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Dipping effect on drying kinetics of plum fruits

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SUMMARY

Drying of plums is a slow and time-consuming process since their skin is covered with waxy bloom and the fruits dried as a whole. In order to increase the drying rate, various pre-treatments are applied, among which most commonly used operation is dipping. The work presents results of dipping effect on drying kinetics of the plum cultivars *anska leptica*, *Mildora*, *anska Rodna* and *Stanley*. Dipping is carried out in laboratory conditions by immersing the fruits in boiling water. Examinations are performed at the drying temperature 70 °C in an experimental drier for testing convective drying technological procedure, until reaching 75% of total dry matter in a dried fruit. By dipping at the drying temperature 70 °C, drying time is reduced by 10%, in relation to the control (undipped fruits) for all examined cultivars except *Mildora* where drying process is decreased by 5,5%.

Key words: plum, prune, dipping, drying curves, drying rate

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70 °
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75%
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10%,
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70
°C,
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5,5%.
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INTRODUCTION

(Kandi et al., 2007).
 (2017)
 (Tarhan et al., 2006)
 (Sacilik et al., 2006),
 (Pangavhane et al., 1999),
 (Di Matteo
 et al., 2002; Doymaz, 2004)
 (Doymaz,
 2006),
 (1969)
 Doymaz and Pala (2002)

Drying is probably the oldest method of conserving food in general. In order to optimize this process, which should enable the reduction of the production price and to increase the quality of the product, dry kinetics tests are performed which include all measurements and parameter analyses during the drying process. Testing of the drying kinetic process is carried out in laboratory, experimental or pilot devices (Kandi et al., 2007). From the aspect of drying as a process of mass – moisture transfer, Kandi et al. (2017) states that the basic diagrams of kinetics of drying: drying curves and drying rate curve.

In order to increase drying rate, various pre-treatments are used, and the most commonly used operation is dipping.

Dipping can be carried out by immersing the fruits in hot (Tarhan et al., 2006) or boiling water (Sacilik et al., 2006), a base solution (Pangavhane et al., 1999), fatty acid ester solutions (Di Matteo et al., 2002; Doymaz, 2004) of different concentrations and temperatures, or in the fatty acid ester solution with the addition of different bases (Doymaz, 2006), in order to distort or remove the waxy layer without damaging the skin.

Examining the influence of dipping on the quality of dried plums of the cultivar Požega a, Janda (1969) immersed the fruits into a boiling solution of sodium of different concentrations and in boiling water and concludes that in treated fruits in boiling of sodium hydroxide there is a degradation of colour in dried fruits, whereas in fruits dipped in boiling water no such changes are seen, which is why this treatment is recommended for wider use in production.

Doymaz and Pala (2002) examined the influence of different dipping agents

Ismail et al. (2008),

70 °C,

(Kandi et al., 2006).

70 °

20

1 kg).

6

on the rate of grape drying and concluded that there was a drastic reduction of the drying time in dipped fruits compared to control, i.e. fruits that were not dipped. In their experiments, it has been shown that different dipping agents behave in the same way, i.e., dipped fruits are dried for the same time regardless of the respective solution. The same conclusion was reached by Ismail et al. (2008) examining the effect of fatty acid bases and esters as a dipping agent in the course of drying grapes at different temperatures.

The aim of this paper is to determine whether dipping affects the reduction of drying time of some plum cultivars that dry at an air temperature of 70 °C.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plum fruits from the plantations of Fruit Research Institute a ak, a anska Lepotica, Mildora, a anska Rodna and Stanley with agro and pomotechnical measures commonly used for this kind of fruit trees regularly applied were used for the examination. The fruits for drying were picked selectively in a full maturity phase for the respective cultivar

Drying of fruits was carried out in an experimental dryer for testing the convective drying process (Kandi et al., 2006). An air-streaming drying procedure was applied at a constant temperature of 70 °C. Fruits were dried without pre-treatment (control) and dipped (plum fruits immersed in boiling water for 20 seconds). Fresh plums of about the same average initial mass (based on counting of fruits in 1 kg) were placed on a pre-defined stainless tray in one layer. There were 6 trays in the drying chamber.

Through the trays with plum fruits, the vertically air-heated air with pre-defined characteristics was introduced (temperature, air-flow). The speed of the air flow in the intersection of drying

1 m/s.

60 ,

2 .

75%.

105 ° ,

;

- DM [kg DM/kg] –

;

- W [kg W/kg] –

;

- U [kg W/kg DM] –

;

- G_{SMz} [kg DM/kg] –

() ;

- chamber was 1 m/s. Direction of vertical air-flow during the drying process was

- changed alternatively and periodically at the intervals of 60 min, so that the same conditions during drying on all trays were achieved, which was the reason why the fruit mass on the trays was measured every 2 hours. Dipped fruits and fruits representing control were dried simultaneously in the same experiment, on the trays symmetrically placed in the dryer, thus achieving the same drying conditions. Drying of fruits ends when the dry matter content of the samples is about 75% of dry matter.

- Before drying process, measuring and determination of the basic fruit parameters were carried out: measuring of fruit mass, fruit stone mass and the content of dry matter. Mass share of the stone in the fruit was determined based on the fruit and stone mass. The initial dry matter of fresh plum fruits and final dry matter of prunes were determined by standard method, by drying at 105°C until the constant mass was reached.

Nomenclature:

- DM [kg DM/kg] – content of total dry matter;
- W [kg W/kg] – Moisture content on a wet base;
- U [kg W/kg DM] – Moisture content on a dry base;
- G_{SMz} [kg DM/kg] – Final content of total dry matter in edible fruit part (total dry matter of dried fruit);

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Before drying, initial parameters of the mechanical composition of fresh plum berries and the content of total dry matter are determined, which represent the data necessary for the calculation of drying process completion on trays with 75% of dry matter, which is shown in Table 1. For drying, fruits of the uniform mass (large) and uniform maturity are used. The fruit mass ranges from 23.00 g (Mildora

75%

1.

()

23.00 g
 (" ") 43.10 g (Sottit et al. (2010)
 " ").
 - 30 40 g 1.2
 2 g,
 " " ; " "
 " " " "
 23.00 g -
 (Mileti et al., 2015),
 (Mitrovi et al., 2013a),

cultivar) to 43.10 g (Stanley cultivar). According to Sottit et al. (2010) the most desirable fruit characteristics for drying are fruits weighing between 30 and 40 g and with stones from 1.2 to 2 g, which we have used in our research in the cultivars a anska Lepotica, acanska Rodna and Stanley. On the other hand, the Mildora cultivar with the fruit mass of 23.00 g belongs to the group of plums with small to medium fruits (Mileti et al., 2015), but since it contains extremely small stone (Mitrovi et al., 2013a), it can be used for processing by drying.

1.

Table 1. Mechanical composition and content of total dry matter in fruits of the studied plum cultivars

Cultivar	Fruit mass (g)	Stone mass (g)	Stone ratio (%)	Dry matter (%)
a. Lepotica	41.50	1.70	4.10	15.66
Mildora	23.00	1.03	4.48	25.63
a. Rodna	37.40	1.51	4.04	22.80
Stanley	43.10	2.20	5.11	19.47

,
 ,
 " " -
 " (25,63%), " -
 " (22,80 " -
 19,47%), -
 Mileti et al. (2015) Mitrovi et al. (2013b). -
 " -
 (15.66%), -
 , -
 (Gliši et al., 2015; Minev and Stoyanova, 2013).

According to the content of total dry matter, the fruits of all plum cultivars are picked at the stage of technological maturity for drying, whereas differences in values are the result of varietal characteristics. Namely, the cultivar Mildora is characteristic for its extremely high content of total dry matter (25.63%), while the cultivars a anska Rodna and Stanley have lower contents (22.80 and 19.47%, in order), which is in agreement with the results of Mileti et al. (2015) and Mitrovi et al. (2013b). In the a anska Lepotica cultivar, this value is far smaller (15.66%), which is explained by the varietal characteristic and the fact that it belongs to the early-ripening cultivar group (Gliši et al., 2015; Minev and Stojanova, 2013).

The drying kinetics can be presented by different curves that

(Graph 1),

(5,38 kg W/kg DM)

(25,63%)

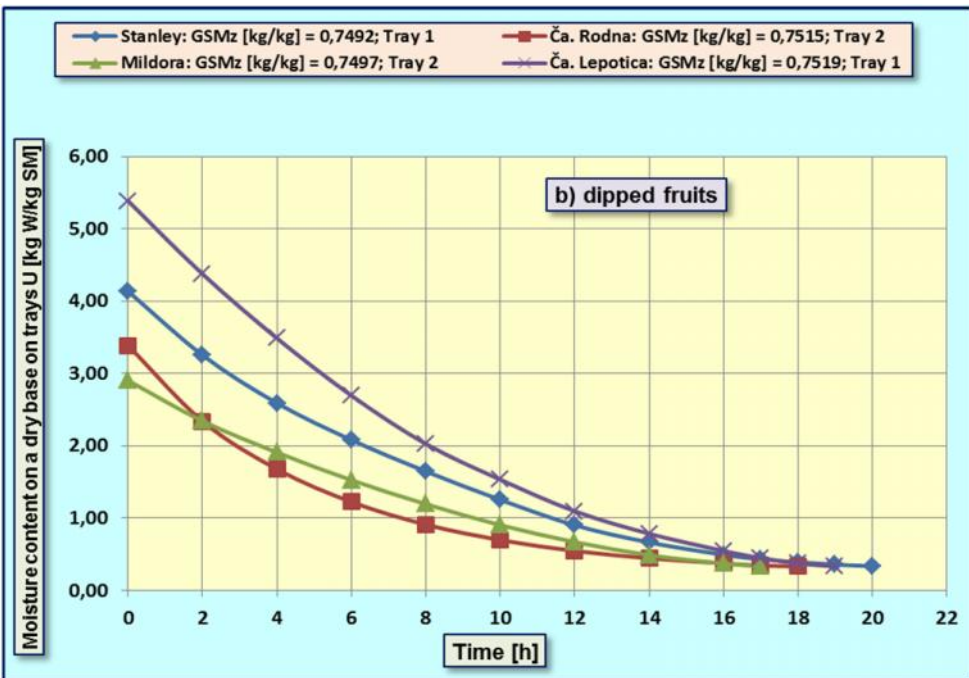
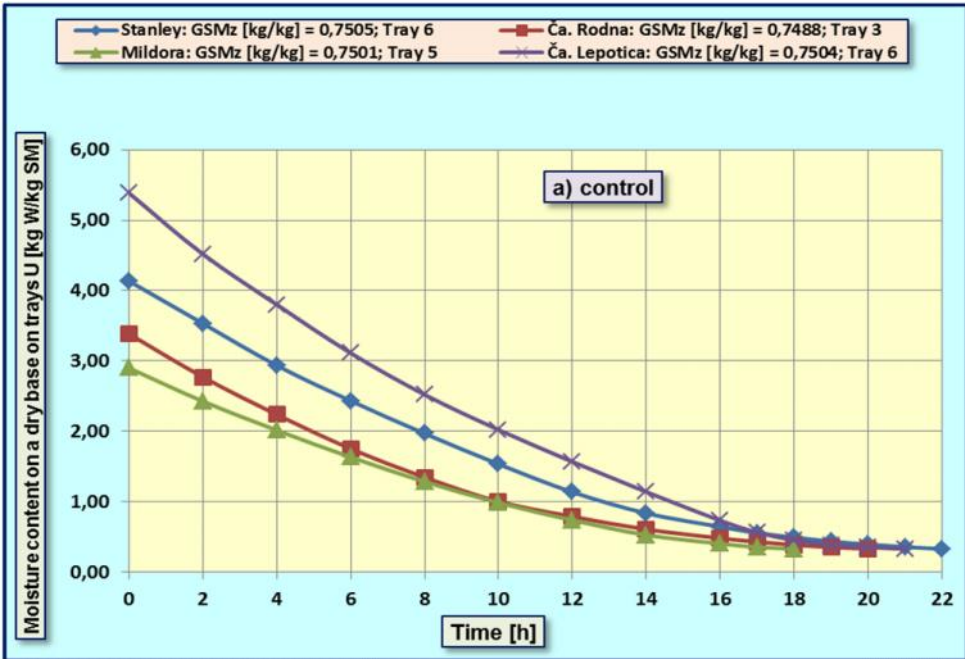
(2,90 kg W/kg DM).

75%

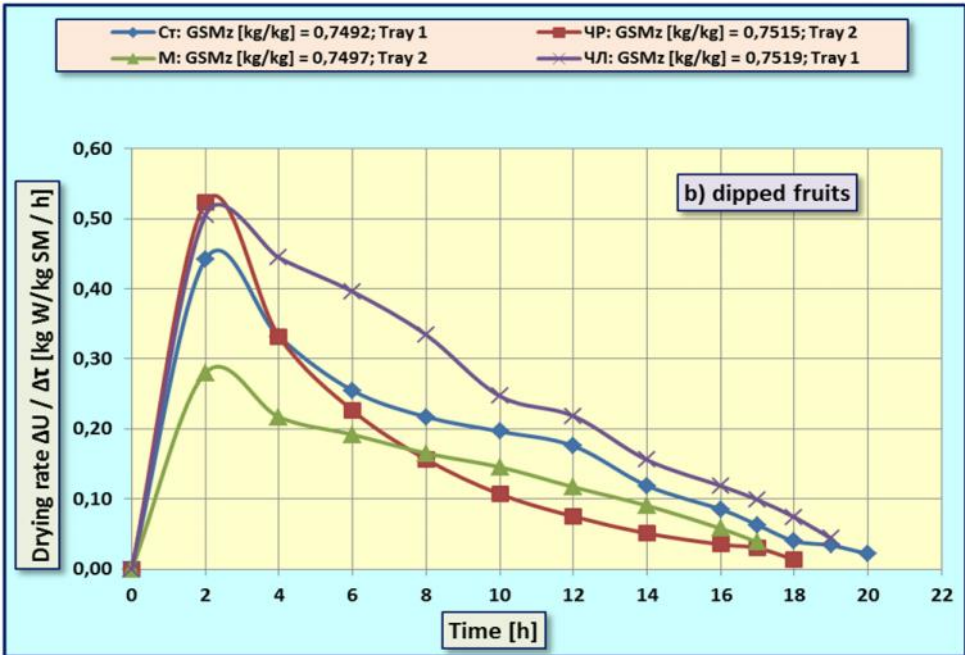
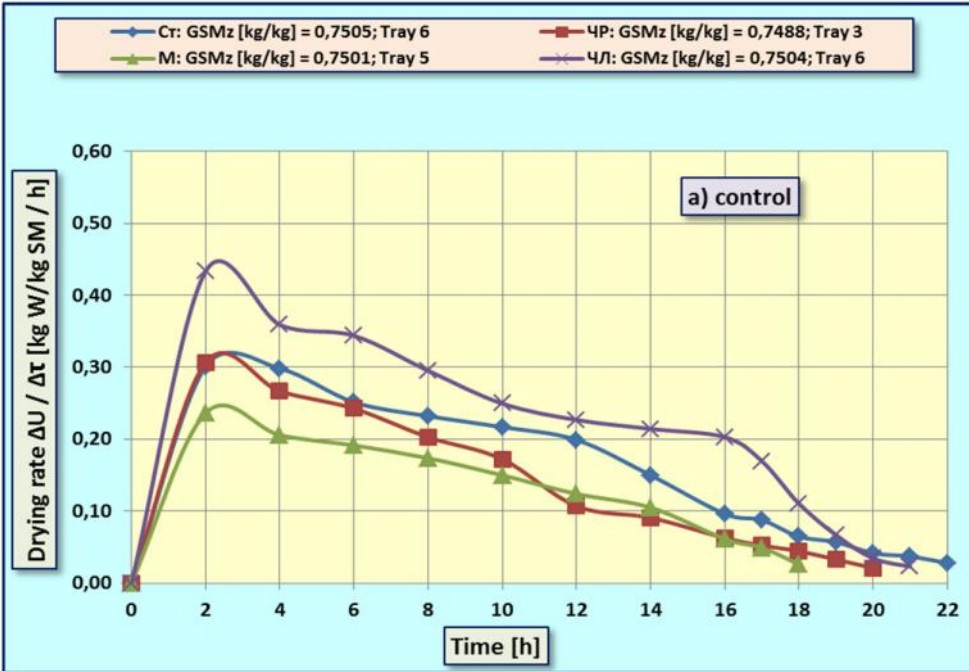
0.33 kg W/kg DM.

represent changes in the time of different units of the basic drying material state, i.e., units that describe the condition of fruits of the studied plum cultivars. Graph 1 shows the curves of the moisture content (on a dry basis) of the fruits of the studied plum cultivars during drying: (a) the fruits representing control and (b) the dipped fruits. Drying kinetics is most commonly shown using this curve because it annuls the difference in the initial data of the tested cultivars: the starting total mass and the starting dry matter content of the fruit on trays. Since the dry matter mass in fruits remains unchanged during drying, by using the unit of moisture content on a dry base, it is possible to much better notice different drying kinetics of the tested plum cultivars.

Analyzing the drying curves (Graph 1), it is concluded that all the curves of the studied plum cultivars start from different values, since the fruits of the studied plum cultivars have different contents of total dry matter at the beginning of drying, i.e., the different moisture content on a dry base. The fruits of the plum cultivar *anska leptica* have the lowest content of total dry matter (15.66%), due to which its fruits have the highest dry matter moisture content (5.38 kg W/kg DM) at the beginning of drying and the fruits of *Mildora* cultivar due to the highest content of total dry matter (25.63%) at the beginning of drying have the lowest moisture content on a dry base (2.90 kg W/kg DM). Drying of fruits lasted up until 75% of the total dry matter is achieved, thereby the ultimate moisture content on a dry basis in all tested cultivars is about values 0.33 kg W/kg DM.



1. :) ; b)
 Graph 1. Contents of moisture on a dry base on trays during the drying period:
 a) control; b) dipped fruits



2.
:) ; b)
Graph 2. Drying rate on a dry base on trays during the drying period: a) control; b) dipped fruits

1 kg W/kg DM
 50%
 2/3
 75%
 DM 10
 DM 12
 Di Matteo et al. (2000)

1 kg W/kg
 13
 15
 1b
 1 kg W/kg
 (7, 9, 11)
 21
 19
 18, 17
 22, 20
 Ismail et al. (2008)

2
 2

The value of moisture content on a dry base of 1 kg W/kg DM corresponds to the content of 50% of total dry matter, which represents 2/3 of the total dry matter content at the end of drying of 75%. Analyzing Graph 1a, it is concluded that the a anska Rodna and Mildora cultivars achieve the moisture content on a dry base of 1 kg W/kg DM in 10 h, the cultivar Stanley in 13 h and a anska Lepotica in 15 h. On the other hand, in Graph 1b it can be seen that dipped fruits of all tested cultivars achieve the moisture content on a dry base of 1 kg W/kg DM in shorter time (7h, 9h, 11h and 12h, in order), which results in shortening of the total drying time of dipped fruits of all tested cultivars. For the a anska lepotica cultivar, the time of drying fruits that make control is 21 h, while in dipped fruits 19 h, in Mildora 18 and 17 h, a anska Rodna 20 and 18 h, and in Stanley 22 and 20 h. Di Matteo et al. (2000) and Ismail et al. (2008) reach the same conclusions examining the effect of dipping on the drying kinetics of grape.

In order to define the kinetics of drying plums, apart from the drying curve, a drying rate curve is used as well. Graph 2 shows the curves of drying rate change in moisture content on a dry base of the fruits of tested plum cultivars on a predefined tray during the drying process: (a) the fruits representing the control and (b) the dipped fruits. Since the drying rate is zero at the beginning of the drying process, the drying rate curves start from the zero value. Analyzing the drying rate curves of dipped fruits and the fruits representing control, it was found that the highest drying rates were achieved after the first measurement of the weight of the fruit on the tray, i.e., after 2 hours of drying.

A high drying rate, which is achieved at the beginning of the drying process, allows a large amount of free water from plum fruits to evaporate at the beginning

2
2, 4 6
2.
2,4 6

of the drying process. Table 2 shows the loss of free water in relation to the total evaporated water after 2, 4 and 6 hours of drying for dipped fruits and the fruits representing control.

(%)

Table 2. The loss of free water (%) in relation to the total evaporated water for the fruits in intervals of 2, 4 and 6 h in relation to the drying start

/Cultivar	Intervals of time from the drying start	Loss of free water in relation to the total evaporated water (%)	
		/control	/dipped
a anaska Lepotica	0 – 2 h	17.15	19.98
	0 – 4 h	31.36	37.56
	0 – 6 h	44.97	53.23
/Mildora	0 – 2 h	18.40	21.82
	0 – 4 h	34.41	38.72
	0 – 6 h	49.31	53.65
a anaska Rodna	0 – 2 h	20.08	34.27
	0 – 4 h	37.56	55.99
	0 – 6 h	53.46	70.81
/Stanley	0 – 2 h	15.84	23.25
	0 – 4 h	31.51	40.69
	0 – 6 h	44.73	54.09

70
°C,
,
-
-
2
,
-
-
-
"
" (34,27%
)
20,08%
(2h),
(Datta,
6
2007),

At a drying temperature of 70 °C, at the beginning of drying, when it is crucial, drying rates of dipped fruits are significantly higher than the control. After 2 hours of drying, the loss of free water in relation to the total amount of evaporated water is drastically higher in dipped fruits, with the biggest difference seen in the a anaska Rodna cultivar (34.27% versus 20.08% at control). Although after initial mass measurement (2h) fruit drying enters the phase of the falling drying rate (Datta, 2007), the evaporation of water from the fruits is still intense. After 6 hours of drying, dipped fruits lost over 50% of the free water in relation to the total amount of evaporated water in all

50%

" ,

" ,

4 ,

- " ,

50%

6 " ,

" " ,

49,31 %.

" ,

- ,

Mitrovi et

al. (2013b).

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- ,

(Goyal et al., 2007).

- ,

" ,

5,5%,

10%.

cultivars, except for the cultivar a anaska Rodna, in which such large loss of water was recorded after 4 hours of drying. In the fruits representing control, the evaporation of water is far slower, so that only the fruits of the a anaska Rodna cultivar lost more than 50% of the free water after 6 hours of drying, while in the case of Mildora, the loss was 49.31%. Based of these indicators, it can be concluded that the fruits of the cultivar a anaska Rodna dry faster compared to other plum cultivars studied, which is in line with the results of Mitrovi et al. (2013b).

By dipping the fruits in boiling water, the bloom is removed from the fruit skin, because it represents the hydrophobic part of the skin interfering the undisturbed water evaporation in the course of drying (Goyal et al., 2007). The bloom and thickness of the skin is a varietal feature of plum, therefore for those cultivars with a thin skin or less pronounced bloom, dipping of fruits does not lead to a considerable shortening of the drying time. That is why the dried fruits of the Mildora cultivar dry shorter for 5.5% only whereas in other cultivars dipping reduces the drying time by 10%.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of our research, it can be concluded that dipping impacts the reduction of drying time in all tested cultivars at a drying temperature of 70 °C. Reduction of drying time is 10% for all cultivars, except Mildora, where it is 5.5%. Dipping as a most commonly used drying pre-treatment is recommended in drying plums at a drying temperature of 70 °C.

70 ° ,

10%

" ,

5,5%.

70 ° .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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