

## COMPARISON OF OIL CONTENT AND FATTY ACIDS COMPOSITION OF SESAME (*Sesamum indicum* L.) VARIETIES GROWN AS MAIN AND DOUBLE CROP IN MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT IN TURKEY

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### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted during 2018 and 2019 growing seasons at the Experimental area of Cukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture in Mediterranean region (Adana, Turkey). The objective of this study was to compare of oil content and fatty acids composition of sesame varieties grown as a main and double crop. The experimental design was a Randomized Complete Block with three replications. Arslanbey, Batem-Aksu, Batem-Uzun, Baydar-2001, Boydak, Cumhuriyet-99, Golmarmara, Hatipoglu, Kepsut-99, Muganli-57, Orhangazi-57, Osmanli-99, Ozberk-82, Sarisu, Tan-99, Tanas and Sari Susam genotypes were used as a plant material in this study. These varieties were registered by the different Research Institutes and Faculties in Turkey. Oil content and fatty acids composition (oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid and palmitic acid) of sesame varieties were investigated and compared in main and double crop growing seasons. The results showed that the considerable variation was found in oil content and fatty acids composition among the sesame varieties grown in main and double crop growing seasons. Oil content, palmitic and oleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were higher in main crop than in double crop growing season whereas, stearic and linoleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were found higher in double crop than in main crop growing season.

**Keywords:** Fatty acid composition, Growing season, Oil content, Sesame

### INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) is one of the important oilseed crops widely grown in different part of the world (tropical and subtropical areas) and it has been cultivated mainly in Asia and Africa (Jeon et al., 2012). Sesame seeds contain approximately 35-60% oil, 18-25% protein and 16-18% carbohydrate (Uzun et al., 2008). It is a good source of vitamin E and B1 and minerals such as calcium, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, iron, copper, zinc and manganese. The seed contains all essential amino acids and fatty acids (Alyemeni et al., 2011). For these reason, sesame seed plays an important role in human health due to its high oil content and proper quality (low cholesterol and have some antioxidants), as well as a good protein content (Gharby et al., 2017). The sesame seed is commonly known as the “Queen of oil seeds”, probably due to its high nutritional and therapeutic value, and resistance to oxidation and rancidity (Sukumar et al., 2008).

Sesame seeds have high nutritional quality due to its high oil and protein content. Sesame seed is mostly used for edible purposes such as oil and confectionery. It is also used for various food products such as tahini, halva, rolls, crackers, cakes, cookies, buns, chips, and margarine,

cosmetics, perfumery, soaps, paints, insecticides and pharmaceutical products (Ogbonna and Umar-Shaaba, 2011).

The sesame oil shows high degrees of stability and resistant to oxidative rancidity due to the presence of a number of endogenous antioxidants such as sesamin, sesamol and sesamol (Alpaslan et al., 2001). Bedigian (2004) and Sankar et al. (2004) indicated that the sesame oil contains phytosterols associated with reduced blood cholesterol levels and hypertension in humans and reduces the incidences of certain cancers. The antioxidant compound called lignan such as sesamin in sesame oil, inhibits human lymphoid leukemia cells by inducing apoptosis (Miyahara et al., 2000). Sesamin and tocopherols have shown benefits in the prevention of hypertension and stroke (Noguchi et al., 2004).

The quality of sesame oil is depending on the fatty acid composition. Fatty acid composition in sesame seeds consists of unsaturated fatty acids such as oleic (35.9-42.3%) and linoleic (41.5-47.9%) acids and saturated fatty acids, mainly palmitic (7.9-12%) and stearic acids (4.8-6.1%) (Hwang, 2005). In sesame oil, oleic and linoleic acids are the predominant fatty acids and constitute more than 80% of the total fatty acid content (Teres et al.,

2008). The high level of monounsaturated (oleic acid) and polyunsaturated (linoleic acid) fatty acids increases the quality of the oil for human consumption (Jones et al., 2008 and Mondal et al., 2010). Fatty acids are important diet for healthy living. They have several functions in the body including helping in transportation of oxygen in the bloodstream, aiding cell membranes development and function, keeping the skin healthy, preventing early aging, and more importantly, preventing cholesterol build up in the arteries (Mzimhiri et al., 2014).

Alpaslan et al. (2001), Mohammed and Mekonnen (2010), Shilpi et al. (2014) and El Harfi et al. (2019) indicated that the oil content and fatty acid composition in oilseed crops is affected by genotype, location, environmental conditions (temperature, photoperiod and moisture content), growing conditions, planting date, plant density, fertilization and the interaction of these factors. Uzun et al. (2002) reported that oil content of sesame can be varied by climate conditions and it can decrease by delaying planting time. In addition, seed oil content may vary considerably between genotype and seasons, and oil percentage tends to rise with increasing length of photoperiod (Weiss, 2000).

Were et al. (2006), Mondal et al. (2010), Yol et al. (2015), Kurt (2018) and El-Harfi et al. (2019) reported that the oleic and linoleic acids varied between 35.67-53.96% and 30.40-51.65% respectively in oils of different sesame varieties. El-Harfi et al. (2019) indicated that the total unsaturated fatty acids percentage varied between 79.5-82.34% in sesame oils.

Weiss (1971) indicated that the air temperature effects on growth and development of sesame plant and seed quality. The oil content and quality of seed decreased at the lower temperature, specially sesamin and sesamol content. High temperature during the growing period increased oil content of sesame seed.

Sekhon and Bhatia (1972) and Gupta et al. (1998) reported that sowing date also influenced fatty acid composition of sesame by decreasing linoleic acid and increasing oleic and stearic acid content as sowing was delayed. Not only these conditions affect fatty acid composition but also genotypic factors play an important role in the process, resulting in the fact that each genotype shows different fatty acid composition. Gupta et al. (1998) indicated that the sowing date is also known to influence fatty acid composition of sesame by decreasing linoleic acid and increasing oleic acid contents as the sowing gets delayed. Ali et al. (2015) reported that the oleic acid percentage was increased from 38.2 to 42.6% and linoleic acid percentage was decreased from 40.0 to 37.0% with delaying the sowing date from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Kurt et al. (2016) reported that the palmitic and stearic acids are the predominant saturated fatty acids in sesame

oil. Unal and Yalcin (2008), Uzun et al. (2008), Savant and Kothekar (2011), Jeon et al. (2012), Yol et al. (2015), Kurt (2018), Thakur et al. (2018) and El Harfi et al. (2019) indicated that the palmitic and stearic acids percentage in sesame genotypes varied between 7.42-12.00% and 2.10-8.90% respectively in different part of the world.

In according to the “Turkish Food Codex” given limit values for sesame seed, palmitic, stearic, oleic and linoleic acids must be changed 7.9-12.0%, 4.5-6.7%, 34.4-45.5% and 36.9-47.9%, respectively (Anonymous, 2009). Uzun et al. (2002) reported that in general, sesame oil contains about 47% oleic acid 39% linoleic acid 9.0% palmitic acid and 4.1% stearic acid.

The Mediterranean climate has suitable temperature regimes for growth and development of sesame plants. Sesame is an important annual oil crop in Turkey. Environmental conditions are suitable for sesame growing as a main and double crop in Mediterranean region in Turkey. The environmental factor effects on growth and development of sesame plants, especially day and night temperature and photoperiod are the most effective environmental factors for the seed yield and seed quality. It is important to know the content of sesame fatty acids for better quality and safety of its product. Fatty acid composition of sesame oils is not constant. The oil content and fatty acid composition of sesame oil varies depending on environmental factors (temperature and photoperiod), varieties, sowing dates and cultural factors. The objective of the study was to comparing oil content and fatty acids composition of sesame varieties grown as a main and double crop in Mediterranean environment in Turkey.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Material*

Field experiments was conducted during 2018 and 2019 growing seasons at Experimental Farm of Agricultural Faculty, Cukurova University (Southern Turkey, 36°59' N, 35°18' E and 23 m above sea level) as a main and double crop in Mediterranean region (Adana, Turkey). 16 different sesame cultivars such as Arslanbey, Batem-Aksu, Batem-Uzun, Baydar-2001, Boydak, Cumhuriyet-99, Golmarmara, Hatipoglu, Kepsut-99, Muganli-57, Orhangazi-57, Osmanli-99, Ozberk-82, Sarisu, Tan-99, Tanas and one local variety such as Sari Susam (Sari Susam was grown commonly in the Cukurova region) were used as a plant material in this study. These varieties were registered by the different Research Institutes and Faculties in Turkey. All of the varieties have indeterminate growth type and capsule dehiscence at ripening is completely shattering. Some of the seed and capsule characteristics of the sesame varieties were given at Table 1.

**Table 1.** Some seed and capsule characteristics of sesame varieties

Varieties	Seed Color	Capsule Type	Capsule number per leaf axil
Arslanbey	Dark brown	Small, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Tricapsulle
Batem-Aksu	Brown	Medium, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Batem-Uzun	Light brown	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Baydar-2001	Light brown	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Boydak	Brown	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Cumhuriyet-99	White	Small, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Golmarmara	White	Medium, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Hatipoglu	Dark brown	Small, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Kepsut-99	White	Small, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Muganli-57	Light brown	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Orhangazi-99	White	Medium, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Osmanli-99	White	Medium, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Ozberk-82	Light brown	Small, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Sari Susam	Yellow	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Sarisu	Yellow	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Tan-99	White	Medium, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle
Tanas	Yellow	Wide, long rectangle, bicarpellate	Monocapsulle

The soil texture was clay loam. The soil tests indicated that pH of 7.36-7.40 with high concentrations of K<sub>2</sub>O (748-730 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and low concentrations of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (23-25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). In addition, the organic matter and nitrogen content of the soil were very low. The lime content was varied between 28.4-27.3% (2018 and 2019) in the soil. The soil is suitable for the sesame growing.

This study was conducted in Adana province (Mediterranean environment) in Turkey and in this region, winters are mild and rainy, whereas summers are dry and warm, which is a typical of a Mediterranean climate. The average monthly air temperature during the research period (March-November) was varied between 16.8 and 29.7 °C in 2018, whereas it was 13.8 and 29.6 °C in 2019. The average air temperature was the higher during the research period in both years than long term average temperature. The total rainfall was 212.4 mm and 243.8 mm during the growing period in 2018 and 2019, respectively. The average relative humidity was ranged from 58.6% to 71.6% in 2018 and 57.6% to 69.3% in 2019. The differences between the years and long term for the climate data were not found very significant

#### Method

The field trial was arranged in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of Di-ammonium phosphate (364 kgha<sup>-1</sup> N, 92 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) fertilizer was applied and incorporated to soil before planting. Urea (46%N) at the rates of 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> was applied before first (beginning of flowering) irrigation in each two growing seasons. Plot size was 2.8 x 5.0 m (14.0 m<sup>2</sup>) and spacing between row and plant was 70 and 10 cm, respectively. The seeds were sown by hand at the 6<sup>th</sup> May as a main crop and 22<sup>th</sup> June as a double crop in both years (Reserve seeds were used at the second years). During the growing period, recommended pesticides and fungicides were applied at proper time intervals to control insects and diseases. Furrow irrigation was applied at 15 days intervals to maintained soil

moisture close to field capacity. The remaining cultural practices such as inter row cultivation and weed control were applied during the growing period. The plants were harvested by hand at the 6<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> September for main crop and at the 22<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> October for the double cropping in 2018 and 2019, respectively. After harvesting, the plants dried almost 15 days in the field and then they threshed by hand.

#### Data collection and analysis

The data belonging to oil content and oil quality characteristics such as fatty acids composition were recorded in each two growing seasons.

**Determination of oil content;** oil was extracted from sesame seeds using “Soxhlet”, and oil percentage was estimated according to Association of Official Analytical Chemist (AOAC, 2010).

**Determination of fatty acids composition:** Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared according to AOAC (2010), method Ce 2-66 and analyzed with HP 6890 Series II Gas Chromatograph (GC) (Hewlett-Packard Company, Wilmington, DE, USA) equipped with a flame ionization detector and auto sampler.

The data were statistically analyzed by using JMP 8.1.0 package program with split plot design. The Least Significant Differences (LSD) test was used to compare the means of treatments at p<0.05 level (Caliskan et al., 2008; Steel and Torrie, 1980).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to two-year results, the data were statistical analyzed using repeated years split plot design by using variety and growing seasons factors. The variance analysis of the findings obtained from the study was shown in Table 2. It can be seen in Table 2, only variety, season and season x variety factors were statistical significant for all the investigated characters, except oil content for the season.

**Table 2.** The F-values of the variance components of the investigated characteristics of sesame varieties grown in the field trial combined over two-years

Source of Variations	df	Oil Content	Palmitic Acid	Stearic Acid	Oleic Acid	Linoleic Acid
Year	1	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Season	1	ns	**	**	**	**
Year*Season	1	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Variety	16	**	**	**	**	**
Year*Variety	16	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Season*Variety	16	**	**	**	**	**
Year*Seasons*Variety	16	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns

df: Degree of freedom, \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , ns: not significant, O/L: Oleic acid/Linoleic Acid, IV: Iodine value

#### Oil content

The data belonging to oil content of the sesame varieties at different growing seasons were shown in Table 3. According to two-year averages, the oil content of the sesame varieties varied between 42.9-51.1% in main crop and 43.7-50.8% in double crop growing season. The differences between the varieties for the oil content were statistically significant in both two growing seasons. The oil percentage was the highest in Cumhuriyet-99

(51.1% and 50.8%) and the lowest in Batem-Aksu (42.9% and 43.7%) among the sesame varieties in each two growing seasons. The oil content of the Boydak and Cumhuriyet-99 varieties were higher than Sari Susam (local variety) among the tested sesame varieties in each growing seasons. These differences between the genotypes for the oil content may have originated due to different genetic backgrounds and growing conditions (Baydar et al., 1999 and Uzun et al., 2002).

**Table 3.** The oil content, Palmitic (C16:0) and Stearic (C18:0) acids percentages of sesame varieties as average of two years (2018 and 2019)

Varieties	Oil content (%)		Palmitic acid (%)		Stearic acid (%)	
	Main crop	Double crop	Main crop	Double crop	Main crop	Double crop
Arslanbey	49.8	49.6	9.74	9.66	3.65	4.08
Batem-Aksu	42.9	43.7	9.52	9.13	2.70	2.89
Batem-Uzun	48.1	47.0	10.04	9.62	2.48	2.56
Baydar-2001	49.1	48.3	9.46	9.35	2.28	2.72
Boydak	50.3	50.2	9.78	9.43	3.23	4.02
Cumhuriyet-99	51.1	50.8	10.88	9.65	2.86	3.95
Golmarmara	46.5	46.0	10.03	9.68	2.74	3.12
Hatipoglu	48.9	48.4	9.62	9.51	3.06	3.73
Kepsut-99	48.9	48.4	9.66	9.59	2.87	3.65
Muganli-57	49.1	48.7	9.49	9.40	1.79	2.50
Orhangazi-99	49.2	48.4	9.41	9.41	2.08	2.59
Osmanli-99	50.0	48.1	9.89	9.89	2.72	3.60
Ozberk-82	49.6	48.3	10.08	9.39	2.67	3.00
Sari Susam*	50.1	50.1	10.03	9.61	2.58	3.20
Sarisu	45.8	45.3	10.12	9.77	3.03	3.77
Tan-99	49.0	48.5	9.73	9.60	1.93	2.59
Tanas	48.8	46.3	10.31	9.48	2.66	2.74
Average	48.6	48.0	9.87	9.44	2.67	3.22
LSD (%5 Variety-A)	0.233	0.295	0.035	0.025	0.020	0.056
LSD (%5 Seasons-B)		NS		0.023		0.065
LSD (%5 A x B)		1.568		0.235		0.226

\*Control variety (Local variety)

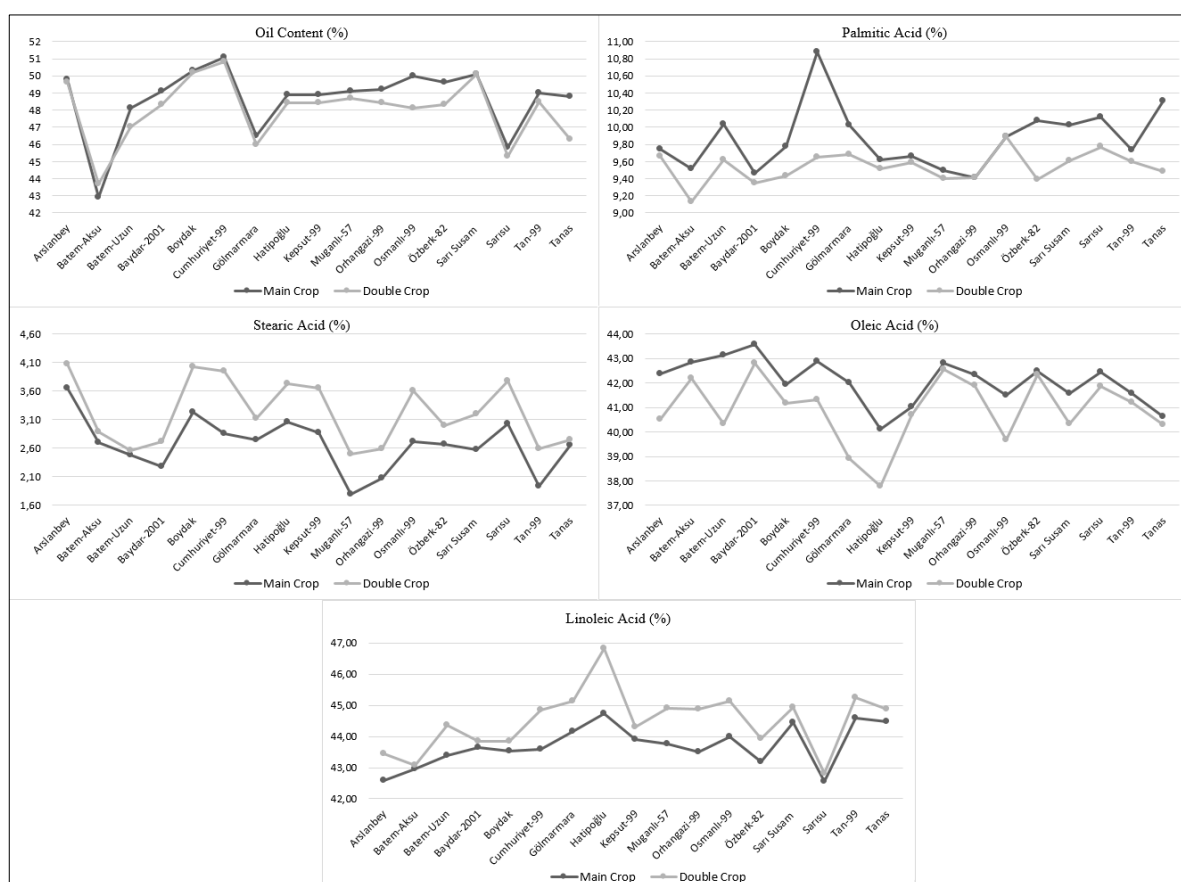
According to a two year average, the average oil content of the sesame varieties was 48.6% in main crop and 48.0% in double crop growing seasons (Table 3). The average oil content of the varieties was found higher in main crop (early sowing date) than in late sowing date (double crop growing seasons). But, the differences between the growing seasons for the oil content were not significant.

Early planting dates may not be feasible in some seasons or under some soil conditions. Early planting resulted in the apparently unfavorable combination of cool vegetative-stage temperatures and warm seed-fill-stage temperatures. Furthermore, genotypic differences for oil content have been reported with oil content displaying more genetic variability among cultivars than the other oil traits (Kane et al., 1997; Baydar et al., 1999 and Ashri, 2007).

### Palmitic and Stearic acids

According to a two year average, palmitic acid percentage of the sesame varieties varied between 9.41-10.88% in main crop and 9.13-9.89% in double crop growing season. The differences between the sesame varieties for the palmitic acid percentage were statistically significant in both growing seasons. The highest palmitic acid percentage was obtained from Cumhuriyet-99 (10.88%) in main crop and from Osmanli-99 (9.89%) variety in double crop growing season (Table 3). The differences between the varieties must be due to difference in genetic constitution of sesame cultivars.

The average palmitic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were 9.87% in main crop and 9.44% in double crop growing season. The differences between the growing seasons for the palmitic acid percentage were significant. Palmitic acid percentage was decreased from 9.87% to 9.44% with the sowing date delayed from 6<sup>th</sup> May (main crop) to 22<sup>th</sup> June (double crop). The average palmitic acid percentage of the sesame varieties was found higher in main crop than in double crop growing season. Interaction between the variety and growing season was found significant and the highest palmitic acid percentage was obtained from Cumhuriyet-99 (10.88%) in main crop growing season (Figure 1.).



**Figure 1.** The comparison of average oil content, palmitic, stearic, oleic and linoleic acid of sesame varieties grown in main and double crop growing seasons

According to a two year average, stearic acid percentage of the sesame varieties varied between 1.79-3.65% in main crop and 2.50-4.08% in double crop growing season. The differences between the sesame varieties for the stearic acid percentage were statistically significant in both growing seasons. The differences between the varieties must be due to difference in genetic constitution of sesame cultivars. The highest stearic acid percentage was obtained from Arslanbey sesame variety (3.65% and 4.08%) in main and double crop growing season. The average stearic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were 2.67% in main crop and 3.22% in double crop growing season. The differences between the

growing seasons for the stearic acid percentage were significant. Stearic acid percentage was increased from 2.67 to 3.22% with the sowing date delayed from 6<sup>th</sup> May (main crop) to 22<sup>th</sup> June (double crop). Interaction between the variety and growing season was found significant and the highest stearic acid percentage was obtained from Arslanbey in both growing seasons (Table 3). These differences between the genotypes for the Palmitic and Stearic acids content may have originated due to different genetic backgrounds and growing conditions. The fatty acids composition in oilseed crops is affected by genotype, location, environmental conditions (temperature, photoperiod and moisture content), growing

conditions, planting date, plant density, fertilization and the interaction of these factors (El Harfi et al., 2019). Similar results were reported by other researchers (Gupta et al., 1998; Uzun et al., 2008; Jeon et al., 2012; Ali et al., 2015; Yol et al., 2015; Kurt, 2016; Kurt, 2018; Vurarak et al., 2018 and El Harfi et al., 2019).

#### *Oleic and Linoleic Acids*

The data belonging to oleic and linoleic acids percentage of sesame varieties were shown in Table 4.

According to a two year average, the oleic acid percentage of sesame varieties varied from 40.11 to 43.46% in main crop and from 37.78 to 42.81% in double crop growing seasons. The differences between the sesame varieties were statistically significant. The differences between the varieties must be due to difference in genetic constitution of sesame cultivars. The oleic acid percentage was the highest in Baydar-2001 (43.56% and 42.81%) and the lowest in Hatipoglu (40.11% and 37.78%) among the sesame varieties in each two growing seasons.

**Table 4.** The effect of growing season on oleic (C18:1) and linoleic (C18:2) acids percentage of sesame varieties in two years average (2018 and 2019)

Varieties	Oleic acid (%)		Linoleic acid (%)	
	Main Crop	Double Crop	Main Crop	Double Crop
Arslanbey	42.36	40.52	42.58	43.44
Batem-Aksu	42.85	42.20	42.97	43.07
Batem-Uzun	43.15	40.33	43.39	44.35
Baydar-2001	43.56	42.81	43.64	43.85
Boydak	41.93	41.16	43.54	43.85
Cumhuriyet-99	42.89	41.31	43.59	44.86
Golmarmara	41.99	38.90	44.16	45.14
Hatipoglu	40.11	37.78	44.73	46.83
Kepsut-99	41.03	40.70	43.89	44.29
Muganli-57	42.80	42.57	43.75	44.90
Orhangazi-99	42.35	41.88	43.50	44.88
Osmanli-99	41.49	39.66	43.98	45.14
Ozberk-82	42.49	42.35	43.19	43.93
Sari Susam*	41.56	40.33	44.46	44.92
Sarisu	42.45	41.87	42.57	42.82
Tan-99	41.57	41.19	44.59	45.26
Tanas	40.62	40.28	44.47	44.88
Average	42.07	40.99	43.71	44.49
LSD (%5 Variety-A)	0.139	0.157	0.070	0.098
LSD (%5 Seasons-B)		0.583		0.168
LSD (%5 <sub>A x B</sub> )		1.246		0.813

\*Control variety (Local variety)

As it can be seen in Table 4, while the linoleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were ranging between 42.57 and 44.73% in main crop growing season and it was ranged between 42.82 and 46.83% in double crop growing season. The differences between the varieties must be due to difference in genetic constitution of sesame cultivars. According to a two year average data, the differences between the varieties for the linoleic acid percentage were statistically significant. Linoleic acid percentage was the highest in Hatipoglu (44.73% and 46.83%) among the sesame varieties in both growing seasons. The lowest linoleic acid percentage was obtained from Sarisu (42.57% and 42.82%) in each two growing seasons. In according to the "Turkish Food Codex" given limit values for sesame seed oleic and linoleic acids must be changed 34.4-45.5% and 36.9-47.9%, respectively (Anonymous, 2009). As seen in Table 4, oleic and linoleic acids percentage of the sesame varieties grown in Turkey were found in the limits specified by "Turkish Food Codex" declaration in this study.

The average oleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were 42.07% in main crop and 40.99% in double crop growing season. The differences between the growing seasons for the oleic acid percentage were significant. Oleic acid percentage was decreased from 42.07% to 40.99% with the sowing date delaying from 6<sup>th</sup> May (main crop) to 22<sup>th</sup> June (double crop). Comparing the main and double crop for the oleic acid percentage of sesame varieties, it was higher in main crop than in double crop growing season. Interaction between the variety and growing season for the oleic acid was found significant and the highest oleic acid percentage was obtained from Baydar-2001 (43.56%) in main crop growing season (Figure 1.).

The average linoleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties were 43.71% in main crop and 44.49% in double crop growing season. The differences between the growing seasons for the linoleic acid percentage were significant. Linoleic acid percentage was increased from 43.71% to 44.49% with the sowing date delayed from 6<sup>th</sup> May (main crop) to 22<sup>th</sup> June (double crop). Comparing

the main and double crop for the linoleic acid percentage of sesame varieties, it was lower in main crop than in double crop growing season (Table 4). Interaction between the variety and growing season for the linoleic acid was found significant and the highest linoleic acid percentage was obtained from Hatipoglu (46.83%) in double crop growing season. According to a two year average data, linoleic acid percentage of the sesame varieties was found higher than oleic acid percentage in both growing seasons in this study (Table 4).

It has demonstrated that unsaturated fatty acids are influenced by the environmental conditions, mainly air temperature during seed filling and oil biosynthesis. Thus, under low temperature conditions, there is an increase of unsaturated acid of seed oil, which leads to a higher proportion of linoleic and linolenic acids. Contrarily, under high temperature conditions, there is a low proportion of these acids and a high proportion of oleic acid in seed oil. In addition to that, amplitude of maximum and minimum temperature as well as duration of plant exposure these temperature during seed filling effect significantly fatty acids compositions (Deng and Scarth, 1998). The climatic conditions are the main factors influencing the fatty acids composition such as oleic and linoleic acids, especially the variations in temperatures during seed filling stage (Andersen and Gorbet, 2002). The genetic components play an important role in the process, resulting in the fact that each genotype shows different fatty acid composition (Sekhon and Bhatia, 1972). Vurarak et al. (2018) reported that the oleic and linoleic acids percentage was varied between 41.09% and 40.38% in main crop and between 40.32% and 40.49%, respectively in double crop growing seasons. They also indicated that the oleic acid percentage was higher in main crop than in double crop, contrarily the linoleic acid percentage was higher in double crop than in main crop growing season.

As a result, the differences between the sesame varieties for the oleic and linoleic acids percentage were found statistically significant in both growing seasons. As it can be seen in Table 4, while the sowing date was delaying, the oleic acid percentage was decreased. On the other hand the linoleic acid percentage was increased. These results were in agreement with the findings of Were et al. (2006), Arslan et al. (2007), Uzun et al. (2007), Unal and Yalcin (2008), Mondal et al. (2010), Yol et al. (2015), Ali et al. (2015), Kurt (2018), Vurarak et al. (2018) and El-Harfi et al. (2019).

## CONCLUSIONS

The results showed that the sesame varieties were registered by the different Research Institutes and Faculties in Turkey can be grown successfully as a main and double crop in Mediterranean region in Turkey. In this study, considerable variation was found in oil content and fatty acids composition among the sesame varieties grown in main and double crop growing seasons. Oil content, palmitic acid and oleic acid of the sesame varieties were higher in main crop than in double crop

growing season. On the other hand, stearic acid and linoleic acid of the sesame varieties were found higher in double crop than in main crop growing season.

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