

## **Histochemical and ultrastructural studies on the developmental stages of the grape**

*(Vitis vinifera L. var Yaghooti)*

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Ultra structural changes in the dermal system of the grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.var Yaghooti) berry were studied with Transmission electron microscopy at successive stage of fruit development. The growth curve obtained from the measurements of the fresh weights and diameters of the fruit ,demonstrated a double sigmoidal pattern with three distinct phases. Dermal system of the grape berry consisted of outer epidermis of pericarp covered with its cuticle and four layers of hypodermal collenchyma cells of lamellar type. The cuticle had a layered structure consisting of cuticle proper and cuticular layer. The epicuticular wax was amorphous and did not change during fruit development. Cuticle proper, composed of polymerized cutin and wax , had a slightly reticulated pattern. Cutinized wall layers showed a fibrillar reticulated aspect. The texture of the cuticle was completed at the end of the first growth phase, and did not change thereafter. Change in cuticle thickness was noticed during fruit development. Tangential expansion of the cells of the dermal system was synchronized with the synthesis of new wall materials. The new materials were mainly soluble pectin substances and showed no reaction with periodic acid schiff reagent (PAS). Vacuolar polyphenolic compounds had distinct

forms and changed during fruit development. Histological changes during developmental stages include :

- 1-Reduction in density of cuticle after second growth phase
- 2-Breakdown of polyphenolic compounds

Also number of hypodermal collenchyma cell layers in dermal system is the other effective factor. According to histochemical changes , we can introduce the second growth phase as a more sensitive stage for pathogenic agents.