

International Journal of Horticultural Science 2012, 18 (2): 15–22.  
 Agroinform Publishing House, Budapest, Printed in Hungary  
 ISSN 1585-0404

# Commercial varieties of European plums grown in Hungary, a comparison of promising foreign varieties with the widely grown traditional ones

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**Summary:** Observations and investigations performed in laboratory at several growing sites over a period of many years are summarised on established plum varieties as well as on new promising ones concerning their marketing value. The ripening period of plum varieties was enlarged substantially with the appearance of new varieties of extra late maturity ('Elena', 'Tophit', 'Presenta'). The new varieties did not alter the traditional colour, more or less long, violet or blue character of the plum. The most known type, 'Besztercei szilva' with its accustomed taste was followed by the new varieties 'Katinka', 'Tegera', 'Hanita' and 'Presenta'. The fruit size are largely of the medium category, except the early ripening small 'Katinka', whereas the larger and attractive (~60 g) fruits are represented by the late ripening 'Tophit' and 'Empress'. The stone/fruit ratio was lowest in 3% ('Tophit') and 6% ('Besztercei Bt. 2', 'Hanita', 'Jojo', 'Čačanska rana') at the other end of the scale. The width and thickness of the fruit flesh between 28 mm ('Besztercei szilva') and 43–44 mm ('Empress', 'Tophit'). The firmness of the fruit flesh excelled in the late maturity varieties 'Presenta' and 'Tophit' (~4 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>). Water soluble solids were 12–13 Brix% ('Čačanska rana', 'Katinka', 'Silvia') and 20 Brix% ('Presenta', 'Tophit'), whereas titrated acids are found between 0.2% ('Besztercei Bt. 2') and 1.2% ('Tegera').

**Key words:** plum, time of maturity, pomological properties, yields, content of water soluble solids, acids

## Introduction and survey of the literature

Plum growing is a Hungarian tradition since centuries. Its popularity is founded by its long ripening period and its advantageous fruit characters. Up to the present times, plums for fresh consumption as well as for industrial procession are highly appreciated on the market.

At the moment, the National List of Varieties contains 20 varieties of State Registration, 3 of them belong to the Japanese plum species. The majority of the list is *Prunus domestica* L.), but the round shape is typical for 'Althann ringló', 'Zöld ringló' and 'Sermina' which are named *Prunus x italica* convar. *claudiana* (i.e. Raineclaudes). The origin of varieties is variable. Three are considered as Hungarian, the rest German, Serbian, Czech, French, Rumanian, Italian (National List of Varieties 2011). The structure of varieties is changing gradually. There is a tendency to prefer varieties, which are more tolerant to the sharka virus, high yielding and autofertile (self-compatible). The majority is a member of "domestic" group (Kovács, 2009).

The plum season lasts in Hungary for almost 3 months. The first ripe fruit appears around the end of June, early July by 'Ruth Gerstetter'. The season is ended by 'President' at the mid of September. To the late period belong the varieties with large, firm fruits and high soluble solid content (e.g.

'Stanley', 'President'). The picked fruit is easily stored for fresh consumption over several weeks (Surányi, Erdős, 1998; Surányi, Erdős, 2006; Szabó, 2001), where the role of new German varieties is decisive (Szabó, 2001; Surányi, Erdős, 1998; Jacob, 1998, 2002; Hartmann, 1998).

For the grower, one of the most important faculties of the variety is the fruit mass. According to literature we may distinguish *small* (less than 25 g), *medium* (25–35 g), *large* (35–45 g) and *very large* (more than 45 g) categories (Szabó, 2001). However, on the market, the diameter of the fruit is considered. For fresh consumption the large fruit has a diameter of 30–35 mm, the rest ought to have 25–28 mm (Szenci, 2006).

Large varieties (mainly in the early season) plums and raineclaudes are sold preferably for fresh consumption. Medium and small fruits are ready for deep cooling and industrial processing, where the high content of soluble solids is highly appreciated (Szabó, 2001).

The nutritional value of the plum is due to its chemical composition. Compared with other fruits of the moderate climate, the energy content is considerable (244 kJ/100 g). Carbohydrates are 10–18%, but the alcohols (like sorbite, xylite) are also considerable. The acid are mediocre (0.5–1.4%), where malic acid prevails but we may find tartaric, succinic and citric acids too. (Rodler, 2005; Surányi, 2006)

Tóth (1957) and Surányi (1990, not published) measured as lowest soluble solids in 'Grand Prix' and 'Sasbachi korai' (14%), and highest in 'Čačanska secer' (23%) and in 'Violaszín ringló' (27%) varieties. Lowest acid content was in 'Nancy mirabella', 'Ageni' 'Besztercei szilva' (0.4–0.5%), whereas highest acids in 'Silvia' (1.3%) and in 'Nagyherceg' (1.7%) (Surányi, 1980; Szabó & Nyéki, 2006c). As a rule, late ripening varieties contain more soluble solids and less acids (Surányi, 2006).

## Objectives set

We aimed to compare the new and potentially promising plum varieties with the traditional and appreciated ones from the point of view of their marketing value. For that purpose, utilised the bulk of data accumulated during many years on a couple of growing sites and analysed in the laboratories during our practice. rendelkezésünkre.

## Material and methods

The investigation pointed on commercial value of fruit of plum varieties started with 2006 in the plantation of the BCE KTK Experimental Farm, collection of varieties at Szigetcsép, the plantation of the Kevefruct ZRt, paralleling with 2007, 2008 in the fields of the non-profit Fruits and Decorative Plants Kft at Érd-Elvira. With 2009, the Budapest Corvin University, Dpt. Fruit Growing contributed on the Experimental Farm at Soroksár to the project. The dates and conditions of field observations are presented in Table 1.

Plum trees have been grown on Myrobalan rootstocks in a 6 × 4 m planting design (Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira), or 5 × 3 m (Soroksár, Ráckeve). Planting dates are at Szigetcsép in autumn 1991 and spring 1992. At Érd-Elvira, the variety collection started in 1996 and 1998, and with new varieties ('Jojo', 'Elena', 'Presenta', 'Tegera') in 2004. The plantation of Ráckeve started in 2002–2003, at Soroksár, the gene bank in autumn 2004 and 2005.

At Szigetcsép no pruning has been performed, consequently, trees showed their natural habits. For the purpose of maintaining the fruiting, dense crowns have been thinned. At Érd-Elvira and Soroksár, the trees have been trained to free spindle crown.

At Szigetcsép, the space between the rows has been covered with sod and mown regularly. The plantation was not irrigated during the season of observations, and phytosanitary treatments were minimised. The collection has been abolished in the winter of 1996. The intensive plantation at Ráckeve and the model farm of Soroksár with the collection of varieties was also covered by sod and irrigated occasionally. Fertilisation was performed on the basis of soil- and leaf-analysis. (Oral informations of Béla Bódis 2011; Gyöző Szenci and Miklós Makay Miklós, 2010).

The study dealt with varieties significant in Hungarian markets: 'Althann ringló', 'Besztercei szilva', 'Bluefre',

'Čačanska leptotica', 'Čačanska rana', 'Čačanska rodna', 'President', 'Silvia', 'Stanley', 'Valjevka'. The promising, new foreign varieties are from Germany: 'Elena', 'Hanita', 'Jojo', 'Katinka', 'Presenta', 'Tegera', 'Tophit' and from the USA 'Empress'.

For the morphological, physical and chemical characterisation, fruits have been used randomly 30 per variety at the 85–90% stage of ripening. The samples have been processed within 1–2 days after storing in 5–7 °C cool store. In the case of 'Empress', the sampling was performed according to the practice of the company, at 75–80% ripeness.

Morphology (form of the fruit, colour of skin and of flesh, parting of stone) physical (mass, width, thickness, stone/fruit ratio, flesh firmness), chemical (water soluble solids, vízdoldható szárazanyag-tartalom (Brix%); titratable acids) analyses were performed in the laboratory at the Department of Fruit Growing of the University. Water soluble solids are determined according to the Codex Alimentarius 3-1-558/93; whereas the titratable acids according to the standards of MSZ EN 12147:1998.

Evaluation and processing of data ensued by the Excel program of the computer.

Table 1. Field observations, sampling sites and dates

Variety	Site of the analysis	Dates (years)
Althann ringló	Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006, 2007, 2009
Besztercei Bt. 2	Érd-Elvira	2007
Besztercei Nm. 122	Érd-Elvira	2007
Bluefre	Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira	2006, 2007
Čačanska leptotica	Ráckeve, Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006–2011
Čačanska rana	Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira	2006–2008
Čačanska rodna	Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006, 2007, 2010, 2011
Elena	Ráckeve, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006–2009
Empress	Ráckeve	2006
Hanita	Ráckeve, Érd-Elvira	2006–2008
Jojo	Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2007–2011
Katinka	Ráckeve, Érd-Elvira	2006–2008
Presenta	Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2008–2009
President	Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006–2009
Silvia	Ráckeve, Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira	2006, 2007
Stanley	Ráckeve, Szigetcsép, Érd-Elvira, Soroksár	2006–2009
Tegera	Érd-Elvira	2008
Tophit	Soroksár	2009
Valjevka	Érd-Elvira	2007

## Results and discussion

The season of maturity of the commercial varieties grown in Hungary comprises 2.5 months (Figure 1). The first ripe fruits appear during the second ten-day's period of

July with 'Čačanska rana' érik, whereas the latest around the mid of September with 'President' (Szabó, 2001; Surányi, Erdős, 1998). Among the promising new varieties 'Katinka' is ripening almost at the same time as 'Čačanska rana'. The latest ripening is 'Presenta' in the mid and the end of September. Figure 1 shows how the plum season is prolonged by late ripening varieties. Favourable (dry and hot) weather allowed a harvest up to the end of September.

The registered dates of commercial varieties coincide with the data published by Szabó (2004) – excepte the early 'Čačanska rana' and the mid-season 'Čačanska leptotica' and 'Silvia'. The three latter varieties proved to be earlier by some days than indicated by Szabó. For the promising foreign varieties, earlier data are referred to Szabó, 2004; Surányi, Erdős, 1998 as well as own observations concerning 'Katinka' and 'Tophit' varieties (earlier ripening). Our observations indicated that 'Empress' and 'Stanley' was almost coincident in ripeness. However Szabó (2004) told that its maturity was later, i.e. mid of September.

According to our experiences, the ripening process of the lasts more or less 7–10 (14) days. A quick ripening (7 day) period is found in 'Čačanska rana', 'Tegera' and 'Empress' varieties, whereas longer periods (10–12 days) are typical for 'Katinka', 'Čačanska leptotica', 'Jojo', 'Stanley', 'Elena' and 'Presenta'. 'Čačanska rana' is ripening quickly as proved by Kállayné (2000).

Month	July			August			September			
	dekad	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Traditional varieties										
Cacanska rana		■	■							
Cacanska leptotica			■	■						
Silvia			■	■						
Althann ringló					■	■				
Cacanska rodna					■	■				
Valjevka							■	■		
Stanley							■	■		
Bluefre							■	■		
Besztercei szilva klónok							■	■		
President								■	■	
Promising new foreign varieties										
Katinka		■	■							
Tegera		■	■							
Hanita					■	■				
Empress							■	■		
Jojo							■	■		
Elena								■	■	
Tophit								■	■	
Presenta								■	■	

Figure 1. Periods of maturity in plum varieties

The **main morphological characteristics** are presented in Table 2. Fruits of 'Althann ringló' are slightly flattened globes, on the skin, the covering colour is purplish red. The rest of varieties have fruits of more or less long (oval) shape with blue or purple skin. The flesh colour changes gradually from greenish to yellowish colour. The promising new varieties did not change the general tendencies of that nature.

Varieties are generally **free stone** types, but 'Čačanska rana' and 'Stanley' start to have free-stones during the ripening period. Several authors (Surányi, Erdős, 2006; Beschreibende Sortenliste, 1997; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001) mentioned that 'Stanley' has free stones at full maturity. Hartmann (1998) mentioned that 'Presenta' has in some years free stones, however, we consider that variety as variably half-free stone type. Harsányi (1979) stated that 'Althann ringló' fruits are of clingstone type if infected by Plum Pox virus. The same has been observed in the variety collection at Soroksár. Half clingstone fruits are mentioned in the List Beschreibende Sortenliste (1997) as for 'President'; Surányi & Erdős (1998) for 'Silvia', Hartmann (2002) mentioned the same for 'Hanita' in some years. Those three varieties are according to Hungarian experiences free stone types.

The Serbian varieties bred at Čačak: 'Čačanska leptotica' and 'Čačanska rana' are inclined to **gummosis** (Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001), but our experiences proved it in 'Čačanska leptotica' only.

Symptoms of **sunburn** appeared on 'Čačanska leptotica' and 'Stanley' sometimes. During the summer, high temperatures are eligible to cause it, not only on the skin but also in the fruit flesh. Hartmann (2008, 2010) stated that 'Čačanska leptotica' is especially sensitive to sunburn. At Érd-elvira, 'Čačanska leptotica' trees showed symptoms in 2007. Szabó (1991) observed sunburn in 'Čačanska rodna' fruits.

At Soroksár, the flesh of 'Althann ringló' fruits showed **flesh browning** symptoms This has been mentioned by Surányi & Erdős (2006), Kállayné (2000) and Szabó (2001). Flesh browning may caused by weather (heath) but strong Plum Pox virus infection with similar symptoms (Hartmann, 2008, 2010).

The **taste** of the fruits examined was delicious sweet-sour. Especially attractive taste could be attributed to 'Besztercei szilva', then also to 'Katinka', 'Tegera', 'Hanita' and 'Presenta'. The taste of 'Besztercei szilva' is recognised by other authors as met also in German varieties in Beschreibende Sortenliste (1997), Hartmann (1998) and Jacob (2002) too. We found the taste as by comparison that 'Čačanska leptotica', 'Silvia', 'President' and 'Valjevka' fruits as undistinctive. 'President', 'Čačanska leptotica' and 'Silvia' were rated by several authors as semi distinctive (Harsányi, 1979; Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001). 'Valjevka' on the other hand have been judged to be juiceless but as tasting well. The intense cultivation threatens its value if the growing site is dry (Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Beschreibende Sortenliste, 1997). In the background of our rating, we have to recognise that the collection of varieties at Érd-elvira is maintained under rather extensive conditions.

Table 2 is designed to give more exact, measured data for the shape-characters shown in Table 3. As visible, the **form-index** of fruits for the variety 'Althann ringló' is exceptionally round, whereas the majority has more or less long oval fruits. Less elongated are fruits of 'Silvia', 'Bluefre', 'Čačanska leptotica', 'Presenta' and 'Tophit', most elongated are 'Valjevka', 'Stanley' and 'Jojo'. The form-index of plum fruits was rarely treated by the literature. Details are found in papers

Table 2. Main morphological traits of fruits in plum varieties

variety	form of fruits	covering colour of fruit skin	colour of the fruit flesh
<b>traditional varieties</b>			
Althann ringló	flattened round	purplish red	orange yellow
Besztercei Bt. 2	Elliptic	dark blue	yellow
Besztercei Nm. 122	Elliptic	dark blue	yellow
Bluefre	slightly elongated, asymmetric	dark blue	greenish yellow
‘Čačanska leptotica	slightly elongated	dark purplish blue	greenish yellow
‘Čačanska rana	Oval	purplish blue	yellow
‘Čačanska rodna	Elliptic	purplish blue	yellow
President	reversed oval	purple	orange yellow
Silvia	slightly elongated	purplish blue	yellow
Stanley	oval	dark blue	yellow
Valjevka	Oval	dark blue	yellow
<b>promising new foreign varieties</b>			
Elena	reversed oval	dark blue	yellowish green
Empress	Elliptic	dark purplish blue	greenish yellow
Hanita	Oval	purplish blue	yellowish green
Jojo	Elliptic	dark blue	golden yellow
Katinka	Elongated	purplish blue	greenish yellow, yellow
Presenta	elliptic	purple	yellow
Tegera	reversed oval	dark purplish blue	orange if ripe
Tophit	slightly elongated	purple	orange if ripe

of Harsányi (1979) and Brózik (1959) referring to varieties grown earlier in Hungary. Data dealing with ‘Althann ringló’ fruits agrees with ours. ‘Stanley’ and two items of ‘Besztercei szilva’ clones proved to be different from the published data, namely, ours were less elongated than those.

Brózik (1959) classified plum varieties according to the **length of the fruit stem**: very short (< 10 mm), short (10–15 mm), mediocre (15–20 mm), long (20–25 mm) and very long (25 mm <). The shortest stems was found in ‘Hanita’ (12.9 mm), the longest in ‘Bluefre’ (21.7 mm) and ‘Čačanska rodna’ (20.4 mm) (Table 3). Most varieties have fruit stems around 14 mm length. Like the form-index, fruit stem length are neglected topics in the literature (Harsányi, 1979; Brózik, 1959). Authors rated ‘Althann ringló’, ‘Besztercei szilva’ and ‘Stanley’ as having stems of mediocre length, but our own measurements put them rather to the short stem category.

European plums altogether have a relatively high **stone/fruit ratio** (4–5–6%). Measured data are found in publications of Brózik (1959), Kállayné (2000), Szabó (2001), Dénes (1991), Ogasanovic et al. (1994) and Szymczak & Plocharski (1998). Our original data are presented in Table 3. Lowest

values (3%) are found in ‘Tophit’. This category is (~4%) valid for ‘Althann ringló’, ‘Besztercei Nm. 122’, ‘Bluefre’ and ‘Čačanska leptotica’. Highest values (~6%) are found in ‘Besztercei Bt. 2’, ‘Hanita’, ‘Jojo’ and ‘Čačanska rana’. Relatively high ratios (~5,5%) typical for ‘Stanley’, ‘Tegera’, ‘Valjevka’, ‘Čačanska rodna’ and ‘Katinka’.

A comparison with published data proved the validity of our study in the case of ‘Althann ringló’, ‘Čačanska leptotica’, ‘Čačanska rana’ and ‘Bluefre’. Ogasanovic et al. (1994) published similar values in ‘Valjevka’, however, other varieties (‘Čačanska leptotica’, ‘Čačanska rana’, ‘Čačanska rodna’) produced higher values in our study. ‘Stanley’ and ‘Empress’ produced higher values than published by Cinquanta et al. (2002). Data of ‘Besztercei Nm. 122’ clone coincide with Brózik’s (1959), but in the case of ‘Besztercei Bt. 2’ clone there are differences.

Table 3. Main physical and chemical properties of plum fruits

variety	shape index length/width	shape index length/thickness	length of fruit stem (mm)	stone/fruit ratio (%)	mass of the stone (g)
<b>a choice of varieties</b>					
Althann ringló	0.92	0.97	14.95	4.01	1.39
Besztercei Bt. 2	1.31	1.29	13.75	6.07	1.17
Besztercei Nm. 122	1.31	1.28	14.14	4.29	0.80
Bluefre	1.17	1.15	21.70	4.14	1.87
‘Čačanska leptotica	1.17	1.16	13.94	4.40	1.71
‘Čačanska rana	1.30	1.23	no data	5.89	3.00
‘Čačanska rodna	1.37	1.33	20.44	5.45	1.33
President	1.19	1.18	14.87	5.12	2.01
Silvia	1.11	1.16	14.39	4.76	1.26
Stanley	1.41	1.38	18.98	5.79	1.96
Valjevka	1.46	1.47	14.54	5.70	1.37
<b>new, promising varieties</b>					
Elena	1.21	1.23	19.47	4.98	1.35
Empress	1.24	1.25	no data	5.03	2.88
Hanita	1.21	1.22	12.97	5.97	1.94
Jojo	1.38	1.41	15.26	6.04	1.96
Katinka	1.34	1.31	13.75	5.43	1.05
Presenta	1.27	1.31	17.32	4.80	1.36
Tegera	1.33	1.28	no data	5.70	1.81
Tophit	1.18	1.16	14.25	3.06	1.86

The **mass of the stone** was in most of the varieties around 1.5–2 g (Table 3). Largest stones (~3 g) are found in ‘Čačanska rana’ and ‘Empress’. The smallest (1 g >) is in ‘Besztercei Nm. 122’ and ‘Katinka’. Harsányi (1979) and Surányi & Erdős (2006) showed information about the size of the stone in a couple of varieties, whereas other authors published too: Ogasanovic et al. (1994), Szymczak & Plocharski (1998) and Cinquanta et al. (2002). ‘Althann

ringló', 'Silvia', and 'Čačanska rodna' produced the same data as ours. 'President', 'Čačanska rana' and 'Stanley' produced higher values in our study. Our data for 'Čačanska leptotica' and 'Empress' coincided with those of *Szymczak & Plocharski* (1998), for 'Valjevka' with that of *Ogasanovic et al.* (1994). Out of the two clones of 'Besztercei szilva', the 'Besztercei Bt. 2' produced the most similar data found in the literature.

The **mass of fruit** (size) is the most important character of a variety. The extreme values were 19 g ('Besztercei szilva') and 60 g ('Tophit'). The former, our important commercial variety or its two clones are small fruited (*Figure 2*). Small–mediocre are 'Valjevka', 'Silvia' and 'Čačanska rodna', mediocre: 'Stanley', mediocre-large: 'Althann ringló' and 'Čačanska leptotica'. The large fruit is found in 'President' and 'Bluefre', very large: 'Čačanska rana'. Most of the promising varieties are mediocre-large fruited ('Tegera', 'Hanita', 'Jojo'), or small-mediocre ('Elena', 'Presenta'). Small fruits are typical for the early ripening 'Katinka', whereas the very big fruits are attractive in the late varieties 'Tophit' and 'Empress'.

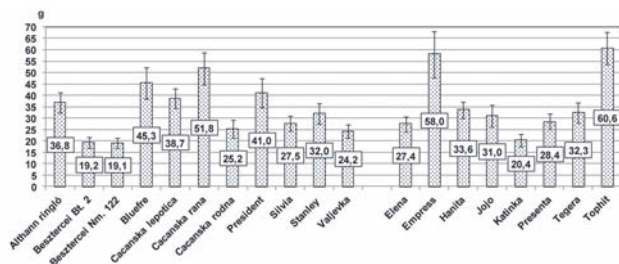


Figure 2. Mean mass of fruits and the standard error of plum varieties

The mass of fruits are difficult to compare with the published data because they are sometimes contradictory (*Brózik, 1959; Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001; Klincsek, 2001; Hartmann, 2002; Kemp & Wustenberghs, 1998; Jacob, 1998, 2002; Ogasanovic et al., 1994; Szymczak & Plocharski, 1998; Usenik et al., 2008; Cinquanta et al., 2002*). One of the reasons may be the annual variation in addition to the growing site effects. In the case of some varieties ('Althann ringló', 'Bluefre', 'Čačanska leptotica', 'Čačanska rana', 'Čačanska rodna', 'President', 'Silvia' and 'Hanita') the authors admit it themselves (*Brózik, 1959; Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001; Klincsek, 2001; Hartmann, 2002*). Most differences between our and published data are found in 'Bluefre', 'President', 'Čačanska rana', 'Silvia', 'Valjevka' and 'Katinka'. 'Čačanska rana' fruits were bigger, the rest was smaller than the published data.

The **width and thickness** was almost identical with the published data, i.e. 28 mm ('Besztercei szilva') and 43–44 mm ('Empress', 'Tophit') (*Figure 3*). In our study, the small fruits of the clones 'Besztercei szilva', 'Katinka', 'Valjevka' proved to be larger than the prescribed standards (28–30 mm). Within the mediocre-large – large category ('Althann ringló', 'Čačanska leptotica', 'President') the 38–39 mm values have been marked. In the very big category ('Čačanska rana',

'Empress', 'Tophit') both measures trespassed the 40 mm. Smaller values were registered than published by *Brózik, (1959), Surányi & Erdős (2006), Kállayné (2000), Szabó (2001), Hartmann (1998) and Cinquanta et al. (2002)* in the cases of 'Bluefre', 'President', 'Silvia', 'Stanley', 'Empress', 'Katinka' and 'Elena'.

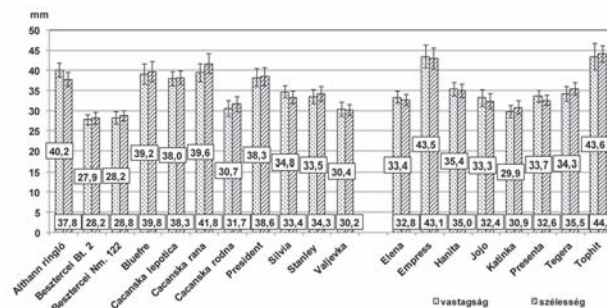


Figure 3. Mean width and thickness of plum fruits with standard errors indicated

The largest (highest) **length** of fruits was measured in the very large fruit category (51 mm <) of varieties ('Čačanska rana', 'Empress', 'Tophit') (*Figure 4*). The lowest values in the small fruit category (40 mm >) in 'Besztercei szilva' clones, and in 'Silvia', 'Althann ringló'. In the rest of varieties, the length (height) was between 40–47 mm.

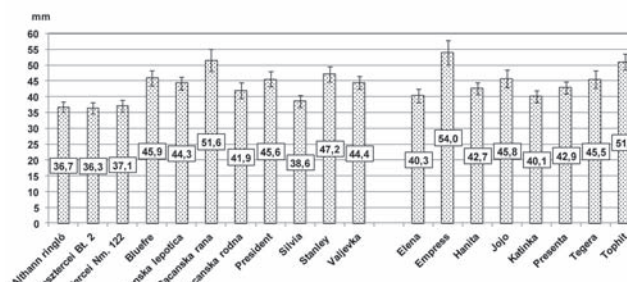


Figure 4. Mean height (length) of plum fruits with standard error indicated

Data found in the literature were scanty only 'Althann ringló', 'Besztercei szilva', 'Stanley' and 'Empress' were presented (*Brózik, 1959; Harsányi, 1979; Cinquanta et al., 2002*). Our results coincide with those of *Brózik (1959) Harsányi (1979)*, but were lower than those of *Cinquanta et al. (2002)*.

In collecting the samples to consider them to be representative, for each sample (site ad year) **the standard deviation was also registered**. It was stated that largest sampling errors occurred in the size categories of large and very large ('President', 'Bluefre', 'Čačanska rana', 'Empress', 'Tophit') (*Figure 2*). The same has been experienced in measurements of the height (length) (*Figure 4*) as well as in the width and thickness (*Figure 3*) values. Errors within samples were high in measurements of height (length) in 'Čačanska rana' and 'Empress' varieties and for thickness in 'Empress', 'Tophit' and 'Bluefre', and for width in 'Čačanska rana', 'Empress' and 'Bluefre' varieties.

For taking the samples, we strived to concentrate on the ripening stage near to 90%. The sole exception was allowed in case of ‘Empress’, which is picked for export at the stage of 75–80% maturity. As a result, we may state that the data of flesh firmness, water soluble solids and titrable acid content were not comparable with other varieties as seen in *Figures 5 and 6*.

Results of the measurements performed in laboratory, **water soluble solids** resulted for the collection between 14 and 16 Brix%. The earliest ripening varieties (‘Čačanska rana’, ‘Katinka’), and the mediocre early ripening ‘Silvia’ produced values around 12 Brix%. Among the promising new varieties of late maturity produced outstanding, more than 18 Brix% as ‘Jojo’, ‘Elena’, ‘Tophit’ and ‘Presenta’ (*Figure 7*).

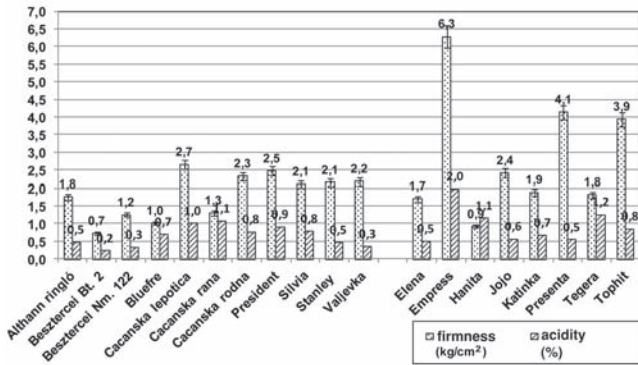


Figure 5. Mean firmness and content of titrable acid content of plum fruits with the standard error of measurements



Elena

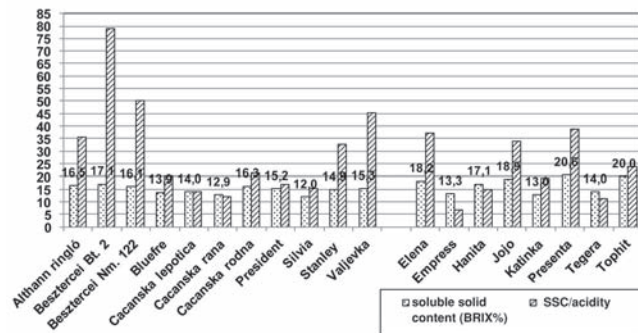


Figure 6. Mean water-soluble solids content and the ratio of soluble solids per titrable acids in plum fruits of varieties



Empress

All samples of the rest of varieties were collected at the same degree (90%) of maturity, thus their data are comparable. All traditional and new varieties produced values of **flesh firmness** around 2–2.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> (*Figure 6*). Lowest values were measured (1.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> >) in ‘Besztercei szilva’, ‘Bluefre’ and ‘Čačanska rana’, and among the new varieties ‘Hanita’. Among the late ripening varieties, ‘Presenta’ and ‘Tophit’ excelled in firmness (~4 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>).

Data related to flesh firmness were different in ‘Bluefre’ and ‘Silvia’, but the rest was conform with the published data (*Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001; Klincsek, 2001, Usenik et al., 2008*). In case of ‘Bluefre’, we agree with *Szabó (2001)*, whereas in case of ‘Silvia’, *Surányi & Erdős (2006), Kállayné (2000) and Klincsek (2001)* published similar data. In ‘Besztercei szilva’ clones, the publications reported hard flesh firmness (*Harsányi, In Tomcsányi, 1979; Surányi & Erdős, 2006; Kállayné, 2000; Szabó, 2001*). Our own measurements show rather soft flesh for the clones mentioned.



Hanita



Jojo



Tophit

Our data were conform with the published ones in the case of the new varieties: ‘Hanita’, ‘Elena’, ‘Presenta’ and ‘Tophit’, but differ for ‘Katinka’ and ‘Tegera’, where our results show lower values than *Hartmann* (1998) and *Jacob* (1998) published data. Our results concerning commercial varieties produced lower soluble solids than the published

data by *Surányi & Erdős* (2006), *Surányi* (1980, 2009), *Klincsek* (2001), *Kemp, Wustenberghs* (1998) and *Szymczak & Plocharski* (1998), excepte ‘President’ and ‘Čačanska rodna’. Lower values than those found in our study were registered by *Usenik et al.* (2008) for ‘Jojo’ and ‘Čačanska rodna’. *Kristl et al.* (2011) wrote data of ‘Hanita’ and ‘Stanley’ being conform with ours, but in case of ‘Tophit’, our values were lower.

The **titrable acid content** varied between 0.2% (‘Besztercei Bt. 2’) and 1.2% (‘Tegera’) (*Figure 6*). Lowest values, i.e. less than 0.4% was measured in the two clones of ‘Besztercei szilva’ and in ‘Valjevka’. The highest values (1–1.2%) produced ‘Tegera’, ‘Hanita’, ‘Čačanska leptotica’ and ‘Čačanska rana’. Except ‘President’, ‘Čačanska leptotica’, ‘Čačanska rana’ and ‘Čačanska rodna’, titrable acid content was lower in our study than in reports of *Surányi & Erdős*, (2006), *Surányi*, (2009) and *Surányi* (1980). Our data of ‘Čačanska leptotica’, ‘Čačanska rana’ and ‘Čačanska rodna’ are near those measured by *Ogasanovic et al.* (1994). ‘Stanley’, ‘Hanita’ and ‘Tophit’ produced higher values according to *Kristl et al.* (2011).

The ratio of **water soluble solids and titrable acid content** (*Figure 7*). The highest values are measured in late ripening varieties. Among the commercial varieties, the two clones of ‘Besztercei szilva’ were outstanding, but also ‘Althann ringló’, ‘Valjevka’ and ‘Stanley’ are remarkable. Among the promising new varieties, ‘Jojo’ ‘Elena’ and ‘Presenta’ excelled. Lowest values are found in ‘Tegera’ and ‘Čačanska rana’. Our results coincide in ‘Stanley’, ‘Hanita’ and ‘Tophit’ but show better values than published by *Kristl et al.* (2011).

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