

Original Research Article

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Studies on Combining Ability through Line × Tester Analysis in Okra [*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench]

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ABSTRACT

The combining ability analysis was estimated from a Line × Tester crossing programme proposed by Kempthorne in 1957. Total 24 crosses were evaluated from 12 lines and 2 testers. Experiment was conducted at research field of Rama University, Kanpur during year 2019-20 with an aim to evaluate okra hybrids for yield and its attributing traits. Various morphological parameters viz., days to 50% flowering, plant height(cm), number of branches/plant, length of fruit per plant(cm), diameter of fruit (cm), number of seeds per fruit, number of fruits per plant and edible fruit yield per plant (g) were recorded. Analysis of variance revealed that parents and hybrids differed significantly for most of the traits under study. The gca and sca effects were significantly different for majority of the traits. Estimates of gca effect revealed that Parbhani Kranti, K.S-325 and Pusa Sawni are good general combiners for fruit yield, number of fruits per plant and no. of branches per plant etc. The estimation of sca effects revealed that the cross combination Prabhani kranti x A.B – 1, KS 325 x A. B 2, B. O 2 x A. B 2 and K.S-312 x A.B-2 etc. were observed most promising for fruit yield per plant, fruit length, number of fruit per plant and plant length etc. Thus the parents showing high gca can be utilised in hybridization programme for production of promising recombinants, while the crosses showing high sca for specific characters can be directly used for hybrid development.

Keywords

Line × Tester, gca, sca, analysis of variance and okra

Article Info

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Introduction

Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench) is commonly known as bhindi or lady's finger belonging to family Malvaceae having chromosome no is $2n = 130$, $2n = 8x = 72$ or 144. Okra is extensively grown in tropical, sub-tropical and warm areas of the world. It is a powerhouse of variable nutrients and because of this okra has a prominent position

among all the vegetables in India. The experiment was conducted to assess the combining ability of parents. Selection of suitable parents is an important step for any breeding program for crop improvement.

The line × tester analysis of crossing is efficient in studying the combining ability variances and effects of various characters. An attempt was made to evaluate 24 hybrids

along with their parents (12 lines and 2 testers) for different characters. The experiment was conducted with certain objectives to evaluate the *per se* performance of parents and their hybrids for some important characters, determining the magnitude of the GCA and SCA variances and their effects, to understand the nature of gene action for yield and its component characters and also to obtain information on the extent of heterosis for prediction of superior hybrid combinations for the traits under study.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at Research Farm, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Allied Industries, Rama University, Kanpur in the year 2019-20. The genotypes used in the experiment shows geographical as well as morphological diversity, which is the prerequisite for any breeding programme. The experiment material consists of 12 lines and 2 testers, listed in Table 1. Randomized block design was used for experimentation. Hand emasculation and crossing was carried out in a definite fashion as per the requirements of Line \times Tester crossing programme, resulting in 24 hybrid lines. All the 24 hybrids along with 12 lines and 2 testers were evaluated in RBD. The observations were recorded for different traits *viz.*, days to 50% flowering, plant height (cm), number of branches/plant, length of fruit (cm), diameter of fruit (cm), number of seeds per fruit, number of fruits per plant and edible fruit yield per plant (g). The variances and corresponding standard errors of the mean were computed from the deviations of the individual values (Panse and Sukhatme, 1978). The observed values were subjected to Line \times Tester analysis and the general combining ability effects of parents and specific combining ability effects of different crosses were evaluated by the methods developed by Kempthorne (1957).

Proportional contributions from lines, testers and the interactions to total variance were calculated as per the method proposed by Singh and Choudhary (1985).

Results and Discussion

Analysis of variance due to parents and hybrids for eight characters are presented in Table 2. ANOVA shows significant difference among hybrids for all the characters except plant height. The combining ability variances were estimated for eight characters. General combining ability effects for all the parents has been presented in Table 3. The specific combining ability effects are presented in Table 4. The characters under study are denoted as per following:

DFP- days to 50% flowering, PH- plant height (cm), NBPP- number of branches per plant, NFP- number of fruits per plant, FL- fruit length (cm), DF-fruit diameter (cm), SPF- number of seeds per fruit, EYPP- edible fruit yield per plant (g).

The gca effect was maximum for days to 50% flowering (3.972***) in case of Pusa Sawani followed by (3.806***) in case of B. O- 2. For plant height, gca effect was maximum (8.000) in Pusa Sawani followed by Parbhani Kranti (6.667). In case of no. of branches per plant, both Pusa Sawani and Parbhani Kranti showed highest gca values *i.e.* (0.792**). For no. of fruits per plant, fruit length and fruit diameter, gca effect was maximum in case of Pusa Sawani. Although gca effect for no. of seeds per fruit was maximum (5.208***) in case of K.S-325. The gca effect for edible yield per plant was reported maximum (18.153**) in case of Parbhani Kranti followed by B. O-2 (13.621*). Thus the genotypes Pusa Sawani, Parbhani Kranti, K. S-325 and B. O-2 can be categorised as good general combiners and may be used as one of the parent in okra hybridization programme.

The combining ability variance showed higher magnitude of GCA variance in some cases, indicating preponderance of additive gene action, while in some cases SCA variance are high indicating preponderance of non-additive (dominance) gene action.

On the basis of SCA effects, the hybrid Parbhani Kranti × A. B-1 was found to be most promising for fruit yield per plant on the basis of *per se* performance followed by K. S-325 × A. B-2. The crosses showing high specific combining ability effects and *per*

se performance for fruit yield per plant suggesting that these hybrids may be exploited in further breeding programme. For fruit length, sca effect was highest in case of B. O-2 × A. B-2. In case of plant height and no. of branches per plant, the most promising cross was P-7× A. B-1. SCA effect for no. of fruits per plant was observed maximum in A. Abhaya × A. B-1. The crosses showing high specific combining ability effects and *per se* performance for corresponding traits suggesting that these hybrids may be exploited in further breeding programme.

Table.1 List of genotypes used in crossing programme

S. No.	Parents	Genotypes
Lines (females)		
1	L1	Pusa Sawani
2	L2	P-7
3	L3	K.S- 312
4	L4	A-Abhaya
5	L5	Prabhani Kranti
6	L6	V.R.O – 6
7	L7	B.O- 2
8	L8	K.S – 325
9	L9	K.S – 326
10	L10	K.S- 443
11	L11	K.S- 445
12	L12	K.S- 447
Testers (Males)		
13	T1	A.B-1
14	T2	A.B-2

Table.2 Analysis of variance

	MSS								
	DF	DFP	PH(cm)	NBPP	NFP	FL(cm)	DF(cm)	SPF	EYPP(g)
Replication	2	28.18*	1179.04**	0.17	15.79	28.08***	0.071	0.542	1105.18*
Hybrids	23	29.36***	268.17	1.40***	12.46***	9.66***	2.21***	63.740***	624.01*
Line effect	11	39.72	346.42	1.88	19.15*	16.92**	0.15	79.943	556.41
Tester effect	1	37.56	296.06	3.12	9.39	2.21	0.11	171.125	1870.69
Line x tester	11	18.25**	187.39	0.77*	6.06	3.08	0.27***	37.792*	578.29
Error	46	6.60	166.13	0.35	3.95	2.97	0.02	16.25	321.01
Total	71	14.58	227.79	0.69	7.04	5.84	0.07	31.30	444.26

* Significant at 5 % probability level, **Significant at 1 % probability level, *** Significant at 0.1 % probability level

Table.3 General combining ability (gca) effects of parents for different traits in okra

	DFP	PH(cm)	NBPP	NFP	FL(cm)	DF(cm)	SPF	EYPP(g)
Pusa sawani	3.972***	8.000	0.792**	2.667***	4.016***	0.293***	4.042**	2.347
P-7	0.876	-10.17*	0.292	1.833*	1.174	-0.132	4.708**	3.014
K.S 312	0.306	-5.833	-0.208	-2.83***	-0.134	0.069	0.078	7.347
A . Abhaya	1.806	6500	0.458	0.667	0.307	-0.102	0.042	-9.319
Parbhani Kranti	2.472**	6.667	0.792**	1.167	-2.98***	-0.092	-4.29**	18.153**
V.R.O – 6	-1.528	-12.50*	0.125	-2.33**	0.207	-0.002	-2.625	3.847
B . O -2	3.806***	1.667	-0.542*	-0.333	0.524	-0.247**	-2.958*	13.621*
K.S-325	-3.194**	4.500	-0.208	1.667*	0.209	0.044	5.208***	-7.819
K.S-326	-2.194*	5.167	-1.04***	0.833	-1.059	0.129	-1.292	-1.986
K.S – 443	-1.194	5.833	-0.542*	0.000	-1.634*	0.204**	-5.62***	6.347
K.S – 445	-1.861*	0.500	-0.208	-2.000	-0.338	0.009	-1.292	-10.319
K.S – 447	-3.194**	-10.33*	0.292	-1.333**	0.324	-0.172*	3.375	11.014
A.B – 1	0.722	2.028	0.208*	0.361	0.175	-0.039	-1.542	-5.097
A.B – 2	-0.722	-2.028	-0.208*	-0.361	-0.175	0.039	1.542	5.097
CD95%GCA(LINE)	1.834	8.174	0.480	1.479	1.259	0.146	2.945	12.051
CD95%GCA (TESTER)	0.749	3.557	0.961	0.604	0.541	0.060	1.202	4.920

*Significant at 5 % probability level, **Significant at 1 % probability level, *** Significant at 0.1 % probability level

Table.4 Specific combining ability (sca) effects of hybrids for different characters in okra

	DFP	PH(cm)	NBPP	NFP	FL(cm)	DF(cm)	SPF	EYPP(g)
Pusa sawani x A.B – 1	-0.222	-4.361	-0.042	-0.528	0.990	0.210*	-1.125	3.097
Pusa sawani x A.B – 2	0.222	4.361	0.042	0.528	-0.990	-0.210*	1.125	-3.097
P-7x A.B – 1	1.611	12.472*	0.792*	-0.361	-0.475	0.202	1.542	1.431
P – 7 X A.B-2	-1.611	-12.472*	-0.792*	0.361	0.475	-0.202	-1.542	-1.431
K.S 312 x A.B-1	1.778	-2.194	-0.042	1.639	0.116	-0.053	0.875	-2.236
K.S-312x A.B-2	-1.788	2.194	0.042	-1.639	-0.116	0.053	-0.875	2.236
A.Abhaya x A.B-1	0.944	-1.194	0.292	1.806	0.358	-0.031	-4.458*	-0.569
A.Abhaya x A.B-2	-0.944	1.194	-0.292	-1.806	-0.358	0.031	4.458*	0.569
Prabhani kranti x A.B-1	1.611	1.972	0.292	-0.361	0.341	0.175	0.208	19.597*
Prabhani kranti x A.B-2	-1.611	-1.972	-0.292	0.361	-0.341	-0.175	-0.208	-19.597*
V.R.O-6 x A.B-1	-1.056	0.194	-0.375	0.861	0.971	-0.058	5.542*	1.931
V.R.O-6 x A.B-2	1.056	-0.194	0.375	-0.861	-0.971	0.058	-5.542*	-1.931
B.O-2 x A.B-1	1.611	1.306	-0.042	0.139	-1.225	0.137	1.875	11.097
B.O-2 x A.B-2	-1.611	-1.306	0.042	-0.139	1.225	-0.137	-1.875	-11.097
K.S-325 x A.B-1	0.278	-4.194	0.292	0.139	-0.492	-0.321**	-0.292	-16.403
K.S-325 x A.B-2	-0.278	4.194	-0.292	-0.139	0.492	0.321**	0.292	16.403
K.S-326 x A.B-1	-3.72**	4.806	-0.208	0.972	0.191	-0.370***	0.208	0.764
K.S-326 x A.B-2	3.72**	-4.806	0.208	-0.972	-0.191	0.370***	-0.208	-0.764
K.S-443 x A.B-1	-2.056	4.472	-0.375	-0.528	-1.217	-0.235*	-2.125	-5.236
K.S-443 x A.B-2	2.056	-4.472	0.375	0.528	1.217	0.235*	2.125	5.236
K.S-445 x A.B-1	0.611	-3.861	-0.375	-1.528	0.546	0.140	-2.458	-15.236
K.S-445 x A.B-2	0.611	3.861	0.375	1.528	-0.546	-0.140	2.458	15.236
K.S-447 x A.B-1	-1.389	-9.028	-0.208	-0.528	0.075	0.202	0.208	1.764
K.S-447 x A.B-2	1.389	9.028	0.208	0.528	-0.075	-0.202	-0.208	-1.764
CD95%SCA	2.593	12.323	0.679	2.092	1.781	0.206	4.165	17.043

* Significant at 5 % probability level, **Significant at 1 % probability level, *** Significant at 0.1 % probability level

The *gca* and *sca* effects along with heterosis were estimated for twenty four hybrids along with twelve lines and two testers from a L×T analysis. The *gca* and *sca* effects differed significantly for the crosses for all the characters under study except for plant height. As per the estimates of *gca* effect, genotypes Pusa Sawani, Parbhani Kranti, K.S-325 and B. O-2 were identified as good general combiners and may be used as a parent in hybridization programme in okra. On the basis of SCA effects, the hybrid Parbhani Kranti × A. B-1 was found to be most promising for fruit yield per plant on the basis of *per se* performance followed by K. S-325 × A. B-2. The crosses showing high specific combining ability effects and *per se* performance for fruit yield per plant suggesting that these hybrids may be exploited in further breeding programme.

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