

Original Research Article

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Genetic variability and Path Analysis in Opium Poppy (*Papaver somniferum* L.)

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during *rabi* season of 2016-17 at Research Farm, Rajasthan College of Agriculture, MPUAT, Udaipur to study “ Genetic Variability and Path Analysis in Opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum* L.)” was carried out using 25 genotypes were planted in randomized block design including 2 checks. The data obtained were subjected to analysis of variance, estimation of different variability parameters and path coefficient analysis. The observations were recorded on five randomly selected plants for twelve characters. Analysis of variance revealed significant differences among the genotypes for all the characters suggesting sufficient amount of variability in the experimental material under study. High GCV coupled with high heritability and expected genetic gain of a character provides good selection advantage. There is a substantial scope for improvement of seed yield per plant, harvest index for latex yield and husk yield per plant. Selection for these characters would be effective in selection of suitable genotype for opium poppy improvement. Path coefficient analysis revealed that husk yield per plant, number of effective capsule per plant, diameter of main capsule, days to 50 per cent flowering, plant height and was the major components for seed yield per plant and latex yield per plant respectively because these traits had maximum direct and indirect effect towards seed yield and latex yield. The estimate of phenotypic coefficient of variance was higher in magnitude than the respective genotypic coefficient of variance for all the characters indicating the important role of environment in the expression of characters. Chetek Aphim (0.16 g), UOP 121 (0.15g/plant), UOP 30 (0.14g/plant) and UOP 53(0.13g/plant) were found superior for latex yield and genotype UOP 53 (7.52 g/plant), UOP 150 (6.41 g/plant) and JOP 540 (6.31g/plant) for seed yield. The genotype UOP-53 found superior for both latex and seed yield per plant.

Keywords

Genetic variability, Path analysis, Opium poppy, Seed yield, Latex yield.

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Introduction

Opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum* L.) is a multipurpose crop which is used as a medicinal or ornamental plant, as well as a source for seeds and seed oil.

It is chief source of diverse physiologically active alkaloids and known to mankind since antiquity. Opium is one of the oldest known

pain killers and is source of several alkaloids used for analgesic, hypnotic, sedative, antispasmodic and soporific purpose in modern medicine.

Morphine is the major alkaloid present in opium ranges from 7-17 per cent mainly used to relieve from almost all type of severe pains.

Other important alkaloids are codeine, the baine papaverine and narcotine. *Papaver somniferum* L. is an annual plant ($2n=22$) native to Turkey and adjacent areas Opium poppy is considered to be a predominantly self-pollinating species with various rates of out-crossing depending upon variety and environmental factors where the degree of out crossing is reported from 70-72 per cent. It is traditionally grown as *Rabi*, crop. Opium poppy is an erect annual plant that usually has a white, purple, or pink terminal flower, and alternating leaves. The petals surround the unripe fruit capsule until the fruit capsule matures then the petals fall off. The characteristic fruit type of opium is the unilocular capsule. The stigmatic disc rests on top of the capsule, and beneath it are dehiscent pores or valves. The flowers have two sepals that fall off as the bud opens and four (or up to six) petals in red, pink, orange and white.

Poppy seeds are devoid of narcotic properties and are rich in fatty oils and proteins. Poppy seeds contain up to 50 percent edible oil and cultivar having high levels of oleic and linoleic acids. The oil is widely used for culinary purposes. They are also the source of drying oil, used for manufacturing of paints, varnishes and soaps. The crop is mainly grown in India, China, and Egypt and in India. It is cultivated in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh under the control of Narcotics Department by licensed growers and is a valuable source of foreign exchange. In India, it is cultivated on an area of 5328 ha with a production and productivity of 317.86 tones at 70 consistency and 59.65 Kg/ha and in Rajasthan, it is cultivated on an area of 2503 ha with a production and productivity of 158.4 tones at 70 consistency and 63.28 Kg/ha during 2013-14, respectively (Khatik *et al.*, 2016). The extant of possible improvement for a particular character mainly depends upon the

genetic variability and its heritable proportion like seed yield, latex yield, a polygenic trait where direct selection would not be reliable approach on account of being highly influenced by environmental factors. Hence it becomes very essential to identify the direct as well as indirect component traits which can be biometrically estimated by path coefficients.

Materials and Methods

The present research entitled “Genetic Variability and Path Analysis in opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum* L.)” was carried out with 25 diverse genotypes in randomized block design replicated thrice at Research Farm, Rajasthan College of Agriculture, MPUAT, Udaipur, during *Rabi* 2016-17. Each entry was planted in 2 rows of 3.0 m length keeping row to row and plant to plant distance of 30 cm and 10 cm, respectively. The observations were recorded on five randomly selected competitive plants for each entry in replication for all the morphological characters. However, the observations days to 50 per cent flowering and maturity were recorded on plot basis. And other observation of each entry in each replication was recorded for peduncle length, plant height, number of effective capsule per plant, diameter of main capsule, number of leaves per plant, seed yield per plant, husk yield per plant, latex yield per plant, harvest index for seed yield, harvest index for latex yield.

Results and Discussion

The genetic variability present in the population is a prerequisite for progress of any breeding programme. The estimates of various variability parameters viz., GCV, PCV, heritability and genetic gain are given in (Table 1). The highest phenotypic coefficient of variation was observed for number of effective capsule per plant

(28.39%) followed by seed yield per plant (21.15%). The highest genotypic coefficient of variation was observed for husk yield per plant (19.56%) followed by seed yield per plant (18.58%), latex yield per plant (14.23), harvest index for latex yield (13.84%) and number of effective capsule per plant (13.52%). The estimate of phenotypic coefficient of variance was higher in magnitude than the respective genotypic coefficient of variance for all the characters indicating the important role of environment in the expression of characters. The differences between genotypic coefficient of variance and phenotypic coefficient of variance estimates were negligible for plant height while the difference was high for rest of the characters. Similar findings on variability on genotypic and phenotypic level in opium poppy have also reported by Jain *et al.*, (2005), and Singh *et al.*, (2008).

Heritability (in broad sense) is the ratio of genotypic variance to the phenotypic variance. It determines the efficiency with which we can utilize the genotypic variability in breeding programme. The results indicated that the heritability was high for most of the characters. Husk yield per plant showed maximum heritability (89.53%) followed by seed yield per plant (77.18%), harvest index for latex yield (68.75%), diameter of main capsule (64.16%), index for seed yield (58.38%), Latex yield per plant (56.21%), plant height (48.79%), number of leaves per plant (37.64%). Similar results were also reported for high heritability for the characters *viz.*, plant height, diameter of main capsule, days of 50% flowering, number of leaves per plant, husk yield per plant and seed yield per plant by Jain *et al.*, (2005), Singh *et al.*, (2008).

Genetic advance (GA) expressed as percentage of mean was maximum for harvest index for seed yield (5.52%) followed by

plant height (5.29%) and diameter of main capsule (3.91%). Higher magnitude of genetic advance was also observed for plant height by Singh *et al.*, (2000). Genetic advance as per cent of mean is expressed as genetic gain. The highest genetic gain was observed for husk yield per plant (38%) followed by seed yield per plant (33.63%), latex yield per plant (22.13%) and harvest index for latex yield (20.07 %). In consonance to present findings, Jain *et al.*, (2005) also observed higher estimates of genetic gain for seed yield per plant (38%) in opium poppy. Selection for these characters would be effective in selection of suitable genotype for Opium poppy improvement. Genetic advance as per cent of mean is expressed as genetic gain. The highest genetic gain was observed for husk yield per plant (38%) followed by seed yield per plant (33.63%), latex yield per plant (22.13%) and harvest index for latex yield (20.07 %). The magnitude of genetic gain was medium for number of effective capsule per plant (13.26%), number of leaves per plant (11.78 %), harvest index for seed yield (11.12%), diameter of main capsule (9.35%) and plant height (5.30%). Low estimates of genetic gain were recorded for peduncle length (3.91%) and days to 50 per cent flowering (2.64 %). Very low estimates of genetic gain were recorded for days to maturity (1.28%). In consonance to present findings, Jain *et al.*, (2005) also observed higher estimates of genetic gain for husk yield per plant (38%) in opium poppy

Path analysis provides information about how close the other traits to the yield. The direct and indirect effects of five dependent characters on seed yield per plant and latex yield per plant as independent character was obtained in path coefficient analysis at genotypic level. The results and discussed for path analysis as under. Husk yield v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive

correlation of husk yield per plant with seed yield per plant (0.773**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via latex yield per plant (0.041), peduncle length (0.002) and days to maturity (0.001) whereas husk yield per plant exerted maximum direct effect seed yield per plant with high negative estimated number of leaves per plant (-0.014), days to 50% flowering (-0.010) and diameter of main capsule.

Latex yield per plant v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of latex yield per plant with seed yield per plant (0.574**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via Diameter of main capsule (0.0533) and number of effective capsule per plant (0.037) whereas peduncle length (-0.01) and plant height (-0.006) exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant with high negative estimates. Diameter of main capsule v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of diameter of main capsule with seed yield per plant (0.563**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via husk yield per plant (0.287), latex yield per plant (0.053), number of effective capsule per plant (0.011) and days to maturity (0.007).whereas peduncle length (-0.02), day

and plant height (-0.01) exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant is negative.

Number of effective capsule per plant v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of number of effective capsule per plant with seed yield per plant (0.294**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via husk yield per plant (0.425), latex yield per plant (0.037), peduncle length (0.041) and plant height(0.003) whereas diameter of main capsule (-0.012), number of effective capsule per plant (-0.035) and days to 50% flowering (-0.02) exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant with high negative estimates.

Peduncle length v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of peduncle length with seed yield per plant (0.381**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via husk yield per plant (0.014), peduncle length (0.110) and plant height(0.004) whereas number of effective capsule per plant (-0.013), latex yield per plant (-0.01) and diameter of main capsule (-0.006) exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant with high negative estimates.

Table.1 Estimates of genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV), phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV), heritability in broad sense (h^2), genetic advance (GA) and Genetic gain (GG) for different characters in Opium poppy

Characters	GCV	PCV	h^2	GA	GG
Days to 50% flowering	2.18	3.71	34.57	2.20	2.64
Peduncle length (cm)	3.98	8.32	22.87	0.93	3.91
Plant height (cm)	3.69	5.28	48.79	5.29	5.30
Number of leaves per plant	9.32	15.20	37.64	1.52	11.78
Number of effective capsules per plant	13.52	28.39	22.67	0.27	13.26
Diameter of main capsule (mm)	5.67	7.08	64.16	3.91	9.35
Seed yield per plant (g)	18.58	21.15	77.18	1.72	33.63
Husk yield per plant (g)	19.56	20.67	89.53	1.93	38.12
Latex yield per plant (g)	14.33	19.11	56.21	0.02	22.13
Harvest index for seed yield (%)	7.07	9.25	58.38	5.52	11.12
Harvest index for latex yield (%)	16.66	21.08	68.75	0.14	20.07
Days to maturity	1.31	2.76	22.59	1.56	1.28

Table.2 Direct (diagonal) and indirect effects of different characters towards seed yield per plant in opium poppy

Character	Days to 50% flowering	Peduncle length (cm)	Plant Height (cm)	Number of effective capsule per plant	Diameter of main capsule (mm)	Number of leaves per plant	Latex yield per plant (mm)	Husk yield per plant (g)	Harvest index for seed yield	Harvest index for seed yield	Days to maturity	Genotypic correlation with seed yield per plant
Days to 50% flowering	-0.032	-0.055	-0.001	-0.016	0.028	0.004	0.053	0.318	0.015	-0.003	0.014	0.324**
Peduncle length (cm)	0.016	0.110	0.004	-0.013	-0.006	-0.003	-0.010	0.014	0.273	0.005	-0.008	0.381**
Plant Height (cm)	0.006	0.068	0.006	-0.017	-0.009	0.003	-0.006	0.165	0.058	0.004	-0.005	0.271**
Number of effective capsule per plant	-0.015	0.041	0.003	-0.035	-0.012	0.006	0.037	0.425	-0.148	-0.001	-0.007	0.294**
Diameter of main capsule (mm)	-0.022	-0.018	-0.001	0.011	0.039	0.004	0.053	0.287	0.207	-0.003	0.007	0.563**
Number of leaves per plant	-0.005	-0.016	0.001	-0.008	0.006	0.024	0.001	-0.237	0.249	-0.001	-0.002	0.110
Latex yield per plant	-0.025	-0.016	-0.001	-0.019	0.031	0.000	0.067	0.620	-0.081	-0.005	0.003	0.574**
Husk yield per plant (g)	-0.010	0.002	0.001	-0.014	0.011	-0.006	0.041	1.021	-0.283	0.007	0.002	0.773**
Harvest index for seed yield	-0.001	0.050	0.001	0.009	0.013	0.010	-0.009	-0.479	0.602	-0.002	-0.004	0.190
Harvest index for latex yield	-0.008	-0.048	-0.002	-0.003	0.010	0.001	0.027	-0.607	0.077	0.027	-0.001	-0.565
Days to maturity	-0.033	-0.067	-0.002	0.016	0.018	-0.004	0.014	0.170	-0.154	0.001	0.014	0.027

Residual effect= 0.0058s

Table.3 Direct (diagonal) and indirect effects of different characters towards latex yield per plant in opium poppy

Character	Days to 50% flowering	Peduncle length (cm)	Plant Height (cm)	No of effective capsule per plant	Diameter of main capsule	Number of leaves per plant	Seed yield per plant	Husk yield per plant	Harvest index for seed yield	Harvest index for latex yield	Days of maturity	Genotypic correlation with latex yield per plant
Days to 50% flowering	0.002	-0.479	0.031	0.128	0.876	0.029	-1.547	1.658	0.057	0.135	0.100	0.790**
Peduncle length (cm)	-0.001	0.955	-0.105	0.104	-0.197	-0.026	-1.818	0.071	1.055	-0.244	0.059	-0.148
Plant Height (cm)	-0.0004	0.587	-0.172	0.136	-0.300	0.0245	-1.296	0.861	0.222	-0.190	0.037	0.090
Number of effective capsule per plant	0.001	0.354	-0.083	0.281	-0.383	0.044	-1.404	2.216	-0.573	0.055	0.046	0.555**
Diameter of main capsule (mm)	0.001	-0.151	0.041	-0.086	1.244	0.030	-2.689	1.497	0.801	0.149	-0.406	0.792**
Number of leaves per plant	0.0003	-0.137	-0.023	0.067	0.204	0.182	-0.533	-1.237	0.960	0.029	0.015	0.009
Seed yield per plant	0.0007	0.363	-0.046	0.082	0.701	0.002	-4.775	4.121	0.441	-0.319	0.002	0.574**
Husk yield per plant (g)	0.0007	0.012	-0.027	0.116	0.349	-0.0424	-3.690	5.332	-1.091	-0.336	-0.016	0.607**
Harvest index for seed yield	0.00006	0.433	-0.0164	-0.069	0.428	0.075	-0.907	-2.502	2.325	0.0722	0.025	-0.135
Harvest index for latex yield	0.0005	-0.412	0.057	0.0276	0.328	0.009	2.697	-3.169	0.296	0.566	0.005	0.407**
Days of maturity	0.002	-0.580	0.066	-0.131	0.583	-0.027	0.126	0.886	-0.593	-0.031	-0.098	0.202

Residual effect= 0.4125

Days to 50% flowering v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of days to 50% flowering with seed yield per plant (0.324**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via husk yield per plant (0.318), latex yield per plant (0.053) and diameter of main capsule (0.028) whereas all other trait exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant with high negative estimates.

Plant height v/s seed yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 2) indicated that the significant positive correlation of plant height with seed yield per plant (0. 0.271**) was mainly due to its high positive indirect effect via peduncle length (0.068), number of leaves per plant (0.003), plant height(0.006) and husk yield per plant(0.165) whereas latex yield per plant (-0.006), days to maturity (-0.005) and diameter of main capsule (-0.009)) exerted maximum direct effect on seed yield per plant with high negative estimates.

Residual effect: The component of residual effects of path analysis was (0.0058) the low residual effect indicated that characters for path analysis were adequate and appropriate.

It is concluded from above results that seed yield per plant can be improved practicing selection for husk yield per plant, latex yield per plant, peduncle length and plant height as they contributed directly to the seed yield as revealed from path analysis.

These findings are in consonance to the results obtained by Shukla *et al.*, (2003), Ozturk and Gunlu (2008) have also reported high positive direct effect of plant height and capsule size on seed yield per plant. Mirjana *et al.*, (2012) and Solanki *et al.*, (2014) also reported the high positive direct effect of husk yield per plant and latex yield per plant over seed yield per plant.

The direct and indirect effect of eight dependent characters on latex yield per plant as independent character was obtained by path coefficient analysis at genotypic level.

Days to 50% flowering v/s latex yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 3) indicated that the significant positive correlation of days to 50% flowering with latex yield per plant (0.790**) was mainly due to its indirect positive effect through husk yield per plant (1.658), diameter of main capsules (0.876), number of effective capsule per plant (0.128), days to 50% flowering (0.002), plant height (0.031) and number of leaves per plant (0.029).

The direct contribution of peduncle length (-0.476) and seed yield per plant (-0.1547) toward latex yield per plant is negative.

Number of effective capsule per plant v/s latex yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 3) indicated that the significant positive correlation of number of effective capsule per plant with latex yield per plant (0.555**) was mainly due to its indirect positive effect through days to 50% flowering (0.281), plant height (0.136), husk yield per plant (0.116), peduncle length (0.104) and seed yield per plant (0.082). The direct contribution of number of effective capsule per plant towards diameter of main capsule negative (-0.086).

Seed yield per plant v/s latex yield per plant: A perusal of the table 3 indicated that the significant positive correlation of seed yield per plant with latex yield per plant (0.574**) was mainly due to its indirect positive effect through husk yield per plant (4.121), diameter of main capsules negative (0.701), number of effective capsule per plant (0.082, days to 50% flowering (0.002) days to maturity and number of leaves per plant (0.002). The direct contribution of number of effective capsule per plant peduncle length (-0.476), plant

height (-1.574) and harvest index for latex yield per plant (-0.319)

Diameter of main capsule per plant v/s latex yield per plant: A perusal of the table 3 indicated that the significant positive correlation of diameter of main capsule with latex yield per plant (0.792**) was mainly due to its indirect positive effect through days to 50% flowering (1.244), seed yield per plant (0.700), husk yield per plant (0.349) and number of leave per plant (0.204). The direct contribution of peduncle length (-0.383) and plant height (-0.300) towards latex yield per plant is negative.

Husk yield per plant v/s latex yield per plant: A perusal of the (Table 3) indicated that the significant positive correlation of husk yield per plant with latex yield per plant (0.607**) was mainly due to its indirect positive effect through husk yield per plant (4.121), days to 50% flowering (5.332), number of effective capsule per plant (2.216) diameter of main capsule (1.497) and plant height (0.861) days to maturity (0.886)). The direct contribution of husk yield per plant toward number of leave per plant negative (-1.237)

Residual effect: The component of residual effects of path analysis was 0.412 this moderately high residual effect indicated that characters for path analysis were not adequate and appropriate in this study.

It is concluded from above results that latex yield per plant can be improved practicing selection for days to 50 percent flowering as indicated by path analysis. These findings are in consonance to the results obtained by Shukla *et al.*, (2003) and Dubey (2010) have also reported high positive direct effect of plant height, capsule size, and diameter of main capsule on seed yield per plant. Singh and Singh (2008) also reported the high positive direct effect of husk yield per plant

and seed yield per plant over latex yield per plant.

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