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Title: Physico-chemical characteristics of indigenous and exotic varieties of fig grown under arid conditions.

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Abstract:

The fruits of fig cultivars Conadria, Deanna, Excel, Poona Fig and Dinkar grown under arid conditions such as Rahuri (Maharashtra, India) were screened for various physicochemical properties. The external skin colour of Conadria, Deanna, Excel, Poona Fig and Dinkar was found to be greenish, golden yellow, greenish yellow, reddish green and dark red, respectively, with creamy pinkish, creamy white, creamy, pinkish and dark pink flesh colour, respectively. The fruits of Deanna and Excel looked bell-shaped, while Conadria, Poona Fig and Dinkar had pear-shaped fruits. The average weight of the fruits was found to be maximum in Deanna (46.64 g) followed by Conadria (38.76 g) and Dinkar (25.76 g), and minimum in Poona Fig followed by Excel. The specific gravity was found to be maximum in Poona Fig followed by Dinkar and minimum in Deanna. The average volume of the fruits was found to be maximum in Deanna followed by Conadria and Excel and minimum in Dinkar followed by Poona Fig. The total soluble solids were found to be maximum in Deanna (21.20%) followed by Conadria (20.15%) and minimum in Dinkar (18.36%). The reducing and total sugars were maximum in Deanna followed by Conadria and Excel and minimum in Dinkar followed by Poona Fig. Among the cultivars, Deanna gave the highest yield of dried product (19.82%). The dried fig prepared from Deanna could be stored for more than 180 days at low temperature, maintaining its physicochemical characters and high organoleptic score.

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