

Genotypic Variability for Agronomic and Yield Characters in Some Cowpeas (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.)

D. O. Idahosa ¹ J. E. Alike ² and A. U. Omoregie ¹

1. Department of Crop Science, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria 2. Department of Crop Science, University of Benin, Nigeria. E-mail: danielidahosa@yahoo.com

Abstract :

Cultivated species of crops are usually variable because of artificial selection under diverse environments of which cowpea is not exception. Consequently, genotypic variability study was conducted with eight parent line cowpeas to evaluate some genetic parameters namely coefficient of variation, genetic variance and heritability estimates in the broad-sense. Per se mean performance was variable among the genotypes for all characters investigated which indicated the superiority of some parent lines. Highly significant heritability effects were observed for all characters except for 100-seed weight (42.2%) which expressed moderate heritability estimate. Days to 50% flowering, pod length, pod weight and grain yield characters showed that some levels of genetic variability existed. Consequently, progress could be made from selection and improvement for those characters. [Nature and Science 2010;8(3):48-55]. (ISSN: 1545-0740).

Key Word :

Genotypic variability, genetic variance, coefficient of variation, heritability, cowpea.

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