

Agronomic aptitude and quality of vinifera grapes in a non-traditional of culture region in the Agreste of Pernambuco States

ABSTRACT

Aims: To evaluate the agronomic and quality characteristics of grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) varieties in a non-traditional region of the Agreste of Pernambuco States. **Study design:** The experiment was conducted in a randomized block design with five replications and eight plants per plot. **Place and Duration of Study:** Was carried out in the municipality of Brejão, PE, at the Experimental Station of the Agronomic Institute of the Pernambuco. The vines were implanted on September, 2013, whose pruning was performed on August and harvesting began on December, 2016 to January, 2017. **Methodology:** Ten treatments represented by the varieties of European vines: Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot Noir, Petit Verdot, Pinot Noir and Syrah for producing of red wines and Chardonnay, Muscat Petit Grain, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier for producing of white wines, grafted on the Paulsen 1103 rootstock were evaluated. The vineyard was conducted in espalier vine-tying system in double short pruning type, with spacing 3m x 1m. The characterization of the phenological stages was made using as reference the phenological scale. The thermal requirement of the crop per period was estimated. Agronomic characteristics were also evaluated, such as: fertility of gems, budding (%), production, productivity, number of bunches per plant, length and width of bunch, bunch weight, soluble solids, titratable acidity, hydrogen ionic potential, SS / TA ratio, volume of 100 berries, yield of must, mass of the husks and seeds. The data were submitted to two selection indices: Classic Index and Distance Genotype-Ideotype Index. **Results:** Sprouting varied from 13.68% (Petit Verdot) to 81.6% (Sauvignon Blanc) and the fertility of gems from 0.1 bunch.bud⁻¹ (Chardonnay) to 0.67 bunch.bud⁻¹ (Sauvignon Blanc). The pruning cycle and Day Degrees (DD) cumulated ranged from 133 days and 1,684 DD (Muscat Petit Grain) to 167 days and 2,070 DD (Merlot Noir). The number of bunches ranged from five (Merlot Noir) to 29 bunches.plant⁻¹ (Sauvignon Blanc). Muscat Petit Grain stood out for bunch weight, not differing from Syrah and Malbec. The varieties showed no difference in length and width of bunches. In the volume of 100 berries, Muscat Petit Grain (213.6 ml) and Malbec (216.0 ml) stood out. For the yield of must, Sauvignon Blanc (70.87%) stood out, not differing from Malbec (64.31%), Viognier (69.79%), Muscat Petit Grain (70.22%). Muscat Petit Grain, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier (white wine), Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot Noir and Syrah obtained acceptable values for soluble solids (SS), titratable acidity (TA), SS/TA ratio and pH. From the selection index analyzes, the Muscat Petit Grain, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah varieties were indicated for the selection by the highest Mulamba and Mock index and by the Genotype-Ideotype distance index. **Conclusion:** The cycle of grapevine varieties evaluated in the Garanhuns, PE, Microregion is longer than that observed in the sub Medio of the São Francisco Valley, similar to those in the South Region of Brazil. In the evaluated cycle the varieties produced grapes with characteristics suitable for the production of quality fine wines, showing to be

promising for this non-traditional microregion in the production of fine grapes. From the selection index analyzes, the Muscat Petit Grain, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties were indicated for selection by the highest Mulamba and Mock index and Genotype-Ideotype distance index.

15 **Keywords:** *Vitis vinifera* L., white wine, red wine, selection indexes.

16

17 **1. INTRODUCTION**

18

19 The *Vitis vinifera* L. is the most cultivated grape species in the world and is widely used in
20 wine production. The main varieties used for the production of white wine are Chardonnay,
21 Muscat Petit Grain, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier, while the Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec,
22 Melot Noir, Petit Verdot, Pinot Noir and Syrah varieties stand out in the production of red
23 wines. Together, these varieties occupy a prominent place in the world scenario in the
24 elaboration of fine wines [1].

25

26 The vine is an exotic species, but increasingly representative in Brazilian fruit growing, since
27 it is no longer exclusively cultivated in temperate zones and has become a promising
28 alternative to fruit growing also in tropical regions [2].

29

30 The semi-arid region presents peculiar climatic conditions that differ from the other regions
31 producing grapes. These climatic conditions favor the rapid evolution of elaborated wines,
32 especially of the grapes harvested between October and January, in the sub Medio of the
33 São Francisco Valley. This is due to the high temperatures exceeding 33-35°C, limiting
34 temperatures to ensure the stability of phenolic compounds and aroma precursors [3].

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36 However, one alternative to solve these problems is the identification of micro regions with
37 different climatic conditions and potential aptitude for the elaboration of quality wines in the
38 Northeast region.

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40 The Garanhuns Microregion where the town of Brejão, PE, is located is not traditional in the
41 production of grapes, but it has similar climatic and altitude characteristics to those of the
42 main regions producing European grapes. Preliminary studies indicate that the Garanhuns,
43 PE, Microregion has a high potential for the production of grapes [4].

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45 Therefore, it is important to study the behavior of these varieties under these edaphoclimatic
46 conditions, characterizing the phenological behavior, the thermal demand and the quality
47 parameters of the grape. This scientific knowledge contributes to improve cultural practices
48 with the varieties, as well as, they allow to identify which varieties are more adapted to each
49 region [5,6].

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51 The analysis of production components, such as number of fruits and yield, is of great
52 importance in the perennial plant breeding [7]. In addition, in grapes for winemaking, in
53 addition to these characteristics, the quality of the fruit is also essential, being decisive in the
54 production of a quality wine. When multiple characters are considered simultaneously, the
55 selection indexes are presented as a great alternative to the selection gain prediction.

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57 In view of the above, the objective was to evaluate agronomic and grape quality
58 characteristics in *Vitis vinifera* L. varieties in a non-traditional region to identify varieties with
59 potential for the production of fine wines, contributing to the development and strengthening
60 of viticulture in the Brazilian Northeast region.

61

62 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

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64 The experiment was carried out in the municipality of Brejão, PE, at the Experimental Station
65 of the Agronomic Institute of the Pernambuco (IPA). The municipality is located in the
66 Microregion of Garanhuns, PE, which comprises nineteen municipalities. Garanhuns is
67 located at 234Km from Recife, 08°58'S and 36°51'W with 823m of altitude, being Brejão at
68 approximately 24,7Km from Garanhuns 08°53'S and 36°30'W, with an altitude of 788m and
69 temperatures average of 22.8°C.

70 The work consisted of ten treatments represented by the varieties of European vines (*Vitis*
71 *vinifera* L.): Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Merlot Noir, Petit Verdot, Pinot Noir and Syrah for
72 producing of red wines and Chardonnay, Muscat Petit Grain, Sauvignon Blanc and Viogner
73 for producing of white wines, grafted on the Paulsen 1103 rootstock.

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75 The experiment was conducted under a randomized block design with five replicates, each
76 experimental plot consisting of eight plants. The vines were implanted on September 10,
77 2013, whose pruning was performed on August 11 and harvesting began on December 22,
78 2016 to January 25, 2017. The vineyard was conducted in espalier vine-tying system in
79 double short pruning type, with spacing 3m x 1m and irrigated by micro sprinkler, being the
80 cultural treatments used according to the recommendations for cultivation. In this work the
81 second productive cycle of the plants was evaluated.

82

83 The characterization of each phenological stage of the different varieties was carried out
84 through three weekly visits to the experimental area during five months. From these visits
85 were established the dates of beginning of occurrence of the main stages of growth of the
86 vine, using as reference the phenological scale proposed by Eichorn and Lorenz [8] and
87 adapted by Coombe [9]: 4 - Green tip (first foliar tissues visible); 12 - Five to six separate
88 leaves, visible inflorescence; 19 - Beginning of flowering (first open flowers); 23 - Full bloom
89 (50% of open flowers); 27 - Fruiting (growing berries); 31 - Berries size "pea"; 35 - Beginning
90 of ripening (berries beginning to color and softening); 38 - Harvest (berries in full maturity).

91

92 The thermal requirement of the crop per period was calculated by the sum of the Degrees-
93 Day (DD). To characterize the crop thermal requirement, the sum of DD from pruning to
94 harvesting was used, as well as for each of the phenological subperiods, using the equation
95 proposed by Villa Nova et al. [10] for mean temperature higher than the base temperature:

96

$$97 \quad DD = (T_m - T_b) + \frac{(T_M - T_m)}{2}$$

98

99 Where DD corresponds to the sum of Degrees-Day in each subperiod; T_b is the base
100 temperature of the vine, equal to 10°C [11]; T_M is the daily maximum temperature (°C) and
101 T_m is the daily minimum temperature (°C).

102

103 In plants previously identified (two plants per plot), the number of production units and the
104 number of remaining gems for pruning were recorded. The emergence and fertility of the
105 gems were determined from the following formulas:

106

107 - Fertility of gems ($\text{bunch} \cdot \text{bud}^{-1}$) = (number of bunches / number of gems budded);

108 - Budding (%) = (number of gems budded / total number of gems.) X 100.

109

110 The following characteristics were evaluated: production (PROD), in $\text{kg} \cdot \text{plant}^{-1}$; productivity
111 (PRODOT), in $\text{t} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$; number of bunches $\cdot \text{plant}^{-1}$ (NB); length (LE) and width of bunch (WB),
112 in centimeters; bunch weight (BW), in grams; soluble solids (SS), expressed in °Brix,
113 determined by direct reading in a manual refractometer; titratable acidity (TA), determined
114 using 0.1N NaOH, with 1% phenolphthalein as the indicator, the result being expressed as a

115 percentage of tartaric acid; hydrogen ionic potential (pH), from direct reading in previously
116 calibrated pH meter; SS / TA ratio; volume of 100 berries (BV), in ml; yield of must (YM),
117 in%, calculated from the mass of the 50 berries and the mass of the husks and seeds.

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119 The selection indexes analyzed were: Classic Index of Mulamba and Mock [12] and
120 Distance Index Genotype-Ideotype [13]. The variables in which variability were found were
121 submitted to the two selection indices, using the most relevant characteristics for wine
122 grapes: NB, MC, TA, pH and YM.

123 Estimates of selection gain prediction, using selection indices, were obtained based on the
124 means of the experiment, with a selection percentage of 30%, and the two best varieties
125 were selected in each index.

126
127 The averages of the genotypes selected for each trait were compared by the Tukey test, at
128 5% probability. The obtained data were analyzed with the computational resources of the
129 Genes software [14].

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131 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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133 There was higher percentage of vegetative shoots than fertility of gems for the ten varieties
134 (Table 1). The averages obtained for sprout and fertility of gems of the grapevines showed
135 that the varieties presented differentiated responses, with the lowest fertility values being
136 0.10, 0.12 and 0.18 bunch.buds⁻¹ found for Chardonnay, Petit Verdot and Pinot Noir
137 respectively, which was reflected in the very low production for these varieties, making it
138 impossible to do the rest of the analyzes for them.

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Table 1. Analysis of sprout and fertility of gems of grape varieties
in the Garanhuns Microregion, PE, 2017

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Treatments	Sprouting (%)	Fertility of gems (bunch.bud ⁻¹)
Muscat Petit Grain	43.36cde	0.46abc
Merlot Noir	26.64ef	0.36bcde
Chardonnay	67.68ab	0.10e
Syrah	66.20abc	0.52ab
Cabernet Sauvignon	41.10de	0.59ab
Petit Verdot	13.68f	0.12de
Pinot Noir	57.68bcd	0.18cde
Malbec	35.62def	0.44abc
Viognier	76.98ab	0.40abcd
Sauvignon Blanc	81.60a	0.67a
Coefficient of variation (%)	21.12	34.21

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Averages followed by the same letter in the column do not differ by the
Tukey test at 5% probability.

The Petit Verdot variety presents low vigor in the sub Medio of the São Francisco Valley,
reflecting at low sprouting index, associated with low fertility of gems [15]. In the first cycle of
the same experiment (2015/2016), there was also a lower fertility of gems for Pinot Noir and
Chardonnay, reflecting at the low yield that made it impossible continuity of the analyzes for
these varieties [4].

166 In the evaluation of cycle from the pruning to harvest, the varieties presented cycle duration
 167 ranging from 133 days (Muscat Petit Grain) to 167 days (Merlot Noir) (Table 2). According to
 168 the classification of Leão et al. [16], all the cultivars under study were classified as late.
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Table 2. Analysis of the phenological phases and Day Degrees of grape varieties in the Garanhuns Microregion, PE, 2017

Treatments	Phenological Phases								Total
	4	12	19	23	27	31	35	38	
Muscat Petit G.	18a	7b	23bc	2b	7a	10ab	35c	31d	133b
Merlot Noir	20a	5b	21c	4a	3b	8b	41a	65a	167a
Syrah	15c	10a	23bc	2b	3b	11a	35c	60ab	159a
Cabernet S.	15bc	5b	26a	4a	3b	8b	41a	58b	160a
Malbec	18ab	7b	18d	3ab	7a	8b	34c	65a	160a
Viognier	13c	5b	23b	2b	7a	11a	38b	39c	138b
Sauvignon B.	15c	5b	26a	2b	2b	11a	38b	39c	138b
CV (%)	8.05	2.05	5.12	18.93	13.01	11.45	2.92	5.43	2.96

Treatments	Degrees-day in the phenological phases								Total
	4	12	19	23	27	31	35	38	
Muscat Petit G.	178b	86a	237a	41a	43b	147a	443ab	509b	1.684b
Merlot Noir	198a	52b	241a	39a	36b	145a	458ab	901a	2.070a
Syrah	137c	69ab	238a	36a	50ab	153a	456ab	859a	1.998a
Cabernet S.	161b	54b	252a	37a	50ab	125a	504a	831a	2.014a
Malbec	172b	60b	236a	37a	54ab	125a	433b	901a	2.018a
Viognier	129c	57b	251a	34a	71a	140a	473ab	536b	1.691b
Sauvignon B.	137c	65ab	250a	33a	45b	140a	456ab	574b	1.700b
CV (%)	6.06	19.59	10.90	27.89	23.07	13.46	7.15	6.38	2.81

Averages followed by the same letter in the column do not differ by the Tukey test at 5% probability.

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 171 Values close to those obtained in this work were observed in regions traditionally producing
 172 grapes, indicating areas of cultivation with characteristics similar to those of the Garanhuns,
 173 PE, Microregion.

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 175 In the Campanha-RS region, the Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc varieties
 176 demanded 174, 161 and 147 days respectively to complete the cycle [17]; 160 days for
 177 Cabernet Sauvignon in Guarapuava, PR [18]; in the south-east of Belgrade in Serbia, the
 178 Muscat Petit Grain variety was classified as medium-late cycle [19]; in Parma, Italy, Malbec,
 179 Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon respectively required 161, 157 and 155 days [20].

180
 181 Likewise, values close to the obtained at this work were found in the first productive cycle of
 182 this same experiment (2015/2016), in which 130, 155, 148, 158, 147, 132 and 144 days
 183 were demanded from the pruning to harvest for Muscat Petit Grain, Merlot Noir, Syrah,
 184 Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc, respectively [4].

185
 186 This variation to the conclusion of the cycle might be attributed to the intrinsic characteristics
 187 of each variety, due to its origin and to the climatic conditions that the plants are submitted
 188 during the all productive cycle [21,22].
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190 Regarding the thermal demand in day degrees, it ranged among 1.684 DD (Muscat Petit
191 Grain) and 2.070 DD (Merlot Noir) (Table 2). These values are directly related to maturation
192 of the bunches and date of harvest.

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194 In São Joaquim, SC, a thermal demand of 1.694, 1,430 and 1,402 DD was required for the
195 varieties Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, respectively [6]. Values close to
196 those verified in this work also were reported by Radünz et al. [17], in the region of
197 Campana, RS, with a thermal need of 2,084 and 1,759 DD for the Cabernet Sauvignon and
198 Sauvignon Blanc varieties, respectively. This values were close to those found in the first
199 cycle of this same experiment (2015/2016), where there was a thermal need of 1.485, 1.804,
200 1.721, 1.794, 1.731, 1.451 and 1.666 DD for Muscat Petit Grain, Merlot Noir, Syrah,
201 Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc respectively [4].

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203 It was observed that the first six phenological phases, as well as the thermal demand in
204 these phases, provided less variation among the varieties, being the final phenological
205 phases (35 and 38) responsible for presenting a longer duration and greater accumulation of
206 DD, thus contributing with a higher number of days for the total phenological cycle and
207 subsequent classification of varieties as early, medium and late (Table 2). In these
208 maturation phases changes in grape metabolism, sugar concentrations, organic acids,
209 amino acids, aromatic compounds and phenolic composition occur, which are very important
210 components in the elaboration and quality of the wine [23].

211

212 These values reflect what Radünz et al. [17] affirms about the phenological behavior, which
213 is influenced by the variety, but also by the evaluated harvest, being verified greater thermal
214 need in the development and fruit maturation phases and the less need in the flowering
215 phase.

216

217 The modern viticulture requires knowledge of the duration of the phenological phases,
218 helping to decide the most appropriate time to carry out the cultural treatments and
219 scheduling the probable dates of harvest, making possible the rationalization of
220 phytosanitary treatments and the optimization of the workforce [24].

221

222 Production and productivity ranged from 3.198 (kg.plant⁻¹) and 10.9 (t.ha⁻¹) to 0.506
223 (kg.plant⁻¹) and 1.8 (t.ha⁻¹) for Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot Noir, respectively (Table 3).
224 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah presented approximate values to that of
225 the sub Medio of the São Francisco Valley [25] and Merlot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon to
226 Rio Grande do Sul [26]. In this way the values obtained in this work are considered as
227 interesting production in grapes for processing conducted in espalier, since it is the second
228 productive cycle.

229

Table 3. Characteristics analysis of production (PROD), productivity (PRODUCT), number of bunches.plant⁻¹ (NB), bunch weight (BW), length of bunch (LE), width of bunch (WB), volume of 100 berries (BV) and yield of must (YM) of grapes in the Microregion of Garanhuns, PE, 2017

Treatments	PROD (Kg.planta ⁻¹)	PRODUCT (t.ha ⁻¹)	NB	BW (g)
Muscat P.	1.762bc	5.7bc	11bcd	160.2a
Merlot Noir	0.506d	1.8d	5d	101.2b
Syrah	2.504ab	8.6ab	18b	139.1ab
Cabernet S.	1.378cd	4.3cd	12bcd	114.8b
Malbec	1.418cd	5.0c	10cd	141.6ab
Viognier	1.555bc	5.5bc	14bc	111.1b

Sauvignon	3.198a	10.9a	29a	110.3b
CV (%)	12.01	25.96	20.64	15.85
Treatments	LE	WB	BV	YM
	(cm)	(cm)	(ml)	(%)
Muscat P.	15.37a	7.15a	213.6a	70.22ab
Merlot Noir	12.02a	7.75a	141.0b	60.09c
Syrah	12.09a	6.81a	146.3b	63.32bc
Cabernet S.	12.32a	7.64a	118.8b	61.01c
Malbec	13.44a	9.09a	216.0a	64.31abc
Viognier	12.92a	6.60a	141.0b	69.79ab
Sauvignon	11.08a	7.25a	133.9b	70.87a
CV (%)	18.42	22.31	9.57	5.53

Averages followed by the same letter in the column do not differ by the Tukey test at 5% probability.

230

231 For the number of bunches.plant⁻¹, the Sauvignon Blanc variety stood out to the others
 232 (Table 3). This result was superior to that found in two productive cycles in São Joaquim
 233 city, SC, for this variety 18.4 and 17.4 bunches.plant⁻¹ in the first and second cycle,
 234 respectively. In contrast, in the sub Medio of the São Francisco Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon
 235 (19 and 24 bunches.plant⁻¹), Syrah (17 and 39 bunches.plant⁻¹) and Sauvignon Blanc (21
 236 and 34 bunches.plant⁻¹) varieties obtained higher averages in the first and second cycle,
 237 respectively [25]. For the average number of bunches per plant the values were considered
 238 interesting even some being smaller than those found in other works in Brazil, considering
 239 that this is a non-traditional region in the cultivation of grapes.

240

241 For the average bunch weight Muscat Petit Grain stood out, not differing from Syrah and
 242 Malbec (Table 3). The values obtained in this work were not very distant from those found in
 243 Uruguaiana, RS, and Quaraí, RS, for the Cabernet Sauvignon (210.0g and 99.8g) and
 244 Merlot (213.5g and 105.1g) varieties, respectively [26]. In the sub Medio of the San
 245 Francisco Valley the varieties Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah presented 77.59g and
 246 102.42g, 85.82g and 156.53g, and 94.84g and 118.42 g, in two productive cycles,
 247 respectively [25]. These values were higher than those found in the first cycle (2015/2016)
 248 of this same experiment for the varieties Muscat Petit Grain (124.45 g), Merlot Noir (93.19 g),
 249 Syrah (43.77 g) Cabernet Sauvignon (108.44g), Malbec (106.86g), Viognier (62.17g) and
 250 Sauvignon Blanc (66.92g) [4].

251

252 The varieties did not present significant difference in length and width of bunches (Table 3).
 253 This results were superior to those found in the first cycle (2015/2016) of this same
 254 experiment for the varieties Muscat Petit Grain (11.2cm and 5.66cm), Merlot Noir (11.6cm
 255 and 6.22cm), Syrah (8.0cm and 4.36cm), Cabernet Sauvignon (12.8cm and 6.02cm),
 256 Malbec (11.0cm and 6.68cm), Viognier (8.1cm and 4.92cm) and Sauvignon Blanc (8.1cm
 257 and 5.34cm) for length and width of bunches, respectively [4].

258

259 For volume of 100 berries, Malbec stood out together with Muscat Petit Grain (Table 3). In
 260 the yield of must, the varieties Sauvignon Blanc and Muscat Petit Grain stood out from the
 261 others to reach the average yield in volume, considered as 70% of must and 30% of the
 262 solid part [27]. Approximate values were found in the same experiment in the first cycle,
 263 ranging from 122.2ml to 197.2ml and 62% to 77% for Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and
 264 Muscat Petit Grain varieties, respectively [4].

265

266 For soluble solids there was no statistical difference among the varieties, as well for SS/TA
 267 ratio (Table 4). All varieties obtained a greater accumulation of soluble solids, varying from

268 21.0° Brix to 22.9° Brix, which is considered satisfactory for vinification, without the need for
 269 "chaptalization" for better conservation and quality of wine [28]. Table wines and fine wines
 270 should be between 10°GL and 14°GL, through fermentation of yeasts [29].

271
 272 **Table 4.** Physical-chemical and chemical analysis of grape varieties in
 273 the Garanhuns Microregion, PE, 2017

Treatments	SS	TA	SS/TA	pH
Muscat Petit Grain	21.9a	0.60ab	36.68a	3.73bc
Merlot Noir	21.0a	0.59ab	39.42a	3.50d
Syrah	22.9a	0.54b	42.28a	3.86abc
Cabernet Sauvignon	22.3a	0.77a	29.31a	3.68cd
Malbec	22.2a	0.71ab	34.39a	3.75bc
Viognier	22.7a	0.64ab	35.48a	3.97a
Sauvignon Blanc	22.6a	0.57ab	40.29a	3.90ab
CV (%)	5.64	17.54	21.42	2.51

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 285 Averages followed by the same letter in the column do not differ by the Tukey
 286 test at 5% probability. SS - Soluble Solids; TA - Titratable Acidity; SS / TA -
 287 Soluble Solids/Titratable Acidity ratio; pH - hydrogen ionic potential.

288
 289 The titratable acidity ranged from 0.54% to 0.77% of tartaric acid (Table 4). These values
 290 are considered interesting for the most of varieties, for Conde et al. [30] report that the total
 291 acidity considered ideal for grapes is in the range of 0.65% to 0.85%.

292
 293 The relationship of the soluble solids content with the titratable acidity represents the
 294 balance between the sweet and sour taste of the grape [31], being the most representative
 295 measure of grape flavor, which is considered to be sweet over 20 [32].

296
 297 As for pH (Table 4), all varieties presented relatively high averages, for, in wine grapes, the
 298 recommended pH for the must is at most 3.30 [33]. High values were also observed for the
 299 same varieties in the first cycle of the same experiment [4]. Very high levels of pH might
 300 destabilize the wine both biologically and physic-chemically, making it more prone to
 301 microbial oxidation and proliferation, and consequently compromising its useful life [33].
 302 These values of pH, acidity and soluble solids may be adjusted by modifying the time
 303 elapsed for harvesting.

304
 305 From the value of the several characters considered simultaneously, it was possible to
 306 predict the selection gains through the selection indexes. With the results of the genetic gain
 307 estimates obtained by the use of the two combined indexes, it was verified that the
 308 Genotype-Ideotype distance index [13] provided positive gains for NG, NB, MC and pH,
 309 while the Mulamba and Mock [12] presented positive index only for MC and TA (Table 5).
 310 Thus, the Genotype-Ideotype distance index [13] allowed to predict higher and balanced
 311 gains among the characteristics when compared to the Mulamba and Mock index [12].

312
 313 The Genotype-Ideotype distance index [13] has also been indicated in other studies, such as
 314 the one that provided the best result for the selection of superior genotypes, as well as those
 315 verified in varieties of popcorn corn (*Zea mays* L. everta) [34], and together with the index of
 316 Mulamba and Mock [12] for sour passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis* Sims) [7] and alfalfa
 317 (*Medicago sativa*) [35].

Table 5. Estimates of genetic gains predicted by the selection index proposed by Mulamba and Mock [12] and by the Genotype-Ideotype Distance Index [13], in the selection of grape

varieties in the Garanhuns, PE, Microregion, 2017

Selection index	Selection gains (%)						Selected varieties
	PRODUCT	NB	BW	YM	TA	pH	
Mulamba and Mock	-15.5	-17.43	8.52	-0.01	5.79	-1.55	Muscat Petit Grain Cabernet Sauvignon
Genotype-Ideotype Distance	18.18	3.58	15.81	-0.87	-6.68	0.66	Muscat Petit Grain Syrah
Averages of varieties	1.34	-6.92	12.17	-0.44	-0.45	-0.45	

PRODUCT - Productivity ($t \cdot ha^{-1}$); NB - Number of Bunches $\cdot plant^{-1}$; BW - Bunch Weight (g); YM - yield of must (%); TA - Titratable Acidity (% of tartaric acid); pH - hydrogen ionic potential.

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319 The Muscat Petit Grain variety was indicated to be selection together by the Mulamba and
320 Mock index [12] and the Genotype-Ideotype distance index [13]. The Syrah variety was
321 selected only by the Genotype-Ideotype distance index [13], and the Cabernet Sauvignon
322 variety only by the Mulamba and Mock index [12]. Thus, a group of three varieties to be
323 indicated were obtained, approximately 43% of the group of evaluated varieties.

324

325 4. CONCLUSION

326

327 The cycle of grapevine varieties evaluated in the Garanhuns, PE, Microregion is longer than
328 that observed in the sub Medio of the São Francisco Valley, similar to those in the South
329 Region of Brazil.

330

331 In the evaluated cycle the varieties produced grapes with characteristics suitable for the
332 production of quality fine wines, showing to be promising for this non-traditional microregion
333 in the production of fine grapes.

334

335 From the selection index analyzes, the Muscat Petit Grain, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon
336 varieties were indicated for selection by the highest Mulamba and Mock index and
337 Genotype-Ideotype distance index.

338

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