

Combining Ability and Type of Gene Action Analysis of Yield and Yield Components for Some White Maize Inbred Lines

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Abstract

Combining ability analysis were conducted for grain yield, its components, plant and ear heights and days to 50% silking in a half diallel cross involving eight white maize inbred lines. The resulting 28 hybrids and two commercial hybrids (SC10 and SC128) were grown at Sakha, Gemmeiza and Mallawy Research Stations in 2014 growing season. Both general and specific combining ability and their interaction with locations were significantly for most traits. However, the additive gene effects was most responsible for controlling the inheritance of ear height, ear length, ear diameter, number of rows/ear and number of kernels/row while the non additive gene effects was higher than additive gene effects for days to 50% silking, plant height and grain yield. Also, the non-additive gene effects was more interacted with locations than additive gene effects for most studied traits. The best general combiner inbred line was P₃ for earliness, P₈ for short plant and ear heights, P₅ for ear length, number of kernels/row and grain yield, P₇ for ear diameter and P₁ for number of rows/ear. The best hybrid for specific combining ability was P₄ x P₇ for grain yield.

Keywords: *Maize, combining ability, additive gene effects, non-additive gene effects.*

Introduction

The conventional crop breeding methodology mainly depends upon the development of inbred lines of maize from open pollinated varieties or other heterogeneous sources and their evaluation through different techniques to evolve desirable hybrids for commercial use. Diallel crosses have been used in genetic research to determinate the inheritance of a trait among a set of genotypes to identify superior parents for hybrids development (Yan and Hunt, 2003). The variance of general combining ability GCA and specific combining ability SCA are related to the type of gene action involved. Variance for GCA includes additive portion while that of SCA includes non-additive portion of total variance arising largely from dominance and epistatic deviations (Rojas and Sprague, 1952), superiority of a line on the basis of combining ability estimates can only be decided precisely after knowing the purpose of a certain breeding program whether, it is to develop high yielding open pollinated varieties or the superior combination of hybrids. Lines which had higher GCA effects can be used in synthetic variety development more effectively. However, when high yield specific combination are desired, especially in hybrid maize development, SCA effects could help in the selection parental material for hybridization. The objectives of this study were to estimate the genetic parameters and to determine suitable parents and promising crosses for eight traits in 8 x 8 half diallel crosses.

Materials and Methods

Eight white inbred lines, P₁ (Sk-6001/6), P₂ (Sk-6005/8), P₃ (Sk-5001/65), P₄ (Sk-5002/36), P₅ (Sd-34), P₆ (Sk-8), P₇ (Sk-12) and P₈ (Sk-13) obtained from the Maize Research Department, Field Crops Research Institute, (FCRI), Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Egypt were crossed in a 8 x 8 half diallel mating scheme in the 2013 growing season. The resulting 28 F₁ hybrids and two commercial hybrids SC10 and SC128 were grown at three Agricultural Research Stations, Sakha, Gemmeiza and Mallawy in 2014 growing season. The plots were represented by 1 row, while the row to row and plant to plant distances were kept 80 cm and 25 cm, respectively, with 25 plants per row after thinning. The experiment design was a randomized complete block design with 4 replications. All agronomic and cultural practices were applied as recommended in the three locations. Data were recorded for days to 50% silking, plant and ear heights (cm), ear length and diameter (cm), number of rows/ear, number of kernels/row and grain yield (ard/fed) adjusted based 15.5% grain moisture (one ardab=140 kg and one feddan = 4200 m²). Combined analysis across three locations for 30 hybrids was carried out when homogeneity of variance was detected, which locations were considered as random effects and hybrids were considered as fixed effects (Steel and Torrei, 1980) and further the 28 hybrids were analysed for combining ability using method-4, model-1 (Griffing, 1956).

Results and Discussion

Combined analysis of variance for eight traits across three locations are presented in Table (1).

Differences among three locations (L) were found to be highly significant for all studied traits, indicating

markedly differences between the three locations in their climate and soil conditions.

Table 1. Combined analysis of variance for eight traits across three locations.

SOV	df	Days to 50% silking	Plant Height	Ear height	Ear length	Ear diameter	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Grain yield
Locations (Loc)	2	554.919**	91166.336**	38581.96**	936.36**	7.921**	172.672**	4.394.84**	3601.06**
Rep./Loc	9	3.535	470.517	223.07	5.956	0.138	2.492	112.52	27.07
Hybrids (H)	27	17.626**	1172.865**	555.339**	18.809**	0.258*	7.548**	69.373**	105.39**
Checks (C)	1	45.37	2035.04	2185.04	0.327	0.54	1.5	2.67	2.73
H vs. C	1	22.27	1742.06	161.39	0.05	0.26	22.81	0.898	232.42*
H x L	54	3.197**	301.645**	232.7**	3.72**	0.156*	1.959**	21.82*	45.9**
Ch x L	2	3.375*	378.3*	735.79**	2.49	0.24	0.62	2.73	3.65
H vs. Ch x L	2	11.22**	363.199*	171.924	5.44	0.077	2.95	54.07*	3.96
Error	261	0.830	118.743	79.59	1.860	0.083	0.951	13.15	10.38

Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively

In Table 2. Sakha location produced high means for eight traits while the reverse was obtained, at Mallawy location. Frey (1964) defined the stress environment as one in which mean performance for certain attribute is low. Regarding to Table 1, the differences among the hybrids were significant or highly significant for all studied traits while the differences among check (C) and hybrids vs checks

(H vs C) were not significant for all traits except (H vs C) for grain yield. Also, the H x L interaction was significant or highly significant for all traits, while C x L and H vs C x L were not significant for most traits. Comstoc and Moll (1963) defined the genotypes x environments, interaction as the differential response of genotypes to the change in environments.

Table 2. Means of three locations for eight traits.

Location	Days to 50% silking	Plant height (cm)	Ear height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	Ear diameter (cm)	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row(ard/fed)	Grain yield
Sakha	65.18 a	287.96 a	162.10 a	23.86 a	5.00 a	15.70 a	46.36 a	38.77 a
Gemmeiza	64.17 b	264.20 b	143.75 b	22.29 b	4.70 b	15.11 b	44.35 a	31.27 b
Mallawy	61.05 c	233.0 c	126.25 c	18.43 c	4.49 c	13.42 c	35.02 b	28.10 c
CV%	1.44	4.16	6.19	6.33	6.10	6.61	8.65	9.85
LSD 0.05	0.534	6.328	4.358	0.712	0.108	0.461	3.095	1.518
LSD 0.01	0.77	9.129	6.286	1.028	0.156	0.664	4.464	2.189

Mean performance of 28 hybrids and two checks for eight traits across three locations are shown in Table (3). The earlier hybrids were P₂ x P₃, SC128 and P₃ x P₅, while the highest hybrids for plant and ear heights were P₃ x P₄, SC10 and P₂ x P₄. Meanwhile, the shortest hybrids was P₇ x P₈ for plant height and P₅ x P₈ for ear height. Also, the highest hybrids were P₃ x P₄, P₅ x P₇, P₅ x P₆ and P₄ x P₅ for ear length, P₂ x P₅ and P₃ x P₆ for ear diameter, P₁ x P₇ and P₁ x P₆ for number of rows/ear, P₅ x P₆, P₅ x P₇ and P₃ x P₄ for number of kernels/row. For grain yield, the hybrids P₄ x P₇, P₄ x P₅, P₅ x P₇ and P₆ x P₇ gave the highest grain yield (over >36 ard/fed). Moreover, they were not significant out yield compared to two checks SC10 and SC128. These

hybrids will be tested in yield trails for further evaluation.

Estimates of mean squares for general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining ability and their interactions with locations are presented in Table (4). The mean squares values for GCA and SCA were significant for all studied traits except GCA for grain yield and SCA for ear height, ear diameter and number of kernels/row, indicating that both additive and non additive gene effects were involved in determining the performance of single progeny in most traits. The interaction mean squares due to GCA x L and SCA x L were significant for all traits except SCA x L for ear length, number of rows/ear and number of kernels/row, meaning that both

additive and non-additive gene effects were affected by environment in most traits. These results agree

with Nass *et al.* (2000), Mosa (2003), Glover *et al.* (2005), Bidhendi *et al.* (2012) and Umar *et al.* (2014)

Table 3. Mean performance of 28 F₁ hybrids and two checks SC10 and SC128 for eight traits across locations

Cross		Days to 50% silking	Plant height (cm)	Ear height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	Ear diameter (cm)	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Grain yield (ard/fed)		
P ₁ x	P ₂	63.16	269.58	151.58	19.31	4.80	14.73	38.15	32.77		
	P ₃	62.75	260.16	138.00	20.28	4.66	15.46	39.28	31.16		
	P ₄	64.83	259.58	145.41	20.36	4.63	14.75	39.51	29.02		
	P ₅	62.58	269.16	144.83	22.46	4.68	15.71	42.46	29.96		
	P ₆	63.50	257.08	141.83	20.31	4.86	16.15	38.78	34.30		
	P ₇	64.33	263.91	139.50	19.60	4.96	16.90	40.36	33.95		
	P ₈	62.75	252.00	137.25	20.30	4.78	15.58	40.28	33.00		
	P ₂ x	P ₃	60.41	260.41	141.66	20.96	4.56	13.48	40.28	30.47	
P ₄		65.16	278.16	157.08	20.21	4.60	14.35	37.85	34.16		
P ₅		63.91	268.50	154.41	22.26	5.01	13.78	44.63	32.74		
P ₆		63.16	266.25	152.91	22.26	4.81	14.50	42.86	35.10		
P ₇		63.08	253.00	146.08	20.06	4.68	14.58	39.71	27.62		
P ₈		63.25	259.75	148.33	21.61	4.91	14.08	41.36	34.87		
P ₃ x		P ₄	64.58	288.00	156.50	23.83	4.60	15.35	45.41	34.34	
		P ₅	61.41	257.50	139.25	22.51	4.60	13.96	43.76	32.48	
	P ₆	62.16	260.58	138.25	22.00	4.97	14.96	42.11	32.27		
	P ₇	63.16	270.75	147.00	22.55	4.75	15.10	43.20	28.16		
	P ₈	65.33	258.58	140.50	21.58	4.48	14.03	41.90	28.00		
	P ₄ x	P ₅	64.91	267.58	143.33	23.28	4.58	14.28	45.10	36.53	
		P ₆	65.66	259.33	140.16	20.06	4.50	14.01	38.70	27.62	
		P ₇	64.58	262.75	145.50	21.56	4.63	15.43	42.98	37.37	
P ₈		64.83	264.08	152.16	21.53	4.68	14.53	40.76	31.80		
P ₅ x		P ₆	62.83	252.17	138.25	23.35	4.80	13.93	46.10	35.19	
		P ₇	63.33	266.08	146.66	23.70	4.90	15.31	46.06	36.31	
		P ₈	62.83	243.50	131.91	22.16	4.73	14.25	44.20	32.56	
		P ₆ x	P ₇	63.41	247.83	136.91	21.88	4.93	15.60	41.93	36.07
	P ₈		64.25	255.33	139.83	21.03	4.71	15.03	42.61	27.69	
	P ₇ x		P ₈	62.83	240.25	132.83	21.83	4.83	15.21	42.73	34.43
			SC-10	63.92	279.17	156.08	21.37	4.48	13.57	42.43	36.06
			SC-128	61.17	260.75	137.00	21.60	4.78	14.06	41.77	35.38
LSD 0.05			1.46	14.18	12.45	1.57	0.322	1.14	3.81	5.53	
LSD 0.01			1.91	18.57	16.30	2.06	0.422	1.50	4.99	7.25	

Table 4. Estimates of mean squares for general and specific combining ability and their interactions with locations.

SOV	df	Days to 50% silking	Plant height	Ear height	Ear length	Ear diameter	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Grain yield
GCA	7	39.6**	2460.03**	1258.47*	49.284**	0.504*	22.44**	192.0**	77.68
SCA	20	10.764**	722.35**	309.24	8.148**	0.168	2.34**	26.436	115.09**
GCA x L	14	5.37**	452.06**	351.73**	7.3**	0.152*	4.97**	25.71*	38.01**
SCA x L	40	2.43**	249.00**	191.02**	2.46	0.16**	0.9	20.46	48.59**
Error	243	0.85	121.984	83.447	1.8	0.085	1.11	14.43	10.43

*. ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively

The improvement of maize yield depends on the knowledge of type of gene action involved in its inheritance and also the genetic control of related traits so the results in Table (5) exhibited magnitude of additive gene effects (K²GCA) higher than non-additive gene effects (K²SCA) for ear height, ear length, ear diameter, number of rows/ear and

numbers of kernels/row, indicating that the additive gene effect was most responsible for controlling inheritance of these trait. While, the non-additive gene effects was higher, than additive gene effects for days to 50% silking, plant height and grain yield, meaning that important of additive gene effects in the inheritance of these traits. On the other side the

interaction between the non-additive gene effects with locations ($\sigma^2SCA \times L$) was higher than interaction between additive gene effects with locations ($\sigma^2GCA \times L$) in most traits, indicating that the non-additive gene effects was more interacted

with the environment, than additive gene effects. These results support the findings of Kalla *et al.* (2001), Medici *et al.* (2004), Mosa (2005), Machado *et al.* (2009), Gichuru *et al.* (2011) Shahrokhi *et al.* (2013) and Mosa *et al.* (2015).

Table 5. Estimates of genetic components and their interaction with locations.

Genetic parameters	Days to 50% silking	Plant height	Ear height	Ear length	Ear diameter	No. of rows/No. of kernels/Grain yield	No. of rows/No. of kernels/Grain yield	No. of kernels/Grain yield
K ² GCA	0.47	27.88	12.59	0.580	0.004	0.242	2.300	0.550
K ² SCA	0.69	39.44	9.85	0.474	0.0006	0.120	0.498	5.540
$\sigma^2GCA \times L$	0.188	13.75	11.17	0.229	0.002	0.161	0.470	1.140
$\sigma^2SCA \times L$	0.395	31.75	26.89	0.165	0.018	0.000	1.500	9.540

Estimates of general combining ability effects of each parental lines for eight traits are presented in Table (6). The best general combiner inbred lines were P₃ and P₅ for earliness, P₈ for short plant and ear heights, P₅ for ear length number of kernels/row

and grain yield, P₇ for ear diameter and P₁ and P₇ for number of rows/ear. Malik *et al.* (2004) stated that the lines which had higher GCA effects can be used in synthetic variety development more effectively.

Table 6. Estimates of general combining ability (GCA) effects of each parental lines for eight traits across locations

Inbred	Days to 50% silking	Plant height	Ear height	Ear length	Ear diameter	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/ row	Grain yield
P ₁	-0.142	0.586	-1.430	-1.347**	0.037	0.920**	-2.406**	-0.554
P ₂	-0.434	4.614	7.513**	-0.670*	0.037	-0.710*	-1.404*	0.042
P ₃	-0.822**	4.670	-0.972	0.499	-0.090	-0.235	0.445	-1.768*
P ₄	1.635**	8.586**	5.527*	0.021	-0.156**	-0.177	-0.493	0.559
P ₅	-0.50*	-0.579	-1.388	1.502**	0.023	-0.421	3.173**	1.40*
P ₆	0.038	-4.899	-3.138	0.029	0.068	0.070	-0.029	0.124
P ₇	-0.003	-3.899	-2.083	0.077	0.092*	0.728*	0.618	1.072
P ₈	0.218	-9.079**	-4.027*	-0.111	-0.004	-0.174	0.095	-0.855
LSD g _i 0.05	0.50	5.01	4.02	0.64	0.092	0.52	1.19	1.40
LSD g _i 0.01	0.76	6.96	6.14	0.88	0.13	0.73	1.66	2.01

*. ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively

Estimates of the specific combining ability effects for 28 hybrids are presented in Table (7). The desirable hybrids for specific combining ability effects were P₁ x P₈, P₂ x P₃, P₃ x P₅ and P₇ x P₈ for earliness, P₂ x P₃ and P₅ x P₈ for short plant and ear heights and P₃ x P₄ and P₅ x P₇ for high plant and ear heights, P₁ x P₅, P₂ x P₆, P₂ x P₈ and P₃ x P₄ for ear length, P₂ x P₅ and P₃ x P₆ for ear diameter, P₁ x P₇,

P₂ x P₄ and P₃ x P₄ for number of rows/ear, P₂ x P₆ and P₃ x P₄ for number of kernels/row and P₄ x P₇ for grain yield. In general, the good specific combiners for different studied traits involved parents with high x high, high x low, low x high and low x low general combinations. Also, can be used above hybrids as a potential single crosses combinations and tested further evaluation.

Table 7. Specific combining ability effects of 28 hybrids for eight traits across locations

Cross	Days to 50% silking	Plant height	Ear height	Ear length	Ear diameter	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/ row	Grain yield
P ₁ x P ₂	0.204	3.24	1.643	-0.199	-0.014	-0.302	0.062	0.787
P ₁ x P ₃	0.177	-6.23	-3.454	-0.402	-0.017	-0.043	-0.654	0.983
P ₁ x P ₄	-0.198	-10.73**	-2.538	0.159	0.013	-0.818**	0.518	-3.481*
P ₁ x P ₅	-0.323	8.02*	3.796	0.779*	-0.117	0.392	-0.199	-3.4*
P ₁ x P ₆	0.063	0.26	2.546	0.101	0.021	0.334	-0.679	2.232
P ₁ x P ₇	0.940*	6.09	-0.843	-0.663	0.102	0.425*	0.257	0.934
P ₁ x P ₈	-0.865*	-0.65	-1.149	0.226	0.010	0.011	0.696	1.909

Table 7 Cont.

P ₂ x	P ₃	-1.865**	-10.01*	-8.732*	-0.396	-0.117	-0.396	-0.657	-0.301	
	P ₄	0.427	3.83	0.185	-0.669	-0.019	0.411*	-2.152	1.060	
	P ₅	1.302**	3.33	4.436	-0.099	0.216*	0.089	0.965	-1.176	
	P ₆	0.024	5.39	4.865	1.373**	-0.028	0.314	2.401*	2.432	
	P ₇	-0.018	-8.86*	-3.204	-0.874*	-0.181	-0.26	-1.396	-5.989**	
	P ₈	-0.073	3.08	0.990	0.865*	0.144	0.142	0.776	3.187	
	P ₃ x	P ₄	0.232	13.60**	8.087*	1.779**	0.110	0.936**	3.564**	3.046
		P ₅	-0.810*	-7.73	-2.246	-1.019**	-0.069	-0.202	-1.572	0.369
P ₆		-0.587	-0.33	-1.496	-0.063	0.235*	0.306	-0.199	1.417	
P ₇		0.454	8.84*	6.198	0.440	0.016	-0.218	0.237	-3.637*	
P ₈		2.399**	1.85	1.643	-0.338	-0.158	-0.382	-0.54	-1.877	
P ₄ x	P ₅	0.232	-1.56	-4.663	0.226	-0.022	0.056	0.521	2.089	
	P ₆	0.454	-5.49	-6.079	-1.519**	-0.150	-0.702**	-2.677*	-5.558**	
	P ₇	-0.587	-3.08	-1.802	-0.066	-0.036	0.056	0.960	3.441*	
	P ₈	-0.560	3.44	6.81*	0.090	0.105	0.059	-0.735	-0.398	
P ₅ x	P ₆	-0.254	-3.49	-1.079	0.284	-0.031	-0.54*	1.057	1.184	
	P ₇	0.288	9.42*	6.282*	0.587	0.049	0.184	0.376	1.362	
	P ₈	-0.435	-7.98*	-6.824*	-0.758	-0.025	0.02	-0.968	-0.463	
P ₆ x	P ₇	-0.157	-4.51	-1.718	0.242	0.038	-0.024	-0.554	2.371	
	P ₈	0.454	8.17*	3.143	-0.419	-0.086	0.311	0.651	-4.078*	
P ₇ x	P ₈	-0.921*	-7.91*	-4.913	0.334	0.010	-0.163	0.121	1.719	
LSD S _{ij} 0.05		0.76	7.77	6.81	0.770	0.190	0.40	2.20	3.43	
LSD S _{ij} 0.01		1.02	10.39	9.1	1.000	0.260	0.62	2.97	4.59	

Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively.

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تحليل القدرة على الانتلاف وطبيعة الفعل الجيني للمحصول ومكوناته لبعض سلالات الذرة الشامية البيضاء

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تم تحليل القدرة على الانتلاف لصفة المحصول ومكوناته وارتفاع النبات والكوز وتاريخ خروج 50% من حرائر النورات المؤنثة لـ 8 سلالات بيضاء وضعت في نظام التزاوج النصف دائري حيث قيمت 28 هجين الناتجة واثنين من الهجن التجارية في ثلاث محطات بحثية هي سخا والجميزة وملوى خلال موسم نمو 2014. كان تباين القدرة العامة والخاصة على الانتلاف وتفاعلها مع المواقع معنوياً أو عالى المعنوية في معظم الصفات ومع ذلك تأثيرات الفعل الوراثي المضيف أكثر تحكماً في صفات ارتفاع الكوز وطول الكوز وقطر الكوز وعدد الصفوف بالكوز وعدد الحبوب بالصف بينما تأثيرات الفعل الوراثي غير المضيف هي الأكثر أهمية في صفات تاريخ ظهور 50% من حرائر النورات المؤنثة وارتفاع النبات ومحصول الحبوب. أظهرت النتائج أيضاً أن تأثيرات الفعل الوراثي الغير مضيف أكثر تأثيراً بالبيئة من تأثيرات الفعل الوراثي المضيف في معظم الصفات. كانت أفضل السلالات في القدرة العامة على الانتلاف هي السلالة P₃ لصفة التبيكر و P₈ لقصر ارتفاع النبات والكوز و P₅ لزيادة طول الكوز وعدد الحبوب بالصف ومحصول الحبوب و P₇ لقطر الكوز و P₁ لعدد الصفوف بالكوز. أفضل هجين في القدرة الخاصة على الانتلاف لمحصول الحبوب هو P₄ x P₇