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Genetic Variability, Correlation and Path Analysis in Mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek]

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ABSTRACT

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Thirty mungbean genotypes were evaluated for the estimation of genetic variability, heritability, genetic advance, correlation coefficient, and path coefficient analysis for yield and its component traits. A considerable amount of genetic variability was observed among all the genotypes for all the characters under study. GCV & PCV were highest for seed yield per plant, followed by harvest index, biological yield and number of pods per plant. High genetic advance coupled with high heritability were observed for plant height, number of branches per plant, pod length, seed per pod, 100-seed weight, number of pods per plant, biological yield, seed yield and harvest index. Combined results of correlation coefficient and path analysis revealed that pods per branch, pod length, biological yield and harvest index are major component traits for the improvement of grain yield.

Introduction

Pulses are the chief source of protein to meet the nutritional requirement of the masses in the world. Pulses have 20 to 25% protein by weight, which is twice in comparison to wheat and thrice in comparison to rice. Nutrition scientists emphasize the value of pulses as a source of protein and fibre. Biological nitrogen fixation is an important aspect of sustainable and environment friendly agriculture and role of pulses in this context hardly need any emphasis. Legumes, besides helping in maintaining the soil fertility through biological nitrogen fixation, are major source of protein for human consumption and provide high quality crop

residue for animal feed. Mungbean which is also known as green gram is one of the important pulse crops in India. It is cheap and rich source of vegetable protein and commonly used as supplement to the normal diet. Mungbean occupies an important position due to its high seed protein content (22-24%) and it has the ability to restore the soil fertility through symbiotic nitrogen fixation (Malik, 1994). It is rich in essential amino acids specially lysine, which is deficient in most of the cereal grains. Being a short duration crop, it fits well into the intensive rice-wheat cropping system of Indo-Gangetic plains of India (Brar *et al.*, 2004). It

can also be grown as intercrop with sugarcane, pigeonpea, poplar and orchards. Thus, there is a great scope of increasing area and production of summer mungbean (Sekhon *et al.*, 2007), however, the productivity of mungbean is still very low. Maximization of yield is major objective in all the crops. Yield is a complex character associated with various contributing characters which are interrelated among themselves. For developing suitable selection strategy the knowledge of genetic variability present in the available germplasm for yield and its associated characters is important. Estimates of genetic parameters provide an indication of the relative importance of the various types of gene effects affecting the total variation of a plant character. Genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation and heritability accompanied with genetic advance are very important parameters in improving traits (Denton and Nwangburuka, 2011). Johnson *et al.*, (1955) reported the immense importance of selecting and evaluating varieties for quantitative and yield ability in any breeding programme, before such varieties can be introduced to a given local environment.

Materials and Methods

The experimental material comprising thirty early maturing genotypes of mungbean were grown during kharif 2014 in a randomized block design with three replications at research area of the Department of Dryland Agriculture, Chaudhry Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana). The description of genotypes is given in Table 1. Each genotype was sown in two rows of 3 meter length spaced at 45 cm; and 10 cm between the plants. Hisar is located in global geographical position between 29.09°N and 75.43°E in western Haryana. All the recommended package of practices was adopted to raise a good crop. Observations for all the traits (except days to 50% flowering

and days to maturity) were recorded by taking five plants per plot. The days to 50% flowering and days to maturity were computed on plot basis. The data on eleven morphological characters viz. days to maturity, plant height, number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, pod length were recorded at the time of maturity, whereas observation on days to 50% flowering was recorded for different genotypes when they attained 50% flowering stage. The 100-seed weight and seed yield, biological yield and harvest index were recorded after threshing the crop. Analysis of variance for the observations recorded on different characters was carried out as per the standard procedure of Fisher (1930). Genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation were estimated according to Burton and Devane (1953). Heritability in broad sense and Genetic advance were worked out as per the procedures of Falconer (1981), Johnson *et al.*, (1955), respectively. Phenotypic and genotypic correlation and path coefficients of variation were computed as per the method given by Dewey and Lu (1959).

Results and Discussion

The mean sum of squares with respect to various morphological traits has been given in Table 2. The analysis of variance as a measure of variability indicated significant differences amongst the genotypes for all the characters, viz. days to 50% flowering, days to maturity, plant height (cm), number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod, pod length, 100-seed weight (g), seed yield (g), biological yield and harvest index. Rao *et al.*, (2006), Singh *et al.*, (2009), Reddy *et al.*, (2011), Hemavathy *et al.*, (2015) and Dhoot *et al.*, (2017) also reported significant differences for all the characters studied. The presence of sufficient variability indicated that the

materials of mungbean under study were good enough for further study.

GCV and PCV estimates

The phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) was found higher than that of genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV) for all the traits, suggesting the role of environmental factors on various characters, also suggested by Khajudparn and Tantasawat (2011). The genotypes showed significant differences in respect of all the characters studied (Table 3).

High PCV & GCV estimates were observed for number of pods per plant, biological yield per plant, harvest index and seed yield per plant. Similar finding were also reported by Rao *et al.*, (2006) for pods per plant, seed yield per plant and biological yield per plant, by Pandey *et al.*, (2007) for harvest index and seed yield per plant, by Kumhar and

Chaudhary (2007) for seed yield per plant, and Makeen *et al.*, (2007) and Anand *et al.*, (2016) for number of pods per plant and seed yield. Moderate PCV and GCV were found for plant height, number of branches per plant, pod length, number of seeds per pod and 100 seed weight. Similar results were also observed by Nand and Anuradha (2013) and Pandey *et al.*, (2007) for branches per plant, Rao *et al.*, (2007), Makeen *et al.*, (2007) and Kumhar and Choudhary (2007) for 100 seed weight. Lowest PCV and GCV estimates were obtained for days to 50% flowering and days to maturity. These results are in conformity with Makeen *et al.*, (2007), Rao *et al.*, (2007), Nan and Anuradha (2013) and Kumhar and Choudhary (2007).The results obtained for PCV and GCV showed that there is considerable possibility of further improvement through intermating followed by appropriate selection for these characters.

Table.1 List of 30 genotypes selected for the study

S. No.	Genotypes	Origin/Source	S. No.	Genotypes	Origin/Source
1.	LGG-460	ARS, Lamm	16.	Pusa Ratna	IARI, New Delhi
2.	BDYR-1	AVRDC, Taiwan	17.	Pusa-0871	IARI, New Delhi
3.	BDYR-2	AVRDC, Taiwan	18.	Pusa-0672	IARI, New Delhi
4.	MH-934	CCS HAU, Hisar	19.	IPM-02-3	IIPR, Kanpur
5.	Sattya	CCS HAU, Hisar	20.	IPM-06-5	IIPR, Kanpur
6.	Basanti	CCS HAU, Hisar	21.	KM-2241	IIPR, Kanpur
7.	MH-421	CCS HAU, Hisar	22.	NVL-638	Nirmal Seeds
8.	GP-69	CCS HAU, Hisar	23.	Vamban-2	NPRC, Vamban
9.	GP-248	CCS HAU, Hisar	24.	ML-682	PAU, Ludhiana
10.	GP-182	CCS HAU, Hisar	25.	ML-776	PAU, Ludhiana
11.	MH-805	CCS HAU, Hisar	26.	SML-668	PAU, Ludhiana
12.	MH-539	CCS HAU, Hisar	27.	SML-1018	PAU, Ludhiana
13.	MH-560	CCS HAU, Hisar	28.	AKM-9904	PRU, Akola
14.	EC-393410	Exotic collection	29.	RMG-991	RAU, Pusa
15.	EC-581523	Exotic collection	30.	TBM-11	TNAU, Coimbatore

Table.2 Analysis of variance for various traits in mungbean

Source of Variation	Df	Mean sum of squares										
		DF	DM	PH	NB	PPP	PL	SPP	100SW	SY	BY	HI
Replication	2	0.04	0.68	0.41	0.02	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.07	1.77
Treatment	29	7.29**	49.00**	58.43**	0.57**	1.50**	1.81**	3.11**	1.07**	1.44**	19.18**	147.76**
Error	58	2.42	1.72	0.95	0.11	0.05	0.10	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.19	3.74
C.V.%		4.27	2.46	3.58	11.73	9.39	5.40	.96	8.46	7.59	5.46	9.40

**Significant at 1%. DF-Days to flowering (50%), DM-Days to maturity, PH-Plant height (cm), NB-Number of branches/plant, PPP-Number of pods/plant, PL-Pod length (cm), SPP-Number of seeds/pod, 100SW-100-seed weight (g), SY-Seed yield/plant (g), BY-Biological yield/plant (g) and HI-Harvest index (%).

Table.3 Genetic parameters of variation for yield and its component traits in Mungbean

Characters	Mean ± SE	Range	GCV	PCV	h ² (%) (b. s.)	GA% as Mean
Days to flowering (50%)	36.42±1.27	33.00-42.00	3.49	5.52	40.10	4.56
Days to maturity	53.44±1.07	46.00-62.00	7.43	7.82	90.10	14.53
Plant height (cm)	27.23±0.80	20.1-38.3	16.07	16.47	95.30	32.32
Number of branches/plant	2.78±0.27	2.00-4.10	14.16	18.39	59.30	22.46
Number of pods/plant	2.38±0.18	2.40-12.25	29.23	30.70	90.60	57.32
Pod length (cm)	5.93±0.26	4.10-7.90	12.72	13.81	84.70	24.12
Number of seeds/pod	8.02±0.13	5.86-10.27	12.65	12.80	97.70	25.75
100-seed weight (g)	3.58±0.25	2.25-5.86	15.92	18.03	78.00	28.97
Seed yield/plant (g)	1.63±0.10	0.69-3.54	42.27	42.95	96.90	85.71
Biological yield/plant (g)	8.01±0.36	3.68-14.7	31.40	31.87	97.10	63.73
Harvest index (%)	20.56±1.58	9.09-46.25	33.71	34.99	92.80	66.89

Table.4 Phenotypic (above diagonal) and genotypic (below diagonal) correlation coefficients among various characters in mungbean

Characters	DF	DM	PH	NB	BY	HI	PPP	PL	SPP	100SW	SY
DF	1.000	0.182	-0.154	0.043	-0.176	-0.165	-0.349**	-0.261*	-0.208*	0.184	-0.260*
DM	0.325	1.000	-0.116	0.098	-0.239*	-0.359**	-0.284**	-0.279**	-0.239*	-0.257*	-0.433**
PH	-0.231	-0.143	1.000	0.359**	0.396**	0.214*	0.098	0.374**	0.088	0.296**	0.443**
NB	-0.246	0.129	0.452	1.000	0.302**	0.189	-0.010	0.088	0.104	0.105	0.346**
BY	-0.287	-0.257	0.407	0.383	1.000	-0.090	0.308**	0.288**	0.156	0.031	0.642**
HI	-0.338	-0.394	0.233	0.237	-0.064	1.000	0.427**	0.173	0.274**	0.094	0.681**
PPP	-0.527	-0.321	0.111	-0.008	0.332	0.461	1.000	0.096	0.287**	-0.317**	0.569**
PL	-0.450	-0.316	0.397	0.140	0.297	0.222	0.105	1.000	0.499**	0.267*	0.386**
SPP	-0.328	-0.267	0.083	0.131	0.159	0.290	0.307	0.524	1.000	-0.020	0.349**
100SW	0.300	-0.311	0.332	0.160	0.040	0.141	-0.395	0.249	-0.048	1.000	0.083
SY	-0.479	-0.465	0.461	0.437	0.664	0.682	0.604	0.430	0.359	0.125	1.000

* Significant at 5 per cent, ** Significant at 1 per cent

DF-Days to flowering (50%), DM-Days to maturity, PH-Plant height (cm), NB-Number of branches/plant, PPP-Number of pods/plant, PL-Pod length (cm), SPP-Number of seeds/pod, 100SW-100-seed weight (g), SY-Seed yield/plant (g), BY-Biological yield/plant (g) and HI-Harvest index (%).

Table.5 Direct (diagonal) and indirect path effects of different characters on seed yield per plant in mungbean

Characters	DF	DM	PH	NB	BY	HI	PPP	PL	SPP	100SW
DF	0.0069	0.0022	-0.0016	-0.0017	-0.002	-0.0023	-0.0036	-0.0031	-0.0023	0.0021
DM	0.0095	0.0293	-0.0042	0.0038	-0.0075	-0.0116	-0.0094	-0.0093	-0.0078	-0.0091
PH	0.0049	0.003	-0.0213	-0.0096	-0.0087	-0.005	-0.0024	-0.0085	-0.0018	-0.0071
NB	-0.004	0.0021	0.0073	0.0161	0.0062	0.0038	-0.0001	0.0023	0.0021	0.0026
BY	-0.19	-0.1698	0.269	0.2532	0.6612	-0.0426	0.2196	0.1962	0.1054	0.0262
HI	-0.2278	-0.2656	0.1568	0.1598	-0.0434	0.6741	0.3106	0.1494	0.1954	0.0953
PPP	-0.0495	-0.0302	0.0104	-0.0008	0.0312	0.0433	0.0939	0.0099	0.0288	-0.0371
PL	-0.0398	-0.028	0.0352	0.0124	0.0263	0.0196	0.0093	0.0886	0.0464	0.0221
SPP	0.0018	0.0014	-0.0005	-0.0007	-0.0009	-0.0016	-0.0017	-0.0028	-0.0054	0.0003
100SW	0.0089	-0.0093	0.0099	0.0048	0.0012	0.0042	-0.0118	0.0074	-0.0014	0.0298
SY	-0.479	-0.4647	0.4611	0.4372	0.6636	0.6821	0.6044	0.43	0.3594	0.125

Residual effect = 0.1568

DF-Days to flowering (50%), DM-Days to maturity, PH-Plant height (cm), NB-Number of branches/plant, PPP-Number of pods/plant, PL-Pod length (cm), SPP-Number of seeds/pod, 100SW-100-seed weight (g), SY-Seed yield/plant (g), BY-Biological yield/plant (g) and HI-Harvest index (%).

Heritability and genetic advance estimates

High genetic advance coupled with high heritability were observed for plant height, number of branches per plant, pod length, number of seeds per pod, 100-seed weight, number of pods per plant, biological yield, seed yield and harvest index. This suggested the preponderance of additive gene action with low environmental influence for the determination of these characters and could be effective in phenotypic selection. Similar results were obtained by Hemavathy *et al.*, (2015) for plant height, seed yield per plant and number of pods per plant, Pandey *et al.*, (2007) for plant height, seed yield per plant and harvest index, Degefa *et al.*, (2014) for seed yield per hectare and pods per plant, Rao *et al.*, (2007) for branches per plant, 100 seed weight, harvest index, biological yield per plant and seed yield per plant, Hari Kesh *et al.*, (2017) for number of branches per plant, number of seeds per pod, seed yield per plot and Godakh *et al.*, (2013) for seed yield per plant, 100 seed weight, harvest index, number of branches per plant, and biological yield per plant. The character, days to flowering (50%) exhibited moderate heritability with low genetic advance may be due to non-additive gene action. High heritability coupled with moderate genetic advance was observed for days to maturity, indicating equal importance of additive and non-additive gene actions. Similar observations were reported in greengram by Singh *et al.*, (2009) for days to 50% flowering and days to maturity. Contrary to this Rao *et al.*, (2006) and Makeen *et al.*, (2007) reported high heritability and low genetic advance for days to maturity.

Correlation coefficient analysis

Yield, a complex polygenic trait has a large number of other contributing component traits. Correlation analysis reveals the relationship of dependent variable yield with

its independent variables, thus association of various traits would determine their relative significance to improve yield. Seed yield per plant exhibited negative correlation with days to flowering and days to maturity suggesting the importance of short duration genotypes (Table 4). On the other hand seed yield per plant exhibited positive correlation with plant height, number of branches per plant, biological yield per plant, harvest index, number of pods per plant, pod length and number of seeds per pod indicating their importance in increasing yield. Number of pods per plant showed a positive and significant correlation with biological yield, harvest index and seeds per pod, but a negative and significant correlation with days to 50% flowering and days to maturity. 100-seed weight had a positive and significant correlation with plant height and pod length. These results are in conformity with Hemavathy *et al.*, (2015) for number of pods per plant and seeds per pod, Anand *et al.*, (2016) for number of pods per plant, Baisakh *et al.*, (2016) for plant height, pods per plant, pod length and seed per pod, Makeen *et al.*, (2007) for plant height, number of pods per plant, pod length and number of seeds per pod, Godakh *et al.*, (2013) for harvest index, number of pods per plant, number of primary branches per plant and number of seeds per pod and Tiwari *et al.*, (2014) for number of pods per plant and harvest index. Singh *et al.*, observed a negative and significant correlation between plant height and 100 seed weight.

Path coefficient analysis

All the direct effects were less than one which indicates that influences due to multicollinearity were minimal. The critical evaluation of path coefficient for agronomic traits, indicate that harvest index had the highest direct and positive effect on seed yield per plant, followed by biological yield per

plant, number of pods per plant, pod length, 100-seed weight, days to maturity, number of branches per plant and days to flowering (Table 5).

Similar results were also reported by Rao *et al.*, (2006) for harvest index, days to maturity, biological yield per plant, 100 seed weight, pod length, pods per plant, Pandey *et al.*, (2007) for harvest index, biological yield, seed per pod, Hemavathy *et al.*, (2015) for plant height, number of pods per plant and 100 seed weight, Gadhak *et al.*, (2013) for harvest index, biological yield per plant, number of seeds per pod, number of primary branches per plant and Tiwari *et al.*, (2014) for harvest index, pod length, plant height and seeds per pod.

The residual effect (0.157) indicates that the component characters under study were responsible for about 85% of variability in seed yield per plant. So far from the combined results of correlation coefficient and path analysis, it may be concluded that pods per branch, pod length, biological yield and harvest index are major components of seed yield and should be given top priority while formulating a selection strategy for improvement of yield in green gram.

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