

## An overview of self-incompatibility (S) genotypes of autochthonous sweet cherries grown in Balkan region

Slađana Marić<sup>1\*</sup>, Sanja Radićević<sup>1</sup>, Nebojša Milošević<sup>1</sup>, Melpomena Popovska<sup>2</sup>, Svetoslav Malchev<sup>3</sup>, Ivana Glišić<sup>1</sup>, Milena Čorović<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fruit Research Institute, Kralja Petra I/9, 32000 Čačak, Republic of Serbia

<sup>2</sup>University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Institute of Agriculture - Skopje, Blvd. Aleksandar Makedonski bb, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

<sup>3</sup>Fruit Growing Institute, Ostromila 12, 4004 Plovdiv, Republic of Bulgaria

\*E-mail: smaric@institut-cacak.org

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### SUMMARY

S- - Determination of S-allelic constitutions of autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes is an important step in molecular characterization of this material, and also of enormous significance for growers and breeders, since this fruit species exhibits a gametophytic self-incompatibility, controlled by the multi-allelic S-locus which prevents self-fertilisation. The aim of this work was to summarize known and to reveal new data of the S-alleles in autochthonous genotypes originated in the Balkan countries – Republic of Serbia (15 genotypes), Republic of North Macedonia (8 genotypes) and Republic of Bulgaria (2

(2). (PCR) (PaConsII-F/R) *S-RNase* S- :  $S_1S_2$  ( ),  $S_1S_5$  ( ),  $S_2S_3$  ( ),  $S_2S_4$  ( ),  $S_3S_4$  ( ),  $S_3S_6$  ( ),  $S_3S_9$  ( ),  $S_3S_{12}$  ( ),  $S_6S_9$  ( ),  $S_4S_x$  ( )  $S_5S_x$  ( ).  $S_3$   $S_3S_{12}$  (38.6% 24%, ). : *Prunus avium* L., S-

(*Prunus avium* L.) (2014–2018) 44 983 t, 22 044 t 5 606 t Webster (1996) Quero-García et al. (2019) , Faust and Surányi (1997)

genotypes). The use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with consensus primers for the second intron (PaConsII-F/R) of *S-RNase* and allele-specific primers revealed eight alleles that generated the following S-allelic constitutions:  $S_1S_2$  (one genotype),  $S_1S_5$  (one genotype),  $S_2S_3$  (five genotypes),  $S_2S_4$  (one genotype),  $S_3S_4$  (two genotypes),  $S_3S_6$  (two genotypes),  $S_3S_9$  (two genotypes),  $S_3S_{12}$  (six genotypes),  $S_6S_9$  (two genotypes),  $S_4S_x$  (two genotypes) and  $S_5S_x$  (one genotype). The most frequent S-allele and allelic constitution in this work were  $S_3$  and  $S_3S_{12}$  (38.6% and 24%, resp.). Based on the obtained results, the assessed genotypes have been assigned to nine incompatibility groups. This study represents the first fundamental stage of characterization of autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes originating from aforementioned countries, which needs to be enlarged through inclusion of new landraces.

**Key words:** *Prunus avium* L., indigenous genotype, S-allelic constitution, gametophytic self-incompatibility, Balkan Peninsula

## INTRODUCTION

Sweet cherry (*Prunus avium* L.) is an economically important fruit species in the countries of the Balkan Peninsula. According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the average annual sweet cherry production (2014–2018) was 44,983 t, 22,044 t and 5,606 t in the Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Serbia and Republic of North Macedonia, respectively. Webster (1996) and Quero-García et al. (2019) reported that this fruit species may have originated within a region around the Caspian (Sea) and the Black Sea, as well as that a number of local genotypes, adapted to particular agro-ecological conditions, resulted from its spreading across Europe. Also, Faust and Surányi (1997) pointed out that sweet cherry occurs

naturally in Europe and areas of northern Africa. Since the origin of these old genotypes is mostly undocumented, and cases of homonyms or synonyms might occur, a reliable identification is required. This also represents a recurrent problem in the collection and conservation of autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes worldwide.

Cherry germplasm in the Balkan countries is adapted to different and inappropriate environments; it is potentially provided with useful genetic variability (i.e. fruit quality, resistance), e.g. the Ohrid region is a typical area for sweet cherry growing whose assortment is primarily based on the autochthonous genotypes of high quality fruits, mainly Ohridska Dolga Šiška (Gjamovski et al., 2016). In addition, this material with useful traits can extend the list of potential parental cultivars to be used in breeding programmes and can also be the main factor for revitalizing major Macedonian sweet cherry growing regions.

Fotiri -Akši et al. (2016) reported that newly released Serbian sweet cherry cultivar 'Canetova' originated from natural population. 'Ranna Tcherná' is one of the most widespread early ripening local sweet cherry cultivar in the Republic of Bulgaria, quite often used as parent within breeding programmes (Malchev, 2016).

The first sweet cherry cultivar released at Fruit Growing Institute (FGI), Plovdiv, Republic of Bulgaria was 'Kossara', which was derived from the cross 'Ranna Tcherná' x 'Bigareau Burlat' (Malchev and Zhivondov, 2016; Mari et al., 2018).

In sweet cherry, apart from very few exceptions, most genotypes are self-incompatible and certain pairs of genotypes are cross-incompatible (reciprocally or unilaterally). This gametophytic self-incompatibility mechanism is controlled by the multiallelic two linked genes of S-locus – S-RNase (Boškovi and

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Tobutt, 1996) *SFB* (Yamane et al., 2003),  
 (S-RNase)  
 (SFB),  
 S-  
 25 S-  
 (Vaughan et al., 2008).  
 1300  
 (18 S-  
 :  $S_1, S_7, S_9, S_{10}, S_{12}, S_{14}, S_{16}, S_{18}, S_{19}, S_{21}, S_{22}, S_{24}$ ),  
 60  
 ( ), 0  
 S-  
 ( ) (Schuster, 2017).  
 Vaughan et al. (2008)  
 S-  
 ,  
 $S_{27}, S_{32}, S_{37}$   
 $S_{34}$   
 ,  
 (Szikriszt et al., 2013 ).  
 -  
 PCR-  
 , S-  
 (FRI),  
 (Mari and  
 Radi evi , 2014; Radi evi et al., 2015).  
 , S-  
 ,  
 (Ipek et al., 2011; Ercisli et al.,  
 2012; Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a; Lisek et  
 al., 2015; Schuster, 2017; Marchese et  
 al., 2017).  
 Mariette et al. (2010)

and *SFB* (Yamane et al., 2003) genes,  
 - expressed in the style and the pollen,  
 - respectively. The stylar product (S-RNase)  
 - interacts in an allele specific manner with  
 - the pollen product (SFB) to inhibit pollen  
 - tube growth in the styles containing an  
 - identical S-haplotype.

To date, 25 S-alleles have been reported  
 in sweet cherry (Vaughan et al., 2008).  
 The analysis of in total 1,300 sweet cherry  
 cultivars revealed a polymorphism (18  
 different S-alleles:  $S_1$  to  $S_7, S_9, S_{10}, S_{12}$  to  
 $S_{14}, S_{16}, S_{18}, S_{19}, S_{21}, S_{22}$  and  $S_{24}$ ) that  
 allowed identification of 60 incompatibility  
 groups (IGs), a group of 0 of unique S-  
 genotypes and a group of self-compatible  
 (SC) cultivars (Schuster, 2017). Vaughan  
 et al. (2008) reported six S-alleles  
 identified only in wild cherry of Western  
 Europe, which were attributed to  $S_{27}$  to  
 $S_{32}$  alleles. In addition, a new  $S_{37}$  allele  
 and the sour cherry  $S_{34}$ -allele were  
 identified in Turkish sweet cherry  
 landraces and genotypes selected from  
 populations growing wild in the Black Sea  
 area (Szikriszt et al., 2013).

- Due to the application of consensus/allele-  
 specific PCR-based methods and obtain-  
 - ed high polymorphism, the S-locus has  
 - also been used as a genetic marker for  
 - genotyping and identification of domestic  
 - and foreign sweet cherry cultivars at Fruit  
 Research Institute (FRI), a ak, Republic  
 of Serbia (Mari and Radi evi , 2014;  
 Radi evi et al., 2015). Additionally, S-  
 genotyping has become a useful tool for  
 diversity assessment in local sweet cherry  
 germplasm in different countries of  
 Europe and northern and western Asia,  
 which revealed high levels of genetic  
 diversity among landraces (Ipek et al.,  
 2011; Ercisli et al., 2012; Cachi and  
 Wünsch, 2014a; Lisek et al., 2015;  
 Schuster, 2017; Marchese et al., 2017).

However, Mariette et al. (2010)  
 - reported a reduction in genetic diversity  
 - from wild to landrace to modern sweet

cherry cultivars, as well as that domestication and breeding had two major impacts on a decrease of diversity. Sweet cherry landraces such as the Italian 'Kronio' and the Spanish 'Cristobalina' and 'Talegal Ahin' are the source of self-compatibility, for which DNA markers have also been developed (Marchese et al., 2007; Cachi and Wünsch, 2014b).

Recently, the interest in collection and evaluation of autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes with good agronomic properties in the Balkan region and molecular characterization of this material have been increased at the FRI, a ak, in collaboration with University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Institute of Agriculture, Skopje and FGI, Plovdiv (Mari et al., 2018, 2019a, 2019b; Radicevic et al., 2019).

The aim of this study was to summarize all known data on the S-alleles in autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes in the aforementioned Balkan countries and to report new genotype data which have not been previously published. Obtained results will be useful to both breeders and growers to better manage this valuable autochthonous cherry material.

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## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Plant material and DNA extraction

Twenty-five autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes (Table 1) were used in this study. These genotypes, corresponding to landraces or cultivars of unknown origin, were sampled in orchards of individual growers in the Republic of Serbia (the regions of a ak and Belgrade) and the Republic of North Macedonia (the Ohrid region), as well as in the sweet cherry collection of FGI, Plovdiv (Republic of Bulgaria).

Young fresh leaves of the genotypes were collected in the spring, frozen in liquid

–80°C .  
 Doyle and Doyle (1987).  
 TE ,  
 RNase A (Invitrogen,  
 Groningen,  
 –20° , PCR.

**PCR  
*S-RNase***

*S-RNase*  
 Sonneveld et al. (2001, 2003). PCR  
 ,  
*S-RNase*  
 (PaConsII-F / R, Sonneveld et al., 2003)  
 S<sub>1</sub>  
 S<sub>6</sub> , S<sub>9</sub> S<sub>12</sub>  
 (Sonneveld et al., 2001, 2003).  
 S-  
 Mari and Radi evi (2014) Mari et al.  
 (2015, 2018).

S-  
 PCR  
 (70 V/cm 4 h), 2%  
 1.5% (70 V/cm 2-3 ).  
 BIO-PRINT-  
 1500/26M (Vilber Lourmat, Collégien,  
 ).  
 1 Kb  
 (Invitrogen, Groningen, ).

*S-RNase* 25

nitrogen and stored at –80°C. Genomic DNA was isolated from leaves according to the method of Doyle and Doyle (1987). Extracted DNA was dissolved in TE buffer, treated with RNase A (Invitrogen, Groningen, the Netherlands) and kept at –20°C until used for PCRs.

**PCR analysis for *S-RNase* genotyping**

Identification of the *S-RNase* alleles in autochthonous sweet cherry genotypes was based on the method reported by Sonneveld et al. (2001, 2003). The PCRs were performed by using the consensus primer pairs specific for the second introns of the *S-RNase* (PaConsII-F/R, Sonneveld et al., 2003) and the allele-specific primers for S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>6</sub>, as well as for S<sub>9</sub> and S<sub>12</sub> alleles (Sonneveld et al., 2001, 2003). Annealing temperatures for aforementioned S-alleles were reported in the studies by Mari and Radi evi (2014) and Mari et al. (2015, 2018). Sweet cherry cultivars of known S-alleles were used as reference genotypes.

**Detection and visualization of the DNA fragments**

PCR products obtained with the consensus primers were run on a 2% agarose gel (70 V/cm for 4 h), whereas products of allele-specific PCRs on a 1.5% agarose gel (70 V/cm for 2-3 h). Visualization of DNA bands was performed by ethidium bromide staining and under ultraviolet light of BIO-PRINT-1500/26M imaging system (Vilber Lourmat, Collégien, French Republic). For sizing of DNA fragments, 1 Kb plus DNA ladder (Invitrogen, Groningen, the Netherlands) was used.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study presents an overview of *S-RNase* alleles identification in 25 autochthonous genotypes from the main sweet cherry growing regions of the Republic of Serbia, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Bulgaria (Table

( 1). S-PCR

*S-RNase* (PaConsII-F/R)

$S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, S_6, S_9, S_{12}$ .

S-

:  $S_1S_2$  ( ),  $S_1S_5$  (G -1),  $S_2S_3$  (G -7, G -14, G -15, G -16 and ),  $S_2S_4$  (OCK-1),  $S_3S_4$  (G -10 G -12),  $S_3S_6$  (G -4 G -13),  $S_3S_9$  (G -8 and ),  $S_3S_{12}$  (G -5, G -6, ODŠ-O1, ODŠ-O2, ODŠ-S1 ODŠ-S2),  $S_6S_9$  (G -2 G -11),  $S_4S_x$  (OCK-2 Ohridska Crna)  $S_5S_x$  (G -9). S-

" "

Schuster (2012, 2017).

: I, III, IV, VI, X, XIII, XIV, XVI XXII ( 1);

XXII (24%)

'OCK-2, GT-9

( $S_4$ )

OCK-2 ( $S_5$  GGT-9) S-

(Mari et al., 2019a, 2019b).

S-

1). The S-allelic constitution of each genotype was determined after combining the results obtained upon PCR amplification with the consensus primers for the second intron of *S-RNase* (PaConsII-F/R) and the primers specific to alleles  $S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, S_6, S_9$  and  $S_{12}$ . Among the assessed genotypes, the following S-allelic constitutions were determined:  $S_1S_2$  (Ranna Tcherná),  $S_1S_5$  (G -1),  $S_2S_3$  (G -7, G -14, G -15, G -16 and Kuklenska Belica),  $S_2S_4$  (OCK-1),  $S_3S_4$  (G -10 and G -12),  $S_3S_6$  (G -4 and G -13),  $S_3S_9$  (G -8 and Ohridska Brza),  $S_3S_{12}$  (G -5, G -6, ODŠ-O1, ODŠ-O2, ODŠ-S1 and ODŠ-S2),  $S_6S_9$  (G -2 and G -11),  $S_4S_x$  (OCK-2 and Ohridska Crna) and  $S_5S_x$  (G -9). The S-genotype for Bulgarian autochthonous cultivar Kuklenska Belica is published in this paper for the first time.

Considering the obtained results, the autochthonous genotypes were assigned to their corresponding IGs, previously published by Schuster (2012, 2017). Therefore, we determined the following nine IGs: I, III, IV, VI, X, XIII, XIV, XVI and XXII (Table 1); the results of our study will extended these groups by including autochthonous Balkan genotypes. Group XXII was the most common IG, comprising nearly a quarter (24%) of the assessed genotypes. Three genotypes were not assigned to previously identified IGs, since the second allele for OCK-2, Ohridska Crna and G -9 was not determined. The single band for these genotypes on the agarose gel (on the position corresponding to allele  $S_4$  for OCK-2 and Ohridska Crna, as well as allele  $S_5$  for G -9) could mean either that two S-alleles have the introns of the same size, or the primers do not match the sequence of the second allele (Mari et al., 2019a, 2019b).

Therefore, the additional analysis will focus on possible identification of the second S-allele of these genotypes through cloning and sequencing of the

## 1. S-

**Table 1. S-genotypes and incompatibility groups of autochthonous sweet cherries**

Origin*	Name of genotype	S- S-genotype	IG	Reference for S-genotype
RS	G -1	$S_1S_5$	XIV	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -2	$S_6S_9$	X	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -4	$S_3S_6$	VI	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -5	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -6	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -7	$S_2S_3$	IV	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -8	$S_3S_9$	XVI	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -9	$S_5S_x$	/	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -10	$S_3S_4$	III	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -11	$S_6S_9$	X	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -12	$S_3S_4$	III	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -13	$S_3S_6$	VI	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -14	$S_2S_3$	IV	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -15	$S_2S_3$	IV	Mari et al. (2019a)
RS	G -16	$S_2S_3$	IV	Mari et al. (2019a)
MK	ODŠ-O1	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	ODŠ-O2	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	ODŠ-S1	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	ODŠ-S2	$S_3S_{12}$	XXII	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	OČK-1	$S_2S_4$	XIII	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	OČK-2	$S_4S_x$	/	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	Ohridska Brza	$S_3S_9$	XVI	Mari et al. (2019b)
MK	Ohridska Crna	$S_4S_x$	/	Mari et al. (2019b)
BG	Kuklenska Belica	$S_2S_3$	IV	/This study
BG	'Ranna Tcherná'	$S_1S_2$	I	Mari et al. (2018)

\* ISO 3166

\*Country according ISO 3166 code list.

In this study, a total of eight different S-alleles:  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ,  $S_3$ ,  $S_4$ ,  $S_5$ ,  $S_6$ ,  $S_9$  and  $S_{12}$  in 25 local Serbian, Macedonian and Bulgarian sweet cherry genotypes were determined. The number of times identified and frequency of the S-RNase alleles in the assessed cherry germplasm is shown in Table 2 (excluding three genotypes for which the second allele was not determined). Therefore, the most frequent allele in this material was



$S_3$  (38.6%)  
 -  
 (>10%)  
 $S_2$   $S_{12}$  (15,9%  
 13,6%). , Ercisli et al. (2012)  
 S-  
 37 -  
 (39%)  $S_{12}$  (19%). -  
 S-  
 - ,  
 S- ,  
 ,  
 (Cachi and  
 Wünsch, 2014a).

$S_3$  (38.6%) and a relatively higher  
 frequency of occurrence (> 10%) was  
 observed for alleles  $S_2$  and  $S_{12}$  (15.9%  
 and 13.6%, resp.). Also, Ercisli et al.  
 (2012) found eight aforementioned S-  
 alleles in 37 Croatian sweet cherry  
 genotypes and reported similar  
 frequencies for alleles  $S_3$  (39%) and  $S_{12}$   
 (19%). The geographical distribution of S-  
 alleles may indicate a common origin or  
 genetic relationship of genotypes spread  
 in closer areas or a possible association  
 of certain S-alleles with adaptive traits  
 correlated to climatic conditions in  
 different areas (Cachi and Wünsch,  
 2014a).

2.

**S-RNase**

1

**Table 2. Number of times identified and frequency of the S-RNase alleles in the sweet cherry autochthonous germplasm presented in Table 1**

S-RNase allele*	Number of times identified	S-RNase allele frequency (%)
$S_1$	2	4.6
$S_2$	7	15.9
$S_3$	17	38.6
$S_4$	3	6.8
$S_5$	1	2.3
$S_6$	4	9.1
$S_9$	4	9.1
$S_{12}$	6	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* ( G -9 , OCK-2 )

\*Three genotypes were excluded ( G -9 , OCK-2 and Ohridska Crna )

$S_3$  -  
 (29,6%; Ipek et al.,  
 2011), (34,4%; Lisek et al., 2015),  
 (25%; Marchese et al., 2017),  
 (38%; Cachi and Wünsch,  
 2014a). , Cachi and Wünsch  
 (2014a) , 545 -  
 , -  
 Schuster (2012) 64 -  
 , -  
 ( , -  
 28%).  
 ,  $S_{12}$  -

$S_3$  was the most frequent sweet  
 cherry allele in Turkey (29.6%; Ipek et al.,  
 2011), Czechia (34.4%; Lisek et al.,  
 2015), Italy (25%; Marchese et al., 2017),  
 Spain (38%; Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a).  
 Also, Cachi and Wünsch (2014a) stated  
 that among 545 European sweet cherry  
 cultivars reported and compiled by  
 Schuster (2012) and 64 local Spanish  
 cultivars analyzed in their work, the most  
 frequent allele was  $S_3$  (approximately  
 28%). Contrary,  $S_{12}$  allele was very rare in  
 the European cultivars (Cachi and

2014a), (Cachi Wünsch, 2014a), but is commonly found in Turkish and Croatian genotypes (Ipek et al., 2011; Ercisli et al., 2012). Considering our results, a relatively higher frequency of  $S_{12}$  allele in the Balkan countries may be associated with their long common history.  $S_2$  occurrence in our study (15.9%) was similar to that reported in Turkish germplasm (14.8%) by Ipek et al. (2011), while the frequency of this allele in Croatian landraces was 8% (Ercisli et al., 2012). Marchese et al. (2017) stated the rarity of  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$  and  $S_4$  alleles in 186 local sweet cherry accessions from 12 Italian regions. Also, Cachi and Wünsch (2014a) found that  $S_2$  allele was less frequent in the Western Spain (1%) and was not found in the genotypes originated from the eastern and northern parts of this country. The alleles  $S_6$  and  $S_9$ , occurring at a frequency of 9.1% in our study, were also common in Croatian (being found in 8%; Ercisli et al., 2012) and Turkish ( $S_6$  – 11.1%,  $S_9$  – 7.5%; Ipek et al., 2011) sweet cherry genotypes. Marchese et al. (2017) reported that  $S_6$  was one of the most frequent S-allele in the Italian germplasm (19%), while  $S_9$  was less frequent (4%). Similar results were published by Cachi and Wünsch (2014a), who reported the frequency of 26% for allele  $S_6$  in Spanish landraces, and lower frequency for  $S_9$  (8% in northern part, and less than 3% in the western and eastern parts of the country). A relatively high occurrence of the allele  $S_9$  (20.4%) was observed in genotypes originated from Ukraine (Lisek et al., 2015). Regarding  $S_4$ , occurring at a frequency of 6.8% in our study, this allele was extremely rare in the Italian (1%) and Croatian (2.5%) landraces (Ercisli et al., 2012; Marchese et al., 2017). A higher frequency for  $S_4$  was found in Spanish (from northern part), Czech and Turkish genotypes (23%, 21.9% and 13.6%, resp.; Cachi and Wünsch,

Wünsch, 2014a), but is commonly found in Turkish and Croatian genotypes (Ipek et al., 2011; Ercisli et al., 2012). Considering our results, a relatively higher frequency of  $S_{12}$  allele in the Balkan countries may be associated with their long common history.  $S_2$  occurrence in our study (15.9%) was similar to that reported in Turkish germplasm (14.8%) by Ipek et al. (2011), while the frequency of this allele in Croatian landraces was 8% (Ercisli et al., 2012).

Marchese et al. (2017) stated the rarity of  $S_1$ ,  $S_2$  and  $S_4$  alleles in 186 local sweet cherry accessions from 12 Italian regions. Also, Cachi and Wünsch (2014a) found that  $S_2$  allele was less frequent in the Western Spain (1%) and was not found in the genotypes originated from the eastern and northern parts of this country.

The alleles  $S_6$  and  $S_9$ , occurring at a frequency of 9.1% in our study, were also common in Croatian (being found in 8%; Ercisli et al., 2012) and Turkish ( $S_6$  – 11.1%,  $S_9$  – 7.5%; Ipek et al., 2011) sweet cherry genotypes. Marchese et al. (2017) reported that  $S_6$  was one of the most frequent S-allele in the Italian germplasm (19%), while  $S_9$  was less frequent (4%). Similar results were published by Cachi and Wünsch (2014a), who reported the frequency of 26% for allele  $S_6$  in Spanish landraces, and lower frequency for  $S_9$  (8% in northern part, and less than 3% in the western and eastern parts of the country). A relatively high occurrence of the allele  $S_9$  (20.4%) was observed in genotypes originated from Ukraine (Lisek et al., 2015). Regarding  $S_4$ , occurring at a frequency of 6.8% in our study, this allele was extremely rare in the Italian (1%) and Croatian (2.5%) landraces (Ercisli et al., 2012; Marchese et al., 2017).

A higher frequency for  $S_4$  was found in Spanish (from northern part), Czech and Turkish genotypes (23%, 21.9% and 13.6%, resp.; Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a);

2014a; Lisek et al., 2015; Ipek et al., 2011),  $S_1, S_3, S_4, S_6$ ,  $S_{22}$  (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a). Ipek et al. (2011) and Ercisli et al. (2012) reported  $S_1$  (2.5%),  $S_3$  (3%),  $S_4$  (3%),  $S_6$  (25%),  $S_{22}$  (12%) (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a; Lisek et al., 2015).  $S_5$  (2.3%),  $S_7$  (5%) (Ipek et al., 2011; Ercisli et al., 2012).  $S_5$  (1%; Marchese et al., 2017),  $S_7$  (1%),  $S_{12}$  (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a). Lisek et al. (2015) reported  $S_5$  (20.4%),  $S_7$  (1%),  $S_{10}$  (1%),  $S_{12}$  (1%),  $S_{13}$  (1%),  $S_{16}$  (1%),  $S_{22}$  (1%),  $S_{23}$  (1%),  $S_{24}$  (1%),  $S_{25}$  (1%),  $S_{26}$  (1%),  $S_{27}$  (1%),  $S_{28}$  (1%),  $S_{29}$  (1%),  $S_{30}$  (1%),  $S_{31}$  (1%),  $S_{32}$  (1%),  $S_{33}$  (1%),  $S_{34}$  (1%),  $S_{35}$  (1%),  $S_{36}$  (1%),  $S_{37}$  (1%),  $S_{38}$  (1%),  $S_{39}$  (1%),  $S_{40}$  (1%),  $S_{41}$  (1%),  $S_{42}$  (1%),  $S_{43}$  (1%),  $S_{44}$  (1%),  $S_{45}$  (1%),  $S_{46}$  (1%),  $S_{47}$  (1%),  $S_{48}$  (1%),  $S_{49}$  (1%),  $S_{50}$  (1%),  $S_{51}$  (1%),  $S_{52}$  (1%),  $S_{53}$  (1%),  $S_{54}$  (1%),  $S_{55}$  (1%),  $S_{56}$  (1%),  $S_{57}$  (1%),  $S_{58}$  (1%),  $S_{59}$  (1%),  $S_{60}$  (1%),  $S_{61}$  (1%),  $S_{62}$  (1%),  $S_{63}$  (1%),  $S_{64}$  (1%),  $S_{65}$  (1%),  $S_{66}$  (1%),  $S_{67}$  (1%),  $S_{68}$  (1%),  $S_{69}$  (1%),  $S_{70}$  (1%),  $S_{71}$  (1%),  $S_{72}$  (1%),  $S_{73}$  (1%),  $S_{74}$  (1%),  $S_{75}$  (1%),  $S_{76}$  (1%),  $S_{77}$  (1%),  $S_{78}$  (1%),  $S_{79}$  (1%),  $S_{80}$  (1%),  $S_{81}$  (1%),  $S_{82}$  (1%),  $S_{83}$  (1%),  $S_{84}$  (1%),  $S_{85}$  (1%),  $S_{86}$  (1%),  $S_{87}$  (1%),  $S_{88}$  (1%),  $S_{89}$  (1%),  $S_{90}$  (1%),  $S_{91}$  (1%),  $S_{92}$  (1%),  $S_{93}$  (1%),  $S_{94}$  (1%),  $S_{95}$  (1%),  $S_{96}$  (1%),  $S_{97}$  (1%),  $S_{98}$  (1%),  $S_{99}$  (1%),  $S_{100}$  (1%).

Lisek et al., 2015; Ipek et al., 2011), and it was also observed that alleles  $S_1, S_3, S_4$  and  $S_6$  were highly frequent in cultivars from northern and central Europe, while alleles  $S_3, S_6$  and  $S_{22}$  in southern Europe (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a).

$S_1$  occurrence (4.6%) was a little bit higher compare to those reported in Turkish and Croatian genotypes (2.5%) by Ipek et al. (2011) and Ercisli et al. (2012) respectively, as well as in Italian germplasm (3%) reported by Marchese et al. (2017). The higher occurrence of  $S_1$  was observed in genotypes originated from Czechia (25%) and northern Spain (12%) (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a; Lisek et al., 2015). Our study revealed a low frequency of allele  $S_5$  (2.3%), which was slightly lower in comparison with the occurrence of this allele in Turkish (5%) and Croatian (7%) germplasms (Ipek et al., 2011; Ercisli et al., 2012).  $S_5$  was extremely rare in the Italian landraces (1%; Marchese et al., 2017), as well as in Spanish genotypes originated from the western part of the country (1%), while it was not found in the northern and eastern parts (Cachi and Wünsch, 2014a). Lisek et al. (2015) reported the high frequency of  $S_5$  in the Ukrainian germplasm (20.4%), which greatly differentiates these cultivars from the cultivars originating in other regions of Europe.

Our research and study of Ercisli et al. (2012) revealed eight S-alleles:  $S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, S_6, S_9$  and  $S_{12}$ . Ipek et al. (2011) found ten different alleles,  $S_7$  and  $S_{10}$  in addition to the eight listed. Also, eight alleles were reported by Lisek et al. (2015), but  $S_{13}$  was detected instead of  $S_{12}$ . The allele  $S_{12}$  was not found in the Spanish germplasm either, and Cachi and Wünsch (2014a) stated ten identified alleles, namely  $S_{13}, S_{16}$  and  $S_{22}$  in addition to the list of aforementioned alleles.

The highest polymorphism of S-loci was observed in Italian landraces; Marchese

et al. (2017) reported 17 alleles, S<sub>5</sub>, S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>10</sub>, S<sub>13</sub>, S<sub>14</sub>, S<sub>16</sub>, S<sub>17</sub>, S<sub>19</sub> and S<sub>22</sub> in addition to the list of eight alleles.

There is no answer yet why some alleles are frequent in certain sweet cherry germ-plasms whilst other are rare; however, Marchese et al. (2017) speculated that some alleles may be linked with traits of adaptation to particular agro-ecological conditions or could be the result of a founder effect and selection events (Kato and Mukai, 2004).

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## CONCLUSIONS

The overview presented in this study is the first fundamental stage of characterization of autochthonous material and needs to be further improved with some new S-alleles data on sweet cherries in the Balkan region.

To avoid the loss of this material, it is essential to collect and evaluate these genotypes to allow their conservation in sweet cherry collections.

In addition, all new information is very important for the breeding research and for appropriate choice of pollenizers in the orchard aiming to the efficient production of sweet cherry fruits.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Stopit

### (*Malus × domestica* Borkh.)

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## Impact of Stopit Application on Productivity and Pomological Apple Properties (*Malus × domestica* Borkh.)

Boris Rilak<sup>1\*</sup>, Ivan Gliši<sup>2</sup>, Milan Luki<sup>1</sup>, Marijana Pešakovi<sup>1</sup>,  
Svetlana M. Paunovi<sup>1</sup>, Mira Milinkovi<sup>1</sup>, Tatjana Marjanovi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fruit Research Institute, a ak, Republic of Serbia

<sup>2</sup>University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Agronomy a ak, Republic of Serbia

\*E-mail: [brilak@institut-cacak.org](mailto:brilak@institut-cacak.org)

Original scientific paper

### SUMMARY

(2018-2019)  
„Stopit“  
(Gloster 69, Golden Reinders, Granny Smith, Morrens Jonagored, and Red Chief’).  
21  
RSM  
RSM  
Jonagored,

This paper presents the two-year results of research into the foliar fertilizer Stopit on productivity and pomological properties of five introduced apple cultivars (Gloster 69, Golden Reinders, Granny Smith, Morrens Jonagored and Red Chief). Treatments were performed four times during vegetation, from the beginning of June until the mid of August, each 21 day. In harvest period of the investigated cultivars, morphometric properties, firmness and RSM content of fruit, as well as yield per unit area were determined. During the experiment, significant discrepancies between the investigated cultivars were found.

The highest average weight, fruit dimension and the SSC were found in the cultivar Morrens Jonagored, whereas the highest yield per unit area was found in the cultivar Red Chief. Regarding the years of

Red Chief“.

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„Stopit“,  
( )  
(CaCl<sub>2</sub>) ( )  
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„Stopit“

Stopit,

RSM.

study, by analyzing the results obtained, significantly higher average values of fruit weight and yield per unit area were recorded in the first year of study compared to the second experimental year, and as for the content of RSM, identical trend was recorded. Application of Stopit, which contains calcium in the form of calcium chloride (in its chemical composition), has shown a significant impact on the firmness of fruit in all investigated cultivars. The highest values of the fruit firmness were recorded in the cultivar Granny Smith in both years of study. Foliar fertilizer Stopit can be recommended in apple orchards due to its stimulative impact on productive and pomological apple properties.

**Key words:** apple, cultivar, Stopit, fruit quality

## INTRODUCTION

By the volume of production, apple is the world's most important temperate fruit species taking fourth place right after citrus fruits, grapes and bananas, with the total production of 86.142.197 t. In the Republic of Serbia, apple is the most important pome fruit species which is grown under area of 25.917 ha, with the total production of 460.404 t (Faostat, 2018). In the structure of fruit production in our country, apple is second, right behind plum.

Apple fruits can be consumed fresh immediately after harvest or after storage (Folta and Gardiner, 2009).

Good market supply with most diverse apple fruits demands a manufacturer's offer of high external and internal quality (O'Rourke, 2003). Sams et al. (2008) state that many physiological and pathological disturbances of apple fruits are related to the content of calcium (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) in the fruit tissue.

Concentration of calcium in plant tissue has an extremely valuable role in maintain-

86.142.197 t.

25.917 ha,  
(Faostat, 2018).

460.404 t

(Folta and Gardiner, 2009).

al. (2008) (O'Rourke, 2003). Sams et

(<sup>2+</sup>)



(Pervaiz et al., 2002; Hossain et al., 2005; Abdi et al., 2006; Misra and Gupta, 2006; Naeem et al., 2009)

(Raese and Drake, 2002; Dierend and Rieken, 2007).

and Grusak, 1999).

(bitter pit) (Fellahi et al., 2010).  
Zavalloni et al. (2001)

„Stopit“ (CaCl<sub>2</sub>)

2018 2019 .  
(43°  
89'40 " 20° 43'42" IGD).  
2006 .

ing the quality of fruits after harvest.

Numerous authors (Pervaiz et al., 2002; Hossain et al., 2005; Abdi et al., 2006; Misra and Gupta, 2006; Naeem et al., 2009) emphasize that application of the calcium based composition have positive effects on cell membrane stabilization and age delay. It also maintains firmness and decreases occurrence of the so called 'bitter pit' internal rot in fruits (Raese and Drake, 2002; Dierend and Rieken, 2007). In the lack of calcium, all aging processes in fruits flow much faster and they have lower storage capacity.

There are numerous preparations on the market containing calcium that can be used before and after harvest, delaying fruit senescence with no harmful effect on the consumers (Lester and Grusak, 1999).

Efficiency of calcium application is conditioned by the application time in a way that early application during vegetative period is far more efficient than later, especially in terms of the reduction of bitter pit (Fellahi et al., 2010).

Zavalloni et al. (2001) found that foliar application of a composition containing calcium in thick apple plantations leads to a slower leaf-to-fruit mobility of calcium.

The aim of the research was to determine the impact of foliar fertilizer Stopit (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) application on productive and pomological apple properties in five introduced apple cultivars.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Experimental study was conducted in the period from 2018 to 2019 in the production-experimental apple orchard of the Fruit Research Institute in a ak (43° 89' 40" and 20° 43' 42" IGD). The orchard was set up in 2006 at an altitude of 233 m. Breeding form was palmeta. During the

233 m.

: 'Gloster 69', 'Golden Reinders', 'Granny Smith', 'Morrens Jonagored' and 'Red Chief'

9. 4 m x 1, 25 m (2000 ha<sup>-1</sup>), „Red Chief“, 4 x 1 (2.500 ha<sup>-1</sup>). „Stopit“ (160 g/l ). 5-10 L ha<sup>-1</sup>.

20 ( 80 ). „Stopit“ 7.5 l ha<sup>-1</sup> (150 ml 10 l ). 2018 . 7 , 2 20 2019 ., 15 , 14 , 5 , 26 16 .

SR 420 (STIHL International GmbH Waiblingen, ) 1.000 L ha<sup>-1</sup>. (t ha<sup>-1</sup>),

Jonagored", „Gloster 69" „Morrens 10 , "Red Chief" 11 , „Golden Reinders“, „Gloster 69" 26

- study, standard agro-technical and  
- plantation maintenance measures were  
- applied.

The study included five apple cultivars: 'Gloster 69', 'Golden Reinders', 'Granny Smith', 'Morrens Jonagored' and 'Red Chief' grafted on the rootstock M9. The spacing was 4 m x 1, 25 m (2000 trees ha<sup>-1</sup>), apart from the cultivar 'Red Chief' which was planted at a distance of 4 x 1 m (2.500 trees ha<sup>-1</sup>)

The study included the application of foliar fertilizer Stopit based on calcium chloride, with high concentration of calcium (160 g/l calcium). The respective foliar fertilizer could be used from the beginning of flowering until the end of fruit maturation, i.e. the phase of pigmentation until harvest, in the amount of 5-10 L ha<sup>-1</sup>.

During the experiment, treatments were applied on 20 trees in four replications (a total of 80 trees per treatment). 'Stopit' was used in the amount of 7.5 l ha<sup>-1</sup> (150 ml on 10 l of water). In 2018, the first treatment was conducted on June 7th, the second on July 2nd second, third on July 20<sup>th</sup> and the fourth, on August 15th while in 2019, the treatments were conducted on June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>. For the foliar treatment of apple, a motor sprayer SR 420 (STIHL International GmbH Waiblingen, Germany) with a consumption of 1.000 L ha<sup>-1</sup> was used.

Yield parameters per unit area (t ha<sup>-1</sup>), morphometric properties of fruit, as well as the firmness and soluble solids content were analysed. Yield of the studied cultivars was measured during the harvest. In the first year of study, in cultivars 'Gloster 69' and 'Morrens Jonagored', measuring was done on 10<sup>th</sup> of September, in the cultivar 'Red Chief' on 11<sup>th</sup> of September, in Golden Reinders on 26<sup>th</sup> of September, and in the cultivar Granny Smith, on 9<sup>th</sup> of October. In the

Granny Smith, 9  
 „Gloster 69“ „Red  
 Chief“ 16  
 „Morrens Jonagored“ 23  
 "Granny Smith" 25  
 „Golden Reinders“,  
 27  
 80  
 ( 20  
 ).  
 Pro AV812M, ),  
 (Adventurer  
 (mm)  
 (Carl Roth, ).  
 ( FHT-803, )  
 Pa,  
 Bertuzzi  
 FT-327 (Facchini, Alfonsine,  
 , cm<sup>-2</sup>.  
 (Carl Zeiss, Jena)  
 (20°C)  
 ° Brix.  
 ±  
 (SE).  
 LSD  
 (ANOVA),  
 MSTAT-C  
 (Michigan State University, East Lansing,  
 MI, USA).  
 0,05 p

second year of study, harvesting and measuring of yield per unit area in 'Gloster 69' and 'Red Chief' was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> of September, in Morrens Jonagored on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, in Granny Smith on 25<sup>th</sup> of September and in Golden Reinders, measuring was performed on 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

Morphometric properties of fruit were determined on a sample of 80 fruits (four replications of 20 fruits). Fruit weight was determined using a technical scale (Adventurer Pro AV812M, Switzerland), while the fruit length and width (mm) were determined by digital calliper (Carl Roth, Germany).

Fruit firmness was determined by digital penetrometer (Model FHT-803, Italy) and the obtained values were given in Pa, as well as by the penetrometer Bertuzzi FT-327 (Facchini, Alfonsine, Italy) with values expressed in cm<sup>-2</sup>. Soluble solids content in the fruit of apple was determined using a binocular refractometer (Carl Zeiss, Jena) at room temperature (20 ° C) and the values were given in ° Brix.

The results are presented as mean ± standard error of mean (SE). Differences between mean values were compared by LSD test in two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) using MSTAT-C statistical computer package (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA). Differences with p values of 0.05 were considered insignificant.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The two-year study results related to fruit morphometric properties and soluble solids in fruit of apple depending on the application of foliar fertilizer 'Stopit' are shown in Table 1.

By analysis of variance, it has been found that cultivar and mutual interaction

of variability factor had statistically significant impact on all of the abovementioned characteristics of fruit, while the impact of year was statistically significant in respect of fruit height and soluble solids content.

## 1. „Stopit“

**Table 1. Impact of Stopit application on morphometric properties and the content of soluble solids of investigated apple cultivars**

Treatment	Fruit weight (g)	Fruit height (mm)	Fruit width (mm)	Soluble solids content (°Brix)
<b>(A) Cultivar (A)</b>				
Gloster 69	213.41±8.17 b	71.68±1.49 a	79.27±0.08 b	11.56±0.91 c
Golden Reinders	152.34±2.98 e	63.52±0.72 c	70.21±0.72 d	14.92±0.51 a
Granny Smith	178.16±4.74 d	65.42±0.95 b	77.31±0.77 c	12.13±0.21 b
Morrens	231.00±8.18 a	71.41±0.82 a	81.57±1.06 a	14.52±0.25 a
Jonagored				
Red Chief	199.40±2.87 c	71.48±0.61 a	76.74±0.42 c	11.12±0.71 d
<b>(B) Year (B)</b>				
2018	195.61±6.43 a	69.67±0.95 a	77.46±0.90 a	11.58±0.49 a
2019	194.11±7.95 a	67.71±0.99 b	76.98±0.98 a	14.13±0.32 b
<b>( B) Cultivar × Year (A ∩ B)</b>				
Gloster 69	231.78±4.07 b	75.18±0.89 a	81.61±0.34 ab	9.18±0.21 g
Golden Reinders	148.84±0.89 f	63.43±0.28 e	70.57±0.32 f	13.58±0.19 d
Granny Smith	188.85±3.43 d	67.74±0.63 d	78.92±0.53 cd	11.64±0.19 f
Morrens	210.19±4.09 c	69.97±0.28 cd	79.53±0.91 bc	14.23±0.28 c
Jonagored				
Red Chief	198.40±2.81 cd	72.02±0.99 bc	76.70±0.75 de	9.28±0.24 g
Gloster 69	195.03±8.34 d	68.17±1.17 d	76.94±1.32 cde	13.95±0.18 cd
Golden Reinders	155.84±5.70 f	63.61±1.52 e	71.86±1.43 f	16.25±0.87 a
Granny Smith	167.48±4.14 e	63.09±0.47 e	75.71±0.86 e	12.62±0.80 e
Morrens	251.81±2.58 a	72.85±1.28 ab	83.62±1.27 a	14.86±0.38 b
Jonagored				
Red Chief	200.39±5.46 cd	70.95±0.74 bc	76.79±0.50 de	12.95±0.14 e
<b>ANOVA</b>				
<b>A</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>B</b>	ns	*	ns	*
<b>A ∩ B</b>	*	*	*	*

$p < 0.05$  LSD ; ns –

Values within each column followed by the same small letter are not significantly different at  $p < 0.05$  by LSD test; ns - non-significant differences.

148.84 251.81 g. - Average values of fruit weight of the investigated apple fruits ranged from 148.84 to 251.81 g. Analysed cultivars distinguished one from the other. The highest fruit weight was recorded in the cultivar 'Morrens Jonagored' (231.00 g), while the lowest fruit weight was recorded in the cultivar 'Golden Reinders' (148.84 g).

Reinders“ (152.34 g).	„Golden	in 'Golden Reinders' (152.34 g).
	,	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	,	-
	-	-
	„Morrens Jonagored“	-
	(251.81 g),	-
	„Golden Reinders“	-
„Stopit“ (148.84 g).		-
	63.09 75.18 mm,	-
	70.57 83.62 mm.	-
	„Gloster	-
69“ „Red Chief“	„Morrens Jonagored	-
(	(71.68; 71.48 71.41 mm)	-
„Granny Smith“	„Golden Reinders	-
(	(65.42 63.52 mm).	-
„Morrens Jonagored“	(81.57	-
mm),	-	-
„Gold Ginders“	(70.21	-
mm).	2018 .	-
	(69.67 mm)	-
2019 .	(67.71 mm),	-
(2018 .	- 77.46 mm	-
2019 .	- 76.98	-
mm).	/	-
	,	-
	-	-
	„Gloster 69“	-
mm)	2018 .	-
„Granny Smith“	(63.09 mm)	-
	2019 .	-
	,	-
	/	-
	-	-
„Morrens Jonagored	(83.62 mm),	-
„Gold Ginders “		-

(70.57 mm).

(Krgovi , 1990).

Miši (1994),

70 500 g, 98%

, Miši (2004)

„Golden Delicios“

(120-200 g),

„Gloster“

(18 -250 g) ,

„Stopit“

„Morrens Jonagored (82.42

mm),

„Golden Reinders (70.47

mm).

Gvozdenvi (1998),

65 75 mm,

, Asgharzade et al. (2012)

„Ashour (2000)

0.5%

Amiri et al. (2008)

Morphometric properties of apple fruit are genetically conditioned although their variation to a considerable extent can be conditioned by environmental factors (Krgovi , 1990).

Obtained fruit weight of the investigated cultivars in the experiment complies with the quotes by Miši (1994) pointing out that the fruit weight of domesticated apple cultivars ranges from 70 to 500 g, 98 % of which is edible. In addition, Miši (2004) states that the fruits of Golden Delicios belong to the group of medium-large to large (120-200 g), whereas fruits of Gloster belong to the group of large to very large (180-250 g). through application of foliar fertilizer ‘Stopit’ in the cultivar Morrens Jonagored (82.42 mm), and the smallest in the same treatment in the cultivar Golden Reinders (70.47 mm). Similar was found by Gvozdenvi (1998), who pointed out that fruits of attractive apple cultivars should be (characterised by dimensions) from 65 to 75 mm, which has been confirmed in our studies accordingly.

Regarding the use of foliar fertilizer based on calcium chloride, Asgharzade et al. (2012) state that the higher weight of apple fruit is obtained by using calcium chloride during vegetation.

Also, Ashour (2000) found that spraying with 0.5% calcium chloride affects the increase of fruit weight while Amiri et al. (2008) emphasize that foliar application of some fertilizers can be more efficient in terms of morphometric properties of fruit in relation to the standard fertilization method. Results obtained in this investigation are in line with those of the abovementioned authors.

Soluble solids content represents one of the key parameters determining quality and thereby, consumer acceptability (of fruits). Soluble solids content is increased by fruit maturity and

11.0%

13.5%,

, 9.18° 16.25° Brix.

„Golden Reinders“  
„Morrens Jonagored“ ( 14.92°Brix  
14.52 °Brix),

„Red Chief“ (11.12°Brix). 2019  
(14.13°Brix)

2018 (11.58°Brix).

( / ), -

„Golden  
Reinders“ 2019 (16.25°Brix),

„Gloster  
69“ „Red Chief“ 2018 (9.18°Brix)  
9.28°Brix). Netravati et al.

(2018)

„Stopit“

1 2.

is a basic indicator of quality and ripeness. In fruit production, above 11,0% is considered consumer-acceptable threshold for an apple cultivar and if the values of the mentioned fruit quality indicator are higher than 13,5%, acceptability is better.

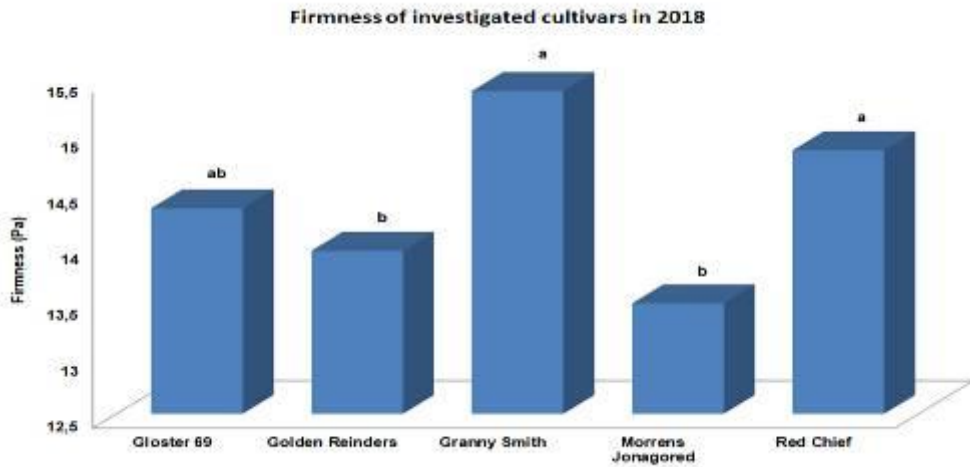
Average values of the soluble solids content of the investigated apple cultivars in the experiment varied in a wide range, from 9.18° to 16.25°Brix. Observed by cultivars, the highest values were recorded in Golden Reinders and Morrens Jonagored (14.92°Brix and 14.52°Brix, respectively), and the lowest values in Red Chief (11.12°Brix).

In 2019 (14.13°Brix) significantly higher values of the content of soluble solids compared to 2018 (11.58°Brix) were recorded. In interaction effect of variability factors observed (cultivar/year), the highest average value of the soluble solids was recorded in Golden Reinders in 2019 (16.25°Brix), and far lower values in Gloster 69 and Red Chief in 2018 (9.18°Brix i 9.28°Brix, respectively).

Netravati et al. (2018) state that there comes to an increase in the soluble solids content in fruits of apple applying treatments with calcium based compositions. Apart from that, the percentage increases during the storage.

In addition to the impact on quality, mesocarp firmness represents an important indicator of the fruit maturity.

Fruit firmness is one of the important physical properties determining fruit storage life and their timely distribution to the market. Study results on the impact of foliar fertilizer Stopit application on the fruit firmness of the investigated apple cultivars are given in Figure 1 and 2.



1. Firmness of investigated cultivars in 2018

2018

„Stopit“,  
 „Granny Smith“ „Red Chief“ (15.39 Pa 14.86 Pa).  
 „Gloster 69 (14.34 Pa),  
 „Golden Reinders“ (13.96 Pa)  
 „Morrens Jonagored (13.49 Pa).

Application of Stopit containing calcium in the form of calcium chloride exhibited a significant effect on the fruit firmness in all of the investigated cultivars. The greatest fruit firmness of fruit in the first year was recorded in cultivars Granny Smith and Red Chief (15.39 Pa and 14.86 Pa, respectively). Somewhat lower fruit firmness was recorded in Gloster 69 (14.34 Pa), whereas the lowest value was recorded in cultivars Golden Reinders (13.96 Pa) and Morrens Jonagored (13.49 Pa).



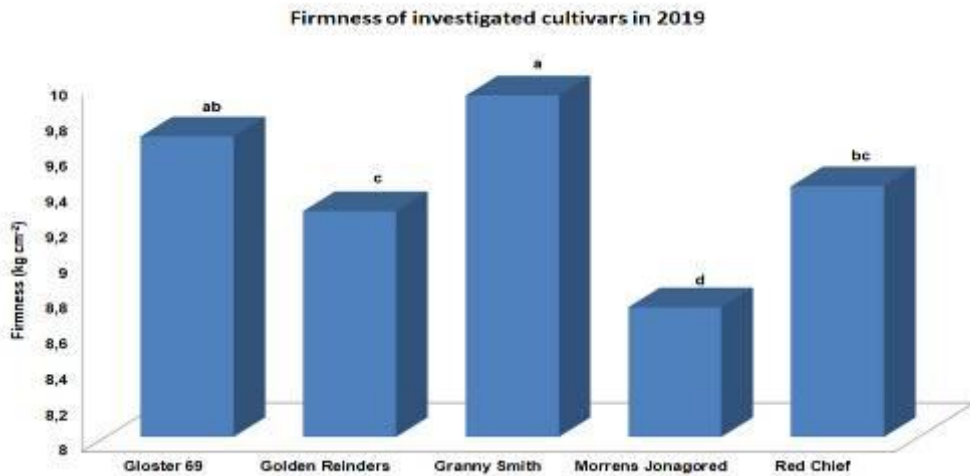


Fig. 2. Firmness of investigated cultivars in 2019

„Granny Smith (9.92 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), „Gloster 69“ (9.69 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), „Red Chief“ (9.27 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), „Golden Reinders“ (9.41 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), „Morrens Jonagored (8,73 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>). Asgharzade et al. (2012), Shirzadeh et al. (2011), Casero et al. (2004) Benavides et al. (2002), Siddiqui Bangerth (1995),

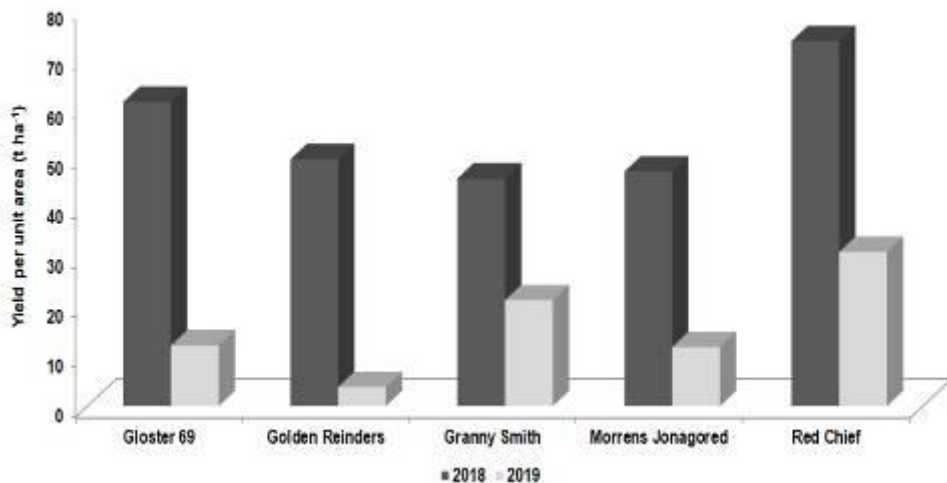
In the second year of study, as in the first, applied composition statistically significantly affected the firmness of fruit. The highest firmness of fruit was recorded in Granny Smith (9.92 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), followed by the cultivar Gloster 69 (9.69 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>), while somewhat lower values were recorded in cultivars Red Chief and Golden Reinders (9.41 kg cm<sup>-2</sup> and 9.27 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively).

The lowest value of fruit firmness was found in Morrens Jonagored (8.73 kg cm<sup>-2</sup>). Study results obtained in the work are in line with the quotes of Asgharzade et al. (2012) who emphasize that calcium chloride treatments before harvest significantly affect the increase of mesocarp firmness.

Similar results were reached by Shirzadeh et al. (2011) as well and Casero et al. (2004) and Benavides et al. (2002) have pointed to a positive correlation between fruit firmness and calcium content in fruit. According Siddiqui and Bangerth (1995), positive effects of calcium chloride application on the firmness of fruit are connected with calcium chloride content in fractions of covalently bonded pectins,

Saure (2005)

- while Saure (2005) emphasize that calcium affects cell membrane stabilization thus inhibiting physiological disturbances attributed to its lack.



. 3.

„Stopit“

**Fig. 3. Impact of Stopit application on yield per unit area of investigated apple cultivars**

- Bearing and therefore, yielding of fruits per unit area has the greatest biological and economic impact. Yield is conditioned by a number of factors that can be of biological and ecological origin.

- Regarding the year of study, by analyzing the obtained results, significantly higher values of yield per unit area have been recorded in the first year of study compared to the second year of study.

- However, it should be noted that significantly lower yields in the investigated cultivars are reached in the second year of study as a result of late spring frost during the last days of March and a substantial damage of flower buds in blooming phase. By analyzing the obtained results, the highest yield per unit area in both years of study was recorded

„Red Chief“ (2018 . - 73.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>; 2019 . - 31.062 t ha<sup>-1</sup>).  
"Gloster 69"

(61.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), „Golden Reinders", „Morrens Jonagored" „Granny Smith" ( 49.7; 47.25 45.85 t ha<sup>-1</sup>).

„Red Chief“, "Granny Smith" (21.35 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), „Gloster 69" (12.205 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) „Morrens Jonagored" (11.9 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), - „Golden Reinders" (3.85 t ha<sup>-1</sup>).

Jafarpour Poursakhi (2011)

al., 2008). (Amiri et

in the cultivar Red Chief (2018 – 73.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>; 2019 – 31.062 t ha<sup>-1</sup>).

The cultivar Gloster 69 also achieved a high yield in the first year of study (61.25 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), followed by Golden Reinders, Morrens Jonagored and Granny Smith (49.7; 47.25 and 45.85 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively). In the second year of monitoring the experiment, apart from Red Chief, high yields were also found in Granny Smith (21.35 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), followed by Gloster 69 (12.205 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and Morrens Jonagored (11.9 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), while the lowest yield was recorded in Golden Reinders (3.85 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Application of calcium based foliar fertilizer according to Jafarpour and Poursakhi (2011) have positive effect on the increase of fruit yield, i.e. a positive correlation has been found between number of application and yield. Best results of the calcium chloride application were obtained by combination of foliar application and standard method of fertilization (Amiri et al., 2008).

## CONCLUSIONS

One of the ways to improve apple fruit quality is treatment with foliar fertilizer 'Stopit' containing calcium in the form of calcium chloride. Foliar application of the respective fertilizer in different apple cultivars positively affected the most important fruit quality indicators of investigated apple cultivars during the two-year research. The acknowledged positive effect of 'Stopit' application on pomological properties of apple producers has enabled giving milestones in respect of improving apple cultivation with the aim of better apple fruits storage.

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· | express our sincere gratitude for the  
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## The Influence of the Disturbed Irrigation Regime on the Growth of Grafted Cuttings in the Vine Nursery

Emil Tsvetanov, Neli Prodanova-Marinova\*

*Institute of Viticulture and Enology, 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria*

*\*E-mail: nelj\_npm@abv.bg*

*Original scientific paper*

### SUMMARY

A field trial was carried out to study the role of the disturbed irrigation regime in the production of vine propagation material in the period 2011-2015, with the following options: V1 - 50% of the calculated irrigation rate (CIR); V2 - 75% of CIR; V3 - 100% of CIR, V4 - 125% of CIR and V5 - Control (60 cm depth of the active soil profile). Cuttings of Muscat Kailashki variety grafted on Berlandieri X Riparia SO4 rootstock were subjected to the study. Their rooting was done according to the technology adopted by IVE - Pleven (without mulching the beds with polyethylene foil). The growth dynamics of the grafted cuttings in the nursery was monitored

The obtained results showed that the irrigation rates below 100% of CIR, based on the root system development, had reduced the annual growth of the grafted cuttings; an increase in irrigation rates above the conventionally accepted optimum of 100% of CIR, respectively by

2011-2015 .  
: V1 – 50%  
( );  
V2 – 75% ; V3 – 100% ,  
V4 – 125% V5 – (60  
cm  
) .  
4.  
(  
) .  
100%  
;  
100% ,

125%

- 125% of CIR and the Control variant, had not affected the shoots' growth.

**Key words:** irrigation regime, grafted cuttings, vine nursery, shoots, annual growth

## INTRODUCTION

- The ecological factors have been of great significance for the growth rate of the vine shoots. The increase in length was the result of the continuous formation of new nodes and internodes in the vegetation apex and the intercalary growth. The soil and air moisture enhanced the physiological humidity of the tissues, facilitating the intensity of these processes (Bulgarian Ampelography, 1990).

(Bulgarian Ampelography, 1990).

60-70 %

(Slavcheva, 1986).

- The water regime has been found to be essential for the occurrence of the photosynthetic processes - with a rise of the temperature above the optimum for the vine during the summer months and humidity of 60-70% of the limit field soil water capacity (LFSWC), the photosynthesis intensity decreased (Slavcheva, 1986). That inevitably reflected on the strength and dynamics of cell division and tissue growth.

- The better soil moisture provided through irrigation led to an increase in the saturation of cells with water. Protoplasm water content depended on the water content of the cell juice and that largely determined the intensity of the processes of synthesis, including growth (Popov et al., 1972; Magriso et al. 1979, Magriso, 1981). For the cuttings in the vine nursery, it began even before root development and irrigation had a beneficial effect on its intensity (Baltagi and Valeanu, 1961).

(Popov et al., 1972; Magriso et al. 1979, Magriso, 1981).

(Baltagi and Valeanu, 1961).

- Water stress during vegetation caused poor growth and reduction of the shoot length (Poni et al., 1993; Gu et al., 2004).

(Poni et al.,

1993; Gu et al., 2004).

- The effect of the irrigation regime in the nursery on these processes had not

80% (Mishurenko and Krasnyuk, 1987).  
70-75 %  
85-90 % (Grigorov et al., 2013; Kurapina, 2013).  
85-90 %  
, 92 %  
75 % Kurapina and Gusev, 2009).

- been yet well studied. Investigations  
- carried out by some researchers had shown that the reduction of the soil moisture during cuttings' rooting below 80% of LFSWC led to a slowdown in the growth of the aboveground parts (Mishurenko and Krasnyuk, 1987).

When it was reduced to 70-75%, the weekly growth of the shoots dropped down and at the end of the growing season they were significantly shorter compared to the cuttings rooted at 85-90% (Grigorov et al., 2013; Kurapina, 2013). Data were published that while maintaining the soil moisture within 85-90% of LFSWC by drip irrigation, 92% of the cuttings developed shoots and the yield of standard vines was 75% (Kurapina and Gusev, 2009).

- The objective of this study was to find out the influence of different disturbed irrigation regimes on the growth of the grafted cuttings in the vine nursery.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out in 2011-2015 at the Experimental Base of the Institute of Viticulture and Enology (IVE) - Pleven as the soil type was leached chernozem. Five variants of irrigation rate were studied:

V1 – irrigation to 50% of the calculated irrigation rate (CIR);

V2 – irrigation to 75% of the calculated irrigation rate;

V3 – irrigation to 100% of the calculated irrigation rate);

V4 - irrigation to 125% of the calculated irrigation rate.

V5 – irrigation at constant depth of the active soil profile 60 cm (control).

2011-2015  
5 :  
V1 – 50%  
( );  
V2 – 75%  
;  
V3 – 100%  
;  
V4 - 125%  
.  
V5 -  
60  
cm ( ).  
400  
/ O4,  
8 50

- Each variant included 400 grafted cuttings of Muscat Kailashki/Berlandieri x Riparia SO4, distributed into 8 replicates of 50 cuttings each and grown in accordance with the adopted technology



(Dimitrova et al., 2007).

15 cm  
1.0 L h<sup>-1</sup>.

3-6 mm.

156 L h<sup>-1</sup>, 0.2  
5.0 m.

(1):

1.

**Table 1. Water-physical properties of soil**

Soil profile ( m)	10	20	30	40	50	60
soil specific weight g/cm <sup>3</sup>	10,25	10,45	10,48	10,40	10,33	10,33
LFSWC (% of the absolute soil dry weight)	24,31	25,52	24,24	24,50	23,55	23,85

7

10 cm,

0 60 m.

$$m = 10 \cdot H \cdot (d - d_{LFSWC})$$

m -  
m<sup>3</sup>/d ;

g/ m<sup>3</sup>

by IVE (Dimitrova et al., 2007).

- The grafted cuttings were watered by drip irrigation system with one lateral per ridge, located between the two rows of cuttings. The laterals had built-in drop-formation units every 15 cm with flow rate of 1.0 L h<sup>-1</sup>. The volume of the supplied irrigation water was controlled by means of water-meter installed at the beginning of the system. In the conditions of dry spell weather – high temperatures and low humidity, invigorating waterings were done by means of micro-sprinkling above the plants with watering rates of 1 mm. Micro-sprinklers were used for this purpose with flow rate of 156 L h<sup>-1</sup> at pressure 0.2 and 5.0 m radius of operation.

The experiment was carried out on soil with the following water-physical properties (Table 1):

For the determination of the soil moisture, soil samples were taken each 7<sup>th</sup> day during the whole period of irrigation at depth of 10 cm intervals, in the range from 0 to 60 cm. The samples were processed in the conventional weight-thermostatic method.

- After each soil sampling watering was performed to restore soil moisture to LFSWC. The amount of the watering was calculated using the following formula:

$$m = 10 \cdot H \cdot (d - d_{LFSWC})$$

where:

m – the irrigation rate in m<sup>3</sup>/d ;

– soil specific weight in g/ m<sup>3</sup>

– depth of the active soil layer,

$$= (0,001t^2 + 0,053t + 0,034)\sin 45^\circ +$$

( m); t –  
 ( . ); –  
 ( m).  
 $\sin 45^\circ = 15 \text{ m};$

d –  
 %  
 d – %

15-25  
 ANOVA, (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

2011  
 (V1  
 V2).  
 ( 2),  
 (V3, V4 V5).  
 V3 V4  
 V5.

- calculated by the empirical formula derived from data on the increased depth of the roots as a function of time (the period from transplanting the grafted cuttings in the nursery to removing the obtained vines at the end of the vegetation season);

$$= (0.001t^2 + 0.053t + 0.034)\sin 45^\circ +$$

Where: – depth of the active soil volume ( m); t – time from transplanting the grafted cuttings in the nursery (number of days); – planting depth of the cuttings in soil ( m). In this case = 15 m;  $\sin 45^\circ$  - angle at which the roots were growing the soil.

-  $d_{LFSWC}$  – limit field soil water capacity in % of the absolute soil dry weight;

$d_{moisture}$  – soil moisture in % of the absolute soil dry weight at the time of taking the soil sample.

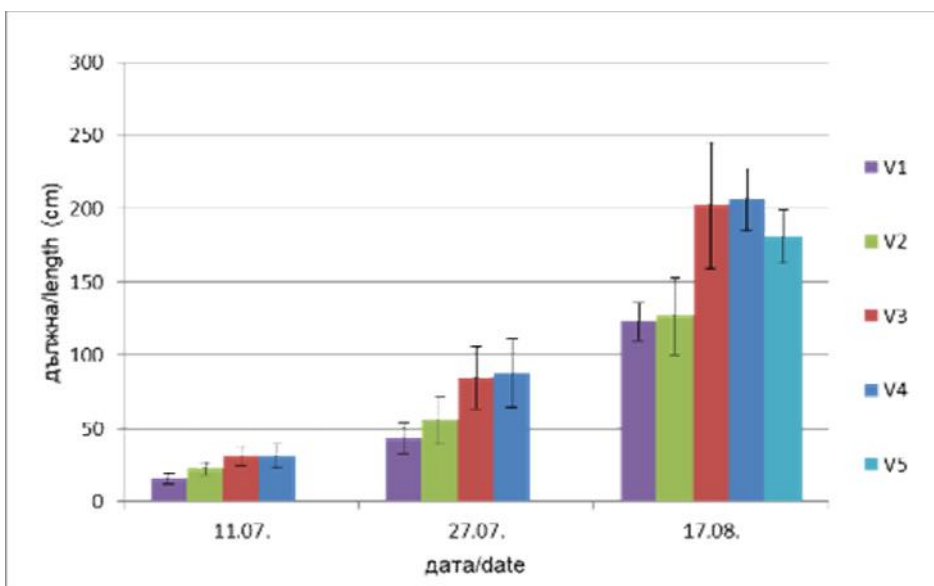
The dynamics of the grafted cuttings growth was recorded at an interval of 15-25 days.

The confidence of the differences between the values of this indicator for the separate variants was assessed by means of one-factor analysis of variance ANOVA (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1 From the data presented in Figure 1 on the dynamics of shoot growth in 2011 it could be seen the gradual delay of the variants with regulated water deficit (V1 and V2).

- During the last measurement, a statistical analysis of the data was made (Table 2), revealing that the vines from the variants with regulated water deficit had shown a weaker growth unlike those of the other three variants (V3, V4 and V5). The variants V3 and V4 did not differ significantly from V5.



1. **Fig. 1. Shoot growth dynamics in 2011**

2.  
(cm)

2011

**Table 2. Confidence of the difference in the shoot growth in 2011(cm)**

Variants	Mean rate	V5	V1	V2	V3
		Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
V5	185.17	x			
V1	123.33	-61.83 <sup>---</sup>	x		
V2	127.00	-58.16 <sup>---</sup>	3.66 <sup>n.s</sup>	x	
V3	184.17	-1.00 <sup>n.s</sup>	60.83 <sup>+++</sup>	57.16 <sup>+++</sup>	x
V4	202.67	17.50 <sup>n.s</sup>	79.33 <sup>+++</sup>	75.66 <sup>+++</sup>	18.50 <sup>n.s</sup>

5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s).

2012

The data on the dynamics of shoot growth in 2012 showed simultaneous start of the growth in all variants. Gradually, however, the variants V4 and V5 exceeded the other three, as variant V3 was equal to them during the last measuring. The variants V2 and V1 appeared to have weaker growth than the other three variants (Figure 2).

V4 V5

V3. V2

V1

2).

( 3),

V1 V2

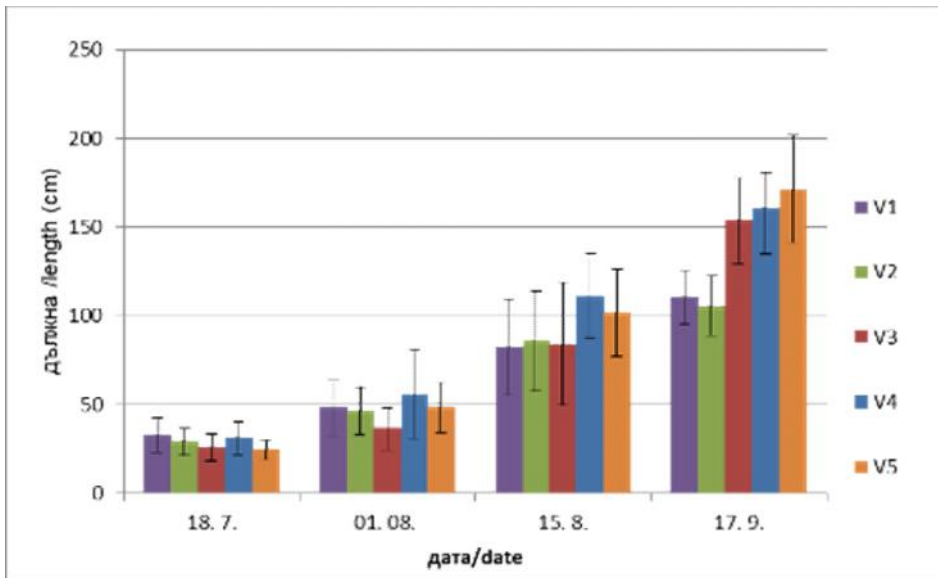
- During the last measurement, a statistical analysis of the data was made (Table 3), from which it could be seen that the variants V1 and V2 have shown a weaker growth than the other variants, while at the same time the difference between

V3, V4 V5.  
(V3)

100%

them was not significant.

That indicated that an increase in the irrigation rate above 100% of the CIR (V3) had no effect on the grafted cuttings growth.



. 2.

2012

Fig. 2. Shoot growth dynamics in 2012

3.

2012

(cm)

Table 3. Confidence of the difference in the shoot growth in 2012 (cm)

Variants	Mean rate	V5	V1	V2	V3
		Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
V5	161.17	x			
V1	91.33	-69.83 <sup>***</sup>	x		
V2	100.67	-60.50 <sup>***</sup>	9.33 <sup>n.s</sup>	x	
V3	163.83	2.66 <sup>n.s</sup>	72.50 <sup>+++</sup>	63.16 <sup>+++</sup>	x
V4	159.67	-1.50 <sup>n.s</sup>	68.33 <sup>+++</sup>	59.00 <sup>+++</sup>	-4.16 <sup>n.s</sup>

5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s).

. ( 3)

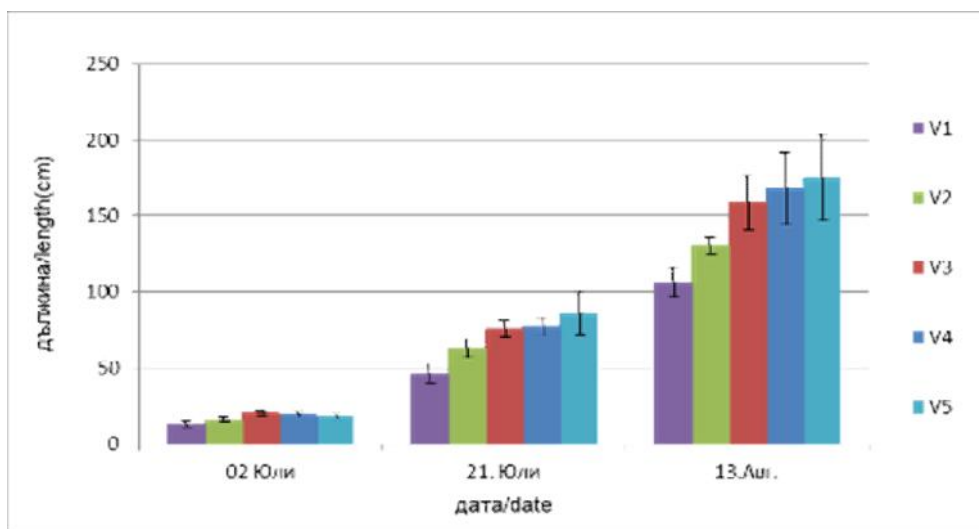
2014

V1 V2 -  
- V3, V4 V5 -

The data on the dynamics of the shoot growth in 2014 (Figure 3.) demonstrated that from the very beginning of counting the trial the variants V1 and V2 had slower growth, while the other three - V3, V4 and V5 - were equal with each other. The analysis of variance (Table 4) from the last counting proved

( 4)  
 V1 -  
 V2 -  
 V1, V3 V4 V5.  
 V3, V4, V5.  
 ( V1 V2)  
 (V3, V4 V5)  
 V3

that variant V1 had weaker growth compared to the rest of them. Variant V2 induced stronger growth than V1 but weaker than V3, V4 and V5. There was no difference between the variants V3, V4, and V5. The results showed that the reduction of the irrigation rates calculated according to the root system development (variants V1 and V2) had been proven to reduce the growth of the grafted cuttings. The correlation of the other three variants (V3, V4 and V5) demonstrated that the increase in the irrigation rate above the calculated V3 did not affect the shoot growth.



3. Fig. 3. Shoot growth dynamics in 2014

4.  
 (cm)

2014

Table 4. Confidence of the difference in the shoot growth in 2014 (cm)

Variants	Mean rate	V5	V1	V2	V3
		Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
V5	175.67	x			
V4	168.33	-7.33 <sup>n.s</sup>	x		
V3	159.00	-16.66 <sup>n.s</sup>	-9.33 <sup>n.s</sup>	x	
V2	130.83	-44.83 <sup>***</sup>	-37.50 <sup>**</sup>	-28.16 <sup>**</sup>	x
V1	106.67	-69.00 <sup>***</sup>	-61.66 <sup>***</sup>	-52.33 <sup>***</sup>	-24.16 <sup>*</sup>

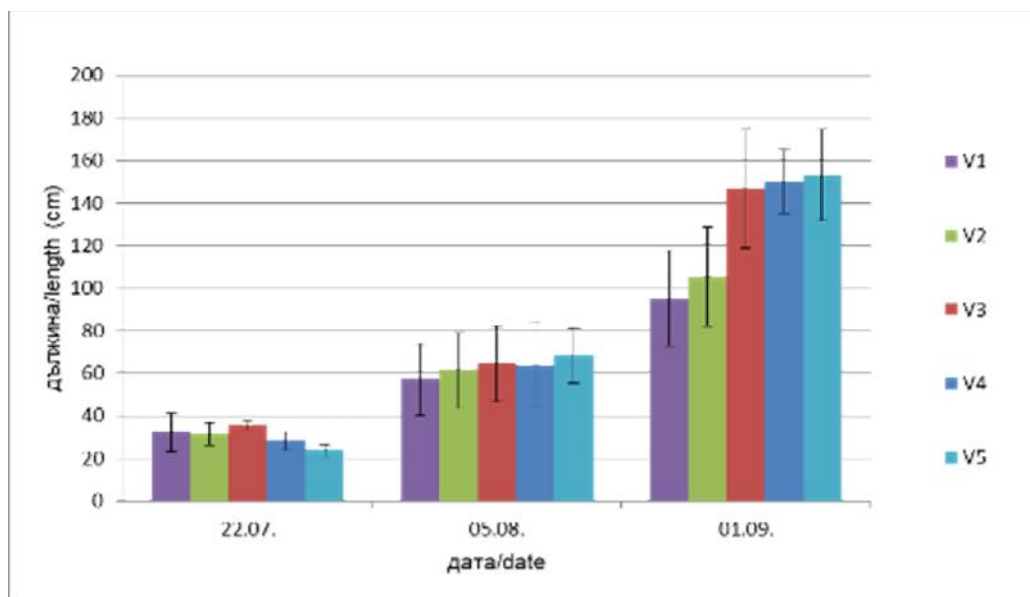
5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s).

2015 - ,  
 ,  
 V5 V4,  
 -  
 -  
 .  
 V1 V2  
 -  
 V3,  
 V4 V5  
 .  
 V2) ,  
 ( V1  
 (V3, V4 V5)  
 ,  
 4, 5.

The data on the shoot growth dynamics in 2015 revealed that there was no proven difference between the variants during the first measuring, however, there was a slight delay in the growth of V5 and V4 but during the second measuring these variants caught up the delay with the other trial variants.

Some findings were made based on the analysis of variance from the last reporting. Variants V1 and V2 had proven weaker growth compared to the rest of the trial variants. The difference between V3, V4 and V5 variants was non significant.

These results showed that the reduction of the irrigation rates calculated according to the root system development (variants V1 and V2) had been proven to reduce the growth of the grafted cuttings. The commensurability of the other three variants (V3, V4 and V5) revealed that the increase in the irrigation rate above the calculated one did not affect the shoot growth – Figure 4, Table 5.



4.  
 Fig. 4. Shoot growth dynamics in 2015

**Table 5. Confidence of the difference in the shoot growth in 2015 (cm)**

Variants	Mean rate	V5	V1	V2	V3
		Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
V5	153,17	x			
V4m	150,33	-2,833 <sup>n.s</sup>	x		
V3m	146,83	-6,333 <sup>n.s</sup>	-3,500 <sup>n.s</sup>	x	
V2m	105,67	-47,500 <sup>---</sup>	-44,667 <sup>---</sup>	-41,167 <sup>---</sup>	x
V1m	95,17	-58,000 <sup>---</sup>	-55,167 <sup>---</sup>	-51,667 <sup>---</sup>	-10,500 <sup>n.s</sup>

5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s)

(V1 V2) - (V3, V4 V1) ,  
V5). 2011, 2012 2015  
V2 2014 V1  
- V3, V4  
V2. V5, -

100%  
50%  
75%

From the data on the shoot growth over the four years of the trial, it might be concluded that the variants with reduced irrigation rates (V1 and V2) showed weaker growth compared to the other three trial variants (V3, V4 and V5). At the same time, V1 and V2 variants in 2011, 2012 and 2015 did not have a proven difference between each other, and in 2014, variant V1 showed a weaker growth than V2. As for variants V3, V4 and V5, the differences between them for the four years of the trial were non significant.

### CONCLUSIONS

The shoot growth of the studied disturbed irrigation regimes was in direct correlation with the irrigation rates. It could be concluded that the irrigation rates below 100% of the estimations based on the root system development were proven to reduce the annual growth of the grafted cuttings.

Significant differences in the shoot growth under irrigation at 50% of the calculated irrigation rate and at 75% were not found.

The increase in the irrigation rates above the conditionally accepted optimum had not affected the shoot growth.

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## First Results from the Investigation on the Influence of the Different Combinations of Treatments on the Vine Green Parts on the Yield Quantity of the Organic and Conventional Vine-growing

Yordanka Belberova, Emil Tsvetanov\*

*Institute of Viticulture and Enology, 1 Kala Tepe Str., 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria*

*\*E-mail: estzvetanov@gmail.com*

*Original scientific paper*

### SUMMARY

Two-factor analysis of variance revealed the degree of influence of the different combinations of treatments on the green parts of the vine on the yield quantity for biological and conventional cultivation of the vine during one wet/medium hot and one dry/hot year. The trial variants were as follows.

( ) : 1 - Factor (A) cultivation technology: a1 - conventional cultivation; a2 - organic. ; 2 - Factor (B) treatments of the vine green parts: V<sub>1</sub> - control - no summer pruning (b1); V<sub>2</sub> - normalization (thinning) of clusters - 1/3 (30 - 35%) of the clusters total for the variant (b2) have been removed; V<sub>3</sub> - thinning of the clusters + clearing in the cluster area (b3); V<sub>4</sub> - thinning of the clusters + shoot topping (July) + clearing in the cluster area (b4). ( ) + (b4). It was found that the level of impact of the green pruning treatments on the yield

- quantity was mainly influenced by the climatic characteristics of the particular year, regardless of the cultivation technology. In a wet and average hot year, the impact of the green pruning was not statistically proven, but the influence of the cultivation technology was of utmost importance. In a dry and hot year, a proven influence of the green pruning was found on the studied indicators.
- The only exception was the indicator of the mass per hundred berries, where only the effect of the combination of the two factors was proven. This indicator also showed a high level of influence of random factors, which in the two years of trial was over 40%.

40%.

**Key words:** vine, vine-growing, technology, organic, conventional, yield.

## INTRODUCTION

- The steady pace of development of conventional and organic grape and wine production has raised the prospective issues of efficient and innovative technological solutions, ensuring the vine-growers with guarantees of high profitability (Dimitrova et al., 2013).

(Dimitrova et al., 2013).

- The production risk in viticulture has been mainly due to the impact of the weather conditions of the year, reflecting on the instability of the yields obtained and the grapes quality.

- The improvement of some technological practices in the process of grapes growing according to the methods of conventional and organic farming might create conditions for limiting the risk and improving the quality parameters of the supplied produce.

- Globally, the vine green treatments (green pruning) have long been obligatory in vine-growing practices that apply to both conventional and organic viticulture (Siv ev et al., 2010; Ciobanu et al., 2012;

(Siv ev et al., 2010; Ciobanu et al., 2012; Gentile et al., 2016; Provost et Pedneault, 2016).

The green treatments are carried out during the growing season and cover a number of agricultural activities such as suckering, shoot topping, pinching off, cluster and leaves thinning, etc.

Although controversial opinions could be found in the literature about the green treatments on vine, performed properly and in a timely manner, these practices have a positive effect on the vine growth, the yield and the quality of the grapes (Nikov and Rangelov, 1991). The various combinations of seasonal treatments result in much more balanced sunlight penetration into the cluster zone.

The air flow through the crown and the microclimate of the vine are improved. The overall aromatic profile of the wines is enhanced (Volschenk and Hunter, 2001; Hunter et al., 2004). Shoot topping reduces the nutrients used for unnecessary growth.

It facilitates the light and water regime of the vines, increases the efficiency of plant protection, makes easy the implementation of agro-technical measures in the vineyards (Pavlov et al., 2005; Volschenk and Hunter, 2001; Hunter et al., 2004). The number of clusters per vine is of importance for the grapes quality. When the vines are overloaded, the ripening is delayed and grapes with small berries and watery consistency are obtained (Somkuwar et al., 2014). As the number of clusters is reduced, the yield per vine decreases also, but the ripening process is accelerated, and the cluster and berry weight is higher (Pallioti and Cartechini, 2001; Susaj et al., 2013). The grapes soluble solids content is increased and the resulting wines have a better ratio of anthocyanins, total phenols, flavonoids and lower titratable acidity (Gao and

(Gao and Cahoon, 1999; Gil et al., 2013).

Cahoon, 1999; Gil et al., 2013).

The treatments in the vine crowns (cluster thinning and lateral shoots topping) have an impact on their growth and fertility.

The basic agrobiological indicators are changed: yield (quantity and quality), annual growth, leaf area, etc. By cluster thinning and green treatments it could be achieved regulation of the yield and its quality.

The study objective was by two-factor analysis of variance to be determined the degree of influence of the different combinations of treatments on the green parts of the vine on the yield quantity for organic and conventional cultivation of the vine.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The trial was carried out in the years 2017 and 2019. The vineyards were planted with Muscat Kaylashki variety, located within the Experimental Base of the Institute of Viticulture and Enology - Pleven. The planting density was 3.20x1.20 m, the vines were grown on medium-high training system with a stem height of 1m. The rootstock was Berlandieri x Riparia Selection Openheim 4 (SO4), the pruning was done in spurs. The loading was 18 eyes per vine. After counting the inflorescences, the vines were distributed into four variants with approximately the same average number of inflorescences in both modes of cultivation.

Each variant had 4 replicates of 3 vines per repetition, or a total of 12 vines per variant. One suckering was carried out in all variants on the cordons. Twice suckering at the base and on the vine stems was also performed.

### Trial variants:

Factor "A":

- 1 – Conventional cultivation;
- 2 – Organic cultivation.

Factor "B":

2019

2017

3,20 1,20 m,

1m.

4 (CO4),

18

4

12

3

1 -

2 -

$V_1$  – (b1);  
 $V_2$  – 1/3 (30 - 35%);  
 $V_3$  – (b3);  
 $V_4$  – (b4);  
 - , (kg);  
 - , (g);  
 - 100 , (g);  
 ;

(Sirakov, 1981).

iMetos,

1

1

$V_1$  – control – no summer pruning (b1);  
 $V_2$  – normalization (thinning) of clusters - 1/3 (30 - 35%) of the clusters total for the variant (b2) have been removed;  
 $V_3$  – thinning of the clusters + clearing in the cluster area (b3);  
 $V_4$  – thinning of the clusters + shoot topping (July) + clearing in the cluster area (b4);

Indicators of the study:

- average yield per vine, (kg);
- average mass per cluster, (g);
- average mass per 100 berries, (g);
- average number of clusters per vine;

The climatic characteristics of the study years were determined by the methods of mathematical statistics (Sirakov, 1981). Temperature and precipitation data were recorded by iMetos automatic meteorological station located in the area of the Experimental Base of IVE - Pleven, where the vineyards were located. Table 1 presents the climatic characteristics of the study years.

**Table 1. Climatic characteristics of the years of the trial**

Years /		2017		2019	
$N_{(V-X)}$	%	6 – / Very wet, (622.4 mm)	50 – / Average, (332 mm)		
$^{\circ}_{(V-X)}$		33 – / Average hot, (19.8 °)	20 – / Very hot, (20.47 °)		
		(probability), N –	(precipitations), ° -		
		(average air temperature)			

2017 622,4 mm  
 6%,  
 19,8 ° 33%  
 2019

The precipitation in 2017 was 622.4 mm, evenly distributed throughout the period. The probability was 6%, determining the year as very wet. The average air temperature was 19.8° with probability of 33% defining the year as medium hot.

The precipitation distribution in 2019 was uneven, with the most rainfall in May, June and July, while in August, September and October there were almost no rainfall. The total amount of

77,4 mm, 47,2 mm  
1

(ANOVA) (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

(Lakin, 1990).

precipitation for September, October and November was 77.4 mm, as 47.2 mm were on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

That specified the year rather as dry in terms of the yield quantity and quality. Therefore it could be said that the trial was carried out during one very wet/medium hot and one dry/very hot year.

The obtained results were statistically processed by two-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999). The power of influence of the factors and its significance were calculated by the method of Plohinski (Lakin, 1990).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tables 2 and 3 show the data on the impact of green pruning on the yield quantity indicators per years and cultivation technology.

### 2.

#### 2017 .

**Table 2. Yield quantity indicators for organic cultivation in 2017**

/ Indicators	/ Organic				/ Conventional			
	/ Variants							
	V1	V2	V3	V4	V1	V2	V3	V4
Average yield per vine, (kg)	4.413	4.206	3.558	3.123	1.455	1.053	0.999	1.173
Average number of clusters per vine	16.50	14.42	12.75	12.25	9.15	6.90	7.67	9.25
Average mass per cluster, (g)	268.06	303.99	286.12	259.27	148.22	151.64	130.3	118.05
Average mass per 100 berries, (g)	271.03	296.60	264.21	270.86	270.28	274.66	240.06	271.84

### 3.

#### 2019 .

**Table 3. Yield quantity indicators for organic cultivation in 2019**

/ Indicators	/ Organic				/ Conventional			
	/ Variants							
	V1	V2	V3	V4	V1	V2	V3	V4
Average yield per vine, (kg)	2.997	3.682	3.842	3.187	4.245	3.571	3.933	3.453
Average number of clusters per vine	26.08	27.58	22.75	22.67	25.00	20.25	19.42	17.25
Average mass per cluster, (g)	115.03	129.75	169.58	141.63	171.43	180.33	205.46	196.02
Average mass per 100 berries, (g)	246.31	255.23	250.53	282.69	259.53	257.49	248.54	246.92

•  
,  
4.

- Yield per vine
- The analysis of variance for the influence of the factors cultivation technology, green pruning and their interaction with the indicator yield per vine are presented in Table 4.

4. ( ) ( ) :

**Table 4. Analysis of variance of the factors' influence: cultivation technology (A) and green pruning (B) on the yield per vine**

2017		2019	
Variation source	Power of influence (%)	Variation source	Power of influence (%)
/ Technology ( ) *** (0.1%)	75.62 *** (0.1%)	/ Technology ( ) n.s. (< 5%)	-
/ Green pruning ( ) n.s. (<5%)	-	/ Green pruning ( ) n.s. (<5%)	-
/ Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	/ Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
/ Errors	12.97	/ Errors	59.31

2017  
75,6%

2019  
59,31%,

- The analysis of the results revealed that during the wet and medium-hot year 2017, the cultivation technology affected the indicator in 75.6% of the cases, while the impact of green pruning was not proven.
- In the dry and hot 2019, the impact of none of the factors was proven. It should be noted here the high error rate of 59.31%, indicating that the impact of other random factors not included in the study was limiting that year.

•  
,  
5.

- Average mass per cluster
- The analysis of variance for the influence of the factors cultivation technology, green pruning and their interaction with the indicator average mass per cluster are presented in Table 5.

5.

( ) ( )

:

**Table 5. Analysis of variance of the factors' influence: cultivation technology (A) and green pruning (B) on the average mass per cluster**

2017		2019	
Variation source	Power of influence (%)	Variation source	Power of influence (%)
/ Technology ( ) *** ( 0.1%)	79.11 *** (0.1%)	/ Technology ( ) *** ( 0.1%)	40.34 *** (0.1%)
/ Green pruning ( ) n.s. (<5%)	-	/ Green pruning ( ) * (5%)	18.04 n.s. (< 5%)
/ Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	/ Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
/ Errors	17.06	/ Errors	36.78

2019

40,37%,

18,04%

2019

100

6.

That indicator again showed a strong influence of the cultivation technology and unproven influence of the green pruning in 2017. In 2019, the impact of both studied factors was proven, with the impact of the cultivation technology being 40.37% and the green pruning had an impact on the indicator in 18.04% of the cases.

Most likely, the impact of the green pruning was mainly due to the weather specifics of 2019, characterized by the strong uneven precipitation distribution, with the most rainfall predominantly at the beginning of the growing season.

The increased shoot growth during the second half of the vegetation season, during which there was almost no rainfall, appeared to be a competitor for the yield formation. The hot nature of the year further supported that competition.

Under these circumstances, the green pruning most likely reduced this competition in favour of the studied indicator.

- Mass per hundred berries

The analysis of variance for the influence of the factors cultivation technology, green pruning and their interaction with the indicator mass per 100 berries are presented in Table 6.



6. ( ) ( ) 100 :

**Table 6. Analysis of variance of the factors' influence: cultivation technology (A) and green pruning (B) on the average mass per 100 berries**

2017		2019	
Variation source	Power of influence (%)	Variation source	Power of influence (%)
/ Technology ( ) n.s. (< 5%)	-	/ Technology ( ) n.s. (< 5%)	-
/ Green pruning ( ) * (5%)	31.62 ** (1%)	/ Green pruning ( ) n.s. (< 5%)	-
/ Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	/ Interaction ** (1%)	32.15 ** (1%)
/ Errors	46.59	/ Errors	41.44

2017 , 100 -  
(31,62%). - ,  
- ,  
2019 .  
- .  
,  
, 40%.  
•  
,  
7.

- For the indicator mass per 100 berries in 2017, contrary to the other indicators, it was proven the influence only of the green pruning (31.62%). The most probable reason was that the green treatments had directed a greater water flow to the clusters at the expense of the reduced number of shoots. During the dry and hot year 2019, only the influence in the interaction of the two studied factors was proven.

- The independent impact of the factors was not statistically proven. In the analysis of the results for this indicator, the high ratio of influence of side factors not covered by the study was impressive, which in both years of the trial, despite their climatic differences, was over 40%.

• Average number of clusters per vine

- The data from the analysis of variance for the influence of the factors cultivation technology, green pruning and their interaction with the indicator average number of clusters per vine are presented in Table 7.

7. ( ) ( )

**Table 7. Analysis of variance of the factors' influence: cultivation technology (A) and green pruning (B) on the average number of clusters per vine**

2017		2019	
Variation source	Power of influence (%)	Variation source	Power of influence (%)
Technology ( ) *** (0.1%)	55.2 *** (0.1%)	Technology ( ) *** (0.1%)	27.55 *** (0.1%)
Green pruning ( ) n.s. (< 5%)	-	Green pruning ( ) ** (1%)	29.41 ** (1%)
Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
Errors	21.55	Errors	27.01

2017  
55,2%.  
2019  
27,55%  
( ) 29,41% ( ).

- For this indicator too, in the wet and medium-hot 2017, the influence of the factor cultivation technology with a power of influence 55.2% was limiting. The impact of green pruning was not statistically proven. The results of the analysis for 2019 showed a proven impact of both studied factors, 27.55% for factor (A) and 29.41% for factor (B), respectively.

- The green pruning impact that year was explained by the reduced number of clusters per vine and the reduced shoot length as a result of shoot topping that had a positive effect on the studied indicator.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- On the basis of the presented results it could be concluded that the level of impact of the green pruning treatments on the yield quantity was mainly influenced by the climatic characteristics of the particular year, regardless of the cultivation technology. In a wet and average hot year, the impact of the green pruning was not statistically proven, and the cultivation technology was determining. In dry and hot years, a proven influence of the green pruning was found on the studied indicators.

- The only exception was the indicator of the mass per hundred berries, where only

40%.

the effect of the combination of the two factors was proven. For this indicator it was also observed a high level of influence of random factors, which in the two years of the trial was over 40%.

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## **Maturation of the Grafted Cuttings Growth in a Vine Nursery under the Impact of Osiryl Biostimulator First Announcement**

Nikolay Iliev\*, Ivan Pachev

*Institute of Viticulture and Enology, 1 Kala Tepe Str., 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria*

*\*E-mail: [nikolayilievpl@gmail.com](mailto:nikolayilievpl@gmail.com)*

*Original scientific paper*

### **SUMMARY**

The paper has presented the results of Osiryl biostimulator impact on the maturation of the grafted cuttings growth in a vine nursery. The trial was conducted in 2018 and 2019 with Kailashki Rubin wine variety grafted to Berlandieri x Riparia SO4 rootstock. The effect of the treatment was evaluated by the indicators revealing the maturation rate of the main shoot and the mature annual growth of the rooted vines. Although only the results from the second year were statistically proven, it was observed an overall trend for the product positive impact in favour of the treated variant for both years.

**Key words:** Osiryl, biostimulators, vine nursery, grafted cuttings, main shoot, maturation, mature growth

2018 2019 .

4.

## INTRODUCTION

The nature of Bulgaria offered a variety of ecological factors, combined in unique soil-climatic complexes that provided the vine with a wide field for revealing its biological, varietal and technological potential. Apart from the natural complex of factors, the agrochemical one also had a decisive influence on the plants. It had been proven that the vine status might be improved by fertilizing. The macronutrients nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium had a specific effect on its physiology and it should not be neglected. The meso- and microelements were of great importance because their presence had a “therapeutic” effect on the plant development (Hristov, 2007).

In the transition from conventional to organic farming, many studies were focused on various advanced technologies that improved soil fertility but were environmentally and plant-friendly.

Therefore, the rejection to use synthetic compounds had provoked the search of natural substances and highly efficient preparations, the action of which was aimed at obtaining higher yields of good quality (Zhunic, 1996). For this purpose, the complex of agro-technical measures included the so-called growth regulators, which in the case of vine vegetative propagation were used in three ways.

One of them was by treating the grafted cuttings with auxin-like compounds before planting them in the nursery (Radchevskiy et al., 2010). Another effective approach was by foliar stimulation of their growth with complex organic-mineral preparations containing micro nutrients (Nikolskiy and Pankin, 2018).

A positive effect on the annual growth and yield of standard propagation material could be achieved by the introduction

(Hristov, 2007).

1996).

al., 2010).

Pankin, 2018).

)  
(  
(Pachev and Prodanova-Marinova, 2016).

through fertigation (with the irrigation water) of stimulant products derived from algae and containing the main macronutrients (Pachev and Prodanova-Marinova, 2016).

The maturation of the annual growth directly correlated with the accumulation of plastic substances in the vine wood, which in turn depended on the nutrition during the vegetation. The optimal physiological processes in the plant were a guarantee for its good storage, especially with the depressing effect of various adverse factors.

A well provided vine in a fruit-bearing vineyard had great growth strength, good vegetation and high fertility in each new season. It was resistant to extreme temperatures and drought, to various diseases and pests. The same referred to the cultivated and well-rooted vine, which got a powerful start when planted in a permanent place.

The relevance of research in vine nurseries was that an answer should be found to the question of how, at certain soil and weather conditions and technologies for vine propagation material production, the different varieties responded to the diversity of biologically active substances and the stimulating products created on their base that increased the ratio of rooted vines and their quality. The studies in our country could not be considered enough, as the response of a number of newly selected, promising and with valuable economic qualities varieties was not known, the favorite among which was Kailashki Rubin.

The objective of the study was to determine the impact from the treatment with Osiryl biostimulator on the shoots maturation and the mature annual growth of the grafted cuttings.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The trial was carried out with the wine Kaylashki Rubin variety (Ivanov et al., 2011), grafted to Berlandieri x Riparia rootstock, selection Openhaim 4 (Roychev, 2012).

The grafted cuttings growing technology was with open top part (to the wax) in two-row beds (Dimitrova et al., 2007; Todorov, 2005). Micro-sprinkling and drip irrigation was applied (Tsvetanov, 2019).

The trial pattern consisted of 2 variants: V1 - Control (no treatment) and V2 - Osiryl treatment, each with 4 repetitions of 50 cuttings.

The nurseries were situated at the Experimental Base of IVE-Pleven where the soil type was heavy sandy-clay leached chernozem formed on clay loess (Krastanov and Dilkova, 1963).

Osiryl biostimulator favoured the root growth and regeneration, optimizing the water and soil minerals absorption. It was approved for use in the organic growing of all crops. The treatment was performed in rainy conditions, during the irrigation or by spraying ([www.groupe-frayssinet.fr](http://www.groupe-frayssinet.fr)). For the aim of the trial, it was done in accordance with the development of the nourishing roots of the cuttings during their rooting, and the method of introduction – with the technology of cultivation in IVE-Pleven (through the irrigation water). It was performed four times at a dose of application 1000 ml/da.

The biostimulator impact was evaluated by the following indicators:

- Main shoot maturation rate (cm);
- Length of the mature growth (cm);
- Mass of the mature growth (g).

The maturation of the main shoots was monitored during rooting at 3 intervals of 7-14 days. The mature growth was recorded after the propagation material was graded. The measurements



3

(ANOVA)

(Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

were taken on 3 vines of each replicate.

The results were processed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) from a one-factor field trial based on the long plots method (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rooting of the grafted cuttings in 2018 was done from May 19 to November 1 (166 days), while in 2019 – from May 23 to October 29 (159 days). The maturation process of the main shoots in the first year was observed in the interval from September 21 to October 19, and in the second one – between September 16 and October 10.

The biennial data in Figure 1 showed firstly a trend where the maturation began earlier in the Osiryl-treated cuttings. Secondly, it could be seen that the process as a whole was more intense, also in favour of the treated variant. That difference between the years was clearly visible in 2019, when the recorded difference was higher and went up significantly with each subsequent recording. An insignificant exception was only the last accounting in 2018, when the difference compared to the intermediate was smaller, but still remained in favour of the treated variant.

The first recording in 2018 showed a difference of 5.7 cm compared to the control variant while in 2019 – 7.8 cm. Expressed as a ratio, that difference in the first year was equal to 14.3% longer mature part, and in the second year – to 50.1%.

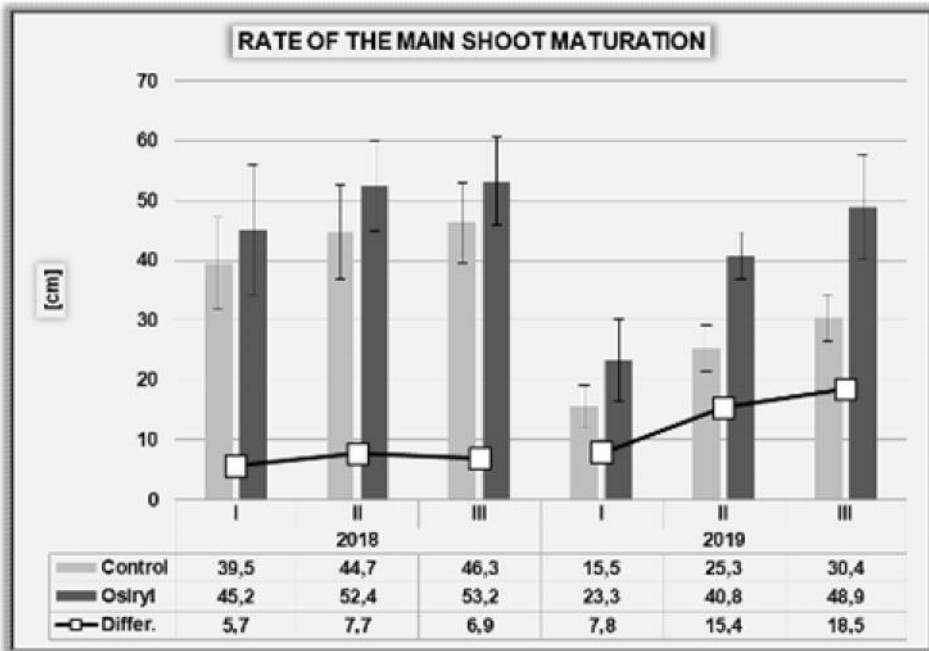
During the second recording, the difference between the variants marked a clear peak, which was proof that at that time the maturation was the most intense. In 2018, it was 7.7 cm (17.3%), and in the second year – 15.4 cm (60.9%).

The final recording revealed that the process was in a slow-down phase

Year	Date	Days	2018 (cm)	2019 (cm)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
	19		5,7			
	16		10			
	19		7,7		14,3	
	23		7,7			50,1
	29			15,4		60,9
	1					
	29					

2018 .  
 6,9 cm (15 %),  
 2019 .  
 18,5 cm (60,8 %).

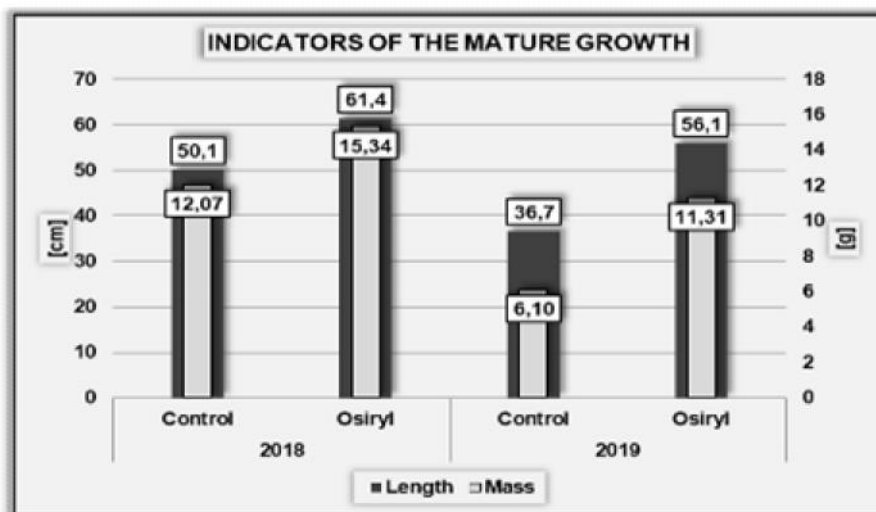
where the mature part of the main shoot in 2018 was longer by 6.9 cm (15%), and in 2019 – respectively by 18.5 cm (60.8%).



1.  
 Fig. 1. Rate of the main shoot maturation

(V2)  
 ( 2). 2018 .  
 11,3 cm 3,27 g,  
 19,4 cm 5,21 g.  
 2019 . –  
 27,2 % -  
 52,7 85,4 %.

The biometric measurements fully confirmed the observed tendency for a higher rate of the growth maturation in the rooted vines treated with Osiryl biostimulator (V2) during both years of the trial (Figure 2). In 2018, the mature part of the overall growth demonstrated differences, expressed in length and mass, amounting to 11.3 cm and 3.27 g, and in 2019 – to 19.4 cm and 5.21 g. The same, expressed as a percentage in the first year were equal to 22.5% longer and 27.2% heavier mature part of the growth, and in the second year – respectively to 52.7 and 85.4%.



2.  
Fig. 2. Indicators of the mature growth

2018 . ( 1) ,  
(n.s). 2019 . -  
V2  
18,5 cm  
5% (+).  
19,4 cm 5,21 g  
1% (++) 5% (+).

Regardless the fact that in both years of the study the recorded differences were in favour of the OsiryI-treated variant, the analysis of variance (Table 1) showed that in 2018 the results were not statistically proven (n.s). In 2019, the higher rate of the main shoot maturation in V2 was proved in the last accounting with a difference of 18.5 cm and a confidence level of 5% (+). The length of the mature growth and its mass were also proven in the favour of the treated variant with differences of 19.4 cm and 5.21 g at confidence levels of 1% (++) and 5% (+), respectively.

1.

Table 1. Analysis of variance of the studied indicators

Variant	Length of the mature part of the main shoot [cm]			Length of the mature growth [cm]			Mass of the mature growth [g]			
	Mean	Difference	Proven	Mean	Difference	Proven	Mean	Difference	Proven	
<b>2018</b>										
V1	/Control	46.3	x	x	50.1	x	x	12.07	x	x
V2	/OsiryI	53.2	6.9	n.s	61.4	11.3	n.s	15.34	3.27	n.s
<b>2019</b>										
V1	/Control	30.4	x	x	36.7	x	x	6.10	x	x
V2	/OsiryI	48.9	18.5	+	56.1	19.4	++	11.31	5.21	+

/ The difference was significant at confidence level:  
5% (+/-); 1% (++/-); 0.1% (+++/-) and < 5% (n.s) – / not significant.

		2018		2019	
		(V1)	(V2)	(V1)	(V2)
Maturity (%)	Control	15	60,8	27,2	52,7
	Treated	15	60,8	52,7	85,4
Length (cm)	Control	6,9	18,5	11,3	19,4
	Treated	6,9	18,5	19,4	32,1
Mass (g)	Control	3,27	5,21	3,27	5,21
	Treated	3,27	5,21	5,21	19,4
Significance	Control				
	Treated			1% (++)	5% (+)

## CONCLUSIONS

The obtained two-year results showed the following trend:

In both years of the trial, the main shoots of the Osiryl treated cuttings (V2) revealed a higher rate of maturation than those of the control cuttings (V1). In 2018, the active phase of the process subsided with a difference in length of 6.9 cm (15%), and in 2019 – 18.5 cm (60.8%).

The mature part of the rooted vines total growth was completely dependent on the intensity of the main shoot maturation and confirmed the positive effect of the biostimulator. In the first year, the differences in favour of V2, expressed in length and mass, were 11.3 cm (22.5%) and 3.27 g (27.2%), and in the second year, 19.4 cm (52.7%) and 5.21 g (85.4%), respectively.

There was statistical significance of the differences in favour of the treated variant in 2019 for all indicators. The rate of the main shoot maturation in dynamics was proved with a confidence level of 5% (+), and the length of the mature growth and its mass from the biometric measurements – by 1% (++) and 5% (+), respectively.

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1 , 2 , 5600 ,  
2 , 9700 ,

## Development of Innovative Products from the Processing of Sugar Beet and Sea Buckthorn

Teodora Mihova<sup>1\*</sup>, Stanimir Enchev<sup>2</sup>, Tatyana Bozhanska<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture, 5600 Troyan, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>Agricultural Institute, 9700 Shumen, Bulgaria

\*E-mail: teodora.mihova@gmail.com

Original scientific paper

### SUMMARY

Two innovative assortments of pestil (sun dried marmalade) have been developed and the qualitative indicators of raw materials and products obtained from them according to a traditional recipe have been studied. The first assortment is made from sugar beet variety Diex (2x) created by the Agricultural Institute - Shumen. The second range is the sugar beet variety Diex (2x) and Siberian sea buckthorn breded in the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture - Troyan. Biochemical compound and the changes of the developed products and the raw materials were analyzed.

Sugar beet variety Diex (2x) has high levels of dry matter content, total sugars, inverted sugar and sucrose. Total polyphenols, organic acids, ascorbic acid and tannins dominant in the fruits of Siberian sea buckthorn.

Comparative analysis of the developed assortment of sun dried marmalade shows that the innovative

- product from sugar beet and Siberian sea buckthorn has higher values of total polyphenols, as well as higher overall sensory evaluation compared to sugar beet pestil.

**Key words:** pestil, fruit leather, sun dried marmalade, innovative products, sea buckthorn, sugar beet, biochemical compounds

## INTRODUCTION

Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*. L.) is a hardy thorny bush or small tree of family *Eleagnaceae*. It is commonly known as sea buckthorn, sandthorn distributed on a sandy soil near the rivers, the dunes and the coastline in Europe, Japan, Himalayas, Altai, Tibet (Li and Schroeder, 1996; Li and Wang, 1998). The female plants produce ripe sea buckthorn berries yellow, orange, or red in colour, are spherical in shape, and range in size between 3 and 8 mm in diameter weighing from 0.2 g to 1 g (Li and Schroeder, 1996).

The sea buckthorn berries has been used for medicinal and nutritional purposes in Russia, Europe, and Asia for many centuries. As an agricultural plant is grown in Germany, France, Finland, India and China, which is the largest agricultural producer of sea buckthorn. Many of the substances that are found in the sea buckthorn are known to have beneficial effects on health (Li and Schroeder, 1996). It has been well established in the literature that berries and seeds contain high amounts of natural antioxidants including ascorbic acid, tocopherols, carotenoids, flavonoids, as well as health beneficial fatty acids (Rosch et al., 2003; Mondeshka, 2005).

It acts favourably in colitis, gastritis and ulcers, as well as on lipid exchange in the liver. Its antioxidant properties protect the body from cardiovascular disease, hypertension, atherosclerosis and lower blood cholesterol levels. In taste the fruits

( , )

e (Mingyu, 2001; Kallio et al., 2002; Dharmananda, 2004; Mondeshka, 2005; Yang, 2009).

*Beta vulgaris*,

*vulgaris subsp. vulgaris*

75% , 20%  
5% . 12% 21%,

(Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2001; Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2004; Uchkunov, 2008; Atanasov et al. 2009; Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2011; Enchev et al., 2017).

- resemble the cornelian cherry - sweet, slightly acidic but with a specific flavor of pineapple. All food products in the diet normalize the functioning of the gastrointestinal tract. Products on the market from sea buckthorn range from oil, juice, and food additives to candies, jellies, cosmetics, and shampoos. Sea-buckthorn fruit is used to make pies, jams, lotions and liquors, as nutritional ingredient in baby food. The juice or pulp has other potential applications in foods or beverages. It provides a nutritious multi-vitamin beverage, rich in ascorbic acid and carotenes (Mingyu, 2001; Kallio et al., 2002; Dharmananda, 2004; Mondeshka, 2005; Yang, 2009).

The beetroot is also known as the table beet, garden beet, sugar beet, red beet, dinner beet or golden beet. It is one of several cultivated varieties of *Beta vulgaris* grown for their edible taproots and leaves (called beet greens); they have been classified as *B. vulgaris subsp. vulgaris*. They are a traditional food in many countries.

The root of sugar beet contains 75% water, about 20% sugar, and 5% pulp. The sugar content can vary between 12% and 21% sugar, depending on the cultivar and growing conditions.

Sugar is the primary value of sugar beet as a cash crop. The pulp, insoluble in water and mainly composed of cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin, and pectin, is used in animal feed (Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2001; Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2004; Uchkunov, 2008; Atanasov et al. 2009; Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2011; Enchev et al., 2017).

The pestil, also known as Gabrovo chocolate, is sun dried marmalade made from different fruits, is one of the methods of storing and consuming fruits, because of its long-lasting and high energy value.



(Vitanova et al., 2005; Dimkova et al., 2017; Dimkova et al., 2018).

(Ivanova and Mihova, 2019; <http://www.gabrovonews.bg/news/141657/>; <https://sites.google.com/site/ovosarstvobg/sina-sliva>).

(Blazek and Vavra, 2007; Sezer et al., 2016; Yildiz and Sarimeseli, 2017; Tontul and Topuz, 2018).

Diex

Pestil production is widespread and has long been practiced in Southeast Asia and Balkans.

In Bulgaria it is mainly popular in mountainous and pre-mountainous areas with developed plum production - Gabrovsko, Troyan, Tryavna, Sevlievo, Kyustendil (Vitanova et al., 2005; Dimkova et al., 2017; Dimkova et al., 2018).

In Bulgaria product was prepared by boiling and straining the fruit, with or without added sugar until became a thick mass which is spread in a thin layer and dried to solidification (Ivanova and Mihova, 2019; <http://www.gabrovonews.bg/news/141657/>; <https://sites.google.com/site/ovosarstvobg/sina-sliva>). In Turkey, the pestil is most often made from grape juice, pomegranate, and apricot puree, thickened with a starch spread in a thin layer. It is a traditional popular food also in other East Asian and Middle Eastern countries (Blazek and Vavra, 2007; Sezer et al., 2016; Yildiz and Sarimeseli, 2017; Tontul and Topuz, 2018).

The aim of this study is to develop innovative products pestil from sugar beet and to compare in terms of quality and biochemical indicators of the fruit leather from sugar beet and sea buckthorn.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Fruit materials

The fruits of the Siberian variety have been grown and supplied by RIMSA-Troyan. The bushes are up to 2.50m high. Fruits are large and oval, mature from the end of July to mid-August. In terms of the taste, they resemble cornelian cherry - sweet, slightly sour, but with a specific pineapple aroma.

Diex The new sugar beet variety Diex is a monogerm diploid hybrid. The seeds of the hybrid are with extremely high laboratory and field germination. Diex shows stable high productivity in irrigation and non-irrigation conditions in the

*Rhizomania*,  
*Phoma*,  
 Diex  
 (Kikindonov and  
 Kikindonov, 2011).  
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 -  
 :  
 ,  
 96-98° 40  
 ,  
 -  
 :  
 ,  
 96-98° 40  
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 ,  
 (NS-750 Kuvings Silent).  
 :  
 •  
 - EN 12143;  
 • (pH), 11688;

different regions of the country and is distinguished and uniform regarding the technological qualities. The new variety is with a very high tolerance to the agent of the *Rhizomania* disease, high degree of resistance to the beet mosaic virus, *Phoma* and root rot, and with a high resistance to Leaf spots. The ecological plasticity and the comparatively cheap production of high sowing quality seeds of the new variety Diex are preconditions for its effective application in the practice (Kikindonov and Kikindonov, 2011).

The developed assortments are obtained according to the traditional recipe at the following technological stages:

The first assortment of sugar beet pestil was obtained at the following technological steps: acceptance, inspection, washing, cleaning, cutting, heat-treated at 96-98 °C for 40 minutes, blending the mass, homogenization, drying.

The second assortment of sugar beet and sea buckthorn is obtained at the following technological steps of raw material acceptance, inspection, washing, cleaning, cutting, heat treated at 96-98 °C for 40 minutes, blending the mass, mixing with the sea buckthorn juice, homogenization, drying.

Obtaining the juice from the fruits for use in preparation of the pestil the sugar beet and peppermint recipe was obtained at the following technological steps: receiving, inspecting, washing, obtaining the cold pressed juice with the NS-750 Kuvings Silent Juicer, the advantage of which is the low rapid extraction of juice to maintain nutrients. Mixing the ingredients is in the ratio of the second variant of pestil from sugar beet and sea buckthorn: 3 to 1.

### Chemical parameters

The following chemical parameters were monitored:

- Determination of dry matter % - BDS EN 12143-00;
- Determination of active acidity (pH) -

- , (%), 7169-89;
- , (%), 6996;
- (mg%), 11812 91;
- (%) – BDS 16491-86
- (%) – Levental-Nibbaur (Bukharina et al., 2015);
- Singleton and Rossi

(Lidanski, 1998)  
Microsoft Excel.

- - 0,2;
  - - 0,2;
  - - 0,15;
  - - 0,3;
  - - 0,15.
- 1 5 ( 0,25),

- 4.50 ÷ 5.00 - ;
- 4.00 ÷ 4.49 - ;
- 3.50 ÷ 3.99 - ;
- 3,50 - ;

- BDS 11688-93;
- Total titratable acidity,% - BSS 6996-93;
- Active acidity (pH) - BDS 11688;
- Total sugars,% - BDS 7169-89;
- Ascorbic acid, mg% - BDS 11812-91;
- Pectin,% - BDS 16491-86;
- Tannin substances,% - Levental-Nibbaur method by (Bukharina et al., 2015);
- Total polyphenols by the Singleton and Rossi method

Data received are statistically treated by dispersion analysis (Lidanski, 1998) and Microsoft Excel programs.

### Sensory analysis

It was made organoleptic evaluation using a grading system of the developed products. Samples were provided of the tasters, each completing a tasting card. Products are evaluated by indicators: appearance, taste, smell, texture, color. Each indicator has a coefficient of the total sensory evaluation respectively:

- Appearance - 0.2;
- Colour – 0.2;
- Consistency – 0.15;
- Taste - 0.3;
- Odor - 0.15.

Used grading scale of 1 to 5 (with a pitch of 0.25), which corresponds to the quality of the sample based on that metric.

The five-point grading system makes the total sensory evaluation grade of the quality of the sample based on the total score obtained:

- 4.50 ÷ 5.00 rating - the raw material / product is very good;
- 4.00 ÷ 4.49 rating - the raw material / product is good;
- 3.50 ÷ 3.99 rating - the raw material / product needs improvement;
- below 3.50 grade - the raw material / product needs significant improvement.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from Table 1 presents the studies carried out on the fresh fruits - sugar beet and sea buckthorn.

### 1. *Hippophae rhamnoides*. L.) Diex (2x)

**Table 1. Biochemical indicators of the fresh material sugar beet variety Diex (2x) and the Siberian sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*. L.)**

Fruit materials	Dry weight matter, %	Dry matter refractometric, %	Total sugars, %	Inverted sugars, %	Sucrose, %	Organic acids, %	Ascorbic acid, mg/%	Tannins, %	Pectins, %	Total polyphenols, mg/%
sea buckthorn	14.21	8	4.05	2.55	2	7.36	184.48	0.112	0.44	1141.99
sugar beet	21.14	23.2	14.4	4.70	5.28	1.24	8.92	0.470	3.31	110.07

The comparative analysis between the fresh fruit material presents higher values indicator of dry matter content and the total sugars are more than 3 times higher at the sugar beets, as it is used as a natural source of sweetening. Pectin is almost 8 times higher than in the juicy fruits of the Siberian sea buckthorn. As a medicinal plant, the sea buckthorn is rich in bioactive compounds

The indicator organic acids are 6 times higher. The analyzed biochemical parameters of the fresh fruit materials in terms of total polyphenols content is 10 times higher in the sea buckthorn compared to the sugar beet. The determined ascorbic acid of the fresh fruit materials shows more than 20-times higher value in the sea buckthorn compared to the sugar beet variety Diex (2x).

The obtained results gave grounds to develop, a new innovative sugar beet and sea buckthorn product, using traditional technology in order to improve the quality of the pestils products.

Table 2 presents the results of the physical and biochemical analyzes of the developed assortments of sugar beet and sugar beet with sea buckthorn.

(2x) (*Hippophae rhamnoides. L.*)Table 2. Biochemical indicators of the pestils from the sugar beet variety Diex (2x) and with the Siberian sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides. L.*)

Pestils	Dry weight matter, %	Total sugars, %	Inverted sugars, %	Sucrose, %	Organic acids, %	Ascorbic acid, mg/%	Tannins, %	Pectins, %	Total polyphenols, mg/%
sugar beet	82.02	44.5	44.5	0	1.53	25.4	0.289	4.64	558.93
sugar beet and sea buckthorn	86.24	37.9	37.9	0	1.91	76.5	0.506	2.22	618.23

( 4 9,5 )

3,45

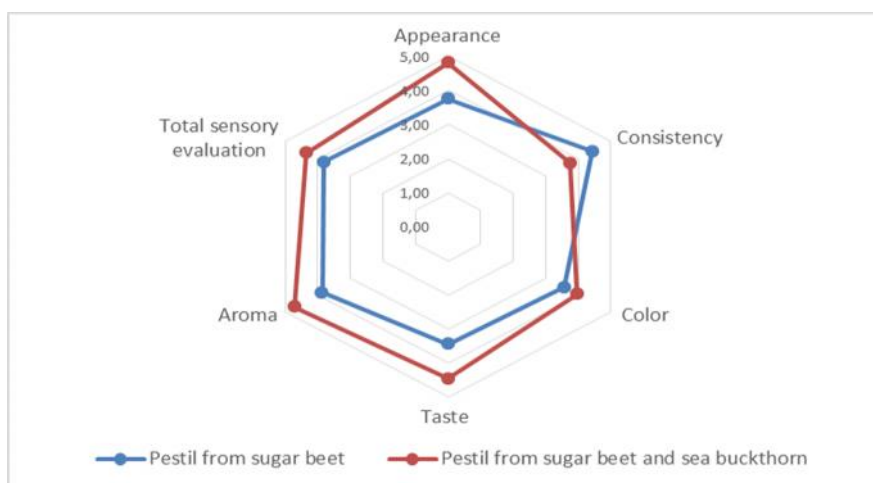
2,4

2

Dry matter and total sugars significantly increase their values by 4 times and respectively 9.5 times, during the technological processes of heat treatment and the sun drying.

The organic acids in the new product pestil from sugar beet and sea buckthorn are reduced by 3.45 times that of the fruit fresh material sea buckthorn and ascorbic acid 2.4 times in the final product.

The content of total polyphenols of the developed pestils increased almost 2 times compared to the raw material, which gives reason to make a conclusion that the introduction of the juice of the sea buckthorn in the formulation of the developed range improves the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the product.



. 1.

Fig. 1. Sensory evaluation of the innovative products pestils

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- Diex (2x)

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The innovative products - pestils have been sensory evaluated by trained tasters by the following indicators: appearance, consistency, colour, aroma on a five-point system (Figure 1).

The general opinion of the tasters is that products have been developed with a very good appearance, a consistency characteristic of pestils, the colour is characteristic of the input raw materials that have been undergone to a thermal processes. The aroma and taste of the pestil from sugar beet and sea buckthorn is better than the one without the sea buckthorn.

The total sensory evaluation score is higher in a pestil produced from sugar beet and sea buckthorn as compared to the pestil from sugar beet.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Comparative analysis of the developed range of pestils showed that the innovative sugar beet - Diex (2x) and sea buckthorn product has higher value of total polyphenols, organic and ascorbic acids with higher overall sensory evaluation, as well as with higher overall sensory evaluation compared to the variant of sugar beet.

The analyzed biochemical indices of the raw materials with respect to the content of total polyphenols are 10 times higher in the sea buckthorn compared to the sugar beet.

The obtained results gave grounds to develop, using traditional technology of production of pestil, a new innovative variety made from Sugar beet and sea buckthorn in order to improve the quality and the varietal list of pestils products.

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