



Evaluation of shelf-life of aonla (*Emblica officinalis* G.) cultivars during storage at room temperature

Poonam Kumari^{1*}, Archana Brar² and Jitender Kumar¹

¹Department of Botany and Plant Physiology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004 (Haryana), INDIA

²Department of Vegetable Science, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004 (Haryana), INDIA

*Corresponding author. E-mail: poonamsanwal86@gmail.com

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Abstract: Five aonla cultivars viz. Chakaiya, Banarasi, Hathijhul, Krishna and Kanchan were evaluated for shelf-life during storage at room temperature. PLW increased with increase in the period of storage in all cultivars (0-15 days). There was no decay loss up to 6th day of storage, however it was observed on 9th day of storage in all the cultivars and it increased up to 15th day of storage. Maximum PLW and decay loss was recorded in fruits of cv. Banarasi (8.14 % and 38.97 %, respectively) on 15th day of storage whereas fruits of cv. Chakaiya had minimum PLW and decay loss (5.83 % and 15.17 %, respectively) on same day of storage. Specific gravity and firmness decreased during the storage from 0-15 days in all the cultivars. Fruits of cv. Banarasi had minimum specific gravity (0.99) as well as firmness (10.83kg/cm²) whereas fruits of cv. Chakaiya had maximum specific gravity (0.93) and firmness (11.10kg/cm²) at the end of the storage. The present experiment was conducted to evaluate the different cultivars of aonla fruit for their biochemical and physiological behavior under room temperature storage and to find out the best among five cultivars for their shelf life under the Haryana agro-climatic conditions.

Keywords: Aonla, Cultivars, Firmness, PLW, Specific gravity

INTRODUCTION

Aonla (*Emblica officinalis*G.) is an important crop indigenous to Indian subcontinent which is used in alternative medicine, health foods and herbal products. It is also found to be a rich source of ascorbic acid as compared to any other fruits (Karpagavalli *et al.*, 2014). It belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae and comprises about 350 species (Hooker, 1973). Aonla has been cultivated in India since time immemorial. Aonla is being exported under the category of Ayurvedic and Unani herbs (Nayak *et al.*, 2011). Although, the fresh fruit of aonla are consumed in very low quantity and major bulk of produce are being utilized for value addition, which has a pre-requisite for prolonged shelf-life to utilize it in food processing industry. Raw fruits are also used for making pickles, preserve like murabba. Recently, some more value-added products like supari, candy, segments in sugar syrup, churan and blended beverages of aonla juice with lime and ginger have also been prepared (Tandon *et al.*, 2003). Thus, there is need to assess the storage potential of commercial cultivars for their better shelf-life. However, post harvest behaviour of aonla vary, depending on various factors viz; cultivar, rootstock, soil, agro-climatic conditions, growth and development pattern including flowering, fruiting, maturity, chemical composition of fruits as well as storage conditions. Aonla is one of the main constituent of many ayurvedic preparations like

Triphla and Chyawanprash. There is dearth of literature availability on physico-chemical properties of various Indian cultivars of aonla. The present investigation was therefore planned to evaluate the physico-chemical properties and nutritional composition of five different varieties of aonla.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Present investigations were carried out in post harvest laboratory of the Department of Horticulture and in Department of Botany and Plant Physiology, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. Fully mature aonla fruits of five cultivars namely Chakaiya, Banarasi, Hathijhul, Krishna and Kanchan of uniform size, color and free from blemishes were harvested from the orchard of the Horticulture department with the help of secateurs keeping small intact pedicel with each fruit. Two kg of fruits of each cultivar of aonla were packed in cardboard boxes with newspaper as cushioning material. Each box was treated as one replicate and all the treatments were replicated four times. Fruits were stored at room temperature.

Calculation of PLW (%): Physiological loss in weight (PLW) was determined by weighing the fruits from three replicates at two days interval i.e. 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th and 15th day of observation and calculated by the following formula suggested by Srivastava and Tandon (1968).

Physiological loss in weight (%) = $\frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{final weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$

Calculation of decay loss (%): Fruits showing rotting due to micro organisms infection were considered as decayed ones and were weighed on each day of observation and were separated from the box. Weight of decayed fruits was taken on each day of observation. The percent decay loss was estimated by the following formula suggested by Srivastava and Tandon (1968).

$$\text{Decay loss (\%)} = \frac{W-w}{W} \times 100$$

Where, W= Total weight of the fruits, w = Weight after eliminating decayed fruits

Calculation of specific gravity: Specific gravity was calculated by dividing the weight of the fruit with the volume of the same fruit.

Detemination of fruit firmness (kg/cm²): Fruit firmness was calculated as the force required to puncture the fruit and was measured using pressure tester machine and expressed as kg/cm².

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physiological loss in weight (PLW): Data depicted in table 1 indicates that physiological loss in weight increased with increasing period of storage i.e. from 0-15 days in all the cultivars at room temperature. Minimum PLW was observed in fruits of aonla *cv.* Chakaiya n the initial day of storage i.e. 3rd day (0.80 %) whereas maximum physiological loss in weight was observed in fruits of *cv.* Banarasi (1.43 %) on the same period of storage. Similar trend was observed during the period of storage and minimum PLW was observed in fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya in all days of storage i.e. from 0-15 days and

Table 1. Physiological loss in weight (%) in fruits of aonla (*Emblica officinalis* G.) during storage in different cultivars at room temperature.

Cultivars (C)	Physiological loss in weight (%)				
	Period of storage (D)				
	3	6	9	12	15
Chakaiya	0.80	2.10	3.06	3.86	5.83
Banarasi	1.43	2.50	3.76	4.76	8.14
Hathijhul	1.33	2.34	3.46	4.23	6.56
Krishna	0.86	2.33	3.40	4.16	7.83
Kanchan	1.20	2.11	3.56	4.66	7.50
CD at 5%	0.17	0.27	0.38	0.39	0.41

Table 2. Decay loss (%) in fruits of aonla (*Emblica officinalis* G.) during storage in different cultivars at room temperature.

Cultivars (C)	Decay loss (%)		
	Period of storage (D)		
	9	12	15
Chakaiya	0.29	3.53	15.17
Banarasi	4.13	21.07	38.97
Hathijhul	0.93	13.77	28.40
Krishna	0.37	4.07	21.99
Kanchan	0.73	9.40	23.30
CD at 5%	0.25	2.00	3.05

maximum PLW was recorded in fruits of *cv.* Banarasi on all days of storage. PLW in fruits is mainly due to various physiological processes i.e. respiration and transpiration (Singh *et al.*, 2003). After harvesting of fruits, during storage, the supply of photosynthates from plant is cut off and whatsoever is stored inside the fruit has to be utilized for respiration, transpiration and other physiological processes. As all physiological processes utilizes various photosynthates already stored in fruits, as result of which fruit weight decreases during storage which is expressed in terms of PLW.

Variation in PLW in different cultivars is a genetic character of the varieties as different physiological processes go on at different rates in different cultivars. The variation in PLW among cultivars of aonla might also be attributed to variation in texture and skin characteristics of fruits (Singh *et al.*, 2003). Similar variation in PLW has also been reported by Rahman *et al.* (2016) in different genotypes of strawberry and Balouchi *et al.* (2011) in broccoli cultivars during storage at room temperature.

Decay loss: No decay loss was observed up to 6th day of storage in fruits of any of the cultivars of aonla. Decay loss increased from 9th to 15th day in all the cultivars during storage. On the 9th day of storage, minimum decay loss was observed in fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya (0.29 %) followed by *cv.* Krishna (0.37 %) which was at par with each other whereas maximum decay loss was observed in *cv.* Banarasi which was 4.13 % on same period of storage. Similar trend was observed on the 15th day of storage where minimum decay loss was

Table 3. Specific gravity in fruits of aonla (*Emblica officinalis* G.) during storage in different cultivars at room temperature.

Cultivars (C)	Specific gravity						Mean
	Period of storage (D)						
	0	3	6	9	12	15	
Chakaiya	1.13	1.08	1.01	0.96	0.94	0.93	1.01
Banarasi	1.10	1.07	0.98	0.95	0.92	0.90	0.99
Hathijhul	1.11	1.07	0.99	0.96	0.94	0.91	1.00
Krishna	1.12	1.10	1.02	0.98	0.95	0.92	1.01
Kanchan	1.11	1.09	1.05	0.98	0.94	0.91	1.01
Mean	1.11	1.08	1.01	0.97	0.94	0.91	

Table 4. Firmness (kg/cm²) in fruits of aonla (*Emblica officinalis* G.) during storage in different cultivars at room temperature.

Cultivars (C)	Firmness (kg/cm ²)						Mean
	Period of storage (D)						
	0	3	6	9	12	15	
Chakaiya	12.98	12.80	12.40	12.17	11.57	11.10	12.17
Banarasi	12.69	12.43	12.13	11.70	11.26	10.83	11.83
Hathijhul	12.78	12.50	12.17	11.75	11.23	10.93	11.89
Krishna	12.77	12.37	12.13	11.73	11.43	11.07	11.91
Kanchan	12.73	12.43	12.10	11.76	11.33	10.87	11.87
Mean	12.79	12.51	12.19	11.82	11.36	10.96	
CD at 5%	C=0.05	D= 0.05	CxD= 0.12				

observed in *cv.* Chakaiya (15.17 %) and maximum decay loss was observed in *cv.* Banarasi i.e. 38.97 % followed by *cv.* Hathijhul (28.40 %) on the same day of storage. This might be due to the reason that different cultivars have different surfaces, texture and genetic characteristics. So attack of microflora might have been different in different cultivars of aonla. These results of increase in decay loss are in harmony with those obtained by Bishnoi and Sharma (2015) in guava and Gangwar *et al.* (2012) in different cultivars of aonla.

Specific gravity: Data presented in table 3 indicated the trend which has not been statistically analyzed because specific gravity has been calculated weight by volume method. As it is a calculated value so CD has not been calculated. However, data predicted that specific gravity decreased during of storage. Among cultivars, maximum specific gravity was observed in fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya (1.01), *cv.* Krishna (1.01) and *cv.* Kanchan (1.01) whereas minimum specific gravity was observed in fruits of *cv.* Banarasi (0.99) on mean basis irrespective of storage period. Difference in specific gravity in different cultivars of aonla during storage is a varietal character. This is obvious as different cultivars have different rate of various physiological processes. As a result of which variation in weight and volume of different cultivars also varied. Results of these finding are in agreement with the reports of Singh *et al.* (2012) in mango, who also reported decreased in specific gravity in mango fruits during storage (0.90 to 0.86).

Firmness: Firmness of aonla fruits was maximum at the initial period of storage i.e. 0 day (Table 4) in all the cultivars. Decrease in firmness of aonla fruits was observed with increasing period of storage as a result of which fruits of all cultivars retained minimum firmness on 15th day of storage. Among the interactions, maximum firmness was observed in fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya (12.98 kg/cm²) on initial period of storage which was retained on the 15th day of storage in fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya (11.10kg/cm²) and *cv.* Krishna (11.07kg/cm²) which was at par with each other whereas minimum firmness was observed in fruits of *cv.* Banarasi (12.69 kg/cm²) and *cv.* Kanchan (12.73kg/cm²) which was at par with each other on 0 day of storage which followed the similar trend up to 15th day of storage and fruits of *cv.* Banarasi showed minimum firmness i.e. 10.83kg/cm² followed by *cv.* Kanchan (10.87kg/cm²) on same day of storage. The decrease in firmness of aonla fruit may be due to gradual breakdown of protopectin and some other compound of higher molecular weight to lower molecular weight compounds which might have been more soluble in cytoplasm and this resulted in softening of the fruits (Afshar-Mohammadian and Rahimi-Koldeh 2010). These results are in harmony with those obtained by Banados *et al.* (2002) in different cultivars of raspber-

ry, Parker and Maalekuu (2013) in tomato cultivars and Jha *et al.* (2010) and Jha *et al.* (2013) in mango hybrids and cultivars respectively, during storage.

Conclusion

The PLW and decay loss increased with the increase in storage period, whereas, both firmness and specific gravity were decreased. Among the five cultivars of aonla fruits of *cv.* Chakaiya had minimum PLW and decay loss during storage and maximum specific gravity as well as firmness whereas maximum PLW and decay loss was observed in fruits of *cv.* Banarasi during storage. From the findings, it can be concluded that *cv.* Chakaiya was the best among other five cultivars because it has higher shelf life then other and *cv.* Banarasi was poor in shelf life under Haryana agro-climatic conditions.

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