# Índice

Capítulo 1 ..... 1

**Introducción** ..... 1

1.1. Aspectos generales del cultivo del pimiento ..... 2
1.1.1. Taxonomía y descripción botánica ..... 2
1.1.2. Importancia económica del cultivo del pimiento ..... 2
1.1.3. Propiedades organolépticas y nutraceúticas del fruto de pimiento ..... 3
1.1.4. Principales fisiopatías del fruto de pimiento ..... 4
1.1.4.1. Blossom-end rot (BER) ..... 4
1.1.4.2. Rajado o micro rajado del fruto ..... 4
1.2. Principales problemas del cultivo del pimiento ..... 4
1.2.1. Estreses bióticos ..... 5
1.2.2. Estreses abióticos ..... 5
1.2.2.1. Estrés térmico por altas temperaturas ..... 6
1.2.2.2. Estrés hídrico ..... 7
1.2.2.3. Otros estreses abióticos importantes en el cultivo del pimiento ..... 9
1.3. Técnica del injerto. Herramienta para hacer frente estreses abióticos ..... 10
1.3.1. Uso del injerto en el cultivo del pimiento ..... 12
1.4. Objetivos de la tesis ..... 13
1.5. Bibliografía ..... 16

Capítulo 2 ..... 28

**Suitable rootstocks can alleviate the effects of heat stress on pepper plants** ..... 28

2.1. Abstract ..... 29
2.2. Introduction ..... 30
2.3. Materials and methods ..... 33
2.3.1. Experiment 1: Physiological behaviour of pepper plants under the control and heat stress conditions of growth chambers ..... 33
2.3.2. Experiment 2: Agronomic evaluation of the pepper grafted plants under heat stress conditions in a greenhouse ..... 35
2.3.3. Statistical analysis of data ..... 38
2.4. Results ..... 39
2.4.1. Experiment 1: Physiological behaviour of pepper plants under the control and heat stress conditions in growth chambers ..... 39
2.4.1.1. Relative growth rate ..... 39
*2.4.1.2.* Leaf area ..... 39
*2.4.1.3.* Electrolyte leakage ..... 40
*2.4.1.4.* Chlorophyll a fluorescence ..... 41
*2.4.1.5.* Heat Shock Proteins ..... 43

2.4.1.6. Multiple regression analysis ..... 44
2.4.2. Experiment 2: Agronomic evaluation of pepper grafted plants under the heat stress conditions in greenhouses ..... 44
2.5. Discussion ..... 48
2.6. Conclusions ..... 52
2.7. References ..... 53

Capítulo 3 ..... 61

**Rootstock-mediated physiological and fruit set responses in pepper under heat stress** ..... 61

3.1. Abstract ..... 62
3.2. Introduction ..... 63
3.3. Materials and methods ..... 66
3.3.1. Plant material and growth conditions ..... 66
3.3.2. Experiment 1 (2020): rootstocks' influence on pepper physiological aspects under heat stress ..... 67
3.3.2.1. Electrolyte leakage ..... 67
3.3.2.2. Chlorophyll and carotenoids concentration ..... 67
3.3.2.3. Ascorbate metabolism ..... 68
3.3.2.4. Total phenolic content ..... 68
3.3.2.5. Hydrogen peroxide quantification ..... 68
3.3.3. Experiment 2 (2021): rootstocks' influence on pepper fruit set components under heat stress ..... 69
3.3.3.1. *In vitro* germination of the pollen grain percentage (%) ..... 69
3.3.3.2. Primary metabolites analysis from anthers ..... 69
3.3.3.3. Biomass production ..... 70
3.3.4. Statistical Analysis ..... 70
3.4. Results ..... 71
3.4.1. Experiment 1: rootstocks' influence on pepper physiological aspects under heat stress ..... 71
3.4.1.1. Electrolyte leakage ..... 71
3.4.1.2. Chlorophyll and carotenoids concentration ..... 71
3.4.1.3. Ascorbate and dehydroascorbate concentration ..... 72
3.4.1.4. Total phenolic content ..... 75
3.4.1.5. Hydrogen peroxide quantification ..... 75
3.4.1.6. Fruit set percentage ..... 76
3.4.2. Experiment 2: rootstocks' influence on pepper fruit set components under heat stress ..... 76
3.4.2.1. *In vitro* germination of pollen grain percentage ..... 76
3.4.2.2. Primary metabolites analysis from anthers ..... 77
3.4.2.3. Fruit set percentage ..... 78
3.4.2.4. Number of seeds per fruit ..... 78

3.4.2.5. Biomass production....81
3.5. Discussion....82
3.6. Conclusions....86
3.7. Supplementary materials....87
3.8. References....88

Capítulo 4....96

**Grafting onto an Appropriate Rootstock Reduces the Impact on Yield and Quality of Controlled Deficit Irrigated Pepper Crops**....96

4.1. Abstract....97
4.2. Introduction....98
4.3. Materials and methods....100
4.3.1. Experimental Site....100
4.3.2. Plant Material....100
4.3.3. Irrigation Strategies....101
4.3.4. Soil Moisture....102
4.3.5. Physiological Measurements....103
4.3.6. Biomass and Fruit Yield....104
4.3.7. Statistical Analysis....104
4.4. Results....105
4.4.1. Soil Moisture....105
4.4.2. Plant Water Relations....106
4.4.3. Photosynthetic Parameters....109
4.4.4. Plant Biomass and Fruit Yield....111
4.5. Discussion....116
4.6. Conclusions....119
4.7. Supplementary materials....120
4.8. References....122

Capítulo 5....127

**A Water Stress–Tolerant Pepper Rootstock Improves the Behavior of Pepper Plants under Deficit Irrigation through Root Biomass Distribution and Physiological Adaptation**....127

5.1. Abstract....128
5.2. Introduction....129
5.3. Materials and methods....130
5.3.1. Growth Conditions....130
5.3.2. Plant Material....130
5.3.3. Irrigation Management and Control....130

5.3.4. Physiological Parameters....131
5.3.5. Production Parameters....131
5.3.6. Biomass Parameters....131
5.3.7. Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis....132
5.4. Results....133
5.4.1. Irrigation Management....133
5.4.2. Physiological Parameters....133
5.4.3. Production Parameters....135
5.4.4. Biomass Parameters....136
5.5. Discussion....139
5.6. Conclusions....142
5.7. Supplementary materials....143
5.8. References....144

Capítulo 6.... 148

**Effect of Grafting on the Production, Physico-Chemical Characteristics and Nutritional Quality of Fruit from Pepper Landraces**.... 148

6.1. Abstract....149
6.2. Introduction....150
6.3. Materials and methods....152
6.3.1. Plant Material....152
6.3.2. Soil-Field Experiment....152
6.3.3. Fruit Yield and Quality Assessment....152
6.3.4. Fruit Dry Material and Pulp Thickness....153
6.3.5. Fruit Color Index Determination....153
6.3.6. Titratable Acidity....153
6.3.7. Total Phenolic Analysis and Antioxidant Capacity Measurements....153
6.3.8. Ascorbic Acid Concentration....154
6.3.9. Chlorophyll and Carotenoids Concentration....154
6.3.10. Lycopene Concentration....154
6.3.11. Volatiles Organic Compound Analysis....155
6.3.12. Statistical Analysis....156
6.4. Results....158
6.4.1. Fruit Yield....158
6.4.2. Fruit Physico-Chemical Characteristics....159
6.4.3. Nutraceutical Compounds and Antioxidant Capacity....161
6.4.4. Volatile Compounds....166
6.5. Discussion....172
6.6. Conclusions....177
6.7. References....178

Capítulo 7.....187

**Discusión General** .....187

7.1. Uso de la técnica del injerto para hacer frente al estrés térmico.....188
7.2. Uso de la técnica del injerto para hacer frente al estrés hídrico .....192
7.3. Efecto del injerto sobre el rendimiento y calidad de variedades tradicionales 195
7.4. Bibliografía .....198

Capítulo 8.....204

**Conclusión general**.....204