AMPELOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF THE MAIN VEGETATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE CHARACTERS OF "BLACK SHESH" GRAPEVINE CULTIVAR, UNDER FUSHË-KRUJA CLIMATE CONDITIONS

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Abstract

"Black Shesh" (Sheshi i Zi) is one of the most important Albanian autochthonous black grapevine cultivars used for red wine production and as a table grape cultivar. It was firstly selected from Albanian vine growers in Sheshi village, near Tirana, in the Central part of Albania, and from where was sprout all over the country. Study was conducted during three consecutive years, 2011-2013, in a representative sample of 15 vines, in a fourteen years old vineyard, in Nikël, Fushë-Kruja, and was focused on the expression level of the main vegetative and productive characters. For evaluation of the main characters, the IPGRI, UPOV and OIV Descriptors of Grapevine were used. Under Fushë-Kruja climate conditions, bud burst occurred in March 10-20, full bloom on May 23, berries veraison on July 28, grape maturity on September 10, and natural leaf fall occurred on December 4. Vegetative period extended 240 days and the period from blooming to harvest was 109 days. Three years mean of the sum of active temperatures (>10^{o}C) was 2203^{o}C and the sunlight radiance was 1181.9 hours. Prostrate hairs on tip of the young shoot of "Black Shesh" were very dense, giving the young shoot a grey color. Color of upper side of blade of the young leaf was green with anthocyanin spots. Insertion of the first inflorescence starts at 4-th node and each shoot generates 1.6 inflorescences. The flower type was hermaphrodite (male and female fully developed). Length of the mature leaf (N_1) was medium (129.5 mm), length of petiole was 101.8 mm, length petiole sinus to upper lateral leaf sinus was medium (68.2 mm), and length petiole sinus to lower lateral leaf sinus was medium (70.3 mm). Bunches were compact, very dense, with a cylindrical-conical shape. Bunch length was very long (260 mm), single bunch weight was low (234 g), and yield per vine was 3.8 kg or 143.6 quintals ha^{-1}. Berries were round and uniform with a mean weight of 3.4 g. Must yield was medium (67 ml juice 100 g berries^{-1}), total sugar content of must was medium (18.4%), and total must acid content (tartaric acid) was medium (6.1 g L^{-1}).

Keywords: *ampelographic, "Black Shesh", character, climate, descriptor, evaluation*