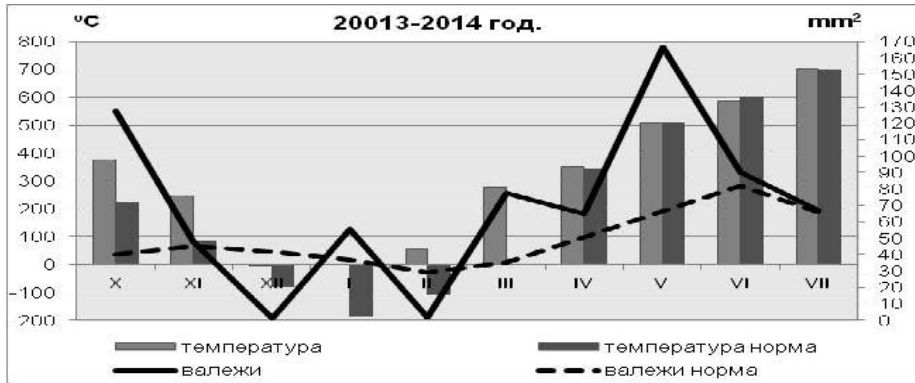
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The agrometeorological conditions in the years of study were different, which determined the specific development of plants and the yield variations by year. The characteristics of the period of study included the sum of the average monthly air temperatures and the amount of precipitation.

(1) 2013-2014

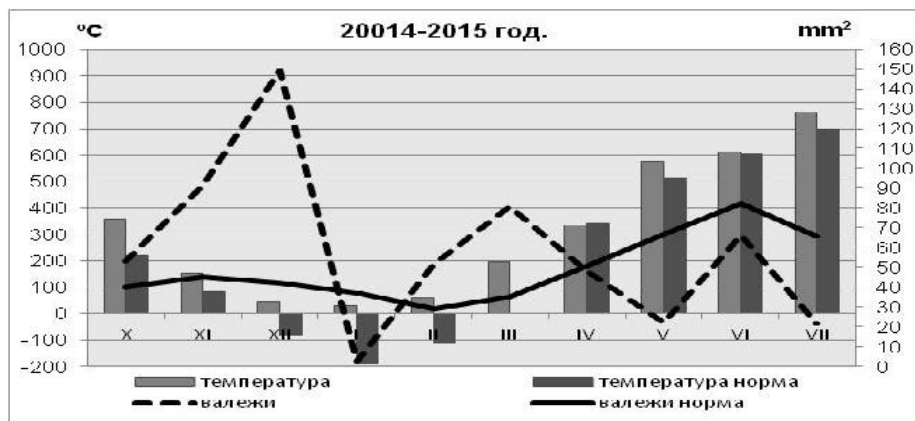
2013-2014 crop year (Figure 1) was characterized with a warm and humid autumn, allowing timely and even emergence of wheat. In the winter, extremely low temperatures were not

observed, and precipitation (46.84 mm^2) was slightly above the norm for the region (38.6 mm^2). The spring was completely characterized with precipitation (99.8 mm^2) and temperatures (429.7°C) above the climate norm for the region (58.6 mm^2 and 363.9°C).



1. 2013-2014
Fig. 1. Average monthly air temperature and amount of precipitation, distributed by month, 2013-2014 crop year

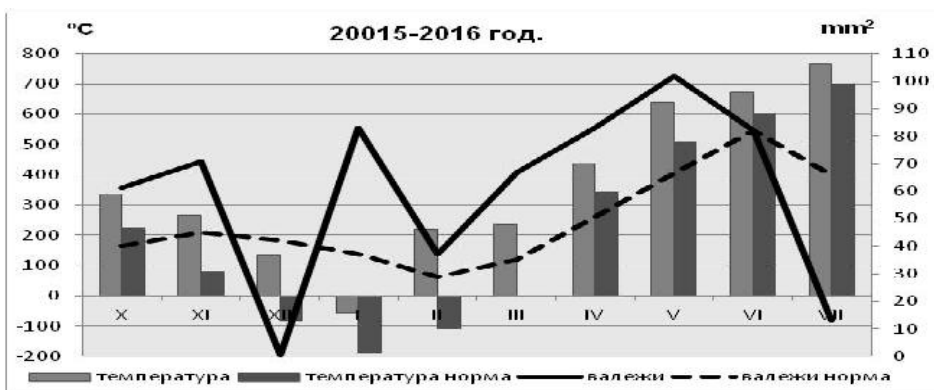
During 2014-2015 harvesting year (Figure 2) the autumn-winter period was characterized with extremely low temperatures and precipitation slightly above the climatic norm (38.6 mm^2). The summer months were dry and hot, with precipitation below the norm (60.2 mm^2).



2. 2014-2015
Fig. 2. Average monthly air temperature and amount of precipitation, distributed by month, 2014-2015 crop year

(3) 2015-2016
 -
 - (38.6 mm²),

2015-2016 crop year (Figure 3) was characterized with temperatures and precipitation in the autumn-winter period above the norm (38.6 mm²), cool and rainy spring and dry and hot summer, which had negative effects on the growth of plants and the yield of grain.



. 3.

2015-2016

Fig. 3. Average monthly air temperature and amount of precipitation, distributed by month, 2015-2016 crop year

EWRS (2)
 45
 330 ,
 ,
 ,
 70 , (1).
 17
 ,
 (4)
 (7). 30
 ,
 (2)
 (4)

The results of the visual readings of phytotoxicity in grades on the EWRS scale (Table 2) showed that the Afalon 45SK and Stomp 330EK herbalides applied at optimal and double increased doses did not induce phytotoxic effects on the crop. Both tested herbicides showed good selectivity to the wheat (grade 1).

In Zencor 70BG, after the 17th day of its application, a retentive effect had been observed on the growth and development of the crop plants at the optimal dose (grade 4) and plant death - at increased dose of application of the tested herbicide (grade 7). On the 30th day, after application of the herbicide, slight expression of phytotoxicity (grade 2) at optimal dose and more pronounced symptoms of leaf chlorosis (grade 4) at the increased dose, that later were overcome, had been still observed.

2.

Table 2. Selectivity of the herbicides to "Dunaviya" wheat variety

/Herbicides	/Day of reporting	7	17	30
		7-th day	17-th day	30-th day
45 Afalon 45SK	300 ml.da ⁻¹	1	1	1
	600 ml.da ⁻¹	1	1	1
330 Stomp 330EK	400 ml.da ⁻¹	1	1	1
	800 ml.da ⁻¹	1	1	1
70 /Zenkor 70VG	80 g.da ⁻¹	1	4	2

An important indicator, characterizing the selectivity of herbicides is their impact on wheat productivity. The results of obtained grain yield (Table 3) showed that Afalon 45SK and Stomp 330EK soil herbicides, applied at optimal and double increased doses, could be applied to Dunaviya wheat variety. The highest yield reduction by 3.29%, averaged over the period, was recorded in the variant with Afalon 45S soil applied herbicide, at a dose of 600 ml.da⁻¹. In the variants with Afalon 45SK (300 ml.da⁻¹) and Stomp 330 EK (400 and 800 ml.da⁻¹), less negative effect of 0.2%, 0.47% and 0.94% was reported, which according to statistical significance of differences was from the group of untreated control, i. e. did not have a negative effect on the crop.

Zencor 70BG soil herbicide, applied at both tested doses, reduced grain yield by 3.53% and 12% compared to the control. Its use in the stand of wheat was associated with a mathematically proven reduction in yield.

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Zencor 70BG soil herbicide, applied at both tested doses, reduced grain yield by 3.53% and 12% compared to the control. Its use in the stand of wheat was associated with a mathematically proven reduction in yield.

3.

Table 3. Effects of herbicides on the yield of "Dunaviya" wheat variety

Variants	/ Seed yield (kg.da ⁻¹)							
	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		Average for the period	
	Yield	%	Yield	%	Yield	%	Yield	%
- / Control untreated	498	-	466	-	313	-	425	-
45 / Afalon 45SK -300 ml.da ⁻¹	487 ^a	2.21	458 ^a	1.72	334 ^a	6.71	426 ^b	0.20
330 / Stomp 330EK -400 ml.da ⁻¹	491 ^a	1.40	474 ^a	1.72	317 ^a	1.28	427 ^b	0.47
70 / Zenkor 70VG -80 g.da ⁻¹	483 ^a	3.01	449 ^a	3.64	297 ^a	29.79	410 ^{ab*}	3.53
45 / Afalon 45SK -600 ml.da ⁻¹	490 ^a	1.61	411 ^a	11.80	332 ^a	6.07	411 ^{ab}	3.29
330 / Stomp 330EK -800 ml.da ⁻¹	471 ^a	5.42	473 ^a	1.50	318 ^a	1.60	421 ^b	0.94
70 / Zenkor 70VG -160 g.da ⁻¹	452 ^a	9.23	362 ^a	22.32	308 ^a	1.60	374 ^{a*}	12
/ Average	482	3.21	442	5.15	317	1.28	413	2.82

<0.05; 0.01; 0.001.

Legend: Different letters indicate statistically significant differences among variants at P < 0.05. *, **, *** - Statistically significant differences of the variants vs. control at P< 0.05; 0.01 and 0.001, respectively.

(4) ,
 59.25% .
 1.94% 1.57%.
 0.01,
 () .
 () – 0.526%, 0.05.

- From the trifactorial analysis (Table 4) regarding the yield, it was found that the years had the greatest impact of 59.25% of the total variation. Herbicide and dose had very little effect on grain yield – 1.94% and 1.57%. In the three tested factors, the power of influence was statistically significant.

- There was a well-proven relation between the conditions of the year and the tested herbicides (AxB) at P 0.01, as confirmed by the fact that the weather conditions during different years influenced differently on the soil herbicides applied.

- The influence between the conditions of the years and the doses of applied herbicides (AxC) was not proven. The latter acted unidirectionally throughout the years and had not influenced the grain yield.

- The interaction between the factors: herbicides and doses of application (BxC) also was proven – 0.526%, at P 0.05, i.e. the applied herbicides at optimal and increased doses had negative effects on wheat plants. It can be maintained that varietal susceptibility to the tested herbicides and doses was observed.

4.

Table 4. Analysis of variance for grain yield

Source of variation	Degrees of freedom	Sum of squares	Influence of factor, %	Mean square
/Total	83	1664.960	100	-
- /Factor A-Years	2	975.916	59.255	487.958**
- /Factor B-herbicides	2	32.020	1.944	16.010**
- /Factor C-dose	1	12.971	1.575	12.971**
AxB	4	17.774	0.540	6.750**
AxC	2	13.499	0.820	4.331
BxC	2	8.662	0.526	4.443*
AxBxC	4	21.372	0.649	5.343
/Pooled error	63	518.795	6.959	8.235

Throughout the years of the study, the growth and development of plants took place under various weather conditions.

The height of the wheat plants varied depending on the conditions of the year (Table 5).

5. 2013-2016
Table 5. Structural elements of yield, average for the period 2013-2016

Variant	Dose, ml.da ⁻¹ ; g.da ⁻¹	Height of plants, cm	Number of spikes per one ear	Mass of spikes per one ear, g	Number of grains per one ear	Mass of grains per one ear, g
Control ()	-	98.43	22.33	3.76	30.20	1.47
Afalon 45CK	300	115.34	24.33	4.05	29.91	1.60
	600	103.25	28.00	4.95	37.94	1.67
Stomp 330EK	330	110.22	26.17	4.28	35.44	1.95
	800	99.99	31.00	4.55	36.06	2.25
Zenkor 70VG	70	109.74	25.00	4.31	30.95	1.47
	160	96.60	25.17	3.74	31.24	1.75

Legend: All variants without "***" had no significant differences with the control

70 (160 g.da⁻¹) 96.60 cm
 - 1.83 cm (98.43 cm).
 45 300 ml.da⁻¹ – 115.34 cm,
 (98.43 cm) 16.91 cm.
 1.56 11.79 cm.

On average, during the study period, it was found, that the plant height in Zencor 70BG (160 g.da⁻¹) application was 96.60 cm - 1.83 cm less than the measured height in the control variant (98.43 cm). The highest height was measured in Apalon 45S at a dose of 300 ml.da⁻¹ - 115.34 cm exceeding the control variant (98.43 cm) by 16.91 cm.

In all other variants, a greater difference in plant height than that of the control was measured, ranging from 1.56 to 11.79 cm. The reported differences were insignificant and statistically unproven.

The traits number and mass of ears per one spike, number and mass of grains per one spike were determinative for the formation of yield. The variants with Afalon 45S and Stomp 330 herbicides average for the period of study were with the highest number of ears per a spike, exceeding the control variant by 5.67 and 8.67 pieces respectively.

Average for the period the mass of ears varied from 3.74 to 4.95 g. The

	3.74	4.95 g.	-
			-
			-
			-
			-
37.94.			29.91
	330	(400 800 ml.da ⁻¹)	
	45	(600 ml.da ⁻¹),	
	1.47	2.25 g.	
1.	45	(450 g.l ⁻¹)	
)	330	(330 g.l ⁻¹)	-
2.	70	(700 g.kg ⁻¹)	-
)			-
			-
			-
			-
3.			45
(450 g.l ⁻¹)			330
)			(330
)			
	70	(700 g.kg ⁻¹)	
)			
330	400 ml.da ⁻¹	– 427 kg.da ⁻¹ .	
4.			

variants where higher number of ears per a spike was registered were with greater mass than the control. The reported positive differences were not statistically proven.

The number of grains averaged over the period in one spike varied from 29.91 to 37.94. Exceedance of the valued compared to the control was observed in Stomp 330 EK (400 and 800 ml.da⁻¹) and Afalon 45SK (600 ml.da⁻¹). In the other variants, the differences compared to the control were insignificant.

The mass of grains was in direct dependence on the number of grains per a spike and ranged from 1.47 to 2.25 g.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Afalon 45SK (450 g/l⁻¹ linuron) and Stomp 330 EK (330 g/l⁻¹ pendimethalin) applied at optimal and double increased doses were highly selective to the tested "Dunaviya" wheat variety.

2. Zencor 70BG (700 g.kg⁻¹ metribuzin), applied at optimal and double increased doses, exerted phytotoxic effect on wheat plants, consisting in thinning the stand and suppressing the growth of crop plants.

3. The use of Afalon 45SK (450 g.l⁻¹ linuron) and Stomp 330 EK (330 g.l⁻¹ pendimethalin) resulted in higher grain yield compared to the application of Zencor 70BG (700 g.kg⁻¹ metribuzin) soil herbicide. The highest yield compared to the untreated control was obtained in the variant with Stomp 330 EK soil herbicide at a dose of 400 ml.da⁻¹ – 427 kg.da⁻¹.

4. The soil herbicides used and their doses did not influence negatively on the main biometric parameters of Dunaviya wheat variety – the height of the plants, the number and mass of ears, the number and mass of grains.

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1, 2*
1 " " , 7017 ,
2 " " , 7007 ,

Tolerance of Ruse 464 maize hybrid and its parental forms to herbicides used in the control of Johnsongrass

Dimitrya Ilieva¹, Svetlana Stoyanova^{2*}

¹*"Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse, 7017 Ruse, Bulgaria*

²*Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov chiflik", 7007 Rousse, Bulgaria*

* -mail: sv_stoianova@mail.bg

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SUMMARY

The objective of the present study was the tolerance of RM 619 and MO 17 maize lines and Ruse 464 hybrid to the rimsulfuron (Titus 25DF) and nicosulfuron (Mistral 4SK) to be determined, applied only at optimal doses once and twice at an interval of 14 to 20 days. The study was carried out during 2008-2010 at the experimental fields of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov chiflik" - Ruse. The study was carried out after the perpendicular method by Shanin. The maize was grown on a soil type of highly leached chernozem, without irrigation after a wheat predecessor. The optimal doses of the herbicides also and their application systems were studied. In variants treated with Titus 25DF in lines, susceptibility was observed expressed in tumor-like formations, causing damage of plants and death to some of them. Mistral 4SK product proved to be softer to

RM 619 46,6%
 RM 619
 25 4
 17
 7%,
 464 – 1%.

maize lines. As more susceptible to the herbicide, in RM 619 line, 46.6% damaged plants were observed. Average for the period of study the highest yield was reported in RM 619 line, treated with Mistral 4 S vegetation herbicide. MO 17 line treated with Titus 25 DF exceeded the control and Ruse 464 hybrid by 7% and 1%, respectively.

Key words: maize, selectivity, herbicides, rimsulfuron, nicosulfuron

INTRODUCTION

(Ivanov et al., 2010; Mohamed et al., 2008).

Maize is one of the main crops cultivated in Bulgaria, which determine the structure of Bulgarian large-scale farming. The productive and opportunities are manifested in an optimal combination of a complex by factors including the hybrid, the agro-ecological and climatic conditions, as well as the applied agrotechnology (Mohamed et al., 2008; Ivanov et al., 2010).

(Genov and Genova, 2005; Genova and Genov, 2005; Ivanov, 2011; Petrov and Angelova, 2005; Valchinkov et al., 2003; Valchinkov et al., 2005; Yordanov, 2006).

The hybrid with its specific genetic makings is the most dynamic factor in production. The creation and the implementation of new maize hybrids as well as their cultivation under different agri-environmental conditions is the subject of a various of scientific experiments (Valchinkov et al., 2003; Genov and Genova, 2005; Genova and Genov, 2005; Petrov and Angelova, 2005; Valchinkov et al., 2005; Yordanov, 2006; Ivanov, 2011).

(Angelov et al., 1995; Epinal et al., 2001).

The choice the most appropriate one for each region hybrids according to the conditions and the growing technology results in the desired results and the provision of stable yields (Angelov et al., 1995; Epinal et al., 2001).

The production of high quality seed, stable and in the same time gainful yields of maize is directly dependent on the plant protection. It has been found that with a high degree of with weed infestation grain yields from it may decrease from 77 to

77 92% (Tonev, 2000).
 - ,
 -
 .
 ,
 (Ilieva and Sabev,
 1995; Ilieva and Sabev, 1997; Ilieva, 1995).

RM 619, MO 17
 464

2008-2010 .
 “ - ”
 ,
 (1,98%), %, N (10.75 mg.1000 g⁻¹
 P₂O₅ (6.31 mg.1000
 g⁻¹) K₂O (22.50
 mg.1000 g⁻¹) 0-40 cm.,
 ,
 10m²
 (Shanin, 1977).
 - 464
 - R 619 O 17.
 ,
 (, 5500
 da (Popov and Pavlov, 1966).

92% (Tonev, 2000).

- Latterly, farmers are search for
 - products that provide safer and more
 cost-effective control over a wide range of
 cereal and broadleaf weeds. For this
 purpose, it is necessary to constantly test
 new means of controlling weeds in
 - specific soil type and climatic conditions,
 according to the genotype of the crop
 (Ilieva, 1995; Ilieva and Sabev, 1995;
 Ilieva and Sabev, 1997).

- The requirements of modern
 agriculture constrain a minimal weeds
 , harmful influence, when simultaneously at
 the same time monitoring the influence of
 - chemical agents on growth, development,
 - extraction and structural elements in the
 individual agricultural crops and in
 particular for maize.

- The objective of the present study
 was the tolerance of RM 619 and MO 17
 maize lines and Ruse 464 hybrid to the
 rimsulfuron and nicosulfuron to be
 determined, applied only at optimal doses
 once and twice.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the period 2013-2016 in the
 experimental fields of the IASS
 “Obraztsov chiflik” - Ruse on the soil type
 of highly leached chernozem, with low
 humus content (1.98%), slightly stocked
 with mineral N (10.75 mg. 1000 g⁻¹ soil)
 and mobile P₂O₅ (6.31 mg. 1000 g⁻¹ soil)
 and well stocked with K₂O (22.50 mg.
 1000 g⁻¹ soil) in the layer 0-40 cm., there
 was conducted field experiment with
 maize after Shannin’s perpendicular
 method, with plot size of 10m² (Shanin,
 1977). The hybrid Ruse 464 and his
 parental forms - lines R 619 and O 17
 were studied. The sowing was done in an
 optimal period (in first ten days of April), at
 a density of 5500 plants.da⁻¹ (Popov and
 Pavlov, 1966).

Maize has been grown without cultivation between rows after his predecessor – wheat, when fertilized with $N_{10} P_8 K_8$, as phosphorus fertilizers (superphosphate) are introduced with the main autumn treatment of the soil, and the total amount of nitrogen fertilizer (ammonium nitrate) – was applied before sowing. The application of herbicides (Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK) was done with sprayer pump at a working solution of 20 l.da^{-1} , in phase 4-5 leaf of the culture in optimal doses, once and twice at an interval of 14 to 20 days (Table 1).

For the whole maize growing season a control plot was maintained weed-free, with two cultivations between rows.

1.

Table 1. Variants of the experiment

Variants		Doses - herbicides, g.da^{-1} (ml.da^{-1})	Doses - active substance, g.da^{-1}
1	- Doses - active substance	-	-
2	25 (250 g.kg^{-1}) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg^{-1} rimsulfuron)	3+2	0.75+0.50
3	25 (250 g.kg^{-1}) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg^{-1} rimsulfuron)	5	1.25
4	4CK (40 g.l^{-1}) Mistral 4S (40 g.l^{-1} nicosulfuron)	100+50	4+2
5	4CK (40 g.l^{-1}) Mistral 4S (40 g.l^{-1} nicosulfuron)	150	6

For the purpose of the study, the following traits were reported: phytotoxicity of herbicides on the 7th, 17th and 30th days after application (according to the logarithmic scale (1-9 grades) of EWRS at grade 1 - without damages and at grade 9 - the crop is completely destroyed) and yield of seed, kg.da^{-1} .

Statistical analysis of the results was performed by the method of dispersion analysis for yields, and the differences between the variants were established by Duncan multiple range test with software Statgraphics Plus.

Statgraphics Plus.

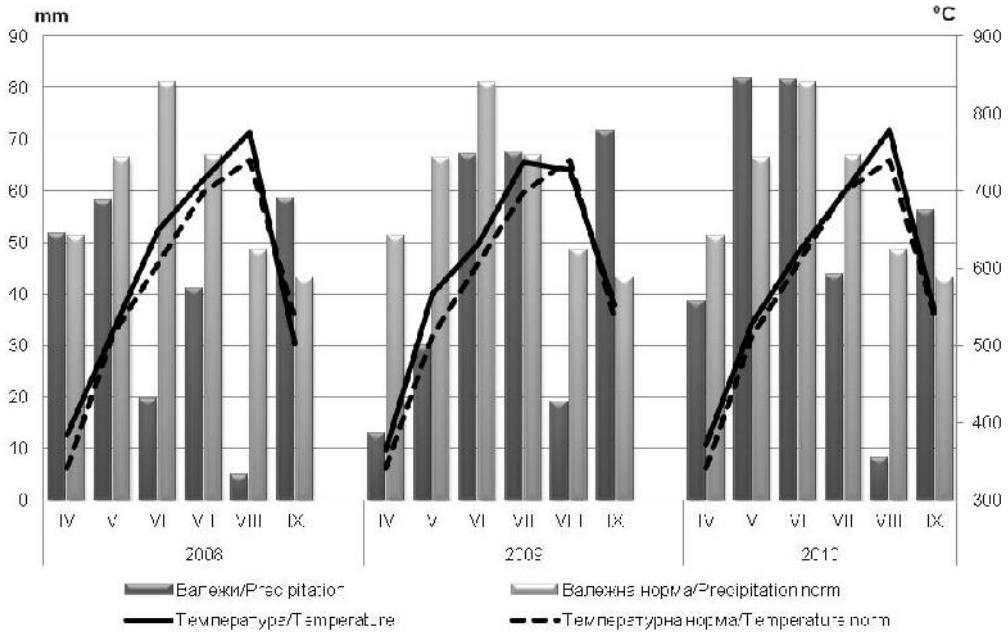
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(2008-2010),
 (1896-2005)
 (1).
 (81,7 mm)
 (81,5 mm),
 (589.6 °C)
 739,8°C,
 2008 2009
 (51,6 mm) (58 mm)
 mm 66,2 mm). 2009
 mm (), 12,7 mm () 29,8
 45% (51,1 mm)
 66.2 mm).
 (2008) 596,18 °C (2009)
 - 572,23 °C.

Climatically the experimental field of the Institute belongs to the area of moderate continental climate. Agrometeorological conditions during the survey period (2008-2010), in terms of temperature sums and sums of rainfalls by months differ as in the individual years both as compared to multiannual average values (climatic norm) for the period 1896-2005.

2010 is characterized with higher soil moisture (Figure 1). Measured rainfalls in April (38.4 mm) and May (81.7 mm) have created favorable conditions for germination, growth and development of maize plants. Precipitation in June (81.5 mm) turned out crucial for the formation of the yield. In the temperature relationship 2010, for the whole maize growing season, is characterized by temperatures (589.6 °C), around the norm (572.2 °C). With higher temperature sums of 779 °C compared to the multiannual rate – 739.8°C, is the month of August, which are characteristic of global warming observed in recent years.

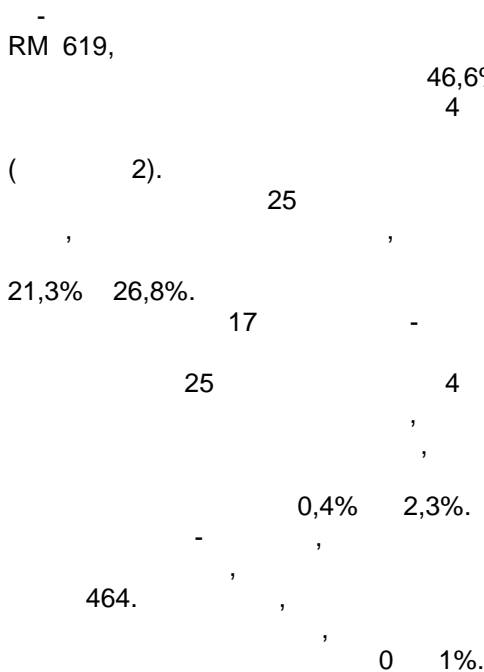
2008 and 2009 are moderately beneficial for maize. The sum of rainfall in 2008 in April (51.6 mm) and May (58 mm) are close to the climatic norm (51.1 mm and 66.2 mm). In 2009, the amount of monthly rainfall for the same period was 12.7 mm (April) and 29.8 mm (May), which are respectively 25% and 45% below the multiannual rate (51.1 mm and 66.2 mm). The temperature sum for the period from April to September is 590,30 °C (2008) and 596,18 °C (for 2009) at a multiannual rate of 572.23 °C. Extremely high temperatures and the significant water stress did not have a negative impact on the development of maize.



. 1.

2008-2010 .

Fig. 1. Average monthly air temperatures and precipitation by month for period 2008-2010



On average, over the three-years period, the highest sensitivity indicates line RM 619, where plant's death rate to 46.6% with the use of the herbicide Mistral 4SK administered at the optimal dose, twice in growing period (Table 2). In the experiment with the herbicide Titus 25 DF, at optimal doses once the percentage of dead plants is respectively 21.3% and 26.8%.

Line 17 shows higher resistance to the applied herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4S, administered in optimal doses, both alone and in a system, as the percentage of dead plants ranges in variants from 0.4% to 2.3%.

The most tolerant, during the research period, was the Ruse 464 hybrid. Compared to parental forms, the percentage of dead plants varies from 0% to 1%.

The statistical analysis of the

464

- experimental data of the Ruse 464 hybrid and its parental forms proves the basic dependencies between the tested factors.

The dispersion analysis showed that between the factors being compared (emerged and dead plants), there were proven differences at a test factor of 5%.

5%.

2.

25

4

RM 619, 17

464

Table 2. Effect of herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4S on the growth of maize lines RM 619, MO 17 and hybrid Ruse 464

Variants	/Doses, g.da ⁻¹ (ml.da ⁻¹)	Number of plants emerged	Number of plants perished	%	LSD Duncan LSD after the method of Duncan
RM 619					
Doses - active substance	-	47	0	0	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	3+2	49	10.4*	21.3	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	5	48	12.9*	26.8	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	100+50	48	22.2*	46.6	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	150	47	1.2*	2.5	
17					
Doses - active substance	-	45	0	0	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	3+2	46	0.2*	0.4	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	5	47	0.5*	1.0	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	100+50	44	1.0*	2.3	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	150	46	0.2*	0.5	
464/hybrid Ruse 464					
Doses - active substance	-	47	0	0	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	3+2	48	0.5*	1.0	
25 (250 g.kg ⁻¹) Titus 25DF (250 g.kg ⁻¹ rimsulfuron)	5	47	0*	0.0	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	100+50	48	0*	0.0	
4CK (40 g.l ⁻¹) Mistral 4S (40 g.l ⁻¹ nicosulfuron)	150	48	0.5*	1.0	

: *, **, ***, LSD<0,5; 0,1;0,01.

(a,b,c . .),

P<0.05

Legend: *, **, *** at LSD<0,5; 0,1;0,01. All variants without *** had no significant differences with the control. The values in a column, followed by different letters (a, b, c, etc.) differed significantly at p <0.05.

30th
3),

17,

7th, 17th
(464

From the phenological observations performed on the 7th, 17th and 30th day after treatment (Table 3), in the maize hybrid Ruse 464 and line MO 17, no visible signs of phytotoxicity were

25 4CK, -
 -
 (1
 EWRS)
 464 17.
 , RM 619 -
 25 -
 4CK, -
 (3-5 -
 EWRS),

observed in both herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK, administered in optimal doses. The herbicides show good selectivity (EWRS scale ball 1) to the maize hybrid Ruse 464 and line MO 17.

For line RM 619, is observed sensibilisation to the herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK, which is expressed in tumor-like formations (ball 3-5 on the EWRS scale), which leads to the suppression of the plants and some of them die.

3. RM 619, MO 17 - 464

Table 3. Selectivity of the herbicides of RM 619 and MO 17 maize lines and Ruse 464 hybrid

/Herbicide		/Day of report	7	17	30
			7 th day	17 th day	30 th day
RM 619					
25 / Titus 25DF	3+5 g.da ⁻¹		4	4	3
	5 g.da ⁻¹		5	5	4
4CK / Mistral 4S	100+50 ml.da ⁻¹		5	3	2
	150 ml.da ⁻¹		3	1	1
MO 17					
25 / Titus 25DF	3+5 g.da ⁻¹		1	1	1
	5 g.da ⁻¹		1	1	1
4CK / Mistral 4S	100+50 ml.da ⁻¹		2	1	1
	150 ml.da ⁻¹		1	1	1
464/Ruse 464					
25 / Titus 25DF	3+5 g.da ⁻¹		1	1	1
	5 g.da ⁻¹		1	1	1
4CK / Mistral 4S	100+50 ml.da ⁻¹		1	1	1

(17, RM 619 4 5. - , (4). - 26% 32% , RM 619, -

In the years of the survey, corn has realized its productive potential by the amount of grain yield to varying degrees under the influence of the factors studied (climate and herbicides). The grain yield of corn lines RM 619 and MO 17 is presented in Tables 4 and 5.

The negative influence of the herbicides on the number of plants, their growth and development affected the yield of grain (Table 4). A greater reduction in yield was observed with the use of herbicides – applied twice, whereas the decrease in line RM 619, which appeared to be more sensitive, is with 26% and 32% compared to the

control variant. The strongest expressed the effect after the uses of Mistral 4SK, followed by Titus 25 DF. Average for the period of study the highest yield was reported in RM 619 line, treated with Titus 25 DF it's 227 kg.da⁻¹, and from the variants with Mistral 4 S it's 209 kg.da⁻¹. From line MO 17 it's obtained yield (average for the period) 262 kg.da⁻¹ (Titus 25 DF), 232 kg.da⁻¹ (Mistral 4) and 244 kg.da⁻¹ (Control). In percent ratio the yields the received by variants with application tested herbicides are close to those obtained from the control, with 7% yield unproven exceedance being considered only by the application of Titus 25DF.

4. (kg.da⁻¹)

control variant. The strongest expressed the effect after the uses of Mistral 4SK, followed by Titus 25 DF. Average for the period of study the highest yield was reported in RM 619 line, treated with Titus 25 DF it's 227 kg.da⁻¹, and from the variants with Mistral 4 S it's 209 kg.da⁻¹. From line MO 17 it's obtained yield (average for the period) 262 kg.da⁻¹ (Titus 25 DF), 232 kg.da⁻¹ (Mistral 4) and 244 kg.da⁻¹ (Control). In percent ratio the yields the received by variants with application tested herbicides are close to those obtained from the control, with 7% yield unproven exceedance being considered only by the application of Titus 25DF.

25

4CK,

Table 4. Grain yield (kg.da-1) of maize inbred lines, treated with herbicide Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK, applied twice

Inbred lines	Treated with herbicide				/ ontrol				% compared to control	Significance
	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period		
25 / Titus 25DF										
RM 619	314	222	144	227	221	384	311	305	74	n.s.
17	368	248	169	262	251	208	273	244	107	n.s.
4CK/ Mistral 4S										
RM 619	200	272	155	209	221	384	311	305	68	n.s.
17	292	239	166	232	251	208	273	244	99	n.s.

: gDp (5,1 0,1%),

gDp5% = 109 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 156 kg.da⁻¹; gDp0.1% = 230 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. -

Legend: gDp (5,1 0,1%), as follows:

gDp5% = 109 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 156 kg.da⁻¹; gDp0.1% = 230 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. - had no significant differences with the control

RM 619 17 (5).
209 kg.da⁻¹ 275 kg.da⁻¹.
5% 32% ().

Trends in grain yield are also maintained in the data on the influence of the single herbicides used on the lines RM 619 and MO 17 (Table 5). The yields obtained in variants range from 209 kg.da⁻¹ to 275 kg.da⁻¹ depending on the herbicide used. As a result of the chemical treatment, the yield was reduced by an average of 5% to 32% compared to the control (K).

5. (kg.da⁻¹)
25 4CK,

Table 5. Grain yields (kg.da⁻¹) of maize inbred lines treated with the herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK, applied once

Inbred lines	Treated with herbicide				/ ontrol				% compared to control	Significance
	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period		
25 / Titus 25DF										
RM 619	200	272	155	209	221	384	311	305	68	n.s.
17	292	239	166	232	251	208	273	244	95	n.s.
4CK/ Mistral 4S										
RM 619	301	367	157	275	221	384	311	305	90	n.s.
17	355	291	88	245	251	208	273	244	100	n.s.

: gDp (5,1 0,1%),
gDp5% = 109 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 156 kg.da⁻¹; gDp0.1% = 230 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. -
Legend: gDp (5,1 0,1%), as follows:
gDp5% = 109 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 156 kg.da⁻¹; gDp0.1% = 230 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. - had no significant differences with the control

RM 619
17 25 4
464
464,
25
718 kg.da⁻¹ (6).
(705 kg.da⁻¹) 1%,

Herbicides Titus 25 DF and Mistral 4 SK did not negative effect at seed productivity on lines RM 619 and MO 17, as have not been established proven differences were found in the values of this indicator.

The Ruse 464 hybrid exhibits a higher degree of resistance to applied herbicides than the tested lines. On average, for the period of the experiment the Ruse 464 hybrid, the highest yield was obtained at the administration of the herbicide Titus 25DF administered twice - 718 kg.da⁻¹(Table 6). The increase in yield compared to the control (705 kg.da⁻¹) is 1%, which is not statistically proven.

6. (kg.da⁻¹)
25 4CK, 464

Table 6. Grain yield (kg.da⁻¹) from the Ruse 464 hybrid, treated with the herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK, applied twice and once

Inbred lines	Treated with herbicide				/ ontrol				% compared to control	Significance
	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period	2008	2009	2010	Avarage for the period		
/Applied twice										
25 Titus 25DF	795	754	606	718	634	776	706	705	101	n.s.
4CK Mistral 4S	843	831	382	685	634	776	706	705	97	n.s.
/Applied once										
25 Titus 25DF	720	663	583	655	634	776	706	705	92	n.s.
4CK Mistral 4S	824	794	444	687	634	776	706	705	97	n.s.

: gDp (5,1 0,1%), : gDp5% = 130 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 186 kg.da⁻¹; gDp0.1% = 274 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. -
/ Legend: gDp (5,1 0,1%), as follows: gDp5% = 130 kg.da⁻¹; gDp1% = 186 kg.da⁻¹;
gDp0.1% = 274 kg.da⁻¹; n.s. - had no significant differences with the control

In all variants, there was a positive or negative difference in grain yield which was minimal and there was no statistically significant difference between the herbicide application variants and the control variants.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Mean for the study period, line RM 619 shows a higher sensitivity to the used herbicides in the variants, treated with Mistral 4SK, the death rate was 46.6% and Titus 25 DF - 26.8%.

2. Percentage of the dead plants in line MO 17 towards the herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4S is varying from 0.4% to 2.3%.

3. The grain yield obtained from the two inbred maize lines treated with the herbicides Titus 25DF and Mistral 4SK is lower than the untreated control of the respective genotype. A higher yield of 7.0% compared to the control was reported only for line MO 17, of the variant with a double application of Titus 25 DF.

4. The Ruse 464 hybrid exhibits a higher degree of resistance to the used herbicides applied once and in a system

1.	RM 619,	-	-
4	,		
46,6%,	25	26,8%.	
2.		17,	
		25	
4		0,4%	2,3%.
3.	,		
		25	
4	-	-	
			7%
	17,		
	25	.	
4.		464	

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