

Phytophthora,

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, . 8, 1164 ,

Diversity and pathogenicity of *Phytophthora* species, isolated from Osam River

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Phytophthora
Oomycetes
150 .
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Phytophthora
,
.
Phytophthora
.
20
-
-
Phytophthora – *P.*
lacustris, *P.* *gonapodyides*, *P.*
chlamydospora *P. syringae*. *P. lacustris*
-
.
Phytophthora
(, ,)

SUMMARY

Phytophthora is a genus of the class Oomycetes, consisting of more than 150 species. Some of them cause damage on forest vegetation, while others are pathogens on crop plants. Some *Phytophthora* species are related to aquatic habitats, as well as moist soil environments.

The aim of this study is isolation and characterization of *Phytophthora* species from the upper stream of the Osam River. Twenty *Phytophthora* isolates were recovered from four different locations in the river using a baiting method. Four species, *P. lacustris*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora* and *P. syringae*, were identified using classical morphological methods and molecular analyses. *P. lacustris* was defined as the most common and widely spread *Phytophthora* species in the investigated region.

Pathogenicity of isolated *Phytophthora* species to berry plants (strawberry, blackberry, cranberry) was analyzed by inoculation of detached

a. *P. lacustris*, *P. chlamydospora*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. syringae*

leaves. Results of the analyses showed that *P. lacustris*, *P. chlamydospora*, *P. syringae* and *P. gonapodyides* can infect wild berry plants, as well as cultivated species. They are a potential threat for the vegetation in the region of the Osam River and can affect different plant species in both natural ecosystems and agricultural areas.

Key words: *Phytophthora*, distribution, pathogenicity, water ecosystems, berry plants

INTRODUCTION

About sixteen novel *Phytophthora* species have been recovered for the first time from open water resources in the last 15 years (Yang et al., 2016). Some of them, like *P. lacustris* and *P. chlamydospora*, along with *P. gonapodyides*, are dominant species in the water environments. Ecological impact of these *Phytophthora* species on the vegetation in riparian ecosystems is not well studied.

P. lacustris, *P. gonapodyides* and *P. chlamydospora* belong to Clade 6 of the *Phytophthora* genus. Most of Clade 6 members, such as *P. lacustris* and *P. chlamydospora*, show a strong association with both forests and riparian environments, while *P. gonapodyides* is more often associated with agriculture and horticulture host species (Jung et al., 2011; Reeser et al., 2011; Dunstan et al., 2016; Stamler et al., 2016). *P. lacustris* appears to be widespread in Europe and has also been detected in Australia, New Zealand and USA. This species has demonstrated a weak to moderate aggressiveness to *Alnus*, *Prunus* and *Salix* (Nechwatal et al., 2013). *P. gonapodyides* has been recorded in Europe, North and South America and Australia. It causes significant damage to roots of *Quercus* and *Castanea*. Hosts are also species from *Rosaceae* and *Pinaceae* families. It is considered a minor pathogen on a number of ornamentals (Cline et al., 2008). *P. chlamydospora* has been found

15 *Phytophthora* (Yang et al., 2016). *P. lacustris*, *P. chlamydospora*, *P. gonapodyides*, *Phytophthora* *P. lacustris*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora*, *Phytophthora*, *P. lacustris*, *P. chlamydospora*, *P. gonapodyides* (Jung et al., 2011; Reeser et al., 2011; Dunstan et al., 2016; Stamler et al., 2016). *P. lacustris*, *Alnus*, *Prunus*, *Salix* (Nechwatal et al., 2013). *P. gonapodyides*, *Quercus*, *Castanea*, *Rosaceae*, *Pinaceae*. *P. gonapodyides* (Cline et al., 2008). *P. chlamydospora*

2015).

P. syringae
Phytophthora.

(Hansen et al.,

8

P. syringae

(Upstone, 1978; Thomidis 2001; Cline et al., 2008; Lolas et al., 2016).

314 km,

Phytophthora

Phytophthora

).

2016-2018 .

(Jung et al., 2011),

in streams, rivers and riparian soils in temperate forests in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. It has been also isolated from bark cankers, roots, and foliage of nursery plants (Hansen *et al.*, 2015).

P. syringae belongs to the Clade 8. Species of this clade are mainly soil-borne and have wider host spectrum. *P. syringae* has been isolated in Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia. It is known to infect plant tree species, especially apple and pear, but also citrus fruit and ornamental plants (Upstone, 1978; Thomidis 2001; Cline et al., 2008; Lolas et al., 2016).

Osam is a river in north part of Bulgaria. It is formed by the merging of rivers Beli Osam and Cherni Osam, close to the town of Troyan. Its length is 314 km, which defines the Osam as the fifth longest river in Bulgaria. In the mountainous part of the Osam river the vegetation consists mainly of deciduous forests, whereas a low-vegetation prevails in the foothills. In the Danube Plain, where agricultural crops are grown, waters of Osam River are used for irrigation.

The aim of this study is isolation and characterization of *Phytophthora* species from the upper stream of the Osam River. Determination of the diversity was performed using classical morphological methods and molecular analyses. Pathogenicity of isolated *Phytophthora* species to wild and cultivated berry plants (strawberry, blackberry, cranberry) was investigated.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey was conducted in the period 2016-2018. Samples were collected from four different locations of foothill region of the Osam River using a baiting method (Jung et al., 2011) via *Rhododendron* leaves enveloped in mesh bags that were floated in the river for 3

3 . - days. They have the ability to attract *Phytophthora* zoospores that floated in the water. Collected leaves were surface sterilized with 70% ethyl alcohol and rinsed twice in sterile water. Leaf segments around necrotic areas were excised and transferred to a selective PARNHB media (carrot agar supplemented with 10 mg Pimaricin, 250 mg Ampicilin, 10 mg Rifampicin, 50 mg Nistatin, 1.3 ml Tahigaren and 15 mg Benomyl/1l). Plates were incubated at 23-25°C for 2-5 days. A mycelia plug of each colony with different morphological type was transferred on water agar. After a colony growth for 3-4 days, hyphae tip was taken with a needle under a microscope and was transferred to a fresh media V8A (vegetable agar: 16 g agar, 3 g CaCO₃, 100 ml V8 juice/1 l) or PDA (Potato Dextrose Agar, Difco), depending on future analyses.

Phytophthora. 70% -

PARNHB (-

: 10 mg Pimaricin, 250 mg Ampicilin, 10 mg Rifampicin, 50 mg Nistatin, 1.3 ml Tahigaren and 15 mg Benomyl/1l). -

23-25°C 2-5 -

3-4 , -

V8 -

(: 16 g agar, 3 g CaCO₃, 100 ml V8 juice/1 l) PDA (-

, Difco). -

10- -

DNeasy Plant Mini -

Kit (QIAGEN GmbH), -

ITS (internal transcribed spacer) -

(Polymerase Chain -

Reaction, PCR) ITS5 -

(5'-GGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAAGG-3') -

ITS4 (5'-TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC-3'), : 96°C – 2 ..

35 : 96°C – 1 ..

55°C – 1 .., 72°C – 2 .

72°C – 10 . PCR -

PuReTaq™ Ready-To-Go™ PCR beads -

(GE Healthcare Life Sciences), -

PCR .

GATC -

Biotech AG, -

NCBI (National Center for -

Biotechnology Information) BLAST -

(Basic Local Alignment Search Tool). -

Phytophthora V8 -

PDA -

Selected isolates of each *Phytophthora* species were cultivated on V8A and PDA for mycelia growth and morphological characterization. Sporangia formation was stimulated by incubation of

24-48 (Jung et al., 2011).
 Axio Imager Zeiss AxioVision 4.8.2.
Phytophthora
Phytophthora
lacustris – RLesh2016/81a, *P. syringae* – RDobrod2016/82d, *P. chlamydospora* – RChOs2016/83b and *P. gonapodyides* – RBOs2016/84a.
 7-
 (1:1).
Phytophthora
 5-7
 (1:1).

agar blocks (15mmx20mm) of 7 days old culture on V8A of each isolate with spring water for 24 to 48 hours (Jung et al., 2011). Observation of morphological structures was performed by microscope Zeiss Axio Imager and software AxioVision 4.8.2.

Pathogenicity of isolated *Phytophthora* species to wild and cultivated strawberry and blackberry, as well as wild cranberry was analyzed. Tests were performed by inoculation of detached leaves of berry plants. One isolate of each *Phytophthora* species was selected for analyses as follow: *P. lacustris* – RLesh2016/81a, *P. syringae* – RDobrod2016/82d, *P. chlamydospora* – RChOs2016/83b and *P. gonapodyides* – RBOs2016/84a. Mycelia plugs of 7-days old culture of each isolate were put in a Petri dish with sterile and spring water (1:1). The leaves of tested plants were placed to float into the Petri dishes. The system allows a release of zoospores that can infect sensitive host plants. Disease symptoms were observed 5 to 7 days post inoculation (dpi). Leaves of berry plants placed in a Petri dish with sterile and spring water (1:1) without *Phytophthora* were used as a control.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

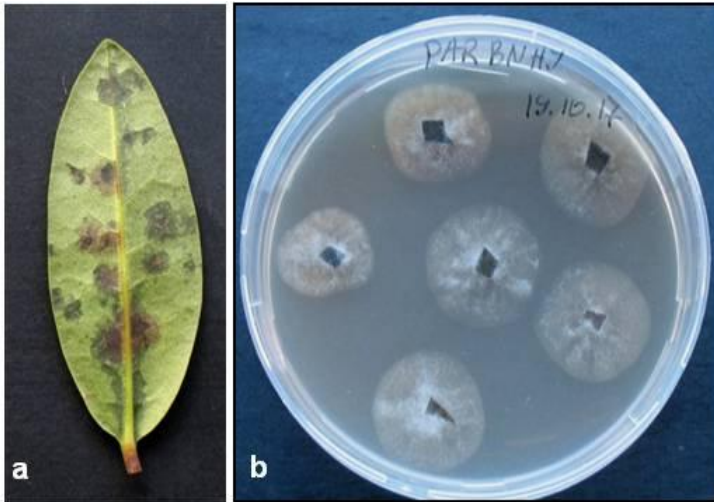
Diversity of *Phytophthora* species in a mountainous and foothill region of the Osam River was investigated in the study. Four different locations were chosen for the examination: 1. the Osam River at a village Leshnica; 2. the Osam River at a village Dobrodan; 3. the Cherni Osam River at a Livadeto district; 4. the Beli Osam River at a village Chiflik (Figure 1).

Phytophthora
 : 1.
 ; 2.
 ; 3.
 ; 4.
 (1).



Fig. 1. Locations of floating mesh bags placed in upper stream of the Osam River: 1 – Leshnica village; 2 – Dobrodan village; 3 – Livadeto district; 4 – Chiflik village

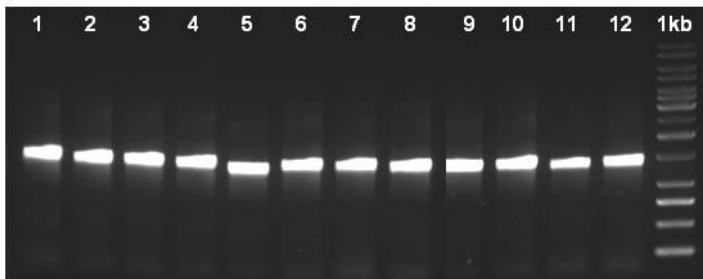
Necrotic spots on the surface of *Rhododendron* leaves from floating mesh bag were detected (Figure 2a). Isolation of pathogens was conducted by selection on PARNHB media that allow predominantly growth of *Phytophthora* species (Figure 2b). From all 4 locations, totally 20 isolates were selected as follow: 6 isolates from Leshnica village; 5 isolates per Dobrodan village and Livadeto district, and 4 isolates from Chiflik village.



2. **PARNHB** **(b)** *Phytophthora* (a)

Fig. 2. *Rhododendron* leaves floating mesh bag with symptoms of the *Phytophthora* infection (a) and selection of isolates on selective PARNHB media (b)

PCR ITS5 ITS4 (3) | PCR amplification with primers
 - ITS5 and ITS4 (Figure 3) and sequence
 analyses were performed for species
 identification of the isolates.



3. PCR ITS *Phytophthora*

Fig. 3. PCR amplification of the ITS region of *Phytophthora* isolates from the Osam River

1. -
 - *P. lacustris*.
P. lacustris,
 - *P. syringae*.
P. lacustris, *P. gonapodyides* | *P.* The results are presented in
 Table 1. In the Osam River at Leshnica
 village only *P. lacustris* was isolated.
 In the second spot of the river at Dobrodan
 village in addition to *P. lacustris*, *P.*
syringae was recovered. In Cherni Osam
 River at Livadeto district *P. lacustris* was
 isolated together with *P. gonapodyides*

chlamydospora. 3
 13
 20
lacustris,
Phytophthora -
 -
P. lacustris
 -
P. gonapodyides,
P. chlamydospora *P. syringae*

and *P. chlamydospora*. The same 3 species were obtained from the Beli Osam River at Chiflik village. In total, 13 isolates of all 20 samples were identified as *P. lacustris*, which makes this *Phytophthora* species most common in the region. Furthermore, it is found in all the four locations, indicating that *P. lacustris* has the largest distribution range in the investigated region. Three of isolates were determined as *P. gonapodyides*, whereas *P. chlamydospora* and *P. syringae* were represented by two isolates each.

1. *Phytophthora*,

Table 1. List of *Phytophthora* isolates collected from the upper stream of the Osam River

No	/ River	/ Location; GPS coordinates	/ Isolate	<i>Phytophthora</i> <i>Phytophthora</i> species
1.	Osam	Leshnica village; 43.017615/24.716778	RLesh2016/81a	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RLesh2016/81b	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RLesh2016/81d	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RLesh2016/81d'	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RLesh2016/81e	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RLesh2016/81f	<i>P. lacustris</i>
2.	Osam	Dobrodan village; 42.957249/24.687510	RDobrod2016/82a	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RDobrod2016/82b	<i>P. syringae</i>
			RDobrod2016/82c	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RDobrod2016/82d	<i>P. syringae</i>
			RDobrod2016/82e	<i>P. lacustris</i>
3.	Cherni Osam	Livadeto district, Troyan town; 42.902689/24.738322	RChOs2016/83a	<i>P. gonapodyides</i>
			RChOs2016/83b	<i>P. chlamydospora</i>
			RChOs2016/83c	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RChOs2016/83d	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RChOs2016/83e	<i>P. lacustris</i>
4.	Beli Osam	Chiflik village; 42.826640/24.548904	RBOs2016/84a	<i>P. gonapodyides</i>
			RBOs2016/84b	<i>P. lacustris</i>
			RBOs2016/84c	<i>P. gonapodyides</i>
			RBOs2016/84d	<i>P. chlamydospora</i>

P. lacustris, *P. gonapodyides* *P.*
chlamydospora 6
Phytophthora, *P. syringae*
 8.
 6
 90%
Phytophthora

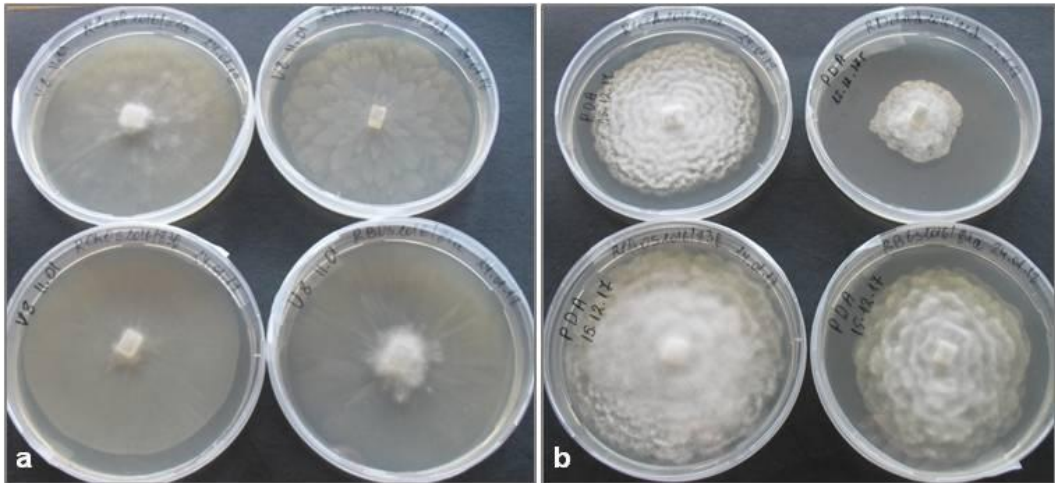
P. lacustris, *P. gonapodyides* and *P. chlamydospora* belong to Clade 6, whereas *P. syringae* belongs to the Clade 8. Since *Phytophthora* species of the Clade 6 are predominant in the riparian environment, it is not surprising that the representatives of this group form 90% of the collected isolates in the presented

P. syringae
lacustris (RLesh2016/81a) *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d)
chlamydospora (RChOs2016/83b)
gonapodyides (RBOs2016/84a)
gonapodyides
PDA
syringe (RDobrod2016/82d)
(4b).

study. *Phytophthora* species of the Clade 8 are mainly soil-borne and this could be a reason for the less frequent distribution of *P. syringae* in the Osam River.

P. lacustris and *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d) form similar petaloid colonies on V8 media, while *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b) and *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a) exhibit more stellate pattern of growth (Figure 4a).

P. gonapodyides form aerial mycelium towards the centre of the plate. On PDA the four isolates form petaloid to rosaceous colonies, while distinctively *P. syringe* isolate grow in a denser pattern (Figure 4b).



4. *Phytophthora* V8 ()
PDA (b): *P. lacustris* (RLesh2016/81a), *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d), *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b), *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a); (

Fig. 4. The mycelium growth of selected *Phytophthora* isolates on V8 (a) and PDA (b) media: *P. lacustris* (RLesh2016/81a), *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d), *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b), *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a); (from up to down and from left to right)

Phytophthora
lacustris (RLesh2016/81a)
c),
5b).
P. syringae

All four species produced sporangia in flooded carrot agar. Isolate *P. lacustris* form non-papillate ovoid sporangia (Figure 5a, c), sometimes with atypical forms (Figure 5b).

P. syringae (RDobrod2016/82d) produce

(RDobrod2016/82d) - semipapillate ovoid to obpyriform sporangia (Figure 5 d, e). Both isolates *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b) and *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a) form non-papillate ovoid sporangia which proliferate internally (Figure 5f, g and h, I respectively).

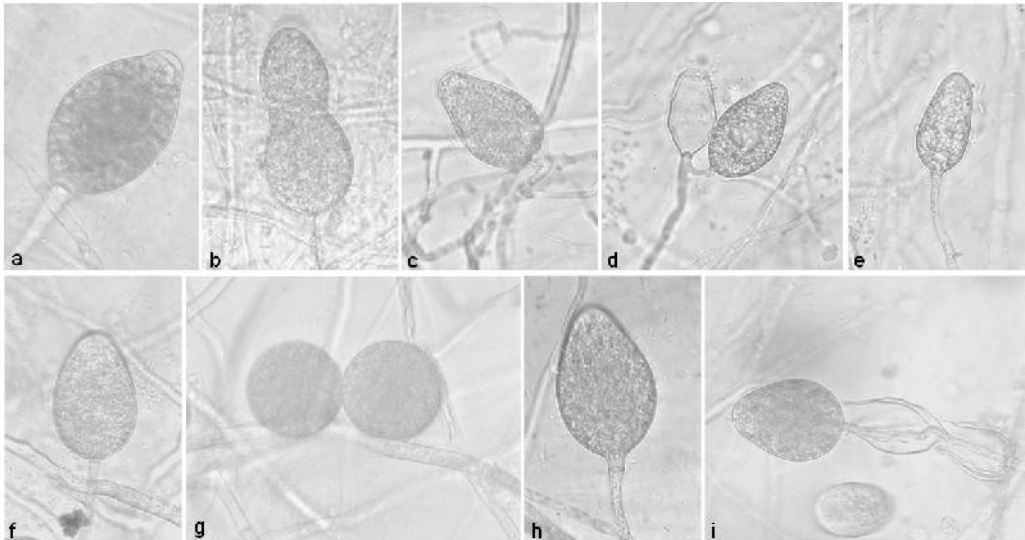


Fig. 5. Morphological structures of *P. lacustris* – RLesh2016/81a (a, b, c), *P. syringae* – RDobrod2016/82d (d, e), *P. chlamydospora* – RChOs2016/83b (f, g), *P. gonapodyides* – RBOs2016/84a (h, i)

6. Pathogenicity analyses of selected *Phytophthora* isolates was performed using wild and cultivated berry plants (Figure 6). This is an initial screening for the ability of these *Phytophthora* species to infect various plants that are distributed in the mountainous and semi-mountainous areas of the Osam River. Results of the pathogenicity tests showed that *P. lacustris*, *P. syringae*, *P. gonapodyides* and *P. chlamydospora*, can infect wild berry plants, as well as cultivated species. *P. chlamydospora* – RChOs2016/83b shows the fastest development of the disease symptoms on tested leaves and severe infection 3-5 days post inoculation. Weaker symptoms

RChOs2016/83b. -

-

P. syringae — RDobrod2016/82d.

and a slower infection and a slower spread of disease symptoms were recorded for *P. syringae* — RDobrod2016/82d. No infection on control leaves was counted.



6. () (b) ,

(c) (d) (e)
P. lacustris (RLesh2016/81), *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d), *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b) *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a)

Fig. 6. Pathogenicity to wild () and cultivated (b) strawberry, wild (c) and cultivated (d) blackberry and wild cranberry (e) of *P. lacustris* (RLesh2016/81), *P. syringae* (RDobrod2016/82d), *P. chlamydospora* (RChOs2016/83b) and *P. gonapodyides* (RBOs2016/84a)

P. lacustris, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora* *P. syringae*

Phytophthora

Phytophthora

Our data showed that *P. lacustris*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora* and *P. syringae* are pathogens on tested berry plants. Isolated *Phytophthora* species are potential threat to wild plants in the riparian ecosystems. On the other hand, they can also cause damage to cultivated plants in agricultural areas under suitable climate conditions by releasing and spreading of zoospores during irrigation with Osam River water.

CONCLUSIONS

Phytophthora (*P. lacustris*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora* *P. syringae*)

Phytophthora

Four *Phytophthora* species (*P. lacustris*, *P. gonapodyides*, *P. chlamydospora* and *P. syringae*) were isolated from the upper stream of the Osam River. This appears to be the first record for the occurrence of these *Phytophthora* species in aquatic ecosystem on the territory of Bulgaria. Isolated *Phytophthora* species demonstrated pathogenicity to wild and cultivated berry plants and are potential threat to vegetation in the region of the Osam River.

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 , 2500 ,

Economic evaluation of technology for organic production of raspberries

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SUMMARY

2013-2016 .
 .
 - .
 2.5 0.5 m 800
 /da.
 80% .
 .
 -
 -
 875.4 ./da
 , 886.92 ./da
 , 894.8 ./da
 913.88 ./da
 5 + 4.
 1.24
 ./kg
 -
 -
 + -
 1.38 ./kg

The investigations were carried out during the period 2013-2016 in the experimental field of the town Kostinbrod at the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil, Bulgaria. Cultivars Willamette and Lyulin has developed at a distance of 2.50 x 0.50 m or 880 plants/da. Drip irrigation rate of 80% ET was applied. The influence of four types of fertilization was examined.

Invested resources for creating biological raspberry plantation amounted to 875.4 BGN/da in variants without fertilization, to 886.92 BGN/da at fertilization with Biohumax, 894.8 BGN/da with Humustim and 913.88 BGN/da with Hemozym bio 5+ Hemofol H4.

During the fruiting period the variant with Humustim fertilization is characterized with low cost production – 1.24 BGN/kg and the highest is at fertilization with Hemozym+Hemofol – 1.38 BGN/kg.

From an economic point of view, the additional costs of fertilization in organic production of raspberries are justified and lead to greater economic

2014-2020 .

100 ha / - 10 ha, - 3 ha, - 100 000 ha/ (Ejeta, 2009, Atanasov et al., 2014).

(Mitova, 2014).

ú -

1.50 /kg.
2.00 /kg -

2.00 /kg
2.50-3.00 /kg
(Koumanov et al., 2016).

(Thiam et al., 2001; Iraizoz et

efficiency.

Key words: raspberries, costs, prime cost, effectiveness

INTRODUCTION

Organic farming is an important priority in the policy for the development of agriculture in the Republic of Bulgaria and one of the priorities of the Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020. The interest in organic food and drinks is growing worldwide.

Organic farming is practiced in approximately 100 countries in the world at more than 24 million ha /Australia – 10 million ha, Argentina – 3 million ha, Latin America – 100 000 ha/ (Ejeta, 2009; Atanasov et al., 2014). Organic farming in Bulgaria also enjoys a constantly growing interest from producers and consumers.

Unlike other agricultural sectors, organic production grows not in percent, but in times. Bulgarian bioproducts have a good realization and are competitive on the European market, while the domestic market can be defined as a nascent one (Mitova, 2014).

Raspberry has become a profitable fruit species for many regions in Bulgaria with soil-climatic conditions suitable for its cultivation. When assessing the economic efficiency of the raspberry production technology, it has been found that raspberry production is not profitable at a selling price of 1.50 BGN/kg.

At prices of 2.00 BGN/kg and higher, a very good profitability is ensured. The payback period at a price of 2.00 BGN/kg is during the fourth vegetation and at prices from 2.50 to 3.00 BGN/kg during a third vegetation (Koumanov et al., 2016).

Many researchers using different economic models to determine the efficiency of agricultural production (Thiam et al., 2001; Iraizoz et al., 2003;

al., 2003; Chauhan et al., 2006).

(Manolova, 2005).

(Coelli, 1998; Thanassoulis, 2001; Onut and Soner, 2006).

Chauhan et al., 2006). For raspberry is advisable cultivation of larger areas, to ensure the saving of the amount of production and expansion of its magnitude (Manolova, 2005). By optimal use of raw materials is achieved to maximize the economic returns (Coelli, 1998; Thanassoulis, 2001; Onut and Soner, 2006).

In connection with the growing interest in organic production, we have set ourselves the goal of identifying the economic effect of applying different fertilizers to raspberries.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experience was carried out during the period 2013-2016 in the experimental field of the town of Kostinbrod at the Institute of Agriculture - Kystendil. Two varieties of Willamette and Lyulin are studied in a planting pattern of 2.5 x 0.5 m or 800 plants/da. Drip irrigation with rate of 80% ET is applied. The soil is a black-earth reed which is characterized by very specific water-physical and chemical properties. The mechanical composition is heavy clay with grainy-trout structure. Its water-physical properties are characterized by good moisture content and considerable preservation of moisture absorbed by plants. The soil's humus horizon power is over 80 cm and its humus content in the top layer is 3.7%. The content of the mobile forms of the main nutrients is: N – 35,7 mg/1000g, P₂O₅ – 16,7 mg/100g and K₂O of 34 mg/100 g of soil. Its reaction is neutral to slightly alkaline pH (H₂O) 6.9-7.1.

Four fertilization variants are tested.

- V0 – control
- V1 – Humostim
- V2 – Hemozim bio 5 + Hemofol 4
- V3 – Biohumax

For the comparative economic analysis of the technology is used a system of indicators: average yield, kg/da; Gross production, BGN/da; Production

2013-2016 .

2.5 0.5 m 800
/da.

80%

80 cm,
3.7%.

: N – 35,7
mg/1000g, P₂O₅ – 16,7 mg/100g K₂O 34
mg/100g.

(2) 6,9-7,1.

- V0 –
- V1 –
- V2 –
- V3 –

5 + 4

kg/da; , /da;

/da, /da; , % , costs, BGN/da; Net income, BGN/da and rate of profitability,%

875.4 /da
 , 886.92 /da
 , 894.8 /da
 913.88 /da 5 +
 4.
 Manolova (2005) -
 69%

(1). -
 1324 /da,
 + - 1310
 /da, - 1257 /da
 - 1124 /da.
 133-200 /da,

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The results obtained during the study period of a raspberry variety of Lulin, grown under different fertilization and plant protection options, make it possible to carry out an economic assessment of the organic production of raspberries.

- The production costs for the establishment and the first year of organic raspberry cultivation amount to 875.4 BGN/da for the control variant, 886.92 BGN/da for Biohumax fertilization, 894.8 BGN/da with Humustim and 913.88 BGN/da for Hemozim bio 5 + Hemophol H4. Similar results were obtained from Manolova (2005) in standard raspberry production. In the analysis of the structure of the resource expenditures it was found that 69% of the total costs of planting were spent on propagating material.

- In individual years and on average over the period, the production costs of the fertilization variants are higher than the control (Figure 1). The highest value is the cost of the manure versus Humustim – 1324 BGN/da, followed in descending order by this Hemozim + Hemofol – 1310 BGN/da, Biohumax – 1257 BGN/da and the lowest at the control – 1124 BGN/da. The additional production costs for the three fertilized variants are within the range of 133-200 BGN/da, which are the result of the fertilization costs incurred and the resulting additional fruit production.

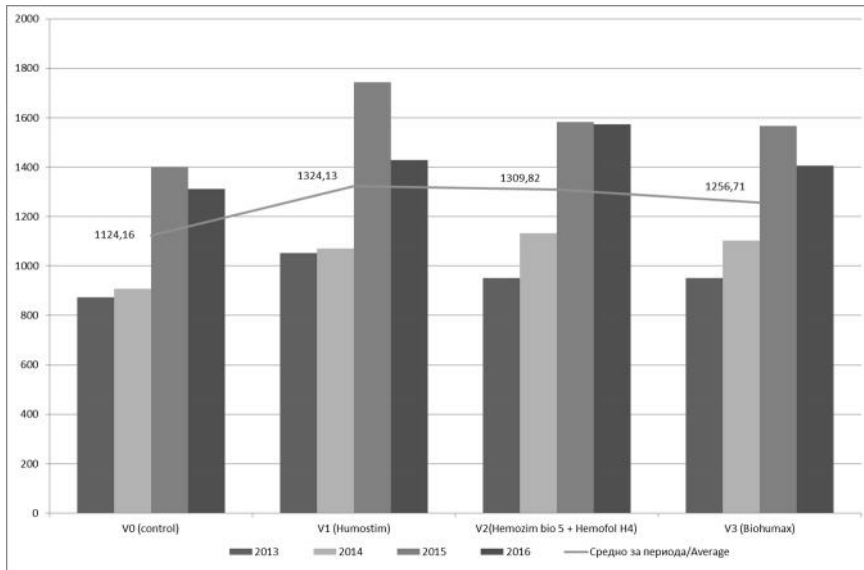


Fig. 1. Production costs, BGN/da

4366 BGN/da (2).
14.5%
2014

2016

Gross production in value expression, in the options examined, follows the trend of change in the average yield. Higher values were obtained for the three fertilizer variants compared to the control. Over the two years of the survey and on average over the period the gross production was the highest when fertilized with Humustim - 4366 BGN/da (Figure 2). It is 14.5% higher than the control. In 2014, the Biohumax fertilizer variant produced higher gross production as a result of the higher yield, and in 2016 in the variant with Hemizim + Hemophol.

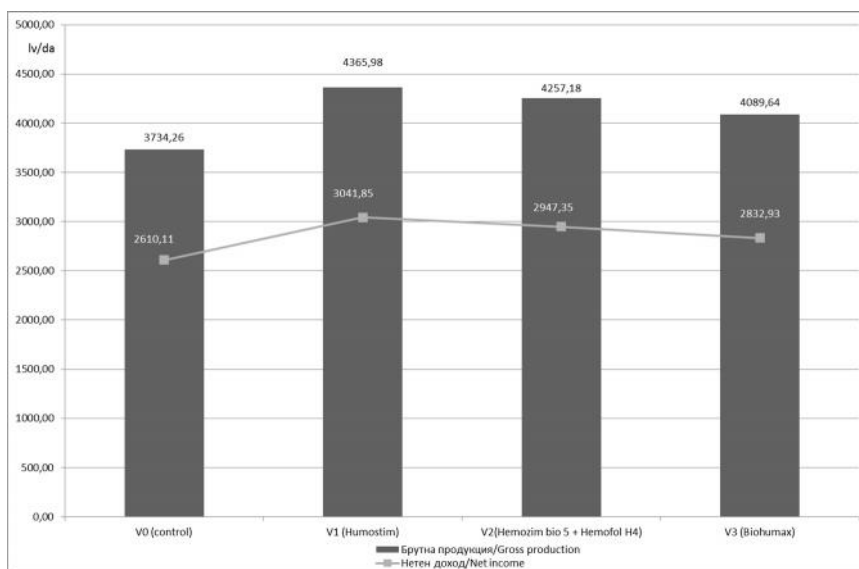


Fig. 2. Gross production and net income, BGN/da

Net income follows the trend of gross production change and is within the range 2610-3042 BGN/da. The resulting net income is 223 BGN/da for Biohumax fertilization, followed by fertilizer with Hemozim + Hemophol – 337 BGN/da and the highest fertilization with humustim – 432 BGN/da.

Another important criterion for economic assessment is the cost of production, which is determined by the ratio between the average yields and production costs. It is noteworthy that the variants with humustim and the control had the lowest production cost (1.24 BGN/kg) among the examined variants. In contrast, the highest average value (1.28 BGN/kg) of production was obtained in the fertilization variant Hemozim + Hemophol.

The economic performance rate for the cultivation of raspberries of the Lyulin variety ranged from 171% in fertilization with Hemozim + Hemophol in 2015 to 285.6% for Biohumax fertilization in 2014.

Production in this variant is however less

Net income follows the trend of gross production change and is within the range 2610-3042 BGN/da. The resulting net income is 223 BGN/da for Biohumax fertilization, followed by fertilizer with Hemozim + Hemophol – 337 BGN/da and the highest fertilization with humustim – 432 BGN/da.

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Production in this variant is however less

2013-2016 ., - 234%.
 2376 ./da, -
 - 2220 ./da, - 2214
 ./da -
 ./da (3). - 2032
 182-344 ./da,

profitable compared to the average data for the period 2013-2016, where the Humustim fertilization advantage is 234%.

For the Willamette variety, fertilizing with Biohumax gives better economic results. The net average income for the period is 2376 BGN/da, followed in descending order by this with Hemozim + Hemophol - 2220 BGN/da, Humustim - 2214 BGN/da and lowest at the control - 2032 BGN/da (Figure 3). The additional net income for the three fertilized variants is between 182-344 BGN/da, which is the result of the additional fruit production.

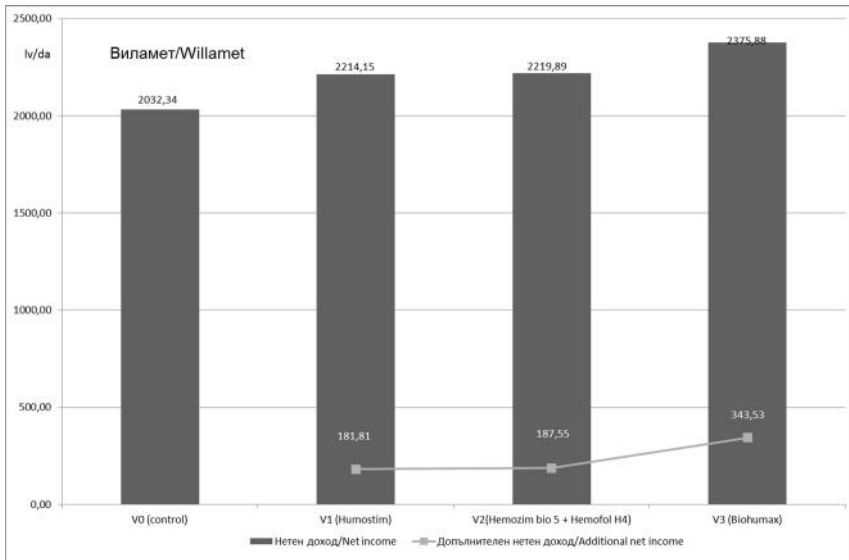


Fig. 3. Net income, BGN/da

From an economic point of view, the additional costs of fertilization in organic raspberries are justified and lead to higher economic efficiency.

CONCLUSIONS

1.
 913.88 ./da
 875.4 -

1. The production costs for the construction of organic raspberry plantations are within the range 875.4-913.88 BGN/da depending on the fertilizer option chosen.

2.	-	-	2. The most suitable from the economic point of view in organic raspberry production is Humustim fertilization of the Lyulin variety, where the extra net income is 432 BGN/da and the rate of profitability is 234%.
3.	432 ./da, - 234%.	-	3. For the Willamette variety, Biohumax fertilization provides better economic results than other fertilizing options.

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Strawberry breeding – short pomological characteristic

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SUMMARY

(Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Elegance, Fenella, Seneca, Serenity) 2009-2012 . 2011-2013 . Marmolada, Eva, Polka. Marmolada (8.5 ., 49.2 .), Polka (5.9 ., 45.0 .) Elegance (6.5 ., 31.4 .). Polka, 8.4. Fenella (20.7 g), Elegance (18.1 g), Marmolada (17.3 g). Polka (3238 kg/da), Elegance (2963 kg/da), Fenella (2956 kg/da), Marmolada (2769 kg/da), Seneca (2731 kg/da); Eva (2163 kg/da). Seneca, Marmolada, Polka, Eva, Elegance, Serenity Fenella Elegance, Seneca, Eva, Elegance.

The strawberry varieties included in this paper were selected (Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Elegance, Fenella, Seneca, Serenity) on the basis of two research trials conducted respectively in the periods 2009-2012 and 2011-2013. As a result of the study, it was established that the varieties Marmolada, Eva and Polka are the most resistant to late spring cold spells. The highest number of inflorescences, and flowers per plant respectively were produced by Marmolada (8.5; 45.0), Polka (5.9; 45.0), and Elegance (6.5; 31.4). Polka had the highest number of flowers per inflorescence – 8.4. The varieties with the largest fruit were Fenella (20.7 g), Elegance (18.1 g), Marmolada (17.3 g). The highest yields were observed in Polka (3238 kg/da), Elegance (2963 kg/da), Fenella (2956 kg/da), Marmolada (2769 kg/da), Seneca (2731 kg/da); followed by Eva (2163 kg/da). The fruits of Seneca, Marmolada, Polka, Eva, Elegance, Serenity and Fenella had the highest taste qualities and visual appeal. Elegance was distinguished by excellent aromatic properties. Seneca, Elegance and Eva had the highest firmness flesh among all tested varieties.

Key words: strawberry varieties, number of inflorescences and flowers, pomology characteristic, fruitfulness, average mass

INTRODUCTION

Strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.) is a small fruit-bearing species with a wide range of geographical distribution. According to Darow (1966), the varieties of the common garden strawberry can persist in regions with contrasting ecological and climatological conditions – from sea level to 3200 m, from Alaska to the Tropics, from the Arctic to Ecuador. In Bulgaria, the variety selection exclusively consists of introduced strawberry varieties. In the last 10-15 years there has been an increase in the rate of export of better-adapted and more resistant to pests varieties. Their characteristics, however, are known only thanks to studies conducted in other parts of the globe, and literature reviews. This has presented the need to conduct long-term studies investigating the varieties' response to the particular soil and climatological conditions. The new varieties introduced should have a high and constant yield, be adapted to the fluctuations in climate of particular regions, and bear all the modern characteristics of variety success (Eremin et al., 2004; Bernardini, 2009; Lopez-Medina and Blanco, 2008). There are still older varieties grown such as Senga Sengana, Cambridge favourite, Redgauntlet and Belrubi.

The purpose of the following study is to select the best-suited to the particular soil and climatological conditions introduced varieties.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental trials were conducted in a test field located in Kostinbrod, Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil, and the methodology used complies with the Latin rectangular rule, consisting of 4 rows of 20 plants each. The

(*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.)
 Darow (1966)
 3200 m
 10-15
 (Eremin et al., 2004; Bernardini, 2009; Lopez-Medina and Blanco, 2008).
 Senga Sengana, Cambridge favourite, Redgauntlet Belrubi.
 20
 2009-2012 (Seneca, 8

Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Cesena, Gardena, Seascape, Miranda) (Senga Sengana, Belrubi). 2011-2013
 12 (Maya, Camino Real, Elegance, Serenity, Fenella, Onda, Selva, Camarosa, Ventana, Diamante, Gaviota, Tethis) (Redgauntlet).
 1.00 m/0.25 m,

543 m.

); (((); ();

(*Rhynchites germanicus* Herbst, *Anthonomus rubi* Herbst.).

(Nedev et al., 1979)

(Boycheva and Lazarov, 2003).

first trial was in the period 2009-2012, and included 8 varieties (Seneca, Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Cesena, Gardena, Seascape, Miranda), and two standards (Senga Sengana, Belrubi). The second trial was in the period 2011-2013 and included 12 varieties (Maya, Camino Real, Elegance, Serenity, Fenella, Onda, Selva, Camarosa, Ventana, Diamante, Gaviota, Tethis), and one standard (Redgauntlet). The planting scheme is 1.00 m/0.25 m; soil is characterised as Euthric Chernozem Vertisols with strong to low alkaline reaction; at an altitude of 543 m.

The study included the following characteristics:

- phenological observations (flowering and maturation);
- biological studies (resistance to late spring cold spells, number of inflorescences and flowers, yield);
- morphological studies (qualities, distinctive of the articular variety);
- resistance to fungal infections in natural environmental conditions;
- resistance to strawberry weevils (*Rhynchites germanicus* Herbst., *Anthonomus rubi* Herbst.).

The study was conducted following the Methods for studying of planting resources of fruit crops (Nedev et al., 1979) and Methodology for Successful Agricultural and Biological Grading of Variety Trials using Strawberry Varieties (Boycheva and Lazarov, 2003).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of the analysis conducted, strawberry varieties, with qualities better than the tested standards, were selected. The origin of the selected varieties is shown in Table 1 below.

1.

1.

Table 1. Origin of select strawberry varieties

<i>Variety</i>	<i>/ Origin</i>	<i>/ Country</i>
	<i>/ Lineage</i>	
Marmolada	Gorella x Sel. Driscoll	/ Italy, 1989
Eva	Darselect x 89.384.20 (Marmolada x Irvine)	/ Italy, 2004
Polka	Induka x Sivetta	/ Netherlands, 1980 (1987)
Elegance	EM 834 x EM 1033	/ UK, 2009
Fenella	EM 931 x EM 972	/ UK, 2009
Seneca	NY (Redcoat x NY844) x Holiday	/ USA, 1992
Serenity	137A84 x Chandler	/ Canada, 2003

Marmolada

Gorella Sel. Driscoll
(Faedi et al., 2002).
8.5 /
49.2 / 7.9 /

Marmolada was created in Italy as a result of the cross of Gorella x Sel. Driscoll (Faedi et al., 2002).
It blooms in the last 10 days of April and the first 10 days of May; forms an average of 8.5 inflorescences/plant, 49.2 flowers/plant, and 7.9 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1).

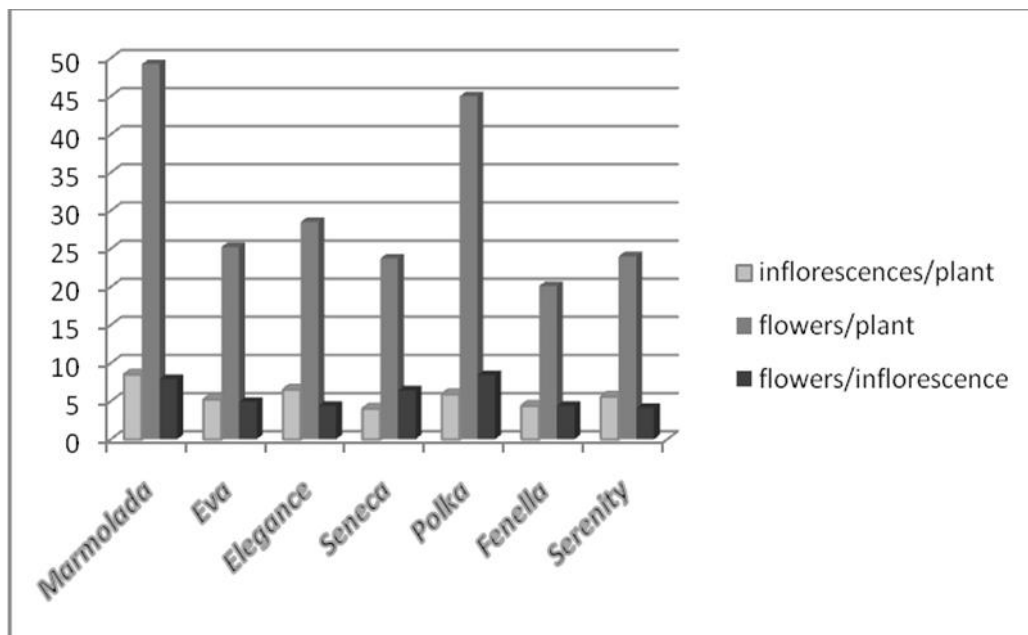


Fig. 1. Yield-forming indices

17.3 g,

The fruit has an excellent appearance with large berries, the average weight of each – 17.3 g, with

36 g.
 - (),
 ,
 -
 ,
 .
 (5-10.06.)
 -
 2769 kg/da . . 0.443
 kg/
 (Anthonomus rubi, Rhynchites germanicus).

some fruits weighting up to 36 g. The shape is an elongated – conical one, although cylindrical individual berries are seen, as well. The exterior is intense to dark red with a shine and a well-established calyx insertion above the fruit, and is difficult to separate from the calyx. The flesh is bright red with a significant hollow space, and is medium in density. The variety has a distinguishable aroma, and taste. It has middle ripening time (5-10 June) with a high yield in the climatic conditions tested (2 769 kg/da, 0.443 kg/plant).

Marmolada is highly resistant to cold spells and weevils (*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*).

Eva

[Darselect x 89.384.20 (Marmolada Irvine)] (Finn, 1999; Lewers and Maas, 2006).
 5.2
 4.9 / , 25.2 / .
 (1).
 ,
 - 16.7 g,
 - 39 g),
 ,
 .
 ,
 .
 (5-10.06.)
 (2163 kg/da, 0.346 kg/).
 ,
 (Mycosphaerella fragariae)
 (Anthonomus rubi,
 Rhynchites germanicus).

Eva is an Italian variety [Darselect x 89.384.20 (Marmolada Irvine)] (Finn, 1999; Lewers and Maas, 2006).

It blooms at the end of April and forms an average number of 5.2 inflorescences/plant, 25.2 flowers/plant, and 4.9 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1).

The fruit has a good appearance; is medium large to large (average. weight – 16.7 g, individual fruits up to 39 g.); has a conical shape; intense red in colouring with a shine; has a fruit level calyx insertion, and yellow seeds located along the surface. The fruit flesh is bright red, having very little hollow space to none, and is of high density with a well-distinguished aroma and excellent flavour. The fruit is difficult to separate from the calyx. The variety has middle ripening time (5-10 June) with a high yield (2 163kg/da, 0.346 kg/plant).

Eva is highly resistant to cold spells, as well as to common sport of strawberry (*Mycosphaerella fragariae*) and weevils (*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*).

Elegance

EM 834 x EM 1033 (Lewers, 2010).

6.5
28.5
4.4
(18.1 g),

(5-10.06.)
(2963 kg/da, 0.474 kg/da).

(*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*).

Elegance is an English variety, resulting from the cross between the elites EM 834 x EM 1033 (Lewers, 2010). It blooms at the beginning of May and forms an average of 6.5 inflorescences/plant, 28.5 flowers/plant, and 4.4 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1). The fruits are medium large to large (average weight – 18.1 g), with a conical shape and a deep red colour. There is no fruit level calyx insertion, and the seeds are situated along the surface. The flesh is bright red to orange, succulent, and with a medium hollow space in size. The fruit has an average density, as well as a good to excellent aroma, and very good taste. Fruits are easily separated from the calyx. Elegance has middle ripening time (5-10 June), and a high yield (2 963 kg/da, 0.474 kg/plant). The variety is resistant to cold spells, but susceptible to weevils (*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*).

Seneca

[NY (Redcoat x NY 844) x Holiday] (Faedi et al., 2002).

4.0
6.4
(13 g),

(5-10.06.)
(2731 kg/da, 0.437 kg/da).

(*Anthonomus rubi*,

Seneca is an American variety, resulting from the cross between [NY (Redcoat x NY 844) x Holiday] (Faedi et al., 2002). The variety blooms between the last 10 days of April and the first 10 days of May, and forms an average of 4.0 inflorescences/plant, 23.7 flowers/plant, and 6.4 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1). The fruits are medium large (average weight – 13 g, with individual fruits up to 35 g), have a conical shape, and are deep red with a well-formed calyx insertion above the fruit. The flesh is bright red, with a medium hollow space; and has a high density. Seneca has a faint aroma, and a very good taste. Fruits are difficult to separate from the calyx. The variety has middle ripening time (10-15 June) and a high yield (2 731 kg/da, 0.437 kg/plant). Seneca is resistant to cold spells

Rhynchites germanicus).
(*Dendrophoma obscurans*).

and weevils (*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*). It is susceptible to leaf blight (*Dendrophoma obscurans*).

Polka

Induka x Sivetta.
Senga
Sengana (1954)
(Fresh Forward).
(5.9 / 8.4 / 45.0)
(1).
(- 13.3 g, - 33 g),
(10-15.06.)
(3238 kg/da, 0.518 kg/da).
(*Mycosphaerella fragariae*)
(*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*).
(*Marssonina fragariae*).

Polka is a Dutch variety, resulting from the cross between Induka x Sivetta. It was created as an alternative to Senga Sengana (an old German variety, introduced in 1954) as a response to the needs of the processing industry (Fresh Forward).

The variety blooms between the last days of April and the first 10 days of May, forming an average of 5.9 inflorescences/plant, 45.0 flowers/plant, and 8.4 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1).

The fruit is small to medium large (average weight – 13.3 g, with individuals up to 33 g); has a conical shape, and is deep red with a fruit level calyx insertion, which in some fruits is non-distinguishable; it has seeds situated along the surface. Polka's flesh is orange-red, without a hollow, and has a medium density. The variety has a weak aroma, and an excellent taste. Fruit is easily separated from the calyx. Polka has late ripening time (10-15 June) with a high yield (3 238 kg/da, 0.518 kg/plant).

Polka is highly resistant to cold spells, common spot of strawberry (*Mycosphaerella fragariae*), and weevils (*Anthonomus rubi*, *Rhynchites germanicus*). It is susceptible to strawberry leaf scorch (*Marssonina fragariae*).

Fenella

[EM 931 x EM 972]
(Lewers, 2010).
(4.4 / 4.4 / 20.1)
(1).

The variety was created in the United Kingdom (EM 931 x EM 972) (Lewers, 2010).

Fenella starts to bloom in the first 10 days of May, and forms and average of 4.4 inflorescences/plant, 20.1 flowers/plant, and 4.4 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1).

20.7 g)	(-	The fruits are large (average weight – 20.7 g) with a rounded conical shape. The colour is orange-red to bright red. There is no fruit level calyx insertion and the seeds are situated along the surface. The flesh is bright with a medium hollow space, has a medium density. Fenella is succulent, slightly sour-sweet, has a good aroma, and a very pleasant taste. Fruits are easily separated. The variety has late ripening time (10-15 June) and a high yield (2 956 kg/da, 0.473 kg/plant).
	,	,	
	,	,	
	,	.	
	,	.	
15.06.)	(10-	(2956	
kg/da, 0.473 kg/).	,	
	,	,	
(<i>Anthonomus rubi</i> ,	<i>Rhynchites</i>		Fenella is resistant to cold spells, but susceptible to weevils (<i>Anthonomus rubi</i> , <i>Rhynchites germanicus</i>).
<i>germanicus</i>).			

Serenity

	[137A84	x	Serenity is a Canadian variety (137A84 x Chandler) (Finn, 2004).
Chandler] (Finn, 2004).	(
	,		It blooms late (the end of the first ten days of May), and forms an average of 5.6 inflorescences/plant, 24.0 flowers/plant, and 4.1 flowers/inflorescence (Figure 1).
5.6 / .., 24.0	/	.	
4.1 / (1).			
	(The fruits are medium large (average weight – 14.8 g); have a rounded conical shape; are bright red in colour; have a fruit level calyx insertion, and the seeds are located along the surface. The flesh is bright orange in colour, with a hollow space of medium size. The fruits have a high density, good aroma, and good to very good taste. The fruits are difficult to separate from the calyx. Serenity is with late ripening time (after 15 June), and has a high yield (2 538 kg/da, 0.406 kg/plant).
- 14.8 g),	-	,	
	,	.	
	,	.	
	,	-	
	(15.06.)		
	(2538 kg/da, 0.406		It has a medium resistance to cold spells, and is susceptible to weevils (<i>Anthonomus rubi</i> , <i>Rhynchites germanicus</i>).
kg/).			
	,		
(<i>Anthonomus rubi</i> ,	<i>Rhynchites</i>		
<i>germanicus</i>).			

CONCLUSIONS

✓	,	✓ Seven varieties were selected on the basis of their characteristics being close or above the standard ones –
		Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Elegance, Fenella, Seneca, Serenity;
	-	
Marmolada, Eva, Polka, Elegance,	-	
Fenella, Seneca, Serenity;		

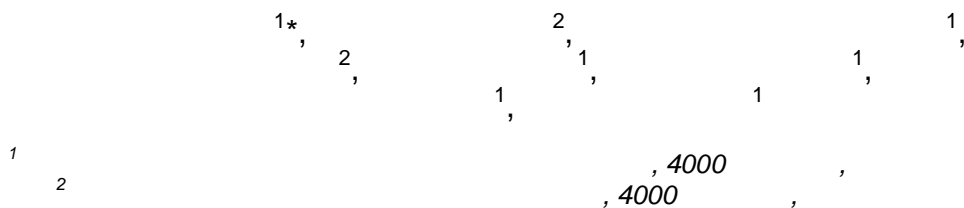
✓
 ✓ Marmolada, Eva, Polka;
 -
 Marmolada (8.5
 ., 49.2 .), Polka (5.9 ., 45.0 .)
 Elegance (6.5 ., 31.4 .). -
 Polka, 8.4;
 ✓ -
 Fenella (20.7 g), Elegance (18.1 g),
 Marmolada (17.3 g).
 Polka (3238 kg/da), Elegance
 (2963 kg/da), Fenella (2956 kg/da),
 Marmolada (2769 kg/da), Seneca (2731
 kg/da); Eva (2163
 kg/da);
 ✓
 Seneca, Marmolada, Polka, Eva,
 Elegance, Serenity Fenella
 . -
 Elegance,
 Elegance;
 ✓

✓ The most resistant to late spring
 cold spells are Marmolada, Eva, Polka;
 ✓ The following varieties had the
 highest number of inflorescences and
 flowers per plant: Marmolada (8.5, 49.2),
 Polka (5.9, 45.0), and Elegance (6.5,
 31.4). Polka had the highest number of
 flowers per inflorescence with 8.4;
 ✓ The varieties with the largest
 fruits are Fenella (20.7 g), Elegance (18.1
 g), and Marmolada (17.3 g). The varieties
 which had the highest yield are Polka
 (3238 kg/da), Elegance (2 963 kg/da),
 Fenella (2956 kg/da), Marmolada (2769
 kg/da), Seneca (2731 kg/da); Eva was
 characterised by a very good yield (2163
 kg/da);
 ✓ The fruits of Seneca, Marmolada,
 Polka, Eva, Elegance, Serenity, and
 Fenella had an attractive appearance and
 excellent food qualities. The most
 aromatic variety was Elegance; Seneca,
 Eva and Elegance had the highest
 density;
 ✓ All of the above-mentioned
 varieties have one or more distinguishable
 characteristic, and can be used for future
 selective breeding in strawberry
 agricultural production.

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Moisture sorption isotherms of dried black chokeberry

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SUMMARY

Osmotic dehydrated black chokeberry fruits were subjected to convective and heat pump drying. The sorption isotherms of the dried black chokeberry fruits were obtained at 25 °C and relative humidity in the range of 0.113 to 0.843. The static gravimetric method was applied. The Chung-Pfost, Halsey, Oswin, and Henderson models were applied for analyzing the experimental data.

Key words: black chokeberry, sorption isotherms, empirical models, osmotic dehydration, convective drying, heat pump drying

INTRODUCTION

Aronia melanocarpa is a perennial bushy and decorative plant reaching 2 - 2.5 m height. It belongs to the family Rosaceae.

25 °C
0.113

0.843,

Chung-
Pfost, Halsey, Oswin Henderson.

co a.

(*Aronia melanocarpa*)

2 - 2.5 m

pa o pac e e (Kulling and Rawel, 2008).

a
(Benvenuti et al., 2004; Konczak and Zhang, 2004; Koponen and Ritta, 2007; Walther and Schnell, 2009).

o a cy e a a pa a a
(Plocharski and Zbroszczyk, 1989; Jeppsson and Niklas, 1998).

ú
(Erbas et al., 2005; Limousin et al., 2007).

It is believed that the country of the black chokeberry is North America, and in Bulgaria is grown as cultivated and healed plant (Kulling and Rawel, 2008).

More and more researches have been done on the chemical composition of fruits and their effects on the human body. Fruits are a rich source and occupy the first place regarding availability of many substances (polyphenols, anthocyanins, flavonoids, and phenols) that have a beneficial effect on human health. A number of studies prove that black chokeberry is rich in vitamins – B, C, PP, E, K, and minerals – potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, a record amount of iodine, manganese, and molybdenum (Benvenuti et al., 2004; Konczak and Zhang, 2004; Koponen and Ritta, 2007; Walther and Schnell, 2009).

Numerous healing properties of aronia determine its application for the prevention of various diseases. In addition, the fruits are very delicious, they are used dried or for canned foods, including jams, juices, nectars, fresh drinks, and as a natural food colourant (Plocharski and Zbroszczyk, 1989; Jeppsson and Niklas, 1998).

The equilibrium humidity is an important sorption characteristic of the food products. Knowing the equilibrium humidity allows proper explanation of the modes and methods of processing, storing and packaging the foods. Sorption isotherm defines product moisture gain or loss from/to the ambience for storage purpose and allows finding critical water activity values.

Many researchers have stressed the importance of the stability of the water activity of foodstuffs. Reduction of water activity can improve the shelf life and the quality of foods (Erbas et al., 2005; Limousin et al., 2007).

Different foods could exchange water with the surrounding medium. If

(Blahovec and Yanniotis, 2008; Ociecek, 2012).

(Caurie, 2006; Dushkova et al., 2014).

Brunauer, (Mathlouthi, 2001; Toshkov et al., 2015).

melanocarpa (Aronia)

they are hygroscopic they are able to bind water from the air which is a prerequisite for microbial spoilage. At higher moisture content the texture of food is going to change, some would dissolve (Blahovec and Yanniotis, 2008; Ociecek, 2012).

In dry air food is going to lose water, and the product become harder, texture is influenced. By drying some substances it could crystallise (sugar, salt). It is important to know the sorption isotherm for defining the condition for keeping aliments for conservation of properties and preventing food spoilage (Caurie, 2006; Dushkova et al., 2014).

A moisture sorption isotherm is a graph showing how water activity changes as water is adsorbed into and desorbed from a food product held at constant temperature. This relationship is complex and specific for each product. Water activity almost always increases as moisture content increases, but the relationship is not linear. In fact, moisture sorption isotherms are S-shaped (sigmoidal) for most foods and J-shaped for foods that contain crystalline materials or high-fat content.

The S-isotherms are equilibrium isotherms of the second-type colloidal capillary-porous bodies of the Brunauer classification, which describe the nature and quantity of the different types of connected water (Mathlouthi, 2001; Toshkov et al., 2015).

The object of present study is to obtain experimental equilibrium sorption isotherms of convective and heat pump dried black chokeberry fruits at 25 °C.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Raw materials and sample preparation

Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) fruits with soluble solids of 24-27 °Brix

24-27 °Brix

3 °

(63 °Brix),
(72 °Brix)

87%,
8,
12%)

() ,
()) ,
()) .

3 °

58 °Brix,
(60%),
(20%)

(20%).

"VEB MLW Prüfgarate-werk",

3 55 ° .

1:4 (w/w).

were supplied by the Agricultural and stockbreeding experimental station, Bulgaria. The fresh fruits were sorted and stored in a refrigerator at 3 °C until used.

Osmotic agents: concentrated sour cherry juice (63 °Brix), concentrated apple juice (72 °Brix), and inulin (oligofructose 87%, average degree of polymerization 8; sucrose, glucose, and fructose 12%) were purchased from Krichimfrukt Ltd. (Bulgaria), Agrobiotech Ltd. (Bulgaria), and Food consulting Ltd. (Bulgaria), respectively. The containers of concentrated sour cherry juice and concentrated apple juice were stored in a refrigerator at 3 °C until used.

Black chokeberries were sorted, washed with tap water, and then subjected to splitting.

Osmotic dehydration

Osmotic solution was prepared in concentration 58 °Brix using concentrated sour cherry juice (60%), concentrated apple juice (20%), and inulin (20%). The concentration of the osmotic solution was monitored using a refractometer.

Osmotic dehydration of black chokeberry was performed in a water bath "VEB MLW Prüfgarate-werk" to achieve the necessary solution temperature of 55 °C. The fruits were dipped in osmotic solution for 3 hours. Black chokeberry : solution ratio was 1:4 (w/w).

Further, fruits were removed from the solution, quickly rinsed with hot water and gently blotted with a paper towel to remove surface solution.

Convective (OD+CD) or heat pump drying (OD+HPD)

After that, osmotically treated fruits of black chokeberry were placed on trays in a laboratory chamber drier or a laboratory heat pump dryer. The drying temperature and the load density of the

(1).

trays varied according to the experimental design (Table 1). The samples were dried to equilibrium moisture content.

1.

Table 1. Experimental design

Sample	Convective drying		Heat pump drying	
	Drying temperature (°C)	Load density of the trays, (kg/m ²)	Drying temperature (°C)	Load density of the trays, (kg/m ²)
1	50	5	40	5
2	70	5	50	5
3	50	15	40	15
4	70	15	50	15
5	60	10	45	10

Obtain experimental equilibrium sorption isotherms

- The equilibrium moisture contents (EMCs) of the dried chokeberries were determined at 25 ± 0.1 °C. The static gravimetric method was applied (Spiess and Wolf, 1987). For the adsorption process, the fruits were dehydrated in a vacuum drying chamber at 60 °C for 24 h. The weighted samples (three parallel samples of 1 ± 0.05 g) were then put in hygrometers with saturated salt solutions (LiCl, CH₃COOK, MgCl₂, NaBr, NaCl, KCl), used to obtain constant relative humidities environments (in the range of 0.113 to 0.843) (Greenspan, 1977; Weisser, 1986; Maroulis et al., 1988). The hygrometers were kept in a thermostat at 25 ± 0.1 °C. Samples were weighed (balance, sensitivity ± 0.0001 g) every three days. Equilibrium was acknowledged when three consecutive weight measurements showed a difference less than 0.001 g. The moisture content of each sample was determined by the electronic balance "Sartorius" (drying at 105 °C to constant weight).

The equilibrium moisture contents (EMCs) of the dried chokeberries were determined at 25 ± 0.1 °C. The static gravimetric method was applied (Spiess and Wolf, 1987). For the adsorption process, the fruits were dehydrated in a vacuum drying chamber at 60 °C for 24 h. The weighted samples (three parallel samples of 1 ± 0.05 g) were then put in hygrometers with saturated salt solutions (LiCl, CH₃COOK, MgCl₂, NaBr, NaCl, KCl), used to obtain constant relative humidities environments (in the range of 0.113 to 0.843) (Greenspan, 1977; Weisser, 1986; Maroulis et al., 1988). The hygrometers were kept in a thermostat at 25 ± 0.1 °C. Samples were weighed (balance, sensitivity ± 0.0001 g) every three days. Equilibrium was acknowledged when three consecutive weight measurements showed a difference less than 0.001 g. The moisture content of each sample was determined by the electronic balance "Sartorius" (drying at 105 °C to constant weight).

Halsey, Oswin | **Analysis of data**
 Henderson: | The description of the EMC/ a_w
 Chung-Pfost, | relationship was verified by applying the
 following modified models of Chung-
 Pfost, Halsey, Oswin, and Henderson:

Chung-Pfost $\ln(a_w) = -A \cdot \exp(-B \cdot M)$ (1)

Halsey $a_w = -\exp(A \cdot M^B)$ (2)

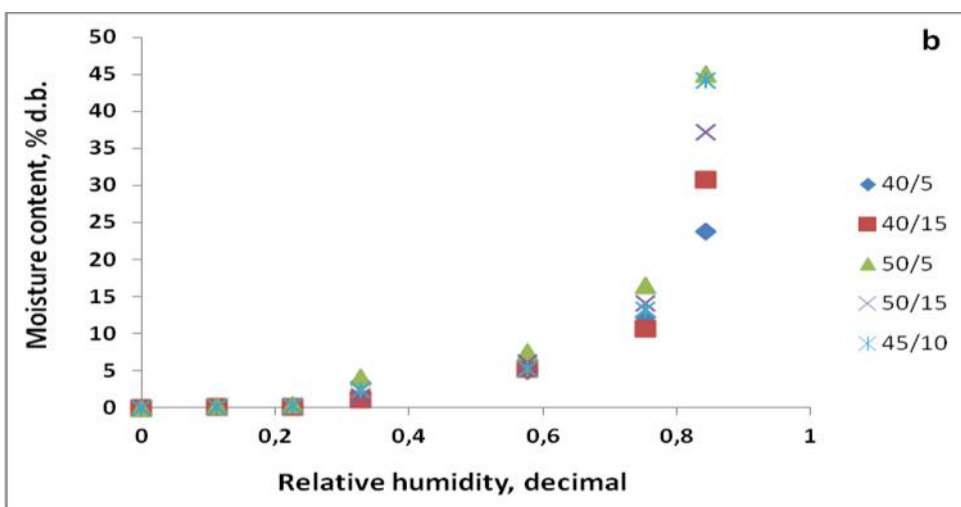
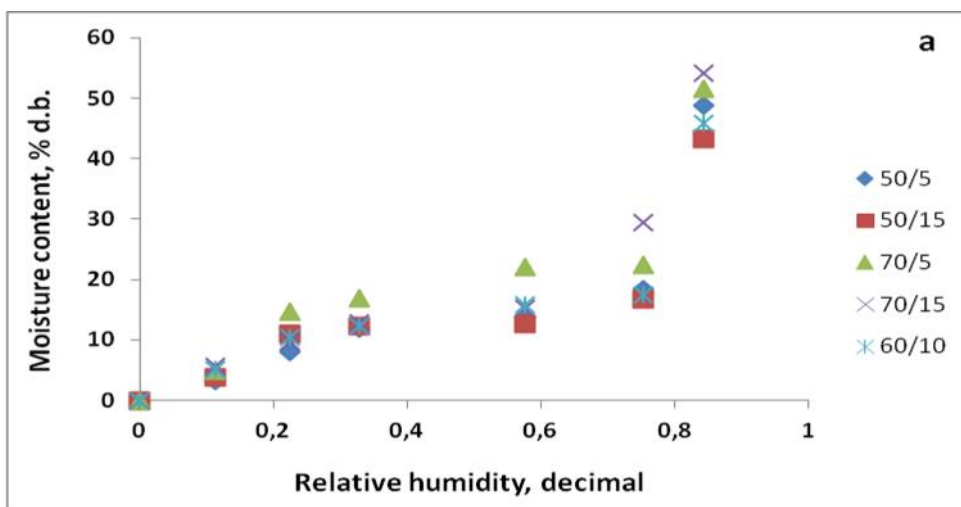
Oswin $M = A \cdot \left(\frac{a_w}{1 - a_w} \right)^B$ (3)

Henderson $\ln(1 - a_w) = -A \cdot M^B$ (4)

: , % | where M is the moisture content (% d. b.);
 ; a_w - | ; A, B - a_w is the water activity (decimal); A, B are
 coefficients.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1 - Figure 1 gives the experimental
 , - data obtained for the dried black
 , - chokeberries. Each experimental point in
 , - the graphs is an arithmetic mean of three
 , - replicates. According to BET classification
 . - the obtained isotherms for the dried fruit
 BET - are of type 2 (osmotic dehydration
 , - followed by convective drying) or type 3
 2 (- (osmotic dehydration followed by heat
) , - pump drying). Similar isotherms for food
 , - materials have been reported in the
 , - literature (Yu, 1998; Menkov et al., 2009;
 , - Toshkov et al., 2014).
 (Yu, 1998; Menkov et al., 2009;
 Toshkov et al., 2014).



1. , : () ; (b)

Fig. 1. Moisture sorption isotherms of dried black chokeberries. Osmotic dehydration followed by: (a) convective drying; (b) heat pump drying

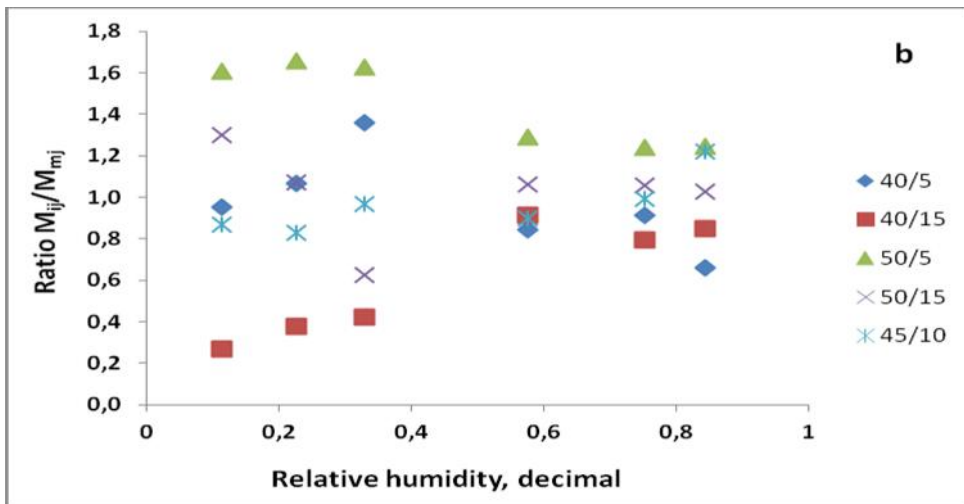
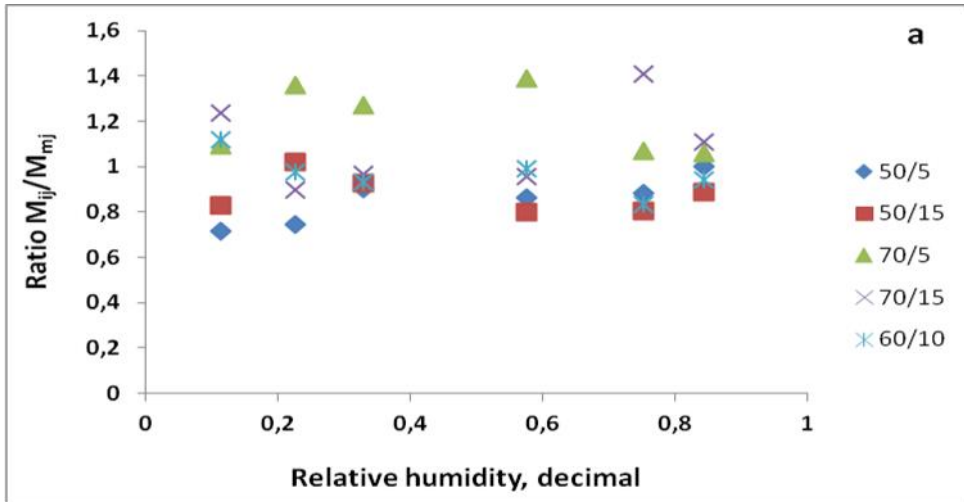
$$M_{ij} / M_{mj} \quad (i = 1 \dots 5)$$

$$; j = 1 \dots 6 \ a_w)$$

$$a_w < 0.40$$

$$a_w > 0.40 \quad (2 \ b).$$

- Analysis of the data by single-factor dispersion analysis indicates that drying effect on the equilibrium moisture of the dried fruit is statistically significant. The variation of the ratio M_{ij} / M_{mj} ($i=1 \dots 5$ dried sample; $j = 1 \dots 6 \ a_w$) with the change of a_w is given in Figure 2. At $a_w < 0.40$ the variations between the ratios are more considerable than those at $a_w > 0.40$ (Figure 2 b).



. 2.

() ; (b)

Fig. 2. Variation of the ratio between measured moisture content and sample mean moisture content (M_{ij} / M_{mj}) with the change of water activity (a) convective drying; (b) heat pump drying

Halsey, Oswin 2 () ; Henderson 3 () ; Chung-Pfost,

The coefficients of the modified equations of Chung-Pfost, Halsey, Oswin, and Henderson for dried black chokeberries are given in Table 2 (osmotic dehydration followed by convective drying) and Table 3 (osmotic dehydration followed by heat pump drying). Mean relative error (*MRE*) and

(MRE) (SEM). (Halsey, Oswin, MRE, SEM).

standard error (SEM) are also given in the tables. Among the four equations for dried black chokeberries (OD+CD), the modified Halsey equation predicts the isotherms with the smallest SEM value, whereas the modified Oswin equation predicts the isotherms with the smallest MRE value. Among the four equations for dried black chokeberries (OD+HPD), the modified Oswin equation predicts the isotherms with the smallest SEM value.

2. (MRE, %) (A, B), (SEM)

Table 2. Estimated values of coefficients (A, B), mean relative error (MRE, %), and standard error of moisture (SEM) for dried black chokeberries (osmotic dehydration followed convective drying)

Sample	Parameter	/ Equation			
		Chung-Pfost	Halsey	Oswin	Henderson
50/5	A	1.7010	9.2092	13.6604	0.0337
	B	0.053	-1.0338	0.5951	1.1042
	MRE*	82.85	51.89	25.86	27.21
	SEM**	10.38	5.89	7.44	8.32
50/15	A	1.8754	12.0396	13.9127	0.0252
	B	0.0613	-1.1251	0.4967	1.2032
	MRE	68.91	31.21	30.71	32.00
	SEM	9.65	6.54	7.30	7.88
70/5	A	2.3131	18.9272	19.0525	0.0141
	B	0.0557	-1.159	0.4886	1.2728
	MRE	40.21	31.09	25.74	25.26
	SEM	9.30	9.17	7.27	8.47
70/15	A	1.9733	18.8573	17.3432	0.0173
	B	0.0506	-1.2009	0.5506	1.2467
	MRE	49.48	14.03	13.56	19.39
	SEM	8.49	3.48	6.01	7.39
60/10	A	1.9406	19.9854	15.2427	0.0155
	B	0.0591	-1.2757	0.4697	1.3451
	MRE	27.37	23.07	22.05	25.77
	SEM	14.00	6.05	7.58	8.10

$$MRE = \frac{100}{N} \sum \left| \frac{M_i - \hat{M}_i}{M_i} \right|$$

$$SEM = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (M_i - \hat{M}_i)^2}{df}}$$

3.
(MRE, %)

(A, B),
(SEM)

()

Table 2. Estimated values of coefficients (A, B), mean relative error (MRE, %), and standard error of moisture (SEM) for dried black chokeberries (osmotic dehydration followed heat pump drying)

Sample	Parameter	/ Equation			
		Chung-Pfost	Halsey	Oswin	Henderson
40/5	A	1.4375	0.9463	2.7503	0.3789
	B	0.1012	-0.4223	1.4537	0.4661
	MRE*	13.38	61.60	42.25	37.68
	SEM**	3.95	17.17	4.20	3.98
40/15	A	1.2184	0.7367	1.7010	0.4999
	B	0.0737	-0.3429	1.8927	0.3747
	MRE	90.96	68.27	45.95	37.32
	SEM	7.11	20.38	5.51	2.78
50/5	A	1.2716	1.1443	4.1946	0.3094
	B	0.0513	-0.4328	1.4699	0.4719
	MRE	21.53	51.62	35.69	34.67
	SEM	10.04	18.57	3.66	4.19
50/15	A	1.2452	0.9795	2.9642	0.3689
	B	0.0615	-0.4325	1.5446	0.4641
	MRE	23.74	39.36	26.83	28.51
	SEM	8.21	10.01	1.95	3.03
45/10	A	1.1640	0.9301	2.8651	0.3889
	B	0.0497	-0.394	1.6392	0.426
	MRE	49.05	51.23	35.37	43.05
	SEM	11.71	15.30	2.46	4.42

$$MRE = \frac{100}{N} \sum \left| \frac{M_i - \hat{M}_i}{M_i} \right|$$

$$SEM = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (M_i - \hat{M}_i)^2}{df}}$$

25 ° .

2 (

3 (

).

CONCLUSIONS

- The equilibrium moisture contents of the dried black chokeberries have been determined by the static gravimetric method at 25 °C. The obtained isotherms
- for the dried fruit are of type 2 (osmotic dehydration followed by convective drying) or type 3 (osmotic dehydration followed by heat pump drying).
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