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JUMP TO--Select-- American Journal of Food Technology **RSS**Title: Some Technologic Proprieties of Common Date (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) Fruits

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Abstract: Mech-Degla, Degla-Beida and Frezza are the common (or dried) varieties studied in this research. On average, their water and sugar contents are of 15 and 80% dry basis (db), respectively. In this paper we report on their technological abilities. The experimental study consist the following: complementary vacuum (200 mbars) air-drying at 60°C, soaking in citrus juices, double fermentation (alcoholic and acetic) and water-alcohol extract preparation. The three previously quoted varieties show an interesting drying ability since they water content has been reduced to 5-7% (db) without apparent browning, which allows the possibility to produce first fruit powder then tablets. In order to formulate biologic vinegar and to optimize the traditional process as has traditionally applied in Algerian Sahara, the dates have been submitted to the spontaneous double fermentation: alcoholic and acetic. Using oxygenation during 4 h after 14 days of anaerobic fermentation, the acetic acid content reaches a value above 7 g/100 mL (in the Mech-Degla case). The swelling power (more than 50% in relation to the initial fruit=s weight) of Mech-Degla dates immersed in citrus juices as well as the brix degree variation in liquid phase (on average 25%) were also analyzed. Results indicate also the possibility to produce the dates in their auto induced syrup. In addition, the water-alcohol extract obtained reveals an antioxidant activity of about 52%.

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