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Estimation of genetic parameters for grain yield and grain related traits in *rabi* sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench]

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Abstract

Generation mean analysis is the potent tool to provide information about different types of gene actions, interactions and genetic parameters. To determine the genetic parameters of grain yield and grain related quantitative traits, six generations of the four cross combinations *viz.*, BJV44 × DSMR8, BJV44 × DSMR4, PKV Kranti × DSMR8 and PKV Kranti × DSMR4 were studied employing generation mean analysis during *rabi* of 2020. The estimates of heritability in the broad sense indicate a high portion of the phenotypic variation and is due to genetic variation for all the traits except for grain width in BJV44 × DSMR8 as here the broad sense heritability was between moderate to high. The extent of narrow sense heritability demonstrates that, except 100 grain volume, additive effects govern more traits than dominance effects. The current study suggests that selection will be successful, leading to a greater response rate, but delayed selection would be more fruitful.

Keywords: Sorghum, grain size, grain yield, heritability

Introduction

Sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench] is a C₄ plant with higher photosynthetic efficiency and shows tolerance to abiotic stress (Reddy *et al.*, 2009) [11]. Sorghum originated in Africa and adapted to a diverse set of environments ranging from arid and semiarid to tropical across the world. After wheat, rice, maize, barley, and sorghum is the major cereal crop with respect to production. Sorghum is significant for providing micronutrients at a low cost, in addition to serving as a food and fodder crop. As a species, *Sorghum bicolor* (2n = 2x = 20) is categorized into five different races: *bicolor*, *caudatum*, *durra*, *guinea*, and *kafir*, as well as several intermediate classes, and it belongs to the family Poaceae, subfamily panicoideae, and tribe Anthropocene (Harlan and de Wet, 1972) [4]. Sorghum is an often cross pollinated crop with an average of 5 to 10 percent cross pollination and it may exceed up to 40 percent (Barnaud *et al.*, 2008) [2].

Grain size and other grain related traits *viz.*, grain width, grain length, grain thickness, 100 grain weight, grain volume, grain density, number of grains/panicle, and days to flowering exhibited positive and significant association with grain yield. Path analysis also showed a positive and significant direct & indirect effect on grain yield (Verma and Biradar, 2021) [13]. Therefore, a genetic study was planned and executed to know heritability so that these traits can be exploited for crop improvement.

Materials and Methods

In this study, each of the two promising varieties *viz.*, BJV44 and PKV Kranti were crossed with each of the two strong restorers on *maldandi* male sterile source *viz.*, DSMR-8 and DSMR-4 (Verma *et al.*, 2022) [12] two generate four crosses namely, BJV44 × DSMR8, BJV44 × DSMR4, PKV Kranti × DSMR8, and PKV Kranti × DSMR4. Six generations, *i.e.*, P₁, P₂, F₁, F₂, B₁, and B₂ were generated for each cross combination during the *summer* and *Kharif* seasons-2020. The F₁'s of all the four crosses developed in summer-2020 and Kharif-2020, each of the F₁ was backcrossed with their P₁ and P₂ parents to develop B₁ and B₂ populations, respectively. At the same time, each F₁ advanced to produce F₂ populations. Since the development of six generations in four different crosses was time consuming process and there were not enough seeds for multiple seasons/year evaluation.

Therefore, the six generations were evaluated only during the post rainy season-2020 at Botany Garden, College of Agriculture, UAS, Dharwad, Karnataka, India. The experimental site is located at an altitude of 750 m above mean sea level, a latitude of 15.46°N and a longitude of 75.01°E.

To evaluate the six generations of all the four crosses, an experiment was carried out without replications; the population size and characteristics of the parents used are given in Table 1. All the recommended packages of practices were followed to raise a healthy crop. Data were recorded on 10 quantitative traits *viz.*, days to flowering, grain yield/plant (g), number of grains/panicle, 100 grain weight (g), 100 grain volume (cc), grain density, and plant height (cm). The grain size related traits *viz.*, grain length (mm), grain width (mm), grain thickness (mm), were measured using the vernier caliper while the volume of the 100 grains was measured based on the water displacement method.

Statistical analysis

The data collected on various quantitative traits were subjected to generation mean analysis using the methods described by Mather (1949) [10], scaling test (Hayman and Mather, 1955) [5] for associated scaling test, joint scaling test (Cavalli, 1952) [3], and Hayman (1958) [6] approach to find the significant nonallelic interaction. The validity of this model for the scaling tests and non allelic interactions was examined using I, method 2, a fixed effect model, which involves parents and one set of F1 crosses to determine the variance components of GCA and SCA.

Results and Discussion

The mean and variances for all the traits in different generations of four crosses are given in Table 2. The results showed enough variance for all the traits in all the crosses *viz.*, BJV44 × DSMR8, BJV44 × DSMR4, PKV Kranti × DSMR8, and PKV Kranti × DSMR4.

Components of genetic variation

Table 3 shows that for all the crosses for days to flowering, grain yield/plant, 100 grain weight, grain width, grain length, grain thickness, grain density, grains/panicle, and plant height, the additive variance (σ^2_a) was observed to be greater

than the dominant variance (σ^2_d). PKV Kranti × DSMR4 was the only cross that showed higher additive variance than the dominant variance for 100 grain volume.

Except for BJV44 × DSMR8, all of the crosses had a degree of dominance less than unity for days to flowering and grain width while PKV Kranti × DSMR8 was the only cross where the degree of dominance was more than unity for grain yield/plant. All crosses except PKV Kranti × DSMR4 demonstrated the degree of dominance greater than unity dominance for 100 grain weight, grain thickness, 100 grain volume, and grains/panicle. Except for BJV 44 × DSMR4, all the crosses showed the degree of dominance greater than unity for grain length. Two crosses *viz.*, BJV44 × DSMR8 and PKV Kranti × DSMR8 showed a degree of dominance more than unity for grain density, whereas it was less than unity for the other crosses.

Heritability

Days to flowering and plant height showed moderate broad sense heritability, however, the rest of the traits in BJV44 × DSMR8 showed high broad sense heritability (Table 3). The traits 100 grain weight, grain thickness, and grain density in BJV44 × DSMR4 showed moderate heritability, whereas grain width had low heritability while the rest of the traits in the cross displayed high heritability. In PKV Kranti × DSMR8, all traits displayed high heritability, while grain thickness and plant height displayed moderate heritability.

Four characters namely grain width, grain length, grain thickness, and plant height displayed moderate heritability while the remaining traits displayed high heritability. Interestingly, all the traits in BJV44 × DSMR8 and PKV Kranti × DSMR8 showed high narrow sense heritability. Except for grain width, which had moderate narrow sense heritability in the BJV44 × DSMR4 cross, other traits showed high narrow sense heritability. The 100 grain volume showed low heritability in the PKV Kranti × DSMR4 cross, whereas the other traits showed high heritability. In all the crosses, all the traits except for 100 grain volume in PKV Kranti × DSMR4 the narrow sense heritability was observed in the range of moderate to high, whereas it was found to be low for 100 grain volume. These results are in agreement with those reported previously by Abd El-Hamid and Ghareeb, 2018 [1], Koubisy, 2019 [9] and Kariyannavar *et al.*, 2022 [7].

Table 1: Parents used and population size of the different generations of different crosses

Cross-1: BJV44 × DSMR8			Cross-2: BJV44 × DSMR4	
Sl. No	Generation	Population Size	Generation	Population Size
1	P ₁ (BJV-44- High grain yield and quality)	20	P ₁ (BJV-44- High grain yield and quality)	20
2	P ₂ (DSMR-4- Strong restorer and bold seeds)	20	P ₂ (DSMR-4- Strong restorer and bold seeds)	20
3	F ₁	20	F ₁	20
4	F ₂	453	F ₂	453
5	B ₁	158	B ₁	158
6	B ₂	157	B ₂	157
Cross-3: PKV Kranti × DSMR8			Cross-4: PKV Kranti × DSMR4	
1	P ₁ (PKV Kranti- High grain yield and quality)	20	P ₁ (PKV Kranti- High grain yield and quality)	30
2	P ₂ (DSMR-8- Strong restorer and bold seeds)	22	P ₂ (DSMR-4- Strong restorer and bold seeds)	24
3	F ₁	19	F ₁	22
4	F ₂	455	F ₂	453
5	B ₁	156	B ₁	156
6	B ₂	154	B ₂	158

Table 2: Mean and variance of four crosses for different characters under study

Cross Pedigree	BJV44 × DSMR8		BJV 44 × DSMR-4		PKV Kranti × DSMR8		PKV Kranti × DSMR4	
	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance
1. Days to 50 percent flowering								
P ₁	70.45	1.88	70.40	1.73	70.10	1.78	70.57	1.63
P ₂	67.15	2.03	60.30	1.91	67.45	2.93	60.88	2.03
F ₁	67.41	1.87	61.65	1.19	68.79	1.06	62.55	1.12
F ₂	67.22	3.48	64.40	7.04	69.55	6.69	66.31	9.05
BC ₁	70.18	2.08	66.16	2.75	70.22	1.81	68.21	3.07
BC ₂	67.20	2.38	63.66	2.71	65.26	3.15	63.34	3.82
2. Grain yield per plant								
P ₁	81.37	10.49	77.15	11.23	91.94	12.87	94.83	10.28
P ₂	80.64	11.49	50.70	12.97	81.85	11.23	60.47	11.10
F ₁	96.54	11.82	94.20	11.89	124.84	12.82	105.19	10.47
F ₂	92.52	42.06	71.18	37.14	118.56	47.20	86.81	36.25
BC ₁	116.53	20.07	78.11	12.24	120.02	20.54	103.12	17.23
BC ₂	104.74	18.14	69.58	16.52	88.36	18.52	82.11	19.10
3. 100 grain weight								
P ₁	3.942	0.106	3.887	0.116	4.440	0.108	4.412	0.112
P ₂	3.830	0.112	4.034	0.120	4.073	0.111	4.242	0.110
F ₁	3.613	0.037	3.477	0.103	3.721	0.012	3.878	0.005
F ₂	3.578	0.348	3.681	0.243	3.946	0.279	4.311	0.197
BC ₁	4.072	0.110	4.061	0.118	4.984	0.113	4.325	0.129
BC ₂	4.031	0.117	3.894	0.121	4.325	0.118	4.284	0.122
4. Grain width								
P ₁	3.843	0.018	3.984	0.019	4.101	0.019	4.182	0.018
P ₂	3.980	0.014	4.187	0.024	4.06	0.014	4.298	0.015
F ₁	3.723	0.016	4.339	0.015	4.300	0.014	4.304	0.018
F ₂	3.862	0.057	4.228	0.026	4.110	0.051	4.199	0.043
BC ₁	4.110	0.022	4.216	0.022	4.108	0.025	4.188	0.025
BC ₂	4.051	0.021	4.314	0.017	4.117	0.022	4.227	0.021
5. Grain length								
P ₁	4.813	0.028	4.836	0.056	4.985	0.030	4.979	0.027
P ₂	4.661	0.026	5.035	0.051	4.758	0.027	4.884	0.030
F ₁	4.831	0.024	5.052	0.055	5.382	0.019	4.987	0.029
F ₂	4.692	0.094	4.887	0.232	4.883	0.087	4.599	0.070
BC ₁	5.070	0.035	5.021	0.063	5.069	0.041	4.949	0.034
BC ₂	4.832	0.033	5.106	0.057	4.890	0.033	4.885	0.037
6. Grain thickness								
P ₁	2.846	0.016	2.808	0.021	3.088	0.016	3.103	0.018
P ₂	2.781	0.015	2.863	0.027	2.834	0.018	2.854	0.025
F ₁	2.644	0.016	2.803	0.022	2.953	0.016	2.758	0.021
F ₂	2.753	0.041	2.758	0.053	2.851	0.031	2.841	0.046
BC ₁	2.973	0.019	2.934	0.024	3.14	0.021	2.960	0.022
BC ₂	2.812	0.019	2.833	0.030	2.841	0.023	2.793	0.029

Table 2: Contd....

Cross Pedigree	BJV44 × DSMR8		BJV 44 × DSMR-4		PKV Kranti × DSMR8		PKV Kranti × DSMR4	
	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance	Mean	Variance
7. 100 Grain volume								
P ₁	3.215	0.048	3.043	0.042	3.720	0.059	4.402	0.056
P ₂	3.112	0.043	3.404	0.036	3.448	0.045	4.242	0.039
F ₁	2.982	0.038	3.078	0.027	3.561	0.043	3.253	0.003
F ₂	2.962	0.144	3.108	0.284	3.429	0.205	3.608	0.157
BC ₁	3.634	0.084	3.415	0.108	3.994	0.070	3.608	0.101
BC ₂	3.311	0.070	3.258	0.100	3.525	0.064	3.543	0.185
8. Grain density								
P ₁	1.2106	0.0029	1.2377	0.0081	1.1937	0.0033	1.1984	0.0012
P ₂	1.2241	0.0025	1.8549	0.0179	1.1876	0.0032	1.2073	0.0018
F ₁	1.1928	0.0116	1.1302	0.0067	1.0448	0.0029	1.1890	0.0019
F ₂	1.2123	0.0380	1.2059	0.0213	1.1937	0.0103	1.1981	0.0105
BC ₁	1.1224	0.0094	1.2134	0.0109	1.2466	0.0052	1.1987	0.0037
BC ₂	1.2212	0.0096	1.1968	0.0067	1.2268	0.0044	1.2092	0.0033
9. Number of grains per panicle								
P ₁	2075.20	4528.14	2002.43	45899.13	2082.55	4374.91	2163.48	4354.68
P ₂	2119.09	4118.54	1264.55	17311.53	2016.90	3941.52	1481.63	4510.71

F ₁	2683.28	3339.66	2731.26	42706.99	3356.93	3031.14	2713.51	4163.90
F ₂	2467.63	12303.58	1968.45	100894.50	3058.92	11970.35	2035.32	11469.14
BC ₁	2891.16	5602.36	1959.02	36390.93	2439.54	4894.45	2398.59	6605.38
BC ₂	2627.30	4923.76	1802.79	40874.21	2041.13	4353.92	1936.55	7280.49
10. plant height								
P ₁	281.06	16.57	284.56	32.26	298.40	21.43	299.47	24.39
P ₂	241.81	17.81	235.70	39.35	251.23	19.66	235.61	31.15
F ₁	250.20	13.60	268.91	22.78	253.46	19.98	276.29	18.66
F ₂	270.38	34.98	262.27	73.81	270.44	42.53	253.41	48.47
BC ₁	276.55	23.17	267.74	43.37	291.59	28.71	277.76	29.64
BC ₂	244.16	23.32	247.35	49.18	245.25	25.66	244.76	37.99

Table 3: Estimates of various genetic parameters for the traits under study

Cross	BJV44 × DSMR8	BJV 44 × DSMR-4	PKV Kranti × DSMR8	PKV Kranti × DSMR4
1. Days to flowering				
σ^2_g	1.56	5.54	4.98	7.58
σ^2_a	2.49	8.61	8.43	11.22
σ^2_d	-0.92	-3.07	-3.44	-3.64
σ^2_p	3.48	7.04	6.69	9.05
σ^2_b	0.45	0.79	0.75	0.84
σ^2_h	0.72	1.22	1.23	1.24
Degree of dominance	1.23	-0.81	-1.21	-1.05
2. Grain yield per plant (g)				
σ^2_g	30.65	25.14	34.77	25.67
σ^2_a	45.91	45.52	55.34	36.18
σ^2_d	-15.25	-20.38	-20.57	-10.51
σ^2_p	42.06	37.14	47.20	36.25
σ^2_b	0.73	0.68	0.74	0.71
σ^2_h	1.09	1.23	1.17	1.00
Degree of dominance	2.73	2.19	-0.79	1.55
2. 100 grain weight (g)				
σ^2_g	0.28	0.13	0.22	0.139
σ^2_a	0.47	0.25	0.33	0.143
σ^2_d	-0.19	-0.11	-0.11	-0.004
σ^2_p	0.35	0.24	0.28	0.197
σ^2_b	0.79	0.55	0.78	0.705
σ^2_h	1.35	1.02	1.17	0.727
Degree of dominance	6.32	2.05	1.87	-3.436
3. Grain width (mm)				
σ^2_g	0.04	0.007	0.036	0.026
σ^2_a	0.07	0.011	0.055	0.040
σ^2_d	-0.03	-0.004	-0.019	-0.015
σ^2_p	0.06	0.026	0.051	0.043
σ^2_b	0.72	0.285	0.710	0.595
σ^2_h	1.24	0.449	1.082	0.938
Degree of dominance	3.39	-0.029	-5.059	-1.572
4. Grain length (mm)				
σ^2_g	0.07	0.178	0.063	0.041
σ^2_a	0.12	0.344	0.099	0.068
σ^2_d	-0.05	-0.166	-0.036	-0.027
σ^2_p	0.09	0.232	0.087	0.070
σ^2_b	0.73	0.766	0.729	0.588
σ^2_h	1.27	1.483	1.144	0.980
Degree of dominance	2.18	-3.091	2.236	4.544
5. Grain thickness				
σ^2_g	0.03	0.030	0.015	0.024
σ^2_a	0.04	0.053	0.019	0.040
σ^2_d	-0.01	-0.023	-0.004	-0.016
σ^2_p	0.04	0.053	0.031	0.046
σ^2_b	0.62	0.565	0.471	0.534
σ^2_h	1.07	0.999	0.601	0.877
Degree of dominance	1.55	2.152	1.356	-0.696
6. 100 grain volume				
σ^2_g	0.10	0.251	0.157	0.132
σ^2_a	0.14	0.360	0.275	0.029
σ^2_d	-0.03	-0.109	-0.118	0.104

σ^2_p	0.14	0.284	0.205	0.157
σ^2_b	0.71	0.884	0.769	0.841
σ^2_h	0.94	1.267	1.345	0.182
Degree of dominance	2.40	2.208	1.666	-4.283
7. Grain density				
σ^2_g	0.03	0.011	0.007	0.009
σ^2_a	0.06	0.025	0.011	0.014
σ^2_d	-0.03	-0.014	-0.004	-0.005
σ^2_p	0.04	0.021	0.010	0.010
σ^2_b	0.81	0.537	0.702	0.836
σ^2_h	1.50	1.176	1.066	1.338
Degree of dominance	1.38	-5.025	1.155	-0.950
8. Number of grains per panicle				
σ^2_g	8472.09	63738.36	8375.67	7170.84
σ^2_a	14081.05	124523.90	14692.34	9052.41
σ^2_d	-5608.97	-60785.54	-6316.66	-1881.57
σ^2_p	12303.59	100894.52	11970.35	11469.14
σ^2_b	0.69	0.63	0.70	0.63
σ^2_h	1.14	1.23	1.23	0.79
Degree of dominance	2.58	2.19	-2.22	1.75
10. Plant height				
σ^2_g	19.59	44.52	22.27	25.25
σ^2_a	23.47	55.06	30.69	29.31
σ^2_d	-3.89	-10.55	-8.42	-4.06
σ^2_p	34.98	73.81	42.53	48.47
σ^2_b	0.56	0.60	0.52	0.52
σ^2_h	0.67	0.75	0.72	0.61
Degree of dominance	-1.26	-0.70	-0.80	1.10

Conclusion

The traits of the crosses with a degree of dominance less than unity illustrate the importance of partial dominance and selection in the subsequent segregating generation. Over dominance has a role in most crosses where the degree of dominance is greater than unity for most traits. These findings imply that delayed selection for subsequent generations would be worthwhile. The estimates of heritability in the broad sense indicate a high portion of the phenotypic variation and is due to genetic variation for all the traits except for grain width in BJV44 × DSMR8 as here the broad sense heritability was between moderate to high (Kariyannavar *et al*, 2023) [8]. The extent of narrow sense heritability demonstrates that, except 100 grain volume, additive effects govern more traits than dominance effects. The current study suggests that selection will be successful, leading to a greater response rate, but delayed selection would be more fruitful.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest

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