Studies on Genetic Variability and Heritability for Different Traits in Cowpea \([Vigna unguiculata \text{(L.) Walp}]\)

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation entitled was carried out at experimental farm of Department of Horticulture, AKS University, Satna (M.P.) during Kharif season of year 2019-20. The experiment was conducted in Randomized Block Design having 12 treatments i.e. 12 genotypes of Cowpea in three replications. Twelve diverse varieties of Cowpea collected from different sources and all the genotypes are grown with three replications in 2.4 m\(^2\) plot and the plant keeping 60 x 25 cm maintained between Row and Plant distance. They were evaluated for growth yield and quality attribute for all the traits. High heritability (77.44%) coupled with high genetic advance (52.08) observed for green pod yield per plant, very high heritability (94.47%) for plant height at final harvest indicated that phenotypic selection would be effective for genetic improvement in these traits. High magnitude of phenotypic GCV and PCV (i.e. >20 per cent) were observed for Economic yield (kg/plot) (71.97 per cent and 81.76 per cent, respectively), followed by Biological yield (kg/plot) (61.59 and 79.96 per cent, respectively. whereas, the moderate magnitude of GCV and PCV (10-20 per cent) were observed for Harvest index (19.78 and 35.53 per cent), respectively and Plant height (19.52 and 25.86 per cent), respectively. The low magnitude GCV (<10 per cent) was also observed for the character Number of primary branches/plant (8.60 and 14.49 per cent, respectively) Days to 50% flowering (5.10 and 6.88 per cent, respectively), Days to 1st flowering (1.22 and 2.10 per cent, respectively.

Keywords: Cowpea, Heritability, Genetic Variability, Genetic Advance.

INTRODUCTION

Cowpea \([Vigna unguiculata \text{(L.) Walp}]\) is a large seeded legume developed for its protein-rich green pods, and grains, by the resource poor farmers from underdeveloped and developing African and Asian nations. Cowpea belongs to family Fabaceae, and Vigna type.

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Sort Vigna is a pantropical class consisting of eight subgenera and approximately 150 genera, a large portion of which is found in Asia and Africa. Only seven kinds of Vigna are delivered as pulse crops, two sorts of African subgenus Vigna, Vigna unguiculata and Vigna subterranea, and five Asian subgenera Ceratotropis, Vigna radiata, Vigna mungo, V aconitifolia, V angularis, and V umbellata. Vigna unguiculata, V mungo and Vigna radiata are amongst the widely developed yields. Unguiculata Vigna L. Walp originated in Africa and happens in dry semi-bone tropics spanning portions of Asia, Africa, Southern Europe, the Southern United States, and Central and South America (Singh, 2005, & Timko et al., 2007). India is the most dynamic cowpea-producer in Asia. With a cumulative yield of 3.2 million tons (Egbadzor, 2014). Cowpea has delivered over 11.2 million hectares worldwide.

Cowpea plants are impenetrable to drought, high temperatures and soil toxicity, and their ability to fix air nitrogen contributes to quick development in tropical climates with low rainfall, high temperatures and low fertility soils (Ortiz, 2003). Cowpea is grown throughout India in both summer and rainy season. It is cultivated for green peas, dry seeds, and forage. Dry seeds are rich in protein therefore, it is called as vegetable meat. Once developed for dry beans, it's called "black eye pea" or "kaffir pea" or "southern bean." Sortiments of green cases are known as catjang bean, asparagus bean, or yard long bean. This is also utilized as green manure crop. Characterization of the available germplasm is a crucial initial advance in promoting breeding efforts; particularly in selecting suitable parental material, it benefits a plant raiser.

To increase the yield potential of an existing harvest, it is critical to consider the variability in the formulation and acceleration of the breeding procedure the resulting heritability, genetic progression and coefficient of genotypic and phenotypic variation within a yield would propel the selection of better genotypes relative to the proportion of genetic variability Since various economic qualities are quantitative in nature and highly influenced by the environment, breeding accomplishment is driven by the combination of genetic and non-genetic variations; if the relatives inherit selection prevalence, it is useful to partition the total variability into heritable and non-heritable components for overview. The best possible selection of genotypes for desirable traits is determined by heritability tests, along with genetic development. The point of the current investigation was therefore to establish the genetic variation in the cowpea genotypes and to isolate it into heritable and non-heritable constituents.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

To estimate genetic variability and heritability studies, field experiment was conducted in kharif 2019. The seeds of 12 genotypes were planted in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications are presented in Table 1. In this experiment, fourteen characters viz., Plant height (cm), Number of primary branches/plant, Days to 1st flowering, Days to 50% flowering, Number of pods/plant, Green pod length (cm), Dry pod length (cm), Economic yield (kg/plot), Biological yield (kg/plot), Number of seeds /pod, 100 Seed weight (g), Pod yield /plant (kg) and Harvest index.

Finally, data was subjected to statistical analysis by applying statistical procedure for study of genetic variability, genotypic and phenotypic variance, coefficient of variance, heritability, genetic advance for all thirteen characters whereas, coefficient and clustering pattern was studied on the basis of observations taken at the time of harvesting for thirteen characters. The data collected from various observations recorded in the field were to statistical of analysis by standard analysis of variance technique. (Panse & Sukhatme, 1967).

Cowpea's genetic overhaul rehearsals aim to develop tolerant dry season using viable phosphorus, bacterial blight, and healthy infection lines by leveraging available genetic
assets and deploying back and forth breeding tools that will boost genetic gain by sub-Saharan African farmers when established. Variance to the phenotypes variance and is expressed in percentage and calculated as per the formula suggested by Burton and Devance, (1953).

Genetic variability parameters were calculated according to Johnson et al. (1955), phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV), genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV), and genetic development in level of mean. In the broadest sense, heritability was calculated according to Lush's (1940) technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result obtained showed that phenotypic coefficient of variance was in general higher than the genotypic coefficient of variance for all the characters. It is due to presence of substantial influence of environmental factors besides the genetic variation for expression of these traits are summarised and presented in Table 2. High magnitude of phenotypic GCV and PCV (i.e. >20 per cent) were observed for Economic yield (kg/plot) (71.97 per cent and 81.76 per cent, respectively), followed by Biological yield (kg/plot) (61.59 and 79.96 per cent, respectively). whereas, the moderate magnitude of GCV and PCV (10-20 per cent) were observed for Harvest index (19.78 and 35.53 per cent, respectively) and Plant height (19.52 and 25.86 per cent), respectively. The low magnitude GCV (<10 per cent) was also observed for the character Number of primary branches/plant (8.60 and 14.49 per cent, respectively) Days to 50% flowering (5.10 and 6.88 per cent, respectively), Days to 1st flowering (1.22 and 2.10 per cent, respectively). In the present study, heritability estimate in broad sense was calculated for the characters such as Number of primary branches/plant (10.51 per cent), Days to 50% flowering (7.79 per cent) and Days to 1st flowering (1.46 per cent). This indicates the presence of non-additive gene effects.

Based on overall findings of mean performance for various yield and its attributing traits, cowpea genotypes viz. Ankur Gomati (vu-89), Arka Garima, Lobia -VU-5, Betul White and Cowpea (Gayatri V.U-99) possessed highest plant height, Ankur Gomati (VU-89) and Arka Garima possessed highest plant height (at Flowering). The genotypes viz. Ankur Gomati (vu-89), Arka Garima, Lobia -
The analysis of variance indicated the existence of sufficient amount of variability among genotypes for all the characters. The phenotypic variance was in general higher than the genotypic variance for all the characters. Among different yield attributing characters studied, Number of pod/plant had the highest magnitude of PCV (44.85 per cent) and GCV (30.49 per cent). The estimates of heritability revealed that characters namely, Economic yield (kg/plot) followed by Number of seeds /pod, 100 Seed weight (g) and Green pod length (cm) were recorded with high heritability. The highest genetic advance as percentage of mean was recorded for Economic yield (kg/plot) and Pod yield /plant (kg). Ishiyaku et al. (2005) reported similar findings for 100-seed weight.

On the basis of the results the phenotypic coefficient of variance (PCV) was slightly higher in magnitude than genotypic coefficient of variance (GCV) for all the characters studied which suggests that the phenotypic expression of characters is largely influenced by the prevailing environmental conditions. The estimates of heritability were recorded high for the characters Viz, Economic yield (kg/plot) followed by Number of seeds /pod, 100 Seed weight (g) and Green pod length (cm) indicating that these characters are governed by additive gene effect and are less influenced by environment and hence, selection for these characters, if found positively associated with yield will be beneficial in improvement of Cowpea.

### Table 1: Estimates of GCV, PCV, Heritability and Genetic Advance in different genotypes of Cowpea

| S. No. | Parameters               | GCV (%) | PCV (%) | Heritability (H2b) % | Genetic Advance K=20.6 | Genetic Advance as % of mean |
|--------|--------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.     | Plant height (cm)        | 19.52   | 25.86   | 56.99                | 1.92                   | 30.36                       |
| 2.     | Number of primary branches/plant | 8.60 | 14.49   | 35.21                | 0.73                   | 10.51                       |
| 3.     | Days to 1\(^{st}\) flowering | 1.22  | 2.10    | 33.69                | 0.63                   | 1.46                        |
| 4.     | Days to 50\(^{th}\) flowering | 5.10  | 6.88    | 55.01                | 5.75                   | 7.79                        |
| 5.     | Number of pod/plant      | 30.49   | 44.85   | 46.22                | 1.91                   | 42.71                       |
| 6.     | Green pod length (cm)    | 15.89   | 19.36   | 67.38                | 4.77                   | 26.88                       |
| 7.     | Dry pod length (cm)      | 15.72   | 20.75   | 57.40                | 4.21                   | 24.54                       |
| 8.     | Economic yield (kg/plot) | 71.97   | 81.76   | 77.48                | 0.29                   | 130.50                      |
| 9.     | Biological yield (kg/plot)| 61.59 | 79.96   | 59.33                | 0.54                   | 97.75                       |
| 10.    | Number of seeds /pod     | 21.89   | 26.24   | 69.56                | 4.44                   | 37.60                       |
| 11.    | 100 Seed weight (g)      | 25.64   | 31.16   | 67.71                | 2.84                   | 43.46                       |
| 12.    | Pod yield /plant (kg)    | 53.39   | 59.71   | 79.97                | 0.26                   | 98.36                       |
| 13.    | Harvest index            | 19.78   | 35.53   | 31.01                | 0.08                   | 22.69                       |
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