





OUALITY ASSESSMENT OF EDIBLE TOMATO VARIETIES INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING

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ABSTRACT

Most of the global production of tomatoes is used for tomato products. The fruits to be processed are evaluated on the basis of important technological quality parameters, such as the content of dry matter and organic acids. Recently, among important qualitative characteristics of fruits has been included colorant content, especially lycopene. Aim of this study was to evaluate the quality of selected tomato varieties for industrial processing. Tested were varieties Uno Rosso, San Marzano 4, Brixol, Strombolino, UG. 8168, Diana and Nemarock cultivated in very hot and dry agro-climatic region. The dry matter content was determined by the gravimetric method, the content of organic acid by titration and the content of colorants spectrophotometrically. The dry matter content of the samples ranged from 4.65% (Nemarock) to 5.93% (San Marzano 4). Content of organic acids ranged from 0.33% (Nemarock) to 0.59% (Strombolino), content of carotenoids in tomato samples ranged from 111.288 mg. 100 g $^{-1}$ DM (Nemarock) to 198.365 mg. 100 g $^{-1}$ DM (San Marzano 4). Lycopene was present in the amount of 99.438 mg. 100 g $^{-1}$ DM (Nemarock) to 192.687 mg. 100 g $^{-1}$ DM (San Marzano 4). In terms of treatment the best properties showed San Marzano 4, which is characterized by high dry matter content, low organic acids and high content of colorants.

Keywords: Tomato, technological characteristics, dry matter, carotenoids, lycopene

INTRODUCTION

Tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum L.) is being the second most important vegetable crop worldwide (Agarwal and Rao, 2000; Agarwal, et al. 2001). Tomatoes are major components of daily meals in several countries. Due to their high consumption, tomatoes and tomato products represent a significant source of antioxidants in the human diet. Tomatoes are important dietary source of carotenoids, especially of lycopene and β -carotene. It is a major source of antioxidants contributing to the daily intake of a significant amount of these components. It is consumed as fresh or as processed products such as canned tomato, sauce, juice, ketchup, stews and soups (Lenucci et al., 2006).

The fruits of Lycopersicum esculentum owe their intense red color due to carotenoid pigments that are synthesized massively during the fruit ripening. Carotenoids are responsible for the final red color of the tomato (**Zeb and Mehmood**, 2004). Tomato antioxidants include carotenoids such as β-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, and mainly lycopene, which is largely responsible for the red color of the fruit, vitamins such as ascorbic acid and tocopherols, and phenolic compounds such as flavonoids and hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives (Borguini and Torres, 2009; Clinton, 1998; Kotíková et al., 2009; Kotíková et al., 2011; Moco et al., 2006; Vallyerdú-Queralt et al., 2011)

The aim of this work was to analyze the quality of selected tomato varieties intended for industrial processing, based on the content of the dry matter, organic acids, total carotenoids and lycopene.

MATERIAL AND MEIHODS

In this work 7 edible varieties of tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum* Mill.) were analyzed: Uno Rosso, San Marzano 4, Brix, Strombolino, UG. 8168, Nemarock and Diana. Uno Rosso, San Marzano 4, Brix, Strombolino, UG. 8168, Nemarock varieties are of Italian origin, variety Diana is Slovak origin. It is a determinate type varieties. The fruits are mainly intended for industrial processing. Samples of tomatoes were cultivated in experimental fields of the SUA in Nitra. Area is situated in a very warm agro-climatic region, very dry sub-region. The

average annual temperature is $10\,^{\circ}\text{C}$, average annual rainfall is $584.5\,\text{mm}$ and the average rainfall for the growing season is $287.5\,\text{mm}$. In terms of soil characteristics, soil is a glue fluvisol, formed on alluvial sediments.

Fruits were harvested in a stage of technological maturity, when they are fully colored with character taste and aroma. The dry matter content was determined by gravimetric method. Homogenised samples were dried to constant weight at $105\ ^{\circ}$ C at WTC Binder laboratory oven.

Content of organic acids expressed as % of citric acid was determined according to the Slovak Technical Standard (STN 560240-5). This method is based on the neutralization of the acids present with sodium hydroxide using a suitable indicator. Total content of carotenoids was determined spectrophotometrically by the device Jenway UV-VIS according to the methodology given in the Slovak Technical Standard (STN 12136). Homogenised samples were extracted with acetone, then mixed with petroleum ether. Water was added for the separation of phases, and after the separation of the petroleum-ether-carotenoid phase the absorbance of a solution of carotenoids was measured at the wavelength of 445 nm, the absorbance of lycopene was measured at the wavelength of 470 nm. All analyzes were performed in triplicate.

Results of total carotenoids and lycopene content were processed by statistical program Statistica. The influence of variety on the content of carotenoids and lycopene was evaluated by one-way analysis of variance and Tukey HSD test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation of soluble dry matter content in tomato is in practice used as a basic indicator for assessing the quality of fruits for processing. The dry matter content in tomatoes ranged from 4.65% in the variety Nemarock to 5.93% in San Marzano 4 (Table 1).

Table 1 Assessment of selected quality indicators in edible tomatoes

Variety	Dry matter	Organic acids [%]	Carotenoids [mg.100g ⁻¹ fresh matter]	Lycopene [mg.100 g ⁻¹ fresh matter]
Uno Rosso	4.66	0.36	9.04	8.76
San Marzano 4	5.93	0.37	11.76	11.43
Brixol	5.91	0.40	9.86	9.68
Strombolino	5.82	0.59	8.06	7.59
UG. 8168	5.09	0.50	7.09	6.66
Nemarock	4.65	0.33	5.18	4.62
Diana	5.63	0.38	8.44	8.22

Anthon et al. (2011) reported that dry matter of tomato is consisted mostly of simple sugars, glucose and fructose. They investigated the dry matter content in the fruit of tomatoes intended for industrial processing, and they found that it varied from 4.6 to 5.4%. In most varieties during storage before processing they state the increase in the dry matter content, to 5.6%.

Majidi et al. (2011) investigated the dry matter content of tomatoes grown in Iran and they found that it is ranging from 5.2 to 5.99%. They also observed some changes in the evaluation of the dynamics in the dry matter during storage in the cold store and in the stock with a modified atmosphere, and found that the dry matter content during the 90-days storage in a cold store showed a slight increasing trend for the first 20 days and then decreased, in the stock with modified atmosphere dry matter decreased after 40 days of storage.

Content of organic acids ranged from 0.36% to 0.59%. Diana variety was characterized by lower content of organic acids. In contrast, the highest content of organic acids showed Strombolino and UG. 8168.

Suárezetal. (2008) investigated the presence of organic acids in tomato fruits grown in Tenerife. Varieties Dorothy, Boludo, Dominique, Thomas and Dunkan showed the presence of oxalic acid, pyruvic acid, tartaric, malic, maleic, citric, fumaric and succinic acids.

Majidi et al. (2011) investigated the changes in organic acid content during storage in a cold warehouse in modified atmosphere and found a decrease in acidity especially when stored in ordinary cold storage.

Tomato fruits are in the stage of full maturity in characteristic intense red color and at the same time with solid consistency of fruits. The highest content of carotenoids was found in San Marzano 4, in which the mean value was 11.76 mg. $100g^{-1}$ carotenoids. The lowest average carotenoid content 5.18 g mg. 100 g⁻¹

was determined in variety Nemarock. Content of carotenoids in the monitored varieties decreased in the order: San Marzano 4 > Brixol > Uno Rosso > Diana > Strombolino > UG 8168 > Nemarock.

Belitz et al. (2009) indicate that the total content of carotenoids in tomato fruit varies from 1.02 to 9.92 mg. 100 g⁻¹. The highest content was recorded in varieties of Jubilee (9.92 mg. 100 g⁻¹) and Campbell (7.28 mg. 100 g⁻¹). The lowest content of carotenoids was found in yellow variety Ace Yellow (1.02 mg. $100 \, {\rm g^{-1}}$). Ilahy et al. (2011) state the mean content of carotenoids in tomatoes grown in Italy from 0.51 to 9.49 mg. $100 \, {\rm g^{-1}}$. Carli et al. (2011) monitored the content of carotenoids in 7 varieties of tomatoes and report their content from 3.63 to 17.5 mg. $100 \, {\rm g^{-1}}$.

Carotenoid content after conversion to 100% dry matter was the highest at variety San Marzano 4 (198.365 mg. $100~g^{-1}$) and the lowest at Nemarock (111.288 mg. $100~g^{-1}$). Content of carotenoids in the monitored varieties decreased in the order: San Marzano 4 > Uno Rosso > Brixol > Diana > UG 8168 > Strombolino > Nemarock.

Content of carotenoids observed **Kotíková et al.** (2009), who evaluated varieties Albertovské žluté, Bejbino F1, Cristina F1, Bonset F1, Dominato F1, Monika F1, Orkado F1, Start SF1, Stupické polní rané, Tornádo F1 and Rougella F1. They found the average content of carotenoids in the amount of 66.5 mg. 100 g⁻¹ DM. As varieties with higher contents of carotenoids authors indicate Bonset F1, Start S F1 a Cristina F1. Contrary, varieties Albertovské žlté, Bejbino F1 and Tornádo F1 showed lower carotenoid yield.

By Tukey HSD test were shown differences in carotenoid content among varieties. Varieties established five homogeneous groups, which were different in the content of carotenoids (Table 2).

Table 2 The mean content of carotenoids and lycopene (mg. 100 g⁻¹ dry matter) in the fruit of the tomato and homogeneous groups based on Tukey's HSD test

Variety	Carotenoids	Lycopene	
Nemarock	111.288	a	99.438 a
Strombolino	138.552	b	130.358 b
UG. 8168	139.306	b	130.910 b
Diana	149.870	c	145.940 c
Brixol	166.881	d	163.753 d
Uno Rosso	194.064	e	188.003 e
San Marzano 4	198.365	e	192.687 f

Values in the same column with different letters are significantly different (α<0.05)

Statistically significant the lowest content of carotenoids was confirmed in variety Nemarock. The highest content of carotenoids was statistically significant in varieties Uno Rosso and San Marzano 4, which did not differ significantly in the content of the monitored component. There was no significant difference between varieties Strombolino and UG. 8168.

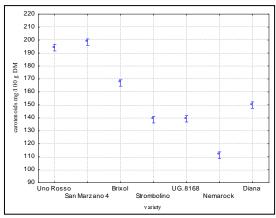


Figure 1 Comparison of averages of carotenoids (mg. 100 g dry matter) in the tomato fruit

Martínez-Valverde et al. (2002), Kuti and Konuru (2005) and García-Valverde et al. (2011) monitored content of total carotenoids, lycopene, β -carotene and found that their content is significantly affected by variety, growing location and degree of ripeness of the fruit.

As reported several authors, carotenoids are the subject of several studies which are focused on the prevention of cancers and eye diseases. Particular attention is paid to β -carotene, lycopene, lutein and zeax anthin. Many studies have shown a strong correlation between consumption of tomatoes and their products and reducing the risk of some cancers, neurodegenerative diseases, degenerative diseases, cardiovascular disease and age-related macular degeneration (Giovannucci et al., 2002; Khachik et al., 2002; Muller et al., 2002; Sesso et al. 2003, 2004, Stahl and Sies 2005, Dorais, 2007).

Predominant carotenoid in tomatoes is lycopene. **Srivastava and Srivastava** (2012) reported that several epidemiological studies have shown a high biological potential of lycopene in the prevention of diseases and the incidence of many degenerative diseases. Lycopene showed strong antioxidant effects on animals and humans

Bugianesi et al. (2004) state that epidemiological studies have shown that consumption of tomatoes and tomato products is associated with reduced incidence of chronic and degenerative diseases. This protective effect of tomatoes is due to the high content of various dietary components, carotenoids including lycopene and polyphenolic compounds.

In the monitored samples lycopene content ranged from 4.624 (mg. 100 g⁻¹) in variety Nemarock to 11.426 (mg. 100 g⁻¹) in San Marzano 4. Lycopene content in the studied varieties decreased in the order: San Marzano 4 > Brixol > Uno Rosso > Diana > Strombolino > UG 8168 > Nemarock. The average percentage of lycopene in the total carotenoids of the samples was 95.27%.

Rajoria et al. (2010) reported that lycopene is nutrient which is represented in tomatoes up to 80% of pigments present. Sharma and Le Maguer (1996) determined in fresh fruit of tomato originating from Canada lycopene in the amount of 5.4 mg. 100 g⁻¹.

Martínez-Valverde et al. (2002) found in different commercial varieties of Spanish tomatoes, lycopene content at the amount of 1.8 to 6.5 mg. 100 g⁻¹. **Toor et al.** (2006) reported that lycopene in three commercial varieties (Excell, Tradiro, Flavourine) tomato ranged from 2.7 to 4.7 mg.100 g⁻¹.

Carli et al. (2011) monitored the content of lycopene and β -carotene in tomatoes. They found lycopene content from 2.8 to 14.9 mg. $100 \, \text{g}^{-1}$ and β -carotene content of 0.12 to 0.949 mg. $100 \, \text{g}^{-1}$.

Walia et al. (2010) determined lycopene content in tomatoes from 2.74 to 6.55 mg.100 g⁻¹. The difference in lycopene content in pulp and peel of the fruit was further investigated and it was discovered that the peel contains 3-5 times higher lycopene than the pulp.

Pohar et al. (2003) investigated the lycopene content in other vegetables. The highest content of lycopene was found in watermelons (4.53 mg. 100 g⁻¹), in tomatoes 4.2 mg. 100 g⁻¹ and grapefruit 3.91 mg. 100 g⁻¹.

Lycopene content after conversion to 100% of dry matter was determined in our samples of tomatoes from $99.438~mg.~100~g^{-1}$ DM to $192.687~mg.~100~g^{-1}$ DM. The highest content was in San Marzano 4 and the lowest in the sample of Nemarock. Testing by the Tukey HSD test were monitored differences in the content of lycopene in each variety tested. Monitored varieties established 6 homogeneous groups, which differed in content of lycopene (Table 2).

Statistically significant the lowest lycopene content was found in variety Nemarock. The highest content of carotenoids was statistically significant in San Marzano 4. Significant difference in the content of lycopene was not detected between varieties Strombolino and UG. 8168.

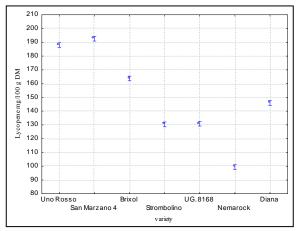


Figure 2 Comparison of averages of lycopene content (mg. 100 g¹ dry matter) in the tomato fruit

CONCLUSION

The aim of this work was to evaluate the quality of selected tomato varieties intended for industrial processing. Fruit quality was assessed on the basis of technologically important properties such as dry matter content, organic acids and colorants. The dry matter content of the samples ranged from 4.65% to 5.93%. The highest dry matter content was found in the variety San Marzano 4. Content of organic acids was the lowest in variety Nemarock (0.33%) and highest in variety Strombolino. In terms of the content of colorants appeared to be the best variety San Marzano 4, in which was present 198.365 mg.100 g⁻¹ of total carotenoids, and lycopene has been accounted for 97.14% of that content. Higher content of carotenoids was observed also in varieties Uno Rosso and Brixol. In terms of treatment the best properties showed San Marzano 4, which is characterized by high content of dry matter, low organic acids and the high content of colorants.

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