EVALUATION OF TOTAL POLYPHENOLS AND ANTHOCYANINS CONTENTS IN DIFFERENT GENOTYPES OF AÇAÍ.

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Açaí (Euterpe oleracea) is a native fruit from the Brazilian Amazon, whose pulp has been widely marketed in the world, mainly due to the presence of bioactive compounds, which gives a functional appeal. Within a program of genetic improvement for the specie, factors such as productivity, yield and survival on stable land were studied by Embrapa Eastern Amazon (Belém, Pará, Brazil) that developed the cultivar BRS Pará. This program now focused in a special market that aims the release of a cultivar with increased functional characteristics. Were characterized the total polyphenols, total and monomeric anthocyanins of eight açaí BRS Pará genotypes proceeding from the Germplasm Bank of Embrapa. Total polyphenols were determined according to the Folin-Ciocalteu method and the results were expressed as g gallic acid equivalents/100g. Total and monomeric anthocyanins were determined using the pH differential method and the results were expressed as g cyanidin 3-glucoside/100g. The results (dry matter) indicated high levels of polyphenols with variation of 2565.19 ±40.77 a 5239.73 ± 160.24 mg/100g and only three genotypes were significant different according TUKEY p≤0.05.

For the total anthocyanins it was observed a significant difference at 95% for all genotypes (values ranging from 574.88± 1.05 to 2166.39± 3.77 mg/100g). Regarding the monomeric anthocyanins, currently the most effective related to antioxidant and anti-inflammatory proprieties, the values ranged from 165.38± 3.63 to 629.08± 4.79mg/100g being this variation not significant among four genotypes studied. The variability presented for all the studied characters, facilitates the selection of genotypes supporting the genetic improvement program.