



Original Research Article

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Study on Genetic Variability for Yield and Quality of Different Genotypes of Yard Longbean (*Vigna unguiculata* sub sp. *sesquipedalis* (L.) Verd.)

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Biometrical analysis of yield and its contributing characters was made for yard long bean with the use of sixty two genotypes. Phenotypic variation was greater than that of genotypic and environment variations for all the characters concerned. Minute differences between genotypic and phenotypic coefficient of variation indicated less environmental influences on considered characters. High heritability in broad sense and genetic advance estimated for the characters viz., plant height (99.51% and 95.33%), pod yield per plant (98.85 % and 73.51 %), green pod length (98.21% and 80.21%), green pod weight (98.73% and 66.41%), number of pods per plant (95.89 % and 63.48 %), number of pods per plot (96.71% and 72.63%), estimated pod yield per hectare (99.46% and 77.54%), crop duration (92.22% and 21.86%), ascorbic acid (98.82% and 22.19%), crude protein (98.84% and 43.03) and dry matter content (98.16% and 22.11%).

Introduction

Yardlong bean (*Vigna unguiculata* sub sp. *sesquipedalis*) belongs to the family Fabaceae is an important leguminous vegetable crop, grown for its nutrient rich green pods and seeds. Yardlong bean is thought to have originated in Africa and spread to Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan and China. Yardlong bean is commonly known as string bean, long podded cowpea, asparagus bean, snake bean, Chinese long bean, pea bean, bora, bodi, kidney bean etc. It is a highly nutritive vegetable containing a good amount

of digestible protein both in pods (23.5 - 26.3%) and in leaves (Ano and Ubochi, 2008). The pods are also rich in vitamin A, riboflavin (0.09 mg), calcium (72 mg), phosphorus (59 mg), sodium (4 mg), potassium, magnesium and vitamin C (Anonymous, 2006). Apart from that, they are good source of micronutrients containing iron (102.7 - 120 mg), zinc (32.6 - 36.7 mg), manganese (2.9 - 3.3 mg) and cobalt (0.3 - 0.6 mg) (Ano and Ubochi, 2008).

Although it is a highly nutritive summer vegetable, no commercial variety of yard

longbean with high yield and better pod quality has been released in Tamil Nadu till now and no proper research thrust has been given for the improvement of this vegetable. The crop has remained unexploited owing to low productivity, long duration and indeterminate growth habit. The efforts of improving the crop by utilizing indigenous and exotic germplasm have been useful in breaking the yield barriers (Shivashankar and Kulkarni, 1989; Shivashankar *et al.*, 1993). Considering the above facts the present investigation was undertaken to facilitate the development of genotypes for high yield and quality.

Materials and Methods

The materials for the study comprised of sixty genotypes (local genotypes and commercial varieties) of yardlong bean. Local genotypes were collected from different regions of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The experiment was carried out at the College Orchard, Department of Vegetable Crops, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore during 2016 – 2017, following randomized block design (RBD). Sowing done with spacing of 1.0 m between rows and 0.3 m between plants in a row. Plants were trailed on coir ropes tied between wooden stakes erected 1.0 m apart along rows of plants. Recommended doses of fertilizer, irrigation, weeding, mulching and other cultural practices were done as and when required.

Data were collected from five randomly selected plants from each plot and analyzed statistically. Genotypic and phenotypic variance was estimated according to Lush (1940) and genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variations were estimated by Burton (1952). Heritability in broad sense was calculated by Lush (1940) and Robinson *et al.*, (1949). The expected genetic advances for

different characters and genetic advance expressed as percentage of mean were estimated by Johnson *et al.*, (1955).

Results and Discussion

Genetic variability studies provide basic information regarding the genetic properties of the population based on which breeding methods are formulated for further improvement of the crop.

These studies are also helpful to know about the nature and extend of variability that can be attributed to different causes, sensitive nature of the crop to environmental influences, heritability of the characters and genetic advance that can be realized in practical breeding progress in any crop improvement venture depends mainly on the variability existing in the traits of the base population.

The relative magnitude of PCV per cent was higher than the corresponding GCV per cent for all the characters studied, which indicated that these characters are having interaction with environment to some extent (Ram and Singh, 1993). Presence of narrow gap between Phenotypic Coefficient of Variability (PCV) and Genotypic Coefficient of Variability (GCV) for all the characters under study, suggested that the traits studied have low environmental influence. In general, the Phenotypic Coefficient of Variation (PCV) was slightly higher than the corresponding Genotypic Coefficient of Variation (GCV) for all the characters, which indicated that environment also played a considerable role in expression of these characters which was also reported by Ali *et al.*, (2005) in lablab, Golani *et al.*, (2007) in hyacinth bean, Rai *et al.*, (2008) in Indian bean and Chattopadhyay and Dutta (2010) in dolichos bean. There was a narrow disparity between PCV and GCV for all the characters indicating that selection for these characters would be effective.

A better idea of relative amount of variation can be obtained by comparing the coefficient of phenotypic and genotypic variation of each character studied. The data revealed higher estimates of PCV than the corresponding estimates of GCV for different characters through the extent of difference between the two was relatively low. The traits like plant height, number of pods per plant, green pod length, green pod weight, green pod yield per plant, green pod yield per plot and estimated pod yield per hectare had high estimates of genotypic and phenotypic coefficient of variation. This indicated the maximum variability existing in the genotypes for these characters and offers good scope for improvement of these traits by simple

selection. Similar findings were reported by Golani *et al.*, (2007) in hyacinth bean and Mohan and Aghora (2002) in dolichos bean.

Moderate GCV and PCV was observed for number of primary branches, crop duration, ascorbic acid, crude protein and dry matter content whereas lowest GCV and PCV was observed for days to first flowering, days to 50 per cent flowering and crude fibre. Similar results were observed by Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean and Pravin *et al.*, (2013) in cowpea. These moderate and lowest GCV and PCV estimates for these traits revealed that the extent of response of these traits for selection would be lesser than that of the other traits.

Table.1 Estimates of variability and genetic parameters of yard long bean genotypes

S. No.	Characters	Mean	Range		Variability (%)		h^2 (%)	GA (%)
			Min.	Max.	GCV	PCV		
1.	Plant height (cm)	187.87	61.27	348.43	46.39	46.51	99.51	95.33
2.	Number of primary branches	5.57	4.00	7.30	10.68	13.28	64.66	17.68
3.	Days to first flowering	52.38	46.50	58.00	5.19	5.36	94.00	10.37
4.	Days to 50 per cent flowering	56.73	51.00	62.60	4.63	4.80	92.77	9.18
5.	Number of pods per plant	49.70	22.50	72.54	31.47	32.14	95.89	63.48
6.	Green pod length (cm)	44.07	15.95	72.35	39.29	39.65	98.21	80.21
7.	Green pod weight (g)	22.56	10.67	35.05	32.44	32.65	98.73	66.41
8.	Green pod yield per plant(g)	830.62	424.30	1512.24	35.89	36.10	98.85	73.51
9.	Green pod yield per plot (kg)	7.58	3.82	14.11	35.85	36.46	96.71	72.63
10.	Estimated pod yield per ha($t\text{ ha}^{-1}$)	23.36	11.71	42.28	37.74	37.84	99.46	77.54
11.	Crop duration	130.82	95.77	150.20	11.05	11.51	92.22	21.86
12.	Ascorbic acid ($\text{mg } 100\text{g}^{-1}$)	12.96	10.19	15.79	10.84	10.90	98.82	22.19
13.	Crude protein (%)	19.68	13.04	24.86	16.61	16.71	98.84	34.03
14.	Crude fibre (%)	3.22	2.67	3.66	6.99	7.81	80.14	12.89
15.	Dry matter content (g plant^{-1})	28.50	21.31	34.49	10.84	10.94	98.16	22.11

Heritability and genetic advance as per cent of mean

Heritability of metric traits is of good significance for a plant breeder with which a genotype can be recognized by its phenotypic expression. The genetic variation along with

the heritability estimates would give better idea about the expected efficiency of selection (Burton, 1952). A proper environment is needed for the gene to express the character. The relative influence of either the gene or environment over the variability of different characters in a population may vary widely.

Hence, estimate of a portion of variability that is due to heredity (additive gene effect) from out of the observed variability (phenotypic variability) is most important for segregating material for selection. High heritability indicates that phenotype strongly reflects the genotype due to the genes desirable and transmits them to their off spring.

In the present study, the heritability values were quite high for all the characters, indicating that the major part of the variability was due to genotypic causes (Table 1). High heritability also indicated that there was more number of additive genes for these characters. The results are in line with the findings of Rai *et al.*, (2008) and Chattopadhyay and Dutta (2010) in dolichos bean.

High heritability coupled with high genetic advance was observed for most of the traits viz., plant height, number of pods per plant, green pod length, green pod weight, green pod yield per plant, green pod yield per plot, estimated pod yield per hectare, crop duration, ascorbic acid, crude protein and dry matter content. This indicates that these characters can be improved directly through selection. This result is in conformity with the findings, for plant height Gnanesh *et al.*, (2005) in lablab, Pravin *et al.*, (2013) in cowpea and for number of pods per plant Mohamadali and Madalageri (2007) in winged bean, Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean and Prasanth and Sreelatha (2014) in winged bean and for pod length Anandhi *et al.*, 2007 in cluster bean and Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean; for pod weight Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichosbean and Prasanth and Sreelatha (2014) in winged bean ; for yield per plant Prasanth and Sreelatha (2014) Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in winged bean and Gnanesh *et al.*, (2005) in lablab; for ascorbic acid Gnanesh *et al.*, (2005) in lablab; for crude protein Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean.

High heritability with moderate genetic advance was recorded for number of primary branches, days to first flowering and crude fibre. High heritability but moderate genetic advance, which confirms the predominance of additive and non-additive gene action. Similar results were conformity with the findings, for days to first flowering by Pravin *et al.*, (2013) in cowpea; for days to 50 per cent flowering by Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean; for crude fibre by Mahalingam *et al.*, (2013) in dolichos bean.

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