

Original Research Article

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## Studies on Collection and Evaluation of Genetic Variability Available in *Amaranthus* (*Amaranthus spp.*) under Chhattisgarh Plain Condition

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Amaranthus, genetic variability, GCV, PCV, heritability, genetic advance

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The experiment “studies on collection and evaluation of genetic variability available in *Amaranthus* under Chhattisgarh plain condition” was conducted at Horticulture Research cum Instructional Farm, Department of Horticulture, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (C.G.) during Rabi 2014-15. Twenty five genotypes of *Amaranthus* were evaluated. High magnitude of phenotypic GCV and PCV was observed for seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, followed by test weight, petiole length, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, stem girth, leaf breadth, leaf length, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> and leaf yield. The heritability estimates recorded to be high for the characters viz. dry matter per cent, fiber content, seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, stem girth, test weight, leaf yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, petiole length, leaf breadth and root length, leaf length, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, plant height. Highest estimates of genetic advance as percentage of mean was obtained for characters namely seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup> and test weight, petiole length, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, stem girth, leaf breadth.

### Introduction

*Amaranthus* is one of the important and popular leafy vegetables of India. *Amaranthus* (*Amaranthus spp.*), popularly known as “Chaulai”. The edible amaranth belongs to the family Amaranthaceae, subfamily Amaranthoideae, and genus *Amaranthus*. The genus *Amaranthus* includes 50-60 species, cultivated for leaf as well as for grains and few are wild species. The vegetable amaranth species (2n = 34) include *A. tricolor*, *A.*

*dubius*, *A. lividus*, *A. blitum*, *A. hypochondriacus*, *A. spinosus*, and *A. viridis*, while (2n = 32) includes *A. cruentus* and *A. tristis*, *A. graecizans* and *A. caudatus*. Centres of diversity for amaranth are Central and South America, India and South East Asia with secondary centres of diversity in West and East Africa. Main vegetable type of leaf amaranth is *Amaranthus tricolor* L., originated in south East Asia, particularly in India. (Rai and Yadav, 2005).

Amaranthus plants are fast growing, tall, soft-wooded annuals, extremely variable, erect to spreading with strongly branched tap root. Leaf colour is green or red or with different shades of above. Leaves alternate, long petiolate, simple and entire. The height of mature plants varies between 0.3 m and 2.5 m, depending on the species, growth habit and environment. Some species have distinct markings on their leaves. Terminal and auxiliary inflorescences occur. Most of the cultivated species are monoecious, wind pollinated, but the grain species with colourful inflorescence are occasionally visited by bees (Khoshoo and Pal, 1970). Amaranth uses the C4 cycle photosynthetic pathway.

Amaranthus is a rich source of nutrients it serves as an alternative source of nutrition for people in developing countries (Prakash and Pal, 1991 and Shukla *et al.*, 2003). Tender stems and leaves contains moisture (85.70 %), protein (4.0 g), fat (0.50 g), carbohydrates (6.30 g), calcium (397.0 mg), iron (25.5mg), phosphorus (83.0 mg), vitamin A (9200IU), and vitamin C (99 mg), (Rai and Yadav, 2005). It is also a good source dietary fiber.

Varalakshmi (2004) reported that wide range of variability in Amaranthus plant height (31-81.5 cm), basal lateral branch length (2.3-103 cm), top branch length (5-58.3 cm), leaf width (3-12 cm), petiole length (3-9 cm), inflorescence length (5-50 cm), inflorescence lateral length (2.5-32.6 cm), axillary branch length (0.2-5 cm) and days to 50% flowering (29-69).

Yadav *et al.*, (2008) reported that the genotypic variability and character association in grain Amaranth genotypes for agronomically useful and yield contributing traits.

India is well-known for its vegetable growing areas. India is the second largest producer of

vegetable next to China. India produced 162897 thousand MT of fresh vegetable from 9396 thousand hectare area and 17.3 MT per hectare productivity. (Anon., 2014). In Chhattisgarh, 400024 hectare area is under the vegetable cultivation and production is 5438567 MT out of which 6680 hectare area with production of 62897 MT under leafy vegetables crops (Anon., 2014). In India the major leafy vegetable producing states are Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh, it is cultivated in Raigarh, Bilaspur, Raipur and Durg, Rajnandgaon, Balod, Korba, Narayanpur, Baster Kanker, Kawardha and Dhamtari districts.

Parveen *et al.*, (2012) reported high estimate of heritability in the characters of seed yield / plant, length of inflorescence. The highest values of PCV, GCV, heritability and GA shows the character seed weight of 1000 seed, seed yield / plant, and inflorescence / plant.

Pan *et al.*, (2013) studied the estimates of heritability and genetic advance are useful in determining the influence of environment in expression of the characters and the extent to which Improvement is possible after selection.

## **Materials and Methods**

The present study was conducted in the Horticultural Research Farm, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (C.G.) during *Rabi* season of 2014-15. The seeds of twenty five genotypes of Amaranthus were collected from different part of Chhattisgarh. Field was prepared for planting and was levelled with the help of 'Pata' and ridges were made by tractor drawn ridger at 60 cm apart in each plot. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications. The seeds were sown at the depth of 1-2 cm with a spacing of 20 cm (Row to

row) X 20 cm (Plant to plant) on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. Fertilizers Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium were applied for the growth and development of the Amaranthus crop. The field was irrigated at regular interval of 7-10 days. The observations on different growth parameters, leaf and seed yield attributes were recorded on five randomly selected competitive plants of each plot from each replication. Observations were recorded for plant height (cm), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf length plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf breadth plant<sup>-1</sup>, petiole length plant<sup>-1</sup>, stem girth plant<sup>-1</sup>, root length plant<sup>-1</sup>, leaf yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, leaf yield ha<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield ha<sup>-1</sup>, dry matter per cent, test weight and fibre content per cent. Standard statistical procedure were used to for the analysis of variance, genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation (Burton, 1952), heritability (Hanson *et al.*, 1956) and genetic advance (Johnson *et al.*, 1955).

## Results and Discussion

### Analysis of variance

Analysis of variance revealed that mean sum of squares due to genotypes found to be highly significant for plant height (52.543), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> (118.165), seed yield (gm) plot<sup>-1</sup>(1575.659), dry matter per cent (39.630), leaf length (6.429), leaf breadth (2.539), petiole length (4.427) while root length (2.044) found significant. This is an indication for existence of the considerable amount of variability in the material studied under the present experiment.

Therefore, the present findings on variance for the yield and its attributes suggest existence of substantial variance for most of the traits in material taken for study. These findings are in general agreement with the findings of Varalakshmi *et al.*, (2004), Shukla *et al.*, (2004), Joshi *et al.*, (2012).

### Genetic variability

High magnitude of phenotypic GCV and PCV was observed for seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup> 38.83 per cent and 39.89 per cent respectively, followed by test weight (30.49 and 31.61 per cent respectively), petiole length (29.13 and 31.89 per cent respectively), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> (28.67 and 32.13 per cent respectively), stem girth (24.52 and 25.27 per cent, respectively), leaf breadth (23.89 and 28.75 per cent, respectively), Leaf length (23.15 and 28.69 per cent, respectively), number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (19.40 and 24.10 per cent, respectively) and leaf yield (19.23 and 20.18 per cent, respectively). Whereas, the moderate magnitude of GCV along with PCV (15-20 per cent) was observed for dry matter per cent (17.04 and 17.04 per cent, respectively). These findings are in accordance with the findings by Yadav *et al.*, (2008) for seed yield plant<sup>-1</sup>, Aruna (2012) for leaf yield, Akaneme and Anni (2013) for test weight, Khurana *et al.*, (2014) for for number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, Parveen *et al.*, (2014) for seed yield plant<sup>-1</sup>, test weight, Venkatesh *et al.*, (2014) for number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield, stem girth, test weight, Varalakshmi (2004) for petiole length, Yadav *et al.*, (2008) for seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>.

The ratio of the genotypic variance to the phenotypic variance or total variance is known as heritability. Estimates of heritability was recorded high for the character dry matter per cent (100.0 per cent) followed by fiber content (98.5 per cent), seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup> (94.8 per cent), stem girth (94.1 per cent), test weight (93.0 per cent), leaf yield plot<sup>-1</sup> (90.9 per cent), petiole length (83.5 per cent), leaf breadth (69.0 per cent) and root length (66.5 per cent), leaf length (65.1 per cent), number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (64.8 per cent) and plant height (64.7 per cent). The present findings on heritability are in accordance with findings reported by the various workers *viz.* Shukla *et al.*, (2006) for leaf yield, number of branches

plant<sup>-1</sup>, Yadav *et al.*, (2008) plant height, varalakshmi *et al.*, (2004) for number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, Akaneme and Anni (2013) for leaf breadth, test weight, leaf length, Hassan *et al.*, (2013) stem girth, yield, parveen *et al.*, (2012) seed yield plant<sup>-1</sup>, test weight, Yadav *et al.*, (2008) for leaf breadth, Gerrano *et al.*, (2014) for leaf length, test weight.

**Table.1a** List of *Amaranthus* genotypes, their source and colour of variety

Genotypes	Farmer's Name	Collection Place Village, District	Seed colour	Leaf colour	Test Wt. (gm)
IGA-2013-1	Shankar lal	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.2
IGA-2013-2	Komal Singh	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-3	Gopi Singh	Navapara, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.2
IGA-2013-4	Sanjay Singh	Bhadaura, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.4
IGA-2013-5	Lalji Singh	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.2
IGA-2013-6	Baijnath	Navapara, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.1
IGA-2013-7	Tiju Bhariya	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.0
IGA-2013-8	Bisahu lal	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.4
IGA-2013-9	Maika Bhariya	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-10	Chetram	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-11	Ramesh Yadav	Kethapara, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.9
IGA-2013-12	Shravan Kumar	Girvar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-13	Kirtan Singh	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-14	Udhav Nag	Kanker	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-15	Amrit lal	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-16	Kanhaiya Lal	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Dark Black	Red	1.3
IGA-2013-17	Bahadur Singh	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Dark Red	Red	1.0
IGA-2013-18	Ajit Singh	Bacharwa, Bilaspur	Dark Red	Red	1.4
IGA-2013-19	Santu Singh	Girvar, Bilaspur	Reddish Black	Green	0.2
IGA-2013-20	Lakshaman Singh	Patganva, Bilaspur	Dark Black	Green	0.7
IGA-2013-21	Munna Singh	Patganva, Bilaspur	Black	Green	0.7
IGA-2013-22	Shiv Singh Kanwar	Bacharwar, Bilaspur	Black	Green	0.6
IGA-2013-23	Udhav Nag	Kanker	Black	Green	0.6
IGA-2013-24	Lakshmi Prasad	Navapara, Bilaspur	Black	Green	0.7
IGA-2013-25	Suresh Singh	Navapara, Bilaspur	Black	Green	0.7

**Table.1b** Analysis of variance for leaf yield and its components in Amaranthus

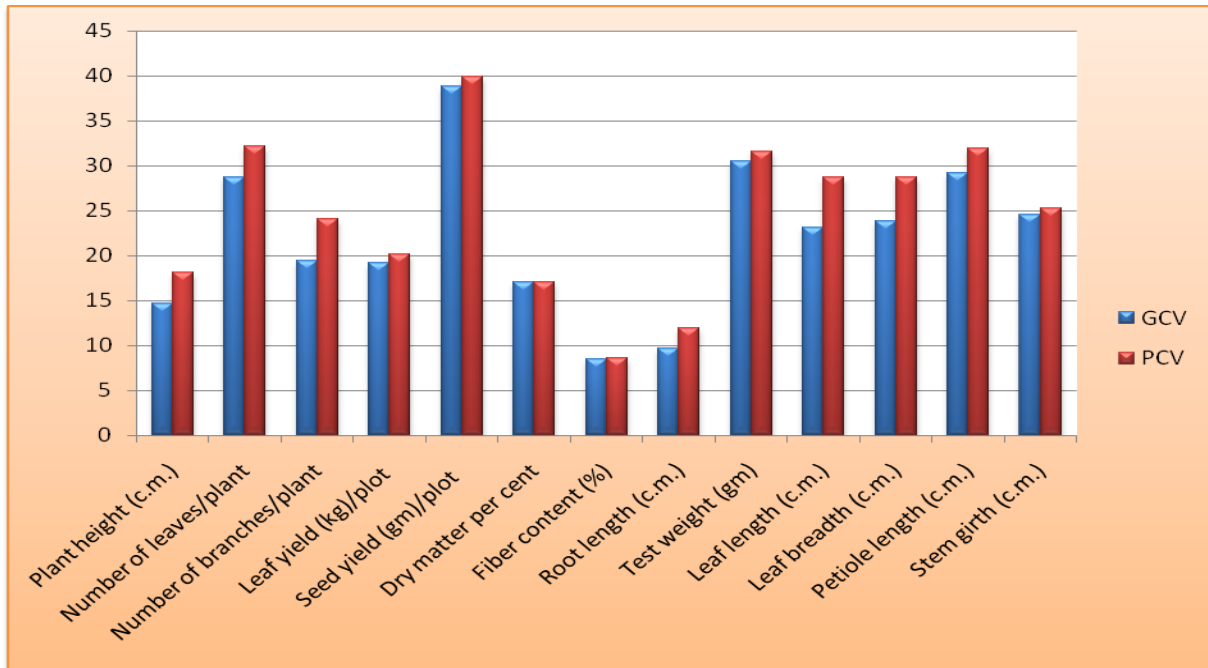
S.No.	Characters	Mean sum of square		
		Replication	Genotypes	Error
		Degree of freedom		
		2	24	48
1	Plant height (cm)	0.169	52.543**	8.076
2	Number of leaves/plant	22.65**	118.165**	9.287
3	Number of branches/plant	0.0299	1.656	0.253
4	Leaf yield (kg)/plot	0.123	0.545	0.0176
5	Seed yield (gm)/plot	47.171**	1575.659**	28.294
6	Dry matter per cent	0.00195	39.630**	0.000352
7	Fiber content (%)	0.00537	1.193	0.00587
8	Root length (cm)	0.0837	2.044*	0.293
9	Test weight (gm)	0.00648	0.391	0.00954
10	Leaf length (cm)	5.609**	6.429**	0.974
11	Leaf breadth (cm)	1.469	2.539**	0.330
12	Petiole length (cm)	2.001	4.427**	0.274
13	Stem girth (cm)	0.0905	1.448	0.0294

➤ \*Significant at 5%; \*\*Significant at 1%

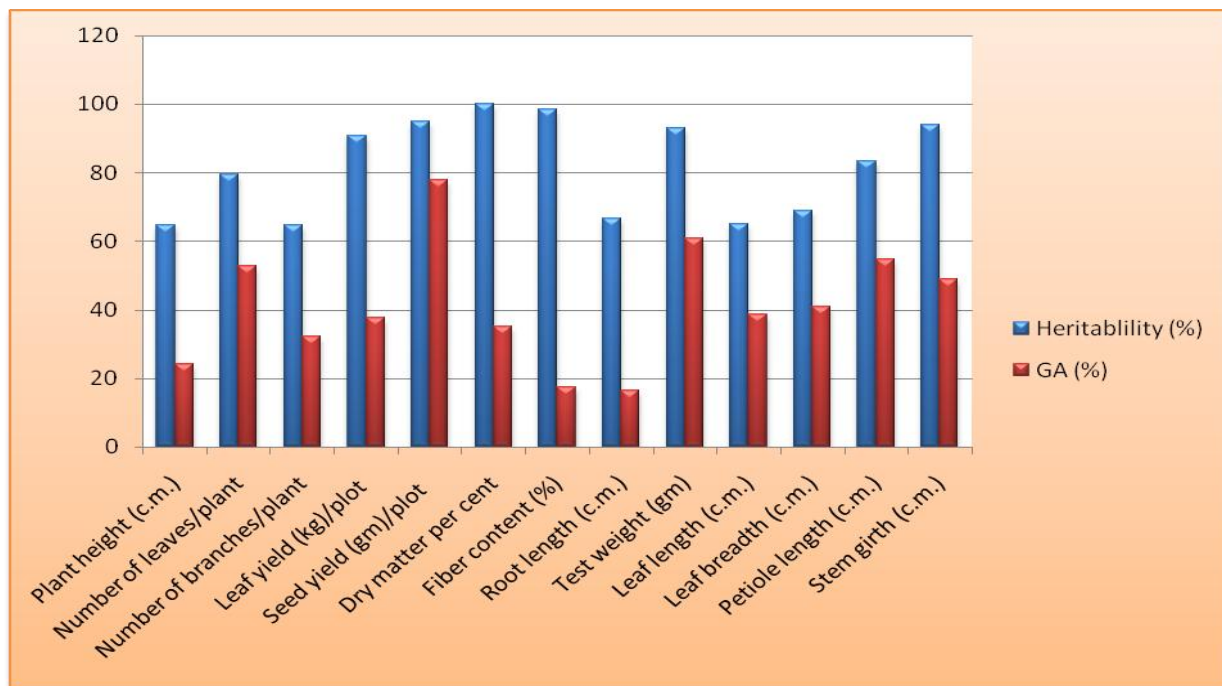
**Table.2** Estimates of genetic parameters of variation for leaf yield and its components in Amaranthu

S.N.	Characters	Mean	Range		Coeecient of Variation (%)		Heritability (h <sup>2</sup> b) %	Genetic Advances K=2.06	Genetic Advances as % of mean
			minimum	maximum	Genotypic	Phynotypic			
1	Plant height (cm)	26.324	17.18	34.90	14.62	18.18	64.7	6.38	24.24
2	Number of leaves/plant	21.012	12.97	33.63	28.67	32.13	79.6	11.07	52.68
3	Number of branches/plant	3.524	2.13	4.67	19.40	24.10	64.8	1.13	32.10
4	Leaf yield (kg)/plot	2.181	1.67	2.90	19.23	20.18	90.9	0.82	37.61
5	Seed yield (gm)/plot	58.480	20.78	90.20	38.83	39.89	94.8	45.55	77.88
6	Dry matter per cent	21.328	15.37	29.79	17.04	17.04	100.0	7.49	35.13
7	Fiber content (%)	7.364	5.97	8.25	8.54	8.61	98.5	1.29	17.52
8	Root length (cm)	7.858	6.00	9.67	9.72	11.92	66.5	1.28	16.30
9	Test weight (gm)	1.170	0.33	1.83	30.49	31.61	93.0	0.71	60.68
10	Leaf length (cm)	5.824	3.25	8.07	23.15	28.69	65.1	2.24	38.48
11	Leaf breadth (cm)	3.592	1.77	4.87	23.89	28.75	69.0	1.47	40.94
12	Petiole length (cm)	4.038	1.97	6.14	29.13	31.89	83.5	2.21	54.83
13	Stem girth (cm)	2.805	1.60	3.93	24.52	25.27	94.1	1.37	48.92

**Fig.1** Graphical presentation of GCV and PCV for leaf yield and its components of *Amaranthus*



**Fig.2** Graphical presentation of heritability % and genetic advance per cent of mean for leaf yield and its components of *Amaranthus*



Genetic advance is important to find out the genetic gains likely to be achieved in the next generation. These are classified as high (> 40 per cent), medium (25 to 40 per cent) and low (< 25 per cent). In the present study highest estimates of genetic advance as percentage of mean was obtained for characters namely seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup> (77.88 per cent) and test weight (60.68 per cent), petiole length (54.83 per cent), number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup> (52.68 per cent), stem girth (48.92 per cent), leaf breadth (40.94 per cent). The high value of genetic advance for these traits showed that these characters are governed by additive genes and selection will be rewarding for the further improvement of such traits. The moderate genetic advance observed in characters namely leaf length (38.48 per cent), leaf yield plot<sup>-1</sup> (37.61 per cent), dry matter per cent (35.13 per cent), number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (32.10 per cent).

In the present study, high heritability estimates coupled with high genetic advance was recorded for the traits, seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, test weight, petiole length, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>, stem girth and leaf breadth. These findings are in accordance with the findings by Shukla *et al.*, (2006) for leaf length, leaf yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, Akaneme and Anni (2013) for test weight, leaf length, Parveen *et al.*, (2012) seed yield plot<sup>-1</sup>, test weight, Gerrano *et al.*, (2014) for test weight, number of leaves plant<sup>-1</sup>.

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