

EFFECT OF MALE TYPE ON FRUIT CHEMICAL PROPERTIES
IN SOME DATE PALM CULTIVARS

M.A. SHAHEEN*; M.A. BACHA* and T.A. NASR*.

ABSTRACT

The effect of pollen grains of 16 date palm males, was evaluated and selected, in the Central Region of Saudi Arabia, according to some chemical properties of the fruits of 4 date palm cultivars, namely Seleg, Sakhi, Khudari and Nebut Seif, in 1985 and 1986. The chemical properties which were studied included; moisture, sugars, ash, protein and tannins.

The results of these experiments, revealed that fruit chemical properties were affected differently according to the used males. However, the effect was not similar in both years of the study.

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that type of pollen grains, used in pollination of date palm cvs, has a metaxenic effect on various fruit properties including chemical ones (Nixon, 1926; 1934; 1945 and 1956; Osman *et al.* 1974; Ream, 1974; Whittlesey, 1933; Mahdi, 1969 and Mathew *et al.* 1975). In connection with this criteria, information on the effect of 16 date palm males should be evaluated and selected in the Central Region of Saudi Arabia. Accordingly, this study was carried out in 1985 and 1986 to add more light on the effect of pollen grains of 16 males on some chemical properties of the fruits of 4 date palm cvs, namely, Seleg, Sakhi, Khudari and Nebut Seif.

* Plant Production Department, College of Agriculture, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.