

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2021.1001.332>

Nature of Genetic Variability for Yield and Drought Tolerance Related Physiological Traits in Clusterbean [*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (L.)]

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Genetic variability,
Clusterbean
(*Cyamopsis
tetragonoloba* (L.),
heritability, Genetic
advance

Article Info

Accepted:
18 December 2020
Available Online:
10 January 2021

The present investigation was conducted to elicit information on different genetic variability parameters for 11 morphological and 6 drought tolerance related physiological traits viz., days to 50% flowering, days to maturity, plant height, number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, pod length, seeds per pod, 100-seed weight, biological yield per plant, grain yield per plant, harvest index, relative water content, leaf area per plant, chlorophyll content, leaf thickness, seedling vigour index and germination stress index in different types of clusterbean genotypes. Mean squares due to genotypes revealed a wide range of variability and significant differences among all genotypes for all the characters under study. The range of variability was maximum for leaf area per plant followed by seedling vigour index, germination stress index, chlorophyll content and plant height. High genetic gain along with high heritability and moderate genotypic coefficient of variation was recorded for germination stress index, leaf area per plant and seedling vigour index, while high genetic gain with moderate heritability and genotypic coefficient of variation was recorded for number of pods per plant, grain yield per plant and biological yield per plant.

Introduction

Clusterbean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (L.) Taub.) commonly known as *guar* has achieved status of an industrial crop due to its water soluble natural polymer i.e. galactomannan content (gum). Average productivity of clusterbean is very low as the crop is confined to rainfed farming in poor fertile soils and drought prone areas of arid and semi arid regions. Although, clusterbean is an important drought tolerant crop but very

meager information is available on the physiology of this crop. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to study the genetics of drought tolerance related traits and develop tolerant genotypes based on sound physiological mechanisms in clusterbean.

With increasing constraint in the production of guar, breeders look for new and diverse germplasm with specific traits of altered growth habit to enhance crop productivity). Identification of new germplasm possessing

unbranched, erect, all node cluster bearing ability, photo-in sensitiveness and determinate growth habit will allow clusterbean to be developed as a modern crop that is well suited to intensive agronomic management conditions.

To make a breeding programme successful, the breeder requires plant material with large genetic variability because effective selection is dependent on the existence of genetic amount of variability. Information about yield and drought related physiological parameters in clusterbean can be obtained through coefficient of variation, heritability and genetic gain. This would help the breeder in developing and formulating selection programme for genetic improvement in crop plants.

Materials and Methods

The experimental material consisted of 26 genotypes selected on the basis of spread and growth habit of clusterbean (8 single stem, 8 branched, 8 dwarf + 2 check *i.e.* GG-1 and GG-2) of clusterbean grown in randomised block design (RBD) with 3 replications at Centre of Excellence for Research on Pulses, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat. Each genotype was accommodated in 6 rows plot of 4 m length with 45 cm inter row and 10 cm plant to plant distance. These materials were planted in to elicit information on 11 morphological and 6 drought tolerance related physiological traits *viz.*, days to 50% flowering, days to maturity, plant height (cm), number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, pod length (cm), seeds per pod, 100-seed weight (g), biological yield per plant (g), grain yield per plant (g), harvest index (%), relative water content, leaf area per plant (cm²), chlorophyll content, leaf thickness (mm), seedling vigour index and germination stress index. The collected data from five

randomly selected competitive plants from each plot in each replication were subjected to analysis of variance (Panse and Sukhatme, 1985), genotypic and phenotypic coefficient of variation (Burton, 1952), heritability (Allard, 1960) genetic advance and genetic gain (Johnson *et al.*, 1955).

Results and Discussion

Mean squares due to genotypes revealed a wide range of variability and significant differences among all genotypes for all the characters under study. This naturally suggests that there is an ample scope for improving these characters provided the material is subjected to judicious selection pressure (Table 1). The range of variability was maximum for leaf area per plant followed by seedling vigour index, germination stress index, chlorophyll content and plant height. The genotypic variance followed the trend of phenotypic variance and was greater than environmental variance for all the characters under study indicating that phenotypic variability may be considered as reliable measure of genotypic variability (Table 2). In general, estimate of phenotypic coefficient of variance (PCV) was higher than their corresponding genotypic coefficient of variance (GCV). This might be due to effect of environment in the expression of the characters (Table 3). The least differences between GCV and PCV were observed for characters *viz.*, pod length followed by plant height, leaf thickness, biological yield per plant, seeds per pod, number of pods per plant, relative water content, chlorophyll content, grain yield per plant, 100-seed weight, days to 50% flowering, leaf area per plant, days to maturity, number of branches per plant, germination stress index and seedling vigour index indicating that genetic factors are predominantly responsible for these characters. However, the difference between GCV and PCV was higher for

harvest index indicating environmental influence on this character.

The magnitude of GCV and PCV was highest for number of branches of plant, while moderate coefficient of variation was observed for number of pods per plant followed by grain yield per plant, leaf area per plant, germination stress index, biological yield per plant and seedling vigour index. It indicated greater scope for selection to improve upon these characters. On the other hand, the characters plant height, chlorophyll

content, leaf thickness, 100-seed weight, pod length, relative water content, seeds per pod, days to 50% flowering and days to maturity showed low GCV and PCV indicating that these characters were highly influenced by the environmental fluctuation and having low genetic variations (Table 3). High to moderate values for one or more yield and physiological characters in clusterbean and other crops are also reported by Chaudhary and Shrimali (2006), Prasad *et al.*, (2006), Birdar *et al.*, (2007), John *et al.*, (2008a, 2008b) and Arora *et al.*, (2011).

Table.1 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) showing mean sum of squares of different characters in clusterbean

Sr. No.	Source	Replications (d.f. = 2)	Genotypes (d.f. = 25)	Error (d.f. = 50)
1.	Days to 50% flowering	0.13	4.03**	1.45
2.	Days to maturity	7.95	6.17*	3.25
3.	Plant height (cm)	0.77	132.11**	31.56
4.	Number of branches per plant	0.32	12.27**	0.14
5.	Number of pods per plant	16.02	218.62**	25.12
6.	Pod length (cm)	0.12	0.40**	0.16
7.	Seeds per pod	0.25	0.34*	0.19
8.	100- Seed weight (g)	0.02	0.19**	0.02
9.	Biological yield per plant (g)	3.32	36.50**	5.15
10.	Grain yield per plant (g)	0.32	4.04**	0.44
11.	Harvest index (%)	0.30	47.25*	26.02
12.	Relative water content (%)	68.53	50.76*	25.51
13.	Lea area per plant (cm ²)	196.00	195346.78**	10130.29
14.	Chlorophyll content	11.47	386.75**	87.41
15.	Leaf thickness (mm)	0.0020	0.0034**	0.0010
16.	Seedling vigour index	3578.00	69892.90**	3040.75
17.	Germination stress index	4.69	642.68**	27.03

*, ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 per cent levels, respectively

Table.2 Range, Mean and components of variance for different characters in clusterbean

Sr. No.	Character	Range	Mean± S.E.	C.D.	C.V.%	Variance components		
						Vp	Vg	Ve
1.	Days to 50% flowering	36.00-40.67	38.18±0.98	1.97	3.15	2.31	0.86	1.45
2.	Days to maturity	68.67-73.33	70.61±1.47	2.95	2.55	4.22	0.97	3.25
3.	Plant height (cm)	39.00-67.67	53.95±4.59	9.21	10.41	65.08	33.52	31.56
4.	Number of branches per plant	0.00-5.33	2.65±0.30	0.61	14.11	4.18	4.04	0.14
5.	Number of pods per plant	21.87-50.90	37.54±4.09	8.22	13.35	89.62	64.50	25.12
6.	Pod length (cm)	4.27-5.93	4.89±0.33	0.66	8.18	0.24	0.08	0.16
7.	Seeds per pod	6.20-7.90	6.88±0.36	0.72	6.37	0.24	0.05	0.19
8.	100- Seed weight (g)	2.44-3.42	3.12±0.13	0.26	5.11	0.08	0.06	0.02
9.	Biological yield per plant (g)	10.56-25.71	17.68±1.85	3.72	12.83	15.60	10.45	5.15
10.	Grain yield per plant (g)	3.19-7.55	5.59±0.54	1.09	11.85	1.64	1.20	0.44
11.	Harvest index (%)	22.56-38.27	32.05±4.16	8.37	15.92	33.10	7.08	26.02
12.	Relative water content (%)	72.29-87.17	79.16±4.12	8.28	6.38	33.93	8.42	25.51
13.	Lea area per plant (cm ²)	810-1696	1272.78±82.18	165.07	7.91	71869.12	61738.83	10130.3
14.	Chlorophyll content	91.58-132.77	110.06±7.63	15.33	8.50	187.19	99.78	87.41
15.	Leaf thickness (mm)	0.29-0.44	0.34±0.03	0.05	9.37	0.0018	0.0008	0.0010
16.	Seedling vigour index	701-1320	894.90±45.02	90.40	6.16	25324.80	22284.05	3040.75
17.	Germination stress index	52.00-94.33	74.28±4.24	8.518	7.00	232.25	205.22	27.03

Table.3 The estimates of genotypic coefficients of variation (GCV), phenotypic coefficients of variation (PCV), heritability (h²b %), expected genetic advance (GA) and genetic gain (GG) for various characters in clusterbean

Sr. No.	Character	GCV	PCV	h ² b (%)	GA	GG
1.	Days to 50% flowering	2.43	3.98	37.4	1.17	3.06
2.	Days to maturity	1.40	2.91	23.1	0.98	1.39
3.	Plant height (cm)	10.73	14.95	51.5	8.56	15.87
4.	Number of branches per plant	75.75	77.05	96.6	4.07	15.30
5.	Number of pods per plant	21.39	25.21	72.0	14.03	37.37
6.	Pod length (cm)	5.77	10.01	33.2	0.34	6.95
7.	Seeds per pod	3.21	7.13	20.2	0.20	2.91
8.	100- Seed weight (g)	7.44	9.03	67.9	0.39	12.50
9.	Biological yield per plant (g)	18.28	22.34	67.0	5.45	30.83
10.	Grain yield per plant (g)	19.61	22.91	73.2	1.93	34.53
11.	Harvest index (%)	8.30	17.95	21.4	2.53	7.89
12.	Relative water content (%)	3.66	7.36	24.8	2.98	3.76
13.	Lea area per plant (cm ²)	19.52	21.06	85.9	47.40	37.27
14.	Chlorophyll content	9.08	12.43	53.3	15.02	13.65
15.	Leaf thickness (mm)	8.14	12.36	43.4	0.04	11.76
16.	Seedling vigour index	16.68	17.78	88.0	28.80	32.23
17.	Germination stress index	19.29	20.52	88.4	27.74	37.35

High heritability in broad sense (above 75%) was recorded for number of branches per plant followed by germination stress index, seedling vigour index and leaf area per plant. This indicated high transmission index for the characters and suggested that a large portion of phenotypic variability was heritable; therefore, selection based on phenotype could be effective. Moderate estimates of heritability (above 50%) were recorded for grain yield per plant followed by number of pods per plant, 100-seed weight, biological yield per plant, chlorophyll content and plant height. The remaining characters such as leaf thickness, days to 50% flowering, pod length, relative water content, days to maturity, harvest index and seeds per pod, however, showed low heritability (below 50%) suggesting greater influence of environment on these traits (Table 3). High to moderate heritability values are also confirmed in clusterbean and other crops for one or more yield and drought related physiological traits with the findings of Buttar *et al.*, (2008), Rai (2010), Saini *et al.*, (2010) and Rai *et al.*, (2012).

Genetic gain was higher for number of pods per plant followed by germination stress index, leaf area per plant, grain yield per plant, seedling vigour index and biological yield per plant, while moderate genetic gain was recorded for plant height followed by number of branches per plant, chlorophyll content, 100-seed weight and leaf thickness.

The remaining traits which showed low value of genetic gain were harvest index, pod length, relative water content, days to 50% flowering, seeds per pod and days to maturity (Table 3). Similar results of moderate to high genetic gain were also reported for one or more traits in clusterbean and other crops by Jadli *et al.*, (2008), Saini *et al.*, (2010), Nandini *et al.*, (2011) and Rai *et al.*, (2012).

In the present study, in general, genetic gain, heritability and genotypic coefficient of variation exhibited good association with each other. High genetic gain along with high heritability and moderate genotypic coefficient of variation was recorded for germination stress index, leaf area per plant and seedling vigour index, while high genetic gain with moderate heritability and genotypic coefficient of variation was recorded for number of pods per plant, grain yield per plant and biological yield per plant. Branches per plant exhibited moderate genetic gain in spite of having the highest heritability and genotypic coefficient of variation. It appeared that these characters might be exhibiting predominance of additive gene effects. Hence, selection for these traits would be effective for genetic improvement of grain yield along with drought tolerance in clusterbean. Thus, strong evaluation programme is to be taken for exploitation of these characters for high yield along with drought tolerance.

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How to cite this article:

Vishal L. Modi and Sharma, S. C. 2021. Nature of Genetic Variability for Yield and Drought Tolerance Related Physiological Traits in Clusterbean [*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (L.)]. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 10(01): 2867-2872.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2021.1001.332>