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## Inheritance of fruit yield and its components in muskmelon (*Cucumis melo* L.)

■ DINAR S. PATIL, A.M. MUSMADE<sup>1</sup> AND H.K. SHIRSATH<sup>1</sup>

**Members of the Research Forum**

**Associated Authors:**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture,  
Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth,  
Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

**Author for correspondence :**

**DINAR S. PATIL**

Department of Horticulture,  
Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth,  
Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA  
Email : [dinar\\_2007@rediffmail.com](mailto:dinar_2007@rediffmail.com)

**ABSTRACT :** Six generation ( $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ ,  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ ,  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ ) means of five crosses obtained by crossing five inbreds of muskmelon were used to study the inheritance of fruit length, fruit diameter, pulp thickness and fruit weight. In most of the crosses, the relative contribution of dominance gene action was higher than additive gene action. Epistasis interactions also played a prominent role in majority of interacting crosses for all studied characters. Heterosis breeding is suggested for the improvement of fruit traits in muskmelon.

**KEY WORDS :** Inheritance, Additive gene, Dominance, Epistasis gene action, Gene effects

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