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Early generation selection for green pod yield and its components in vegetable cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.]

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ABSTRACT : Correlation and path co-efficient analysis were carried out in parents, F₁ and F₂ generations of 6 × 4 parental line x tester cross in cowpea. Experiment comprising of 60 diverse vegetable cowpea genotypes was carried out at Horticultural research cum instructional farm, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur during *Kharif* of 2008. The result of correlation study in all three generations showed that green pod yield per plant had significant and positive correlation with number of pods per plant, pod length and pod weight. In base population, F₁ and F₂ the path analysis revealed that number of pods per cluster, days to final picking, pod weight and fruiting duration expressed a highest positive direct effect on green pod yield per plant, respectively. The correlation and path analysis studies revealed that 100 seed weight, pod weight, pod length and number of pods per plant were major components of green pod yield in early generations of vegetable cowpea. Hence, the direct selection in form of selection indices based on these component characters would be effective in development of high yielding genotypes of vegetable cowpea.

KEY WORDS : Cowpea, Correlation, Path analysis

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