

Original Research Article

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## Evaluation of Maize Genotypes against Maydis Leaf Blight Caused by *Bipolaris maydis* (Nisikado and Miyake) Shoemaker under Artificial Epiphytotic Conditions

Manjeet Singh<sup>1\*</sup>, Rakesh Mehra<sup>2</sup> and Vinod Kumar Malik<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, RRS, Karnal, Haryana, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

Maydis leaf blight is a serious foliar fungal disease of maize, may cause up to 41 per cent losses in grain yield. The present studies were undertaken to find out the stable sources of maydis leaf blight resistance. A set of one hundred and two maize inbred lines were evaluated against maydis leaf blight incited by *Bipolaris maydis* under artificial epiphytotic conditions at Regional Research Station, Karnal, CCSHAU during *Kharif* 2015 and 2016. The incidence of maydis leaf blight was recorded following 1-5 rating scale and the genotypes evaluated were grouped into four categories viz. resistant, moderately resistant, moderately susceptible and susceptible based on their disease reaction. Our results indicated that six genotypes (HKI 1128, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2), HKI 1352-58-9, MBR-139, HKI 190 and HKI 1352-58-9-2) were found resistant, thirty six genotypes were moderately resistant, fifty genotypes showed moderately susceptible reaction and ten exhibited susceptible reaction against maydis leaf blight. Thus, the identified six resistant genotypes could be utilized for developing promising maize hybrids with inbuilt resistance to maydis leaf blight disease of maize.

#### Keywords

Maydis leaf blight, Maize, *Bipolaris maydis*, Genotypes, Resistance

#### Article Info

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### Introduction

Maize or corn (*Zea mays* L. 2N=20) is one of the most important cereal crops in the world and is grown in more than 150 countries. The major maize producing countries are USA, China, Brazil, Mexico, France and India. Maize is the third most important food grain in India next to wheat and rice and it occupies an area of 9.26 million hectares having production of 2.4 million tones with an

average productivity of 2.57 t/ha (Anonymous, 2016). In Haryana, it is cultivated in 8 thousand hectares with annual production and average yield of 18,000 tones and 2250 kg/ha, respectively during *Kharif* (Anonymous, 2016). It is being used as feed (63 %), food (23 %), starch industries (12 %), seed and miscellaneous use (2 %) in India.

Maize is affected by as many as 112 diseases on a global basis and out of these 35 has been

reported from India. The diseases results not only in yield reduction but also deteriorate the value and quality of the grain. Among the wide disease spectrum the more serious diseases of maize are leaf blight, downy mildew, stalk rot and rust (Kumar *et al.*, 2013). Out of these, maydis leaf blight (MLB) is considered as one of the most serious diseases and has attained the status of the economically important disease (Malik *et al.*, 2017).

The disease is widely distributed in India during *Kharif* season. In India, MLB appears in hills, plains and peninsular parts. The currently predominant form of *C. heterostrophus* is Race O, in severity, which can cause yield losses of up to 40% (Byrnes *et al.*, 1989). Maydis leaf blight appears every year and incidence ranging from 20-85 per cent in Haryana (Mehra *et al.*, 2012). Host resistance is the best way for the management of the diseases. Keeping in mind the economic importance of MLB disease in Indian as well as international perspectives, there is an immediate need to identify the stable sources of resistance. Therefore, in the present study attempts were made to screen inbred lines against maydis leaf blight under artificial inoculation conditions.

## **Materials and Methods**

In the present investigation, one hundred and two maize inbred lines of maize were evaluated at research area of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Regional Research Station, Karnal during *Kharif* 2015 and 2016 under artificial epiphytotic conditions conducive to maydis leaf blight. Karnal is considered as hotspot of maydis leaf blight disease of maize.

Two lines of each inbred consisting of 3 m length with a row to row and plant to plant spacing of 75 cm and 20 cm, respectively.

Experiments were laid out in a randomized complete block design with three replications and recommended package of practices were followed for raising the crop (Anonymous, 2011).

The inoculation for maydis leaf blight was performed by culturing *Bipolaris maydis* on sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (L.)] seed following the method of Lim (1975). The plants were inoculated on 30-35 days old plants with a fine powder of these sorghum grains by putting a pinch of this powdered inoculum in the leaf whorl in late afternoon to avoid the maximum day temperature during incubation period and second inoculation was done after a week of first inoculation.

The incidence of maydis leaf blight was recorded on randomly selected ten plants in each replication following 1-5 rating scale (Payak and Sharma, 1983) as follows:

### **Maydis leaf blight disease rating scale (1-5)**

1.0 - Very slight to slight infection, one or two to few scattered lesions on lower leaves

2.0 - Light infection, moderate number of lesions on lower leaves only

3.0 - Moderate infection, abundant lesions on lower leaves, few on middle leaves

4.0 - Heavy infections abundant lesions on lower and middle leaves, extending to upper leaves

5.0 - Very heavy infection, lesions abundant on almost all leaves; plants prematurely dry or killed by the disease.

In order to get the final disease rating of a genotype, the mean disease score of each replication was averaged and the genotypes were categorized as represented in Table 1.

## Results and Discussion

All the genotypes showed significant variation in disease reaction. Perusal of data presented in Table 2 and 3 indicated that all the genotypes showed resistant to susceptible reaction against maydis leaf blight of maize. The results revealed that the maydis leaf blight reaction during both the years *Kharif* 2015 and 2016 varied from 1.5 to 5.0, indicating good differentiation among genotypes. Out of 102 genotypes evaluated, six genotypes viz. HKI 1128, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2), HKI 1352-58-9, HKI MBR-139, HKI 190 and HKI 1352-58-9-2 were found resistant ( $\leq 2.0$ ) to MLB disease with mean disease score ranging from 1.58 to 1.92, thirty six genotypes viz. HKI 335, HKI 766-2WG, HKI 1040-7, HKI 1015-6, HKI 1105-2MLY, HKI 1155-1-2, HKI 1155-1-1 ER (1+3), HKI LM-6, HKI LM-16, HKI 164-7-2, HKI 164-7-7ER3, HKI 170 (1+2), HKI 193-1, HKI 193-2, HKI 194-6, HKI C-141, HKI 1332, HKI 1341, HKI 1344, HKI 1347-4LT, HKI 1348-6-2, HKI PC-8, HKI PC-8-3, HKI 1352-2FLT (19+20), HKI 766-2VWG, HKI 1105-2MLO, HKI 288-2, HKI 295, HKI 164-7-2-1-2, HKI 191-1-2-5, HKI C-323, HKI SC-806, HKI SHAIHID 1ER-12, HKI 1115-1-3, HKI 72287-6 and HKI 164D-3-3 were moderately resistant (2.1-3.0) with mean disease score ranging from 2.58 to 3.00 and fifty genotypes viz. HKI 139, HKI 323, HKI 325-A, HKI 325-17A, HKI 577, HKI 766 RG, HKI 1011, HKI 1040-4, HKI 1105-6, HKI 161, HKI 163, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2)3, HKI 1347-4LT (1+2+3), HKI 1348, HKI 1352, HKI 1378, HKI PC-1, HKI PC-3, HKI PC-4, HKI PC-7, HKI PC-1414-3, HKI PC-1473-5, HKI PC-1558-4, HKI PC-5070, HKI PC-72181-4, HKI 1352-2FLT (3+11+18), HKI 1105, HKI L287, HKI 327 T, HKI 327 D, HKI 488, HKI 586-1D, HKI 1025, HKI 34 (1+2)-1, HKI 193-2ER-2, HKI TALLAR PF-1-2, HKI 3-4-8 ER-6, HKI 325-17AN, HKI GD-8WG, HKI NP-77ER-12, HKI NP-80ER-2, HYD-4005, HKI 139-1, HKI 164-3-3-2,

HKI 164-4 (1-3), HKI 766-2, HKI 1105ER, HKI 1035-11, HKI 149-1 and HKI 14-1(1+2+3) were found moderately susceptible (3.1-4.0) with mean disease score ranged from 3.08 to 3.92. However, ten genotypes (HKI 3-4-7, HKI 295 GT, HKI 488-1RG, HKI 536-CBT, HKI 1040-5, HKI PCBT-3, HKI PC-4B, HKI 209, HKI 536 YN and HKI PC-4A) exhibited susceptible reaction ( $\geq 4.1$ ) with mean disease score range of 4.17 to 4.59 against maydis leaf blight.

In the previous studies researchers have found sources of resistance against MLB. Sharma *et al.*, (2003) reported inbred lines CM 104 and CM 105 as resistant sources to maydis leaf blight of maize. Dhanju and Dass (2005) also evaluated a number of maize lines resistant to MLB under artificial inoculation conditions and identified multiple disease resistant inbred lines (HKI-295, HKI-1354, HKI-1348-6 and HKI-488) which are used as parents for released/identified hybrids like HHM-1, HM-5 and HM-6 resistant to maydis leaf blight. Kaur *et al.*, (2010) also recorded genotype E 10 (LET DR 99 x Ent 49-2) as resistant and five genotypes (E1, E2, E8, E9 and E15) moderately resistant to maydis leaf blight.

Seventeen newly developed QPM inbred lines were screened against maydis leaf blight and charcol rot by Kumar *et al.*, (2013). Inbred lines DQL 2015 and DQL 2071 were found as resistant for MLB and moderately resistant to charcoal rot. Three inbred lines (DQL 2015, DQL 2031 and DQL 2071) were found as resistant to MLB disease by Malik *et al.*, 2015. Kumar *et al.*, (2016) carried out inheritance study on 112 inbred maize lines and identified the stable source of MLB resistance, and MLB resistance linked markers from diverse background in the Indian adapted tropical maize genotypes. Goudar and Harlapur (2016) found only two inbred lines, BM-55 and BM-148 with high level of resistance and nine hybrids resistant.

**Table.1** The mean disease score of each replication was averaged and the genotypes were categorized as follows

Score	Disease reaction
≤ 2.0	Resistant (R)
2.1-3.0	Moderately Resistant (MR)
3.1-4.0	Moderately Susceptible (MS)
≥ 4.1	Susceptible (S)

**Table.2** Screening of maize inbred lines against maydis leaf blight (*Bipolaris maydis*) under field conditions during *Kharif* 2015 and 2016

Disease score	Reaction	No. of inbred lines	Inbred lines
≤ 2.0	Resistant (R)	6	HKI 1128, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2), HKI 1352-58-9, MBR-139, HKI 190 and HKI 1352-58-9-2
2.1-3.0	Moderately Resistant (MR)	36	HKI 335, HKI 766-2WG, HKI 1040-7, HKI 1015-6, HKI 1105-2MLY, HKI 1155-1-2, HKI 1155-1-1 ER (1+3), LM-6, LM-16, HKI 164-7-2, HKI 164-7-7ER3, HKI 170 (1+2), HKI 193-1, HKI 193-2, HKI 194-6, HKI C-141, HKI 1332, HKI 1341, HKI 1344, HKI 1347-4LT, HKI 1348-6-2, HKI PC-8, HKI PC-8-3, HKI 1352-2FLT (19+20), HKI 766-2VWG, HKI 1105-2MLO, HKI 288-2, HKI 295, HKI 164-7-2-1-2, HKI 191-1-2-5, HKI C-323, HKI SC-806, HKI SHAIHID 1ER-12, HKI 1115-1-3, HKI 72287-6 and HKI 164D-3-3
3.1-4.0	Moderately Susceptible (MS)	50	HKI 139, HKI 323, HKI 325-A, HKI 325-17A, HKI 577, HKI 766 RG, HKI 1011, HKI 1040-4, HKI 1105-6, HKI 161, HKI 163, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2)3, HKI 1347-4LT (1+2+3), HKI 1348, HKI 1352, HKI 1378, HKI PC-1, HKI PC-3, HKI PC-4, HKI PC-7, HKI PC-1414-3, HKI PC-1473-5, HKI PC1558-4, HKI PC-5070, HKI PC-72181-4, HKI 1352-2FLT (3+11+18), HKI 1105, HKI L287, HKI 327 T, HKI 327 D, HKI 488, HKI 586-1D, HKI 1025, HKI 34 (1+2)-1, HKI 193-2ER-2, HKI TALLAR PF-1-2, HKI 3-4-8 ER-6, HKI 325-17AN, HKI GD-8WG, HKI NP-77ER-12, HKI NP-80ER-2, HKI HYD-4005, HKI 139-1, HKI 164-3-3-2, HKI 164-4 (1-3), HKI 766-2, HKI 1105ER, HKI 1035-11, HKI 149-1 and HKI 14-1(1+2+3)
4.1-5.0	Susceptible (S)	10	HKI 3-4-7, HKI 295 GT, HKI 488-1RG, HKI 536-CBT, HKI 1040-5, HKI PCBT-3, HKI PC-4B, HKI 209, HKI 536 YN and HKI PC-4A

**Table.3** Disease rating of maize inbred lines against maydis leaf blight (*Bipolaris maydis*) under field conditions during *Kharif* 2015 and 2016

Sr. No.	Inbred lines	<i>Kharif</i> 2015	<i>Kharif</i> 2016	Mean	Reaction
1	HKI 3-4-7	4.17	4.33	4.25	S
2	HKI 139	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
3	HKI 295 GT	4.17	4.33	4.25	S
4	HKI 323	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
5	HKI 325-A	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
6	HKI 325-17A	3.50	3.83	3.67	MS
7	HKI 335	3.00	3.00	3.00	MR
8	HKI 488-1RG	4.17	4.33	4.25	S
9	HKI 536-CBT	4.17	4.17	4.17	S
10	HKI 577	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
11	HKI 766 RG	3.17	3.50	3.33	MS
12	HKI 766-2WG	2.50	2.83	2.67	MR
13	HKI 1011	3.50	3.67	3.58	MS
14	HKI 1015-6	2.33	2.83	2.58	MR
15	HKI 1040-4	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
16	HKI 1040-5	4.33	4.50	4.42	S
17	HKI 1040-7	2.83	3.17	3.00	MR
18	HKI 1105-6	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
19	HKI 1105-2MLY	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
20	HKI 1128	1.50	1.67	1.58	R
21	HKI 1332	2.33	3.50	2.92	MR
22	HKI 1155-1-2	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
23	HKI 1155-1-1 ER (1+3)	2.50	3.00	2.83	MR
24	HKI LM-6	2.50	3.50	3.00	MR
25	HKI LM-16	2.50	3.33	2.91	MR
26	HKI 161	3.50	3.67	3.58	MS
27	HKI 163	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
28	HKI 164-7-2	2.50	3.00	2.75	MR
29	HKI 164-7-7ER3	2.50	2.67	2.58	MR
30	HKI 170 (1+2)	2.50	3.00	2.75	MR
31	HKI 193-1	3.00	3.00	3.00	MR
32	HKI 193-2	2.17	3.50	2.84	MR
33	HKI 194-6	2.50	3.00	2.75	MR
34	HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2)	1.83	1.83	1.83	R
35	HKI 5072-2BT (1-2)3	3.50	3.50	3.50	MS
36	HKI MBR-139	1.50	1.83	1.67	R
37	HKI C-141	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
38	HKI 1344	2.33	3.00	2.67	MR
39	HKI 1347-4LT	3.00	3.00	3.00	MR
40	HKI 1347-4LT (1+2+3)	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
41	HKI 1348	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
42	HKI 1348-6-2	2.50	3.50	3.00	MR
43	HKI 1352	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS

44	HKI 1378	3.33	3.67	3.50	MS
45	HKI PC-1	3.50	3.67	3.58	MS
46	HKI PC-3	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
47	HKI PCBT-3	4.17	4.33	4.25	S
48	HKI PC-4	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
49	HKI PC-4A	3.50	5.00	4.25	S
50	HKI PC-4B	4.17	5.00	4.59	S
51	HKI PC-7	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
52	HKI PC-8	2.83	3.33	3.08	MR
53	HKI PC-8-3	2.50	3.00	2.75	MR
54	HKI PC-1414-3	3.50	3.83	3.67	MS
55	HKI PC-1473-5	3.17	3.83	3.50	MS
56	HKI PC1558-4	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
57	HKI PC-5070	3.33	3.50	3.42	MS
58	HKI PC-72181-4	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
59	HKI 1352-58-9-2	1.67	2.00	1.83	R
60	HKI 1352-2FLT (19+20)	2.50	3.00	2.75	MR
61	HKI 1352-2FLT (3+11+18)	3.33	3.83	3.58	MS
62	HKI 766WG	2.33	3.00	2.67	MR
63	HKI 1105	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
64	HKI 1105-2MLO	3.17	3.83	3.50	MR
65	HKI 209	4.33	4.50	4.42	S
66	HKI L287	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
67	HKI 288-2	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
68	HKI 295	2.83	3.17	3.00	MR
69	HKI 327 T	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS
70	HKI 327 D	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS
71	HKI 488	3.33	3.83	3.58	MS
72	HKI 536 YN	4.17	4.83	4.50	S
73	HKI 586-1D	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
74	HKI 1025	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS
75	HKI 34 (1+2)-1	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
76	HKI 164-7-2-1-2	2.33	2.83	2.58	MR
77	HKI 190	1.67	2.00	1.83	R
78	HKI 191-1-2-5	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
79	HKI 193-2ER-2	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
80	HKI C-323	2.80	3.00	2.90	MR
81	HKI SC-806	3.00	3.00	3.00	MR
82	HKI TALLAR PF-1-2	3.33	3.83	3.58	MS
83	HKI SHAIHID 1ER-12	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
84	HKI 3-4-8 ER-6	3.33	3.00	3.17	MS
85	HKI 325-17AN	3.33	4.00	3.67	MS
86	HKI 1115-1-3	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
87	HKI GD-8WG	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
88	HKI NP-77ER-12	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
89	HKI NP-80ER-2	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
90	HKI HYD-4005	3.33	3.83	3.58	MS

91	HKI 72287-6	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
92	HKI 139-1	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS
93	HKI 164-3-3-2	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
94	HKI 164D-3-3	2.83	3.00	2.92	MR
95	HKI 164-4 (1-3)	3.33	3.00	3.17	MS
96	HKI 1341	2.50	3.50	3.00	MR
97	HKI 1352-58-9	1.83	2.00	1.92	R
98	HKI 766-2	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
99	HKI 1105EARLY	3.33	3.83	3.58	MS
100	HKI 1035-11	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS
101	HKI 149-1	3.50	4.00	3.75	MS
102	HKI 14-1(1+2+3)	3.83	4.00	3.92	MS

Malik *et al.*, (2017) identified multiple disease resistant maize accessions against MLB and banded leaf and sheath blight (BLSB) after screening of 94 normal hybrids and 48 special corns genotypes. Srivastava *et al.*, (2017) found twenty six inbreds resistant and twenty five moderately resistant to maydis leaf blight. In the present investigation keeping in mind, the resistance to maydis leaf blight, HKI 1128, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2), HKI 1352-58-9, HKI MBR-139, HKI 190 and HKI 1352-58-9-2 which showed resistant response, seemed to be highly promising genotype which could further be used in maize breeding programs. The further use of selected inbred will strengthens resistance breeding, developing resistant maize varieties with inbuilt resistance against maydis leaf blight and further development of management strategies for the control of maydis leaf blight of maize.

It may be concluded that among the inbred lines evaluated against maydis leaf blight, six genotypes viz. HKI 1128, HKI 5072-2BT (1-2-2), HKI 1352-58-9, HKI MBR-139, HKI 190 and HKI 1352-58-9-2 were found resistant. Simultaneously, thirty six genotypes including HKI 335, HKI 766-2WG, HKI 1040-7, HKI 1015-6, HKI 1105-2MLY etc were moderately resistant which can be used for further resistance breeding against the pathogen. Genotypes including HKI 3-4-7, HKI 295 GT, HKI 488-1RG exhibited

susceptible reaction with mean disease score range of 4.17 to 4.59 against maydis leaf blight.

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