

Determination of Size and Shape in the 'Moro' Blood Orange and 'Valencia' Sweet Orange Cultivar and its Mutants Using Image Processing

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Abstract

Fruit size and shape are important physical characteristics in designing relevant equipment, sorting, sizing and packaging systems. Therefore, the properties of size and shape of the sweet orange cultivar, 'Valencia', and its three mutants, 'A70', 'A77', and 'A88' were determined by image processing. The blood orange cultivar, 'Moro', was also included in this analysis. The volume of each cultivar and mutant was measured by the liquid displacement method. Linear equations with high R^2 values were developed in order to estimate the surface area and geometric mean diameter, which were dependent upon the mass and volume of the orange samples. The results of this study showed that the 'A70' mutant differed from the other mutants and the 'Valencia' cultivar in regard to most physical properties. The 'A70' and 'A88' mutants and the 'Valencia' cultivar had the highest sphericity values, which varied from 96.41% to 97.18%. The lowest shape factor was found in the 'Valencia' cultivar, with a mean of 0.73. The elongation of the 'A88' mutant and 'Valencia' (1.07 each) was smaller than that of the other cultivars. The highest coefficient of variance was observed within the 'Valencia' and 'Moro' cultivars in most physical properties, suggesting that the 'Valencia' mutants produce more homogeneous fruits than the 'Valencia' cultivar itself.

Keywords: *Citrus sinensis*, fruit, image processing, projected area, shape factor

Introduction

Oranges (*Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osbeck), by far, constitute the most important class of commercial citrus fruits. They are widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for their delicious sweet fruit, which are peeled or cut to avoid the bitter rind and are eaten whole or processed for their fragrant peel or for orange juice extraction.

In 2009, 68.5 million tons of oranges were produced worldwide, primarily in Brazil and in the United States (FAOSTAT, 2009).

A large portion of the world orange crop is used to produce orange juice, as they are pleasant in flavour and colour, and are rich in potassium, vitamin C, and amino acids (Albertini *et al.*, 2006; Niu *et al.*, 2008).

Oranges are grouped into sweet, blood, and bitter oranges (Moufida and Marzouk, 2003). Among them, the sweet oranges are dominant in terms of production amount and are characterized by their unique orange taste.

Turkey, particularly the Mediterranean region, is an important citrus-producing country. Oranges are the third largest fruit crop after grapes and apples, with an annual production of 1.7 million tons in Turkey (FAOSTAT, 2009).

The size and shape of agricultural products are important parameters for determining the proper standards of design of grading, conveying, processing, and packaging systems (Mohsenin, 1986; Tabatabaefar and Rajabipour,

2005). The image processing method is widely used for determining the properties of size and shape of fruit species. Many researchers have reported on the physical properties (i.e., projected area, equivalent diameter, perimeter, width, thickness, length, sphericity, elongation) of different agricultural products, such as lentil seeds (*Lens culinaris*) (Firatligil-Durmuş *et al.*, 2008), date fruit (*Phoenix dactylifera*) (Jahromi *et al.*, 2008), apple (*Malus domestica*) (Meisami-asl *et al.*, 2009), tangerine (*Citrus tangerina*) (Khojastehnazhand *et al.*, 2010), citrus fruits (Omid *et al.*, 2010), banana (*Musa* spp.) (Soltani *et al.*, 2011), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) (Taheri-Garavand *et al.*, 2011) and walnut (*Juglans regia*) (Ercisli *et al.*, 2011, 2012).

The objective of this study was to compare the size and shape (i.e., length, minor and major diameters, projected area, geometric mean diameter, sphericity, equivalent diameter, perimeter, shape factor, elongation) of the sweet orange cultivar, 'Valencia', and its three mutants, 'A70', 'A77', and 'A88'. The blood orange cultivar, 'Moro', was also included in the image processing.

Materials and methods

The cultivars, 'Moro' and 'Valencia', and the three mutants of the 'Valencia' cultivar, 'A70', 'A77', and 'A88', are grown in the West Mediterranean region of Turkey, and were used in this study. Samples were obtained from the province of Antalya, Turkey (located at 36°56'11" North

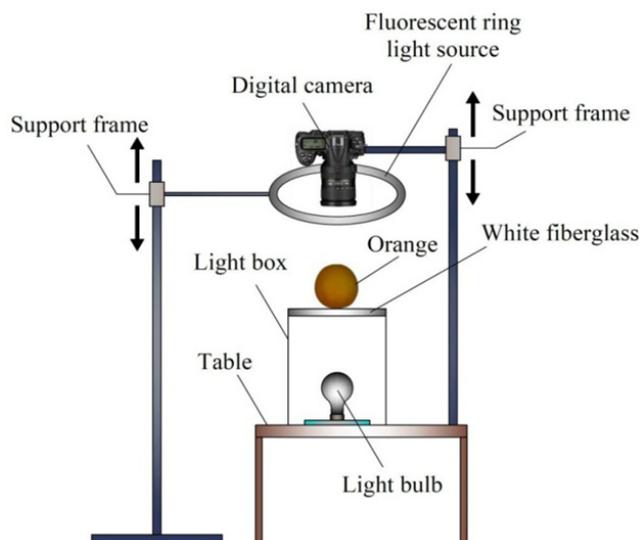


Fig. 1. Image acquisition system

Orange cultivars and mutants of 'Valencia' cultivar	Vertical orientation	Horizontal orientation
'A70'		
'A77'		
'A88'		
'Valencia'		
'Moro'		

Fig. 2. Orientation of photographs of orange cultivars

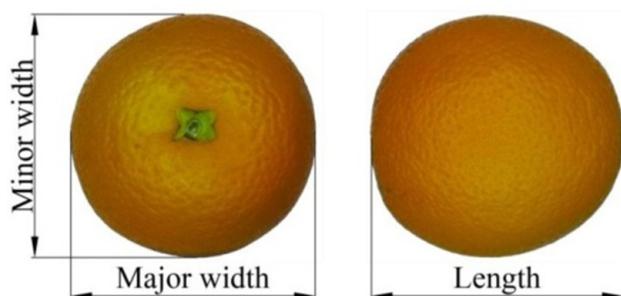


Fig. 3. Length, minor width, and major width of the orange cultivars

latitude, 31°32'10" East longitude, and a 26 meter altitude above sea level) during the 2011 harvest season (December), and were kept in a refrigerator (-4°C) until subsequent analyses. For each orange cultivar and mutant, 40 fruits were randomly collected from the orange trees. All tests were carried out at the Biological Material Laboratory in the Department of Agricultural Machinery, Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey, and were completed in four days.

The mass of each fruit was measured using a digital balance with an accuracy of ±0.01 g, and the volume of each fruit was measured using the liquid displacement method (LDM). Toluene (C₇H₈) was used rather than water, because water is absorbed by the fruits (Mohsenin, 1986).

The image processing system consisted of a digital camera with USB connection, a fluorescent light source (32 W), and a light bulb (100 W). A white fiberglass (25×35 cm) board was placed on the light box to provide a white background. The digital camera (Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ50) was placed at the center of the fluorescent light source. The fluorescent light source and digital camera were mounted on an adjustable frame (Fig. 1). The distance between the fiberglass surface and the camera was set at 60 cm.

Each orange was placed at the center of the camera's field of view, and two RGB colour images were captured before and after manually rotating the orange 90° around the lateral axis. An image area of approximately 129×97 cm² was captured in each photo. SigmaScanPro 5.0 software was used to determine the size and shape (at vertical and horizontal orientations) of the orange cultivars (Fig. 2). In order to calibrate length in millimeters (mm), a steel ruler with intervals of 0.50 mm was placed beside each of the orange fruits. From the steel ruler and image processing measurements, a conversion factor of 1 mm to 25 pixels was determined; this conversion factor was used to convert units of measurement from pixels to millimeters in length.

The software automatically determined the projected area (*PA*, cm²), equivalent diameter (*ED*, mm), perimeter (*P*, mm), length (*L*, mm), major width (*D₁*, mm), minor width (*D₂*, mm), and shape factor (*SF*) of the selected objects. The length, major width, and minor width of the fruits are shown in Fig. 3.

The geometric mean diameter (*D_g*, mm) and sphericity (*φ*, %) were calculated using Equations (1) and (2), respectively (Mohsenin, 1986):

$$D_g = (L \cdot D_1 \cdot D_2)^{1/3} \quad (1)$$

$$\phi = (D_g / L) \times 100 \quad (2)$$

The surface area (*S*, mm²) calculated by Equation (3) was established by McCabe *et al.* (1986) and cited by Olajide and Ade-Omowaye (1999):

$$S = \pi \cdot D_g^2 \quad (3)$$

Fruit density (*D*, kg m⁻³) was calculated using Equation (4) (Meisami-asl *et al.*, 2009).

$$D = \text{Fruit mass} / \text{Fruit volume} \quad (4)$$

Shape factor (SF) was calculated using the values of projected area (PA) and perimeter (P) (SigmaScanPro, 2004). SF was automatically calculated by SigmaScan software using Equation (5):

$$SF = 4 \cdot \pi \cdot PA / P^2 \quad (5)$$

Elongation (E) determined from the vertical and horizontal orientations was calculated separately using Equation (6) (Firatlıgil-Durmuş et al., 2010):

$$E = \text{Major axis length} / \text{Minor axis length} \quad (6)$$

The size and shape of the five orange cultivars were determined from 40 samples of each cultivar and mutant, totaling 200 samples. SPSS statistical software was used for analysis of variance, and the difference between mean values was compared using Duncan's Multiple Comparison Test (IBM SPSS Statistics, 2010) with a 95% confidence level ($P=0.05$). Mean values (\bar{X}) were tabulated with the standard deviation (SD), range (minimum and maximum values), and coefficient of variation (CV, % = $[SD/\bar{X}] \times 100$). The principle component analysis (PCA) was applied to the pooled data to estimate the variability among the size and shape of the five orange cultivars. The relationships were determined from a covariance matrix derived from the mean size and shape and output data sets consisting of eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and principle component scores.

Results and discussion

The mean mass (248.80 g), volume (272.70 cm³), geometric mean diameter (77.31 mm), and surface area (188.87 cm²) of the 'A70' mutant were significantly greater than those of the other cultivars and mutants. The mean

of these features was not statistically different among 'A77', 'A88', 'Valencia', and 'Moro' (Tab. 1). Cavalcante et al. (2006) determined that the mass of eighteen orange cultivars varied between 168.33 and 237.77 grams. Topuz et al. (2005) found that the mass of several orange cultivars ('Alanya', 'Finike', 'Washington Navel', and 'Shamouti') ranged from 175.71 to 271.40 grams. The volume of these cultivars varied from 206.68 to 300.44 cm³, the geometric mean diameter ranged from 70.76 to 80.90 mm, and the surface area ranged from 162.2 to 202.6 cm². A comparison between these results and those obtained in the present study indicate that the findings regarding the physical properties of the orange cultivars and mutants are in concordance with these data. The fruit density values of the 'A77' mutant and the 'Valencia' and 'Moro' cultivars varied from 942.60 to 946.28 kg m⁻³, followed by the 'A88' (930.05 kg m⁻³) and 'A70' mutants (914.99 kg m⁻³).

Sharifi et al. (2007) found that the fruit density of small, medium, and large orange fruits ('Thompson Navel' cultivar) ranged from 999 to 1046 kg m⁻³. In a study by Topuz et al. (2005), fruit densities of the cultivars, 'Alanya', 'Finike', 'Washington Navel', and 'Shamouti', varied from 865.55 to 906.74 kg m⁻³, which was lower than that of the 'Thompson Navel' cultivar. In the present study, fruit density data of the 'A70', 'A77', and 'A88' mutants and 'Valencia' and 'Moro' cultivars were within the limits of the above-mentioned studies with orange cultivars. The highest values of sphericity were obtained from the 'A88' mutant (97.18%) followed by the 'Valencia' cultivar (96.59%), the 'A70' (96.41%) and 'A77' mutants (95.67%), and the 'Moro' cultivar (95.12%). The sphericity of the five orange cultivars and mutants used in this study was higher

Tab. 1. Mass, volume, density, geometric mean diameter, sphericity, and surface area of the orange cultivars and mutants (mean \pm standard deviation)

Features	Orange cultivars and mutants					
		'A70'	'A77'	'A88'	'Valencia'	'Moro'
Mass (g)	Mean	248.80 \pm 43.80a ¹	191.27 \pm 23.43b	199.75 \pm 23.39b	190.33 \pm 41.04b	192.54 \pm 39.14b
	Range	172.51-349.87	151.37-241.08	151.56-250.65	123.96-293.02	118.53-252.26
	CV%	17.60	12.25	11.71	21.56	20.33
Volume (cm ³)	Mean	272.70 \pm 52.47a	202.58 \pm 26.17b	215.45 \pm 29.80b	203.38 \pm 50.02b	204.30 \pm 44.94b
	Range	193-387	164-254	154-290	129-333	123-272
	CV%	19.24	12.92	13.83	24.59	22.00
Density (kg m ⁻³)	Mean	914.99 \pm 21.96c	945.20 \pm 23.37a	930.05 \pm 29.71b	942.60 \pm 35.70ab	946.28 \pm 32.20a
	Range	872.82-951.41	887.25-990.85	842.55-1000.95	879.27-1050.9	869.96-1023.06
	CV%	2.40	2.47	3.19	3.79	3.40
Geometric mean diameter (mm)	Mean	77.31 \pm 5.94a	67.77 \pm 4.02b	68.63 \pm 4.09b	67.37 \pm 6.86b	67.51 \pm 6.79b
	Range	67.57-90.00	60.39-76.77	59.43-78.36	55.48-82.12	54.54-78.43
	CV%	7.68	5.93	5.96	10.18	10.06
Sphericity (%)	Mean	96.41 \pm 2.08ab	95.67 \pm 1.45bc	97.18 \pm 1.39a	96.59 \pm 1.93a	95.12 \pm 2.47c
	Range	91.43-99.82	90.94-98.75	94.83-99.55	92.86-99.77	88.38-99.78
	CV%	2.16	1.52	1.43	2.00	2.60
Surface area (cm ²)	Mean	188.87 \pm 29.31a	144.79 \pm 17.35b	148.49 \pm 17.66b	144.04 \pm 29.33b	144.61 \pm 28.52b
	Range	143.44-254.48	114.57-185.16	110.96-192.92	96.69-211.83	93.44-193.23
	CV%	15.52	11.98	11.89	20.36	19.72

¹Mean followed by the same letter in the row do not differ from one other as determined by the Duncan's Multiple Range test at a 5% significance level

than those of the small, medium, and large grades (92.3%, 93.1%, and 94.8%) of the orange cultivar, 'Thompson', as reported by Sharifi *et al.* (2007). The CV value of the 'Valencia' cultivar was highest in mass, volume, density, geometric mean diameter, and surface area. The second CV value was found in the 'Moro' cultivar for all these parameters. The CV values of the 'A77' and 'A88' mutants were the lowest of the physical properties. The CV values of sphericity were highest in the 'Moro' cultivar; the 'A70' mutant and 'Valencia' cultivar had similar values.

The high R^2 values indicate that the equations shown in Fig. 4, may be adequate for designing and developing a specific sizing system for oranges based on their masses and

volumes, and for estimating the surface area and geometric mean diameter of the orange cultivars and mutants.

Firatlıgil-Durmuş *et al.* (2010) reported a prediction equation for the surface area of the white bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). The R^2 value showing the relationship between mass and surface area was 0.7891 for the white bean. Eifert *et al.* (2006) developed regression equations relating fruit mass to surface area and fruit mass to volume. The authors generated linear equations to predict the surface area of apples, cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo*), strawberry (*Fragaria ananassa*), and tomato from mass measurements with R^2 equaling 0.47, 0.75, 0.96, and 0.87, respectively. Meisami-asl *et al.* (2009) developed a multiple linear equation

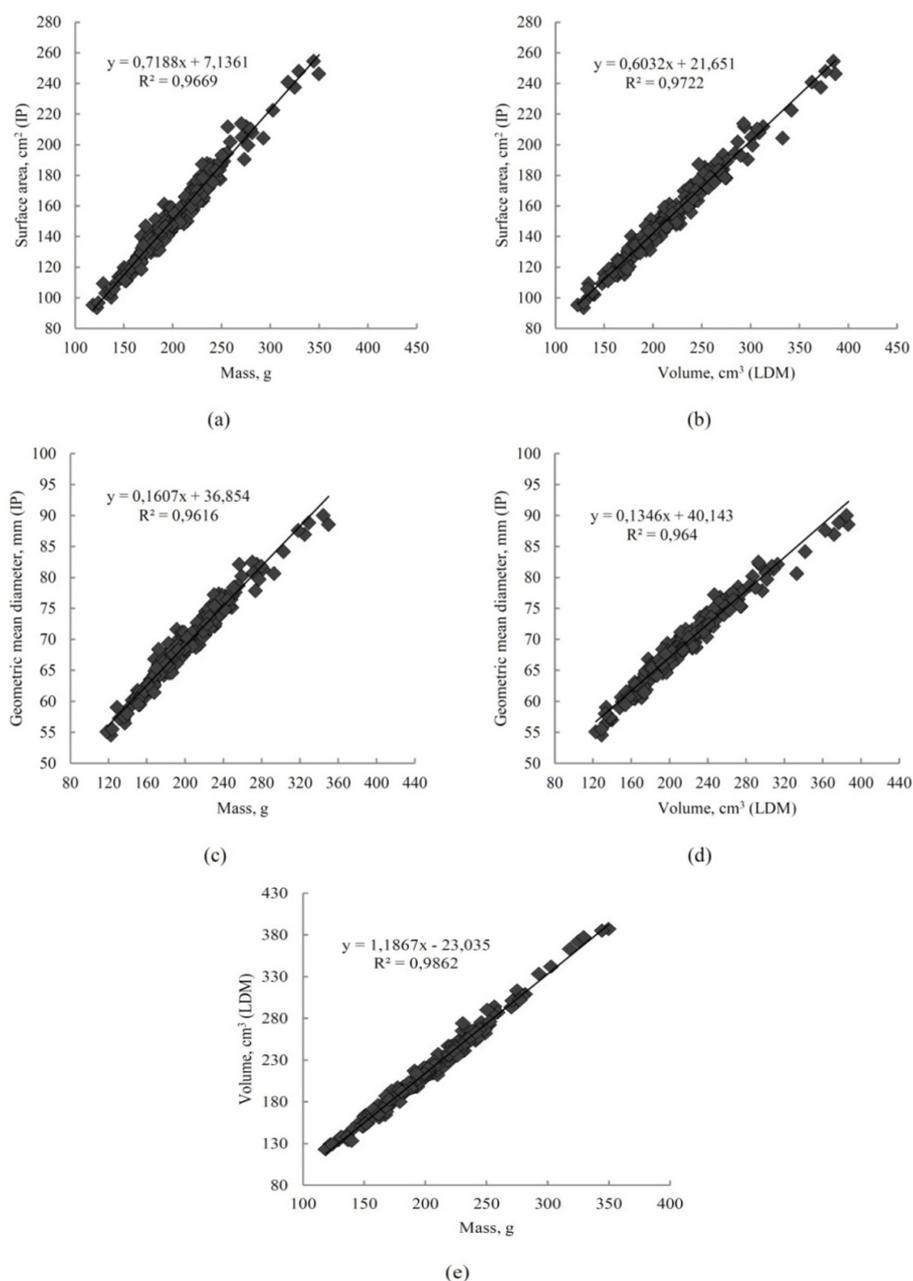


Fig. 4. The relationship between the physical properties of the orange cultivars and mutants

($R^2=0.999$) to predict the mass of an apple, and found that its mass is dependent upon independent variables of volume and solid density. Bovi and Spiering (2002) determined a linear equation with R^2 equal to 0.98 between the peach palm (*Bactris gasipaes*) fruit surface area, as estimated by digitalization and gravimetric methods. Rashidi et al. (2009) reported that the cantaloupe volume, as determined by the image processing method, was not different from the volume measured by the water displacement method. Clayton et al. (1995) developed non-linear regression models where both fruit mass and volume were used to predict the surface area of apples. Wang and Nguang (2007) designed a way of automatically computing the volume and surface area of axi-symmetric agricul-

tural products such as eggs, lemons (*Citrus limon*), limes (*Citrus aurantifolia*), and tamarillos (*Solanum betaceum*).

Ranges of projected surface area, equivalent diameter, perimeter, shape factor, and elongation, obtained from the two orientations (horizontal and vertical) of the five orange cultivars and mutants are shown in Fig. 5. The values of the projected surface area, equivalent diameter, and perimeter were similar for the two orientations. The values of shape obtained from the vertical orientation had narrower ranges than that of the horizontal orientation and skewed to the left. The results of elongation obtained from the vertical orientation showed that the five orange cultivars and mutants had more circularity than the elongation obtained from the horizontal orientation.

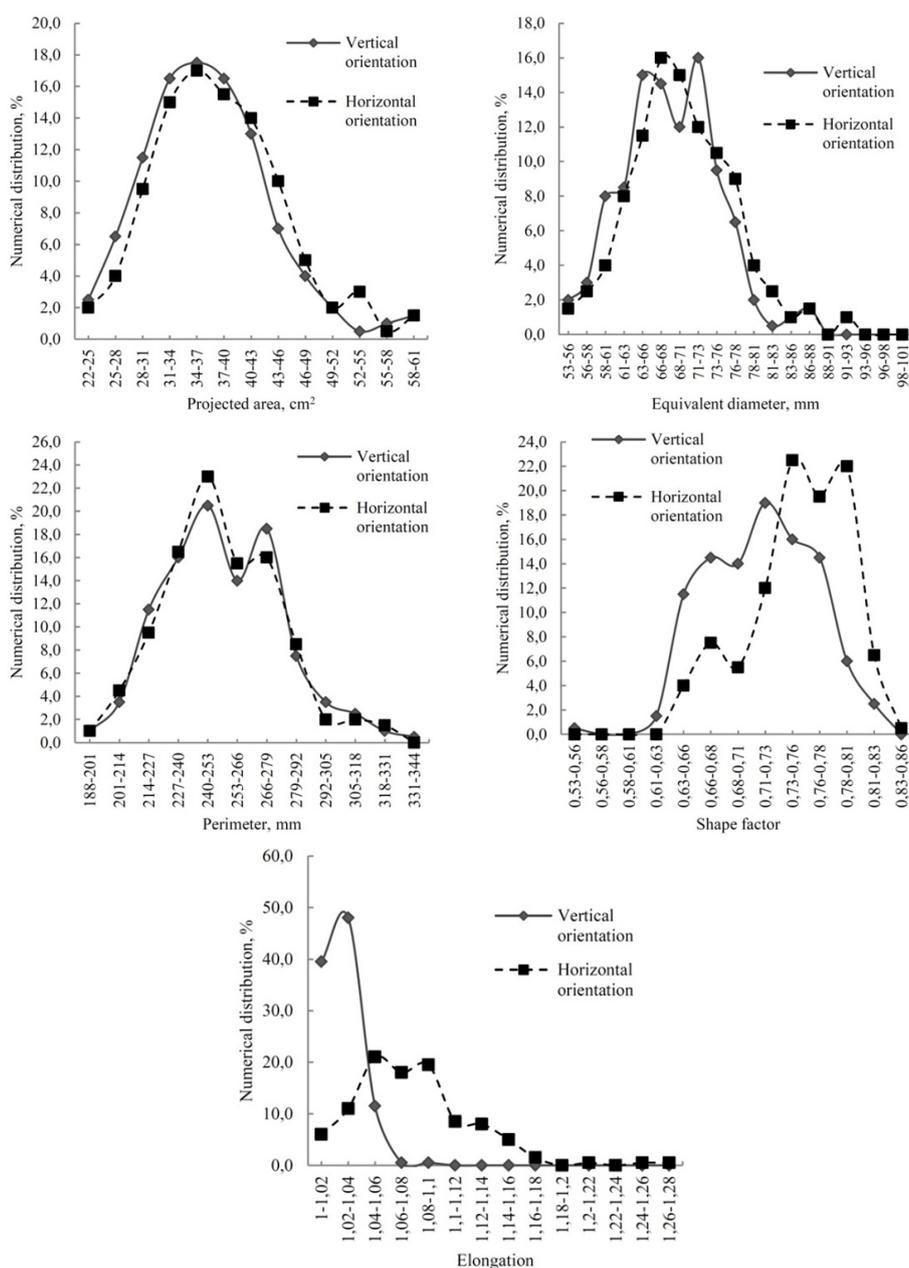


Fig. 5. Numerical distribution of size and shape of the orange cultivars and mutants

The length in the horizontal orientation and the major and minor width in the vertical orientation of the five orange cultivars and mutants ranged from 69.79-80.29 mm, 66.65-76.91 mm, and 64.98-74.88 mm, respectively (Tab. 2). The length (80.29 mm), major width (76.91 mm), and minor width (74.88 mm) of the 'A70' mutant were the

Tab. 2. Length and minor and major width of the orange cultivars and mutants (mean \pm standard deviation)

Features		Orange cultivars and mutants				
		'A70'	'A77'	'A88'	'Valencia'	'Moro'
Length (mm)	Mean	80.29 \pm 7.19a ¹	70.88 \pm 4.72b	70.56 \pm 4.51b	69.79 \pm 7.85b	71.09 \pm 8.22b
	Range	68.27-96.31	61.62-83.14	62.13-80.67	56.89-86.59	54.75-82.79
	CV%	8.96	6.66	6.39	11.25	11.56
Major width (mm)	Mean	76.91 \pm 5.55a	66.98 \pm 3.84b	68.49 \pm 3.98b	66.98 \pm 6.59b	66.65 \pm 6.34b
	Range	68.05-88.87	60.26-74.97	59.26-77.61	55.45-81.3	54.33-77.95
	CV%	7.22	5.73	5.81	9.84	9.51
Minor width (mm)	Mean	74.88 \pm 5.46a	65.58 \pm 3.73b	66.91 \pm 4.03b	65.44 \pm 6.42b	64.98 \pm 6.2b
	Range	65.77-86.22	59.32-72.93	57.01-76.86	54.13-79.68	52.53-76.37
	CV%	7.29	5.69	6.02	9.81	9.54

¹Mean followed by the same letter in the row do not differ from one other as determined by the Duncan's Multiple Range test at a 5% significance level

Tab. 3. Projected area, equivalent diameter, perimeter, shape factor, and elongation of the orange cultivars and mutants (mean \pm standard deviation)

Features		Orange cultivars and mutants in the vertical orientation				
		'A70'	'A77'	'A88'	'Valencia'	'Moro'
Projected area (cm ²)	Mean	45.04 \pm 6.50a ¹	34.34 \pm 3.89b	35.85 \pm 3.89b	34.46 \pm 3.89b	33.97 \pm 6.39b
	Range	34.83-59.24	27.84-42.71	26.61-46.33	23.39-50.34	22.23-46.29
	CV%	14.43	11.33	11.74	19.38	18.81
Equivalent diameter (mm)	Mean	75.54 \pm 5.39a	66.02 \pm 3.71b	67.45 \pm 3.96b	65.93 \pm 6.40b	65.47 \pm 6.25b
	Range	66.59-86.85	59.54-73.74	58.21-76.81	54.57-80.06	53.21-76.77
	CV%	7.14	5.62	5.87	9.71	9.55
Perimeter (mm)	Mean	281.96 \pm 23.13a	246.72 \pm 16.56b	251.02 \pm 18.56b	244.98 \pm 24.26b	243.73 \pm 27.14 \pm b
	Range	240.33-333.45	219.1-276.94	217.73-305.55	195.82-301.38	195.39-299.65
	CV%	8.20	6.71	7.39	9.90	11.14
Shape factor	Mean	0.71 \pm 0.05a	0.71 \pm 0.05a	0.72 \pm 0.05a	0.72 \pm 0.05a	0.72 \pm 0.05a
	Range	0.63-0.81	0.63-0.81	0.54-0.82	0.63-0.81	0.63-0.81
	CV%	7.04	7.04	6.94	6.94	6.94
Elongation	Mean	1.03 \pm 0.02a	1.02 \pm 0.01a	1.02 \pm 0.01a	1.02 \pm 0.02a	1.03 \pm 0.01a
	Range	1.00-1.06	1.00-1.04	1.01-1.05	1.00-1.08	1.00-1.06
	CV%	1.46	0.78	1.17	1.46	1.17
Features		Orange cultivars and mutants in the horizontal orientation				
		'A70'	'A77'	'A88'	'Valencia'	'Moro'
Projected area (cm ²)	Mean	46.77 \pm 8.01a	36.35 \pm 4.36b	36.48 \pm 4.31b	35.68 \pm 7.52b	36.15 \pm 7.26b
	Range	35.54-64.87	28.04-46.97	28.51-47.94	23.42-54.50	22.45-48.10
	CV%	17.13	11.99	11.81	21.08	20.08
Equivalent diameter (mm)	Mean	76.90 \pm 6.53a	67.91 \pm 4.04b	68.04 \pm 4.01b	67.05 \pm 7.03b	67.50 \pm 6.92b
	Range	67.27-90.88	59.75-77.33	60.25-78.13	54.60-83.30	53.46-78.26
	CV%	8.49	5.95	5.89	10.48	10.25
Perimeter (mm)	Mean	277.76 \pm 23.15a	247.97 \pm 15.39b	246.31 \pm 15.13b	246.51 \pm 25.36b	244.49 \pm 28.76b
	Range	235.99-322.36	223.8-290.65	218.32-282.45	203.4-318.25	188.64-291.95
	CV%	8.33	6.21	6.14	10.29	11.76
Shape factor	Mean	0.76 \pm 0.04a	0.74 \pm 0.05ab	0.75 \pm 0.03a	0.73 \pm 0.05b	0.76 \pm 0.05 \pm a
	Range	0.66-0.81	0.65-0.83	0.67-0.81	0.64-0.81	0.65-0.82
	CV%	5.26	6.76	4.00	6.85	6.58
Elongation	Mean	1.08 \pm 0.04ab	1.08 \pm 0.04ab	1.07 \pm 0.03b	1.07 \pm 0.04b	1.10 \pm 0.06a
	Range	1.01-1.15	1.01-1.21	1.01-1.13	1.01-1.15	1.02-1.27
	CV%	3.53	3.52	2.54	3.55	5.57

¹Mean followed by the same letter in the row do not differ from one other as determined by the Duncan's Multiple Range test at a 5% significance level

highest of the other cultivars. The obtained data for the length of 'A77', 'A88', 'Valencia', and 'Moro' varied from 69.79 to 71.09 mm, which was similar to the data for the 'Alanya' (69.21 mm) and 'Finike' cultivars (69.44 mm), as reported by Topuz *et al.* (2005). Cavalcante *et al.* (2006) reported that the length and width of seventeen orange cultivars ranged from 68.6 to 75.7 mm and 68.3 to 73.0 mm, respectively.

The projected surface area, equivalent diameter, perimeter, shape factor, and elongation in the vertical and horizontal orientations of the five orange cultivars and mutants are shown in Tab. 3.

The data obtained from the 'A70' mutant was highest for projected surface area, equivalent diameter, and perimeter, with a mean of 45.04 cm², 75.54 mm, and 281.96 mm, respectively in the vertical orientation, and 46.77 cm², 76.90 mm, and 277.76 mm, respectively in the horizontal orientation. The projected surface area, equivalent diameter, and perimeter of the 'A77', and 'A88' mutants, and the 'Valencia' and 'Moro' cultivars ranged from 33.97 to 35.85 cm², 65.47 to 67.45 mm, and 243.73 to 251.02 mm, respectively in the vertical orientation, and 35.68 to 36.48 cm², 67.05 to 68.04 mm, and 244.49 to 247.97 mm, respectively in the horizontal orientation. The mean of these parameters was not statistically different for 'A77', 'A88', 'Valencia', and 'Moro'. According to data obtained by Topuz *et al.* (2005), the ratio of the projected surface area of the four orange cultivars, determined from the horizontal orientation and vertical orientation, was in the range of 1.031 to 1.098. This ratio was found in the range of 1.018 to 1.064 for the five orange cultivars used in this study. The

value of the 'A70' mutant, which had the highest projected area in this study, was a little smaller than the 'Alanya' (49.14 cm²) and 'Finike' cultivars (49.11 cm²), as reported by Topuz *et al.* (2005).

In the vertical orientation, the orange cultivars and mutants showed statistical similarity in shape and elongation, the values of which ranged from 0.71 to 0.72 and from 1.02 and 1.03, respectively. However, the parameters obtained from the horizontal orientation were found to be statistically different. The lowest shape factor (0.73) was found in the 'Valencia' cultivar. The elongation of 'A88' and 'Valencia', which had a mean of 1.07, were smaller than those of the other cultivars, which varied from 1.08 to 1.10. These data were compatible with the data from Sharifi *et al.* (2007). In their study, the ratio of length:width of small, medium, and large orange grades of the 'Thompson Navel' cultivar, which is also considered elongation, ranged from 1.063 to 1.104.

The highest CV for the projected surface area, equivalent diameter, perimeter, length, major width, and minor width was found in the 'Valencia' and 'Moro' cultivars.

Principle component analysis (PCA) was applied to mean values of measured properties for detecting the most important factors of variability, and to explain the relationship between variables and observations. Tab. 4, which shows the proportion and cumulative variance of the observed variables, is explained by each of the principle components (PCs). The first three components produced by PCA were found to be 78% by PC1, 12% by PC2, and 7% by PC3 of the variation, for a total of 97%.

Tab. 4. Coefficients and eigenvalues for the first three principle components (PC) of PCA for the orange cultivars

Orientation	Variable	PC1	PC2	PC3
Vertical	Projected area	0,260	-0,033	-0,010
	Equivalent diameter	0,260	-0,042	-0,017
	Perimeter	0,260	-0,035	-0,040
	Shape factor	-0,107	-0,075	0,741
	Elongation	0,185	0,231	0,497
Horizontal	Projected area	0,258	0,045	-0,057
	Equivalent diameter	0,259	0,039	-0,068
	Perimeter	0,256	0,011	-0,113
	Shape factor	0,139	0,291	0,327
	Elongation	-0,019	0,653	0,025
	Length	0,256	0,098	-0,062
	Major length	0,260	-0,032	-0,006
	Minor length	0,260	-0,042	-0,022
	Mass	0,260	0,006	0,012
	Volume	0,260	-0,015	0,030
	Density	-0,243	0,190	-0,134
	Geometric mean diameter	0,260	0,007	-0,030
	Sphericity	0,062	-0,611	0,221
	Surface area	0,260	0,015	-0,022
	Eigen value	14,775	2,315	1,385
	Proportion	0,778	0,122	0,073
	Cumulative	0,778	0,899	0,972

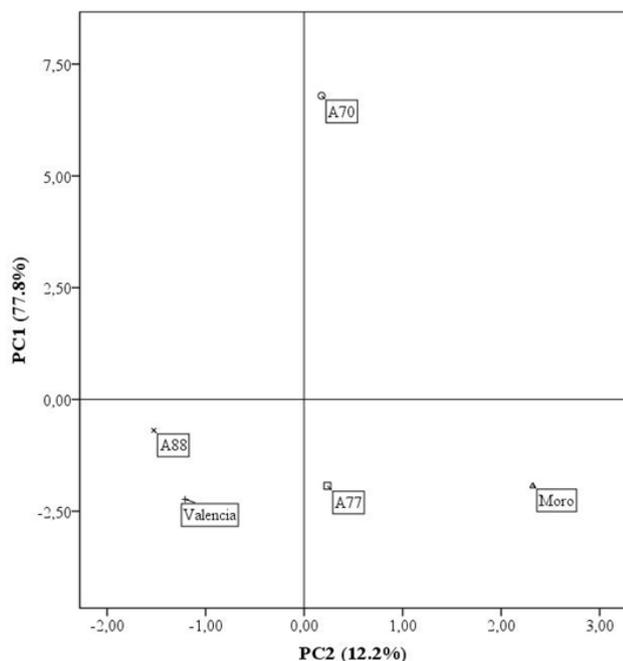


Fig. 6. PCA plot of the first two principle components demonstrating the relationships between the five orange cultivars

The most important variables integrated by the first component (PC1) were projected area, equivalent diameter, and perimeter obtained from the two orientations (vertical and horizontal), length, mass, volume, density, geometric mean diameter, and surface area of the orange cultivars and mutants. The results show that these variables are very important for distinguishing the orange cultivars in terms of dimensional and gravimetric features. PC1 negatively correlated with density, while there was a positive correlation between PC1 and dimensional and other gravimetric features of the orange cultivars. Sphericity negatively correlated with the second component (PC2), while elongation obtained from the horizontal orientation positively correlated with it. The output shows that these descriptors are the second most important variables depicting the roundness features of the orange cultivars. Shape factor obtained from the two orientations and elongation obtained from the vertical orientation of the orange cultivars were the most important variables of the third components (PC3), and these variables incorporated the shape features of the orange cultivars.

PCA produced two components accounting for a cumulative 90% of variability: The components consisted of dimensional, gravimetric, and roundness features of the orange cultivars. The orange cultivars were plotted on two dimensions based on the PCA results (Fig. 6).

'A70' was placed on the top half of the PC1 axis because of its dimensional and gravimetric features, which were the highest of the cultivars and mutants. Elongation of the 'Moro' cultivar positively correlated with the PC2 axis in the horizontal orientation, and was higher than that of 'A70' and 'A77', their sphericity of which was lower

than the 'Moro' cultivar. The plot showed that 'A88' and 'Valencia' had the highest values for sphericity, and the lowest values for elongation in the horizontal orientation. In the present study, PCA was used to explain the variability among the orange cultivars and mutants. PCA outputs supported the results of ANOVA.

Conclusions

The results of this study show that the projected surface area, equivalent diameter, and perimeter obtained from two orientations (vertical and horizontal), length, mass, volume, density, geometric mean diameter, and surface area are very important in distinguishing the orange cultivars and mutants in terms of dimensional and gravimetric properties. Data from the 'A70' mutant of the 'Valencia' cultivar showed dimensional and gravimetric properties that were higher than those of 'A77', 'A88', 'Valencia' and 'Moro'. In regard to the roundness properties, the sweet orange cultivar ('Valencia') and its mutants ('A70', 'A77', and 'A88') had the highest values for sphericity, and the lowest elongation values compared to the blood orange cultivar ('Moro').

This study showed that the size and shape of the five orange cultivars and mutants can be used to distinguish them from one to another. These properties can also be used to determine the parameters for sorting and post-harvest processing that should be incorporated in the equipment design.

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