Genetic Analysis of Avocado (Persea americana L.) Genotypes for Fruit and Nutritive Traits

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Authors’ contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Avocado (Persea americana Mill.) or butter fruit is one the important nutritious sub tropical fruit native to Central America. Fruits are rich in nutrients, vitamins and phytochemicals. Fruit pulp is rich in fat and low in sugar content. Avocado exhibits wider variability due to protogyny nature of flower. However exploitation of this variability is very meager. The present study was conducted at Horticultural Research Station, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Thadiyankudaisi to study and to find out suitable genotypes for further crop improvement programme. A field survey was conducted in Lower Pulney hills area and identified more than 100 genotypes and subjected to fruit characterization by using IPBGR descriptor. Sixteen genotypes were selected out of 100 genotypes based on the fruit characters and did nutritive analysis. Among the sixteen genotypes the avocado genotype TKDPA 93 recorded higher values for fruit length, fruit diameter, peduncle length, peduncle diameter and fruit weight. The genotype TKDPA 87 showed overall superior performance for nutritive traits viz. fat, dietary fibre, carbohydrate, carotene, vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus. The estimates of genetic parameters showed that the highest phenotypic variance was observed with the traits fruit weight, phosphorus content, fat content and peduncle length. Similarly the highest genotypic variance was observed with fruit weight, peduncle length and fat content. The maximum phenotypic co efficient of variance was noted with fruit weight, peduncle length, peduncle diameter, carotene content and pedicel length. The maximum genotypic co efficient of variance was noted with fruit weight, peduncle length, peduncle diameter, carotene content and pedicel length. GCV: PCV values were near unity for the traits fruit weight, peduncle length, peduncle diameter

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the environment. With this aim the present study
was conducted.

Keywords: Avocado; Persea americana; genetic analysis; PCV; GCV.

1. INTRODUCTION

Avocado (Persea americana Mill.) popularly
known as butter fruit belongs to the family
Lauraceae, is originated in Mexico, or possibly
Central or South America [1] and cultivated in
almost all tropical and subtropical regions
worldwide. Avocado fruit is rich in lipids, proteins,
minerals, vitamins, and other nutrients and
phytochemicals [Dreher and Davenport [1] and
Galvão et al. [2]]. The avocado fruit has a wide
range of nutrients and composition of
photochemical which is important in a healthy
diet. Avocados also are an important nutritional
source of folate, which is essential during
pregnancy for healthy foetal development. The
fruit pulp rich in fat, dietery fibre, energy, minerals
(phosphorus, sodium, potassium, calcium, and
magnesium) and vitamins (vitamin C, vitamin E,
carotene, etc.). The lipid content can comprise
15-30% of the fresh weight of the fruit depending
on the cultivar, season, and growing conditions
[3]. It is found is that the lipids in avocado fruit
contain more than 60% monounsaturated fatty
acids and more than 13% essential fatty acids
such as oleic acid, palmitic acid, linoleic and
linolenic acid, which are beneficial to human
cardiovascular health [4,5,6 and 7]. In contrast to
lipid content, the sugar content of avocado fruit is
relatively low [8] and is recommended for
diabetes because it is a high-energy food [9].
Avocado fruit contains more phenolic compounds
than other kinds of tropical and subtropical fruits
[10,11,9].

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2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study on Genetic Variability of
Avocado (Persea americana L.) genotypes in
Lower Pulneys for fruit and nutritive traits was
conducted at Horticultural Research Station,
Thadiyankudisai, Tamil Nadu, India during 2018-
2020. Preliminary survey was conducted in lower
Pulney hills area to identify suitable avocado
genotypes for commercial cultivation. Fruits were
collected from identified trees of different location
of lower Pulney hills and considered as individual
genotypes. Fruit characterization was done by
using IBPGR descriptor. Totally 16 avocado
genotypes were identified and fruit
characterization was done for the traits viz., fruit
length (cm), fruit diameter (cm), peduncle length
(cm), peduncle diameter (mm), pedicle length
(cm) and fruit weight (g). Nutritive analysis for fat
(g), dietery fibre (g), carbohydrate, carotene,
vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus were done
for individual genotypes. The experiment was
laid out in a completely randomized block design
with four replications. Biometrical observations
on fruit length (cm), fruit diameter (cm), peduncle
length (cm), peduncle diameter (mm), pedicel
length (cm) and fruit weight (g), fat (g), die try fiber (g), carbohydrate, carotene, vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus were taken from randomly selected 10 fruits and were subjected to statistical analysis. Determination of the crude fiber, and fat were carried out according to AOAC procedure [13]. Vitamin C content was determined using the modified 2, 6-dichlorophenolindophenol method [14].

Total carotenoid content was measured spectrophotometrically at 445 nm using a Shimadzu UV-1800 spectrophotometer. The experiments were carried out in triplicate. Data were subjected to analysis of variance technique to split the total phenotypic variation into casual components. The components of variance were estimated using the method described by Singh and Narayanan [15]. The mean data obtained were used for determining genotypic co-efficient of variation and phenotype co-efficient of variation as suggested by Burton [12], heritability in broad sense was computed as reported by Hanson et al. [16], and the expected genetic advance was calculated by using the formula suggested by Johnson et al. [17].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Fruit Characters

Analysis of variance for different fruit traits (Tables 1 & 2) of avocado revealed that the genotype mean sum of square was highly significant for all the traits indicated that presence of appreciable genetic variability and can be exploited through breeding programme.

Per se performance of avocado genotypes for fruit characters are presented in the Table 3. From the table it was observed that fruit length ranged from 11.10 cm to 18.30 cm. The highest fruit length value was registered by TKDPA 93 (18.30 cm) and it was followed by TKDPA 87 (16.20 cm) and TKDPA 85 (16.20 cm). Whereas the lowest fruit length value was registered by TKDPA 83 (11.10 cm). Fruit diameter ranged from 6.20 cm to 12.10 cm. Higher fruit diameter value was registered by TKDPA 92 and TKDPA 89 (10.80 cm) and TKDPA 87 (10.10 cm). Whereas lower fruit diameter value was registered by TKDPA 86 (6.20 cm). The trait peduncle length ranged from 6.89 cm to 18.40 cm. The highest peduncle length was recorded by TKDPA 93 (18.40 cm) and it was followed by TKDPA 92 (17.30 cm) and TKDPA 97 (14.70 cm). The lowest peduncle length was recorded by TKDPA 82 (6.89 cm). For the trait peduncle diameter the value ranged from 4.70 mm to 9.49 mm. Maximum peduncle diameters was observed by the genotype TKDPA 93 (9.49 mm) and it was followed by TKDPA 92 (9.29 mm) and TKDPA 91 (9.10 mm). While the, minimum peduncle diameter was observed by the genotype TKDPA 97 (4.70 mm). Pedicel length ranged from 0.90 cm to 1.90 cm. The maximum pedicel length was registered by TKDPA 95 (1.90 cm) and it was followed by TKDPA 88 and TKDPA 89 (1.80 cm) and TKDPA 87 (1.70 cm). While the, minimum pedicel length was registered by TKDPA 93 (0.90 cm). Fruit weight ranged from 250.03 g to 780.03 g. The highest fruit weight was observed by the genotype TKDPA 93 (780.03 g) and it was followed by TKDPA 89 (640.03 g) and TKDPA 87 (600.00 g). Whereas the, lowest fruit weight was observed by the genotype TKDPA 84 (250.03 g). From the results it was observed that the genotype TKDPA 93 an oblate fruit registered higher values for all the characters except pedicel length. TKDPA 87 a normally obovate fruit registered higher fruit length, fruit diameter, pedicel length and fruit weight. The genotype TKDPA 89 spheroid in fruit shape registered higher values for fruit diameter, pedicel length and fruit weight. These genotypes can be exploited to develop a new variety with good yield traits.

Table 1. Analysis of variance for fruit characters in avocado

| Total  | DF | Mean sum of square |
|--------|----|-------------------|
|        |    | Fruit length      | Fruit diameter | Peduncle length | Peduncle diameter | Pedicel length | Fruit weight |
| Total  | 47 | 4.730             | 2.858          | 10.439          | 3.215             | 0.105          | 24984.596    |
| Replication  | 2 | 2.980             | 0.877          | 1.723           | 0.584             | 0.029          | 1812.500     |
| Genotype | 15 | 11.560            | 7.758          | 10.439          | 9.279             | 0.295          | 74855.828    |
| Error   | 30 | 1.432             | 0.555          | 1.021           | 0.358             | 0.015          | 1593.787     |
Table 2. Analysis of variance for nutritive characters in avocado

| Total  | DF | Mean sum of square |
|--------|----|--------------------|
|        |    | Fat    | Fibre   | Carbohydrate | Carotene | Vit.C | Calcium | Phosphorus |
| Total  | 47 | 11.529 | 0.458   | 0.024       | 3.478    | 0.507 | 4.683    | 19.620      |
| Replication | 2 | 7.865  | 0.572   | 0.047       | 1.378    | 1.257 | 10.053   | 59.203      |
| Genotype | 15 | 29.733 | 0.908   | 0.034       | 9.891    | 0.394 | 4.640    | 2.818       |
| Error   | 30 | 2.672  | 0.225   | 0.018       | 0.412    | 0.514 | 4.319    | 25.382      |

Table 3. Per se performance of avocado genotypes for fruit characters

| S. No. | Genotypes   | Fruit shape   | Fruit length (cm) | Fruit diameter (cm) | Peduncle length (cm) | Peduncle diameter (mm) | Pedicel length (cm) | Fruit weight (g) |
|--------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1.     | TKDPA80     | Spheroid      | 12.70             | 8.25               | 6.89                  | 5.20                   | 1.20               | 310.00          |
| 2.     | TKDPA81     | Rhomboidal    | 11.70             | 7.16               | 9.10                  | 5.09                   | 1.00               | 308.00          |
| 3.     | TKDPA82     | Normally obovate | 14.20             | 8.10               | 12.20                | 5.30                   | 1.30               | 324.98          |
| 4.     | TKDPA83     | Normally obovate | 11.10             | 6.80               | 9.60                  | 5.20                   | 1.10               | 302.00          |
| 5.     | TKDPA84     | Ellipsoid     | 14.30             | 8.20               | 7.40                  | 5.10                   | 1.20               | 250.03          |
| 6.     | TKDPA85     | Ellipsoid     | 16.20             | 8.40               | 14.20                | 6.70                   | 1.50               | 500.00          |
| 7.     | TKDPA86     | Ellipsoid     | 13.09             | 6.20               | 11.20                | 7.00                   | 1.59               | 380.00          |
| 8.     | TKDPA87     | Normally obovate | 17.10             | 10.10              | 10.20                | 8.70                   | 1.70               | 600.00          |
| 9.     | TKDPA88     | Spheroid      | 16.10             | 9.90               | 12.30                | 8.30                   | 1.80               | 510.00          |
| 10.    | TKDPA89     | Spheroid      | 15.10             | 10.80              | 13.10                | 8.10                   | 1.80               | 640.03          |
| 11.    | TKDPA90     | High Spheroid | 15.10             | 10.10              | 10.40                | 8.20                   | 1.69               | 284.97          |
| 12.    | TKDPA91     | Spheroid      | 13.10             | 8.40               | 10.60                | 9.10                   | 1.60               | 290.00          |
| 13.    | TKDPA92     | Spheroid      | 14.70             | 10.80              | 17.30                | 9.29                   | 1.60               | 580.03          |
| 14.    | TKDPA93     | Oblate        | 18.30             | 12.10              | 18.40                | 9.49                   | 0.90               | 780.03          |
| 15.    | TKDPA95     | Oblate        | 13.59             | 8.60               | 12.40                | 8.20                   | 1.90               | 445.00          |
| 16.    | TKDPA97     | Spheroid      | 16.20             | 9.70               | 14.70                | 4.70                   | 1.20               | 550.00          |

|        | SED         | 0.976         | 0.608            | 0.825             | 0.428             | 0.1005         | 32.59          |
|        | CD (5%)     | 1.995         | 1.242            | 1.685             | 0.997             | 0.2053         | 66.57          |
Table 4. *Per se* performance of avocado genotypes for nutritive characters

| S. No | Genotypes | Fat  | Fibre | Carbohydrate | Carotene | Vit.C | Calcium | Phosphorus |
|-------|------------|------|-------|--------------|----------|-------|---------|------------|
| 1.    | TKDPA82    | 21.32| 6.49  | 1.53         | 10.27    | 8.85  | 26.21   | 62.89      |
| 2.    | TKDPA81    | 16.28| 5.24  | 1.74         | 8.58     | 8.34  | 27.32   | 61.26      |
| 3.    | TKDPA82    | 18.27| 5.12  | 1.64         | 7.64     | 9.05  | 26.42   | 61.67      |
| 4.    | TKDPA83    | 18.27| 5.24  | 1.51         | 6.78     | 8.32  | 24.89   | 61.47      |
| 5.    | TKDPA84    | 20.41| 6.16  | 1.46         | 8.23     | 8.56  | 26.53   | 60.26      |
| 6.    | TKDPA85    | 22.64| 5.89  | 1.68         | 9.57     | 8.93  | 26.78   | 62.35      |
| 7.    | TKDPA86    | 23.42| 6.31  | 1.74         | 8.72     | 9.12  | 24.67   | 61.31      |
| 8.    | TKDPA87    | 24.64| 5.47  | 1.68         | 10.56    | 9.16  | 26.45   | 62.96      |
| 9.    | TKDPA88    | 19.32| 5.47  | 1.47         | 7.23     | 8.65  | 24.56   | 62.34      |
| 10.   | TKDPA89    | 17.26| 5.38  | 1.53         | 5.22     | 8.42  | 24.56   | 61.19      |
| 11.   | TKDPA90    | 18.25| 6.16  | 1.64         | 6.43     | 9.04  | 22.95   | 61.72      |
| 12.   | TKDPA91    | 24.19| 6.53  | 1.75         | 10.12    | 9.18  | 26.18   | 60.29      |
| 13.   | TKDPA92    | 13.62| 5.69  | 1.63         | 6.15     | 8.79  | 26.25   | 62.72      |
| 14.   | TKDPA93    | 16.43| 6.58  | 1.48         | 5.26     | 8.18  | 24.37   | 60.41      |
| 15.   | TKDPA94    | 16.89| 4.98  | 1.72         | 5.43     | 8.12  | 23.76   | 60.12      |
| 16.   | TKDPA97    | 19.78| 5.28  | 1.72         | 6.78     | 8.94  | 24.89   | 62.43      |
| SED  |            | 1.334| 0.387 | NS           | 0.523    | NS    | NS      | NS         |
| CD (5%) |          | 2.725| 0.790 | 1.070        |          |       |         |            |
Table 5. Mean, range and estimates of genetic parameters of avocado genotypes

| Characters      | Mean  | Range       | GV   | PV   | GCV  | PCV  | GCV:PCV | H²   | GA in % of mean |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|------|------|------|------|---------|------|----------------|
| Fruit length    | 14.537| 11.10-18.30 | 3.376| 4.808| 12.639| 15.083| 0.838   | 70.20| 21.82          |
| Fruit diameter  | 8.977 | 6.20-12.10  | 2.401| 2.956| 17.261| 19.152| 0.901   | 81.20| 32.05          |
| Peduncle length | 11.875| 6.89-17.30  | 9.806| 10.827| 26.370| 27.709| 0.952   | 90.60| 51.70          |
| Peduncle diameter| 7.106 | 5.10-9.49   | 2.974| 3.332| 24.268| 25.687| 0.945   | 89.30| 47.23          |
| Pedicel length  | 1.444 | 0.90-1.90   | 0.093| 0.109| 21.173| 22.826| 0.928   | 86.10| 40.46          |
| Fruit weight    | 440.942| 250.0-780.0 | 24420.680| 26014.467| 35.440| 36.579| 0.969   | 93.90| 70.74          |
| Fat             | 14.437| 13.62-24.64 | 9.020| 11.693| 15.452| 17.592| 0.878   | 77.20| 27.96          |
| Fibre           | 5.750 | 4.98-6.58   | 0.228| 0.453| 8.301 | 11.699| 0.709   | 50.30| 12.13          |
| Carbohydrate    | 1.621 | 1.46-1.75   | 0.005| 0.023| 4.535 | 9.441 | 0.480   | 23.10| 4.49           |
| Carotene        | 7.685 | 5.22-10.56  | 3.160| 3.572| 23.129| 24.590| 0.941   | 88.50| 44.82          |
| Vitamin C       | 8.728 | 8.12-9.18   | -0.040| 0.474| 2.286 | 7.887 | 0.289   | -8.40| -1.36          |
| Calcium         | 25.424| 22.95-27.32 | 0.109| 4.426| 1.286 | 8.275 | 0.155   | 2.40 | 0.41           |
| Phosphorus      | 61.586| 60.12-62.96 | -7.521| 17.861| 4.453 | 6.862 | 0.649   | -42.10| -5.95          |
3.2 Nutritive Characters

Mean values of fruit nutritive traits are presented in the Table 4. The results showed that the trait fat content of the fruit pulp ranged from 13.62 g (per 100 g of fruit pulp) to 24.64 g (per 100 g of fruit pulp). The highest fat content was recorded by TKDPA 87 (24.64 g per 100 g of fruit pulp). It was followed by TKDPA 91 (24.19 g per 100 g of fruit pulp) and TKDPA 86 (23.42g per 100 g of fruit pulp). Whereas the, lowest fat content was recorded by TKDPA 92 (13.62 per 100 g of fruit pulp). Dietary fibre content of the fruit ranged from 4.98 g to 6.58 g. The maximum dietary fibre content was recorded by TKDPA 93 (6.58g) and it was followed by TKDPA 91 (6.53g). While the lowest dietary fibre content was recorded by TKDPA 95 (4.98 g). Carotene content of fruit pulp ranged from 5.22 to 8.9. Higher carotene content of 10.56 was registered by TKDPA 87 and it was followed by TKDPA 82 (10.27). Whereas lower, carotene content value of 5.22 was registered by TKDPA 89. Vitamin C content of avocado genotypes ranged from 8.12 mg per 100 g pulp to 9.18 mg per 100 g of fruit pulp. The highest vitamin C content of 9.18 mg per 100 g pulp was recorded by TKDPA 91 and it was followed by TKDPA 87 (9.16 mg per 100 g of fruit pulp) and TKDPA 86 (9.12 mg per 100 g of fruit pulp). Whereas the, lowest vitamin C content of 8.12 mg per 100 g of fruit pulp was recorded by TKDPA 95. Calcium content of fruit pulp ranged from 27.32 mg to 27.32 mg. The genotype TKDPA 81 registered the maximum calcium content of 27.32 mg and it was followed by TKDPA 84 (26.53 mg) and TKDPA 87 (26.45 mg). The genotype TKDPA 90 registered the lowest calcium content of 22.95mg. The phosphorus content ranged from 60.12 mg to 62.96 mg. The highest phosphorus content of 62.96 mg was recorded by TKDPA 87 and it was followed by TKDPA 82 (62.89 mg) and TKDPA 92 (62.72). Meanwhile the, lowest phosphorus content of 60.12 mg was recorded by TKDPA 95.

3.3 Genetic Parameters

The estimates of genetic parameters are presented in the Table 5. It is evident that the phenotypic variance ranged from 0.023 to 26014.467. The highest phenotypic variance was observed with the traits fruit weight (26014.467), phosphorus content (17.861), fat content (11.693) and peduncle length (10.827). Similarly the highest genotypic variance was observed with fruit weight (24420.680), peduncle length (9.806) and fat content (9.020). Phenotypic co efficient of variance ranged from 6.862 to 36.579. the maximum phenotypic co efficient of variance was noted with fruit weight (36.579), peduncle length (27.709), peduncle diameter (25.687), carotene content (24.590) and pedicle length (22.826). Genotypic co efficient of variance ranged from 1.286 to 35.440. The maximum Genotypic co efficient of variance was noted with fruit weight (35.440), peduncle length (26.370), peduncle diameter (24.268), carotene content (23.129) and pedicel length (21.173). GCV and PCV ratio ranged from 0.155 to 0.969. The highest GCV: PCV values were noticed with fruit weight (0.969), peduncle length (0.952), peduncle diameter (0.945), carotene content (0.941), pedical length (0.928) and fruit diameter (0.901). Higher PCV and GCV values registered by the traits fruit diameter, peduncle length, peduncle diameter, pedicel length, fruit weight and carotene indicating higher magnitude of variability for these characters. These findings are in line with the findings of Mohamed et al. [18]. Heritability values ranged from -8.40 per cent to 93.90 per cent. High heritable value was recorded by fruit weight (93.90%), peduncle length (90.60 %), peduncle diameter (89.30%), carotene (88.5%), pedicel length (86.10%), fruit diameter (81.20%), fat (77.20%) and fruit length (70.20%). Fibre content of fruit pulp recorded moderate heritable value of 50.30 per cent. Whereas low heritable values, were recorded by carbohydrate (23.10%), calcium (2.40%), vitamin C (-8.4%) and phosphorus (-42.10%). The estimates of heritability in broad sense for all the studied characters were high except carbohydrate, vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus. Nevertheless, the results seem to be encouraging for the breeders, however focus may be given to the characters coupled with high genetic advance. Genetic advance as per cent of mean ranged from -1.36 to 70.74. The maximum GA as percentage of mean was recorded by fruit weight (70.74%), peduncle length (51.50%), peduncle diameter (47.23%), carotene (44.82%), pedicel length (40.46%), fruit diameter (32.05%), fat (27.96%) and fruit length (21.82%). Meanwhile minimum GA as percentage of mean was recorded by fibre (12.13%), carbohydrate (4.49%), calcium (0.41%), phosphorus (-5.95%) and vitamin C (-1.36%). It was evident that the PCV values were higher than GCV values for all the characters of the present study. However the GCV-PCV values were near unity for the traits fruit weight (0.969), peduncle length (0.952), peduncle diameter (0.945), carotene content (0.941), pedical length (0.928) and fruit diameter (0.901) suggested that these traits are less
influenced by the environment and can be used as a selection indices for avocado genetic improvement programme. Other traits viz., fruit length, fat, fibre, carbohydrate, vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus were showed high PCV values than GCV values indicated that these traits are highly influenced by environment. Traits whose expression was environmentally dependent may not be reliable descriptor for morphological characterisation [19].

According to Johnson et al. [17] high heritability estimates along with high genotypic coefficient of variation and genetic advance is usually more useful in predicting the response of an individual for selection than heritability values alone. In the present study high heritability (broad sense) values coupled with high genetic advance as percent of mean was recorded by fruit diameter (81.20% & 32.05%), peduncle length (90.60 % & 51.70%), pedicel diameter (89.30% & 47.23%), pedicel length (86.10% & 40.46%), fruit weight (93.90% & 70.74%) and carotene (88.50% & 44.82%) indicating that these traits are controlled by additive gene action which is highly useful in selection. Similar results were noticed by Pujari et al. [20], Parvinder et al. [21], Aradhana et al. [22] and Singh et al. [23] and Shashikanth et al. [24] in tomato. The traits viz., fruit length (70.20% & 21.82%) and fat (77.20% & 27.96%) recorded high heritable values and moderate GA as percent of mean indicating that these traits are governed by dominant gene action and heterosis breeding may be useful in improvement of these traits.

4. CONCLUSION

From the results it was evident that the there is a great genetic variability present in the study materials. The traits viz., fruit diameter, peduncle length, peduncle diameter, pedicel length, fruit weight and carotene content can be used as a selection indices in avocado as these traits registered high heritable as well as high genetic advance as percent of mean. However, these study warrants an extensive survey, collection and evaluation of avocado genotypes available at Pulney hills, Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu state, India, since, there is a wide variability present in avocado and has to be commercially exploited.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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