

INFLUENCE OF ROOTSTOCK ON NUTRIENT CONTENT IN GRAPE PETIOLES¹

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ABSTRACT- Genetic diversity of rootstocks can affect nutrient uptake and the nutrient status of grapevines. The rootstock influence on nutrient content in grape petioles was evaluated on three rootstocks competition experiments carried out at Vale do Rio do Peixe region, in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil, with the cultivars Niagara Rosada, Concord, and Isabella, grafted on different rootstocks. Two soil liming depths were also evaluated in the Isabella experiment. The greatest rootstock effect was observed on K and Mg content and K/Mg ratio in the petioles. The *Vitis vinifera* x *V. rotundifolia* hybrid rootstocks VR 043-43 and VR 044-4 provided the highest K/Mg values and self rooted Isabella the lowest K/Mg ratio. The other tested rootstocks resulted in intermediate values. There was also significant effect on P content, but only in Niagara Rosada and Concord experiments. The depth of soil liming did not significantly affect K and Mg content in the Isabella experiment. The results indicate that rootstock must be considered for nutritional status evaluation and fertilizer recommendation regarding to K and Mg.

Index terms: mineral nutrition, viticulture, potassium, magnesium.

INFLUÊNCIA DO PORTA-ENXERTO NO TEOR DE NUTRIENTES NOS PECÍOLOS DE VIDEIRAS

RESUMO - A diversidade genética dos porta-enxertos de videira pode afetar a absorção de nutrientes e o estado nutricional dos vinhedos. A influência do porta-enxerto nos teores de nutrientes em pecíolos de videira foi avaliada em três experimentos de competição de porta-enxertos instalados na região do Vale do Rio do Peixe-SC. As cultivares-copa foram Niagara Rosada e Concord, enxertadas sobre diversos porta-enxertos. Para a cultivar Isabel, além do efeito do porta-enxerto, avaliou-se também a influência de duas profundidades de calagem do solo. Os maiores efeitos do porta-enxerto foram verificados nos teores de K e Mg e na relação K/Mg nos pecíolos. Os porta-enxertos híbridos de *Vitis vinifera* x *V. rotundifolia* (VR 043-43 e VR 044-4) induziram as maiores relações K/Mg, ao passo que a cultivar Isabel (pé-franco) resultou nos menores valores desta relação. Os outros porta-enxertos testados resultaram em teores intermediários. Os níveis de calagem avaliados na cultivar Isabel não alteraram significativamente os teores de K e Mg. Com relação aos demais nutrientes, houve efeito significativo para P apenas nos experimentos com as cultivares Niagara Rosada e Concord. Os resultados indicam que o porta-enxerto deve ser um fator a ser considerado na avaliação nutricional e recomendação de adubação da videira com relação aos nutrientes K e Mg.

Termos de indexação: nutrição mineral, viticultura, potássio, magnésio.

INTRODUCTION

In southern Brazil most vineyards of *Vitis vinifera* L. cultivars are planted using rootstocks resistant to phyloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*).

Usually, grape rootstocks are hybrids of the American species *V. riparia*, *V. rupestris*, *V. berlandieri* and *V. champinii*. Recently, some rootstocks were obtained by crossing other species, such as *V. caribaea* and *V. rotundifolia* (also classified as *Muscadinia rotundifolia*). Some *V. labrusca* cultivars (Concord and Isabella), can be planted self-rooted

because of their relative tolerance to phyloxera. This is common on Concord and Isabella vineyards in Southern Brazil.

The genetic diversity of rootstocks can also affect nutrient uptake and the nutrient status of the vines. It is already known that the rootstock affects grape leaf mineral contents, especially K and Mg. In European competition trials some rootstocks, such as SO4 and 44-53M, showed high capacity to accumulate K in leaf tissue when compared to other current materials (DELAS; POUGET, 1979; BRANCA-DORO et al., 1995). These differences in nutrient absorption efficiency can be an important factor to

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estimate vineyard fertilizer requirements. The accumulation of K in the plant also reduces must acidity which affects the resulting wine, being a quality regulation factor (FREGONI, 1980; MPELASOKA et al., 2008). K content in grape petioles showed good correlation with must K content, increasing its importance in the evaluation of vineyards nutrient status (BRANCADORO et al., 1995).

In the 'Rio do Peixe Valley' region, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil, it was frequently found vineyards with low K content in leaf tissues, even with high K availability in the soil. In those cases, Mg content was usually high, resulting in very low K/Mg ratio in leaves. This problem was first observed in a nutritional survey on vineyards of this region (DALBÓ et al., 1989). The first hypothesis to explain the results was the intense use of lime with low Ca/Mg ratio for correcting soil acidity, which could affect absorption and the K/Mg equilibrium in plants. Lately, it was verified that this disequilibrium was limited to self-rooted Isabella vineyards, which lead to the hypothesis that the problem had a genetic cause.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of different rootstocks on nutrient content in grape petioles and their possible role on the nutritional problem involving K and Mg.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study comprises three experiments set in 1987, at Videira Experiment Station, located in Videira, in the Midwest region of the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. Two experiments had the objective to evaluate the behavior of two scion cultivars (Niagara Rosada e Concord) grafted on different rootstocks. The genetic origin of each rootstock and the combinations scion/rootstocks are presented in Table 1.

The third experiment, set with the cultivar Isabella, in a factorial 2x3 experimental design, consisted of two depths of liming in the main plots, and the subplots with Isabella, self-rooted or grafted on two rootstocks (SO4 and IAC 766). The liming treatments, applied in 1987, consisted in increasing soil pH to 6,0 (SMP method) in the soil layers 0-20 or 0-40 cm, which resulted in application and incorporation of 18 and 36 ton/ha of lime, respectively.

The experiments were set in a randomized block design, with five plants per plot and four replicates. The three experiments were previously evaluated for agronomic variables (Schuck et al., 2001). This nutritional study was carried out during the 2005/06 growing season.

The three experiments were carried out at closely located sites, with similar edaphoclimatic conditions. The soil is an Oxissol, classified as Alfisol dystrophic, according to the Brazilian Soil Classification System (EMBRAPA, 2006), developed from basalt rock. Originally, this soil had low pH (4.7), high clay (60-78%) and organic matter content (4.5-6.0%).

At veraison, seventy petioles per plot were sampled from the newest mature leaf for chemical analysis (COMISSÃO DE QUÍMICA E FERTILIDADE DO SOLO – RS/SC, 2004). Samples were quickly washed with tap water, oven dried at 70°C overnight, ground and analyzed for total content of N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu e B.

At the same time of petiole sampling, soil samples were collected in each plot, at the depths of 0-20cm and 20-40cm, and analyzed for clay content, pH in water, SMP index, P e K by Melich-1 extractor, and exchangeable Ca, Mg and Al extracted by KCl 1N.

Yield (kg plant⁻¹), plant vigor, as material removed with winter pruning, were also evaluated.

Management practices were those currently used in vineyards of this region, and applied uniformly in all three experiments. The vineyards were installed in Pergola system, with plants spaced 3 x 1,5 m. Soil management consisted of chemical weed control in a 1 meter strip along the rows and mechanical weed control (mowing) the inter-row space. Yearly, fertilizers were uniformly applied in all plots. It was used a mixture of potassium chloride (100 kg.ha⁻¹) + triple superphosphate (100 kg.ha⁻¹) during the winter and ammonium nitrate (150 kg.ha⁻¹) at the beginning of vegetation growth in the spring. Leaf diseases control was made using standard fungicides. Some of them contain micronutrients, such as dithiocarbamates (Mn, Zn) and cupric fungicides (Cu), which can have some interference in tissue mineral analysis.

RESULTS E DISCUSSION

The soil analysis data (Table 2) show that the three experiments were conducted under similar soil fertility conditions. Only soil pH was slightly higher in the Isabella experiment than in the Niagara and Concord experiments. There were not significant differences among plots of the same experiment, indicating that comparisons among rootstocks were made in uniform soil fertility conditions.

Data from the experiments with the scion cultivars Niagara Rosada e Concord are presented in Table 3. The effect of rootstock on nutrient content in

the petioles was more evident for K and Mg and for the ratio K/Mg. The *V. vinifera* x *V. rotundifolia* (VR) hybrid rootstocks, especially VR 043-43, resulted in the highest K and lower Mg contents. On the other hand, the cv. Isabella, when planted own-roots (Table 5) or as a rootstock (Table 3), gave the highest Mg and the lowest K contents. This effect was more evident when the K/Mg ratio was considered. The other rootstocks showed K, Mg and K/Mg values between these two extremes, but the effect was not the same for the two scion cultivars. For instance, the 101-14 rootstock gave the second lowest K/Mg ratio with Niagara Rosada and just an intermediary ratio with Concord.

The rootstock effect on K/Mg equilibrium has relevant nutritional implications. In the Rio do Peixe Valley region, vineyards with low K content or low K/Mg ratios in petioles are relatively common, even where soil K availability is medium to high. This situation is very common on self-rooted Isabella vineyards and probably is related to a high rate of absorption of Mg by the roots, depressing K intake. The correct choice of rootstocks could greatly reduce this problem. Currently used rootstocks (Paulsen 1103 and VR 043-43) result in higher K content than own-root Isabella (Table 3). However, vineyards of own-rooted Isabella are very common in this region. It is widely used for the juice and current wine industries. It is also resistant to *Fusarium* wilt, one of the major causes of plants death in this region.

The use of more efficient rootstocks in accumulating K, such as VR 043-43, eventually could cause an unbalance in the opposite side, i.e. to result in high K/Mg ratio. Symptoms of Mg deficiency in leaves are commonly found in VR 043-43 rootstock plants at the end of cycle. It has been considered a minor problem compared to K deficiency, which has a more noticeable effect in reducing grape quality. However, some nutritional disequilibrium was observed on Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards grafted on this rootstock, with intense occurrence of bunch stem necrosis near harvest time. In these cases, K/Mg ratio reached values above 10, which is a major factor inducing this physiologic disorder (DELAS, 1979).

The data also provide a better understanding of results from previously made nutritional surveys on vineyards in Southern Brazil, in the States of Rio Grande do Sul (Tonietto, 1994) and Santa Catarina (DALBÓ et al., 1989). The first one was carried on Concord vineyards (many own-rooted), with the conclusion that most of them had normal level of K contents. The Santa Catarina survey, in the Rio do Peixe Valley region, consisted mainly of own-rooted

Isabella vineyards, where it was found a high frequency of samples with K deficiency. Although this could be due to differences in soil fertility, genetic differences between these two cultivars seem to be the most important factor. Petioles of own-root Concord had relatively high K, only lower than on the rootstock VR 043-43 (Table 3), which may explain the higher K content observed in that trial.

In the experiment with Isabella as scion cultivar, the rootstock had significant effect but doubling liming depth (and also liming dose) did not influence the nutritional equilibrium (Table 5). This is evidence that the differences in K and Mg contents in petioles were mostly due to genetics instead to soil characteristics.

Grape production was significantly correlated to K/Mg ratio ($r=0,79$) and Mg content ($r=-0,88$) in the 'Niagara Rosada' experiment but not in the 'Concord' experiment. There was no significant correlation between plant vigor, measured as pruned material, and production or nutrient content in any of the two experiments.

There was no significant rootstock influence on other nutrients but P (Table 3), whose effect was evident only in some scion cultivars tested. These effects seem result from specific interactions between scion and rootstock cultivars. Micronutrient accumulation in petioles was not affected by rootstock (Table 4). However, the results cannot be considered conclusive because micronutrient analysis may be affected by external factors. For instance, Mn, Zn e Cu are components of many pesticides that may mask nutrient analysis data and increase experimental variability. Anyway, micronutrient deficiency is very uncommon in this region and the results can be considered normal.

Based on these results, rootstock should be considered an important factor to define fertilizers levels in vineyards. According to Delas (1979), the adequate range for K/Mg in grape petioles at veraison is between 3 to 7. Values below 1 indicate K deficiency and above 10, Mg deficiency. Although values below 1 have been rare in the experiments evaluated, values below 3 were quite frequent, indicating possible response to potassium fertilization.

The *V. vinifera* x *V. rotundifolia* hybrid rootstocks, which resulted in the highest values of K/Mg ratio, frequently show Mg deficiency and excess of K at field conditions. On the other hand, vineyards of own-roots Isabella or possibly some rootstocks, such as *V. riparia* x *V. rupestris* hybrids (101-14, Scharzman), are supposed to have more problems of K deficiency or would need higher doses

of potassium fertilizers.

The influence of rootstock in the absorption of K and Mg in grapes was analyzed in previous studies (GALLO; RIBAS, 1962; DELAS; POUGET, 1979; ECEVIT et al., 1983; BOULAY, 1988; BRANCADORO et al., 1995; WOLPERT et al., 2005; CSIKÁSZ-KRIZSICS; DIÓFÁSI, 2008). However, these studies were made with traditional rootstocks which present amplitude of genetic diversity much lower than the present work. The *Vitis rotundifolia* hybrid rootstocks, which presented the highest K/Mg values, are being used recently in commercial viticulture. The cultivar Isabella normally is not used as rootstock but it is commonly

planted own-roots in Southern Brazil.

In the Rio do Peixe Valley region the VR 043-43, a *Vitis rotundifolia* hybrid rootstock, has been widely planted in the last years because of its good behavior in areas with problems of grapevine decline and high plant mortality rates. In this region own-rooted 'Isabella' vineyards still represent significant part of the viticulture. Consequently, it is a particular situation where vineyards with contrasting genetic characteristics regarding to K and Mg absorption and the equilibrium between these two nutrients are present in the same growing area. These differences should be considered to define fertilizers levels to be applied in each vineyard.

TABLE 1 - Genetic origin of grape rootstocks and scion/rootstock combinations used in the experiments.

Rootstock	Genetic origin	Niagara Rosada	Concord	Isabella
043-43	<i>Vitis vinifera</i> x <i>V. rotundifolia</i>	x	x	
044-4	<i>V. vinifera</i> x <i>V. rotundifolia</i>		x	
S04	<i>V. berlandieri</i> x <i>V. riparia</i>	x		x
420A	<i>V. berlandieri</i> x <i>V. riparia</i>		x	
R99	<i>V. berlandieri</i> x <i>V. rupestris</i>	x		
Paulsen 1103	<i>V. berlandieri</i> x <i>V. rupestris</i>	x	x	
IAC 766	<i>V. caribaea</i> x Traviú (106-8)	x	x	x
IAC 572	<i>V. caribaea</i> x 101-14	x		
Concord	<i>V. labrusca</i>		x	
Isabella	<i>V. labrusca</i>	x		x
Dogridge	<i>V. champinii</i>	x		
Scharzman	<i>V. riparia</i> x <i>V. rupestris</i>	x	x	
101-14	<i>V. riparia</i> x <i>V. rupestris</i>	x	x	
3309C	<i>V. riparia</i> x <i>V. rupestris</i>		x	

TABLE 2 - Soil analysis data of each experiment (mean of all plots). Each scion cultivar represents one experiment.

Cultivar	Depth (cm)	pH (H ₂ O)	P (mg L ⁻¹)	K (mg L ⁻¹)	O.M. (%)	Al	Ca (cmol dm ⁻³)	Mg
Niagara Rosada	0-20	5.7	2.9	95	4.2	0.1	6.2	3.3
	20-40	5.5	1.9	64	3.9	0.2	5.3	3.1
Concord	0-20	5.4	3.6	114	4.1	0.3	5.8	2.8
	20-40	5.2	1.5	72	3.9	0.6	4.6	2.3
Isabella (liming up to 20cm)	0-20	6.2	1.8	133	4.4	0.0	10.3	5.1
	20-40	5.5	1.3	117	3.6	0.4	8.2	4.3
Isabella (liming up to 40cm)	0-20	6.4	2.3	107	4.2	0.0	11.4	5.7
	20-40	6.2	2.8	80	4.3	0.0	10.6	5.5

TABLE 3 - Yield, vigor (pruning material), macronutrients content (g/kg) and K/Mg ratio in grape petioles of 'Niagara Rosada' e 'Concord' in relation to the rootstock.

Rootstock	N	P	K	Ca	Mg	K/Mg	Pruning material (kg/pl)	Productivity (t ha ⁻¹)
Niagara Rosada								
043-43	8.3 a	1.0 c ¹	18.4 a	13.7 a	3.9 c	4.8 a	1.16 ab	30.3 a
SO4	6.6 a	1.0 c	15.5 ab	14.0 a	5.4 b	2.9 b	1.42 ab	23.4 b
Paulsen 1103	6.7 a	1.8 ab	16.5 ab	13.8 a	5.8 b	2.8 bc	0.97 cd	21.7 b
IAC766	6.9 a	1.3 c	17.4 a	15.1 a	6.3 b	2.8 bc	2.05 a	16.9 bc
IAC572	7.5 a	1.1 c	11.9 cd	14.3 a	5.6 b	2.2 bc	2.03 a	18.5 bc
R99	7.0 a	2.0 a	12.1 cd	12.7 a	5.8 b	2.1 bc	1.59 ab	22.3 b
Dog Ridge	7.0 a	1.3 c	12.5 bc	13.7 a	6.4 b	2.0 cd	2.03 a	23.5 b
Scharzman	7.1 a	1.4 bc	11.7 cd	12.9 a	6.1 b	1.9 d	1.17 bc	21.4 b
101-14	6.8 a	1.1 c	10.5 d	13.4 a	6.4 b	1.7 de	1.12 de	19.6 b
Isabella	6.8 a	1.8 ab	8.2 d	14.7 a	8.4 a	1.0 e	0.56 e	12.9 c
Concord								
043-43	8.1 a	1.0 c	27.8 a	15.9 a	4.8 b	6.1 a	0.25 ab	31.7 a
044-4	8.1 a	1.0 c	18.8 b	15.7 a	5.2 b	4.2 b	0.28 a	19.4 bc
3309C	9.5 a	1.1 bc	16.0 bc	15.2 a	5.6 ab	3.2 bc	0.16 bc	21.6 b
Own root	7.3 a	0.9 c	19.6 b	16.3 a	6.1 ab	3.1 bc	0.13 c	12.1 d
101-14	7.2 a	0.8 c	15.2 bc	15.2 a	5.5 ab	2.8 bc	0.19 abc	19.2 bc
Paulsen 1103	8.0 a	1.2 bc	15.0 bc	14.4 a	5.7 ab	2.6 bc	0.23 abc	22.9 b
R99	8.3 a	1.6 a	13.8 c	14.7 a	6.2 ab	2.3 cd	0.30 a	21.9 b
Scharzman	7.9 a	1.4 ab	14.5 c	15.9 a	6.7 ab	2.2 cd	0.19 abc	19.6 bc
IAC 766	7.8 a	0.9 c	16.1 bc	16.9 a	7.6 a	2.1 cd	0.31 a	15.5 cd
420-A	7.6 a	1.1 bc	9.3 d	15.8 a	7.4 a	1.3 d	0.23 abc	23.1 b
Normal range ²	6,6-9,5	1,6-2,5	16-25	11-20	2,6-5,0	3-7		

¹ Means followed by the same letter in the column did not differ by the Duncan test at 5%.² Comissão de Química e Fertilidade do Solo – RS/SC (2004).**TABLE 4** - Micronutrients content in grape petioles 'Niagara Rosada' and 'Concord' in relation to the rootstock.

Rootstock	Fe	Mn	Zn (mg kg ⁻¹)	Cu	B
Niagara Rosada					
043-43	29	406	53	74	23
SO4	35	669	64	81	24
Paulsen 1103	37	737	65	72	23
IAC766	39	480	54	58	28
IAC572	25	188	53	63	25
R99	33	751	65	61	23
Dog Ridge	25	440	58	54	23
Scharzman	25	554	61	57	25
101-14	29	748	62	59	26
Isabella	28	739	57	75	23
Concord					
043-43	23	217	59	345	23
044-4	21	272	65	370	22
3309C	26	388	68	332	22
Own root	23	518	75	451	26
101-14	21	478	67	401	23
Paulsen 1103	19	330	57	349	23
R99	18	236	64	368	22
Scharzman	23	328	71	390	27
IAC 766	24	206	47	358	27
420-A	18	577	70	300	22
Normal range ¹	31-150	36-900	31-50	-	23-60

¹ Comissão de Química e Fertilidade do Solo – RS/SC (2004).

TABLE 5 - Macronutrients content and K/Mg ratio in grape petioles of 'Isabella' in relation to the rootstock and depth of liming.

Rootstock	Depth of liming (cm)	N	P	K	Ca	Mg	K/Mg
		----- (g kg ⁻¹) -----					
Isabella own root	0-20	7,8 b ¹	2,8 a	16,3 b	17,2	10,8 a	1,6 b
SO4	0-20	7,4 b	2,5 a	20,7 a	17,8	8,0 b	2,6 a
IAC 766	0-20	7,7 b	2,1 a	21,9 a	19,7	8,3 b	2,7 a
Isabella own root	0-40	8,7 a	2,8 a	16,3 b	18,7	10,9 a	1,6 b
SO4	0-40	8,1 a	2,7 a	20,2 a	19,7	6,9 b	3,0 a
IAC 766	0-40	8,5 a	2,3 a	23,7 a	19,0	7,5 b	3,3 a

¹ Means followed by the same letter in the column did not differ by the Duncan test at 5%.

CONCLUSIONS

1 - K and Mg content in grape petioles are significantly influenced by the rootstock.

2 - The *V. vinifera* x *V. rotundifolia* hybrids rootstocks (VR 043-43 and VR 044-4) lead to the highest values of K/Mg ratio in grape petioles, while Isabella, own-rooted or as a rootstock, resulted in the lowest values of this ratio.

3 - Liming depth did not affect K e Mg content and K/Mg ratio in grape petioles.

4 - Rootstock should be considered for K and Mg nutritional status evaluations, and to estimate the fertilizer requirement of vineyards.

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