

Original Research Article

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Genetic Studies for Yield and Fibre Quality Related Traits in Upland Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) and Identification of Superior Transgressive Segregants

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ABSTRACT

Improvement of agronomic traits and fibre quality in cotton requires detailed information on genetic variation available in the population. The objective of this study was to investigate variability, heritability and character association in nine agronomic and five fibre quality traits among 220 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) derived from MCU 5 and TCH1218. The study was undertaken during *kharif* 2018-19 at Department of cotton, TNAU, Coimbatore. High PCV and GCV were exhibited by number of monopodia per plant, while moderate GCV and high PCV were recorded by number of bolls per plant. The traits boll weight, single plant yield, lint index and fibre fineness exhibited moderate GCV. Most of traits except five were in similar trend for GCV and PCV indicating less environmental influence. All traits had high heritability, whereas high GAM was expressed for number of monopodia per plant, boll weight, lint index, elongation percentage and fibre fineness. Such traits were additive in nature and process of selection will be effective. Number of bolls per plant and number of sympodia per plant were positively and significantly correlated with single plant yield. In fibre quality, bundle strength and elongation percentage were significantly and positively correlated with upper half mean length. So, while selecting high yielding genotypes these traits are to be considered. Superior transgressive segregants for single plant yield was identified as RIL 44 as it performed better for other yield component traits, while for fibre quality RIL 63 performance was comparatively higher. Among the population RIL 220 ranked top for single plant yield and upper half mean length. Fibre quality traits had few favourable segregants when compared to yield traits. These identified RILs can be used in advance breeding trial for varietal development.

Keywords

Transgressive segregants, Cotton, Monopodia, Environmental influence

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Introduction

Cotton is an important commercial crop and 60 percent of industries depend on cotton. India is the second largest producer succeeding China. Cotton contributes about four percent to country's gross domestic product. In India average productivity of cotton is lower compared to all other cotton growing countries in the world. So, breeding programmes should be focused on improving productivity per unit area and simultaneously the fibre quality to meet the industrial demands. Knowledge about genetic variability, heritability with genetic advance for yield, yield related components and fibre quality traits in a breeding population is very much essential for identifying superior recombinants. High heritability with high genetic advance increases the efficiency for response to selection (Larik *et al.*, 1997). A detailed examination about mean performance, extent of association between yield and other agronomic traits is essential for a breeder (Khan, 2003) to select superior genotypes than the existing ones, a continuous process to reach our goals.

Hence the present study was conducted to estimate genetic variability, heritability, genetic advance and correlation for yield, yield related components and fibre quality traits in 220 intra specific recombinant inbred lines (RILs) of F₁₁ generation from the cross between MCU5 and TCH1218 to improve the efficiency of selection response. Investigation includes selection of transgressive segregants among RILs to improve the productivity.

Materials and Methods

Recombinant inbred lines (220) of cross MCU 5 x TCH1218 were sown along with parents and standard check CO 14 in randomized block design with two replications at Department of cotton, TNAU, Coimbatore

during *kharif* 2018-2019. The plant to plant distance was 45 cm while row to row distance was 90 cm. In each row, 13 plants were maintained. Proper agronomic practices were followed to raise a healthy crop.

From each single row, three plants were selected randomly per replication to observe 14 biometrical traits *viz.*, plant height (cm), number of monopodia per plant, number of sympodia per plant, number of bolls per plant, boll weight (g), single plant yield (g), seed index, lint index, ginning outturn (%), Upper Half Mean Length (UHML) in mm, uniformity index, elongation percentage, fibre strength (g/tex) and fibre fineness ($\mu\text{g}/\text{inch}$). Fibre quality traits were measured using STATEX compact high volume instrument. For assessing fibre properties HVI mode was used. The genotypes were classified for fibre traits based on standards specified by Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai

The data on quantitative traits were subjected for analysis of variance to know the significance difference. Means for each trait were further separated and compared by means of critical difference at 5% level of probability. Heritability, genetic advance, phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) and genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV) were calculated using TNAU STAT. Simple correlation was calculated using SPSS version 16.0.

Results and Discussion

Variability and heritability

Analysis of variance showed significant genetic variance for yield, yield related components and fibre quality traits, which indicates selection is effective for these traits and the population possesses adequate variability (Table 1). Moreover, these traits

fall in a normal distribution curve which reveals that they are polygenic. Number of monopodia per plant exhibited high PCV and GCV. Raza *et al.*, (2016) also obtained similar results in F₄ population of upland cotton. Moderate GCV with high PCV were recorded by number of bolls per plant. Many previous studies ensure high variance for number of bolls per plant, which indicates selection can be applied to this trait to isolate promising entries (Kale *et al.*, 2007; Erande *et al.*, 2014 and Haq *et al.*, 2017). Number of sympodia per plant, boll weight, single plant yield, lint index and fibre fineness showed moderate PCV and GCV. Some authors have concluded with similar results (Preetha and Raveendran, 2007 and Pujer *et al.*, 2014). Since low PCV with GCV was recorded by plant height and many quality traits *viz.*, ginning outturn, seed index, Upper Half Mean Length, uniformity index, bundle strength and elongation percentage, these traits cannot be used for direct selection. Same results were substantiated by Killi *et al.*, (2005). Most of traits were in similar trend for GCV and PCV with less environmental effect except plant height, number of bolls per plant, boll weight, single plant yield and lint index.

High heritability with high to moderate genetic advance as percent of mean (GAM) was exhibited by number of sympodia per plant, number of monopodia per plant, boll weight, seed index, lint index, elongation percentage and fibre fineness. These traits were additive in nature and selection will be effective. In the studies by Preetha and Raveendran (2007) and Ashan *et al.*, (2015) similar results were encountered. High heritability and low GAM were recorded by plant height, single plant yield, number of bolls per plant, ginning outturn, Upper Half Mean Length, uniformity index and bundle strength. Non additive nature of such traits was also revealed in the experiments conducted by Kale *et al.*, (2007) and Alkuddsi *et al.*, (2013) in upland cotton.

Correlation between single plant yield and other yield components

Single plant yield was highly significant and positively correlated with two component traits *viz.*, number of sympodia per plant and number of bolls per plant upon which selection may be emphasized. Also, number of sympodia per plant was significantly and positively correlated with plant height and number of bolls per plant which reflected on positive association with yield (Table 2).

Ginning outturn was significant and positively correlated with boll weight and lint index, while it was significant and negatively correlated with seed index. Significant and positive association was observed between number of monopodia per plant, boll weight and seed index with lint index. Lint index was negatively correlated with plant height. Seed index was positively associated with boll weight and negatively correlated with number of sympodia per plant.

Significant and positive association was recorded between boll weight and number of monopodia per plant, while number of monopodia per plant was significant and negatively correlated with plant height and number of sympodia per plant. These results were supported by many previous studies (Farooq *et al.*, 2018; Monisha *et al.*, 2018; Deshmukh *et al.*, 2019 and Jarwar *et al.*, 2019) but differ in population structure.

Correlation between fibre quality traits

Upper Half Mean Length of fibre was significant and positively correlated with bundle strength and elongation percentage (Table 3), while negatively correlated with fibre fineness. Significant and negative association was noticed between fibre fineness and bundle strength. Bundle strength and uniformity index has significant and positive

association with elongation percentage, while bundle strength was positively correlated with uniformity index. While selecting genotypes with high Upper Half Mean Length, the correlated traits *viz.*, bundle strength and elongation percentage will be automatically selected but fibre fineness may be compromised. Monisha *et al.*, (2018) ended up with similar results in F₁ hybrids.

Transgressive segregants for yield and fibre components

Transgressive segregants for high single plant yield (>130g) has been presented along with their performance for component traits (Table 4). The RILs 220, 203, 42, 122 and 44 recorded higher single plant yield of above 130g. It could be observed none of the RILs possessed the highest values for other component traits. RIL 220 stood first for single plant yield of kapas (149.36g) and also for the significantly correlated traits *viz.*, number of sympodia per plant (17.8) and number of bolls per plant (22.3).

The next best genotype RIL 203 for kapas yield (135.63g) recorded higher boll weight (5.25g), lint index (6.98) and ginning outturn (38.98%) than other entries. RIL 44 was the topper for positive and significantly correlated trait *viz.*, plant height (136.1 cm), and least value for negative and significantly correlated trait number of monopodia (0.3). It was next best to RIL 203 for boll weight (5.2), lint index (6.28) and GOT (36.27%). RIL 122 (22.5) was on par with RIL 220 for number of bolls per plant. Kencharaddi *et al.*, (2013) identified superior transgressive segregants in early segregating generation. They identified four promising segregants as they had desirable traits together *viz.*, number of bolls per plant and seed cotton yield.

Regarding fibre quality traits, transgressive segregants for Upper half mean length, bundle

strength and fibre fineness are compared for their other fibre component traits and presented in Tables 5, 6 and 7. Five transgressive segregants *viz.*, RIL220, RIL63, RIL80, RIL157 and RIL185 exhibited extra long and fine fibres. Among them, RIL 63 alone exhibited good uniformity index (83.8) and good bundle strength (28.37g/tex). Other RILs were either average or good for one of these two traits. For bundle strength, the RILs 82, 43, 83, 190, 63, 120, 185 and 1 scored high compared to both parents which had weak fibres but all had fine fibres.

Except RIL 63 and 185 (extra long), all entries had long fibres. The uniformity ratio was excellent in RIL 43 and RIL 1. Considering the trait fibre fineness, seven RILs *viz.*, 64, 56, 79, 42, 66, 209 and 80 could be identified, among which, the former two possess very fine fibres (2.73 and 2.88 µg/inch respectively). The fibres of all these genotypes had average bundle strength and long upper half mean length with the exception of RIL 80 with extra long fibres. The uniformity ratio was excellent in RIL 209 while others fall in either good or average category.

In Table 8 and Figure 1, superior transgressive segregants for yield and quality traits were compared with the original parents MCU 5 and TCH 1218. For nine yield and yield components, the male parent TCH 1218 was superior for five traits *viz.*, plant height, number of sympodia per plant, boll weight, single plant yield and ginning outturn. The number of segregants in descending order for the traits is as follows *viz.*, 201 for number of sympodia per plant, 185 for number of monopodia per plant, 165 for ginning outturn, 155 for single plant yield, 153 for lint index, 152 for boll number, 139 for boll weight and 93 for plant height and seed index. For five fibre quality traits, the parent MCU 5 is superior for all traits except elongation percent.

Table.1 Genetic variability in recombinant inbred lines of cotton

Character	F ratio	CD at 5%	GCV (%)	PCV (%)	Heritability (%)	GAM (%)	
PH	6.16**	11.86	8.08	9.52	72.08	1.05	
NS	40.25**	0.69	10.20	10.46	95.15	12.58	
NM	163.23**	0.09	54.29	55.95	98.78	255.69	
NB	9.34**	2.75	18.95	21.1	80.66	9.87	
BW	26.38**	0.32	12.75	13.24	92.70	39.78	
SPY	5.57**	18.53	15.26	18.3	69.55	1.28	
SI	151.57**	0.23	9.42	9.48	98.69	19.02	
LI	12.14**	0.56	12.19	13.24	84.78	28.96	
GOT	19.52**	1.72	7.76	8.17	90.26	5.14	
UHML	70.43**	0.56	4.14	4.27	94.20	6.45	
UI	4134.94**	0.03	4.78	4.84	99.99	4.84	
BS	929.50**	0.08	6.78	6.86	99.94	8.82	
EP	75.66**	0.02	1.21	1.23	97.94	34.02	
FF	86.56**	0.13	11.14	11.41	95.39	49.07	
PH	-	Plant height (cm)		LI	-	Lint index	
NS	-	Number of sympodia per plant		GOT	-	Ginning outturn (%)	
NM	-	Number of monopodia per plant		UHML	-	Upper half mean length (mm)	
NB	-	Number of bolls per plant		UI	-	Uniformity index (%)	
BW	-	Boll weight (g)		BS	-	Bundle strength (g/tex)	
SPY	-	Single plant yield (g)		EP	-	Elongation percent	
SI	-	Seed index		FF	-	Fibre fineness (µg/inch)	

Table.2 Correlation coefficients between yield and yield related traits among RIL population in cotton

	PH	NS	NM	NB	BW	SI	LI	GOT	SPY	
PH	1	0.592**	-	0.065	-0.029	-0.044	-0.145*	-0.128	0.049	
NS		1	-0.421**	0.399**	-0.040	-0.160*	-0.045	0.076	0.317**	
NM			1	-0.033	0.140*	0.096	0.156*	0.084	0.116	
NB				1	-0.066	-0.117	-0.017	0.074	0.695**	
BW					1	0.443**	0.475**	0.160*	0.091	
SI						1	0.453**	-0.306**	-0.018	
LI							1	0.706**	0.104	
GOT								1	0.126	
SPY									1	
PH	-	Plant height		NB	-	Number of bolls per plant		LI	-	Lint index
NS	-	Number of sympodia per plant		BW	-	Boll weight		GOT	-	Ginning outturn
NM	-	Number of monopodia per plant		SI	-	Seed index		SPY	-	Single plant yield

Table.3 Correlation coefficients between upper half mean length and fibre related traits among RIL population in cotton

	UR	BS	EP	FF	UHML	
UR	1	0.232**	0.172*	-0.060	0.014	
BS		1	0.567**	-0.369**	0.389**	
EP			1	0.060	0.325**	
FF				1	-0.172*	
UHML					1	
UR	-	Uniformity ratio		FF	-	Fibre fineness (µg/inch)
BS	-	Bundle strength (g/tex)		UHML	-	Upper Half mean length (mm)
EP	-	Elongation percentage				

Table.4 Transgressive segregants for single plant yield over superior parent TCH 1218 in cotton

RIL No.	SPY	PH	NM	NS	NB	BW	SI	LI	GOT
220	149.36	121.50	0.70	17.80	22.30	4.77	10.19	5.83	36.40
203	135.63	123.50	0.80	15.70	21.80	5.25	10.95	6.98	38.98
42	132.76	122.50	0.80	15.40	17.30	4.43	11.27	5.09	31.22
122	131.54	131.60	0.70	16.90	22.50	4.38	10.21	5.19	33.67
44	130.47	136.10	0.30	17.20	20.40	5.20	11.08	6.28	36.27
MCU 5	80.69	109.90	1.30	12.70	13.60	4.45	10.86	5.25	32.62
TCH1218	85.50	123.40	1.40	12.90	12.60	4.46	8.58	4.17	32.76
Highest value recorded among 220 RILs	149.36	143.90	0.00	18.80	25.43	6.08	13.26	7.74	42.42
PH	-	Plant height (cm)	NB	-	Number of bolls per plant		LI	-	Lint index
NS	-	Number of sympodia per plant	BW	-	Boll weight (g)		GOT	-	Ginning outturn (%)
NM	-	Number of monopodia per plant	SI	-	Seed index		SPY	-	Single plant yield (g)

Table.5 Transgressive segregants for Upper half mean length of fibre over superior parent MCU 5 in cotton

RIL No.	UHML (mm)	UI (%)	BS (g/tex)	EP (%)	FF (µg/inch)
220	34.52	81.30	28.70	5.93	3.65
63	34.10	83.80	29.37	5.93	3.36
80	33.58	84.70	28.90	5.87	3.06
157	33.47	83.50	28.30	5.93	3.50
185	33.27	81.80	29.20	6.03	3.55
MCU 5	32.95	83.30	28.83	5.90	3.49
TCH1218	30.45	82.50	28.30	5.97	3.78

Table.6 Transgressive segregants for bundle strength over superior parent MCU 5 in cotton

RIL No.	BS (g/tex)	UI (%)	UHML (mm)	EP (%)	FF (µg/inch)
82	29.83	84.50	31.91	5.97	3.26
43	29.63	85.60	27.64	6.00	3.52
83	29.43	84.60	31.18	5.97	3.48
190	29.43	83.10	31.39	6.03	3.79
63	29.37	83.80	34.10	5.93	3.36
120	29.27	82.90	30.04	5.93	3.39
185	29.20	81.80	33.27	6.03	3.55
1	29.10	85.10	29.31	6.07	3.41
MCU 5	23.07	83.30	32.95	5.90	3.49
TCH1218	22.64	82.50	30.45	5.97	3.78

Table.7 Transgressive segregants for fibre fineness over superior parent MCU 5 in cotton

RIL No.	FF (µg/inch)	UI (%)	UHML (mm)	EP (%)	BS (g/tex)
64	2.73	84.80	27.75	5.90	28.87
56	2.88	82.60	31.70	5.80	27.47
79	3.02	83.30	27.75	5.77	26.93
42	3.03	82.50	28.06	5.87	28.50
66	3.04	83.20	28.58	5.83	28.27
209	3.04	85.90	30.66	5.90	28.33
80	3.06	84.70	33.58	5.87	28.90
MCU 5	3.49	83.30	32.95	5.90	28.83
TCH1218	3.78	82.50	30.45	5.97	28.30
UHML	-	Upper half mean length (mm)	EP	-	Elongation percent
UI	-	Uniformity index (%)	FF	-	Fibre fineness (µg/inch)
BS	-	Bundle strength (g/tex)			

Fig.1 Percentage of superior transgressive segregants for yield and fibre quality traits in RIL population of cross MCU 5 × TCH 1218 in comparison to respective superior parent

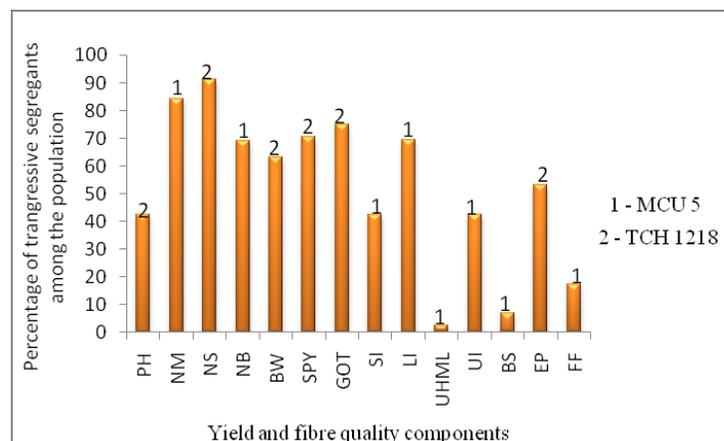


Table.8 Transgressive segregants in recombinant inbred lines of cross MCU 5 x TCH 1218 in cotton

Traits	No. of favourable transgressive segregants	Range of the transgressive segregants	Genotype with highest value (RIL No)	Superior parent
PH	93	123.5 - 143.90	96	TCH 1218 (123.40)
NM	185	0 - 1.20	74	MCU 5 (1.30)
NS	201	13.00 - 18.80	93, 56	TCH 1218 (12.90)
NB	152	13.70 - 25.43	217	MCU5 (13.60)
BW	139	4.47 - 6.08	59	TCH1218 (4.46)
SPY	155	85.59 - 149.36	220	TCH 1218 (85.50)
GOT	165	32.80 - 45.46	27	TCH1218 (32.73)
SI	93	10.88 - 13.26	180	MCU5 (10.86)
LI	153	5.26 - 7.85	153	MCU5 (5.25)
UHML	5	33.27 - 34.52	220	MCU5 (32.95)
UI	93	83.40 - 87.80	140	MCU5 (83.30)
BS	15	28.87 - 29.83	82	MCU5 (28.83)
EP	117	5.90 - 6.07	1	TCH1218 (5.97)
FF	38	2.73 - 3.48	64	MCU 5(3.49)

PH	-	Plant height (cm)	SPY	-	Single plant yield (g)	UI	-	Uniformity index
NM	-	Number of monopodia per plant	GOT	-	Ginning outturn (%)	BS	-	Bundle strength (g/tex)
NS	-	Number of sympodia per plant	SI	-	Seed index	EP	-	Elongation percentage
NB	-	Number of bolls per plant	LI	-	Lint index	FF	-	Fibre fineness (µg/inch)
BW	-	Boll weight (g)	UHML	-	Upper half mean length (mm)			

Fig.2 Percentage of superior segregants for yield and fibre quality traits in RIL population of crosses MCU 5 × TCH 1218 in comparison to respective superior check

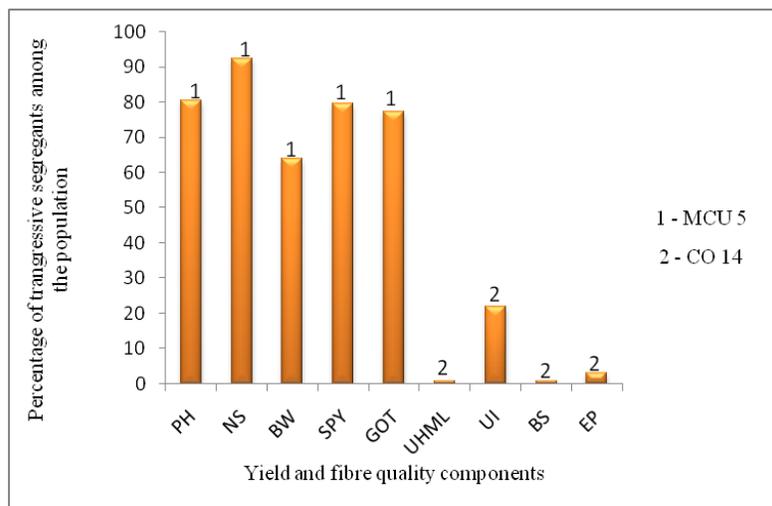


Table.9 Segregants performed better than check variety in recombinant inbred lines of cross MCU 5 × TCH 1218 in cotton

Traits	No. of favourable transgressive segregants	Range of the transgressive segregants	Genotype with highest value (RIL No)	Superior check
PH	177	123.5 - 143.90	96	MCU 5 (109.90)
NS	203	13.00 - 18.80	93, 56	MCU 5 (12.70)
BW	141	4.47 - 6.08	59	MCU 5 (4.45)
SPY	175	85.59 - 149.36	220	MCU 5 (80.69)
GOT	170	32.80 - 45.46	27	MCU 5 (32.59)
UHML	2	33.27 - 34.52	220	CO 14 (34.20)
UI	48	83.40 - 87.80	140	CO 14 (84.10)
BS	2	28.87 - 29.83	82	CO 14 (29.55)
EP	7	5.90 - 6.07	1	MCU 5 (3.49)

**For four traits MCU 5 was superior parent and values of Table 6 are applicable.

In general, the number of favourable segregants is lower for quality traits when compared to yield traits in the population. For upper half mean length and bundle strength, only 5 and 15 RILs were superior in performance compared to MCU 5 which constitutes 2.5 and 6.8 per cent of the material studied. In the whole population, 17.2 and 42.3 per cent of the lines had desirable fibre fineness and uniformity index. Kumar *et al.*, (2018) evaluated F₂ population for yield and fibre quality traits. In combination of seed cotton yield and GOT with 50 and 5 percentage of advantage over superior parent 14 transgressive segregants were identified. Another 14 transgressive segregants had 3 per cent advantage over superior parent for bundle strength. This confirms that percentage of favourable lines is lesser for fibre quality traits.

The variety MCU 5 is one of the parent and incidentally a standard check variety still in cultivation. So in our study, MCU 5 and the

latest variety CO 14 were considered as checks. The variety CO 14 was superior for four fibre quality traits *viz.*, upper half mean length, uniformity index, bundle strength and elongation percentage (Table 9). The number of desirable segregants were more for uniformity index (48) and very low for other traits which ranged from 2 to 7. On comparison with MCU 5, the highest number of segregants (92.3%) was noticed for number of sympodia per plant, followed by plant height (80.5%). For single plant yield and ginning outturn, the values were closer to each other (79.5% and 77.3% respectively). For boll weight, 64% of the lines were superior (Fig. 2).

High heritability with high to moderate GAM was exhibited by number of sympodia per plant, number of monopodia per plant, boll weight, seed index, lint index, elongation percentage and fibre fineness. These traits were additive in nature and selection will be effective. Superior transgressive segregants

for single plant yield was identified as RIL 44 as it performed better for other yield component traits, while for fibre quality traits RIL 63 performance was comparatively high.

Among the population RIL 220 ranked top for single plant yield and upper half mean length. Fibre quality traits had few favourable segregants when compared to yield traits.

Isolated RIL can be used in advance breeding trial for varietal development.

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