

et al. (2008) Veberić et al. (2012) Scalzo et al. (2008) and Veberić et al. (2012)

found that biochemical composition is influenced by various factors, such as genotype, growth conditions, including environmental factors, and cultivation techniques.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of climatic factors in a black currant planting on the chemical properties and fruit quality of the tested cultivars.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was conducted at the Fruit Research Institute, a ka, Western Serbia, during 2012-2014. Seven cultivars were included: 'Ben Lomond', 'Ben Sarek', 'Titania', 'Mađanska Crna', 'Tisel', 'Tiben' and 'Tsema'. The experiment was laid out in a randomised block design with seven cultivars, three replications and three soil management systems, giving a total of 315 black currant bushes.

The mean monthly and annual air temperatures for the experimental period 2012-2014 are given in Table 1, and the average monthly and annual precipitation totals are presented in Table 2.

2012-2014 .

" " " " " " " " " " " "

315

2012-2014 .

1,

2.

1.

(°C),

(/A)
(/GS)

Table 1. Mean monthly air temperatures (°C), mean annual air temperatures (A) and mean air temperatures during the growing season (GS)

Year/ month	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	A	GS
2012	1.8	2.5	6.8	12.2	17.3	24.1	26.6	25.4	20.9	13.8	9.5	1.4	13.1	20.0
2013	3.5	3.8	6.6	13.2	18.2	20.6	23.3	24.1	17.2	14.5	8.9	2.0	13.0	18.7
2014	4.0	6.6	10.2	12.8	16.1	21.1	22.7	22.1	17.5	13.5	8.9	3.1	13.2	18.0

2.

(mm m⁻²),

(A)

(/GS)

Table 2. Average monthly precipitation totals (mm m⁻²), annual precipitation totals (A) and precipitation totals during the growing season (GS)

Year/month	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	A	GS
2012	60	70	10	47	68	38	22	0	7	30	24	88	464	212
2013	51	68	66	37	78	61	10	62	87	17	40	4	581	352
2014	21	6	52	104	125	103	163	56	101	50	19	90	890	702

: 1.
 (, ,),
 (HPLC, Waters Breeze,
 Milford, USA),
 210 - 327 nm. 2.
 (,),
 Hewlett-Packard HP1100,
 (Palo,
 Alto, ,),
 490-600 nm. 3. ,
 Folin-Ciocalteu (Singleton et al.,
 1999), 765 nm.
 4. ,
 -
 515 nm
 700 nm. 5. ,
 -
 (Prieto et al.,
 1999), 695 nm.
 -
 -
 Fisher - ANOVA.
 -
 -
 LSD
 ,
 P <0,01 P 0,05.

The chemical analysis of the fruit included the following: 1. individual invert sugars (glucose, fructose, sucrose), as determined by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC; Waters Breeze, Milford, USA), with absorbance measured in the range of 210 - 327 nm. 2. organic acids (citric acid, malic acid), as analysed using a Hewlett-Packard HP1100 system equipped with a photo diode array detector (Palo, Alto, CA, USA), with absorbance measured in the range of 490-600 nm. 3. total phenols, as assessed spectrophotometrically by the Folin-Ciocalteu method (Singleton et al., 1999), with absorbance measured at 765 nm. 4. total anthocyanins, as determined by the single pH and pH differential methods, with absorbances measured at 515 nm and 700 nm. 5. antioxidant capacity, as evaluated spectrophotometrically by the phosphomolybdenum method (Prieto et al., 1999), with absorbance measured at 695 nm.

The experimental data obtained during the three-year research period were subjected to statistical analysis using Fisher's two-factor analysis of variance - ANOVA. Significant differences between the mean values of the tested factors and the interaction means were determined by LSD test, with the significance levels set at P 0.01 and P 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Individual invert sugars play a central role in plant structure and metabolism at the cellular and whole organism levels. Glucose, fructose and sucrose are the major sugars in black currant fruits (Perez et al., 1997; Rubinskiene et al., 2006).
 ,
 (Perez et al., 1997;
 Rubinskiene et al., 2006).
 ,
 (Hummer and Barney, 2002; Rubinskiene et al., 2006).
 -
 -
 HPLC-DAD ,
 -
 3.

Individual invert sugars play a central role in plant structure and metabolism at the cellular and whole organism levels. Glucose, fructose and sucrose are the major sugars in black currant fruits (Perez et al., 1997; Rubinskiene et al., 2006). Among organic acids, citric acid is dominant, and malic acid is present in minor concentrations in black currant berries (Hummer and Barney, 2002; Rubinskiene et al., 2006). The contents of compounds in berry extracts were identified by the HPLC-DAD analysis, and the corresponding results on individual invert sugars and organic acids are shown in Table 3.

3.

Table 3. Contents of individual invert sugars and organic acids in the fruit

Cultivar/Year		Glucose (mg g ⁻¹)	Fructose (mg g ⁻¹)	Sucrose (mg g ⁻¹)	Citric acid (mg g ⁻¹)	Malic acid (mg g ⁻¹)
() Cultivar (A)	'Ben Lomond'	92.3±4.76 a	133.7±3.74 a	19.9±2.79 a	1.04±0.14 c	0.35±0.09 ab
	'Ben Sarek'	75.2±5.26 e	126.9±2.65 b	9.73±1.64 d	1.00±0.11 c	0.35±0.09 ab
	'Tsema'	82.0±6.31 bc	120.6±3.40 c	13.8±3.48 bc	1.23±0.30bc	0.31±0.07 b
	'Titania'	80.9±5.39 cd	125.6±4.35 b	13.9±2.64 bc	1.40±0.25ab	0.32±0.06 b
	'anskaCrna'	84.6±3.49 b	128.6±2.90 b	15.2±3.51 bc	1.36±0.20 b	0.35±0.08 ab
	'Tisel'	79.9±2.69 cd	135.7±5.46 a	16.5±3.30 ab	1.45±0.21ab	0.38±0.06 a
	'Tiben'	78.2±6.07 d	119.5±3.50 c	12.5±3.32 cd	1.62±0.27 a	0.40±0.07 a
(B) Year (B)	2012	95.2±1.88 a	140.3±2.08 a	6.24±0.49 a	0.59±0.02 c	0.13±0.01 c
	2013	65.5±2.42 b	117.9±1.99 b	13.6±1.38 b	1.44±0.10 b	0.33±0.03 b
	2014	86.1±1.63 c	125.6±1.59 c	25.3±1.17 c	1.94±0.08 a	0.63±0.02 a
ANOVA						
Cultivar (A)		**	**	**	**	*
Year (B)		**	**	**	**	**
A x B		**	**	ns	*	**

Means followed by different letters within the cultivar and treatment columns are significantly different at P ≤ 0.01 and P ≤ 0.05 according to LSD test and ANOVA (F-test) results

As revealed by the analysis of individual invert sugars and organic acids in the fruit, fructose was the dominant sugar, and citric acid was the major organic acid. The amount of fructose varied widely and significantly among black currant cultivars, being highest in 'anskaCrna' and 'Ben Lomond', and lowest in 'Tsema' and 'Tisel'. There were also significant differences among cultivars in the levels of glucose and sucrose. The highest glucose and sucrose contents were found in 'Ben Lomond', and the lowest in 'Ben Sarek'. The amount of sucrose was very low in all cultivars. The present results are comparable to those obtained by Milivojevi et al. (2009), who recorded similar invert sugar contents. As for organic acids, 'Tisel' had the highest average content of citric and malic acid.

The results presented by Mladin et al. (2009) also indicated that black currant cultivars were characterised by high levels of organic acids. As suggested by Bordonaba and Terry (2008), sugar and acid contents and sugar to acid ratio in

/ black currants are important indicators of
 - perceived taste, maturity/ripeness and
 - general quality, which may serve as an
 - index of consumer acceptance.

- In addition to primary metabolites,
 - plants produce a diverse array of organic
 - compounds, known as secondary
 - metabolites, to defend against herbivory
 - and microbial infection. The results on
 - secondary metabolites in black currant
 - cultivars are presented in Table 4.

4.

4.

Table 4. Contents of secondary metabolites in black currant cultivars

/ Cultivar/Year		Total anthocyanins (mg C3G g ⁻¹)	Total phenols (mg GA g ⁻¹)	Total antioxidant capacity (mg AA/ g)
() Cultivar (A)	'Ben Lomond'	2.50±0.43 c	12.2±0.64 b	10.4±0.31 b
	'Ben Sarek'	1.70±0.08 d	12.5±0.75 b	10.6±0.41 b
	'Tsema'	2.42±0.12 c	11.9±0.61 b	10.5 ±0.53 b
	'Titania'	3.22±0.24 b	14.1±0.67 a	12.5±0.51 a
	'anskaCrna'	3.60±0.12 a	14.6±0.92	12.4±0.13 a
	'Tisel'	3.26±0.23 b	12.0±0.59 b	10.7±0.16 b
	'Tiben'	3.25±0.26 b	11.9±0.61 b	10.5±0.25 b
(B) Year (B)	2012	2.15±0.15 c	8.88±0.47 c	8.55±0.26 c
	2013	3.01±0.16 b	12.7±0.47 b	11.5±0.27 b
	2014	3.46±0.19 a	17.3±0.48 a	13.6±0.28 a
ANOVA				
Cultivar (A)		**	**	**
Year (B)		**	**	**
A x B		**	**	**

P ≤ 0.01 P ≤ 0.05 LSD ANOVA (F-)
 - Means followed by different letters within the cultivar and treatment columns are significantly different at
 P ≤ 0.01 and P ≤ 0.05 according to LSD test and ANOVA (F-test) results

" " " "
 - ()
 ,)
 .
 ,
 ,
 ,
 () (Karjalainen et al 2009; Mattila et al. 2011). Phenolic
 'anska Crna' and 'Titania'
 contained on average the highest contents
 of the secondary metabolites (total
 anthocyanins, total phenolics, and total
 antioxidant capacity), whereas the other
 cultivars exhibited variability in the studied
 parameters. Black currant berries had high
 levels of polyphenol compounds, especially
 anthocyanins, phenolic acid derivatives,
 flavonols, and proanthocyanidins,
 compared to other berries (e.g.,
 strawberries and raspberries) (Karjalainen
 et al 2009; Mattila et al. 2011). Phenolic

et al., 2009; Mattila et al., 2011.).

(Schwarz and Hofmann, 2007, Laaksonen et al., 2013).

2014 .

2012 .

2014 .

2012 .

2.1°C

122.5 mm m-2

2014 .

2014 .

(Zurawicz et al., 2000; Kampuss and Strautina, 2004; Siksnianas et al., 2006; Mladin et al., 2009; Raudsepp et al., 2010),

Rubinskiene et al. (2006),

Kaldmae et al. (2013),

compounds are responsible for many of the positive, health-supporting effects of black currants, and contribute to most sensory properties of black currant berries (Schwarz and Hofmann, 2007; Laaksonen et al., 2013).

The highest levels of invert sugars were determined in 2012, and the lowest in 2014. The values for organic acids and secondary metabolites were highest in 2014 and lowest in 2012. Over the experimental years, air temperature was higher by 2.1°C and precipitation totals were lower by 122.5 mm m⁻² in 2012 than in 2014, which had a stimulating effect on the synthesis of invert sugars. In contrast, the synthesis of organic acids and secondary metabolites was higher in 2014, which had lower air temperatures and higher precipitation amounts compared to the other two experimental years.

Under the environmental conditions of a lake, higher levels of sugars, but lower levels of acids were determined in the tested cultivars compared to the findings of numerous authors (Zurawicz et al., 2000; Kampuss and Strautina, 2004; Siksnianas et al., 2006; Mladin et al., 2009; Raudsepp et al., 2010), who conducted their research in northern and northeastern parts of Europe at high altitudes.

These differences in the contents of invert sugars, organic acids and secondary metabolites are attributed to the effect of climatic factors on the biochemical composition of the fruit of the studied black currant cultivars. The present results are comparable to those obtained by Rubinskiene et al. (2006), who observed a positive correlation between air temperature and the content of sugars, and a negative correlation between rainfall and these parameters.

Similarly, as determined by Kaldmae et al. (2013), the content of sugars is positively correlated with temperature and negatively

. Vagiri et al. (2013)

(2009) . Zheng et al.

(2011) . Oancea et al.

al. (2008) , Kazimierczak et

correlated with rainfall. Vagiri et al. (2013) reported lower levels of acids but higher contents of total anthocyanins and phenols in currants grown in the south of Sweden than in those grown in the north of Sweden. As explained by the authors, the values obtained were the result of higher air temperatures during harvest season, which was not confirmed in the present study. Zheng et al. (2009) determined higher values for invert sugars and citric acids in black currants grown in southern Finland than in those grown in the north of Finland.

The authors found that the contents of sugars and acids were positively correlated with air temperature, but negatively correlated with the amount of rainfall. Oancea et al. (2011) found that black currants thrive in humid areas with high rainfall amounts, and that these environmental conditions have a positive effect on the level of total anthocyanins. On the other hand, Kazimierczak et al. (2008) reported that high air temperatures and low rainfall amounts contributed to the increased content of total anthocyanins. The conclusions drawn by these authors provide a full explanation of the results of the present experiment. The difference in the measured contents can be explained by strong variations in the synthesis and accumulation of chemical compounds under different climates.

CONCLUSIONS

Black currant berries are an exceptionally rich source of sugars, organic acids and secondary metabolites; as such, they provide an interesting nutritional alternative.

'Ben Lomond', 'Titania' and 'Čaanska Crna' exhibited excellent chemical characteristics of the fruits, primarily in terms of their high antioxidant activity, but 'Čaanska Crna' stood out for its highest values for most of the tested parameters.

Climatic factors have an important effect on plant metabolism, and promote the

synthesis of different chemical compounds in the fruit, thus positively affecting the quality and commercial value of the fruit.

Given their good chemical characteristics, the tested cultivars are suitable for the agroenvironmental conditions of a ak.

Climatic factors should be considered when establishing commercial black currant orchards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study is part of Project Ref. No.31093 financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

Ref. 3109,

/ REFERENCES

1. **Bordonaba, G.J. and A.L. Terry**, 2008. Biochemical profiling and chemometric analysis of seventeen UK-grown black currant cultivars (*Ribes nigrum* L.). *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 56(16), 7422-7430.
2. **Hummer, E.K. and A. Dale**, 2010. Horticulture of *Ribes*. *Forest Pathology*, 40, 251-263.
3. **Hummer, E.K. and L.D. Barney**, 2002. Currants. Crop Reports. *HortTechnology*, 12, 377-387.
4. **Hartmann, T.**, 2007. From waste products to ecochemicals: Fifty years of research of plant secondary metabolism. *Phytochemistry*, 68, 2831-2846.
5. **Kampuss, K. and S. Strautina**, 2004. Evaluation of blackcurrant genetic resources for sustainable production. *Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research*, 12, 147-158.
6. **Karjalainen, R., M. Anttonen, N. Saviranta, H. Hiltz, D. Stewart, G. J. McDougall, P. Mattila and R. Torronen**, 2008. A review on bioactive compounds in black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.) and their potential health-promoting properties. *Acta Horticulturae*, 839, 301-307.
7. **Karjalainen, K., K. Kemppainen and E. Van Raaij**, 2009. Non Compliant Work Behaviour in Purchasing: An Exploration of Reasons Behind Maverick Buying. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 84, 245-261.
8. **Kaldmae, H., A. Kikas, L. Arus and A. Libek**, 2013. Genotype and microclimate conditions influence ripening pattern and quality of blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) fruit. *Zemdirbyste-Agriculture*, 2(100), 164-174.
9. **Kazimierczak, R., E. Hallmann, A. Rusaczonok and E. Rembalkowska**, 2008. Antioxidant content in black currant from organic and conventional cultivation. *Electronic Journal of Polish Agricultural Universities*
<http://www.ejpau.media.pl/volume11/issue2/art-28.html>
10. **Kruger, E., H. Dietrich, M. Hey and D. C. Patz**, 2011. Effects of cultivar, yield, berry weight, temperature and ripening stage on bioactive compounds of black currants. *Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality*, 84, 40-46.

11. **Laaksonen, O., L. Mäkilä, R. Tahvonen, H. Kallio and B. Yang**, 2013. Sensory quality and compositional characteristics of blackcurrant juices produced by different processes. *Food Chemistry*, 138, 2421-2429.
12. **Mattila M. L., M. Kielenen, S. L. Linna, K. Jussila, H. Ebeling, R. Bloigu, R. M. Joseph and I. Moilanen**, 2011. Autism spectrum disorders according to DSM-IV-TR and comparison with DSM-5 draft criteria: an epidemiological study. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 50(6), 583-592.
13. **Mladin P., M. Coman, A. Sasnauskas, E. Chitu, G. Mladin, I. Ancu, C. Nicola and M. Sumedrea**, 2009. Contributions to the agro-biological study of the black currant and blueberry within the cultivar evaluation European network. Scientific papers of the R.I.F.G. Pitesti, 25, 15-20.
14. **Milivojevi , J., V. Maksimovi and M. Nikoli** , 2009. Sugar and organic acids profile in the fruits of black and red currant cultivars. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 54(2), 105-117.
15. **Nikoli , M. and J. Milivojevi** , 2010. Small fruit crops. Production technology. Scientific Pomological Society of Serbia, Belgrade.
16. **Oancea, S., A. Cotinghiu and L. Oprean**, 2011. Studies investigating the change in total anthocyanins in black currant with postharvest cold storage. *Annals of the Romanian Society for cell biology*, 16, 359-363.
17. **Perez, A. G., R. Olias, J. Espada, J. M. Olias and C. Sanz**, 1997. Rapid determination of sugars, nonvolatile acids, and ascorbic acid in strawberry and other fruits. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 45, 3545-3549.
18. **Prieto, P., M. Pineda and M. Aguilar**, 1999. Spectrophotometric quantitation of antioxidant capacity through the formation of a phosphomolybdenum complex: Specific application to the determination of vitamin E. *Analytical Biochemistry*, 269, 337-341.
19. **Raudsepp, P., H. Kaldmae, A. Kikas, A. V. Libek and T. Pussa**, 2010. Nutritional quality of berries and bioactive compounds in the leaves of black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.) cultivars evaluated in Estonia. *Journal of Berry Research*, 1, 53-59.
20. **Rubinskiene, M., P. Viskelis, I Jasutiene, P. Duchovskis and C. Bobinas**, 2006. Changes in biologically active constituents during ripening in black currants. *Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research*, 14, 237-246.
21. **Singleton, V. L., R. Orthofer and R. M. Lamuela-Raventos**, 1999. Analysis of total phenols and other oxidation substrates and antioxidants by means of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. *Methods in Enzymology*, 299, 152-178.
22. **Schwarz, B. and T. Hofmann**, 2007. Sensory-guided decomposition of red currant juice (*Ribes rubrum*) and structure determination of key astringent compounds. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 55, 1394-1404.
23. **Siksnianas, T., V. Stanys, A. Sasnauskas, P. Viskelis and M. Rubinskiene**, 2006. Fruit quality and processing potential in five new blackcurrant cultivars. *Journal of Fruit Ornamental Plant Research*, 14(2), 265-271.
24. **Scalzoa, J., A. Currieb, J. Stephencs, T. McGhird and P. Alspachc**, 2008. The anthocyanin composition of different *Vaccinium*, *Ribes* and *Rubus* genotypes. *BioFactors*, 34, 13-21.
25. **Vagiri, M., A. Ekholm, E. Oberg, E. Johansson, C. S. Andersson and K. Rumpunen**, 2013. Phenols and ascorbic acid in black currants (*Ribes nigrum* L.): Variation due to genotype, location, and year. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 61, 9298-9306.

26. **Veberič, R., A. Slatnar, J. Jakopič, F. Štampar and M. Mikulič Petkovšek**, 2012. Primary and secondary metabolites in fruits. In: Paper and abstract proceedings 14th Serbian congress of fruit and grapevine producers with international, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia, 9, pp. 55-62.
27. **Walker, P.G., R. Viola, M. Woodhead, L. Jorgensen, S. L. Gordon, R. M. Brennan and R. D. Hancock**, 2010. Ascorbic acid content of black currant fruit is influenced by both genetic and environmental factors. *Functional Plant Science and Biotechnology*, 4(1), 40-52.
28. WCRF/AICR (World Cancer Research Fund) 2008. Food, nutrition, physical activity, and the prevention of cancer: A global perspective. American Institute for Cancer Research, Washington.
29. **Zheng, J., B. Yang, S. Tuomasjukka, S. Ou and H. Kallio**, 2009. Effects of latitude and weather conditions on contents of sugars, fruit acids and ascorbic acid in black currant (*Ribes nigrum* L.) juice. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 57, 2977-2987.
30. **Zurawicz, E., S. Pluta and J. Danek**, 2000. Small fruit breeding at the Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice, Poland. *Acta Horticulturae*, 538, 457-461.