MAJOR AND MINOR MINERALS OF 'SWEETHEART' CHERRY STONE FROM COVA DA BEIRA

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays customers demand objective and trustworthy information about the geographical origin of agricultural products. The mineral composition of these products and its relation with their "terroir" has been shown to be a useful tool in differentiating commodities produced in a limited region and subjected to certain quality requirements.

In this sense, the mineral profile of 'Sweetheart' cherry stone from Cova da Beira (Portugal), which has protected geographical indication registration (PGI), was studied.

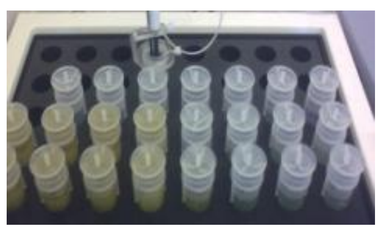
MATERIAL AND METHOD

Stones of 'Sweetheart' cherries

Origin: Cova da Beira, Portugal)

Fruits supplied by Cerfundão

Mineral profile was assessed by **Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)**.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

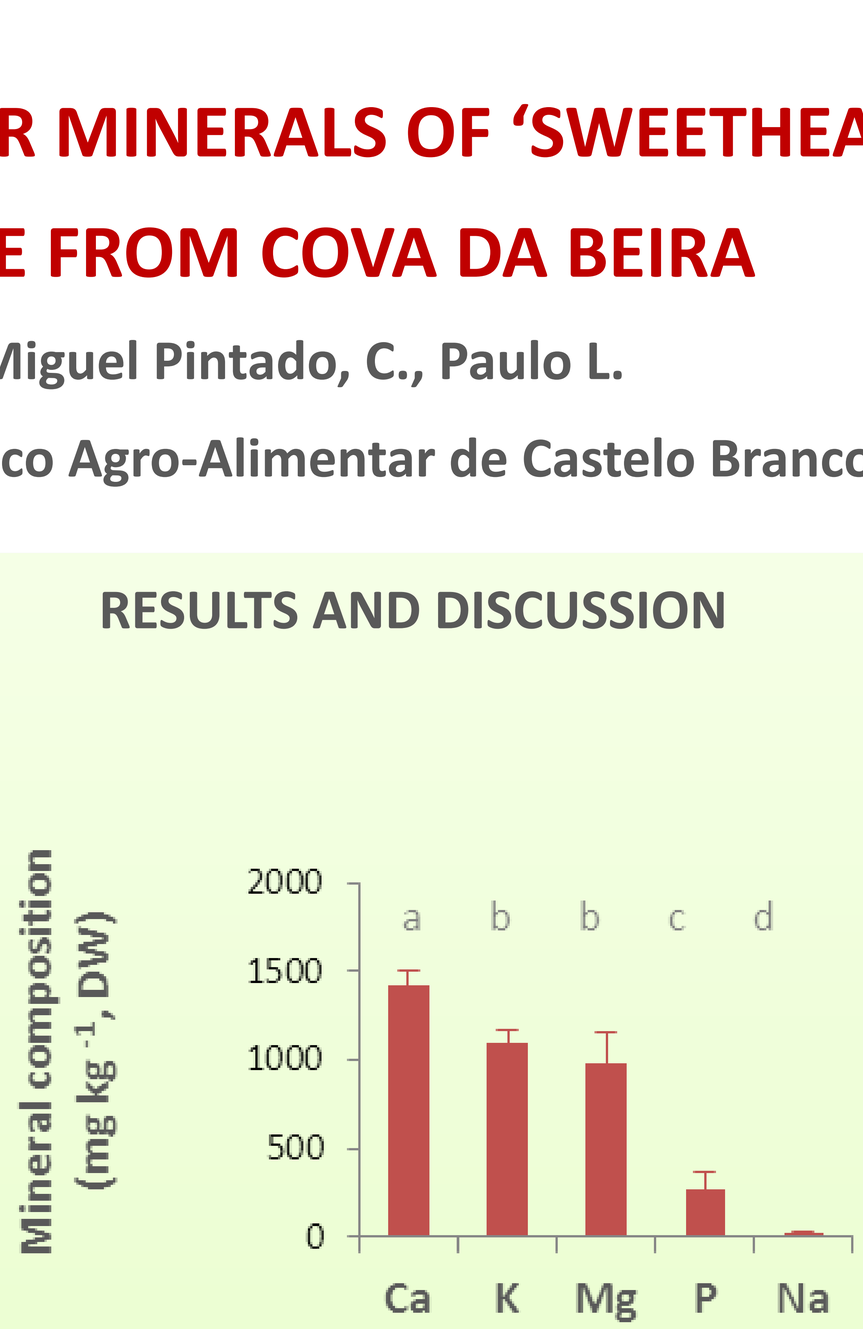


Fig. 1. Major minerals of 'Sweetheart' cherry stone from Cova da Beira (Portugal)

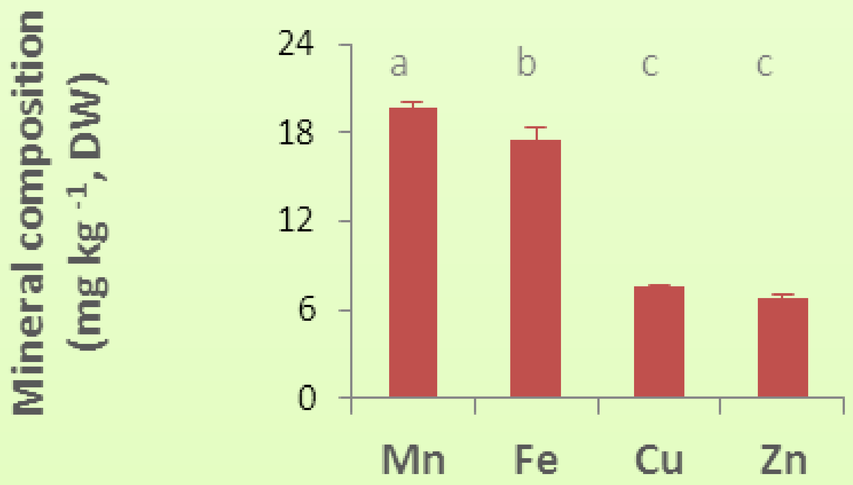


Fig. 2. Minor minerals of 'Sweetheart' cherry stone from Cova da Beira (Portugal)

Mineral profile of Cova da Beira cherries is different from those presented on the literature. Thus this approach has potential to provide protection to regional foods produced in this specific geographic area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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