



Selection of parental lines among round fruited brinjal for hybridization aiming at export promotion

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Abstract: Selection of parental lines for considering export trade in hybridization programme is a new approach in brinjal breeding. Eight quantitative characters were taken to estimate genetic variation and relationships among twenty seven genotypes of round fruited brinjal, and to identify potential donors for the development of recombinants suitable for export. Analysis of variation revealed considerable level of variability among the genotypes. High broad sense heritability (>80 %) and genetic advance as per cent of mean (>20 %) were observed for the maximum number of traits under study. Among the yield components, only number of marketable fruits per plant showed positive and significant correlation ($r = 0.771$ and 0.725 at genotypic and phenotypic level, respectively) with marketable fruit yield per plant. However, number of marketable fruits per plant (1.24) followed by average fruit weight (0.834) exhibited maximum positive direct effects on marketable fruit yield per plant suggesting to give emphasis on these traits while imposing selection for amenability in fruit yield of round fruited brinjal. Principal component analysis showed the amount of variation by principal components 1 to 4 viz., 26.75, 49.98, 69.81 and 84.28 %, respectively. Divergence analysis based on various yield component traits grouped 27 brinjal genotypes into nine main clusters. Dendrogram based on hierarchical clustering grouped genotypes based on their yield component traits rather than their geographic origin. Based on averages and principal component analysis, six genotypes (BCB-30, Deshi Makra, Gujrat Brinjal Round, 09/BRBWRRes-3, BCB-10, 10/BRRVar-2) appeared to be promising donors for use in export oriented breeding programme.

Keywords: Brinjal, Clustering, Correlation, Diversity, Export, Principal component analysis

INTRODUCTION

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) can be grown in almost all parts of the world except in higher altitudes, and can act as major source of income particularly for the small and marginal farmers. The crop has large diversity for fruit color, shape, size and other morphological traits (Cericola *et al.*, 2013) and large number of cultivars/hybrids have been cultivated throughout the world according to market needs and consumer demands (Sidhu *et al.*, 2005, Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2011). The crop is one the favorite export commodities in India mainly destined to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Singapore, Sudan and Mali (Vanitha *et al.*, 2013). Round fruit shape with glossy purple colour having green calyx and devoid of spines in any parts of the plant are important export criteria specified by the Government of India (Singh and Pandey, 1993). Genotypes of brinjal involving mixture of fruit shapes have been characterized in the eastern Gangetic plains of India through different studies (Hazra *et al.*, 2003,

Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2011). No varieties in eastern India could match the export specification as required in international market. Therefore, identification of round fruited brinjal for export purpose is the need of the hour from this zone. Hence, an attempt has been taken to evaluate and characterize the existing round fruited germplasm of brinjal and to identify potential line for obtaining the best recombinants for export purpose.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant materials and field growing: Seeds of twenty seven advanced lines/varieties of brinjal collected from different sources of India were sown in well-prepared nursery bed and four weeks old seedlings were transplanted following Randomized Block Design with 3 replications at a spacing of 60 cm in both ways accommodating 30 plants in each plot during 3rd week of July, 2014 at Research Farm of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India. Normal package of practices were followed to raise the

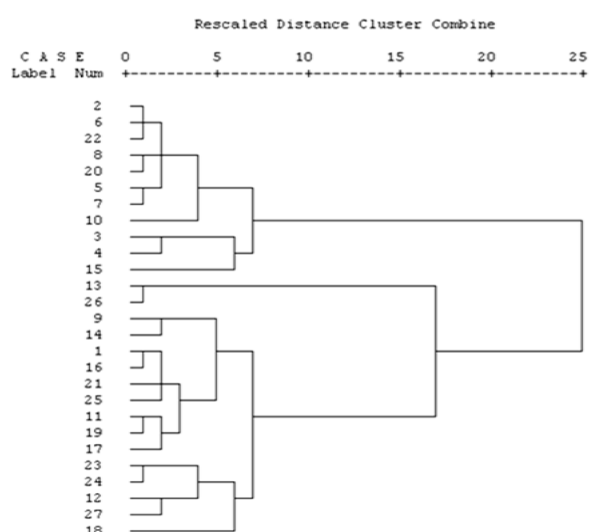


Fig. 1. Dendrogram based on cluster analysis for various yield component traits of brinjal genotypes.

Genotype 1:10/BRRVar-2, 2:10/BRRVar-3, 3:10/BRRVar-4, 4:10/BRR Var-5, 5:10/BRRVar-6, 6:10/BRRVar-7, 7:Swarna Mani, 8:KS-224, 9:Gujrat Brinjal Round, 10: Deshi Makra, 11: BCB-10, 12: IIVR Purple Round, 13: 09/BRBWRES-3, 14: Punjab Brinjal Round, 15: Gujrat SRP Round, 16: 12/SPTBRVAR-1, 17: 12/SPTBRVAR-2,18: 12/SPTBRVAR-3, 19: 12/SPTBRVAR-4, 20: 12/SPTBRVAR-5, 21: 12/SPTBRVAR-6, 22: 12/SPTBRVAR-7, 23: 12/SPTBRVAR-8, 24: 12/SPTBR VAR-9, 25: 12/SPTBRVAR-10, 26: 12/BRBWRES-7, 27: BCB-30.

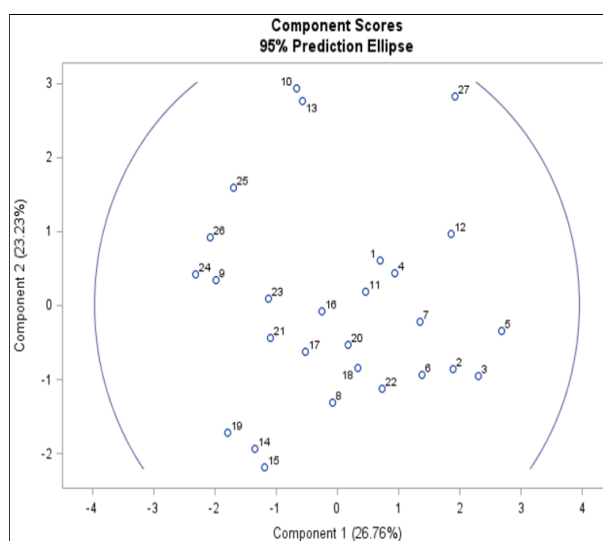


Fig. 2. Scattered diagram produced by PCA, Genotype 1:10/BRRVar-2, 2:10/BRRVar-3, 3:10/BRRVar-4, 4:10/BRR Var-5, 5:10/BRRVar-6, 6:10/BRRVar-7, 7:Swarna Mani, 8:KS-224, 9:Gujrat Brinjal Round, 10: Deshi Makra, 11: BCB-10, 12: IIVR Purple Round, 13: 09/BRBWRES-3, 14: Punjab Brinjal Round, 15: Gujrat SRP Round, 16: 12/SPTBRVAR-1, 17: 12/SPTBRVAR-2,18: 12/SPTBRVAR-3, 19: 12/SPTBRVAR-4, 20: 12/SPTBRVAR-5, 21: 12/SPTBRVAR-6, 22: 12/SPTBRVAR-7, 23: 12/SPTBRVAR-8, 24: 12/SPTBR VAR-9, 25: 12/SPTBRVAR-10, 26: 12/BRBWRES-7, 27: BCB-30.

Table 1. Mean, range and estimates of genetic parameters of twenty-seven genotypes of round fruited brinjal.

Characters	Mean	Range	GCV (%)	PCV (%)	GCV : PCV	Heritability (%) in broad sense	Genetic advance as (%) of mean
Days to 1 st flowering	49.35	43.67-63.67	9.84	10.80	91.11	82.99	18.46
Days to 50% flowering	63.08	49.67-76.33	9.82	10.45	93.97	88.34	19.01
Plant height (cm)	92.00	74.33-116.17	10.02	11.07	90.51	81.93	18.68
Fruit length (cm)	9.63	6.79-12.16	13.46	13.52	99.56	99.05	27.59
Fruit girth (cm)	7.53	5.42-9.83	14.46	14.60	99.04	98.18	29.52
Average fruit weight (g)	198.06	135.67-250.00	14.71	15.27	96.33	92.79	29.18
Number of marketable fruits/plant	6.22	4.67-10.33	27.07	28.63	94.55	89.40	52.72
Marketable fruit yield (kg/plant)	1.20	0.83-2.43	25.15	25.28	99.49	99.03	51.56

Table 2. Genotypic and Phenotypic correlations and direct effects of seven characters at phenotypic level on marketable fruit yield/plant.

Characters	rg with yield/plant	rp with yield/plant	Direct effect on yield/plant
Days to 1st flowering	-0.033	-0.036	0.054
Days to 50% flowering	-0.051	-0.059	0.032
Plant height (cm)	-0.062	-0.065	0.113
Fruit length (cm)	0.004	0.002	-0.061
Fruit girth (cm)	0.094	0.092	-0.079
Average fruit weight (g)	0.159	0.143	0.834
Number of marketable fruits/plant	0.771**	0.725**	1.242

**Significant at P < 0.1% level of probability; rg = Genotypic correlation coefficient; rp= Phenotypic correlation coefficient; Residual effect= 0.052

good crop (Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2007).

Observations recorded: Observations were recorded on days to first flowering, days to 50% flowering, plant height (cm), fruit length (cm), fruit girth (cm), fruit weight (g), number of marketable fruits per plant and marketable fruit yield per plant (kg) from fifteen randomly selected plants from each plot. The marketable fruit yield per plant was calculated from the total fruit yield/plant excluding fruit borer damaged fruits from total fruit yield.

Statistical analysis: Mean values of genotypes were computed for determining analysis of variance. Heritability in broad sense and Genetic Advance (GA) were estimated using the method of Hanson *et al.* (1956). Correlation coefficients at genotypic and phenotypic levels were calculated as per Johnson *et al.* (1955). Path coefficient analysis as suggested by Dewey and Lu (1959) was used to partition the genotypic correlation into components of direct and indirect effects. D² statistic (Mahalanobis, 1936) was used for assessing the genetic divergence of genotypes for eight quantitative traits mentioned above. The grouping of the populations was done by using Tocher's method as described by Rao (1952). Subsequently hierarchical cluster analysis has been done with those same genotypes in order to observe the degree of association according to their characteristics that was expressed in dendrogram following Ward's (1963) method. Statistical analyses were done using statistics analytical software SPSS Professional Version 13.0.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Genetic variability and heritability: The variance analysis showed that genotypes differed significantly

among themselves for all the characters under study. In general, the magnitude of phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) was higher than genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV) for all the characters under study indicating that the apparent variation was also due to the favorable influence of environment and selection based on these traits sometimes may be misleading (Table 1). High GCV and PCV values (>20.00 %) were found for number of marketable fruits per plant and marketable fruit yield per plant, indicating the potential of simple selection for the improvement of these characters. These observations find support from the previous workers (Kumar and Arumugam, 2013; Chaudhary and Kumar, 2014) who also found higher magnitudes of GCV and PCV (> 20.0 %) for a number of marketable fruits per plant and marketable fruit yield per plant in eggplant. On the other hand, moderate PCV and GCV values (10.00-20.00 %) were shown by plant height, fruit length, fruit girth and average fruit weight. Similar findings had been reported in brinjal for plant height and average fruit weight by Kumar and Arumugam (2013) and for fruit girth by Senapati *et al.* (2009) who also observed moderate values of PCV and GCV for the said traits. The proportion of GCV to PCV observed in this study was generally high ranged from 90.51 % in plant height to 99.56 % in fruit length and thus, their use as important discriminatory variable for brinjal classification studies seems relatively reliable.

Higher estimates of broad sense heritability (more than 80 %) coupled with high genetic advance as per cent of mean (more than 20 %), an indicative of additive gene action, were found for all the characters under study except days to 1st flowering, days to 50 %

Table 3. Cluster classification of twenty-seven genotypes of brinjal.

Cluster with number of genotype in parentheses	Name of the genotype
I (8)	12/SPT-BR Var-2, 10/BRR Var-3, 10/BRR Var-4, 10/BRR Var-5, 10/BRR Var-6, 10/BRR Var-7, Swarna Mani, BCB-10
II (4)	KS-224, Gujrat Brinjal Round, 12/SPT-BR Var-6, 12/SPT-BR Var-8
III (2)	10 BRR Var-2, 12/SPT-BR Var-5
IV (2)	Punjab Brinjal Round, Gujrat SRP Round
V (2)	12/SPT-BR Var-1, 12/SPT-BR Var-7
VI (3)	Deshi Makra, 12/SPT-BR Var-9, 12/BRBW Res-7
VII (2)	IIVR Purple Round, BCB-30
VIII (2)	09/BRBW Res-3, 12/SPT-BR Var-3
IX(2)	12/SPT-BR Var-4, 12/SPT-BR Var-10

Table 4. Inter- and Intra-cluster distances of twenty-seven genotypes of brinjal.

Cluster	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX
I	673.74	1732.13	1343.58	1603.73	572.27	3364.91	1220.50	1388.44	2945.23
II		1729.90	875.26	1012.59	956.98	2034.50	2429.13	2690.78	1570.35
III			151.17	327.44	657.82	1387.96	1427.84	2986.49	848.30
IV				204.22	808.17	1950.93	1923.44	2991.44	1117.22
V					232.68	2324.79	1528.57	1242.07	1815.65
VI						2096.45	3508.11	4786.74	1423.43
VII							423.76	3018.65	3152.87
VIII								1572.72	4479.41
IX									2030.21

Table 5. Cluster means of nine characters of brinjal.

Characters	Cluster									(% contribution towards divergence)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Days to 1st flowering	48.13	51.42	47.33	61.00	46.33	49.78	44.17	49.17	48.17	0.00
Days to 50% flowering	58.42	65.67	62.17	75.67	61.33	66.67	53.67	66.33	67.33	0.00
Plant height (cm)	96.31	86.75	82.17	93.08	86.92	89.78	102.33	103.08	81.00	9.69
Fruit length (cm)	10.65	9.03	8.83	9.21	9.85	8.15	10.10	11.15	7.95	30.48
Fruit girth (cm)	8.07	6.86	7.58	8.11	7.12	6.56	9.35	7.02	6.63	20.23
Average fruit weight (g)	216.96	191.08	214.17	196.83	208.83	188.67	171.50	157.50	192.00	8.83
Number of marketable fruits/plant	5.38	6.17	5.33	4.67	5.17	8.44	8.00	7.83	6.50	1.42
Marketable fruit yield / plant (kg)	1.17	1.16	1.14	0.91	1.07	1.63	1.37	1.18	1.25	29.34

Table 6. Results of principal component analysis (PCA).

Characters	Vector I	Vector II	Vector III	Vector IV
Roots/ Eigen values	2.141	1.858	1.587	1.157
% of total variation accounted for	26.758	23.226	19.832	14.467
% of cumulative variation	26.758	49.985	69.817	84.284
Days to 1 st flowering	-0.191	-0.172	0.506	0.137
Days to 50% flowering	-0.342	-0.121	0.366	-0.012
Plant height (cm)	0.274	-0.02	0.196	-0.191
Fruit length (cm)	0.277	0.109	0.291	-0.283
Fruit girth (cm)	0.318	0.064	0.319	0.047
Average fruit weight (g)	0.204	-0.186	0.005	0.702
Number of marketable fruits/plant	-0.136	0.505	0.091	-0.06
Marketable fruit yield /plant (kg)	-0.029	0.433	0.088	0.479

flowering and plant height (Table 1). Such observations in brinjal find support from earlier workers (Chaudhary and Kumar, 2014).

Character association: Among the seven yield component traits, significant correlations with marketable yield per plant were shown by number of marketable fruits per plant. However, average fruit weight and number of marketable fruits per plant showed highly positive direct effects on marketable fruit yield per plant (Table 2). In this situation, the direct selection based on these two characters could be beneficial for yield improvement of round fruited brinjal. The results are in conformity with the observations of Lakshmi Rajya *et al.* (2014) in brinjal. The residual effect was low (0.052) suggesting inclusion of maximum fruit yield influencing characters of round fruited brinjal in the present analysis.

Based on the determination of divergence, all the twenty seven genotypes could meaningfully be grouped into nine clusters (Table 3). In general, the pattern of distribution of genotypes from diverse geographical region into different clusters was random. It might be due to free and frequent exchange of genetic materials among the farmers and breeders of different regions. Differential selection pressure according to regional preference also produced greater uniformity in the germplasm.

Genetic diversity of the genotypes through multi-variate analysis: The minimum inter-cluster distance

was observed between Cluster III and IV (327.44) indicating close relationship among the genotypes belonging to these clusters while, the maximum inter-cluster value was observed between Cluster VI and VIII (4786.74) followed by 4479.41 between Cluster VIII and IX which indicated that the genotypes included in these clusters had the maximum divergence. Hence, intermating between the genotypes included in these clusters could be expected to give transgressive segregates in the advanced generation as suggested by Kallou *et al.* (1980). The minimum intra-cluster distance among genotypes was observed in Cluster III (151.17) and the maximum being in cluster VI (2096.45) followed by 2030.21 in Cluster IX (Table 4). Number of marketable fruits per plant and fruit length contributed most towards genetic divergence (Table 5). In further study of dendrogram following Ward's method (Fig. 1) by using squared Euclidean distance, it became clearly evident that there was high diversity among the genotypes along with strong relationships among the genotypes.

PCA analysis: The principal component analysis (PCA) revealed that 4 components among 8 having eigen values greater than one have contributed 84.28 % of the variability among the genotypes (Table 6). The first principal component has high positive component loading from plant height contributing maximum to the total genetic variability. From the second principal component number of marketable fruits/plant

contributed maximum to the total genetic variability. Days to first flowering and fruit girth recorded highest component loading from third component contributing maximum to the total genetic variability from this component. Average fruit weight and marketable fruit yield per plant contributed maximum for variability from fourth principal component. Similar studies on variability in brinjal using PCA have also been done by previous workers (Begum *et al.*, 2013, Solaiman *et al.*, 2014) who also observed that the clustering pattern obtained coincided with the apparent grouping patterns performed by PCA.

Based on genetic divergence and scattered diagram (Fig. 2) through principal component analysis, six genotypes (BCB-30, Deshi Makra, Gujrat Brinjal Round, 09/BRBWRES-3, BCB-10, 10/BRRVar-2) possessed the optimum combination of all variables and should be considered for use in further breeding programme to develop improved lines for export purpose.

Conclusion

From the yield component analysis, it can be concluded that emphasis should be given on number of marketable fruits per plant and average fruit weight which exhibited positive correlations ($r = 0.725^*$ and $r = 0.143$, respectively) and higher magnitudes of direct effects (1.242 and 0.834, respectively) on marketable fruit yield per plant for selecting high yielding genotypes of round fruited brinjal. Based on the degree of divergence, the genotypes were grouped into nine clusters. Crossing between genotypes belonging to Cluster VI and VIII having the maximum inter-cluster value (4786.74) could produce highly productive brinjal genotypes. Based on averages and principal component analysis, six genotypes (BCB-30, Deshi Makra, Gujrat Brinjal Round, 09/BRBWRES-3, BCB-10, 10/BRRVar-2) could be utilized further in export oriented breeding programs.

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