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ASSESSMENT OF THE *OLI-PICKER* HARVESTER IN NORTHEAST PORTUGAL

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Abstract

Trunk and bough shakers are common equipment for olive harvesting, and therefore information about their performance is becoming available. For less common equipment like canopy shakers, there is lack of information relative to their field work capacity.

This paper deals with the performance of a spike rotor harvester, commercially known as “*Oli-picker*”. Basically it is a rotor device brushing the canopy, mounted on an hydraulic articulated arm, making possible operation, inside or around the olive tree crown.

This paper presents results from three years of observation in olive orchards of Trás-os-Montes (northeast of Portugal), including the methodologies of work followed in the field, the work rates found and expected costs.

Keywords: Olives; mechanical harvesting; *Oli-picker* .