

EFFECT OF THE CULTIVAR AREA AND VARIETY ON THE FATTY ACID COMPOSITION AND OVERALL QUALITY INDEX (OQI) OF VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

ATTA, NAHED M. M., AZZA, A. A. AHMED AND A. Y. GIRGIS

Fats and Oils Res. Department, Food Tech. Res. Institute, ARC, Giza

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Abstract

The aim of this paper was to study the effect of different cultivar areas located in Egypt, (Wady El-Netron, El-Esmalia and El-Arish) and Varieties (Koronaki, Picual and Arbequin) on the quality characteristics (Δk , FFA, PV, K_{232} and K_{270}) oxidative stability, fatty acid composition, overall quality index and total tocopherols of virgin olive oils of these varieties thus in order to have better knowledge about these properties and components in samples obtained at the same time and the same extraction conditions. These parameters were greatly influenced by the variety and cultivar area, whereas the overall quality index (OQI), fatty acid composition, stability and total tocopherols presented observed differences. These results showed that:

Virgin olive oils of these varieties obtained from El-Arish (A) and Wady El Netron (W) areas showed a higher quality compared with the same varieties grown in El-Esmalia (S) area. Also the results appear to confirm the general consensus on the quality of picual virgin olive oil from El-Arish area (A) are generally of high quality compared to arbequin variety when grown in (S) and (A) areas. While koronaki variety obtained from all areas showed intermediate oil quality characteristics. The results showed increased stability and OQI of the studied varieties with increasing oleic acid / linoleic acid ratio.

Keywords: Virgin olive oil, fatty acid, tocopherols, stability, parameters characteristics and overall quality index (OQI).

INTRODUCTION

In the Mediterranean region, healthy, interesting nutritional and sensorial properties of olive oil have been known for long time. Olive oil being the main fat source of the diet due to its use without refining which attribute distinguishable characteristics such as: aroma, taste, colour and nutritive properties than other vegetable oils (Gutierrez, et al., 1999).

Virgin Olive oil is well known for its high content of phenolic substances, amount of oleic acid and tocopherols that are thought to have health – promoting properties (Owen, et al., 2000).

Virgin olive oil possesses a characteristic aroma taste and colour that distinguishes it from other vegetable oils. Consumption is currently increasing thanks

to its excellent organoleptic and nutritive qualities and to growing consumer preference for minimally processed food (Salvador et al., 2003).

The importance of virgin olive oil is related to its high levels of monounsaturated fatty acids (mainly oleic acid) and to the presence of minor components including aliphatic and tri-terpenic alcohols, sterols, hydrocarbons, volatiles compounds and several antioxidants (Derya et al., 2009).

Zeitoun et al.,(1991) mentioned that oleic acid was present as major fatty acid of olive oil and its percentage ranged from 66.4 to 78.3% followed by linoleic from 6.1 to 13.3, palmitic acid from 8.8 to 15.2%, palmitoleic from 0.0 to 1.7% and stearic acid from 2.4 to 3.4 and other fatty acids (C14:0, C17:1, C18:3, C20:0, C20:1 and C22:1) represented from 0.0 to 1.0% of the oil fatty acid composition.

Virgin olive oil, obtained from the first cold pressing, also contains a range of antioxidants and flavour constituents. The beneficial effects of olive oil are due not only to its high unsaturated / saturated fatty acid ratio, but also to its antioxidants such as vitamin E, carotenoids and phenolic compounds. Triacyl glycerol comprise about 98% of the oil and oleic acid is its main fatty acid (Gimeno et al., 2002).

The contribution of phenolic components to the shelf life of olive oil has been thoroughly investigated for more time and the relationship between the oxidative stability of the oil and their concentration is well established. Although, polyphenols are also responsible for the olive oil taste (Gutierrez et al., 1999).

The tocopherols in virgin olive are important for their nutritional value and for their antioxidant properties, in that they protect the fat components from auto-oxidation. They constitute the lipophilic antioxidant group and are noted for their effective inhibition of lipid oxidation in all vegetable oils. α -tocopherol, the most important antioxidant accounts for about 95% of the total tocopherols in virgin olive oil (Aguilera et al., 2005).

The minor components (phenolic compounds and α tocopherol) of olive oil is affected by the cultivar, soil, climate, system of irrigation, ripeness degree and processing methods (Morello et al., 2004).

The total phenols and α -tocopherols of virgin olive oils of Spanish and Greek cultivars grown in Northern Tunisia under irrigated high density plantation system, showed significant correlations with oxidative stability, furthermore, the majority of the studied analytical parameters were greatly influenced by the cultivar and environment interaction. Also significant differences between the studied oils were detected (Amira et al., 2009).

The main olive oil producing countries have been particularly active in recent years in studying the chemical composition of olive oil varieties or oil produced in a specific area and how this relates to oil quality (Salvador, *et al.*, 2003).

The overall quality index (OQI) was introduced by the international olive oil council (IOC) in 1990 to express virgin olive oil quality numerically (IOC, 1990). This is a scale from 0 to 10 which considers four quality parameter: the score for sensory evaluation (SE), free acidity (FFA), K270 and peroxide value (PV) according to (Salvador *et al.*, 2003).

The present study gives the influence of the cultivar area and variety on Quality characteristics, fatty acid composition, total tocopherols , stability and overall quality index of virgin olive oils.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Olive Fruits

Three varieties of olive fruits Arbequin, Picual and Koronaki cultivars were obtained from El-Arish (A), El-Esmalia (S) and Wady El-Netron (W) areas. The samples represented the studied varieties had been taken from different farmers of these areas

Methods

A- Oil extraction

The fruits of Picual, Arbequine and Koronaki varieties. were crushed and rapped in cheese cloth then pressed using a laboratory hydroulic press (carver). The extracted oil was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered through whatman filter paper No.1 and kept in brown glass bottles at-5°C till analysis.

B- Analytical Methods

1- Moisture and total lipid of olive fruits

Moisture and total lipids were determined according to the method of A.O.A.C. (2000).

2- Quality characteristics of olive oils

Refractive index at 25°C, free fatty acid (as oleic percent) and peroxide value (as milliequivalent / kg oil) were determined according to the methods described by A.O.A.C. (2000).

3- Absorbency in Ultraviolet

The U.V. absorption of 1% solution of the oil in cyclohexane in 2cm curvet was measured according to FAO/ WHO (1970) at 232 and 270nm. using Shemadzu spectrophotometer (U.V. Vis 120-20).

4- Overall quality index (OQI)

The overall quality index(OQI) was introduced by the international olive council (IOC) in 1990 to express virgin olive oil quality numerically . This is a scale from 0 to 10 that considers four quality parameters. The score for sensory evaluation (SE), free acidity (FA), K270 and peroxide value (PV), determined according to the following equation:

$$OQI=2.55+0.91SE-0.78FA-7.35K270-0.066PV.(Salvador et al., 2003).$$

5- Fatty acid composition of the oils

The fatty acid of the analysed oil samples was determined by GC-Capillary column according to the method reported by IOC (2001).

6- The stability of oils

The oxidative stability of oils was estimated using Rancimat a 679. (Metrohn Herisou (0, Switzerland at °100 with an air flow rate of 20 l/hr according to the method described by Mendez et al. 1997).

7- Determination of total tocopherols in oils

The total tocopherols content in oils were determined according to the method of Wong et al., (1988).

8- Organoleptic Evaluation

The oil samples (15mg each) were presented in covered blue glasses diameter, 70mm, capacity (130ml) at 28±2C. The glass was warmed and after removing the cover the sample was smelled and then tasted by the panelist to judge its flavor. The different attributes of the oils were assessed and their intensities were evaluated to give a mean value of the panelist's score.

The organoleptic assessment of virgin olive oil, were conducted according to the method described by IOC (1996).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Effect of cultivar area and variety on the oil content of olive fruits (%) in the dry matter.

Chemical composition	Koronaki			Picual			Arbequin		
	(W)	(S)	(A)	(W)	(S)	(A)	(W)	(S)	(A)
Moisture content	52.38	54.50	52.64	58.31	59.66	58.43	52.92	52.09	51.90
Oil content	39.00	38.00	38.26	38.54	36.76	37.50	44.48	44.00	44.25

Whereas:

(W): Wady El Netron area

(S): El- Esmalia area

(A): El-Arish area

Oil and moisture contents of olive fruits

From the tabulated data in table (1) it could be noticed that, no clear differences as a result effect of cultivar area ((W), (S), and (A) areas) on the oil and moisture contents of koronaki, picaul and Arbequin varieties. On the contrary, the oil and moisture contents of olive fruits depend on the variety of olive fruits whereas the oil content of Arbequin variety recorded a higher percentage compared with Koronaki and picual varieties in all cultivar areas.

Table 2. Effect of the cultivar area on the fatty acid composition of virgin olive oils of Koronaki variety (%).

Areas cultivar F.A. Composition	(W)	(S)	(A)
C16:0	15.29	16.39	15.88
C16:1	1.55	1.95	1.09
C17:0	-	-	0.05
C17:1	-	-	0.07
C18:0	1.97	1.57	2.62
C18:1	71.38	67.18	68.68
C18:2	9.03	12.03	9.84
C18:3	0.78	0.88	0.95
C20:0	-	-	0.48
C20:1	-	-	0.34
Total sat. F.A.	17.26	17.96	19.03
Total unsat. F.A.	82.74	82.04	80.97

Table 3. Effect of the cultivar area on the fatty acid composition of virgin olive oils of Picual variety (%).

Areas cultivar F.A. Composition	(W)	(S)	(A)
C16:0	15.24	16.39	14.10
C16:1	2.03	2.72	1.83
C17:0	-	-	0.05
C17:1	-	-	0.09
C18:0	3.53	2.27	2.65
C18:1	70.25	66.52	73.89
C18:2	7.92	11.29	5.92
C18:3	1.03	1.12	0.82
C20:0	-	-	0.42
C20:1	-	-	0.23
Total sat. F.A.	18.77	18.35	17.22
Total unsat. F.A.	81.23	81.65	82.78

Table 4. Effect of the cultivar area on the fatty acids composition of virgin olive oils of Arbequin variety (%).

Areas cultivar F.A. Composition	(W)	(S)	(A)
C16:0	20.14	20.90	18.84
C16:1	2.94	3.40	1.96
C17:0	-	-	0.05
C17:1	-	-	0.07
C18:0	1.81	1.37	2.20
C18:1	57.05	52.84	56.42
C18:2	17.01	20.65	18.64
C18:3	1.05	0.84	1.01
C20:0	-	-	0.96
C20:1	-	-	0.85
Total sat. F.A.	21.95	22.27	22.05
Total unsat. F.A.	78.05	77.73	77.95

Tables (2, 3 and 4) show the fatty acid composition of virgin olive oils of koronaki, picual and arbequin varieties obtained from different production areas located in Egypt, Wady El-Netron (W), El-Esmalia (S) and El-Arish (A). As shown in these tables, many fatty acids were detected in the virgin olive oils of all studied varieties, palmitic, oleic and linoleic were considered as a major fatty acid while stearic, limolenic and arachidic acids were present in small amounts, Palmitic acid, the major saturated fatty acid showed a wide variability depending on the cultivar area and the variety. The maximum values of 20.9, 20.14 and 18.84% were observed in Arbequin virgin olive oils cultivated in (S), (W), and (A) areas respectively, followed by 16.39, 15.88 and 15.15, observed in Koronaki varieties grown in (S), (A) and (W) areas respectively, and then 16.39, 15.24 and 14.1% showed in virgin olive of picual variety cultivated in (S), (W) and (A) areas respectively. Oleic acid, the major unsaturated fatty acid showed also wide variability depending on the cultivar area and variety, it is especially high in virgin olive oil of picual variety (73.83, 70.25 and 66.52%) obtained from (A), (W) and (S) areas respectively also in Koronaki oils were 71.38, 68.68 and 67.18% cultivated in (W), (A) and (S) areas respectively, but it was lowest in arbequin oils grown in (A), (W) and (S) areas (56.42, 57.05 and 52.84%, respectively).

Concerning linoleic acid, relatively low percentages were observed in the analysis of samples with highest values observed in Arbequin variety. grown in (S), (A) and (W) areas (20.65, 18.64 and 17.01%, respectively). On the contrary, the lowest one found in picual var. cultivated in (A), (W) and (S) areas (5.92, 7.92 and 11.29% respectively). While it showed intermediate values in Koronaki variety. when grown in (A), (S) and (W) areas (9.84, 12.03 and 9.03% respectively). On the other hand, the level of linolenic acid showed minimum values of 0.78 and 0.82% in Koronaki and Picual cultivated in (W) and (A) areas respectively, but it was more than the level

($\leq 1\%$) as in IOC trade standard (2006) in Picual variety cultivated in W and S areas (1.03 and 1.12 % respectively). It also more in Arbequin cultivated in W and A areas (1.05 and 1.01% respectively). Levels of these fatty acids in the various tested oils were close to the results of Zeitoun (1991). Variation in fatty acid composition observed in virgin olive oil samples (Tables 2, 3 and 4) are probably related to both genetic factors and the environmental conditions during the development and maturity of the fruits (Amira 2009).

Table 5. Effect of the cultivar area and variety on the overall quality index and quality characteristics of virgin olive oils.

Quality Characteristics	Koronaki			Picual			Arbequin		
	W	S	A	W	S	A	W	S	A
OQI	6.73	6.53	6.84	7.10	6.92	8.18	4.82	3.77	4.40
Peroxide value (meq/kg oil)	2.85	3.42	2.90	2.92	4.72	2.22	4.73	3.59	3.05
Free fatty acid (%) as Oleic	0.15	0.10	0.65	0.52	0.30	0.40	0.49	0.31	0.81
K ₂₇₀ nm	0.132	0.098	0.126	0.166	0.073	0.1	0.153	0.140	0.119
K ₂₃₂ nm	1.56	1.26	2.42	1.35	1.45	1.68	2.35	1.72	2.38
Sensory evaluation (SE)	6	5.5	6.5	7	6	7.5	4.5	3	4
ΔK	-0.0025	-0.002	-0.015	-0.001	-0.003	-0.018	-0.0004	-0.001	-0.026
Total tocopherols	277.3	254.5	134.05	206.04	134	119.97	251.6	196.07	146.40

Data in Table (5) show the overall quality index (OQI) and quality characteristics of virgin olive oils of Koronaki, picual and Arbequin varieties obtained from (W), (S) and (A) area S. As shown in this, table, Picual variety when grown in (A) area produced the highest value of OQI of oil (8.18) reflecting the measured lowest values for acidity, peroxide, and K₂₇₀ and highest value for sensory evaluation (SE). On the other hand, virgin olive oils of Arbequin variety obtained from (W), (S) and (A) areas produced lower values of OQI (4.82, 3.77 and 4.40 respectively), reflecting mainly high values of acidity, peroxides, and K₂₇₀ and low in SE. Moreover, Koronaki showed intermediate values in OQI of virgin olive oil obtained from (W), (S) and (A) areas (6.73, 6.53 and 6.84 respectively), also picual variety when grown in (W) and (S) areas produced intermediate values in OQI (7.10 and 6.92 respectively). The observed difference in chemical properties and quality of virgin olive oils are mainly due to agronomical and climatologic variables (Salvador et al., 2003).

Concerning total tocopherols of virgin olive oils (VOO). Koronaki variety produced similar values of total tocopherols in Wady El-Netron area (277.31 ppm) as well as Koronaki variety cultivated in (S) area (254.5 ppm). Picual variety, cultivated in the same previous areas produced a higher values of total tocopherols (206.04 ppm) as a compared with those grown in (S) and (A) areas (134 and 119.97 ppm respectively).

Arbequin variety, showed higher values of total tocopherols when grown in (W) area (251.63 ppm) as compared to those cultivated in (A) area (146.48 ppm), but when cultivated in (S) area showed intermediate values of total tocopherols (196.07 ppm).

Fig 1. Relation of C18:1/C18:2 ratio with the stability and Overall Quality Index (OQI) of virgin olive oil

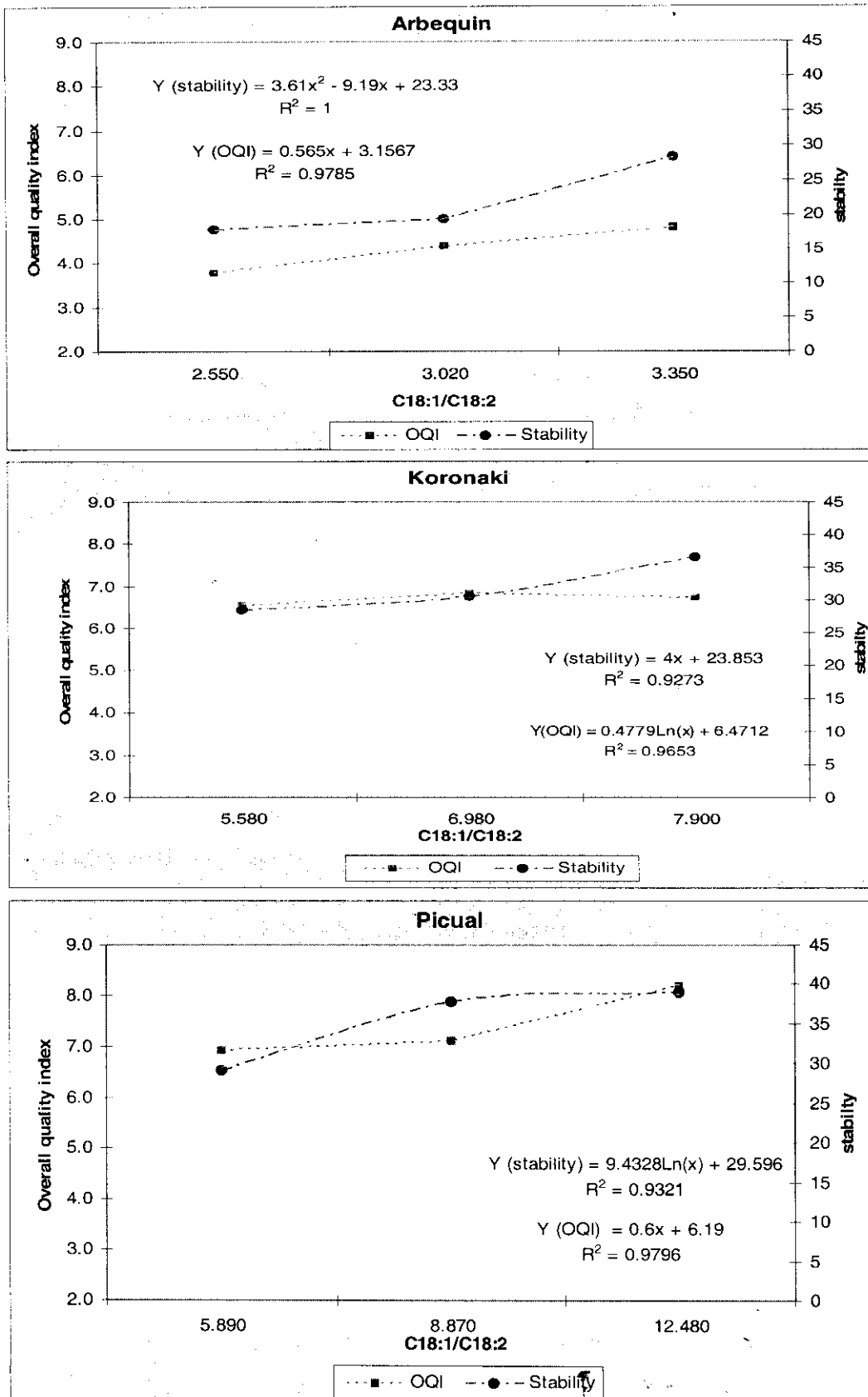


Table 6. Relation of oleic acid / linoleic acid ratio with the stability and overall quality index of virgin olive oil.

Varieties	Koronaki			Picual			Arbequin		
	W	S	A	W	S	A	W	S	A
C18:1/ C18:2 ratio	7.90	5.58	6.98	8.87	5.89	12.48	3.35	2.55	3.02
Stability	36.5	28.50	30.56	37.75	29.00	38.94	28.25	17.75	19.39
Overall quality index (OOI)	6.73	6.03	6.84	7.10	6.92	8.18	6.82	3.77	4.40

The oxidative stability of virgin olive oils obtained from the studied varieties analyzed with Rancimat equipment (Table 6) shows a higher difference related to cultivar area and variety. Virgin olive oils of picual variety cultivated in A and W areas recorded the highest stability (38.94 and 37.75 hr. respectively) followed by Koronaki variety VOO cultivated in W and A areas (36.5 and 30.56 hr. respectively) the lowest stability was found in Arbequin variety VOO. From these results it could be noticed that, virgin olive oils (VOO) of Koronaki and Picual varieties, cultivated in (W) and (A) areas were more stable than virgin olive oil of Arbequin variety, especially cultivated in (S) area, this related to the VOO of Koronaki and picual varieties, contain a higher amount of monounsaturated fatty acid (C18:1) than VOO of Arbequin variety. These results are in agreement with the results obtained by Amira et al., (2009).

As shown in the same table and fig.(1) the oleic acid / linoleic acid ratio were evaluated in the virgin olive oil of the studied varieties. The C18:1/ C18:2 ratio varies between 2.55 to 12.48 according to varieties and cultivar areas. This ratio can be useful to characterize olive cultivars and they have a marked relationship with stability (Amira et al., 2009). Whereas, the stability and overall quality index of the virgin olive oil of the studied varieties were increased by increasing the C18:1/ C18:2 ratio.

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تأثير منطقة الزراعة والصنف على تركيب الأحماض الدهنية ومعامل الجودة لزيت الزيتون البكر

ناهـد محمد محروس عطا ، عزة عبد الله أحمد احمد ، عادل يوسف جرجس

قسم بحوث الزيوت والدهون - معهد بحوث تكنولوجيا الأغذية - مركز البحوث الزراعية جيزة

- يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة تأثير مناطق الزراعة المختلفة في مصر (وادي النطرون - الإسماعيلية - العريش) والأصناف (كروناكي - بيكوال - أرب كوين) على خواص الجودة وتركيب الأحماض الدهنية والثبات ومعامل جودة زيت الزيتون و التوكوفيرولات الكلية لزيت الزيتون البكر لهذه الأصناف. وذلك لكي نعرف أحسن الخواص لهذه الأصناف المتحصل عليها من نفس منطقة الزراعة ونفس موسم الحصاد ونفس ظروف الاستخلاص.
- وقد وجد أن هذه القياسات تتأثر بدرجة كبيرة بالصنف ومنطقة الزراعة حيث وجد اختلاف ملحوظ في معامل جودة الزيتون والأحماض الدهنية الرئيسية والثبات و التوكوفيرولات الكلية وذلك وفقاً لاختلاف الصنف ومنطقة الزراعة
 - وقد تبين من النتائج أن خواص زيت الزيتون البكر لهذه الأصناف موضع الدراسة والمتحصل عليها من منطقة العريش ووادي النطرون ذات جودة عالية مقارنة بالمتحصل عليها نفسها من منطقة الإسماعيلية وعموماً تؤكد النتائج الموضحة أن خواص زيت الزيتون المتحصل عليها من صنف بيكوال العريش تكون عالية الجودة مقارنة بالصنف أرب كوين من نفس المناطق
 - بينما تشير النتائج إلي أن خواص زيت الزيتون المستخلص من الصنف كروناكي والمتحصل عليه من كل المناطق تعتبر وسط بين خواص الصنف بيكوال وارب كوين.
 - كما أتضح من النتائج زيادة الثبات ومعامل جودة زيت الزيتون للأصناف موضع الدراسة بزيادة النسبة حمض الاوليك / حمض اللينوليك