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Fatty Acids Profile and Cow’s Milk Composition Obtained on Improved Subalpine Grasslands

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

- Due to the richness and diversity of
- plants in the grass carpet, the mountain
- area offers a valuable potential of natural
- grasslands that are exploited by cattle
- through grazing, providing quality food.
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- The aim of this study was to evaluate the
- fatty acids content and composition of
- milk obtained from cows that grazed on
- five grasslands improved by: A – chemical
- fertilization; B – chemical fertilization
- followed by paddocking; C – liming,
- chemical fertilization and paddocking, D –
- reseeding, liming, chemical fertilization
- and paddocking, and T – degraded
- pasture by *Nardus stricta* (control plot),
- located at 1800 m altitude in Blana Bucegi
- Mountains. The physico-chemical
- parameters and fatty acids profile of the

milk analyzed in early summer, during the first part of grazing, were determined. The milk produced by animals using the mountain pastures is enriched in fats and microcomponents, which are beneficial for human health (fatty acids, vitamins etc.). From the analysis of the fatty acids composition in milk, the lauric acid C12:0 is highlighted, with high concentrations (6.14-7.74%), present in all the analyzed samples. Of particular importance are the unsaturated fatty acids, such as palmitoleic acid C16:1 and linoleic acid C18:2, which are in a higher concentration in the improved plots compared to the control plot. The floristic composition of the improved variants highlights the dominance of the *Festuca nigrescens*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Poa pratensis*, which have gradually replaced *Nardus stricta* from the control plot.

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Key words: subalpine grasslands, grazing, cow's milk, fatty acids, floral composition

INTRODUCTION

The mountain area offers a valuable potential of natural grasslands that are exploited by the cattle through grazing, providing quality food, due to the richness and diversity of plants in the grass carpet.

Romanzin et al. (2013), comparing the profile of fatty acids obtained from cow's milk, which grazed on mountain grasslands or fed a hay-based diet, showed that fresh feed increased the level of both polyunsaturated and mono-unsaturated fatty acids.

Uncontrolled factors such as animal characteristics and physical activity, grazing management, and grass phenological stage may affect milk fatty acids profile through changes in animal herbage selection (Coppa et al., 2009).

(Coppa et al., 2009).
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 (Kalac
 and Samkova, 2010).
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 (Georgescu, 2000).
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 (Hanuš et al.,
 2018).

- The milk produced by animals using the mountain pastures is enriched in fats and microcomponents, which are beneficial for human health (fatty acids, vitamins).

Milk from cows grazed or fed fresh forage, especially from species-rich grasslands or forage legumes, has a considerably higher ratio of unsaturated to saturated fatty acids and a higher content of nutritionally beneficial (Kalac and Samkova, 2010).

Cow's milk mainly contains saturated fatty acids, because the bacteria in rumen through hydrogenation processes prevent the formation of a higher proportion of unsaturated fatty acids (Georgescu, 2000).

Fatty acid concentration is influenced by factors such as: animal nutrition, grazing period, genetic parameters (breed influence), animal individuality, lactation and milk yield (Hanuš et al., 2018).

The aim of this study was to evaluate the fatty acids content and composition of milk obtained from cows that grazed on five differently treated grasslands.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2019 ,
 , 1800
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Brown of Maramures (Schwyz),
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 (12-14
 l/ 3,5%).
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 (Maru ca et al., 2016).

The researches were conducted in 2019 year, in early summer, in the first part of the grazing, at 1800 m altitude in Blana Bucegi Mountains.

The study used cows from the *Brown of Maramures* (Schwyz) breed adapted to the harshest mountain conditions, with average production milk (12-14 l/head). For each plot taken in the study were distributed 3 cows, which grazed under the open sky, without shelter, these feeding only with grass from the plot, salt and water (Maru ca et al., 2016).

A, B, C, D T

1. () :
(*Nardus stricta*),
: 200 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O 2000 ; 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O 2001 ; 100 kg/ha N + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 50 kg/ha K₂O 2002 ; 150 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O 2010 ; 100 kg/ha N 2011 ; 50 kg/ha N 2012 ; 150 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O 2014 ; 100 kg/ha N 2015 ; 50 kg/ha N 2016 .

2. () :
(*Nardus stricta*), :
1996-1998 . 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O ,
2004, 2010 2016;

3. () C:
(*Nardus stricta*), 2/3 Ah 1995 .,
1996-1998 . 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O ,
2003, 2009 2015 .

4. () D: -
1995
NPK
1996-1998 .,
2002, 2008 2014

: *Phleum pratense* Favorit (40%), *Festuca pratensis* Transilvan (25%), *Lolium perenne* Marta (5%), *Trifolium hybridum* - Brasov (15%), *Lotus corniculatus* Livada (15%).

The 5 experimental plots A, B, C, D, and T were treated differently, as follows:

1. Plot (Group) A: Natural grassland (*Nardus stricta* dominant species) fertilized with chemical fertilizers, as follows: 200 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O in the year 2000; 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O in the year 2001; 100 kg/ha N + 50 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 50 kg/ha K₂O in the year 2002; 150 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O in the year 2010; 100 kg/ha N in the year 2011; 50 kg/ha N in the year 2012; 150 kg/ha N + 100 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 100 kg/ha K₂O in the year 2014; 100 kg/ha N in the year 2015; 50 kg/ha N in the year 2016.

2. Plot (Group) B: Natural grassland (*Nardus stricta* dominant species) chemically fertilized in the period: 1996-1998 with a rate of 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O, then paddocked with dairy cows in the years 2004, 2010 and 2016; Before or immediately after paddocking, chemically fertilized by superphosphate at a dose of 100 kg/ha P₂O₅.

3. Plot (Group) C: Natural grassland (*Nardus stricta* dominant species), limed on 2/3 of Ah in 1995, chemically fertilized in the period 1996-1998 with a dose of 150 kg/ha N + 75 kg/ha P₂O₅ + 75 kg/ha K₂O, then paddocked with dairy cows in the years 2003, 2009 and 2015.

4. Plot (Group) D: Seeded and limed pasture in 1995 year, chemically fertilized with NPK between 1996-1998 years, identical to plots B and C, and paddocked with dairy cows in the years 2002, 2008 and 2014.

For sowing it has been used a mixture of perennial grasses and forage legumes consisting of: *Phleum pratense* Favorit variety (40%), *Festuca pratensis* Transilvan (25%), *Lolium perenne* Marta (5%), *Trifolium hybridum* - local population of Brasov (15 %), *Lotus corniculatus* Livada variety (15%).

5. () T: (*Nardus stricta*), 30

0,75 ha

(, , , pH)

Ekomilk Total Bulteh 2000.

Shimadzu GC MS – QP 2010 PLUS. MSTATC

= 5%.

1.

5. Plot (Group) T: Natural grassland (*Nardus stricta* dominant species), 30 years rationally used, located within the experimental field of the Mountain Grassland Research Base from Bučegi.

Each plot has 0.75 ha area.
The physico-chemical parameters (fat, protein, lactose, solids nonfat (SNF), density and pH) of the milk samples, collected in the first and third week of June, at the beginning of grazing period were determined. The average milk samples for each group using the Ekomilk Total Bulteh 2000 analyzer were analyzed. From the homogenized milk samples, were made determinations for the fatty acids profile. The methyl esters of fatty acids were analyzed by Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry using a Shimadzu GC MS – QP 2010 PLUS equipment.

The MSTATC program was used for the statistisc processing of the experimental data. Analysis of variance was performed using standard techniques and differences between the mean values were compared through Duncan's test at significance level = 5%.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results regarding the physico-chemical parameters of analyze cow's milk samples are presented in Table 1.

1. -
Table 1. The physico-chemical parameters of cow's milk

Group of cows	Fat %	Protein %	Lactose %	SNF* %	Density kg/m ³	pH
Group A	3,67 ^b	3,51 ^b	4,86 ^{bc}	8,67 ^b	1,0310	6,47 ^a
Group B	3,52 ^c	3,42 ^c	4,82 ^{cd}	8,60 ^b	1,0305	6,38 ^c
Group C	3,68 ^b	3,49 ^{bc}	4,88 ^{ab}	8,73 ^b	1,0299	6,43 ^b
Group D	3,82 ^a	3,68 ^a	4,92 ^a	8,97 ^a	1,0299	6,46 ^b
Group T	3,40 ^d	3,41 ^c	4,77 ^d	8,61 ^b	1,0298	6,39 ^c
DL 5%	0,10%	0,08%	0,059%	0,157%	-	0,03%

^{a-d} value with different subscript letters differ at DL 5% (DL – different limit)

* SNF – / solid non fat

8.97%.

3.40-3.82%.

D (3,68%),
A (3,51%),

4.82-4.92%.

2.

2.

Table 2. The concentration of saturated fatty acids in cow's milk

Fatty acids %	/Group of cows						DL 5%
	Notation of acid	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group T	
/Saturated							
/Caproic acid	C6:0	9,65 ^a	7,85 ^c	7,96 ^b	6,54 ^d	5,82 ^e	0,04%
/Caprylic acid	C8:0	6,15 ^a	6,08 ^a	5,98 ^a	6,03 ^a	4,63 ^b	0,57%
/Capric acid	C10:0	3,4 ^a	3,26 ^a	3,44 ^a	3,56 ^a	3,69 ^a	0,71%
/Lauric acid	C12:0	7,68 ^a	6,35 ^b	7,42 ^a	6,14 ^b	7,74 ^a	0,58%
/Miristic acid	C14:0	6,14 ^b	6,05 ^b	6,08 ^b	5,96 ^b	10,18 ^a	0,89%
/Pentadecanoic acid	C15:0	2,49 ^a	2,56 ^a	2,85 ^a	2,42 ^a	0,2 ^b	0,46%
/Palmitic acid	C16:0	11,29 ^c	12,87 ^b	11,35 ^c	11,48 ^c	21,04 ^a	0,45%
/Margaric acid	C17:0	0,71 ^b	0,68 ^b	0,74 ^b	0,65 ^b	1,45 ^a	0,46%
/Stearic acid	C18:0	15,21 ^a	16,24 ^a	15,87 ^a	15,43 ^a	11,98 ^b	1,94%

^{a-}

DL 5% (DL –

a-e value with different subscript letters differ at DL 5% (DL – different limit)

6

18.

15:0,

2.5%

(0.2%).

2

From the physico-chemical parameters of cow's milk samples point of view, were differences between groups. The solid nonfat of milk samples showed values between 8.60-8.97%. The fat content in the milk samples analyzed was between 3.40-3.82%, and the highest content was obtained at Group D, cows that grazed on the plot with reseeding and liming treatment. Also the protein content was the highest at Group D (3,68%), followed by Group A (3,51%), cows that grazed on fertilized plot only. The lactose content had values between 4.82-4.92%.

The content of unsaturated fatty acids for the milk samples for every group cows is presented in Table 2.

The fatty acids identified are predominantly monocarboxylic acids with an even number of carbon atoms, with a number of carbon atoms in the range C6 and C18.

Fatty acids with an odd number of carbon are present, but in smaller quantities. Note the pentadecanoic acid C15:0, which was identified in milk fat with a proportion of about 2.5% in all milk samples, except for the T group, with a much lower content (0.2%).

From Table 2, it is observed that in

(A, B, C, D T)
 C10:0
 (3.26-3.69%).
 12:0
 (6-7%).
 10:0
 12:0
 (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Listeria monocytogenes* *Clostridium perfringens*),
 (Sprong et al., 2001). Jewell i Cashman (2003)
 in vivo
 40%
 (14:0)
 (Berner, 1993; Katan et al., 1995).
 C14:0
 C16:0
 A, B, C, D
 (17:0),
 (0.65-0.74%),
 (1.45%).
 18:0,
 (16.24%),
 (11.98%),
 1.

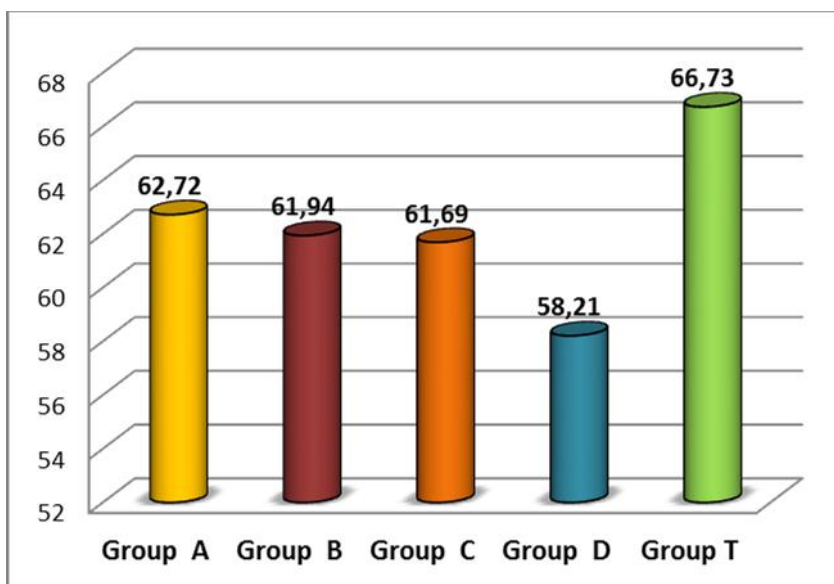
all the milk samples of the group cows (A, B, C, D, and T), capric acid C10:0 has similar concentrations (3.26-3.69%). Lauric acid C12:0 also has values close for all milk samples and is found in higher concentrations (6-7%).

These two medium chain fatty acids, capric acid C10:0 and lauric acid C12:0 have bactericidal activity, being toxic to a number of microorganisms (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Clostridium perfringens*) which causes gastroenteritis transmitted by food (Sprong et al., 2001). Jewell i Cashman (2003) found that calcium absorption in vivo was enhanced by the presence of these acids in milk.

Saturated fatty acids, which are 40% of the fatty acids in milk fat, lauric (12:0), myristic (14:0) and palmitic (16:0), are known to be the main food fatty acids that increase cholesterol (Berner, 1993; Katan et al., 1995).

Regarding the content of myristic acid C14:0 and palmitic acid C16:0 in cow's milk samples of A, B, C, D group, who grazed on the improved variants they had lower concentrations than the T group.

Among the fatty acids with an odd number of carbon atoms, margaric acid (C17:0) was identified, which was present in low concentrations in all milk samples (0.65-0.74%), with the exception of the T group with a higher concentration (1.45%). Regarding the concentration of stearic acid C18:0 in milk samples, B group is noted, with the highest concentration (16.24%), while, for the T group, the concentration was lower (11.98%). The total content of saturated fatty acids in the milk samples is present in the Figure 1.



1.
Fig. 1. Content of saturated fatty acids in milk samples

The content of unsaturated fatty acids for the milk samples for every group cows is presented in Table 3.

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3.

Table 3. The concentration of unsaturated fatty acids in cow's milk

Unsaturated fatty acids %	/Group of cows						DL 5%
	Notation of acid	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group T	
/Monounsaturated							
/Myristoleic acid	C14:1	2,1 ^a	1,54 ^{ab}	1,83 ^a	1,12 ^b	0,03 ^c	0,58%
/Palmitoleic acid	C16:1	7,27 ^b	7,54 ^b	8,47 ^a	6,54 ^c	2,78 ^d	0,52%
/Oleic acid	C18:1	9,94 ^d	11,48 ^c	10,35 ^d	15,64 ^b	22,77 ^a	1,11%
/Polyunsaturated							
/Linoleic acid	C18:2	3,61 ^a	3,68 ^a	3,58 ^a	3,12 ^{ab}	2,6 ^b	0,66%
- / -Linolenic acid (ALA)	C18:3	6,69 ^a	5,87 ^b	6,96 ^a	7,45 ^a	2,29 ^c	0,76%
/Rumenic acid	CLA	3,49 ^a	3,87 ^a	2,44 ^b	3,98 ^a	1,73 ^b	0,74%

a-d value with different subscript letters differ at DL 5% (DL – different limit)

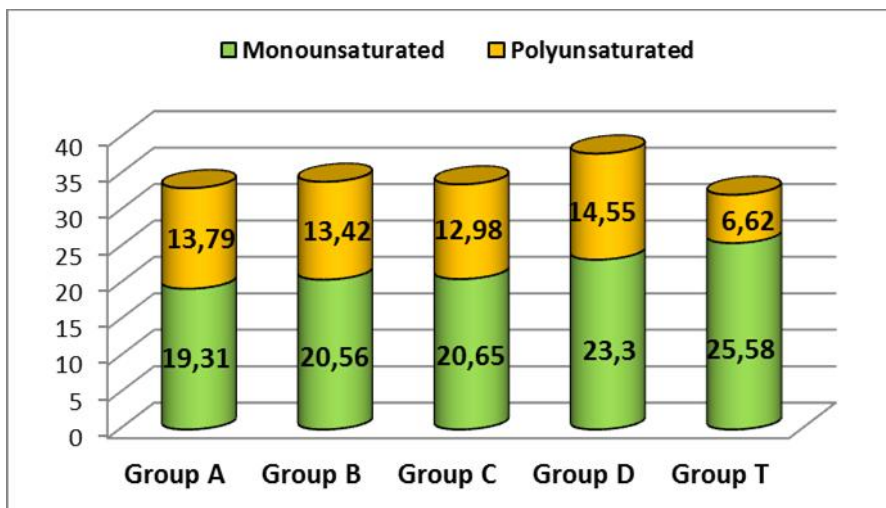
- A particular importance has the unsaturated fatty acids with several double bonds, also called essential fatty acids, necessary for the body because it cannot synthesize them. Among the most important fatty acids identified in milk samples are linoleic acid (C18:2), -

(C18: 2),
(ALA) (C18:3),
A, B, C, D

linoleic acid (C18:3), present in high concentrations in cow's milk samples of A, B, C, D group, who grazed on the improved variants.

D
ALA (7,45%).

We note D group, with the highest concentration in ALA (7.45%). Figure 2 presents the content of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids in milk samples.



2.
Fig. 2. Content of unsaturated fatty acids in milk samples

(CLA),
(Chambaa et

The content of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), in particular rumenic acid, isomers of linoleic acid, which are said to have a high potential in human nutrition for their beneficial properties (Chambaa et al., 2006), was also higher in cow's milk samples that grazed on the improved plots.

al., 2006),

The quality of the milk is directly influenced by the composition of the grass cover, therefore the knowledge of the floristic composition of the subalpine grassland grazed with dairy cows is very important

The grass cover is in a permanent development and evolution, modifying its structure and floristic composition under the influence of natural conditions (climatic, edaphic and biotic) as well as the action of humans and animals.

- The results of used technologies for improvement of subalpine pastures grazed by dairy cows are also expressed by their botanical composition (Table 4).

(4).

4.

Table 4. Botanical composition of subalpine improved grasslands by different methods

/Species	Index of fodder quality	T	A	B	C	D
/Grases		%	/ participation			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	7		7	10	17	48
<i>Agrostis rupestris</i>	5	3	5	2		
<i>Anthoxantum odoratum</i>	5					
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	9				1	
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	0	2	2	25	10	11
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	0	1	6			
<i>Festuca nigrescens</i>	7	40	45	33	10	+
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	9					2
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	0	27	5	+		
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	6		10	3		1
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	9					5
<i>Poa annua</i>	7			+		
<i>Poa media</i>	5	2	8	2	3	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	8			7	27	8
/Legumes						
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	8	10	5	7	13	10
/Other families						
<i>Achillea stricta</i>	6					
<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	6	1	+	3	1	6
<i>Campanula abietina</i>	0	+				
<i>Campanula napuligera</i>	0	2	1		1	
<i>Geum montanum</i>	0	+				
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	0		+			
<i>Ligusticum mutellina</i>	6	7				3
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	5		5	1	7	
<i>Potentilla aurea</i>	0	2	1			+
<i>Ranunculus montanus</i>	0			4	5	4
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	7			3	4	2
/Other species	0	+	+	1	1	+
/Pastoral value (PV)	x	48	62	49	67	69
/Improvement effect	x	100	129	102	140	144
/Paddock effect	x	x	100	79	108	111
Liming effect	x	x	x	100	137	141
/Sowing effect	x	x	x	x	100	103

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Agrostis capillaris (48%) D
 () *Poa pratensis* (27%)
 (),
 D 3% - ()
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There is a greater participation of the species *Agrostis capillaris* (48%) in D plot (sown) and of the species *Poa pratensis* (27%) in C plot (natural), which also determines a high pastoral value. The pastoral value of the sown D plot is 3% higher than the natural one (C) and with a more pronounced calcium effect.

CONCLUSIONS

From the physico-chemical parameters of cow's milk samples point of view, were differences between groups.

The highest content of saturated fatty acids was obtained on T plot (control plot), 66,73%.

The content of essential fatty acids, in particular palmitoleic acid C16:1, linoleic acid C18:2 and -linolenic acid (ALA) C18:3, which are beneficial for human health, were higher in milk samples from cows that grazed on the improved plots.

After 24 year the floristic composition of the improved plots highlights the dominance of the *Festuca nigrescens* species, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Poa pratensis* species, which have gradually replaced *Nardus stricta* species from the control plot.

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 () 66.73%.
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 C16: 1,
 C18: 2 -
 (ALA) C18: 3,
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 24
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Festuca
nigrescens, *Agrostis capillaris* *Poa*
pratensis,
Nardus stricta .

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Pisum sativum *Vicia sativa*

1*, 2

1 , 5800
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Heterogeneity of Seeds in Dependence of Their Position on the Mother Plant in *Pisum sativum* and *Vicia sativa* Species

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The present experiment aimed to determine the quality of seeds formed on different parts of the mother plant in spring pea (represented by cultivars Glyans, Svit, Kamerton, Modus, Plevna 4) and vetch (Liya, Lorina, Vilena, Moldovskaya, Obrazets 666).

At technological maturity, the seeds of pods located in the lower half (1st layer) and upper half (2nd layer) of plants, selected randomly, were harvested separately. 1000 seeds mass, crude protein content, seed germination, length and weight of primary germ, and seedling vigour index were reported. The results showed the existence of heterogeneity of the seeds from the different layers. The values of germ length and weight, and germination of the 2nd-layer seeds, were significantly lower compared to the values of the 1st-layer seeds, on average with 25.1, 30.0 and 9.1% for spring pea, and with 14.5, 21.9 and 6.2% for spring vetch.

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25.1, 30.0 9.1%
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 , Adam et al. (1986)
 Illipronti et al. (2000) –

Differences in initial growth parameters were stronger for cultivars with greater height, longer flowering and pod formation stages – Pleven 4 and Obrazets 666. The seed vigour index, as an estimating summary indicator, determined higher seed vitality of seeds formed in the 1st layer pods (1208 and 1940 for pea and vetch, respectively), compared with seed vitality of 2nd layer pods (838 and 1569). There were no significant differences between the seeds of the two layers in terms of 1000 seeds mass and crude protein content.

Key words: heterogeneity, maternal type, seed-layers effect, germination, growth parameters

INTRODUCTION

Seed quality thoroughly depends on the plant condition at the moment their planting and formation. The flowers formed during the flowering period, as well as the flowers generated at a later stage, develop on various parts of the mother plant manifesting a different status.

The latter is a prerequisite for heterogeneous seeds (Panayotov and Popova, 2010) and is defined as maternal type heterogeneity (Panayotov, 2005).

Seed heterogeneity for various crops has been studied by a number of Russian researchers (Fedotova, 1960; Ovcharov and Kizilova, 1966; Gromova, 1968) ever since the 20th century, but the results have not been unidirectional. However, the authors have explicitly stated that seeds from various plant layers differ in terms of 1000 seeds mass, planting qualities and chemical content. Dudhe et al. (1996) and Siddique et al. (2003) reported on strong influence of maternal heterogeneity for vegetable crops, Foroughi et al. (2014) – for weed species, Adam et al. (1986) and Illipronti et al. (2000) – for leguminous plants.

Naneva and Sachanski (1972)

Siddique et al. (2003),

Austin and Longden (1975)

87%

10%

3%

1000

Naneva and Sachanski (1972) established seed heterogeneity for the various layers of forage peas. More productive and higher plants were obtained from the lowest- and middle-layer seeds compared with those on the top layer.

According to Siddique et al. (2003), seed heterogeneity is determined by variation among plants and within a single plant.

In an earlier study, Austin and Longden (1975) reported that variation of pea seed weight was due to differences among plants, within the pods of the same plant and a single pod. The authors pointed out that about 87% of the total seed mass variability was defined by plant variation, 10% was due to the pod position on the plant and 3% was due to the variation within a single pod.

The objective of this research was to determine the quality (including 1000 seeds mass, crude protein content, germination, initial growth parameters and seedling vigour index) of seeds in dependence of their position on the mother plant in spring pea and vetch.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The laboratory experiment was conducted during 2015 at the Institute of Forage Crops (Pleven). The subjects of the study were seeds of five cultivars of spring pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) (Glyans, Svit, Kamerton, Modus, Pleven 4) and vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.) (Liya, Lorina, Vilena, Moldovskaya, Obrazets 666) which were harvested in the previous year. At technological maturity, the seeds of pods located in the lower half (1st layer) and upper half (2nd layer) of 20 plants, selected randomly, were harvested separately. Analyses were performed on an average seed sample. 1000 seeds mass and crude protein content (Kjeldahl method) were determined.

2015 .
() .
(*Pisum sativum* L.) (, 4)
(*Vicia sativa* L.) (, 666),
(1)
(2) 20
1000

20 () .
 9 m,
 4 6 ml ()
 22 °
 7 .
 (%),
 (+) (cm),
 (+) (g)
 (SVI) ()
 Abdul-Baki and Anderson (1973).
 Statgraphics Plus for
 Windows Ver. 2.1.

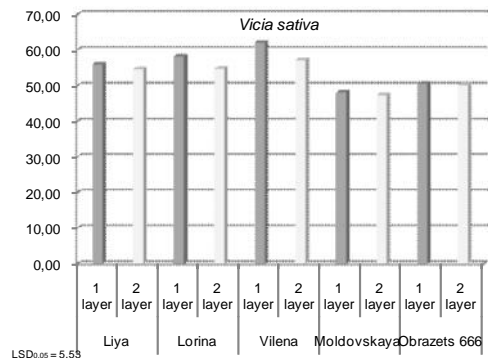
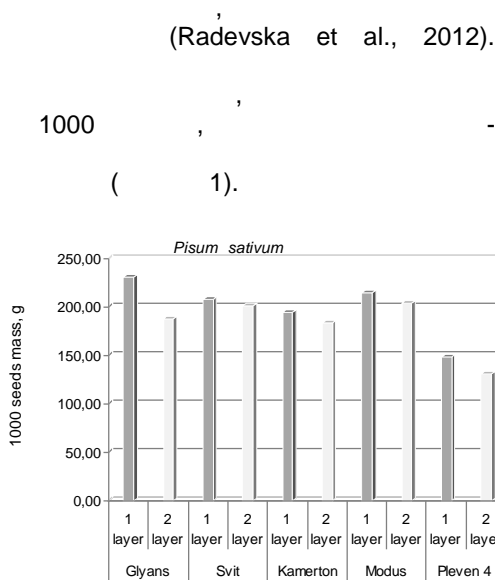
Twenty seeds of each variant in three replicates were placed in Petri dishes (9 cm in diameter), on filter paper. In each Petri dish, 4 and 6 ml (respectively, for vetch and pea) of distilled water were pipetted. The prepared samples were placed in a thermostat at a temperature of 22 °C for 7 days. Seed germination (%), length of primary germ (root + stem) (cm), weight of primary germ (root + stem) (g) and seedling vigour index (SVI) (according to Abdul-Baki and Anderson (1973)) were recorded.

The data were analyzed using the software product Statgraphics Plus for Windows Ver. 2.1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The use of high-quality planting material is fundamental in agricultural crop production. Seeds bear the biological and agricultural characteristics of plants.

To a great extent, their features determine not only yield but also production quality (Radevska et al., 2012). Seed weight for the studied peas and vetch cultivars, shown as 1000 seeds mass, was influenced by seed location on the mother plant (Figure 1).



1. 1000 (1 2)

Fig. 1. Mass of 1000 seeds in pea and vetch cultivars in dependence of their position on the plant (1st and 2nd layer)

1 (199.19 54.98 g,)
 2 (181.02 52.82 g).
 2
 (Illipronti et al. (2000)
 "Baccara"), Siddique et al (2003)
 (26.99-29.95 g) 100
 (30.63-32.42 g) – Cocks (1990),
 and Black, 1994),
 (,)
 (Doijode, 1984; Egli et al., 1990).
 , pH

A greater mass was observed for 1st layer seeds (199.19 and 54.98 g, for spring pea and vetch, respectively) and smaller – for 2nd layer seeds (181.02 and 52.82 g). Despite the established common tendency of decrease for 2nd layer seeds, data processing showed that differences for all cultivars were statistically insignificant (except for Glyans pea cultivar). The obtained results were in conformity with those of Illipronti et al. (2000) for soybean. In their study related to Baccara pea cultivar, Siddique et al (2003) found a greater weight of 100 seeds (26.99-29.95 g) for lower located pods and smaller weight (30.63-32.42 g) – for higher located pods, respectively. According to Cocks (1990), the higher seed weight in early-formed pods can be related to faster seed-filling rate, which on its part, was due to less competition for the accumulation of nutrient reserves. Smaller seeds were formed later after most of the pods have already been formed and were in the conditions of stronger competition for nutrient reserve accumulation.

Other authors (Bewley and Black, 1994) stated that early pods benefited from a higher influx of assimilates when the plant switched from the vegetative to the reproductive phase. It was also observed that the increase of yellow ("ageing") leaves share during the seed filling stage of late pods, probably contributed to their lower weight. The fact that early-formed pod seeds were heavier may have positive or negative effects for the biological performances of plants. Heavier seeds contributed the formation of greater seedlings with a higher germination percentage compared with smaller seeds in common bean and soybean seeds (Doijode, 1984; Egli et al., 1990).

It is well-known that environmental factors such as temperature, light, pH and soil moisture influence seed

(Ikeda et al., 2008; Rizzardi et al., 2009).

(Baskin and Baskin, 1998; Munir et al., 2001; Luzuriaga et al., 2006).

(4) (666) (1 2).

9.1 6.2% - (2)

(Alan and Eser, 2007; Panayotov and Popova, 2010; Foroughi et al., 2014).

germination (Ikeda et al., 2008; Rizzardi et al., 2009). The environmental distinctions experienced by the mother plant in the maturing stage may lead to seed germination changes in a single population (Baskin and Baskin, 1998; Munir et al., 2001; Luzuriaga et al., 2006). The results of the present experiment showed significant differences in seed germination for the various layers of three peas cultivars (Kamerton, Modus and Pleven 4) and four vetch cultivars (Liya, Lorina, Vilena, Moldovskaya and Obrazets 666) (Tables 1 and 2). Seed germination of the 2nd layer was by 9.1 and 6.2% lower, on the average (for peas and vetch, respectively), compared with 1st layer seed germination. The same dependenc was observed for Glyans, Svit and Vilena, but it was considerably weaker and statistically not significant. A great number of researchers (Alan and Eser, 2007; Panayotov and Popova, 2010; Foroughi et al., 2014) established seed germination variation according to the seed position on the mother plant.

1.

Table 1. Germination and initial growth parameters in spring pea seeds in dependence of their position on the plant

Cultivar	Seed position	Germination, %	Germ lenght, cm	Germ weight, g	SVI
Glyans	1 /1 st layer	95.0 d*	6.25 b	0.164 b	594
	2 /2 nd layer	91.7 cd	3.91 a	0.118 a	359
Svit	1 /1 st layer	91.7 cd	10.99 e	0.244 d	1008
	2 /2 nd layer	90.0 cd	9.35 d	0.198 c	842
Kamerton	1 /1 st layer	88.3 bc	10.90 e	0.240 d	962
	2 /2 nd layer	80.0 a	8.20 c	0.152 b	656
Modus	1 /1 st layer	95.0 d	13.39 f	0.377 f	1272
	2 /2 nd layer	86.7 bc	11.23 e	0.266 e	974
4	1 /1 st layer	91.7 cd	24.04 h	0.398 g	2203
Pleven 4	2 /2 nd layer	83.3 ab	16.31 g	0.250 de	1359

* followed by the same letters are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$)
SVI – / seedling vigour index

/Means in each column

2.

Table 2. Germination and initial growth parameters in spring vetch seeds in dependence of their position on the plant

Cultivar	Seed position		Germination, %	Germ lenght, cm	Germ weight, g	SVI
Liya	1	/1 st layer	93.3 cde*	20.44 de	0.146 cd	1908
	2	/2 nd layer	86.7 ab	16.69 a	0.110 a	1446
Lorina	1	/1 st layer	90.0 bc	19.75 cd	0.163 de	1777
	2	/2 nd layer	85.0 a	16.98 a	0.133 bc	1443
Vilena	1	/1 st layer	91.7 cd	20.53 e	0.193 f	1882
	2	/2 nd layer	90.0 bc	19.16 bc	0.167 e	1724
Moldovskaya	1	/1 st layer	96.7 e	20.19 de	0.167 e	1952
	2	/2 nd layer	90.0 bc	17.16 a	0.128 b	1544
666	1	/1 st layer	95.0 de	22.94 f	0.222 g	2180
Obrazets 666	2	/2 nd layer	90.0 bc	18.72 b	0.157 de	1685

* followed by the same letters are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$)
 SVI – / seedling vigour index

/Means in each column

1 (13.11 cm 0.285 g),
 2 (9.80 cm 0.197 g)
 2 (14.9 37.4% (18.9 37.2%)).
 4,
 -
 -
 (.).
 Panayotov and Popova (2010)
 (+)
 ,
 20.6%, 9.7 30.8%
 Still (1999),
 Sachanski (1972),
 ,

The parameters of initial growth were also influenced by the seed position on the mother plant. In relation to germ length and weight of spring pea, higher values were observed for the 1st layer seeds (13.11 cm and 0.285 g, correspondingly), compared with the values of the 2nd layer seeds – 9.80 cm and 0.197 g. The decrease of the 2nd layer seeds was statistically significant and varied from 14.9 to 37.4% (for germ length), and from 18.9 to 37.2% (for germ weight). Pleven 4 cultivar showed the most essential differences of seed parameters for both layers. That was probably due to the greater height of the cultivar, its longer flowering and pod maturation stage (seed maturation stage, respectively). Panayotov and Popova (2010) reported that the differences in fresh mass and initial germinating seedling length (embryonal radicle + hypocotyl) of top and lower layer for cabbage seeds varied from 11.1 to 20.6% and from 9.7 to 30.8%, correspondingly. According to Still (1999), the longer flowering stage is the reason for different quality seed formation. Other authors, Naneva and Sachanski (1972), claimed that the asynchronous seed formation is a basic factor for heterogeneity seed development. The latter is related to the

unequal impact of environmental conditions (light quality and intensity, temperature, moisture, etc.) on seed formation.

On the other hand, it is influenced by the uneven nutrient supply.

Spring pea dependencies were similarly observed for the spring vetch cultivars, whereas the decrease in germ length and weight was from 6.7 to 18.4% and from 13.7 to 29.4%, respectively.

Obrazets 666 showed more essential parameter differences for both seed layers. Similarly to the Pleven 4 cultivar, it was characterized by higher stems and longer flowering stage. As a whole, seed heterogeneity was more strongly expressed for *P. sativum* compared to *V. sativa*, with average values of 25.1 and 30.0% for the former, and 14.5 and 21.9% for the latter, for germ length and weight, correspondingly.

Seed vigour index represents a summary assessment of all seed characteristics determining their potential for fast and simultaneous germination, the formation of normal seedlings, and subsequently – plants under a wide range of environmental conditions (ISTA, 2003). TeKrony and Egli (1991) pointed out that the seed vigour index directly influenced the development of the new-formed plants, as well as their vegetation and productivity. It was defined by the elaborate test of Abdul-Baki and Anderson (1973) based on germinating capacity and embryonal radicle and hypocotyl length.

In the present experiment, the seeds, formed in the pods of lower (1st) layer, stand out with higher seedling vigour index (1208 and 1940 for pea and vetch, respectively), than those, formed in the pods from the higher layer (838 and 1569). The average values of decrease in

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2
 29.9 19.0%,
 4, –
 Panayotov and Popova (2010)
 ,
 -
 , Ries et al. (1976)
 ,
 ,
 ,
 0.898.
 ” ” ”
 (, (3).

seed vitality for the 2nd layer were 29.9 and 19.0%, respectively, and were especially strong-pronounced for Glyans and Plevan 4 pea cultivars, and Liya and Obrazets 666 vetch cultivars. Panayotov and Popova (2010) suggested that the higher seed vitality of the respective layer was related to more favourable growth and development conditions during that period.

On the other hand, Ries et al. (1976) established that the vitality of wheat seeds with different positions within the ear had a significant correlation with seed size. This correlation was confirmed in the course of the present study with a correlation coefficient value of 0.898.

Dispersion data analysis showed a significant impact of “cultivar” and “seed layering” factors in relation to the basic parameters (germination, germ length and weight) for both leguminous crops (Table 3).

3.

Table 3. Analysis of variance for seed germination and germ growth depending on the factors studied

Causes of variation	Degrees of freedom	Sum of squares	Influence of factors	Sum of squares	Influence of factors	Sum of squares	Influence of factors
Indicators		/ Germination		/ Germ length		/ Germ weight	
<i>Pisum sativum</i>							
/Total	29	920.47	100.0	856.75	100.0	0.227	100.0*
- Factor A -cultivar	4	303.63	33.0*	736.15	85.9*	0.155	68.3*
- /Factor B – seed-layers effect	1	270.60	29.4*	82.24	9.6*	0.058	25.6*
AxB	4	62.90	7.6	37.37	4.4*	0.011	4.8*
/Error	20	283.33	30.8	0.99	0.1	0.002	0.9
<i>Vicia sativa</i>							
/Total	29	504.17	100.0	106.50	100.0	0.031	100.0
/Factor A -- cultivars	4	125.00	24.8*	26.86	25.2*	0.016	51.6*
/Factor B - layers	1	187.50	37.2*	68.86	64.7*	0.012	38.7*
AxB	4	25.00	5.0	7.15	6.7*	0.001	3.2*
/Error	20	166.17	33.0	3.86	3.6	0.002	6.5

*LSD at 0.05 probability level

" " - ,
 85.9% - 33.0
 ,
 , " "
 (37.2 64.7%).
 - ,
 (x)
 -
 ,
 185.9 () 225.5 ()
 g kg DM⁻¹, a -
 289.0 (666) 320.5 (-
) g kg DM⁻¹ 2).
 ,
 (0.0
 2.8%),
 , Naneva and Sachanski
 (1972) -
 (1372, 171,
 1667),
 (135, 1289)

For spring pea, the cultivar factor had the strongest effect on the studied parameters – from 33.0 to 85.9% of the total variation. For spring vetch, the cultivar factor dominated only with regard to germ weight, while seed layering acted essential for germination capacity and germ length (37.2 and 64.7%).

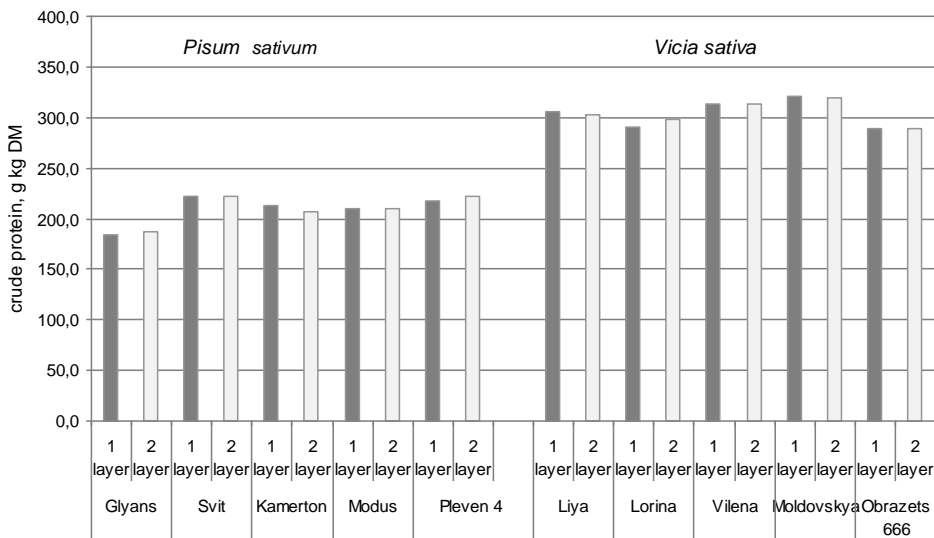
For both species, the interaction of factors (A x B) was weaker pronounced, but mathematically significant for initial growth parameters.

Crude protein content in leguminous crops determines seed quality to a great extent. Its quantity in peas cultivars, subjects of the present experiment, varied from 185.9 (Gliyans) to 225.5 (Svit) g kg DM⁻¹, and for vetch cultivars - from 289.0 (Obrazets 666) to 320.5 (Moldovskaya) g kg DM⁻¹ (Figure 2).

Contradicting the former indicators, the differences of seed crude protein content in both layers were negligible (from 0.0 to 2.8%), unidirectional and statistically not significant. Naneva and Sachanski (1972) studied five peas varieties and established higher protein content in low- and middle-layer seeds for three of them (Mongolia 1372, Africa 171, Palmito Tobi 1667), and in the other two (Spain 135 and America 1289) such dependency was not detected.

As a whole, research studies in this area are limited and often controversial.

Additional experiments are needed to clarify the changes in seed chemical content according to seeds position on the mother plant for the different species, represented by a sufficient number of cultivars.



. 2.

(1 2)

Fig. 2. Crude protein content in pea and vetch cultivars in dependence of their position on the plant (1st and 2nd layer)

CONCLUSIONS

- The results from the conducted experiment showed the existence of heterogeneity in seed quality according to their position on the mother plant for *Pisum sativum* and *Vicia sativa* species.

The values of initial growth parameters (germ length and weight) and germination of the upper-layer (2nd-layer) seeds were, on the average, lower than the values of the 1st-layer seeds with 25.1, 30.0 and 9.1%, for spring peas and with 14.5, 21.9 and 6.2% for spring vetch.

- Differences in initial growth parameters were stronger for cultivars with greater height, longer flowering and pod formation stages – Pleven 4 and Obrazets 666.

The seed vigour index, as an estimating summary indicator, determined higher seed vitality of seeds formed in the 1st layer pods compared with seed vitality of 2nd layer pods.

Pisum sativum *Vicia sativa*.
 ()
 (2)
 (1) 25.1, 30.0
 9.1% , 14.5, 21.9
 6.2%
 -
 -
 666. - 4
 -
 -
 2

Concerning 1000 seed mass and crude protein content, differences between seeds on both layers were not significant.

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(*Vicia sativa* L.)

12, 4000

Growth Regulators as a Means of Increasing the Quantity and Quality of Protein in Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.)

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The study was carried out with the aim of establishing the effect of the application of foliar growth regulators on the content and quality of protein and its biological value in common vetch. For achieving the aim set, a three-year field trial was carried out in the period 2008-2010 with two Bulgarian common vetch cultivars – ‘Dobrudzha’ and ‘Obrazets 666’. The regulators were applied once in the season in the phenological stage of budding to beginning of flowering. The results obtained show that in ‘Dobrudzha’ cultivar, the foliar applied products RENI D and Bormax increased the crude protein yield by 4.4 and 1.1%. In ‘Obrazets 666’ the highest values of the characteristics were obtained after treatment with RENI, RENI D and Bormax (5.1, 3.8 and 2.5% higher protein yield compared to the untreated plants). Treatment of *Vicia sativa* with the growth regulators RENI, RENI D and the biological product Bormax increased the amount of proteinogenic amino acids and EAAI index of the obtained protein in both

EAAI

common vetch cultivars included in the study.

Key words: common vetch, growth regulators, protein crops, protein quality

INTRODUCTION

(DeMason and Chawa, 2005; Bora and Sarma, 2006; Elkoca and Kantar, 2006; Lingorski and Kertikov, 2005; Yadav et al., 2008).

(Popov and Dzimitudis, 2007; Popov and Georgieva, 2009).

Rhizobium spp

. *Fabaceae*.

35%

200

(, , Zn)

0.33 t/ha, – 0.26 t/ha, – 0.28 t/ha

In recent years, research studies on the effect of various exogenous substances (growth regulators, foliar fertilizers, etc.) on the yield and quality of legumes have been of interest to a number of authors (DeMason and Chawa, 2005; Bora and Sarma, 2006; Elkoca and Kantar, 2006; Lingorski and Kertikov, 2005; Yadav et al., 2008). It was established that the application of those substances had a positive effect on symbiotic nitrogen fixation and increased the grain yield and quality in legumes (Popov and Dzimitudis, 2007; Popov and Georgieva, 2009).

The best studied is the nitrogen-fixation system between the soil bacterium *Rhizobium spp.* and various legumes of the *Fabaceae* family. The reason is that legumes have a major contribution to the protein balance in human and animal nutrition. Some of them (*soy-bean, peas, etc.*) contain up to 35% of full-value protein in their grain. The advantage of the legumes is that they can be cultivated on soils with very low concentrations of bound nitrogen, where the development of other plants is hampered. However, more than 200 species of non-legumes are known to fix atmospheric nitrogen in symbiosis with microorganisms.

The foliar application of B, Mo, Co and the complex microfertilizer Mikom (containing B, Mo, Co and Zn) in the budding stage had a positive effect on the grain yield of field peas. Treatment with B increased the grain yield by an average of 0.33 t/ha, Mo – by 0.26 t/ha, Co – by 0.28 t/ha and the complex microfertilizer Mikom –

0.43 t/ha.	(1.0 - 1.1%)	-	by 0.43 t/ha. The crude protein content
		-	also increased in the variants treated with
		-	Co and Mo (1.0 and 1.1%). Application of
		-	Mo and the complex microfertilizer Mikom
	(Tsyganov and	-	increased the phosphorus utilization factor
Vildlush, 2004).		-	(Tsyganov and Vildlush, 2004).
	MnSO ₄	-	The introduction of manganese in
		-	the form of MnSO ₄ is also an effective
		-	measure in the pea cultivation technology.
		-	Its application increased the grain yields
	250 300	-	by an average of 250 to 300 kg/ha
kg/ha (Gómez et al., 2006).	, Mn	-	(Gómez et al., 2006). As an element
		-	having a variable valence, Mn actively
		-	participates in the regulation of redox
		-	reactions in the processes of respiration,
		-	photosynthesis, nitrogen and carbohydrate
		-	metabolism, etc. In addition, it participates
		-	in the active center of hydroxyl reductase
	(Gorbanov et al., 2005).	-	and the so-called assimilation enzyme
		-	(Gorbanov et al., 2005).
		-	Boron is an element playing a key
		-	role in the cell membrane structure, grain
		-	yield, root elongation and sugar
		-	metabolism in the plant organism. Mo
		-	mainly stimulates nitrogen fixation in
		-	legumes and the reduction of NO ₃ ⁻ ,
		-	associated with the higher protein content
NO ₃ ⁻ ,		-	in the grain of legumes (Gupta et al.,
	(Gupta et al., 2011).	-	2011).
		-	Increased content of nitrogen,
		-	protein and amino acids in pea grain was
		-	reported by El-Beheidi et al. (1995) and
Beheidi et al. (1995) Stakhova et al.		-	Stakhova et al. (2000) after foliar
(2000),		-	application of folic acid, increasing mainly
		-	the content of the amino acids glutamine,
		-	glycine and methionine.
		-	In their studies, Zhelyazkova and
	Zhelyazkova	-	Pavlov (2007) tested the effect of N-40
and Pavlov (2007),		-	(NAA) – 200 and 300 cm ³ /ha, HP-55
N-40 (NAA) – 200 300		-	(chlorophenoxyacetic acid) – 100 and 200
cm ³ /ha, HP-55 (-	cm ³ /ha and G-31 (chlorophenoxyacetic
) – 100 200 cm ³ /ha G-31		-	acid + naphthoxyacetic acid) – 300
(-	cm ³ /ha, on the productivity, chemical
) – 300 cm ³ /ha	-	composition and nutritional value of field
		-	peas of ‘Bogatir’ cultivar. The most
		-	favourable effect was established after
	” N-40 “	-	treatment with N-40 applied at the rate of
	200	-	

cm³/ha. 17.4%, -
 14.3%,
 17.8%.
 Kertikov (2002),
 „ 4“
 -
 -40.
 100 cm³/ha 18.7%,
 13.0%,
 cm³/ha 200
 20.8
 20.7%.

200 cm³/ha. In the treated variants, the grain yield increased by 17.4%, the crude protein by 14.3% and the feed units by 17.8%.

In studies of Kertikov (2002) on treatment of forage peas of 'Pleven 4' cv. with biologically active substances, applied at different rates, it was established that they had a positive effect on the grain yield and the crude protein content. The highest effect was obtained after treatment with the bioproduct H-40. When applied at the rate of 100 cm³/ha in the budding stage, the increase in grain yield was 18.7% and in crude protein 13.0%. The product application at the rate of 200 cm³/ha in the flowering stage resulted in an increase of 20.8 and 20.7%, respectively.

However, there is very scarce information regarding the effect of exogenously imported substances with regulatory functions on the protein yield and quality in legumes. Therefore, we believe that the present study could be useful from both a scientific and a scientific-and-applied point of view.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A field trial was carried out to establish the effect of RENI, applied separately and in a combination with boron (B), as well as the commercial products Bormax, Manganese chelate and Molybdenite, on the quality characteristics of common vetch cultivars. The experiment was conducted on the Training-and-Experimental Site of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv in the period 2008-2010 by the split-plot design method in four replications, the size of the experimental plot being 10 m². The two cultivars were treated in the stage of budding with the following concentrations: RENI – 0.5%; RENI D – 0.5%; Manganese chelate – 0.4%; Molybdenite – 0.2%; Bormax – 0.4%.

Plant analysis

The crude protein content (%) in common vetch grain was determined by

(),
 ,
 ,
 -
 2008-2010 .
 ,
 10
 m².
 : - 0.5%;
 - 0.5%; - 0.4%;
 - 0.2%; - 0.4%.
 (%)

6.25.					mineralization of the plant samples with concentrated sulfuric acid and perhydrol used as a catalyst, following the method of Kjeldahl, with subsequent distillation of the mineralized sample on Parnassus-Wagner apparatus and multiplying the obtained values of total nitrogen by a coefficient of 6.25.
(%)					Total and essential amino acids (%) in vetch grain were determined by a Knauer type amino-analyzer after hydrolysis of the plant material with 6nHCl.
	Knauer				
	6nHCl.				
	Essential amino acid index (EAAI), Oser (1951)				Essential amino acid index (EAAI) was calculated by the formula of Oser (1951) and by the logarithm of Prof. D. Pavlov, reflecting the ratio of the essential amino acids to those in egg white.
666“	”				Common vetch cultivars used Common vetch cultivar ‘Obrazets 666’ was developed by Prof. M. Pehlivanov and tested by the State Varietal Testing system for biological and economic qualities in 1970-1973 and for distinctness, uniformity and stability in 2001-2002. The cultivar has a rapid development rate, early flowering and maturity, before summer droughts. The absolute seed weight is 80-100 g and the hectolitre weight – 80-85 kg. The average yield is 2326 kg/ha.
1970-1973 .	-	2001-2002			
			80 - 100 g,		
			- 80-85 kg.		
e			2326 kg/ha.		
			”	“	
					Common vetch cultivar ‘Dobrudzha’ was established at Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute in General Toshevo and tested by the State Varietal Testing system for biological and economic qualities in 2001-2002 and for distinctness, uniformity and stability in 2002-2003. The vegetation period is 81 days on average. The height of the first pod is 33 cm. The cultivar is susceptible to lodging, as is the standard cultivar. The weight of 1000 seeds is 62.99 g. The hectoliter weight varies from 76.9 to 85 kg. The protein content is 31.37% of the absolute dry matter on average. It is moderately resistant to ascochitosis and resistant to powdery mildew and rust.
		2001-2002 .,			
-		2002-2003 .			
		81			
				33 cm.	
				1000	
	62.99 g.				
	76.9	85.0 kg.			
				31.37%	

0.2-0.4% (EDTA), 0.1-0.2%, 0.3-0.4%.

2008-2010, 27.06 g/100 g, 32.44 g/100 g, 30.06 g/100 g.

666" (25.07

Growth regulators used

RENI products are combinations of molybdenum, manganese and magnesium ions in different concentrations and ratios, which are additionally and purposefully combined with agents with a biochemical and physiological action, such as trace elements, synthetic regulators of cytokinin type, basic metabolites and others.

RENI D contains the main elements of RENI with B (boron) added.

Manganese chelate is a foliar fertilizer for fertigation, hydroponics and foliar application in crops with manganese deficiency. It is applied at a concentration of 0.2-0.4% solution. Its introduction can be combined with foliar nutrition with an aqueous solution of urea. In the present study Mn is in a chelated form (EDTA), which is easily absorbed by plants.

Molybdenite is a foliar fertilizer for fertigation, hydroponics and foliar application in crops with high molybdenum requirements: potatoes, cabbage, broccoli, beans, peas, tomatoes. Leaf application is at a concentration of 0.1-0.2%.

Bormax is a foliar fertilizer for different crops with high requirements for boron – maize, beets, fruits, potatoes, legumes, vegetables and flowers. Foliar application is at a concentration of 0.3-0.4% and the application rate is 1 l/ha.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Crude protein content

Vetch grain is rich in protein, but due to the high content of some glycosides (vicine and convicine), it cannot be used in large quantities in animal feed.

For the period 2008-2010, the crude protein yield obtained from 'Dobrudzha' cultivar varied by variants from 27.06 g/100 g of dry matter to 32.44 g/100 g of dry matter. 'Obrazets 666' cv. was characterized by lower protein content in grain (from 25.07 to 30.06 g/100 g of dry matter).

(2010) 30.44 g/100 g
 () 32.44 g/100 g ().
 -
 (2008) (27.06 g/100 g)
 g) (29.47 g/100 g).
 „ 666“ -
 2009 (29.06-30.63 g/100 g),
 ,
 (27.06-29.47 g/100 g) (1).
 ,
 „,
 (4.4%)
 ,
 666“ - „
 -
 „ „.
 1.8%
 (Mn) 5.1% ().
 (28.16 g/100 g)
 (28.07 g/100 g)
 g) (27.82 g/100 g)
 (27.47 g/100 g),
 3.8
 2.5% .

- In 'Dobrudzha' cultivar, the analysis of the results by years shows the highest protein content in the last year of the study (2010), the values ranging from 30.44 g/100g (Control) to 32.44 g/100g (RENI D).

- The lowest values were reported in the first year (2008) – from 27.06 g/100 g in the variant treated with Bormax to 29.47 g/100 g in the variant treated with RENI D. The highest values of that characteristic in 'Obrazets 666' cultivar were reported in 2009 (29.06 to 30.63 g/100 g), while in the first year of the study the average content was the lowest (27.06 to 29.47 g/100 g), (Table 1).

- The results show that the application of the tested growth regulators had a positive effect on the protein content in both studied cultivars.

- In 'Dobrudzha' cultivar, the crude protein content increased more significantly (4.4%) only after treatment with RENI D. In the other variants the differences compared to the control were insignificant.

- Common vetch of 'Obrazets 666' cv. had a higher response to the applied growth regulators. A more significant increase in the crude protein content was reported compared to 'Dobrudzha'. The values in the treated variants were higher compared to the control (1.8% after treatment with Mn chelate to 5.1% in the variant treated with RENI). A small difference in the crude protein content was reported between the variants with the application of RENI (28.16 g/100 g) and Molybdenite (28.07 g/100 g). Treatment with RENI D (27.82 g/100 g) and Bormax (27.47 g/100 g) resulted in an increase in the crude protein content in the crop grain by 3.8 and 2.5%, respectively, compared to the control variant.

1.

” “ ”

666“

2008-2010, g/100 g

Table 1. Crude protein content in the grain of common vetch, 'Dobrudzha' and 'Obrazets 666' cultivars, by years and on average for the period 2008-2010, g/100 g of dry matter

Variants	Crude protein content, 'Dobrudzha' cv., g/100 g dry matter							
	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%	Average	%
Control	28.27	100.0	29.94	100.0	30.44	100.0	29.55	100.0
RENI	27.60	97.6	29.06	97.1	30.69	100.8	29.12	98.5
RENI D	29.47	104.2	30.63	102.3	32.44	106.6	30.85	104.4
Bormax	27.06	95.7	30.50	101.9	31.38	103.1	29.65	100.3
Mn Chelate	27.56	97.5	29.50	98.5	31.75	104.3	29.60	100.2
Molybdenite	28.20	99.7	29.94	100.0	31,50	103.5	29.88	101.1
-	Crude protein content, 'Obrazets 666' cv., g/100 g dry matter							
Control	25.68	100.0	28.63	100.0	26.06	100.0	26.79	100.0
RENI	25.85	100.7	28.69	100.2	29.94	114.9	28.16	105.1
RENI D	25.65	99.9	28.81	100.6	29.00	111.3	27.82	103.8
Bormax	25.60	99.7	30.06	105.0	26.75	102.6	27.47	102.5
Mn Chelate	25.93	101.0	28.06	98.0	27.81	106.7	27.27	101.8
Molybdenite	25.07	97.6	29.69	103.7	29.44	113.0	28.07	104.8

” “ -
 ” 666“.
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 ” 666“, -
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 ,
 ” 666“.
 -
) ” “ 67.11 ()
) 71.07 g/100 g ()
 (2).
 ()
 , , , , ,
)

'Dobrudzha' cultivar had a higher protein content in grain compared to 'Obrazets 666'. The effect of the application of the studied products was lower. RENI D had the strongest positive effect on the crude protein content.

In 'Obrazets 666', the foliar applied growth regulators had a more pronounced effect. The application of RENI, Molybdenite and RENI D can be recommended for application in the cultivation technology with the aim of increasing the crude protein content in the grain of 'Obrazets 666' cv.

Amino acid content in grain

The total amount of the non-essential amino acids in the grain of 'Dobrudzha' cultivar varied from 67.11 (RENI D) to 71.07 g/100 g of crude protein (Bormax), (Table 2). In the variant treated with Bormax the values of almost all the common proteinogenic amino acids (proline, glycine, histidine, alanine, aspartic acid, serine and glutamic acid) increased. In the other studied variants, there were positive changes in the amino

acid values, but the tendency was not clearly observed.

An obvious tendency to an increase in the content of the essential amino acids in the treated variants was reported. After the application of the growth regulators RENI and RENI D their content in the grain in 'Dobrudzha' cv. increased by 5.5 and 3.4% on average compared to the control. The products Bormax, Mn chelate and Molybdenite slightly increased the content of the essential amino acids in common vetch grain (2.5 to 2.9%).

5.5 3.4%

2.

Table 2. Content of essential amino acids in the grain of common vetch, 'Dobrudzha' cultivar (% to protein), on average for the period 2008-2009

Amino Acid	Variants					
	Control	RENI	RENI D	Bormax	Mn chelate	Molybdenite
Arginine	8.98	8.58	9.33	9.00	9.11	9.28
Histidine	2.94	2.76	2.99	3.14	3.02	3.18
Tyrosine	2.57	2.81	2.50	2.36	2.32	2.49
Alanine	4.28	4.42	4.47	4.41	4.42	4.33
Glycine	4.09	4.21	4.21	4.42	4.34	4.35
Cysteine	1.05	0.97	0.70	0.71	0.46	0.77
Proline	7.31	6.06	4.87	8.64	5.74	5.79
Glutamic acid	21.57	20.30	22.76	22.00	22.27	21.57
Serine	3.43	3.46	3.45	3.52	3.36	3.57
Asparagine acid	12.52	13.54	12.49	12.87	12.88	12.67
Total	68.74	67.11	67.77	71.07	67.92	68.00
	Essential Amino acids					
Lysine	6.27	7.02	6.70	6.81	6.73	6.70
Phenylalanine	4.58	5.34	4.76	4.55	4.55	4.91
Leucine	7.23	7.29	7.69	7.51	7.55	7.43
Isoleucine	4.46	4.51	4.52	4.42	4.56	4.35
Methionine	0.473	0.393	0.181	0.247	0.368	0.288
Valine	5.16	5.20	5.33	5.27	5.28	5.21
Threonine	3.04	3.17	3.09	3.18	3.09	3.14
Total	31.21	32.92	32.27	31.99	32.13	32.03
EAAI	0.63	0.64	0.59	0.60	0.63	0.62

(12.0%)

6.9 8.6%.

The content of the amino acid lysine increased most significantly after treatment with RENI (12.0%). In the other variants, the lysine content increased by 6.9 to 8.6%. The application of RENI increased also the content of

16.6%.
EAAI (0.64) –

(1.6%),
(4.3%)

: Mn (1.6%),
(3.3%),
(4.6%).

666“ () 100
g/100 g () 67.99
) 68.78 g/100 g (Mn
)

50.6 43.2%.

Mn
16.7%.

1.0% (Mn) 666“
7.4% ()
()

666“, () 3).

35.2%. 47.2

- phenylalanine by 16,6%. The values of
- the EAAI index increased in that variant,
- too (0.64), which confirmed the
- improvement of the biological value of
- protein in the variant with foliar application
- of RENI. The content of threonine
- increased in all the treated variants: Mn
- chelate (1.6%), RENI D (1.6%),
- Molybdenite (3.3%), RENI (4.3%) and
- Bormax (4.6%).

- On average for the study period,
- the content of the total proteinogenic
- amino acids in the protein of common
- vetch of 'Obrazets 666' cv. (expressed as
- grams per 100 g of crude protein) varied
- from 67.99/100 g (RENI D) to 68.78 g/100
- g (Mn chelate). A great increase in the
- levels of the amino acid cysteine in the
- grain in the variants treated with RENI D
- and Molybdenite was found, the values
- exceeding the control by 50.6 and 43.2%,
- respectively. The tyrosine content was
- significantly affected by the application of
- Bormax, Mn chelate and RENI. The
- values were 20.8, 19.2% and 16.7%
- higher than in the control variant. The
- concentration of histidine in the studied
- variants increased in the grain of
- 'Obrazets 666' cv., although to a lesser
- extent – from 1.0% (Mn chelate) to 7.4%
- (RENI), the only exception being the
- variant treated with Molybdenite.

- The introduction of growth
- regulators had a positive effect on the
- content of essential amino acids in the
- protein of grain in 'Obrazets 666' cv.,
- especially in the variants treated with
- Bormax, RENI D and RENI (Table 3).

- What is specific here is that the
- values of the sulfur-containing amino acid
- methionine in the grain protein in the
- variants treated with RENI D and Bormax
- increased sharply. The average values of
- the characteristic exceeded the control by
- 47.2 and 35.2%. An increase in the
- content of phenylalanine and valine was
- also reported in all the variants treated
- with foliar applied growth regulators and
- biofertilizers. An increase in the EAAI

(0.62).

EAAI (0.61) index was also registered in the variants treated with RENI D (0.61) and Bormax (0.62).

3.

„ 666“ (%) 2008-2009 .
Table 3. Content of essential amino acids in the grain of common vetch, ‘Obrazets 666’ cv. (% to protein), on average for the period 2008-2009

Amino acid	Variants					
	Control	RENI	RENI D	Bormax	Mn chelate	Molybdenite
Arginine	9.10	9.11	9.15	9.19	9.07	8.83
Histidine	2.97	3.19	3.03	3.18	3.00	2.90
Tyrosine	2.45	2.86	2.29	2.96	2.92	2.27
Alanine	4.46	4.43	4.53	4.46	4.46	4.47
Glycine	4.37	4.44	4.49	4.47	4.39	4.41
Cysteine	0.81	0.81	1.22	0.81	0.86	1.16
Proline	5.48	5.17	5.61	4.93	5.25	6.50
Glutamic acid	22.22	21.96	21.70	21.75	22.40	21.75
Serine	3.60	3.58	3.41	3.60	3.54	3.45
Asparagine acid	12.88	12.77	12.56	12.81	12.89	12.93
Total	68.34	68.32	67.99	68.16	68.78	68.67
	Essential amino acids					
Lysine	6.70	6.91	6.90	6.91	6.71	6.52
Phenylalanine	4.22	4.59	4.51	4.49	4.37	4.45
Leucine	7.50	7.58	7.53	7.64	7.55	7.43
Isoleucine	4.54	4.43	4.46	4.49	4.58	4.46
Methionine	0.199	0.203	0.293	0.269	0.165	0.155
Valine	5.26	5.38	5.35	5.39	5.26	5.38
Threonine	3.16	3.13	3.00	3.19	3.12	2.98
Total	31.58	32.22	32.04	32.38	31.76	31.38
EAAI	0.58	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.57	0.56

- The tendency to an increase in the content of the limiting amino acid lysine remained the same in the cultivar ‘Obrazets 666’, although to a lesser extent. The lysine content was about 3.0% higher in the grain of the variants treated with RENI, RENI D and Bormax.

CONCLUSIONS

- The foliar application of growth regulators led to an increase in the crude protein content in ‘Dobrudzha’ cultivar by 4.4% (RENI D).

() .

„ 666“ 4.4%

„ 666“

„ “

- ‘Obrazets 666’ cv. responded to the studied regulators by a more significant increase in the crude protein content compared to ‘Dobrudzha’. The protein

„ 666“ -
 (28.16 g/100 g)
 (28.07 g/100 g).

3.8% 5.1% 4.8%. 2.5

„ “

(EAAI = 0.64).

„ 666“,
 (12.0%).

„ 666“,

(EAAI = 0.62, 0.61 and 0.60).

„ 666“,

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„ 666“,

content in the grain of 'Obrazets 666' cv. was the highest in the variants treated with RENI (28.16 g/100 g) and Molybdenite (28.07 g/100 g). The values were 5.1% and 4.8% higher compared to the control. The protein content in the variants treated with Bormax and RENI D was 2.5 and 3.8% higher than in the control variant.

In 'Dobrudzha' cultivar, the application of the growth regulators changed the ratio of total and essential amino acids in favour of the latter, the strongest effect being established for the growth regulator RENI (EAAI = 0.64). The lysine content in the grain protein sharply increased in the variant treated with RENI (12.0%).

In 'Obrazets 666' cultivar, the application of the products Bormax, RENI D and RENI changed the ratio of essential and total amino acids in the crude protein in favour of the essential amino acids, increasing the biological value of protein (EAAI = 0.62, 0.61 and 0.60, respectively).

The application of RENI and RENI D led to an increase in the content of the amino acids lysine and methionine in the grain of the two studied common vetch cultivars. That is a valuable indicator, as both amino acids are limiting in the diets of farm animals.

In common vetch of 'Obrazets 666' cultivar, there was an increase in the total amount of the sulfur-containing amino acids cysteine and methionine in the treated variants, which improved the biological value of protein. In contrast to 'Obrazets 666', the opposite tendency was observed in 'Dobrudzha' cultivar – the content of cysteine and methionine in the grain was lower in the treated variants compared to the control.

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