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## Quality of greenhouse tomatoes cultivated under different irrigation levels

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### SUMMARY

A large volume of irrigation water is used in the greenhouse vegetable cultivation. An opportunity to save water is application of so-called deficit irrigation or supplemental irrigation. Its application is related to how water deficit affects yield and quality of production. A long plots design experiment is conducted during 2017 in an unheated plastic greenhouse at the Chelopechene experimental field, Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection "Nikola Pushkarov", Sofia on tomatoes in Chromic Luvisols.

*Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef",

Tomato variety is *Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef" cultivated under drip irrigation and mulching. Some indicators of the quality of the tomato fruits obtained at different levels of irrigation 100 %, 80%,

60 %

: 100 %, 80%,

35%

2016  
- 141,4

(MAFF, 2017).

(Banjaw et al., 2017).

(Nahar and Gretzmacher, 2002).

(Shao et al., 2014)  
(Dumas et al., 2003).

60 % of optimal irrigation rate and evapotranspiration-based irrigation rate were analyzed in this study.

Physicochemical analyzes to determine of some quality indicators of the studied tomato variety were performed. The statistical processing of the results obtained under different levels of irrigation produced statistically significant differences between the variants in terms of vitamin C and active acidity.

**Key words:** tomato, greenhouse, drip irrigation, vitamin C

## INTRODUCTION

It is well known that tomato is important vegetable crop cultivated in Bulgaria with high consumption rate. Tomato fruits are rich in antioxidants, carotenoids, lycopene, vitamin C and A and have high nutritional value. A 141.4 thousand tons tomato of which 35% from greenhouses was produced in Bulgaria in 2016. Tomatoes have largest share of vegetables production in Bulgaria (MAFF, 2017). A large volume of irrigation water is used in the greenhouse cultivation and an opportunity to save water is application of so-called deficit irrigation. The deficit irrigation allows some water stress during a certain crop stage or the whole irrigation season without a significant reduction in yield and production quality (Banjaw et al., 2017). Glucose, fructose, sucrose, malic acid, ascorbic acid and citric acid content increased significantly with water stress (Nahar and Gretzmacher, 2002). Decreased level of irrigation exerted beneficial effects to total soluble solid and soluble sugar contents (Shao et al., 2014) and lycopene (Dumas et al., 2003).

The aim of this study was to analyze some indicators of the quality of the tomato production obtained at different levels of irrigation.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

2017 . -  
 " (42°73'N, 23°46'E 550 m  
 )  
*Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef",  
 40 cm -  
 % - 21.9  
 - 1.46 g cm<sup>-3</sup>.  
 288 m<sup>2</sup>.  
 -  
 : (T1) -  
 100%  
 ( 2) - 60% 90% ;  
 ; (T3) - 80% ; (T4) -  
 100%  
 A.  
 a  
 4 18 m<sup>2</sup> e  
 (+UV 15 mic/1.20 m).  
 4  
 :  
 ;  
 „Kern“; pH- „Hanna“;  
 2,6- 0,1n NaOH;  
 ;

The experiment was conducted in 2017 in unheated plastic greenhouse located in the Chelopechene experimental field of the Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection "Nikola Pushkarov" (42° 44' 23" N, 23° 28' 4" E and 550 m a.s.l.), Sofia region on drip irrigated tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* "Big Beef") under mulch. The climate is moderate continental. The soil type is Chromic Luvisol. For the 40-cm deep soil layer the average values are: field capacity - 21.9 % and dry bulk density - 1.46 g cm<sup>-3</sup>.

The experimental area in the greenhouse was 288 m<sup>2</sup>. A one-factor experiment was conducted with an experimental factor - irrigation. The following treatments were tested: (T1) - optimal irrigation in pre-irrigation soil moisture 85-90% of the field capacity; (T2) - 60% of optimal irrigation rate; (T3) - 80% of optimal irrigation rate; (T4) - 100% evapotranspiration-based irrigation rate. The experimental treatments were arranged according to the method with long plots in four replications; each plot has a surface of 18 m<sup>2</sup> and consisted of twin rows. A black plastic mulch (+UV 15 mic/1.20 m) was used to suppress weeds and conserve water.

Four uniform, mature and disease-free fruits at harvest were selected from each plot and used for physicochemical analysis. The fruits were homogenized in a blender, and then the contents of total soluble solids (TSS), active acidity (pH), titratable acidity (TA) reducing sugars (RS), vitamin C (VC), were measured. TSS was determined by a Moisture analyzer "Kern", pH was determined by a pH Meter "Hanna", TA was determined by titrating diluted tomato product to pH 8.00 with 0.1n NaOH, VC was determined by titrating with 2.6-Dichlorophenol-indophenol sodium salt (VC C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NNaO<sub>2</sub>), method of Muri, reducing sugars was determined by method of Schoorl.

In statistical processing of the

$$\frac{(F_{exp})}{(F_{crit})}$$

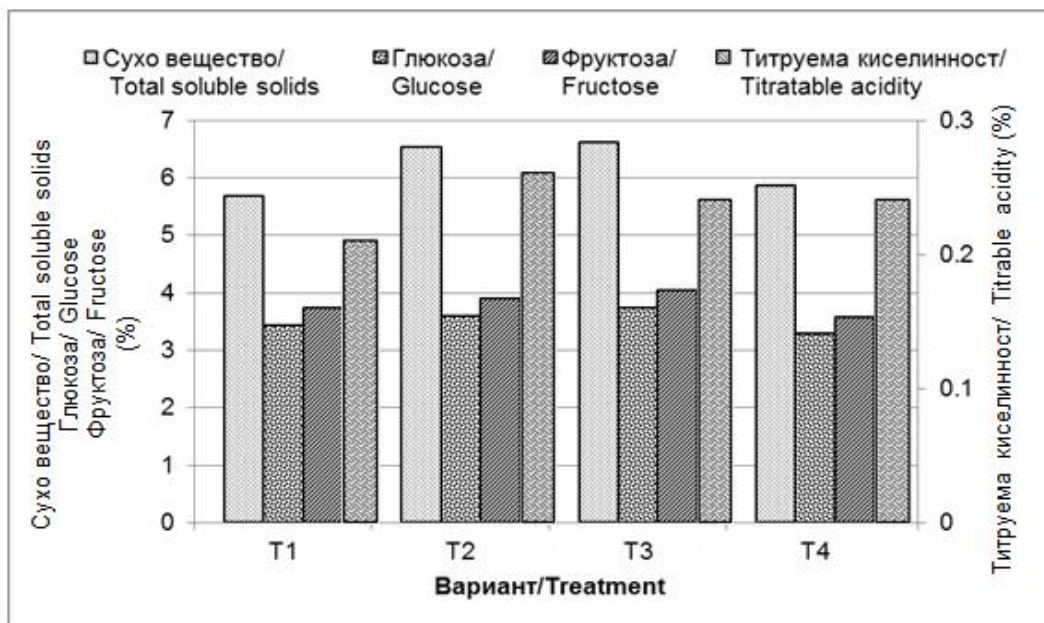
- results obtained, the rank of evidence of
- differences between the different
- treatments was determined by comparing
- the experimentally obtained value of the
- Fisher criterion ( $F_{exp}$ ) with its critical value
- ( $F_{crit}$ ). In case where the experimentally
- obtained value is higher, there is
- statistically significant difference between
- the treatments.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

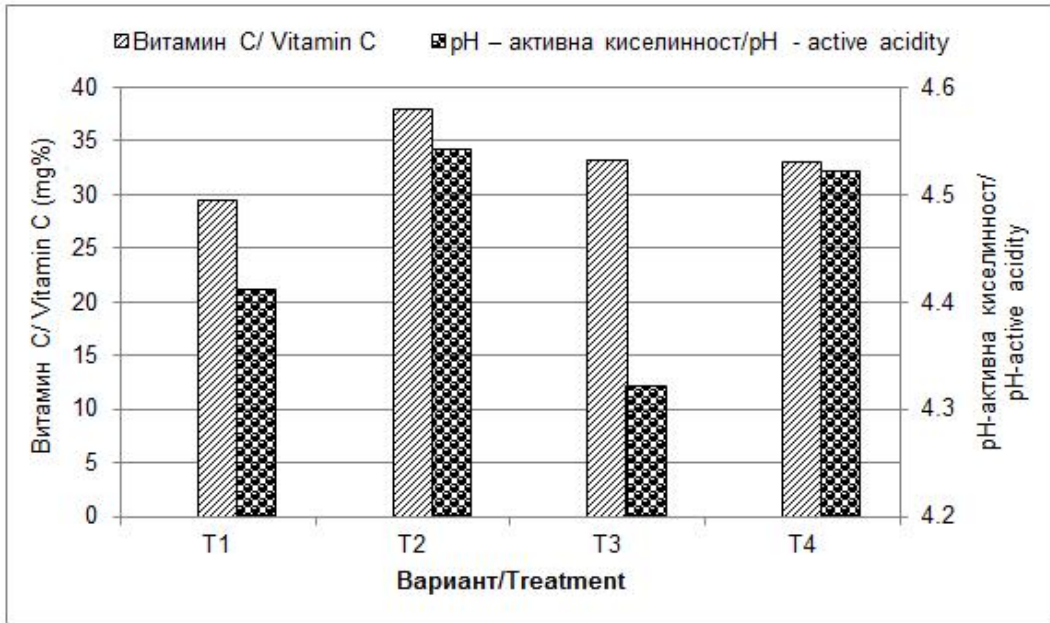
- The results of the analysis of fruit
- quality are presented in Figure. 1 and
- Figure. 2. Total soluble solids content was
- higher in treatment T3 and T2 with lower
- irrigation rate compared to the treatment
- T1 with 100% irrigation rate and treatment
- T4 with evapotranspiration-based
- irrigation rate. Previous studies also
- reported that a certain level of water
- stress can improve the tomato fruit quality
- and increase total soluble solids content
- (Du et al., 2017; Mitchell et al., 1991; Sun
- et al., 2013). This is mainly due to the
- increased synthase of sucrose (Qi et al.,
- 2003).

et al., 2017; Mitchell et al., 1991; Sun et al., 2013).

(Qi et al., 2003).



1.  
Fig. 1. Physicochemical indicators of tomato fruits



**2. PH and vitamin C content in tomato fruits**

The results of the statistical analysis are presented in Table 1 and Table 2. Table 1 and Table 2 show that there were significant differences in the Total soluble solids indicator between the different treatments, which is the expected result, since they are implemented at different levels of irrigation. Only between treatment T1 and T4 and between T2 and T3 the differences were not statistically significant.

The figures show that Titratable acidity (Figure 1) and Vitamin C (Figure 2) content were higher in treatment T2 with the lowest irrigation rate and least under optimal irrigation (treatment T1). The same trend was reported in previous studies (Veit-Köhler et al., 1991; Yang et al., 2017) due to the lower accumulation of water in the fruits (Mitchell et al., 1991; Guichard et al., 1999). Regarding the vitamin C indicator, higher values were obtained in all treatments compared to T1 and for treatment T2 the difference was also statistically proven (Table 1 and

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( 1 2) -  
 1, -  
 (pH) . A -  
 2 ( 2). -  
 ( Yang et al., -  
 2017). -  
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 2 4. -

Table 2). Regarding to the titratable acidity content (Table 1 and Table 2) higher values were obtained for all treatments compared to T1, but the differences were not statistically significant. Active acidity (pH) was higher in treatment T2 (Figure 2). These results agree with other studies (Yang et al., 2017). Regarding to the active acidity (Table 1 and Table 2) a statistically significant lower value of this indicator was found compared to T2 and T4.

1.

**P=0.05; 0.01 0.001**

**Table 1. Comparative assessment between all treatments by Fisher criteria at levels of significance P=0.05; 0.01 and 0.001**

/ Indicators	Between all treatments	
	F <sub>exp</sub>	Rank
/ Total soluble solids	9.90	**
/ Vitamin C	3.94	*
/ Titratable acidity	1.55	-
pH – / pH - active acidity	3.34	-
/ Glucose	0.35	-
/ Fructose	0.33	-

: F<sub>crit</sub> = 3.49; 5.95; 10.80 P=0.05; 0.01 0.001

In critical values of the criterion: F<sub>crit</sub> = 3.49; 5.95; 10.80 for P=0.05; 0.01 0.001, respectively

2.

**P=0.05; 0.01 0.001**

**Table 2. Comparative assessment between treatments by Fisher criteria at levels of significance P=0.05; 0.01 and 0.001**

Indicators	T1 T2 Between T1 and T2		T1 T3 Between T1 and T3		T1 T4 Between T1 and T4		T2 T3 Between T2 and T3		T2 T4 Between T2 and T4		T3 T4 Between T3 and T4	
	F <sub>exp</sub>	R	F <sub>exp</sub>	R	F <sub>exp</sub>	R	F <sub>exp</sub>	R	F <sub>exp</sub>	R	F <sub>exp</sub>	R
	Total soluble solids	62.24	***	11.46	*	2.13	-	0.07	-	32.67	**	7.19
Vitamin C	8.20	*	1.94	-	1.94	-	3.74	-	4.92	-	0.02	-
Titratable acidity	3.65	-	2.27	-	3.56	-	0.27	-	0.61	-	0.03	-
pH –	1.91	-	1.78	-	1.95	-	7.31	*	0.03	-	8.97	*
pH - active acidity												
/ Glucose	0.13	-	0.78	-	0.11	-	0.11	-	0.30	-	0.79	-
/ Fructose	0.13	-	0.78	-	0.08	-	0.11	-	0.26	-	0.74	-

: F<sub>crit</sub>= 5.99; 13.75; 35.51 P=0.05; 0.01 0.001

In critical values of the criterion: F<sub>crit</sub>= 5.99; 13.75; 35.51 for P=0.05; 0.01 0.001, respectively

T4. ( T3 1) -  
 2016). - (Ripoll et al.  
 2 3  
 2). ( 1

Glucose and fructose content (Figure 1) was higher in treatment T3 and least in T4. In other studies also reported that under deficit irrigation more sugars are accumulated. (Ripoll et al. 2016). Higher average reducing sugars content were occurred in treatments T2 and T3 with lower irrigation rates applied but the differences were not statistically significant (Table 1 and Table 2).

## CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained show that appropriate water deficit can have a positive effect on fruit quality. In present study the highest content of glucose, fructose and total soluble solids were occurred in irrigation with 60% of the optimal irrigation rate and the highest values of vitamin C, titratable acidity and active acidity were occurred in irrigation with 80% of the optimal irrigation rate.

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## ***Ocimum americanum* L. ( )**

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2 1407 , .“ ” 53,

### **Obtaining of bioactive extract from *Ocimum americanum* L. using the method of extraction in low temperatures with the view of its practical application**

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#### **SUMMARY**

*Ocimum americanum* L. ( ),

The aim of the current study is to receive bioactive extract, containing Eugenol, from dry leaves of *Ocimum americanum* L., grown in the Botanical garden and part of the Medicinal plants collection of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources - Sadovo. The dried leaf is processed by starting the process line including rehydrating with distilled water, extracting by enzymatic digestion of the cell walls for maximum preservation of the biologically active substances without change. Chromatographic analysis revealed peak in Evgenol exit time.

This proves that biologically active

substances are released from the cell without the use of organic solvents and high temperature.

- For further proof of the enzymatic digestion of the plant cell, microscopic observation of a fresh basil leaf epidermis and an extract obtained after the enzyme digestion was made.

**Key words:** bioactive extract, Eugenol, *Ocimum americanum* L., *in vitro*, shock freezing, enzyme extraction, lyophilization

**INTRODUCTION**

Basil is a plant whose leaves are used as a spice around the world. The tropics of Asia and Africa are considered to be its place of origin. It is considered that the Indians first started using it, but today it is an integral part of Thailand, Italian, Vietnamese and Laos cuisine. There are over 60 varieties of basil that differ in appearance and taste. Some varieties even offer unique flavors of lemon, anise and cinnamon.

*Ocimum americanum* (Syn. *Ocimum canum*) belongs to *Lamiaceae*. There are three varieties – lemon, cinnamon and mint.

Basil is also known for its healing properties. It is an excellent source of vitamins K, A and C, minerals such as iron, calcium, manganese, magnesium, potassium, and the essential oil of the leaves is rich in Eugenol, which has a strong antimicrobial action (Avetisyan et al., 2017; Amit et al., 2014).

It is established that the essential oil obtained from *O. americanum* exhibits antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptomyces pyogenes*, *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhosa*. It also has antifungal activity (Shadia et al., 2007).

It has a strong anti-inflammatory effect and is extremely effective in fighting inflammation of the gut and rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, it contains flavonoids

substances are released from the cell without the use of organic solvents and high temperature.

- For further proof of the enzymatic digestion of the plant cell, microscopic observation of a fresh basil leaf epidermis and an extract obtained after the enzyme digestion was made.

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## INTRODUCTION

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al., 2012).

(Benedec et

that provide protection at the cellular level and against unwanted bacterial development (Benedec et al., 2012).

Basil tea is useful after eating because it soothes irritated stomach, helps with diarrhea, ulcer, urinary tract infections and even anorexia. Basil oil is often used to repel flies and mosquitoes. It also kills their larvae.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The investigations were conducted on dry leaves of *O. americanum*, grown under greenhouse conditions in IPGR - Sadovo. The foliage is pre-dried at room temperature. The dry plant material is mixed with 1:10 distilled water (20 g leaf weight: 200 ml distilled water). To the solution are added 1% citric acid and the following enzymes: DeniLight (Lipase), Lipopan (Lipase), Fungamyl 4000 SG (Alpha Amylase), Celluclast 1.5 L (Cellulose) at 0.5 g each to degrade the cell walls. The process was continued for 72 hours at room temperature. Half of the resulting solution was separated to determine microbial activity. The remainder of the solution was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm. at 7°C. In the solution thus obtained, the plant mass should be with destroyed cell walls and released biologically active substances therein.

After centrifugation, the supernatant was filtered off and subjected to chromatographic analysis. The first filtration was done through nonwoven fabric, the second filtration was through a 100 µ filter pore paper and a third filtration through a 40 µ pore filter paper. Finally, a Cartridge filtration was made in which the pore size was 0.45 m.

Chromatographic analysis was performed under the following conditions: HP Agilent 1260 Infinity Quaternary LC Apparatus, DAD [ = 270 nm], RP-C18

*O. americanum*,

1:10 (20g  
).

: 200ml

1%

: DeniLight

( ), Lipopan ( ), Fungamyl 4000  
SG ( ), Celluclast 1,5 L  
( ) 0,5 g

72h

10 000 /min. t 7° C.

100 µ

40 µ.

0,45 µ.

: HP  
Agilent 1260 Infinity Quaternary LC, DAD  
[ =270 nm], RP-C18 [250 mm],

(H<sub>2</sub>O) : MeOH [70:30].

40

1%

[250 mm], and a 1% Acetic Acid (H<sub>2</sub>O): MeOH [70:30].

To prove the degradation of the cell wall, microscopic observation was made, using of Olympos microscope, at a total X40 magnification of a fresh leaf epidermis and a preparation of the resulting solution after enzymatic digestion.

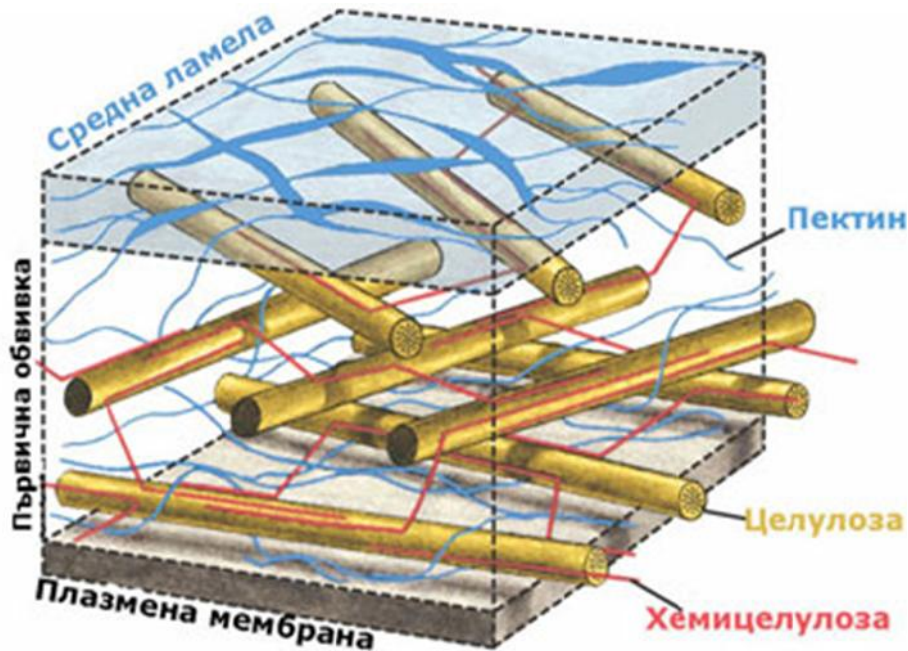
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The applied methodology proved the possibility of the plant cell shell being destroyed without the use of organic solvents and high temperature. This is due to the enzymes DeniLight (Lipase), Lipopan (Lipase), Fungamyl 4000 SG (Alpha Amylase), Celluclast 1.5 L (Cellulose).

The wall of the plant cell is made up of cellulose microfibrils immersed in a highly hydrated matrix of hemicelluloses, pectin substances and small amounts of glycoproteins and lipids (Figure 1) (<http://www.mylessons.net/index.php/lectures-bg/13-cell-bg?showall=&start=15>).

DeniLight ( ), Lipopan ( ), Fungamyl 4000 SG ( ), Celluclast 1,5 L ( ).

( 1) <http://www.mylessons.net/index.php/lectures-bg/13-cell-bg?showall=&start=15>.



. 1.

Fig. 1. Structure of the cell wall

- Cellulose is the main component of  
- the plant cell wall and is the most  
- common structural polysaccharide in the  
- plant world. It is made up of  
- interconnected, repeating glycosylation  
- monomers. It possesses good  
- mechanical and chemical resistance. It is  
- insoluble in water, weak acids and bases,  
- and simple organic solvents. The cell wall  
- matrix is composed of hemicelluloses,  
- pectin substances and glycoproteins.  
- Hemicelluloses are long, unbranched  
- chain polysaccharides, mainly made of  
- xylose and mannose, and small amounts  
- of arabinose and galactose. Their  
- chemical composition varies greatly  
- between cell types and among taxonomic  
- groups. They restrict cell wall elasticity by  
- binding hydrogen bonds to cellulose  
- microfibrils and fixing their positions  
- relative to each other. Pectins are  
- calcium and magnesium salts of  
- galacturonic acid and arabinose. They  
- have highly branched molecules with no  
- definite spatial orientation. Pectins form  
- the entire middle lamella that binds  
- neighboring cells and is contained in  
- large quantities in the primary cell  
- envelope (up to 65%). They are highly  
- hygroscopic polysaccharides and have  
- the ability to swallow and retain  
- significant amounts of water.  
- Glycoproteins are either structural  
- proteins or enzymes. The most well-  
- known structural structurally  
- glycoproteins are the extensions which  
- heal the cell wall and reduce its  
- expansion and elasticity (Terziyski et al.,  
- 1998).

( 65%).

(Terziyski et al., 1998).

- The chromatographic analysis of  
- the supernatant showed a peak in the  
- area of Eugenol detection time,  
- demonstrating that the cell wall was  
- destroyed and the biologically active  
- substances from the cell were transferred  
- to the aqueous solution without the use of  
- organic solvents and high temperature  
- (Figure 2)

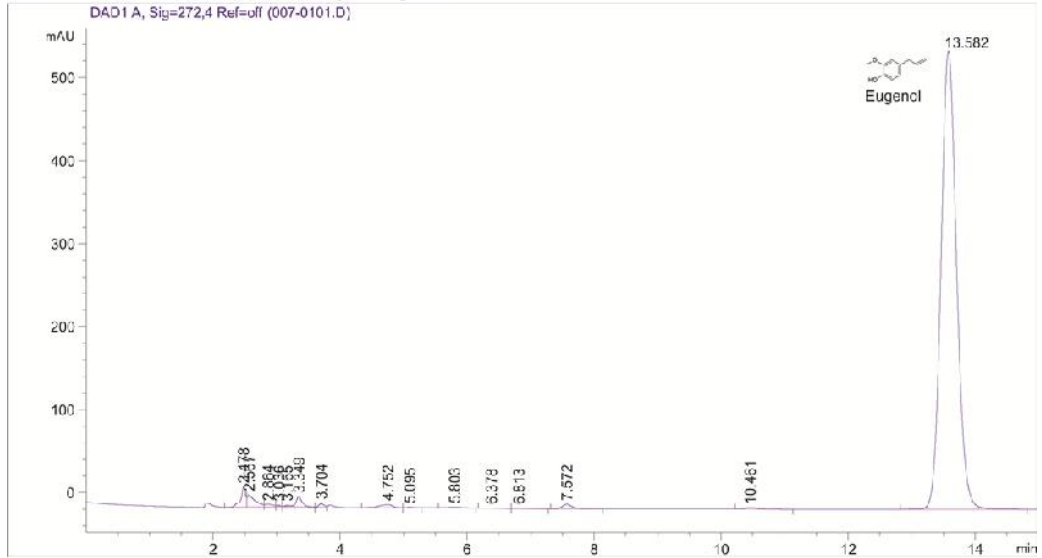
( 2).

Data File C:\Chem32\1\Data\007-0101.D  
 Sample Name: Ocimum-Leaves 1:16

=====

Acq. Operator : SYSTEM	Seq. Line : 1
Acq. Instrument : HPLC 1260	Location : 7
Injection Date : 4/20/2018 1:35:53 PM	Inj : 1
	Inj Volume : 10.000 µl

Method : C:\CHEM32\1\METHODS\Eugenol.M  
 Last changed : 4/20/2018 12:04:56 PM by SYSTEM  
 Additional Info : Peak(s) manually integrated



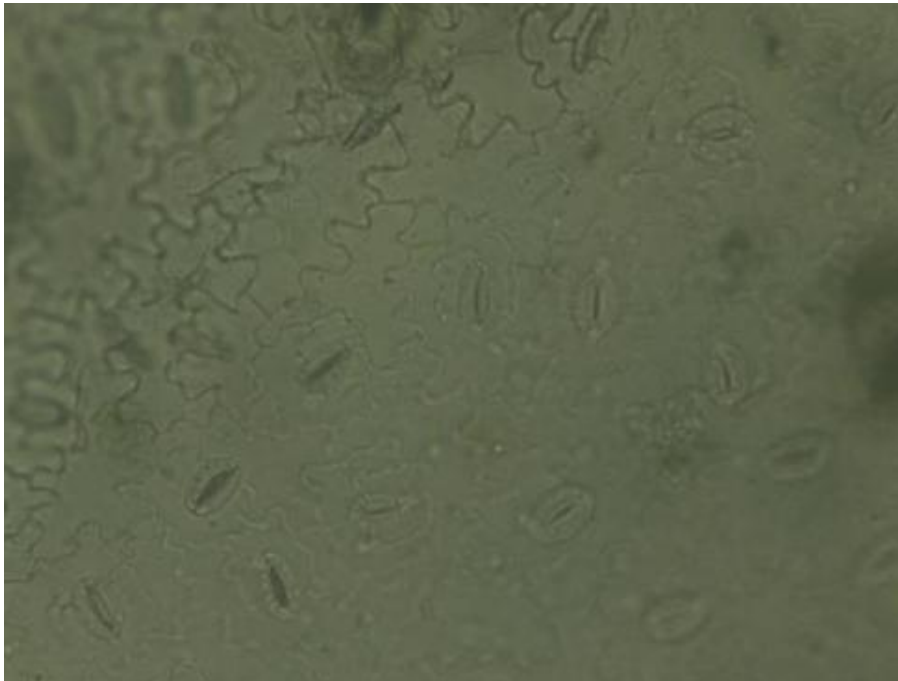
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**Fig. 2. Chromatographical analysis for quality determination of presence of Eugenol**

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*americanum.* 4

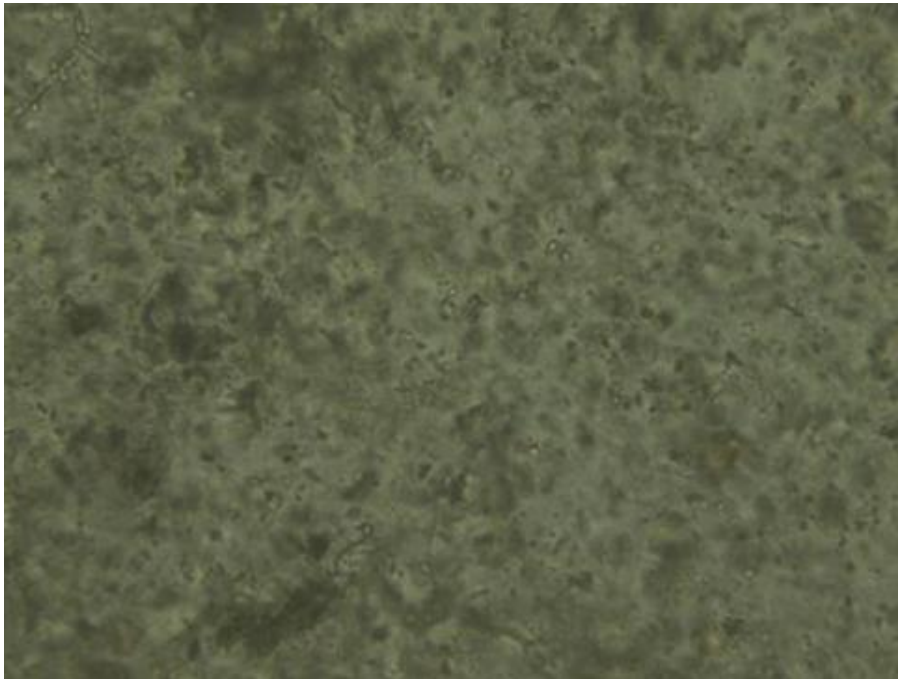
Further evidence of the destruction of plant cells wall is the observation done under the microscope (Figures 3 and 4). Figure 3 shows clearly distinct epidermal cells of *O. americanum*.

Figure 4 shows the presence of fragments resulting from enzymatic cell wall degradation. Fragments of a different nature are observed, indicating the presence of intracellular elements and parts of the cell wall.



. 3.  
Fig. 3. *O. americanum* cells

*O. americanum*



. 4.  
*O. americanum*  
Fig. 4. *O. americanum* leaf mass after enzyme treatment

## CONCLUSIONS

The study shows that the plant cell wall can be destroyed without the use of organic solvents and high temperature.

This method is applicable to all types of biological matter from which it is intended to obtain a finished extract with a preserved maximum amount of biologically active components unchanged during processing. This is only achieved by selecting the conditions as well as the types of enzymes used in the process so as to maximize the natural processes taking place in nature.

This experiment demonstrates that direct enzyme treatment provides for the release of the substances present inside the cell and in the cell wall layers. In this way a highly effective biologically active extract of the feedstock is obtained, only water, citric acid and target enzymes being used for the treatment. It is an intermediate feedstock that can be used directly for incorporation in the production of a finite biologically active natural product.

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## ***Calendula officinalis* L.**

4122

### **Regeneration of explants of the species *Calendula officinalis* L.**

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#### **SUMMARY**

*Calendula officinalis* L.

G1 - QL 1.0 mg/l TDZ,  
0.05 mg/L IBA 0.03 mg/l GA), G2 (MS  
1.0 mg/l BAP, 0.05 mg/l IBA 0.03  
mg/l GA), G3 (QL 1.0 BAP mg/l,  
0.05 mg/L IBA 0.03 mg/l GA) G4 (MS  
1.0 mg/l TDZ, 0.05 mg/L IBA  
0.03 mg/l GA.

2-3

G4

$\bar{X} = 0.8$   
*Calendula officinalis* L.

*Calendula*

5

1

Murashige & Skoog

1.0 mg/l TDZ, 0.05 mg/l IBA 0.03 mg/l GA.

: *in vitro*,

, *Calendula officinalis* L.

We have explored the possibility of creating an effective *Calendula officinalis* L. leaf explants regeneration system by testing four types of modified G1 - QL culture media with 1.0 mg/l TDZ added, 0.05 mg/L IBA and 0.03 mg/l GA), G2 (MS with 1.0 mg/l BAP, 0.05 mg/l IBA and 0.03 mg/l GA), G3 (QL with 1.0 BAP mg/l, 0.05 mg/L IBA and 0.03 mg/G4 (MS with 1.0 mg/l TDZ added, 0.05 mg/L IBA and 0.03 mg/l GA. For the regeneration study, leaves are used from the entire plant part. They are injured at 2-3 sites across the central nerve. The largest number of regenerated leaf explants with one regenerant was observed in variant G4  $\bar{X} = 0.8$  number. In the case of *Calendula officinalis* L., foliar explant regeneration with a maximum of 5 obtained explants of 1 layered leaf in modified Murashige & Skoog broth with added hormones 1.0 mg/l TDZ, 0.05 mg/l IBA and 0.03 mg/l GA was observed.

**Key words:** *in vitro*, medical species, auxins, cytokines, regeneration, *Calendula officinalis* L.

## INTRODUCTION

The species *Calendula officinalis* L. is an annual herbaceous plant of the Asteraceae family. It is grown as a decorative plant throughout Europe (Evstatieva, 2001; Atanasova and Nedkov 2004). The marigold extract has an antiviral and anti-inflammatory property (Jimenez et al., 2006). Methanol and ethanol extract of the species give good antifungal results (Efstratiou et al., 2012). *Calendula* preparations are used in severe healing wounds, in respiratory diseases. In folk medicine marigold is widely used – from its use for tea to making creams for skin problems (Isaev, 1977).

Application of the *in vitro* methods of *C. officinalis* allows for the study of the species reaction under controlled conditions. Author Victorio (2008) found that Murashige & Skoog (1962) without added hormones impeded the development of the species. The interaction between axins and cytokines and the use of the exact concentration to the requirements of the plant species is important for the growth and differentiation of plant cells (Turk t al., 1994; Durkovic, 2003; Kyozyuka, 2007). The authors Sriskandarajah et al., (1990) investigated the difference in leaf age and found that the young leaves were prone to callus formation. It has been investigated that 4 to 7 leaves of explants have the best regenerative capacity (Welander et al., 1992).

For *Plantago major* L., post-5 weeks recovery from MS assay with added indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) and 1.0 mg/l TDZ was observed. The resulting explants were later adapted to the environment (Li, 2005).

The aim of the present experiment is to study the regenerative potential of *in vitro* explants of *Calendula officinalis* L. by studying four types of modified nutrient media.

*Calendula officinalis* L.  
Asteraceae.  
(Evstatieva, 2001; Atanasova and Nedkov 2004).  
(Jimenez et al., 2006).  
(Efstratiou et al., 2012).  
(Isaev, 1977).  
*in vitro*  
*C. officinalis*  
Victorio (2008)  
Murashige & Skoog (1962)  
(Turk t al., 1994; Durkovic, 2003; Kyozyuka, 2007).  
Sriskandarajah et al., (1990)  
4 7  
(Welander et al., 1992).  
*Plantago major*  
L.  
MS 0.2 mg/l  
indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) 1.0 mg/l TDZ.  
(Li, 2005).  
*in vitro*  
*Calendula officinalis* L.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

*in vitro*  
*C. officinalis*  
 MS,  
 2-3  
 ( TDZ 1).  
 1.

- To examine the regeneration  
 - capacity of *in vitro* grown plants of *C.*  
 - *officinalis*, leaf explants developed on MS  
 basic media without growth regulators  
 included. The leaves are used throughout  
 the plant. They are injured at 2-3 sites,  
 across the central nerve, and laid down  
 with their adaxial surface to the  
 - nutrient medium.

- The experiment included four  
 - nutrient media developed according to the  
 - purpose of the study by Assoc. Prof. Dr.  
 - Violeta Kondakova (Table 1). The addition  
 - of the TDZ cytokinin was performed after  
 - autoclaving of the culture medium in  
 laminar box.

**Table 1. Nutritional media for adventitious organogenesis**

<b>G1</b>	Quorin & Lepoivre (1977)	TDZ 1mg/l	IBA 0.05 mg/l	GA 0.03 mg/l
<b>G2</b>	Murashige & Skoog (1962)	BAP 1 mg/l	IBA 0.05 mg/l	GA 0.03 mg/l
<b>G3</b>	Quorin & Lepoivre (1977)	BAP 1 mg/l	IBA 0.05 mg/l	GA 0.03 mg/l
<b>G4</b>	Murashige & Skoog (1962)	TDZ 1mg/l	IBA 0.05 mg/l	GA 0.03 mg/l

10 ml  
 30 g/l  
 , 7 g/l 5.6 pH.  
 30  
 24±2°C  
 16 8  
 3000 lx.

- The explants are placed in petri  
 - dishes and then closed with a colorless  
 - adhesive foil to prevent infection. Each  
 - petri dish contains 10 ml of culture  
 - medium.

- The nutrient media used for  
 - regeneration contained 30 g/l sucrose, 7  
 - g/l agar and 5.6 pH. The prepared media  
 are stored in cool and dark rooms for up  
 to 30 days prior to use.

Exploitation of the explants in the  
 test steps was carried out in a chamber  
 with a temperature of 24 ± 2°C and a  
 photoperiod of 16 hours of light and 8  
 hours of darkness with 3000 lx of light.

The reported ratios are the number  
 of regenerated explants and regenerants  
 obtained from one explant.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

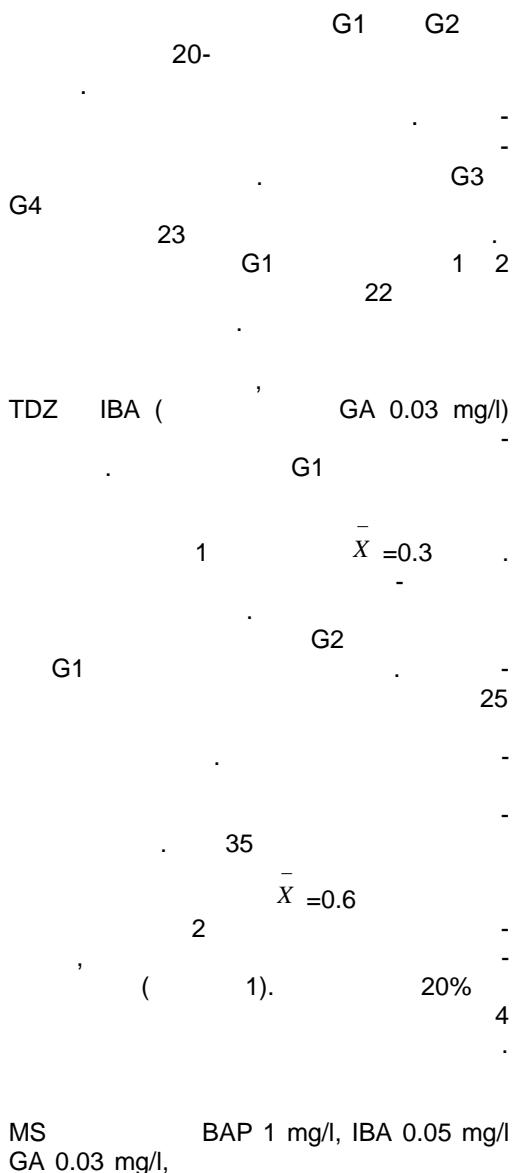
The development of a regeneration system is determined by the genotype requirement of the species. The factors that affect the regeneration potential are different: the explant genotype, the composition of the nutrient media.

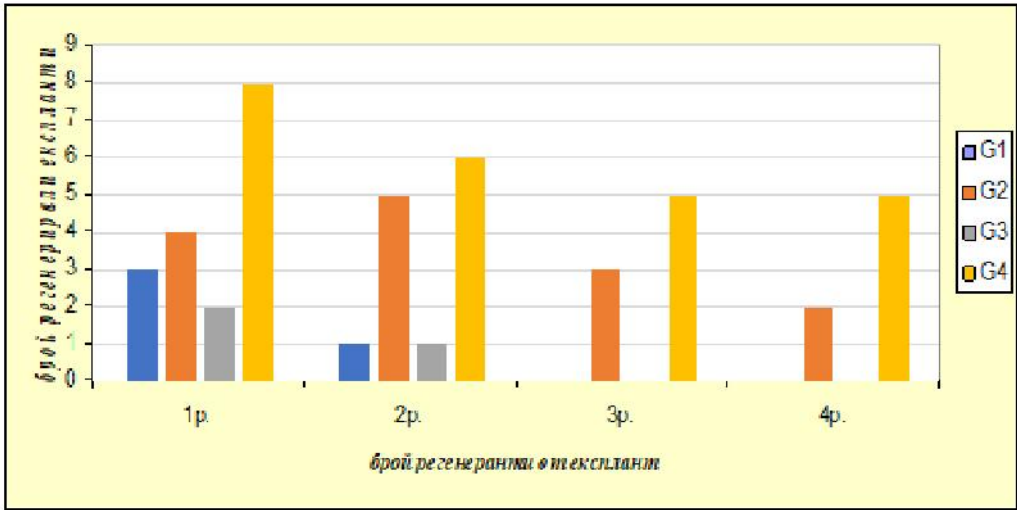
Visual observations of leaf segment regeneration in nutrient media G1 and G2 were recorded after the 20th day of the trial. Regeneration is also associated with callus induction with white color. Callus tissues are located on the surface of the explant. In G3 and G4 variants leaf segment segments are counted after 23 days of betting of the test.

In variant G1 stands out with 1 and 2 received regenerators on the 22nd day of betting of the trial. By comparing the effect of different cytokinin and auxin supplements, it was found that the combination of TDZ and IBA (with the addition of GA 0.03 mg / l) had a regenerative stimulating effect. In variant G1, maximum recurrences of leaf explant of 1 number with  $\bar{X} = 0.3$  were observed. These results are best for the study.

The G2 nutrient medium differs from G1 on the results obtained. The regeneration process was observed after 25 days of experimentation with white callus formation. The regeneration dynamics of leaf explants ranged from one to four in the modified nutrient media.

On the 35th day of experimentation,  $\bar{X} = 0.6$  follicular explants with 2 regenerants formed, which are very viable and rising rapidly, are observed (Figure 1). From 20% of the deposited micro-plants are recorded with 4 regenerated leaves per sheet. The reason for these results is due to the MS main nutrient medium with added BAP 1 mg/l, IBA 0.05 mg/l GA 0.03 mg/l, which allow for maximum realization of the species.





1. *Calendula officinalis* L.  
 G1, G2, G3 G4 1, 2, 3 4  
 Fig. 1. Regeneration in *Calendula officinalis* L. in modified broth G1, G2, G3 and G4 with 1, 2, 3 and 4 leaf regeneration

$\bar{X} = 0.6$   
 G3. 23  
 G3  
*officinalis*.  
 QL.  
*officinalis*  
 G4  
 4  
 G4  $\bar{X} = 0.8$

- In the obtained data, lower values of the regeneration in variant G3 were observed. On day 23 of the assay, at least new regenerants  $\bar{X} = 0.6$  follicular explants with 1 regenerant were counted. The callus is white in color with average density. More than half of the foliar segments in G3 medium did not show a regeneration process in the species *C. officinalis*. The results obtained are likely influenced by the QL core nutrient medium.  
 C.  
 C. A good realization of the *C. officinalis* species was recorded in the G4 medium where formation of up to 4 regenerants from the embedded leaf explant was observed. The appearance of the first regenerants after isolating the leaf explants was observed 20-25 days after the onset of cultivation on the regeneration medium. Regenerated leaf explants obtained with one regenerant were observed in variant G4  $\bar{X} = 0.8$ .  
 - The results obtained are probably due to

TDZ 1mg/l, IBA 0.05 mg/l GA 0.03  
mg/l MS.

$\bar{X} = 0.5$   
70%

G4

G4

Murashige & Skoog (1962)

- 4

*Calendula officinalis* L.

( 2).  
*C. officinalis*

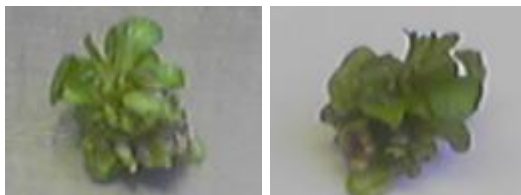
G2 G4.

QL

- the combination of hormones TDZ 1mg/l, IBA 0.05mg/l and GA 0.03mg/l in MS medium. Identical results of formation of three and four regenerants from one set leaf segment were observed in G4  
-  $\bar{X} = 0.5$ . Variant G4 is distinguished by 70% regenerated follicular explants, the best results obtained for the entire trial period.

- The beneficial influence of *Murashige & Skoog* (1962), combined with an optimal concentration of plant hormones, enables the species to regenerate the maximum number of regenerants. This is the probability of causing a large number of regenerators – 4 pieces of one explant.

- Observations of the species *Calendula officinalis* L. show very good rearing ability (Figure 2). The regenerative response of *C. officinalis* has the best results in the modified nutrient media G2 and G4. The application of the primary nutrient medium QL leads to a low occurrence of the regenerative potential of the species.



2. *Calendula officinalis* L. G4  
Fig. 2. Regeneration from *Calendula officinalis* L. leaf segment in G4 medium

## CONCLUSIONS

1. *Calendula officinalis* L. *in vitro*
  - 1. The impact of various nutrient media and growth regulators on the regenerative ability of *Calendula officinalis* L. at an *in vitro* level using leafy segments was studied. The regeneration response of explants has satisfactory regenerative ability.
2. *Calendula officinalis* L. 70%
  - 2. In the case of *Calendula officinalis* L., 70% foliar explant regeneration was

<p>– Murashige &amp; Skoog 1 mg/l TDZ +0.05 mg/l IBA +0.03 mg/l GA.</p>	<p>observed in the Murashige &amp; Skoog primary broth, supplemented with 1 mg/l TDZ +0.05 mg/l IBA +0.03 mg/l GA.</p>
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## Study on the effect of organic fertilizer in indoor azaleas

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### SUMMARY

The achievements of agrochemical science contributed to the formulation of new organic fertilizers with different origin that provided balanced nutrition to plants with minimal residues in plant products and environment, i.e. below the values of the current standards. The concern for human health and environmental protection require that new fertilizers are subject to preliminary tests for suitable methods of application, optimal quantities and terms.

The tests of the organic fertilizers Kompovet and Kokovet in indoor azaleas showed growth stimulation and increase of plant height with 21.3% and 18.0%; increase of diameter with 12.7% and 3.2% and increase of number of lateral branches with 20.4% and 6.8%, respectively. The application of 2.0% solution of Kompovet (biofertilizer from California worms) on the roots showed a better effect, compared to watering with 0.5% solution of Kokovet (poultry fertilizer).

**Key words:** organic fertilizers, Kompovet, Kokovet, azalea, growth, height, diameter, lateral branches

:  
21,3% 18,0%, - 12,7%  
3,2%  
20,4% 6,8%.  
2,0%  
( ),  
0,5% ( ).  
:



## INTRODUCTION

In their efforts to preserve the environment and human health, scientists have developed new environmentally friendly and organic fertilizers that do not accumulate residues in plants and the environment (Malinova, 2007; Sengalevich, 2007; Petkova and Kutev, 2017). Prior to using them in production, the new mineral and organic fertilizers have to be tested on a number of farm cultures.

Flowers need balanced and rational nutrition systems with suitable biomineral and organic fertilizers, corresponding to the modern growing technologies (Ivanova et al., 2005). The advantage of organic fertilizers is the lack of harmful additives that could damage the plants or accumulate residues in the soil or produce. Besides, they are handy to use as they can be applied by pouring in case of root fertilization or foliar treatment in combination with the plant protection products.

The studies of this subject with regard to flowers in Bulgaria are mainly carried out at the Institute of Ornamental Plants - Sofia. The tests of the organic fertilizers Biostim, Humustim, Baikal, Lumbricol and Plantagra in the production of cut flower or pot flower species such as pot carnation, spray carnation, chrysanthemum, petunia, impatiens and gypsophila, etc., showed a proven positive effect on plant growth and development (Atanassova et al., 2007; Kotopanov and Atanassova, 2008; Atanassova, 2012; Atanassova, 2012; Atanassova and Nencheva, 2012; Atanassova and Zapryanova, 2013). No studies with organic fertilizers have been done on indoor azalea in our country.

Aim: Study of the Effect of Organic Fertilizers Compovet and Cocovet on the growth and development of indoor azaleas.

(Malinova, 2007; Sengalevich, 2007; Petkova and Kutev, 2017).

(Ivanova et al., 2005).

(Atanassova et al., 2007; Kotopanov and Atanassova, 2008; Atanassova, 2012; Atanassova and Nencheva, 2012; Atanassova and Zapryanova, 2013).

2017 .  
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 • : ,  
 40% -  
 , 110 mg/l  
 , 250 mg/l , 1100 mg/l  
 P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 4200 mg/l K<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mg/l MgO, 70  
 mg/l CaO, 10 mg/l Fe  
 ;  
 • : ,  
 45% , 250  
 mg/l , 335 mg/l  
 , 2580 mg/l P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 7580 mg/l K<sub>2</sub>O, 11  
 mg/l MgO, 50 mg/l CaO, 10 mg/l Fe  
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 9  
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 1:1:0,5:0,25).  
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 III – 0,5%  
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 100 ml .  
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 100 ml  
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## MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 2017, a pot trial was set up in glasshouse conditions at the Institute of Ornamental Plants in Sofia with two organic fertilizers - Compovet and Cocovet, both products of Agrobiovet Ltd. (Sofia):

- Compovet: liquid fertilizer, obtained from California worms organic fertilizer, contains a minimum of 40% of organic matter; 110 mg/l nitrate nitrogen; 250 mg/l ammonium nitrogen; 1100 mg/l P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 4200 mg/l K<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mg/l MgO, 70 mg/l CaO, 10 mg/l Fe and heavy metals below the limit;

- Cocovet: liquid concentrate, obtained from poultry fertilizer, contains a minimum of 45% organic matter; 250 mg/l nitrate nitrogen; 335 mg/l ammonium nitrogen; 2580 mg/l P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 7580 mg/l K<sub>2</sub>O, 11 mg/l MgO, 50 mg/l CaO, 10 mg/l Fe and heavy metals below the limit.

The trial was set with one year old plants that were pinched twice for habitus shaping. They were planted in #9 pots in a suitable substrate for azaleas (turf, decomposing pine needles, soil and perlite in a ratio of 1:1:0.5:0.25).

The trial was set on June 22 in three variants, ten plants each:

- I – Control (non-fertilized plants);
- II – fertilization with 2.0% Compovet solution;
- III – fertilization with 0.5% Cocovet solution.

The doses used for root fertilization of plants were recommended by the manufacturer, each plant being watered with 100 ml solution. The first application was done fifteen days after pinching and moving the plants to No14 pots (July 7) and the following five applications were done at fifteen-day intervals. The non-fertilized plants were watered with 100 ml of water (control).

The following indexes were recorded: plant height and diameter and

1  
( 30 ).  
ANOVA  
\* (P 0.05), \*\* (P 0.01), \*\*\* (P 0.001),  
- ns.

number of lateral branches per plant (at thirty-day intervals).

Statistical data processing was done with ANOVA test. The significant difference between the control and variants was presented as \* (P 0.05), \*\* (P 0.01), \*\*\* (P 0.001) and the non-significant – as ns.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1).  
-  
21,3%.  
-  
- 18,0%.  
(P 0.001).

The application of the two organic fertilizers had a positive effect on plant growth (Table 1). In terms of height, the application of Compovet produced the best results with a growth rate exceeding that of non-fertilized plants with 21.3%. The plants, fertilized with Cocovet, were higher than the control as well but with a smaller growth rate of 18.0%. The differences in growth rate with the application of both organic fertilizers vs. the control were significant (P 0.001).

1.

**Table 1. Effect of organic fertilizers on plant height**

Variant	Plant height (cm)							Total growth		
	07.07.		22.07.		22.08.		22.09.		cm	%
	initial cm	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%		% vs. C	
- I - non-fertilized plants	5,7	6,0	100,0	9,4	100,0	11,8	100,0	6,1	100,0	
- 2,0% II - 2,0% Kompovet	5,7	5,7	95,0	9,9	105,3	13,1	111,0	7,4 ***	121,3	
- 0,5% III - 0,5% Kokovet	5,7	6,3	105,0	9,5	101,1	12,9	109,3	7,2 ***	118,0	

\* (P 0.05), \*\* (P 0.01), \*\*\* (P 0.001),

/ non-significant – ns

2

12,7% (  
P 0.001.

- Table 2 shows the results on plant diameter. A positive effect was observed from the application of both organic fertilizers, the highest values being reported for the plants fertilized with the liquid Compovet, where the growth rate exceeded that of control plants with 12.7% (highly significant at P 0.001). The values of growth rate with the application of poultry fertilizer Cocovet were close to those of non-fertilized plants, therefore,

(ns). | the results were not significant (ns).

## 2.

**Table 2. Effect of organic fertilizers on plant diameter**

Variant	Plant diameter (cm)							Total growth	
	07.07.	22.07.		22.08.		22.09.		cm	%
	initial cm	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%		
- I - non-fertilized plants	9,5	9,7	100,0	14,6	100,0	15,8	100,0	6,3	100,0
- 2,0% II - 2,0% Kompovet	9,5	9,8	101,0	14,4	98,6	16,6	105,1	7,1 ***	112,7
- 0,5% III - 0,5% Kokovet	9,5	10,3	106,2	15,2	104,1	16,0	101,3	6,5 ns	103,2

\* (P 0.05), \*\* (P 0.01), \*\*\* (P 0.001),

/ non-significant – ns

1  
( 3).  
20,4%,  
P 0.001.

- In terms of number of lateral branches per plant, again, the best results were observed with the application of the liquid organic fertilizer Compovet (Table 1). In this case, the growth rate percentage exceeded that of non-fertilized plants with 20.4%, the difference with the control being highly significant at P 0.001. The values for the growth rate of lateral branches with the application of Cocovet were close to those of the control plants and were not significant (ns).

(ns).

## 3.

**Table 3. Effect of organic fertilizers on lateral branches**

Variant	Number of branches per plant							Total growth	
	07.07.	22.07.		22.08.		22.09.		cm	%
	initial, no.	. no.	%	. no.	%	. no.	%		
- I - non-fertilized plants	4,3	4,7	100,0	4,9	100,0	8,7	100,0	4,4	100,0
- 2,0% II - 2,0% Kompovet	4,3	4,4	93,6	5,2	106,1	9,6	110,3	5,3 ***	120,4
- 0,5% III - 0,5% Kokovet	4,3	4,8	102,1	5,0	102,0	9,0	103,4	4,7 ns	106,8

\* (P 0.05), \*\* (P 0.01), \*\*\* (P 0.001),

/ non-significant – ns

- The positive effect, established during the tests of the two organic fertilizers Compovet and Cocovet, resulted from the high contents of humic, fulvic and amino acids, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as well as the

well balanced ratio of macro and micro elements that contributed to the better development of the root system and plants (Figure 1). Our studies with the two organic fertilizers Compovet and Cocovet confirmed the positive effect of organic fertilizers in flower cultures (Kotopanova and Nencheva, 2008; tanassova, 2011; Zapryanova and tanassova, 2013; Atanassova, 2015).

(Kotopanova and Nencheva, 2008; tanassova, 2011; Zapryanova and tanassova, 2013; Atanassova, 2015).



A/

B/

. 1.

**Fig. 1. Two-year old plants after the experiment and after the flowering phase**

A/ 2,0% / plants fertilized with 2.0% Kompovet

B/ / non-fertilized plants

### CONCLUSIONS

- The new organic fertilizers Compovet and Cocovet had a positive effect on azalea growth and development.
- The application of the liquid organic fertilizers resulted in higher values of plant height and diameter and number of lateral branches, compared to non-fertilized plants, with 21.3%, 12.7% and 20.4% for Compovet and 18.0%, 3.2% and 6.8% for Cocovet, respectively.

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