



Stable isotope analysis for control of declared geographic origin of Austrian apricots

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Apricot samples of 4 vintages (2015-2018) were investigated to differentiate samples from the Austrian Wachau region from samples from other areas within and outside of Austria. The isotope composition of the elements hydrogen (H), carbon (C), nitrogen (N) and oxygen (O) of fruit pulp (H, C, N, O), fruit stone (H, C, O) and fruit juice (O) was analysed to find appropriate parameters for the differentiation of different geographic origin. This is, to my knowledge, the first study on geographic origin of apricots, evaluating the potential for discrimination of apricots from the Wachau from samples of other origin. The investigation of different sample tissues (pulp, stone, juice) supports a better differentiation of geographic origin due to different seasonal intervals influencing the respective commodities. The results give a somewhat varying picture, as the values of the vintages significantly vary from year to year. However, overall there are promising prospects for the possibility of control of apricots with declared origin of the Lower Austrian Wachau region.