

YIELD COMPONENT ANALYSIS AND DIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.)

Sikora, V.^{*1}, Berenji, J.¹ and Latković, D.²

¹ Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Maksima Gorkog 30,
21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

² University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Square Dositeja Obradovića 8,
21000, Novi Sad, Serbia

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SUMMARY

The objective of this study was to analyze the variability and mutual dependence of the tuber weight per plant, tuber number per plant, average tuber weight and total sugars content in the tubers of 20 Jerusalem artichoke genotypes included in a varietal trial conducted in the period 1994-2008. The variability of tuber weight per plant, tuber number per plant and average tuber weight was significantly affected by environmental conditions, while the total sugars content in the tubers depended primarily on the genotype. As the tuber weight per plant increased, the content of total sugars in the tubers decreased. Maximum tuber weight per plant was achieved with the genotype BT-4 and highest contents of total sugars in tubers were found in the genotypes Violet Rennes, UKR 5/82 and Topianca.

Key words: diversity, *Helianthus tuberosus* L., Jerusalem artichoke, variability, yield components

INTRODUCTION

Together with the sunflower, the Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.) is the only cultivated crop from the genus *Helianthus*. Jerusalem artichoke is a perennial plant native to North America, widespread in all parts of the world including Serbia. It is a frequent weed plant of pastures and fallow land (Wyse *et al.*, 1986). Aboveground plant parts and tubers are used as cattle feed. Tubers, also known as food of the poor, have a high content of carbohydrates which makes them interesting for the production of sweeteners, low-calory food additives and bioethanol (Kišgeci *et al.*, 1988; Meijer *et al.*, 1993; Mullin *et al.*, 1994). In sunflower breeding programs, the Jerusalem artichoke serves for broadening the genetic

* Corresponding author: Phone: +381 21 780 365; Fax: +381 21 780 399;
e-mail: sikora@ifvcns.ns.ac.rs

basis of sunflowers, primarily the resistance to plant pathogens (Korell *et al.*, 1996a, b; Suseelana *et al.*, 2002).

The objective of this study was, based on data from multi-year experiments, to analyze the variability and mutual dependence of yield components, and to assess the diversity of the Jerusalem artichoke genotypes in the collection maintained at Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad (Serbia).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at Bački Petrovac experiment field of Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad in the period 1994-2008. A collection was tested that included 20 Jerusalem artichoke genotypes of different origin (Table 1).

Table 1: Collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes tested

Number	Designation	Origin
1	UKR 1/82	Genotypes obtained at Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia, by spontaneous crossing and by maintaining the derived half-sib progenies by vegetative propagation
2	UKR 2/82	
3	UKR 4/82	
4	UKR 5/82	
5	UKR 6/82	
6	Banja Koviljača	A local population from Banja Koviljača, Serbia
7	Violet Communes	I.N.R.A. Station d'Amélioration des Plantes, Le Rheu, France
8	Violet Rennes	
9	Topianca	
10	Fuseau 60	
11	Ozor	
12	D-19	
13	K-8	
14	207-63	
15	952-63	
16	Waldspindel D	Institut für Pflanzenbau und Pflanzenzüchtung, Braunschweig, Germany
17	Waldspindel A	Zuckerforschung-Institut, Fuchsenbigl, Austria
18	Bela	Univerza Ljubljana, Biotehniška fakulteta, Ljubljana, Slovenia
19	BT-3	Agrobotanikai Központ, Tápiószéle, Hungary
20	BT-4	

Experiments were established each year on a chernozem soil, always changing the location and using tubers from the previous year. Planting was done in early spring, as soon as weather conditions would permit it (February-March). Tubers were planted manually, at a depth of 10 cm. Elementary plots consisted of single rows spaced 1 m apart. Each row consisted of 20 plants planted 50 cm apart. This planting arrangement made a stand density of 20,000 plants ha⁻¹.

During growing season, conventional cultivation practices were applied in the experiments (Berenji, 1994). At the end of growing season, after first frosts in the fall, all aboveground plant parts were removed from the experimental plots.

Next spring, before planting, tubers of five randomly selected plants per genotype were dug out. Tubers originating from a single plant were considered as one replication. The following parameters were measured:

1. tuber number per plant;
2. tuber weight per plant, expressed in kg plant^{-1} ;
3. average tuber weight calculated for each plant by dividing the weight of tubers per plant with tuber number per plant;
4. 10 tubers per genotype were used to determine sugar content (%) by measuring the dry-substance content with Abbe-refractometer.

Statistical analyses included ANOVA, average values, ranks, coefficient of variation (CV), genetic (σ^2_g), ecological (σ^2_e) and phenotypic (σ^2_p) variances, broad-sense heritability (h^2), genetic and phenotypic correlation coefficients. A dendrogram was prepared to show phenotypic differences (Hill *et al.*, 1998) in the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data on the mean values and rank of individual Jerusalem artichoke genotypes for the analyzed traits are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Average values and ranks for the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes traits tested in the period 1994-2008.

Number	Designation	Tuber yield per plant (kg)		Number of tubers per plant		Tuber size (g)		Sugar content (%)	
		Average	Rank	Average	Rank	Average	Rank	Average	Rank
1	UKR 1/82	2.08	8	45	3	49	13	24.0	11
2	UKR 2/82	1.54	18	34	9	44	14	26.2	6
3	UKR 4/82	2.16	6	37	7	61	6	25.2	9
4	UKR 5/82	1.40	19	33	10	43	15	27.1	2
5	UKR 6/82	2.37	4	44	4	53	9	25.7	8
6	Banja Koviljača	1.69	17	22	15	80	1	24.0	11
7	Violet Communes	1.88	11	31	11	66	4	24.3	10
8	Violet Rennes	2.04	9	29	13	70	3	27.2	1
9	Topianca	1.70	16	34	9	49	13	27.0	3
10	Fuseau 60	1.82	14	36	8	50	12	25.9	7
11	Ozor	2.36	5	38	6	61	6	22.6	14
12	D-19	2.13	7	38	6	59	7	23.0	12
13	K-8	2.46	3	36	8	63	5	22.7	13
14	207-63	1.28	20	27	14	50	12	22.2	16
15	952-63	1.87	12	38	6	51	10	24.0	11
16	Waldspindel D	2.03	10	39	5	52	11	26.7	4
17	Waldspindel A	1.85	13	34	9	53	9	26.6	5
18	Bela	1.77	15	30	12	57	8	22.3	15
19	BT-3	2.69	2	55	1	50	12	25.2	9
20	BT-4	3.27	1	46	2	78	2	22.7	13
Average		2.02	-	36	-	57	-	24.7	-
LSD at P<0.05		0.48	-	7	-	11	-	1.0	-
LSD at P<0.01		0.63	-	9	-	14	-	1.3	-

Tuber weight per plant ranged from 1.28 to 3.27 kg plant⁻¹ or 2.02 kg plant⁻¹ on average, which gave calculated yields from 25.6 to 65.4 t ha⁻¹ or 40.4 t ha⁻¹ on average. BT-4, BT-3, K-8, UKR 6/82 and Ozor were the most productive genotypes whose calculated yields exceeded 50 t ha⁻¹. According to the literature, the yield of the Jerusalem artichoke is highly variable, depending largely on environmental conditions and ranging from 28 to 128 t ha⁻¹ (Kosarić *et al.*, 1984). The yields obtained in this experiment were at the level of the yield of wild American genotypes (Seiler, 1993).

The average number of tubers per plant was 36, the lowest number (22) having been found in the genotype Banja Koviljača and largest (55) in the genotype BT-3. The genotypes Banja Koviljača, BT-4, Violet Rennes, Violet Communes and K-8 stood out for the average tuber weight which exceeded 60 g. The results concerning tuber number and weight are identical with the results obtained in an earlier analysis (Berenji and Sikora, 2001).

The content of total sugars ranged in the collection from 18.0 to 27.2%, with the average value of 24.7%. High contents, over 27%, were found in the genotypes Violet Rennes and UKR 5/82, while five genotypes (207-63, White, Ozor, BT-4 and K-8) had a multi-year average below 23%. These values are significantly higher than those published in earlier papers (Klausthofer *et al.*, 1987; Meijer *et al.*, 1993; Schittenhelm, 1999).

Table 3: Variation coefficient (CV), genetic (σ_g^2), ecological (σ_e^2) and phenotypic (σ_p^2) variances and broad-sense heritability (h^2) in the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes.

Trait	CV (%)	σ_g^2	σ_e^2	σ_p^2	h^2 (%)
Tuber yield per plant (kg)	47.12	0.181	0.457	0.638	28.4
Tuber number per plant	37.30	48.681	90.472	139.153	35.0
Tuber size (g)	36.05	89.84	233.725	323.566	27.8
Sugar content (%)	9.46	2.975	1.913	4.887	76.5

The values of coefficient variation (CV), genetic (σ_g^2), ecological (σ_e^2) and phenotypic (σ_p^2) variances and broad-sense heritability (h^2) (Table 3) indicated that the tuber weight per plant was the most variable trait (CV=47.12%) and the sugars content in tubers the least variable trait (CV=9.46%). The variability values of tuber number per plant and average tuber weight were 37.30% and 36.05%, respectively. Based on these values, it may be concluded that the phenotypic variation of tuber weight per plant, tuber number per plant and average tuber weight was predominantly determined by environmental factors. This was confirmed by the low heritability values for tuber weight per plant, h^2 =28.4%, tuber number per plant, h^2 =35.0%, and average tuber weight, h^2 =27.8%. The low value of correlation coefficient (CV=9.46%), the greater genetic (σ_g^2 =2.975) than environmental variance (σ_e^2 =1.913) and the heritability of 76.5% for sugar content indicated that the main factor determining the sugar content in Jerusalem artichoke tubers was the genotype.

The values of genetic and phenotypic correlation coefficients (Table 4) show that the genotypic correlations were greater than phenotypic ones. Significant genotypic correlations were recorded between tuber yield per plant and tuber number per plant ($r_g=0.663$), tuber yield per plant and tuber weight ($r_g=0.680$) and tuber yield per plant and sugar content ($r_g=-0.647$). This means that, practically, the tuber yield per plant was equally determined by the number and weight of individual tubers. The increase in tuber yield per plant significantly decreased the sugars content ($r_g=-0.647$).

Table 4: Genetic (above) and phenotypic (bellow) correlation coefficients for quantitative traits in the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes.

	Tuber yield per plant (kg)	Tuber number per plant	Tuber size (g)	Sugar content (%)
Tuber yield per plant (kg)		0.663*	0.680**	-0.647*
Tuber number per plant	0.580		0.219	-0.346
Tuber size (g)	0.487	0.032		-0.577
Sugar content (%)	-0.207	-0.073	-0.298	

* Significant at 5% level

** Significant at 1% level

Based on 15-year evaluation of the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes, they were classified based on similarities in the dendrogram of phenotypic differences (Figure 1).

The dendrogram contain six clusters with different number of genotypes, mutually linked at different hierarchical levels. The three most distant clusters, those at the ends of the dendrogram, are each comprised of a single cultivar (BT-4, BT-3 and Banja Koviljača). The fourth cluster includes the genotypes UKR 6/82, Ozor and K-8, the fifth the genotype Violet Rennes. The sixth cluster, which includes the remaining thirteen genotypes, is most numerous and most heterogeneous, with genotypes linked at several levels. It can be concluded on the basis of the dendrogram that the analyzed collection of genotypes is significantly divergent regarding the genotypes' yield components.

CONCLUSIONS

The obtained results indicated that there existed significant phenotypic variabilities among tuber yield per plant, tuber number per plant and tuber weight, which were predominantly due to the environmental conditions. The main factor determining the sugars content in tubers was the genotype. Tuber yield per plant was equally affected by the tuber number per plant and weight of individual tubers. The increase in tuber yield resulted in a significant reduction of sugar content in tubers. The dendrogram of phenotypic differences in yield components of the Jerusalem artichoke varietal collection comprised several clusters, which differed in size and structure and whose members were linked at different hierarchical levels. Regard-

ing the yield components, best results were achieved with the cultivar BT-4, which formed a separate cluster at the end of the dendrogram and which was linked with the rest of the collection at the highest hierarchical level. The cultivars Violet Rennes, UKR 5/82 and Topianca had highest sugar contents in tubers.

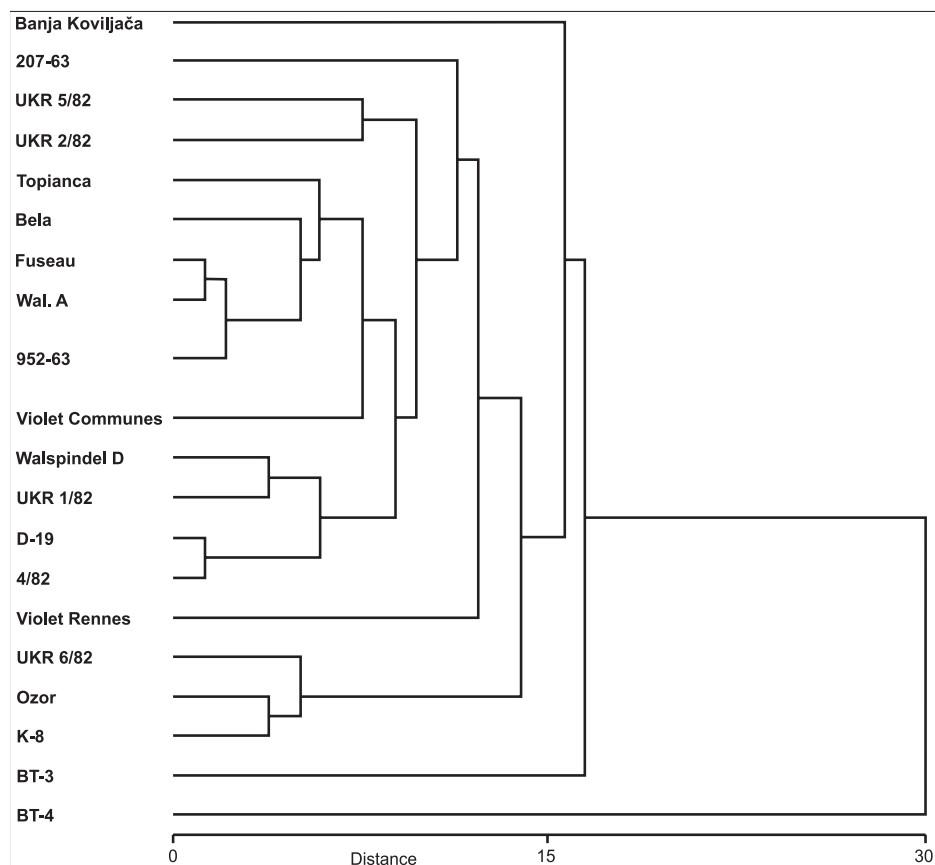


Figure 1: Dendrogram of phenotypic differences in the collection of Jerusalem artichoke genotypes

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