Overview of 'Maraska' and 'Oblačinska' sour cherries

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The most important sour cherry varieties are

'Oblačinska' & 'Maraska'

'Oblačinska' is cultivated in northern, Pannonian region;
‘Maraska’ in the south (Middle and South Dalmatia, island of Brač)
Both varieties are excellent for processing.

‘Oblačinska’ is highly adaptable to northern producing conditions, mainly in Slavonia.

‘Maraska’ express high quality only in narrow production area of Mediterranean climate: Middle and South Dalmatia (karst soils, humid winters, dry summers).

During 1950s and 1960s results in Italy did not express the same quality.
Contrary to ‘Maraska’, ‘Oblačinska’ is distributed in wider area of ex-Yugoslavia.

It bears its name according to village Oblačina in southern Serbia.
‘Oblačinska’ is big and heterogeneous population of different genotypes. It was propagated vegetatively, mainly using root-suckers.

Theories about origin of ‘Oblačinska’:

→ from Slovakia;
→ introduced to Serbia (Aleksandrovo) from Hungary, and then from Aleksandrovo to Oblačina;
→ introduced to Serbia (Aleksandrovo) from Croatia (Dalmatia);
→ ‘Oblačinska’ and ‘Maraska’ are different clones of the same variety

Improbable! Morphological and phenotypic differences! The number of SSR loci (n=8) is too low for such conclusion!
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>BPPCT-005</th>
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There have no been recognized and established clones of ‘Oblačinska’, until recently.

Relatively small numbers of research reports: before 1970s the focus was directed to other varieties of large fruit size (more than 4g): ‘Haiman’, ‘Keleris’, ‘Rexelle’.

Average size of ‘Oblačinska’ is less than 4g:
in average 2.9 g (Ogašinović et al., 1985)
or 3.1 or 4.1 g (Milutinović et al., 1980);
3.04g - 3.59g in different clones in research (Nikolić, 1996)

The average size of the fruit is not important: conditory industry in 1970s and 1980s preferred small fruit size, and for processing industry (juices and liquors) the fruit size is irrelevant.
‘Oblačinska’ is suitable for mechanical harvesting.
Clonal selection of ‘Oblačinska’ was initiated by prof. Dubravec during late 1970s and 1980, and continued by Puškar.

Puškar (2003) compared 42 types (clones) of ‘Oblačinska’ (CAB-6P) [126 trees]; the:
→ phenology (flowering) and tree morphologa (diameter, height and width of the tree)
→ pomology (weight, height and width of fruit);
→ chemical analyses (dry matter, acidity and colour)

Agricultural Institute in Osijek is performing additional comparison of selected clones >> two have been recognized recently.
The most prominent researcher of ‘Maraska’ was dr. Ante Medin (1926-2003) (research, technology of production).

Two different types of Maraska: *pendula* and *recta* (F. Mader, 1914): *Cerasus pendula* and *Cerasus recta*.

J. Zec recognized two ecotypes: ‘*poljička*’ and ‘*duguljasta*’ (oblong).


‘Maraska’ have several established clones: Sokoluša, Brač 6, Brač 2 and Recta (selection of the Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation).
The core work of Dr Medin (1968, 1971) included:

→ Phenology (flowering and ripening time)

→ Morphology of tree (shape and dimensions of tree crown, angle of branches, diameter of trunk, average length of one-year shoots, length of internodes, average number of internodes), shape and dimensions of leaves;

→ Morphology of fruit (shape, weight, flesh/stone ratio, length and width of stalk);

→ Basic chemical characteristics (dry matter, acidity).
### Weight of fruits for four types of ‘Maraska’
Medin (1971)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>pendula</strong></td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>3.11</td>
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<td><strong>recta</strong></td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>2.92</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>poljička</strong></td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>3.11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duguljasta</strong></td>
<td>2.71***</td>
<td>3.44**</td>
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Other differences between two types: "Poljička" yields less, but expresses higher quality in terms of aroma and dry matter, comparing to "Duguljasta" (oblong).

"Poljička" is recommended only for shallow soils where it retains high quality, in spite of smaller yield.

"Duguljasta" (oblong): higher yields, larger fruits, and retains its quality in deeper, less-skeletal soils, although chemical quality is slightly lower.

Further research should include the impact of different habitats and small differences in microclimate and soil quality.