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Abstract

 The predicted climate change conditions are forcing crop improvement researchers to find drought tolerant genotypes. The aim of this experiment was to screen a large tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) collection cultivated under well-watered and water deficit conditions, in order to identify those genotypes with the best performance under water shortage. Thus, 165 tomato genotypes including different cultivars (landraces and modern genotypes) and fruit types (processing, big size, long-shelf life and cherry) were grown in open field under two different cultivation regimes: well-watered (WW, covering 100% crop evapotranspiration demands) and water deficit (WD, irrigation stopped one month after field transplantation). Several leaf-level traits, yield and fruit quality were measured. Large variability was found under WW, with 20-fold variations in yield among genotypes. No differences in yield or fruit quality traits were found between modern genotypes and landraces, while differences in these parameters were observed based on the fruit type. Water deficit affected the observed variability, with a general decrease of yield and increases of fruit quality. Cluster analysis based on fruit traits placed several landraces in the same cluster that the most productive modern genotypes, irrespective of the water treatment. Variable responses to WD were observed, depending on the fruit or cultivar type. Carbon isotope composition was positively correlated with leaf nitrogen content, and determined the yield limit under both treatments. The results of this study highlight the potential of landraces for minimizing yield reduction under WD and increasing fruit quality, having similar or even better performance as compared to modern improved genotypes.

Keywords:

- Carbon isotope fractionation; Drought stress; Fruit quality; Mediterranean climate;
- Tomato landraces; Water shortage

1. Introduction

 Tomato (*S. lycopersicum* L.) is among the most produced and consumed vegetables in the world, with more than 4000 registered varieties only in the European Union (FAO, 2018; Plant variety database). The diverse bottlenecks undergone during its domestication process lead the cultivated tomato to contain less than 5% of the genetic 6 pool found in wild species. After its introduction in Europe from America in the $16th$ century, its selection was mainly focused on fruit shape and especially fruit size (Blanca et al., 2015; García-Martínez et al., 2006; Lin et al., 2014; Miller and Tanksley, 1990; Sacco et al., 2015; Tanksley, 2009). In this regard, the Mediterranean basin has been considered a secondary center of diversification for the tomato crop (Bai and Lindhout, 2007; Lin et al., 2014; Miller and Tanksley, 1990). The diverse cultivation practices and selection criteria in each particular region gave rise to landraces adapted to local conditions and responding to local consumption habits (Bota et al., 2014; Casals et al., 2011; Cebolla-Cornejo et al., 2013; Cortés-Olmos et al., 2015; Flores et al., 2017; Fullana-Pericàs et al., 2017; Mazzucato et al., 2008; J J Ruiz et al., 2005; Terzopoulos and Bebeli, 2010). Thus, in the Western Mediterranean, the long shelf-life phenotype (LSL) was a particularly selected fruit trait. Fruits of LSL phenotypes have great extended shelf-life after harvest (Casals et al., 2012; Conesa et al., 2014; Mercati et al., 2015; Saladié et al., 2007). In past centuries, selection for this trait allowed to have vegetable fruit over-winter, being associated to cultural practices of fruit storage, frequently hung up. Accordingly, many of the LSL landraces in the Mediterranean region have local names related to "storage", "hanging" or "bunches", like the Italian "*da serbo*", "*del piennolo*" and "*da appendere*", or the Eastern Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Islands "*Penjar*" and "*Ramellet*".

 Genotypes with LSL phenotype have also been related to drought tolerance, indicating that cultivation conditions have been a key factor in their selection (Conesa et al., 2014; Tranchida-Lombardo et al., 2018). The increased drought tolerance of these landraces has been partially attributed to morphological and physiological adaptations, but also to biochemical traits (Galmés et al., 2013, 2011; Guida et al., 2017; Riccardi et al., 2016).

 In spite of the large variability of landraces and cultivars, world tomato production concentrates on a few modern genotypes, with increased yield rates but significantly less flavor and quality (Tieman et al., 2017). Beyond the potential risk of genetic erosion of some genotypes, there is a possible loss of aroma, taste or appearance traits only present in landraces (Casals et al., 2011; Causse et al., 2010, 2003). Moreover, modern genotypes have been identified as sensitive to water deficit. In this regard, 70% of world tomato is produced in the three most water consuming countries (China, USA and India) plus the Mediterranean basin (Gilbert, 2012; FAO, 2018). Climate change models predict an increase of drought periods, being the Mediterranean basin one of the most affected regions and thus, water restrictions in agriculture seem to be unavoidable (Gao and Giorgi, 2008; Giorgi and Bi, 2005; Giorgi and Lionello, 2008; Sheffield and Wood, 2008). In this sense, a sustainable management of soil-water and land-use resources must start to be considered in agriculture in order to avoid land degradation (Keesstra et al., 2018, 2016).

 Wild tomato relatives have been extensively used to breed for biotic and abiotic trait resistances in tomato crops (Bai and Lindhout, 2007; Foolad and Panthee, 2012; Koenig et al., 2013). Particularly, *S. pennellii* has been a target to improve drought tolerance (Eshed et al., 1992; Galdon-Armero et al., 2018). Alternatively, local landraces selected for centuries under the severe conditions of the Mediterranean summer may also

 be a very suitable genetic pool to improve tomato crop tolerance to drier conditions. Thus, it is necessary to increase the knowledge on the response of those local landraces to water deficit in order determine its possible role to increase drought tolerance under the predicted future conditions.

 In this study, several leaf-level traits, yield and fruit quality were measured on a large tomato genotype collection, cultivated in open field during Mediterranean summer, under well-watered and water deficit conditions. The studied collection integrated very diverse tomato genotypes, including four different fruit typologies (processing, big-sized genotypes for fresh consumption, LSL genotypes and cherry type) and two cultivar types (landraces and modern genotypes). The hypothesis was that modern big-sized fruit genotypes would be the most affected by water scarcity in terms of yield, also reducing fruit number and weight. On the other hand, LSL landraces were expected to be less affected by water scarcity in terms of yield and fruit quality given their natural severe growing conditions. Moreover, leaf parameters were expected to be correlated to other fruit-related parameters, denoting adaptation to WD in tolerant genotypes.

 The main objectives of the present study were: (1) to analyze the variability of leaf related traits, yield and fruit quality in a large tomato collection and (2) to assess the impact of WD on the observed variability, identifying outstanding genotypes or genotype groups with high tolerance to water shortage.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Plant material

 A total of 165 tomato genotypes (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) constituted the collection used in this study (Table 1, detailed list in Table S1). This collection integrated genotypes mainly from the Mediterranean basin, but also from many diverse locations around the world. Attending to the diversity included in the study, and based on previous work of Lin et al. (2014) and Tieman et al. (2017), genotypes were grouped according to their fruit or cultivar type. For fruit type, four major groups were differentiated, including processing genotypes (PRO), big-sized genotypes for fresh consumption (BIG), genotypes with the long-shelf life fruit phenotype (LSL) and cherry type genotypes (CHE). Regarding to cultivar type, genotypes were classified in landraces (L) and modern genotypes (M), according to Camacho Villa et al. (2005), Casañas et al. (2017) and Zeven (1998). Genotypes were also classified using both group criteria, obtaining eight groups: processing landraces (PRO-L), processing modern (PRO-M), big-sized landraces (BIG- L), big-sized modern (BIG-M), long-shelf life landraces (LSL-L), long-shelf life modern (LSL-M), cherry landraces (CHE-L) and cherry modern (CHE-M) (Table 1). Seeds were obtained from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Naples, University of the Balearic Islands, Centre de Conservació i Millora de l'Agrodiversitat Valenciana and University of Sassari (Table S1).

 An antiviral treatment was applied to all seeds before sowing by immersion in a 10% sodium triphosphate dissolution for 3 h. After washing with distilled water, seeds were further submerged in a 30% dissolution of commercial bleach for 1 h. Then, they were washed again with distilled water and were placed in a ventilated room for 24 hours. Seeds were placed in a hermetic container with silica gel for at least 24 h and placed in an oven at 74 ºC for 24 h.

2.2. Experimental design and treatments

 Seedlings were grown in polystyrene trays filled with peat-based substrate in a greenhouse. One month old seedlings were transplanted to a commercial field in Ariany (Mallorca, Balearic Islands, latitude 39º38'N, longitude 3º08'E, altitude 79 m a.s.l.) in late June. The soil was clay, with an electric conductivity as saturated past of 0.55 mS cm-1 and a pH of 8.4. Before transplantation, the field was fumigated (50% metam sodium 8 anhydrous, 50% p/v) at a rate of 300 L ha⁻¹, rototilled and enriched with 250 kg ha⁻¹ of a 9 granulated fertilizer (composition of 12% of total N, 8% of P₂O₅ and 16% of K₂O). Plant beds (0.30 m width) were covered with an opaque plastic film to avoid weeds and to conserve soil humidity. Irrigation was applied via drip tape (AzudPro, 0.33 m emitter spacing, 1 mm thickness, 2.15 L h-1 at 100 kPa). Water applied by irrigation was recorded by volumetric rotatory piston water meters (Genebre SA, Barcelona). Dripping lines were 80 m long, separated 2 m from each other.

 Two treatment blocks were designed, the well-watered (WW), and the water deficit (WD), with five plants per genotype and treatment grown in a random distribution within each block. Blocks were separated by a non-cultivated area (6 m wide) to prevent water infiltration among blocks. Both WW and WD were irrigated daily at 100% of the 19 crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) during the first month following transplant. Afterwards, irrigation in the WD treatment was stopped until the end of the experiment, meanwhile 21 the irrigation of the WW treatment was maintained covering the daily ET_c demands (Fig S1, Table S2). Two nearby weather stations were used to calculate weekly reference 23 evapotranspiration (ET_0) according to FAO-56 (Allen et al., 1998). Crop 24 evapotranspiration (ET_c) was obtained as the product of ET_0 and the crop coefficient (K_c) at each growth stage (Allen et al., 2006) (Table S2). Over all the cultivation period, WW

1 treatment received 606 l m⁻² and WD treatment 215 l m⁻² (Fig. S1). During the field growth period, the per month averages of the daily average, daily maximum (day) and daily minimum (night) temperatures in the field were (in ºC), respectively, 24.1, 31.6 and 15.9 in June, 25.8, 33.4 and 17.8 in July, 26.2, 33.8 and 18.9 in August, and 20.6, 27.2 5 and 14.3 in September. The average relative air humidity was 70.45 ± 1.05 % throughout the experiment. Precipitations per month were (in mm), respectively: 0.0 in June, 6.0 in July, 8.3 in August and 19.0 in September.

 No growth conduction system or pruning was applied for any genotype. Pest control was managed as usually following the typical commercial practices. Weeds were removed manually.

2.3. Fruit related parameters

 Yield and total fruit number were measured per plant 79, 92, 96, 107 and 114 days after field transplantation. The average fruit weight was obtained dividing yield and total fruit number for each plant.

 Fruit quality parameters were measured from 8 healthy fruits per plant. Fruits were squashed and homogenized using an electric mixer (LM310E10, Moulinex, Alençon, France). Total soluble solids (*TSS*) and acidity were determined from the obtained juice. A digital refractometer and electrical conductimeter (PAL-BXACID F5, Atago, Tokyo, Japan) with a 0.2 ºBrix and with a 0.10% citric acid precision was used to evaluate *TSS* (results expressed as ºBrix) and acidity (results expressed as % of citric acid).

2.4. Leaf mass per area

 Leaf mass per area (*LMA*) was measured in a young fully expanded leaf per plant replicate, excluding the leaf rachis, and calculated as the ratio of dry mass to leaf area. Leaf area was determined using a foliar scanner LiDE220 (Canon INC; Tokyo, Japan) and analyzed as in Katabuchi (2015). Dry mass was obtained after oven drying the leaflets at 60 ºC until constant weight (*ca.* 72 h).

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7 2.5. Leaf δ^{13} C isotope composition and nitrogen content

 Leaves used to calculate *LMA* were also used to determine the leaf carbon isotope 9 composition (δ^{13} C) and nitrogen content (Leaf N). Dry leaf samples were ground to fine powder and were sampled for analysis. Samples were combusted in an elemental analyzer 11 (Thermo Flash EA 1112 Series, Bremen, Germany), and $CO₂$ and $N₂$ were directly injected into a continuous-flow isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Thermo-Finnigan Delta XP, Bremen, Germany) for isotope analysis. Leaf nitrogen content (leaf N) was calculated from the area obtained for isotope analysis on mass 28. Peach leaf standards (NIST 1547) were run every six samples. The standard deviation of the analysis was below 0.1‰. 16 Results for δ^{13} C are presented as δ vs. PDB, and leaf nitrogen content as mg N g⁻¹ leaf dry weight.

2.6. Statistical analyses

 Data failed the Shapiro-Wilk test for normality. Thus, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison was used to reveal differences among fruit and 22 cultivar types, and between treatments $(P < 0.05)$, using the "FSA" R software package 23 (Ogle, 2018). Interquartile range (IQR) was defined as the difference between the $75th$ and 25th data percentiles of each parameter. Pearson's correlations (*r)* were calculated to determine the relationships among the studied parameters. A cluster analysis was performed for all studied genotypes using fruit related parameters (i.e., yield, fruit weight, fruit number, *TSS* and acidity) with "dendextend" R software package (Galili, 2015). All statistical analyses were performed using R software (ver. 3.5.0; R Core Team, Vienna, Austria).

3. Results

3.1. Analysis of the variability under WW conditions

 Under WW conditions, a large variability was found among genotypes for leaf carbon 4 isotope composition (δ^{13} C) and leaf nitrogen content (leaf N), with the lowest values measured in cherry landraces (Fig. 1a). Similar to leaf N, the leaf mass per area (*LMA*) 6 varied \sim 2-fold across genotypes under WW. In turn, yield ranged between 486.3 ± 234.8 7 g plant⁻¹ in LSL-L59 and 9729 \pm 1349.2 g plant⁻¹ in CHE-L34, highlighting the large diversity included in the study (Table 2). A large variability was also observed for the fruit number and weight, with some CHE landraces having a number of fruit more than four times higher than the global mean. Also, nine of the 25 BIG landraces were considered outliers due to extremely high fruit weight (Fig. 1a).

 Two processing landraces had the lowest values of total soluble solids (*TSS*) and acidity. On the other hand, a cherry landrace (CHE-L7) presented one of the highest acidity values, despite most of the genotypes of this group were located near the first quartile, evidencing a large variability even within fruit and cultivar types (Fig. 1a).

3.2. Water deficit affected the observed variability

 A high impact of WD was found in almost all traits. Thus, δ ¹³C, *LMA*, *TSS* and acidity increased their values under WD conditions while yield and fruit weight decreased (Table 2, Fig. S2). The highest reduction of the interquartile range (IQR) was observed in yield while δ ¹³C and *TSS* increased their values. There was a highly significant relationship 22 between δ^{13} C values under WW and WD (Fig. S2; r = 0.72, *P*-value < 0.001) and low data dispersion, indicative that the WD did not alter the relative position of the genotypes 24 with respect to the leaf $CO₂$ diffusion and the water use efficiency. For instance, LSL-25 L38 scored the highest δ^{13} C value both under WW and WD conditions (Table 2, Fig. S2). Contrarily, the relationship between values under WW and WD for leaf N and *LMA*

 presented a much larger data dispersion, denoting a stronger interaction effect between genotype and irrigation (Fig. S2).

 Under WD conditions, only three clusters were differentiated (Fig. 2b). Cluster 3 was almost completely composed by LSL landraces, containing the genotypes with the lowest yield under WD conditions, and including genotypes that under WW were grouped in clusters 2 and 3. However, some LSL landraces, with low yield under WW, were included in clusters containing the most productive genotypes under WD. Most BIG and PRO genotypes were integrated in cluster 2. Finally, cluster 1 included the 12 genotypes with highest yield under WD. Only LSL-M2, PRO-M1 and BIG-M1 were classified in the most productive clusters under both treatments, indicating a low impact of WD on these genotypes.

 The cluster analysis was consistent with the results obtained when comparing among fruit and cultivar types. Thus, differences were found for fruit-related parameters, 9 but also for leaf traits (Table 3). Landraces and LSL displayed the highest $\delta^{13}C$ and leaf 10 N content values while CHE the lowest. Under WD, the differences in δ^{13} C among groups were similar to those under WW conditions with higher values, while landraces presented the highest leaf N content. Differences in *LMA* were found depending on both fruit and cultivar type, with LSL showing the lowest values, and PRO and CHE the highest. Under WD, CHE had the lowest values, with no differences between cultivar types. Landraces, LSL and BIG were the only groups that increased *LMA* under WD as compared to WW plants.

 Regarding to yield, CHE presented the highest values and LSL the lowest under 18 WW (4538.8 \pm 230.7 g plant⁻¹ and 2733.5 \pm 142.2 g plant⁻¹ respectively). Under WD conditions, lower yield was observed for all groups, having CHE the highest values and LSL and BIG the lowest. Modern genotypes had higher yield than landraces only under WD (Table 3). As expected, BIG and CHE presented the lowest and the highest values for fruit number, respectively. On the other hand, CHE had the lowest fruit weight and BIG the highest. Nevertheless, WD did not reduce fruit number in BIG, as did not reduce fruit weight in PRO. Neither landraces nor modern genotypes decreased fruit weight under WD conditions.

 Under WW, CHE had the highest *TSS* and the lowest acidity. No differences were found for *TSS* between cultivar types under both treatments, whereas landraces had higher acidity (Table 3). Under WD, all groups increased their *TSS*, having CHE the highest values. Only BIG and CHE increased their acidity, with BIG and LSL presenting the highest values. Landraces also increased their acidity, leading to a larger difference between both cultivar types.

3.4. Fruit parameters were related to leaf traits

8 Yield was negatively correlated with $\delta^{13}C$ (r = -0.36; *P*-value < 0.001; Fig. 3a) and leaf N (r = -0.26; *P*-value < 0.001) under both treatments (Table 4). Also, a positive correlation 10 was observed between δ^{13} C and leaf N (r = 0.31; *P*-value < 0.001; Fig. 3b). The relationship between *LMA* and yield was only significant under WD (Table 4).

 When considering data from WW and WD treatments together, there was a negative correlation between fruit number and fruit weight (r = -0.46; *P*-value < 0.001, Table S3). However, yield was only correlated with fruit number (r = 0.53; *P*-value < 0.001; Fig. 4a). Total soluble solids increased when fruit number increased and fruit 16 weight decreased, regardless of the treatment $(r = 0.33; P-value < 0.001$ and $r = -0.19; P-\text{C}$ 17 value < 0.05 respectively in WW, and r = 0.29; *P*-value < 0.001 and r = -0.35; *P*-value $<$ 0.001 respectively in WD, Table S4). On the other hand, acidity was negatively correlated 19 with fruit number under both treatments ($r = -0.26$; *P*-value < 0.001 in WW and $r = -0.16$; *P*-value <0.05 in WD, Table S4), as with yield $(r = -0.28; P$ -value < 0.001; Fig. 4b).

4. Discussion

 The aim of this study was to identify genotypes that could proof to be useful to increase tolerance to water shortage. In order to do so, a wide selection up to 165 different genotypes were studied. Consequently, there were several advantages and disadvantages that had to be considered. First of all, the complexity of the experimental design was vast and did not allow for more than a single year of field evaluation, reason why we refused to deeply analyze the treatment \times fruit or cultivar type interactions, and they must be taken carefully. On the other hand, the large number of genotypes included and their variability (Fig. 1), and the homogeneity of the applied treatment makes the obtained information very useful to detect general trends or clear treatment effects.

4.1. A large diversity among tomato genotypes was found under WW

 In this study we describe the large variability found among the 165 genotypes cultivated under WW and in their response to WD. Under WW, remarkable differences were found 15 among genotypes, with a \sim 20-fold variation in yield (Table 2).

 Previous studies reported a lower stomatal conductance (*g*s) of LSL landraces as compared to other tomato genotypes under WW, pointing to a lower water consumption and higher water-use efficiency (WUE) (Fullana-Pericàs et al., 2017; Galmés et al., 2011). 19 The lower g_s , result from a stomatal closure, lead to a limitation of CO_2 diffusion and a 20 lower ¹³CO₂ discrimination (Farquhar et al., 1982). As a consequence, plants with higher δ^{13} C had higher WUE, being finally reflected in yield (Table 3, Fig. 3a). Taken into 22 consideration the trade-off between WUE or δ^{13} C and yield, the high δ^{13} C and lower g_s of LSL landraces may reflect an adaptation to severe water stress (Tardieu, 2011). Most LSL landraces studied are original from the Mediterranean basin, traditionally selected under rain-fed conditions leading to severe stress during the Mediterranean summer (Bota et al., 2014; Guida et al., 2017). On the contrary, modern LSL were included in the most productive cluster when grouping genotypes based on their fruit related parameters, 4 having intermediate $\delta^{13}C$ (Fig. 2a). These results highlight the potential of landraces, and specifically LSL, to be included in breeding programs to optimize yield and fruit quality under severe water deficit.

 The yield recorded for the different fruit and cultivar types is in accordance with previous studies (Bota et al., 2014; Di Gioia et al., 2010; Eshed and Zamir, 1994; Guida et al., 2017; Makkouk et al., 1979). However, due to the large diversity surveyed, some genotypes were poorly adapted to the specific growing conditions of the present study (open-field, high temperature, lack of pruning schedules) even under WW conditions (Fig. 1). This was the case of some PRO and BIG genotypes, which presented lower yield in this study compared to previous reports (Fig. 1a) (Davis and Estes, 1993; Fanasca et al., 2007; Favati et al., 2009; Patanè and Cosentino, 2010; Zotarelli et al., 2009).

 No differences were found between landraces and modern genotypes for *TSS*. Diverse authors described lower flavor in modern genotypes, defined by the combination of sugars, acids and volatile compounds (Baldwin et al., 2000; Juan J. Ruiz et al., 2005; Tieman et al., 2017, 2012). Although volatile compounds were not quantified in this study, we found differences in acidity when comparing cultivar types (Table 3). The consumer perception of poor taste and flavor in modern genotypes might be a combination of their lower quality, mainly due to the lack of genetic fruit quality improvement by breeders, but also an influence of harvest and postharvest practices (Klee and Tieman, 2013; Roberts et al., 2002; Slimestad and Verheul, 2005).

4.2. Different responses to WD were found among genotypes

2 All groups increased δ^{13} C under WD, indicative of an effect of the treatment on stomatal conductance and WUE (Condon, 2004; Martin et al., 1999; Rytter, 2005). Under stress 4 conditions, δ^{13} C has been widely used as a WUE indicator in several crops (Adiredjo et al., 2014; Galmés et al., 2011; Martin and Thorstenson, 1988; Sánchez-Díaz et al., 2002), 6 and correlated with other indicators as the intrinsic water-use efficiency (WUE $_{i}$, defined as the ratio of carbon assimilated to water lost) (Galdon-Armero et al., 2018). However, plants with increased WUE are usually related with lower yields (Blum, 2009, 2005; 9 Tardieu, 2011). In fact, CHE and PRO had lower δ^{13} C but higher yield than the other fruit types (Table 3).

 Yield was strongly affected by WD (Table 3). Despite reductions in yield in tomato under WD have been previously reported, no consistent results are found in literature when assessing the impact of water deficit on yield, with reductions from 15 up to 80% depending on the specific growing conditions and the used genotypes (Baselga et al., 1993; Cantore et al., 2016; Favati et al., 2009; Patanè and Cosentino, 2010). In this study, a general reduction of 30% was found for the different fruit and cultivar types (Table 3). Surprisingly, modern genotypes did not reduce yield under WD, leading to higher values as when compared to landraces.

 The cluster analysis revealed a low impact of WD on BIG-M1, PRO-M1 and LSL- M2 as compared to the other genotypes (Fig. 2b). When comparing treatments, yield in LSL-M1 decreased ~52% while only about 24% in LSL-M2. It is notorious that LSL-M1 and LSL-M2 are the same genotype although the latter is grafted onto a commercial rootstock (Table S1), meaning that grafting must be considered a useful tool to improve yield under water deficit (Sánchez-Rodríguez et al., 2012; Schwarz et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2015). On the other hand, no remarkable differences were found in the cluster containing the genotypes with the lowest yield under both treatments. Previous studies revealed the high heterogeneity of landraces in yield or fruit quality, even with the same fruit type (Casals et al., 2012; Cebolla-Cornejo et al., 2013; Sacco et al., 2015). Hence, different responses to WD were found, being remarkable PRO-L2, LSL-L47 and LSL- L51 genotypes, which maintained or even increased yield under WD conditions and also increased their fruit quality parameters values (Fig 2).

4.3. Maximum yield was related to plant WUE

 As mentioned above, this study has been performed in a large number of genotypes. Thus, correlations between parameters should be taken carefully given that relationships with low correlation coefficient become statistically significant. Far from being a negative aspect, the large scattering observed for some of the relationships denotes disparity in the response to the WD among different genotypes, offering a diversity of alternatives for the future improvement of tomato tolerance to water deficit and adapt tomato crop to climate 15 change conditions (Mohmmed et al., 2018; Muluneh et al., 2015).

16 A negative correlation was found between δ^{13} C and yield (Table 4). Remarkably, 17 when considering all genotypes under both watering conditions, $\delta^{13}C$ determined the maximum yield, but not its actual value (Fig. 3a). No differences in leaf N content between treatments were found (Table 2). This may be explained by the lower growth and therefore lower nutrient demand under WD. The mechanism by which leaf N content is affected by water deficit is not clear, with studies revealing a positive (van den Boogaard et al., 1995), negative (Morgan, 1984; Shangguan et al., 2000) or no effect (Damour et al., 2008). However, in the present study a trend was found with increased N 24 content in those genotypes with higher $\delta^{13}C$ (Fig. 4b) and thus lower stomatal conductance. This trend might be related with the accumulation of proline or other osmoprotectants, which have been associated to prevent protein and enzyme denaturation 2 under WD conditions (Chaves et al., 2003 and references therein).

 The different fruit types largely differed in their fruit load (Fig. 1), being changes in yield within treatments more dependent on fruit number than on fruit weight (Fig. 4a, Table 4). The impact of WD on yield was also translated to fruit quality. Despite controversial effects of water shortage on acidity have been reported (Bertin et al., 2000; Ripoll et al., 2014; Veit-Köhler et al., 1999), a general increase of both *TSS* and acidity under WD was observed. However, yield correlated with acidity but not with *TSS*, regardless of the treatment (Table 4, Fig. 4b). The inclusion of such diverse fruit types can partially explain this lack of general correlation, since variations in *TSS* are very 11 dependent on the genotype (Ripoll et al., 2014). Similar to $\delta^{13}C$, the relationship between acidity and yield draw a scenario where, for a particular yield, different acidity values could be found, depending on the fruit and cultivar type (Fig. 4b).

4.4. Concluding remarks

 The screening of a large tomato collection, including different fruit and cultivar types, revealed the existence of a high variability in leaf parameters, yield and fruit quality. Such large variability was also observed when analyzing the effects of WD on the performance of the tomatoes. This variability was partially explained by the fruit and cultivar types. An overall decrease in yield and an increase in fruit quality traits was observed under 21 WD, with significant relationships between leaf and fruit traits. In this regard, $\delta^{13}C$ determined the maximum yield of a genotype, but not its actual value. Several landraces with promising behavior under WD as compared to WW have been identified,

- highlighting the potential use of these genotypes to increase water stress tolerance and
- maintain fruit quality.

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5. Bibliography

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Highlights:

- Large trait diversity among tomato genotypes under both water treatments
- Cluster analysis grouped genotypes according to their cultivar and fruit type
- Carbon isotope composition determines yield limit
- Different response of landraces to WD among genotypes
- Landraces constitute a genetic source to improve tomato under drought

Table 1. Number of genotypes used in this experiment. From left to right, columns indicate the fruit type group and the cultivar type group of the genotypes. Letters in brackets refers to the abbreviations used to refer to a particular genotype. See Table S1 for detailed genotype label.

Table 2 Minimum value (Min), mean (Mean), maximum value (Max) and interquartile range (IQR) for leaf, yield and fruit quality parameters under wellwatered (WW) and water deficit (WD) conditions. δ¹³C refers to leaf carbon isotope composition, leaf N to leaf nitrogen content, LMA to leaf mass per area and TSS to total soluble solids. For Min and Max, values are means ± S.E of a particular genotype. Label between brackets indicate the genotype where the value was obtained. See Table 1 for *n* specifications and genotype abbreviations. For Mean, values are means \pm S.E for each parameter and treatment. Asterisks denotes significant differences between treatments for means of each parameter by Kruskal-Wallis test.

Table 3 Leaf, yield and fruit quality traits in the different fruit and cultivar types under well-watered (WW) and water deficit (WD) conditions. Values are means ± S.E. See Table 1 for *n* specifications and group abbreviations. Letters denote significant differences among fruit types within each treatment, ¥ between cultivar types within each treatment and asterisks between treatments for each group by Kruskal-Wallis test and Dunn's multiple comparison (*P* < 0.05).

Parameter		Yield
	WW	
LMA.		0.04
$\delta^{13}C$		-0.21 **
Leaf N		-0.35 ***
Fruit number		0.54 ***
Fruit weight		ns
TSS		ns
Acidity		-0.26 ***
	WD	
LMA		$-0.18*$
$\delta^{13}C$		-027 ***
Leaf N		-0.22 **
Fruit number		0.49 ***
Fruit weight		ns
TSS		ns
Acidity		$-0.19*$

Table 4. Pearson bivariate correlations between yield and other parameters included in the study, for well-water (WW) and water deficit (WD) conditions. Asterisks mean significance level at: * $P \le 0.05$, ** $P \le 0.01$ or *** $P \le 0.001$; ns refers to non-significant.

Figure 1. Boxplot graphs illustrating the variability of leaf, yield and fruit quality parameters in a) well-watered (WW) and b) water deficit (WD) conditions. Each box illustrates the 25% (Q1) and 75% (Q3) quartiles (left and right of box) and median values (vertical bar). Left and right lines of each box (whiskers) calculated as: $Q1 - 1.5$ ·IQR and $Q3 + 1.5$ ·IQR respectively, where IQR refers to the interquartile range. Dots represent mean of each genotype. Colors as follows: black for PRO-L, white for BIG-L, green for LSL-L, yellow for CHE-L, red for PRO-M, blue for BIG-M, purple for LSL-M and pink for CHE-M (see Table 1 for labels).

Figure 2. Dendrogram of genotypes under (a) WW and (b) WD conditions resulting from the cluster analyses based on the following parameters: yield, fruit number, fruit weight, total soluble solids (TSS) and acidity. Dark lines link the same genotype between both figures. Numbers indicate the different clusters for each plot when cut the dendrogram at a height of 4000. Colors as Fig. 1. Labels as follows: PL for processing landraces, BL for big-sized landraces, LL for long-shelf life landraces, CL for cherry landraces, PM for processing modern, BM for big-sized modern, LM for long-shelf life modern and CM for cherry modern genotypes.

Figure 3. Relationship between leaf carbon isotope composition (δ^{13} C) and a) yield (g plant⁻¹) and b) leaf nitrogen content (leaf N). Data are means. SE is not shown for clarify, but it is available in Supplementary Data Set. Dots refer to well-water (WW) and triangles to water deficit (WD) genotypes. Colors as in Fig. 1. Dotted line in figure a) sets the limitation of $\delta^{13}C$ to yield.

Figure 4. Relationship between yield and a) fruit number (g plant⁻¹), and b) acidity (% citric acid). Data are means. SE is not shown for clarify, but it is available in Supplementary Data Set. Dots refer to well-water (WW) and triangles to water deficit (WD) genotypes. Colors as in Fig. 1.

Figure S1. Weekly values for precipitation, irrigation in WW and WD blocks and the crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) over all the growing season

Figure S2. Relationship between the values obtained in WD and WW for each genotype in a) leaf carbon isotope composition (δ^{13} C), b) leaf nitrogen content (Leaf N), c) leaf mass per area (LMA), d) yield (g plant⁻¹), e) fruit number (fruit plant⁻¹), f) fruit weight (g fruit⁻¹), g) total soluble solids (TSS) and g) acidity (% citric acid). For all plots, y-axis refers to WD and x-axis to WW values. Data are means. Colors as follows: black for PRO-L, white for BIG-L, green for LSL-L, yellow for CHE-L, red for PRO-M, blue for BIG-M, purple for LSL-M and pink for CHE-M (see Table 1 for labels). Dotted line represent the 1:1 relationship between WD and WW, and the solid line the actual correlation between treatments.

Table S1. List of the used genotypes, including their growth habit, fruit and cultivar type, origin, variety name and the seed origin. For seed origin, HUJ refers to Hebrew University of Jerusalem, UN to University of Naples, UIB to University of the Balearic Islands, COMAV to Centre de Conservació i Millora de l'Agrodiversitat Valenciana and US to University of Sassari.

Individual code	Fruit type	Cultivar type	Origin	Variety name	Seed origin
PRO-L1	PRO	Landrace	Catalonia	LC 433 Pera Girona	HUJ
PRO-L2	PRO	Landrace	Italy	San Marzano	HUJ
PRO-L3	PRO	Landrace	Italy	Pera Abruzzo	HUJ
PRO-L4	PRO	Landrace	Italy	Piennolo Rosso	HUJ
PRO-L5	PRO	Landrace	Italy	Acampora	HUJ
PRO-L6	PRO	Landrace	NA	Brandywine	HUJ
PRO-L7	PRO	Landrace	NA	BRIANNA	HUJ
PRO-L8	PRO	Landrace	NA	Chih-Mu-Tao-Se	HUJ
PRO-L9	PRO	Landrace	Russia	Cosmonaut Volkov Red	HUJ
PRO-L10	PRO	Landrace	USA	Costoluto Genovese	HUJ
PRO-L11	PRO	Landrace	USA	Earliana	HUJ
PRO-L19	PRO	Landrace	USA	Green Zebra	HUJ
PRO-L12	PRO	Landrace	USA	Hillbilly	HUJ
PRO-L13	PRO	Landrace	USA	Japanese Black Trifele	HUJ
PRO-L14	PRO	Landrace	NA	JOHN'S BIG ORANGE	HUJ
PRO-L15	PRO	Landrace	USA	Nyagous	HUJ
PRO-L16	PRO	Landrace	NA	OPALKA	HUJ
PRO-L17	PRO	Landrace	Italy	S. Marzano Terra Asciutta	UN
PRO-L18	PRO	Landrace	Italy	$22/030 - 1$	UN
PRO-M1	PRO	Modern	Control	Moneymaker	HUJ
PRO-M2	PRO	Modern	Control	Ailsa Craig	HUJ

Week	ET_{α}	K_c
	$\text{(mm d}^{-1})$	
21/06 to 29/06	7.60	0.6
30/06 to 06/07	7.00	0.6
07/07 to 13/07	6.24	0.9
14/07 to 20/07	5.69	1.15
21/07 to 28/07	5.38	1.15
29/07 to 4/08	5.15	1.15
05/08 to 11/08	5.05	1.15
12/08 to 18/08	4.59	1.15
19/08 to 25/08	5.01	1.15
26/08 to 01/09	4.99	1.15
02/09 to 08/09	2.39	1.15
09/09 to 15/09	3.41	1.15
16/09 to 22/09	2.68	1.15
23/09 to 29/09	3.09	1.15
30/09 to 06/10	2.70	1.15

Table S2. Weekly values for potential evapotranspiration (ET_0) and crop coefficient (K_c) over all the growing season.

	Leaf N	LMA	Yield	Fruit Number	Fruit Weight	TSS	Acidity
$\delta^{13}C$	$0.31***$	0.02	$-0.36***$	$-0.14*$	-0.03	$0.36***$	$0.24***$
Leaf N		$-0.38***$	$-0.26***$	$-0.21***$	0.09	$-0.15**$	$0.18**$
LMA			-0.09	$-0.21***$	0.08	0.02	-0.03
Yield				$0.53***$	-0.01	$-0.14*$	$-0.28***$
Fruit Number					$-0.46***$	$0.2***$	$-0.23***$
Fruit Weight						$-0.27***$	-0.01
TSS							$0.4***$

Table S3. Pearson correlation matrix of the leaf, yield and fruit quality parameters for the overall genotypes and water treatments. Asterisks mean significance level at: * $P \le 0.05$, ** $P \le 0.01$ or *** $P \le 0.001$.

Table S4 Pearson correlation matrix of the leaf, yield and fruit quality parameters. Values for genotypes grown in WW are found in the upper right side of the matrix. Values for genotypes grown in WD are found in the lower left side of the matrix for all genotypes cultivated in WW and WD conditions. Asterisks mean significance level at: * $P \le 0.05$, ** $P \le 0.01$ or *** $P \le 0.001$.

	$\delta^{13}C$	LeafN	LMA	Yield	Fruit Number	Fruit Weight	TSS	Acidity
$\delta^{13}C$		$0.32***$	-0.09	$-0.21**$	-0.08	0.04	$0.18*$	$0.2**$
LeafN	$0.48***$		$-0.34***$	$-0.35***$	$-0.24**$	0.08	$-0.2*$	0.14
LMA	-0.12	$-0.42***$		0.04	-0.08	0.02	-0.02	-0.12
Yield	$-0.27***$	$-0.22**$	$-0.18*$		$0.54***$	-0.04	0.05	$-0.26***$
Fruit Number	-0.1	$-0.21**$	$-0.35***$	$0.49***$		$-0.47***$	$0.33***$	$-0.26***$
Fruit Weight	0.01	$\rm 0.1$	$0.19*$	-0.03	$-0.49***$		$-0.19*$	0.02
TSS		-0.14	-0.09	-0.03	$0.29***$	$-0.35***$		$0.31***$
Acidity	0.08	$0.22**$	-0.01	$-0.19*$	$-0.16*$	-0.02	$0.37***$	