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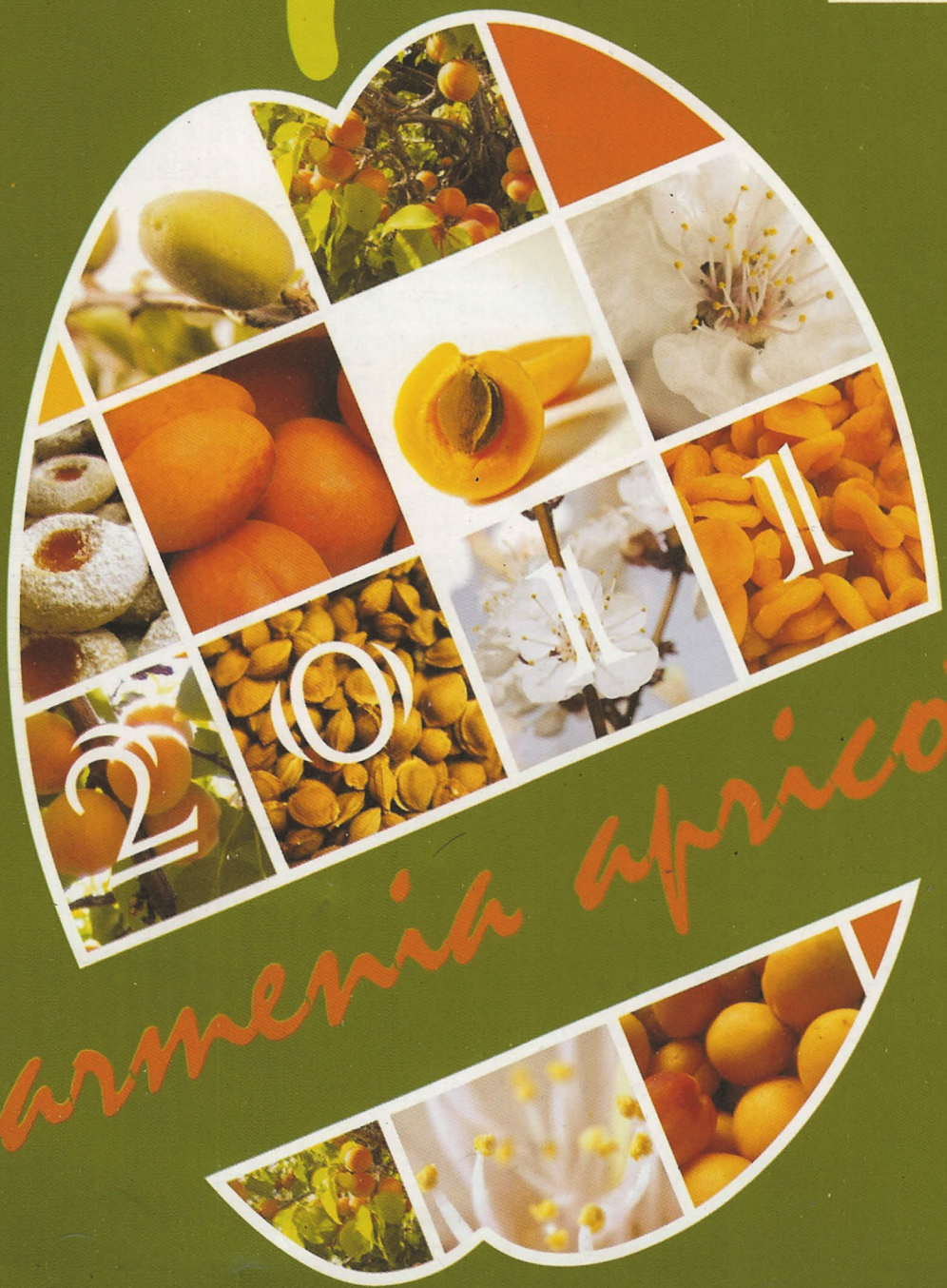

armenia apricot

Poster

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO SHARKA (*PLUM POX VIRUS*) OF SEVERAL *PRUNUS* ROOTSTOCKS AGAINST DIDERON AND MARCUS STRAINS

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Sharka, caused by *Plum pox virus* (PPV) is one of the most important viral diseases that affects apricot production. Although some new resistant cultivars have been recently released from breeding programs, most of traditional cultivars are susceptible to PPV. Similarly, most seedling rootstocks coming from susceptible cultivars are also susceptible. Due to the high density and herbaceous stage of seedling trees in the nursery, PPV can be easily transmitted by aphis, infecting the rootstock, the grafted cultivar and finally the whole plantation. So, use resistant rootstocks could reduce the spread of sharka in *Prunus* orchards. In this work, the preliminary results on the resistance to PPV of 50 *Prunus* rootstocks are reported. Rootstocks were evaluated simultaneously in France (INRA, Avignon) against PPV-Marcus and in Spain (CEBAS-CSIC, Murcia) against PPV-Dideron, by two methods: Firstly, by grafting an infected piece of bark onto the rootstock growing on their own roots and secondly, grafting a bud of the rootstock onto an infected GF305. Symptoms were observed on leaves, and ELISA was applied to leaves. Preliminary results show the susceptibility of most rootstocks studied. Only some of them were resistant, although this resistance has to be validated for some more cycles of evaluation.

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