

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Estimation of mean performance in sorghum downy mildew resistant back cross progenies (BC_3F_1) of maize

■ K. SUMATHI, K.N. GANESAN AND N. SENTHIL

SUMMARY

The present investigation was carried out at Department of Millets, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India to identify the best performing sorghum downy mildew resistant progeny for agronomical traits. The objective of this study was to identify the better *per se* performance of the resistant progeny. Twelve biometrical characters of sixteen SDM resistant progenies viz., UMI 79/936-C1-3-2, UMI 79/936-C1-3-4, UMI 79/936-C1-7-2, UMI 79/936-C1-7-7, UMI 79/936-C1-29-8, UMI 79/936-C1-29-9, UMI 79/936-C1-29-13, UMI 79/936-C1-29-23, UMI 79/936-C1-29-35, UMI 79/936-C1-29-36, UMI 79/936-C1-67-3, UMI 79/936-C1-67-12, UMI 79/936-C1-67-25, UMI 79/936-C1-101-12, UMI 79/936-C1-101-13 and UMI 79/936-C1-101-14 were used for mean performance. Studies revealed that among the progenies, UMI 79/936-C1-7-7 and UMI 79/936-C1-7-2 showed better *per se* performance for yield contributing characters. These two progenies showed highest mean values than the other progenies. It exhibited more mean values than the parents for the characters viz., cob length, cob diameter, number of rows per cob, number of kernels per row, cob weight, yield per plant, 100 grain weight. Based on the mean values progenies UMI 79/936-C1-7-7 and UMI 79/936-C1-7-2 confirmed as the best progenies.

Key Words : Variability analysis, Sorghum downy mildew resistant back cross progenies, Maize

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Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is world's third most important crop after rice and wheat. It is a versatile crop, growing across a range of agro

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ecological zones. The importance of maize to sustainable development cannot be overstated. Maize is utilized as food for human consumption, as feed for livestock and as a raw material for industry (FAO, 1992). Plant breeders are interested in developing cultivars resistant to pest and disease with improved yield and other phenological characters. In order to achieve this goal, the breeders had the option of selecting desirable genotype in early generations or delaying intense selection until advanced generations. Downy mildews are important maize diseases in many tropical regions of the world. They are particularly destructive in many

regions of tropical Asia where losses in excess of 70 per cent have been documented. Globally, downy mildew affected areas with significant economic losses are reported to be as high as 30 per cent (Jeffers *et al.*, 2000).

Mean is the primary criterion for selection in any breeding programme. Mean serves as a basis for eliminating undesirable crosses or progenies. Hence, the present studies were undertaken to identify the best performing SDM resistant progeny for yield contributing characters through mean performance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiments were conducted at Department of Millets, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India during *Rabi* 2013. BC₃F₁ population was used in the present study. It is derived from crossing the inbred UMI 79 which is susceptible for sorghum downy mildew and UMI 936(w) which has resistance for sorghum downy mildew and backcrossing progenies with UMI79. Sixteen progenies *viz.*, UMI 79/936-C1-3-2, UMI 79/936-C1-3-4, UMI 79/936-C1-7-2, UMI 79/936-C1-7-7, UMI 79/936-C1-29-8, UMI 79/936-C1-29-9, UMI 79/936-C1-29-13, UMI 79/936-C1-29-23, UMI 79/936-C1-29-35, UMI 79/936-C1-29-36, UMI 79/936-C1-67-3, UMI 79/936-C1-67-12, UMI 79/936-C1-67-25, UMI 79/936-C1-101-12, UMI 79/936-C1-101-13 and UMI 79/936-C1-101-14, UMI 79/936-C1-3, UMI 79/936-C1-7, UMI 79/936-C1-29, UMI 79/936-C1-67, and UMI 79/936-C1-101 were confirmed as resistant to sorghum downy mildew under sick plot condition.

In these sixteen progenies the data on twelve quantitative characters *viz.*, days to 50 per cent tasseling, days to 50 per cent silking, plant height, ear height, cob length, cob diameter, number of rows per cob, number of kernels per row, cob weight, yield per plant, 100 grain weight and shelling percentage were recorded. Mean performance were calculated using the descriptive statistic analysis. Range was worked out for different biometrical traits from the minimum and maximum value of the trait.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mean is the primary criterion for selection in any breeding programme. Mean serves as a basis for eliminating undesirable crosses or progenies. Choice of parents is one of the most essential step in any breeding programme. Selection method can extract good cultivars if the parents used in the breeding programme are suitable. Therefore, an elite inbred UMI 79 was selected to introgress SDM resistance from UMI 936(W). Inclusion of elite inbred as parent (UMI 79) will largely help to ensure the recovery of a high proportion of progenies (inbreds) with adaptation and quality that would in turn helpful in developing superior hybrids with SDM resistance. The parents selected in the study UMI 79 and UMI 936(w) was having extreme variations in case of SDM resistance parameters. F₁s' of these parents were selected for further advancement so that the recovery of the parental genotype is faster with not much compromise on local adaptability and per se performance of the recurrent inbred.

The important biometrical traits *viz.*, days to 50per

Table 1 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-3-2 and UMI79/936-C1 -3-4 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean			Range		Grand mean			Range	
	Parents		BC ₃ F ₁	UMI79/936-C1 -3-2		UMI79/936-C1 -3-4		BC ₃ F ₁		
	P1	P2		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.			
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	55.40	57.40	56.08	54.00	58.00	56.83	54.00	60.00		
Days to 50 per cent silking	57.40	59.80	58.44	56.00	61.00	59.18	56.00	63.00		
Plant height (cm)	84.00	102.00	83.54	68.00	104.00	89.84	60.00	116.00		
Ear height (cm)	42.80	49.00	44.64	35.00	57.00	47.20	30.00	68.00		
Cob length	13.30	13.38	13.60	9.00	15.60	13.34	8.50	16.70		
Cob diameter	11.80	11.56	14.32	8.00	16.60	12.94	8.70	14.40		
No. of rows per cob (cm)	14.80	14.40	16.50	10.00	18.00	15.95	10.00	24.00		
No. of kernels per row (cm)	15.20	15.60	17.80	10.00	23.00	16.35	9.00	23.00		
Cob weight (g)	35.53	30.82	39.80	20.00	60.28	40.39	12.00	78.00		
Yield per plant (g)	25.70	21.38	28.90	10.20	45.60	27.92	8.20	55.00		
100 Grain weight (g)	16.78	15.51	17.82	8.45	20.35	17.86	7.00	20.12		
Shelling %	66.57	63.83	67.08	45.33	72.32	68.04	52.38	75.41		

Table 2 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-7-2 and UMI79/936-C1-7-7 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean		Range		Grand mean		Range	
	BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1 -7-2		BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1 -7-7	
			Min.	Max.			Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	55.78	54.00	60.00		55.68	54.00	59.00	
Days to 50 per cent silking	58.00	56.00	62.00		57.68	56.00	61.00	
Plant height (cm)	94.33	68.00	124.00		94.84	68.00	122.00	
Ear height (cm)	48.78	34.00	66.00		49.08	38.00	65.00	
Cob length	12.30	8.30	16.60		15.56	8.40	18.50	
Cob diameter	11.17	7.50	14.60		12.54	7.70	14.70	
No. of rows per cob (cm)	16.44	12.00	22.00		16.92	10.00	20.00	
No. of kernels per row (cm)	17.78	7.00	29.00		17.85	7.00	25.00	
Cob weight (g)	43.69	18.00	86.40		45.60	18.00	70.00	
Yield per plant (g)	31.35	10.20	60.00		38.94	10.20	52.00	
100 Grain weight (g)	18.16	10.10	23.46		17.98	10.20	24.21	
Shelling %	71.33	53.33	82.07		71.97	56.67	85.42	

Table 3 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-29-8 and UMI79/936-C1-29-9 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean		Range		Grand mean		Range	
	BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1-29-8		BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1-29-9	
			Min.	Max.			Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	56.08	54.00	58.00		55.36	54.00	58.00	
Days to 50 per cent silking	58.75	56.00	61.00		57.36	56.00	60.00	
Plant height (cm)	87.17	68.00	108.00		81.86	58.00	109.00	
Ear height (cm)	44.33	35.00	55.00		44.68	34.00	58.00	
Cob length	13.27	9.60	15.80		12.49	9.00	16.00	
Cob diameter	11.44	7.90	14.70		11.22	8.20	15.00	
No. of rows per cob (cm)	15.50	10.00	20.00		15.82	10.00	22.00	
No. of kernels per row (cm)	16.67	10.00	22.00		16.41	10.00	22.00	
Cob weight (g)	39.38	22.00	53.00		39.96	18.40	60.00	
Yield per plant (g)	27.19	14.50	38.00		27.86	10.40	60.20	
100 Grain weight (g)	17.25	11.10	19.80		18.16	10.30	20.70	
Shelling %	68.38	63.64	75.35		66.25	51.71	74.29	

Table 4 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1 -29-13 and UMI79/936-C1 -29-23 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean		Range		Grand mean		Range	
	BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1-29-13		BC ₃ F ₁		UMI79/936-C1-29-23	
			Min.	Max.			Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	56.15	54.00	59.00		56.15	54.00	59.00	
Days to 50 per cent silking	58.45	56.00	61.00		58.45	56.00	61.00	
Plant height (cm)	82.15	60.00	108.00		82.15	60.00	108.00	
Ear height (cm)	42.10	28.00	55.00		42.10	28.00	55.00	
Cob length	13.27	9.60	17.00		13.90	8.90	16.50	
Cob diameter	12.30	10.30	15.60		11.84	7.30	15.00	
No. of rows per cob (cm)	15.30	10.00	24.00		15.29	8.00	22.00	
No. of kernels per row (cm)	16.20	8.00	22.00		16.61	10.00	23.00	
Cob weight (g)	36.61	16.80	66.20		38.49	15.20	66.50	
Yield per plant (g)	24.14	9.40	51.40		26.20	8.20	45.00	
100 Grain weight (g)	17.65	11.10	20.50		16.98	8.20	19.00	
Shelling %	67.40	50.00	72.64		68.60	49.54	71.60	

Table 5 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-29-35 and UMI79/936-C1-29-36 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean			Range		
	UMI79/936-C1-29-35			UMI79/936-C1-29-36		
	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	55.79	54.00	59.00	56.10	54.00	59.00
Days to 50 per cent silking	57.96	56.00	61.00	58.31	56.00	61.00
Plant height (cm)	84.58	60.00	110.00	86.45	66.00	114.00
Ear height (cm)	43.50	28.00	56.00	45.97	36.00	58.00
Cob length	13.28	10.00	16.00	13.02	8.80	16.00
Cob diameter	12.70	9.20	15.00	11.59	8.20	15.00
No. of rows per cob (cm)	18.25	12.00	22.00	15.72	10.00	22.00
No. of kernels per row (cm)	18.00	12.00	24.00	16.59	10.00	23.00
Cob weight (g)	37.64	13.20	62.00	37.66	13.40	58.40
Yield per plant (g)	27.27	10.20	60.20	26.70	7.80	48.30
100 Grain weight (g)	17.32	10.20	24.00	17.16	8.00	22.60
Shelling %	69.37	53.95	73.70	66.22	49.78	72.65

Table 6 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-67-3 and UMI79/936-C1-67-12 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean			Range		
	UMI79/936-C1-67-3			UMI79/936-C1-67-12		
	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	56.00	54.00	59.00	56.16	54.00	59.00
Days to 50 per cent silking	58.24	56.00	61.00	58.44	56.00	61.00
Plant height (cm)	83.71	60.00	112.00	87.77	62.00	112.00
Ear height (cm)	43.48	30.00	56.00	44.65	30.00	58.00
Cob length	13.70	10.20	16.00	13.43	9.20	17.00
Cob diameter	12.04	8.20	15.00	11.32	6.50	15.00
No. of rows per cob (cm)	14.48	10.00	22.00	15.31	8.00	22.00
No. of kernels per row (cm)	16.19	10.00	23.00	16.73	9.00	24.00
Cob weight (g)	39.19	13.40	66.50	37.28	13.40	75.00
Yield per plant (g)	27.99	7.80	51.60	26.45	7.80	56.00
100 Grain weight (g)	17.65	11.20	22.60	18.98	8.20	22.60
Shelling %	66.78	49.78	72.10	65.63	49.78	77.59

Table 7 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1-67-25 and UMI79/936-C1-101-12 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean			Range		
	UMI79/936-C1-67-25			UMI79/936-C1-101-12		
	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	55.83	54.00	59.00	55.92	54.00	59.00
Days to 50 per cent silking	58.00	56.00	61.00	58.33	56.00	61.00
Plant height (cm)	86.91	66.00	114.00	80.31	68.00	108.00
Ear height (cm)	45.30	36.00	58.00	44.38	37.00	54.00
Cob length	13.97	9.60	16.00	13.85	8.40	17.00
Cob diameter	12.25	6.40	15.60	12.24	7.70	15.00
No. of rows per cob (cm)	16.88	10.00	24.00	16.31	12.00	22.00
No. of kernels per row (cm)	17.44	10.00	24.00	17.54	12.00	23.00
Cob weight (g)	39.30	17.80	62.00	41.38	18.00	65.00
Yield per plant (g)	27.32	9.80	43.60	28.92	12.00	43.00
100 Grain weight (g)	17.90	11.60	23.00	18.32	11.24	22.30
Shelling %	67.74	49.54	76.19	69.49	59.09	72.14

cent tasseling, days to 50 per cent silking, days to maturity, plant height, ear height, cob length, cob diameter, number of rows per cob, number of grains per row, cob weight, shelling per cent, 100 grain weight and grain yield per plant were studied in the back crossed generations to simultaneously monitor the agronomic performance of the introgressed progenies. Mean values for various traits were computed for resistant progenies in BC₃F₁ generation. The mean value and the range of different biometrical traits for resistant progenies are presented in the Table 1-8. Among the progenies, UMI 79/936-C1-7-7 and UMI 79/936-C1-7-2 showed better *per se* performance for yield contributing characters. These two progenies showed highest mean values than the other progenies. The progeny UMI 79/936-C1-7-7 showed highest mean values for the characters namely cob length (15.56 cm), cob diameter (12.54 cm), number of rows per cob (16.92), number of grains per row (17.85), cob weight (45.60g), 100 grain weight (17.98 g), yield per plant (38.94g) and shelling per cent (71.97). In the case of progeny UMI 79/936-C1-7-2 also showed highest mean values for the characters namely cob length (12.30 cm), cob diameter (11.17 cm), number of rows per cob (16.44), number of grains per row (17.78), cob weight (43.69), 100 grain weight (18.16 g), yield per plant (31.35g) and shelling per cent (71.33). The characters days to 50 per cent tasseling, days to 50 per cent silking and plant height for these progenies almost similar to recurrent parent.

For the progeny UMI 79/936-C1-7-7, days to 50

per cent tasseling value varied from 54 to 59 days with a mean of 55.68 days which was similar to the recurrent parent. Mean value for the trait days to 50 per cent silking was 57.68 days with range from 56 to 61 days. Plant height varied between a minimum of 68.00 cm and maximum of 122.00 cm with a mean of 94.84 cm and ear height ranged from 38.00 cm to 65.00 cm with a mean of 49.08 cm. Cob weight and yield per plant ranged from 18.00 g to 70.00 g and 10.20 g to 52.00 g, respectively. Progeny UMI 79/936-C1-7-2, days to 50 per cent tasseling value varied from 54 to 60 days with a mean of 55.78 days. Mean value for the trait days to 50 per cent silking was 58 days with range from 56 to 62 days. Plant height varied between a minimum of 68.00 cm and maximum of 124.00 cm with a mean of 94.33 cm and ear height ranged from 34.00 cm to 66.00 cm with a mean of 48.78 cm. Cob weight and yield per plant ranged from 18.00 g to 86.40 g and 10.20 g to 60.00 g, respectively. Similar results were obtained by Aarthi (2012); Vashishta *et al.* (2013); Bekele and Rao (2014) and Panwar *et al.* (2013).

To conclude that the study revealed that among the sixteen progenies studied the progenies UMI 79/936-C1-7-7 and UMI 79/936-C1-7-2 showed better *per se* performance for yield contributing characters viz., days to 50 per cent tasseling, days to 50 per cent silking, days to maturity, plant height, ear height, cob length, cob diameter, number of rows per cob, number of grains per row, cob weight, shelling per cent, 100 grain weight and grain yield per plant. Hence, it's an indication that SDM

Table 8 : Mean performance and range of progenies UMI79/936-C1 -101-13 and UMI79/936-C1 -101-14 in BC₃F₁ generation for different biometrical traits

TRAITS	Grand mean		Range		Grand mean		Range	
	UMI79/936-C1 -101-13				UMI79/936-C1 -101-14			
	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.	BC ₃ F ₁	Min.	Max.		
Days to 50 per cent tasseling	56.67	55.00	58.00	56.67	55.00	58.00		
Days to 50 per cent silking	59.33	57.00	61.00	59.33	57.00	61.00		
Plant height (cm)	84.67	68.00	98.00	84.67	68.00	98.00		
Ear height (cm)	45.33	38.00	52.00	45.33	38.00	52.00		
Cob length	15.73	14.50	16.70	13.94	10.30	16.00		
Cob diameter	13.13	12.20	14.00	12.39	8.50	15.00		
No. of rows per cob (cm)	18.00	16.00	20.00	17.25	12.00	22.00		
No. of kernels per row (cm)	17.67	16.00	19.00	16.75	12.00	23.00		
Cob weight (g)	42.47	34.00	52.00	43.58	15.60	62.00		
Yield per plant (g)	29.57	22.00	36.70	31.27	10.90	60.20		
100 Grain weight (g)	19.40	17.10	22.10	17.71	14.00	23.00		
Shelling %	69.25	64.71	72.46	68.44	53.95	77.42		

resistant progenies possess the resistance to disease along with better agronomical performance.

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