
Accuracy of sampling during mushroom cultivation for chemical analysis

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Summary

Experiments described in this report were performed to increase the accuracy of the analysis of the biological efficiency of *Agaricus bisporus* strains. Biological efficiency is a measure of the efficiency with which the mushroom strains use dry matter in the compost to produce mushrooms (expressed as dry matter produced).

In our experiments 3 mushroom strains were tested for biological efficiency. It aimed at finding the cause of the inaccuracy of determining biological efficiency. It focusses in the estimation of the amount of dry matter and ash in the compost and on the estimation of the amount of dry matter in the mushrooms.

The largest uncertainty was found in the amount of dry matter used from the compost. The methods used for sampling the compost to determine the mean value for dry matter content demonstrated a considerable variation between replicate samples taken from the compost. To lower variability in determination of dry matter and ash content, it was recommended to;

- Take an equally high number of replicate samples from all stages of cultivation (so 8 at spawning, 8 at casing, 8 at end of cultivation)
- Test the influence of homogenisation of samples of fresh compost (for instance, homogenisation by hand until homogeneous by eye in comparison to homogenising mechanically by using a cutting machine which is operated at a standard speed for a standard time).
- Test for the optimal the amount of fresh compost in a sample to be analysed for dry matter content (for instance, 200, 400 and 600 gram)
- Test for the optimal amount of dried compost to be analysed for ash content (for instance, 10, 30 and 100 gram)
- Test if cultivation of the mushrooms on smaller portions of compost (for instance 8 kg in trays with 0.1 m² growing surface or 4 kg in trays with 0.05 m² growing surface), makes it easier to sample a large part of the compost used for cultivation. Next to this, more replicates will fit in a single growing room.

The uncertainty in the amount of dry matter produced in mushrooms is rather small. Using the dry matter content of mushrooms sampled at the peak days of a flush of mushrooms, provided a fairly accurate prediction of the actual amount of dry mass produced. In previous experiments it has been noted however, that some strains of mushrooms do not adhere to a production pattern in flushes, they produce mushrooms more or less continuously. To obtain a fair comparison for biological efficiency it would be advisable to harvest the mushrooms until no more mushrooms are produced.

Biological efficiency was calculated for the three strains tested and the least significant difference was found to be 5.7%. We hope that future experiments on improvement of the methodology used, will lower this least significant difference.

1 Introduction

In 2013, Baars & Sonnenberg (2014) made a selection of wild isolates of *Agaricus bisporus* that differed widely with respect to efficiency with which dry matter in substrate was used in the production of mushrooms (i.e. biological efficiency). For this monokaryons were isolated by protoplasting and a variety of crosses was made among them. Successful crosses were grown on commercially available compost and their biological efficiency was tested. Among the various crosses, biological efficiency varied from 1.1 to 33.9%. At $p=5\%$, the least significant difference for comparisons between strains was 11.4%. So, strains with a biological efficiency of 1.1% were not statistically significant different from strains with a biological efficiency of 11%.

This large error in the determination is a problem if attempts are to be made for genomic mapping of the trait. If small differences in biological efficiency cannot reliably be discriminated, genomic mapping will be very hard to do.

Research described in this report is aimed at finding the cause of the inaccuracy of determining biological efficiency. It focusses in the estimation of the amount of dry matter and ash in the compost and on the estimation of the amount of dry matter in the mushrooms. For this we have grown *Agaricus bisporus* on commercially available compost in trays containing 16 kg of compost. During cultivation we sampled compost at spawning, at casing and after harvesting two (or three) flushes of mushrooms. Compost samples were analysed for dry matter content and ash content.

Mushrooms were harvested and sorted according to mushroom quality (Class 1 small, class 1 medium, class 2 small and class 2 medium). Our standard method for determining the yield of mushrooms was sampling the mushrooms at the days of peak production and analyse them for dry weight and ash content. In the experiment reported here we sampled all trays in this way. For comparison, a number of trays were analysed by taking all the mushrooms that were produced and analyse them for dry matter and ash content.

This report describes the results of the different sampling techniques.

2 Cultivation test.

2.1 Cultivation history

The experiment was started on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 when phase 2 compost was obtained from CNC Grondstoffen. Compost was mixed and three samples were taken for determination of dry matter content and ash content. On Wednesday, 27 May 2015 the compost was spawned with either commercial strain A15 or the experimental strains MB-022 (=bisp15_p2 x Z8) and MB-031 (= bisp034_p1 x Z8). Spawned compost was filled in quantities of exactly 16 kg in trays with 0.2 m² growing surface. For each strain 10 trays were filled.

The trays with spawned compost were covered with paper and incubated in a growing room at about 24°C (to maintain a compost temperature of 25°C) and a relative humidity of 93-95 %.

At Thursday, 11 June 2015, after 15 days of spawn-run, for each strain 5 trays with colonised compost were sacrificed. From each tray all compost was mixed thoroughly until by eye an even compost

mixture was obtained. From this mixture 8 separate samples of compost were taken and analysed for determination of dry matter content and ash content.

For each strain tested, the remaining 5 trays were covered with a casing soil (10 liter (7 kg) CNC basismix nat per tray). No CAC-ing was applied. On Monday, 22 June 2015, after 11 days of casing soil colonisation, the casing layer was ruffled. On Thursday 25 June, after 14 days of casing soil colonisation, the trays were vented.

First mushrooms were harvested from strain MB-022 on Wednesday, 1 July 2015. First mushrooms from strains A15 and MB-031, were harvested on Monday, 6 July 2015. The production profile of all strains is shown in Figure 1. Strain MB-022 was able to produce three flushes of mushrooms during the entire harvesting period, while strains A15 and MB-033 produced only two flushes.

On each harvesting day, mushrooms were graded into quality classes and weighed. Classes harvested were Class 1 small, Class 1 middle, Class 2 small and Class 2 middle.

For all mushrooms produced, fresh weighed was determined. For 3 out of the 5 trays per strain, all mushrooms were dried to determine dry matter content. For the remaining 2 out of 5 trays per strain, dry matter content was determined on a sample of mushrooms taken on a peak day of production in each flush.

On Friday, 17 July 2015, composts were sampled again. From each tray all compost was mixed thoroughly until by eye, an even compost mixture was obtained. From this mixture 8 separate

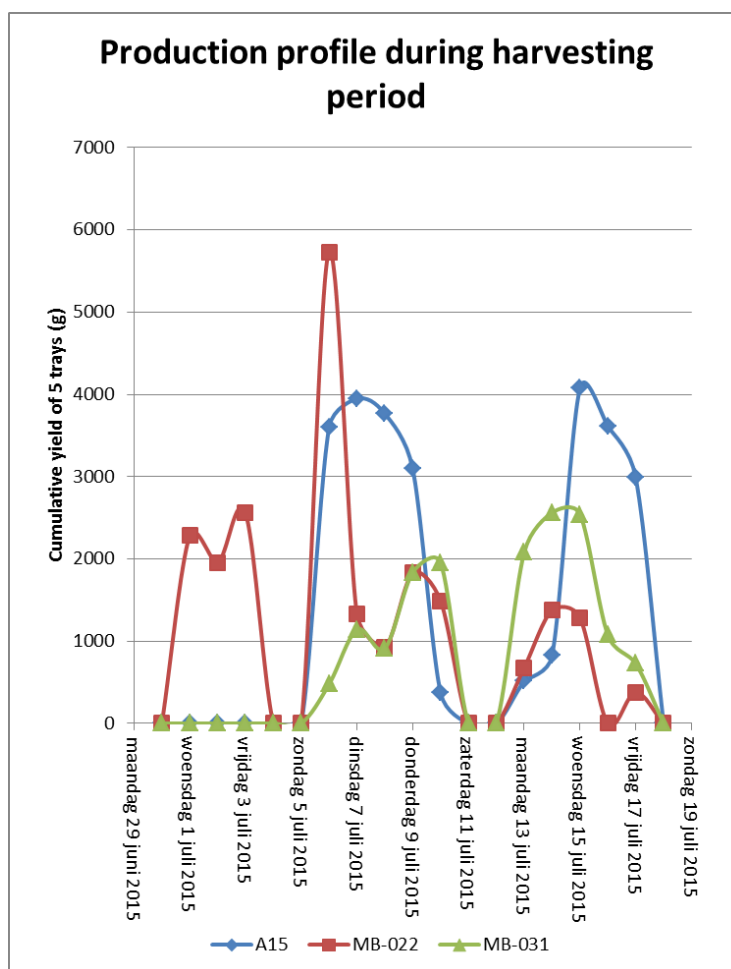


Figure 1. Production profile of strains A15, MB-022 and MB-033 during the experiment.

samples of compost were taken and analysed for determination of dry matter content and ash content. After this the growing room was steamed.

3 Sampling compost

3.1 Sampling dry matter and ash content of spawned compost.

At the start of the cultivation experiment, phase 2 compost was thoroughly mixed and three random samples were taken for determination of dry matter and ash content. For determination of dry matter content, samples of 600 -700 gram of compost were first dried at 70°C. After this they were dried at 105°C until constant weight (usually 2-3 days). For determination of ash content, 11 – 13 gram of milled compost which was dried at 105°C was heated at 550°C in a muffle furnace for 4 hours.

An overview of the experimental values of three subsamples of spawned compost are shown in Table 1. The mean value for dry matter content is 339.8 g/kg. The mean value for ash content was 375.7 g/kg. To appreciate the numbers in Table 1 to their full value we first need to explain standard deviation and standard error of the mean (SEM). The standard deviation (St dev) quantifies variability or scatter in the measurements, and it is expressed in the same units as the data. If the data are sampled from a Gaussian distribution, then you expect 68% of the values to lie within one SD of the mean and 95% to lie within two SD of the mean. The standard error of the mean (SEM) quantifies the precision of the mean. It is a measure of how far your sample mean is likely to be from the true population mean. It is expressed in the same units as the data. The 95% confidence interval extends approximately two SEMs from the mean in each direction.

To estimate the accuracy with which the dry matter content was determined, the 95% confidence interval was calculated. The confidence interval of a mean is centred on the sample mean, and extends symmetrically in both directions. That distance equals the standard error of the mean times a constant from the t distribution. The value of that constant depends only on sample size (N) and is 4.303 for N=3. From this we can calculate that the dry matter content of the spawned compost lies with 95% confidence between 331.7 and 348.0 g/kg fresh weight. The ash content of the spawned compost lies between 338.2 and 413 g/kg dry matter.

Table 1. Dry matter content and ash content of the phase 2 compost used at the start of the cultivation experiment.

Sample	Dry matter content (g/kg FM)	Ash content (g/kg DM)
Subsample 1	342.6	392.4
Subsample 2	340.8	363.3
Subsample 3	336.2	371.3
Average	339.8	375.7
Standard deviation	3.3	15.0
St. dev. as % of the mean	1.0%	4.0%
Standard error of the mean	1.9	8.7
95% confidence lower boundary	331.7	338.2
95% confidence upper boundary	348.0	413.1

3.2 Sampling dry matter and ash content of compost at casing.

At Thursday, 11 June 2015, after 15 days of spawn-run, for each strain 5 trays with colonised compost were sacrificed. From each tray all compost was mixed thoroughly until by eye an even compost mixture was obtained. From this mixture 8 separate samples of compost were taken and analysed for determination of dry matter content and ash content. For determination of dry matter content, on

Table 2. Dry matter content of the trays of compost sacrificed at casing. Results shown are an average of 8 subsamples per tray.

Tray	Strain	Mean DM (g/kg FW)	St. Dev. (g/kg FW)	St. dev. (%)	SEM	Lower 95% confidence level	Upper 95% confidence level
1	MB-031	356.9	4.9	1.4%	1.7	353.5	360.4
2	MB-031	353.2	4.2	1.2%	1.5	350.2	356.2
3	MB-022	349.9	4.1	1.2%	1.4	347.0	352.8
4	A15	341.0	8.3	2.4%	2.9	335.1	346.8
5	A15	345.0	6.9	2.0%	2.4	340.1	349.9
6	MB-031	347.0	4.8	1.4%	1.7	343.6	350.3
7	A15	348.8	2.7	0.8%	1.0	346.9	350.7
8	A15	356.7	3.3	0.9%	1.2	354.3	359.0
9	MB-022	356.7	6.8	1.9%	2.4	351.9	361.4
10	MB-022	346.0	2.1	0.6%	0.7	344.5	347.5
11	MB-022	347.8	3.0	0.9%	1.1	345.7	349.9
12	MB-031	353.8	2.5	0.7%	0.9	352.0	355.5
13	MB-031	345.0	5.1	1.5%	1.8	341.4	348.5
14	MB-022	340.7	2.2	0.6%	0.8	339.2	342.3
15	A15	345.4	2.4	0.7%	0.8	343.8	347.1

Table 3. Ash content of the trays of compost sacrificed at casing. Results shown are an average of 8 subsamples per tray.

Tray	Strain	Mean Ash content (g/kg DM)	St. Dev. (g/kg DM)	St. dev. %	SEM	Lower 95% confidence level	Upper 95% confidence level
1	MB-031	359.9	24.1	6.7%	8.5	342.9	376.9
2	MB-031	349.9	17.9	5.1%	6.3	337.3	362.6
3	MB-022	354.0	20.2	5.7%	7.2	339.7	368.3
4	A15	358.4	24.3	6.8%	8.6	341.2	375.6
5	A15	341.8	22.2	6.5%	7.9	326.1	357.5
6	MB-031	345.5	14.0	4.1%	5.0	335.5	355.4
7	A15	343.7	15.0	4.4%	5.3	333.1	354.3
8	A15	361.3	13.9	3.8%	4.9	351.5	371.1
9	MB-022	380.4	38.3	10.1%	13.5	353.4	407.5
10	MB-022	345.3	13.6	3.9%	4.8	335.7	354.9
11	MB-022	353.2	7.8	2.2%	2.7	347.7	358.7
12	MB-031	347.4	15.2	4.4%	5.4	336.7	358.2
13	MB-031	325.2	22.8	7.0%	8.0	309.1	341.3
14	MB-022	335.4	10.2	3.1%	3.6	328.2	342.6
15	A15	333.2	29.5	8.9%	10.4	312.3	354.1

different mushroom strains grown in an ANOVA, no statistically significant differences are found. average samples of 150 - 284 gram of compost (on average 209 g) were first dried at 70°C. After this they were dried at 105°C until constant weight (usually 2-3 days). For determination of ash content,

10 – 16 gram (on average 13 g) of compost which was dried at 105°C was heated at 550°C in a muffle furnace for 4 hours. Results for the dry matter and ash content of the different trays are shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. When comparing the dry matter and ash content of the compost for the Compost colonised by strain A15 has a dry matter content of 347 g/kg FW and an ash content of 348 g/kg DM. Compost colonised by strain MB-022 has a dry matter content of 348 g/kg FW and an ash content of 354 g/kg DM. Compost colonised by strain MB-031 has a dry matter content of 351 g/kg FW and an ash content of 346 g/kg DM.

When sampling compost for determination of dry weight and ash content there is always variation between the subsamples taken. The level of variation is expressed as the standard deviation. The

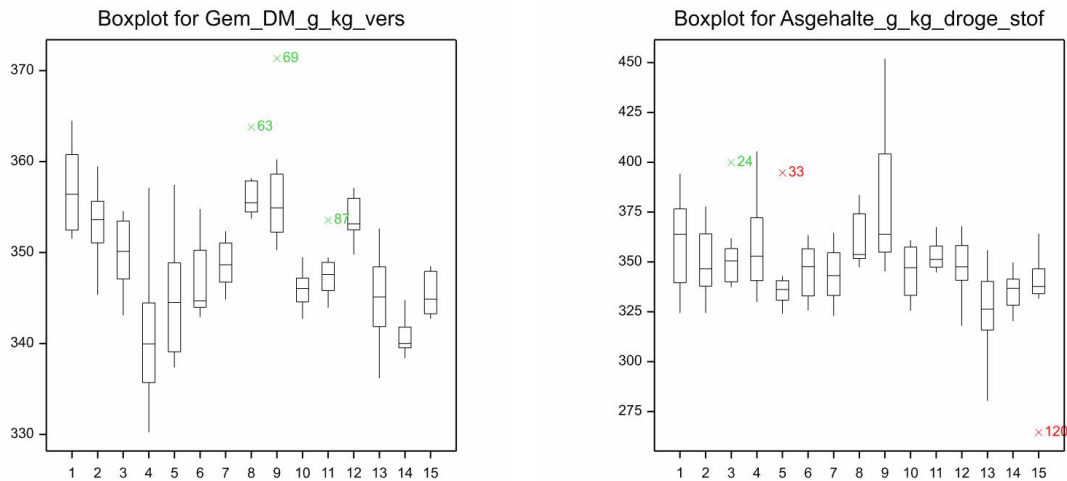


Figure 2. Box plots of the mean values for dry matter and ash content of composts in the 15 different trays at casing

accuracy with which we were able to determine the dry weight and ash content of the compost can be deduced from the standard error of the mean.

Figure 2 shows box plots for the values of dry matter and ash content and the level of variation in the values. The boxes span the interquartile range of the values in the variate, so that the middle 50% of the data lie within the box, with a line indicating the median. Whiskers extend beyond the ends of the box as far as the minimum and maximum values. Figure 2 demonstrates that there is quite some tray to tray variation within the dataset. While the values for dry matter content vary between 330 and 370 g/kg, the values of the ash content vary between 275 and 450 g/kg.

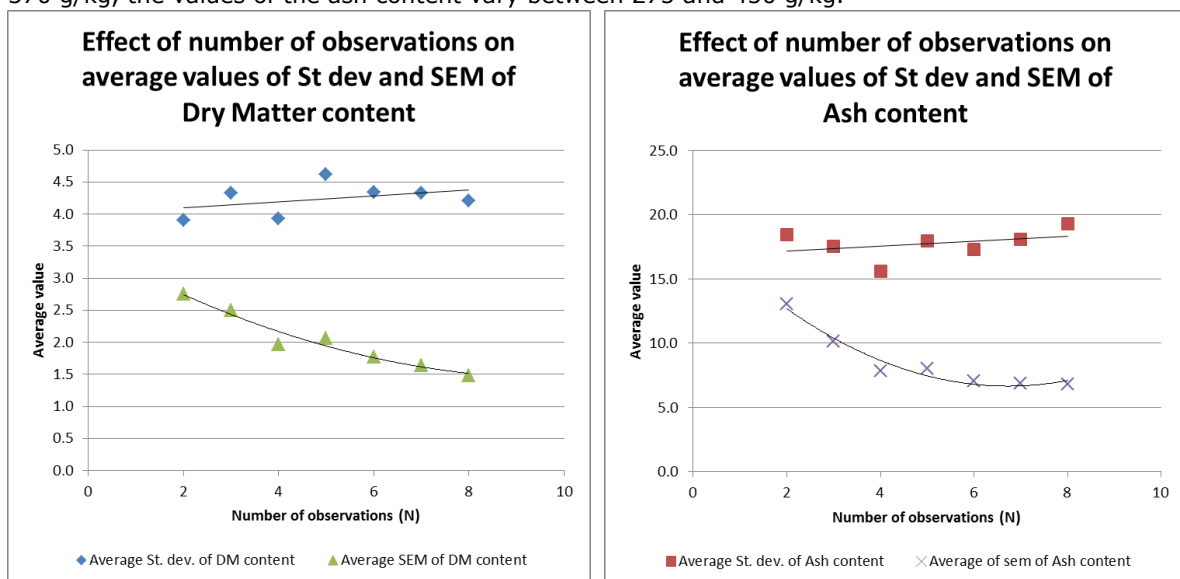


Figure 3. Relation between the average value for the standard deviation and SEM of dry matter content and ash content at casing as a function of the number of observations.

Figure 3 shows to what extent the standard error of the mean (SEM) depends on the number of observations (N). SEM quantifies the precision of the mean. It is a measure of how far your sample mean is likely to be from the true population mean. For each tray we calculated St. dev. and SEM at different numbers of observations. The individual observations are listed in Annex 1. So for N=2 we used the first 2 out of the 8 observations listed for each individual tray, for N=3 we used the first 3 observations out of 8, and so on. As there were no statistically significant differences, we calculated this for all 15 trays in the experiment. As can be seen, the standard deviation for dry matter and ash content does not change with an increasing number of observations. The SEM becomes lower as the number of observations increases. As SEM becomes lower, the estimate of dry matter and ash content becomes more accurate.

3.3 Sampling dry matter and ash content of compost at the end of cultivation

Friday, 17 July 2015, at the end of the cultivation trial, for each strain 5 trays with colonised compost were sacrificed. From each tray all compost was mixed thoroughly until by eye, an even compost mixture was obtained. From this mixture 8 separate samples of compost were taken and analysed for determination of dry matter content and ash content. For determination of dry matter content, on average samples of 260 - 464 gram of compost (on average 242 g) were first dried at 70°C. After this they were dried at 105°C until constant weight (usually 2-3 days). For determination of ash content, 15 - 24 gram (on average 20 g) of compost which was dried at 105°C, was heated at 550°C in a muffle furnace for 4 hours.

At the end of the cultivation trial, ANOVA showed statistically significant differences in dry matter content of the compost colonised by different mushroom strains (Table 4). No significant differences were found with respect to ash content.

Table 4. Overview of dry matter and ash content of compost colonised by the different mushroom strains.

Strain	DM content (g/kg FW)	I.s.d. = 10.77	Ash content (g/kg DM)	I.s.d. = 13.98
MB-031	341.6	a	448.2	a
A15	361.3	b	449.0	a
MB-022	369.6	b	455.1	a

Details on the values obtained in the different trays with respect to the determination of the dry matter are given in Table 5. When comparing the standard deviation as a percentage of the averages, it can be seen that the variation increases as cultivation progresses. At spawning the dry matter content of the compost was 340 g/kg FW with a standard deviation of 1%. At casing the dry matter content of the composts ranged, regardless of the mushroom strain, from 341 to 357 g/kg FW with standard deviations varying between 0.6 and 2.4%. At the end of cultivation, the dry weight contents of the composts differ widely with the mushroom strains that colonised them and standard deviations vary from 1.7 to 3.9%.

The accuracy with which dry matter content of the composts has been determined (SEM) cannot be compared directly. At spawning only 3 observations were made on dry matter content, while at casing and at the end of cultivation, 8 observations are available per tray. However, when comparing the SEM values at casing with the SEM values at the end of cultivation, it can be seen that accuracy has decreased. The SEM values increased from values in the range of 0.7 to 2.9 at casing to values in the range of 2.0 to 4.7 at the end of cultivation.

Details on the values for ash content in the different trays at the end of cultivation are shown in Table 6. There are no statistically significant differences in ash content between the composts colonised by the different mushroom strains. Also for the ash content it can be seen that variation increases during cultivation by comparing the standard deviations. At spawning the standard deviation of the ash

Table 5. Dry matter content of the trays of compost sacrificed at the end of cultivation. Results shown are an average of 8 subsamples per tray.

Strain	Tray	Mean DM (g/kg FW)	St. Dev (g/kg FW)	St dev. (%)	SEM	Lower 95% confidence level	Upper 95% confidence level
A15	Average	361.3	9.6	2.7%	3.4	353.6	369.1
	4	364.5	6.3	1.7%	2.2	359.3	369.6
	5	358.7	8.6	2.4%	3.0	351.7	365.7
	7	367.3	10.9	3.0%	3.8	358.5	376.2
	8	363.8	8.3	2.3%	2.9	357.0	370.6
	15	352.4	7.2	2.0%	2.5	346.6	358.3
MB-022	Average	369.6	13.4	3.6%	4.7	358.7	380.5
	3	373.6	7.8	2.1%	2.7	367.3	379.9
	9	373.2	10.7	2.9%	3.8	364.5	381.9
	10	384.4	10.7	2.8%	3.8	375.7	393.1
	11	352.6	5.9	1.7%	2.1	347.8	357.4
	14	364.1	4.9	1.3%	1.7	360.1	368.0
MB-031	Average	341.6	8.1	2.4%	2.9	334.9	348.2
	1	340.4	6.9	2.0%	2.4	334.8	346.0
	2	337.7	5.7	1.7%	2.0	333.1	342.3
	6	344.2	13.3	3.9%	4.7	333.3	355.0
	12	343.4	6.7	1.9%	2.4	338.0	348.9
	13	342.1	6.0	1.7%	2.1	337.2	346.9

Table 6. Ash content of the trays of compost sacrificed at the end of cultivation. Results shown are an average of 8 subsamples per tray.

Strain	Tray	Mean Ash Content (g/kg DM)	St. Dev (g/kg DM)	St dev (%)	SEM	Lower 95% confidence level	Upper 95% confidence level
A15	Average	449.0	15.0	3.3%	5.3	436.8	461.2
	4	467.6	15.6	3.3%	5.5	454.9	480.3
	5	440.4	8.3	1.9%	2.9	433.7	447.2
	7	444.9	10.6	2.4%	3.8	436.2	453.5
	8	437.4	8.7	2.0%	3.1	430.3	444.5
	15	454.9	7.7	1.7%	2.7	448.7	461.2
MB-022	Average	455.1	12.8	2.8%	4.5	444.7	465.5
	3	460.0	13.5	2.9%	4.8	449.0	470.9
	9	453.5	7.6	1.7%	2.7	447.3	459.7
	10	454.2	13.9	3.1%	4.9	442.9	465.6
	11	462.5	13.4	2.9%	4.7	451.6	473.4
	14	445.2	9.4	2.1%	3.3	437.5	452.8
MB-031	Average	448.2	15.7	3.5%	5.5	435.5	461.0
	1	460.8	15.6	3.4%	5.5	448.2	473.5
	2	442.7	12.2	2.7%	4.3	432.9	452.6
	6	433.7	12.4	2.9%	4.4	423.7	443.8
	12	455.3	15.7	3.4%	5.5	442.5	468.0
	13	448.6	8.3	1.9%	2.9	441.9	455.4

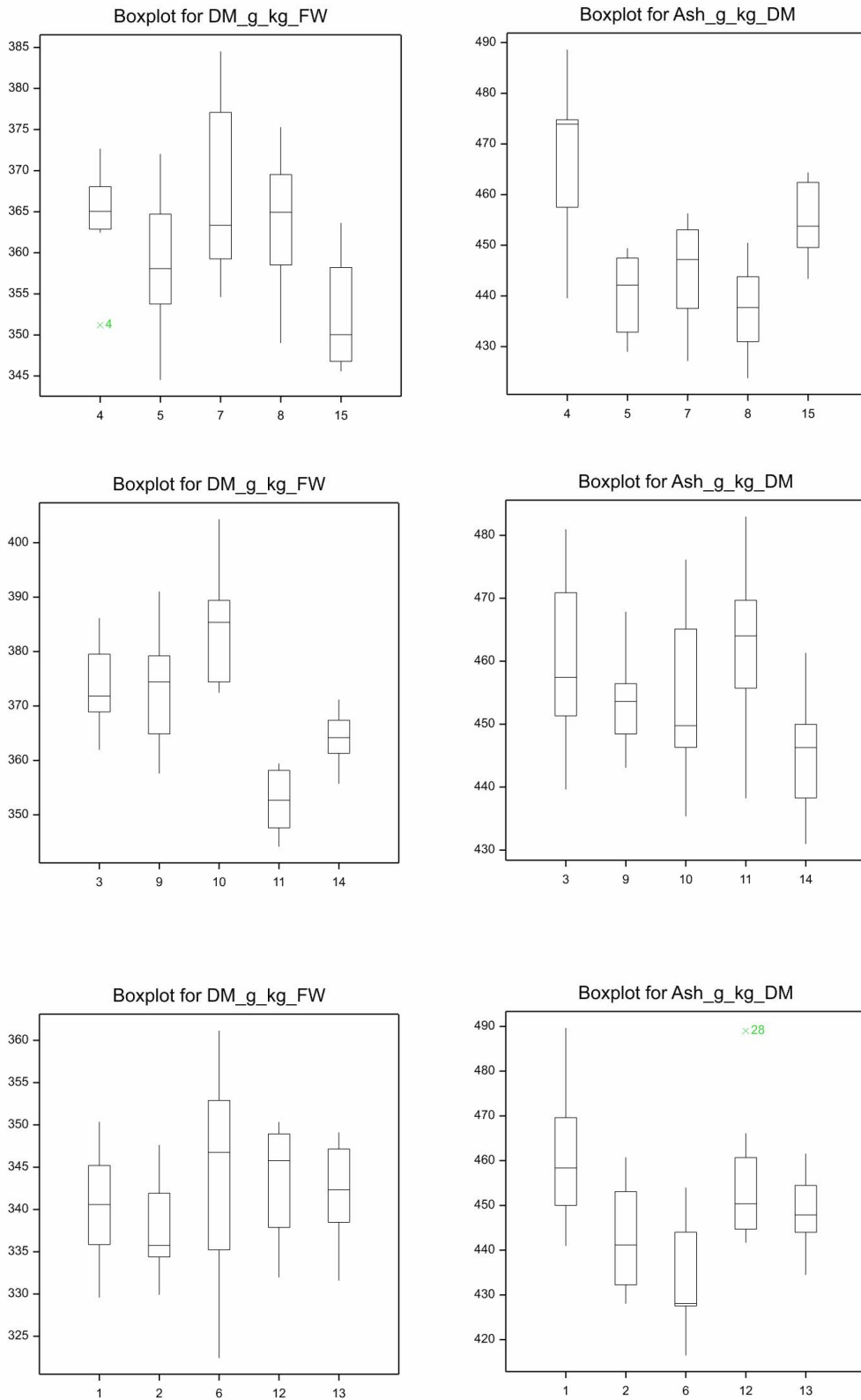


Figure 4. Box plots of the mean values for dry matter and ash content of composts in the 15 different trays at the end of cultivation. The top two graphs represent variation in dry matter content and ash content in different trays of compost containing strain A15. The middle two graphs represent variation in dry matter content and ash content in different trays of compost containing strain MB-022. The bottom two graphs represent variation in dry matter content and ash content in different trays of compost containing strain MB-031.

content of the compost was 4% (on an ash content of 376 g/kg DM). At casing the standard deviation had increased to values between 2.7 and 13.5% (on ash contents between 333 and 380 g/kg DM). Strangely enough, at the end of cropping the standard deviation on the ash content was reduced again to values between 1.7 and 3.5%. At different moment during the cultivation experiment, the dry matter content was determined on different amounts of fresh compost. Also ash content was determined on different amounts of dry matter. Perhaps a part of the variation in the standard deviation can be attributed to these differences.

Figure 4 shows box plots for the values of dry matter and ash content and the level of variation in the values. As there are significant differences in the dry matter and ash contents of the composts containing different mushroom strains, graphs are showing the values for the different trays in which a strain has grown. The boxes span the interquartile range of the values in the variate, so that the middle 50% of the data lie within the box, with a line indicating the median. Whiskers extend beyond the ends of the box as far as the minimum and maximum values. As can be seen, there is quite some variation between the samples taken from a tray. Next to this there is quite some variation between trays that have been colonised by the same mushroom strain.

Figure 5 shows to what extent the standard error of the mean (SEM) depends on the number of observations (N). SEM quantifies the precision of the mean. It is a measure of how far your sample mean is likely to be from the true population mean. For each tray we calculated St. dev. and SEM at different numbers of observations. The individual observations are listed in Annex 1. So for N=2 we used the first 2 out of the 8 observations listed for each individual tray, for N=3 we used the first 3

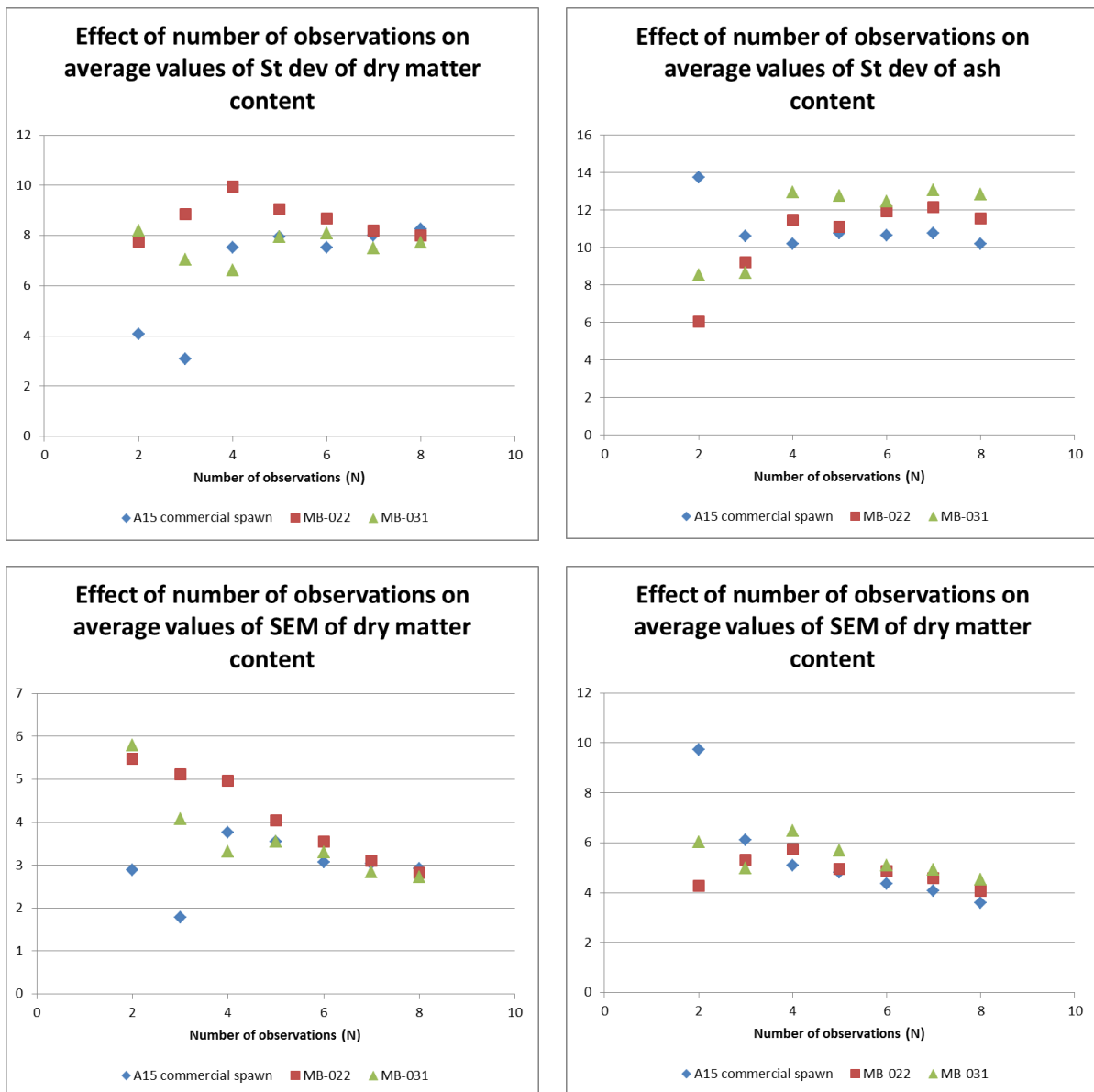


Figure 5. Relation between the average value for the standard deviation and SEM of dry matter content and ash content at the end of cultivation as a function of the number of observations.

observations out of 8, and so on. As there are statistically significant differences between strains, we represent the values for each strain separately. As can be seen, the standard deviation for dry matter and ash content changes with an increasing number of observations. Only at more than 5 observations, the standard deviation for dry matter content starts to stabilise at a value of 8%. The same trend can be seen for the ash content. Standard deviation for the ash content stabilises at 10-13% starting from 4 or more observations.

The SEM becomes lower as the number of observations increases. As SEM becomes lower, the estimate of dry matter and ash content becomes more accurate.

3.4 Main conclusions from sampling compost

3.4.1 Increasing variability in the compost samples

In summary, compost was sampled at spawning, at casing and at the end of cultivation and analysed for dry matter and ash content. At spawning, 3 compost samples of 600 -700 gram of fresh compost were analysed for dry matter content, at casing, 8 compost samples of 150 - 284 gram of compost were analysed for dry matter content for each tray and at the end of cultivation, 8 compost samples of 260 - 464 gram of compost were analysed for dry matter content for each tray.

When comparing standard deviation of dry matter (expressed as a percentage of the mean value for dry matter content) during the course of cultivation, the average value raises from 1% at spawning to 4-5% at casing and about 8% at the end of cultivation. This increase in variability in the results is partly caused by an increase of heterogeneity within the trays of compost.

The same happens to a larger extent for the ash content. At spawning 3 samples of , 11 – 13 gram of dried and milled compost were analysed for ash content. At casing, for each tray, 8 samples of 10 – 16 gram of dried compost were analysed for ash content. At the end of cultivation, for each tray, 8 samples of 15 – 24 gram of dried compost were analysed for ash content.

When comparing standard deviation (again expressed as a percentage of the mean value for ash content) during the course of cultivation, values raise from 4% at spawning to 15-20% at casing and 8 to 15% at the end of cultivation.

Compared to the standard deviation of the dry matter content, the standard deviation for the ash content is quite high. In other words, for the ash content it is much more uncertain whether the average value for the ash content as derived from the samples represents the true ash content as it is present in a tray. Ash content is an important characteristic of the compost. Organic matter content in the compost is calculated as the difference between the dry matter content and the ash content. Next to this, as the ash content in the tray does not change much (trays have a closed bottom and the amount of minerals taken up from the compost into the casing soil and the mushrooms is believed to be relatively small in comparison to the absolute amount of ash present in a tray), ash content is postulated to represent some kind of internal standard when comparing compost at spawning or casing or venting with compost at the end of cultivation. It is therefore important to improve on the accuracy with which the ash content can be determined.

When analysing ash content in samples of dried and milled compost, sometimes deviant values were observed. Such samples were reanalysed by taking a second lot from the same batch of dried and milled compost (Table 7). In the second analysis, quite different values were found.

Table 7. Differences in values when deviant samples were reanalysed for ash content

	Ash content value in first analysis (g/kg DM)	Ash content value in second analysis (g/kg DM)
Sample 1	400	411
Sample 2	405	365
Sample 3	395	388
Sample 4	424	374
Sample 5	452	381
Sample 6	280	337
Sample 7	265	367

Perhaps a method to improve on the current determination of the ash content would be to increase the amount of dried and milled compost used for the analysis.

As can be seen from Figures 2 and 4 there is quite some tray to tray variation in dry matter content and ash content. This makes it more difficult to compare trays.

3.4.2 Increasing the accuracy with which dry matter and ash content as determined

Any determination of the dry matter and ash content of the compost is by definition an estimation of the real dry matter and ash content. The accuracy with which values for dry matter and ash content are estimated, is improved by taking more samples from the compost. The standard error of the mean (SEM) quantifies the precision of the mean. It is a measure of how far your sample mean is likely to be from the true population mean. It is expressed in the same units as the data. The SEM is calculated by dividing the standard deviation by the square root of N (= number of observations). As the number of observations increases, the SEM gets smaller (i.e. the error gets smaller). As seen in Figures 3 and 5, the SEM becomes smaller with increasing number of replicate measurements. Figure 5 suggests that at least 5 replicate samples should be taken from a tray. However, a comparison is difficult as the volumes of the samples are not the same at the different moments during cultivation. Trays contain 16 kg of compost. Drying all compost in a single tray would give a very accurate determination of the dry matter content of the tray. At casing and at the end of cultivation, for each tray 8 samples of about 200 gram were analysed, representing about 10% of the content of the tray. Taking three samples of 500-600 gram of compost would involve the same amount of compost in the tray. The same line of reasoning would also apply for determination of the ash content.

3.5 Recommendations

To lower variability in determination of dry matter and ash content, we would like to recommend to perform an experiment in which;

- At all stages of cultivation in the experiment an equal replicate samples is taken (so 8 at spawning, 8 at casing, 8 at end of cultivation)
- Influence of homogenisation of samples of fresh compost is tested (for instance, homogenisation by hand until homogeneous by eye in comparison to homogenising mechanically by using a cutting machine which is operated at a standard speed for a standard time).
- The amount of fresh compost in a sample to be analysed for dry matter content is varied (for instance, 200, 400 and 600 gram)
- The amount of dried compost in a sample to be analysed for ash content is varied (for instance, 10, 30 and 100 gram)
- If mushrooms were grown on smaller portions of compost (for instance 8 kg in trays with 0.1 m² growing surface or 4 kg in trays with 0.05 m² growing surface), it will be easier to sample a large part of the compost used for cultivation. Next to this, more replicates will fit in a single growing room.

4 Sampling mushrooms

Mushrooms were harvested and sorted according to mushroom quality (Class 1 small, class 1 medium, class 2 small and class 2 medium). Our standard method for determining the dry weight yield of mushrooms was sampling the mushrooms at the days of peak production and analyse them for dry weight. The average value of the dry weight determinations in the first flush was used for calculation amount of dry matter in the first flush. Likewise for calculation of the amount of dry matter in the second flush, an average value of the dry matter contents determined in the second flush was used.

In our experiment we sampled all trays in this way. For comparison, a number of trays were analysed by taking all the mushrooms that were produced and analyse them for dry matter and ash content.

4.1 Mushroom yield and quality in the different flushes

An overview of mushroom production by the different strains is given in Table 8. Mushrooms of the different strains were harvested according to quality class. Strain A15 produced 13785 g of mushrooms in two flushes on 5 trays, each filled with 16 kg of compost at spawning. About 49% of the mushrooms were harvested as either small or medium sized class 1 mushrooms. Strain MB-022 produced 18539 g of mushrooms in three flushes on 5 trays, each filled with 16 kg of compost at spawning. About 15% of the mushrooms were harvested as class 1 mushrooms, mainly as small mushrooms. The remaining 85% was harvested as class 2 mushrooms. The highest percentage of class 1 mushrooms was harvested in the first flush. In the second and third flush the percentage of class 1 mushrooms reduced to 13 and 6% respectively.

Table 8. Mushroom yield and quality obtained from the mushroom strains tested.

Strain	Flush	Yield (gr. Fresh weight/tray)		
		Class 1 small	Class 1 middle	Class 2
A15		7524	5496	13785
	Flush 1	3956	3833	6995
	Flush 2	3568	1663	6790
MB-022		3106	154	18539
	Flush 1	1476	154	5161
	Flush 2	1514		9777
	Flush 3	116		3601
MB-031		213		14559
	Flush 1	213		5570
	Flush 2			8989

Strain MB-031 produced 14559 g of mushrooms in two flushes on 5 trays, each filled with 16 kg of compost at spawning. Almost all mushrooms were harvested as class 2 mushrooms. Virtually none of the mushrooms could be harvested as class 1 mushrooms.

4.2 Dry matter content of mushrooms

Dry matter content was measured for all quality classes of mushrooms. Differences in dry matter content were tested statistically in an unbalanced ANOVA. Significant differences were found in dry matter content of the mushroom between the different mushroom strains grown (Table 9).

Table 9. Differences in dry matter content of the various mushroom strains tested. Least significant difference (at p=5%) is 1.8.

Strain	Class 1 small	Class 1 middle	Class 2	# observations	Predicted value per strain, based on the statistical model
A15	73.4	75.2	75.1	56	75.1 (a)
MB-022	83.1	86.2	83.7	42	84.4 (b)
MB-031	88.7		92.0	30	90.3 (c)

As not all mushrooms produced were represented in the various quality classes differences in dry matter content of the mushrooms could not be fully analysed. Therefore no statistically significant differences in dry matter content could be demonstrated between the different quality classes.

4.3 Comparison of methods used to calculate amount of dry matter that is produced.

As mentioned above, two different methods were used to estimate the total amount of dry matter that is produced on the trays. In our standard method, fresh weight of harvested mushrooms is recorded on a daily basis. For estimation of the amount of dry weight that is produced, harvested mushrooms are sampled at the days of peak production and analysed for dry weight. The average value of the dry weight determinations in the first flush was used for calculation amount of dry matter in the first flush. Likewise for calculation of the amount of dry matter in the second flush, an average value of the dry matter contents determined in the second flush was used.

As an alternative, for 3 out of 5 trays we dried all mushrooms that were produced and recorded the amounts of dry weight. Table 10 shows a comparison of both methods to estimate the total amounts of dry matter produced. Statistical analysis using ANOVA shows statistically significant differences (p=5%) between the mushroom strains in the total amounts of dry matter produced. No significant differences were found between the two methods used to estimate the total amount of dry matter produced as mushrooms. Also at the level of the different flushes, the differences between the two methods used are minor.

As a result, we adopt the method of calculating the total amount of dry matter produced as mushrooms based on the dry weight of a random sample of fresh mushrooms (about 200 gram).

Table 10. Overview of the amounts of dry matter produced, if determined by two different methods.

Strain	Tray	Flush	Total amount of dry matter produced	
			Based on dry matter content determined on the peak day of production in a flush	Based on the actual total amount of dry matter
A15			1122	1142
	Tray 4		347	362
		Flush 1	180	189
		Flush 2	167	173
	Tray 5		395	384
		Flush 1	212	203
		Flush 2	184	181
	Tray 7		380	395
		Flush 1	200	209
		Flush 2	180	186

Table 10 (cont'd). Overview of the amounts of dry matter produced, if determined by two different methods.

Strain	Tray	Flush	Total amount of dry matter produced	
			Based on dry matter content determined on the peak day of production in a flush	Based on the actual total amount of dry matter
MB-022			1066	1072
	Tray 3		416	419
		Flush 1	107	101
		Flush 2	234	242
		Flush 3	76	75
	Tray 9		310	313
		Flush 1	93	100
		Flush 2	169	164
		Flush 3	48	49
	Tray 10		340	340
		Flush 1	97	94
		Flush 2	175	178
		Flush 3	68	68
	MB-031			751
Tray 10			213	214
		Flush 1	25	25
		Flush 2	188	190
Tray 2			259	262
		Flush 1	107	106
		Flush 2	152	155
Tray 6			279	279
		Flush 1	145	144
		Flush 2	134	136

5 Mass balances

5.1 From spawning to casing

Table 11 gives an overview of the amounts of dry matter in each tray at spawning and at casing. Data were calculated on basis of the amount of fresh weight compost in each tray and the dry matter content listed in Table 2. In general there is a decrease in the amount of dry matter during this period. However there is a considerable variation from tray to tray. Testing by ANOVA showed that the

Table 11. Amounts of dry matter per tray of compost for the different strains tested at spawning and at casing.

Strain	Tray	Amount of compost dry matter per tray (kg)		Decrease (kg)	Average decrease (kg)
		At spawning	At casing		
A15	4	5.437	5.230	0.208	0.133
	5	5.437	5.275	0.162	
	7	5.437	5.281	0.156	
	8	5.437	5.406	0.032	
	15	5.437	5.332	0.105	
MB-022	3	5.437	5.324	0.113	0.129
	9	5.437	5.403	0.035	
	10	5.437	5.256	0.182	
	11	5.437	5.327	0.110	
	14	5.437	5.235	0.202	
MB-031	1	5.437	5.401	0.036	0.099
	2	5.437	5.323	0.114	
	6	5.437	5.300	0.137	
	12	5.437	5.395	0.043	
	13	5.437	5.273	0.164	

Table 12. Amounts of ash per tray of compost for the different strains tested at spawning and casing.

Strain	Tray	Amount of ash per tray (kg)		Decrease (kg)	Average decrease (kg)
		At spawning	At casing		
A15	4	2.043	1.874	0.168	0.198
	5	2.043	1.803	0.240	
	7	2.043	1.815	0.228	
	8	2.043	1.953	0.090	
	15	2.043	1.777	0.266	
MB-022	3	2.043	1.885	0.158	0.164
	9	2.043	2.055	-0.013	
	10	2.043	1.815	0.228	
	11	2.043	1.882	0.161	
	14	2.043	1.756	0.287	
MB-031	1	2.043	1.944	0.099	0.197
	2	2.043	1.863	0.180	
	6	2.043	1.831	0.212	
	12	2.043	1.874	0.169	
	13	2.043	1.715	0.328	

Table 13. . Amounts of dry matter per tray of compost for the different strains tested at spawning and at the end of cultivation.

Strain	Tray	Amount of compost dry matter per tray (kg)		Decrease (kg)	Average decrease (kg)
		At spawning	End of cultivation		
A15	4	5.437	4.396	1.042	1.080
	5	5.437	4.351	1.086	
	7	5.437	4.345	1.092	
	8	5.437	4.373	1.065	
	15	5.437	4.324	1.113	
MB-022	3	5.437	4.319	1.119	1.078
	9	5.437	4.382	1.056	
	10	5.437	4.405	1.032	
	11	5.437	4.326	1.111	
	14	5.437	4.365	1.072	
MB-031	1	5.437	4.527	0.910	0.944
	2	5.437	4.468	0.970	
	6	5.437	4.522	0.915	
	12	5.437	4.489	0.949	
	13	5.437	4.461	0.977	

differences were not statistically valid at p=5%. Table 12 gives an overview of the amounts of ash in each tray at spawning and at casing. Data were calculated on basis of the amount of dry matter as listed in Table 11 and the ash content of the dry matter listed in Table 3. In contrast to the expectation, there appears to be a decrease in the amount of ash during this period. As the experiment was performed in trays with a closed bottom (so no water with solids dripping out) and casing soil was not yet applied (so no transport of salts to the casing soil) and bearing in mind the inaccuracy in determining the ash content of the compost, this is probably an artefact.

5.2 From spawning till the end of cultivation

Table 13 gives an overview of the amounts of dry matter in each tray at spawning and at the end of cultivation. Data were calculated on basis of the amount of fresh weight compost in each tray and the dry matter content listed in Table 5. There is a considerable decrease in the amount of dry matter during this period, which varies from tray to tray. On average the decrease in dry weight of the compost is more or less the same for strains A15 and MB-022. The decrease in dry weight of the compost is smaller for strain MB-031. Testing by ANOVA showed that strain MB-031 statistically significant (p=5%) reduced the amount of dry matter in the compost less than strains A15 and MB-022.

Table 14 gives an overview of the amounts of ash in each tray at spawning and at the end of cultivation. Data were calculated on basis of the amount of dry matter as listed in Table 11 and the ash content of the dry matter listed in Table 6. On average, there appears to be a decrease in the amount of ash during this period. This appears reasonable as minerals are assumed to be transported to the mushrooms . Next to this the amount of salt in the casing soil increases, possibly by transport of salts from the compost to the casing soil). However, there is a lot of tray to tray variability. For instance trays 1 and 4 appear to have gained small amounts of ash, tray 12 appears to have the same amount of ash at the end of cultivation as it had at spawning and all the other trays seem to have lost a variety of amounts of ash during the period of spawn-run and cropping. However, the decrease in amount of ash per tray seems not to be as large as it was for the comparison of the amount of ash per tray at spawning and at casing.

We assume these figures to be artefacts and expect that a more reliable sampling method of the compost will limit the tray to tray variation in amounts of ash that remain after cultivation.

Table 14. Amounts of ash per tray of compost for the different strains tested at spawning and at the end of cultivation.

Strain	Tray	Amount of compost dry matter per tray (kg)		Decrease (kg)	Average decrease
		At spawning	End of cultivation		
A15	4	2.043	2.055	-0.013	0.086
	5	2.043	1.916	0.126	
	7	2.043	1.933	0.110	
	8	2.043	1.913	0.130	
	15	2.043	1.967	0.076	
MB-022	3	2.043	1.986	0.056	0.059
	9	2.043	1.987	0.056	
	10	2.043	2.001	0.042	
	11	2.043	2.001	0.042	
	14	2.043	1.943	0.099	
MB-031	1	2.043	2.086	-0.044	0.029
	2	2.043	1.978	0.065	
	6	2.043	1.961	0.081	
	12	2.043	2.044	-0.001	
	13	2.043	2.001	0.042	

5.3 Biological efficiency

Calculation of the biological efficiency combines the decrease in dry matter in the compost with the production of dry matter in the mushrooms. Not all dry matter that disappears from the compost contributes to the production of mushrooms. Dry matter in the compost is decomposed and transformed into biomass, CO₂ and H₂O. The biomass that is formed is present in the compost in the form of mycelium. Next to this it is present in the mycelium that is present in the casing soil. It is also present in the mushrooms that are produced. However, upon harvest the lower parts of the stipes (the stumps) are removed from the mushroom. As a rule of thumb, about 15% of the total fresh weight of the mushroom is removed with the lower part of the stipe. We calculate the biological efficiency as the quotient of the amount of

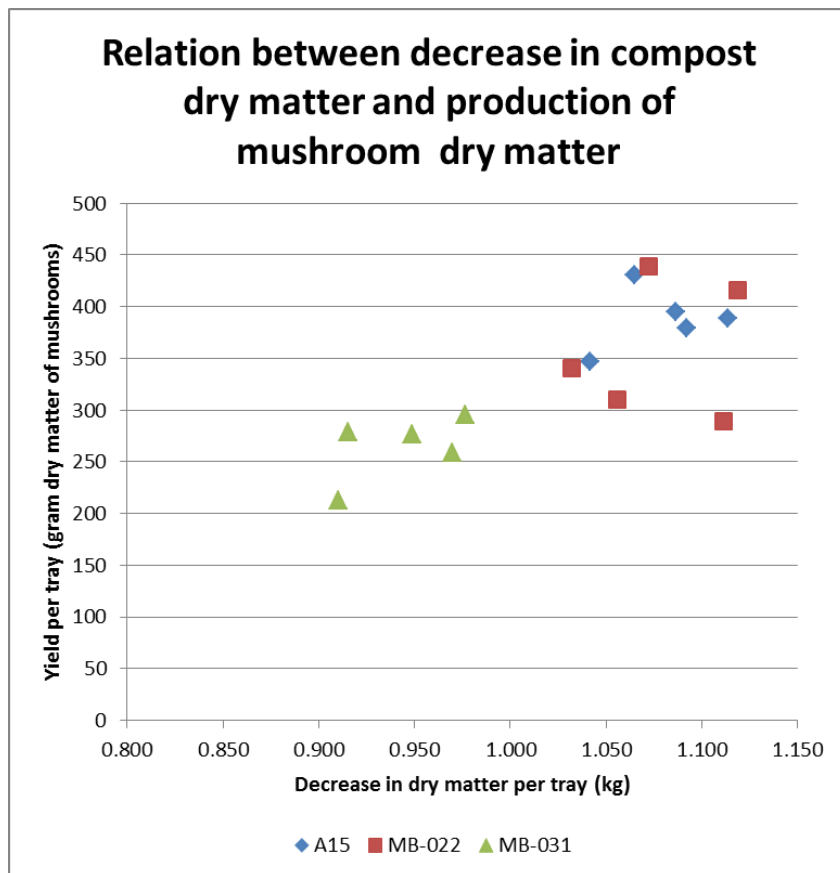


Figure 6. Relationship between the decrease of dry matter per tray and the dry matter present in the mushrooms (stumps excluded).

dry matter present in the mushrooms (stumps excluded) and the loss of dry matter in the compost. In reality, the compost that has been degraded is larger than the loss in dry matter suggests. Part of the dry matter that is degraded is transformed into mycelium that is present in the compost. Figure 6 displays the relationship between the amount of dry matter that has disappeared from the compost and the amount of dry matter in the harvested mushrooms. Raw data used to draw the graph in Figure 6 are listed in Table 15. As can be seen, while the data points for strains A15 and MB-031 more or less form a straight line, especially strain MB-022 shows a lot of variation.

For comparison of the yield in this experiment to yield in commercial practice; strain A15 produced in 2 flushes on average 351 kg/ton compost, strain MB-022 produced on average 286 kg/ton compost and strain MB-031 produced on average 194 kg/ton compost. These calculations are based on the fresh weight of compost as determined at casing (more or less comparable to phase 3 compost).

Table 15. Biological efficiency as calculated for the different trays in the experiment.

Strain	Tray	At spawning	End of cultivation	Decrease (kg)	Mushroom Yield (g. dry matter)	Biol eff (%)
A15	4	5.437	4.396	1.042	347	33.3%
A15	5	5.437	4.351	1.086	395	36.4%
A15	7	5.437	4.345	1.092	380	34.8%
A15	8	5.437	4.373	1.065	431	40.5%
A15	15	5.437	4.324	1.113	389	34.9%
MB-022	3	5.437	4.319	1.119	416	37.2%
MB-022	9	5.437	4.382	1.056	310	29.4%
MB-022	10	5.437	4.405	1.032	340	33.0%
MB-022	11	5.437	4.326	1.111	289	26.0%
MB-022	14	5.437	4.365	1.072	438	40.9%
MB-031	1	5.437	4.527	0.910	213	23.4%
MB-031	2	5.437	4.468	0.970	259	26.7%
MB-031	6	5.437	4.522	0.915	279	30.5%
MB-031	12	5.437	4.489	0.949	277	29.2%
MB-031	13	5.437	4.461	0.977	295	30.2%

Biological efficiency for strain A15 ranged from 33 to 40%; on average 36%. In a previous experiment a biological efficiency of 29.3% was found (for 2 flushes harvested, Baars & Sonnenberg, 2014).

For strain MB-022 biological efficiency ranged from 26 to 40%; on average 33%. In a previous experiment a biological efficiency of 30.6% was found (for 2 flushes harvest, Baars & Sonnenberg, 2014).

For strain MB-031 biological efficiency ranged from 23 to 31%; on average 28%. In a previous experiment a biological efficiency of 19.4% was found (for 2 flushes harvest, Baars & Sonnenberg, 2014).

The data on biological efficiency in Table 15 were analysed by ANOVA. Statistically significant differences in biological efficiency were seen (Table 16). The least significant difference was found to be 5.7%. From this it can be concluded that with the current methods of analysing dry matter and ash content of compost, it will not be possible to discriminate reliably between mushroom strains that differ less than 5.7% from each other with respect to biological efficiency. As biological efficiency is likely to range between 0 and 40% this means that with the current method of estimating dry weight of compost we cannot discriminate accurately enough between the small differences in biological efficiency of a set of offspring, as needed for genomic mapping.

Table 16. Overview of biological efficiencies.

Strain	Biological efficiency	Statistical significance (values sharing a letter are not statistical significant different at p=5%)
MB-031	28.0 %	A
MB-022	33.3 %	Ab
A15	36.0 %	B

6 Conclusions

In the experiments described in this report, biological efficiency was determined for 3 strains of *Agaricus bisporus*, with the aim of accurately determining sources of variation for the terms used in the calculation of biological efficiency; amount of dry matter in the compost that is used and the amount of dry matter that is produced in the harvested mushrooms.

The largest uncertainty was found in the amount of dry matter used from the compost. The methods used for sampling the compost to determine the mean value for dry matter content demonstrated a considerable variation between replicate samples taken from the compost. To lower variability in determination of dry matter and ash content, it was recommended to;

- Take an equally high number of replicate samples from all stages of cultivation (so 8 at spawning, 8 at casing, 8 at end of cultivation)
- Test the influence of homogenisation of samples of fresh compost (for instance, homogenisation by hand until homogeneous by eye in comparison to homogenising mechanically by using a cutting machine which is operated at a standard speed for a standard time).
- Test for the optimal the amount of fresh compost in a sample to be analysed for dry matter content (for instance, 200, 400 and 600 gram)
- Test for the optimal amount of dried compost to be analysed for ash content (for instance, 10, 30 and 100 gram)
- Test if cultivation of the mushrooms on smaller portions of compost (for instance 8 kg in trays with 0.1 m² growing surface or 4 kg in trays with 0.05 m² growing surface), makes it easier to sample a large part of the compost used for cultivation. Next to this, more replicates will fit in a single growing room.

The uncertainty in the amount of dry matter produced in mushrooms is rather small. Using the dry matter content of mushrooms sampled at the peak days of a flush of mushrooms, provided a fairly accurate prediction of the actual amount of dry mass produced. In previous experiments it has been noted however, that some strains of mushrooms do not adhere to a production pattern in flushes, they produce mushrooms more or less continuously. To obtain a fair comparison for biological efficiency it would be advisable to harvest the mushrooms until no more mushrooms are produced.

Biological efficiency was calculated for the three strains tested and the least significant difference was found to be 5.7%. We hope that future experiments on improvement of the methodology used, will lower this least significant difference.

References

Baars J & Sonnenberg A (2014) Biologische efficiëntie substraatverbruik bij champignon - Een genetische analyse. Rapport 2014-2.

Annex 1 Values for dry matter and ash content of compost at casing.

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
1	MB-031	1	365	383
1	MB-031	2	352	325
1	MB-031	3	352	332
1	MB-031	4	353	360
1	MB-031	5	356	394
1	MB-031	6	357	347
1	MB-031	7	359	371
1	MB-031	8	363	368
2	MB-031	1	359	361
2	MB-031	2	350	331
2	MB-031	3	345	347
2	MB-031	4	356	378
2	MB-031	5	355	367
2	MB-031	6	353	324
2	MB-031	7	352	344
2	MB-031	8	354	347
3	MB-022	1	349	351
3	MB-022	2	343	341
3	MB-022	3	350	337
3	MB-022	4	354	350
3	MB-022	5	355	338
3	MB-022	6	350	362
3	MB-022	7	345	352
3	MB-022	8	353	400
4	A15	1	347	368
4	A15	2	336	330
4	A15	3	330	342
4	A15	4	341	351
4	A15	5	357	405
4	A15	6	335	376
4	A15	7	339	339
4	A15	8	342	355
5	A15	1	357	395
5	A15	2	346	343
5	A15	3	344	327
5	A15	4	352	335
5	A15	5	337	324
5	A15	6	340	338
5	A15	7	338	337
5	A15	8	345	335

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
6	MB-031	1	343	326
6	MB-031	2	355	364
6	MB-031	3	354	362
6	MB-031	4	344	350
6	MB-031	5	344	352
6	MB-031	6	345	337
6	MB-031	7	344	345
6	MB-031	8	346	329
7	A15	1	351	327
7	A15	2	349	346
7	A15	3	346	323
7	A15	4	352	340
7	A15	5	345	346
7	A15	6	348	340
7	A15	7	348	365
7	A15	8	351	363
8	A15	1	355	371
8	A15	2	356	351
8	A15	3	358	354
8	A15	4	354	378
8	A15	5	355	347
8	A15	6	358	352
8	A15	7	364	384
8	A15	8	354	353
9	MB-022	1	350	345
9	MB-022	2	353	347
9	MB-022	3	360	384
9	MB-022	4	357	363
9	MB-022	5	371	424
9	MB-022	6	351	364
9	MB-022	7	353	452
9	MB-022	8	356	364
10	MB-022	1	344	331
10	MB-022	2	350	361
10	MB-022	3	345	355
10	MB-022	4	347	336
10	MB-022	5	347	326
10	MB-022	6	347	343
10	MB-022	7	346	360
10	MB-022	8	343	351
11	MB-022	1	348	368
11	MB-022	2	347	353
11	MB-022	3	348	345
11	MB-022	4	348	349
11	MB-022	5	344	361
11	MB-022	6	345	350
11	MB-022	7	354	346
11	MB-022	8	349	355

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
12	MB-031	1	353	368
12	MB-031	2	350	350
12	MB-031	3	355	357
12	MB-031	4	357	359
12	MB-031	5	353	346
12	MB-031	6	357	340
12	MB-031	7	353	318
12	MB-031	8	352	341
13	MB-031	1	336	280
13	MB-031	2	342	315
13	MB-031	3	345	322
13	MB-031	4	342	316
13	MB-031	5	353	356
13	MB-031	6	348	341
13	MB-031	7	346	331
13	MB-031	8	349	339
14	MB-022	1	340	345
14	MB-022	2	340	321
14	MB-022	3	338	337
14	MB-022	4	340	336
14	MB-022	5	343	350
14	MB-022	6	340	320
14	MB-022	7	340	336
14	MB-022	8	345	338
15	A15	1	343	336
15	A15	2	343	332
15	A15	3	349	364
15	A15	4	343	350
15	A15	5	345	343
15	A15	6	345	337
15	A15	7	348	339
15	A15	8	348	265

Annex 2 Values for dry matter and ash content of compost at end of cultivation.

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
1	MB-031	1	348	490
1	MB-031	2	342	453
1	MB-031	3	338	461
1	MB-031	4	334	465
1	MB-031	5	330	474
1	MB-031	6	342	447
1	MB-031	7	339	441
1	MB-031	8	350	456
2	MB-031	1	335	440
2	MB-031	2	336	430
2	MB-031	3	334	442
2	MB-031	4	335	458
2	MB-031	5	348	461
2	MB-031	6	343	434
2	MB-031	7	341	448
2	MB-031	8	330	428
3	MB-022	1	370	468
3	MB-022	2	386	440
3	MB-022	3	373	473
3	MB-022	4	370	458
3	MB-022	5	368	450
3	MB-022	6	381	481
3	MB-022	7	378	457
3	MB-022	8	362	452
4	A15	1	364	440
4	A15	2	368	474
4	A15	3	368	451
4	A15	4	351	474
4	A15	5	363	475
4	A15	6	366	464
4	A15	7	362	489
4	A15	8	373	475
5	A15	1	362	437
5	A15	2	356	447
5	A15	3	360	449
5	A15	4	372	448
5	A15	5	354	432
5	A15	6	353	429

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
5	A15	7	345	433
5	A15	8	367	447
6	MB-031	1	328	428
6	MB-031	2	347	428
6	MB-031	3	342	417
6	MB-031	4	347	428
6	MB-031	5	361	442
6	MB-031	6	322	428
6	MB-031	7	347	454
6	MB-031	8	358	447
7	A15	1	355	431
7	A15	2	359	445
7	A15	3	359	427
7	A15	4	385	444
7	A15	5	362	451
7	A15	6	374	455
7	A15	7	380	456
7	A15	8	364	449
8	A15	1	357	424
8	A15	2	367	445
8	A15	3	366	436
8	A15	4	375	451
8	A15	5	364	430
8	A15	6	372	439
8	A15	7	360	432
8	A15	8	349	442
9	MB-022	1	358	451
9	MB-022	2	367	456
9	MB-022	3	377	451
9	MB-022	4	391	468
9	MB-022	5	380	443
9	MB-022	6	372	446
9	MB-022	7	363	456
9	MB-022	8	379	457
10	MB-022	1	372	450
10	MB-022	2	388	445
10	MB-022	3	404	476
10	MB-022	4	374	435
10	MB-022	5	390	473
10	MB-022	6	374	450
10	MB-022	7	389	457
10	MB-022	8	383	448
11	MB-022	1	358	470
11	MB-022	2	345	469
11	MB-022	3	350	460
11	MB-022	4	359	452
11	MB-022	5	359	462

Tray	Strains	Replicate sample from tray	Dry matter content (g/kg fresh weight)	Ash content (g/kg dry matter)
11	MB-022	6	344	438
11	MB-022	7	351	483
11	MB-022	8	354	466
12	MB-031	1	332	449
12	MB-031	2	346	446
12	MB-031	3	349	451
12	MB-031	4	350	489
12	MB-031	5	349	455
12	MB-031	6	337	442
12	MB-031	7	346	443
12	MB-031	8	339	466
13	MB-031	1	349	455
13	MB-031	2	332	445
13	MB-031	3	348	462
13	MB-031	4	337	435
13	MB-031	5	340	443
13	MB-031	6	344	448
13	MB-031	7	346	448
13	MB-031	8	341	454
14	MB-022	1	363	447
14	MB-022	2	365	450
14	MB-022	3	371	446
14	MB-022	4	356	431
14	MB-022	5	369	440
14	MB-022	6	366	450
14	MB-022	7	360	461
14	MB-022	8	362	436
15	A15	1	346	443
15	A15	2	350	461
15	A15	3	347	452
15	A15	4	346	448
15	A15	5	364	464
15	A15	6	350	464
15	A15	7	363	455
15	A15	8	353	451

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Plant researchers of Wageningen UR aim to utilise plant properties to help solve issues concerning food, raw materials and energy. They are devoting their knowledge of plants and their up-to-date facilities to increasing the innovative capacity of our clients. In doing so, they work on improving the quality of life.

The mission of Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) is 'To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life'. Within Wageningen UR, nine specialised research institutes of the DLO Foundation have joined forces with Wageningen University to help answer the most important questions in the domain of healthy food and living environment. With approximately 30 locations, 6,000 members of staff and 10,000 students, Wageningen UR is one of the leading organisations in its domain worldwide. The integral approach to problems and the cooperation between the various disciplines are at the heart of the unique Wageningen Approach.

