



Report of new cultivar BENITO, NEW MUTANT OF FLOR DE JAMAICA (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*, L.) OF HIGH PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL UNDER CONDITIONS OF LOW WATER SUPPLIES

Informe de nuevo cultivar

Benito, nuevo mutante de Flor de Jamaica (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*, L.) de alto potencial productivo en condiciones de bajos suministros de agua

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ABSTRACT. At the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences a breeding program was developed aimed at to obtain Flor de Jamaica varieties of high productive potential under reduced water supply conditions.

Key words: breeding, mutation, radiations

RESUMEN. En el Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Agrícolas se desarrolló un programa de mejoramiento genético dirigido a obtener variedades de Flor de Jamaica de alto potencial productivo, en condiciones de bajos suministros de agua.

Palabras clave: mejoramiento, mutación, radiaciones

INTRODUCTION

Flor de Jamaica (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.) is used in different parts of the World for its beauty and its delicious taste in infusions, wine, refreshments thus its medicinal properties. It is a plant that requires little water for its reproduction, and then it can be cultivated in areas with marginal drainage. Nevertheless, the existing genetic diversity in Cuba is very limited for it is important to have Cuban varieties that make possible the exploitation of this species in our country.

USED METHODOLOGY

Yerzy seed variety were treated with ^{60}Co gamma rays with an irradiator MX-25, at a dose of 100 to 700 Gy. A from the M_2 generation, the selection of individual plants showing higher potential, able to be performed low water supplies. M_4 generation in phenotypic uniformity was observed in the parental

line which differed in the cycle, the number of branches per plant, leaf shape, the fruit number per plant and average mass of fruits (Table). This variety has been introduced in different parts of the country with good acceptance by producers and consumers.

Characteristics that differ Dogo variety from Yerzy parental

Character	Yerzy	Benito
Leaf shape	Trisinate	Broken up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the base
Lobule of leaves	Broken up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the base	25,7
Number of branches	16,3	Wine red
Stem color	Wine red	Dark wine red
Fruit color	Wine red	Darl wine red
Number of fruits per plant	110	129,5
Cycle (sowing in june)	150 days	140 days
Fruit average mass	8,2 g	10,8 g