

(*Plum pox virus*)

–

*

19,

Sharka (*Plum pox virus*) in Serbia – Previous Research and Future Prospects for Its Control

Darko Jevremovi *, Svetlana A. Paunovi

Fruit Research Institute, Kralja Petra I 9, a ak, Republic of Serbia

*E-mail: djevremovic@institut-cacak.org

Review paper

Received: 13.05.2019

Accepted: 28.06.2019

Published: 05.08.2019

Plum pox virus (PPV, *Potyvirus*)
-
1932
-
PPV
-
1935
-
(PPV-M, -D -Rec).
-
-
-
Plum pox virus.
o
-

SUMMARY

Plum pox virus (PPV, genus *Potyvirus*) is the causal agent of Sharka disease that is considered the most detrimental viral disease of stone fruits. Since its discovery in 1932 in Bulgaria, the disease has spread progressively to entire Europe and other continents, except Australia. PPV causes significant yield losses and reduces fruit quality in sensitive plum, peach and apricot cultivars.

Sharka was reported in Serbia in 1935, and so far the presence of three major strains (PPV-M, -D and -Rec) was confirmed. Fifteen years ago, a large-scale study on the presence, distribution, genetic diversity and epidemiology of *Plum pox virus* strains has begun at the Fruit Research Institute, a ak.

In this review, we summarized the results of our field and laboratory research and presented the future prospects for

,
 ,
 : *Plum pox virus*,
 ,
 -
 .
 FAO (FAOSTAT),
 2012-2017
 404.109 t (FAOSTAT, 2017).
 ,
 .
 .
 22.529 t 84.694 t.
Plum pox virus (PPV)
 . PPV
 ,
 ,
 .
 PPV
 90-
 100
 (Roy and Smith, 1994).
 ,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 (,), PPV,
 10
 (Cambra et al., 2006).
 PPV
 (*Prunus domestica* L.)
 1932 .,
 (tanasov, 1932;

disease control in the country where
 Sharka is endemic to maintain feasible
 commercial fruit production.

Key words: *Plum pox virus*,
 strains, disease control

Plums are considered one of
 Serbia's most traditional fruits. According
 to FAO's Food and agriculture database
 (FAOSTAT), the average annual
 production of plum fruits in Serbia in the
 period 2012–2017 was 404.109 t
 (FAOSTAT, 2017). Favorable climate and
 soil conditions, economic interest, and
 tradition of growing and processing made
 plum a leading fruit species in Serbia.
 Production of other stone fruits is
 considerably modest. In the same period,
 the average annual production of apricots
 and peaches was 22.529 t and 84.694 t,
 respectively.

A common pathogen of stone fruits
 in Serbia is *Plum pox virus* (PPV). PPV is
 the causal agent of the Sharka disease –
 the most detrimental viral disease of plum,
 apricot, peach and nectarine. There are
 no official data on the number of PPV
 infected trees worldwide, but according to
 the estimation from the 1990s, more than
 100 million of stone fruit trees were
 infected in Europe (Roy and Smith, 1994).

Sharka occurrence has serious
 agronomic, economic and political
 consequences. Reduction of fruit quality
 and yield, premature fruit drop are the
 common problems in the growing of
 sensitive plum, apricot and peach
 cultivars. According to estimations, global
 costs (direct and indirect) associated with
 PPV amounts more than 10 billion Euros
 in the period of three decades (Cambra et
 al., 2006).

PPV was first described on
 European plum (*Prunus domestica* L.) in
 Bulgaria in 1932, and three years later in
 Serbia (Atanasov, 1932; Josifovi , 1937).

Josifovi , 1937).

80

” “ ,

” “ ,
 (“ ” , ”
” ” “ ”
“).

10-

(Scholthof et al., 2011).

plum pox virus.
PPV

Potyviridae.

Potyvirus

PPV

Potyvirus

(ORF),

340-370 kDa,

10 : 1,
HC- Pro, P3, 6K1, CI, 6K2, NIa, VPg, NIb
CP (Salvador et al., 2006).

ORF - *Potyviridae*
ORF (PIPO)
Potyvirus (Chung et al., 2008).

PPV
: PPV-M, -D, -EA, -C, -Rec, -W, -T,
-CR, -An and -CV. PPV-M, -D
Rec

()

PPV

Since then, the disease has spread throughout Europe and many countries on other continents, except Australia.

Sharka is present in Serbia more than 80 years, and apart other factors, contributed to the significant changes in plum growing. ‘Požega a’, once dominant plum cultivar, is today only present in old and abandoned orchards. Major cultivars in the production are ‘Stenley’ and cultivars bred at the Fruit Research Institute in a ak (‘ a anaska Rodna’, ‘ a anaska Lepotica’, ‘Valjevka’, ‘ a anaska Najbolja’ and others).

Based on the scientific/economic importance PPV is one of the ‘top 10’ plant viruses in the world (Scholthof et al., 2011). Great efforts were made in the past two decades to improve the control and management of the *Plum pox virus*.

PPV belongs to the genus *Potyvirus* in the *Potyviridae* family. *Potyvirus* are numerous and economically important genus of plant viruses. PPV genome is typical for *Potyvirus* and contains one large Open Reading Frame (ORF) expressed as a polyprotein precursor of 340-370 kDa that is co- and post-translationally cleaved by virus-encoded proteinases to produce 10 protein products: P1, HC-Pro, P3, 6K1, CI, 6K2, NIa, VPg, NIb and CP (Salvador et al., 2006). Another short ORF - Pretty Interesting *Potyviridae* ORF (PIPO) was also reported for *Potyvirus* (Chung et al., 2008).

Ten PPV strains have been recognized so far: PPV-M, -D, -EA, -C, -Rec, -W, -T, -CR, -An and -CV. PPV-M, -D and -Rec strains are considered as major strains that are present in many countries and they infect plum, apricot and peach. Other (minor) strains are geographically or host limited.

PPV induce symptoms on different plant organs: leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds

PPV

80-100%.

PPV

(*P. salicina* Lindl.), (*P. persica* (L.) Batsch), (*P. armeniaca* L.), (*P. avium* L.), (*P. cerasus* L.) (*P. amygdalus* L.).

PPV

20

PPV

Plum pox virus

30-50%

(Jevremovi and Paunovi, 2014).

(ELISA)

ELISA PPV

Prunus (Rankovi and Vuksanovi, 1981).

and branches. In sensitive cultivars, symptoms on fruits are severe and PPV infection make them unusable and unmarketable. In severe infection of plum 'Požega a' yield loses can reach 80–100%.

PPV naturally infects many cultivated stone fruit species: European plum, Japanese plum (*P. salicina* Lindl.), peach (*P. persica* (L.) Batsch), apricot (*P. armeniaca* L.), sweet cherry (*P. avium* L.), sour cherry (*P. cerasus* L.) and almond (*P. amygdalus* L.).

PPV is aphid borne virus and more than 20 aphid species are reported as more or less efficient vectors. Infected planting and reproductive material is the main manner for long distance virus spread.

PPV research in Serbia

Because of its great economic importance, Sharka is the most studied plant viral disease in Serbia. The survey on *Plum pox virus* presence in Serbia started after its discovery in late 1930s, but intensive studies were initiated during 1950s at the Fruit Research Institute in a ak.

First studies were aimed to investigate the impact of the disease on different plum cultivars, particularly on the fruit quality and yield loses, but also the disease spread within the orchards.

Later research was focused on the investigation of the most appropriate herbaceous and woody indicator plants for biological tests (Jevremovi and Paunovi, 2014). The development of serological techniques (ELISA) improved and speeded up the detection of the virus in different plant samples. ELISA technique was widely used for PPV detection in samples of different *Prunus* species since the beginning of 1980s (Rankovi and Vuksanovi, 1981).

15

PPV

PPV

2005 2013
618
(Jevremovi , 2008, 2013;
Paunovi Jevremovi , 2009).
(150).
IC-RT-PCR
(-)
PPV 434 (70%).
PPV-Rec 51.8%
PPV-M PPV-D
28.3% 30.4%.
PPV
PPV-M PPV-D.
PPV-Rec. 2004 . PPV-Rec
Glasa et al. (2004),
PPV
, Glasa et al. (2005)
PPV-Rec.

- In the last 15 years, the research was focused on the application of newly developed protocols for molecular detection and characterization of PPV isolates. The main goals of this research were to access into the presence, distribution and epidemiology of PPV strains in Serbia.

Strain characterization

- During study performed from 2005 to 2013, a number of 618 samples of stone fruits were collected and analyzed (Jevremovi , 2008, 2013; Paunovi and Jevremovi , 2009). The great majority of samples were from plum (338), followed by peach (74), apricot (56), and cherries (150). Samples were tested by IC-RT-PCR test that allowed proper characterization of present strain(s) in each tested sample. PPV was detected in 434 samples (70%). PPV-Rec was the most prevalent strain detected in 51.8% of the samples in single and mixed infections. PPV-M and PPV-D were almost equally detected in analyzed samples (in single and mixed infections), 28.3% and 30.4%, respectively.

- All three major PPV strains were found in plum and apricot. In peach, only PPV-M and PPV-D strains were confirmed. Even in high inoculum pressure not a single peach or nectarine tree infected with PPV-Rec was found. PPV-Rec strain was characterized in 2004 by Glasa et al. (2004), and significant distribution of this strain in East and Middle European countries suggests its long-term presence in this area.

- Analyzing recombinant PPV isolates from Serbia Glasa et al. (2005) put a hypothesis that former Yugoslavia is a center of origin of PPV-Rec strain. Results of further sequence analysis of the large number of recombinant isolates from Serbia and other countries disagree with this statement (Jevremovi , 2013).

(Jevremovi , 2013)

PPV

(1).

1935 ., PPV

70%

PPV

PPV

PPV

Plum pox virus (Paunovi Jevremovi , 2009).

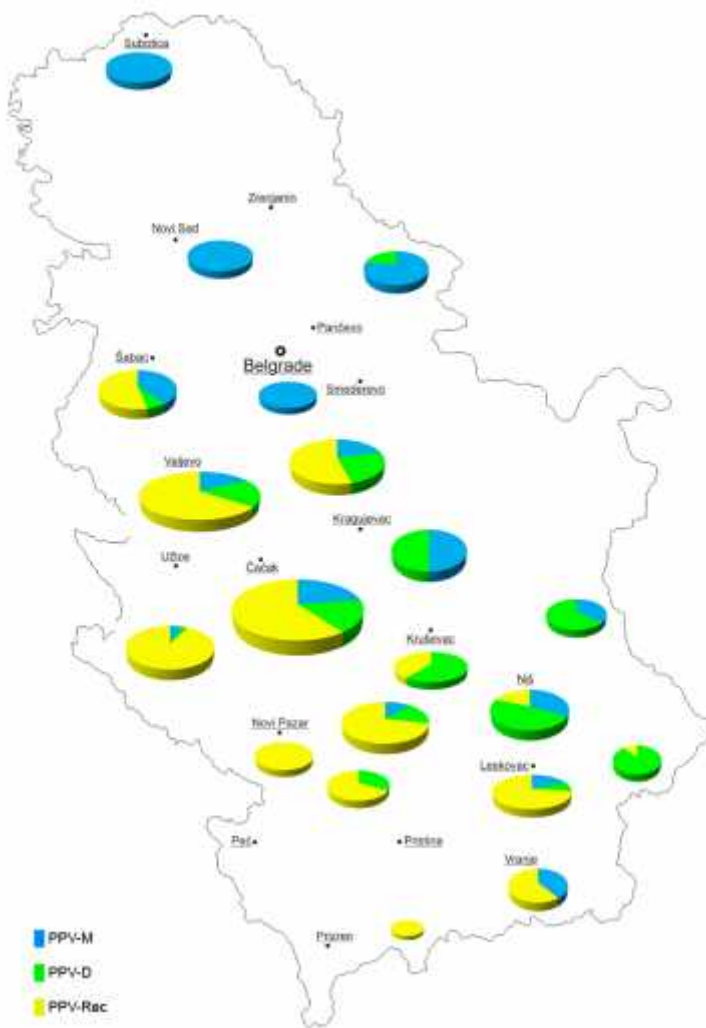
: PPV-C, PPV-CR PPV-CV (Chirkov et al., 2018).

PPV

All major PPV strains were confirmed in surveyed localities throughout Serbia (Figure 1). Geographical distribution of strains was directly dependent on the host species. Since discovery in 1935, PPV has spread to entire country infecting different species and cultivars. Today, according to our estimation, about 70% of plum trees are infected.

All plum cultivars that are grown in commercial plum orchards express clear foliar symptoms of PPV infection. Sharka symptoms on apricot and peach leaves are not easily noticeable as in plum, or disappear during high summer temperatures making visual surveys complicated. There are no estimation for the percentage of infected apricot and peach trees. During our studies we have not found association of the PPV strain and the type and intensity of the expressed foliar symptoms.

Investigating the PPV presence in cherries not a single sweet and sour cherry tree infected with *Plum pox virus* was found (Paunovi and Jevremovi , 2009). Cherry-adapted strains and isolates naturally infect only sweet and sour cherries. To date, three strains infecting cherries were described: PPV-C, PPV-CR and PPV-CV (Chirkov et al., 2018). These isolates were detected in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Hungary, Italy and Croatia. The PPV effect of on cherry industry is still unknown.



1. PPV (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014)
 Fig. 1. Distribution of PPV strains in Serbia (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014)

PPV-Rec PPV-D
 2008 . (Jevremovi , 2013).

Competitiveness of strains

The ongoing research on the competitiveness and dynamics of spreading of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains has started in 2008 (Jevremovi , 2013). The focus of the research was to evaluate the disease spread in plum and apricot experimental orchards using up-to-date molecular techniques.

The experiment was set up in plum and apricot orchards planted in 2008 in locality

2008				Ostra, Western Serbia. PPV strain spread was followed-up in plum orchard of 400 ' a anska Lepotica' trees and apricot orchard of 400 'Roxana' trees.
PPV				
400				
"	400	"	"	Since the beginning of the experiment, all trees were annually visually inspected and tested by ELISA and IC-RT-PCR. All detected isolates were partially sequenced (n-ter CP region) and analyzed.
RT-PCR.		ELISA	IC-	
		(n-ter CP)	
PPV-Rec			PPV-D	Obtained results showed that PPV-Rec isolates are competitive and potentially more epidemic than PPV-D isolates within the plum orchard in Serbian agro-ecological conditions (Jevremovi et al., 2017). Similar research in plum orchard was also performed in Bulgaria (Kamenova et al., 2017), confirming the dominance of PPV-Rec spread within the orchard. In apricot, there was no disease spread within the orchard several years after planting (Jevremovi , unpublished results).
(Jevremovi et al., 2017).				
al, 2017),		(Kamenova et	-	
		PPV-Rec.		
		(Jevremovi ,		
).		
				Epidemiology
				A three-year study was conducted to evaluate flight activity and species composition of the aphids landing on plum and apricot trees in Western Serbia (Jevremovi et al., 2016). Aphid populations were monitored using sticky shoot method from late April to late September. More than 40 different species were detected and identified that visit plum and apricot orchards. The most abundant species identified during two years of the study belonged to the genus <i>Aphis</i> , and <i>Myzocallis</i> in one year of the study.
(Jevremovi et al., 2016).				
40				
-				
<i>Aphis</i> ,				
<i>Myzocallis</i> .				
		PPV		Twelve captured species were previously reported as PPV vectors: <i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> (Linnaeus), <i>Aphis fabae</i> Scopoli, <i>Aphis craccivora</i> Koch, <i>Aphis spiraecola</i> Patch, <i>Hyalopterus pruni</i> (Geoffroy), <i>Phorodon humuli</i> (Schrank), <i>Brachycaudus helichrysi</i>
: <i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> (Linnaeus),				
<i>Aphis fabae</i> Scopoli, <i>Aphis craccivora</i>				
Koch, <i>Aphis spiraecola</i> Patch, <i>Hyalopterus</i>				
<i>pruni</i> (Geoffroy), <i>Phorodon humuli</i>				
(Schrank), <i>Brachycaudus helichrysi</i>				

PPV

PPV

PPV.

2002

(Jevremovi and Paunovi, 2010).

14
PPV

PPV.

PPV

All trees must be free from Sharka-like symptoms, and if any of these symptoms are noticed plants are subjected to the laboratory analysis. If PPV-infected trees are found in the mother block, they must be eradicated and the block is suspended for one year. For nurseries, if there is a laboratory confirmation of PPV presence the entire nursery is suspended and not a single planting material from the nursery block can enter onto the market. Commercial plantations are not a subject of any official control on the PPV presence.

Specialized institutions for certification of fruit planting material do not exist in Serbia. In order to implement the certification program in the production of plum planting material Fruit Research Institute has started this activity in 2002 (Jevremovi and Paunovi, 2010).

As a result, pre-basic material of 14 plum cultivars have been produced and verified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

PPV control is a complex task within the phytosanitary system and all participants in the stone fruit production, from the government and scientific institutions, phytosanitary service, producers of the planting material to the growers should be included in its control.

Future prospects

Plum breeding program is one of the key topics of the Fruit Research Institute activity. Breeders and virologists are continuously working to create new plum cultivars with large and high quality fruits, high and regular fertility, early or late maturation time and tolerance to the significant diseases and pests, particularly to PPV.

Tolerance or resistance to PPV is one of the main prerequisite for successful

	growing of stone fruits in endemic PPV presence.
<p>PPV.</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>" " " "</p> <p>PPV.</p> <p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New cultivars and hybrids will be evaluated under controlled conditions after artificial inoculation with different local PPV isolates of major strains. Lately recognized plum cultivars 'Divna' and 'Petra' will be also evaluated in the field in several locations with different PPV inoculum pressure.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further research on PPV strains will be focused on the investigation of the possible presence of other PPV strains in Serbia. Serbia is a big exporter, but also importer of fruit planting material.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<p>The import of stone fruits planting material from countries with confirmed presence of other PPV strains poses a risk of their introduction. During each import event, official laboratory performs laboratory test on the PPV presence in the material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visual surveys and laboratory analysis of the symptomatic samples from newly planted orchards should be performed in the first years after planting.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<p>Wide PPV distribution, presence of all three major strains, significant percentage of mixed infections detected in single trees represent a prerequisite for possible occurrence of new recombinants, as reported earlier. The research of PPV diversity in plum should continue because plum represents the "ideal" host for emerging new recombinants.</p>
<p>PPV-D</p> <p>PPV-Rec</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epidemiological study on the competitiveness of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains in plum orchard will be continued in the following years. The plan is to follow the spread of these strains until the infection of all trees from the orchard.

CONCLUSIONS

Plum pox virus
15
:
PPV
;
PPV-Rec PPV-D
;
PPV
;
Plum pox.

In this review, we summarize our results of the research on *Plum pox virus* in Serbia in the last 15 years.

- Long-term studies were aimed to:
- access into the prevalence and genetic diversity of PPV isolates using the most accurate molecular methods for detection and characterization; investigate the intensity of spreading and competitiveness of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains in experimental plum and apricot orchards; evaluate flight activity and species composition of the aphids landing in stated orchards; test newly recognized plum cultivars and hybrids on PPV susceptibility; and implement the certification program in the production of plum planting material.

These studies have brought new and improved existing knowledge on *Plum pox virus*. Breeding and cultivating tolerant and resistant stone fruit cultivars and the production and use of virus-free planting material are the most important measures to ensure feasible commercial stone fruit production.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ECONET 10159PL,
FP7 SharCo, TR-
20013A TR-31064,

- Presented study was supported by the ECONET grant no. 10159PL, the FP7 project SharCo, and projects TR-20013A and TR-31064 funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

/ REFERENCES

1. **Atanasov, D.**, 1932. Plum pox. A New Virus Disease. *Annals of the University of Sofia Faculty of Agriculture and Silviculture*, 11, 49-69 (Bg).
2. **Cambra, M., N. Capote, A. Myrta and G. Liácer**, 2006. *Plum pox virus* and the Estimated Costs Associated with Sharka Disease. *EPPO Bulletin*, 36(2), 202-204.
3. **Chirkov, S., A. Sheveleva, P. Ivanov and A. Zakubanskiy**, 2018. Analysis of Genetic Diversity of Russian Sour Cherry *Plum pox virus* Isolates Provides Evidence of a New Strain. *Plant Disease*, 102(3), 569-575.

4. **Chung, B. Y., W. A. Miller, J. F. Atkins and A. E. Firth**, 2008. An Overlapping Essential Gene in the *Potyviridae*. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 105(15), 5897-5902.
5. **FAOSTAT**, 2017. <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data>
6. **Glasa, M., L. Palkovics, P. Kominek, G. Labonne, S. Pittnerova, O. Kudela, T. Candresse and Z. Subr**, 2004. Geographically and Temporally Distant Natural Recombinant Isolates of *Plum pox virus* (PPV) Are Genetically Very Similar and Form a Unique PPV Subgroup. *Journal of General Virology*, 85(9), 2671-2681.
7. **Glasa, M., S. Paunovic, D. Jevremovic, A. Myrta, S. Pittnerova and T. Candresse**, 2005. Analysis of Recombinant *Plum pox virus* (PPV) Isolates from Serbia Confirms Genetic Homogeneity and Supports a Regional Origin for the PPV-Rec Subgroup. *Archives of Virology*, 150(10), 2051-2060.
8. **Gliši , I., N.Milošević , Ž.Karaklaji -Staji , M. o evi and M. Luki** , 2018. 'Divna' - New Plum (*Prunus domestica* L.) Cultivar Developed at Fruit Research Institute, a ak. *Journal of Pomology*, 52, 201, 7-13 (Sr).
9. **Jevremovi , D.**, 2008. I cular Characterization and Genetic Structure of *Plum pox virus* Isolates in Serbia. MSC thesis. Belgrade, Serbia (Sr).
10. **Jevremovi , D.**, 2013. Distribution of PPV-D and PPV-Rec Strains of *Plum pox virus* in Serbia and the Dynamics of Their Spread in Plum Orchard. Ph.D. Thesis, Belgrade, Serbia (Sr).
11. **Jevremovi , D. and S. Paunovi** , 2010. Introduction of Certification Program in Production of Plum Planting Material. *Julius-Kühn-Archiv*, 427, 44-46.
12. **Jevremovi , D. and S. Paunovi** , 2014. *Plum pox virus* strains: Diversity and Geographical Distribution in Serbia. *Pesticidi i fitomedicina*, 29(2), 97-107.
13. **Jevremovi , D., S. A. Paunovi and O. Petrovi -Obradovi** , 2016. Flight Dynamics and Species Composition of Aphids Landing on Plum and Apricot Leaves in the Orchards in Western Serbia. *Phytoparasitica*, 44(4), 501-511.
14. **Jevremovi , D., S. A.Paunovi and S. Dallot**, 2017. Long-term foLlow-up of PPV-Rec and PPV-D in an Experimental Plum Orchard. In: 24th International Conference on Virus and Other Graft Transmissible Diseases of Fruit Crops, 5-9 June 2017, Thessaloniki, Greece (Abstracts), P-16.
15. **Josifovi , M.**, 1937. Plum Mosaic – one Virus Disease of Plum. *Archives of the Ministry of Agriculture*, 4(7), 131-143 (Sr).
16. **Kamenova, I., E. Tasheva-Terzieva, K. Dragoyski and B. Stefanova**, 2017. Spread and Competitiveness of *Plum pox virus*: Rec and -D Strains in Experimental Plum Orchard. *Journal of Phytopathology*, 165(9), 602-609.
17. **Luki , M., M. Pešakovi , S. Mari , I. Gliši , N. Milošević , S. Radi evi , A. Leposavi , M. or evi , R. Mileti , Ž. Karaklaji -Staji , J. Tomi , M. S. Paunovi , M. Milinkovi , . Ruži , T. Vujovi , D. Jevremovi , A. S. Paunovi , B. Popovi , O. Mitrovi and M. Kandi .**, 2016. Fruit Cultivars Developed at the Fruit Research Institute a ak (1946-2016). Fruit Research Institute, a ak (Sr).
18. **Paunovi , S. and D. Jevremovi** , 2008. Standard Operating Procedure for Plant Diagnostic Laboratories *Plum pox virus*-PPV. Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management of the Republic of Serbia and Fruit research institute, Belgrade, a ak (Sr).
19. **Paunovi , S. and D. Jevremovi** , 2009. Investigation of C-strain of *Plum pox virus* in Serbia. In: VI congress of plant protection with symposium about biological control of invasive species, 23-27 November 2009, Zlatibor, Serbia (Abstracts), P-70 (Sr).

20. **Rankovi , M. and S. Vuksanovi** , 1981. Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) in the Detecting Sharka Virus. *Plant protection*, 32(1), 155, 55-60 (Sr).
21. **Roy, A. S. and I. M. Smith**, 1994. Plum pox Situation in Europe. *EPPO Bulletin*, 24(3), 515-523.
22. **Salvador, B. , J. A. García and C. Simón-Mateo**, 2006. Causal Agent of Sharka Disease: *Plum pox virus* Genome and Function of Gene Products. *EPPO Bulletin*, 36(2), 229-238.
23. **Scholthof, K. B., S. Adkins, H. Czosnek, P. Palukaitis, E. Jacquot, T. Hohn, B. Hohn, K. Saunders, T. Candresse, P. Ahlquist, C. Hemenway and G. D. Foster**, 2011. Top 10 Plant Viruses in Molecular Plant Pathology. *Molecular Plant Pathology*, 12(9), 938-954.