

1 **Oil accumulation in intact olive fruits measured by near infrared**
2 **spectroscopy – acousto-optically tunable filter.**

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4 Running title: Oil content in olive fruits using NIRS

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6 Andrea Bellincontro^{1*}, Giovanni Caruso², Fabio Mencarelli¹, Riccardo Gucci²

7

8 ¹Dept. Innovazione dei Sistemi Biologici, Agro-alimentari e Forestali, University of Tuscia,

9 Via San Camillo de Lellis snc, 01100 Viterbo, Italy. phone 0039 0761 357313, 0039fax

10 357498

11 ²Dept. Coltivazione e Difesa delle Specie Legnose, University of Pisa, Via del Borghetto 80,

12 56124 Pisa, Italy

13

14 *Corresponding author: Andrea Bellincontro, ¹Dept. for Innovation in Biological Agro-food

15 and Forest systems (DIBAF) –Postharvest Laboratory, University of Tuscia.

16 e-mail: bellin@unitus.it

17 **Abstract**

18 BACKGROUND: A field experiment was conducted to test the reliability of the
19 near infrared spectroscopy (NIR) method to measure mesocarp oil content *in vivo*
20 against nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) determinations using three different olive
21 cultivars at different stages of ripening.

22 RESULTS: In PLS model carried out for the cultivar Arbequina the R^2c
23 (coefficients of determination in calibration) obtained was of 0.991, while the R^2cv
24 (coefficients of determination in cross-validation) of 0.979; for the cultivar Frantoio the
25 indexes were respectively of 0.982 and 0.971, for the cultivar Leccino of 0.977 for R^2c
26 and 0.965 for R^2cv . Finally, for the combined model (sum of the three varieties) those
27 indexes were respectively equal to 0.921 and 0.903. The RPD (Residual Predictive
28 Deviation) ratio was insufficient for predictive model of cultivar Leccino only (1.98),
29 whereas in other cases RPD ratios were completely sufficient, within the estimation
30 range over 2.5 - 3 (2.61 in global model, and 4.23 in cultivar Frantoio), or describing a
31 great capacity with values greater than 5 as in the case of the cultivar Arbequina (9.58).

32 CONCLUSION: The NIR proved a novel, rapid, reliable method to monitor the
33 oil accumulation process in intact olive fruits in the field. The innovative approach of
34 coupling NIR and NMR technologies opens new scenarios for determining the optimal
35 time for harvesting olive trees to obtain maximum oil production.

36 **Keywords:** *Olea europaea* L., cultivar, mesocarp, NIRS, NMR, PLSR.

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41 INTRODUCTION

42 The olive fruit is a drupe, composed of an external exocarp, a fleshy mesocarp,
43 and a woody endocarp surrounding the seed. The mesocarp is the largest tissue as it
44 accounts for 60-70% of the dry weight (DW) of entire fruits respectively, depending on
45 cultivar and water availability^{1,2} The mesocarp is the tissue of economic value not only
46 for table consumption but also for oil production since up to 98% of the oil accumulates
47 there. About 90% of olive fruits, produced over 10 million ha worldwide, are destined
48 to oil production, while only 10% is for table consumption.³

49 The process of oil accumulation in olive fruits starts appreciably in the second
50 half of the summer, progresses rapidly for about eight weeks and then slows down as
51 the fruit approaches ripening.^{1,4} The cultivar and climatic conditions during fruit
52 development strongly influence oil accumulation and determine the oil content at
53 harvest.⁴ During ripening the olive fruit undergoes modifications in texture, colour, and
54 chemical composition⁵, that are also the result of interactions between environmental
55 and genetic factors. For example, soil water availability alters the progression of
56 ripening and eventually affects oil accumulation and quality.^{6,7} Thus, in order to
57 determine the optimal stage at which olive fruits should be harvested, several
58 parameters are to be monitored.

59 Determining the oil content and composition using analytical methods is time
60 consuming and expensive and, for this reason, simple methods have been proposed to
61 guide olive growers in the decision making process about harvesting. The colour
62 assessment of the exocarp and the mesocarp is a quick method often used in the field⁸,
63 but the correlation between the degree of pigmentation of both tissues and either oil
64 accumulation or quality parameters is cultivar dependent⁹ and varies with prevailing

65 environmental conditions during fruit development. Colour change occurs because of
66 chlorophyll degradation and accumulation of anthocyanins that turn the skin to more or
67 less dark brown hues depending on anthocyanins concentration.^{5,10} Temperature and
68 light play a key role in biosynthesis and accumulation of anthocyanins, phenolic
69 compounds and flavonoids in grape berries, although individual effects of these
70 environmental factors are difficult to separate.¹¹ Thus, it is not surprising that the
71 relationship between colour, oil content, and composition in olive fruits is often
72 misleading and, therefore, determining harvest time for maximum oil quality and oil
73 content based on fruit colour is unsatisfactory according to modern standards of olive
74 growing.

75 Visible and near infrared spectroscopy (Vis-NIRS) is a well known technique for
76 the non-destructive measurement of quality attributes of food commodities including
77 fresh fruits and vegetables.¹² The NIR region contains information concerning the
78 relative proportions of C-H, N-H, and O-H bonds, which are the primary structural
79 components of organic molecules, and so NIRS can be used, combined with a
80 chemometric approach, as an alternative technique to the destructive, analytical methods
81 commonly used for quality assessment. Partial least squares (PLS) regression is the
82 chemometric application^{13,14} usually employed in the development of predicting models
83 of qualitative attributes for fruits and vegetables.¹⁵

84 Regarding the use of NIRS on olive fruits and related products a few studies
85 were recently performed¹⁶⁻²⁰. Cayuela et al.²¹ (2009) used an application of the NIR-
86 acousto-optic tunable filter (AOTF) for the prediction of fruit moisture, free acidity, and
87 oil content in intact olive fruits. The potentiality of the same device in predicting total
88 and specific olive phenols through the ripening evolution was explored by Bellincontro

89 et al.²² Moreover, the NIR-AOTF apparatus was tested for the prediction of the
90 percentage of oil content in two olive cultivars and two selections.²³ The high
91 performance of the NIR-AOTF equipment is mainly due to the wavelength selection
92 capability of the acousto-optical filter.²⁴

93 The objective of the present study was to test and validate the potential use of
94 NIR-AOTF for the determination of the oil content of olive fruits during their
95 development. For this reason, we calibrated the NIR-AOTF against the NMR technique,
96 the latter being the most rapid and reliable method to measure the mesocarp oil content
97 in fruits samples. In order to have a wide range of oil content values the study was
98 conducted on three olive cultivars with different patterns of oil accumulation at different
99 stages of fruit development.

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101 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

102 *Plant material and olive fruit sampling*

103 An irrigated olive orchard growing in a sandy-loam soil at the experimental farm of
104 University of Pisa (43° 01' N; 10° 36' E) was used in 2010. Fruits were sampled from
105 four fully-productive trees per cultivar of 'Frantoio', 'Leccino' and 'Arbequina', which
106 yielded an average of 24, 18 and 18 kg per tree, respectively. All trees from that orchard
107 were harvested on 25 October (164 days after full bloom), except those that were used
108 for sampling fruits at later dates of the current study. The three cultivars are widely
109 cultivated worldwide because of their agronomic or qualitative characteristics.
110 'Frantoio' is renowned for the excellent quality of the oil, 'Leccino' for high yields and
111 its adaptation to cold climate conditions, 'Arbequina' for its suitability to very high
112 density plantations. Fruits of cultivars 'Pendolino' and 'Moraiolo' from that same

113 orchard were also used to either calibrate the response of NMR equipment or determine
114 the minimum duration of the drying period prior to NMR analysis, as explained in the
115 next paragraph.

116 The orchard floor was permanently covered with grass and water was supplied
117 by subsurface drip irrigation.²⁵ An irrigation experiment, consisting of three levels (full
118 irrigation, 50% deficit irrigation, complementary irrigation) was established since 2006
119 and maintained until 2010. In 2010 water was distributed from July 9 through
120 September 17 to satisfy fully (1997 m³ ha⁻¹) or partially (175 and 92 m³ ha⁻¹) tree water
121 needs. Relatively low volumes of water were needed for the deficit treatments because
122 of frequent precipitations that occurred during the summer. Annual precipitation in
123 2010 was 1185 mm, 25% of which from July 1 through October 25, much higher than
124 the 18-year mean (1990-2008) of 635 mm for that site.

125 Intact, healthy fruits were sampled for the determination of oil content by NIR-
126 AOTF and NMR. Twenty fruits were randomly sampled from around the canopy of
127 each tree at six ('Frantoio' and 'Leccino') and four ('Arbequina') dates from the
128 beginning of October through the end of November. Totally, twenty five sample set of
129 drupes were collected for Leccino cultivar, while for Frantoio and Arbequina cultivars
130 were collected respectively twenty and sixteen set of samples. Each sample set was
131 represented by 20 olives, and the same fruits were firstly spectral detected and then
132 destined to the analytical measurements. Prior to the determination of oil content the
133 maturation index (MI) was measured according to a standard methodology, whereby the
134 skin and flesh colours were scored according to a 0 to 7 scale.⁸

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136 *NMR determination of mesocarp oil content*

137 The mesocarp oil content was measured using an NMR Oxford MQC-23 analyzer
138 (Oxford Analytical Instruments Ltd., Oxford, UK) at 40 °C. The NMR equipment
139 allows to measure the oil content in small samples of fruit dry tissue (about 4 g) rapidly
140 (16 sec for each reading) and, hence, to process a large number of samples in a short
141 period of time.²⁶ In general, we followed the method by Del Rio and Romero²⁶ modified
142 as follows. Samples of 20 fruits were taken to the laboratory, the mesocarp separated
143 from the endocarp and dried in an oven at 70 °C for 48 h. A preliminary time-course
144 experiment conducted on mesocarp tissue and milled fruits of three cultivars
145 ('Frantoio', 'Leccino' and 'Moraiolo'), taken from the same orchard, had shown that 48
146 h was a sufficient time to dry the samples adequately and to obtain stable values of DW
147 (dry weight) and oil content (**Figure 1**). Successively, 4-5 g of dry pulp were cut in
148 small (2 to 5 mm) pieces by a razor blade, put in a 5-mL glass vial and kept at 70 °C
149 until all samples had been prepared. Prior to analyses, samples were conditioned at
150 room temperature for 15 min and then their oil content measured in triplicate.

151 The NMR MQC-23 analyzer was calibrated against known standards and olive
152 fruit samples, the oil content of which had been determined by the Soxhlet method²⁷
153 using 1000 g of fruits from a single tree of three cultivars ('Frantoio', 'Leccino' and
154 'Pendolino') growing in the same orchard and harvested at different dates in 2009. The
155 fruits were washed with tap water, their surface dried with blotting paper, then crushed
156 using a hammer mill (MM-100, MC2, Ingenieria y Systemas, Sevilla, Spain) and the
157 paste oven-dried at 70 °C for 72 h. An aliquot (4-5 g) from each subsample was used to
158 determine the oil content of the milled olive fruits.

159

160 *Spectral acquisition, chemometric procedure and data analysis*

161 A Luminar 5030 miniature, hand-held NIR analyzer (Brimrose Corporation,
162 Baltimore, Maryland, USA), based on the AOTF-NIR principle, was used for spectral
163 detection. This portable device can be directly used in the field, but in the current study
164 spectral detections were conducted under laboratory conditions. Two different
165 measurements were performed on each intact olive fruit through contact between the
166 external gun of the NIR device and the epicarp in correspondence to the equatorial zone
167 of the drupe using the diffuse reflectance method of detection, while the raw spectra
168 were detected and recorded in transmittance mode.²² A single measurement, at the speed
169 of 16,000 wavelength sec⁻¹, was conducted in the 1100–2300 nm range, with 2 nm
170 wavelength increments and 10 spectra per average, which represents a good compromise
171 between speed of acquisition and signal quality of the spectrum. The average of the two
172 measurements, carried out on the opposite faces of the drupe, was the spectral response
173 of the fruit. A total number of 320, 460, and 500 drupes were spectrally tested for
174 ‘Arbequina’, ‘Frantoio’, and ‘Leccino’, respectively.

175 Raw spectra were statistically pre-treated for absorbance ($\log 1/T$)
176 transformation using SNAP! 2.03 software (Brimrose). Before the calibration and
177 construction of the prediction models, the spectral variations of the data sets were
178 analyzed through Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The absorbance spectra,
179 obtained as spectral average of each olive subsets, were used as X-variables for the final
180 models. Mean normalization, Multiplicative Scattering Correction (MSC), and Standard
181 Normal Variate (SNV) treatments, first order of Savitzky-Golay filter (6 points of
182 smoothing) or second order of Savitzky-Golay filter (6 points of smoothing) were also
183 tested, although they were not utilized in final modeling. In fact, absorbance spectra,
184 without any data pre-treatment, were identified as most effective in achieving the goal

185 of the model calibrations. Partial Least Squares (PLS) models²⁸ were obtained on the
186 full spectrum (1100-2300 nm), considering the spectral significant variables at specific
187 wavelength intervals. The mean values \pm standard deviation (SD) obtained by the
188 reference measurements were used as Y-variables in the PLS matrices in which they
189 were opposed to the averaged spectra, as reported below. Predicting models of the
190 percentage of oil were developed for individual cultivars, and then a global model was
191 calculated starting from the data sum of the three sets and also included in predicting
192 models. The total sample set of data was considered for the calibration and validation
193 procedure, which was carried out by leave-one-out cross-validation method. Outliers
194 identification and elimination was not performed. The statistical indexes R^2_C
195 (coefficient of multiple determination of calibration) and R^2_{CV} (coefficient of multiple
196 determination of cross-validation), Standard Error of Calibration (SEC), Root Mean
197 Standard Error of Calibration (RMSEC), Root Mean Standard Error of Cross Validation
198 (RMSECV) and Bias were used to determine the significance of the calculations. The
199 RPD (Ratio of Performance to Deviation) ratios, defined as the ratio between the SD
200 and the Standard Error of Cross-Validation (SECV)²⁹, were also calculated to derive the
201 final models for the all parameter estimation. Statistical pre-treatments, PCA, and PLS
202 models were performed using Unscrambler v9.7 software (CAMO ASA, Oslo,
203 Norway); graphs, score plot and scatter plots were performed, after data exportation
204 from Unscambler, using SigmaPlot v. 11.0 (Systat Software Inc., San Jose, CA, USA).

205

206 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

207 Fruits from the three cultivars had different MI and FW during the sampling
208 period. Fruits of 'Frantoio' and 'Arbequina' were green until the end of October,

209 whereas by that time those of 'Leccino' had already reached a score of 3.5,
210 corresponding to dark colour over about 50% of the epicarp (**Figure 2**). By the end of
211 October the skin of 'Leccino' fruits was completely black, that of 'Frantoio' was only
212 50% black. 'Leccino' and 'Frantoio' fruits had similar FW, those of 'Arbequina' were
213 lighter. The range of oil concentrations was wide during fruit maturation and across
214 cultivars. The mesocarp of 'Frantoio' fruits had higher oil content than 'Leccino' or
215 'Arbequina' fruits throughout the sampling period (**Figure 2**). Besides genetic factors,
216 cultural practices (e.g. irrigation) or the cropping condition of the tree can affect
217 mesocarp oil content.^{6,30} For instance, the oil content of cvs. Leccino and Morisca
218 increased as the degree of water deficit experienced during fruit development
219 decreased.^{6,30} Moreover, it has been shown that high crop loads determined a decrease
220 in fruit oil content, that was more pronounced as water deficit increased³⁰, and that the
221 oil content increased by 10-15% when the crop load was halved.^{6,31}

222 The absorbance mean raw spectra and in 2nd derivative, relative to all data
223 acquired for all fruits of individual cultivars are reported respectively in **Figure 3 A and**
224 **B**. The first band occurred at 1150 nm, and corresponded to a combination of the
225 symmetric and asymmetric OH stretching and OH bending bands. A second band
226 appeared at 1200 nm, corresponding to the second overtone of the CH stretching
227 vibrations of CH₃, CH₂, and CH=CH. Spectra were mainly dominated by two principal
228 water absorption bands of around 1450 nm and 1920-1950 nm.³² They represented the
229 first overtone of the symmetric and asymmetric OH stretching and combination bands
230 (1450 nm), and the combination of the OH stretching band and to the OH bending band
231 (1920-1950 nm), respectively.^{33,34} The two bands at 1720 and 1750 nm corresponded to
232 the first overtone of the CH stretching vibration of CH₃, CH₂ and CH=CH. The last band

233 in olive fruit spectra, observed at 2250 nm, was due to the combination of the CH
234 stretching vibrations of the CH₃, CH₂ with other vibrations. The peaks at 1200, 1720-
235 1750, and 2250 nm can be attributed to the presence of oil, as reported previously.³⁵ In
236 PLS modeling for percentage of oil calibrations and predictions, specific wavelengths
237 were not selected and the entire spectrum (1100-2300 nm) was included in chemometric
238 calculations, because of the greater contribute on the modeling. Preliminary PCA,
239 carried out on all the spectral detections, was used just for sample description, while
240 outlier selection was not applied and no samples were discarded. The same PCA
241 reported in **Figure 4** showed that virtually all of the variance was explained by PC1 and
242 PC2 (respectively 74% and 22%), while for the explanation of total residual variance
243 (99%) four PCs were required. In all procedures that require chemometric approaches, a
244 high variability in the concentration of the parameters, measured by destructive
245 measurements, is relevant for successful modeling. In our study mesocarp oil content
246 values ranged over a wide interval and statistical index showed high variability (**Table**
247 **1**), which is good for the accuracy and the robustness of the final models that are largely
248 influenced, as well as the effectiveness of the spectral detections, by the variability of
249 the destructive values.

250 The raw spectra (only transformed in absorbance, $\log 1/T$) were used for
251 modeling since they did not require any particular filtering and were more effective than
252 spectra sets subjected to different pretreatments (data not shown, see also Materials and
253 Methods). Calibration and cross-validation results for all models, in terms of estimated
254 mesocarp oil content with respect to the olive varieties, are reported in Table 2. Scatter
255 plots obtained from the same data sets showed high correlations for all the models of the
256 tested olive cultivars, including total model carried out as the sum of three varieties

257 employed (**Figure 5**). In the PLS model developed for the cultivar Arbequina the R^2c
258 (coefficients of determination in calibration) obtained was 0.991, whereas the R^2cv
259 (coefficients of determination in cross-validation) was 0.979; for the cultivar Frantoio
260 the indexes were respectively 0.982 and 0.971, for the cultivar Leccino 0.977 and 0.965
261 for R^2c and R^2cv , respectively. Finally, for the combined model (sum of the three
262 varieties) those indexes were respectively equal to 0.921 and 0.903.

263 R^2cv values greater than 0.9 are usually considered to provide good quantitative
264 information for the estimation of the predictive accuracy of models.³² Our R^2c and R^2cv
265 values were also higher than those obtained for the oil content of two Spanish olive
266 cultivars (Arbequina and Picual) in a similar study where the NIR-AOTF equipment
267 was used in combination with NMR that was the reference method.²³ In another study,
268 in which NIR detection was obtained by a different spectral device but the percentage of
269 oil content was measured by the same NMR method, R^2 in calibration and prediction
270 were 0.98 and 0.96, respectively.³⁵ Therefore, we can consider the R^2 indexes as the
271 parameter able to explain the good correlation between the non-destructive opposed to
272 the destructive data set. The high correlation obtained in this work can be probably
273 attributed to the accuracy and precision of the reference data of mesocarp oil content, as
274 well as to the effectiveness of the NIR-AOTF. Cozzolino et al.³⁶ emphasized the
275 importance of measuring accurately the destructive samples in chemometric studies.
276 However, the real and applicative performance of the predictive models is better defined
277 if combined with the estimation indexes of the potential errors in calibration and
278 prediction or cross-validation (RMSEC and RMSECV). In our study RMSEC and
279 RMSECV values were respectively 0.276% and 0.426% for cultivar Arbequina, 0.668%
280 and 0.849% for cultivar Frantoio, 0.87% and 1.069% for cultivar Leccino (**Table 2**). As

281 for the global model, the values of the resulting RMSEC and RMSECV reached 1.413%
282 and 1.601%. In their work, Gracia and León²³ reported RMSECV ranging between 1.52
283 and 1.89%, while Dupuy et al.³⁵ obtained standard errors in prediction (SEP) equal to
284 1.18, which was slightly lower (0.78 %) when the NIR spectroscopy was combined with
285 MIR. Dardenne³⁷ clarified how the cross-validation method can be used in NIRS
286 applications in order to predict qualitative attributes, even if the accuracy of the methods
287 could be improved by the use of an appropriate, preferably external, set of validation.
288 However, in leave-one-out cross validation, one sample is removed from the dataset and
289 a calibration model is built on the base of the remaining subset. Removed samples are
290 then used for the calculation of the prediction residual³⁶. This validation method can be
291 considered satisfactory especially when, as in our case, the experimental dataset is
292 limited and it is not possible to arrange it into two separate subsets: the big one to be
293 used for calibration and the small one for external validation. In our case we started
294 from a total sample of 1280 drupes and 2560 spectral measurements to end with a
295 maximum of 192 reference values of oil content (**Table 2**), due to the need to pool 20
296 olive fruits in order to obtain a representative number of samples for the NMR analyses.
297 However, when we tried to use the dataset arranged for the global model by separating
298 it into two subsets (calibration and prediction) for the consequent PLS modeling, the
299 results were not significant as in the case of the cross validated model (data not shown).
300 Certainly, a validation procedure of the predicting models by on-field determination of
301 the oil content will be carried out. The RPD ratio is a statistical index used to evaluate
302 the predictive ability of the NIR applications between low and high values of the
303 response variable.^{29,38} Values higher than 5 indicate good discrimination especially if
304 destined to quality and food control.^{38,39} In our study the RPD ratios were completely

305 sufficient, within the estimation range over 2.5 - 3 (2.61 in global model, and 4.23 in
306 cultivar Frantoio), or describing a great capacity with values were greater than 5 as in
307 the case of the cultivar Arbequina (9.58); only in the case of cultivar Leccino an
308 insufficient RPD ratio (1.98) was obtained for predictive model.

309 In conclusion, traditional techniques to determine oil content and oil
310 composition are time consuming and their responses are too slow to be compatible with
311 the objective of identifying optimal harvest time in the field. NMR is a reliable
312 technique already available to determine the oil content of few grams of entire fruits or
313 mesocarp tissue, but it implies destructive sampling and drying of fruit specimens (Del
314 Rio and Romero, 1999).²⁶ The robustness and high correlations obtained in this study
315 demonstrate the feasibility and potential of NIR-AOTF spectroscopy, coupled with
316 NMR technique for calibration, as a reliable method to measure the oil content of entire
317 olive fruits. This fast technique proved adequate for monitoring the oil accumulation
318 during fruit ripening and provide useful information on the best time for harvesting
319 olive fruits and can significantly enhance the confidence on developing indexes for best
320 harvesting of olives.

321

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452 **Table 1.** Mean, standard deviation (SD), and range of mesocarp oil content (% dry
453 weight) measured by NMR for total sample sets and individual olive cultivars
454 (Arbequina, Frantoio, and Leccino).

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	Arbequina	Frantoio	Leccino	Total
Fruits (n)	320	460	500	1280
Data set (n)	48	69	75	192
Mean	59.1	64.7	61.0	61.8
SD	55.25	59.05	52.41	52.41
minimum	62.8	72.0	68.2	72.0
maximum	2.1	3.6	4.1	4.2

461 **Table 2.** Calibration and cross validation results relative to the PLS models obtained for
 462 three different olive cultivars and data set. Number of data included in the
 463 dataset (n), coefficient of determination in calibration (R_c^2) and in cross-
 464 validation (R_{cv}^2), root mean standard error in calibration (RMSEC) and in cross-
 465 validation (RMSECV), standard error of calibration (SEC), bias, number of
 466 latent variables (LVs), and ratio of performance to deviation (RPD) are reported.
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Cultivar (n)	Calibration					Cross validation			
	R_c^2	RMSEC	SEC	Bias	LVs	R_{cv}^2	RMSECV	SECV	RPD
Arbequina (48)	0.991	0.276	0.279	-3.18E-06	11	0.979	0.426	0.43	9.58
Frantoio (69)	0.982	0.668	0.673	2.27E-06	8	0.971	0.849	0.855	4.23
Leccino (75)	0.977	0.87	0.876	-6.61E-06	8	0.965	1.069	1.076	1.98
Total (192)	0.921	1.413	1.417	-2.98E-07	11	0.903	1.601	1.605	2.61

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473 **Captions for figures**

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475 **Figure 1.** Oil content (A) and weight (B) of mesocarp tissue (open symbols) and milled
476 fruits (closed symbols) of three olive cultivars ('Frantoio' ○ - ●, 'Moraiolo' □ -
477 ■, 'Leccino' Δ - ▲) measured after different drying periods at 70 °C. Fruits
478 were crushed using a hammer mill (MM-100, MC2, Ingenieria y Systemas,
479 Sevilla, Spain).

480 **Figure 2.** Maturation index, fruit fresh weight and oil content of fruits sampled from
481 trees of 'Frantoio' and 'Leccino' from the end of September through the end of
482 November 2010. Fruits of 'Arbequina' were sampled only until the end of
483 October. Symbols are means of four replicates - standard error bars.

484 **Figure 3.** NIR-AOTF mean spectra, raw (A) and in 2nd derivative (B), of all olive
485 samples measured during their ripening evolution. Spectra are plotted as
486 absorbance units calculated from the original detections ($\log 1/T$) *versus* the
487 wavelength (nm). Significant bands are indicated.

488 **Figure 4.** Three-dimensional score plot of the principal component analysis (PC1 vs
489 PC2 vs PC3) carried out on the absorbance NIR-AOTF spectra of grouped
490 samples generated using three olive cultivars (Arbequina, Frantoio, and
491 Leccino). Percentage of the explained variance is reported in brackets on each
492 axis.

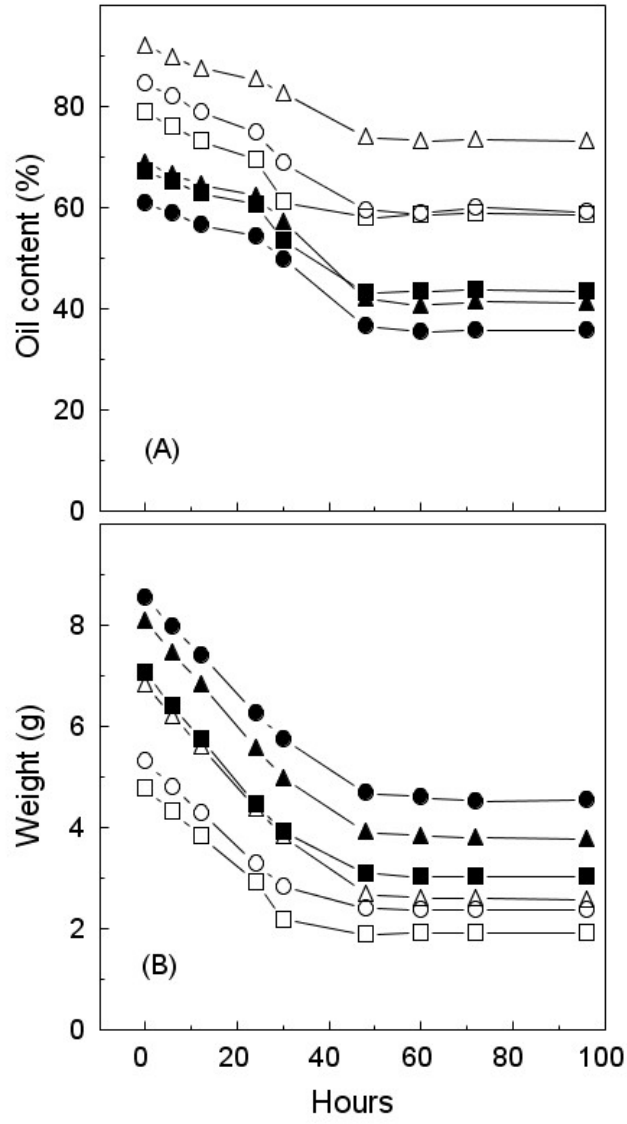
493 **Figure 5.** Scatter plots relative to the PLS models for percentage of oil prediction
494 carried out on cultivar Arbequina (A), Frantoio (B), Leccino (C), and on the
495 global dataset of olive samples (sum of the three cultivar) (D). For each cultivar
496 measured values are plotted *versus* predicted values and calibration and
497 validation datasets are reported.

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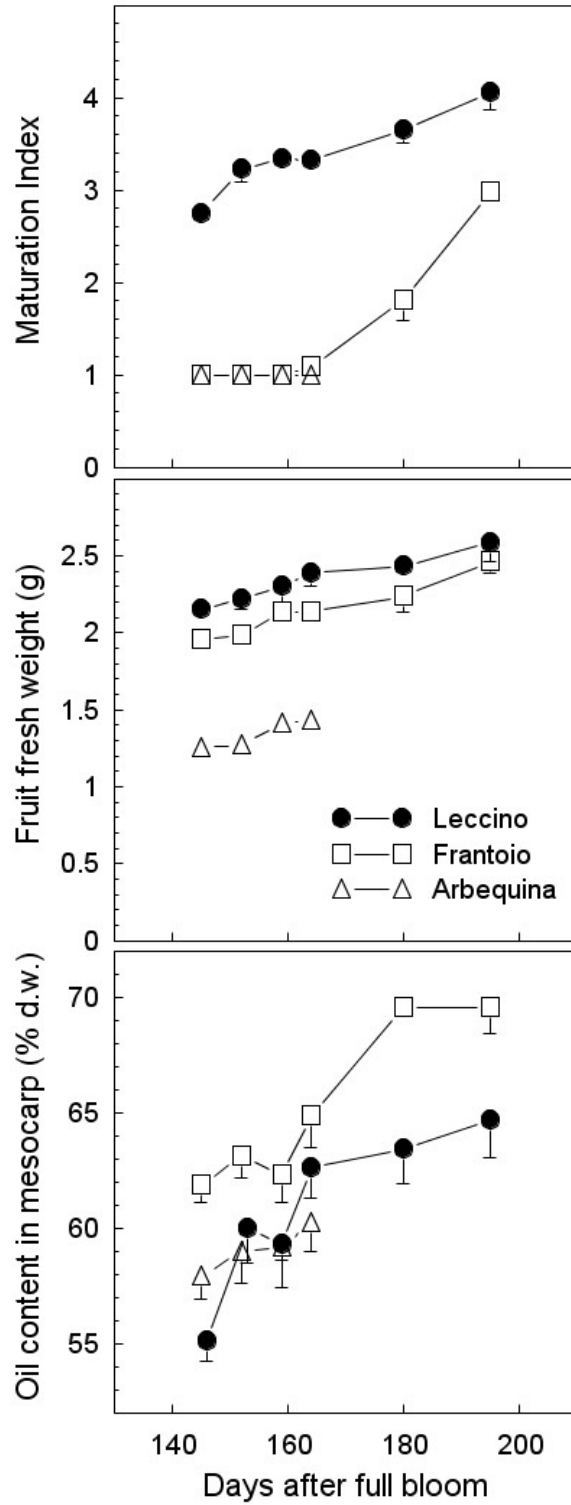
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505 **Figure 1**
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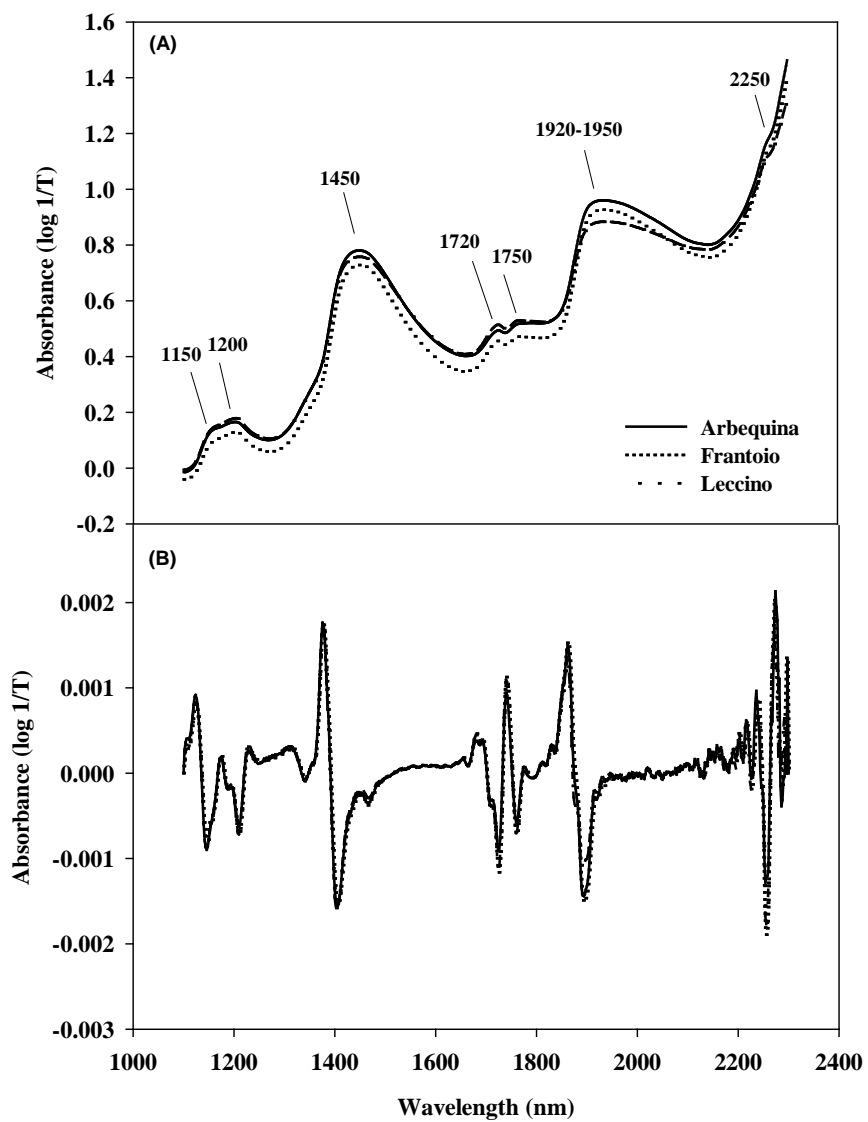
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517 **Figure 2**



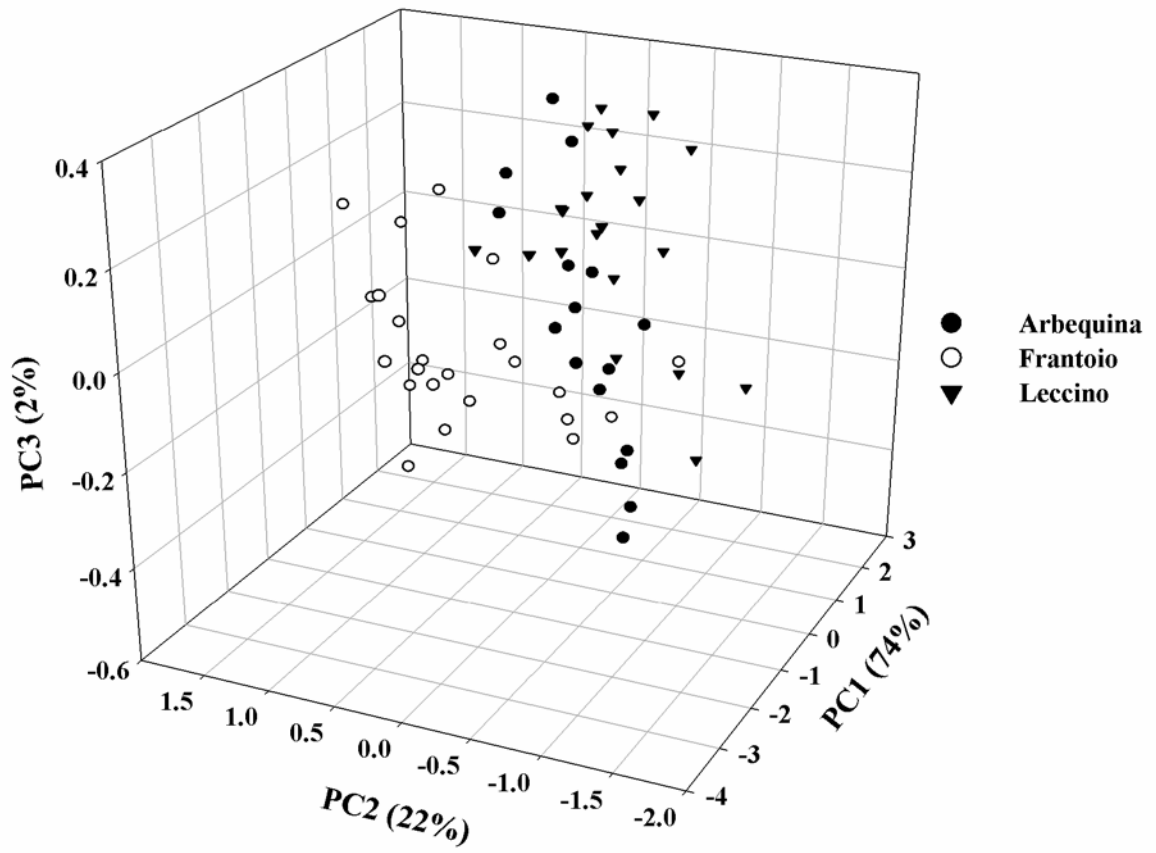


Figure 4

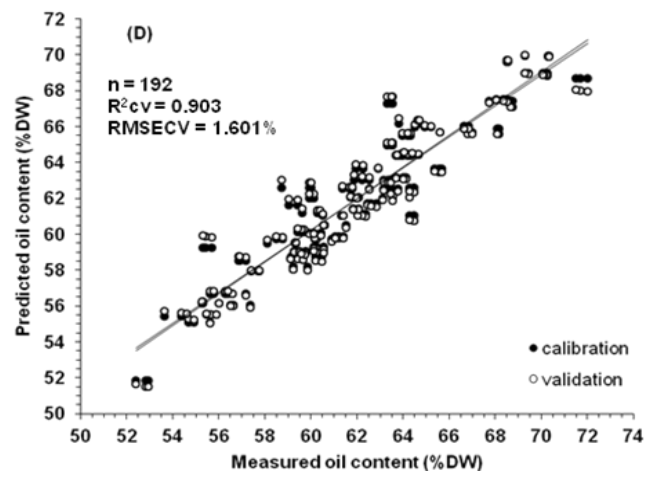
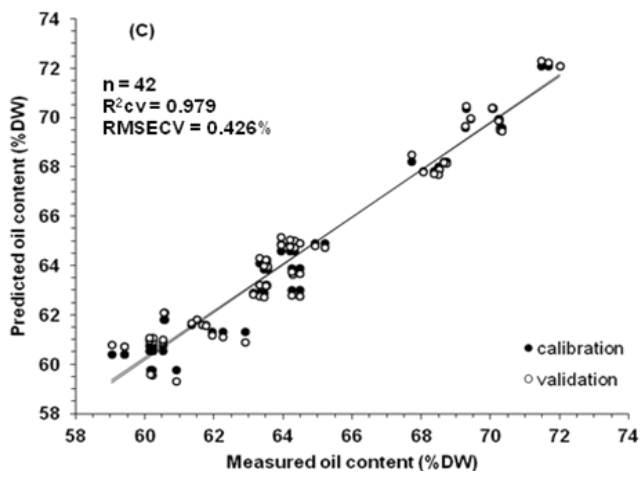
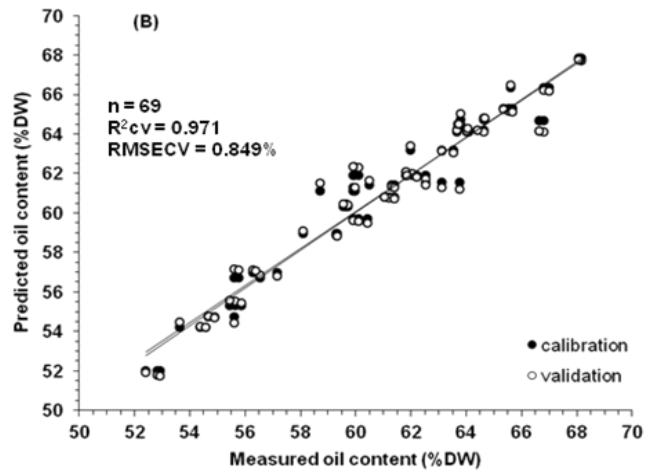
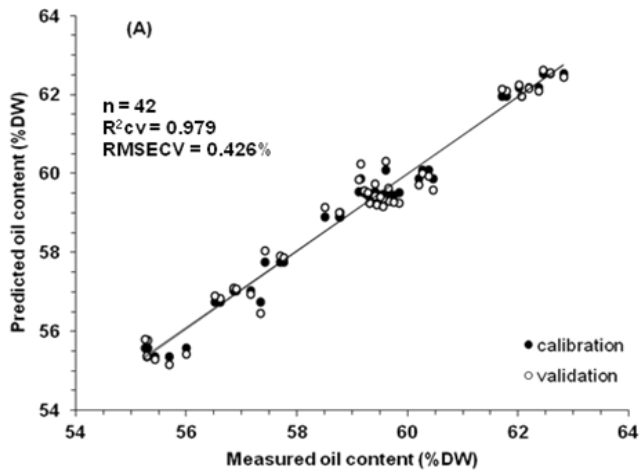


Figure 5