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Genetic variability in gladiolus with respect to vegetative and floral characters

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Abstract

The present investigation was carried out at Experimental Farm, Division of Vegetable Science & Floriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. Chatha during 2018-19 to study the variability studies in Gladiolus (*Gladiolus grandiflorus* L.). The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with three replications. Twenty-five genotypes of gladiolus were evaluated for 21 yield and flowering related traits to study their genetic parameters. Analysis of variance for all the traits showed significant differences among genotypes for all the flower and yield related traits. High range in mean performance has been observed for traits, *viz.* plant height (79.13 cm - 125.10 cm), no. of leaves (5.00 - 8.00), leaf area (61.00 cm² - 114.47 cm²), number of florets per spike (8.60 to 14.73), spike length (59.13 cm -105.10 cm), Rachis length (33.63 cm - 71.90 cm), durability of first floret (4.60 - 8.63 days), flower duration (12.07-17.83 days), stem diameter (5.50 cm to 15.70 cm), floret size (4.36 cm to 7.26 cm), vase life (7.10 to 9.96 days), chlorophyll content (41.90 - 58.59), number of corms (1.66 - 3.66), weight of corm per plant (11.63 g - 36.63 g), diameter of corm (3.26 cm - 5.43 cm), numbers of cormels per plant (11.20 - 22.80).

Keywords: Gladiolus grandiflorus, genotypes, genetic variability, genetic advance

Introduction

Gladiolus (*Gladiolus grandiflorus* L.), the queen of the bulbous ornamentals, is the leading geophytes grown worldwide for cut flower trade and garden displays. It occupies 5th place in international cut flower trade among the geophytes in international florist trade and first in domestic bulbous flower trade (Butt *et al.*, 2015, Wani *et al.* 2016, 2018) ^[3, 13, 14] India has suitable agro-climatic conditions for gladiolus cultivation, it is being grown over an area of 11660 ha with a production of 106 Crore spikes (agricoop.nic.in).

There are about 260 species of the gladiolus, out of these 250 species are native to sub-Saharan Africa, mostly South Africa and about 10 species are native to Eurasia (Goldblatt *et al.*, 2001)^[6]. The modern hybrids have been derived from at least 12 species which are now called as *Gladiolus grandiflorus* (Wilfret, 1980)^[15]. The large diversity available among species has not been adequately exploited. Improvement of any crop is a continuous process and in gladiolus also there is scope to improve the existing cultivars or genotypes. Large number of gladiolus genotypes are grown, however their performance depends upon the climatic conditions of the region under which they are grown (Swaroop and Janakiram, 2010)^[12].

Variability in a population with respect to characters is a pre-requisite for a successful breeding programme. A huge amount of variability exists in this crop with respect to shape, growth habit, flowering behaviour, yield of spikes and quality. So, present study was undertaken to assess genetic variability for vegetative and floral characters.

Materials and Methods

Experimental material consisting of twenty five genotypes planted in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications in a plot size of $1.20 \text{ m} \times 1.20 \text{ m}$ at spacing of $20 \text{ cm} \times 30 \text{ cm}$ on 22^{nd} October, 2018 at the experimental farm of Division of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, Chatha, Jammu during Rabi 2018-2019. Recommended package of practices and plant protection measures were followed for healthy crop growth during the season. Observations were recorded on twenty one parameters at appropriate stages of plant growth from five randomly selected plants in each plot from each replication.

Results and Discussion

The results obtained from the present investigation on various parameters exhibited significant differences among the genotypes.

Vegetative characters

A highly significant difference was observed for days taken to sprouting. Number of days taken to sprouting ranged between 4.00 days in Punjab Dawn to 11.00 days in Chinon. Earlier sprouting might be due to differential genetic capabilities, temperature requirements, dormancy and stored food reserve, which resulted in different sprouting times under prevailing agro-climatic conditions (Bhat et al., 2017)^[1]. Variation in days to sprouting in different genotypes has also been reported by Saifullah and Ahmed (2001) [10] and Nair and Shiva (2003)^[8]. A significant difference in plant height at different stages of growth was also observed. Plant height is attributed to be an important vital character that depends upon the genetic constitution. Maximum plant height (134.10 cm) was observed in Jyotsana while the minimum was recorded in Punjab Lemon Delight (79.13 cm). The variation in the plant height among the various genotypes might be due to genotypic differences in phenotypic expression of plant height and variation in different genotype-environmental interaction effects. These findings are in accordance with Kumar and Yadav (2005)^[7]. Significant difference was also observed for number of leaves per plant and leaf area. Highest numbers of leaves per plant (6.00) were recorded in sixty four per cent of genotypes studied. Maximum leaf area (114.47 cm²) was recorded in Eurovision while the minimum (61.00 cm²) was obtained in CPG. The findings are in agreement with those of Swaroop et al., (2010) [12], Kumar and Yadav (2005) [7] and Chourasia et al., (2015)^[4]. Highest value for stem diameter was observed in Eurovision (7.33 mm) while the lowest was recorded in Chinon (5.50 mm). These results are in conformity with the earlier findings of Nazir and Dwivedi (2003) ^[9] in gladiolus. Many other works have reported variation among growing characters among different genotypes of gladiolus (Kumar et al., 2005 and Sarkar and Chakrabarty 2014) [5, 11].

Floral Characters

All the genotypes responded differentially to various floral

traits. Earliest spike emergence was recorded in Chandani (85.80 days)) whereas Mascagni took maximum number of days (123.28). Time required for spike emergence is an important varietal character in gladiolus that might be primarily governed by the genetic makeup of the genotypes. Spike emergence might have been primarily dependent on food reserves in plant that could be related to growth rate of plants regulating accumulation of the requisite level of carbohydrates for slipping. Similar results on differences for spike emergence among different genotypes have been reported by Bhat et al. (2009)^[2] and Kumar and Yadav (2005) ^[7]. Days taken to bud showing colour and opening of first floret was observed earliest in Bindiya (103.02 and 106.94 days, respectively) and late in Mascagni (136.25 days and 142.70 days, respectively). Durability of first floret ranged between 4.60 to 8.63 days. It was observed maximum in Punjab Lemon Delight (8.63 days) and minimum in Pusa Kiran (4.60 days). Our results are similar to the findings of Chourasia et al., (2015)^[4]. Highest spike length (105.10 cm), rachis length (71.90 cm) and number of florets per spike was observed in Sunayana, Eurovision and Blue Tropic, respectively while Punjab Lemon Delight exhibited lowest spike and rachis length (59.13 cm and 33.63cm, resp.). The length of lowering period could be dependent upon carbohydrate reserve of the plants as blooming is an energy dependent process. The variation in spike length could be due to the differences among the genotypes for number of nodes and internodal length The results indicated that rachis length was closely associated with other morphological characters like plant height, spike length, number of florets per spike. Similar results were revealed by Kumar and Yadav (2005)^[7], Kumar and Yadav (2005)^[7], and Chourasia et al., (2015)^[4]. Floret size ranged between (8.56 cm to 11.03 cm). Maximum floret size was observed in Eurovision (11.03 cm) while the minimum was recorded in Berlew (8.56 cm). The variation in floret size might be due to hereditary traits of different genotypes. Our results also find support from findings of Kumar and Yadav (2005)^[7]. Vase life period ranged between 7.10 days in Peter Pears to 9.96 days in Pusa Kiran (13.96). Das et al., (2014)^[5] worked on the performance of gladiolus cultivars reported the same variation regarding vase life of gladiolus spikes.

Table 1: Mean performance of twenty five gladiolus genotypes for different characters

Sl.	Genotypes	Days taken to	Plant Height	Number of	Leaf area	Davs taken to	Days taken to bud	Days taken to
No.		sprouting	(cm)	leaves	-	spike emergence	showing color	opening of first floret
1	Chandani	5.00	106.50	5.33	84.14	85.80	105.80	113.20
2	Punjab Dawn	4.00	95.13	5.00	99.27	99.10	115.70	122.40
3	Punjab Glance	5.66	88.30	6.00	82.73	88.90	120.03	127.46
4	Pune Hybrid	6.00	118.00	7.66	82.00	103.53	127.03	133.70
5	CPG	5.33	104.13	6.00	61.00	115.20	131.46	137.06
6	Punjab Lemon Delight	4.33	79.13	5.00	99.93	96.60	117.50	124.50
7	Yellow Stone	7.33	116.30	5.33	99.26	94.30	115.89	125.52
8	Novalux	4.00	102.30	5.66	100.00	100.60	118.20	125.10
9	Blue Tropic	8.00	124.00	5.33	82.20	109.73	125.73	130.76
10	Oscar	6.00	115.80	5.66	90.75	111.73	120.04	129.63
11	Chinon	11.00	116.63	5.66	99.07	111.53	130.03	135.13
12	White Prosperity	6.00	119.13	5.33	94.93	116.66	131.00	136.00
13	Pusa Srijana	6.00	120.00	5.66	104.20	101.43	121.16	125.26
14	Berlew	5.00	119.13	5.33	103.17	100.73	109.36	110.20
15	Jyotsana	5.00	120.00	8.00	86.53	95.60	114.50	121.20
16	Bindiya	7.00	103.30	6.00	81.93	85.90	102.02	106.94
17	Urmi	7.66	115.63	6.33	89.43	85.93	109.03	116.23

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18	Sunanya	5.00	125.10	6.33	111.53	90.50	110.00	117.60
19	Pusa Kiran	5.00	119.13	5.33	84.00	97.53	116.70	124.20
20	Shabnam	5.00	123.00	7.66	83.60	88.10	111.60	119.50
21	Surya Kiran	7.66	111.63	5.66	83.80	98.40	115.20	124.30
22	Eurovision	8.33	115.60	6.66	114.47	106.30	125.80	132.10
23	Dhanvantri	5.66	103.30	5.33	93.43	91.63	109.86	117.70
24	Peter Pears	7.66	105.63	5.66	82.63	120.16	135.60	140.70
25	Mascagni	5.00	107.31	5.33	92.91	123.28	136.25	142.70
	Mean	6.10	110.96	5.89	91.47	100.76	119.02	125.56
	C.V.	15.35	2.89	8.65	2.72	4.11	4.67	4.62
	S.E.	0.54	1.85	0.29	1.44	2.39	3.20	3.35
	C.D. 5%	1.54	5.27	0.83	4.09	6.79	9.12	9.53

Table 2: Mean perform	ance of twenty five	e gladiolus genotype	s for different characters
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Sl. No.	Genotypes	Number of floret per spike	Spike length (cm)	Rachis length (cm)	Durability of first floret (days)	Flower Duration (days)	Stem Diameter (mm)	Floret Size (cm)
1	Chandani	12.00	86.50	46.63	5.10	14.63	10.53	4.36
2	Punjab Dawn	11.53	75.13	45.30	5.50	15.50	11.23	5.73
3	Punjab Glance	11.43	68.30	38.50	5.30	15.00	11.50	6.43
4	Pune Hybrid	12.40	98.97	62.97	5.75	14.40	12.87	7.16
5	CPG	11.73	84.13	56.63	5.63	13.97	12.03	5.66
6	Punjab Lemon Delight	11.00	59.13	33.63	8.63	12.07	13.90	6.86
7	Yellow Stone	11.00	96.30	56.26	6.17	14.18	12.90	6.33
8	Novalux	9.73	82.47	43.00	5.50	12.73	9.850	5.83
9	Blue Tropic	14.73	104.00	70.81	5.90	17.03	15.63	6.03
10	Oscar	10.60	95.80	50.14	5.67	13.94	8.90	6.40
11	Chinon	9.90	96.63	49.97	6.00	14.97	5.50	6.63
12	White Prosperity	11.00	99.13	70.47	5.03	15.83	13.40	5.70
13	Pusa Srijana	10.23	100.00	60.30	5.50	16.20	12.40	5.80
14	Berlew	11.60	99.13	69.60	5.83	14.89	10.13	6.10
15	Jyotsana	13.90	100.10	63.60	5.40	15.13	14.15	6.80
16	Bindiya	12.95	83.30	60.80	4.97	15.90	12.21	6.60
17	Urmi	13.00	95.63	71.47	4.63	15.87	13.50	6.16
18	Sunanya	11.23	105.10	59.97	5.50	16.83	10.30	7.00
19	Pusa Kiran	12.60	99.13	65.30	4.60	17.20	13.33	6.50
20	Shabnam	13.20	103.30	71.13	5.10	17.83	12.86	7.00
21	Surya Kiran	12.50	91.63	67.97	6.13	15.30	14.80	5.50
22	Eurovision	12.00	92.60	71.90	5.15	14.10	15.70	5.63
23	Dhanvantri	8.60	83.30	57.80	4.83	16.63	13.67	7.26
24	Peter Pears	11.43	85.63	64.13	4.80	14.40	14.30	6.70
25	Mascagni	12.16	87.31	64.78	6.13	16.31	13.70	7.00
	Mean	11.69	90.90	58.92	5.55	15.23	12.37	6.28
	C.V.	2.75	2.33	2.46	2.62	2.63	2.84	10.19
	S.E.	0.18	1.22	0.83	0.08	0.23	0.20	3.24
	C.D. 5%	0.53	3.48	2.38	0.23	0.65	0.57	1.05

 Table 3: Mean performance of twenty five gladiolus genotypes for different characters

Sl.	Genotypes	Vase life	Chlorophyll	Number of	Weight of corm	Diameter of corm	Number of corbels per
No.	Genotypes	(days)	Content (%)	corms per plant	per plant (g)	(cm)	plant
1	Chandani	8.63	47.80	2.66	27.80	4.83	17.30
2	Punjab Dawn	9.50	54.50	2.52	19.13	4.06	12.09
3	Punjab Glance	9.00	58.30	2.33	23.00	4.16	13.20
4	Pune Hybrid	8.33	46.20	2.32	19.40	4.11	11.40
5	CPG	7.58	43.70	2.87	15.50	3.65	11.200
6	Punjab Lemon Delight	6.80	50.00	2.54	20.00	4.01	12.90
7	Yellow Stone	7.99	46.86	2.35	27.39	3.97	13.80
8	Novalux	9.28	56.43	3.66	30.93	4.51	20.10
9	Blue Tropic	9.62	51.43	3.33	24.43	4.21	15.96
10	Oscar	9.18	44.76	2.68	20.50	3.77	15.20
11	Chinon	8.66	56.70	2.76	22.93	4.31	14.79
12	White Prosperity	9.10	50.60	2.33	26.10	4.32	16.20
13	Pusa Srijana	9.16	50.60	1.66	30.00	4.63	18.60
14	Berlew	7.82	47.63	2.66	30.37	4.83	12.40
15	Jyotsana	8.20	55.13	3.47	36.63	5.43	22.80
16	Bindiya	9.60	48.40	3.00	33.30	5.21	20.30

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17	Urmi	7.91	46.80	2.66	20.93	4.31	11.60
18	Sunanya	9.08	55.73	2.33	29.03	4.85	18.13
19	Pusa Kiran	9.96	41.90	3.33	30.96	4.73	21.38
20	Shabnam	8.90	52.10	3.00	30.63	4.78	19.80
21	Surya Kiran	7.11	49.30	1.99	11.63	3.26	9.67
22	Eurovision	8.22	49.03	3.00	26.30	4.92	16.86
23	Dhanvantri	9.20	51.00	2.60	24.43	4.48	15.89
24	Peter Pears	7.10	57.51	2.00	18.80	3.97	11.60
25	Mascagni	8.14	58.59	2.00	19.31	4.09	12.10
	Mean	8.56	50.84	2.64	24.77	4.37	15.41
	C.V.	2.73	10.54	2.86	11.76	6.39	2.77
	S.E.	0.13	3.09	0.04	1.68	0.16	0.24
	C.D. 5%	0.38	8.80	0.12	4.78	0.46	0.70

Conclusion

Significant variation was observed by way of analysis of variance for all the twenty-one characters studied, indicating the existence of variability among the selected genotypes.

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