Title:
3009- Vip Green and Vip Red - two new registered kiwiberry (Actinia arguta Sieb. and Zucc.) cultivars

Author(s):
Prof. Dr. Florin Stanica, University of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Horticulture, B-dul Marasti, 59, Sector 1, 011464, Bucuresti, Romania; flstanica@yahoo.co.uk (presenting author)
Ms. Lavinia Mihaela Iliescu, University of Agronomic Sciences, Faculty of Horticulture, B-dul Marasti, 59, 011464 Bucuresti, Romania; iliescu_lavinia@yahoo.com (co-author)
Prof. Giuseppe Zuccherelli, Via Loreto, no 170, 47521 Cesena, Italy; zuccherelli@vitroplant.it (co-author)

Abstract body text:
In Romania, kiwi is a new fruit species and the creation, testing and introduction of winter hardy genotypes, adapted to the local excessive continental temperate harsh climate represents a priority. Kiwiberry (Actinidia arguta) being harder than A. deliciosa and A. chinensis, was the first specie included in a Romanian – Italian kiwifruit breeding program started in 1993 at the Faculty of Horticulture within the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest. The aim of the program was to select some valuable hybrid genotypes adapted to the local conditions and producing high quality fruits. Over 1000 seedlings obtained in Italy at Vitroplant by free and controlled crossings between different three cultivars of A. arguta: Francesca, Rosana, Jumbo, the selections AA2, AA5, AA6, AA8 and the male ARM were planted in a selection field. After several years of observations and measurements, eight female elite plants with interesting fruit characteristics were chosen for propagation and testing in a commercial orchard. Only two kiwiberry elites were registered at CpVO Angers: ‘Vip Green’ (R8P23)– EU Patent 2017/2828 and ‘Vip Red’ (R9P20) – EU Patent 2017/2829. ‘Vip Green’ has big fruits size (35÷40 g), cylindrical, lightly flat and asymmetric, with a green flesh and skin. “Vip Red” cultivar produces medium size fruits (15÷20 g), tronconical, narrower at the calix, with a red flesh and skin. Both cultivars have good productivity and are resistant to PSA. Fruits are well appreciated by consumers through sensorial analyses and can be stored in the CA over 4 months. For a good pollination, two selected pollinators: R9P16, R9P18 are recommended to be distributed in the plantation in a 1:5 ratio. The two new cultivars ‘Vip Green’ and ‘Vip Red’ showed a good adaptability to the Romanian local climate and pedological conditions, and they can be tested in other areas in order to be extended commercial orchards.