

P-29 (247)**NATIVE VARIETIES OF SOUR AND SWEET CHERRIES IN CROATIA: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS AND POTENTIAL OF PRODUCTION IN MARGINAL AREAS****Ales Vokurka**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Svetosimunska 25, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia; avokurka@agr.hr (Presenting author)**Vesna Zidovec**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Croatia; vzidovec@agr.hr**Nina Jeran**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Croatia; njeran@agr.hr**Prof. Dr. Snjezana Bolaric**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia; sbolaric@agr.hr**Assoc. Prof. Ksenija Karlovic**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia; kkarlovic@agr.hr**Hongwen Li**, Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chengdu, China; cinalee@hotmail.com**Jianhui Wang**, Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chengdu, China; kevin_wangjh@126.com**Dubravka Dujmovic Purgar**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Croatia; dpurgar@agr.hr**Boris Duralija**, Faculty of Agriculture, Univers. of Zagreb, Croatia; bduralija@agr.hr

The production of sour and sweet cherry is increasing thanks to the recognition of nutritional and commercial value these fruit species have. Sour cherry has high level of antioxidant and bioactive components, and it is technologically suitable for numerous ways of processing. There are plenty of novel food products that may be made from sour cherry fruits. Sweet cherries is, behind its nutritional value, recognized as high income crop mainly used for consuming in fresh condition. Among plenty of known varieties spread internationally over majority of production areas, there is also growing interest for local varieties as a part of new and unique offer especially demanded by some categories of consumers. These varieties are not spread widely but may be of interest by producers that are searching for specific market niche, as well as consumers demanding for something unique. We give the review of native varieties of sour and sweet cherries grown in Croatia. Among sour cherries the most important are 'Maraska' and 'Oblačinska', the first one by its unique aromas, high content of TSS and adaptability to grow in marginal growing areas, while the other one by its high yield that does not have the negative influence to the quality of fruits for juice and jam production and other processing purposes. These varieties grow as populations with high amount of accumulated variability and may be a source for clonal selection. We also give a review of internationally less known local varieties of sweet cherries grown in Croatia ('Tugarka', 'Creska', 'Okička', 'Gomilička' etc.) grown within certain areas of production, providing their pomological and technological description, pointing out their adaptability to certain marginal producing conditions and other traits that may attract the interest growers internationally.

Keywords: sour cherry, sweet cherry, local varieties, origin of varieties, genetic resources, adaptability