

Canopy Fruit Location Can Affect Olive Oil Quality in 'Arbequina' Hedgerow Orchards

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Abstract The effect of location of fruit in canopies of hedgerow olive trees (*Olea europaea* L., cv. 'Arbequina') on quality of virgin oil was tested by analyzing oils extracted from different height layers and faces of nine olive hedgerows (6 North–South oriented and 3 East–West). Although sensory attributes were not different, other oil quality parameters may be significantly modified by fruit position. Oils extracted from fruits harvested from higher layers exhibited significantly higher stability against oxidation, along with higher palmitic acid, linoleic acid and phenol contents, but lower oleic acid content. Oils extracted from fruits harvested from East and North facing hedgerows oriented North–South and East–West, respectively, exhibited higher oleic contents and lower saturated and polyunsaturated fatty acid contents. The mean phenol content of oils extracted from fruits from a North–South oriented hedgerow was significantly greater from one of the East–West oriented hedgerows. These findings may be relevant for the design of future olive hedgerows destined for olive oil production.

Keywords Virgin olive oil · Stability · Phenols · Fatty acid · Hedgerow design · *Olea europaea*

Introduction

The first studies with hedgerow or super-high-density orchards (714–1,975 olives/ha) were reported in Italy [1]. However, it was not until the 1990s that this production system was commercially adopted in Spain. Since then, it has spread rapidly worldwide, currently accounting for around 40,000 ha, and expanding at 10,000 ha per year. The objective of this system is to obtain high yields during early years of establishment from an orchard structure suited to mechanical pruning and harvesting. In these orchards, trees are usually pruned to a central leader and fruits are harvested with modified grape harvesters. Trees are trained into a hedgerow with characteristics that depend upon the harvester. Hedgerow height is frequently 1.7–3.0 m and hedgerow width between 1.0–2.0 m. This canopy structure can be obtained with various tree spacings; 3 × 1.35 m was used in the first commercial orchards but 4 × 1.5 m is now more common.

Reports reveal how olive fruit characteristics are significantly modified according to their position in vase-shaped olive canopies [2]. In 'Arbequina' hedgerows, maturity and size were greater in upper layers while oil content increased by nearly 50% from lower to upper layers [3]. Some of these differences, such as fruit size and oil content, are strongly related to intercepted radiation [4, 5].

There are no published data on the effect of canopy position on oil fruit quality, although differences in other fruit characteristics indicate that possibility. Differences in maturity index and water content common in fruits harvested from different layers in hedgerows are likely associated with differences in oil quality [3]. Virgin oil extracted from ripe fruits (black skin) presents lower contents of natural antioxidants (tocopherols and phenols) than is obtained from immature olives (green skin) [6].

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64 Since fruit growth and maturation is more rapid in upper
65 layers, differences in oil quality are also foreseeable.
66 Higher levels of intercepted radiation during grain (sun-
67 flower, soybean and maize) filling induce more oleic and
68 less linoleic and linolenic contents in the fatty acid
69 composition, thereby improving oil stability [7]. It seems
70 likely, therefore, that fatty acid composition of oil should
71 respond similarly to fruit location on olive hedgerows of
72 various heights and orientations. Understanding of such
73 responses would allow improved design of hedgerow
74 structures and their management for optimum combina-
75 tions of oil quantity and quality. Nine orchards from
76 different locations were harvested layer by layer and oil
77 was extracted and analyzed.

78 Experimental Procedures

79 The adult commercial hedgerows, all 'Arbequina', used in
80 this study were oriented North–South (hedgerows A, B, C,
81 D, E, F) and East–West (G, H, I). Hedgerows A, B, C, D, F,
82 G, H were near El Carpio de Tajo-Toledo (39.9N),
83 hedgerow E in Écija-Sevilla (37.5N) and Hedgerow I in
84 Puebla de Montalbán-Toledo (39.5N). Their geometrical
85 characteristics are shown in Table 1.

86 In each orchard, fruits were removed from nine indi-
87 vidual trees separately in 1 kg samples from either side of
88 the hedgerow and in layers according to height. Fruit were
89 then combined by side and height into three groups (three
90 trees each). Oil was extracted and analysed thus providing
91 triplicate measurements for each combination of side and
92 height in every orchard.

93 Samples were extracted separately and analysed using
94 an Abencor analyzer (Comercial Abengoa S.A., Seville,
95 Spain). This unit, consisting of three basic elements, a
96 hammer mill, a thermobeaater, and a pulp centrifuge, sim-
97 ulates the industrial process of virgin olive oil production
98 on a laboratory scale [8]. Samples were crushed in a

hammer mill (radius 47.5 mm, with a sieve of 5.0 mm hole
99 diameter) at 3,000 rpm. The resulting olive paste was
100 placed into stainless steel 1-L containers and malaxated for
101 30 min in the thermobeaater at 28°C, using four stainless
102 steel cross blades at 54.5 rpm (radius 53 mm). Subse-
103 quently, the paste was centrifuged in the pulp centrifuge for
104 1 min at 3,500 rpm (radius 100 mm) to separate the liquid
105 phase (oil and waste water) from the solid waste. Oil was
106 then decanted into graduated tubes for the measurement of
107 oil yield, then expressed as a percentage of the fresh weight
108 taking 0.916 kg L⁻¹ to be the density of olive oil at
109 ambient temperature. After measurement, the oil was fil-
110 tered through filter paper and stored in a N₂ atmosphere at
111 –20 °C until analysis. 112

Free acidity, peroxide index value, and coefficients of
113 specific extinction at 232 and 270 nm (K_{232} and K_{270}) were
114 evaluated according to the European Union Standard
115 Methods [9]. Oxidative stability was measured by the
116 Rancimat method, which evaluates the time (h) of resis-
117 tance to oxidize a 3-g oil sample exposed to a stream of dry
118 air at a temperature of 100 °C [10]. 119

Composition of fatty acids was determined by gas
120 chromatographic analysis of the methyl esters. This was
121 performed on a Varian Aerograph equipped with a flame
122 ionization detector (FID), fitted with a column (2 m, 1/8 in.
123 i.d.) packed with 12% EGS on a Chromosorb G, 80/100
124 mesh. The oven temperature was maintained at 185 °C and
125 the injector and detector at 225 °C. Flow rate of the N₂
126 carrier gas was 30 mL/min [11]. Data presented here are
127 for the main fatty acids (carbon number:unsaturations):
128 palmitic (16:0), palmitoleic (16:1), stearic (18:0), oleic
129 (18:1), and linoleic (18:2). Other fatty acids including
130 myristic (14:0), margaric (17:0), margaroleic (17:1), lino-
131 lenic (18:3), arachidic (20:0), gadoleic (20:1) or behenic
132 (22:0) were determined, but are not shown, because values
133 were too small ($\leq 0.6\%$) for any significant role in oil
134 quality. The following formulas using fatty acid content
135 variables were calculated: 136

Table 1 Harvest date, row orientation and canopy structure of cv. 'Arbequina' hedgerows

Hedgerow	Harvest date (month/year)	Hedgerow orientation	Tree height (m)	Row spacing (m)	Canopy width (m)
A	11/2006	North–South	2.7	3.0	0.9
B	11/2007	North–South	2.8	3.0	0.9
C	11/2006	North–South	2.0	4.0	0.7
D	11/2007	North–South	2.5	4.0	1.0
E	11/2007	North–South	2.9	3.75	1.3
F	11/2008	North–South	2.7	3.0	1.1
G	11/2006	East–West	2.2	4.0	1.0
H	11/2007	East–West	2.5	4.0	1.1
I	11/2008	East–West	2.8	4.0	1.1

137 Oleic:linoleic ratio = 118:1/18:21
 138 Saturated fatty acid (SAFA) = 116:01 + 117:01 + 118:01
 139 + 120:01 + 122:01
 140 Monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA) = 116:11 + 117:11
 141 + 118:11 + 120:11
 142 Polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) = 118:21 + 118:31
 143 Unsaturated fatty acid (UNFA) = 116:11 + 117:11 +
 144 118:11 + 118:21 + 118:31 + 120:11
 145 UNFA/SAFA
 146 MUFA/PUFA
 147 Sensory analysis of each oil sample was carried out by
 148 six trained tasters. The main negative (fusty, musty, winey,
 149 rancid, and metallic) and positive (olive fruit, bitterness
 150 and pungent) sensory attributes of the olive oils were

evaluated using a structured scale of six points, where “0”,
 means absolute absence of the attribute; “1”, just detected;
 “2”, weak intensity; “3”, middle intensity; “4”, strong
 intensity; and “5”, strongest possible intensity of the
 attribute. In addition, the tasters described sensory profiles
 of the oils according to the most characteristic attributes.

Tocopherol content of a selection of oil samples was
 measured by HPLC using the IUPAC method [12]. The
 phenolic fraction of the same samples was isolated by
 solid-phase extraction and analyzed by reversed-phase
 HPLC using a diode-array UV detector [13]. Quantification
 of phenolic compounds (except ferulic acid) was carried
 out at 280 nm using *p*-hydroxyphenylacetic acid as an
 internal standard, whereas that of flavones and ferulic acid
 was made at 335 nm using *o*-coumaric acid as an internal

Table 2 Oil quality parameters of oils extracted from olives harvested at different layers in North–South hedgerows and, consequently, presenting two faces with East–West orientation

Hedgerow	Parameter Face height (m)	Peroxide value		K_{270}^a		K_{232}^b		Stability	
		East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West
A	2.0–2.8	3.2 ^d	2.9	0.10	0.11	1.42	1.41	38.9	31.5
A	1.2–2.0	2.7	2.8	0.11	0.12	1.43	1.3 1	43.7	31.4
A	0.4–1.2	4.3	2.3	0.11	0.10	1.52	1.40	28.5	35.9
B	2.0–2.8	4.8	4.9	0.11	0.11	1.39	1.39	37.9	35.7
B	1.2–2.0	4.7	8.5	0.10	0.12	1.35	1.41	29.8	28.1
B	0.4–1.2	9.7	4.2	0.11	0.10	1.45	1.36	26.9	29.4
C	1.5–2.0	3.5	3.3	0.10	0.11	1.51	1.58	44.8	47.5
C	1.0–1.5	3.1	4.2	0.11	0.12	1.50	1.53	51.6	44.1
C	0.5–1.0	3.3	3.4	0.10	0.10	1.46	1.44	41.3	41.7
D	1.5–2.0	5.4	5.2	0.12	0.12	1.71 b	1.70 b	59.2	60.1
D	1.0–1.5	5.4	5.3	0.11	0.11	1.62 bc	1.84 a	54.9	56.2
D	0.5–1.0	5.5	5.1	0.10	0.11	1.59 bc	1.54 c	48.9	49.0
D	<0.5 ^c	4.1		0.11		1.40 d		42.1	
E	>2.2	4.1	3.8	0.10	0.11	1.42	1.50	37.7 ab	41.9 a
E	1.6–2.2	4.1	3.1	0.12	0.10	1.44	1.41	35.2 bc	36.3 b
E	1.0–1.6	3.1	3.0	0.11	0.12	1.37	1.37	30.9 cd	29.1 d
E	0.4–1.0	3.7	3.4	0.10	0.11	1.46	1.40	28.2 d	26.6 d
F	>2.8 ^c	4.2 a		0.15 a		1.56 a		37.9 a	
F	2.4–2.8	3.4 bcde	3.1 def	0.14 ab	0.14 ab	1.47 abc	1.47 abc	38.4 a	34.7 abc
F	2.0–2.4	3.8 abc	2.6 f	0.15 a	0.13 abc	1.43 abcd	1.43 abcd	35.6 ab	35.4 ab
F	1.6–2.0	3.9 ab	4.2 a	0.12 bcd	0.13 abc	1.34 cde	1.34 cde	26.6 de	32.1 bc
F	1.2–1.6	3.3 cde	3.5 bcd	0.11 cd	0.10 d	1.24 efg	1.24 efg	29.5 cd	30.0 cd
F	0.8–1.2	3.0 def	4.1 a	0.10 d	0.11c d	1.17 fg	1.17 fg	25.6 def	17.4 g
F	0.4–0.8	2.9 ef	3.4 cde	0.10 d	0.10 d	1.15 g	1.15 g	20.5 fg	23.5 ef
F	<0.4 ^c	2.6 f		0.10 d		1.26 efg		20.6 fg	

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Coefficient of specific extinction at 232 nm

^b Coefficient of specific extinction at 270 nm

^c In this layer the oil was extracted from the olives of both faces

^d Two mean values of the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Duncan's multiple range test

Table 3 Oil quality parameters of oils extracted from olives harvested at different layers in East–West hedgerows and, consequently, presenting two faces oriented North–South

Hedgerow	Parameter Face height (m)	Peroxide value		K_{270}^a		K_{232}^b		Stability	
		North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
G	1.5–2.0	3.2 ^c	3.1	0.11	0.11	1.53 ab	1.55 ab	45.3	41.2
G	1.0–1.5	3.6	3.4	0.09	0.10	1.47 b	1.48 b	39.5	38.7
G	0.5–1.0	3.3	3.9	0.09	0.09	1.46 b	1.61 a	34.7	40.9
H	1.5–2.0	3.8	4.7	0.12	0.13	1.71	1.65	57.1	57.0
H	1.0–1.5	4.2	4.4	0.11	0.12	1.60	1.61	52.2	52.5
H	0.5–1.0	4.2	4.5	0.11	0.10	1.68	1.60	59.3	50.4
I	>2.8	4.9 abc	4.1 cd	0.12 a	0.12 a	1.33 a	1.39 a	27.1 abc	30.8 a
I	2.4–2.8	3.5 de	3.0 e	0.11 ab	0.11 ab	1.34 a	1.23 bc	28.0 ab	27.8 ab
I	2.0–2.4	3.6 de	4.1 cd	0.09 ab	0.09 ab	1.17 de	1.23 bc	21.0 bcd	21.6 bcd
I	1.6–2.0	4.4 bcd	4.3 bcd	0.09 ab	0.08 b	1.13 e	1.17 de	24.3 abcd	24.5 abcd
I	1.2–1.6	5.1 abc	4.2 bcd	0.09 ab	0.08 b	1.20 bcd	1.13 e	20.6 bcd	19.8 bcd
I	0.8–1.2	4.9 abc	5.5 a	0.08 b	0.09 ab	1.10 e	1.24 bc	20.2 bcd	18.0 d
I	0.4–0.8	4.7 abc	5.2 ab	0.08 b	0.08 b	1.16 de	1.21 bcd	19.4 cd	20.4 bcd

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Coefficient of specific extinction at 232 nm

^b Coefficient of specific extinction at 270 nm

^c Two mean values of the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Duncan's multiple range test

166 standard. Data presented are ligstroside-aglycone di-alde-
167 hyde (*p*-HPEA-EDA), oleuropein-aglycone mono-alde-
168 hyde (3,4 DHPA-EA), total flavones, total orthodiphenols,
169 total secoiridoid derivatives and total phenolic compounds
170 as proportion of oil content (mg kg^{-1}) [13].

171 Data of each orchard were independently subjected to
172 analysis of variance using MSTAT-C (University of
173 Michigan, USA). Least significant differences ($P < 0.05$)
174 were used to separate means of parameters evaluated
175 between layers and sides of the hedgerows using Duncan's
176 multiple range test. Furthermore, the effect of the side,
177 respectively, in the different NS and EW hedgerows on the
178 different fatty acid composition related variables was
179 analyzed, pairing the values of each layer height, using
180 three different statistical tests (Paired samples *t* test,
181 Wilcoxon signed ranks test, and Signs test). For testing, if
182 the distribution of the frequencies of the special sensory
183 attributes among the oils extracted was affected by the
184 different canopy height layer or face from where the olives
185 were harvested, analysis by χ^2 in contingency tables was
186 carried out. Data were globally analyzed by the mixed
187 procedure of SAS (SAS Inst., Cary, NC).

188 Results and Discussion

189 Hedgerows A, B, C, and G presented no significant dif-
190 ferences in most of the parameters evaluated, whereas

hedgerows D, E, I and F did so. In a global analysis, all the
191 quality parameters were significantly affected by hedge-
192 row. These differences of behavior between hedgerows can
193 be due to the different harvest dates, location or seasonal
194 conditions of each one, when and where each respective
195 sampling was carried out.
196

Parameters of Oil Quality

197
198 The values obtained by the extracted oils in the parameters
199 legally established for evaluating the level of commercial
200 quality (free acidity, peroxide value, K_{232} , and K_{270}) were,
201 in all cases, inside the limits established for the commercial
202 quality "extra", the best possible level of quality for virgin
203 olive oils (Tables 2, 3). The free acidity reached very low
204 values in all cases (0.1–0.3% of oleic acid) and was not
205 significantly affected by the fruit position in the canopy
206 (data not shown). In contrast, in hedgerows I and F the
207 values of K_{232} , K_{270} , and stability increased according to
208 the height of the fruit growing layer, regardless of their
209 orientation side. Furthermore, the oils extracted from the
210 olives of hedgerows C, D and E showed a similar effect on
211 K_{232} (C and D) or stability against oxidation (E) values,
212 whereas the rest of the oils were not affected. In a global
213 analysis face and hedgerow orientation did not affect per-
214 oxides, K_{232} , K_{270} , and stability, but layer height signifi-
215 cantly determined these parameters. In all of them the
216 highest layer presented significantly higher values. The fact

Table 4 Fatty acid composition of the oils extracted from olives harvested at different layers in North–South hedgerows and, consequently, presenting two faces oriented East–West

Hedgerow	Fatty acid Face height (m)	16:0		16:1		18:0		18:1		18:2	
		East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West
A	2.0–2.8	14.4 ^a	14.5	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.8	71.9	71.5	8.9	9.2
A	1.2–2.0	14.7	14.6	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.7	72.4	72.0	8.0	8.6
A	0.4–1.2	14.0	14.4	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	74.0	72.5	7.2	8.2
B	2.0–2.8	14.7	14.7	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.7	71.2	70.6	9.7	10.1
B	1.2–2.0	14.1	14.4	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.7	72.4	71.4	9.1	9.7
B	0.4–1.2	14.1	14.3	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.7	72.9	71.9	8.6	9.2
C	1.5–2.0	15.3	15.7	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.9	68.7	68.3	10.9	10.9
C	1.0–1.5	15.3	15.6	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.8	69.2	68.4	10.5	11.0
C	0.5–1.0	15.4	15.7	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.8	69.4	68.6	10.2	10.8
D	1.5–2.0	14.5 ab	14.9 a	1.4 a	1.4 a	2.2	2.3	71.1 cd	70.4 d	9.3 ab	9.6 a
D	1.0–1.5	14.1 bc	14.2 bc	1.3 ab	1.3 ab	2.2	2.2	72.4 b	71.7 bc	8.6 d	9.1 bc
D	0.5–1.0	13.6 c	13.7 c	1.2 b	1.2 b	2.2	2.2	73.2 a	72.3 b	8.2 e	9.0 bcd
D	<0.5 ^b	13.9 bc		1.2 b		2.2		72.5 ab		8.8 cd	
E	>2.2	17.9	16.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	66.0 bc	67.3 bc	10.8 b	10.9 b
E	1.6–2.2	17.0	19.0	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	67.3 bc	65.3 c	10.4 b	10.6 b
E	1.0–1.6	17.4	17.5	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	67.6 ab	66.7 bc	9.7 b	10.7 b
E	0.4–1.0	15.8	17.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	69.4 a	67.2 bc	14.2 a	10.5 b
F	>2.8 ^b	14.3 a		1.4 a		1.7		71.6 g		9.3 a	
F	2.4–2.8	13.9 abc	14.1 ab	1.4 a	1.4 a	1.7	1.7	72.4 ef	71.8 fg	8.9 ab	9.2 a
F	2.0–2.4	13.7 abcd	13.7 abcde	1.3 b	1.2 b	1.7	1.8	72.8 cde	72.8 de	8.6 b	8.8 b
F	1.6–2.0	13.7 abcd	13.4 bcde	1.2 bc	1.2 bcd	1.7	1.7	73.6 bc	73.4 cd	8.0 c	8.5 b
F	1.2–1.6	13.4 cde	13.5 bcde	1.1 cde	1.1 de	1.7	1.6	74.2 ab	73.4 cd	7.8 c	8.5 b
F	0.8–1.2	13.3 cde	13.0 e	1.1 cde	1.0 e	1.6	1.6	74.5 a	73.5 bcd	7.7 c	8.8 b
F	0.4–0.8	13.1 de	13.7 abcd	1.1 cde	1.0 e	1.6	1.7	74.7 a	73.9 bc	7.6 c	8.8 b
F	<0.4 ^b	13.2 cde		1.0 e		1.6		74.4 a		7.9 c	

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Two mean values of the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) different according to Duncan's multiple range test

^b In this layer the oil was extracted from the olives of both faces

of displaying simultaneously higher values of oxidation parameters and stability against oxidation, although seeming contradictory, can be explained by the simultaneously higher presence of linoleic acid, natural antioxidants and palmitic acid in the oil extracted from olives of the upper layers of the hedgerow. The values of K_{232} are closely related to the presence of conjugated fatty acid in the oil. These acids are formed by the approach of the double bonds in the lineal carbon chain of the polyunsaturated fatty acids (linoleic and linolenic). This transformation is a step previous to the formation of fatty acid hydroperoxides and cannot be avoided by the antioxidants. García et al. [14] reported that the progress of the olive maturation level could determine a significant increase in the parameters used to evaluate the oxidative alteration of the virgin olive oils subsequently extracted from these

fruits; as, recently, Gomez del Campo et al. [3] found that the fruits harvested from the higher canopy layer in an 'Arbequina' olive hedgerow showed a higher maturity level than the ones grown in the lower layers. It seems to be logical that the first ones produced oils with a higher level of oxidative alteration and lower time of oxidative stability. However, the activity of the olive cell enzymes (lipoxygenase, hydroperoxide lyase, etc.), which are responsible for these maturation linked oil alterations, probably depends on multiple seasonal factors (temperature, irrigation, fertilization, etc.). For this reason, this increase in oxidative parameter associated with fruit maturation is not a constant rule. Yousfi et al. [6] did not find any significant increase in oxidative oil alteration during 'Arbequina' and 'Picual' olive fruit maturation. That would explain the absence of the effect observed in some hedgerows. The

Table 5 Fatty acid composition of oils extracted from olives harvested at different layers in East–West hedgerows and, consequently, presenting two faces oriented North–South

Hedgerow	Fatty acid Face height (m)	16:0		16:1		18:0		18:1		18:2	
		North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
G	1.5–2.0	15.4 ^a	15.9	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.9	67.8	66.8	11.7	12.2
G	1.0–1.5	15.7	15.9	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.9	67.7	67.4	11.5	11.6
G	0.5–1.0	15.7	15.9	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.9	68.5	68.3	10.9	10.9
H	1.5–2.0	14.7	15.1	1.4	1.6	2.1	2.0	69.8	69.4	10.5	10.5
H	1.0–1.5	14.5	14.8	1.4	1.5	2.0	2.0	70.4	69.9	10.3	10.3
H	0.5–1.0	14.6	14.9	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.0	70.5	70.2	10.0	9.9
I	>2.8	12.8 ab	13.3 a	1.1 ab	1.2 a	1.7	1.7	74.4 ef	73.3 f	8.3 ab	8.7 a
I	2.4–2.8	12.3 bc	13.0 a	1.0 ab	1.1 ab	1.7	1.7	75.1 de	74.2 ef	8.1 b	8.2 b
I	2.0–2.4	12.3 bc	12.2 bcd	1.0 ab	1.0 ab	1.7	1.7	75.7 cd	75.7 cd	7.5 cd	7.6 cd
I	1.6–2.0	11.6 cde	11.8 cde	0.9 b	0.9 b	1.7	1.7	77.0 ab	76.5 bc	7.0 e	7.2 de
I	1.2–1.6	11.4 e	12.0 cde	0.8 b	1.0 ab	1.7	1.6	77.8 ab	76.7 bc	6.5 fg	6.9 ef
I	0.8–1.2	11.3 e	11.8 cde	0.8 b	0.9 b	1.6	1.6	78.2 a	77.1 ab	6.3 g	6.8 ef

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Two mean values of the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Duncan's multiple range test

249 peroxide values in hedgerows I and F showed an erratic
250 behavior, without a logical ranking according to height
251 layers. This fact should be due to the dependence of this
252 variable on handling during the process of extraction. A
253 higher exposure of the oil to an air atmosphere due to a
254 delay during this process may induce small differences in
255 this parameter that may reach statistical significance, if the
256 values are in general low, as they are in this case.

257 Fatty Acid Composition

258 Fatty acids such as myristic, margaric, margaroleic,
259 araquic, gadoleic and behenic presented very low concen-
260 trations (<0.5%) in all the oils and were not considered in
261 this study (data not shown). In the same way, the linolenic
262 acid (18:3) concentration of all the oils varied in a close
263 range between 0.5 and 0.7% without showing any signifi-
264 cant difference due to the position of the fruit in the tree
265 from where it was extracted, which is why it was not
266 considered either. Hedgerows named as A, B, C, G, and H
267 did not show any effect of the fruit position in the different
268 canopy height layers on the fatty acid composition of the
269 oils extracted (Tables 4, 5). However, the fatty acid com-
270 position of the oils extracted from olives grown in D, E, F,
271 and I hedgerows were significantly affected by this factor.
272 In these hedgerows, the concentration of oleic decreases
273 according to the height layer increase, whereas the con-
274 centrations of the other fatty acids (palmitic, palmitoleic,
275 stearic and linoleic) shows an inverse tendency. These
276 results were confirmed in a global analysis: oleic was
277 significantly higher in the lower layers but palmitic,

278 palmitoleic, stearic and linoleic were significantly higher in
279 the upper layers. This fact could be related to the higher
280 maturity level of the olives harvested from the upper canopy
281 layers previously observed [3]. Different authors have
282 found that the increase in olive maturation level coincided
283 with a significant increase in the presence of linoleic acid
284 in the oils [15–17]. Probably, the higher quantity of solar
285 energy received by the upper canopy layers was used by
286 the olive cells for increasing the fatty acid synthesis in
287 general and, specifically, for the microsomal oleic acid
288 desaturation action to form linoleic acid. For this reason,
289 the olives harvested from these more illuminated canopy
290 layers had higher fat contents [3] and the oils extracted
291 showed higher percentages of SAFA and linoleic acid and
292 lower percentages of oleic acid. In a global analysis face
293 significantly modified fatty acid composition, East face had
294 more oleic content than West, but palmitoleic and linoleic
295 were higher in the West face.

296 The different height layer of the fruit in the canopy of
297 some olive hedgerow displayed a significant effect on the
298 variables constituted by formulas calculated with different
299 fatty acid contents (Tables 6, 7). Thus, the oleic: linoleic
300 ratio (18:1/18:2) proved to be significantly affected by this
301 factor in hedgerows C, D, F, and I, showing a coherent
302 tendency according to the variability observed separately in
303 their components. This ratio increased in the lower canopy
304 layers and decreased in the higher ones, coinciding with the
305 inverse variation observed in the contents of oleic and
306 linoleic acids, respectively. In the same way, the variation
307 of the MUFA content, where oleic acid content is the
308 determinant value, or the variation of the MUFA/PUFA

Table 6 Fatty acid formulas of the oils extracted from olives harvested at different height layers in North–South hedgerows and, consequently presenting two faces oriented East–West

Hedgerow	Face height (m)	18:1/18:2 ^a		SAFA ^b		MUFA ^c		PUFA ^d		UNFA ^e /SAFA		MUFA/PUFA	
		East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West	East	West
A	2.0–2.8	8.1 ^f	7.8	16.8	16.8	73.9	73.5	9.6	9.8	5.0	5.0	7.8	7.5
A	1.2–2.0	9.1	8.5	17.0	16.9	74.5	74.0	8.7	9.3	4.9	4.9	8.6	8.0
A	0.4–1.2	10.3	9.0	16.3	16.7	76.0	74.6	7.8	8.9	5.2	5.0	9.8	8.5
B	2.0–2.8	7.4	7.0	16.9	16.9	72.9	72.5	10.2	10.7	4.9	4.9	7.2	6.8
B	1.2–2.0	8.0	7.4	16.4	16.7	74.1	73.2	9.6	10.3	5.1	5.0	7.7	7.2
B	0.4–1.2	8.5	7.8	16.3	16.5	74.7	73.7	9.1	9.8	5.1	5.1	8.2	7.5
C	1.5–2.0	6.3 bc	6.3 bc	17.8	18.3	70.8 ab	70.5 c	11.5 ab	11.5 ab	4.6	4.5	6.2 bc	6.2 bc
C	1.0–1.5	6.6 ab	6.2 c	17.8	18.0	71.3 ab	70.6 bc	11.1 bc	11.6 a	4.6	4.6	6.4 ab	6.1c
C	0.5–1.0	6.8 a	6.4 bc	17.9	18.1	71.5 a	70.6 bc	10.8 c	11.4 ab	4.6	4.5	6.7 a	6.2 bc
D	1.5–2.0	7.7 de	7.3 e	17.3 ab	17.8 a	73.1 c	72.3 d	9.7 ab	10.1 a	4.8 cd	4.6 d	7.5 de	7.2 e
D	1.0–1.5	8.4 b	7.9 cd	16.9 bcd	17.0 bc	74.2 b	73.5 bc	9.1 bc	9.6 ab	4.9 abc	4.9 bc	8.2 b	7.7 cd
D	0.5–1.0	8.9 a	8.1 bcd	16.4 d	16.5 cd	75.0 a	74.1 b	8.7 c	9.5 ab	5.1 a	5.1 ab	8.7 a	7.8 bcd
D	<0.5 ^g	8.3 bc		16.7 cd		74.2 b		9.2 bc		5.0 ab		8.1 bc	
E	>2.2	6.1	6.2	20.3	19.0	68.4 bc	69.7 b	11.4	11.5	3.9 b	4.3 ab	6.0	6.1
E	1.6–2.2	6.5	6.2	19.4	21.3	69.7 b	67.5 c	11.0	11.2	4.2 ab	3.7 b	6.3	6.0
E	1.0–1.6	7.0	6.3	19.7	19.9	70.0 ab	69.0 bc	10.3	11.3	4.1 b	4.1 b	6.8	6.1
E	0.4–1.0	5.5	6.4	18.1	19.4	71.9 a	69.6 b	14.8	11.1	4.8 a	4.2 ab	5.4	6.3
F	>2.8 ^g	7.7 e		16.7 a		73.5 g		9.8 a		5.0 b		7.5 e	
F	2.4–2.8	8.1 de	7.8 e	16.2 abc	16.4 ab	74.3 ef	73.7 fg	9.4 ab	9.8 a	5.2 ab	5.1 ab	7.9 cde	7.5 de
F	2.0–2.4	8.4 cd	8.3cd	16.1 bc	16.1 bc	74.6 de	74.5 de	9.2 b	9.4 b	5.2 ab	5.2 ab	8.1 c	8.0 cd
F	1.6–2.0	9.2 b	8.6 c	16.1 bc	15.8 cd	75.3 bc	75.1 cd	8.5 c	9.1 b	5.2 ab	5.3 ab	8.8 b	8.3 c
F	1.2–1.6	9.5 ab	8.7 c	15.7 cd	15.8 cd	75.9 ab	75.1 cd	8.3 c	9.1 b	5.4 ab	5.3 ab	9.1 ab	8.3 c
F	0.8–1.2	9.7 ab	8.3 cd	15.5 d	15.3 d	76.2 a	75.2 cd	8.2 c	9.4 ab	5.5 a	5.5 a	9.3 ab	8.0 cd
F	0.4–0.8	9.8 a	8.3 cd	15.4 d	16.1 bc	76.4 a	75.5 bc	8.2 c	9.4 ab	5.5 a	5.2 ab	9.4 a	7.9 cde
F	<0.4 ^g	9.5 ab		15.5 d		76.0 ab		8.4 c		5.5 a		9.0 ab	

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Oleic acid %/Linoleic acid %

^b Saturated fatty acid %

^c Monounsaturated fatty acid %

^d Polyunsaturated fatty acid %

^f Two mean values of the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Duncan's multiple range test

^g In this layer the oil was extracted from the olives of both faces

309 ratio exhibited a similar behavior, whereas the variation of
 310 PUFA content, where linoleic acid content is the main
 311 component, showed an inverse tendency. Similarly, as the
 312 content on palmitic acid was the most representative
 313 among the different SAFA, the variation of the total con-
 314 tent of them followed the same tendency than the content
 315 of this fatty acid individually considered. So, in the
 316 hedgerows D, F and I the total content of SAFA increased
 317 with the height of the canopy layer. In contrast, the situa-
 318 tion of SAFA content, placed in the denominator of the
 319 UNFA/SAFA quotient, was determinant for the inverse

tendency showed by the values of this formula (higher
 320 values in lower height layers), because the presence in the
 321 numerator of the addition of the contents on oleic and
 322 linoleic acids compensated both opposed tendencies. No
 323 significant differences between faces on fatty acid variables
 324 were ever found, comparing faces for each height layer.
 325 However, observing the values of these variables in the two
 326 faces of each height layer, almost systematically, the values
 327 of a determinate face are higher (Tables 4, 5, 6, 7). The
 328 statistical analysis of these variables, grouping the values
 329 of all the hedgerows tested according to their different
 330

Table 7 Fatty acid formulas of oils extracted from olives harvested at different layers in East–West hedgerows and, consequently, presenting two faces oriented North–South

Fatty acid formula		18:1/18:2		SAFA		MUFA		PUFA		UNFA/SAFA		MUFA/PUFA	
Hedgerow	Face height (m)	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
G	1.5–2.0	5.8 ^a	5.5	18.0	18.3	69.9	69.1	12.3	12.9	4.6	4.5	5.7	5.4
G	1.0–1.5	5.9	5.8	18.2	18.4	69.9	69.6	12.1	12.2	4.5	4.5	5.8	5.7
G	0.5–1.0	6.3	6.3	18.1	18.3	70.5	70.5	11.5	11.5	4.5	4.5	6.2	6.1
H	1.5–2.0	6.7	6.6	17.4	17.6	71.7	71.5	10.9	11.0	4.7	4.7	6.6	6.5
H	1.0–1.5	6.9	6.9	17.0	17.3	72.3	72.0	10.7	10.8	4.9	4.8	6.8	6.7
H	0.5–1.0	7.1	7.1	17.2	17.4	72.5	72.3	10.4	10.4	4.8	4.8	7.0	7.0
I	>2.8	9.0 hi	8.4 i	15.1 ab	15.6 a	75.9 fg	75.1 g	8.9 ab	9.3 a	5.6 def	5.4 f	8.6 hi	8.1 i
I	2.4–2.8	9.4 gh	9.1 hi	14.6 bc	15.3 a	76.7 ef	75.9 fg	8.6 b	8.8 b	5.8 cde	5.5 ef	8.9 gh	8.7 hi
I	2.0–2.4	10.2 f	9.9 fg	14.7 bc	14.5 bcd	77.3 de	77.3 de	8.0 c	8.2 c	5.8 cde	5.9 bcd	9.7 f	9.5 fg
I	1.6–2.0	11.0 de	10.6 ef	14.0 de	14.2 cde	78.4 bc	78.0 cd	7.5 de	7.8cd	6.2 ab	6.0 abc	10.4 de	10.1 ef
I	1.2–1.6	12.0 bc	11.1 de	13.8 e	14.2 cde	79.2 ab	78.3 bcd	7.0 fgh	7.5 def	6.3 a	6.0 abc	11.3 bc	10.5 de
I	0.8–1.2	12.4 ab	11.4 cd	13.6 e	14.0 cde	79.5 a	78.6 abc	6.8 gh	7.3 def	6.4 a	6.1 abc	11.7 ab	10.8 cd
I	0.4–0.8	12.9 a	11.6 cd	13.8 e	14.0 cde	79.5 a	78.7 abc	6.6 h	7.2 efg	6.2 a	6.1 abc	12.1 a	10.9 cd

Each value is the mean value of three replicates

^a Oleic acid %/linoleic acid %

^b Saturated fatty acid %

^c Monounsaturated fatty acid %

^d Polyunsaturated fatty acid %

^f Two mean values in the same hedgerow followed by the same small letter are not significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) according to Duncan's multiple range test

^g In this layer the oil was extracted from the olives of both faces

orientation and pairing the values of the different face of each height layer using parametric (Paired Samples *t*-test) and non-parametric (Wilcoxon Signed Ranks and Signs tests) comparison tests confirmed this previous observation and found significant differences between the different faces of fruit growing in almost all the fatty acid-related variables tested (Table 8). Thus, comparing the results obtained between the faces East and West of the North–South oriented hedgerows it was found that the oil extracted from the olives grown in the East face of the canopy presented significantly higher contents of oleic acid, 18:1/18:2, UNFA: SAFA ratio, and MUFA: PUFA ratio, and showed significantly lower palmitic (not according the Paired Samples *t*-test) and linoleic acid contents. In the same way, comparing the North and South faces of the East–West oriented hedgerows, significantly higher contents of oleic acid, 18:1/18:2, UNFA: SAFA ratio, and MUFA: PUFA ratio were found, whereas significantly lower contents of palmitic and linoleic acids were found in the oils extracted from the olives grown in the North face of these hedgerows. From a nutritional point of view a higher presence of MUFA in combination with a notable, but non excessive, presence of PUFA in the fatty acid composition of the oils is ideal for the human diet

[18]. The global statistical analysis confirmed that the highest layers presented significantly higher values of PUFA, and SAFA, but the significantly lowest MUFA, UNFA, 18:1/18:2, UNFA/SAFA and MUFA/PUFA values. Similarly, East-face produced oil with significantly higher MUFA, UNFA, UNFA/SAFA values, but lower PUFA and SAFA values than West face, but no significant differences between North and South faces or between the different hedgerow orientations were observed.

Sensory Analysis

No significant effect as a consequence of the different place of fruit growing in the canopy of an olive hedgerow was found on the sensory attributes in the oils (data not shown). Mean values of sensory attributes: olive fruit, bitterness and pungency of the oils were 2.0, 1.2 and 1.8 respectively. Furthermore, the presence of negative attributes was not detected in any of these oils. The sensory note of “Almond” was the most common among the oils tested, being present in 25 of a total of 34 different oils. Normally, this note is related with the oil extracted from middle ripe or ripe ‘Arbequina’ olives. The second sensory note in frequency (23 oils) was “banana”, which indicates

Table 8 Comparison between hedgerow faces on different fatty acids and related variables of oils extracted from olives harvested at different heights from North–South and East–West hedgerows

Pair of variables tested	Significance level of different statistical comparison tests		
	Paired samples <i>t</i> test	Wilcoxon signed ranks test	Signs test
Palmitic East–palmitic West ^a	0.10	0.02*	0.03*
Palmitic North–palmitic South ^b	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
Oleic East–oleic West ^a	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
Oleic North–oleic South ^b	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
Linoleic East–linoleic West ^a	0.10	0.00*	0.00*
Linoleic North–linoleic South ^b	0.00*	0.00*	0.01*
Oleic/linoleic East–oleic/linoleic West ^a	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
UNFA/SAFA East–UNFA/SAFA West ^a	0.05*	0.02*	0.05*
MUFA/PUFA East–MUFA/PUFA West ^a	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
Oleic/linoleic North–oleic/linoleic South ^b	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
UNFA/SAFA North–UNFA/SAFA South ^b	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
MUFA/PUFA North–MUFA/PUFA South ^b	0.01*	0.00*	0.00*

* Significant effect ($P \leq 0.05$) of the factor considered for this variable

^a North–South (21 different layers)

^b East–West (12 different layers)

low-ripe fruit origin. The sensory note “apple” was present in 18 oils, being the third frequency in the ranking of sensory notes. This attribute is characteristic of oils extracted from olives with a low level of maturity. The fourth position was occupied by two notes with the same frequency of detection (13 oils): “mature tomato” and “green leaf”, which are characteristic of the oils extracted from ripe and unripe olives, respectively. The sensory note “grass”, clearly indicative of the unripe fruit used for oil extraction, also achieved a relevant frequency of detection (11 oils). Finally, other sensory notes such as: “green tomato” (5 oils), “tea infusion” (2 oils), “artichoke” (1 oil) and “excessively mature fruit” (1 oil) were also detected. The analysis by χ^2 , using contingency tables, of the distribution of these sensory notes among the oils extracted established that it was not significantly affected by the different canopy height layer or face, from where the olives were harvested (data not shown).

Tocopherol and Phenol Contents

Among the different tocopherol molecules found in the oils analyzed only the γ -tocopherol content of the oil was affected by the different position of the fruit in the canopy (data not shown). The concentration of this molecule proved to be significantly higher in the lower height layer of both hedgerows tested (F and I). However, this fact has a scarce nutritional meaning, because the content of γ -tocopherol (2.9 mg/kg) is ridiculous in comparison to the content of α -tocopherol (284.0 mg/kg) which was not affected by the fruit position in the canopy.

The height layer of the fruit growing in the olive hedgerow was the most determinant factor for the contents in the oils of the most representative phenol molecule groups (Fig. 1). Thus, in both hedgerows tested, considered independently or in a group, the oil extracted from fruit harvested from the higher height layer had significantly higher contents of *p*-HPEA-EDA, 3,4 DHPA-EA, orthodiphenols, secoiridoid derivatives, and total phenols. This fact coincided with the significantly higher stability observed in the oils extracted from olives harvested in the higher height layers of the canopy (Tables 2, 3). The higher presence of these compounds is probably strongly related with this fact. Furthermore, the oils extracted from the hedgerow F (North–South orientation) olives, independently of its position in the canopy, showed higher contents of these phenol molecules than the ones extracted from hedgerow I (East–West orientation) fruits. However, no significant effect was detected as a consequence of the different face in each hedgerow tested. This finding encourages the orientation North–South rather than East–West for the olive hedgerow design to obtain oils enriched in these natural antioxidants.

Conclusions

The position of the fruit in the canopies in an olive hedgerow may be a determinant factor for some parameters used to evaluate the commercial and nutritional quality of the virgin oil, such as stability against oxidation, fatty acid composition or phenol content, while sensory attributes

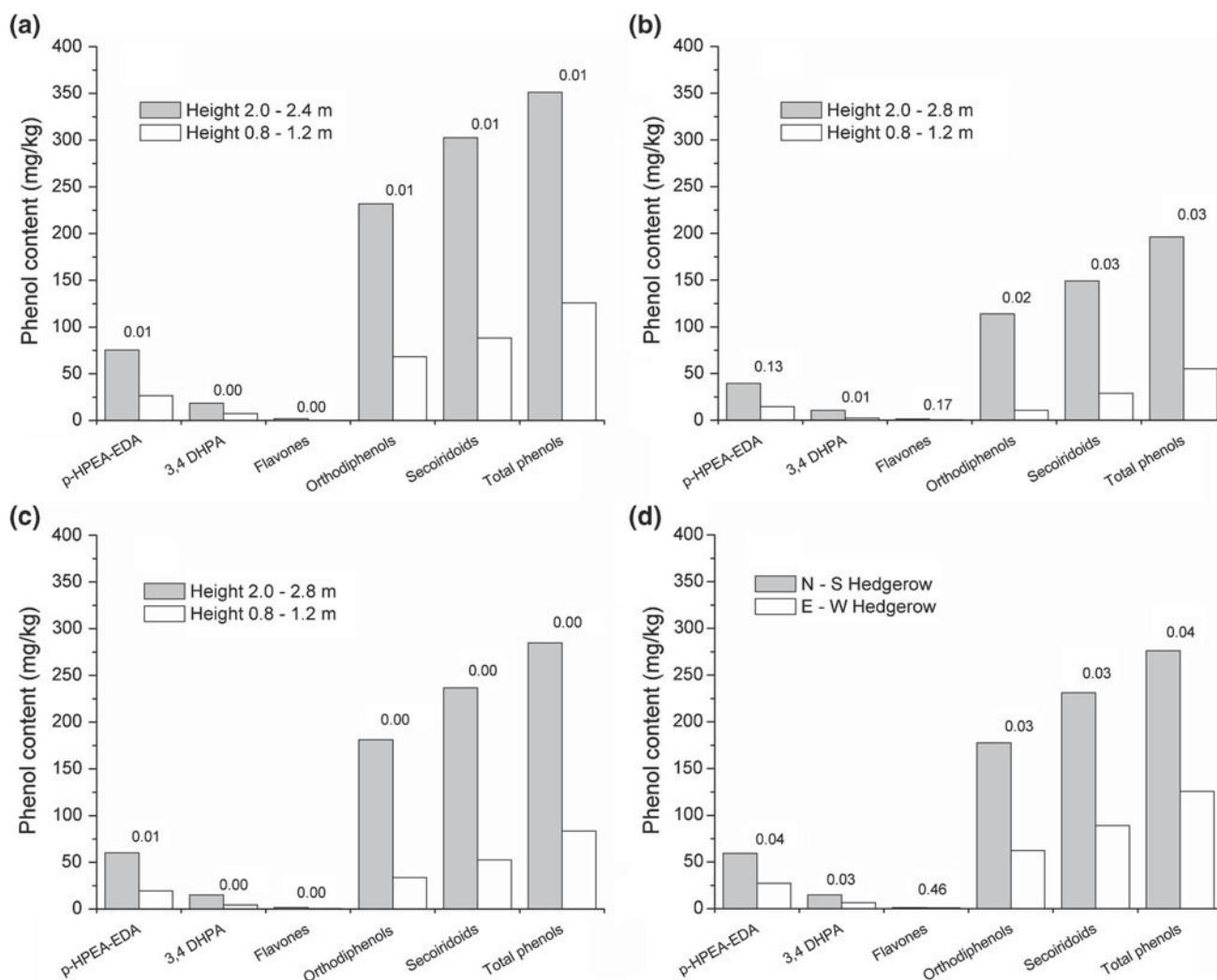


Fig. 1 Phenol contents (mg/kg) of oils extracted from olives harvested at two different height layers in North-South and East-West oriented hedgerows, considering the following factors: **a** different height layer in North-South oriented hedgerow, **b** different height layer in East-West oriented hedgerow, **c** different height layers in

both North-South and East-West oriented hedgerows, and **d** different oriented hedgerows, considering both height layers. In each variable is assigned the probability of no effect due to the factor considered, according to one way ANOVA test

434 were not modified by fruit position. These findings may be
435 relevant for the design of future olive hedgerows destined
436 for olive oil production. ‘Arbequina’ oil is characterized by
437 low stability against oxidation. The higher layers (more
438 illuminated) may produce more stable oil, richer in phenol
439 components and saturated fatty acid. More illuminated
440 hedgerows can be achieved with a greater row distance,
441 along with lower height and width of the hedgerow.

442 ‘Arbequina’ is one of the olive fruit cultivars richest in
443 linoleic acid in its oils. In order to obtain oils from this
444 cultivar with higher oleic acid content, it should be of
445 interest to consider that oil obtained from the lower layers
446 (less illuminated) may synthesize higher concentrations of
447 oleic fatty acid. Less illuminated hedgerows could be
448 obtained by reducing the row distance and increasing

height and width of hedgerow. Hedgerow orientation may 449
affect oil quality. North-South orientation may produce 450
virgin olive oil richer in phenol contents and the East face 451
of this orientation may produce higher concentrations in 452
oleic fatty acid. 453

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