Physicochemical, organoleptic and molecular analysis of two varieties of peach within the protected designation of origin (DOP) “Calanda” during storage at different temperatures

A. Monteagudo, C. Font i Forcada, G. Estopañan, M.A. Sanz, A. Fernandez i Marti, J.M. Alonso, M.J. Rubio-Cabetas

Hortofruticulture Department. Agrifood Research Center of Aragón CITA, Av. Montañana 930, 50059, Zaragoza, Spain

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The peach cultivar “Calanda” from the Bajo Aragon region in Spain with a protected designation of origin (DOP) is a much appreciated cultivar by European consumers and dominates the late-season fresh market due to its distinct characteristics. The increase of shelf-life of this cultivar is currently pursued through novel storage techniques and breeding for better post-harvest quality of the fruit. Fruits’ quality problems, together with losing competitiveness have driven the development of breeding programs for better fruit quality. Changes during maturity and post-harvest storage at various temperatures were characterized in two late-season “Calanda” varieties with different harvest time and the relationship between biochemical and molecular parameters during storage at low temperatures was established. qRT-PCR analysis of peach samples under different post-harvest treatments showed differential transcription levels of genes on pathways related to fruit shelf-life. These results are a first glimpse of peach transcriptome activity under chilling injury when using different post-harvest treatments and could be extrapolated to other crop species in the Rosacea family.

Corresponding author:
MARIA JOSE RUBIO CABETAS
mjrubioc@cita-aragon.es
Hortofruticulture Department. Agrifood Research Center of Aragón (CITA), Av. Montañana 930, 50059, Zaragoza, Spain