



Geographical origin discrimination of “Ntopia” olive oil cultivar from Ionian islands using volatile compounds analysis and computational statistics

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to characterize the aroma profile of olive oil of the “Ntopia” (local) cultivar from the Ionian islands (Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra) (Greece), and investigate whether specific volatile compounds could be considered as indicators of olive oil geographical origin, using computational statistics. In this context, 137 olive oil samples were subjected to headspace solid phase microextraction coupled to gas chromatography/mass spectrometry using the internal standard method. Computational statistics on the semi-quantitative data of olive oil samples, as rapid machine learning algorithms, showed that specific volatile compounds could be used as indicators of geographical origin of olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar, among the four main Ionian islands. Volatile compounds such as ethanol, pentanal, 2,4-dimethylheptane, 3,7-dimethyl-1,3,6-octatriene (E), 2,5-dimethylnonane, 1-hexanol, 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one, octanal, dl-Limonene, acetic acid hexyl ester and dodecane could aid to the geographical origin discrimination of “Ntopia” olive oil cultivar when two (Zakynthos and Kefalonia) or four (Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada and Kerkyra) Ionian islands are subjected to statistical analysis. The discrimination rate using the cross-validation method was 100% and 85.7%, respectively. These results were further evaluated using training and holdout partitions, during which a comparable classification rate was obtained.

Keywords Olive oil · “Ntopia” cv. · Characterization · Volatile compounds · Geographical origin · Computational statistics

Introduction

Olive oil comprises a long-term ingredient in the Mediterranean cuisine and diet, including ancient Greek and Roman cuisine [1]. Olive oil is a liquid source of fat obtained from olives (*Olea europaea*) and is produced by pressing the olives and extracting the respective oil. It is mainly consisted by oleic acid with smaller amounts of other fatty acids including linoleic acid and palmitic acid, phenols, tocopherols, sterols, phospholipids, waxes, squalene and other hydrocarbons [2].

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the global olive oil production in the 2020/2021 harvesting season was ca. 3.03 million tons, which represents the fourth successive year of decline in terms of quantity [3]. Among the olive oil producing countries, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Portugal had all a decrease in the production yield, whilst the olive oil production in Greece and Spain remained fairly stable. Spain accounts for almost half of the global olive oil production; other major olive oil producers are Italy, Greece, Tunisia, and Turkey [4].

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To ensure and keep flourishing the production/distribution of olive oil and other foodstuffs the agro-food sector must develop new strategies/innovations due to the challenges of our time. A typical example comprises the COVID 19 pandemic crisis during which the food companies are forced to seek new information and knowledge about consumer needs toward natural products with beneficial health effects, such as functional foods [5]. The functional foods and other nutraceuticals contain bioactive compounds such as vitamins, bioactive lipids, flavonoids, bioactive peptides, polysaccharides, bioactive lipids, and natural polyphenols [6], while highlight the advances of a potential nutrition to strengthen consumers' immune system and improve their overall health [7]. Nowadays, the production of these types of products is enhanced in parallel with the valorization of bio-resources; i.e., the recoveries of high added-value compounds from food waste [5]. A typical food waste may also comprise the olive oil waste and future exploitation may lead to beneficial effects for human health, as a shield against COVID 19 and related pandemic diseases. An authentic raw material with unique composition may also give a beneficial by-product.

The composition of olive oil varies according to the cultivar, altitude, harvesting year and extraction processing techniques. The unique characteristics of each cultivar in relation to the climatic conditions, agronomic practices, geographical production area, harvesting practices, and processing technology are closely related to the olive oil quality and composition [2, 8]. The quality characteristics of a genuine olive oil may allow its labeling as PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) or PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) as supported and encouraged by the European Commission [9]. Thus, authenticity of olive oil is an important topic for stakeholders. The term authentication covers plenty aspects, such as characterization, geographical origin determination, cultivar differentiation, and adulteration [10–14]. The determination of olive oil uniqueness is accomplished after implementation of different techniques that provide numerical data regarding its quality indices, sensory characteristics and composition during production and storage [15–23].

Some typical instrumental techniques that have been widely used for the characterization of olive oil composition and its authentication are headspace solid phase microextraction coupled to gas chromatography/mass spectrometry [12, 24–28], gas chromatography coupled to flame ionization detector [29, 30], stable isotope ratio analysis (SIRA) in combination with mineral content analysis [31], nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) [1, 32], specific natural isotopic fractionation nuclear magnetic resonance (SNIF/NMR) [33], high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) alone or in combination with mass spectrometry [34], DNA-encoding techniques [35] and the newly developed paper-based optoelectronic nose [36], in combination with computational

statistics such as multivariate analysis of variance, principal component analysis, linear discriminant analysis, partial-least squares discriminant analysis, etc. [1, 12, 26, 27, 29, 30]. New trends in food analysis include the separation of functional macro-molecules and micro-molecules using ultrafiltration and nanofiltration techniques [37].

As far as the volatile profile of olive oil, it is highly correlated with its organoleptic properties, as volatile compounds are responsible for both positive and negative olfactory characteristics [38, 39] contributing further to its qualitative characteristics [17, 18]. A previous study reported data for olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Leukada, and Kerkyra concerning the quality indices and physicochemical composition on the basis of acidity (0.25–1.27% of oleic acid), peroxide value (6.87–72.49 meqO₂/kg), K₂₃₂ (1.31–15.95), K₂₇₀ (0.10–1.74), ΔK (– 0.004 to 1.03) extraction coefficients, chlorophyll and carotenoid contents (0.08–4.46 mg/kg of pheophytin A and 0.87–2.22 mg/kg of lutein, respectively) and fatty acid content (myristic acid 0.01–0.02%; margaric acid 0.01–0.10%; stearic acid 1.83–3.35%; arachidic acid 0.35–0.46%; and eicosenoic acid 0.21–0.31%) [30].

Taking into account the aforementioned, the aim of the present study was to characterize the aroma profile of olive oil of the “Ntopia” (local) cultivar and investigate if specific volatile compounds could aid in the geographical origin discrimination of this type of olive oil harvested in Ionian islands, in combination with computational statistics. In confidence, there is not a previous study in the literature reporting volatile compounds analysis data for olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar and their potential use in the authentication control of this type of olive oil, thus constituting the originality of the present study.

Materials and methods

Olive oil samples

One hundred and thirty-seven virgin olive oil (VOO) samples ($N=137$) were obtained using olives from four different Ionian islands in Greece: Zakynthos (37° 48' N 20° 45' E) ($N=33$ samples), Kefalonia (38° 15' 54" N 20° 33' 09" E) ($N=31$ samples), Leukada (38° 43' N 20° 39' E) ($N=36$ samples), and Kerkyra (39° 35' 28.60" N 19° 51' 50.54" E) ($N=37$ samples). Following the Köppen–Geiger climate classification system, all four islands are classified as “Csa” (hot dry-summer climates), which constitutes a sub-class of Mediterranean climate, characterized by temperate, dry hot summer, also known as thermo-Mediterranean zone. Likewise, the average annual temperatures and precipitation are 18.2, 18.5, 15.4, 17.1 °C and 995, 804, 1194, 1290 mm for Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada and Kerkyra islands,

respectively. The average temperature during the harvesting month was 16.9, 15.9, 17.1 and 15.3 °C, whereas the altitude of sample collection was 20–460, 20–400, 50–700 and 20–500 m for Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada and Kerkyra, respectively. Supplementary Tables 1–4 give information on the harvesting year and the regions of collection of samples which cover the wider areas of the Ionian islands. In particular, the majority of olive trees grown in Zakynthos and Kefalonia belong to the domestic cultivar “Ntopia”, whereas those of Leukada belong to “Asprolia” cultivar and those of Kerkyra to “Lianolia” cultivar. However, both “Asprolia” and “Lianolia” cultivars are the major “local” domestic cultivars of these islands, contributing thus, to the general group of “Ntopia” cultivars from Ionian islands. During the collection of samples of olives, the following factors were taken into account:

- (i) The fruits had the same degree of maturity. For this reason, the time of harvesting of the olive fruit was defined as the time when the fruit began to change color, and
- (ii) Collection of samples covering as much as possible all the olive growing areas of the Islands.

Immediately, after receiving the raw material (approximately 3 kg/sample), the following procedure was followed: 1. Selection of olives and leaves: only healthy olives and without any imperfections were used; 2. Crushing of olives and removal of olive core; 3. Grinding in blender; 4. Adding an equal amount of water and mixing the olive oil for 45 min at a temperature below 27 °C; 5. Centrifuging for 4 min at 3500 revolutions per minute (rpm); and 6. Receiving of olive oil, archiving and placing samples in dark vials under chilled temperature.

Chemicals and reagents

4-methyl-2-pentanone [(CH₃)₂CHCH₂COCH₃, MW = 100.16] used as internal standard was purchased from Fluka (Germany). The standard mixture of alkanes C₈–C₂₀ (40 mg/L each in *n*-hexane) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Germany).

Determination of olive oil volatile compounds

Fiber cleaning

The extraction of volatile compounds dominating the headspace of olive oil samples was done using a divinyl benzene/carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane (DVB/CAR/PDMS) fiber of 50/30 μm purchased by Supelco (Bellefonte, PA, USA). Before the analysis of samples the fiber was cleaned daily using the method of the “clean” program. During the

“cleaning” of the fiber, oven temperature was held at 80 °C for 0 min, and then increased to 260 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min (2 min hold). The inlet temperature was 270 °C. The auxiliary temperature was 280 °C and that of the MS source 230 °C.

Preparation of olive oil samples for headspace solid phase microextraction (HS-SPME)

Approximately, 4 g of olive oil was placed in 20 mL screw-cap vials equipped with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)/silicone septa and 100 μL of the internal standard (4-methyl-2-pentanone of initial concentration of 500 μg/L) was added. 4-methyl-2-pentanone was chosen as an internal standard during the optimization of the method given that it did not occur in any of the olive oil volatiles compounds and did not cause any co-elution problems. The vials were vortexed and maintained in a water bath at 45 °C under stirring at 600 rpm during the extraction procedure with the fiber. The HS-SPME extraction procedure included the optimized conditions: 15 min equilibration time, 15 min sampling/exposure time of the fiber, weight of sample 4 g, vial volume 20 mL, and as reported above, constant extraction temperature of the water bath at 45 °C (Supplementary Table 5).

Instrumentation and analytical conditions

A gas chromatograph (GC) unit (Agilent 7890 A) coupled to a mass spectrometry (MS) detector (Agilent 5975) was used for the analysis of olive oil volatile compounds. A DB-5MS [cross-linked (5%-Phenyl)-methylpolysiloxane] capillary column (J & W Scientific, Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), with dimensions of 60 m × 320 μm i.d., × 1 μm film thickness was used, with helium as the carrier gas (purity 99.999%), at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The temperature for the injector and MS-transfer line were maintained constant at 260 °C and 270 °C, respectively. The oven temperature was held at 40 °C for 4 min and was further increased to 160 °C at a rate of 4 °C/min for 2 min, increasing further to 250 °C at a rate of 8 °C/min for 2 min. Electron impact mass spectra were recorded at the mass range of 29–500. The ionization energy of the electron ionization system was 70 eV. A split ratio 2:1 was used.

Identification of olive oil volatile compounds

The identification of olive oil volatile compounds was done based on the Wiley 7 NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) mass spectral library (NIST 2005) (J. Wiley & Sons Ltd., West Sussex, England). For the determination of the linear retention index values, the mixture of *n*-alkanes (C₈–C₂₀) was used (Supplementary Table 6). The calculation of retention time indices was carried out for

volatile compounds eluting between *n*-octane and *n*-eicosane according to Kováts formula:

$$I_i = 100 \times \left[n + (t_i - t_n) / (t_{n+1} - t_n) \right], \quad (1)$$

where t_n and t_{n+1} are the retention times of heading and trailing *n*-alkanes and t_i is the retention time of the volatile compound of interest [40].

Expression of results

Results were expressed as semi-quantitative data according to the formula:

$$\text{Volatile compounds } (\mu\text{g/L}) = (E_{\text{analyte}}/E_{\text{IS}}) \times C_{\text{IS}}, \quad (2)$$

where E_{analyte} refers to the peak area of analyte, E_{IS} refers to the peak area of internal standard (IS), and C_{IS} : final concentration of IS.

To eliminate any kind of contamination that could cause memory effects, affecting thus, the obtained results, blank runs were carried out before and after the analysis of olive oil samples.

Computational statistics

The semi-quantitative data ($\mu\text{g/L}$) of volatile compounds were subjected to chemometric analysis to investigate the impact of geographical origin on the volatile composition of olive oil samples. Comparison of the average values was done using multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) to determine which volatile compounds showed significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in their composition among olive oil samples of different geographical origin (Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands). MANOVA creates a new dependent variable based on the linear combination of all the dependent variables in the model, which maximizes as far as possible the differences in the average values between the level groups of the independent variable. Various criteria in the multi-parametric hypothesis are used to study the main effects and interaction of the independent variables at the multi-parametric level. The Wilks' Lambda criterion is the most widely used indicator, i.e., the one used in the majority of studies/surveys. From the Wilks' Lambda index, we can have a quick estimate of the effectiveness of the conducted research. Therefore, the smaller the Wilks' Lambda index, the greater the differences between the studied groups. Another index used in the multi-parametric hypothesis is the Pillai's Trace. This indicator corresponds essentially to the dispersion between the combinations of the studied groups. It is mentioned in the literature as the most stable multi-parametric indicator if the compared groups have different number of population, and is essentially suggested for this reason [41].

Factor analysis describes the variability (variance) that exists between a number of measured (obvious) and associated variables, on the basis of a smaller number of non-obvious variables, called factors. The purpose of factor analysis is to summarize the relationships between a large number of variables in a comprehensive and accurate way to help make a concept or property more perceptible, while providing percentages of variance (% variance). In the factorial analysis, the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin index (KMO) assesses the sample adequacy (it should be > 0.50), while Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (p value should be < 0.05) assesses whether the correlations between the variables allow the implementation of factor analysis [42]. The extraction method was principal component analysis (PCA). PCA is defined as an orthogonal linear transformation that transforms the data to a new coordinate system such that the greatest variance by some scalar projection of the data comes to lie on the first coordinate (called the first principal component), the second greatest variance on the second coordinate, and so on [43]. The rotation method used was Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. Varimax rotation is used in statistical analysis to simplify the expression of a particular sub-space in terms of just a few major items dominating the poly-parametric space. The actual coordinate system (practically unchanged) is the orthogonal basis that is being rotated to align with these coordinates. The sub-space can be defined with either PCA or FA. Varimax maximizes the sum of the variances of the squared loadings (squared correlations between factor variables) [42].

Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) is a supervised statistical technique that aims to find a linear combination of the statistically significant volatile compounds (indicated during MANOVA) that separate two or more groups of objects (i.e., geographical origin). The goodness of the prediction ability of the LDA models was evaluated by the cross-validation method [44]. For the LDA analysis, the geographical origin of olive oil samples was considered as the factor variable (group variable), while the semi-quantitative data of the volatile compounds as the independent variables. Validation of the LDA results was carried out using training and holdout partitions (K-nearest neighbor analysis, KNN). Computational statistics were accomplished using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26.0 statistics software (SPSS, IBM Inc., 2019).

Results and discussion

Volatile compounds of olive oil from different geographical origin

Table 1 shows the semi-quantitative data of the volatile compounds that were identified among olive oil samples of the

Table 1 Volatile compounds identified in olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Ionian islands and corresponding aroma notes

Retention time (RT, min)	Volatile compounds ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	RI ^a	Zakynthos (Avg \pm SD)	Kefalonia (Avg \pm SD)	Leukada (Avg \pm SD)	Kerkyra (Avg \pm SD)	Aroma/Reference
Alcohols							
5.70	Ethanol	< 800	8.56 \pm 10.61	5.82 \pm 4.39	5.05 \pm 4.25	3.33 \pm 4.62	Fermented-like, ripe fruit, pungent [2]
8.10	1-propanol	< 800	Nd	Nd	0.23 \pm 0.37	Nd	Fermented-like
22.25	2-hexen-1-ol, (E)-	927	3.61 \pm 3.72	2.51 \pm 2.89	1.96 \pm 2.74	4.96 \pm 4.75	Fruity, fatty, pungent, cut grass [25, 52]
22.38	1-hexanol	930	4.05 \pm 4.55	Nd	Nd	Nd	Fruity, aromatic, soft, cut grass [25]
	Sum of alcohols		16.22	8.33	7.24	8.29	
Aldehydes							
14.00	Pentanal	< 800	Nd	1.73 \pm 1.18	1.78 \pm 1.76	Nd	Pleasant [2]
19.15	Hexanal	862	7.18 \pm 3.59	4.96 \pm 2.93	5.40 \pm 2.35	6.99 \pm 2.09	Green, apple, cut grass [25, 53]
21.86	2-hexenal, (E)-	919	25.63 \pm 18.22	35.65 \pm 21.89	24.50 \pm 10.41	46.78 \pm 24.16	Bitter, almonds, green, green apple-like, fatty, bitter almond-like, cut grass [25, 52]
24.16	Heptanal	968	1.37 \pm 2.16	Nd	Nd	Nd	Strong fruity [49]
28.90	Octanal	1078	1.76 \pm 2.65	Nd	Nd	Nd	Fruity [49]
33.30	Nonanal	1184	9.61 \pm 6.79	3.70 \pm 4.85	2.98 \pm 3.07	6.03 \pm 4.34	Soapy (undesirable), citrus-like [25, 53]
	Sum of aldehydes		45.55	46.04	34.66	59.80	
Benzene derivatives							
17.71	Toluene	831	Nd	Nd	Nd	4.85 \pm 12.44	Bitter, spicy oil [2]
39.47	Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-	1348	5.80 \pm 2.81	4.05 \pm 1.59	3.57 \pm 1.41	3.38 \pm 1.57	Bitter, spicy oil [2]
	Sum of benzene derivatives		5.80	4.05	3.57	8.23	
Esters and derivatives							
28.82	3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z)	1076	Nd	10.14 \pm 10.55	4.08 \pm 3.23	Nd	Fruity, sweet, pleasant aromatic notes [2, 26]
29.06	Acetic acid, hexyl ester	1081	Nd	Nd	1.76 \pm 2.15	Nd	Fruity, sweet, pleasant aromatic notes [2, 26]
	Sum of esters and derivatives		Nd	10.14	5.84	Nd	
Hydrocarbons							
7.28	1,3-pentadiene, (Z)-	< 800	Nd	Nd	0.23 \pm 0.37	Nd	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
20.15	Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-	862	Nd	1.38 \pm 1.06	0.82 \pm 1.04	1.61 \pm 0.87	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
28.49	Heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl-	1068	6.03 \pm 2.45	5.73 \pm 3.02	5.22 \pm 2.18	3.91 \pm 2.31	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
28.67	Decane	1072	5.62 \pm 2.60	4.98 \pm 1.88	1.95 \pm 1.59	6.10 \pm 1.29	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
29.46	Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-	1091	0.59 \pm 0.65	Nd	Nd	Nd	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
29.65	Decane, 4-methyl-	1095	Nd	Nd	1.07 \pm 1.16	1.31 \pm 1.19	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
37.30	Dodecane	1283	4.57 \pm 2.41	2.80 \pm 1.65	2.22 \pm 1.62	3.67 \pm 1.83	Aromatic, sweet, apple [2]
	Sum of hydrocarbons		16.81	14.89	11.51	16.60	
Ketones							
28.01	5-hepten-2-one, 6-methyl	1056	7.43 \pm 6.12	2.82 \pm 3.86	Nd	2.27 \pm 1.90	Pungent, green, fruity [48]
	Sum of ketones		7.43	2.82	Nd	2.27	
Terpenoids							
30.46	1-methyl-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-1-ene (dl-Limonene)	1115	Nd	Nd	Nd	0.58 \pm 0.71	Pleasant [49]
30.79	1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(trans- β -Ocimene)	1123	4.89 \pm 4.87	Nd	Nd	2.29 \pm 1.72	Pleasant [49]
	Sum of terpenoids		4.89	Nd	Nd	2.87	

Nd not determined, Avg \pm SD average \pm standard deviation

^aExperimental retention time indices according to Kováts equation

“Ntopia” cultivar of different geographical origin and the respective aroma notes these possess. In total, 24 volatile compounds were identified belonging to aldehydes, alcohols, esters and their derivatives, hydrocarbons, ketones, terpenoids, and phenolic derivatives. Among these compounds, ethanol, hexanal, (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexen-1-ol, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethylheptane, decane, nonanal, dodecane, and 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)benzene were identified in all the 137 olive oil samples. A typical gas chromatogram of olive oil sample (no.99) from Kefalonia is shown in Fig. 1. The volatile compounds that were identified in the present study are in accordance with previous studies dealing with the cultivar or geographical origin determination of olive oil either from Greece [12, 26, 28, 29] or other countries [16–18, 20, 22, 27, 34, 38, 39].

Differences in the volatile composition of olive oil samples of different geographical origin were observed. In addition, substantial differences were observed in the sum of volatile compounds classes according to geographical origin of olive oil. The most dominant volatile compounds were aldehydes, followed by hydrocarbons, and alcohols. The total volatile composition of classes of volatile compounds (which is derived by the sum of the individual composition of classes of volatiles in each geographical origin) followed the order: Aldehydes (186.05 µg/L) > Hydrocarbons (59.81 µg/L) > Alcohols (40.08 µg/L) > Benzene derivatives (21.65 µg/L) > Esters and derivatives (15.98 µg/L) > Ketones (12.52 µg/L) > Terpenoids (7.76 µg/L) (Table 1).

During the production process of olive oil and its chemical oxidation, most of the volatile compounds with 5 and 6 carbon atoms (C5 and C6), which in turn are responsible for the typical fruity and green notes of olive oil, are produced by the lipoxygenase (LOX) enzyme pathway [14, 21, 24, 27, 38, 45]. The LOX pathway involves enzymes that oxidize (lipoxygenase) and cleave (hydroperoxide lyase) polyunsaturated fatty acids to aldehydes. These in turn, are reduced to alcohols (by alcohol dehydrogenase) and esterified to produce esters (by alcohol acyltransferase).

The main volatiles that contribute to olive oil aroma are hexanal, the aroma of which is associated with green apple and cut grass; trans-2-hexenal, [E] or (E)-2-hexenal, the aroma of which is associated with that of bitter almonds, and other green, fruity, sharp, bitter and astringent aromas; and the 1-hexanol, the aroma of which is related to that of tomato and other fruity, soft, aromatic, alcoholic and harsh aromas [28, 46, 47].

Among aldehydes, hexanal recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, whereas (E)-2-hexenal, the most abundant in concentration, recorded the higher value in olive oil samples from Kerkyra. Of the other respective aldehydes, nonanal recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, while heptanal and octanal were identified only in olive oil samples from Zakynthos. Present results are in agreement with those of Theodosi et al. [28] who studied the volatile profile of olive oil samples of the Koroneiki cultivar from Zakynthos.

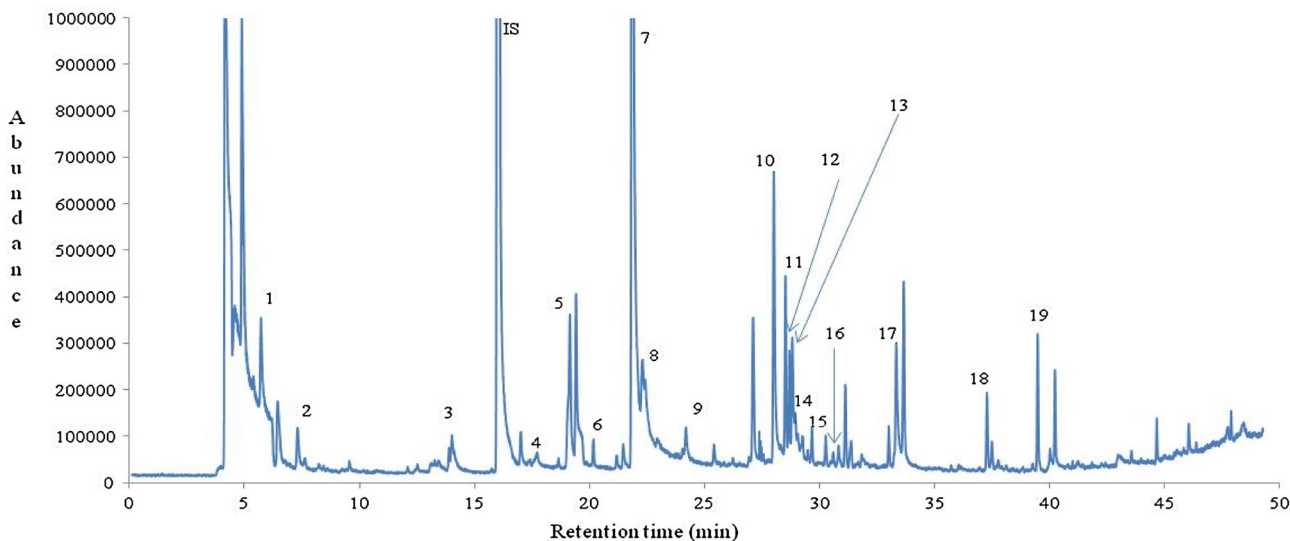


Fig. 1 A typical gas chromatogram of olive oil (sample no. 99) of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Kefalonia island pointing out with numbers some key volatile compounds serving as indicators of the geographical origin of olive oil from Ionian islands. 1: Ethanol; 2: 1,3-Pentadiene, (Z); 3: Pentanal; 4: Toluene; 5: Hexanal; 6: Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-; 7: 2-Hexenal, (E)-; 8: 2-Hexen-1-ol, (E)-; 9: Heptanal; 10:

5-Hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-; 11: Heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl-; 12: Decane; 13: 3-Hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z)-; 14: Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-; 15: Decane, 4-methyl-; 16: 1,3,6-Octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-; 17: Nonanal; 18: Dodecane; 19: Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-; IS internal standard

Pentanal recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Leukada (Table 1).

Concerning the alcohols, ethanol was identified in all olive oil samples and recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos. Ethanol may give a fermented-like, ripe fruit, and pungent aroma in olive oil, while in combination with other alcohols such as 2-methylpropanol, pentanal, *cis*-2-penten-1-ol, *cis*-3-hexenol and octanol may give a sweet and fruity odor, resulting in positive effects to the aroma and quality of olive oil [2]. Previous studies in the literature dealing with the determination of volatile compounds of olive oil from Morocco (Picholine marocaine cultivar) [13], Brazil (Arbequina, Arbosana, Picual, Koroneiki, Grapollo, Coratina and Frantoio cultivars) [20], Greece (Koroneiki cultivar) [28], and Italy (Leccino cultivar) [22] did not report the presence of ethanol in the aroma of olive oil samples. However, in the Italian olive cultivar “Alperujo” ethanol was identified in olive oil during the analysis of volatile compounds [39]. Therefore, ethanol may be proposed as a characteristic volatile compound of olive oil associated with its cultivar, giving thus, some special sensory characteristics to olive oil.

1-Hexanol was identified only in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, whereas (E)-2-hexen-1-ol recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Kerkyra (Table 1). This compound has been associated with a “green” and “grassy” odor [2] and astringent-bitter taste of olive oil [26]. Finally, 1-propanol was identified only in olive oil samples from Leukada, in small amounts (Table 1). 1-Propanol was reported previously to contribute to the aroma of olive oil of the Leccino cultivar from Italy [22].

Hydrocarbons may also be derived from the LOX pathway [14]. The most abundant hydrocarbons were 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethylheptane and decane. Decane recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Kerkyra, whereas 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethylheptane recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos. It is worth mentioning, the contribution of dodecane in the aroma of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar, which recorded the highest concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos (Table 1). Another critical point to discuss is that these hydrocarbons were not reported to contribute to the aroma of olive oil of the Koroneiki cultivar from Zakynthos [28], considered thus, as characteristic volatiles of olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos. Depending on the carbon chain, hydrocarbons may give an aromatic, sweet, apple-like, and oily odor in olive oil [2].

Among ketones, only 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one was identified in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, and Kerkyra. It was determined in higher concentrations in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, in agreement with the results reported by Theodosi et al. [28]. This compound contributes to the pungent, green, and fruity odor of olive oil [48].

Acetic acid hexyl ester and 3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z), were the only esterified products that were identified in olive oil samples. Acetic acid hexyl ester was identified only in olive oil samples from Leukada, whereas 3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z) recorded the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Kefalonia. Acetic acid hexyl ester had different concentration in olive oil samples of the Koroneiki cultivar from Zakynthos [28]. These compounds also derive from the LOX pathway and contribute to the fruity, sweet and pleasant aromatic notes of olive oil [2, 26].

Regarding benzene derivatives, toluene was identified only in olive oil samples from Kerkyra. On the contrary, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)benzene was identified in all olive oil samples, recording higher concentration in samples from Zakynthos. This benzene derivative was not reported previously to contribute to the aroma of olive oil of the Koroneiki cultivar from Zakynthos [28], Picholine marocaine cultivar from Morocco [13], and Alperujo cultivar from Florence (Italy) [39], whereas scarce data are available, in general, for this compound in the relevant literature [2, 13, 22, 23, 28, 39]. These phenolic volatiles may give olive oil a bitter and spicy oil flavor [2].

Finally, terpenoids such as dl-limonene and trans- β -ocimene may vary in their respective concentration according to cultivar and geographical origin [28, 48]. In the present study, dl-limonene was identified only in olive oil samples from Kerkyra, whereas trans- β -ocimene had the higher concentration in olive oil samples from Zakynthos, in agreement with the results reported by Theodosi et al. [28]. These volatile compounds may give olive oil a pleasant odor [49].

The importance of the aroma characterization of olive oil is mandatory for its quality level, given that the compounds that contribute to the aroma are volatile compounds that are perceived by the olfactory receptors of the nasal cavity. The complexity of food flavor is owed to a mixture of volatile and non-volatile molecules in relation to the moisture content of foodstuffs. These substances reach the receptors either through the nose during inhalation or through the throat and after being released during the chewing process [50] and create the basis for rejection or acceptance of the product. Actually, it is known that a specific compound can contribute positively to the aroma and/or taste (flavor) of one food, while in another it can cause an unpleasant aroma or taste or both [21].

Geographical origin discrimination of “Ntopia” olive oil cultivar from Zakynthos and Kefalonia islands

MANOVA

The qualitative criteria of the multivariate hypothesis, namely Pillai's Trace = 0.895 ($F = 19.765$, $df = 19$,

$p=0.000$), and Wilks' Lambda=0.105 ($F=19.765$, $df=19$, $p=0.000$) showed that there was a significant impact of geographical origin on the volatile composition of olive oil samples from the "Ntopia" cultivar. In Supplementary Table 7, one can observe the function values (F-distribution), degrees of freedom and the level of confidence of the volatile compounds in relation to the geographical origin (Zakynthos and Kefalonia). Each F value tests the multivariate effect of the geographical origin of olive oil on volatile compounds composition. Fourteen volatile compounds showed significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in their composition according to the geographical origin of olive oil. These volatile compounds are given in Supplementary Table 6 and the factor analysis section that follows.

FA

Factor analysis showed that the 14 statistically significant volatile compounds adequately describe the variability in the poly-parametric space. The Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) index was 0.640, while Bartlett's Test of Sphericity index had the values $X^2=500.505$, $df=91$, $p=0.000$, indicating that there are correlations between the variables that allow the application of factor analysis. The main volatile compounds that showed the highest correlation (factors) are given in bold in Table 2.

Based on the first four principal components (PCs) the variance explained was 69.812%, considered as satisfactory (Fig. 2). The volatile compounds for which the correlation value in the rotated component matrix of the poly-parametric space was the largest were: Octanal (PC1,

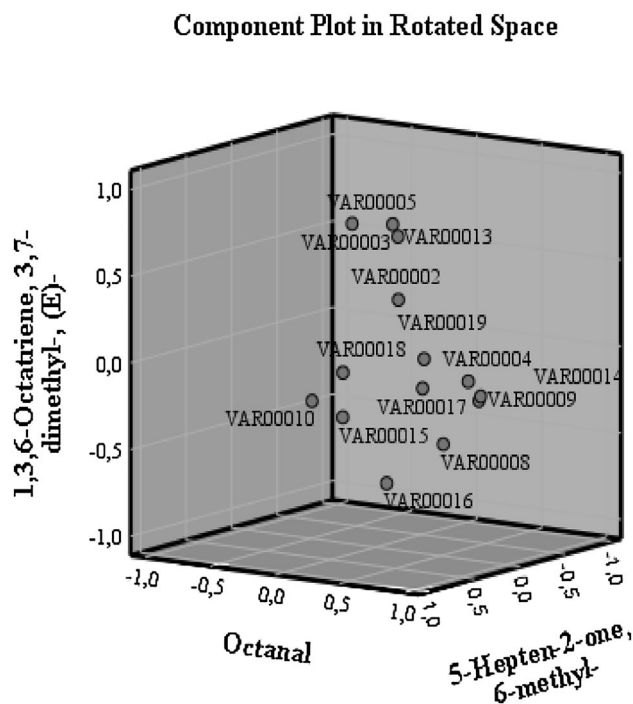


Fig. 2 Volatile compounds of olive oil of the "Ntopia" cultivar from Zakynthos and Kefalonia islands as factor variables (principal components) in the poly-parametric space (three-dimensional display-3D)

24.880% of total variance), 1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E) (PC2, 17.006% of total variance), 5-hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-(PC3, 16.721% of total variance), and benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl) (PC4, 11.665% of total variance).

Table 2 Volatile compounds identified in olive oil of the "Ntopia" cultivar from Zakynthos and Kefalonia islands as factor variables in the poly-parametric space (Rotated component matrix)

Volatile compounds	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Octanal (VAR00014)	0.909*	-0.127	0.144	0.154
Heptanal (VAR00009)	0.902	-0.153	0.154	0.155
Hexanal (VAR00004)	0.840		0.183	-0.197
Nonanal (VAR00017)	0.648		0.413	0.418
1-hexanol (VAR00008)	0.546	-0.456		0.241
1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(VAR00016)		-0.752*		0.144
Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-(VAR00005)	-0.239	0.720		0.184
Pentanal (VAR00003)	-0.111	0.691	-0.345	-0.295
3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z)-(VAR00013)		0.631	-0.313	-0.110
5-hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-(VAR00010)		-0.144	0.802*	
Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-(VAR00015)	0.279	-0.223	0.761	
Dodecane (VAR00018)	0.269		0.745	0.461
Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-(VAR00019)	0.429			0.711*
1-propanol (VAR00002)		0.309	-0.114	-0.664

VAR variable

*Higher correlation (absolute value)

Table 3 Classification of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos and Kefalonia islands based on volatile compounds and LDA

LDA Method	Classification rate	Geographical origin	Classification of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar		Olive oil samples
			Zakynthos	Kefalonia	
Original ^a	Actual number	Zakynthos	33	0	33
		Kefalonia	0	31	31
	%	Zakynthos	100.0	0.0	100.0
		Kefalonia	0.0	100.0	100.0
Cross-validation ^{b,c}	Actual number	Zakynthos	33	0	33
		Kefalonia	0	31	31
	%	Zakynthos	100.0	0.0	100.0
		Kefalonia	0.0	100.0	100.0

^a100.0% of original method grouped cases correctly classified

^bCross-validation is done only for those cases in the analysis. In cross-validation method, each case is classified by the functions derived from all cases other than that particular case

^c100.0% of cross-validated method grouped cases correctly classified

LDA

The results of LDA showed that one discriminant function was formed: Wilks' Lambda = 0.122 ($X^2 = 115.916$, $df = 14$, $p = 0.000$), given that two geographical regions

were examined (Zakynthos and Kefalonia). The discriminant function accounted for 100% of total variance and had the eigenvalue of 7.228 and canonical correlation 0.937. The eigenvalue of the discriminant function is an essential parameter in LDA, given that it shows how well

Table 4 Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of MANOVA in relation to the volatile compounds identified in olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands

Volatile compounds	Wilks' Lambda	F	df1	df2	p
Ethanol (VAR0001)	0.919	3.910	3	133	0.010
1,3-pentadiene, -(Z) (VAR0002)	0.771	13.191	3	133	0.000
1-propanol (VAR0003)	0.805	10.709	3	133	0.000
Pentanal (VAR0004)	0.588	31.089	3	133	0.000
Toluene (VAR0005)	0.908	4.511	3	133	0.005
Hexanal (VAR0006)	0.891	5.450	3	133	0.001
Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-(VAR0007)	0.655	23.307	3	133	0.000
(E)-2-hexenal (VAR0008)	0.811	10.342	3	133	0.000
2-hexen-1-ol (VAR0009)	0.903	4.759	3	133	0.003
1-hexanol (VAR00010)	0.618	27.411	3	133	0.000
Heptanal (VAR00011)	0.761	13.912	3	133	0.000
5-hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-(VAR00012)	0.642	24.774	3	133	0.000
Heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl-(VAR00013)	0.899	5.005	3	133	0.003
Decane (VAR00014)	0.801	11.034	3	133	0.000
3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z) (VAR00015)	0.624	26.754	3	133	0.000
Octanal (VAR00016)	0.744	15.268	3	133	0.000
Acetic acid, hexyl ester (VAR00017)	0.662	22.633	3	133	0.000
Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-(VAR00018)	0.611	28.283	3	133	0.000
Decane, 4-methyl-(VAR00019)	0.665	22.285	3	133	0.000
dl-Limonene (VAR00020)	0.666	22.241	3	133	0.000
1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(VAR00021)	0.613	27.977	3	133	0.000
Nonanal (VAR00022)	0.781	12.467	3	133	0.000
Dodecane (VAR00023)	0.817	9.956	3	133	0.000
Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-(VAR00024)	0.797	11.324	3	133	0.000

The variables with higher F value contribute most to the classification process
 VAR variable, F value of the F function, df degrees of freedom, p probability

the function differentiates the initial groups (geographical origin). In parallel, the group centroid values comprise another essential parameter in LDA. The group centroid values are considered for the estimation of the classification ability of the LDA model and refer to the unstandardized canonical discriminant functions, evaluated at group means. The centroid values have two numbers which represent the coordinates (the abscissa is the first discriminant function and the ordinate is the second discriminant function) [51]. Given that only two geographical regions were examined, the group centroid values were: (2.565, – 2.300) for Zakynthos and Kefalonia. The classification rate was 100% using the original and 100% using the cross-validation method. All olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar were correctly classified according to geographical origin (Table 3).

Specifying further the analysis, the volatile compounds that contributed most to the discrimination of the geographical origin of the “Ntopia” olive oil samples were those with the highest absolute correlation value within

the discriminant function. Therefore, these compounds are considered to be the stronger geographical origin indicators of the olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos and Kefalonia. These volatile compounds were: pentanal, 2,4-dimethylheptane, and 1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(Supplementary Table 8).

Geographical origin discrimination of “Ntopia” olive oil cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands

Considering the ultimate discrimination results that were obtained for the olive oil samples from Zakynthos and Kefalonia (in total 64 samples of olive oil) the next step was to run the statistical analysis with an additional number of olive oil samples from Leukada (36 samples) and Kerkyra (37 samples) to investigate whether the discrimination model could provide again reliable information for the geographical origin of olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from the 4 Ionian islands.

Table 5 Volatile compounds identified in olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands as factor variables in the poly-parametric space (Rotated component matrix)

Volatile compounds	Component						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Octanal (VAR00016)	0.921*						
Heptanal (VAR00011)	0.913						
Hexanal (VAR00006)	0.725		– 0.109	0.123		0.366	
1-Hexanol (VAR00010)	0.618		0.294	– 0.240	– 0.103		0.209
Nonanal (VAR00022)	0.613	0.428		– 0.226	– 0.181		
Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-(VAR00018)	0.484	0.406	0.363	– 0.137	– 0.113	– 0.238	– 0.178
Dodecane (VAR00023)	0.267	0.883*		– 0.160			
Decane (VAR00014)		0.843			– 0.178	0.192	
5-Hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-(VAR00012)	0.321	0.468	0.375	– 0.105	– 0.334	– 0.130	– 0.182
Ethanol (VAR00001)			0.750*	0.158			
(E)-2-Hexenal (VAR00008)		0.145	– 0.717		– 0.197		
Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-(VAR00007)	– 0.334	0.398	– 0.403	0.204		0.309	– 0.205
3-Hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z) (VAR00015)	– 0.167			0.714*		– 0.111	0.377
1-Propanol (VAR00003)		– 0.136	0.165	0.679	– 0.325		
Pentanal (VAR00004)	– 0.163			0.647	0.369	– 0.180	
1,3,6-Octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(VAR00021)			0.442	– 0.521	– 0.242	0.184	0.199
1,3-Pentadiene, -(Z) (VAR00002)		– 0.159			0.707*	– 0.101	– 0.120
Acetic acid, hexyl ester (VAR00017)		– 0.172			0.687		
Decane, 4-methyl-(VAR00019)	– 0.222	0.237	– 0.222	– 0.110	0.513	0.335	
dl-Limonene (VAR00020)			– 0.231	– 0.178	– 0.174	0.629*	
Toluene (VAR00005)			0.175			0.603	– 0.180
2-Hexen-1-ol (VAR00009)	0.291	0.303	– 0.163			0.518	0.369
Heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl-(VAR00013)		– 0.208	0.104	0.134		– 0.121	0.805*
Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-(VAR00024)	0.354	0.450				– 0.148	0.615

VAR variable

*Higher correlation (absolute value)

MANOVA

Pillai's Trace = 2.213 ($F = 13.118$, $df = 72$, $p = 0.000$) and Wilks' Lambda = 0.015 ($F = 13.928$, $df = 72$, $p = 0.000$), showed that there was a significant impact of geographical origin of olive oil samples of the "Ntopia" cultivar on the semi-quantitative data of volatile compounds (composition). The volatile compounds that were determined among the 4 Ionian islands were significant ($p < 0.05$) (Table 4). Thereafter, these volatile compounds were subjected to FA and LDA as follows.

FA

As in the case of the first part of the study, FA showed that the 24 statistically significant volatile compounds adequately describe the variability in the poly-parametric space. The KMO index was 0.712, while Bartlett's Test of Sphericity index had the values $X^2 = 1403.595$, $df = 276$, $p = 0.000$, indicating that there are correlations between the variables that allow the application of factor analysis. The main volatile compounds that showed the highest correlation (factors) are given in bold in Table 5.

Based on the first 7 principal components (PCs), the variance explained was 65.352%, considered as satisfactory given that the number of samples along with the examined parameters (volatile compounds) was substantially increased (Fig. 3). The volatile compounds for which the correlation value in the rotated component matrix of

the poly-parametric space was the largest were: Octanal (PC1, 15.960% of total variance), dodecane (PC2, 11.463% of total variance), ethanol (PC3, 8.501% of total variance), 3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z) (PC4, 8.310% of total variance), 1,3-pentadiene, -(Z) (PC5, 7.648% of total variance), dl-limonene (PC6, 6.811% of total variance) and heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl- (PC7, 6.659% of total variance) (Table 5).

LDA

The results of LDA showed that three discriminant functions were formed: Wilks' Lambda = 0.015 ($X^2 = 509.294$, $df = 72$, $p = 0.000$) for the first; Wilks' Lambda = 0.092 ($X^2 = 290.717$, $df = 46$, $p = 0.000$) for the second; and Wilks' Lambda = 0.373 ($X^2 = 120.213$, $df = 22$, $p = 0.000$) for the third. The first discriminant function accounted for 51.4% of total variance and had the highest eigenvalue (4.999) and canonical correlation (0.913). The second discriminant function had a significantly lower eigenvalue (3.045) and canonical correlation (0.868), while accounted for 31.3% of total variance. Finally, the third discriminant function had the lowest eigenvalue (1.679) and canonical correlation (0.792) accounting for 17.3% of total variance. All discriminant functions accounted for 100% of total variance.

In Fig. 4, we can observe that the olive oil samples from Zakynthos and Kerkyra are separated quite satisfactorily in relation to the samples of Leukada and Kefalonia. The classification rate was 95.6% using the original and 87.6% using the cross-validation method. The group centroid values were: (3.901, -0.088), (-1.101, -1.702), (-1.478, -1.196), (-1.119, 2.668) for olive oil samples from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra, respectively.

The most encouraging results (based on the cross-validation method) were obtained for the olive oil samples from Kerkyra, where of the 37 initial samples 34 were correctly allocated in Kerkyra (correct prediction rate of 91.9%), while 2 samples were allocated in Kefalonia and 1 sample in Zakynthos. Similarly, for Zakynthos of the 33 initial samples, 29 were correctly allocated in Zakynthos (correct prediction rate of 87.9%), while 3 samples were allocated in Leukada and 1 sample in Kefalonia.

In addition, for the olive oil samples from Leukada, of the 36 initial samples, 31 were correctly allocated in Leukada (correct prediction rate of 86.1%), while 3 samples were allocated in Kefalonia and 2 samples in Kerkyra. Finally, for the olive oil samples from Kefalonia of the 31 initial samples, 26 were correctly allocated in Kefalonia (correct prediction rate of 83.9%), 3 samples were allocated in Leukada, while 2 samples were allocated in Kerkyra (Table 6).

As mentioned before, specifying further the analysis, the volatile compounds that contributed most to the

Component Plot in Rotated Space

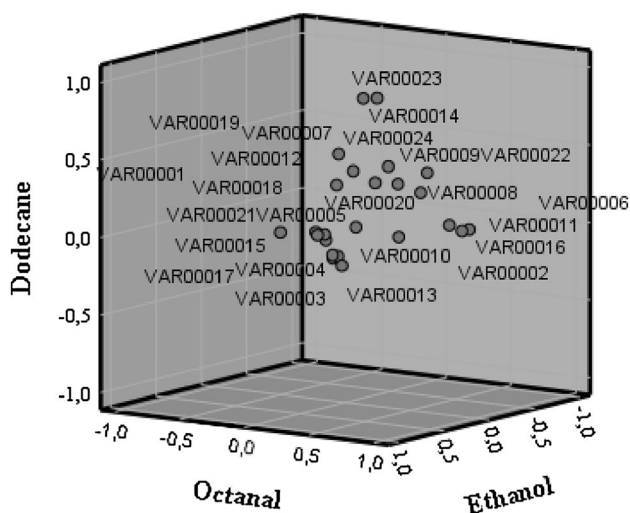


Fig. 3 Volatile compounds of olive oil of the "Ntopia" cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands as factor variables (principal components) in the poly-parametric space (three-dimensional display-3D)

Fig. 4 Geographical origin discrimination of olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands based on 24 volatile compounds in combination with LDA (two-dimensional display-2D). 1: Zakynthos; 2: Kefalonia; 3: Leukada; 4: Kerkyra

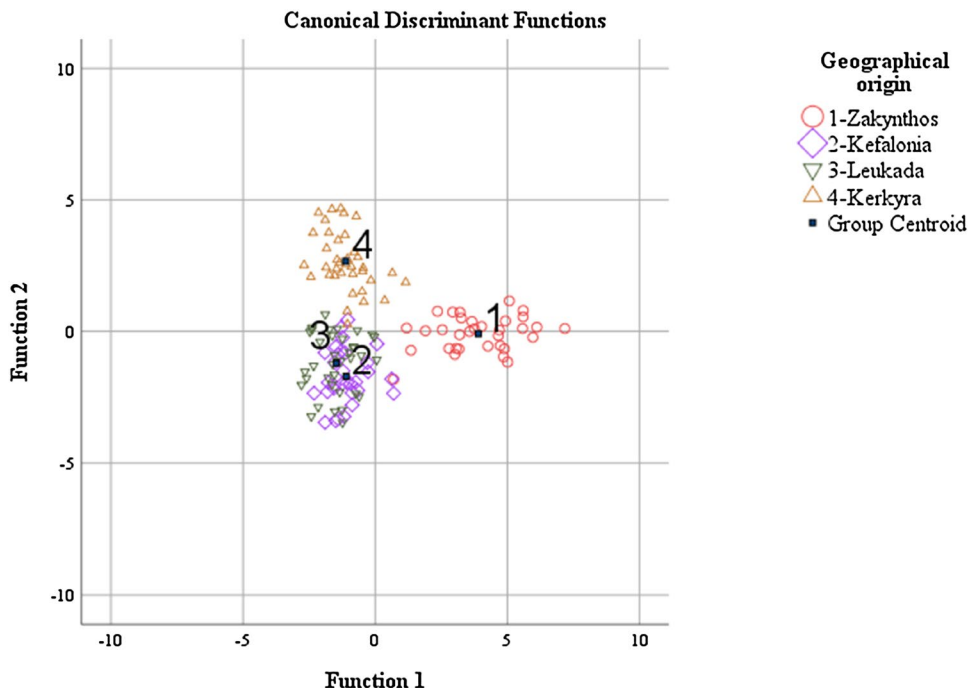


Table 6 Classification of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands based on volatile compounds and LDA

LDA	Classification rate	Geographical origin	Classification of olive oil samples of “Ntopia” cultivar				Olive oil samples
			Zakynthos	Kefalonia	Leukada	Kerkyra	
Original ^a	Actual number	Zakynthos	32	0	1	0	33
		Kefalonia	0	28	3	0	31
		Leukada	0	2	34	0	36
		Kerkyra	0	0	0	37	37
	%	Zakynthos	97.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	100.0
		Kefalonia	0.0	90.3	9.7	0.0	100.0
		Leukada	0.0	5.6	94.4	0.0	100.0
		Kerkyra	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Cross-validation ^{b,c}	Actual number	Zakynthos	29	1	3	0	33
		Kefalonia	0	26	3	2	31
		Leukada	0	3	31	2	36
		Kerkyra	1	2	0	34	37
	%	Zakynthos	87.9	3.0	9.1	0.0	100.0
		Kefalonia	0.0	83.9	9.7	6.5	100.0
		Leukada	0.0	8.3	86.1	5.6	100.0
		Kerkyra	2.7	5.4	0.0	91.9	100.0

^a95.6% of original method grouped cases correctly classified

^bCross-validation is done only for those cases in the analysis. In cross-validation method, each case is classified by the functions derived from all cases other than that particular case

^c86.7% of cross-validated method grouped cases correctly classified

discrimination of the geographical origin of the “Ntopia” olive oil samples from the 4 Ionian islands were those with

the highest absolute correlation value within the discriminant functions. Therefore, these compounds are considered

Table 7 Correlation values of volatile compounds identified in olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands between groups (geographical origin) within each discriminant function

Volatile compounds	Discriminant function		
	1	2	3
Nonane, 2,5-dimethyl-(VAR00018)	0.356*	– 0.013	– 0.039
1-hexanol (VAR00010)	0.351*	– 0.013	– 0.038
1,3,6-octatriene, 3,7-dimethyl-, (E)-(VAR00021)	0.317*	0.206	– 0.004
5-Hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-(VAR00012)	0.316*	0.036	0.185
Heptane, 2,4-dimethyl-(VAR0007)	– 0.274*	0.145	0.227
Octanal (VAR00016)	0.262*	– 0.010	– 0.029
Heptanal (VAR00011)	0.250*	– 0.009	– 0.027
Benzene, 1,3-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-(VAR00024)	0.219*	– 0.066	0.036
Nonanal (VAR00022)	0.216*	0.123	0.035
Dodecane (VAR00023)	0.176*	0.138	0.084
Ethanol (VAR0001)	0.115*	– 0.084	0.009
Pentanal (VAR0004)	– 0.217	– 0.390*	– 0.044
dl-Limonene (VAR00020)	– 0.098	0.383*	0.063
3-hexen-1-ol, acetate, (Z) (VAR00015)	– 0.161	– 0.333*	0.286
Decane (VAR00014)	0.084	0.223*	0.193
(E)-2-hexenal (VAR0008)	– 0.090	0.205*	0.196
2-hexen-1-ol (VAR0009)	0.029	0.178*	0.063
Toluene (VAR0005)	– 0.044	0.173*	0.029
Heptane, 2,2,4,6,6-pentamethyl-(VAR00013)	0.085	– 0.158*	0.026
Hexanal (VAR0006)	0.097	0.156*	– 0.032
Acetic acid, hexyl ester (VAR00017)	– 0.128	– 0.170	– 0.450*
1,3-pentadiene,-(Z) (VAR0002)	– 0.098	– 0.130	– 0.344*
1-propanol (VAR0003)	– 0.059	– 0.151	0.304*
Decane, 4-methyl-(VAR00019)	– 0.194	0.239	– 0.288*

VAR variable. *Higher correlation (absolute value)

to be the stronger geographical origin indicators of the olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra (Table 7).

The discrimination results presented herein, support and flourish similar studies in the literature concerning the authentication of olive oil, based on volatile compounds analysis and computational statistics, from Albania, Argentina, Australia, California, Brazil, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Spain, and Tunisia [11–13, 26–28].

Based on the data collected from the computational statistics (MANOVA, FA, LDA), the volatile compounds: ethanol, pentanal, 2,4-dimethylheptane, 3,7-dimethyl-1,3,6-octatriene (E), 2,5-dimethylnonane, 1-hexanol, 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one, octanal, dl-limonene, acetic acid hexyl ester, and dodecane, could aid to the geographical origin discrimination of “Ntopia” olive oil cultivar when two (Zakynthos and Kefalonia) or four (Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra) Ionian islands are subjected to statistical analysis. Considering the aroma notes these compounds possess (Table 1), the study contributes also to the characterization/definition of the complexity of flavor of the olive oil of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Ionian islands.

Validation of the discrimination results using training and holdout partitions

To evaluate further the discrimination results obtained after implementation of MANOVA/LDA the semi-quantitative data of the significant volatile compounds were subjected to KNN analysis. The original sample size ($N=137$ samples) was randomly divided to a training set (consisting of the 73% of the original samples, $N=100$) and a holdout set (consisting of the 27% of the original samples, $N=37$). All cases were valid during KNN analysis. The overall classification results were in agreement with those of LDA. More specifically, the correct classification rate was 82% for the training set and 83.8% for the holdout set (Table 8).

Conclusions

The analysis of volatile compounds of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Ionian islands proved to be a dynamic tool for the characterization of aroma and

Table 8 Classification of olive oil samples of the “Ntopia” cultivar from Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Leukada, and Kerkyra islands based on volatile compounds and KNN analysis

Partition	Observed	Predicted				Percent Correct
		Zakynthos	Kefalonia	Leukada	Kerkyra	
Training	Zakynthos	25	0	1	1	92.6%
	Kefalonia	0	19	4	0	82.6%
	Leukada	0	3	23	0	88.5%
	Kerkyra	1	4	4	15	62.5%
	Overall Percent	26.0%	26.0%	32.0%	16.0%	82.0%
Holdout	Zakynthos	6	0	0	0	100.0%
	Kefalonia	0	7	1	0	87.5%
	Leukada	0	1	8	1	80.0%
	Kerkyra	0	3	0	10	76.9%
	Missing	0	0	0	0	
	Overall Percent	16.2%	29.7%	24.3%	29.7%	83.8%

differentiation of the geographical origin, in which the olive oil was produced, in combination with computational statistics.

Given that the differentiation/determination of the geographical origin of agricultural products is a particularly difficult issue, taking into account the natural/provenance variability, the present results are considered very encouraging, both for the present and for future research. The present study contributes also to the characterization of the aroma of olive oil of a less studied cultivar, that is the “Ntopia” cultivar from Ionian islands. Practical applications of the present study include the authenticity of olive oil from this cultivar, knowledge on volatile composition, and potential financial and other benefits to stakeholders, providing thus, incentives for further accreditation to achieve a possible labeling of the product such as PDO, PGI, or the proposed “Protected Geographical Zone” (PGZ), through consecutive research within the years.

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Compliance with ethics requirements This study does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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