

EVALUATION OF CREOLE CULTIVARS OF AVOCADO (*Persea* spp) FROM THE COLECTION OF INIA-CENIAP IN VENEZUELA

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The collection of avocado from National Center of Agricultural Research (INIA-CENIAP, by its Spanish acronym) is kept in the experimental Field in Maracay, Aragua State, Venezuela: Height of 450 m.a.s.l., annual rain average of 1018.4 mm, seasonal behaviour, humid period (June-November) and dry period (December - April), and 1354.4 mm of potential evapotranspiration (ET). The annual insolation was of 6.2 hours, characterized by a maximum (March) and a minimum (June). In forty three types of creoles, morphologic descriptors of plant, leaves and fruit were applied. In this work, description of plant and fruit is emphasised. Thirty-one types were classified within the Guatemalan x Antillean group (G x A), 7 in group G and 5 in A. Fifty percent of G x A had an irregular growing habit and 25% verticillate, 59% belong to floral group 'B' and 41% to the 'A' group. The fruits were between medium-to-big sizes in 81% of these cultivars with pear-shaped form or pear-shaped oblong (70.3%). The predominant colour in the fruit is green in different tints, 80% displayed smoothly or slightly rough skin with yellow to greenish-yellow pulp. The Guatemalan group had irregular habit growth, semi-elliptical or circular canopy, and medium to large fruits. In the West-Indian group the habit growth is verticillate or irregular, semi-elliptical canopies and medium sized trees. Medium-large to large fruits, pear-shaped or oblong, green yellowish either dark, some bright ones with medium thickness of skin. By its characteristics, 'Figueroa' has great possibilities of having large-scale commercial use.

