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1 **Fruit sensory characterization of four Pescabivona, white-fleshed peach [*Prunus persica* (L.)**
2 **Batsch], landraces and correlation with physical and chemical parameters**

3

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18

19 **Abstract – Introduction.** *Pescabivona* is the name of an autochthonous peach [*Prunus persica* (L.)
20 Batch] population of the Middle-West of Sicily. In a previous work, this product was submitted to
21 chemical analyses, while in this paper, sensory evaluation is considered. **Materials and methods.**
22 Samples of *Pescabivona* landraces were harvested during all the harvest season. A trained panel
23 outlined the sensory profiles and the data were processed by ANOVA and Principal Component
24 Analysis (PCA). A correlation between sensory analysis and instrumental data was finally carried
25 out. **Results and discussion.** The results demonstrated a high standard of quality for all the
26 landraces, with some differences in aroma intensity and in some other parameters, with sweetness
27 and aroma being highly correlated with overall liking. PCA did not clearly separate the different
28 landraces as they have the same origin. Some correlations between sensory analysis and
29 instrumental data were verified. The sensory liking was correlated with the main ripeness
30 parameters, as well as with the pulp firmness. **Conclusion.** The data obtained contribute to outline a
31 complete fruit profile for product comparison and shelf-life monitoring. As previously verified for
32 chemical parameters, sensory evaluation indicates a substantial similarity among the landraces. The
33 good agreement between sensory evaluation and composition makes sensory analysis a precious
34 tool to assess quality of *Pescabivona* landraces.

35

36 **Keywords:** *Pescabivona*; white flesh peach; sensory analysis; sensory and physical and chemical
37 attribute relationships; parameter correlations; peach composition.

38

1 **1. Introduction**

2 Peach and nectarine fruit [*Prunus persica* (L.) Batch] are the second most important fruit crop in the
3 European Union (EU) after apple [1].

4 Sensory quality attributes of fruits play a crucial role in consumer satisfaction [2, 3] as well as in the
5 approval of agricultural and food-chain subjects [4]. Although the quality of peaches can be
6 successfully determined by physical and chemical analyses, sensory analysis is another useful
7 approach to the evaluation of the fruit quality [3, 5–7]. In fact, if compared to physical and chemical
8 analysis, sensory analysis has the remarkable advantage of selecting the attributes most affecting the
9 consumer satisfaction [8]. These kinds of protocols are also progressively more used in breeding, in
10 testing new cultivars (cvs.), and in storage practices [9].

11 In making decisions, consumers are primary influenced by the appearance of peach (visible quality)
12 [10]. However, other sensory parameters are involved in the preference of consumers. These
13 parameters are often scarcely present in the peaches currently available on the market [2, 8]. Among
14 these parameters, peach flavor results from a delicate balance of sweetness, sourness, aroma, and
15 astringency, apart from additional physical attributes such as pulp texture. Taste is related to water-
16 soluble compounds, while smell is elicited by volatile compounds. Balanced degree of sweetness
17 and sourness is considered as a consistent characteristic with a positive correlation with consumers'
18 preference [2, 3, 8].

19 Astringency is generally considered as a negative sensorial trait, indicating unripe fruits [11, 12].
20 The relationships between the sensory and physical and chemical attributes of peach fruit are still
21 matter of investigation. An earlier study showed as the sensory evaluation of peaches did not match
22 well with main quality chemical factors, not allowing a classification into groups [13]. However,
23 the difficulty in correlating analytical and sensory measurements is well-known and it is attributed
24 to the high variability of fruits [14].

25 More recently, Esti et al. [7] proposed that the chemical characteristics of fruits could be used as
26 effective comparative indicators of sensory quality. In particular, the relationships between sugars,
27 non-volatile acid content and some sensory attributes (sweetness and sourness) were studied on
28 different peach and nectarine cvs.

29 On the contrary, Colaric et al. [6] showed that titratable acidity (TA) and soluble solid content
30 (SSC) could not be substituted for sensory evaluation of perceived sweetness and sourness due to
31 the complexity of the latter attributes. They demonstrated that sugars/organic acid ratio and levels
32 of organic acids have significant impacts on perception of sweetness. Moreover, these authors
33 asserted that aroma could be influenced by fixed compounds, as well. Total organic acids, sucrose,

1 sorbitol, and malic acid influenced smell perception, while malic/citric acid ratio, total sugars,
2 sucrose, sorbitol, and malic acid affected taste.

3 Different authors assert that an individual sensory attribute is better defined by a set of different
4 molecules, which are involved in different measure in the attribute perception, rather than a single
5 class of substance as sugars for sweetness and organic acids for sourness [15].

6 In Sicily, as well as in other territories, environmental and human selection yields an interesting
7 germplasm of *Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch [16, 17]. Among this germoplasm, *Pescabivona*, also
8 known as “Pesca di Bivona” [18], is a collective name of autochthonous landraces [19]
9 characteristic of the countryside around Bivona, in the Middle-West of Sicily. Nowadays,
10 *Pescabivona* identifies four landraces called: Murtiddara (also called Primizia Bianca), Bianca,
11 Agostina, and Settembrina [20]. They are characterized by different ripening times from the end of
12 June (Murtiddara) up to the end of September (Settembrina).

13 These landraces were recently characterized by their physical and chemical profiles composition
14 [21], showing a general homogeneity of composition and giving evidence of quality in terms of
15 high pulp firmness, sugar and lactone content, along with a balanced SSC/TA ratio. However, no
16 study about sensory evaluation of *Pescabivona* is reported. For this reason, sensory traits of the four
17 *Pescabivona* landraces were investigated.

18 This research was aimed at: i) gaining information on *Pescabivona* sensory characteristics by a
19 trained panel of judges; ii) establishing correlations between sensory analysis, and physical and
20 chemical data. The results can also contribute to provide a complete fruit profile for product
21 comparison and shelf-life monitoring, to give support to growing activities based on local
22 germplasm as a source of valuable quality features, to support the achievement of PGI according to
23 the EU rules, and to provide information for marketing activity of the product, in terms of
24 immediate language to the consumers.

25

26 **2. Materials and methods**

27 *2.1. Sampling*

28 Samples of the four *Pescabivona* peach landraces (Murtiddara, Bianca, Agostina, and Settembrina)
29 were collected inside the growing area around Bivona (Sicily, Italy, lat. 37.619, long. 13.438)
30 during all the harvest season.

31 Details on the characteristics of the orchards and the description of agronomic and growing
32 techniques were already reported [21].

33 The peaches were collected at the ripening stage “ready-to-eat”. Fruits were evaluated by means of
34 change in ground color from green to yellow and fruit size corresponding to AA caliber (diameter

1 from 73 to 80 mm, and circumference from 23 to 25 cm). Since peach quality shows variability
2 within tree [22], fruit sampling was standardized under the following condition: middle vigor trees,
3 rootstock GF 677, south exposure, external part of the tree.

4 A gross sample of 40 peaches was handpicked for each landrace by different trees. The samples
5 were carefully put in refrigerated polystyrene boxes and they were immediately airmailed to the
6 laboratory for sensory analysis. At the same time, a gross sample of 54 peaches was collected for
7 each landrace and destined to physical and chemical analysis only [21].

8 Panel sessions were performed the day after each harvest. A few minutes before the session, once
9 reached the room temperature, the peeled samples were cut in pieces and gently mixed to reduce the
10 variability.

11

12 2.2. *Sensory analysis*

13 2.2.1. *Panel of judges*

14 The panel of judges, recruited by Organizzazione Nazionale Assaggiatori di Frutta (O.N.A.Frut.),
15 encompassed twelve subjects. All the judges have successfully attended a training course and they
16 perform sensory analysis for several years. The training activities include weekly sessions to
17 improve perception sensitivity and evaluation of individual descriptors, in addition to evaluation of
18 different fruit varieties.

19 These subjects, including males and females, aging from 20 to 60, were selected on the basis of the
20 general guidance [23].

21 Their experience was considered suitable as for the senses of taste, smell, and visual and for general
22 rules of sensory analysis, as reported in the standard methods [23, 24].

23

24 2.2.2. *Sensory evaluation on sliced fruits*

25 A descriptive analysis [25] was carried out by the trained panel group in individual sensory booths,
26 to avoid exchange of opinions or any other conditioning. Each panelist was asked to evaluate visual,
27 olfactive, and gustative attributes by recording the intensity on a 10-cm structured line scale
28 anchored at each end [25, 26]. Eleven sensory attributes related to color, texture, odor, (retronasal)
29 aroma, and taste of the analyzed samples were evaluated: pulp ground color, presence of red veins,
30 fibrousness, hardness, juiciness, intensity of smell, sweetness, sourness, bitterness, and aroma. Pulp
31 ground color and presence of red veins were visually evaluated. Finally, each panelist was asked to
32 express the overall liking to provide the potential consumer acceptance.

33

34 2.2.3. *Sensory evaluation on entire fruits*

1 In order to prevent a possible influence of fruit appearance on sensory evaluation, the descriptive
2 evaluation on the whole fruit was carried out at the end of each panel session. Judges were called to
3 evaluate the geometric shape, symmetry of shape, peel ground color, percentage and kind of peel
4 over color, and intensity of smell.

5

6 2.3. *Physical and chemical analysis*

7 Physical and chemical profiling of the samples were described in a previous paper [21]. Herewith a
8 list of the determination is simply reported:

- 9 a) color and color distance analysis for peel and pulp color were determined as CIE coordinates (L*,
10 a*, and b*) [27] by a reflectance chromameter;
- 11 b) physical and chemical analysis such as weight, pulp firmness, pH, soluble solid content (SSC),
12 and titratable acidity (TA) were determined by electronic balance, fruit pressure tester,
13 refractometer, pH-meter, and titration, respectively; SSC/TA ratio was also calculated;
- 14 c) organic acids and sugars were determined by HPLC after extraction;
- 15 d) flavan-3-ols and hydroxycinnamic acids were determined on peel and pulp by UV/Vis
16 spectrophotometer after extraction;
- 17 e) antioxidant capacity was determined on peel and pulp by ABTS assay after extraction;
- 18 f) lactones was determined by GC after extraction and concentration.

19

20 2.4. *Statistical analysis*

21 Analysis of variance (ANOVA), Tukey test [28], linear regression analysis, and principal
22 component analysis (PCA) were performed using Statistica version 8.0 software (Stat 180 Soft Inc.,
23 Tulsa, USA).

24

25 **3. Results and discussion**

26 3.1. *Sensory analysis on sliced fruits and one-way ANOVA*

27 The results and statistical analysis concerning the sensory analysis are reported in Table 1.
28 Among the texture descriptors, fibrousness and juiciness showed statistically significant differences
29 ($p \leq 0.01$), while hardness did not, notwithstanding Settembrina had a hardness mean value slightly
30 higher than the other landraces.
31 Fibrousness had the highest scores for Agostina and intermediate for Bianca and Settembrina,
32 whereas Murtiddara showed the lowest values. Probably for this reason, Murtiddara was the
33 landrace with the highest juiciness scores followed by Bianca and Agostina, while Settembrina was
34 judged as the least juicy.

1 All the landraces were described as very fragrant, and ANOVA did not show any statistical
2 difference.
3 Taste descriptors, conversely, allowed a more remarkable discrimination among the landraces.
4 Settembrina was the sweetest peach ($p \leq 0.05$), whereas the lowest scores were recorded for
5 Murtiddara. Consistently, Murtiddara came out as the sourest peach ($p \leq 0.01$), followed by Bianca
6 and Settembrina, while Agostina was by far the least. Finally, bitterness stressed the differences (p
7 ≤ 0.001) among the landraces. Bianca was judged as the bitterest peach (2.63), while Murtiddara
8 and Agostina reached score remarkably lower (0.50 and 0.71). Also aroma (retronasal perception)
9 showed some differences among landraces. The most aromatic landrace was Settembrina, followed
10 by Agostina and Murtiddara, while Bianca came last.
11 All samples were described as white pulp peaches, while the presence of red veins near the stone
12 was registered for all the landraces, except Murtiddara. Moreover, the sample of this landrace
13 showed a large variability. In fact, 73 % of the fruits did not show any veins, 18 % showed red
14 veins near the stone, and 9 % showed red veins widespread in the pulp.

15

16 3.2. *Sensory analysis on whole fruits*

17 Geometrical shape was described as spheroidal for all landraces except for Bianca that was
18 indicated as oblate-spheroidal. Only Murtiddara was described as without shape symmetry.
19 Peel ground color was yellow-green for Murtiddara and Bianca, white-green for Agostina, and
20 white for Settembrina, while peel over color was red for all the landraces.

21 All the whole unpeeled peaches were described as markedly smelling. Murtiddara and Bianca were
22 described as highly fragrant, while Agostina scored 42 % of high cases, 33 % of medium ones, and
23 25 % of low ones. Finally, Settembrina was considered for 58 % as high cases and 42 % as medium
24 ones.

25

26 3.3. *Principal component analysis*

27 PCA was applied to the autoscaled data to detect the most important variables for determining their
28 structure. The first three principal components (PCs) showed eigenvalues > 1.0 [29] explaining
29 65.8 % of the total variance.

30 The plot of the PC1 (31.66 % of total variability) vs. PC2 (19.02 % of total variability) (Fig. 1)
31 showed as the samples of the different landraces did not clearly separate into different clusters. This
32 means that there is not a clear segregation of the landraces according to their organoleptic
33 characteristics, as proposed by Crisosto et al. [15] for peach and nectarine cvs., thus confirming a
34 general homogeneity of *Pescabivona* landraces. More in detail, samples are scattered on the plane,

1 with a tendency of clusterizing for some landrace. For example, Settembrina is grouped on PC1,
2 while Murtiddara makes a loose cluster on PC2. This behavior should confirm a close relation
3 among the different landraces, and the fact that they have the same geographical origin. In other
4 terms, the differences are more apparent than real. On the other hand, similar considerations were
5 achieved also for physical and chemical determinations [21].

6 Murtiddara (M) had almost always positive values on PC1 due to high juiciness and low
7 fibrousness. On the contrary, Agostina (A) and much more Settembrina (S) showed negative values
8 on PC1 due to low juiciness and high fibrousness, but also aroma and overall liking. However, three
9 samples of Agostina are characterized by positive values on PC1 and PC2 and three samples of
10 Settembrina by negative values on PC1 and PC2 probably due to high juiciness and low fibrousness
11 along with low intensity of smell and sweetness for Agostina samples and to high hardness,
12 sourness, and bitterness for Settembrina samples.

13 It is interesting to notice as fibrousness and juiciness texture descriptors had high weights on PC1
14 (Fig. 2), with opposite signs, the former negative and the latter positive, while hardness is
15 orthogonal to both.

16 PC3 (15.12 % of total variability) did not show any loading value > 0.5 . The scores (Fig. 3)
17 confirmed the scatter of the Bianca samples, but also Murtiddara, along this axis, while Agostina
18 and Settembrina were located in a more limited area.

19

20 3.4. *Correlation among the sensory descriptors*

21 Correlation matrix of the sensory analysis data set was reported in Table 2. As observed for PCA
22 and as expected, fibrousness and juiciness were negatively correlated ($p \leq 0.001$). The texture
23 descriptors did not evidence any correlation.

24 It was noteworthy that the overall liking was highly correlated not only with sweetness ($|r| = 0.48$; p
25 ≤ 0.001), but also and much more with aroma ($|r| = 0.68$; $p \leq 0.001$). Likewise, sweetness and
26 aroma showed a high linear correlation ($|r| = 0.44$; $p \leq 0.01$). A similar result was already observed
27 [30, 31], while Infante et al.[32] found a high correlation between sweetness and aroma for
28 preconditioned peaches assessment on fruit maintained in cold storage. However, this correlation
29 did not match with acceptability.

30 Moreover, sweetness had high positive correlation also with fibrousness, intensity of smell,
31 bitterness, and negative with juiciness. Aroma, as well, was negatively correlated with juiciness,
32 that is considered a negative attribute for panel liking.

33 Sourness was correlated only with texture attributes, positively with hardness and juiciness, and
34 negatively with fibrousness.

1

2 3.5. Relationships between the sensory and physical and chemical attributes

3 The relationships between sensory and physical and chemical attributes was studied by linear
4 regression analysis. Correlation matrix of all the data set was reported in Table 3. In order to have a
5 simpler correlation matrix, only sensory data were correlated with physical and chemical data [21]
6 and with some indexes: a^*/b^* ratio [1]; sucrose/(glucose + fructose); malic acid/citric acid; total
7 sugars/total organic acids [6].

8 Fibrousness is positively correlated with background skin color a^* , background skin a^*/b^* , weight,
9 pulp pH, SSC/TA, malic acid/citric acid, and total sugars/total organic acids. These data confirmed
10 the positive correlation between fibrousness and sweetness, as well as the negative correlation
11 between fibrousness and sourness. As expected, hardness is positively correlated with pulp
12 firmness, but also with malic acid, sucrose, sucrose/(glucose + fructose), as a consequence of the
13 fact that hardness is a ripeness attribute. The third texture attribute, juiciness, is mainly correlated
14 with the same parameters listed for hardness but with opposite sign.

15 Intensity of smell, unexpectedly, showed negative correlations with the main volatiles, expressed as
16 odor activity values (OAV), as well as the total lactone OAV. This behavior is hard to explain, even
17 if it is well-known that odour intensity and concentration are not always positively correlated
18 (saturation). In addition, intensity of smell did not show any statistical difference among the four
19 landraces. Moreover, this parameter is highly correlated with all the acidity parameters and with
20 background skin color a^* , indicating a positive relationship between the unripeness and smell.
21 However, this anomalous behavior was already reported by Peano et al. [4] and ascribed to the
22 panel.

23 Sweetness is highly correlated with °Brix, sucrose, total sugars, total sugar content corrected with
24 the relative sweetness for each carbohydrate [33], and sucrose/(glucose + fructose), malic acid, and
25 pulp color a^*/b^* , showing as the panel attributed the highest scores to the fruits with highest sugar
26 content and ripeness. A positive correlation was recorded also between sucrose and phenolics.

27 Sourness is negatively correlated with pulp pH, SSC/TA, malic acid/citric acid, total sugars/total
28 organic acids, while it is positively correlated with titratable acidity, citric acid, and pulp
29 hydroxycinnamic acids. These results indicated as this attribute was evaluated in an unequivocal
30 way by the panel.

31 An interesting positive high correlation is showed between bitterness, phenolics, and lactone OAV.
32 Flavan-3-ols are responsible for bitterness and astringency [34], and hydroxycinnamic acids show a
33 bitter-sour taste [35]. Lactones, as well, are described as bitter substances. The bitter thresholds for

1 γ - and δ -decalactone are 340 and 420 $\mu\text{mol/l}$, respectively. Independently from the γ - or δ -lactone
2 ring, the threshold for bitterness increases with an elongation of the aliphatic chain [36].
3 Overall liking is correlated with the main ripeness parameters, positively with background skin
4 a^*/b^* , weight, malic acid/citric acid, sucrose/(fructose + glucose), and negatively with citric acid,
5 fructose. Overall liking, as well as aroma, is positively correlated with pulp firmness, once again
6 confirming the assumption that the firmness of the fruit at ripe stage is not only suitable for
7 transport, but also associated with sugar and acid content typical of fresh-market quality peaches.

8

9 **4. Conclusion**

10 This paper reported the first detailed study on sensory profile of the four landraces of *Pescabivona*
11 obtained by a trained panel of judges. The data obtained contribute to outline a complete fruit
12 profile for product comparison and shelf-life monitoring.

13 Many analytical parameters are correlated with the sensory attributes, and for this reason sensory
14 evaluation is a precious tool to assess quality of *Pescabivona*.

15 Finally, the results so far obtained support the study of local germplasm as a source of valuable
16 quality features, with positive effect on local economy and agroecosystem.

17

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22

23

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1 **Table 1**

2 Sensory analysis on sliced fruits of the four landraces expressed as the mean values (\pm SD). Results
 3 of the ANOVA are reported as F_{value} *** $p \leq 0.001$; ** $p \leq 0.01$; * $p \leq 0.05$; n.s. = not significant.

4

		MURTIDDARA	BIANCA	AGOSTINA	SETTEMBRINA	ANOVA
Fibrousness	mean	2.42 ^b	3.08 ^{ab}	4.33 ^a	3.75 ^{ab}	**
	\pm SD	0.76	1.77	1.15	1.20	
Hardness	mean	3.33	3.29	3.33	4.04	n.s.
	\pm SD	0.96	1.03	0.65	1.14	
Juiciness	mean	5.38 ^a	4.63 ^{ab}	4.33 ^{ab}	3.83 ^b	**
	\pm SD	1.05	0.74	1.23	0.39	
Intensity of smell	mean	7.04	6.50	6.13	6.54	n.s.
	\pm SD	0.69	1.09	1.42	1.29	
Sweetness	mean	5.88 ^b	6.42 ^{ab}	6.38 ^{ab}	7.04 ^a	*
	\pm SD	0.80	1.04	0.88	0.69	
Sourness	mean	4.38 ^a	4.08 ^{ab}	2.12 ^b	3.16 ^{ab}	**
	\pm SD	1.21	1.53	1.51	1.60	
Bitterness	mean	0.50 ^b	2.63 ^a	0.71 ^b	1.83 ^{ab}	***
	\pm SD	0.83	1.42	0.81	0.83	
Aroma	mean	6.29 ^{ab}	5.54 ^b	6.46 ^{ab}	7.33 ^a	***
	\pm SD	0.54	1.56	0.84	0.62	
Overall liking	mean	6.21 ^b	6.17 ^b	6.96 ^{ab}	7.29 ^a	**
	\pm SD	1.16	0.83	0.62	0.45	
Pulp ground color		White 100 %	White 100 %	White 100 %	White 100 %	
Presence of red veins		27 % Present	100 %	100 %	92 % Present	
		73 % Absent	Present	Present	8 % Absent	

5

6 **Table 2**

7 Correlation matrix of the sensory analysis data set. Correlation coefficient (r) with $p \leq 0.05$, $p \leq 0.01$, $p \leq 0.001$ are reported.

8

	Fibrousness	Hardness	Juiciness	Intensity of smell	Sweetness	Sourness	Bitterness	Aroma	Overall liking
Fibrousness									
Hardness									
Juiciness	<u>-0.54</u>								
Intensity of smell									
Sweetness	0.45		-0.41	0.37					
Sourness	-0.35	0.32	0.36						
Bitterness					0.37				
Aroma			-0.30		0.44				
Overall liking					<u>0.48</u>			<u>0.68</u>	

9

10

11 **Table 3**

12 Correlation between sensory values and chemical and physical parameters. Correlation coefficient (r) with $p \leq 0.05$, $p \leq 0.01$, $p \leq 0.001$ are
 13 reported.

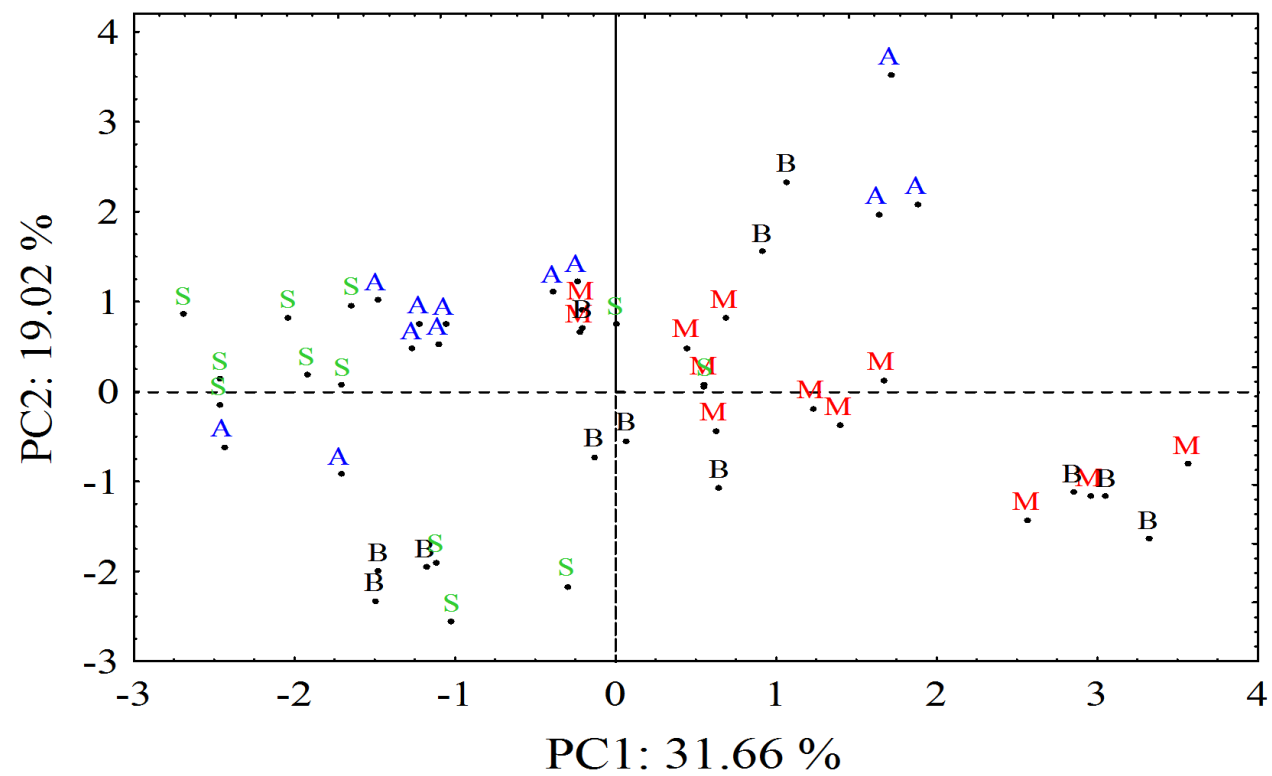
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	<u>Fibrousness</u>	<u>Hardness</u>	<u>Juiciness</u>	<u>Intensity of smell</u>	<u>Sweetness</u>	<u>Sourness</u>	<u>Bitterness</u>	<u>Aroma</u>	<u>Overall liking</u>
Background skin color L*			-0.555		0.690		0.777		
Background skin color a*	<u>0.839</u>		-0.617	<u>-0.852</u>		-0.810			
Background skin color b*									
Background skin a*/b*	<u>0.861</u>		-0.669	<u>-0.863</u>		-0.822			0.597
Skin over color L*	-0.691		0.672	0.578		0.657			-0.702
Skin over color a*							0.593		
Skin over color b*				0.718					
Skin over color a*/b*									
Pulp color L*		<u>-0.836</u>	0.732		<u>-0.870</u>		-0.604		
Pulp color a*					0.654		0.595		
Pulp color b*				-0.587					
Pulp color a*/b*			-0.726		0.771		0.648		
Percentage of red				0.640			-0.585		
Weight	0.759	0.618	<u>-0.930</u>	-0.686	<u>0.883</u>	-0.619			0.759
Pulp firmness		0.782					0.752		0.608
Pulp pH	0.794		-0.596	<u>-0.883</u>		-0.726			
Brix°			-0.806		<u>0.874</u>		<u>0.853</u>		
Titrateable acidity	-0.697			0.730		0.783			
SSC/TA	<u>0.904</u>			<u>-0.938</u>		<u>-0.903</u>			
Citric acid	<u>-0.965</u>		0.765	<u>0.968</u>		<u>0.914</u>			-0.672
Malic acid		<u>0.850</u>	-0.710		<u>0.874</u>		0.668		
Quinic acid	<u>0.827</u>			<u>-0.864</u>		<u>-0.889</u>			
Succinic acid	0.581					-0.712	-0.582		
Total organic acids		0.671							
Malic acid/Citric acid	<u>0.926</u>		<u>-0.851</u>	<u>-0.848</u>	0.700	<u>-0.866</u>			0.810
Fructose		<u>-0.950</u>	<u>0.862</u>		<u>-0.919</u>			<u>-0.831</u>	<u>-0.867</u>
Glucose							0.771	-0.752	
Sucrose		0.788	-0.712		<u>0.858</u>		0.685		

Total sugars		0.665	-0.626		0.782		0.778		
Total sugar content corrected		0.616	-0.576		0.736		0.786		
Sucrose/(Fructose+Glucose)		<u>0.961</u>	-0.779		<u>0.893</u>			0.767	0.742
Total sugars/Total organic acids	0.749			<u>-0.851</u>		-0.716			
Pulp flavan-3-ols			-0.700		0.747		0.816		
Pulp Hydroxycinnamic acids						0.647	0.691	-0.652	-0.634
Pulp total phenolics			-0.612		0.676		<u>0.850</u>		
Pulp antioxidant capacity							<u>0.849</u>		
C10 γ-lactone OAV				-0.682			<u>0.773</u>		
C10 δ-lactone OAV							<u>0.907</u>		
C12 γ-lactone OAV	0.595			-0.801			0.601		
Total lactone OAV				-0.754			0.681		

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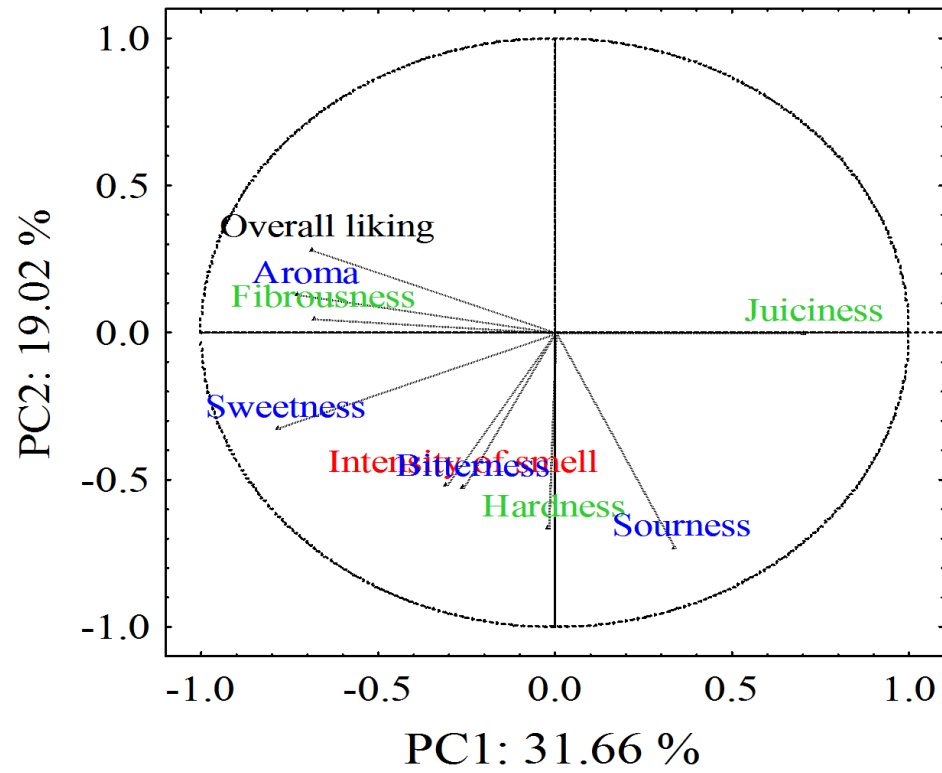
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18 **Fig. 1.** Principal component analysis of replicated samples [M, Murtiddara; B, Bianca; A, Agostina; S, Settembrina]. Plot of the first two principal components (PC1 vs. PC2) with the explained variances.

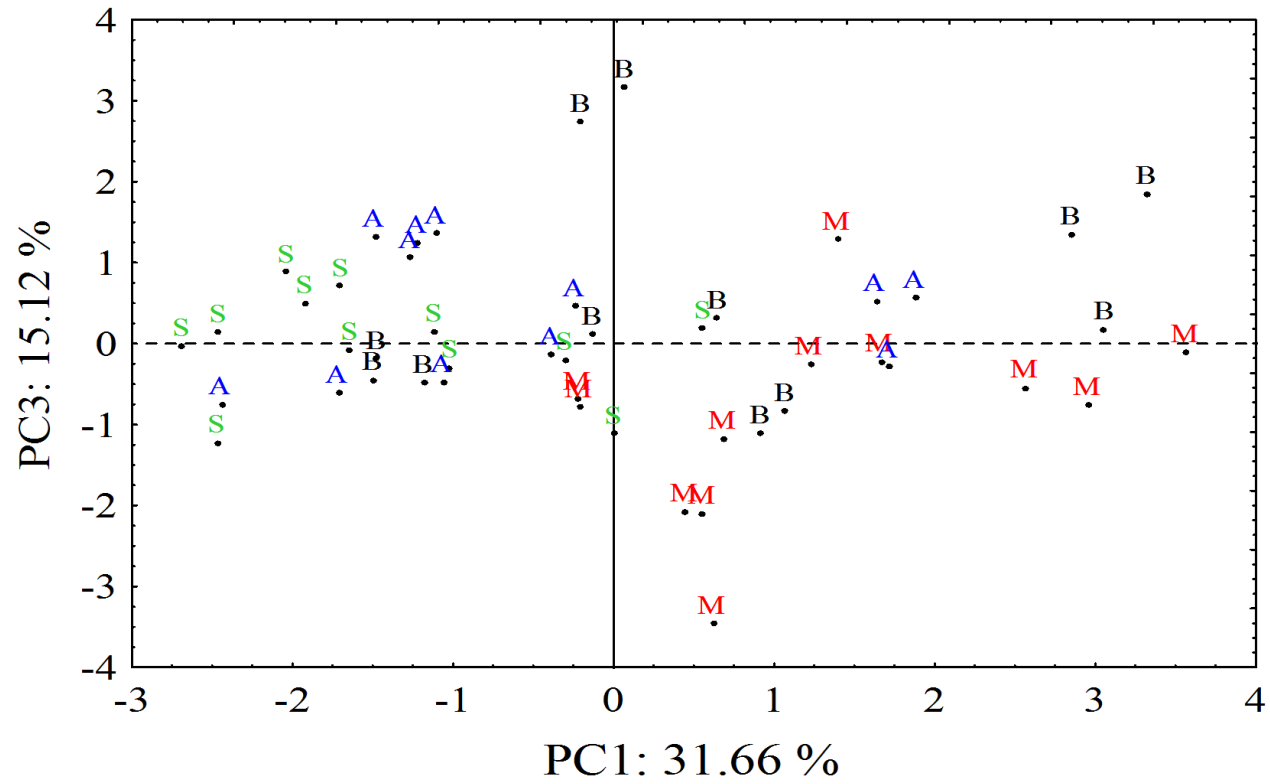
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21

22 **Fig. 2.** Plot of the loading values loaded on the first and second component (PC1 vs. PC2) with the explained variances.

23



24

25 **Fig. 3.** Principal component analysis of replicated samples [M, Murtiddara; B, Bianca; A, Agostina; S, Settembrina]. Plot of the first and third 26 principal components (PC1 vs. PC3) with the explained variances.