HETEROSIS AND COMBINING ABILITY IN WATERMELON HYBRIDS Omran, S. A.¹; W. A. E. Ramadan² and Y. A. M. Mostafa³

- 1 .Veget.Breeding Dept., Horticulture Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Giza, Egypt
- 2 Veget..Self Pollinated. Res. Dept., Horticulture Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Giza, Egypt
- 3 .Veget. Cross Pollinated Res. Dept., Horticulture Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Giza, Egypt

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to produce promising hybrids of watermelon. Five lines i.e. Line 1 = L 84; Line 2 = L 85; Line 3 = L 94; Line 4 = L 84g and Line 5 = L63 were used as female parents and crossed with four cultivars i.e. Tester 6 = Crimson sweet, Tester 7 = Charleston Gray, Tester 8 = Sugar Baby, and Tester 9 = Giza1 as male parents (testers) using a factorial mating design ,in the summer season of 2010. Twenty hybrids and their nine parents (five lines and four testers) were evaluated at the Sakha farm of Horticulture Research Institute in the summer season of 2011 along with check variety Aswan F1 to study heterosis and combining ability. Vine length; No. of branches per plant; No of fruits per plant; average of fruit weight; total yield per plant; No. of days to maturity and total soluble solids content (TSS) were studied. Averages of heterosis values over better parent were positively significant for many studied traits. Both general and specific combining ability were highly significant for many traits. Line 5 is a good combiner for vine length with value 15.73 and Line 1 is a good combiner for No. of branches per plant with value of 0.88. Line 2 is a good combiner for No. of fruit per plant with value of 0.46. Line 3 is a good combiner for average of fruit weight and total yield per plant with values of 0.41 and 1.43, respectively .. Line 2 and tester 8 were a good combiner for earliness with of values of -4 and -5.3, respectively, and Line 4 is a good combiner for TSS% with value of 1.19. The best crosses were, 5x6 for vine length with value of 39.67, 4x8 for No. of branches with value of 1.14, 3x7 for No. of fruit per plant with value of 1.1 and 2x8 for average of fruit weight, total fruit yield per plant and TSS with values 1.7, 10.07 and 1.13, respectively, 2x9 for earliness with value of -9.67

Keywords: Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus), heterosis, and combining ability.

INTRODUCTION

Watermelon [Citrulus lanatus (Thumb.) Matsum and Nakai] is one of the most important economic species of the family Cucurbitaceae. It is grown worldwide.

Mohr (1986) reported that high yield is a major goal for watermelon breeders.

The mating design (Line x Tester) suggested by Kempthorne (1957) has been extensively used to estimate GCA and SCA genetic variances and their effects. Also, it is used in understanding the nature of gene action involved in the expression of economically important quantitative traits. GCA and SCA estimates, which are useful in devising breeding strategies, were reported in some cucurbits.

Today, watermelon breeders are less interested in studying heterosis, general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining abilities, but they are

interested in the biological protection provided by hybrid cultivars (Gusmini and Wehner, 2005). Souza *et a.,l* (2002) and Gvozdanovic Varga et a.,l (2011) G.observed significant GCA and SCA for the crosses and thier reciprocals and recorded higher GCA than SCA effects as well as strong additive effects for yield component trandits,. Verma *et al.,* (2000), Gusmini and Wehner (2005) and Soliman *et al.,* (2008) found significant differences among parents and their F₁ hybrids for GCA and SCA using the line x tester mating design. Nath and Dutta (1970) mentioned that some hybrid combinations showed over 50% heterosis for yield and fruit quality. Kale and Seshadri (1988) detected heterosis for yield and fruit quality related traits in some crosses of Indian with exotic cultivars.

The main objective of this study was to determine the heterosis general and specific (GCA, SCA) and combining ability effects in watermelon hybrids.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Genetic materials

The genetic materials used in the present study included five lines i.e. (Line 1 = L 84; Line 2 = L 85; Line 3 = L 94; Line 4 = L 84g and Line 5 = L 63) were used as female parents and crossed with four cultivars as testers i.e. (Tester 6 = Crimson sweet; Tester 7 = Charleston Gray; Tester 8 = Sugar Baby, and Tester 9 = Giza1) as male parents using a factorial mating design. All possible crosses were executed in a factorial mating design in the summer season of 2010 to produce seeds of 20 F_1 crosses.

Experimental design

The experimental design used was a Randomized Complete Block Design (R.C.B.D) with three replications. Each replication or block contained 30 plots [9 parents (four testers and five lines), 20 $F_{\rm 1}$ hybrids and one check cultivar (Aswan $F_{\rm 1}$ as a check hybrid)]. Each plot was one ridge, having 10 m length and 2.5 m width, thus making an area of 25 $\rm m^2$. The seeds were sown on March 15th 2011 at the Sakha farm of Horticulture Research Institute, ARC. Routine cultural practices were done as needed similar to those used in watermelon production .

Data recorded:

The following characters were recorded on five plants in each plot: 1- Vine length (cm), 2- No. Of branches per plant, 3- No. of fruits per plant, 4- Average of fruit weight (kg), 5- Total yield /plant kg), 6- Earliness (No. of days to maturity), and 7- Total soluble solids (TSS) °Brix with a hand refractometer).

2.4 Statistical analysis

A regular analysis of variance of a Complete Randomized Block Design was conducted. LSD was used for the comparison between all genotypes

means. Line x tester analysis was done to provide the information about general and specific combining ability effects (Kempthorne 1957).

Estimates of heterosis:

The amount of heterosis was expressed as the percentage deviation of F_1 mean performance from better parent (BP%) average values as follows:

Heterosis over better parent (%) =
$$\frac{\overline{F}_1 - \overline{B}\overline{P}}{\overline{B}\overline{P}} \times 100$$

Appropriate L.S.D. values were calculated to test the significance of these heterotic effects according to the following formulae:

L.S.D. for better parent heterosis

$$(\overline{F}_l - \overline{B}\overline{P}) \ = \ t \sqrt{\frac{2Ms_e}{r}} \times t_{\,0.05} \text{ and } t_{\,0.01}$$

Where

Ms_e: The mean squares of experimental error from the analysis of variance.

r: The No. of replications.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Performance of parents and their F₁ hybrids :

The results of the analysis of variance are presented in Table 1. The results indicated that the genotypes showed considerable variatin for all studied traits, indicating the presence of adequate genetic variation. The cross 5X6 had the tallest vine length with the mean value of 286.7 cm and the cross 3X6 had high No. Of branches per plant with the mean value of 7.1, while line 3 had the shortest vine length (125 cm) and testers 8 and 9 had the lowest No. of branches per plant (3.7 and 3.7, respectively). The cross 3X7 had the highest No. Of fruits per plant (5.7). Data presented in Table 1 showed that the crosses 5X7 and 3X9 produced the highest average of fruit weight the. And two crosses 4X7 and 2X8 produced the highest total yield with the mean values of 37.5 and 37.3 kg, respectively.

Generally, F₁ plants had higher vine length, No. of branches, No. of fruits per plant, average of fruit weight and total fruit yield per plant than their parents. Line 4 and the two crosses 2X8 and 2X9 had the lowest No. of days to maturity. Data presented in Table1 showed that the tester 6 had the highest mean value for TSS (11.7 %)

Table 1. Mean performance of parental lines, testers, their 20 F_1 and check variety for various characters in watermelon.

Genotypes	Vine length	No. of branches/ plant	No. of fruits/ plant	Average of fruit weight (kg)	Total yield /plant (kg)	No. of days to maturity (day)	TSS %			
Lines										
1	158.3	5.3	3.7	5.0	18.5	73.0	10.7			
2	141.6	5.0	3.3	4.0	13.2	71.0	11.3			
3	125	4.7	3.4	3.0	9.9	75.0	10.7			
4	140.0	3.7	3.0	4.0	12.0	68.3	11.3			
5	181.6	4.3	4.0	5.7	21.2	87.0	11.3			
Testers										
6	200.0	4.7	2.0	6.0	12.6	88.3	11.7			
7	166.7	4.3	2.3	4.7	10.8	88.7	11.0			
8	138.3	3.7	4.0	3.3	13.2	73.0	11.0			
9	170.0	3.7	2.3	4.7	10.8	81.0	11.3			
Hybrid										
1X6	205.0	7.0	4.7	6.3	21.7	81.7	10.7			
1X7	228.3	6.7	3.7	7.0	26.0	73.3	10.7			
1X8	235.0	5.7	4.3	6.0	26.0	71.7	10.0			
1X9	261.7	5.7	5.0	6.3	33.3	88.3	10.0			
2X6	230.0	7.0	4.3	7.0	30.3	88.3	10.3			
2X7	215.0	6.7	5.3	4.7	25.0	73.3	10.7			
2X8	220.0	5.7	5.3	7.0	37.3	69.7	10.7			
2X9	201.7	5.7	5.3	4.3	23.0	68.3	11.3			
3X6	213.3	7.1	4.3	6.3	27.3	86.7	11.3			
3X7	206.7	6.7	5.7	5.7	32.0	76.7	11.0			
3X8	271.7	5.7	4.1	7.1	28.7	81.0	10.3			
3X9	241.0	5.7	4.0	8.2	32.8	85.0	11.3			
4X6	221.3	7.0	5.6	5.3	29.7	79.3	10.3			
4X7	227.3	6.7	5.0	7.5	37.5	76.3	11.3			
4X8	220.0	5.7	4.1	5.1	20.6	75.0	11.3			
4X9	214.0	5.7	3.8	7.3	27.7	85.0	11.0			
5X6	286.7	7.0	4.7	6.3	29.7	78.3	11.3			
5X7	240.0	6.7	3.7	8.7	32.0	75.0	10.7			
5X8	225.0	5.7	5.0	4.7	23.3	70.0	11.0			
5X9	230.0	5.7	4.7	7.3	34.3	83.3	10.7			
Control	220.1	4.9	4.1	5.5	27.1	80.5	11.2			
LSD(p=0.05)	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.8			
LSD(p=0.01)	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.5			

^{*, **} significant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively

Heterosis

Heterosis estimates expressed as percent increase or decrease of F_1 performance over the better parent (B.P.%.) are presented in Table 2. Average of heterosis over better parent was highly significant with positive values for many studied traits in seedless watermelon (Soliman *et al.*, 2008)

Table 2. Heterosis estimates (%) over the best parent for various traits for 20 hybrids (five lines X four testers).

for 20 hybrids (five lines X four testers).								
Genotype	Vine length (cm)	No. of branches/plant+	No. of fruits/ plant	Average of weight fruit (kg)	Total yield /plant (kg)	No. of days to maturity (day)	TSS %	
1X6	2.5	32.1	26.1	5.6	17.1	-7.5	-13.3	
1X7	37.0	25.8	-0.9	40.0	26.1	-17.3	-13.3	
1X8	48.5	6.9	17.1	20.0	40.5	-1.8	-18.7	
1X9	53.9	6.9	35.1	26.7	80.2	9.1	-18.7	
2X6	15.0	-20.0	31.3	16.7	129.8	0.0	-18.6	
2X7	29.0	20.0	61.6	-0.7	89.4	-17.3	-16.0	
2X8	55.4	0.0	61.6	75.0	182.8	-8.7	2.4	
2X9	18.6	26.7	61.6	-7.8	74.2	-15.6	-2.9	
3X6	6.7	27.7	27.5	5.6	116.9	-1.8	2.8	
3X7	24.0	-7.8	66.7	20.6	196.3	-13.6	-4.8	
3X8	96.4	-0.7	1.7	114.1	117.2	9.5	-7.3	
3X9	41.8	6.4	17.6	74.5	205.6	4.9	-4.8	
4X6	10.7	17.1	86.7	-11.7	150.3	-10.2	16.8	
4X7	36.4	17.1	66.7	59.6	212.8	-13.9	15.0	
4X8	57.1	64.0	1.7	26.7	56.3	2.7	6.6	
4X9	25.9	70.3	26.7	55.3	131.1	4.9	14.3	
5X6	43.3	22.0	16.7	5.6	39.9	-11.3	8.3	
5X7	44.0	12.8	-8.3	52.0	50.9	-15.4	18.0	
5X8	62.7	-19.1	25.0	-18.1	10.1	-19.5	13.4	
5X9	35.3	10.6	16.7	28.7	61.9	-4.2	-10.8	
LSD=0.05	4.9	1.0°	0.76	0.77	1.58	4.12	0.89	
LSD=0.01	6.56	1.٤٠	1.00	1.03	2.10	5.48	1.18	

^{*, **} significant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively.

All crosses had highly significant positive values of heterosis over the better-parent for vine length. Estimates of the heterosis values over better parent ranged from 2.5% in the cross 1x6 to 96.4 % in the cross 3X8 .The cross 4X9 showed highly significant positive heterosis for No. of branches per plant. Most of the crosses were superior in No. of fruit per plant compared to their best parent and 18 of 20 F₁ hybrids showed highly significant positive estimates. The results indicated that 16 of 20 F₁ hybrids showed highly significant positive estimates for average of fruit weight and ranged from 5.6to 114.1%. Lippert and Legg (1972) found that heterosis estimates was significant for average weight of fruits in muskmelon. The average of heterosis estimates for total yield over the best parent were positive and highly significant for all of the studied crosses and ranged from 10.1% to 212.8% to the crosses 5X8 and 4X7, respectively. Soliman et al., (2008) found significant heterosis for total yield in seedless watermelon. Nath and Dutta (1970), and Kale and Seshadri (1988) detected heterosis in watermelon for yield and fruit quality-related traits in some crosses of Indian lines with exotic cultivars. Fourteen of twenty F1 hybrids exhibited highly significant negative heterosis over better-parent for earliness (No. of days to mature). These desirable estimates ranged from -1.8% to -19.5%. Similar results were observed by Soliman et al., (2008) in seedless watermelon. Positively highly significant values of heterosis over better parent were observed in nine F1

hybrids for total soluble solids .Heterosis for total soluble solids in watermelon had been reported by and Nandpuri *et al.*, (1974) , Banasal *et al.*, (2002) and Soliman *et al.*, (2008).

General and specific combining ability

The results analysis of variance and mean squares of the factorial mating design for all traits are shown in Table (3). The results illustrated that the mean square of genotypes i.e., parents, crosses, P.vs.C, Lines, Testers and LXT were highly significant for all studied traits except for Pvc.C. for No. of days to maturity trait. These results indicate the presence of large variations among the studied genotypes and the partition of the genetic variance to its components are valid. Further, partitioning of crosses mean squares i.e. lines, testers and LXT analysis indicated that the difference due to both lines and testers were highly significant for all studied traits. The variance of crosses was partitioned into the main effect of lines and testers as the indicators of general combining ability, and interaction of line x testers as indicators of specific combining ability (Bond 1967).

Table 3: Analysis of variance and mean squares of factorial mating design (Line x Tester) analysis for various characters in watermelon.

S.V.	d.E	Vine length (CM)	No. of branches	No. of fruits/ plant	Average fruit Weight (kg)	Total yield /plant (kg)	No. of days to maturity (day)	TSS %
genoyypes	28	4904.14	2.82	2.76	6.19	218.07	143.48	4.29
Crosses(C)	19	1458.157	2.54	1.22	4.22*	75.72	131.2	5.61
Parents	8	1728.704	1.33	2.17	3.01	43.13	190.47	1.63
P.vs.c.	1	95781.32	20.01	36.72	68. 9	4322.28	0.59	0.50
Lines	4	1555.017	3.17	0.84	2.19	31.79	109.54	17.15
Testers	3	313.8833	1.11	0.096	1.97	35.67	376.64	0.85
LXT	12	1711.939	2.69	1.63	5.47	100.38	77.08	2.95
Error	56	9.131773	0.42	0.21	0.23	0.93	6.39	0.30

^{*, &}quot; Sgnificant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively.

Estimates of general combining ability effects (GCA) for individual parental lines and testers for each trait are presented in Table 4. Specific combining ability (SCA) effects for each trait are presented in Table 5. Both general and specific combining ability were highly significant for many traits in seedless watermelon (Soliman etal, 2008)

Table 4: Estimation of general combining ability effects for various characters in parental lines and testers of watermelon.

	characters in parental lines and testers of watermeion.								
Parents	Vine length (cm)	No. of branches/ plant	No. of fruits / plant	Average fruit weight (kg)	-	No. of days to maturity (day)	TSS %		
Lines									
1	2.82	0.88	-0.21	0.01	-2.73	0.58	-1.81		
2	-13.02	-0.04	0.46	-0.6٦	0.10	-4.00	-0.5٦		
3	3.48	-0.37	-0.11	0.41	1.43	4.17	0.69		
4	-9.02	-0.11	-0.01	-0.11	0.17	0.75	1.19		
5	15.73	-0.36	-0.13	0.35	1.02	-1.5	0.48		
Testers									
6	1.58	0.04	0.09	-0.15	-1.01	4.70	0.06		
7	-6.22	-0.04	0.04	0.30	1.16	-3.23	-0.08		
8	4.65	-0.33	-0.07	-0.45	-1.62	-5.30	0.29		
9	-0.02	0.33 *	-0.07	0.30	1.47	3.83	-0.26		
Lines									
LSD =0.05	1.75	0.37	0.27	0.27	0.56	1.46	0.31		
LSD =0.01	2.32	0.49	0.36	0.36	0.74	1.94	0.41		
Testers									
LSD 0.5	1.56	0.33	0.24	0.25	0.50	1.30	0.28		
LSD 0	2.08	0.44	0.32	033	0.66	1.73	0.37		

^{*, **} Sgnificant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively.

Table 5. Estimation of specific combining ability affects for some various characters in the ${\sf F}_1$ hybrids of watermelon.

	various characters in the range of watermelon.								
Crosses	Vine length (cm)	No. of branches/ plant	No. of fruits/ plant	Average of fruit weight (kg)	Total yield /plant (kg)	No. of days to maturity (day)	TSS %		
1X6	29.18	0.71	0.16	0.06	-3.41	-1.78	0.275		
1X7	2.05	0.46	-0.79	0.29	-3.91	-2.18	0.41		
1X8	-2.15	-0.25	-0.02	0.03	1.54	-1.78	-0.63		
1X9	-29.08	-0.91	0.65	-0.38	5.78	5.75	-0.06		
2X6	11.75	-1.377	-0.84	1.40	2.42	9.47	-1.31		
2X7	4.55	0.71	0.21	-1.38	-5.08	2.4	-0.84		
2X8	-1.32	-0.003	0.32	1.70	10.07	-2.2	1.13		
2X9	-14.98	0.67	0.32	-1.71	-7.38	-9.67	1.03		
3X6	-20.28	0.96	-0.28	-0.34	-1.91	-0.37	0.78		
3X7	-20.28	-0.62	1.11	-1.45	0.59	-2.43	-0.10		
3X8	33.85	-0.003	-0.38	0.70	0.04	3.97	-0.79		
3X9	7.85	-0.33	-0.45	1.09	1.28	-1.17	0.11		
4X6	-0.92	-0.97	0.89	-0.85	2.06	-4.28	0.28		
4X7	12.88	-0.88	0.34	0.91	7.39	0.65	-0.26		
4X8	-5.32	1.14	-0.48	-0.78	-6.73	1.38	-0.63		
4X9	-6.65	0.71	-0.75	0.71	-2.72	2.25	0.61		
5X6	39.67	0.69	0.07	-0.27	0.84	-3.03	-0.02		
5X7	0.8	0.34	-0.87	1.62	1.01	1.57	0.78		
5X8	-25.07	-0.88	0.57	-1.64	-4.88	-1.37	0.92		
5X9	-15.4	-0.14	0.23	0.27	3.03	2.83	-1.68		
LSD=0.05	3.49	0.74	0.53	0.55	1.12	2.91	0.63		
LSD=0.01	4.64	0.99	0.70	0.73	1.48	3.88	0.84		

^{, &}quot;Significant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively

Data presented in Table 3 show that both GCA and SCA effects were highly significant for vine length. Results in Table 4 show that Line 5 had the greatest GCA effects followed by tester 8. These parents could be considered as good combiners for this trait Data in Table 5 show that 7 out of 20 crosses showed significant or highly significant positive values for SCA effects for the same trait and the highest value was reflected by the crosses 5X6 and 3X8. Data in Tables 4 and 5 show that GCA and SCA for No. of branches per plant were highly significant or significant. Line 1 had the highest values of GCA effects followed by Tester 9. Therefore, these parents were good combiners for No. of branches per plant. Estimates of SCA effects for No. of branches per plant showed that only one cross (4x8) out of 20 crosses showed highly significant positive value and the cross 3X6 had significant positive value, while the other crosses had negative or positive non significant values for SCA effects (Table 5). GCA and SCA for No. of fruit per plant were highly significant for few genotypes. The line 2 had the greatest GCA value and four crosses had highly significant values of SCA effects for No. of fruits per plant. The lines 3 and 5 recorded highly significant and significant values of GCA for average of fruit weight. Therefore, these parents were good combiners for this trait. The estimates of SCA effects for crosses showed that only seven crosses out of the 20 crosses had highly significant positive values of SCA effects for average of fruit weight, while the other crosses had negative or positive non-significant values. The analysis of variance for total yield per plant is presented in Tables 3 and 4. Highly significant differences for GCA and SCA indicated that both additive and non-additive genetic variances are important in the inheritance of total yield. Data listed in Table 4 revealed that the Lines 3 and 5 and the testers 7 and 9 had the greatest GCA effect for total yield per plant. Therefore, these parents were good combiners for this trait. The estimates of SCA effects for crosses showed that seven crosses 1X8, 1x9, 2x8, 3x9, 4x6, 4x7 and 5x9 had positive and highly significant estimated value of SCA effects (Table 5). GCA and SCA effects for earliness (No. of days to maturity) were highly significant for most genotypes. Parent with significant negative value of GCA effects is considered as a good combiner. In contrast, the parent with positive and significant or non significant value of GCA effect are considered as late parents (poor combiners). Tester number 8, 7 and line 2 possessed highly significant negative value of GCA effect. Therefore, these parents could be considered as good parents for earliness. On the other hand, the rest parents were undesired general combiners for earliness. Out of 20 crosses only 11 crosses exhibited highly significant negative values of SCA for earliness. The cross 2x9 had the highest negative estimated value of SCA effects. Analysis of variance for TSS showed highly significant differences for GCA and SCA effects. Line 3, 4, 5, and tester 8 were good combiners for TSS. Out of 20 crosses, 2 cross (2x8 and 2x9) had highly significant positive SCA effects. The diversity in GCA effects of various parents can be attributed to genetic diversity as the materials belong to diverse geographic region (Brar and Sukhija, 1977).

REFERENCES

- Bansal R, B.S. Sooch, and R.K. Dhall (2002). Heterosis in watermelon [Citrullus lanatus (Thunb.) Mansf.]. Environ Ecol . 20: 976-979.
- Bond, D.A. (1967). Combining ability of bean (*Vicia faba* L.) inbred. J. Agric. Sci. Camb. 68: 19-485
- Brar, J.S. and B.S. .Sukhija (1977). Line x tester analysis of combining ability in watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus* (Thumb.). Indian J. Hort. Sci. 34: 410-414.
- Gusmini G.and T.C. Wehner (2005). Foundations of yield improvement in watermelon. Crop Science 45: 141-146.
- Gvozdanovic V. G., G. M. Vasic. and G. Cervenski (2011) Diallel cross analysis for fruit traits in watermilon, Genetika, Vol. 43, No 1,163-174
- Kale .P.B, and V.S. Seshadri (1988). Studies on combining ability in watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus* (Matsumara) Nakai). Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth Research J.12: 45-48
- Kempthorne O .(1957). An introduction to genetic statistics. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York (NY, USA), 545 pp.
- Lippert .L.F. and, P.D. Legg (1972). Diallel analysis for yield and maturity characteristics in muskmelon cultivars. J .Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 97: 87-90.
- Mohr H.C. (1986). Watermelon breeding. P. 37-66. *In M.J. Basset* (ed.). Breeding Vegetable Crops. AVI Publishing Co., Inc., Westport, USA.
- Nandpuri K.S. J.C Kumar. and G.S. Dhillon (1974). Heterosis in watermelon. Punjab Hort J 14:75-83.
- Nath P.,and O.P. Dutta (1970). Heterosis in watermelon. Indian J. Hortic. 27: 176-177.
- Soliman A.O , T. A. Shalaby and E. M. Khalel, (2008) . Heterosis and combining ability in triploid watermelon hybrids. J. Agric. Res. Kafr-El-Skeikh Univ. 34(3)759-771.
- Souza F.F; Queiroz M.A. and Dias R.C.S. (2002). Combining ability among tetraploid and iploid lines of watermelon. Hortic .Bras. 20: 654-658.
- Verma T.S., R.V. Singh and, S.C. Sharma (2000). Line x Tester analysis for combining ability in cucumber. Indian J. Hort. 57: 144-147

قوة الهجين والقدرة على التآلف فى هجن البطيخ سليمان أحمد عمران*، وهبه على السيد رمضان** ويحى عاشور محمد مصطفى *** قسم تربية الخضر ** قسم الخضر ذاتيه التلقيح *** قسم الخضر خلطيه التلقيح معهد بحوث البساتين - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزه - مصر

أجريت هذه الدراسة بهدف إنتاج هجن متفوقة من البطيخ . أستخدمت في هذة الدراسة Line 1 = L 84; Line 2 = L 85, Line 3 = L 94, Line 4 خمس سلالات بارقام = B4; Line 2 = L 85, Line 3 = L 94, Line 4 أول بعده أصناف وهي كرمسون سويت برقم L 84g and Line 5 = L 63 كأمهات وأربعه أصناف وهي كرمسون سويت برقم T1=P6 و شارلستون جراى T2=P7 و وهجين بنظام Line x Tester لإنتاج T3=P8 هجين .

تم تقييم الهجن الناتجة والأباء بالإضافة الى هجين أسوان للمقارنه فى مزرعه البحوث الزراعيه بسخا خلال الموسم الصيفى لعام ٢٠١١ م فى تجربة حقلية بإستخدام القطاعات كاملة العشوائية فى ثلاث مكررات. تم دراسه صفات طول الساق ، عدد الأفرع الثمريةلكل نبات وعدد الثمار لكل نبات ، متوسط وزن الثمرة ، عدد الأيام حتى نضبج أول ثمرة ، المحصول الكلى للنبات ونسبة المواد الصلبة الذائبة.

- أظهرت النتائج أن الأباء والهجن الناتجة منها وجود فروقا معنوية واضحة لمعظم الصفات المدروسة.
- كانت قوة الهجين عند حسابها على أساس الأب الأفضل معنوية أو عالية المعنوية للعديد من الصفات تحت الدراسة.
- كانت تأثيرات القدرة العامة والخاصة على التآلف معنوية أو عالية المعنوية لمعظم الصفات المدروسة. وكانت السلاله رقم ٥ ذا قدرة تآلف عالية بالنسبة لصفات طول الساق بقيمه ١٥,٧٣ و السلاله رقم ٢ ذا قدرة و السلاله رقم ١ ذا قدرة تآلف عالية بالنسبة لعدد الأفرع بقيمه ٢٤,٠ . كانت السلاله ٣ ذات قدرة تآلف عالية بالنسبة لصفة عدد الثمار لكل نبات بقيمه ٢٤,٠ . كانت السلاله ٣ ذات قدرة تآلف عالية بالنسبة لصفة متوسط وزن الثمرة و للمحصول الكلى بقيمه ٢١,٠ و ٢٠,٠ على الترتيب كانت السلاله ٢ والصنف شوجر بيبي ذات قدرة تآلف عالية بالنسبة لصفة التبكير بقيمه ٤٠ و٣٠ على التوالى والمحصول الكلى لكل تبات والمحصول الكلى لكل نبات بقيمه ٣٠,٠ و ١١,٤٧ على التوالى .
- أما تأثيرات القدرة الخاصة على التآلف فأظهرت تفوق الهجين 5x6 في طول الساق بقيمه ٢٩,٦٧ و الهجين 4x8 في عدد الأفرع الثمرية بقيمه ١,١٤ والهجين 3x7 في عدد الثمار على النبات بقيمه ١,١١ و الهجين 2x8 في متوسط وزن الثمرة والمحصول الكلى ونسبه ال TSS بقيم ١,١٠ و ١,٠٠٧ و ١,٠٠٠ على الترتيب . كانت قيم ثأتيرات القدرة الخاصة على التآلف للهجين 2x9 ومعنوية لصفة التبكير في النضج بقيمه ٩,٦٨ .

قام بتحكيم البحث

أ.د / اشرف حسين عبد الهادى أ.د / السيد حسن عسكر

كلية الزراعة – جامعة المنصورة مركز البحوث الزراعية