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Bioactive compounds in virgin olive oil of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz

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Abstract

Virgin olive oil (VOO) is generally recognized as a healthy fat because of its fatty acid composition and content in minor compounds but a wide range of these substances can be found in commercial oils. The concentration of compounds with attributed health benefits were analyzed in VOOs of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz. Oleic acid represented around 79 % of the total fatty acids, and the mean squalene and tocopherols concentrations were 5800 mg/kg and 247 mg/ kg respectively. Despite the changes found in polyphenols concentration in the oils analyzed for six consecutive crops, these substances accounted for more than 700 mg/kg. Moreover, the effect of irrigation regime and sun radiation on the content in bioactive substances of these oils was also assessed. No significant differences were detected between oils from trees irrigated ad libitum or rain-feed. In contrast, the level of tree radiation exerted a great effect on the concentration of bioactive substances in oils. Oils from trees cultivated in a sunny area (south orientation) had a higher percentage of oleic acid and concentration in phenolic compounds than those from shady areas (north orientation). The opposite was detected for tocopherols and squalene which were more concentrated in oils from olives of the shady area. The results obtained in this study point out VOOs of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz as a very healthy fat due to their composition in bioactive substances, in particular their richness in phenolic compounds.

Keywords: olive oil, phenolic, oleic acid, squalene, tocopherols, Picual

Introduction

The benefits of consuming olive oil have been known since antiquity and were traditionally attributed to its high content in oleic acid. However, olive oil possess a myriad of biologically active minor components such as tocopherols, sterols, squalene and particularly phenolic compounds that make this fat one of the healthiest among vegetable oils worldwide.

The positive effect of dietary monounsaturated fats in preventing cardiovascular diseases and cancer has extensively been reported [1, 2], and claimed by international food and health agencies. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has stated that the consumption of olive oil may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease due to its content in monounsaturated fat [3], and the European Food Safety Authority has reported that “replacing saturated fats in the diet with unsaturated fats contribute to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol level” [4].

Sterols and squalene are other bioactive substances present in olive oil. Phytosterols or plant sterols can reduce intestinal absorption of cholesterol and subsequently serum cholesterol levels thereby they can contribute to prevention of myocardial infarction [5]. They have also been attributed with anticarcinogenic and antitumor properties [6].

Moreover, α -tocopherol, which is the most common form of vitamin E, is the major tocopherol in olive oil, and it shows the highest antioxidant and biological activity among tocopherols and tocotrienols [7]. The EFSA has also indicated that vitamin E “contributes to the protection of cells from oxidative stress” [4].

Of particular interest from a nutritional point of view the phenolic compounds are. They comprise a high number of substances found at levels of mg/kg oil but recognized with many nutritional activities because they exhibit protective effects against neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases [8]. Precisely, the European Commission has recently approved a health claim for olive oil polyphenols because of their contribution to the protection of LDL particles from oxidative damage [4].

There are many other minor substances in olive oil (carotenoids, aliphatic alcohols, triterpenic acids and others) although due to their low content in oil and/or low biological activity the scientific community has paid them less attention up to now.

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3 The chemical composition of virgin olive oil (VOO) is influenced by many
4 variables like olive cultivar, agronomic and pedo-climatic conditions, fruit maturity and
5 technological factors, among others. Consequently, VOO is not a uniform product but
6 oils with a wide range in chemical composition and content in nutritional substances are
7 commercialized. Hence, consumers are demanding VOO rich in these bioactive
8 substances.
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13 In the last few years, there has been increasing interest in the geographical
14 characterization of VOO according to regulations on Protection Designation of Origin
15 (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) [9]. These regulations are a
16 guarantee of a precise geographical origin that determines sensory and chemical
17 characteristics of oil but content in bioactive substances are not generally certified.
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23 The VOO of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz is obtained from fruits of the Picual (>
24 90 %) and Nevadillo negro (<10 %) olive cultivars which are harvested from orchards
25 located in the province of Córdoba (Andalusia, Spain). The maximum acidity and
26 peroxide value in this oil must be 0.5 % and 20 mEq. O₂/kg respectively but it is very
27 appreciated by consumers because of its high content in phenolic compounds (>700
28 mg/kg oil) [10]. However, no references can be found regarding the amount of these
29 substances and others bioactive in the literature, particularly during several years. The
30 chemical characterization of nutritional substances present in VOO of the PDO
31 Montoro-Adamuz was studied for the first time.
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39 The agricultural area with the denomination Montoro-Adamuz comprises
40 mountainous orchards that suffer extreme Mediterranean climatic conditions,
41 particularly shortage of water in summer and autumn. Hence, the main agronomic
42 factors that can influence the content of these oils in bioactive substances are the
43 irrigation regime and the orientation of the olive trees in the mountain, either in a shady
44 or a sunny area.
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51 52 **Materials and methods**

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57 VOOs of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz
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5 Samples of oil were taken from industrial tanks by authorized personnel of the PDO,
6 and sent to the laboratory for analysis without any stored period. These oils were
7 collected from the season 2008/2009 to 2013/2014, and graded as extra virgin olive oils.
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10 11 12 13 14 Effect of irrigation and sun radiation on bioactive compounds in oils 15

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18 Olives were taken from trees located in the geographical area of the PDO Montoro-
19 Adamuz (Córdoba, Spain) during the season 2010/2011 (first fortnight of December).
20 Fruits of the Picual and Nevadillo negro cultivars were harvested from trees irrigated *ad*
21 *libitum* or rain-feed only. All trees were cultivated in the same area by the same grower.
22 Representative fruits (3 kg sample) at a maturity stage at which 50% of the fruits
23 displayed black color on the surface, and the rest of them had yellow color were hand-
24 picked from 6 trees of each assay and brought to the laboratory for oil extraction the
25 same day.
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33 Fruits of both cultivars were also hand-picked from another different orchard
34 from trees located in either a shady or a sunny area. In the northern hemisphere, the area
35 of the mountain facing south receives more solar radiation than north. The olive trees
36 were all rain-feed. These olives had a black surface color and they were collected from
37 12 trees of both the shady and the sunny area.
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42 Oil extraction was performed using an Abencor laboratory oil mill (Comercial
43 Abengoa SA, Spain) equipped with a hammer mill, a thermobeater, and a paste
44 centrifuge. The extraction was carried out at 28 °C with kneading for 30 min. The oily
45 must was decanted and filtered before analysis. Extraction was run in duplicate.
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51 52 Individual quantification of phenolic compounds in oils 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

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3 They were extracted from the oil with *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) [11]. Briefly, 0.6
4 g of oil was extracted with 3 x 0.6 mL of DMF; the extract was then washed with
5 hexane, and N₂ was bubbled into the DMF extract to eliminate residual hexane. Finally,
6 the extract was filtered through a 0.22 μm pore size nylon filter and injected into the
7 chromatograph.
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12 The chromatographic system consisted of a Waters 717 plus autosampler, a
13 Waters 600 pump, and a Waters heater module (Waters Inc., Mildford, MA, USA). A
14 Spherisorb ODS-2 (5 μm, 25 cm x 4.6 mm i.d., Waters Inc.) column was used.
15 Separation was achieved using an elution gradient with an initial composition of 90 %
16 water (pH adjusted to 3.0 with phosphoric acid) and 10 % methanol [11]. The
17 concentration of the latter solvent was increased to 30 % over 10 min and maintained
18 for 20 min. Subsequently, the methanol percentage was raised to 40 % over 10 min,
19 maintained for 5 min, and then increased to 50 %. Finally, the methanol percentage was
20 increased to 60, 70, and 100 % in 5 min periods. Initial conditions were reached in 10
21 min. A flow of 1 mL/min and a temperature of 35 °C were used in all of the analyses. A
22 Waters 996 diode array detector and a Jasco FP-920 fluorescence detector (Jasco,
23 Tokyo, Japan) were connected in series. Hydroxytyrosol, hydroxytyrosol glycol and
24 tyrosol were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA), apigenin and
25 luteolin from Extrasynthese (Genay, France), and the rest of standards were obtained by
26 semipreparative HPLC following a similar conditions as described above [11].
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45 Total contents of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol in oils

46 They were analyzed following the method described elsewhere [12]. Olive oil (2.5 g)
47 and 2 M HCl (50 mL) were put into a 100 mL glass bottle that was closed with a
48 polypropylene cap. The mixture was vigorously homogenized by agitation at 400 rpm in
49 an orbital shaking incubator model WY-200 for 5 h (Comecta SA, Barcelona, Spain).
50 Experiments were run at 25 °C. Finally, 2 mL of the aqueous phase was removed by a
51 plastic pipet, filtered through a 0.22 μm pore size nylon filter, and injected into the
52 chromatograph. The chromatographic system was the same as noted above, except the
53 gradient program of solvents that was modified, the washing period starting at 20 min
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3 from injection. Chromatograms were recorded at 280 nm and quantification was made
4 using external calibration with standards (hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol) purchased from
5 Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).
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8 9 10 11 Squalene

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16 Hydrocarbons were obtained by adsorption chromatography following the method
17 described elsewhere [13]. GC was performed by using an Agilent 6890A
18 chromatograph equipped with a cold on-column injector with oven-track system and a
19 flame-ionization detector. A HP-5 column (5% diphenyl/95% dimethyl polysiloxane,
20 length 15 m, 0.32 mm i.d. and 0.1 μm film thickness; Agilent Tech.) was used.
21 Hydrogen (140 kPa inlet pressure) was used as carrier gas and nitrogen as makeup gas.
22 The oven temperature was held at 80°C for 5 min and then increased at 45°C/min to
23 120°C and then at 5°C/min to 310°C where it was held for 7 min. The detector
24 temperature was 350°C. Concentration of hydrocarbons was obtained comparing the
25 total area and the squalene internal standard area.
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36 Tocopherols

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41 They were determined by HPLC with fluorescence detection (excitation at 290 nm and
42 emission at 330 nm), following IUPAC Standard Method 2.432 [14]. The column was a
43 Lichrosorb Si 60 packed with silica (5 μm particle size) (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany).
44 The mobile phase was *n*-hexane/isopropanol (99:1, v/v) with a flow rate of 1 mL/min.
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51 Fatty acids and sterols

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56 They were measured according to European Community Regulation 702/2007 [15].
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Statistical analysis

Statistica software version 7.0 was used for data processing (Statistica for Windows, Tulsa, OK, USA). A comparison among mean variables was made by Duncan's multiple-range tests, and the differences were considered significant when $p < 0.05$.

Results and discussion

Fatty acids

All the analyzed samples showed fatty acid content within the range required by European Regulation [15] (Table 1), being oleic acid the major fatty acid (ca. 79 %), which has been previously observed for VOO obtained from the Picual cultivar [16]. The EU regulation establishes a range for this monounsaturated acid between 55 and 83 % thereby the VOOs of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz are included close to the highest level.

Fig. 1 shows the effects of two agronomic factors on the content of oleic acid in these VOOs. First, it must be noted that oils obtained from olives of the Nevadillo negro cultivar had a lower percentage of oleic acid than those of the Picual cultivar. However, the percentage of Nevadillo negro oil into the total fat of VOO of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz is lower than 10% [10]. Otherwise, oils from olives cultivated under non-irrigation trees presented a lower percentage of oleic acid for both cultivars Picual and Nevadillo negro, which is in agreement with previous studies [17]. **It is known that reduced growth temperatures increase membrane lipid unsaturation in order to maintain membrane fluidity at low temperature, and several researchers have found higher percentage of oleic acid in oils obtained from cooler than warmer climate conditions of two different geographical areas [18]. In our study, oils from sunny areas trended to contain a higher percentage of oleic acid but it was not statistically significant (Fig. 1), thereby other agronomic conditions might influence to a large extent on the content of this fatty acid.**

Squalene

There are no limits for this bioactive substance in the international regulations on olive oil but this compound has been found in VOOs in a wide range from 800 to 12000 mg/kg [13]. Squalene values for Greek oils have been recorded between 2000 and 6500 mg/kg [19], and between 900 and 8700 mg/kg for Italian oils [20].

VOOs of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz showed a mean squalene concentration of 5800 mg/kg, which is in accordance with previous data reported on Picual oils [21]. Like many other minor substances present in VOO, the concentration of squalene depends on olive cultivar, among other variables. The Nevadillo negro oils tended to possess a higher amount of this substance than those of the Picual cultivar (Fig. 2). Otherwise, the concentration of squalene was slightly influenced by the irrigation regime of the olive trees, which is in disagreement with a previous work [22] that found a consistently lower content of squalene in oils from trees receiving the lowest irrigation level. In contrast, the location of the olive tree in the same orchard had a great influence on the concentration of squalene in oils because both Picual and Nevadillo negro oils from fruit cultivated in the sunny area had a significant lower content than those from the shady area (Fig. 2). Several studies have shown that plants under environmental signals like high salinity, high UV-B levels and drought allocate squalene to produce triterpenes and sterols. Likewise, the content of squalene in both fruit and oil is influenced by olive maturation [23], which is currently affected by sun radiation. Hence, there are some interactions between sun radiation level and other agronomic factors that could affect the content of oils in squalene.

Tocopherols

As expected, α -tocopherol was the major tocopherol in VOO of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz, followed by γ -tocopherol (Table 1). The mean value of total tocopherols was 247 mg/kg, which is in the average of the range previously reported for tocopherols in

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3 Spanish VOOs (84-463 mg/kg) [7], and in agreement with the content previously found
4 in Picual VOOs [24]. It must be noted that the Nevadillo negro oils presented a higher
5 concentration of these substances than the Picual (Fig. 3). Furthermore, no significant
6 differences were observed in the concentration of tocopherols in VOOs due to the
7 irrigation regime. By contrast, the oils from olives cultivated in the sunny areas had a
8 low content in these substances than those obtained from the shady area irrespective of
9 the cultivar. It is assumed that the tocopherols content in VOO decreases as ripening
10 progress, it is cultivar dependent, and the rainfall level affects its concentration,
11 increasing with water-stress [7]. However, no data are available on the effect of the sun
12 radiation on olive trees during the year.
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25 A mean value of 1442 mg/kg oil was found for total sterols content in the VOOs of the
26 PDO Montoro-Adamuz (Table 1), which is in accordance with data previously reported
27 for oils obtained from fruits of the Picual cultivar [24]. This is a value higher than the
28 minimum of 1000 mg/kg oil established for authenticity of VOOs by European
29 legislation [15]. Although many factors can influence the content of VOOs in sterols,
30 their concentration currently range between 1000 and 2000 mg/kg, lower than data
31 observed for other vegetable oils such as soybean, sunflower and rapeseed.
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40 41 42 43 Phenolic compounds

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45 There are many studies that report the composition of VOO as influenced by the
46 growing area [25, 26], which has been mainly related to the rainfall level and altitude
47 location of the olive trees. One of the main characteristics of the VOOs of the PDO
48 Montoro-Adamuz is their high content in phenolic compounds, which must be higher
49 than 700 mg/kg [10]. In Table 2, it is recorded the phenolic composition of these oils for
50 the last six seasons. Previous works have reported the effect of the bearing cycle on the
51 quality of olive oils [22] but few studies are available on the individual characterization
52 of phenolic compounds in POD olive oils for many years. Obviously, there were
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3 differences among seasons but the total content was always higher than the limit of 700
4 mg/kg. Oils from the 2012/2013 season showed statistically higher concentration in
5 total phenolic compounds than those of the 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 201/2012
6 seasons, having those of the 2010/2011 and 2013/2014 season the lower statistical
7 content. It must be noted that this is a very high concentration if it is compared with
8 previous data from the literature [27]. In particular, these oils of Montoro-Adamuz are
9 very rich in oleuropein and ligustroside aglycons (HyEA and TyEA), followed by the
10 dialdehydic forms of decarboxymethyl elenolic acid linked to hydroxytyrosol (HyEDA)
11 and tyrosol (TyEDA). The latter substance seems to be mainly responsible for the
12 burning, pungent sensory notes in VOOs [28], and it did not reach a higher
13 concentration of 140 mg/kg in VOOs of the Montoro-Adamuz, which could explain the
14 non-extremely bitter sensation of these oils despite their high total phenolic content.
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24 The phenolic profile of these oils also showed a significant presence of
25 hydroxytyrosol, tyrosol, hydroxytyrosol acetylated, hydroxytyrosol glycol and, to a
26 lesser extent, the flavonoids luteolin and apigenin. Because of the low content in the
27 lignan 1-acetoxypinoresinol, the percentage of Picual oil in the Montoro-Adamuz oil
28 must be high since this substance has been proposed as a biomarker of Picual oils [11].
29 Table 3 shows the phenolic profile of oils obtained from either Picual or Nevadillo
30 negro fruit. It can be observed a big difference between these two oils, particularly the
31 concentration of 1-acetoxypinoresinol was much lower in Picual oils than Nevadillo
32 negro, whereas the opposite was found for the other lignan pinoresinol. These data
33 corroborate the great contribution of the Picual cultivar to the characteristics of the oils
34 of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz. Furthermore, the Nevadillo negro oil had a higher total
35 phenolic content than the Picual oil, taking into consideration that all fruit were
36 harvested in the same orchard.
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46 Nevadillo negro oils were also richer in phenolic compounds irrespective of the
47 irrigation regime or sun exposition level of the field. (Fig. 4). Likewise, total phenols
48 were higher in oils from non-irrigated trees of the Nevadillo negro cultivar but the
49 opposite behavior was found for the Picual cultivar. Previous works have shown that
50 concentration of phenolic compounds decreases in VOO with increasing water irrigation
51 of the olive trees [17, 29] but contradictory data has also been reported [30]. In fact,
52 Moriana *et al* (2007) has proposed that the effect of irrigation on phenolic concentration
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3 takes place all year round and not just during the oil accumulation phase, which is the
4 period when most growers irrigate their olive trees.
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7 In our experiments, it was tested the effect of the sun exposition level of the
8 olive trees on the phenolic content of the VOOs Montoro-Adamuz (Fig. 4). Both Picual
9 and Nevadillo negro oils obtained from a sunny area exhibited higher phenolic
10 concentration than those of the shady area. Olives grown at high altitude give rise to oils
11 with high concentration in phenolic compounds [24], and this effect can be related to
12 the climatic conditions but also with a higher heat accumulation. Hence, it is reasonable
13 to find a high concentration of phenolic compounds in VOOs obtained from olives
14 cultivated in sunny areas.
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21 As well as the individual quantification of the main phenolic compounds of the
22 oils, it was measured the total concentrations of both hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol
23 following the method proposed recently by Romero and Brenes (2012, 2014). There is
24 not an official method to analyze phenolic compounds in olive oil because of several
25 drawbacks but this new method allows the reliable determination of the total
26 concentration of the two most important simple phenolic compounds present in olive
27 oil. The average contents of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol in VOOs of the POD Montoro-
28 Adamuz during the seasons 2008-2013 were 184 ± 60 mg/kg and 186 ± 47 mg/kg
29 respectively. These data are higher than most of those reported for many commercial
30 Spanish VOOs [12], and they confirm the richness of these oils in these bioactive
31 substances.
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43 **Conclusions**

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45 Many variables contribute to the concentration of phenolic compounds in VOOs
46 such as cultivar, agronomic conditions, technological processing, irrigation and others.
47 In the case of the VOOs of the POD Montoro-Adamuz, it has been attributed to (i) the
48 presence of the Nevadillo negro cultivar in the couple of these oils, (ii) the extreme
49 agro-climatic conditions which cause physiological stress in the olive tree, and (iii) the
50 early harvesting of the fruit [10].
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56 The results obtained in this work indicate that VOOs of the POD Montoro-
57 Adamuz are very rich in bioactive substances. They contain a high content in oleic acid,
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3 squalene, sterols and tocopherols but they are particularly rich in phenolic compounds,
4 being their concentration higher than 700 mg/kg during the last six crop seasons.
5 Besides, their total contents of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol was higher than reported for
6 many other VOOs. The irrigation regime studied did not show a significant effect on the
7 content of bioactive substances in these oils. By contrast, the level of sun radiation on
8 olive trees exerted a great influence on the concentration of these substances. Oils from
9 trees cultivated in a sunny area had a higher percentage of oleic acid and concentration
10 in phenolic compounds than those from shady areas. The opposite was detected for
11 tocopherols and squalene which were more concentrated in oils from olives of the shady
12 area. These results could contribute to make blended oils with specific content in
13 bioactive substances.
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24 **Acknowledgments**

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Figure legends

Fig. 1. Influence of agronomic conditions on the content in oleic acid of oils obtained at laboratory scale of the Picual and Nevadillo negro cultivar. Bars mean the standard deviation of two samples. Different letters mean significant differences according to a Duncan's multiple range test ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 2. Influence of agronomic conditions on the content in squalene of oils obtained at laboratory scale of the Picual and Nevadillo negro cultivar. Bars mean the standard deviation of two samples. Different letters mean significant differences according to a Duncan's multiple range test ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 3. Influence of agronomic conditions on the content in tocopherols of oils obtained at laboratory scale of the Picual and Nevadillo negro cultivar. Bars mean the standard deviation of two samples. Different letters mean significant differences according to a Duncan's multiple range test ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 4. Influence of agronomic conditions on the content in phenolic compounds of oils obtained at laboratory scale of the Picual and Nevadillo negro cultivar. Bars mean the standard deviation of two samples. Different letters mean significant differences according to a Duncan's multiple range test ($P < 0.05$).

Table 1 Fatty acid and sterol composition, squalene and tocopherols contents in virgin olive oils of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz obtained during the season 2009/2010.

	Mean (standard deviation) ^a
Fatty acids (%)	
Palmitic acid $C_{16:0}$	10.74 (1.21)
Palmitoleic acid $C_{16:1}$	0.77 (0.11)
Stearic acid $C_{18:0}$	2.81 (0.26)
Oleic acid $C_{18:1}$	79.04 (0.99)
Linoleic acid $C_{18:2}$	4.56 (0.48)
Linolenic acid $C_{18:3}$	0.58 (0.02)
Arachidic acid $C_{20:0}$	0.30 (0.06)
Eicosenoic acid $C_{20:1}$	0.21 (0.03)
Behenic acid $C_{22:0}$	0.07 (0.02)
Squalene (mg/kg)	5843 (779)
Tocopherols (mg/kg)	
α -Tocopherol	213 (41)
γ -Tocopherol	34 (5)
Total tocopherols	247 (43)
Total sterols (mg/kg)	
Apparent β -sitosterol (%)	96.55 (1.80)
Campesterol (%)	2.00 (0.18)
Stigmasterol (%)	1.46 (1.80)

^aEach value is the mean of 29 replications.

Table 2 Concentration of phenolic compounds in virgin olive oils of the PDO Montoro-Adamuz during several seasons.

Compound (mg/kg)	08/09 ^a	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Hy-Glycol ^b	11 (10) ^c	10 (8)	7 (4)	11 (1)	6 (2)	4 (1)
Hydroxytyrosol	40 (15)	34 (16)	13 (9)	17 (1)	18 (8)	9 (16)
Tyrosol	12 (5)	13 (6)	8 (3)	7 (1)	9 (4)	6 (5)
HyAC	17 (7)	20 (7)	17 (11)	21 (5)	12 (5)	7 (3)
HyEDA	154 (71)	164 (79)	102 (57)	195 (15)	232 (75)	129 (35)
TyEDA	101 (31)	110 (42)	76 (24)	100 (16)	138 (36)	135 (30)
HyEA	289 (64)	283 (93)	230 (63)	272 (5)	434 (125)	189 (45)
TyEA	463 (110)	348 (98)	244 (70)	267 (2)	472 (160)	281 (43)
1-Acetoxypinoresinol	11(5)	7 (6)	9 (7)	5 (3)	5 (4)	7 (5)
Pinoresinol	44 (6)	36 (7)	45 (13)	45 (3)	40 (8)	36 (7)
Luteolin	1 (1)	4 (1)	4 (1)	3 (0)	4 (1)	2 (1)
Apigenin	<1	1 (0)	1(1)	<1	1 (0)	<1
TOTAL	1143 (212)	1030 (271)	756 (202)	943 (5)	1371 (354)	806 (137)

^aThe number of samples analyzed during the seasons 08/09, 09/10, 10/11, 11/12, 12/13 and 13/14 were 19, 29, 28, 3, 14 and 13 respectively.

^bHy-Glycol, hydroxytyrosol glycol; HyAC, hydroxytyrosol acetylated; HyEDA, dialdehydic form of decarboxymethyl elenolic acid linked to

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6 hydroxytyrosol; TyEDA, dialdehydic form of decarboxymethyl elenolic acid linked to tyrosol; HyEA, oleuropein aglycon; TyEA, ligustroside
7 aglycon. °Standard deviation is shown between parenthesis.
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Table 3 Concentration of phenolic compounds (mg/kg) in virgin olive oils obtained from the Picual and Nevadillo negro olive varieties at laboratory scale. Fruits were cultivated in the same orchard and trees were not irrigated. Values are the mean of duplicates.

Compound	Picual	Nevadillo negro
Hy-Glycol	1 (0) ^a	1 (0)
Hydroxytyrosol	3 (1)	5 (1)
Tyrosol	3 (1)	10 (2)
HyAC	50 (6)	31 (4)
HyEDA	196 (31)	327 (50)
TyEDA	41 (6)	154 (21)
HyEA	260 (55)	322 (61)
TyEA	176 (41)	345 (37)
Luteolin	8 (1)	7 (1)
Apigenin	1 (0)	2 (0)
1-Acetoxypinoresinol	2 (0)	51 (2)
Pinoresinol	50 (3)	8 (1)
Total	791 (124)	1263 (106)

^aStandard deviation is shown between parenthesis. See Table 2 for compounds identification

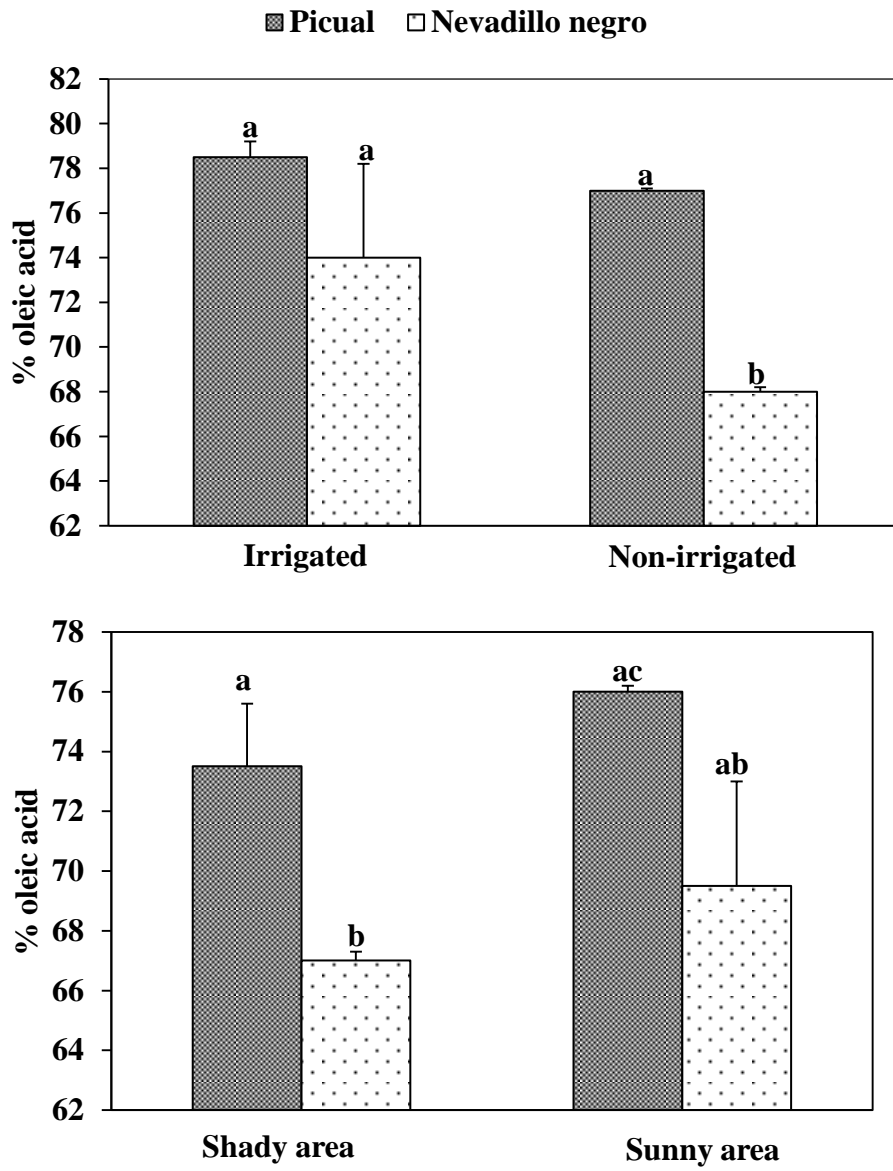


Figure 1

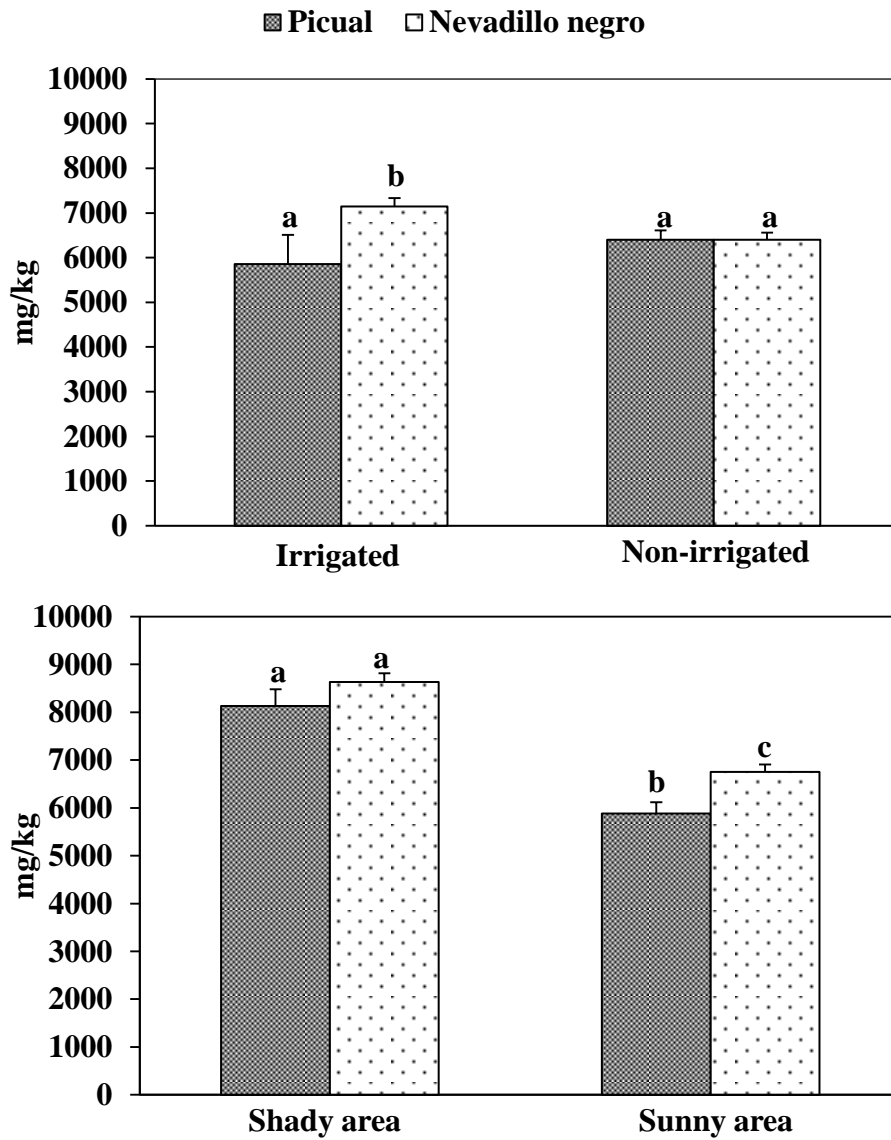


Figure 2

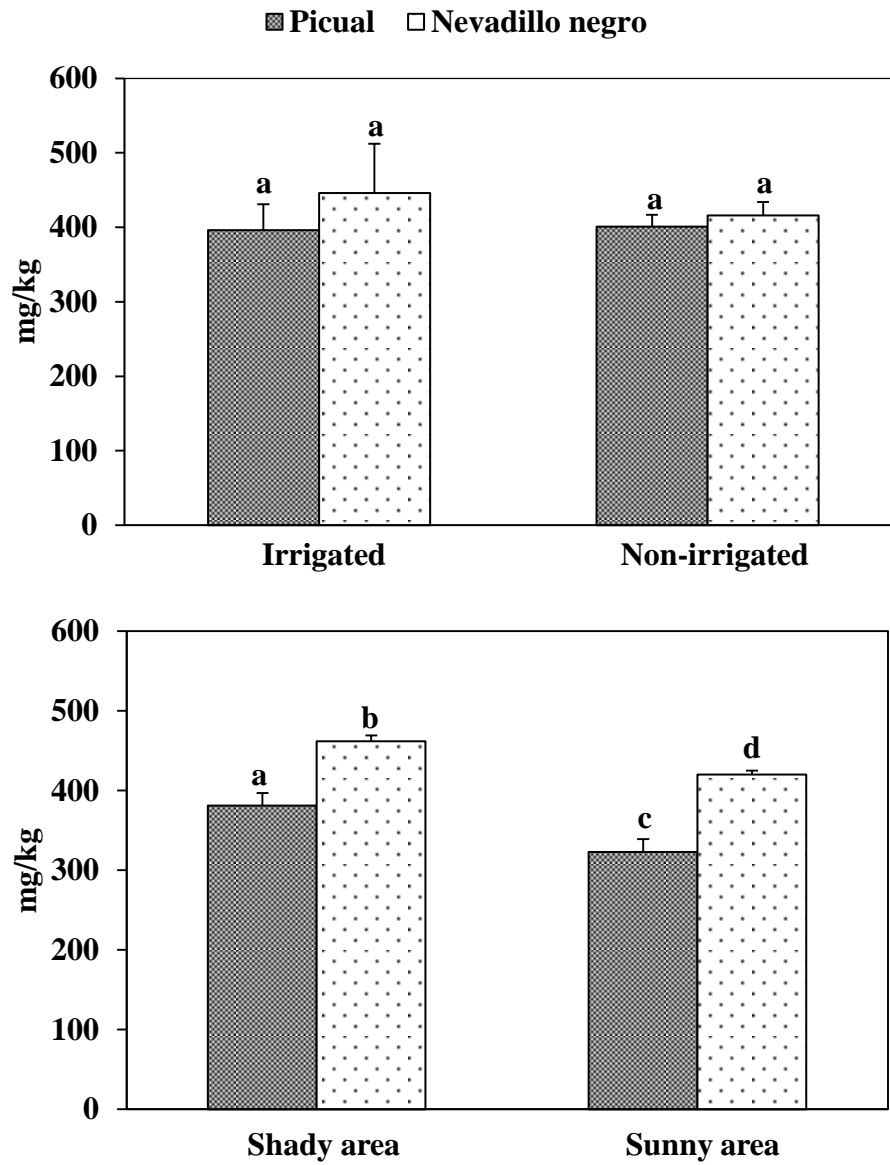
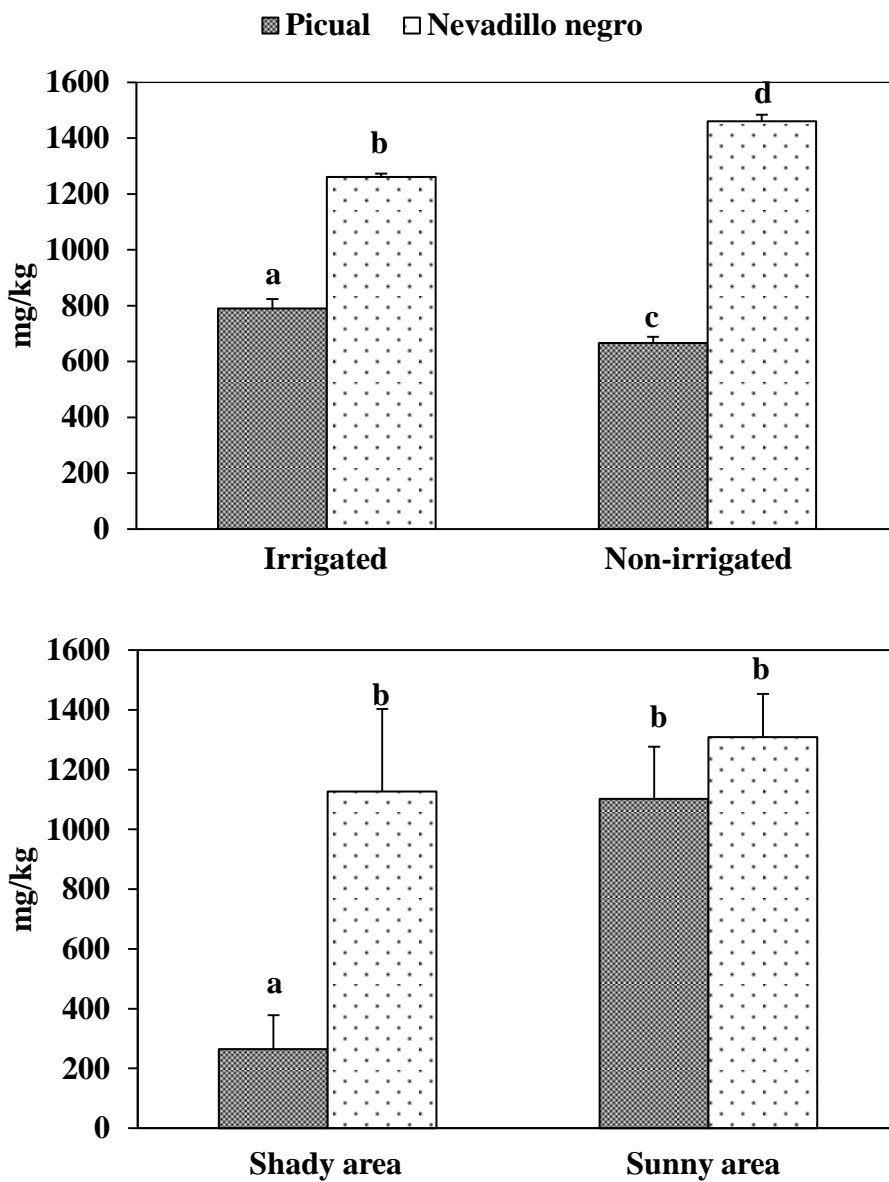


Figure 3

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**Figure 4**