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## **Preliminary trials of Genotype-by-Environment Interactions for Sugars, Organic Acids, and Amino Acids of Table Grape Varieties in Japan**

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For the period of two successive years, biochemical quality traits of four table grape varieties were evaluated at the eight locations in southwestern part of Japan, especially in Kyushu district. Of quality traits considered, Brix, reducing sugar content, a ratio, free acid content,  $\beta$  ratio, amino acid content, and  $\gamma$  ratio were determined on all grape berries tested. By two techniques (I: coefficient of variability, CV and II : analyses of variance), genotype-by-environment interaction was large in sugar content, free acid content, acid composition (  $\beta$  ratio), and amino acids. There was no significant difference in the a ratio for location's and year's effects. Furthermore, excepting amino acid content, there were significant varietal differences in the traits examined, indicating that the genotypic effect is not negligible.

### INTRODUCTION

For evaluating the potential of varieties or selected lines, a number of trials are generally performed under several environmental conditions over years, locations, and treatments. In such trials, there has frequently found significant genotype-by-environment interaction of several temperate fruits (Hansche and Beres, 1965; Hansche *et al.*, 1972; Machida and Kozaki, 1975; Yamada *et al.*, 1993). To the grape growers and breeders, it is certainly of value to know the magnitude of stability of quality traits for each genotype and, if possible, to presume genotype-by-environment interactions in response to a number of environment.

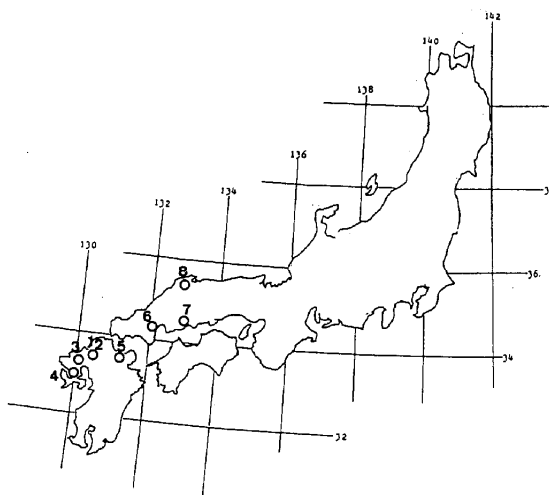
With respect to quality traits (especially in biochemical ones), the present trials were performed to compare the nature and magnitude of response of commercial table grape varieties to several different environments encountered in the southwestern part of Japan, especially in Kyushu district.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of four table grape varieties ('Campbell Early', 'Kyoho', 'Muscat Bailey A', 'Neo Muscat') have been grown by overhead arbor training system at eight locations. These varieties used are cultivated as the leading commercial table grapes in Japan. The eight locations were chosen to cover the different environmental conditions encountered in the grape growing regions in southwestern part of Japan; they were, as shown in Fig.1, Fukuoka- 1 (Kyushu University, Fukuoka Prefecture), Fukuoka-2 (Fukuoka Pref.

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**Fig. 1.** Location of experimental stations.  
The numerals given to the points indicate the locations listed in Table 1-3.  
1. Fukuoka-1 2. Fukuoka-2 3. Saga 4. Nagasaki  
5. Oita 6. Hiroshima 7. Okayama 8. Shimane

Agricultural Research Center), Saga (Saga Pref. Fruit Tree Research Station), Nagasaki (Nagasaki Pref. Fruit Tree Research Station), Oita (Oita Pref. Agricultural Research Center), Hiroshima (Akitsu Branch, Fruit Tree Research Station), Okayama (Okayama Pref. Agricultural Research Station), and Shimane (Shimane Pref. Agricultural Research Station). For two successive years, 1992-1993, two vigorous vines per variety were used for analyses of sugars, organic acids, and amino acids. Determination of sugars (Brix, reducing sugar content, and  $\alpha$  ratio: Shiraishi, 1993), organic acids (free acid content, and  $\beta$  ratio: Shiraishi, 1995), and amino acids (amino acid content, and  $\gamma$  ratio: Shiraishi, 1996) was performed on all berries from two clusters per vine.

## RESULTS

In these trials, all observations on all grape varieties over all years and locations could not be obtained due to climatic conditions, in particular, heavy rainfall at fruit maturity. For each of the varieties, mean and coefficient of variability (CV%) of Brix, reducing sugar content,  $\alpha$  ratio, free acid content,  $\beta$  ratio, amino acid content, and  $\gamma$  ratio are given in Table 1-3.

**Table 1.** Environmental variation in sugars of table grape varieties.

Location	Kyoho		Muscat	Bailey A	Campbell Early		Neo	Muscat
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	-----		----- Brix (%) -----				-----	
Fukuoka-1	16.1	17.0	16.0	15.9	12.7	15.6	14.7	16.1
Fukuoka-2	18.4	16.5	16.8	17.3	11.6	12.8	12.2	15.1
Saga	17.6	16.1		15.3		13.7	-	14.0
Nagasaki	17.8	18.3	16.4	14.9	-			
Oita	18.2	18.0	17.8	16.7	11.2	14.1	15.3	14.4
Hiroshima	17.7	-	16.7		12.7		17.8	-
Okayama	15.8	17.4	15.9	15.2	10.4	11.5	14.9	15.0
Shimane	17.5	-					16.1	-
mean	17.3 <sup>d</sup>		16.2 <sup>c</sup>		12.6 <sup>n</sup>		15.1 <sup>b</sup>	
CV	5%		5%		12%		9%	
	----- Reducing sugar content (g/100 ml) -----							
Fukuoka- 1	14.8	15.0	14.4	13.5	10.5	12.8	13.8	14.2
Fukuoka-2	18.0	14.7	14.3	15.0	11.5	11.1	11.0	12.6
Saga	16.7	13.5		13.1		11.6	-	12.4
Nagasaki	16.0	16.3	15.8	12.5				
Oita	16.6	14.7	16.7	14.7	10.7	12.0	15.0	12.5
Hiroshima	17.0	-	15.9	-	11.9	-	16.9	-
Okayama	14.5	15.0	15.9	13.2	9.7	9.9	13.2	13.0
Shimane	16.8	-					14.8	
mean	15.7 <sup>r</sup>		14.6 <sup>b</sup>		11.2 <sup>n</sup>		13.6 <sup>b</sup>	
CV	8%		9%		9%		12%	
	----- $\alpha$ ratio -----							
Fukuoka-1	1.10	1.04	1.04	1.09	0.91	0.92	1.18	1.16
Fukuoka-2	1.13	1.17	1.09	1.08	0.91	0.94	1.05	1.15
Saga	1.11	1.10		1.09	-	0.92	-	1.09
Nagasaki	1.13	1.11	1.16	1.15				
Oita	1.19	1.12	1.19	1.10	1.00	0.96	1.13	1.08
Hiroshima	1.13	-	1.01	-	0.93		1.07	-
Okayama	1.11	1.04	0.99	1.14	0.93	0.94	1.07	1.13
Shimane	1.12	-					1.11	-
mean	1.11 <sup>b</sup>		1.09 <sup>r</sup>		0.94 <sup>a</sup>		1.11 <sup>b</sup>	
CV	4%		6%		3%		4%	

In Table 1, Brix of 'Kyoho' varied from 15.8% to 18.4% with average of 17.3%, while that of 'Campbell Early' was low (12.6%), ranging from 10.4% to 15.6%. The Brix of 'Muscat Bailey A' (16.2%, ranging from 14.9% to 17.8%) was higher than that of 'Neo Muscat' (15.1%, ranging from 12.2% to 17.8%). The CV of the Brix was medium, ranging from 5% to 12%. Variation pattern of reducing sugar content was similar to that of the Brix value. The reducing sugar content was the highest in 'Kyoho' (15.7 g/100 ml), whereas it was the lowest in 'Campbell Early' (11.2 g). The reducing sugar content of 'Muscat Bailey A' (14.6 g) was higher than that of 'Neo Muscat' (13.6 g). The CV of the reducing sugar content was medium, ranging from 8% to 12%. Mean a ratio of 'Kyoho' (1.11) and 'Neo Muscat' (1.11) was higher than that of 'Muscat Bailey A' (1.09). The  $\alpha$

ratio was the lowest in 'Campbell Early' (0.94), ranging from 0.90 to 1.00. The CV of the  $\alpha$  ratio was very small, ranging from 3% to 6%.

As shown in Table 2, mean free acid content varied from 0.29 g/100 ml ('Campbell Early', ranging from 0.19 g to 0.36 g) to 0.43 g ('Muscat Bailey A', ranging from 0.30 g to 0.66 g). The free acid content of 'Neo Muscat' (0.38 g, ranging from 0.23 g to 0.53 g) was higher than that of 'Kyoho' (0.33 g, ranging from 0.24 g to 0.52 g). The CV of the free acid content was very large, ranging from 17% to 30%. Mean  $\beta$  ratio ranged from 0.88 ('Muscat Bailey A', ranging from 0.56 to 1.26) to 1.97 ('Campbell Early', ranging from 1.47 to 2.94). The  $\beta$  ratio of 'Kyoho' (1.28, ranging from 0.91 to 1.56) was higher than that of 'Neo Muscat' (0.98, ranging from 0.75 to 1.20). The CV of  $\beta$  ratio was large, ranging from 13% to 24%.

As shown in Table 3, amino acid content varied from 1.29 mmol/100 ml ('Muscat Bailey A', ranging from 0.95 mmol to 1.70 mmol) to 1.39 mmol ('Kyoho', ranging from 1.04 mmol to 1.70 mmol). Both 'Campbell Early' (ranging from 1.00 mmol to 1.76 mmol) and 'Neo Muscat' (ranging from 1.09 mmol to 1.79 mmol) was similar in mean amino acid content (1.32 mmol). The CV of the amino acid content was large, ranging from 16% to 18%. Mean  $\gamma$  ratio varied from 1.02 ('Neo Muscat', ranging from 0.79 to 1.36) to 2.47 ('Campbell Early', ranging from 1.58 to 3.09). The  $\gamma$  ratio of 'Kyoho' (1.53, ranging from

**Table 2.** Environmental variation in organic acids of table grape varieties.

Location	Kyoho		Muscat	Bailey A	Campbell Early		Neo	Muscat
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Freeacidcontent (g/ 100ml)							
Fukuoka-1	0.32	0.30	0.34	0.43	0.27	0.29	0.34	0.29
Fukuoka-2	0.34	0.32	0.30	0.58	0.34	0.36	0.53	0.52
Saga	0.32	0.52		0.66		0.19		0.43
Nagasaki	0.30	0.24	0.31	0.52				
Oita	0.29	0.38	0.38	0.55	0.26	0.28	0.29	0.53
Hiroshima	0.27		0.32	-	0.27	-	0.23	-
Okayama	0.32	0.41	0.35	0.47	0.31	0.34	0.28	0.41
Shimane	0.26	-					0.28	-
mean	0.33 <sup>a b</sup>		0.43 <sup>c</sup>		0.29 <sup>d</sup>		0.38 <sup>b</sup>	
CV	22%		28%		17%		30%	
	-----		-----		$\beta$ ratio		-----	
Fukuoka-1	1.11	1.35	0.85	0.87	1.70	1.87	0.92	1.06
Fukuoka-2	1.34	1.07	1.26	0.81	2.63	1.47	0.86	1.04
Saga	1.13	0.91		0.56		1.64		0.93
Nagasaki	1.56	1.45	0.89	0.79				
Oita	1.34	1.32	1.15	0.69	2.94	2.03	0.75	0.94
Hiroshima	1.25	-	0.83	-	2.03	-	1.20	-
Okayama	1.54	1.26	1.01	0.80	1.80	1.56	0.99	0.96
Shimane	1.35	-					1.18	-
mean	1.28 <sup>b</sup>		0.88 <sup>c</sup>		1.97 <sup>d</sup>		0.98 <sup>e</sup>	
CV	14%		22%		24%		13%	

**Table 3.** Environmental variation in amino acids of table grape varieties.

Location	Kyoho		Muscat Bailey A		Campbell Early		Neo Muscat	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
Aminoacid content (mmol/ 100ml)								
Fukuoka- 1	1.54	1.12	1.23	1.10	1.14	1.20	1.79	1.14
Fukuoka-2	1.06	1.16	1.28	1.65	1.49	1.20	1.26	1.49
Saga	1.51	1.04	-	1.26		1.00	-	1.09
Nagasaki	1.70	1.42	1.70	1.42	-			
Oita	1.48	1.67	1.13	1.40	1.15	1.51	1.29	1.11
Hiroshima	1.40	-	1.05		1.51		1.59	-
Okayama	1.31	1.49	1.25	0.95	1.76	1.24	1.28	1.01
Shimane	1.57	-					1.43	-
mean	1.39 <sup>NS</sup>		1.29 <sup>NS</sup>		1.32 <sup>***</sup>		1.32 <sup>NS</sup>	
CV	16%		18%		18%		18%	
$\gamma$ ratio								
Fukuoka-1	1.53	1.50	1.07	0.96	2.54	2.04	1.27	0.91
Fukuoka-2	1.62	1.57	1.27	1.23	2.92	3.09	1.36	1.15
Saga	1.45	1.38	-	1.26	-	2.13	-	1.03
Nagasaki	1.28	1.75	1.00	1.29	-	-		
Oita	1.33	1.74	1.11	1.33	1.58	2.72	0.96	0.94
Hiroshima	1.61	-	1.28	-	1.75	-	0.79	
Okayama	1.21	1.63	1.12	0.99	2.91	3.00	1.12	0.81
Shimane	1.78						0.87	-
mean	1.53 <sup>b</sup>		1.16 <sup>c</sup>		2.47 <sup>c</sup>		1.02 <sup>a</sup>	
CV	12%		11%		22%		18%	

1.21 to 1.75) was higher than that of ‘Muscat Bailey A’ (1.16, ranging from 0.96 to 1.33). The CV of  $\gamma$  ratio was slightly large, ranging from 11% to 22%.

To estimate genotype(variety)-by-environment interactions, the data of four varieties on four locations (Fukuoka-1, Fukuoka-2, Oita, and Okayama) over two years were applied to the analysis of variance in the following model:

$$X_{ijkm} = \mu + v_i + l_j + y_k + r_m + (vl)_{ij} + (vy)_{ik} + (ly)_{jk} + (vly)_{ijk} + e_{ijkm}$$

where  $X_{ijkm}$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $v_i$ ,  $y_k$ ,  $r_m$ ,  $(vl)_{ij}$ ,  $(vy)_{ik}$ ,  $(ly)_{jk}$ ,  $(vly)_{ijk}$ ,  $e_{ijkm}$ ,

stands for the m-th observation of the i-th variety in the j-th location from the k-th year, an overall mean, an effect contributed by variety ( $i = 1..4$ ), an effect attributed by location ( $j = 1..4$ ), an effect attributed by year ( $k = 1, 2$ ), an effect attributed by replication ( $m = 1, 2$ ), a variety  $\times$  location interaction ( $V \times L$ ), a variety  $\times$  year interaction ( $V \times Y$ ), a location  $\times$  year interaction ( $L \times Y$ ), variety  $\times$  location  $\times$  year interaction ( $V \times L \times Y$ ), and a random effect, respectively.

Genotype-by-environment interactions for each trait considered are summarized in Table 4. Excepting amino acid content, there was a 99% significant varietal difference in Brix, reducing sugar content,  $\alpha$  ratio, free acid content,  $\beta$  ratio, and  $\gamma$  ratio. The effect of  $V \times L$  interaction was of significance ( $p < 0.01$ ) for Brix, reducing sugar content, free acid content,  $\beta$  ratio, and amino acid content. The effect of  $V \times Y$  interaction was of significance ( $p < 0.01$ ) for Brix, free acid content, and  $\beta$  ratio. There was a significant

**Table 4.** Analyses of variance, degree of freedom (DF), and mean squares for quality traits.

Source	DF	Brix	Reducing sugar content	$\alpha$ ratio	Free acid content	$\beta$ ratio	Amino acid content	$\gamma$ ratio
Location(L)	3							
Year (Y)	1							
Variety (V)	3	222.17''	70.63 **	35.2'''	47.1**	97.7**	1.26	587.1''
V×L	9	10.25* *	4.42**	1.57	4.71**	3.85**	3.55* *	2.48*
V×Y	3	13.79* *	1.86	0.90	15.6'' *	8.79**	0.35	3.56'
V×L×Y	9	6.06''	2.01	1.23	6.36**	2.11	3.15''	1.34
Error	31							

\* = p-Co.05

\*\* = p&lt;0.01

interaction ( $p<0.01$ ) for  $V \times L \times Y$  in Brix, free acid content, and amino acid content. Furthermore, a 95% significant difference was found in the  $\gamma$  ratio. These results suggest that genotype-by-environment interaction is particularly large for Brix and free acid content, followed by  $\beta$  ratio and amino acid content. There was no significant difference in the  $\alpha$  ratio.

## DISCUSSION

From these trials, it is possible to presume the nature and magnitude of response of biochemical quality traits to different environmental conditions. Two techniques were used to evaluate the stability of each quality trait of table grape: one is the calculation of coefficient of variability (CV%) for the traits considered, and the other the analysis of variance.

Although the number of data used was different, as shown above, both techniques gave almost similar results. A large environmental variability in the sugar content and free acid content in these trials is in agreement with previous studies on grape (Rice, 1974; Fanizza, 1982; Firoozabady and Olmo, 1987; Sato *et al.*, 1993). As reported by Rice (1974), the variation of organic acid composition ( $\beta$  ratio) was large, while that of sugar composition ( $\alpha$  ratio) was much small. Amino acid content was large in environmental variation. Although a 95% significant difference in the  $\gamma$  ratio for location's and year's effect was observed, differential responses of the varieties to different environments should be considered in terms of adaptability of grape varieties across the location (CV of 'Kyoho' and 'Muscat Bailey A' are 12% and 11%, respectively while that of 'Campbell Early' and 'Neo Muscat' are 22% and 18%, respectively). No significant difference was found in the  $\alpha$  ratio, indicating that  $\alpha$  ratio might be stable and consistent under different environment. Also, excepting amino acid content, there were significant varietal differences ( $p<0.01$ ) in the traits considered, indicating that the genotypic effect is not negligible.

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