Evaluation of genetic parameters of agro-morpho-quality traits in American cotton (\textit{Gossypium hirsutum} L.)

A. Anjani\(^1\), V. Padma\(^2\), J. V. Ramana\(^3\) and Y. Satish\(^4\)

\(^1\)M.Sc. Scholar, Advanced Post Graduate Centre (APGC), Lam, Guntur.
\(^2\)Professor and Head, Dept of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, APGC, Lam, Guntur.
\(^3\)Associate Professor, Dept of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, APGC, Lam, Guntur.
\(^4\)Senior Scientist, Plant Breeding, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Lam, Guntur.

\textbf{Abstract}

In the present study, forty American cotton (\textit{Gossypium hirsutum} L.) genotypes of diverse origin were evaluated to observe the genetic variability, heritability and genetic advance for yield and fibre quality traits. The analysis of variance study indicated the presence of significant difference among all the traits. The highest PCV and GCV were observed for the number of monopodia per plant, followed by seed cotton yield per plant. Genotypic coefficients of variation had a similar trend as the phenotypic coefficient of variation indicating a less environmental effect on the expression of the traits. High heritability along with high genetic advance was observed in seed cotton yield per plant. The high heritability was recorded for the traits viz., days to 50\% flowering, the number of monopodia per plant, the number of sympodia per plant, boll weight, seed index, ginning outturn, 2.5\% span length, bundle strength and seed cotton yield per plant. The high genetic advance was also observed for seed cotton yield per plant indicating the use of simple selection for the improvement of this character in the future breeding programmes.

\textbf{Keywords}

genetic variability, cotton, heritability, genetic advance

Cotton is the king of fibre crops and assumes a place of pride in the Indian economy which continues to be the predominant fibre in the Indian textile scene, despite stiff competition from the man-made synthetic fibres. In India, cotton is cultivated in an area of 122.00 lakh ha with production and productivity of 377.0 lakh bales (1 bale = 170 kg) and 524 kg/ha, respectively. In Andhra Pradesh cotton occupies an area of about 5.44 lakh ha with a production of 22.0 lakh bales and average productivity of 688.0 kg/ha (AICCIP Annual Report, 2017-18). The genus \textit{Gossypium} is having 50 species among which 4 are cultivable with spinnable lint, while 44 are wild diploids and two are wild tetraploids. Out of the four cultivated species, \textit{G. hirsutum} L. and \textit{G. barbadense} L. are called as new world cotton which are tetraploid (\(2n = 4x = 52\)), whereas, \textit{G. herbaceum} L. and \textit{G. arboreum} L. are diploid (\(2n = 2x = 26\)) and are known as old-world cotton. Among the two cultivated tetraploid species, upland cotton (\textit{G. hirsutum}) is considered the most important one for its wide adaptability, high yielding and better spinning ability as demarcated by the release of the number of stable varieties/hybrids. Yield and fibre quality are the two important criteria which decide the sustainability of the variety or hybrid for commercial cultivation. The precious evaluation of the genetic diversity of the excellent germplasm will provide a guide for choosing parents and predicting the degree of inheritance, variation and level of heterosis, which are essential for reaching the breeding goal. Genetic variability is pre-requisite for plant breeders to exercise selection. Heritability itself provides no indication about the genetic progress that would result from the selection. However, at a fixed selection pressure, the amount of advance varies with the magnitude of heritability. Hence, the present study was planned to assess the variability, heritability and genetic advance for various yield, yield components and fibre quality characters in a set of 40 genotypes. Such information may be fruitful in formulating efficient selection programme for synthesis and development of new cotton genotypes with improved yield and its contributing traits.

The experiment was conducted at the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Lam, Guntur, during Kharif 2017-18. Forty \textit{G. hirsutum} cotton genotypes were planted.
in Randomized Block Design with three replications. Uniform spacing of 105 cm x 60 cm and all the recommended field operations were carried out for raising a good crop. In each replication, five competitive plants were randomly selected and observations were recorded for 14 characters viz., plant height (cm), days to 50% flowering, the number of monopodia per plant, the number of sympodia per plant, the number of bolls per plant, boll weight (g), seed index (g), lint index (g), ginning outturn (%), 2.5% span length (mm), uniformity ratio, micronaire value (10^-6 g/inch), bundle strength (g/tex) and seed cotton yield per plant (g). The mean data was used for statistical analysis. Genotypic and phenotypic coefficient of variation was calculated using the method suggested by Burton (1952). Heritability in a broad sense was calculated by the method of Hanson et al. (1956) and the genetic advance was categorized based on reports of Johnson et al. (1955).

Table 1. Analysis of variance for yield and yield components in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) mean sum of squares

| Source          | d.f. | Plant Height (cm) | Days to 50% Flowering | Monopodia Per Plant | Sympodia Per Plant | Bolls/Plant | Boll Weight (g) | Seed Index (g) |
|-----------------|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Replications    | 2    | 102.1648          | 2.5083                 | 0.0413              | 0.1166             | 1.7028      | 0.0585         | 0.5728         |
| Varieties       | 39   | 504.6003**        | 33.6306**              | 2.1872**            | 12.3834**          | 52.4236**   | 0.3904**       | 1.9567**       |
| Error           | 98   | 99.8318           | 1.2434                 | 0.0924              | 1.7686             | 26.0024     | 0.0467         | 0.2684         |

| Source          | d.f. | Lint Index (g)    | Ginning Outturn (%)    | 2.5% Span Length (mm) | Uniformity Ratio (%) | Micronaire (10^-6 g/inch) | Bundle Strength (g/Tex) | Seed Cotton Yield/Plant (g) |
|-----------------|------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Replications    | 2    | 0.3535            | 0.2521                 | 0.0003               | 0.0333                | 0.0092                    | 0.0251                   | 3.0850                      |
| Varieties       | 39   | 1.7266**          | 10.6704**              | 5.7172**             | 4.4596**             | 0.3300**                  | 4.1021**                 | 1040.8245**                 |
| Error           | 98   | 0.3290            | 1.5887                 | 0.4911               | 2.7000               | 0.0889                    | 0.6502                   | 122.1462                    |

High PCV and GCV values were recorded for the number of monopodia per plant (38.01 and 35.72). High to moderate PCV and GCV were recorded for seed cotton yield (22.06 and 18.65). Asha et al. (2013) reported high PCV and GCV for the number of monopodia per plant following by the number of bolls per plant and seed cotton yield per plant. PCV and GCV values were moderate for the number of sympodia (14.28 and 11.66) and lint index (14.33 and 10.97). Moderate to low PCV and GCV were recorded for plant height (10.52 and 7.97), the number of bolls per plant (14.96 and 7.52), boll weight (11.00 to 9.27) and seed index (10.45 and 8.60). Similar results were reported by Al taher and Singh (2003), Vijaya Lakshmi et al. (2008) and Asha et al. (2013). Low PCV and GCV were recorded for days to 50% flowering (5.72 and 5.41), ginning outturn (6.62 and 5.36), 2.5% span length (5.44 and 4.80%), uniformity ratio (3.73 and 1.57%), micronaire value (9.77 and 6.73%) and bundle strength (5.89 and 4.71%) which indicated that the presence of low variability for these traits in the studied material. Kavithamani and Amalabalu (2017) also reported low PCV and GCV for days to 50% flowering, 2.5% span length and micronaire value. Dahiphale and Deshmukh (2018) recorded low PCV and GCV for 2.5% span length. Similar suggestions were also given by Sajid and Tanwar (2008) and Refazy and Razak (2013).

In a population, the observed variability is a combined measure of genetic and environmental causes, whereas the genetic heritability is the only estimate heritable from generation to generation. However, the measure of heritability alone does not give an idea about the expected gain in the next generation but, it has to be considered in conjunction with genetic advance. The traits which expressed high heritability and high genetic advance as a percentage of mean could be used as a powerful tool in the selection process. High to moderate heritability coupled with high to moderate genetic advance as per cent of
Table 2 Mean, genetic variability, heritability (broad sense) and genetic advance as per cent of mean for seed cotton yield and yield components in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.)

| S.No. | Character                          | Mean         | Range          | Coefficient of variation | Heritability (%) (broad sense) | Genetic Advance as per cent of mean |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | Plant Height (cm)                 | 145.60       | 112.83 - 174.70 | 10.52 - 7.97             | 57.5                            | 18.14                             |
| 2     | Days to 50% Flowering             | 60.64        | 54.67 - 73.00   | 5.72 - 5.41              | 89.7                            | 6.40                              |
| 3     | Monopodia Per Plant               | 2.34         | 0.87 - 4.63     | 38.01 - 35.72            | 88.3                            | 1.61                              |
| 4     | Sympodia Per Plant                | 16.13        | 11.00 - 20.00   | 14.28 - 11.66            | 66.7                            | 3.16                              |
| 5     | Bolls/ Plant                      | 39.42        | 27.67 - 49.33   | 14.96 - 7.52             | 25.3                            | 3.07                              |
| 6     | Boll Weight (g)                   | 3.65         | 3.07 - 4.81     | 11.00 - 9.27             | 71.0                            | 0.58                              |
| 7     | Seed Index (g)                    | 8.72         | 7.14 - 10.23    | 10.45 - 8.60             | 67.7                            | 1.27                              |
| 8     | Lint Index (g)                    | 6.22         | 4.43 - 7.91     | 14.33 - 10.97            | 58.6                            | 1.07                              |
| 9     | Ginning outturn (%)               | 32.44        | 27.43 - 35.58   | 6.62 - 5.36              | 65.6                            | 2.90                              |
| 10    | 2.5% Span Length (mm)             | 27.47        | 24.13 - 30.07   | 5.44 - 4.80              | 78.0                            | 2.40                              |
| 11    | Uniformity Ratio (%)              | 48.61        | 45.33 - 50.67   | 3.73 - 1.57              | 17.8                            | 0.66                              |
| 12    | Micronaire (10⁻⁶ g/inch)          | 4.21         | 3.43 - 4.87     | 9.77 - 6.73              | 47.5                            | 0.40                              |
| 13    | Bundle Strength (g/tex)           | 22.77        | 20.30 - 25.83   | 5.89 - 4.71              | 63.9                            | 1.76                              |
| 14    | Seed Cotton Yield per Plant (g)   | 93.78        | 51.27 - 139.32  | 22.06 - 18.65            | 71.5                            | 30.47                             |

The accessions with high mean performance are generally preferred for all the traits except for days to 50% flowering since earliness is the preferred attribute and early flowering was taken into consideration. From the results of the present study, it can be concluded that direct selection can be done for most of the yield attributing traits since it exhibited high genetic variability and a high range of variation. A high PCV over GCV for the characters studied indicated that environment influence on the expression of the characters under study. The high heritability was observed for traits viz., days to 50% flowering, the number of monopodia per plant, the number of sympodia per plant, boll weight, seed index, ginning outturn, 2.5% span length, bundle strength and seed cotton yield per plant. High genetic advance with high heritability was observed for seed cotton yield per plant indicated that simple selection can resort for the improvement of this character in the future cotton improvement programmes.

REFERENCES

AICCIP Annual Report, 2017-18.

Altaher, A.F and Singh, R.P. 2003. Genetic diversity studies in upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). *Journal of Indian Society for Cotton Improvement*. 28 (3): 158-163.

Asha, R., Ahamed, M.L., Babu, D.R and Kumar, P.A. 2013. Multivariate analysis in upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). *Madras Agricultural Journal*. 100 (4-6): 333-335.

Anjani et al., Burton, G.W. 1952. Quantitative inheritance in grasses. *Proceedings of the 6th International Grassland Congress*. 277-283.

Dahiphale, K.D and Deshmukh, J.D. 2018. Genetic variability, correlation and path coefficient analysis for yield and its attributing traits in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.). *Journal of Cotton Research and Development*. 32 (1): 38-46.

https://doi.org/10.37992/2020.1101.048
Hanson, C.H., Robinson, H.F and Comstock, R.E. 1956. Biometrical studies of yield in segregating populations of korean lespedza. Agronomy Journal. 47: 313-318.

Johnson, H.W., Robinson, H.F and Comstock, R.E. 1955. Estimates of genetic and environmental variability in soybean. Agronomy Journal. 47: 314-318.

Kavithamani, D and Amalabalu, P. 2017. Studies of genetic parameters on seed cotton yield and fibre quality traits in Egyptian cotton (Gossypium barbadense L.). Journal of Cotton Research and Development. 31 (2): 186-193.

Khan, N., Khan B.M., Hassan, G., Farhatullah, L., Sundas, B., Makhdoom, K., Waqas, A. and Khan, H. 2010. Genetic variation and heritability for cotton seed, fiber and oil traits in Gossypium hirsutum L. Pakistan Journal of Botany. 42: 615-25.

Kulkarni, A.A., Nanda, H.C and Patil, S.G. 2010. Genetic variability, heritability and genetic advance in upland cotton (Gossypium hirsutum L.). The Andhra Agricultural Journal. 57 (3): 257-297.

Kusugal, A., Patil, S.S., Pranesh, K.J., Rajeev, S and Reddy, H.K. 2014. Improving genetic base of Gossypium barbadense for developing potential inter specific hybrids. Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding. 5: 594-601.

Patel, D. H., Patel, D. U and Kumar, V. 2014. Heterosis and combining ability analysis in tetraploid cotton (G.hirsutum L. and G.barbadense L). Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding. 5: 408-14.

Refazy, R.A and Razak, U.A. 2013. Generation mean analysis for yield, its components and quality characteristics in four crosses of Egyptian cotton (Gossypium barbadense L.). Asian Journal of Crop Sciences. 5: 153-56.

Sajid, U.R and Tanwar, A.M. 2008. Genetic analysis of fiber traits in cotton. International Journal of Agriculture and Biology. 10: 209–12.

Sakthi, A.R., Kumar, M and Ravikesavan, R. 2007. Variability and association analysis using morphological and quality traits in cotton (Gossypium hirsutum L.). Journal of Cotton Research and Development. 2(2): 148-152.

Soomro, Z.A., Kumbhar M.A., Larik, A.S., Imran, M and Brohi, S.A. 2010. Heritability and selection response in segregating generations of upland cotton. Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research. 23: 25-30.

Srinivas, B and Bhadru, D. 2015. Estimation of genetic parameters through generation mean analysis for fiber quality traits in upland cotton. SABRAO Journal of Breeding and Genetics. 47: 238-47.

Sunayana., Sangwan, R.S and Nimbal, S. 2017. Studies on association, path analysis and genetic parameters for seed cotton yield and it's contributing characters in desi cotton (Gossypium arboreum L.). International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences. 6 (11): 104-111.

Vijaya Lakhmi, G., Chenga Reddy, V., Panduranga Rao, C., Satish Babu, J and Srinivasulu R. 2008. Character association and path coefficient analysis in cotton (Gossypium hirsutum L.). The Andhra Agricultural Journal. 55 (2): 156-160.