

Floral Behavior, Fruit Characteristics and Oil Quality of Some Olive Cultivars “*Olea europaea* L.”

Zienab. F.R. Ahmed*, Eman M. A. Taha**, Naglaa, A. A. Abd-Elkarim**

*Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, South Valley University, Qena, Egypt.

**Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, South Valley University, Qena, Egypt.

OLIVE consumption is increased around the world due to the organoleptic characteristics and medicinal values of its fruit and oil. To meet this demand, increasing the cultivated area of olive becomes essential in areas rather than the Mediterranean basin. In this respect, some olive cultivars (cvs.) ‘Koroneiki’, ‘Dolci’, ‘Carolina’ and ‘Maraki’ were cultivated at the Research Center of South Valley University, Qena. The objective of this study was to monitor and evaluate these cultivars’ adaptation under Qena environmental conditions. The flowering behavior, fruit set, fruit growth, and the oil quality of these four cultivars were assessed for two seasons (2016-2017). The results showed that the growth season began two weeks earlier than usual for all cultivars. ‘Koroneiki’ cv. had highest number of panicles per shoot but lowest number of flowers per panicle compared to the other cultivars. Despite that, the initial fruit set was high in all cultivars, fruit retention was varied. ‘Koroneiki’ had higher number of fruit per shoot followed by ‘Dolci’, ‘Maraki’ and ‘Carolina’. The fruit weight and size were slightly lower than the typical known for all cultivars grown in other regions. ‘Maraki’ cv. had the highest percentage of oil followed by ‘Carolina’, ‘Koroneiki’ and then ‘Dolci’. The quality indexes of the oil were within the limits of the standard extra virgin olive oil for all studied cultivars. Our results revealed that, each olive cultivar had regular morphological characteristics, fruit properties and oil quality, suggesting that these cultivars were able to adapt to Qena’s environmental conditions and gave high quality virgin oil.

Keywords: Flowering, Inflorescence, Panicle structure, Quality indexes, Fatty acids.

Introduction

Olive belongs to the Oleaceae family and has been cultivated in the Mediterranean region for centuries. The fruit and oil production of olive tree have an important role in the economy of many countries around the world. Olive is a drought tolerant tree, therefore, it is growing very well in many arid and semiarid areas (Martin et al., 2005).

Production of olive fruit and oil quality depend on various factors such as cultivar genetic, agricultural practices as well as seasonal environmental factors that mainly affect the physiological behavior of the tree (Cimato, 1990, Martin et al., 2005). Blooming in olive usually begins during the second half of March and varies among cultivars. Flower bud differentiation

and induction depends on the environmental conditions, hormonal balance and tree nutrition, while flower bud opening relies on the region’s chilling units (Fabbri and Benelli, 2000). Flower inflorescences (panicles) are mostly born on previous year shoot or 2-3 year old shoots (Lavee et al., 2002). The panicle structure, length and flower number are varying from cultivars to cultivar, from tree to tree, and from shoot to shoot (Lavee et al., 2002 and Seifi et al., 2008). Panicle length is ranged from 3- 8 cm and has between 15- 30 flower (Martin et al., 2005).

Compatibility is an important aspect in olive, as some cultivars are self-compatible or partially-compatible and others are self-incompatible and require cross-pollination for optimum fruit set (Connor and Fereres, 2005). Previous reports showed inconsistent results about compatibility

of olive cultivars due to different environmental conditions and insufficient chilling units of the regions (Lavee et al., 2002, Martin et al., 2005, Mookerjee et al., 2005, El-Said et al., 2006). Despite that, olive tree produces thousands of flowers, only 1-2% set to give a commercial yield (Martin et al., 2005). In most olive cultivars, one flower per panicle is set into fruit and the rest are falling, also number of fruit per shoot decreased 25 days after full bloom due to competition (Rosati et al., 2010). High temperature during fruit growth causing stress that slowed down some critical functions and led to fruit shriveling and fruit size reduction (Lombardo et al., 2008).

Olive oil is considered as one of the major components of the Mediterranean diet. Recently, its consumption has also spread remarkably outside the Mediterranean basin due to its superior organoleptic characteristics and potential health benefits compared to other vegetable oils (Bertrand, 2002). As a result of this demand, olive cultivation area needs to be increased in the Mediterranean region and elsewhere in the world. The introduction of different olive cultivars to new agro-ecosystems may result in several effects on the tree growth, production, and oil quality (Tous and Romero, 1994, Weiyang et al., 1998). For example, hot and dry summer with intense solar radiation substantially increased the oil content in the fruit and change the fatty acids composition (Pannelli et al., 1994) while stability of the oil, fatty acid profile and other quality indexes were not affected (Di Vaio et al., 2012, Tognetti et al., 2007).

Egypt is known to be one of the most important Mediterranean countries in the production of table olives and olive oil. In 2017, Egypt production of olives was roughly 580 thousand tons, more than 18 % of global volumes, it also contributed by about 21% of the produced olive oil according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. The area of olive production in Southern Egypt region is about 1% of the total olive area in Egypt, this area is expected to be increased in the upcoming years. In this respect, this study was conducted to evaluate the flowering behavior, inflorescence structure, fruit characteristics as well as the oil physiochemical and antioxidant properties of some olive cultivars when cultivated under Qena Governorate conditions.

Materials and Methods

The experiments of this study were carried out during 2016, 2017 seasons at the research center of Horticulture Department, South Valley University, Qena, Egypt. This site is at a latitude of 26.1551 and longitude of 32.716, North 26 9'18", East 32 42'58". The experimental design

was randomized complete blocks. Trees were drip- irrigated and received the common culture practices and fertilization. Five of 7 years old trees from each olive cultivar: 'Koroneiki', 'Dolci', 'Carotina' and 'Maraki' were randomly selected from the same orchard for the following measurements:

Flowering

Flowering initial date of flowering buds appearance, flower opening, fruit set, fruit color change, and the harvest date, were recorded for each cultivar during seasons 2016-2017. Inflorescence structure, as number of branches, number of flower per branch, and total number of flower on an inflorescence, was recorded according to (Seifi et al., 2008). Characteristics of 20 flowering shoot (one year old) per tree were determined. The shoot length, total number of buds, number of flower buds, number of inflorescences per shoot and the distribution of flower buds on such shoot was also determined. Effect of the inflorescence distribution on the shoot (Tip, mid, base) on inflorescence length and flower number per inflorescence was recorded. Fifty panicles from each tree were taken to determine their characteristics, length, flowers number, perfect flower percent, initial fruit set percentage and initial fruit number. Twenty shoots per tree were used to record the initial fruit number and the final fruit number as well as the dropped fruit number.

Fruiting

After harvest, random sample of 50 fruits per tree from each cultivar was collected to determine the following characters: weight, length, width as well as fruit stone and flesh weight. Fruits were dried in the oven at 105°C for 48 hr to determine fruit moisture percentage, and the oil content based on the fruit dry weight by Soxhelt (A.O.A.C, 2000).

Oil quality

Sample of 5 kg fruit per tree was picked from each cultivar for oil extraction. The oil was cold extracted mechanically as follows:

Fruits were crushed using grinder mill. The paste was mixed with warm water, subjected to centrifugation, and the oil was collected according to a method of the International Olive Council (I.O.C, 2013). Physiochemical and antioxidant parameters of all cultivars' oil such as: acidity, chlorophyll, Iodine, saponification and cox values, and spectrophotometric indices, phenolic composition, and fatty acid profile were measured (Christie, 1982). The control sample was a commercial extra version olive oil from the local market.

Statistical analysis

The differences between cultivars mean values within a season were analyzed by analysis of variance "ANOVA" at probability level of 5 % ($P \leq 0.05$) followed by Least Significant Difference Test "LSD" using PROC GLM procedure of Statistical Analysis System (SAS) version 9.2 for Windows, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA (SAS®, 2009).

Results and Discussion

Egypt is one of the Mediterranean regions where olive is a common crop cultivated for table and oil extraction. Several cultivars (local and imported) are well grown and had commercial production under environmental conditions of northern region of Egypt. The production area of olive is planned to be extended to the southern region. In this study, adaptation of some olive cultivars under Qena Governorate was evaluated.

Flowering and fruiting duration

The blooming dates were varied for all studied cultivars, however, flower buds appeared in the

last 10 days of February in both seasons. The flowers opening date was in the first half of March in 'Koroneiki' and 'Maraki', while 'Carotina' and 'Dolci' flowers opened in the second half of March (Table 1 and Fig.1). The full bloom and beginning of fruit set was in the last week of March for most cultivars except for 'Carotina' that was in the end of March. The duration of blooming ranged between 25-35 days. 'Koroneiki' and 'Dolci' tended to have shorter period 25 days followed by 'Carotina' 30 days while 'Maraki' exhibited longer period 35 days (Table 1 and Fig.1). By the end of blooming, some fruit appeared in the first week of April in all cultivars. Fruits grew and began to change their color to purple by August 10 in 'Dolci' and 10 days later in 'Koroneiki' and 'Carotina' while 'Maraki' fruits were the latest in color change that was in October 25. Harvest date was determined for each cultivar depends on the maturation of the fruit, and was different for each cultivar as it was in September 13 in 'Dolci' and 'Carotina' cvs., while 'Koroneiki' was harvested in October 5 and 'Maraki' the latest cultivar was harvested in November 21 (Table 1 and Fig.1).

TABLE 1. Initial dates of flowering and fruit growth for some olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017 .

Cultivar	Floral bud appearance	Flowering	Fruit set	Fruit growth	Fruit color Change	Harvest
Season 2016						
Dolci	25- Feb	18- Mar	23- Mar	23- Mar	10- Aug	13- Sep
Carotina	26- Feb	18- Mar	28- Mar	28- Mar	20- Aug	13- Sep
Koroneiki	26- Feb	13- Mar	25- Mar	25- Mar	20- Aug	5- Oct
Maraki	20- Feb	13- Mar	23- Mar	23- Mar	25- Oct	21- Nov
Season 2017						
Dolci	27- Feb	15- Mar	21- Mar	21- Mar	10- Aug	13- Sep
Carotina	26- Feb	15- Mar	26- Mar	28- Mar	20- Aug	13- Sep
Koroneiki	25- Feb	11- Mar	21- Mar	21- Mar	20- Aug	5- Oct
Maraki	22- Feb	11- Mar	21- Mar	21- Mar	25- Oct	21- Nov

As consistent to previous reports blooming/ fruiting date and period was varied from cultivar to cultivar as a response to different environmental conditions and differed topography of different region (Orlandi et al., 2005, El-Said et al., 2006, Pérez López et al., 2008, Saad El-Din et al., 2010).

Floral behavior

The inflorescences are mostly born on shoots developed in the previous season and barely seen on older shoot. The characteristics of one year old shoot for season 2016-2017 were presented in Table 2. The shoot length ranged between 27.2- 36.2 cm, the shortest was 'Koroneiki' shoot while the longest was 'Carotina' while the other cultivars' shoots length was 30.3 cm. The

total number of buds ranged between 14- 24.2, 'Carotina' shoot had the lowest number (14 and 15.2 buds) while 'Maraki' had the highest number of buds (23.7 and 24.2) in both seasons respectively. The number of flower buds per shoot in 'Dolci' and 'Koroneiki' shoot was high (11.1, 12.3) compared to 'Maraki' and 'Carotina' shoot that had only about (9.5) flower buds/ shoot. 'Koroneiki' shoot had higher number of buds with two double inflorescences (9.3) that reflect the highest number of inflorescences per shoot (20.2) compared to the other cultivars (Table 2). The flower bud induction and differentiation in olive depends on many factors such as environmental conditions, tree nutrition status and hormonal balance.

TABLE 2. Shoot characteristics and inflorescence location influence on inflorescence characteristics of some olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017.

Cultivar	Shoot characteristics season 2016					
	Shoot length (cm)	Bud No./shoot	No of buds with IFC	No of buds with two IFC	Buds with IFC location	IFC No./shoot
Dolci	30.3±0.35b	20.1±0.21b	11.1±0.18a	6.5±0.12b	6-17	17.3±0.21b
Carotina	36.2±0.28a	14.0±0.23c	9.5±0.21b	5.5±0.11b	3-14	15.4±0.18b
Koroneiki	27.2±0.30b	16.3±0.22c	12.3±0.21a	9.3±0.11a	2-12	20.2±0.11a
Maraki	31.5±0.41b	23.7±0.25a	9.5±0.24b	4.2±0.10b	6-19	17.±0.23b
Cultivar	Shoot characteristics season 2017					
	Shoot length (cm)	Bud No./shoot	No of buds with IFC	No of buds with two IFC	Buds with IFC location	IFC No./shoot
Dolci	29.7±0.22b	20.5±0.30b	10.6±0.20b	6.0±0.08b	5-17	18.0±0.27b
Carotina	34.9±0.27a	15.2±0.19c	9.6±0.19b	5.8±0.14b	2-15	15.2±0.11b
Koroneiki	28.4±0.19b	15.33±0.20c	13.0±0.20a	8.8±0.10a	3-12	22.5±0.21a
Maraki	30.6±0.33b	24.2±0.28a	9.3±0.25b	3.9±0.11b	6-20	16.3±0.13b
Inflorescence location on shoot season 2016						
Cultivar	Tip		Mid		Base	
	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)
Dolci	3.5±0.03a	21.3±0.15a	3.5±0.04a	22.2±0.21a	1.5±0.04b	16.6±0.11a
Carotina	1.5±0.04c	13.2±0.14b	2.5±0.03b	17.8±0.22b	1.5±0.06b	12.3±0.16b
Koroneiki	2.5±0.04b	15.2±0.21b	3.5±0.10a	17.2±0.15b	2.5±0.06a	15.2±0.14a
Maraki	2.5±0.05b	20.7±0.19a	3.2±0.06a	22.7±0.25a	2±0.07ab	13.4±0.10b
Inflorescence location on shoot season 2017						
Cultivar	Tip		Mid		Base	
	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)	IFC length (cm)	Flower (No)
Dolci	3.5±0.1a	22.1±0.20a	3.5±0.02a	22.2±0.19a	2.0±0.02ab	17.2±0.15a
Carotina	2.0±0.02b	11.8±0.15c	3.0±0.04a	18.2±0.15b	1.5±0.04b	12.2±0.09b
Koroneiki	2.5±0.03ab	16.3±0.21b	3.5±0.01a	17.7±0.15b	2.5±0.03a	16.2±0.13a
Maraki	2.5±0.02ab	21.0±0.23a	3.0±0.04a	22.0±0.21a	2±0.03ab	12.8±0.09b

IFC= Inflorescence, No= number. Means comparisons were made between cultivars within a season using LSD test. Different letter indicates significant difference within a column at $P \leq 0.05$, (rep=5 and n=100 for each cultivar).

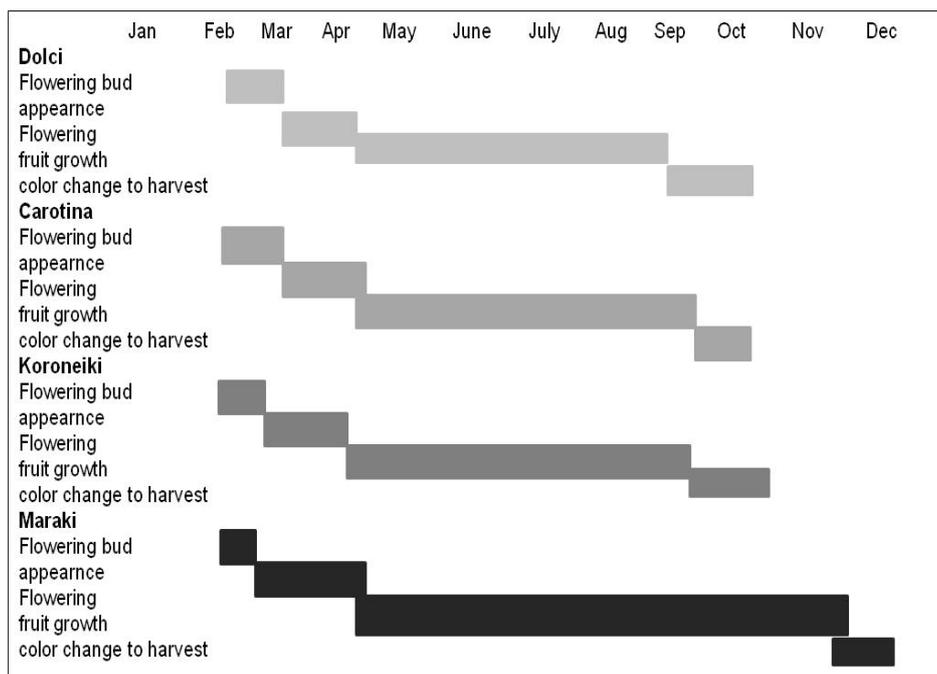


Fig. 1. Flowering and fruiting durations of some olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017 .

(Lavee et al., 1996). The distribution of the flower buds on the shoot was noticed, as the shoots tended to bear their flower bud on the third bud and along the shoot to the tip in 'Koroneiki' and 'Carotina' cvs., while 'Dolci' and 'Maraki' cvs. shoots bore flower buds on the middle third of the shoot from the sixth bud to 17th and 19th bud, leaving about 4 buds in the tip without any panicle (Fig. 3). The differences in these results may be attributed to the cultivars bearing habit.

Effect of the inflorescence distribution on the shoot (Tip, mid, base) on inflorescence length and flower number per inflorescence during 2016-2017 seasons was obvious (Table 2). In most of the studied cultivars, the middle position of the shoot had the longest panicle contained the highest number of flowers while the shortest panicles with lower number of flower were on the tip and the base, except 'Dolci' cv. as the shoot tip and middle position had panicles with same length and flower number. These results are consistent with previous report that the location of the inflorescence on the shoot had significant effect on the panicle length and the flower number (Seifi et al., 2008)

Inflorescence structure and characteristics

Inflorescence structures were varied for different olive cultivars during 2016-2017 seasons. There were about 10 different structures observed

in this study, and labeled from 1 to 10 (Fig. 2). The main structure noticed in 'Dolci' was (4 and 5) with flowers number (23, 22), and 'Koroneiki' had structures (8, 9, 10) with flower number (20, 13, 11) while the main structures in 'Carotina' were (6, 9, 10) with flower number (11, 13, 11). On the other side, several structures were observed in 'Maraki' cultivar and there are structures that were found in all cultivars but in small percent. The inflorescence architecture was found to be wide-ranging from cultivar to another in olive trees as a result of regional condition or tree nutrition status as reported by Seifi et al. (2008).

Inflorescence length and flower number are varied among shoots, trees, cultivars and seasons (Lavee et al., 1996, Lavee et al., 2002 and Seifi et al., 2011). Data in table 3 showed that 'Maraki' cultivar had the longest panicle with the highest flower number, and 'Carotina' cv. had the shortest panicle with less flower number compared to the other cultivars. Despite that, 'Koroneiki' cv. has long panicle with the lowest number of the flowers, 'Dolci' cv. has shortest panicle with substantial higher number of the flowers (Fig. 3b and Table 3). The lower number of flowers in 'Koroneiki' and 'Carotina' cvs. panicles was due to their structures that have less number of flowers compared to the other structures, (Fig. 2). These results demonstrate that most of olive cultivars could be identified by their inflorescence characteristics.

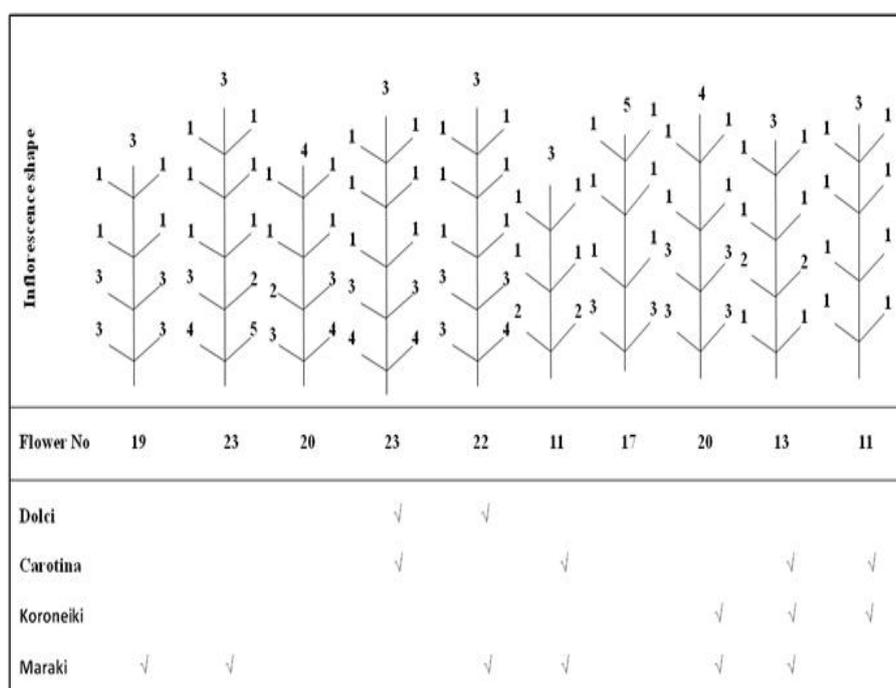


Fig.2 . Inflorescence main structures observed on some oil olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017.

Fruit set and fruit retention

Data in Table 3 showed that the perfect flower percentages were quite high in all the studied cultivars and arranged from 79.2 to 88.2 % in both seasons. This high percentage could be important for fruit set and retention and consequently the yield (Lavee *et al.*, 1996). The highest percentage was for 'Maraki' and 'Koroneiki' cvs. followed by 'Dolci', then 'Carotina' cv. that gave the lowest percentage. The highest percentage of initial fruit set (50.1 and 52.3%) was found in 'Carotina', while, the lowest percentage 30.4 and 31.5% recorded for 'Maraki' in both seasons. The values of 'Maraki', 'Dolci' and 'Koroneiki' cvs. were not significant in both seasons. These differences among cultivars may be relatively due to self-incompatibility or the environmental condition such as high temperature, dry wind and less rainfall that affect pollination (Connor and Fereres, 2005, Moutier, 2002). Eassa *et al.*, 2011 reported that the great variations among olive cultivars were existed in the perfect flower percentage and sex ratio related to genetically factors. Initial fruit number/ inflorescence after fruit set was ranged between (5.5-9.2), and initial fruit number/ shoot was between (29.7-38.2) for all cultivars in both seasons, and final fruits number / inflorescences sharply reduced after 20 days to be from 1 to 4.2 and final fruit number / shoot from 2.4 to 34.3 as a result of competition, then stabilized. The drooped fruit number was low in 'Koroneiki' and 'Dolci' while 'Carotina' and

'Maraki' had high drooped fruit number. This may be due to the variation in fruit growth as a result of late fruit set, so only the larger fruit retained and the small fruits did not continue growing and fall (Fig. 3a). The competition between fruit begins at bloom and is inversely proportion to the size of flower and fruit (Rosati *et al.*, 2010)

Fruit characteristics

Fruit characteristics of all studied cultivars during seasons 2016-2017 are presented in Table 3. Despite that 'Maraki' had variability in the fruit size, the average fruit weight was the highest (5.32g), 'Dolci' fruit weight was (3.06g) followed by 'Carotina' (2.75g) and 'Koroneiki' that have the smallest fruit (0.91g) in the first season, the same trend was obvious in the second one (Fig. 3). These values of fruit weight were less than that reported in previous reports (Saad El-Din *et al.*, 2010). The decrease in fruit weight may be a result of the hot weather and dry wind during fruit growth and at harvest that increased water evaporation from the fruit (Fayek *et al.*, 2014, Shaheen *et al.*, 2011, El-Said *et al.*, 2006). Other fruit characteristics, fruit length and width and stone weight were in turn in the range for the cultivars. Fruit moisture in the olive fruit ranged between (53.2- 67.4 %) in both seasons as presented in Table 3. These values were more than what reported before about these cultivars (Saad El-Din *et al.*, 2010). High temperature and low precipitation during fruit ripening resulted in water loss and reduced the moisture contents.

Such condition may also increase fruit respiration rate and the metabolism rate inside the fruit (Al-Maaitah et al., 2009 and Tombesi et al., 1994). On the other side, 'Maraki' cv. fruits had oil content 41.7 % and 40.9% in both studied seasons which is superior over the other cultivars, as 'Carotina', 'Koroneiki' and 'Dolci' cvs. fruits had 26.4, 22.1, 25.7% oil content in the first season and had 28.2, 23.1, 26.8 oil content in the second one (Table 3). The growing conditions and the genetic potential of the cultivar had a substantial effect on oil biosynthesis and the final oil content in olive fruits (Al-Maaitah et al., 2009 and Lavee & Wodne, 2004).

Quality indexes of olive oil

Oil color: the content of different pigments in olive fruit is important parameter attributed to the quality of olive oil (Gargouri et al., 2013). Chlorophylls in the oil varied among cultivars and ranged between 1.20- 2.53 mg/kg (Table 4). Oil chlorophyll content was the highest in 'Maraki', and the lowest in 'Koroneiki' compared to the other cultivars and control. For all studied cultivars, high content of total chlorophyll was noticed, suggesting that the stage of harvest of the fruit before the other pigments accumulate was the main reason. However, there are also several other factors could affect chlorophyll degradation and causing oxidation reaction in olive oil (Bilancia et al., 2007 and Zegane et al., 2015).

Hydrolytic rancidity and oxidation are the main processes linked with oil deterioration. These processes are usually begins before extracting the oil from the olive fruit, whereas the more oxidation may occur during the extraction process and storage. Some quality indexes indicated the oxidation, the virginity and the purity of olive oil during 2016-2017 seasons are presented in Table 4.

The UV absorption at K232 and K270 is a measure of the secondary oxidation products formed in olive oil during the oxidation process (Bilancia et al., 2007). The value of K270 and K232 for the extra virgin oil should be below 0.22, 2.50 respectively, according to IOC. For all cultivars the oil samples were read less than 2.50 for K270 and 0.22 for K232 except for 'Dolci' and 'Carotina' that had slightly higher K270 value 2.92, 2.95 respectively, and the same trend was in the second one (Table 4). This result suggested that there was transformation process of the peroxides in the oil occurred as a response to high temperature during fruit growth (Allouche et al., 2007).

Acidity, on the basis of oleic acid, of all cultivars' oil ranged from 0.20- 0.28% (Table 4) in both seasons. These were low values compared to the standard limit for extra virgin olive oil (0.8%)

suggesting that there were no oil hydrolysis occurred in the fruit on the tree or during the oil extraction (Pereira et al., 2002).

Iodine Value (IV) and Cox Value are the main indicators of the stability and type of oxidation in virgin olive oils (Homapour et al., 2014). The standard range of IV is between 75- 94, the studied cultivars' oil IV values were within the range, 86.8 for 'Maraki', 87.7 for 'Koroneiki', however 'Dolci', and 'Carotina' had slightly higher values 89.4- 95.06 compared to the control (88.04). Cox value was higher for all cultivars and ranged between (1.79-2.95) specially 'Dolci', and 'Carotina' compared with previous reports (1.55) (Homapour et al., 2014). These results may be due to the heat stress during fruit growth that hasten oxidation of the lipid by promoting peroxides transformation (Bruni et al., 1994). The IV and Cox values indicated that the oil of 'Maraki' and 'Koroneiki' cv. showed stability and resistance against oxidation, while 'Dolci' and 'Carotina' cvs. showed less stability against oxidation suggesting that the oil polyunsaturated fatty acid content may be the reason (Table 4).

Phenolics are natural antioxidants present in virgin olive oil and linked to the shelf life stability (Ouni et al., 2012). These compounds are susceptible to heat stress, and will degrade into other compounds if exposed to heat for long periods of time (Gallina-Toschi et al., 2005, Lee et al., 2007). Our results showed that the content of total phenols in most of the studied cultivars was high (479.6- 361.3) except for the 'Dolci' that had lower content 332.3 mg/kg (Table 4).

High contents of Phenolics in these cultivars' increased the stability against oxidation and extend the shelf life (Ahmed & Taha, 2018, Haghghat-Kharazi et al., 2012 and Ryan et al., 1998). Fatty acid profile for all cultivars' oil during seasons 2016-2017 was described in Table 5. Oleic acid content was the highest in 'Maraki' 71.85 % while the palmitic acid content was highest in 'Dolci' compared to other cultivars. The ratio of oleic to linoleic acid was ranged between 2.99- 7.83%. 'Maraki' oil has the highest ratio among all cultivars consistent with the previous report (Hashempour et al., 2010). In general, the ratio of saturated to unsaturated fatty acids was lower in 'Maraki' and 'Koroneiki' compared to the other cultivars suggesting that the maturity of the fruit influenced olive oil's fatty acids profile (Cimato, 1990). It is also reported that, as the environmental temperature increase, the unsaturated fatty acid content decreases, while when the temperature decrease the saturated fatty acid contents increase (Ahmed and Taha, 2018, Kiralan et al., 2009 and Rondanini et al., 2011).

TABLE 3. Inflorescence and fruit characteristics and fruit set of some olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017.

Inflorescence characteristics season 2016											
Dropped fruit No	Final fruit No/shoot	Initial fruit No/shoot	Final fruits No/IFC	Initial fruit No/IFC	Initial fruit set (%)	Perfect flower (%)	Flower No/IFC	IFC Length (cm)	Cultivar		
10.2±0.04b	22.2±0.15b	33.3±0.28ab	3.1±0.02a	6.4±0.11b	33.2±0.31b	85.2±0.44b	20.3±0.14b	3.0±0.04a	Dolci		
21.3±0.31a	14.4±0.18c	35.5±0.25a	1.0±0.04b	9.2±0.08a	50.1±0.40a	83.3±0.39b	18.2±0.11bc	3.0±0.05a	Carotina		
2.2±0.05c	34.3±0.21a	36.2±0.32a	4.2±0.02a	5.5±0.12b	34.2±0.32b	87.7±0.42a	17.2±0.11c	3.7±0.04a	Koroneiki		
19.4±0.21a	12.8±0.11c	30.6±0.31b	1.3±0.06b	7.3±0.20ab	30.4±0.33b	88.2±0.40a	23.5±0.15a	3.6±0.04a	Maraki		
Inflorescence characteristics season 2017											
11.4±0.14c	25.6±0.22b	35.0±0.31b	3.0±0.01a	6.4±0.11b	32.8±0.35b	79.2±0.36b	21.0±0.16ab	3.2±0.01a	Dolci		
23.1±0.13a	15.2±0.12c	38.2±0.30a	1.2±0.05b	9.2±0.08a	52.3±0.37a	82.3±0.32b	19.1±0.23b	3.4±0.01a	Carotina		
3.5±0.07d	33.6±0.23a	37.5±0.22a	4.0±0.02a	5.5±0.12b	33.6±0.41b	87.2±0.45a	16.9±0.10c	3.7±0.03a	Koroneiki		
17.9±0.24b	13.1±0.21c	29.7±0.29c	1.2±0.02b	7.3±0.20ab	31.5±0.34b	86.2±0.40a	22.8±0.14a	3.5±0.02a	Maraki		
Fruit characteristics season 2016											
Oil (%)	Moisture (%)	Stone/fruit (%)	Flesh/fruit (%)	Stone weight (g)	Flesh weight (g)	Fruit width (mm)	Fruit length (cm)	Fruit weight (g)	Cultivar		
25.7±0.29b	62.3±0.44b	23.5±0.55b	74.8±0.57b	0.82±0.04a	2.28±0.08b	1.53±0.03ab	2.79±0.03a	3.06±0.09b	Dolci		
26.4±0.27b	67.4±0.36a	24.4±0.51b	76.5±0.36b	0.67±0.02ab	2.05±0.08b	1.08±0.02b	2.09±0.03b	2.75±0.09b	Carotina		
22.1±0.33c	53.2±0.36c	37.2±0.31a	75.5±0.44b	0.34±0.02b	0.53±0.09c	1.08±0.03b	1.56±0.04c	0.91±0.10c	Koroneiki		
41.7±0.52a	67.1±0.42a	17.4±0.36c	79.3±0.41a	0.93±0.02a	4.21±0.31a	2.01±0.02 a	2.22±0.04ab	5.32±0.37a	Maraki		
Fruit characteristics season 2017											
26.8±0.44b	65.2±0.42b	25.6±0.37b	72.9±0.45c	0.92±0.03a	2.26±0.04b	1.62±0.02ab	2.81±0.02a	3.2±0.04b	Dolci		
28.2±0.51b	67.0±0.34a	23.7±0.45b	76.8±0.48b	0.64±0.02ab	2.15±0.04b	1.12±0.04b	2.24±0.03ab	2.8±0.04b	Carotina		
23.1±0.36c	55.8±0.32c	36.1±0.34a	72.1±0.32c	0.42±0.03b	0.68±0.03c	1.00±0.01b	1.39±0.04b	1.02±0.13c	Koroneiki		
40.9±0.28a	67.5±0.49a	19.6±0.52c	78.6±0.39a	1.02±0.02a	4.41±0.22a	2.14±0.12 a	2.25±0.21ab	5.61±0.47a	Maraki		

IFC= Inflorescence, No= number. Means comparisons were made between cultivars within a season using LSD test. Different letter indicates significant difference within a column at P ≤ 0.05, (rep=5 and n=100 for each cultivar).

TABLE 4. Oilquality index of some olive cultivarsduring seasons 2016-2017.

Phenolic (mg/kg)	Season 2016				Cultivar
	Cox value	K270	K232	IV	
336.8±1.26c	2.23±0.03ab	0.121±0.01a	2.83±0.08a	88.04±1.19b	Control
332.3±1.32c	2.75±0.10a	0.17±0.02a	2.92±0.09a	89.4±1.02b	Dolci
361.31±1.70b	2.95±0.09a	0.16±0.02a	2.95±0.12a	95.06±0.98a	Carotina
388.52±1.17b	2.12±0.77ab	0.023±0.03b	2.023±0.76b	87.7±0.79b	Koroneiki
497.6±1.00a	1.89±0.08b	0.16±0.04a	2.25±0.19ab	86.8±0.91b	Maraki
Season 2017					
335.3±1.33c	2.31±0.04ab	0.13±0.01a	2.61±0.07a	87.43±1.15b	Control
321.6±1.39c	2.69±0.05a	0.15±0.02a	2.74±0.09a	90.50±1.12b	Dolci
351.8±1.70b	2.82±0.08a	0.17±0.02a	2.62±0.12a	92.76±0.76a	Carotina
362.5±1.17b	2.17±0.19ab	0.10±0.02b	2.11±0.8b	88.89±0.89b	Koroneiki
452.9±1.08a	1.79±0.05b	0.15±0.02a	2.31±0.19ab	88.23±0.92b	Maraki

IV= Iodine Value. Means comparisons were made between cultivars within a season using LSD test. Different letter indicates significant difference within a column at P ≤ 0.05, (rep=3, n=15 for each cultivar)

TABLE 5. Fatty acid profile of some olive cultivars during seasons 2016-2017.

	Season 2016										Season 2017											
	Oleic/Linoleic	SFA/UFA	UFA	SFA	C18:3	C18:2	C18:1	C18:0	C16:1	C16:0	Cultivar	Oleic/Linoleic	SFA/UFA	UFA	SFA	C18:3	C18:2	C18:1	C18:0	C16:1	C16:0	Cultivar
	4.99±0.09b	0.209±0.02ab	82.66±0.82ab	17.34±0.20b	0.88±0.09a	13.34±0.13b	66.67±0.95b	2.24±0.01a	1.27±0.09a	14.47±0.19b	Control	5.01±0.09b	0.198±0.02ab	81.11±0.54ab	16.21±0.20b	0.88±0.12a	13.22±0.14b	65.64±0.45b	2.26±0.04a	1.22±0.08a	14.31±0.12b	Control
	3.00±0.08c	0.267±0.02a	79.19±0.65b	20.88±0.19a	1.06±0.09a	18.92±0.11a	56.83±0.45d	2.51±0.02a	2.01±0.09a	17.54±0.13a	Dolci	3.22±0.08c	0.238±0.02a	80.30±0.55b	19.96±0.19a	1.04±0.09a	18.78±0.08a	58.22±0.72d	2.63±0.03a	2.31±0.07a	16.89±0.10a	Dolci
	2.96±0.08c	0.207±0.03ab	82.82±0.91ab	17.18±0.23b	1.21±0.11a	20.28±1.24a	60.09±0.34c	2.57±0.02a	0.62±0.09b	13.86±0.17b	Carotina	3.00±0.08c	0.193±0.03ab	83.72±0.91a	16.11±0.31b	1.08±0.09a	21.00±0.91a	61.23±0.29c	2.71±0.03a	0.72±0.07b	12.79±0.16b	Carotina
	5.84±0.08b	0.195±0.01b	83.63±0.73a	16.37±0.18b	0.94±0.09a	11.88±0.11b	69.38±0.67a	3.3±0.03a	1.07±0.12ab	12.25±0.11b	Koroneiki	5.75±0.08b	0.193±0.01ab	83.12±0.72a	15.98±0.12b	0.99±0.07a	12.03±0.15b	69.82±0.81a	3.29±0.03a	1.10±0.04ab	12.23±0.12b	Koroneiki
	7.83±0.09a	0.179±0.04b	83.43±0.43a	15.37±0.13b	0.95±0.10a	9.41±0.09c	71.85±0.86a	2.91±0.04a	0.84±0.08ab	11.91±0.17b	Maraki	7.58±0.09a	0.167±0.04b	84.89±0.63a	14.29±0.12b	0.93±0.09a	8.97±0.08c	72.15±0.73a	2.86±0.03a	0.91±0.04ab	10.91±0.20b	Maraki

SFA=Saturated fatty acid, UFA=Unsaturated fatty acid. Means comparisons were made between cultivars within a season using LSD test. Different letter indicates significant difference within a column at P ≤ 0.05, (rep=3, n=15 for each cultivar)

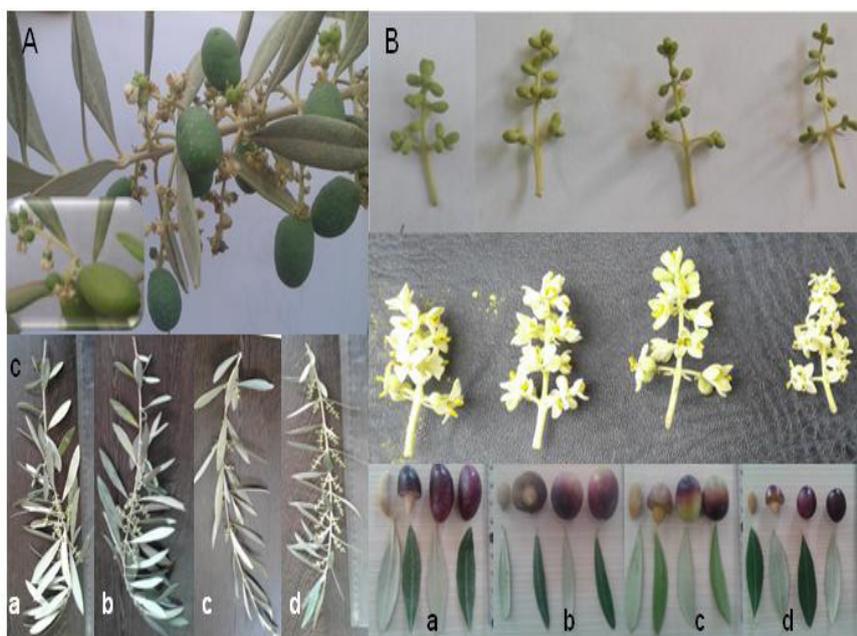


Fig. 3. Flowering, fruiting in four olive cultivars: a- 'Dolci', b- 'Maraki', c- 'Carotina' d- 'Koroneiki'. A) 'Maraki' cultivar's fruit growth variation. B) Inflorescence, fruit, seed C) One year old shoot

Conclusion

The present study results provide evidence that the studied olive cultivars were successfully grown and had a capability to adapt the condition of southern Egypt. The cultivars had usual morphological characteristics, fruit production and oil quality. 'Maraki' and 'Koroneiki' cultivars prove tolerance to the hot and dry summer by maintaining the oil stability against oxidation and best high valued oil compared to 'Dolci' and 'Carotina' suggesting that 'Maraki' and 'Koroneiki' can successfully grow and give high quality extra virgin olive oil under southern region conditions.

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Conflict of interest:

The authors have declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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السلوك الزهري وخصائص الثمار وجودة الزيت لبعض اصناف الزيتون

زينب فوزى رياض احمد* ، ايمان محمد ممدوح عبد الظاهر طه** و نجلاء احمد عبد الصبور عبد الكريم**
 * قسم البساتين - كلية الزراعة - جامعة جنوب الوادى بقنا
 ** قسم الصناعات الغذائية والالبان - كلية الزراعة - جامعة جنوب الوادى بقنا - مصر.

لقد زاد الطلب على استهلاك الزيتون حول العالم لما لثماره وزيته من خصائص علاجية عالية. ومواجهة هذا الاحتياج يطلب زيادة مساحة الاراضى المنزعة بالزيتون لذلك تم زراعة اصناف من الزيتون التى تتصف بانها تنتج زيوت عالية الجودة فى مركز ابحاث كلية الزراعة بجامعة جنوب الوادى بمحافظة قنا فى صعيد مصر، هذه الاصناف هى الكروناكى، الدولسى، الكاروتينا والمراقى. وكان الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تقييم اقلية هذه الاصناف للزراعة والانتاج تحت هذه الظروف الجديده. تم تقييم السلوك الزهري وعقد الازهار وخصائص الثمار وجودة الزيت المستخرج منها خلال موسمي ٢٠١٦-٢٠١٧.

اظهرت النتائج ان:

- بداية موسم النمو فى هذه المنطقه كانت فى اول فبراير عند ظهور البراعم الزهرية اي بحوالى اسبوعين مبكرا عن شمال مصر.
- كان هناك اختلاف معنوى للسلوك الزهري حيث كان عدد العناقيد الزهرية اكثر فى صنف الكروناكى ولكن عدد الازهار للعنقود كان اقل بالمقارنه بالاصناف الاخرى.
- نسبة العقد المبدئى كان عالى لكل الاصناف ولكن عدد الثمار المتبقية بعد التساقط كان مختلف معنويا بين الاصناف. حيث احتفظ صنف الكروناكى باكبر عدد من اثمار تبعه صنف الدولسى ثم الكاروتينا والمراقى الذى اشجل اعلى نسبة تساقط للثمار.
- حجم ووزن الثمار كان اقل قليلا من القيم التى عرضت فى الابحاث السابقه لهذه الاصناف فى مناطق اخرى.
- المراقى اعطى اعلى نسبة من الزيت يليه الكاروتينا ثم الدولسى والكروناكى.
- خصائص جودة الزيت المستخرج يدويا من هذه ثمار هذه الاصناف كان مضاهيا للقيم القياسيه لزيت الزيتون البكر.

من النتائج السابقه يمكن الجزم ان هذه الاصناف كانت قادرة على الاقلية مع الظروف البيئية لمحافظة قنا فى جنوب مصر حيث اعطت نمو جيد وازهار طبيعى وصفات جيدة للثمار وزيت عالى الجودة لذا ينصح بالتوسع بزراعتها فى هذه المنطقه.