

Original Research Article

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An Assessment of Temperate Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) Germplasm for Grain Quality Attributes

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ABSTRACT

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A total of 112 elite genotypes of temperate rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) were evaluated and characterized for some grain quality parameters [KLBC, KLAC, KBBC, KBAC, LBR, KER, AAC, GC, GT (by means of ASV) and aroma]. The investigated traits showed a wide range of variability. In the present experimental plant material medium sized (66.96%) and bold shaped (50.00%) grains, low AAC (79.65%), soft GC (56.03%), high ASV (47.32%) and low GT (47.32%) were found to be prevalent. Aroma was reported in seven genotypes namely *Black Rice*, *Muskbudji*, *Pusa 1509* and *Pusa Sugandha 3*. Four out of these seven genotypes viz. *Black Rice*, *Mehvan Green*, *Mushkandi-I* and *Kamad* were possessing mild aroma and suspected to have aroma other than popcorn alike characteristic aroma. LBR showed a significantly positive correlation with KLBC, KLAC and Amylose content. Further, the principle component analysis (PCA) revealed the existence of substantial level of variability due to investigated traits.

Introduction

The grain quality of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the most important attribute of rice crop. Grain quality is a multifaceted trait and plays a foremost role in dictating the consumers' choice and marketability (Juliano, 2003). Consumers' acceptability towards grain quality varies largely with the regions and ethnic groups (Unnevehr *et al.*, 1985). Thus, definition of a good quality rice grain varies

with the regions and ethnic groups. Shape, size, cooking and eating quality and aroma are the major grain quality attributes that are considered by consumer(s), invariably.

The size of rice grain is defined by its kernel length before cooking (KLBC) which further helps in categorizing the rice varieties in short (≤ 5.50 mm), medium (5.51-6.60 mm), long

(6.61-7.50 mm) and extra-long (>7.50 mm) grains. The grain shape is a complex trait which is defined with a ratio of kernel length before cooking (KLBC) and kernel breadth before cooking (KBBC), commonly known as the length to breadth ratio (LBR). On the basis of LBR a grain is defined as round (≤ 1.0), bold (1.1-2.0), medium (2.1-3.0) and slender (>3.0). Further, three other parameters viz., kernel length after cooking (KLAC), kernel breadth after cooking (KBAC) and kernel expansion ratio (KER) gives a prediction of grain appearance after cooking. In numerous studies significant associations between size & shape of rice grain and yield contributing traits have been reported; thus, these attributes also have great importance in breeding programs for yield improvement (Tan *et al.*, 2000; Adair *et al.*, 1966).

Starch is a major factor that affects cooking and eating quality of rice grain. This is largely associated with apparent amylose content (AAC), gel consistency (GC), alkali spreading value (ASV) and gelatinization temperature (GT). AAC is a major attribute that decides the behavior and firmness of a rice grain after cooking. On the basis of AAC rice variety may be classified under four distinguish classes viz., waxy (0-2%), vary low (3-9%), low (10-19%), intermediate (20-25%) and high amylose content (>26%) (Kumar and Khush, 1986). Waxy rice is highly sticky, firm and do not expand in volume on cooking and are vary less preferable due to their non-expanding nature and high stickiness. In contrast to waxy rice, high amylose content rice show high volume expansion and a high degree of flakiness, cooks dry, less tender and become hard upon cooling. In contrast to waxy and high amylose content, intermediate rice varieties are dominantly preferable as these rice cook moist, tender with good expansion and do not hard upon cooling (Kumar and Khush, 1986). Another important trait namely gel consistency (GC) is an index for determining the cooked rice texture. On

the basis of GC a rice genotype may be classified as hard (>40 mm), medium (41 to 60 mm) or soft (>61 mm). However, there are different suggestions for the correlation between amylose content and gel consistency but varieties having same amylose content may differ in tenderness; therefore, the cooked rice may be differentiated by the gel consistency test (Cagampang *et al.*, 1973). In general rice varieties with intermediate amylose and soft gel, consistency is preferred by consumers (Tyagi *et al.*, 2010).

The alkali spreading value (ASV) of milled rice grains in a weak base is simple measure to estimate gelatinization temperature (GT) and negatively correlated *i.e.* rice with low GT disintegrates completely, the one with intermediate GT are slow in disintegration while those with high GT remains unaffected. GT is a physical property of rice amylopectin that decides the cooking time of milled rice grains. The GT has been classified as low (55 to 69°C), intermediate (70 to 74°C) and high (>74°C) (Little *et al.*, 1958).

Apart from physical appearance and cooking and eating quality, aroma of rice grain is another quality attributes which directly affect the choice of end consumers and marketability of rice, as consumers pay a premium price for scented rice in international market. A number of volatile and semi-volatile compounds have been identified by the phyto-chemists in various scented varieties of rice (Yang *et al.*, 2008; Widjaja *et al.*, 1996); however, the 2-Acetyl-1-pyrroline (2AP) is the only recognized volatile compound that had been found significantly associated with characteristic pop-corn like aroma in most of the scented varieties of rice (Buttery *et al.*, 1983).

Thus, in past few decades the trend of keeping rice grain quality improvement as a major objective in every rice improvement program has rapidly increased among the rice breeders.

Improving the rice grain quality shall involve the screening of the available germ plasm for above mentioned traits. Thus accurate assessment of quality traits can be invaluable in crop breeding for diverse applications including introgression of desirable genes from diverse germ plasm into the available genetic base and for widening the narrow genetic base of the developed varieties (Roy and Sharma, 2014).

Thus, the present investigation was intended to characterize local landraces of Kashmir valley and some other elite genotypes of temperate rice maintained at the Mountain Research Centre for Field Crop-Khudwani, SKUAST-Kashmir, India (MRCFC-Khudwani) for grain quality traits.

Materials and Methods

Experimental plant material

A total of 112 elite genotypes of temperate rice germplasm were procured from the germplasm repository of regional research centre of SKUAST-Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir (India) namely MRCFC-Khudwani. All these genotypes were raised in Augmented Block Design under natural conditions following prescribed agronomical practices.

Evaluation of rice grain quality parameters

In the present investigation emphasize was given to the evaluation and characterization of the experimental plant material for their grain quality by following SES (2000). In the physical parameters KLBC (mm), KLAC (mm), KBBC (mm), KBAC (mm), LBR and KER were considered. For the assessment of cooking and eating quality AAC (%), GC (mm) and GT by means of ASV (both on a numerical scale from 1 to 7) were evaluated following the standard protocols

described and published by Juliano *et al.*, (1971); Cagampang *et al.*, (1973); Little *et al.*, (1958), respectively. The presence of aroma was detected as per the simple laboratorial technique developed by IRRI (1971).

Statistical analysis, trait association studies and PCA

The whole statistical analysis was performed using XLSTAT© version 10 (Addinsoft, 40, rue Damrémont, 75018 Paris, France). For the trait association studies we used Pearson's correlation coefficient (r). Further, the PCA was performed on the basis of Pearson correlation matrix and the calculated eigenvalues and eigenvectors. The principle components were extracted until they accounted for more than 70% of the cumulative contribution of the eigenvalues.

Results and Discussion

Physical quality of rice grains

In this study, a wide range of KLBC, KLAC, KBBC, KBAC, LBR and KER were recorded in germ plasm (Table 1). Further, on pursuing Figure 1(a) and 1(b), one may clearly see the majority of genotypes possessed medium sized (*i.e.* 5.51-6.60 mm KLBC) and bold (*i.e.* 1.1-2.0 LBR) grains. Our these results are in accordance with Mir *et al.*, (2013) who conducted a study on the physical evaluation of temperate rice which included varieties Jhelum, K-332, Koshar, Pusa-3, SKAU-345, SKAU-382 and SR-1. We also found these results in agreement with Palanivel *et al.*, (2016) and Varnamkhasti *et al.*, (2008) who recorded at par ranges for different physical quality attributes of rice grain.

Cooking and eating quality of rice grains

All the 112 genotypes were evaluated for the AAC (%), GC (mm), ASV (1-7) and GT (°C).

Table 1 supports the presence of a wide range of AAC, GC, ASV and GT in our germplasm. Figure 1(c) to 1(e), further clarifies that low AAC, soft GC, high ASV and low GT was prevalent in our experimental plant material. On the basis of these results and the recommendation of Cruz and Khush (2000) we may further predict that rice grains of most of the genotypes belonging to our experimental plant material will probably take more time in cooking, get sticky and become soft. These results are in agreement of Popluechai *et al.*, (2012) who estimated different levels of amylose content in Thai rice varieties varying from 18 to 22%. These results are also at par with Husaini *et al.*, (2009) and Shikari *et al.*, (2008) who conducted their studies in temperate rice of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a sensory test for aroma, seven elite genotypes (Black Rice, Muskbudji, Mehvan Green, Mushkandi-I, Kamad, Pusa 1509 and Pusa Sugandh 3) from our experimental

material were possessing aroma. Four out of these seven aromatic genotypes viz., Black rice, Mushkbudji, Kamad, Pusa 1509 and Pusa Sugandha 3 had already been recognized in many previous studies (Husaini *et al.*, 2009; Shikari *et al.*, 2008); however, no previous evidence supporting our detection of aroma in two elite genotypes viz., Mehvan Green and Mushkandi, was found, even after a vast survey of literature. Interestingly, characteristic popcorn like aroma of 2AP with high intensity was recorded only in Mushkbudji, Pusa 1509 and PusaSugandha3 whereas, the other four aromatic genotypes were possessing fragrance of mild intensity and it was quite difficult to differentiate the characteristic 2AP aroma. We are not sure about the cause behind this; however, the most probable reason for this may be the environmental effect and/or the genetic background and/or the presence of some other volatile compound(s) (Jewle *et al.*, 2011; Jezussek *et al.*, 2002; Widjaja *et al.*, 1996).

Table.1 Descriptive statistics of tested grain quality traits

Statistic	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Mean	SEm	CV
KLBC	4.20	7.90	3.70	5.89	0.06	0.10
KLAC	5.66	17.65	11.99	8.40	0.13	0.17
KBBC	1.78	3.40	1.62	2.78	0.03	0.11
KBAC	2.10	4.80	2.70	3.63	0.04	0.11
LBR	1.40	4.44	3.04	2.15	0.04	0.19
KER	1.13	2.23	1.10	1.43	0.02	0.13
GC	26.33	150.00	123.67	71.90	2.94	0.43
ASV	1.00	7.00	6.00	4.78	0.17	0.37
ACC	3.09	25.90	22.81	14.18	0.40	0.30
Aroma	0.00	3.00	3.00	0.15	0.06	3.86

Table.2 Estimates of Pearson’s correlation coefficient (r) tested for grain quality parameters

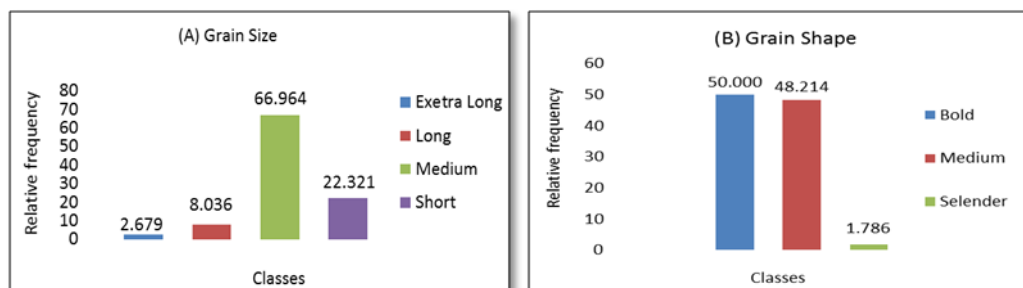
Variables	KLBC	KLAC	KBBC	KBAC	LBR	KER	GC	ASV	ACC	Aroma
KLBC	1	0.584	-0.177	-0.263	0.720	-0.047	-0.182	0.009	0.184	0.213
KLAC	0.584	1	-0.475	-0.348	0.767	0.773	-0.207	0.093	0.165	0.550
KBBC	-0.177	-0.475	1	0.472	-0.780	-0.423	0.054	0.039	-0.183	-0.385
KBAC	-0.263	-0.348	0.472	1	-0.530	-0.170	-0.065	0.012	-0.087	-0.264
LBR	0.720	0.767	-0.780	-0.530	1	0.356	-0.149	0.000	0.287	0.496
KER	-0.047	0.773	-0.423	-0.170	0.356	1	-0.127	0.121	0.019	0.461
GC	-0.182	-0.207	0.054	-0.065	-0.149	-0.127	1	0.112	-0.099	-0.059
ASV	0.009	0.093	0.039	0.012	0.000	0.121	0.112	1	0.003	0.077
ACC	0.184	0.165	-0.183	-0.087	0.287	0.019	-0.099	0.003	1	0.216
Aroma	0.213	0.550	-0.385	-0.264	0.496	0.461	-0.059	0.077	0.216	1

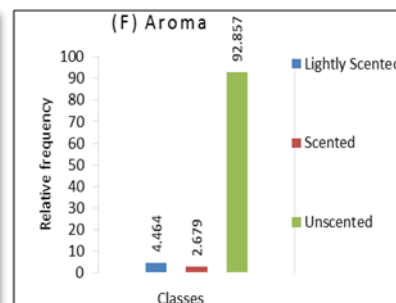
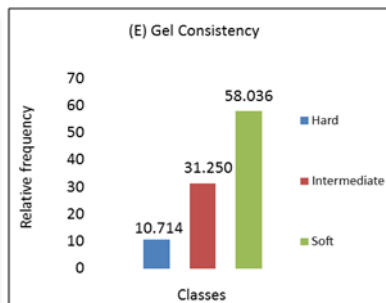
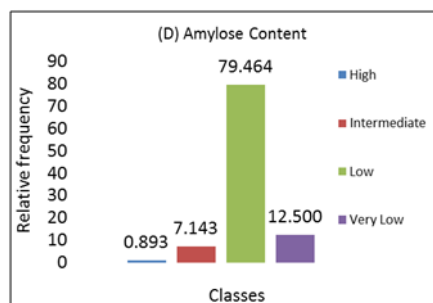
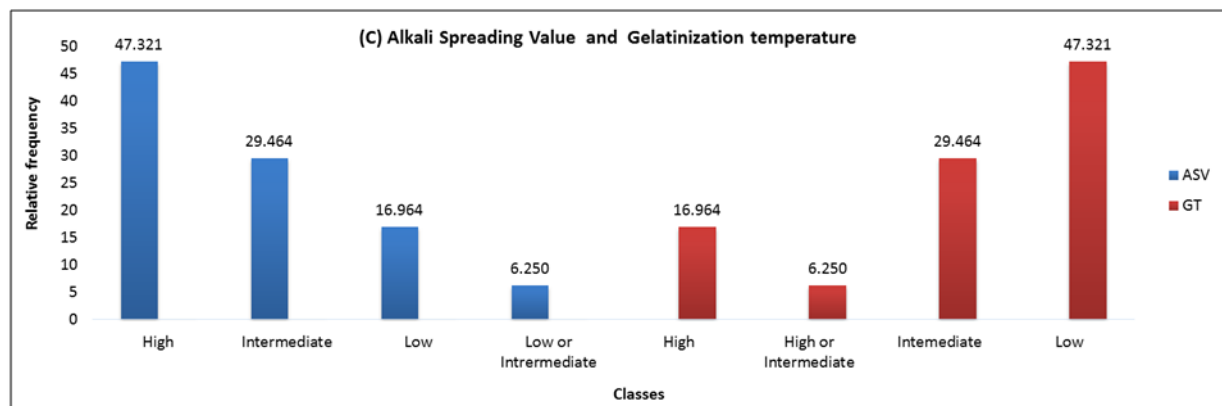
Values in bold are different from 0 with a significance level alpha=0.05

Table.3 Estimates of eigenvectors and factor loadings for grain quality

	PC1		PC2		PC3		PC4	
	Eigenvectors	Factor Loading	Eigenvectors	Factor Loading	Eigenvectors	Factor Loading	Eigenvectors	Factor Loading
KLBC	0.301	0.591	-0.507	-0.581	-0.054	-0.057	0.350	0.355
KLAC	0.457	0.895	0.138	0.158	-0.209	-0.223	0.073	0.074
KBBC	-0.377	-0.740	-0.050	-0.058	-0.249	-0.267	0.299	0.303
KBAC	-0.288	-0.564	0.097	0.111	-0.510	-0.546	0.168	0.171
LBR	0.476	0.933	-0.214	-0.245	0.115	0.123	0.026	0.026
KER	0.314	0.615	0.573	0.657	-0.253	-0.270	-0.169	-0.171
GC	-0.103	-0.202	0.229	0.262	0.734	0.786	0.145	0.147
ASV	0.028	0.055	0.383	0.439	0.081	0.087	0.794	0.805
ACC	0.158	0.311	-0.289	-0.332	-0.075	-0.081	0.269	0.273
Aroma	0.337	0.662	0.235	0.270	-0.057	-0.061	0.038	0.038
Eigenvalue	3.844		1.313		1.146		1.029	
Variability (%)	38.441		13.134		11.464		10.289	
Cumulative (%)	38.441		51.575		63.039		73.328	

Fig.1 Relative frequency of various classes of (A) Grain size, (B) Grain Shape, (C) Alkali Spreading Value and Gelatinization Temperature, (D) Amylose Content, (E) Gel Consistency and (F) Aroma





Trait association and PCA

The trait association studies help in direct and indirect selection during crop improvement programme(s). Table 2 gives a clear insight about the association between grain quality traits. In the present investigation we recorded a significantly positive association between KLBC, KLAC and LBR. These three traits were found to be negatively associated with KBBC and KBAC. These results are at par with the findings of Balakrishnan *et al.*, (2013) and Khatun *et al.*, (2003). Among cooking and eating quality traits, AAC showed a positive association with ASV (thus a negative correlation with GT) and significantly negative association with GC. Further, on establishing an inter-association study between physical traits and cooking and eating quality traits AAC showed significant positive association with KLBC, KLAC and LBR whereas, a significantly association with KBBC and KBAC. All these relationships were in conformity with Moulick *et al.*,

(2016), Eram *et al.*, (2014), Bansal *et al.*, (2006) and Chang and Li (1981).

The PCA is a measure that helps in estimating the part played by each component in producing the variations among the genotypes. The PCA revealed that the first four axes were largely accounted for the variations among the germplasm (Table 2). For PC1, the corresponding loadings were negative for KBBC, KBAC and GC and positive for other traits (Table 3). For PC2, the loadings were negative for KLBC, KBBC, LBR and AAC. For PC3, the loadings were negative for most of the traits except for LBR, GC and ASV. For PC4, the loadings were almost positive except for KER (Table 2). This study has a support of the similar type of studies carried out by Hori *et al.*, (2016) and Daiko *et al.*, (2011).

The present investigation was concentrated on the characterization of some landraces of Kashmir valley and elite genotypes of

temperate rice maintained at MRCFC-Khudwani to provide information for improvement of valuable grain quality traits. A wide range of various grain quality traits was recorded. Hence, these genotypes may be used to exploit the genetic diversity and in biotechnological researches for further improvement of rice grain quality. Further, the three aromatic genotypes viz., Kamad, Mehvan Green and Mushkandi-I are needed to be reevaluated for their aroma at molecular as well as biochemical level.

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