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Study of diversity of Azerbaijan local grape varieties basing on OIV ampelographic descriptors

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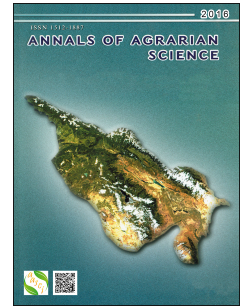
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Key words:

Ampelographic collection, ampelographic, description, leaf, bunch, berry, seeds.

Abstract

In this article is given results of study for the cultivars grown in the ampelographic collection of the Azerbaijani Scientific - Research Institute of Viticulture and Wine-making. The description of their ampelographic characters is based on the OIV list of descriptors. Comparing cultivars, it has been found that though there are similarities in various descriptor traits, most of characteristics are distinctive for specific cultivars. A considerable polymorphism was found concerning the botanical features of leaves, clusters, berries, as well as some biological and technological characteristics. In more details, these genotypes differ each other by the morphological features of leaves; the shape, size and structure of clusters; the shape, color and flavor of berries; the productivity indices; the length of their vegetative period; the sugar and acid contents; and the number of seeds in the berry.

This study was carried out on the grape cultivars originated from the regions of Azerbaijan like Garabagh, Ganja-Gazakh, Shirvan, Nakhchyvan and Absheron in 2008-2015. 25 grape cultivars, belonging to *V. vinifera* L. were investigated. Ampelographic characteristics of these grape cultivars were determined according to the OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine) Descriptors for Grapevine. Analyses of the ampelographic features of the studied grape varieties showed that the genotypes considerably differ by their main morphological, biological and technological characteristics.

Introduction

Grapevine is one of the most important widely cultivated fruit species all over the World.

Archeological evidence suggests that grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.) domestication from its wild relatives, *V. vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris*, took place in the South Caucasus about 8,000 years ago, during the Neolithic Age [1, 2]. Before this one-two million years old grape leave fossilized imprints have been found in the western sides of the Bozdag mountain (Gyok-gol region) and 500 000 years old grapevine fossils were found in Nakhichevan, in the Araz river basin on th territory of Azerbaijan. One of the most ancient wine-making artefacts in Azerbaijan is a wine jug found by J.I. Hummel in 1931 in the Gyok-gol region, which contains grape seeds and fossilized wine sediments and his finding is related to the Bronze Age (end of II and beginning of I Millennium B.C.) [3-7]. Grape seeds remains dated to V – IV centuries B.C. were also found in the Agstafa region.

In Azerbaijan, a large number of wild grapevines (*Vitis vinifera* L. subsp. *sylvestris*) and local cultivars can be observed. Archeological, paleobotanical and historical sources confirm that grapevines were spread and cultivated since a long time here. In Azerbaijan, viticulture and wine-making developed during centuries and the grape varieties were selected for different purposes - fresh consumption, for preparing of products like raisins, jam, vinegar, sherbet, wine, spirit etc., and for decorative and ornamental purposes [8]. In the period of intensive development of the viticulture in Azerbaijan (1970-

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