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Programa de Pós-Graduação em Agronomia



Tese

**Arquitetura da macieira em regimes térmicos hibernais
contrastantes - tipologia da ramificação primaveril e sua relação
com o estado hídrico de gemas durante o inverno**

Juliano Dutra Schmitz

Pelotas, 2014

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Engenheiro Agrônomo

**Arquitetura da macieira em regimes térmicos hibernais
contrastantes - tipologia da ramificação primaveril e sua relação
com o estado hídrico de gemas durante o inverno**

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**Architecture de la pousse de pommier en réponse à des
températures hivernales froides et douces - Typologie de la
ramification axillaire au printemps et relation avec le statut
hydrique du bourgeon pendant l'hiver précédent**

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“Um ladrão rouba um tesouro, mas não furta a inteligência. Uma crise destrói uma herança, mas não uma profissão. Não importa se você não tem dinheiro, você é uma pessoa rica, pois possui o maior de todos os capitais: a sua inteligência. Invista nela.

Estude!”

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Resumo

SCHMITZ, Juliano Dutra. **Arquitetura da macieira em regimes térmicos hibernais contrastantes - tipologia da ramificação primaveril e sua relação com o estado hídrico de gemas durante o inverno**. 2014, 93f. Tese (Doutorado) – Programa de Pós-Graduação em Agronomia. Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas-RS; École Doctorale SIBAGHE (Systèmes Intégrés en Biologie, Agronomie, Géosciences, Hydrosociences, Environnement), Montpellier II, France.

A macieira (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) apresenta anomalias fisiológicas quando cultivada em regiões de inverno ameno, onde o frio hibernar é insuficiente para superação da dormência. Assim, na presente tese foram estudados três temas de pesquisa. No tema 1 estudou-se a distribuição e fenologia da brotação e crescimento inicial da ramificação primaveril; No tema 2 estudou-se a brotação primaveril através da determinação do status hídrico de gemas laterais e da condutância hidráulica do xilema. O tema 3 realizou-se a análise do comportamento da brotação primaveril de uma cultivar de baixo exigência em frio cultivada em inverno ameno. Para isso, foram montados dois dispositivos experimentais: *Experimento 1*: realizado em Montpellier/França, onde foram estudadas quatro cultivares de macieira, com diferentes requerimentos em frio ('Condessa', 'Granny Smith', 'Royal Gala' e 'Starkrimson'), submetidas a dois regimes térmicos (inverno frio, condições naturais de Montpellier; e inverno ameno, temperatura controlada em casa-de-vegetação). *Experimento 2*: realizado com a cultivar de baixo requerimento em frio 'Eva' sob regime térmico hibernar ameno (condição natural de Capão do Leão/Brasil). A partir do experimento 1, dois artigos foram redigidos. Conclui-se a partir dos resultados obtidos (artigos 1 e 2) que as temperaturas hibernais têm o principal efeito na distribuição da ramificação ao longo do eixo principal e no tempo para brotação; a presença de folha das plantas submetidas ao regime térmico de inverno ameno não afeta a distribuição de ramos prolépticos vegetativos; a cultivar exerce efeito no crescimento da ramificação. Com relação ao status hídrico, conclui-se que durante o inverno (período de dormência) as gemas laterais permanecem hidraulicamente isoladas do eixo principal; assim como o potencial de brotação está relacionado a um efeito ramo inteiro (todo eixo principal) do que ao potencial individual de cada gema lateral. Através do experimento 2, um artigo foi elaborado, tendo por objetivo testar a hipótese que a posição em que a gema lateral está localizada sobre o eixo principal têm efeito na brotação primaveril, no conteúdo de água e tamanho das mesmas. Pode-se concluir deste estudo que uma semana antes a brotação, as gemas localizadas na zona distal possuem maior potencial de crescimento (maior frequência de brotação e menor tempo médio para brotação), além de apresentarem maior umidade ponderal e tamanho.

Palavras-chave: brotação, ramificação, requerimento em frio, *Malus X domestica* Borkh., inverno ameno, fenologia, conteúdo relativo em água, potencial hídrico, condutância hidráulica do xilema, dormência.

Summary

SCHMITZ, Juliano Dutra. **Apple shoot architecture in response to cold and mild winter temperatures: spring branching typology and relation with winter bud water status.** 2014, 93f. Thesis (Doctor of Sciences) – Programa de Pós-Graduação em Agronomia. Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas-RS; École Doctorale SIBAGHE (Systèmes Intégrés en Biologie, Agronomie, Géosciences, Hydrosociences, Environnement), Montpellier II, France.

The apple tree (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) presents morphological and physiological anomalies when grown in mild winter climates with insufficient winter chilling to overcome winter dormancy. Symptoms are typically delayed and erratic budburst, entailing desynchronized flowering and fruit-set and poor agronomic performances. This thesis aimed at gaining more insights on the following issues. Firstly, what are the effects of winter temperatures on axillary budburst and bud outgrowth, and what are the respective effects of winter temperatures and cultivar?, and secondly, is there a link between the temperature-dependent budburst and bud water status? Works were done in France and Brazil. In France, experiments were carried out in controlled conditions on four apple cultivars characterized by either high chilling ('Granny Smith', 'Royal Gala', 'Starkrimson') or low chilling ('Condesa') requirements and were submitted to outdoor-cold and greenhouse-mild winter temperatures. We showed that the actual shoot architecture and budburst resulted from an ordered sequence of events with a pivotal role of winter temperatures on the dormancy completion of individual lateral buds. Endogenous factors related to the cultivar branching pattern overtook the temperature effect on the lateral bud outgrowth. Furthermore, the delayed senescence and subsequent leaf persistence during winter, characterizing the apple tree in the mild winter temperature conditions, had only a weak effect on the topological distribution of budburst and lateral outgrowth. The analyses of bud water status were done on distal buds only, characterized by high budburst frequency in cold winter conditions. We showed that, from endodormancy to the pre-budburst stage, xylem conductance at the stem-to-bud junction did not show consistent changes across cultivars and winter temperature treatments. Bud water potential had negative values, between -4.35 and -2.24 MPa, depending on cultivars and winter temperature treatments. Moreover, whatever the cultivar, there were no significant trends across dates for the effects of winter temperatures on bud water potential and relative water content without a consistent relationship with actual spring budburst frequency. These results suggested that lateral buds were hydraulically isolated from the parent stem during winter until a few days before budburst. The other set of experiments was carried out in Brazil, under mild winter conditions, on the low chilling apple cultivar 'Eva'. The objectives were to gain more insights on the effect of the position of the over-wintering lateral bud along the whole-parent shoot on bud size and water content. Results highlighted that distal buds were larger and had a higher water content than proximal buds with a strong increase of water content a week before spring budburst. It was concluded that the acrotonic pattern of budburst was mainly established during ecodormancy. As a whole, we showed that spring budburst seemed more related to a whole-shoot effect than to the water status of the individual bud during winter dormancy. Our study substantiated the importance of the whole shoot as an integrated morphological and physiological unit in driving budburst and further growth.

Key words: budburst, branching, chilling requirements, cold winter, *Malus X domestica* Borkh., mild winter, phenology, relative water content, water potential, xylem hydraulic conductance at the stem-to-bud junction, winter dormancy.

Résumé

SCHMITZ, Juliano Dutra. **Architecture de la pousse de pommier en réponse à des températures hivernales froides et douces – Typologie de la ramification axillaire au Printemps et relation avec le statut hydrique du bourgeon pendant l'hiver précédent.** 2014, 93f. Diplôme de Doctorat – Programa de Pós-Graduação em Agronomia. Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas-RS; École Doctorale SIBAGHE (Systèmes Intégrés en Biologie, Agronomie, Géosciences, Hydrosiences, Environnement), Montpellier II, France.

Le pommier (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) cultivé en climat à hiver doux, avec un manque d'une quantité suffisante d'heures de températures froides, présente des anomalies morphologiques et physiologiques. Sur le plan de la phénologie, il s'agit notamment d'un débourrement printanier tardif et désynchronisé entre les différents bourgeons d'un même arbre. Sur le plan agronomique, la floraison et la nouaison sont irrégulières et étalées dans le temps et conduisent à une faible production de fruits. L'objectif de ce travail de thèse est premièrement de mieux caractériser les effets des températures hivernales sur le débourrement et la croissance des bourgeons axillaires en distinguant les effets respectifs des températures hivernales et du génotype. Il s'agit ensuite de vérifier l'hypothèse que les effets des températures sur le débourrement du bourgeon s'effectue via les effets sur son statut hydrique. Les travaux ont été réalisés en France et au Brésil. En France, les expérimentations ont porté sur quatre cultivars à fort besoin ('Granny Smith', 'Royal Gala', 'Starkrimson') ou faible besoin ('Condessa') en froid, cultivés en hiver froid (conditions extérieures) et doux (serres climatisées). Nous montrons que le débourrement résulte d'une séquence d'évènements où la température hivernale joue un rôle primordial sur les mécanismes de sortie de dormance et donc sur le débourrement proprement dit, durant la période froide. Les caractéristiques propres du cultivar jouent par contre un rôle dans la croissance ultérieure des bourgeons et donc dans l'architecture finale de la pousse du pommier. Par ailleurs, la chute tardive des feuilles, caractéristique du pommier en hiver doux, a peu d'effets sur le débourrement et la croissance des bourgeons. L'analyse du statut hydrique des bourgeons a été réalisée sur le tiers distal des pousses de pommier caractérisé par une forte fréquence de ramification en climat à hiver froid. Nous montrons que, dans la période allant de l'endormance à la phase de pré-débourrement, la conductance hydraulique à la jonction entre l'axe porteur et le bourgeon varie peu au cours de l'hiver et entre cultivars. Par ailleurs, durant cette même période le potentiel hydrique intra-bourgeon reste négatif, entre -4.35 and -2.24 MPa. Enfin, quel que soit le cultivar, nous ne montrons pas de relation entre les températures hivernales, le potentiel hydrique ou la teneur relative en eau des bourgeons, et l'aptitude au débourrement ultérieur. Ces résultats suggèrent que le bourgeon est hydrauliquement isolé de son axe porteur pendant toute la période hivernale jusqu'à quelques jours précédant le débourrement. Les expérimentations au Brésil ont porté sur le cultivar 'Eva' à faible besoin en froid, cultivés en conditions naturelles d'hiver doux. Il s'agissait de vérifier les effets possibles de la position du bourgeon le long de l'axe porteur sur sa taille et sa teneur relative en eau. Nous montrons que, tout au long de l'hiver, les bourgeons distaux sont caractérisés par une plus grande taille et une teneur relative en eau plus élevée que les bourgeons proximaux avec une forte augmentation de la teneur relative en eau une semaine avant le débourrement printanier. Le débourrement acrotone semble donc résulter d'une évolution rapide du statut hydrique du bourgeon en fin d'écodormance. L'ensemble des résultats acquis en France et au Brésil, sur des cultivars caractérisés par des besoins variables en froid hivernal, indique que l'aptitude au débourrement printanier des bourgeons de pommier est davantage lié à un « effet rameau entier » qu'au statut hydrique proprement dit des bourgeons individuels, tout au moins jusqu'à quelques jours avant le débourrement effectif. La pousse annuelle de pommier apparaît donc comme une unité morphologique et physiologique intégrée qui, dans un contexte climatique donné, conditionne le statut hydrique de chaque bourgeon et son aptitude au débourrement.

Mots-clés : besoins en froid, conductance hydraulique xylémienne à la jonction axe-bourgeon, débourrement printanier, dormance hivernale, hiver doux, hiver froid, *Malus X domestica* Borkh., phénologie, potentiel hydrique, ramification, teneur relative en eau.

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Introdução geral e síntese bibliográfica

A macieira (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) é a frutífera de clima temperado com maior expressão socioeconômica em nível mundial. Após a banana, a maçã é a fruta mais produzida no mundo (STATISTA, 2012). A produção anual de maçãs é de 76 milhões de toneladas, em área plantada de 4,8 milhões de hectares (FAOSTAT, 2012). Entre os continentes, a pomicultura, ou seja, a produção de maçãs segue a seguinte distribuição: 55% na Ásia, 26% na Europa, 14,8% nas Américas, 1,3% na Oceania, e 3% no continente Africano (FAOSTAT, 2012). A China é o maior produtor mundial (37 milhões de toneladas) e os Estados Unidos o segundo (4,1 milhões de toneladas). Portanto, os volumes produzidos encontram-se majoritariamente no hemisfério norte.

A França e o Brasil ocupam, respectivamente, o 10º e 11º lugares no *ranking* mundial da produção de maçãs (1,38 e 1,33 milhões de toneladas; FAOSTAT, 2012). A condição climática francesa permite o plantio de diversas cultivares, entretanto, a mais produzida e consumida é a ‘Golden Delicious’ (518 mil toneladas), seguida por ‘Gala’, ‘Granny Smith’ e ‘Braeburn’ (236, 170 e 85 mil toneladas, respectivamente) (LA POMME, 2014). A pomicultura francesa está distribuída em três principais bacias: *Rhône-Méditerranée*, *Val de Loire* e *Grand Sud-Ouest*. A bacia *Rhône-Méditerranée* é a maior (39% da produção), sendo Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur e Languedoc-Roussillon as duas principais regiões (TRILLOT, 2002).

A pomicultura brasileira predomina na região sul, principalmente nos estados de Santa Catarina e Rio Grande do Sul, onde são colhidos anualmente 36,5 mil hectares (IBGE, 2012). A cultura da macieira é relativamente nova no país, onde o cultivo em escala comercial teve início na década de 1970 (PETRI et al., 2011). Desde os primeiros plantios, grandes transformações ocorrerem na cadeia produtiva. Os primeiros pomares eram formados, basicamente, pelas cultivares ‘Golden Delicious’ e ‘Starkrimson’. No entanto, rapidamente as mesmas foram substituídas por ‘Gala’ e ‘Fuji’ e, a partir da década de 1990, por seus clones de coloração vermelha intensa (PETRI et al., 2011). A partir do ano 2000, as exportações superaram as importações, e a expectativa é que os cultivos continuem aumentando em taxas de 3,37% ao ano, principalmente com clones de ‘Gala’ e ‘Fuji’ (FACHINELLO et al., 2011). Atualmente, esses dois clones representam 94% do total produzido no país (FACHINELLO et al., 2011). Logo, fica evidente que a pomicultura brasileira é realizada com cultivares de médio/alto requerimento em frio hibernar para superação da dormência, portanto, não totalmente adaptadas ao inverno ameno típico do sul do Brasil (POMMER e BARBOSA, 2009). O município de Pelotas e

adjacências (Capão do Leão), está localizado no extremo sul do estado do Rio Grande do Sul e apresenta inverno ameno, ou seja, oferece condições de cultivo consideradas marginais à pomicultura.

O cultivo de frutíferas de clima temperado requer condições ambientais específicas, as quais são encontradas naturalmente em zonas de clima mediterrâneo (RETAMALES, 2011). Essas zonas estão situadas ao redor do Mar Mediterrâneo (sul da Europa, Grécia, Turquia, Oriente Médio, e norte da África); Califórnia nos Estados Unidos; algumas localidades da Austrália; extremo sul da África; e no centro do Chile. Assim, a macieira cultivada nessas zonas, em que as estações do ano são bem definidas, apresenta o ciclo de crescimento dividido em duas fases bem marcadas: fase hiberna (dormência) e fase de crescimento vegetativo e/ou reprodutivo a partir da brotação primaveril (PETRI et al., 2012). A temperatura é o principal fator que determina essas duas fases, notadamente, as baixas temperaturas ($<12^{\circ}\text{C}$) são responsáveis por cessar o crescimento e pela indução e saída da fase de dormência das pomáceas (HEIDE e PRESTRUD, 2005). Segundo Herter et al. (1988), as condições climáticas de cultivo do Rio Grande do Sul e Santa Catarina são caracterizadas pela grande flutuação das temperaturas hibernais, impactando portanto, na quantidade de frio hiberna necessária para superação da dormência. Como consequência, a macieira pode modificar a dinâmica da dormência e a intensidade de brotação de acordo com a região de cultivo, ano e cultivar (PETRI e LEITE, 2004).

Alterações fenológicas nas pomáceas, dentre elas a macieira e a pereira (*Pyrus* spp.), têm sido observadas em regiões temperadas, como na França e Suíça, nos últimos 40 anos (GUÉDON e LEGAVE, 2008). Segundo estes autores, no final dos anos 80, mudanças fenológicas (floração antecipada) foram registradas concomitantemente ao aumento das temperaturas médias anuais ($1,1 - 1,3^{\circ}\text{C}$). Logo, esse cenário foi atribuído ao aquecimento climático global. Segundo GIORGI e LIONELLO (2008), a bacia do mediterrâneo é uma região temperada que provavelmente sofrerá com mudanças climáticas, uma vez que estão previstos episódios extremos de temperatura e pluviosidade.

A arquitetura da árvore é resultado do equilíbrio entre fatores endógenos (intrínsecos da planta) e por fatores exógenos (impostos pelo ambiente) (BARTHÉLÉMY e CARAGLIO, 2007). O principal limitante para a distribuição geográfica das espécies de clima temperado é a falta de frio hiberna (HAUAGGE e CUMMINS, 1991); por desencadear anomalias fisiológicas na macieira, tais como: o “erratismo” da brotação primaveril (brotação errante), impedimento da acrotonia e, conseqüentemente, desordens

na arquitetura da planta e, por consequência, baixa eficiência produtiva dos pomares (COOK e JACOBS, 1999; PETRI e LEITE, 2004; COOK, 2010; MAGUYLO et al. 2012). Portanto, o estudo da dinâmica da dormência é o elemento chave para analisar a arquitetura da árvore (ZGUIGAL et al., 2006), uma vez que a superação da dormência é fundamental para a brotação e ramificação da mesma.

A dormência é considerada a suspensão temporária do crescimento visível de qualquer estrutura da planta que contenha um meristema (LANG et al. 1987). Todavia, a dormência é responsável pela proteção vegetal às adversidades climáticas (CAMPOY et al. 2011), e pode ser classificada em três tipos: para-, endo- e ecodormência (LANG et al. 1987). A paradormência é regulada por fatores fisiológicos externos à estrutura afetada (dominância apical e inibições correlativas); a endodormência é regulada por fatores internos (endógenos) à estrutura afetada; e a ecodormência é regulada por fatores ambientais (temperaturas e fotoperíodo). A dinâmica da dormência tem sido estudada através do teste de gema isolada (CHAMPAGNAT, 1983; DENNIS, 2003; BONHOMME et al., 2005).

Temperatura e disponibilidade de água são os fatores fundamentais para o funcionamento de espécies de clima temperado, principalmente, quando cultivadas sob inverno ameno (ANDREINI et al., 2012). A água constitui ~90% da massa dos tecidos vegetais e está diretamente relacionada à retomada do crescimento após a fase de dormência, uma vez que, afeta a hidrólise de macromoléculas de reserva e a atividade de enzimas (de FAÏ et al., 2000). Neste sentido, o conteúdo de água pode ser considerado um indicador da atividade metabólica de gemas (MARAFON et al., 2011), além de ser considerado um bom marcador do potencial de crescimento, mesmo antes dos primeiros sinais de brotação (LEITE et al., 2006). Entretanto, o determinismo da brotação da macieira, principalmente, quando cultivada em inverno ameno, ainda não é bem entendido, pois envolve processos biológicos e ambientais extremamente complexos.

Assim, o presente estudo, em colaboração franco-brasileira, visa aprofundar os conhecimentos sobre a arquitetura da macieira em condições de inverno ameno e estudar a problemática do “erratismo” da brotação. Esses pontos contemplam o interesse dos dois países, pois a França encontra-se em processo de mudanças climáticas e, talvez venha tornar-se um país com regiões marginais à pomicultura, como ocorre atualmente no sul do Brasil. A presente tese abordou os três seguintes temas, com seus respectivos objetivos específicos:

1) Estudo da distribuição e fenologia da brotação e crescimento da ramificação.

- a. Teve por objetivo analisar como o regime térmico hibernar (temperatura hibernar; inverno frio de Montpellier/França x inverno ameno simulado em casa-de-vegetação com temperatura controlada) age sobre a dinâmica da brotação e crescimento da ramificação lateral de cultivares de macieira com diferentes requerimentos em frio hibernar para superação da dormência. Para isso, foi instalado um dispositivo experimental (experimento 1; artigo 1) para realização de observações ao longo do eixo principal (ramo de um ano de idade), sobre a natureza da ramificação (tipologia) e da posição das mesmas ao longo do eixo principal (topologia), bem como a análise temporal de dois estágios fenológicos.

2) Estudo da brotação primaveril através do status hídrico de gemas laterais e da condutância hidráulica do xilema.

- a. Foi abordada a hipótese de que o status hídrico (potencial hídrico e conteúdo relativo em água) da gema lateral (observação em nível de gema individual) e a condutância hidráulica máxima do xilema entre o eixo principal e gema lateral, pilotam a brotação primaveril. Utilizou-se o mesmo dispositivo experimental do item acima (experimento 1), porém as análises foram concentradas no terço distal do eixo principal (figura 1; artigo 2).

3) Comportamento da brotação primaveril de uma cultivar de baixo exigência em frio cultivada em inverno ameno.

- a. Teve por objetivo investigar a hipótese de que a posição em que a gema lateral está localizada sobre o eixo principal tem efeito significativo na brotação primaveril, no conteúdo de água e tamanho das mesmas. Para isso, foi realizado o dispositivo experimental (experimento 2; artigo 3) em condições naturais de inverno ameno do extremo sul do Brasil, onde utilizou-se a cultivar Eva, de baixo requerimento em frio hibernar para superação da dormência.

Metodologia geral

Experimento 1. Atividade de pesquisa desenvolvida em Montpellier/França (setembro de 2011 a agosto 2012).

A partir desse experimento foram desenvolvidos dois trabalhos científicos, cuja metodologia é apresentada de acordo com os seguintes artigos:

Artigo 1 – Exploring bud dormancy completion with a combined architectural and phenological analysis: the case of apple trees in contrasting winter temperature conditions

Material vegetal: foram estudadas quatro cultivares de macieira com diferentes requerimentos em frio, (HF) $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$, para superação dormência: ‘Condessa’ (350-450), ‘Granny Smith’ (600-700), ‘Royal Gala’ (700-800) e ‘Starkrimson’ (mais que 800) (Marcus Vinicius Kvitschal, EPAGRI, Brazil; dados não publicados). Essas cultivares foram enxertadas em fevereiro de 2011 sobre o portaenxerto M.9 (clone Pajam® 2). As mudas foram envasadas (vasos de quatro litros) e mantidas em casa de vegetação, equipada com sistema de irrigação por gotejamento, durante o período estival. Cada planta foi tutorada para assegurar o crescimento verticalizado do eixo principal (ramo de um ano de idade).

Dispositivo experimental: em dezembro de 2011, as plantas foram submetidas a dois contrastantes regimes térmicos hibernais: (1) “*inverno frio*” - condição climática do sul da França, Montpellier (43° N, 3° L, 44m de altitude); (2) “*inverno ameno*” – neste tratamento as plantas foram colocadas em casa de vegetação com temperaturas controladas (figura 1A e 1B; artigo 1). Esse tratamento foi dividido em duas modalidades: “*sem folhas*” - todas as folhas foram removidas manualmente em dezembro de 2011 (início do inverno no hemisfério norte); e o tratamento “*com folhas*” - em que não houve interferência, portanto as folhas permaneceram sobre o eixo principal e sofreram queda natural. Ao término da fase de dormência foram contabilizados: 1.428 e 99 HF $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (“*inverno frio*” e “*inverno ameno*”, respectivamente). Portanto, os regimes térmicos hibernais foram fortemente contrastantes.

Após a fase de dormência, uma semana antes do início da brotação das plantas do tratamento “*inverno frio*” (última semana de março de 2012), ambos tratamentos de inverno ameno (“*sem folhas*” e “*com folhas*”) foram colocados na mesma condição do tratamento “*inverno frio*”, ou seja, fora da casa de vegetação, para as observações topo/fenológicas ao longo do eixo principal.

Coleta de dados: as observações fenológicas foram realizadas a partir do início da brotação primaveril (última semana de março de 2012). Por outro lado, a sequência de

ramificação foi determinada em cada planta, ao longo do eixo principal, na última semana de maio de 2012, momento em que toda natureza das estruturas laterais pode ser bem definida em: gemas latentes (latentes) ou crescimento lateral (ramos prolépticos vegetativos e portadores de flor; e ramos silépticos, i.e. ramos desenvolvidos concomitantemente com o eixo principal.

Para análise fenológica, ao longo do eixo principal foram observadas todas as gemas laterais (nó por nó), três vezes por semana. Foram registradas as gemas brotadas (brotação), i.e. gemas em ponta verde com as primeiras folhas visíveis; bem como o estágio de quatro folhas bem expandidas.

Análise dos dados: as análises foram realizadas em dois passos: (1) análise arquitetural – realizada com intuito de caracterizar e comparar as sequências de ramificação em função dos diferentes tratamentos (cultivares e regime térmico); (2) análise fenológica – análise temporal (dias entre a brotação e o estágio quatro folhas bem expandidas).

Análise de agrupamentos (*cluster analysis*): teve por objetivo agrupar ramos prolépticos vegetativos dentro de grupos homogêneos, visando revelar os possíveis agrupamentos dentro das sequências das ramificações observadas. A força de uma estrutura de aglomeração foi obtida pelo método de aglomeração, e foi medida pelo coeficiente de aglomeração, que é uma quantidade adimensional entre 0 e 1.

Segmentação das sequências de ramificações dentro de zonas homogêneas: o padrão de ramificação, frequentemente, segue uma sucessão de zonas homogêneas e bem definidas, em que a composição em termos de tipos laterais, não muda substancialmente dentro de cada zona, porém muda de forma marcante entre as zonas. Logo, o padrão de brotação foi analisado através do emprego de modelos de segmentação, mais precisamente pela *hidden semi-Markov chains* (GUÉDON et al., 2001).

Análise integrada do padrão de brotação e fenologia: o efeito do regime térmico hibernar, cultivar e zona de ramificação sobre as variáveis tempo para brotação (T-BB) e tempo entre a brotação e o estágio fenológico de quatro folhas bem expandidas (T-BB-4L) foi verificado através da análise de variância.

Artigo 2 - Are the known effects of winter temperatures on spring budburst related to the water status of individual buds during winter or to a whole-shoot effect? Insights in the apple tree.

Material vegetal: como material vegetal foram utilizadas as mesmas cultivares, anteriormente apresentadas no artigo 1. Para fins de análise, devido à ausência de efeito da presença de folhas (“*sem folhas*” e “*com folhas*”), os mesmos foram agrupados e representados como “*inverno ameno*”. Assim, foram considerados os regimes térmicos hibernais “*inverno frio*” e “*inverno ameno*”.

O estudo foi realizado em dois momentos: fase de dormência (janeiro, fevereiro e março de 2012) e após a dormência (última semana de julho 2012). As variáveis resposta foram estudadas em gemas individuais, situadas no terço distal do eixo principal (ramo de um ano de idade), que em condições de inverno frio é caracterizado pela alta frequência de brotação e ramificação (MAGUYLO et al. 2012).

Potencial hídrico e conteúdo relativo de água: foram determinados durante a dormência (janeiro, fevereiro e março de 2012), em duas gemas por eixo principal (25ª e 27ª gema abaixo da gema terminal) (figura 1; artigo 2).

O potencial hídrico (MPa) foi determinado com a utilização do psicrômetro de Wescor (HR-33T Dew Point-Microvoltmeter), equipado com quatro câmaras (C-53), calibradas de acordo com Montoro et al. (1995). Com base em testes preliminares, as gemas foram incubadas, nas câmaras, por 90 minutos antes de ser realizada a leitura.

O conteúdo relativo de água (%) foi determinado após a medida do potencial hídrico das gemas, através da seguinte fórmula: $[(MF - MS)/(MPT - MS) \times 100]$, onde MF é a massa fresca (mg); MS é a massa seca (mg), após passar por 72 horas em estufa com temperatura de 60°C; MPT é a massa a plena turgescência (mg) obtida após imersão das gemas em água pura durante 15 horas no escuro em temperatura de 4°C.

Condutância hidráulica: a condutância hidráulica máxima entre o eixo principal e a gema lateral ($K_{\text{eixo-gema}}$; $\text{mmol MPa}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$) foi medida com a utilização do *High-pressure flow meter* (HPFM; Dynamax, Houston, TX, USA). A medida consiste na injeção de água filtrada deionizada em alta pressão (0,5-0,6 MPa) a partir da extremidade inferior do ramo. No terço distal do eixo principal (figura 1; artigo 2), 10 gemas foram removidas cuidadosamente com auxílio de bisturi. Com a utilização de um cotonete, cada orifício correspondente a gema coletada, a água exsudada foi coletada por 60 segundos, e imediatamente pesada em balança de precisão.

Crescimento lateral proléptico (PLG): na última semana de julho 2012, cada nó do terço distal foi caracterizado (cada crescimento lateral a partir das gemas laterais sobre o eixo principal). Foram levadas em consideração três categorias: latentes, ramos vegetativos prolépticos e ramos prolépticos portadores de flor.

Análises estatísticas: o efeito dos fatores estudados (cultivar, regime térmico hiberna e data de coleta) foram estudados através da análise de variância (ANOVA), e quando significativo, os níveis dos fatores foram separados pelo teste Tukey, com 5% de probabilidade de erro. As análises foram realizadas utilizando o programa estatístico *R software version 3.0.2* (package 'car' com a função *lm()* para variáveis contínuas; <http://www.rproject.org>). Os dados referentes a variável PLG foram transformados com a procedimento *Box-Cox procedure* (package 'MASS').

Experimento 2. Atividade de pesquisa desenvolvida em Pelotas e Capão do Leão/Brasil (outubro de 2012 a outubro de 2013).

A partir desse experimento foi desenvolvido um trabalho científico (artigo 3), cuja metodologia é apresentada a seguir:

Artigo 3 - Winter bud water content and size related to budburst of 'Eva' apple in mild winter

Material vegetal: consistiu de árvores adultas (14 anos de idade) da macieira 'IAPAR 75-Eva'. A mesma, possui baixo requerimento em frio para superar à dormência hiberna (350 horas de frio (HF) $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$; HAUAGGE e TSUNETTA, 1999). Duas zonas topológicas (proximal e distal) foram estudadas em ramos de um ano de idade (~70cm de comprimento, desprovidos de ramos silépticos); as mesmas foram delimitadas a partir da contagem do número total de gemas sobre o ramo de ano dividido por dois.

Dispositivo experimental: a área experimental está situada no extremo sul do Brasil, no pomar do Centro Agropecuária da Palma da Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, Capão do Leão (31°S , 52°O , 48m de altitude). Portanto, trata-se de uma região brasileira que apresenta inverno ameno, ou seja, apresenta grande flutuação de temperaturas hibernais e acúmulo de ~400 HF $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$. Durante o período de repouso hiberna (maio a setembro de 2013) foram acumuladas 454 HF $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Dinâmica da dormência: o teste de estacas de gema isolada foi empregado para analisar a dinâmica da dormência (CHAMPAGNAT, 1983; DENNIS, 2003; BONHOMME et al., 2005). As coletas foram realizadas a cada 21 dias (30/04, 21/05, 12/06, 01/07, 24/07 e 19 de agosto de 2013). Dentro de cada zona de observação, quatro repetições de 10 estacas de gema isolada (7cm de comprimento) foram realizadas (40 ao total/zona), totalizando 80 estacas por coleta. Imediatamente após cada coleta, as estacas foram

preparadas e submetidas ao processo de “forçagem” em câmara de crescimento (B.O.D) em temperatura de 25°C ($\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$) em alta umidade. Após, foram registradas, três vezes por semana, as gemas brotadas (ponta verde). O tempo máximo de espera para brotação foi de 60 dias contados da entrada na câmara de crescimento. Consequentemente, gemas que não brotaram neste período foram consideradas totalmente dormentes (ZGUIGAL et al. 2006). Através do teste de estaquia de gema isolada foram estudadas duas variáveis resposta: porcentagem de brotação (%) e o tempo médio para brotação (TMB; dias).

Umidade ponderal das gemas (UP): foram realizadas seis coletas: 21/05, 12/06, 01/07, 24/07, 19/08 e 02/09 de 2013. A UP foi calculada pela fórmula $[(MF - MS)/(MS)]$, sendo MF a massa fresca (g), MS a massa seca (g), conforme estudo de Marafon et al. (2011). A massa fresca foi aferida, em balança analítica de precisão, imediatamente após a amostragem dos tecidos; e a massa seca após secagem em estufa com temperatura de 70°C até atingir massa constante.

Comprimento de gemas laterais: em 02/09/2013, uma semana antes da brotação foi medido o comprimento das gemas laterais das duas zonas proximal e distal.

Ramificação primaveril: durante a estação de crescimento (09/10/2013), o número médio de estruturas (tipos) laterais foram registradas em dez ramos de um ano de idade. A natureza dos tipos laterais foi classificada em quatro categorias: gemas latentes, ramos prolépticos vegetativos, ramos prolépticos portadores de flor e extinção (morte da estrutura que estava em crescimento).

Análises estatísticas: O efeito dos fatores estudados (data de coleta e zona do ramo) foram estudados através da análise de variância (ANOVA), e quando significativo, os níveis dos fatores foram separados pelo teste Tukey, com 5% de probabilidade de erro. As análises foram realizadas utilizando o programa estatístico *R software version 3.0.2* (package ‘car’ com a função `lm()` para variáveis contínuas; <http://www.rproject.org>).

Artigo 1. Exploring bud dormancy completion with a combined architectural and phenological analysis: the case of apple trees in contrasting winter temperature conditions

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EXPLORING BUD DORMANCY COMPLETION WITH A COMBINED ARCHITECTURAL AND PHENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: THE CASE OF APPLE TREES IN CONTRASTING WINTER TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS¹

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- *Premise of the study:* The branching pattern and phenology of trees result from interactions between the tree's genetic constitution and environmental conditions. Temperature strongly affects the duration of bud dormancy and further shoot growth. Our hypothesis was that shoot architecture is strongly affected by winter temperatures determining both the position and budburst of vegetative laterals with a lower effect on their outgrowth.
- *Methods:* The study was conducted on four apple cultivars characterized by various chilling requirements and grown in two contrasting winter temperature conditions. A two-step approach was designed to quantify at the shoot scale first the branching pattern and second two phenological stages of vegetative laterals, budburst and outgrowth. A categorical variable, the branching zone, was built to summarize the lateral position along the shoot. It was integrated into the phenological analysis as a factor together with the cultivar and the winter temperature.
- *Key results:* Temperature had a main effect on the distribution of vegetative laterals along the shoot. It also strongly affected budburst, which was also affected by the cultivar and the branching zone. The outgrowth of the lateral was not significantly affected by temperature but was significantly affected by the cultivar and the branching zone. Furthermore, the delayed senescence and subsequent leaf persistence during winter, characterizing the apple tree in the mild winter temperature condition, had only a weak effect on the distribution of vegetative laterals and on budburst and lateral outgrowth.
- *Conclusions:* The actual shoot architecture and budburst result from an ordered sequence of events with a pivotal role of winter temperatures on the dormancy completion of individual lateral buds. Endogenous factors related to the cultivar branching pattern overtake the temperature effect on the lateral outgrowth.

Key words: branching dynamics; budburst; dormancy; hidden semi-Markov chain; *Malus domestica*; multiple change-point model; phenology; vegetative proleptic lateral; winter temperature.

The structure of an individual plant at any time depends both on its intrinsic genetic constitution and on the environmental conditions (Tubbs, 1973). In cold and temperate climates, environmental conditions, especially temperature, strongly constrain development (Heide and Prestrud, 2005; Heide, 2011). Besides the obvious effect on growth cessation, cold winter partly drives tree architecture with a well-identified acrotony phenomenon, i.e., a higher frequency and stronger growth of the uppermost laterals whether vegetative or floral (Champagnat et al., 1971; Lauri, 2007). Acrotony is related to either an acrotonic gradient in budburst or, in the absence of acrotonic budburst, to greater outgrowth of uppermost laterals in spring of year n (Champagnat, 1965; Champagnat et al., 1971). This

phenomenon indicates that the lateral buds along the shoot do not have the same dormancy dynamics during the growth season of year $n - 1$ and in the winter preceding budburst. Three consecutive phases of bud dormancy have been identified: para-dormancy, endo-dormancy and eco-dormancy, where budburst inhibition lies within the plant, within the bud and is imposed by the environment, respectively (Lang et al., 1987). The transitions between these phases are likely to depend on bud position within the tree and more specifically on shoot architecture (Mauget and Rageau, 1988). When isolated, for example by individual node cuttings, proximal buds of an annual shoot are less dormant during the summer through autumn than the distal ones (Cook et al., 1998). This evidences a basitonic gradient of budburst potential during the autumn of year $n - 1$, which only disappears if low temperatures are prevalent from late autumn through winter, leading to the acrotonic gradient re-establishing the apical control in the following spring (Crabbé, 1968, 1980, 1994; Maguylo et al., 2012). As a consequence, tree architecture is characterized by a basitonic-shrub habit in mild winter regions as opposed to the acrotonic-tree habit with a typical trunk in the cold winter regions (Verheij, 1990; Cook et al., 1998). These interrelationships between the dynamics of dormancy and the branching structure of a shoot or a whole-tree strongly support the concept that structural components are

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intrinsically related to temporal components to determine the actual plant architecture (e.g., Dambreville et al., 2013).

These relationships between bud dormancy and shoot branching have been well studied in fruit trees, especially in apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.; Rosaceae) and pear (*Pyrus communis* L.; Rosaceae), where warm temperatures diversely affect branching and flowering temporal patterns depending when they are applied during dormancy (Atkinson and Lucas, 1996; Cook and Jacobs, 1999). If applied during the autumn and winter, i.e., in the para-dormancy and the beginning of the endo-dormancy phases of lateral buds, warm temperatures typically lead to delayed defoliation in the autumn and to delayed foliation, branching, and flowering in the next spring (Verheij, 1990; Atkinson and Lucas, 1996; Cook and Jacobs, 1999). If warm temperatures are applied during late winter and early spring to trees that have fulfilled their chilling requirement, i.e., in the eco-dormancy phase, they accelerate flowering (Campoy et al., 2011; Heim et al., 1979). The way the periods of low and then higher temperatures are combined during the dormant period, namely during para- and endo-dormancy (usually by the end of January in the northern hemisphere; Legave et al., 2008), and through budburst during eco-dormancy, likely explains most of the variability of flowering time (Legave et al., 2008; Campoy et al., 2011). As a whole, specific phenological events thus appear to be relevant indicators of ongoing climate changes, especially for fruit trees (Legave et al., 2008; Tooke and Battey, 2010).

The present study was designed to gain more in-depth insight of how the temperature regime during winter determines the distribution and the dynamics of vegetative branching in apple. This species is characterized by a large latitudinal distribution ranging from 25° to 52° in both hemispheres but extends to higher latitudes by virtue of being close to a water mass (e.g., Norway, 60°N) or to lower latitudes by virtue of higher altitude (e.g., Java, 7°S) (Janick, 1974; Palmer et al., 2005). There is a wide variation among existing apple genotypes, wild *Malus* species and interspecific hybrids, for the length of bud dormancy under various conditions of winter temperatures and for budburst frequency in spring (Hauagge and Cummins, 1991; Labuschagné et al., 2003; Palmer et al., 2005). This genotypic variability opens interesting possibilities to grow new apple genotypes of commercial interest in low latitude regions (Labuschagné et al., 2003; Leite et al., 2008; Pommer and Barbosa, 2009). A typical way to classify an apple genotype for its ability to branch and flower synchronously in spring is its chilling requirement evaluated as the number of hours below 7.2°C during late autumn through winter (Weinberger, 1950). On the other hand, Richardson et al. (1974) proposed the Utah or Richardson model based on the nonlinear response of the bud to temperature. In this model, dormancy is satisfied with the accumulation of a given number of chilling units (CU) with maximum chilling efficacy between 2° and 9°C, and nil or even negative responses above and below this range. It is still the more satisfying model to predict the actual period of budburst. However, CU data are not available for all cultivars and are only partially used. Chilling requirements vary strongly between apple genotypes, from ca. 200 to 1500 CU, with the majority of existing cultivars between 800 and 1200 CU (Hauagge and Cummins, 1991; Ghariani and Stebbins, 1994; Palmer et al., 2005). For existing commercial cultivars with various chilling requirements, a better knowledge of how the tree adapts to a “mild” winter temperature regime is crucial not only in terms of architectural development, but also in terms of the dynamics

of phenology from budburst onward with, in both cases, practical implications for tree management (Hauagge and Cummins, 1991; Cook et al., 1998; Cook and Jacobs, 1999; Cook, 2010; Maguilo et al., 2012).

Our study was conducted on four apple cultivars covering a range of chilling requirements that were subjected to either controlled, mild or outdoor, cold winter temperature conditions. We focused on vegetative proleptic laterals, which form the year following shoot extension and have the stronger impact on shoot architecture. Our aim was to assess (1) the effects of winter temperature on the position of laterals along the shoot and (2) the effects of winter temperature, cultivar, and position along the shoot on the time to reach two phenological stages, budburst and outgrowth. Eventually, our aim was to unravel the proper effect of winter temperatures on budburst and lateral outgrowth, based on the presence or absence of delayed senescent leaves.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material and experimental setting—Four apple cultivars, ‘Condessa’, ‘Granny Smith’, ‘Royal Gala’, and ‘Starkrimson’ were chosen. They covered a range of chilling requirements, from low to very high, here expressed as the number of hours below 7.2°C: 350 to 450 for Condessa, 600 to 700 for Granny Smith, 700 to 800 for Royal Gala and more than 800 for Starkrimson. (For the first three cultivars, the two numbers indicate the time range between different sites and years; Marcus Vinicius Kvitschal, EPAGRI, Brazil; unpublished data) At the beginning of February 2011, nine scions per cultivar, 36 shoots as a whole, were bench-grafted onto Pajam 2, a common rootstock in commercial orchards. Each composite tree was trained to a single vertical shoot during the whole experiment. Young trees were placed in 4-L plastic pots, each filled with an equal quantity of a potting mix composed of 40% brown peat, 30% composted pine bark, 20% disinfected soil and 10% pouzzolane (2/6 mm).

Our protocol was designed to isolate the proper effects of the winter temperature regime, hereafter referred to as “temperature treatment”, from any other temperature effect before and after the chilling effects. Based on previous works (Legave et al., 2012, and references therein), we considered that in the northern hemisphere chilling accumulates from the beginning of October of year $n-1$ to the onset of budburst, i.e., end of March, of year n . The experiment comprised the following three steps. First, all shoots were grown in a randomized design in a greenhouse at Cirad Montpellier (43°37'N, 03°52'E), France, to permit an efficient nutrient and phytosanitary control. Second, at the beginning of October 2011, shoots were split at random into three groups of three shoots per cultivar each. One group was transferred outdoor to ensure the “cold” winter conditions (“cold” treatment), and the other two were put in a temperature-controlled greenhouse to ensure the “mild” winter conditions (“mild” treatment). This latter group of shoots was again split in two subgroups, with half of the shoots with all leaves removed by hand at the time of maximal leaf shedding in the cold treatment, in the beginning of December 2011 (leaf treatment, “without leaves”), and the other half of the shoots with natural leaf shedding (leaf treatment, “with leaves”). In this latter case, around 10% of the leaves were still remaining on the distal zone of shoots at the time of budburst. In the mild treatment, the temperature was left to vary at 10° to 15°C above the temperatures in the cold treatment with a minimum threshold set at 5°C (Fig. 1A). This setting resulted in contrasting numbers of hours below 7.2°C at the time of budburst (Fig. 1B). In the third stage, at the end of March 2012, i.e., 1 wk before the supposed budburst in outdoor conditions, shoots from the mild treatment were transferred outside and mixed with the cold treatment shoots for branching and phenological observations. During the winter and the spring periods, shoots were completely randomized for cultivar in the cold treatment and for cultivar and leaf treatment in the mild treatment.

Data collection and pipeline of analytical methods—Two types of data were collected during spring 2012. The branching sequence was determined for each shoot at the end of May 2012 after all laterals could be fully identified. The objective was to identify, node by node, the type of lateral entering one of the two categories, latent or growing. This latter category included sylleptic laterals produced in year $n-1$, and vegetative proleptic laterals and flowering laterals

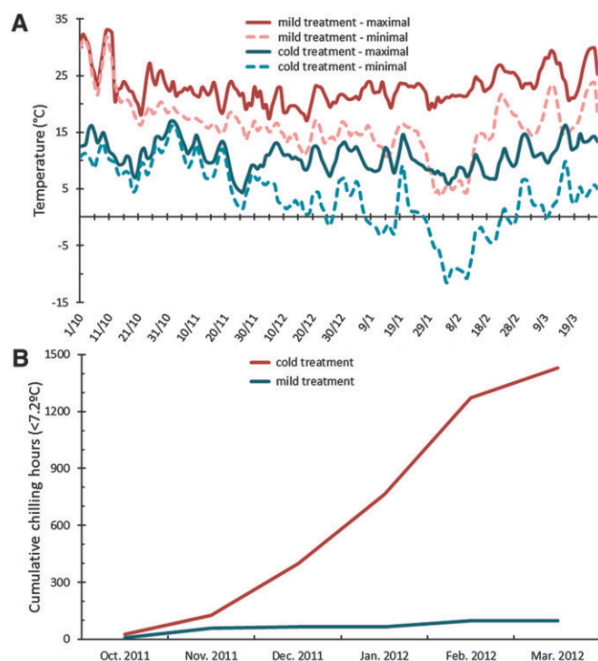


Fig. 1. Temperatures in the cold and mild treatments. (A) Temperature variations (moving average over three consecutive days of the maximal and the minimal temperatures) and (B) cumulative chilling hours (here quantified by the sum of temperatures less than 7.2°C) in outdoor (cold treatment) and in the controlled temperature greenhouse (mild treatment) conditions from 1 October 2011 to 29 March 2012.

developed in the spring of year n (Lauri et al., 1995). Vegetative proleptic laterals were the most represented growing laterals and were the focus of our study (see Results). Each vegetative proleptic lateral, hereafter referred to as vegetative lateral for brevity, was then characterized by the date it reached two consecutive phenological stages, budburst (when scales open and the first leaves are visible, i.e., the “green tip” stage usually considered as budburst in horticulture; Cook and Jacobs, 1999) and stage “4 leaves”. This latter stage was considered as reliable for characterizing the outgrowth of the lateral. A low frequency of vegetative laterals aborted from June onward, after the branching sequence was determined. This phenomenon was not included in the study. Therefore, the collected data combined architectural descriptors in the form of a branching sequence for each shoot and phenological descriptors in the form of dates of the two consecutive phenological stages. We decomposed the analysis in two steps. (1) An architectural analysis was first conducted to characterize and compare the branching sequences obtained for the different cultivar, temperature, and leaf treatments. A categorical variable summarizing the lateral position within the shoot was deduced from this architectural analysis and used in the subsequent phenological analysis of vegetative lateral budburst and outgrowth. (2) This phenological analysis thus integrated not only the cultivar, temperature, and leaf factor but also an architectural factor.

Clustering of shoots on the basis of the pairwise distances between branching sequences resulting from their alignment—The objective was to reveal any grouping within the observed branching sequences. This grouping was based on a distance matrix between branching sequences resulting from their pairwise alignment. The principle of sequence alignment is to seek the appropriate correspondence between two sequences of different lengths by optimizing over all possible correspondences that satisfy suitable conditions, such as preserving the order of the elements in the sequences. If we compare two sequences, the most obvious type of difference between them is the substitution of one element for another at the same rank in the sequence. Other types of difference include deletion of an element, insertion of an element, and transposition of two elements (i.e., the interchange of adjacent elements

in the sequence). A distance between two sequences is defined as the minimum sum of the costs attached to the four possible elementary operations, namely deletion, insertion, substitution, and transposition, required to transform one sequence into another (Guédon et al., 2003, and references therein).

The aim of cluster analysis is to group shoots into homogeneous clusters. We applied a hierarchical method whose output is a hierarchically nested set of partitions of shoots computed on the basis of the pairwise distances between branching sequences resulting from their alignment. More specifically, we applied an agglomerative method, the unweighted pair-group average method. This agglomerative method is initialized with all shoots apart (all the initial clusters are thus composed of a single shoot), and at each step, the two closest clusters are merged on the basis of the smallest between-cluster distance. The strength of the clustering structure obtained by an agglomerative method can be quantified by the agglomerative coefficient (Kaufman and Rousseeuw, 1990). The agglomerative coefficient is a dimensionless quantity between 0 and 1. The larger the value of the agglomerative coefficient, the stronger is the clustering structure.

Segmentations of branching sequences into homogeneous zones to build an explanatory architectural variable for vegetative lateral branching

The branching pattern of a shoot often takes the form of a succession of well-differentiated homogeneous branching zones where the composition properties, in terms of lateral types, do not change substantially within each zone, but change markedly between zones. These branching patterns have been analyzed using segmentation models and in particular hidden semi-Markov chains (Guédon et al., 2001). In our experiment, the number of repetitions was only three for a given combination of cultivar, temperature, and leaf treatments. Moreover, the temperature treatment entailed very contrasting branching structures. We thus chose to apply two families of segmentation models that have complementary properties:

(1) Multiple change-point models (Guédon, 2013) that were used to segment each branching sequence independently. The fact that the branching zones were often long and that successive zones were highly contrasting in terms of composition properties justifies the use of this approach.

(2) Hidden semi-Markov chains that were used to segment branching sequences on the basis of branching zones defined for all the shoots. A hidden semi-Markov chain is a two-scale segmentation model. The succession and length of branching zones (coarse scale) are represented by a nonobservable semi-Markov chain, while the lateral types within a branching zone are represented by observation distributions attached to each state of the semi-Markov chain.

Multiple change-point models give accurate breakpoints between branching zones while hidden semi-Markov chains enable to define zones with common compositions for all the shoots. Multiple change-point models and hidden semi-Markov chains are defined in Appendices 1 and 2, respectively.

Integrating the branching pattern in phenological analyses—An ANOVA was applied considering the time to budburst (T-BB) and the time from budburst to the stage 4 leaves (T-BB-4L) as response variables characterizing the first phenological stages of vegetative laterals development, regardless of whether it grew as a long or as a short lateral. T-BB was based on a common time origin for all buds and was calculated as the difference between the date of budburst of a given vegetative lateral and the date at which the first budburst occurred over all nodes of all shoots for all treatments and cultivars. T-BB-4L was calculated as the difference between the dates at which budburst and the stage 4 leaves occurred for each individual vegetative proleptic lateral. Four factors were considered: temperature treatment with two modalities (cold, mild), cultivar with four modalities (Condessa, Granny Smith, Royal Gala, Starkrimson), branching zone along the shoot based on the architectural analysis (see below), and for the mild treatment only leaf treatment with two modalities (with leaves, without leaves). To avoid complex interpretations, and because of missing data in a few cases, we considered only the proper effects of factors. Two regression models were used to analyze these count data, zero-inflated Poisson for T-BB because of the high frequency of 0 and Poisson for T-BB-4L (Zeileis et al., 2008). R software (version 2.15.0, R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria) was used with the package ‘pscl’ with the function `zeroinfl` for T-BB and the package ‘car’ with the function `glm` for T-BB-4L. When the ANOVA detected a significant effect of a factor, significant differences between medians were assessed based on the “summary” outputs. The threshold P value considered for a significant effect of a factor and for a significant difference between medians was 0.01.

RESULTS

Branching sequences of shoots—When the bud types of the four apple cultivars examined were classified at the end of May 2012, the majority of the 1742 buds, over all shoots and treatments, were latent. The relative frequency of latent buds ranged from 32% in Starkrimson cold to 73% in Condessa mild (Fig. 2). Among the growing laterals, sylleptic laterals (150 as a whole) were mostly observed in Condessa and to a lower extent in Granny Smith and Royal Gala, and were absent in Starkrimson. They were grouped with the latent buds for further analysis since we did not want to take into account their structural influence. Flowering laterals were mostly present in Condessa in the cold treatment, with very low frequency in Starkrimson and Granny Smith, in the mild and in the cold treatment, respectively. Vegetative laterals had the highest frequency among growing laterals (586 as a whole) and were the most evenly distributed among the four cultivars and the temperature treatments. Finally, the three possible categories of lateral types will be referred to as vegetative laterals, flowering laterals, and other lateral type (latent bud or sylleptic lateral).

We extracted from the observed sequences the proportion of vegetative laterals for each successive node and each treatment (cold, mild with leaves, mild without leaves) the sequences being either synchronized from the bottom (Fig. 3A) or from the top (Fig. 3B) of each individual shoot. The main difference concerns the temperature treatment, the influence of the leaf treatment being of far lower magnitude. The shoots subjected to cold temperatures had numerous vegetative laterals near the top, and the proportion of vegetative laterals stayed high up to node rank 35 from the top (Fig. 3A). The shoots subjected to mild temperatures had vegetative laterals preferentially near the bottom (Fig. 3B) but in smaller proportions than the vegetative laterals near the top for the shoots subjected to cold temperatures.

Comparing branching sequences—The agglomerative coefficient of 0.77 indicated a strong clustering structure, particularly the clear separation between shoots subjected to cold temperatures and shoots subjected to mild temperatures (Fig. 4). The top 10 individuals in the dendrogram constituted a first cluster

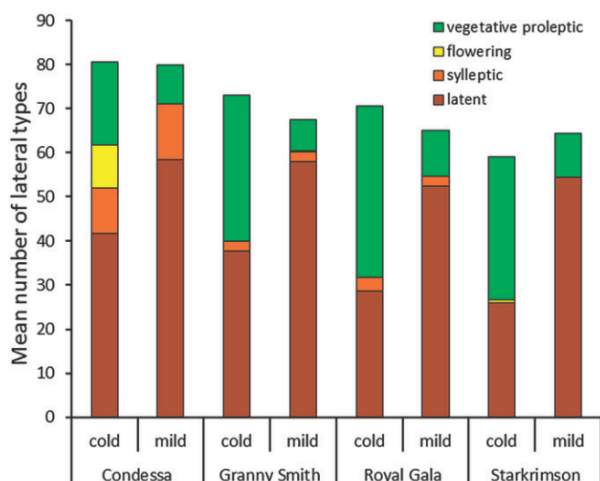


Fig. 2. Mean number of each lateral type (vegetative proleptic, flowering, sylleptic, latent) for four apple cultivars (Condessa, Granny Smith, Royal Gala, Starkrimson) in the two temperature treatments (cold, mild).

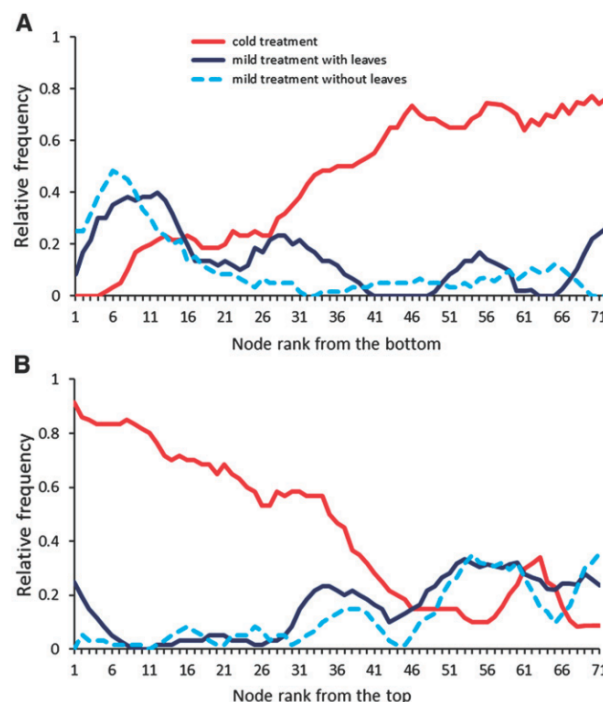


Fig. 3. Relative frequency of vegetative proleptic laterals as a function of the node rank on the shoots for the four apple cultivars (Condessa, Granny Smith, Royal Gala, Starkrimson) merged. Shoots are synchronized (A) from the bottom, and (B) from the top, in either the cold or the mild winter temperature treatments. In the latter case, shoots with leaves are distinguished from shoots without leaves.

corresponding to all the shoots subjected to cold temperatures except two Condessa shoots, which were the only shoots with a high number of flowering laterals (17 and 11, respectively). This strong clustering structure was indeed consistent with the differences in vegetative laterals position between the shoots subjected to cold temperatures and the shoots subjected to the mild temperatures highlighted in Fig. 3.

Two clusters could be identified within the shoots subjected to mild temperatures, the first 10 individuals from the top, and then the following 14 (Fig. 4, see sequence length). These two clusters actually corresponded to two nonoverlapping groups of sequences in terms of sequence length and were to some extent related to the cultivar (Condessa in the longest shoot cluster, and Starkrimson and all the Royal Gala shoots except one in the shortest shoot cluster). This could be interpreted as a consequence of a property of sequence alignment methods where the distance between sequences reflected mainly the difference in length in the case of two sequences with similar structure. We could not detect any influence of the leaf treatment in the clustering of the shoots subjected to mild temperatures.

Building a branching zone explanatory variable for the analysis of the vegetative lateral budburst and outgrowth—A 7-state hidden semi-Markov chain was built on the basis of all the branching sequences. The succession of branching zones and the types of laterals observed in each zone are summarized in Fig. 5. It should be noted that this model combines branching zones common to all the shoots with branching zones dedicated

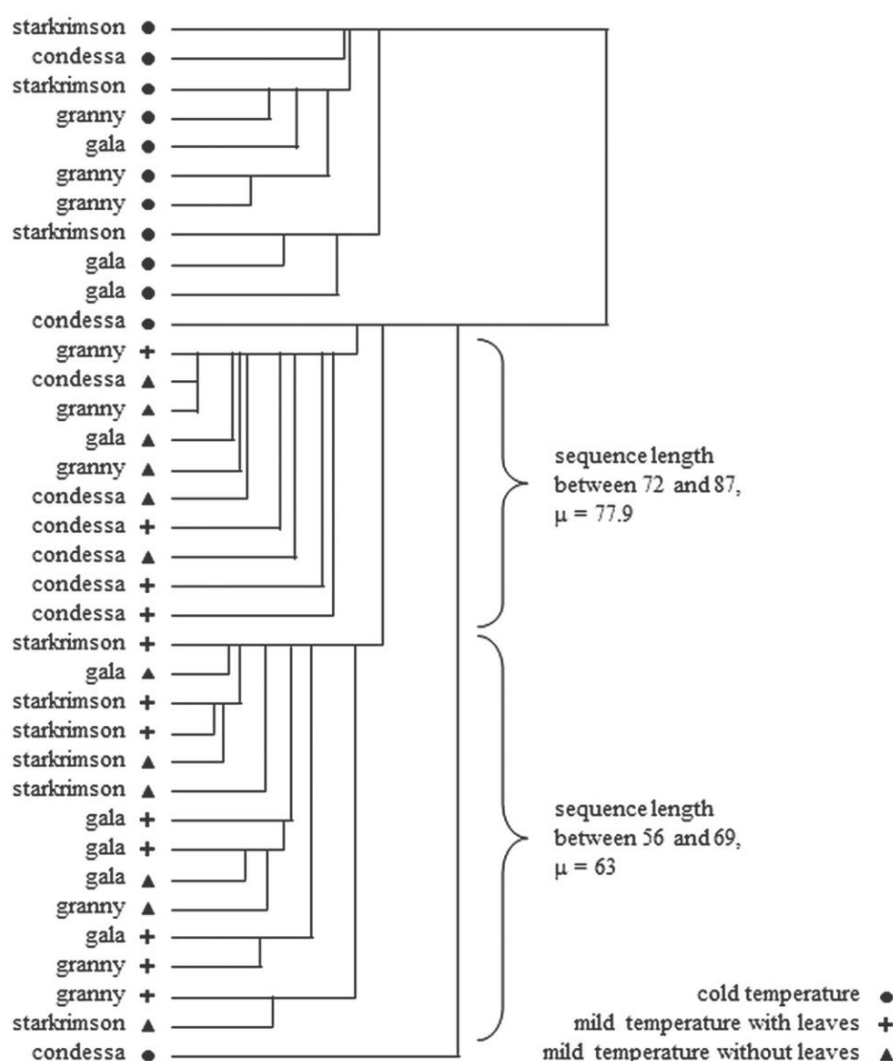


Fig. 4. Hierarchical agglomerative clustering (unweighted pair-group average method) of shoots on the basis of the matrix of pairwise distances between branching sequences.

to specific groups of shoots (e.g., shoots subjected to a given temperature treatment). This model was used to compute the most probable segmentation for each branching sequence. Multiple change-points models were also used to segment branching sequence independently. A consensus segmentation was then defined for each branching sequence in an expert way, which was an easy task because of the quite high commonality between the two segmentations for each branching sequence.

As a validation step, the empirical probabilities of vegetative laterals were extracted for each zone on the basis of the consensus segmentation: top dense branching zone: 0.94; bottom dense branching zone: 0.83; medium branching zone: 0.41; unbranched zone: 0.02. It should be noted that these probabilities are rather close to the observation probabilities estimated within the 7-state hidden semi-Markov chain (top dense branching zone: 0.94; bottom dense branching zone: 0.71; medium branching zone: 0.47), the different balances between probabilities for bottom and

medium branching zones being mainly explained by the not always homogeneous compositions and clear separation between the bottom and medium branching zones for some shoots. Because of their low frequency (43), the isolated vegetative laterals appearing in unbranched zones were grouped with the vegetative laterals appearing in the medium branching zones.

We finally built a categorical explanatory variable with three categories summarizing the branching structure that combines two criteria: (1) position along the shoot and (2) branching density. This explanatory variable, referred to as branching zone in the following, was used in the subsequent phenological analysis.

Phenology of vegetative laterals—Analyses were decomposed in two consecutive steps. First, the global effects of the three factors common to all shoots, i.e., temperature treatment, cultivar, and branching zone, were tested on both T-BB and T-BB-4L (Table 1). Second, the effect of the leaf treatment was

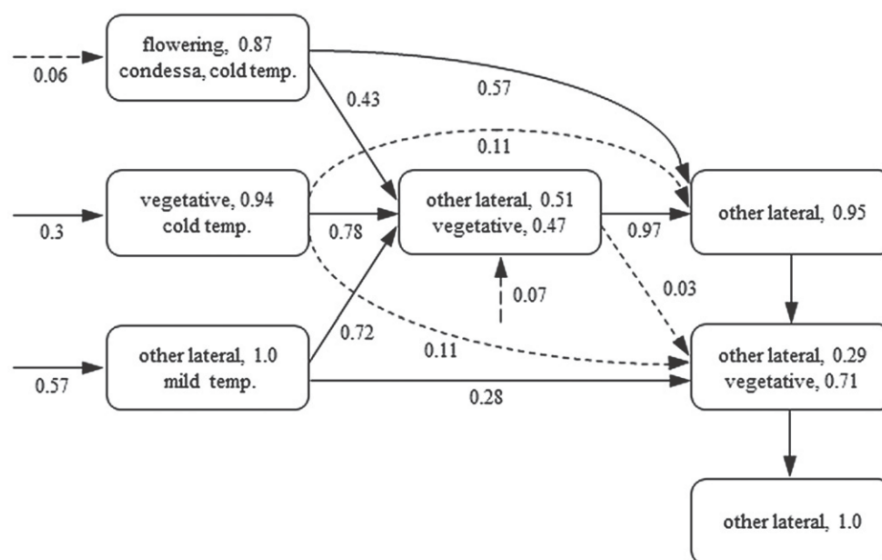


Fig. 5. Hidden semi-Markov chain used to segment branching sequences described from the top to the bottom. Each state is represented by a vertex. The possible transitions between states are represented by arcs with the attached probabilities noted nearby when <1 . The arcs entering in states indicate the possible initial states. The attached initial probabilities are noted nearby. The observation distribution is summarized within each vertex as well as the specialization of a state for a given temperature treatment.

tested on both T-BB and T-BB-4L on shoots in the mild treatment only (Table 2).

As a whole, T-BB was strongly and significantly affected by the temperature treatment (Table 1) with an increased precocity of T-BB of 11 to 18 d in the cold treatment compared with the mild treatment, depending on the cultivar and the branching zone (Table 2). Although highly significant, T-BB was less affected by the cultivar and the branching zone (see χ^2 values in Table 1). T-BB-4L was mainly affected by the cultivar and to a lesser extent by the branching zone with no significant effect of the temperature treatment (Table 1).

Considering the two temperature treatments separately, the cultivar had a stronger effect than the branching zone on T-BB in both the cold and the mild treatments (Table 2). In the two temperature treatments, T-BB was significantly delayed in Starkrimson compared with the other three cultivars (ca. 10,

and between 3 and 8 d, for the cold and the mild treatments, respectively), and in the medium zone compared with the top and/or the bottom zones (ca. 3, and between 2 and 6 d, for the cold and the mild treatments, respectively).

T-BB-4L was significantly affected by the cultivar although in a shorter range compared with T-BB, with Condessa being the most precocious in the two temperature treatments (7 and 12 d after budburst for the cold and the mild treatments, respectively) and Granny Smith the most delayed (15 and 15.5 d after budburst for the cold and the mild treatments, respectively). There was also a significant effect of the branching zone with, in the two temperature treatments, a delayed T-BB-4L in the bottom compared with both the top and the medium zones.

In the mild treatment, the presence of delayed senescent leaves had no effect on T-BB and had a slight, although significant, effect in spreading T-BB-4L compared with the absence of leaves. This effect was not related to a change of the median value but to a slight increase of the variability of T-BB-4L (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

The effect of the cultivar on the branching pattern has been analyzed in previous studies in cold winter regions with a priori sufficient chilling whatever the studied cultivar (e.g., Costes and Guédon, 2002; Lauri, 2007) but only scarcely (e.g., Maguylo et al., 2012) in relation to the winter temperature regime. Moreover, most of the research work on chilling requirements of genotypes was developed using terminal and not lateral buds (e.g., Hauagge and Cummins, 1991). Our experiment was designed to explicitly include the position of the lateral along the shoot as a factor potentially affecting phenology together with the other factors, namely, winter temperature, cultivar, and for the mild treatment presence or absence of leaves. Both the contrasting number of hours below 7.2°C (1428 vs. 99 in the cold

TABLE 1. Vegetative lateral phenology (time to budburst [T-BB] and time from budburst to stage 4 leaves [T-BB-4L]) in apple shoots as affected by winter temperature, cultivar, and branching zone.

Response variable factor	df	χ^2	P
T-BB			
Temperature	1	471.27	$2.2 < 10^{-16}$
Cultivar	3	274.56	$2.2 < 10^{-16}$
Branching zone	2	50.77	$9.5 < 10^{-12}$
T-BB-4L			
Temperature	1	6.04	0.014
Cultivar	3	117.33	$2.2 < 10^{-16}$
Branching zone	2	32.68	$8.0 < 10^{-08}$

Notes: T-BB was calculated from the day at which the first budburst occurred over all shoots, i.e., with a same time origin for all buds. T-BB-4L was calculated considering T-BB of each individual bud. Two regression models were used, zero-inflated Poisson for T-BB and Poisson for T-BB-4L.

TABLE 2. Phenology of vegetative laterals in apple shoots within each winter temperature treatment—effects of cultivar, branching zone, and for the mild treatment only of leaf treatment, on response variables time to budburst (T-BB) and time from budburst to stage 4 leaves (T-BB-4L), for two winter temperature treatments, cold and mild.

Factor modality	Cold treatment		Mild treatment	
	T-BB (d) Median (interquartile range)	T-BB-4L (d) Median (interquartile range)	T-BB (d) Median (interquartile range)	T-BB-4L (d) Median (interquartile range)
Cultivar (df = 3)				
Condesa	0 (0–0) b	7 (7–10) d	13 (5–15) d	12 (11–13) b
Granny Smith	0 (0–3) b	15 (12–15) a	18 (17–21) b	15.5 (12–16) a
Royal Gala	0 (0–0) b	10 (7–12) c	17 (13–21) c	11 (9–14) b
Starkrimson	10 (5–13) a	11 (9–12) b	21 (19–24) a	12 (11–16) ab
χ^2, P	140.95, <10 ⁻¹⁶	130.03, <10 ⁻¹⁶	155.40, <10 ⁻¹⁶	12.99, 4.6 10 ⁻³
Branching zone (df = 2)				
Top	0 (0–5) b	10 (10–14) b	13 (5–14.5) c	10.5 (8–12) b
Medium	3 (0–7) a	10 (7–13) c	19 (13–24) a	11 (9–13) b
Bottom	0 (0–0) b	13 (10–13) a	17 (15–20.5) b	13.5 (11–16) a
χ^2, P	14.57, 6.8 10 ⁻⁴	35.64, 1.8 10 ⁻⁸	28.32, 7.1 10 ⁻⁷	14.37, 7.6 10 ⁻⁴
Leaf treatment (df = 1)				
With leaves	—	—	17 (13–21)	12 (11–15) a
Without leaves	—	—	19 (15–24)	12 (11–14) b
χ^2, P	—	—	4.13, 0.04	10.48, 1.2 10 ⁻³

Notes: T-BB was calculated from the day at which the first budburst occurred over all shoots, i.e., with the same time origin for all buds. T-BB-4L was calculated considering T-BB of each individual bud. Two regression models were used, zero-inflated Poisson for T-BB and Poisson for T-BB-4L. Median values with the same letter are not significantly different at $P < 0.01$.

and the mild treatments, respectively; Fig. 1), and to a lesser extent the length of the shoots (between 60 to 80 nodes depending on the cultivar; Fig. 2), likely exacerbated the differences in the topological distribution of vegetative laterals between the two temperature treatments compared with previous studies (e.g., Maguylo et al., 2012) (Fig. 3).

As a whole, our study confirmed that, combining T-BB and T-BB-4L, in the cold winter conditions, the low-chilling Condesa was the most precocious as opposed to the high-chilling Starkrimson, with 7 and 21 d to reach stage T-BB-4L, respectively. The difference was less in the mild winter conditions, with again Condesa as the most precocious (25 d) and Starkrimson and Granny Smith the most delayed cultivars (33 and 33.5 d, respectively).

A higher effect of winter temperatures on budburst than on outgrowth, with lower but significant effects of cultivar and branching zone—Several studies have been conducted on the effects of winter temperatures on the branching pattern and especially on the lack of chilling syndrome (Austin et al., 2002) or on the means to increase and synchronize budburst (e.g., manipulation of tree growth through rootstock vigor, pruning time, branch orientation, and more commonly, rest-breaking agents; Erez, 1995; Cook, 2010). However, most of these works focused on budburst without consideration for lateral outgrowth. Our study clearly showed that winter temperatures mainly affected the position of laterals along the shoot (Fig. 2) with a main effect of temperature on budburst of the lateral and a lower effect on outgrowth (Table 1). The effect of the cultivar was significant within each temperature treatment on both budburst and outgrowth. Noticeably, mild winter temperatures not only delayed budburst and outgrowth, but also increased the variability compared to the cold conditions. Indeed, depending on the cultivar time to budburst lasted 0 to 13 d in the cold treatment, illustrating the precocious budburst in the cold winter, vs. 5 to 24 d in the mild treatment (1st and 3rd quartiles in Table 2, T-BB). Similarly, time from budburst to the stage 4 leaves

lasted 7 to 15 d in the cold treatment vs. 9 to 16 d in the mild treatment (1st and 3rd quartiles in Table 2, T-BB-4L). Therefore, cultivars were more differentiated by the time to budburst than by the time from budburst to the stage 4 leaves. This substantiated that budburst is the primary phenological trait constrained by winter temperatures with a lower effect of the cultivar. The cultivar effect becomes predominant in the outgrowth of the lateral (Table 1).

The branching zone affected budburst and lateral outgrowth differently. Whatever the temperature treatment buds in the top and the bottom zones burst earlier than buds in the medium zone (Table 2). The scheme was different for the time to reach the stage 4 leaves with, whatever the temperature treatment, a longer time for lateral outgrowth in the bottom zone compared with the other two zones, i.e., buds in the top or in the medium zones. This would illustrate “acrotomy by differential growth” (Champagnat, 1965) stating that acrotomy may be more related to a stronger growth occurring after budburst (in our study, less time to reach the stage 4 leaves) than by time to budburst. As a whole, our study evidenced a coupling between frequency and precocity of branching for shoots in the cold winter temperatures (Fig. 3, Table 2), confirming previous studies (Lauri, 2007; Maguylo et al., 2012). This was not the case for shoots with insufficient chilling where there was a decoupling between precocity and frequency: the precocity of vegetative buds in the top zone of the shoots (Table 2) was associated with a very low frequency of vegetative proleptic laterals in this zone (Fig. 3).

Differentiating the effects of the delayed senescence of leaves on shoots in the mild treatment from chilling requirements—The persistence of leaves on shoots in late autumn and winter in mild winter regions is usually associated with the lack of chilling syndrome but is not considered to have a primary role in the induction or progression of dormancy (Cook et al., 2005). To our knowledge, a possible physiological effect of leaf persistence per se on lateral outgrowth is not documented. However, leaf stripping is an efficient means to stimulate budburst, and

possibly flowering, after a first annual crop in equatorial conditions (Janick, 1974). Our results showed no significant effect of leaves on time to budburst but the presence of leaves slightly, but significantly, spread outgrowth over time (Table 2). It may then be suggested that if, as a whole, the main effect of a mild winter in delaying budburst is operating through a direct effect of temperature, an indirect effect, i.e., through the delayed senescence of leaves, would only be superimposed slightly increasing the variability of the outgrowth of the laterals. It is known that leaf shedding in late autumn in cold winter region is preceded by nutrient withdrawal, which plays an important role in the internal recycling of N and P (Millard et al., 2007) and of photoassimilates (Zguigal et al., 2006; Tessier and Bornn, 2007) both being used for new vernal growth (Tessier and Bornn, 2007). On the basis of our results, we argue that the delayed senescent leaves in spring in mild winter conditions does not significantly affect shoot architecture and phenology and therefore question the effect on branching of nutrient withdrawal from leaves in the case of overwintering leaves. An explanation could be that the delayed senescent leaves in the mild winter condition are in a distal position, whereas growing laterals are mostly in a proximal position.

In conclusion, our study showed that the position and the phenology of vegetative laterals on the 1-yr-old apple shoot are intrinsically related. Winter temperatures had a main effect on the distribution of growing laterals along the shoot and on time to budburst. The effects of the cultivar become predominant on the outgrowth of the laterals. The question remains as to what extent our results are applicable to flowering laterals, which could not be studied here due to their low frequency. Furthermore, our study was focused on laterals and did not consider terminal budburst and growth. However, the type (floral vs vegetative) of the terminal bud and its time of development may also affect lateral growth (Maguylo et al., 2012). The respective contributions of endogenous branching characteristics, specific to the genotype (Costes and Guédon, 2002; Lauri and Laurens, 2005), and winter temperature regime, in determining the actual branching pattern of a genotype still needs further study. The interest of such knowledge is particularly useful in horticulture for geneticists and breeders for better phenotyping apple progenies with the practical objectives to predict cultivar branching patterns and phenology in various climatic environments. The interest is however wider, in ecology and forestry, considering that the current global warming not only alters phenology (Vitasse et al., 2011) but also plant architecture.

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APPENDIX 1. Definition of multiple change-point models and associated statistical methods.

Multiple change-point models are used to delimit segments within a branching sequence of length T , $\mathbf{x} = x_0, \dots, x_{T-1}$ for which the data characteristics are homogeneous within each segment while differing markedly from one segment to another. We suppose that there exist some $J - 1$ node ranks $\tau_1 < \dots < \tau_{J-1}$ (with the convention $\tau_0 = 0$ and $\tau_J = T$) such that the probability of each type of lateral is constant between two successive change points

$$\text{if } \tau_j \leq t < \tau_{j+1}, \quad P(X_t = y | S_t = j) = b_j(y).$$

Hence, the $J - 1$ change points $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{J-1}$ define a unique segmentation $\mathbf{s} = s_0, \dots, s_{T-1}$. The problem now is to estimate the parameters of these multiple change-point models: the number of segments J , the position of the $J - 1$ change points $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{J-1}$, i.e., the optimal segmentation and the lateral type distribution $\{b_j(y)\}$ for each segment j .

Let us denote by θ the lateral type probabilities attached to the successive segments and by $L_J(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{x}; \theta)$ the likelihood of the segmentation $\mathbf{s}$ of the observed sequence $\mathbf{x}$. The estimation of the $J - 1$ change points $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_{J-1}$, which corresponds to the optimal segmentation $\mathbf{s}^*$ into J segments, is obtained as follows:

$$\hat{\tau}_1, \dots, \hat{\tau}_{J-1} = \arg \max_{\mathbf{s}} \log L_J(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{x}; \hat{\theta}).$$

To select the number of segments, we adopted a model selection approach based on the integrated completed likelihood (ICL) criterion (Rigaill et al., 2012). For each number of segments, the following quantity is computed

$$\text{ICL}(J) = 2 \log L_J(\mathbf{x}) - d_J \log T - 2H(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}), \quad (\text{A1})$$

where $L_J(\mathbf{x})$ is the likelihood of all the possible segmentations in J segments of the observed sequence $\mathbf{x}$, d_J is the number of free parameters of a J -segment model and $H(\mathbf{S} | \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})$ is the entropy of the segmentation $\mathbf{S}$ for the observed sequence $\mathbf{x}$. The principle of this penalized likelihood criterion consists in a trade-off between an adequate fitting of the model to the data (given by the first term in [A1]) and a reasonable number of parameters to be estimated (controlled by the second term in [A1]). The ICL criterion adds an entropy term in the penalty and is expected to favor models that give rise to the less ambiguous segmentation of sequences in branching zones.

APPENDIX 2. Definition of hidden semi-Markov chains and associated statistical methods.

In our context, the succession and length (in number of nodes) of branching zones are represented by a nonobservable semi-Markov chain, while the types of lateral are represented by observation distributions attached to each state of the semi-Markov chain. Hence, each state of the semi-Markov chain represents a branching zone. A J -state semi-Markov chain $\{S_t\}$ is defined by three subsets of parameters:

1. Initial probabilities $(\pi_j; j = 1, \dots, J)$ to model which is the first branching zone occurring in a shoot with $\pi_j = P(S_0 = j)$ and $\sum_j \pi_j = 1$.
2. Transition probabilities $(p_{ij}; i, j = 1, \dots, J)$ to model the succession of branching zones along a shoot,
 - nonabsorbing state i : for each $j \neq i$, $p_{ij} = P(S_t = j | S_{t-1} = i)$ with $\sum_{j \neq i} p_{ij} = 1$ and $p_{ii} = 0$ by convention,
 - absorbing state i : $p_{ii} = P(S_t = i | S_{t-1} = i) = 1$ and for each $j \neq i$, $p_{ij} = 0$.
3. Occupancy distributions attached to nonabsorbing states (a state is said to be absorbing if, after entering this state, it is impossible to leave it) to model the length of branching zones (in number of nodes). For each nonabsorbing states j ,

$$d_j(u) = P(S_{t+u+1} \neq j, S_{t+u-v} = j, v = 0, \dots, u-2 | S_{t+1} = j, S_t \neq j), \quad u = 1, 2, \dots$$

A hidden semi-Markov chain (HSMC) can be viewed as a two-level stochastic process, i.e., a pair of stochastic processes $\{S_t, X_t\}$ where the “output” process $\{X_t\}$ is related to the “state” process $\{S_t\}$, which is a semi-Markov chain, by the observation probabilities

$$b_j(y) = P(X_t = y | S_t = j) \text{ with } \sum_y b_j(y) = 1.$$

The definition of the observation probabilities expresses the assumption that the output process at time t depends only on the nonobservable semi-Markov chain at time t . In the case of a categorical observed variable with a small set of possible outputs such as the types of lateral, the observation probabilities are directly estimated.

The maximum likelihood estimation of the parameters of a HSMC requires an iterative optimization technique, which is an application of the expectation-maximization (EM) algorithm. Once a HSMC has been estimated, the most probable state sequence $\mathbf{s}^*$ can be computed for each observed sequence $\mathbf{x}$ using the so-called Viterbi algorithm. In our application context, the most probable state sequence can be interpreted as the optimal segmentation of the corresponding observed sequence in successive branching zones; see Guédon (2003) for statistical methods for HSMCs.

Artigo 2. Are the effects of winter temperatures on spring budburst mediated by the bud water status or related to a whole-shoot effect? Insights in the apple tree

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Are the effects of winter temperatures on spring budburst mediated by the bud water status or related to a whole-shoot effect? Insights in the apple tree

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Key Message In apple, the overwintering bud appears hydraulically isolated from the parent stem. Spring budburst seems more related to a whole-shoot effect than to the water status of the individual bud during winter dormancy.

Abstract

The effects of winter temperatures, i.e. during dormancy, on shoot architecture are well known with budburst preferentially in the distal or the proximal part of the parent shoot in cold and mild winter conditions, respectively. However, the link with the overwintering bud water status is still scarcely documented. Our study was developed on four apple cultivars covering a range of chilling requirements from low ('Condessa') to medium ('Granny Smith') and high ('Royal Gala', 'Starkrimson'), and maintained in either cold (1428 hours below 7.2°C) or mild (99 hours below 7.2°C) fluctuating winter temperatures. Our aim was to analyze xylem conductance at the stem-to-bud junction, and relative water content and water potential of the bud itself, for buds situated in the distal third of one-year-old shoots. From endodormancy to the pre-budburst stage, xylem conductance at the stem-to-bud junction increased or decreased or did not show consistent changes depending on the cultivar and the winter temperature treatment. Whatever the cultivar, there were no significant trends across dates for the effects of winter temperatures on bud water potential and relative water content. Water potential had negative values, between -4.35 and -2.24 MPa, across cultivars and winter temperature treatments without a consistent relationship with actual spring budburst frequency. These results suggested that lateral buds were hydraulically isolated from the parent stem during winter until a few days before budburst. We discussed that spring budburst was likely more related to a whole-shoot effect mediated by hormonal, hydraulics and/or sugar signaling, than to the individual bud water status during

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endo- and ecodormancy.

Keywords: apple; axillary budburst; relative water content; water potential; winter temperatures; xylem hydraulic conductance.

Author contribution statement

JD Schmitz collected the data, made most of the analyses and interpretation of results, and wrote a first draft of the manuscript.

M Bonhomme and H Cochard contributed to the interpretation of results.

FG Herter, GB Leite and JL Regnard defined the main lines of the experiment.

PE Lauri managed the study, and contributed to the analyses and interpretation of results, and to the writing of the manuscript.

Introduction

Plant architecture is at any given time the expression of an equilibrium between endogenous growth processes and exogenous constraints exerted by the environment (Barthélémy and Caraglio 2007). Dormancy is the temporary suspension of visible growth of any plant structure containing a meristem (Lang et al. 1987) and plays a key-role in budburst and branching patterns (Cook et al. 1998). Each individual bud has its own physiological state which depends both on its endogenous ability to burst and on its position within the shoot (e.g. proximal or distal part) and tree canopy (e.g. on a short or on a long shoot), and which determines its growing potential (Mauget and Rageau 1988). Two phases of dormancy have been identified during the autumn and winter: endodormancy when inhibitions rely within the bud itself, and ecodormancy when the inhibitions are imposed by unfavorable environmental factors (Lang et al. 1987). Winter temperature is the main environmental factor affecting bud dormancy (Erez 1995; Heide and Prestrud 2005) and spring budburst and branching patterns as shown in the apple tree (Maguylo et al. 2012; Schmitz et al. 2014). Apical dominance, which is the control exerted by the current-year shoot apex over lateral bud outgrowth, is typically the result of correlative inhibitions within the shoot during the growing season (Champagnat 1989; Cline 1997). It is a specific case of dormancy called paradormancy (Lang et al. 1987; Faust et al. 1995). Paradormancy also occurs during winter as shown by the differing budburst potential along the shoot and throughout winter (Champagnat 1983).

Acrotony is typically defined by the preferential growth of laterals in the distal zone of the parent annual shoot and is opposed to basitony characterized by budburst and branching in the proximal zone (Champagnat et al. 1971; Bell 1991; Cook et al. 1998; Lauri 2007). Acrotony and basitony typically characterize the branching pattern in cold and in mild winter conditions, respectively (Cook and Jacobs 1999; Schmitz et al. 2014).

The present study was carried out on apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.), which is cultivated in regions under contrasted winter temperature conditions from the tropics to the high latitudes (Janick 1974; Palmer et al. 2003). This species is also characterized by a high genetic variability for the length of bud dormancy under various conditions of winter temperatures (Hauagge and Cummins 1991) and for budburst frequency in spring (i.e. the proportion of buds which burst in spring over the total number of buds on a shoot; Labuschagné 2002). Although progression of dormancy and consequently spring budburst frequency differ throughout winter, genotypes with high chilling requirements have a typical basitony and/or erratic budburst along the parent shoot in mild winter conditions whereas cultivars with low chilling requirements show acrotonic budburst in the same winter temperature conditions (Cook et al. 1998; Cook and Jacobs 2000). It

has been shown in walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) that the availability of soluble sugars plays a significant role in spring budburst through the active uptake of hexoses from the xylem sap to the bud one month before budburst (Bonhomme et al. 2009). Based on these findings, it has been suggested that budburst potential depends on both the sink strength of the bud itself in relation to the flux entering the bud and on the sink competition between bud, xylem parenchyma and bark (Bonhomme et al. 2009). However, this does not mean that vascular connections between stem and bud are fully developed and other pathways, apoplastic or symplasmic, could permit such transport.

As shown in *Zelkova serrata* (Yoda et al. 2003), stem diameter increases before budburst, and it has been shown in beech and apple at a more local scale that there are positive relationships between the xylem conductance at the junction of the bud to the parent stem, the number of appendages within the bud (Cochard et al. 2005) and the ability to develop a vegetative shoot or an inflorescence in spring (Lauri et al. 2008). However, to the best of our knowledge, there are no precise studies of the physiological drivers of these relationships at the stem and bud levels. Water potential (WP) is useful in understanding water movement among plant parts through the cellular membranes and xylem (Papendick and Campbell 1981). By definition, pure water (free water) has a WP equal to 0 MPa. Inside the cells as well in aqueous solutions WP is negative (Pimenta 2008). Water flow proceeds from a compartment with less negative WP to a compartment with more negative WP and the availability of water for physiological processes decreases as the potential is more negative (Papendick and Campbell 1981). As an example, working on callus from *Hevea brasiliensis*, Etienne and Carron (1991) found positive correlations between values of WP close to zero, high water content and somatic embryogenesis, i.e. the ability to regenerate an embryo from a somatic cell or group of somatic cells. To the best of our knowledge there is no research work showing a relation between bud WP and the ability of the bud to burst in spring.

Our aim was to gain more insights on the relationships between bud water status, i.e. water content and WP, xylem conductance at the junction of the bud to the parent stem during winter, and spring budburst. We focused our study on the distal third of one-year-old shoots which have been previously characterized by high or low frequency of budburst depending on the chilling requirement of the cultivar and on winter temperatures (Maguylo et al. 2012). We designed our study to analyze, in cold and mild winter temperature conditions, three variables characterizing the water status of individual buds (i.e., WP and relative water content of the bud, and xylem hydraulic conductance at the junction of the bud to the parent stem) from endodormancy through ecodormancy, in apple cultivars with contrasted chilling requirements. Our hypothesis was that a higher ability for budburst in spring would be entailed during the pre-budburst stage

(ecodormancy) by an increase of the xylem conductance at the junction of the bud to the parent stem and of the relative water content of the bud itself with presumably values of bud WP close to zero. We also expected a strong effect of winter temperatures on these variations in relation to the winter temperature-dependence budburst frequency of the cultivar.

Materials and methods

Plant material and experimental setting

The trial was carried out on four apple cultivars with different chilling requirements, as defined by the number of hours below 7.2°C for breaking dormancy: ‘Condessa’ (350 to 450), ‘Granny Smith’ (600 to 700), ‘Royal Gala’ (700 to 800), and ‘Starkrimson’ (more than 800) (Marcus Vinicius Kvitschal, EPAGRI, Brazil; unpublished data). In February 2011, twelve scions per cultivar were grafted on M.9 (Pajam® 2), a common rootstock in commercial orchards, at Cirad-Montpellier in southern France (lat. 43° N, long. 3° E, 44m a.s.l.). Trees were planted in 4-liter pots and placed into a greenhouse during the whole growing season. Our plant material consisted of a single vertical shoot per tree directly stemming from the grafting point, and the other shoots, branched on the rootstock or at the bottom of the main shoot, were removed. In early December 2011, the one-year-old shoots were equally distributed into two groups, each one being submitted to one of the following treatments. One group was transferred outdoor to ensure the “cold” winter conditions (“cold” treatment), and the other one was put in a temperature-controlled greenhouse to ensure the “mild” winter conditions (“mild” treatment). In the mild treatment, the temperature was left to vary at 10° to 15°C above the temperatures in the cold treatment with a minimum threshold set at 5°C. Considering a threshold at 7.2°C (Weinberger 1950) this setting resulted in 1428 and 99 chilling hours in the cold and in the mild winter temperature treatments, respectively (Schmitz et al. 2014). At the end of March 2012, i.e. approximately one week before the budburst in outdoor conditions based on the progression of bud phenology (Fleckinger 1948), shoots from the mild treatment were transferred outside and mixed with the cold treatment shoots for budburst observations. During the winter and the spring periods, trees were completely randomized for cultivar treatment. All trees were drip-irrigated to field capacity during the whole trial. In outdoor conditions, irrigation was maintained even when frost occurred.

Individual bud traits were considered for buds in the distal third of all one-year-old shoots, in the two temperature treatments, usually characterized by the highest budburst frequency under the cold winter condition (Maguylo et al. 2012). Destructive bud sampling was done at three consecutive times in the dormancy period during the 2011-2012 Winter: beginning of January 2012, i.e. at the end of the supposed

endodormancy (Mauget and Rageau 1988), mid-February and mid-March. This latter sampling date corresponded to two to three weeks before budburst depending on the temperature treatment.

Traits of individual buds

From beginning of January through end of March 2012, the individual bud traits were characterized in three shoots per cultivar and treatment. The following variables were considered.

Water potential and relative water content - At each date, two lateral buds per shoot, the 25th and the 27th below terminal bud (Fig. 1), six per cultivar and treatment, were excised with a scalpel, immediately put into an eppendorf tube and transported to the laboratory. WP (MPa) was measured using the Wescor (HR-33T Dew Point-Microvoltmeter; www.wescor.com; Wescor 2001) apparatus, with a series of C-52 Sample Chamber, calibrated according to Montoro et al. (1995). Based on preliminary experiments, the sampled lateral buds were left for 90 minutes to attain equilibrium inside the C-52 Sample Chambers before reading. The relative water content (RWC; %) was obtained in the same buds after WP determination. RWC was calculated as the ratio $[(FM - DM)/(MFT - DM) \times 100]$, where FM is the fresh mass (mg), DM the dry mass after 72 hours at 60°C in oven (mg), and MFT the mass at full turgor (mg) obtained after immersion into pure water in dark at 4°C for 15 hours.

Hydraulic conductance - The maximal hydraulic conductance of the xylem at the junction of the bud to the stem ($K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$; mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) was measured using the high-pressure flow meter (HPFM; Dynamax, Houston, TX, USA) apparatus, which is based on the perfusion of deionized and filtered water at high pressure (0.5 to 0.6 MPa) at the bottom of the 50 to 60 cm long distal third of the one-year-old shoot, and the measurement of the rate of water exudation at each individual lateral bud scar. Water exudation was measured by using a weighed piece of dry cotton applied for 60 seconds on each bud scar surface on the shoot where the lateral bud had been removed. Ten lateral buds per shoot, 30 per cultivar and treatment, were considered (Fig. 1).

Proleptic lateral growth - In the last week of July 2012, i.e. the year following shoot growth, each node of the distal third of each remaining shoot, three shoots per cultivar, was characterized by the type of growth of the lateral bud. These lateral types entered one of the three categories, latent (L), proleptic vegetative (V) and proleptic flowering (F). Proleptic lateral growth (PLG; %) was calculated as the ratio $[V+F/[V+F+L]]$.

Data analyses

The effects of the studied factors, winter temperature treatment and sampling date or cultivar, on WP, RWC, $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ and PLG were analyzed through a two-way ANOVA, and when significant means were submitted to a Tukey test to separate levels of factors. Statistical analyses were done using R software version 3.0.2 (package 'car' with the function `lm()` for continuous variables; <http://www.rproject.org>). Threshold for significance was set at $P < 0.05$. PLG data were transformed prior to statistical tests using the Box-Cox procedure (package 'MASS').

Results

Effects of the winter temperature treatment on the water status of the bud

In 'Condessa', $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ increased significantly during winter in the cold winter treatment (0.70 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹ to 1.25 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹ for January and March, respectively) whereas there were no significant changes in the mild winter treatment (Fig. 2a). There was no significant trend for the effects of the winter temperature treatment across dates on WP and RWC (Fig. 2e, 2i).

In 'Granny Smith', $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ was significantly higher in the mild winter treatment in January (1.16 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) and February (0.90 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) compared to March (0.33 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹; Fig. 2b). There was no significant trend for the effects of the winter temperature treatments across dates on WP and RWC (Fig. 2f, 2j).

In 'Royal Gala', $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ significantly decreased in the mild winter treatment from January (0.61 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) to February and March (0.32 and 0.25 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively) whereas it significantly increased in the cold winter treatment from January (0.30 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) to February (0.80 mmol MPa⁻¹ s⁻¹) with intermediate values in March (Fig. 2c). There was no significant trend for the effects of the winter temperature treatment across dates on WP and RWC (Fig. 2g, 2l).

In 'Starkrimson' there was no significant increase of $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ across dates whatever the treatment (Fig. 2d). In cold winter, WP increased significantly from February (-4.09 MPa) to March (-2.38 MPa) (Fig. 2h). RWC was significantly higher in cold winter in March (56.71%) compared to January and February (39.27 and 35.68%, respectively) (Fig. 2m).

Relation between PLG and water status at the pre-budburst stage (mid-March)

There were contrasted budburst patterns depending on the winter temperature treatment with a typical acrotony in the cold winter treatment and basitony in the mild winter treatment (Fig. 3, the example of

'Starkrimson'). Focusing on the distal third of one-year-old shoots, all cultivars had the highest PLG in the cold winter treatment and the lowest in the mild winter treatment (Table 1). However, considering the cold winter treatment, it is worth noticing that the low-chilling 'Condesa' had the lowest value whereas the other three cultivars with higher chilling requirements ('Royal Gala', 'Starkrimson' and 'Granny Smith') had higher values (Table 1). There was a reverse trend in the mild winter treatment with, although not significantly different, the highest mean value of PLG for 'Condesa' compared to the other three cultivars (Table 1). It should also be noticed that apart from the differences in the mean PLG values, the mild winter treatment was also characterized by a high variability of PLG, with coefficients of variation varying from 69% to 108%, compared to a range of 4% to 31% for shoots in the cold treatment (data not shown, Table 1). Considering the two contrasted cultivars with regards to chilling requirements, 'Condesa' and 'Starkrimson', before budburst, 'Condesa' has a higher $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ ($1.25 \text{ mmol MPa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) in cold winter than 'Starkrimson' ($0.77 \text{ mmol MPa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$), and there were no significant differences between the two cultivars in mild winter (0.49 and $0.32 \text{ mmol MPa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, for 'Condesa' and 'Starkrimson', respectively) (Table 1). For these two cultivars and for 'Granny Smith', $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ was significantly higher in the cold winter compared to the mild treatment (Table 1). There was no effect of the temperature treatment on $K_{\text{Stem-Bud}}$ for 'Royal Gala'. On the other hand, WP had very negative values whatever the cultivar and the winter temperature treatment. This latter varied between -4.35 MPa for 'Condesa' in the mild treatment to -2.24 MPa for 'Royal Gala' in the cold treatment without consistent relationship with PLG (Table 1). There was no significant effect of the winter temperature treatment and the cultivar on RWC which varied between 52.86% for 'Condesa' in the mild treatment to 65.35% for 'Royal Gala' in the mild treatment despite strong differences in PLG (Table 1).

Discussion

Our study included two contrasted winter temperature treatments, one of which was a mild winter condition with 99 chilling hours below 7.2°C . This experimental setting entailed a strong effect on the budburst pattern of the one-year-old apple shoot with a typical acrotony in the cold winter temperatures treatment and a basitony in the mild winter temperature treatment (Fig. 3), confirming previous studies (Cook and Jacobs 1999).

Working on buds located in the upper third of one-year-old shoots our hypothesis was that, under the cold winter treatment with presumably higher budburst, both xylem conductance at the junction between bud and stem and relative water content would increase, and water potential would become closer to zero, from endodormancy (January), to the release of dormancy (mid-March). Our results did not support this

hypothesis except for xylem conductance in 'Condessa' (Fig. 2; Table 1) which, however, had a slightly lower budburst in cold winter compared to the other three cultivars (Table 1). It is known that the freeze-thaw cycles occurring in winter may increase vulnerability to embolism entailing a decrease of the stem xylem conductance (Sperry and Sullivan 1992). We were unable to detect an effect of winter temperatures on the xylem conductance at the junction between stem and bud with, depending on the case, higher values in the cold (e.g. 'Condessa' in February and March) or in the mild ('Granny Smith' in January and February) treatment (Fig. 2). Similarly, water potential and relative water content did not show any specific trend along the same period (Fig. 2). The low negative values of water potential before budburst (from -4.35 to -2.24 MPa, Table 1) without consistent changes from endodormancy (beginning of January) through ecodormancy (Fig. 2) strongly suggested that buds were hydraulically isolated from the parent stem. Indeed, although stem water potential was not investigated in our study previous findings in apple showed that, even during water restriction in horticultural conditions, i.e. compatible with shoot and fruit growth, midday stem water potential generally does not decrease below -1.5 MPa (Naor 2006). Our study evidenced that changes of the bud water status during winter was not sufficient in itself to explain budburst potential in the following spring, even at ca. two weeks before budburst (mid-March sampling). A first explanation could be that the bud water status would evolve only a few days prior to budburst which depends not only on the plant material but also on climatic conditions during this period leading to the quasi-impossibility to determine precisely, in our experiment, when to sample. However, our results strongly suggested that the growing potential of the bud depends both on an endogenous growing ability (Lauri and Térouanne 1998) in relation to the number of appendages in the bud positively related to $K_{\text{stem-bud}}$ (Lauri et al. 2008) and on a whole-shoot effect. This latter effect is likely related to highly dynamic competitions among buds before budburst through a temporal (e.g. the first bud to burst has a higher growth potential, also called primigenic dominance) and/or a positional effect along the stem (Maguylo et al. 2012), and between buds and the parent shoot (Champagnat 1983). However, interactions between the bud endogenous potential and the parent stem are still not fully understood, and large buds with functional vascular connections may be fully dormant (Brewer et al. 2009). It has been shown that branching on the one-year-old shoot is usually composed of consecutive zones each one characterized by a homogeneous composition of laterals of different types (Lauri and Térouanne 1998; Napoli et al. 1999). The genetic variability of these branching patterns has been shown in the apple (Costes and Guédon 2002). The fact that buds were likely hydraulically isolated from the parent stem strongly suggests that the effects of winter temperatures are not mediated by the individual bud water status, at least until the very last days before budburst, contrary to what we initially expected. In the dominant branching

model, this whole-shoot effect is under the control of three long-range hormonal signals involving auxin transported basipetally, strigolactones synthesized in roots and cytokinin synthesized in shoots and roots (Leyser 2010). Although the modes of actions of these hormones are still in debate (Ferguson and Beveridge 2009; Beveridge et al. 2009; Müller and Leyser 2011), it has been shown that this signaling and the resulting budburst patterns are under the influence of the environment, e.g. light (Leyser 2009; Kebrom et al. 2010). How the dramatic effects on shoot architecture of winter temperatures as shown here can be explained by these hormonal controls at the stem-to-node continuum scale needs more studies. Recent discoveries also put forward the possible role of sugar signals, instead of auxin, to initiate lateral budburst with the hypothesis of competitions for sugars among buds (Mason et al. 2014; Ende 2014). Whatever the underlying signaling entailing the inhibition or the development of the lateral bud, further understanding of the effects on whole-shoot architecture of winter temperatures need more studies.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Figures and legends

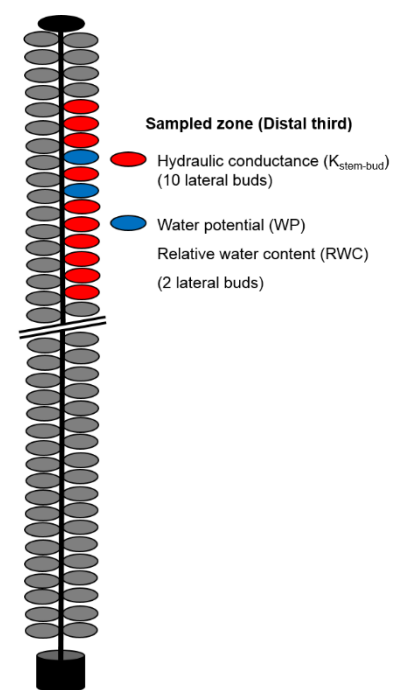


Fig. 1 Scheme of the distal third of the one-year-old shoot with positioning of sampled buds.

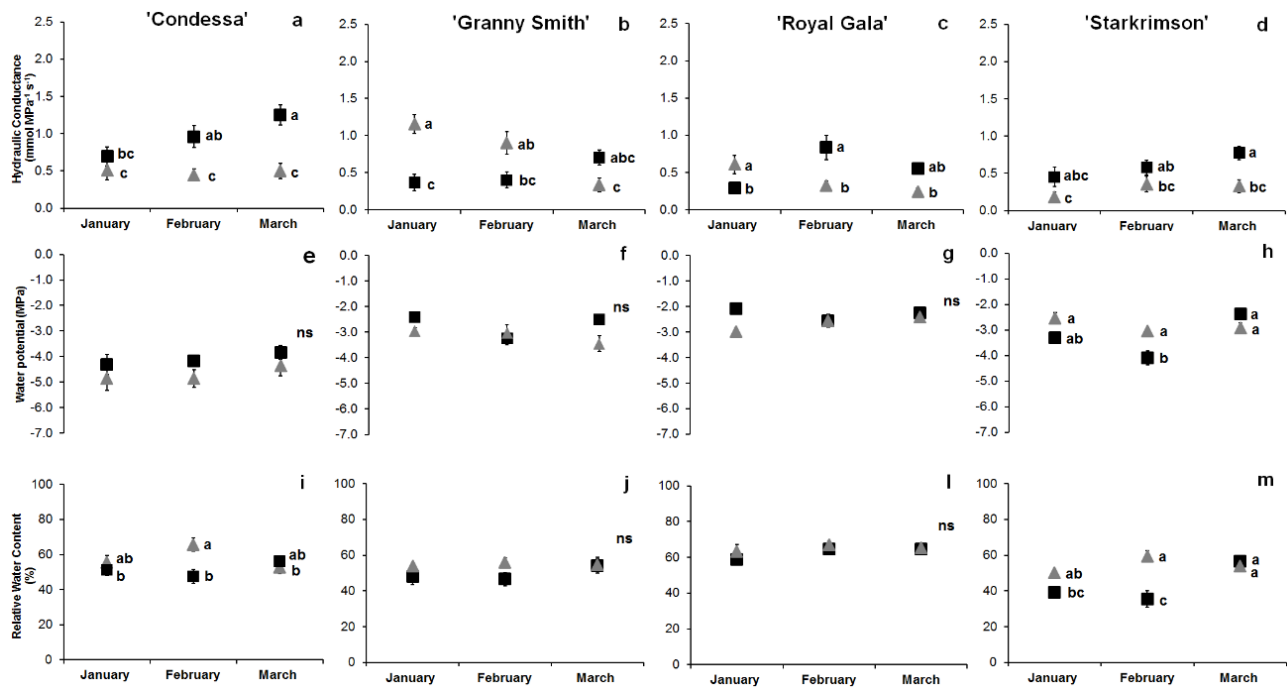


Fig. 2 The effect of winter temperature treatment (black square, cold winter; grey triangle, mild winter) during dormancy on hydraulic conductance at the stem-to-bud junction ($K_{Stem-Bud}$; $\text{mmol MPa}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$, $n=30$ per cultivar X date X temperature treatment), and bud water potential (WP; MPa) and relative water content (RWC; %)($n=6$ per cultivar X date X temperature treatment) for 'Condesa' (a, e, i), 'Granny Smith' (b, f, j), 'Royal Gala' (c, g, l), and 'Starkrimson' (d, h, m) from beginning of January to mid-March. Symbols are means $\pm$ se. Within each variable and cultivar, mean values with the same letter are not significantly different ($P<0.05$); ns, no significant difference (Tukey multiple means comparison test following an ANOVA with temperature treatment and sampling date as factors).



Fig. 3 Proleptic lateral growth on one-year-old shoots of 'Starkrimson' grown under two winter temperature treatments. (a) Acrotonic budburst on plants submitted to 'cold' winter temperatures (1428 hours below 7.2°C); (b) Basitonic budburst on plants submitted to 'mild' winter temperatures (99 hours below 7.2°C). (Credit, Juliano Dutra Schmitz, Montpellier, France, June 2012).

Table 1. Hydraulic conductance ($K_{\text{stem-bud}}$; $\text{mmol MPa}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$), Water potential (WP; MPa) and Relative water content (RWC; %) before budburst (mid-March 2012), and proleptic lateral growth (PLG; %) on one-year-old wood (July 2012) in the distal third of parent shoots of four apple cultivars grown under contrasted winter temperature treatments, cold winter and mild winter, with 1428 and 99 hours below 7.2°C , respectively.

Temperature treatments	Cultivars	$K_{\text{stem-bud}}$ ($\text{mmol MPa}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$)	WP (MPa)	RWC (%)	PLG (%)
Cold winter	CO	1.25 ± 0.13 a	-3.83 ± 0.27 cd	56.04 ± 1.52 --	38.30 ± 12.0 b
	GR	0.70 ± 0.10 b	-2.49 ± 0.12 abc	54.43 ± 4.42 --	90.00 ± 5.00 a
	RG	0.55 ± 0.06 bc	-2.24 ± 0.12 a	64.52 ± 2.87 --	75.00 ± 2.90 a
	ST	0.77 ± 0.08 b	-2.37 ± 0.13 ab	56.71 ± 1.58 --	83.30 ± 11.70 a
Mild winter	CO	0.49 ± 0.10 bc	-4.35 ± 0.39 d	52.86 ± 3.62 --	10.80 ± 7.40 c
	GR	0.33 ± 0.09 c	-3.45 ± 0.31 bcd	54.70 ± 3.07 --	2.50 ± 2.50 c
	RG	0.24 ± 0.04 c	-2.41 ± 0.17 ab	65.35 ± 2.36 --	0.83 ± 0.83 c
	ST	0.32 ± 0.08 c	-2.91 ± 0.20 abc	53.94 ± 2.47 --	0.83 ± 0.90 c
Factor		F, P	F, P	F, P	F, P
Cult (df=3)		10.55, $1.15 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ***	5.54, 0.02 **	2.07, 0.11 ^{ns}	3.07, $4.37 \cdot 10^{-2}$ *
Temp (df=1)		44.42, $1.02 \cdot 10^{-10}$ ***	1.87, 0.18 ^{ns}	0.69, 0.41 ^{ns}	13.02, $1.10 \cdot 10^{-3}$ **
Cult*Temp (df=3)		3.01, 0.03 *	0.70, 0.55 ^{ns}	0.28, 0.83 ^{ns}	6.17, $2.30 \cdot 10^{-3}$ **

Data are means $\pm$ se. In each column, mean values with the same letter are not significantly different across cultivars and temperature treatments ($P < 0.05$, Tukey multiple means comparison test); CO, 'Condessa'; GR, 'Granny Smith'; RG, 'Royal Gala'; ST, 'Starkrimson'; Cult, cultivar; Temp, temperature. ***, **, * significant at $P < 0.001$, 0.01, 0.05, and ^{ns}, not significant at $P < 0.05$.

Artigo 3. Winter bud water content and size related to budburst of ‘Eva’ apple in mild winter

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Winter bud water content and size related to budburst of ‘Eva’ apple in mild winter

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Abstract – The objective of this study was to analyze, the relationships between winter bud water content and size, and spring budburst in the low chilling apple cultivar ‘Eva’ grown in mild winter conditions. The trial was a complete randomized design located in the experimental field at Federal University of Pelotas, in Capão do Leão, RS/Brazil. At fall, one-year-old shoots developed on central leader trees were divided in two topological zones, the distal and proximal halves. During winter dormancy three analyses were conducted: 1) dormancy dynamics using the one-node cutting test; 2) bud water content; and 3) bud size. First, our results showed an acrotonic budburst pattern in spring, similar to that of high-chilling cultivars grown under cold winter condition. Second, one week before budburst and compared to the proximal half, winter buds from the distal half had a higher growth potential, i.e. higher budburst frequency and lower mean time to budburst, and a

higher water content and size. These traits could thus be used as reliable markers of tree adaptation to mild winter conditions.

Index terms: bud type, chilling requirement, dormancy, acrotony, branching habit

Umidade ponderal e tamanho de gemas na brotação da macieira ‘Eva’ em inverno ameno

Resumo – O objetivo do presente estudo foi analisar o relacionamento entre a umidade ponderal e o tamanho de gemas durante o inverno, na brotação da cultivar de baixo requerimento em frio ‘Eva’. O experimento foi realizado no pomar da Universidade Federal de Pelotas, em Capão do Leão, RS/Brasil, em delineamento experimental inteiramente casualizado. Durante o outono, ramos de um ano de idade de macieiras conduzidas em líder central foram divididos em duas zonas topológicas, distal e proximal. Durante o inverno, fase de dormência, três estudos foram conduzidos: 1) dinâmica de dormência, estudada através do teste de estacas de gemas isoladas; 2) umidade ponderal de gemas laterais; 3) tamanho de gemas laterais. ‘Eva’ apresenta padrão de brotação primaveril acrotônico, típico de cultivares de alto requerimento em frio cultivadas em inverno temperado. Uma semana antes a brotação, as gemas localizadas na zona distal possuem maior potencial de crescimento, ou seja, maior frequência de brotação e menor tempo médio para brotação; além disso, apresentam maior umidade ponderal e tamanho. Esses parâmetros podem ser usados como marcadores da adaptação da macieira ao inverno ameno.

Termos para indexação: tipo de gema, requerimento em frio, dormência, acrotonia, hábito de ramificação

Introduction

Dormancy is the temporary suspension of visible growth of any plant structure containing a meristem (Lang et al., 1987). It is also a mechanism to protect sensitive plant tissues from unfavorable climatic conditions (Campoy et al., 2011). Three kind of dormancy are documented: para, endo, and ecodormancy (Lang et al., 1987). Paradormancy is regulated by physiological factors outside the affected structure but within the plant itself (e.g. apical dominance, correlative

inhibition); endodormancy is regulated by physiological factors inside the affected structure (i.e. endogenous); ecodormancy is regulated by the environment (e.g. mainly by temperature and photoperiod). Low temperatures, i.e., below 12°C, typically impose growth cessation and dormancy in apple (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) (Heide & Prestrud, 2005). The dormancy dynamics of buds from fall to the end of winter is usually studied through the one-node cuttings test (Bonhomme et al., 2005).

The study of bud dormancy dynamics is a key to analyze tree architecture (Zguigal et al., 2006; Schmitz et al., 2014), thanks to the spring budburst pattern. Apple has a complex architecture with several lateral types (latent, vegetative, floral, and the possible death of the lateral, called extinction; Lauri, 2009). Branching depends on both the intrinsic capacity of a given bud to burst and on its relationships with the other buds along the parent shoot and/or the stem (Citadin et al., 2009; Schmitz et al., unpublished results). Thus, overcoming dormancy is essential for tree budbursting and branching. Winter temperatures affect budburst at both spatial (localization of lateral types along one-year-old shoot, with a typical acrotony and basitony in cold winter and mild winter, respectively) and temporal scales (range of budburst and outgrowth depending on the position along the shoot) (Petri & Leite, 2004; Schmitz et al., 2014). The relationships between winter bud size and the ability to burst in spring has been documented for high-chilling requirement cultivars in cold winter suggesting a positive relationship between bud size, number of green-leaf primordia and ability to burst (Lauri et al., 2008). Such studies on low-chilling requirement of cultivars in mild winter conditions are scarce.

Water constitutes ~90% of the plant mass tissue and is considered as a main limiting factor for plant growth and development (Pimenta, 2008). At the level of the bud the resumption of growth after dormancy is related to water availability which positively affects hydrolysis of stored macromolecules and enzyme activities (de Fayë et al., 2000). Therefore, the bud water content can be an important indicator of the metabolic activity of the bud (Marafon et al., 2011) and thus appears a good marker of bud growth potential even before the first signals of budburst (Leite et al.,

2006). To the best of our knowledge, bud water content has not been studied in temperate fruit trees submitted to mild winter conditions.

High-chilling apple cultivars, such as ‘Gala’ and ‘Fuji’, represents more than 90% of apple crop area in Brazil (Fachinello et al., 2011). However, a series of anomalies (e.g. erratic-budburst and architectural disorders) usually arise when these cultivars are grown under mild winter conditions in southern Brazil, where winter temperatures are not enough for overcoming dormancy (Petri & Leite, 2004). The use of budburst inductors, such as hydrogen cyanamide with mineral oil, is the main management strategy used to decrease the problems of insufficient winter chilling in mild regions (Hawerth et al., 2009). There is an interest to have new cultivars which are naturally adapted to mild winter conditions. There are concurrent Brazilian breeding programs focused to release low-chilling apple cultivars, such as ‘Rainha’, ‘Paulista’, and ‘Delícia’ by Instituto Agronômico de Campinas (IAC); ‘Eva’, ‘Anabela’, and ‘Carícia’ by Instituto Agronômico do Paraná (IAPAR); and ‘Condessa’, ‘Baronesa’, and ‘Daiane’ by Empresa de Pesquisa Agropecuária e Extensão Rural de Santa Catarina (EPAGRI) (Pommer & Barbosa, 2009). However, all these low-chilling cultivars need budburst inductors for overcoming dormancy.

The major part of studies is focused on physiological disorders of high-chilling cultivars grown under mild winter condition (Petri & Leite, 2004). However, studies of low-chilling cultivars in mild winter are scarcely documented. Our study was carried out on a low-chilling apple cultivar, ‘Eva’, grown under natural mild winter condition in southern Brazil. Our hypothesis was that the position of the bud on the shoot had a significant effect not only on spring budburst, as documented, but also on bud water content and size during winter. The aim of this study was to analyze on winter buds in the proximal and the distal zones of shoots, 1) the dynamics of dormancy, and 2) the relationships between water content and size and budburst in spring.

Material and Methods

The study was carried out in an experimental field of the Federal University of Pelotas, localized in Capão do Leão (lat. 31° S, long. 52° W, and 48m a.s.l.), Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This experimental area is located in a typical mild winter region of southern Brazil, characterized by high winter temperature fluctuation (Figure 1A) and ~450 chilling hours (CH) $\leq 7.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Figure 1B).

The trial was performed on one-year-old shoots (~70 cm long, without sylleptic lateral shoots) of the apple cultivar Eva, branched on central leader 14-year-old trees, in a complete randomized design. The ‘Eva’ has a low-chilling requirement, 350 CH $\leq 7.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Hauagge & Tsuneta, 1999).

A first work consisted in dividing each shoot in two halves, hereafter referred to as proximal and distal zones, based on the total number of nodes. The following three investigations were done on each zone separately.

Dormancy dynamics - It was studied through the one-node cuttings test (Bonhomme et al., 2005). Samples were taken every 21 days (30 April; 21 May; 12 June; 01 and 24 July; and 19 August 2013). Within each zone, four repetitions of 10 one-node cuttings of 7 cm-long (40 as a whole/zone) were performed. The one-node cuttings were forced in the growth chamber at 25°C ($\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$) and ~90% of relative humidity. Three times a week, budburst of each individual one-node cutting was recorded. Here we considered budburst when the “green tip” was visible (i.e., when the scales opened and the first leaves became visible). Two variables response were studied: the percentage of budburst (%) and the mean time to budburst (days). The bud was considered as totally dormant (latent) when no budburst occurred before 60 days from the entrance in the growth chamber (Zguigal et al., 2006).

Bud water content – It was analyzed from the beginning of the exponential phase of chilling accumulation (Figure 1B), i.e. at 01 July, and during ecodormancy at 24 July, 19 August, and 02 September 2013. The water content was calculated as the ratio $[(\text{FM} - \text{DM})/(\text{DM})]$, where FM and

DM are the fresh and the dry mass (g), respectively (Marafon et al., 2011). Fresh mass was measured with an analytical balance, immediately after sampling in the field, and the dry mass was measured after drying in an oven at 70°C until constant mass was reached. Eventually, in pre-budburst (02 September 2013) the length (mm) of the lateral buds was measured as a proxy for bud size.

Spring branching - In spring 2013 (09 October) the number of all lateral types taken from ten randomized shoots was determined. Lateral types were classified in four categories, following the methodology used by Schmitz et al. (2014): latent, vegetative, floral and death (extinction phenomenon).

The effects of zone and date of sampling during winter, on the percentage of budburst and on mean time to budburst (budburst analysis on the one-node cutting experiment), and on bud water content were quantified thanks to a parametric ANOVA (F-test). When significant effects were found means were submitted to a Tukey test to separate levels of treatments ($P < 0.05$). Data were checked for normality prior to statistical analyses, and were transformed when necessary. This was the case for the number of lateral types that were square root ($n + 1$) transformed, and budburst (%) that were subjected to the Box-Cox procedure (package 'MASS'). All statistical analyses were performed using R Core team (2013), (package 'car' with the function `lm()` for continuous variables).

Results and Discussion

In the present study, during dormancy (May to September 2013, i.e., from fall to the end of winter in southern hemisphere), there was a strong amplitude of daily temperatures (Figure 1A) and chilling accumulation was $454 \text{ CH} \leq 7.2^\circ\text{C}$ (Figure 1B). However, the same amount of chilling hours led to contrasted budburst frequencies depending on the position of the bud along the shoot. The

lowest rate of budburst was observed in both zones between 12 June and 01 July. However, budburst was higher in the distal zone than in the proximal zone (Figure 2A).

The mean time to budburst is usually considered as being at maximum during endodormancy and is therefore considered as more reliable than budburst frequency (Citadin et al., 2009). As a whole, our study on ‘Eva’ confirmed that these values were lower than those observed in high-chilling cultivars (Zguigal et al., 2006). There were little differences between the proximal and distal shoot zones for the mean time to budburst, with in both, the highest values of mean time to budburst at 01 July (Figure 2B), when ~40% of chilling requirement was reached (Figure 1B). At 01 July, buds in the proximal zone had a slightly lower mean time to budburst than buds in the distal zone (Figure 2B). Mauget (1984) highlights that during endodormancy, buds in the proximal zone of shoot have a higher mean time to budburst. We showed here that, from 24 July onwards, i.e. from the presumed beginning of ecodormancy, the mean time to budburst decreased in both the proximal and the distal zones. However, during this period, the intensity of decrease of the mean time to budburst contrasted the two zones, with a steeper decrease in the distal zone compared to the proximal (Figure 2B). According to Citadin et al. (2009) the growth ability of the bud is inversely related to its number of days to budburst, i.e. a low time to budburst means a high ability for bud growth. In addition, the gradient of spring budburst is established during ecodormancy (Citadin et al., 2009). In our study, the ecodormancy was well established from 24 July onwards and the lateral buds in the distal zone had a lower mean time to budburst and high rates of budburst.

Our analysis evidenced that the position of the lateral bud along the shoot is related to its capacity to overcome dormancy with a significant precedence of buds in the distal zone compared to buds in the proximal zone. According to Leite et al. (2006), budburst follows a basipetal gradient along the shoot, beginning with the terminal bud through the distal zone and lastly in the proximal zone. This budburst gradient is responsible for the typical acrotony related to the fulfillment of chilling requirements. This was typically the case of the low-chilling cultivar Eva even when it is grown in the mild winter conditions, typical of southern Brazil. This acrotonic budburst behavior

entails the higher frequency and length of proleptic branches in the distal zone (Cook et al., 1998; Cook & Jacobs, 1999).

Bud water content was significantly affected by the sampling date and the zone (Figure 3A). From 01 July onwards bud water content in the distal zone was significantly higher than that of buds in the proximal zone, except on 24 July, with a significant increase in 02 September in distal buds without significant changes for proximal buds. Our results therefore showed that ecodormancy was related to both a decrease in the mean time to budburst (Figure 2B) and an increase of bud water content just before budburst (Figure 3A) confirming previous findings (Citadin et al., 2009; Marafon et al., 2011). In our study, the strongest increase of water content for distal buds took place only a week before spring budburst in the field, when 100% of chilling requirement of cultivar Eva was reached (Figure 1B). This fast hydration of the bud contrasted to what has been observed in Walnut, cv. 'Franquette', grown in cold winter where the water content increased a month before budburst, this being possibly related to a parallel increase of xylem sap pressure (Citadin et al., 2009).

In pre-budburst, 02 September, the bud size was higher in the distal compared to the proximal zone (Figure 3B) confirming previous findings in the apple tree 'Lodi' (Brunel et al., 2002). These authors suggested that the increase in size of distal buds was due to the higher growth of leaf primordia or cataphylls. These authors also showed that the larger size of buds in the distal zone was observed as soon as in fall (October in northern hemisphere), suggesting that this differential development occurred in the previous growing season (Lauri et al., 2008).

At the beginning of the growing season (09 October), latent buds were the most frequent lateral types over the two zones (Figure 4) with, however, a higher frequency of latent buds in the proximal zone compared to the distal zone confirming previous works (Brunel et al., 2002; Schmitz et al., 2014). Flowering and vegetative buds, and bud with extinction, were more frequent in the distal zone (Figure 4). The higher extinctions in the distal zone may be related to the source/sink competition on this zone, where the major part of flowering occurs (Lauri, 2009).

Our results also showed that ‘Eva’ grown under mild winter had an acrotonic budburst pattern in spring which is established during ecodormancy. This pattern drove branching during the growing season and was typical of high chilling cultivars when grown under cold winter conditions (Cook et al., 1998). This acrotonic budburst and branching habit of apple is partly due to primigenic dominance of the terminal and lateral buds on the distal zone (Cook et al., 1998; Maguylo et al., 2012).

A further step of our studies would be to investigate physiological mechanisms, in a large range of low-chilling apple cultivars released by Brazilian breeding programs, with more focus on signals among buds (correlative inhibitions) and between stem and buds. These signals are likely hormones and/or sugars (Mason et al., 2014; Ende, 2014). Moreover, at the level of the bud itself, the analysis of source/sink activity (Minchin & Lacointe, 2005) in relation to xylem differentiation (Andreini et al., 2012) would certainly need more investigations.

Conclusions

1. During winter, smaller buds are mostly found in the proximal zone of the parent shoot whereas larger buds are mostly found in the distal zone likely prefiguring the spring budburst pattern.
2. Distal lateral buds have a higher water content than proximal lateral buds during winter with a strong increase of hydration a week before spring budburst.
3. The acrotonic pattern of budburst is mainly established during ecodormancy.

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Figures and legends

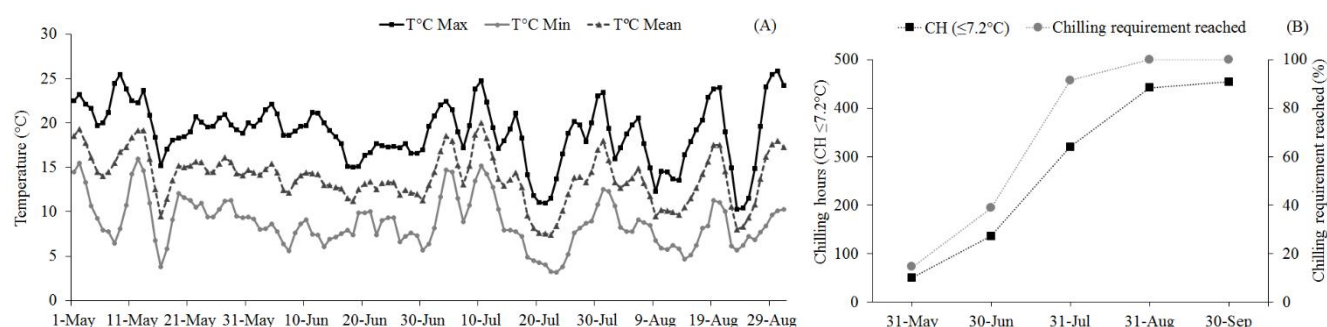


Figure 1. Mobile average of daily temperature (three days) (A); and chilling hours accumulation ($CH \leq 7.2^{\circ}\text{C}$) and percentage of chilling requirement reached (%) (B), of 'Eva', during dormancy (May to September 2013; fall-winter in southern hemisphere).

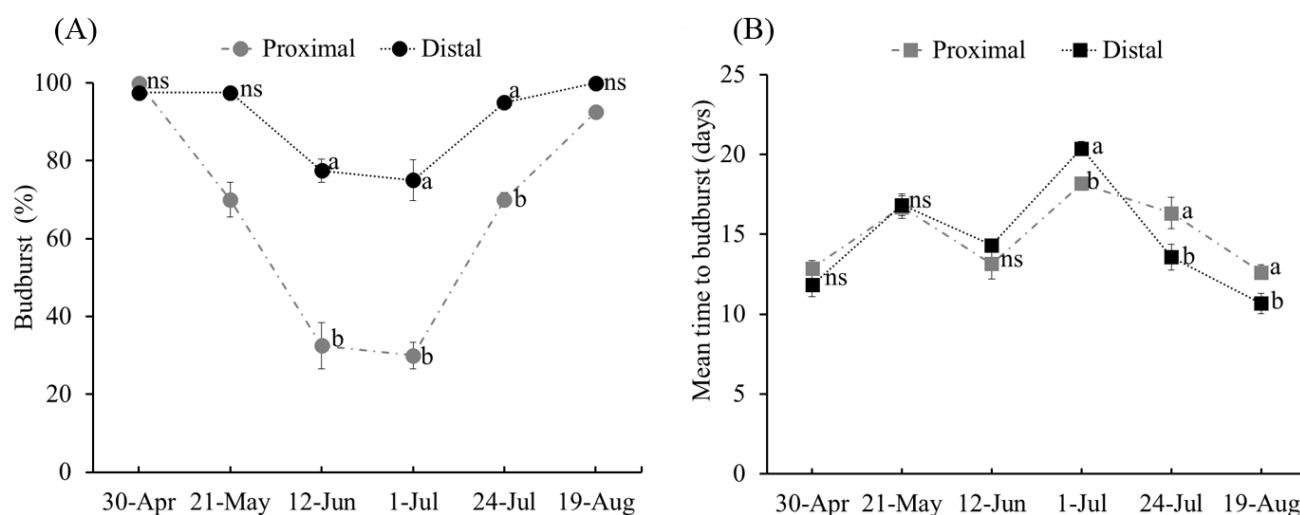


Figure 2. (A) Percentage of budburst (%), and (B) mean time to budburst (days) of lateral buds on proximal and distal zones in 'Eva', during dormancy. These variables are extracted from investigations using the single-node cutting method.

Values are means $\pm$ SE (n=10); Means followed by different lower case letters, within each date, differed by Tukey test at 5% of probability; ns (non-significant).

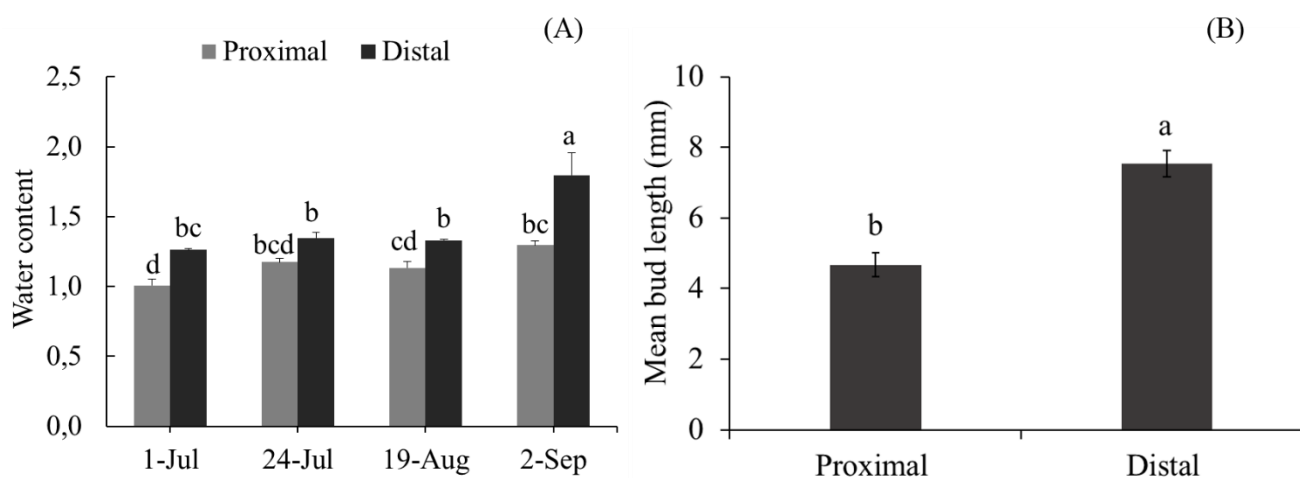


Figure 3. Water content (mean $\pm$ SE, n=10) from 01 July to 02 September (A), and bud length (mm; mean $\pm$ SE, n=10) used as a proxy for size, in proximal and distal zones (B) of 'Eva' one-year-old shoots in 02/September, 2013.

Lower case letters above bars indicate statistical grouping, Tukey test at 5% of probability.

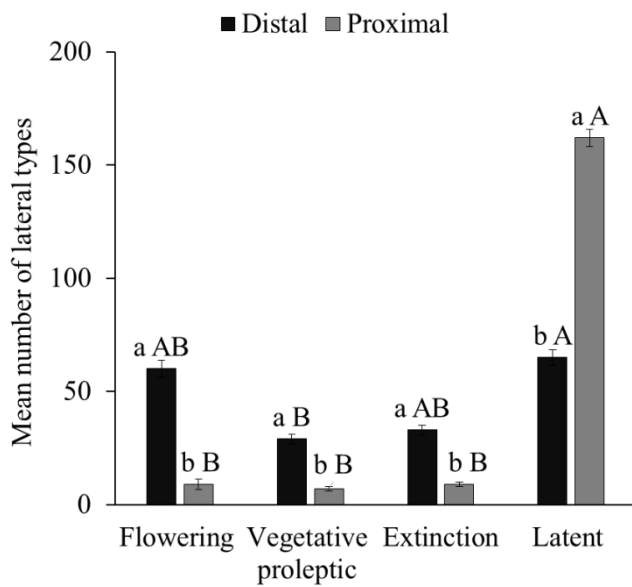


Figure 4. Number of lateral types (flowering, vegetative proleptic, extinction and latent; mean $\pm$ SE; n=10) in proximal and distal zones of one-year-old shoots of 'Eva' in spring (09 October 2013). Lowercase letters within each type (flowering, vegetative proleptic, extinction, and latent), and by uppercase letters between proximal and distal zones, differed by Tukey test at 5% of probability

Discussão geral e perspectivas

O primeiro estudo (artigo 1; experimento 1) teve por objetivo verificar o efeito do regime térmico hibernal (temperatura hibernal; inverno frio de Montpellier - “*inverno frio*” x inverno ameno simulado em casa-de-vegetação - “*inverno ameno*”) na dinâmica da ramificação ao longo do eixo principal de quatro cultivares de macieira com diferentes requerimentos em frio para superação da dormência. Abaixo são apresentados os principais elementos de discussão:

A temperatura hibernal pilota a dinâmica da ramificação

Através do estudo, conclui-se que a temperatura hibernal tem o principal efeito na distribuição da ramificação ao longo do eixo principal (ramo de um ano de idade) (figura 3A e 3B; artigo 1). As plantas submetidas ao regime de inverno frio, “*inverno frio*”, apresentaram a maioria dos ramos prolépticos vegetativos próximos ao ápice do eixo principal (figura 3A; artigo 1). Por outro lado, as plantas submetidas ao inverno ameno (“*inverno ameno*”) os ramos prolépticos vegetativos foram mais frequentes na porção proximal do eixo principal (figura 3B; artigo 1). Esses resultados indicam que as temperaturas hibernais não somente atuam sobre mudança temporal da fenologia (GUÉDON e LEGAVE, 2008; VITASSE et al., 2011), mas também influenciam fortemente na arquitetura da planta como um todo, portanto, pilotando a dinâmica da ramificação ao longo do eixo principal. Pode ser visualizado (figura 3; artigo 2) que a cultivar com o maior requerimento em frio ‘Starkrimson’ (acima de 800 HF<7,2°C), apresentou hábito de crescimento basípeto quando submetida a 99 horas de frio hibernal; em contrapartida, a mesma apresentou hábito acropetal quando submetida a 1.428 horas de frio hibernal.

A presença de folha em plantas submetidas ao regime térmico de inverno ameno não afeta a distribuição de ramos prolépticos vegetativos

A presença de folhas nas plantas (“*com folhas*” e “*sem folhas*”) submetidas ao tratamento de inverno ameno (“*inverno ameno*”), tem muito pouco efeito na distribuição de ramos prolépticos vegetativos ao longo do eixo principal da planta (figura 3A e B; artigo 1). O resultado a partir da análise de agrupamento (*cluster analysis*) permitiu o agrupamento de ramos prolépticos vegetativos dentro de grupos (*clusters*) homogêneos. Neste caso, o coeficiente de aglomeração obtido foi de 0.77, portanto, indicando a presença de forte estrutura de agrupamento. Assim foi possível distinguir as plantas submetidas ao inverno frio (“*inverno frio*”) das plantas em inverno ameno (“*inverno ameno*”) (figura 4; artigo 1).

Contudo, não houve influência da permanência de folhas no “*inverno ameno*”, que permitisse distinguir os agrupamentos “*com folhas*” de “*sem folhas*”.

A permanência de folhas sobre os ramos durante o período hibernal tem sido observada em macieiras cultivadas em regiões com inverno ameno, e segundo Janick (1974), em condições equatoriais, medidas que promovam a queda foliar são eficientes para estimular a brotação primaveril.

A fenologia é afetada pelos efeitos da temperatura e cultivar, de acordo com o estágio fenológico

Através da análise fenológica, verificou-se que o tempo médio para brotação (T-BB) foi fortemente afetado pelo fator temperatura hibernal (tabela 1; artigo 1). Por outro lado, o crescimento da ramificação lateral, período de tempo entre a brotação e o estágio quatro folhas bem expandidas (T-BB-4L) é mais influenciado pelo efeito do fator cultivar que pela temperatura hibernal (tabela 1; artigo 1).

O efeito cultivar que refletiu no maior ou menor tempo para atingir o estágio fenológico (T-BB-4L), indica estar ligado ao fator genético, intrínseco de cada cultivar estudada. Não se tem informações na literatura, até o momento, de estudos que abordassem esta questão. Além disso, a cultivar com menor requerimento em frio apresentou maior precocidade em ambas condições de temperatura hibernal. A cultivar de baixo requerimento em frio ‘Condessa’ apresentou maior precocidade (7 dias, em média, entre os estágios T-BB e T-BB-4L) em condição de “*inverno frio*”. Por outro lado, na mesma condição a cultivar com maior exigência em frio ‘Starkrimson’ levou mais tempo entre os estágios (21 dias, em média) (tabela 2; artigo 1). Por outro lado, sob o tratamento de “*inverno ameno*”, a cultivar ‘Condessa’ também foi mais precoce (21 dias entre T-BB e T-BB-4L) em relação as cultivares ‘Starkrimson’ e ‘Granny Smith’ (33 e 33,5 dias, respectivamente)

Não existe relação entre o status hídrico e a capacidade de brotação primaveril

Através do estudo desenvolvido no artigo 2 da presente tese, não foi possível verificar uma relação clara entre o status hídrico e a capacidade de brotação das gemas. A principal hipótese estudada foi que as gemas laterais (analisadas individualmente) de plantas submetidas ao “*inverno frio*” de Montpellier, conforme (figura 3A; artigo 1), apresentam maior índice de brotação e, portanto, maior ramificação no terço distal do eixo principal, e apresentam ao decorrer da fase de dormência aumento da condutância

hidráulica do xilema entre a junção eixo principal e gema lateral ($K_{\text{eixo-gema}}$) e do conteúdo relativo de água; assim como, potencial hídrico próximo a zero.

Em linhas gerais, os resultados obtidos nessa experimentação não suportam a hipótese apresentada acima, exceto para cultivar ‘Condessa’ em “*inverno frio*”, a qual apresentou aumento significativo na condutância hidráulica ao longo da dormência (figura 2a; tabela 1; artigo 1), porém a mesma teve uma taxa de brotação, do terço distal, inferior as outras três cultivares estudadas em “*inverno frio*”. Logo, não foi possível detectar, de maneira clara, o efeito das temperaturas hibernais na variável resposta condutância hidráulica máxima do xilema ($K_{\text{eixo-gema}}$; $\text{mmol MPa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$), uma vez que foram encontrados altos valores de condutância em plantas em “*inverno frio*”, porém altos valores em plantas com taxas baixas de brotação, ou seja, plantas submetidas ao “*inverno ameno*” (figura 2; artigo 2).

A gema lateral permanece hidraulicamente isolada do eixo principal durante a dormência

Através da análise do potencial hídrico e conteúdo relativo em água não foi possível verificar uma tendência clara para confirmar a hipótese de base do estudo. Contudo, os resultados obtidos sugerem que as gemas laterais, neste caso estudadas sobre o terço distal do eixo principal da planta, permanecem hidraulicamente isoladas desse eixo, pois foram obtidos valores baixos de potencial hídrico (-4,53 a -2,24 MPa; tabela 1; artigo 2), uma vez que, a seiva do xilema de macieiras em restrição hídrica, não são mais negativos que -1,5 MPa (NAOR, 2006). Além disso, não foi possível com o estudo (artigo 2) detectar tendências de mudanças no status hídrico ao longo do período de dormência.

O potencial de brotação está relacionado ao efeito ramo inteiro (todo eixo principal)

Através das análises realizadas no artigo 2, sugere-se que o potencial de brotação da macieira depende mais do efeito do ramo como um todo (todo eixo principal ou *whole-shoot effect*) do que do potencial individual de cada gema (*lateral bud itself*). Este efeito está relacionado a competição entre gemas laterais ao longo do eixo principal durante a fase de dormência. Essa competição dá-se em escala temporal, por exemplo, a dominância exercida pela gema que brota primeiro em relação à gema vizinha, logo é atribuído a maior potencial de crescimento à gema que brota primeiro (*primigenic*

dominance); ou a competição pode estar relacionada a posição da gema ao longo do eixo principal (MAGUYLO et al., 2012), ou entre as gemas laterais vizinhas (CHAMPAGNAT, 1983). Entretanto, o potencial de brotação das gemas laterais envolve fatores endógenos como o controle hormonal por auxinas, citocininas, strigolactonas (COOK et al., 1998; LEYSER, 2010), porém o modo de ação destes fitohormônios na brotação ainda necessitam ser elucidados (FERGUSON e BEVERIGDE, 2009).

A posição do ramo influencia na frequência de brotação

Durante a dormência, maio a setembro de 2013 (outono-inverno no hemisfério sul) as temperaturas diárias oscilaram fortemente (figura 1A; artigo 3) sendo que o acúmulo de frio hibernal foi de 454 horas de frio $\leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (figura 1B; artigo 3). Mesmo sob a mesma quantidade de frio hibernal, a frequência de brotação das gemas laterais diferiu em função da posição do ramo (estudo baseado no teste de estaquia de gema isolada).

A profundidade de dormência varia em função da posição da gema lateral ao longo do eixo principal

Durante a fase de ecodormência, as gemas da zona distal apresentaram menor tempo médio para brotação (TMB), além de taxas superiores de brotação, em relação as gemas localizadas na zona proximal. Logo, a cultivar ‘Eva’ apresentou gradiente de brotação acrópeta, ou seja, a brotação concentrou-se na porção distal dos ramos de ano e, como consequência, o padrão de brotação apresentado foi muito similar ao observado em cultivares de alto requerimento em frio hibernal cultivadas em inverno frio, como observado em ‘Strakrimson’ submetida a $1.428 \text{ HF} \leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (figura 3a; artigo 2). Em contra partida, não houve tendência ao hábito basípeta, ou seja, brotação primaveril concentrada na zona proximal do ramo de ano, conforme observado ‘Strakrimson’ submetida a $99 \text{ HF} \leq 7,2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (figura 3b; artigo 2).

A umidade ponderal e o comprimento de gemas laterais estão ligadas a capacidade de brotação

Através do presente estudo, evidencia-se que a posição das gemas laterais está relacionado com sua capacidade de superar a dormência, sendo que as gemas laterais situadas na porção distal apresentaram maior capacidade de brotação. Também foram testados dois fatores que podem ter influência neste comportamento: a umidade ponderal e o comprimento das gemas.

A umidade ponderal foi afetada significativamente pela data de coleta e pela zona do ramo de ano (distal e proximal). Durante a fase de ecodormência, as gemas situadas na zona distal apresentaram maior umidade ponderal em relação as gemas da porção proximal (figura 3A; artigo 3). A diminuição do tempo médio para brotação e aumento da umidade ponderal foram significativos uma semana antes da brotação no campo (02 de setembro de 2013). Nesta data, o tamanho de gemas laterais situadas na zona distal foi superior ao observado em gemas da porção proximal (figura 3B). Este resultado corrobora com Brunel et al., (2002), estudando a macieira 'Lodi'.

Gemas latentes representam a maioria da natureza dos tipos laterais

Através da análise da tipologia lateral, em 09 de outubro de 2013, as gemas latentes contabilizaram a maioria dos tipos laterais estudados (figura 4; artigo 3), além da maior frequência de gemas latentes ser detectada na zona proximal dos ramos de ano, indo ao encontro com os resultados encontrados por Brunel et al., 2002. Resultados semelhantes também foram apresentados no artigo 1, em que gemas desta categoria foram maioria ao longo do eixo principal para o caso das quatro cultivares estudadas (figura 2; artigo 1). As gemas latentes são consideradas como reservas de meristemas para a reiteração da árvore em caso de processos traumáticos, como a poda (LAURI, 2009).

Aspectos que devem ser estudados a partir da presente tese:

Através dos estudos realizados na presente tese, algumas lacunas se abrem para pesquisas em temas futuros, tais como:

A deficiência em valores padrão, indicadores de status hídrico

Uma das dificuldades para discussão do estudo apresentado no artigo 2, foi a falta de literatura que apresentasse resultados com valores padrão de potencial hídrico de gemas de macieira, principalmente durante o inverno. Valores de potencial hídrico da seiva do xilema foram encontrados com base em estudo realizado em macieira em condições de restrição hídrica, em que o potencial hídrico não foi inferior a -1,5 MPa (NAOR, 2006). Além disso, na literatura há relatos de valores de potencial hídrico em folhas, onde em média, folhas bem hidratadas possuem valores de -0,2 MPa até cerca de -1,0 MPa. Por outro lado, folhas de plantas cultivadas em regiões de clima semiárido podem apresentar valores inferiores a -10 MPa (TAIZ e ZEIGER, 2006). Assim, estudos

que tenham por objetivo estabelecer valores padrão para parâmetros hídricos de gemas de espécies de clima temperado, tais como: potencial hídrico, osmótico, turgescência e conteúdo relativo de água, fornecerão suporte para estudos futuros na área de ecofisiologia.

Genética, fisiologia e fenologia

A partir dos resultados obtidos no artigo 1, em que verificou-se um grande efeito da cultivar entre os estádios fenológicos referentes a brotação e quatro folhas bem expandidas, surgem novos temas de pesquisa, tais como: a realização da análise da capacidade fotossintética e área foliar do ramo proléptico em formação, uma vez que, pode uma determinada cultivar apresentar maior taxa fotossintética em relação a outra cultivar e com isso refletir na maior ou menor capacidade de nutrição das estruturas em crescimento (frutos, ramos, esporões e gemas). Além disso, uma investigação do conteúdo de reservas de gemas e a velocidade de crescimento da ramificação lateral, uma vez que pressupõe-se que gemas com maior quantidade de reservas, provavelmente, irão propiciar uma maior velocidade de crescimento da ramificação e enfolhamento do dossel. Contudo, trata-se de dois temas complementares.

Conexão vascular (eixo – gema)

O estudo anatômico da conexão vascular entre gema lateral e o eixo principal segue ainda obscuro e merece ser explorado. Durante a experimentação em Montpellier (experimento 2) foram realizadas análises anatômicas de segmentos (eixo-gema) ao longo do período hibernar. Porém, esta experimentação não pode ser analisada, por motivos técnicos e de tempo. Cabe salientar que a análise do desenvolvimento vascular durante a dormência é bastante complexa em termos de experimentação, uma vez que as mudanças morfológicas ocorrem muito rapidamente e a abordagem clássica (coleta, impregnação em resina ou parafina e corte em micrótomo) é destrutiva e bastante lenta. Porém, de maneira pontual poderá ainda responder questões como: qual o real momento que o xilema está desenvolvido e funcional?

Potencial osmótico e conteúdo de prolina em gemas

O estudo do potencial de brotação de gemas em relação ao potencial osmótico e ao conteúdo de prolina das mesmas, no final do período de dormência, podem contribuir para novos avanços de novas investigações. O ajustamento osmótico mantém o conteúdo água celular pelo aumento da força osmótica. A força osmótica é exercida pela célula e

suas adjacências e é responsável pela captação de água. O ajustamento osmótico resulta do acúmulo de solutos orgânicos, como a prolina, no citoplasma, que são responsáveis pela redução do potencial osmótico do citoplasma. Logo, existe uma estreita relação entre o conteúdo de prolina e o potencial osmótico. Com isso o potencial de brotação pode estar ligado a dinâmica destes dois elementos.

Estudo de cultivares com baixo requerimento em frio em condições extremas de cultivo

Estudar mais profundamente o comportamento fisiológico e agrônômico das cultivares com baixo requerimento em frio lançadas pelos programas de melhoramento genético brasileiros, por exemplo, IAPAR e EPAGRI, sob condições de inverno ameno em condições naturais e sob condições extremas em casa de vegetação. Além disso, realizar experimentação com estas cultivares em inverno frio temperado, uma vez que ‘Condessa’ (artigo 1) não apresentou brotação satisfatória em condições de inverno frio de Montpellier.

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Anexo 1- Projeto de Pesquisa

Título: Arquitetura da macieira em condições climáticas de inverno ameno: abordagem do determinismo da ramificação pela hidráulica do xilema

1. Introdução e justificativa

Atualmente a maçã está entre as quatro frutas mais consumidas no mundo. A produção mundial de maçãs (*Malus X domestica* Borkh.) no ano de 2009 ultrapassou 71,7 milhões de toneladas, ficando à frente de outras frutíferas de clima temperado, como a pera (21,9 milhões de toneladas), assim como das principais frutíferas de caroço de clima temperado, pêssego e a nectarina (18,5 milhões de toneladas) (FAOSTAT, 2011).

Dentre os países produtores de maçã, a China é responsável por 53,53 % da produção dessa fruta no mundo, apresentando também a maior área colhida, que ultrapassa 2 milhões de hectares (49,67 % da área colhida no mundo) (FAOSTAT, 2011).

No Brasil, a produção comercial da macieira teve início na década de 1970, pois até esta data, as frutas de clima temperado não possuíam importância na produção agrícola brasileira. Porém, até então, a população consumia frutas de clima temperado importadas, principalmente da Argentina, que chegou a exportar para o Brasil mais de 200 mil toneladas de maçãs, pêssegos, ameixas e peras. Naquela época, estimava-se haver no país uma disponibilidade de aproximadamente 2 milhões de hectares de áreas em condições edafoclimáticas aptas ao cultivo de frutíferas de clima temperado. Foi então, no estado de Santa Catarina que teve início em 1970 o Projeto de Fruticultura de Clima Temperado (Profit) que teve por meta superar 3 mil hectares de cultivo com a cultura da macieira (HENTSCHKE, 1978).

Além de importantes incentivos governamentais que impulsionaram o desenvolvimento da cultura no país, que segundo Boneti et al. (2006) foram considerados como o marco decisivo na cultura da macieira no estado de Santa Catarina e no Brasil, o qual permitiu o Brasil passar de importador para exportador dessa fruta para várias partes do mundo, foi também através do desenvolvimento de tecnologias de pós-colheita como a atmosfera controlada, que possibilitou o armazenamento de algumas cultivares, como a Gala, por até oito meses; a temperatura de 1°C com 2% a 3% de CO₂ e 1% de O₂, Sachet et al. (1997), permitindo assim, que a maçã pudesse ser comercializada e distribuída em todo território brasileiro ao longo do ano até a próxima safra.

No Hemisfério sul, os países membros do Mercosul, Brasil e a Argentina, destacam-se como grandes produtores de maçãs. O Brasil é responsável por 2,01 % da produção mundial total (1,2 milhões de toneladas), ocupando o 9º lugar em quantidade produzida. Já a Argentina, produz 2,14 % da maçã mundial (1,3 milhões de toneladas), ficando em 8º colocada no ranking mundial de produção dessa fruta. Porém, no hemisfério norte que se encontram as principais regiões produtoras do mundo, merecendo destaque alguns países como: China, Estados Unidos, Turquia, Polônia, Itália e França. Esse último, possui uma produção anual acima de 2 milhões de toneladas (3,38 % do total produzido no mundo) ficando em 6º lugar (FAOSTAT, 2011).

No Brasil, a produção está situada na região sul com destaque para os estados de Santa Catarina e Rio Grande do Sul. O estado de Santa Catarina é o maior produtor brasileiro (622 mil toneladas) em uma área plantada de 20,6 mil hectares. Assim como, o estado do Rio Grande do Sul é muito importante em volumes produzidos (556 mil toneladas) em 16,2 mil hectares cultivados com a cultura da macieira (IBGE, 2011).

No Brasil, a região sul se destaca na produção de maçã devido às condições climáticas mais favoráveis ao cultivo, principalmente durante o inverno. Pois, a macieira é uma frutífera lenhosa de clima temperado que depende de frio hibernal para que o ciclo biológico evolua normalmente e, com isso, as plantas vegetem e produzam satisfatoriamente. Segundo Almeida e Alves (2006), 95 % da produção brasileira provém das cultivares Gala e Fuji e seus clones coloridos. Por outro lado, segundo Denardi (2009), esses materiais não brotam bem e não produzem satisfatoriamente em condições climáticas com acúmulo hibernal menor que 700 horas de frio por ano abaixo de 7,2 °C. Embora as maçãs brasileiras possuam ampla aceitação nos diferentes mercados mundiais, a produção está fundamentada em cultivares não adaptadas às condições climáticas locais, ou seja, grande parte das áreas de produção estão situadas em regiões em que as exigências climáticas dessas principais cultivares não são satisfatoriamente atendidas.

Nesse contexto, Petri (2006) relata que a expansão da cultura da macieira para regiões de inverno ameno, em que o frio é insuficiente para satisfazer as necessidades fisiológicas da dormência, ocorrem inúmeras anomalias que reduzem a produtividade e a qualidade das frutas. Nessas condições muitas gemas vegetativas e floríferas permanecem dormentes. Além disso, grande parte das gemas laterais, geralmente vegetativas, não brotam, assim como em alguns casos as terminais. Esse mesmo autor relata a antecipação da brotação das gemas terminais, que propicia uma forte dominância

apical, o que acarreta a inibição de gemas laterais e consequentemente a redução na formação de esporões (estruturas produtivas).

Assim como nas condições brasileiras de inverno ameno que acaba desencadeando uma série de transtornos de ordem fisiológica nas plantas de macieira, algumas medidas de visam mitigarem essa problemática se fazem necessárias, como por exemplo, o tratamento para quebra de dormência utilizando Cianamida hidrogenada e óleo mineral para promoverem uma brotação mais uniforme. Porém, existem previsões que países produtores situados na Europa, como a França, que possuem o inverno típico de clima temperado, ou seja, com frio intenso e uniforme, podem em poucos anos passarem a ter um inverno muito semelhante ao brasileiro.

Nesse sentido, muitos estudos sobre a interferência das mudanças climáticas sobre as frutíferas de clima temperado, principalmente na Europa, têm sido realizados. Segundo Legave et al. (2009), o aquecimento global é evidente e haverá aumentos significativos na temperatura média do ar em muitas partes do mundo. É provável que a temperatura média do ar até o final do século XXI aumente entre 1,8 e 4,0 °C, segundo relatórios do Painel Intergovernamental de Mudanças Climáticas (IPCC). Logo, esse cenário traz um alerta na produção de frutíferas de clima temperado como a macieira, pois a fenologia dessas plantas é diretamente influenciada pela temperatura.

Além da influência da temperatura sobre a fenologia, a arquitetura das plantas é também afetada. A arquitetura da macieira é a expressão, em um determinado momento, entre fatores endógenos e exógenos. Os fatores endógenos determinam características que não são influenciadas pelo ambiente. Entretanto, para um determinado genótipo, a ramificação lateral e a formação de gemas florais laterais podem ser modulados pelo fator ambiental, no caso a temperatura, que por sua vez, afeta diretamente a dormência das gemas e a orientação do crescimento de ramos (HALLÉ et al., 1978).

Grande variabilidade no hábito de crescimento tem sido verificada nas diferentes cultivares de macieira. Contudo, as plantas dessa espécie são classificadas em grupos, em que é levado em consideração o hábito de crescimento, a distribuição de ramos e a posição em que se encontram as estruturas de frutificação. Logo, a arquitetura das plantas na cultura da macieira está estreitamente relacionada com a produção e a maior ou menor necessidade de poda.

Atualmente existem trabalhos científicos realizados na França que indicam haver uma estreita relação entre a condutância hidráulica do xilema e o desenvolvimento de gemas laterais. Assim, estudos de organogênese de gemas axilares e a distribuição dos

potências hidráulicas das mesmas ao longo dos ramos de macieira, podem ajudar no entendimento da revascularização de gemas no período de pré-brotação e na formação de novas zonas de ramificação responsáveis pela formação da arquitetura da copa (COCHARD et al., 2005; HAN et al., 2007; LAURI et al., 2008).

Grande parte dos programas de melhoramento genético na cultura da macieira objetiva desenvolver cultivares com alta qualidade de frutas e produção, além da seleção de genótipos que possuam resistência as principais pragas e doenças (LESPINASSE, 1992). Porém, devido à forte relação entre a arquitetura e a produção da macieira, grupos de estudos na França tem se dedicado ao estudo do balanço vegeto-produtivo, que propicie um melhor equilíbrio das plantas, priorizando copas mais compactas, o que contribui de forma efetiva com a melhoria e regularidade de produção através do melhor equilíbrio das plantas, diminuição do emprego de agrotóxicos devido a melhor distribuição dos ramos no dossel, assim como a melhoria na interceptação de luz pelas plantas que está extremamente relacionada com a produção.

2. Objetivos

2.1. Objetivo geral

Analisar a repartição dos potenciais hidráulicos das gemas laterais (vegetativas, florais, latentes e extintas) e a evolução da relação entre hidráulica do xilema e a organogênese ao nível axilar ao longo dos ramos de macieira durante o período outonal e hibernar até a pré-brotação nas situações térmicas contrastantes (inverno frio x inverno ameno).

2.2. Objetivos específicos

- Verificar a evolução dos potenciais hídrico e osmótico das gemas no momento que antecede a vascularização do xilema;
- Analisar a partir de qual período do período vegetativo ocorre a correlação positiva entre a máxima condutância do xilema e a organogênese
- Verificar se o regime térmico, simulando inverno ameno, modifica a dinâmica entre a condutância máxima do xilema e a organogênese;
- Realizar a análise topológica e fenologia de quatro cultivares de macieira nas regiões produtoras do sul do Brasil (Santa Catarina e Rio Grande do Sul), caracterizadas por apresentarem condições climáticas contrastantes.

3. Material e métodos

A tese será composta de dois grandes temas. **Tema 1-** será abordado na França no período de setembro de 2011 a julho de 2012. Já o **tema 2** será realizado nas condições do Brasil no período de agosto de 2012 até julho de 2013.

Abaixo serão apresentados os dois temas de trabalho que compõe a tese:

3.1. Tema 1. Organogênese axilar e hidráulica

Este tema será desenvolvido na França – estadia durante o período de setembro de 2011 a julho de 2012 – Plantas mantidas em condições ambientais controladas em casa-de-vegetação. Serão abordados estudos sobre o determinismo da ramificação da macieira (detalhes no item 4).

Organogênese das gemas laterais – parte hidráulica na França. Nesse caso as plantas serão condicionadas em casa-de-vegetação em regime térmico controlado simulando as condições térmicas amenas das zonas de cultivo da macieira de Fraiburgo no período de pós-colheita (Março a setembro no Brasil).

Sobre a base dos resultados obtidos ao longo da experimentação, será apresentada a correlação em pré-brotação entre a condutância hidráulica do xilema e a organogênese. Para isso, iremos utilizar na experimentação quatro cultivares de macieira para os dois regimes térmicos (será simulado o regime térmico simulando a condição de inverno ameno em casa-de-vegetação com controle ambiental).

3.2. Tema 2 – Caracterização da arquitetura dos ramos e da fenologia em regimes térmicos contrastantes

Este tema será abordado durante o período de setembro de 2012 à julho de 2013 no Brasil.

O projeto inclui dois componentes complementares que serão trabalhados sobre o mesmo material vegetal, assim como sobre o mesmo tipo de ramos do crescimento do ano (ramos do ano de crescimento a partir da enxertia).

Arquitetura da brotação – será realizada a caracterização da arquitetura dos ramos e a fenologia da macieira em condições climáticas contrastantes. Através da análise topológica dos ramos serão descritos os tipos de gemas laterais e acompanhamento do hábito de crescimento das plantas em três regiões produtoras de maçã, porém com regimes climáticos contrastantes (São Joaquim/SC – inverno frio; Vacaria/RS – inverno intermediário e Caçador/SC – caracterizado como inverno ameno).

3.3. Material vegetal

Será utilizado o mesmo material vegetal em ambos os países. Dessa forma, duas cultivares de arquiteturas contrastantes com genitores e descendentes estudados na França sobre os aspectos da arquitetura e ecofisiologia: *Granny Smith* e *Starkrimson* (Fig. 1).

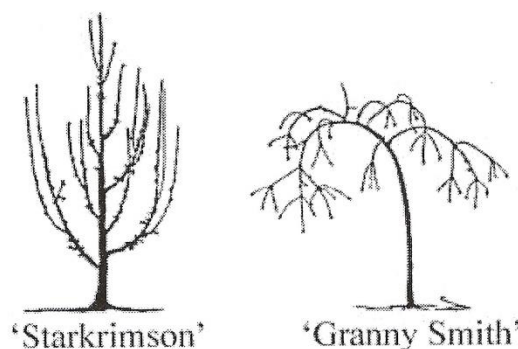


Figura 1. Hábito de crescimento das cultivares copa de macieira 'Starkrimson' e 'Granny Smith'.

Granny Smith - cultivar utilizada no Brasil basicamente como polinizadora de 'Gala', 'Golden Delicious' e 'Fuji', em regiões abaixo de 1.300 metros de altitude. Vigor médio a moderado, a copa apresenta porte ereto e é bem ramificada. Muito produtiva, e tende a frutificar nas pontas dos ramos. Dentre os cultivares plantados no sul do Brasil, é a que amadurece mais tarde, fins de abril em Caçador/SC. A epiderme das frutas dessa cultivar é verde-escura opaca (CAMILO e DENARDI, 2006).

Starkrimson - Cultivar do tipo 'Spur', proveniente de uma mutação somática de 'Delicious' originária de Oregon, USA, descoberta a partir de um pomar de 'Starking'. A planta é compacta, com reduzido vigor (dois terços do tamanho da planta tipo standard da 'Delicious', fato que a torna desejável para plantios em alta densidade. Possui hábito de crescimento vertical, necessitando abertura de ramos em sua condução. Exigência em frio muito semelhante a 'Delicious', muito exigente em frio, como regiões com altitudes de 1300 metros acima do nível do mar. Nas condições brasileiras, apresenta problemas com frutificação efetiva, conseqüentemente, a produtividade é muito baixa, mas chegou a representar mais de 40% da área plantada com macieiras na região sul do Brasil na década de 70. Hoje representa menos de 5% da área plantada, e vem sendo substituída (CAMILO e DENARDI, 2006).

Condessa – cultivar selecionada no Brasil para ser pouco exigente em frio hibernal. Segundo Denardi e Camilo (1998), a exigência em frio da cultivar Condessa é de

350 horas abaixo de 7,2°C, com o que a maioria das gemas brotam ao mesmo tempo, não apresentando a inibição da gema superior sobre as demais.

Royal Gala – é uma cultivar genitora de Condessa, porém com grande importância econômica no Brasil. É uma mutação espontânea de ‘Gala’. Em áreas de pouca insolação produz frutos mais uniformemente coloridos que a ‘Gala’.

A cultivar Gala (standard) apresenta plantas com porte semi-vigoroso, com ramos bem distribuídos e abertos. No Brasil adapta-se bem a regiões com altitude acima de 1300 metros. Exige 600 horas de frio abaixo de 7,2° C (PETRI et al., 1996, CAMILO e DENARDI, 2006).

Porta-enxerto – será realizada a enxertia de ramos de ano das cultivares copa sobre o porta-enxerto M-9, em recipientes com volume de 7 litros.

O porta-enxerto M-9 é caracterizado como porte anão, sendo considerado um padrão de nanismo. Segundo Denardi (2006), os porta-enxertos anões têm alta capacidade de formação de esporões de frutificação e permitem o plantio de pomares adensados variando de 900 a 1.800 plantas por hectare.

4. Plano de atividades no exterior

O trabalho de tese sanduiche será desenvolvido em duas partes, uma na França em Montpellier, no INRA (*Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique*) e em Clermont Ferrand, no PIAF. A outra parte no Brasil, na Universidade Federal de Pelotas e na Epagri, em Santa Catarina, nas estações experimentais de Caçador e São Joaquim e na Embrapa, em Vacari, no Rio Grande do Sul.

4.1 Local: INRA e PIAF em Montpellier e Clermont-Ferrand, respectivamente na França.

4.2 Orientador na Instituição: Dr. Pierre-Eric LAURI.

4.3 Período: 1º de Setembro de 2011 a 31 de Agosto de 2012.

4.4 Finalidade do trabalho no exterior:

A experimentação a ser realizada na França visa o entendimento da organogênese e da hidráulica das gemas de macieira na formação da arquitetura da planta, sendo abordado o determinismo da ramificação através da exploração da hipótese da hidráulica do xilema.

Para isso, será realizado um experimento com quatro cultivares de macieira que possuem hábitos de crescimento diferentes, assim como, distintos níveis de exigência de frio hibernar. Serão simulados dois regimes térmicos, temperaturas típicas de inverno de clima temperado e condições de inverno ameno com temperaturas da região produtiva

brasileira de Fraiburgo /SC. Assim, será realizado o cultivo em casa-de-vegetação com controle de temperatura.

Estudos na França indicam haver uma correlação positiva entre a condutância máxima do xilema e a organogênese, no período de pré-brotação (COCHARD et al. 2005 ; HAN et al. 2007 ; LAURI et al. 2008). Assim, a determinação da condutância máxima do xilema em pré-brotação será realizada com o emprego do HPFM (*High pressure flowmeter*) que, além de ser um equipamento rápido, fácil de ser utilizado no laboratório e no campo, existem estudos de longa data com seu emprego na verificação da resistência hidráulica em ramos e raízes nas condições climáticas francesas.

Ainda, em paralelo ao estudo da condutância, será analisada a anatomia das conexões vasculares das gemas, através de cortes com o uso do PHIV (*Plate-forme d'histocytologie et imagerie cellulaire végétale*) para verificar a dinâmica dessas conexões vasculares.

Será verificada a evolução do potencial hídrico e osmótico das gemas na fase que antecede a vascularização do xilema, utilizando o psicrômetro de Wescor (ETIENNE et al., 1991).

Dessa forma, na França e mais especificamente nas dependências do INRA, existe um grande conhecimento técnico e científico na linha de pesquisa dessa tese, justificando assim a experimentação nesse país. Assim, a troca de conhecimento mútuo entre os dois países em busca de melhorias na cultura da maçã, haja vista sua importância econômica mundial vem a contribuir com a cadeia produtiva dessa fruta e com o avanço da pesquisa científica em ambos os países.

5. Resultados esperados

Além da evolução sócio-cultural do doutorando, como a troca de conhecimento e aprendizagem de outra língua, é esperado conclusões mais sólidas na área de arquitetura da macieira em condições climáticas contrastantes. Nesse sentido, como mencionado anteriormente, o presente trabalho tem um apelo bastante grande, já que a cultura da macieira exerce um importante papel socioeconômico em ambos os países (Brasil e França), assim os resultados obtidos podem direcionar linhas de manejo e melhoramento da cultura voltada a maior valorização da arquitetura visando a diminuição de mão-de-obra, melhoria na estabilidade de produção.

Além disso, o presente projeto visa unir esforços entre as instituições brasileiras (UFPel, Epagri e Embrapa) e francesas (INRA) de forma que as duas partes possam ser beneficiadas com a geração de conhecimento.

6. Orçamento

Consumo				
Materiais	Unid.	Qtd.	Custo unitário (R\$)	Custo total (R\$)
Substrato	sac	100	14,00	1.400,00
Vasos	Unid.	800	1,90	1.520,00
Brita	m ³	0,8	48,00	48,00
Fungicidas	—	—	—	500,00
Inseticidas	—	—	—	200,00
Tesoura de poda	Unid.	2	135,00	270,00
formicida	—	—	—	50,00
Subtotal				3.988,00
Equipamentos e materiais permanentes				
Conjunto de irrigação	Unid.	3	2.000,00	6.000,00
Paquímetro digital	Unid.	1	200,00	200,00
Subtotal				6.200,00
Serviço de terceiros				
Passagens aéreas	Unid.	2	1.450,00	2.900,00
Manutenção casa veg.	—	—	—	2.000,00
Despesas congressos	—	—	—	1.500,00
Subtotal				6.400,00
Imprevistos (10 %)				1.658,80
Total				18.246,80

7. Divulgação dos resultados

Os resultados científicos oriundos desta pesquisa serão apresentados mediante a banca examinadora ao término dos três anos de experimentação. A apresentação dos trabalhos será em forma de artigo escrito na língua inglesa e publicado em revistas científicas da área.

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9. Cronograma de atividades

As atividades que serão desenvolvidas durante a realização do doutorado, contemplando as estadias no Brasil e França, serão apresentadas abaixo:

	2011		2012		2013		2014
Atividades	Jan-Ago	Set-Dez	Jan-Ago	Set-Dez	Jan-Ago	Set-Dez	Jan-Mar
Créditos (70%)	x						
Enxertia França	x						
Enxertia Brasil	x						
Projeto	x						
Revisão bibl.	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Estadia França		x	x				
Determinismo		x	x				
Hidráulica		x	x				
Anatomia		x	x				
Artigos			x		x	x	
Retorno Brasil				x	x	x	
Determinismo				x	x	x	
Fenologia				x	x	x	
Tese				x	x	x	
Defesa de tese							x

Anexo 2- Relatório do Trabalho de Campo

A presente tese foi desenvolvida em cotutela franco-brasileira. Logo, a experimentação foi desenvolvida:

- Na França durante 12 meses (setembro 2011 a agosto 2012), onde foi realizado um experimento (Experimento 1) e a redação de dois artigos científicos (Artigos 1 e 2);
- No Brasil durante 12 meses (outubro de 2012 a outubro de 2013), em que realizou-se um experimento (Experimento 2) e a redação de um artigo científico (Artigo 3).

Experimento 1 – França (setembro 2011 a agosto 2012)

As atividades foram realizadas nas dependências do *Institut National de Recherche Agronomique* (INRA), na unidade de pesquisa em *Architecture et Fonctionnement des Espèces Frutières* (Équipe AFEF), no *Campus de La Valette* (CIRAD – *Centre International de la Recherche Agronomique*), Montpellier/França.

Quatro cultivares de macieira foram estudadas: ‘Condessa’, ‘Granny Smith’, ‘Royal Gala’ e ‘Starkrimson’. As mesmas foram enxertadas em março de 2011 sobre o portaenxerto M9 (Clone Pajam® 2) e cresceram em casa-de-vegetação sob irrigação até novembro do referido ano. No início do inverno (dezembro de 2011 – Hemisfério norte), foram repartidas em dois regimes térmicos, passando todo período de dormência até o início da primavera (março de 2012 - Hemisfério norte).

Durante o período de experimentação as plantas foram submetidas a tratamentos fitossanitários sistemáticos, sob responsabilidade dos técnicos de campo da *Équipe AFEF*.

Em 15 de junho de 2012, após o período de experimentação, foi realizado o comitê de tese, cujo objetivo foi apresentar o andamento da tese aos membros do comitê: orientador francês Pierre-Eric LAURI, ao co-orientador francês Hervé COCHARD, ao co-orientador brasileiro Gabriel B. LEITE, e aos demais membros: Thierry SIMONNEAU - UMR Lepse, DR INRA (representante da escola doutoral SIBAGHE); Denis FABRE - UMR AGAP, CIRAD; Marc BONHOMME - UMR PIAF, IR INRA; Jean-Luc REGNARD - UMR AGAP, Pr Montpellier SupAGRO. O comitê consistiu na elaboração de um documento escrito, em francês, contendo a problemática da tese, objetivo geral, objetivos específicos,

metodologia, e a síntese dos primeiros resultados obtidos. Além disso, a apresentação oral de 60 minutos, em francês, do trabalho ao comitê.

Experimento 2 - Brasil (outubro de 2012 a outubro de 2013)

O experimento foi instalado no Pomar Didático do Centro Agropecuário da Palma; Faculdade de Agronomia Eliseu Maciel (FAEM); Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPel); localizado no município do Capão do Leão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil (Latitude 31° S; Longitude 52° O Greenwich; Alt.: 48 m).

Dez plantas adultas de macieira 'IAPAR 75-Eva' conduzidas em sistema líder central no espaçamento 2x5 (2m entre plantas na linha e 5m entre linhas de cultivo) foram utilizadas. Em novembro de 2012 realizou-se a adubação de manutenção do experimento (N-P-K); tratamentos fitossanitários para o controle, principalmente, de doenças fúngicas como a Sarna (*Venturia inaequalis*), com fungicidas recomendados para a cultura; controle de plantas daninhas nas linhas de cultivo com roçadas e herbicida de ação total (Glifosato); poda de renovação das plantas para obtenção de ramos durante a estação de crescimento. Não foram realizados tratamentos de inverno e de superação de dormência, para evitar que os mesmos interferissem na dinâmica da dormência das gemas das plantas. Em setembro de 2013 foram realizadas as mesmas práticas culturais realizadas no ano anterior.

Ramos formados a partir de novembro 2012 foram utilizados para as análises de conteúdo de água e para o teste biológico, realizados durante o período de dormência (abril a setembro de 2013). Após a dormência, em outubro de 2013 foi realizada a análise topológica da brotação lateral.