

The year of study and the density of the crop influence differently heterosis manifestations but do not change the main character and the direction of inheritance of the respective traits.

Key words: maize hybrids from different groups of maturity, quantity traits, heterosis, degree of dominance in F_1

INTRODUCTION

Maize is one of the cultures in which the heterosis effect is most pronounced. It is found that it is observed in the first generation of maize hybrids which by productivity exceed their parental forms to a different extent.

In the next generations, the heterosis effect diminishes. In this regard, the heterosis manifestations in the maize are subject to different studies both at home and abroad (Jugenheimer, 1979; Zhuchenko, 1980; Chalyk, 1987; Vulchinkova, 2000; Tollenaar et al., 2004; Petrovska and Genova, 2008, Zamir et al., 2011; Valkova, 2013).

Each study aimed at clarifying the patterns of inheritance of valuable economic traits and characteristics is new information for clarifying the nature of theoretical and applied aspects of the heterosis.

In studying the patterns of inheritance of some traits, of material importance is the response of individual genotypes to the environmental conditions as well as to the application of single elements of cultivation technology.

The purpose of the present study is to identify the manifestations of heterosis and degrees of dominance in F_1 of some traits describing the stem biometrics of two hybrids from different groups of maturity.

(Jugenheimer, 1979; Zhuchenko, 1980; Chalyk, 1987; Vulchinkova, 2000; Tollenaar et al., 2004; Petrovska and Genova, 2008, Zamir et al., 2011; Valkova, 2013).

F_1

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2015 . 2017 .
 o
 FAO) 307 (300-399
 FAO) 435 (400-499
 (p₁ p₂),
 10 m².
 : 4500 /da, 5500
 /da, 6500 /da.
 :
 10
 p₁, p₂, F₁.
 p₁, p₂ F₁
 Shanin (1997).
 ()
 () Omarov (1975).
 F₁
 Romero Frey (1973).

This study is conducted in 2015 and 2017 in the experimental field of Maize Institute - Knezha by using an agro technique typical for the region. Hybrids Kn 307 (FAO group 300-399) and Kn 435 (FAO group 400-499) from different groups of maturity are used as a subject of the study.

The hybrids, together with their parental forms (p₁ p₂), are studied in competitive variety trials by block method in three repetitions, with a plot size of 10 m². The trials are performed under conditions without irrigation at three densities of the crop: 4500 pl/da, 5500 pl/da and 6500 pl/da. The following traits are analyzed: height of plants, upper ear height and number of leaves. Biometric measurements were performed on 10 plants of each repetition for p₁, p₂ and F₁.

Statistical processing of the raw data for p₁, p₂ and F₁ is executed by using the method of the analysis of variance of Shanin (1997). The heterosis is determined by the arithmetical mean of both parents (hypothetical heterosis) and the better parent (actual heterosis) by Omarov (1975). The degrees of dominance in F₁ are calculated by Romero and Frey (1973).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(Zhuchenko,
 1980; Hristov,, 1983).
 Hristov et al., 1982; Yordanov,
 1995; Petrovska and Genova, 2008;
 Ilchovska et al., 2019

The phenotypic manifestation of each trait is result of the interaction of the genotype and the environment where it grows. It is not the traits that are inherited, but the genetic dependency of the genotype to respond to the changing environmental conditions (Zhuchenko, 1980; Hristov, 1983). In number of studies by Hristov et al., 1982; Yordanov, 1995; Petrovska and Genova, 2008; Ilchovska et al., 2019, etc., have been established heterosis manifestations related to the photosynthetic activity of the plants through traits, subject to the present study.

The data about the average

1.

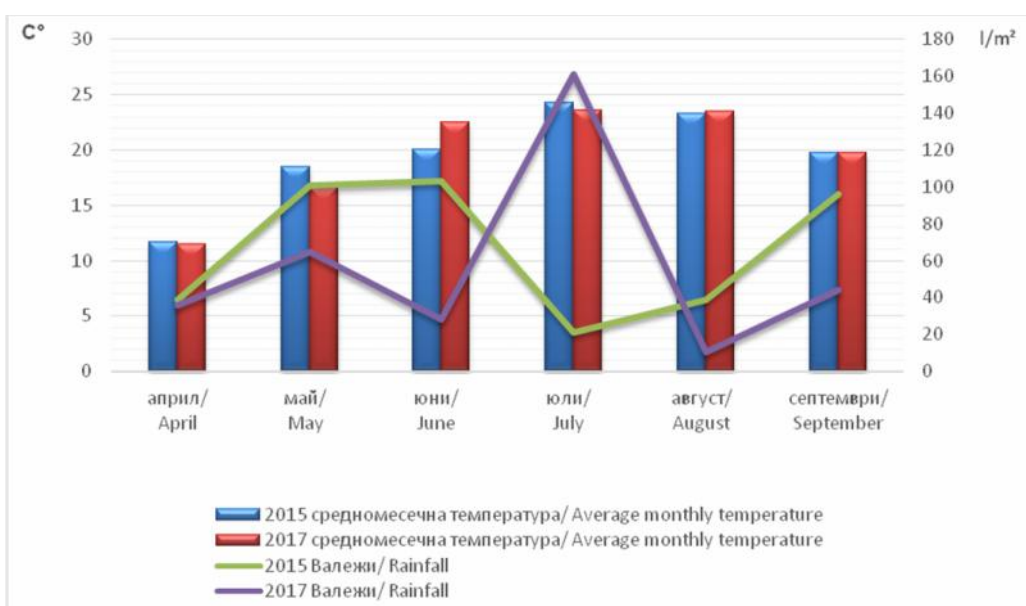
343 l/m² 2017 .,

397,1 l/m² 2015 .,

- monthly temperatures and rainfall amount during the vegetative period of the hybrids in the studied years are shown in Figure 1. In regard to the average monthly temperatures there is no significant difference found in the two years of study.

- The total amount of rainfall during the vegetative period is around 397.1 l/m² in 2015 and 343 l/m² in 2017, but its distribution in the months is irregular.

- This is a prerequisite for variation in the values of the studied traits depending on the specific meteorological conditions.



1. 0-

Fig. 1. Sum of rainfall and average monthly temperatures during vegetation of the maize in the years of study

(,)

2015 .

2017 .

241,8 l/m² 59,5 l/m²

2017 .

- In the period of growing and formation of the reproductive organs of the maize (April, May and June), the amount of rainfall in 2015 is 241.8 l/ m² against 59.5 l/ m² in 2017. On the other hand, humidity during the critical hot months for the maize - July and August, is better in 2017. The amount of the rainfall is 160.9 l/m² in July and only 10.5

10,5 l/m²
38,7 l/m²

160,9 l/m²
,
2015 .

307
1

435
2.

(p₁, p₂)
,

F₁.

-

2015 .

2017 .

9434
4652.

-

435.

(Vulchinkova and
Vulchinkov, 2013).

20,8 l/m²

l/m² in August, respectively 20.8 l/m² and 38.7 l/m² in 2015.

The data about the studied biometric characteristics of the hybrids Kn 307 and Kn 435 are shown in Table 1 and Table 2. They present the average values of the individual measurements of the traits of the parental components (p₁, p₂) and their hybrid generations, as well as the manifestations of heterosis and degrees of dominance in F₁. Analyzing the data regarding the individual traits, a different response of the hybrids is observed, depending on the conditions of growth. The variation is stronger under the influence of the climate over the years than of the density of the crop.

The average monthly temperatures and more favorable distribution of rainfall in the initial periods of the growth of the maize are the reason for the slightly higher values of hybrids and their parental forms in 2015 compared to those in 2017.

At every studied line specific characteristics are observed depending on the genotype and the related traits, respectively. Of all four self-pollinated maize lines with higher values for the three biometric traits, both by years of growth and by density of the crops, are AC 9434 and K 4652. The comparative analysis of the studied traits by hybrids shows higher values for the average early hybrid Kn 435.

Regarding the manifestations of heterosis, there are pronounced positive values observed in both hypothetical and actual heterosis affecting the traits of the plant – height and upper ear height. The manifestations of heterosis for the trait number of leaves are also positive, but less pronounced than the other two traits in both hybrids, which confirms earlier studies (Vulchinkova and Vulchinkov, 2013).

1.

F₁

307 2015

., 2017 .

Table 1. Heterosis and degrees of dominance in F₁ of biometric traits of maize hybrid Kn 307 for 2015, 2017

/Traits / Density of the crop	P ₁	P ₂	F ₁	/ Heterosis, %		hp ₁ Dominance in hp ₁	P ₁	P ₂	F ₁	/ Heterosis, %		hp ₁ Dominance in hp ₁
				Hypothetical, %	Actual, %					Hypothetical, %	Actual, %	
/ Height of the plants, cm												
2015						2017						
4500 / 4500 pl/da	200,0	179,2	259,2	36,7	29,6	6,7	202,2	163,9	228,9	25,1	13,2	2,4
5500 / 5500 pl/da	208,3	194,2	262,5	30,5	26,0	8,6	198,4	160,6	222,2	23,8	12,0	2,2
6500 / 6500 pl/da	219,2	190,0	259,2	26,7	18,2	3,7	197,2	157,0	223,3	25,9	13,2	2,3
/Mean	209,2	187,8	260,3	31,3	24,6	6,3	199,3	160,5	224,8	24,9	12,8	2,3
/ Upper ear height, cm												
4500 / 4500 pl/da	78,4	71,7	95,8	27,7	22,2	6,1	74,4	61,7	85,0	25,0	14,2	2,7
5500 / 5500 pl/da	85,0	70,0	95,0	22,6	11,8	2,3	73,9	55,6	84,5	30,6	14,3	2,1
6500 / 6500 pl/da	82,5	70,0	97,5	27,9	18,2	3,4	72,8	53,9	81,1	28,1	11,4	1,9
/Mean	82,0	70,6	96,1	26,1	17,4	3,9	73,7	57,1	83,5	27,9	13,3	2,2
/ Number of leaves												
4500 / 4500 pl/da	12,7	11,7	13,5	10,6	6,3	2,6	11,3	10,9	12,1	9,0	7,1	5,0
5500 / 5500 pl/da	12,9	12,0	13,4	8,1	3,9	2,0	11,5	10,7	12,0	8,1	4,3	2,2
6500 / 6500 pl/da	12,3	11,0	12,8	10,3	4,1	1,7	11,4	10,5	11,8	7,8	3,5	1,9
/Mean	12,6	11,6	13,1	9,7	4,8	2,1	11,2	10,7	12,0	8,3	4,9	3,0

2.

F₁

435 2015

., 2017 .

Table 2. Heterosis and degrees of dominance in F₁ of biometrical traits of the maize hybrid Kn 435 for 2015, 2017

/ Traits / Density of the crop	P ₁	P ₂	F ₁	/ Heterosis, %		hp ₁ Dominance in hp ₁	P ₁	P ₂	F ₁	/ Heterosis, %		hp ₁ Dominance in hp ₁
				Hypothetical, %	Actual, %					Hypothetical, %	Actual, %	
/ Height of the plant, cm												
2015						2017						
4500 / 4500pl/da	192,5	223,8	248,3	19,3	10,9	2,6	168,9	215,6	242,2	26,0	12,3	2,1
5500 / 5500pl/da	186,5	213,4	251,1	25,6	17,7	3,8	166,1	211,7	247,2	30,9	16,8	2,5
6500 / 6500pl/da	189,2	217,5	258,3	27,0	18,7	3,9	165,6	213,9	247,2	30,3	15,7	2,4
/ Mean	189,4	218,2	252,6	24,0	15,8	3,4	166,9	213,7	245,5	29,1	14,9	2,3
/ Upper ear height, cm												
4500 / 4500pl/da	70,0	92,5	99,1	21,9	7,1	1,6	63,9	79,5	93,9	31,0	18,1	2,8
5500 / 5500pl/da	77,5	93,8	126,7	47,9	35,1	5,0	61,1	81,7	100,6	40,9	23,1	2,8
6500 / 6500pl/da	76,7	93,3	126,7	49,0	35,8	4,9	59,5	81,1	97,8	39,1	20,6	2,6
/ Mean	74,7	93,2	117,5	39,6	26,0	3,8	61,5	80,8	97,4	37,0	20,6	2,7
/ Number of leaves												
4500 / 4500pl/da	11,5	12,8	13,0	7,0	1,6	1,3	11,5	12,3	12,8	7,6	4,1	2,2
5500 / 5500pl/da	12,7	13,0	13,7	6,6	5,4	5,7	10,7	11,8	12,0	6,7	1,7	1,4
6500 / 6500pl/da	12,0	13,1	13,3	6,0	1,5	1,4	11,3	12,0	12,5	7,3	4,2	2,4
/ Mean	12,1	13,0	13,3	6,5	2,8	2,8	11,5	12,6	13,5	7,2	3,3	2,0

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Influence of the Plant Tillers in Hybrids Sugary (Sweet) Corn on Some Parameters of the Cob

Georgi Yordanov

Maize Research Institute, 5835 Knezha, Bulgaria
E-mail: geo.i@dir.bg

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SUMMARY

- The article presents the results of a
- study of the impact of the presence and
- absence of side growths /brothers/ plants
- in some newly created high-yielding sugar
- /sweet/ maize hybrids with respect to the
- length of the cob, the thickness of the cob
- and the depth of the grain on the cob.

- Five newly created high yielding
- sugar /sweet/ maize hybrids have been
- explored, characterised by a lower
- incidence of side growths than most of the
- varieties of this type of maize. As a result
- of the study, it was found that when
- harvesting plants with side growths and
- those without such, in the case of hybrids
- examined, there were no credible
- differences in relation to the average
- length and thickness of the cob.

- But, although improbable proven, in most
- of the hybrids studied, the plants having
- side growths have slightly higher values of

the length and thickness of the cob, and especially the depth of the grain.

Keywords: sugary /sweet/ corn, plant tillers, influence of plant tillers.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, special maize varieties for direct consumption by people more known as sugar or sweet corn (Tosheva, 1997; Glogova, 2010; Yordanov, 2010, 2014).

Because of its excellent flavour, as well as the healthy eating method it provides to people, sugar corn is a preferred vegetable culture (Tracy, 1990).

A characteristic feature of sugar corn is the presence of side plant branches (brothers) of its plants to varying degrees. In some varieties, it is too strong and leads to strong compaction of the crops. For this reason, a number of producers consider that the stem stalks interfere with the main stem by taking significant amounts of plastics. In order to increase the yields of standard cobs, some of the producers have mechanically removed the lateral growths of the stems, hoping for a better production.

However, this operation is too labour-intensive and reduces the profitability of growing corn. The effectiveness of just removing the lateral growths of the stems is too vague, and it has both supporters and opponents.

The purpose of the present study was to reliably establish the influence of the presence of lateral branches of plants and their absence in modern, high yielding sugar corn hybrids on the length of the cob, the thickness of the cob and the grain depth of the cob in relation to the more effective cultivation of this culture.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

5
41000
2013-2015
6-1, 6-5, 6-13, 9-1
9-9.
3
VC%
(Zapryanov, 1983).

- To study the influence of the presence of side branches of plants and their absence on the length of the cob, the thickness of the cob and the depth of the grain of the cob, 5 new highly productive hybrids of sugar corn were used. Hybrids
- were created and tested for grain
- productivity and quality in a prior period and, after showing good results, were included in randomized block trials to assess the impact of plant branching and their absence on the thickness of the cob and the grain depth of the cob. The trials were conducted under irrigation conditions at a stock density of 41000 plants per hectare. The survey was conducted over the period 2013-2015.
- Sugar corn hybrids involved in the study
- are designated with provisional temporary numbers K6-1, K6-5, K6-13, P9-1 and P9-9, because their actual formulas are confidential. The hybrids themselves do
- not have highly branched stems - they actually have 1 to 2 to 3 lateral branches with a dominant central stem. In order to provide the two types of plants - with and without side branches, part of the plants in the experimental plots were manually removed by all lateral branches of the stalks in the period before the plants were scraped off. The experiments were
- harvested at the optimum technological maturity of the cobs, characteristic of sugar corn. Measurements of cob length, cob thickness, and cob grain depth were
- performed on each individual plant with or without lateral branching, after which the results obtained were averaged and the coefficient of variation was calculated.
-
- The average values of the respective measured indicators were compared to the reliability of the differences. The arithmetic mean X_{cp} , the variation coefficient, VC% and the reliability of the differences were calculated according to the general accepted formulas (Zapryanov, 1983).

\bar{x}_1 \bar{x}_2 | The average arithmetic \bar{x}_1 and \bar{x}_2
 : we calculated by the formula:

$$\bar{x}_1 = \frac{\sum x_1}{n}; \bar{x}_2 = \frac{\sum x_2}{n}$$

: x_1 x_2 - | Where: x_1 and x_2 - values of the metric
 : x_1 x_2 ; n - | x_1 and x_2 ; n - number of values of the
 : x_1 x_2 | metric x_1 and x_2
 : VC% | The variation factor vc% was
 : | calculated using the formula:

$$VC\% = \frac{S.100}{\bar{x}}$$

: S - | Where: S - mean squared deviation; \bar{x} -
 ; \bar{x} - | arithmetic mean
 : t | The credibility of the difference t
 : | was calculated using the formula:

$$t = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{S\bar{x}_1 - S\bar{x}_2}}$$

: \bar{x}_1 - | Where: \bar{x}_1 - the average of the first
 ; \bar{x}_2 - | benchmark; \bar{x}_2 - the average value of the
 ; $S\bar{x}_1$ $S\bar{x}_2$ - | second benchmark; $S\bar{x}_1$ and $S\bar{x}_2$ -
 . | mean errors of the computed average
 arithmetic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the results of a study of the impact of the absence or presence of side branches of the plants on the length of the cob in the hybrid maize hybrids studied. Cocoon length is an important indicator for sugar corn. It has a relationship not only with the productivity of the plants but also with the yield obtained from them.

The length of the cob with sugar corn is also important for the pure commercial appearance of the cobs. Longer sweet corn cobs are naturally more preferred than shorter and for purely quantitative reasons. On the other hand, manufacturers and retailers are not

1.
()
, cm

Table 1. Influence of absence or presence of side plant branches (brothers) of sweet corn hybrids on length of the cob, cm

Hybrid/Year	Indicator	/ Cob length, cm				t Reliability of the difference t
		Plants with brothers	± difference ±cm	Plants without brothers	± difference ±cm	
		Cob length, cm		Cob length, cm		
2013						
6 – 1su	\bar{x} VC%	23.4 4.7	-0.2	23.6 2.1	+0.2	no
6 – 5su	\bar{x} VC%	21.0 5.7	+0.4	19.6 8.7	-0.4	no
6 – 13su	\bar{x} VC%	23.4 7.3	+1.4	22.0 4.5	-1.4	no
2015						
9-1su	\bar{x} VC%	21,3 2,3	+0,6	20,7 7,2	-0,6	no
9-9su	\bar{x} VC%	22,5 2,7	-0,5	23,0 3,5	+0,5	no

2

44,7 54,8 mm

6 – 13su 6 – 1su,
- 9-1su, 6 – 5su 9-9 su.

Table 2 presents the results of a study of the influence of absence or presence of plant branching on the thickness of the cob to the hybrid maize hybrids studied. It ranges from 44.7 to 54.8 mm in the different hybrids. The most fat cobs are the corn K 6 - 13 su and K 6 - 1su maize hybrids and the finest cobs - P 9-1 su, K 6 - 5su and P 9-9 su. Thickness of the cob is also an important indicator for sugar corn. It has a relationship not only with the productivity of the plants but also with the yield obtained from them. Coconut thickness for sugar corn is also important for the pure commercial appearance of cobs, which attracts customers.

The thicker corn cobs are naturally more preferred than the thinner and purely quantitative reasons. On the other hand, manufacturers and retailers are not interested in selling too big cobs of sugar corn because they sell the cobbles.

Typically, hybrid corn kernels with very thick and long cobs produce only one

- cub, which reduces the total number of cocoons produced per unit of sowing area.

Therefore, it is preferable that the cobs of sugar corn are medium-thick. The thickness of the cob in corn sugar is genetically predestined for each variety, but also influences how the crop is grown. Particular impact on it is the thickening of the crop.

At high density corn cobs become smaller. In this connection, it could be assumed that plants with more side branches would have a negative impact on the thickness of the cob in sugar corn.

2.

Table 2. Influence of absence or presence of side plant branches (brothers) of sweet corn hybrids on thickness of the cob, mm

Hybrid/Year	Indicator	/ Thickness of the cob, mm				t Reliability of the difference t
		Plants with brothers	± difference ±cm	Plants without brothers	± difference ±cm	
		Thickness of the cob, mm		Thickness of the cob, mm		
2013						
6 – 1	\bar{x} VC%	51,8 5,6	+1,2	50,6 9,7	-1,2	no
6 – 5	\bar{x} VC%	47,4 4,8	+0,4	47,0 5,1	-0,4	no
6 – 13	\bar{x} VC%	54,8 2,0	+3,8	51,0 2,3	-3,8	no
2015						
9-1	\bar{x} VC%	44,7 3,5	-0,2	49,7 1,0	+0,2	no
9-9	\bar{x} VC%	49,5 3,5	-0,2	49,7 1,0	+0,2	no

The study we made on the sugared corn hybrids tested, Table 2 shows that the thickness of the cobweb in plants having side branches and those without these does not differ significantly.

In some of the hybrids, the thickness of

3

12,3 13,4 mm

6 – 1su 6 – 5su 9-9su,
 9-1su 6 – 5su.

- the hindquarter is slightly larger in the case of plants having lateral branches, while others are opposite, but generally the differences are insignificant. From the study, it can be concluded that in newly selected sugar maize hybrids with fewer side branches, the thickness of the stem is not significantly influenced by whether the plants are with or without side branches.

Table 3 presents the results of a study of the influence of the absence or presence of side branches of plants on the grain length, mm in the hybrid maize hybrids studied. It ranges from 12.3 to 13.4 mm in the different hybrids.

The most deep grain is sugar maize hybrids K 6 - 1 su and K 6 - 5su and P 9 - 9 su, and the shortest grains are P 9-1 su and K 6 - 5su.

3.

, mm

Table 3. Influence of absence or presence of side plantbranches (brothers) of sweet corn hybrids on Length of the grain, mm

Hybrid/Year	Indicator	/ Length of the grain, mm				t Reliability of the difference t
		Plants with brothers	± difference ±cm	Plants without brothers	± difference ±cm	
		Length of the grain, mm		Length of the grain, mm		
2013						
6 – 1	\bar{x} VC%	13,4 6,7	+1,0	12,4 4,0	-1,0	no
6 – 5	\bar{x} VC%	12,8 3,1	+1,0	11,8 6,8	-1,0	no
6 – 13	\bar{x} VC%	13,0 5,4	+1,0	12,0 5,8	-1,0	no
2015						
9-1	\bar{x} VC%	12,3 9,7	+0,5	11,8 4,2	-0,5	no
9-9	\bar{x} VC%	13,0 6,1	+1,0	12,0 1,0	-1,0	no

The length of the grain in sugar maize is important, above all, for varieties grown for preservation. The longer grain gives the opportunity to obtain a higher yield from each processed cocoon of sweet corn.

As a result of the study presented in Table 2, it was found that the length of the grain in plants having lateral branches was greater by about 1 mm compared to the length of the grain in plants without side branches.

This difference, though not statistically proven, is a trend observed in all the variants used in this study.

From the study, it can be concluded that with the newly selected sugar maize hybrids, with fewer side branches, the length of the grain is not significantly affected by whether the plants are with or without side branches.

There is even a lasting dependency in which the grain length is greater in plants with lateral branches of the stems.

CONCLUSIONS

The length and thickness of the cob in the sugared /sweet/ corn hybrids tested is not significantly affected by the presence or absence of side branches of the plants.

The grain length for all sugars /sweet/ maize hybrids is greater by about 1 mm in plants having side shoots, which tends to be, although this difference is not reliably proven.

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virgifera Le Conte) – (*Diabrotica virgifera*

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Western Corn Rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte) - a Dangerous Pest of Maize

Nedyalka Palagacheva

Agricultural university, 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

E-mail: palagacheva@abv.bg

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SUMMARY

In our country, corn is a traditional crop and provides the bulk of concentrated feed and silage for animal husbandry. For the conditions of Northern Bulgaria it is the most widely represented crop and occupies a large part of the area on agricultural holdings. Very often, it is grown on the same area, leading to a mass multiplication of economically important diseases and pests, including the western corn rootworm - *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte, which in some years is capable of causing significant damage.

– *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte,

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera Le Conte

1980-2000 .

1998 .,

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera Le Conte is a widespread species. In the twentieth century, it became a major pest of corn in North America. It was introduced in Europe between 1980 and 2000.

In Bulgaria, the western corn rootworm was first established in 1998, entering north-western Bulgaria from Serbia. It is gradually spreading to areas in western and central Bulgaria.

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera,

virgifera Le Conte).

Diabrotica virgifera

e (Krysan and Miller, 1986; Tallamy et al., 2005; Souza, 2019).

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera

1992 . (Ba a, 1994).

1997 .

e Levine and Oloumi-Sadeghi, (1991) *D.virgifera*

(Krysan and Miller, 1986;

The pest is not yet widespread on the territory of the country and this requires a number of measures to be taken to limit and destroy the outbreaks that have occurred.

Some peculiarities of the biology of the species cause it to become a dangerous pest: in feeding causes direct damage, adult insects have the ability to spread through active flight, are quickly propagated under favourable conditions and has wide ecological plasticity.

Key words: maize, *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*, control

INTRODUCTION

With the increase of areas with maize in our country favorable conditions are provided for the development and multiplication of a number of pests. One of them is the western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica vergifera vergifera* Le Conte).

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera Le Conte come from Mexico, Central America (Krysan and Smith, 1987). For the first time in 1909, damage was found from maize in the United States. During the period 1950-1970, *Diabrotica virgifera* was widely distributed and in the twentieth century, it became economically important pest maize in North America (Krysan and Miller, 1986; Tallamy et al., 2005; Souza, 2019).

In Europe *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* is discovered in the Surcin region, near Belgrade Airport in 1992 (Ba a, 1994). By 1997, this species had become widespread in Serbia, from here it enters a number of European countries.

According to Levine and Oloumi-Sadeghi, (1991) *D.virgifera* is the most serious pest in maize in North Central United States. The cost of controlling this pest and US production losses exceed one million dollar per year (Krysan and Miller, 1986; Metcalf, 1986).

Metcalf, 1986).

Diabrotica virgifera
1998

The more this species spread to Europe, the greater the damage.

In Bulgaria *Diabrotica virgifera* is registered for the first time in 1998 in the Western part of the country in areas along our border with Serbia and the Danube River - Vidin Region (village Orsoya), then in Montana Region (town Bregovo, village Archar). In consequence this species extends the spread of ariel and meets in many regions: Vratsa, Pernik, Plevan, Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo and Kyustendil. Blagoevgrad, Rouse, Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, Silistra, Haskovo.

HOSTS-PLANTS

The main host of the western corn rootworm *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte is maize (*Zea mays* L.).

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera Le Conte
(*Zea mays* L.).

Poaceae

Other plant species of the family *Poaceae* can also serve to feed for the larvae, while the adults are fed on plants of the families *Asteraceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Compositaceae*, *Leguminaceae* and *Cucurbitaceae* with the exception of sorghum. When eating sorghum larvae separates hydrochloric acid, which is toxic to them.

Asteraceae, *Fabaceae*,
Compositaceae, *Leguminaceae*
Cucurbitaceae

Adult individuals are attracted to species from the family *Cucurbitaceae*, due to the substance cucurbitacin (Ferguson et al., 1983).

(Ferguson et al., 1983).

BIOLOGY

The western corn rootworm is a monovoltine species and it is wintering as egg in the soil. The females lay the eggs at the base of the corn plants 35 cm deep (Ba a, 1994). The species prefers to lay his eggs in maize and to a lesser extent in areas sown with other crops such as soybeans or cereals (Kiss et al., 2005). According to Stavisky and Davis, (1997) laid eggs withstand temperatures up to minus 10 °C.

35 cm (Ba a,
1994).

(Kiss et al., 2005).
Stavisky and Davis, (1997) c

10					In May, when the soil temperature reaches 11°C the larvae hatch and they start eating hard. Their development lasts 3-4 weeks. Larvae are developing in the soil, with a peak in numbers occurring in May-June.
11	3-4				Young larvae feed on thin roots, later they get stuck in the thicker roots, make moves in them and can penetrate the stem. They migrate to a depth of up to 1 m in search of suitable food. Large part of them die if the soil is heavy, concise and moistened. The pupa takes place in the soil, often near a surface depth of 20 cm and lasts 2-3 days.
	20 cm		2-3		Adults appear in early June and meet by the end of October. Their mass appearance coincides with the flowering of maize. After 10-14 days, the beetles begin to lay their eggs.
		10-14			
1000				12,8°C	The fertility of one female reaches 1000 eggs. Eggs hatching requires temperatures of 12,8 °C, 300-400 degrees/day. The stage appearance is short. Beetles appear at the end of June and meet by the end of October. They are active until the cold of the weather
	300-400	/			
					The imagination takes place in an earthy chamber. Male individuals appear earlier than female individuals. Adults activated at 23-27 °C (Van Woerkom et al., 1980). Imaginary adults feed on leaves, with a twist of a cob, with the corn kernels, with pollen during mass flowering. After maize is coarse, they pass on alfalfa and other crops. The average duration of the life of adults is 50 days (Kuhman and Petty, 1973).
		23-27	(Van Woerkom et al., 1980).		
		50	(Kulman and Petty, 1973).		
					DAMAGE Damage adults and larvae. Adults feed with a twist of a cob, they bite it and it looks like cut with scissors. The larvae damage the roots of the plants.
					Initially, young larvae feed on young, the

succulent roots of the plants, later, adult larvae feed on the thick roots by breaking through the cortical parenchyma of the roots and open holes in conductive tissue.

Also damage and the air roots, which the corn forms above the soil surface. They cut into them, they tunnel and bite them. In the rain and the windy weather the plants fall to the ground.

As a result of the damage caused the plant's retention force in the soil decreases and the plants lie down. Larval economic damage to the maize is caused by the larvae.

In addition to this beetles and larvae are carriers of a variety of fungal, bacterial and viral diseases in maize. Damaged plants are unable to actively absorb water and nutrients from the soil, therefore, slows down the growth and plants lie down. In a more violent attack, the plant's ability to hold on to the soil decreases. According to Chaing (1973), 29 larvae in roots are sufficient, to kill the plant.

Chaing (1973),

29

MONITORING AND CONTROL

To limit distribution and the multiplication of it seems implement a number of preventive measures such as:

- *Crop rotations.* It is an effective method of controlling *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*, as eggs are found mainly in the roots of maize to complete their development (Ostlie and Noetzel, 1987; Levine and Oloumi-Sadeghi, 1991).

According to Kiss et al., (2005), all crops, including vegetables, can be used as a precursor to maize in crop rotation.

Many plants of the family *Poaceae* serve as a secondary nutrient for the host the western corn rootworm (Branson and Ortman, 1967; 1970; Moeser, 2003) and adults feed on their pollen (Moeser and

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera,

(Ostlie and Noetzel, 1987; Levine and Oloumi-Sadeghi, 1991).

Kiss et al., (2005),

Poaceae

(Branson and Ortman, 1967; 1970; Moeser, 2003)

Hibbard, 2005).

(Moeser and Hibbard, 2005).

(Chaing, 1973).
Shaw et al., (1978)

20-25 m.

44%

(Spike and Tollefson, 1989).

The monocultural cultivation of maize and lack of spatial isolation is a prerequisite for emergence and the multiplication of the western corn rootworm. This requires that the crop rotation include clover, soybeans, sorghum, oats, sudan grass, sunflowers and other crops (Chaing, 1973).

According to Shaw et al., (1978) the egg production of females decreases, if the maize is grown after soybean precursor or if soybean scenery is grown.

Crop rotation inhibits the development of populations of type and reduces the spread of the pest. Young larvae die for short time in areas without food.

- *The mechanical composition of the soil.* Soils with good aeration, rich in nutrients, good moisture, with acid reaction or near neutral are suitable for hatching western corn rootworm eggs.

Mechanical composition of soil has an impact on growth and the development of the larvae. Heavy and compacted soils cause injury to them.

- *Processing on the soil.* Much of the eggs are damaged, when after the harvest plowing was carried out and cultivation on the soil layer at a depth of 20-25 cm.

- *Sowing and harvesting.* With optimal sowing dates, a powerful root system is formed. In fields with a higher plant density, larval attack is significantly higher.

- *Optimal fertilization.* Increased amounts of nitrogen fertilizers prolong the vegetation of the plant. With such crops the attack is 44% higher than with optimal fertilization (Spike and Tollefson, 1989). Balanced fertilization with nitrogen phosphorus and potassium fertilizers increase the plant's resistance to this

•
 •
 ()
 -
 - 15 m
 Higgins et al. (1988)
 8-10
 10%
 10%
 5
 (Anomin, 1995).
 Lance and Sutter, (1990);
 Metcalf et al., (1987)
Cucurbitacea

host.

- *Destruction of self* - sowing by maize immediately after harvest is a decisive factor in reducing the density of the pest.

- *Use of resistant varieties.*
 Genotypes are considered to be resistant, which contain long and densely located trichomes. When the enemy feeds on corn containing long and dense trichomes getting into the insect's organism causes tearing of the esophagus and obstruction of the respiratory system.

- *Insecticide treatment (against larvae and adults).* Chemical control against the larvae is applied in two ways - by introducing insecticides into the soil during sowing and by treating the plants during the growing season after the first cultivation. In the first way, by introducing insecticides into the soil, a larger area of 15 cm around the root system of the plant is protected, as a result its damage is negligible.

The second method uses liquid formulations. Repeated use of the same insecticides in the same area affects the populations of soil microorganisms, which help break down the imported insecticides and prevent pesticides from accumulating in the soil.

Higgins et al. (1988) indicate that the presence of 8-10 adults with 10% of coccygeal cereals in maize for maize production requires the introduction of insecticides. While in maize for seed production insecticides are used in 5 adults at 10% the appearance of silk.

For control adult baits can be used with lure with attractan cucurbitacin, as well as insecticides based on: chlorpyrifos and others (Anomin, 1995).

According to a number of authors (Lance and Sutter, 1990; Metcalf et al., 1987), plants from the family

D. virgifera virgifera
 (Cabanillas et al., 2005).
Heterorhabditis bacteriophora Poinar
 DIANEM ®
 e 2014
Beauveria
bassiana *Metarhizium anisopliae*
D. virgifera virgifera (Toepfer and
 Kuhlmann, 2004; Pilz et al., 2009; Rudeen
 et al., 2013).
M. anisopliae BIPESCO5/F52
 Gran Met, e
 1 91/414/
D. virgifera virgifera (Pilz et al.,
 2009).
 Mulock and Chandler, (2001)
Beauveria bassiana
Beauveria bassiana (5x10 (7) conidia/ml)
 10
 30%

- *Cucurbitaceae* attract adults and prevent their spread. For that reason they are one of the main ingredients in granulated food baits for adult forms.

- When organizing on time the fight against the elderly is considerable reduces their density and multiplication, reduce losses and protect the crop.

• *Use of bioagents*

Entomopathogenic nematodes have great potential as biological control agents for *D. virgifera virgifera* (Cabanillas et al., 2005). Nematodes *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* Poinar produces good results. Nematode applications such as the commercial product DIANEM ®) in Austria in 2014.

The entomopathogenic fungi *Beauveria bassiana* Vuill. and *Metarhizium anisopliae* also attack *D. virgifera* (Toepfer and Kuhlmann, 2004; Pilz et al., 2009; Rudeen et al., 2013).

In the commercially available *M. anisopliae* strain BIPESCO5/F52, the product Gra Met is included in Annex 1 to Directive 91/414/EEC against *D. virgifera* (Pilz et al., 2009).

Mulock and Chandler, (2001) investigate the influence of the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana* on the reproductive potential of female western corn rootworm individuals and the vitality of eggs. They treat with a suspension of *Beauveria bassiana* (5x10 (7) conidia/ml) the imaged female individuals, observe egg production and the hatching of hatched larvae for a period of 6 weeks.

- From the experiments they conducted, they found that that treated female individuals 10 days after copulation produce an average of 30% less eggs in the first two weeks of the egg laying period than untreated adults. Overall, the reproductive capacity of older females is significantly lower than that of *Beauveria*

, 3- 4- .
D. virgifera virgifera
(Petroski Hammack, 1998).
Witkowski et al., (1975)

- , .
30/10 cm

- Pheromon
7 .
AM,
Kim and Mullin, (2003)

Diabrotica virgifera
virgifera .

, ,
,

• *Diabrotica virgifera*
virgifera

-
:
,
,
,
10 m
10-20 m.

5
10

,
.

carbon chains. Cinnamaldehyde attracted the most adults of *D. virgifera virgifera* of both sexes (Petroski and Hammack, 1998).

According to Witkowski et al., (1975), adult insects are attracted by the light green colour, which resembles the crest of a corn cob. Colors are 30 / 10cm in size and are arranged vertically in the plant height areas. In practice, the most widely used type is Pheromon AM, they are replaced every 7 days.

Kim and Mullin, (2003) propose the use of repellents to control *Diabrotica virgifera*. Peptidyl proteinised low molecular weight anti-inflammatory drugs, including leupeptin, calpain, and calpepin, are considered potential repellents for adult.

• *Forecast of Diabrotica virgifera*

For the forecast larvae use some indicators: number of sexually mature individuals, the number of eggs laid in the fall, number of wintering eggs in winter, number of larvae hatched. To measure the number of hatched larvae, soil samples are taken during the period from late June to mid of July using a metal cylinder with a diameter of 10 cm, from each area with maize at a depth of 10-20 cm. Samples may also include part of the root system.

The forecast in adult insects it occurs preliminary monitoring. In each field, 5 to 10 control plants are checked on the diagonals of sowing or chess. Pheromone and ferrocon traps are used.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following methods are used for monitoring adult forms:

- • visual observations - conducted
- on all maize areas sown during the
- weeding period. Through them the phase

and with the condition of the culture being examined, as well as the moments of appearance of the individual stages of the pest. They also give an idea of the species' density.

- setting on pheromone traps. They are placed in July and were removed after the harvest in September.

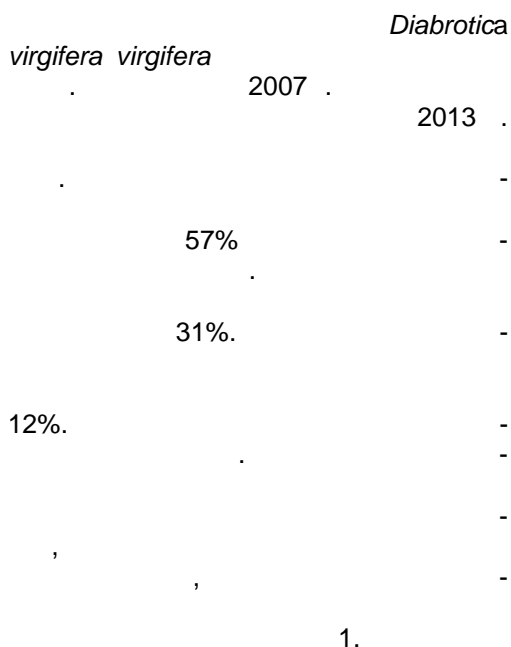
Pheromone traps have been used to detect onset and track species dynamics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For the first time in Bulgaria *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* was established in the region of Pleven in 2007.

The first readings in 2013 were made in the second ten days of July. In visual observations, the species was found to be of considerable density and represented 57% of the total number of adults identified. In subsequent reports at the end of July, its number reached 31%.

In the first half of August the pest was found in low numbers of only 12%. No species were registered at the end of the month. Extremely high temperatures during the reporting period, combined with prolonged droughts, led to the early harvest of maize, which explains the lower species density at the end of the reporting period Table 1.



1.

2013 . (., %)

Table 1. Adult individuals identified in visual observations and ferrocon traps during the 2013 emptying period (nm., %)

Date of reporting	Identified adults in visual observations	Caught adults	Caught adults with ferrocone traps
12.07	45	57	0
30.07	26	31	0
14.08	9	12	0
28.08	0	0	0
Total number	80	100	0

2013 .
 2014 .
 2013 .

In 2013 in the region of Pleven no ferrets were caught.

It should be noted that in 2014 the western maize root worm was in higher density than in 2013.

2.

2014 . (., %)

Table 2. Adult individuals identified in visual observations and ferrocon traps during the 2014 emptying period (nm., %)

Date of reporting	Identified adults in visual observations	Caught adults	Caught adults with ferrocone traps
16.07	6	2	0
31.07	80	34	2
15.08	183	44	0
25.08	143	20	0
Total number	412	100	2

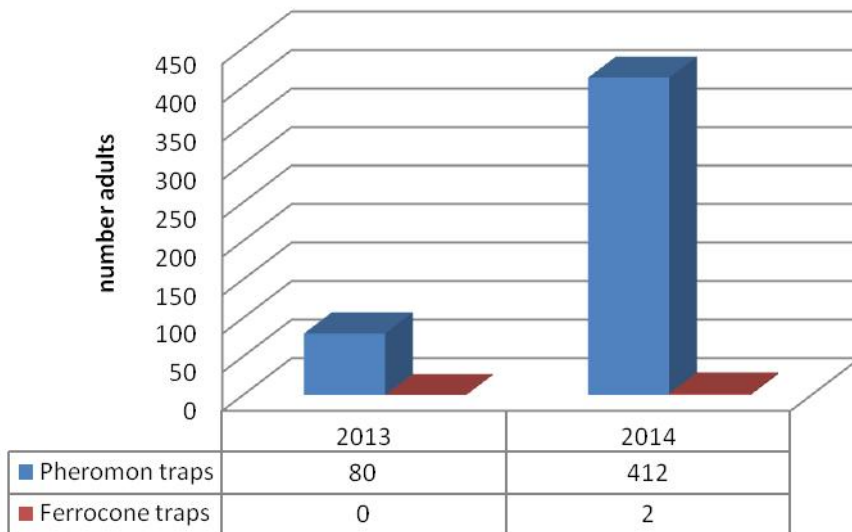
- 2%.

44%.

20%
(2).

The first adult individuals in visual observations were found in small numbers in mid-July – barely 2%. As a result of the favorable environmental conditions, the species increased its density at the end of the month.

The peak in multiplication was found in the second half of August and reached 44%. Over the last ten days, its numbers have declined and they accounted for 20% of the total number found (Table 2). On the one hand, this can be explained by the higher number of the species in August and, on the other hand, by the large areas occupied by corn in the area of Pleven.



1.
 2013 2014 .
Fig. 1. Caught adult insects with pheromone and ferrocone traps in 2013 and 2014

80 2013 412
 2014 . (1).

To determine the onset and density of the western corn rootworm in maize fields, pheromone and ferrocone traps were plotted. In the two years, the largest number of adult insects were recorded with pheromone traps of 80 in 2013 and 412 in 2014 (Figure 1).

Only two specimens were registered with the pheromone traps.

There is a significant increase in the number of western corn rootworms, which is explained by the persistent presence of maize in agricultural areas in the area, the proximity to the international road network, and the efficiency of the sanitary measures implemented to limit its spread.

CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring is important to determine the spread of *Diabrotica virgifera*, on the basis of which restrictive measures. For its control, activities related to the destruction of existing outbreaks

virgifera.

Diabrotica

- and the organization of a whole complex of phytosanitary measures to limit the spread of the pest are important.

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