Title:
3010- Promising kiwifruit hybrid elites from the Romanian-Italian breeding program

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Abstract body text:
Domesticated from wild populations located on Yangtze River basin, kiwifruit is a recently developed crop and only within the last 100 years started to be commercialized. The first kiwifruit orchard with *Actinidia deliciosa* and *A. arguta* was established in Romania in 1993, at Ostrov (Constanta County), on the border of the Danube River. In the same year, a common Romanian-Italian kiwifruit breeding program was initiated at the Faculty of Horticulture within the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest. The experimental field for the selection of kiwifruit hybrid genotypes was established on preluvosol in the Romanian plain, using hybrid seedlings obtained in Italy. The plants were led on a T-bar trellis system and were grown under organic orchard management. The inter row surface was covered with a mixture of perennial grasses and mowed mechanically, and along the row, the soil was kept clean. Drip irrigation and micro spray irrigation system was provided. Intra and interspecific crossings using *A. deliciosa* and *A. chinensis* cultivars were made and from the initial hybrids, after few years of observations and tests, four elites as R0P13, R1P8, R1P9 and R1P12 with special fruit characteristics, long storage capacity and good yield have been selected. Fruit quality characteristics of the new kiwi selections as average weight, fruit shape index, pulp firmness, soluble solids, dry matter, acidity and ascorbic acid were determined and are here detailed. The new selections are in the registration process as new cultivars and can be successfully cultivated on commercial orchards and private gardens.