Correlation Studies in Gladiolus (*Gladiolus hybridus* Hort.) Genotypes

Sripada Swetha1*, Balaji S. Kulkarni2, Mukund Shiragur3, M. S. Kulkarni4, Mahantesha B. N. Naik5, Ravindra Mulge6 and Laxminarayan Hegde7

1Kittur Rani Channamma College of Horticulture, Arabhavi, India
2Department of Floriculture & Landscape Architecture, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, India
3Department of Floriculture & Landscape Architecture, KRC College of Horticulture, Arabhavi, India
4University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, India
5Department of Biotechnology & Crop Improvement, KRC College of Horticulture, Arabhavi
6College of Horticulture, Halladkeri Farm, Bidar, India
7College of Horticulture Engineering and Food technology, Devihosur, India

*Corresponding author

A B S T R A C T

A study on the association of various morphological traits through correlation analysis in gladiolus (*Gladiolus hybridus* Hort.) showed that Number of spikes per plant had a significant and positive correlation with number of leaves, number of shoots and number of daughter corms per plant in genotypic level. Spike length exhibited positive and significant association with rachis length, number of florets vase life and number of cormels. Number of florets exerted a significant positive correlation with vase life at genotypic and phenotypic level. Hence, these characters may be considered as selection indices in gladiolus breeding programme.

Introduction

Gladiolus (*Gladiolus hybridus* Hort.) is an important bulbous ornamental prized for its beauty of spikes as well as longer vase-life and said to be “Queen of bulbous flower crops”. In International florist trade, it ranks fifth next to tulip, lily, freesia and hippeastrum among the geophytes and first in domestic bulbous flower trade according to Council of Holland. It is extensively grown in hills and plains almost all over the world.
There are many excellent cultivars of gladiolus with magnificent inflorescence, in exhaustive range of colours, different shades, varying number of florets, size, wide range of keeping quality and adaptability to different seasons. It is relatively easy to grow and is ideal for bedding and exhibition purposes. The spikes are used in vase arrangements, in bouquets and for indoor decorations. Popularity of this crop as a cut spike is increasing day by day because of its long keeping quality and exhaustive range of colours of the spikes.

In any crop improvement programme, it becomes necessary to have simultaneous progress of more than one character, especially in the case of complex character like yield, which is influenced by many other traits. This is due to the physiological and linkage relationship of genes governing various characters. Hence, knowledge of correlations between different economical traits is of importance in selection programmes.

**Materials and Methods**

The present investigation was carried out at the Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Kittur Rani Channamma College of Horticulture (University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot), Arabhavi, Gokak taluk, Belagavi district of Karnataka during the period of 2015 to 2017. Forty gladiolus genotypes collected from diverse source were used in the study presented in Table 1. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) with two replications.

Genotypic ($r_g$) and phenotypic ($r_p$) correlation coefficients were estimated as suggested by Al-Jibourie et al., (1958)

\[
\text{Genotypic correlation} = r_{xy}(g) = \frac{\text{CoV}_{xy}(G)}{\sqrt{V_x(G) \times V_y(G)}}
\]

\[
\text{Phenotypic correlation} = r_{xy}(p) = \frac{\text{CoV}_{xy}(P)}{\sqrt{V_x(P) \times V_y(P)}}
\]

Where,
- $\text{CoV}_{xy}(G)$ = Genotypic covariance between $x$ and $y$
- $\text{CoV}_{xy}(P)$ = Phenotypic covariance between $x$ and $y$
- $V_x(G)$ = Genotypic variance of character $x$
- $V_x(P)$ = Phenotypic variance of character $x$
- $V_y(G)$ = Genotypic variance of character $y$
- $V_y(P)$ = Phenotypic variance of character $y$

Test of significance of correlation was tested by comparing the ‘r’ value with obtained value.

**Results and Discussion**

The analysis of phenotypic and genotypic correlation of yield and yield components were worked out for the twelve important quantitative characters using mean data generated from 40 genotypes raised during two continuous seasons from 2015-17, and the pooled analysis of both seasons presented in Table 2 and 3.

Changes in yield must be accompanied by changes in one or more of its components. In the present investigation, it was observed that genotypic correlation coefficients were found to be higher than corresponding phenotypic correlation coefficient for all the characters indicating little influence of environment and the presence of a strong inherent association between various characters. In most of the cases genotypic and phenotypic correlation coefficients were similar in direction (Mishra et al., 2014, Choudhary et al., 2011 in gladiolus).

Number of spikes per plant had significant and positive correlation with number of leaves, number of shoots and number of daughter corms per plant in genotypic level which indicated that selection based on these characters would increase spike yield. Negative and significant correlation was
expressed for yield trait with days to spike emergence, leaf area per plant and plant height at both genotypic and phenotypic levels. The results are in accordance with Mishra et al., (2014), who reported that number of spikes per plant had significant and positive correlation with number of sprouts and number of corms per plant in gladiolus. Aido et al., (2014) in gladiolus also quoted that the magnitude of correlation with flower yield was highest in number of leaves at spike initiation stage. Geeta (2013) and Sahana (2010) also reported that number of spikes per plant had significant positive correlation with number of daughter corms and negative correlation with plant height, leaf area and days to spike emergence in gladiolus.

Plant height showed significant and positive correlation with weight of corm before planting, leaf area per plant, spike length, rachis length, number of cormels and vase life. This indicated that the plant height is an important trait for quality spike production, selection of genotypes based on these characters is important. Similar results were obtained by Ramzan et al., (2016), Katwate et al., (2002), Maitra and Sathya (2004) and Choudhary et al., (2011) in gladiolus.

Number of leaves expressed significant positive correlation with number of spikes, number of daughter corms per plant and significantly negatively associated with leaf area per plant and days to spike emergence. The results are in accordance with Aido et al., (2014) and Nimbalkar et al., (2007) in gladiolus.

A significant positive correlation was exerted by spike length with weight of corm before planting, plant height, leaf area, rachis length, vase life, number of florets per spike and number of cormels. Similar findings were made by Maitra and Sathya (2004) and Choudhary et al., (2011) in gladiolus. It shows that spike length, which is an important attribute of cut flower quality, can be increased with increase in any one of these characters, specially the height of the plant, number of florets per spike and corm weight. Similarly, the market value and marketability of gladiolus spikes depends upon the number of florets per spike, floret size and number of florets open at a time and as these characters had positive correlation with spike length, so a direct selection from germplasm lines may be effective for the improvement of this crop.
### Table 1: Details of gladiolus genotypes used in the experiment

| S. No | Genotype            | Origin | Source                |
|-------|---------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1.    | Summer Sunshine     | Holland| Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 2.    | Delhi Local         | India  | Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 3.    | Green Bay           | USA    | Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 4.    | Copper King         | USA    | Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 5.    | Dhanvantari         | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 6.    | JesterYellow        | Holland| Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 7.    | Local Yellow        | India  | Bengaluru             |
| 8.    | Arka Amar           | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 9.    | Arka Naveen         | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 10.   | Arka Arti           | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 11.   | Darshan             | India  | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 12.   | Jyostna             | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 13.   | Suchitra            | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 14.   | Magma               | -      | Navsari, Gujrat       |
| 15.   | Urmil               | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 16.   | White Prosperity    | USA    | Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 17.   | Pusa Kiran          | IARI   | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 18.   | Sindur              | -      | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 19.   | Arka Thilak         | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 20.   | Punjab Dawn         | India  | Navsari, Gujrat       |
| 21.   | African star        | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 22.   | Local pink          | -      | Bengaluru             |
| 23.   | Pusa Vidushi        | IARI   | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 24.   | Legent              | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 25.   | Chandini            | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 26.   | Mohini              | NBRI   | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 27.   | Hunting Song        | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 28.   | Golddust            | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 29.   | Surya Kiran         | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 30.   | Sunayana            | -      | Navsari, Gujrat       |
| 31.   | Gunjan              | -      | PAU, Ludhiana         |
| 32.   | Novalux             | -      | PAU, Ludhiana         |
| 33.   | Punjab glance       | India  | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 34.   | Anjali              | IARI   | Navsari, Gujrat       |
| 35.   | Shagun              | -      | IARI, New Delhi       |
| 36.   | Priscilla           | -      | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 37.   | Arka Sagar          | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 38.   | Arka Kesar          | IIHR   | IIHR, Bangalore       |
| 39.   | Arka Gold           | IIHR   | Jammu & Kashmir       |
| 40.   | Candyman            | USA    | Jammu & Kashmir       |
Table 2: Genotypic correlation coefficient for growth, flowering, yield and quality parameters in gladiolus genotypes

|     | WCP   | PH    | NS    | NL    | LA    | DSE   | SL    | RL    | NF    | VL    | NDC   | NCr   | NSp   |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WCP | 1.000 | 0.499** | -0.190 | -0.300** | 0.574** | -0.025 | 0.664** | 0.629** | 0.522** | 0.587** | -0.200 | 0.485** | -0.091 |
| PH  | 1.000 |       |       | -0.283* | 0.807** | 0.062 | 0.640** | 0.388** | 0.151 | 0.219* | 0.002 | 0.365** | -0.272* |
| NS  | 1.000 | 0.833** |       | -0.492** | -0.326** | -0.052 | 0.144 | 0.205 | 0.187 | 0.260* | -0.212 | 0.774** |       |
| NL  | 1.000 |       |       | -0.464** | -0.434** | -0.009 | 0.151 | 0.189 | 0.168 | 0.388** | -0.142 | 0.942** |       |
| LA  | 1.000 |       |       |       | 0.762** | 0.450** | 0.359** | 0.410** | 0.023 | 0.404** | -0.398** |       |       |
| DSE |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | -0.017 | -0.029 | -0.134 | -0.126 | -0.149 | 0.334** | -0.491** |       |
| SL  |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | 0.830** | 0.672** | 0.723** | 0.157 | 0.426** | 0.027 |       |
| RL  |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | 0.793** | 0.819** | 0.045 | 0.508** | 0.190 |       |
| NF  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | 0.972** | -0.067 | 0.264* | 0.190 |       |
| VL  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | -0.044 | 0.267* | 0.192 |       |
| NDC |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | 0.182 | 0.228* |       |
| NCr |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 | -0.214 |       |
| NSp |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 1.000 |       |

Critical $r_g$ value = 0.219 at 5 per cent and 0.286 at 1 per cent
* and ** indicate significant at 5 and 1 per cent probability level, respectively

WCP – Weight of corm before planting (g)  
PH - Plant height (cm)  
NS - Number of shoots  
NL - Number of leaves  
LA - Leaf area (cm²)  
DSE - Days to spike emergence  
SL - Spike length (cm)  
RL - Rachis length (cm)  
NF - Number of florets  
VL - Vase life (days)

NDC - Number of daughter corms per plant  
NCr - Number of cormels per plant  
NSp – Number of spikes per plant
### Table 3: Phenotypic correlation coefficient for growth, flowering, yield and quality parameters in gladiolus genotypes

|       | WCP    | PH     | NS     | NL     | LA     | DSE    | SL     | RL     | NF     | VL     | NDC    | NCr    | NSp    |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| WCP   | 1.000  | 0.419**| -0.109 | -0.122 | 0.447**| -0.043 | 0.539**| 0.531**| 0.393**| 0.476**| -0.115 | 0.393**| -0.021 |
| PH    | 1.000  | -0.259*| -0.169 | 0.775**| 0.062  | 0.551**| 0.316**| 0.092  | 0.165  | -0.008 | 0.324**| -0.239*|
| NS    | 1.000  | 0.805**| -0.303**| -0.125 | -0.013 | 0.108  | 0.144  | 0.138  | 0.189  | -0.198 | 0.688**|
| NL    | 1.000  | -0.301**| -0.192 | 0.025  | 0.122  | 0.135  | 0.133  | 0.279* | -0.135 | 0.791**|
| LA    | 1.000  | 0.096  | 0.648**| 0.374**| 0.241* | 0.301**| 0.027  | 0.359**| -0.307**|
| DSE   | 1.000  | 0.010  | -0.013 | -0.078 | -0.088 | -0.141 | 0.140  | 0.312**|
| SL    | 1.000  | 0.828**| 0.659**| 0.704**| 0.148  | 0.336**| 0.012  |        |        |        |        |        |
| RL    | 1.000  | 0.773**| 0.797**| 0.082  | 0.399**| 0.142  |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| NF    | 1.000  | 0.947**| 0.004  | 0.174  | 0.149  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| VL    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| NDC   | 1.000  | 0.122  | 0.186  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| NCr   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| NSp   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1.000  |

Critical \( r_g \) value = 0.219 at 5 per cent and 0.286 at 1 per cent.

* and ** indicate significant at 5 and 1 per cent probability level, respectively.

- **WCP** – Weight of corm before planting (g)
- **PH** – Plant height (cm)
- **NS** – Number of shoots
- **NL** – Number of leaves
- **LA** – Leaf area \( (cm^2) \)
- **DSE** – Days to spike emergence
- **SL** – Spike length (cm)
- **RL** – Rachis length (cm)
- **NF** – Number of florets
- **VL** – Vase life (days)
- **NDC** – Number of daughter corms per plant
- **NCr** – Number of cormels per plant
- **NSp** – Number of spikes per plant
Rachis length was significantly and positively correlated with vase life, number of florets per spike and number of cormels per plant. This result is in accordance with the findings of Raj et al., (1998), Choudhary et al., (2011), Anju and Ranvir (2012) and Anwesha and Ratha (2015) in gladiolus.

On the basis of findings of the present experiment the following conclusion may be drawn, most of the characters have higher genotypic correlation coefficient than phenotypic correlation coefficient. For improvement of spike yield through selection, much emphasis should be given on the characters like number of leaves, number of shoots and number of daughter corms per plant.

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