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## **MEAN PERFORMANCE AND COMBINING ABILITY OF SOME MAIZE INBRED LINES AND THEIR F<sub>1</sub> CROSSES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Seven white parental lines were planted at Minia University Education Farm, EL-Minia, Gov., Egypt in the summer seasons of 2007 and 2008. At flowering time, all possible combinations crossing among the seven parents were made (excluding reciprocal) to produce hybrid seeds of 21 single crosses. In addition, the parental lines were maintained by selfing. In 2009 summer season; the 21 single crosses with their parental inbred lines were evaluated, for 50% pollen shedding, 50% silking, protandrous interval, grain yield per plant (gm) and 1000-kernel weight (gm). Randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications was used. General and specific combining ability effects were calculated according to Griffing's, method 2 model 1, (1956). Mean squares of both GCA and SCA were significant and highly significant for all studied traits expect SCA for 1000-kernel weight. The results pointed to the role of both additive and non-

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**additive effects in the inheritance of the studied traits, and the largest part of the total genetic variance was due to non-additive gene action.**

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### INTRODUCTION

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is one of the major cereal crops, and its production is increasing gradually in Egypt. Continuous improvement of yielding ability of maize hybrids is the main goal of the breeding programs to meet the demands of maize consumption.

Several breeding procedures have been established to increase grain yields of maize populations and their hybrids. However, to choose the best hybrid combinations a large number of chosen inbred lines are crossed. Diallel crossing programs have been applied to achieve this goal by providing a systematic approach for the detection of suitable parents and crosses for the investigated characters.

Combining ability describes the breeding values of parental lines to produce hybrids, the term of general combining ability (GCA) designates the average performance of a line in hybrid combinations, and the term of specific combining ability (SCA) defines those cases in which certain combinations do relatively better or worse than would be expected on the basis of the average performance of the lines involved.

The variance due to general combining ability (GCA) is usually considered to be an indicator of the extent of additive type of gene action, whereas specific combining ability (SCA) is taken as the measure of non-additive type of gene actions in hybrid production.

Sughroue and Hallauer (1997) concluded that the diallel mating design should only be used to estimate genetic parameters when parents of the diallel have been randomly selected from a population in linkage equilibrium.

Significant GCA and SCA effects were estimated by El-Hosary and Sedhom (1990) for grain yield, tasseling date, silking date and some agronomic traits. Mathur and Bhatnagar (1990) indicated that combining ability analysis play a major role for additive gene effects for number of days to 50% tasseling and silking.

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Dubey *et al.* (2001), Mahto and Ganguli (2003) and Abdel-Moneam *et al.* (2009) stated that additive gene action was important than non-additive in the inheritance of days to tasseling, days to silking, plant height and grain yield.

The present investigation, therefore, was designed to evaluate 21 maize single crosses and their parents, estimate their general and specific combining ability effects, and recognize the good combiner inbred lines for each trait.

### **MATERIALES AND METHODS**

Seven parental white maize inbred lines developed by Egyptian Agriculture Research in Mallowy; namely Inb-101(P<sub>1</sub>), Inb-10(P<sub>2</sub>), Inb-111(P<sub>3</sub>), Inb-113(P<sub>4</sub>), Inb-114(P<sub>5</sub>), Inb-115(P<sub>6</sub>), Inb-116(P<sub>7</sub>) were used. In the summer seasons of 2007 and 2008, the seven white parental lines were planted at Educational Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, EL-Minia University. At flowering time, all possible cross combinations among the seven parents were made (excluding reciprocal) to produce the hybrid seeds of the 21 single crosses. In addition the parental lines were maintained by selfing.

In 2009 summer season, the 21 single crosses with their parental lines were evaluated. Randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications was used. Plot size was one row, 4 meters long and 70 cm apart. Planting was in hills spaced 30 cm; two kernels per hill, seedlings were thinned to one plant/hill three weeks after sowing (before first irrigation). Phosphorus fertilizer was added at rate of 100 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> / fed in the form of calcium super-phosphate during land preparation. Nitrogen fertilization was applied at a rate of 120 kg / fed in two equal before the first and second irrigation. Irrigation, pest,

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weed control, and other agriculture practices were carried out as recommended.

Five traits: days to 50% pollen shedding, days to 50% silking and protandrous interval were recorded on plot mean basis while data related to grain yield/plant (gm) and 100-kernel weight (gm) were recorded on ten guarded plants of each row.

Mean data of each plot were used for analysis of variance. The combining ability analysis was carried out following Method 2 Model 1 of Griffing (1966).

L.S.D values were used to compare means according to El-Rawai and Khalafala (1980).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of variance revealed the presence of significant amount of variability among the parents and hybrids for all studied traits (Table 1). These results are in harmony with those reported by Abd EL-Satter *et al* (1999), Jyoti *et al* (2009) and Imtiaz *et al* (2009).

Partitioning mean square of genotypes into general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining abilities for studied traits is presented in Table 1. The mean square of GCA includes the additive genetic portion, while SCA represents the non-additive genetic portion of the total variance.

**Table 1: Mean squares from ordinary analysis and combining ability of the parents and their F<sub>1</sub> crosses for days to 50% pollen shedding, days to 50% silking, protandrous interval, grain yield per plant (gm) and 100-kernel weight (gm).**

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S.O.V.		Days to 0.0% pollen shedding	Days to 0.0% silking	Protandrous interval	Grain yield per plant (gm)	100- kernel weight (gm)
Rep.	2	10.04*	12.02	0.39.	1720.81**	221.9**
Genotypes	27	28.13**	00.32**	13.02**	0089.10**	29.39**
Parents (P)	6	30.39**	36.61**	19.61**	148.04	27.83**
Crosses (C)	20	9.940.**	30.97**	9.823**	2248.10.**	20.30**
P vs. C	1	378.4**	604.6**	37.42**	109141.3* *	119.6**
GCA	6	40.63**	87.10**	24.29**	3222.30.**	69.89**
SCA	21	24.06**	46.24**	9.798**	6260.39**	17.82**
Error	04	2.416	0.249	1.903	198.80.	7.200
$\sum gi^2 / \sum sij^2$		0.06	0.07	0.09	0.02	0.20

\*, \*\* Significant and highly significant at 0 % and 1%, respectively.

Mean squares of both GCA and SCA were significant and highly significant for all studied traits expect SCA for 100-grian weight. These results pointed to the role of both additive and non-additive effects in the inheritance of these traits. Mean squares of parents vs. crosses was highly significant for all the studied traits indicating that the large portion of the genetic variance in this population could be ascribed to non-additive effects of genes.

To reveal the nature of genetic variance, which has the greater role,  $\sum gi^2 / \sum sij^2$ , was computed. The ratio less than unity indicating that the largest part of the total genetic variance associated with these traits was due to non-additive gene action confirming the highly significant mean squares of parents vs. crosses. The importance of non-additive effects of genes on the expression of yield and other studied traits was reported by Dubey *et al.* (2001), Mahto and Ganguli (2003) and Abdel-Moneam *et al.* (2009).

The results indicated that the inbred line P<sub>0</sub> was the earliest, which had 00.38 days to 0.0% pollen shedding. This line (P<sub>0</sub>) also had

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the highest grain yield per plant, 39.12 gm. For  $F_1$ 's crosses, the most desirable cross for grain yield per plant was the hybrid ( $P_2XP_6$ ) which had 100.32 gm (Table 2).

Estimates of GCA effects ( $g_i$ ) for parental genotypes (Table 3) revealed that four parental lines *viz.*  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ ,  $P_6$  and  $P_7$  had good GCA effects for days to 50% pollen shedding.  $P_7$ ,  $P_2$  and  $P_7$  had good GCA effects for days to 50% silking and protandrous interval. The parental lines  $P_2$  and  $P_6$  had good combiners for grain yield per plant. With respect to 100-kernel weight  $P_1$  and  $P_7$  were observed to be good combiners. These lines can be utilized in further breeding programme.

Estimates of SCA effects ( $S_{ij}$ ) for  $F_1$  crosses are presented in Table 3. Some hybrids showed negative and significant SCA effects for days to 50% pollen shedding; ( $P_1XP_7$ ), ( $P_1XP_7$ ), ( $P_1XP_6$ ), ( $P_7XP_7$ ), ( $P_7XP_2$ ), ( $P_7XP_7$ ), ( $P_7XP_1$ ), ( $P_2XP_1$ ), ( $P_2XP_7$ ) and ( $P_6XP_1$ ). Seven best crosses with negative and significant SCA effects for days to 50% silking; ( $P_1XP_7$ ), ( $P_1XP_6$ ), ( $P_7XP_2$ ), ( $P_7XP_7$ ), ( $P_7XP_1$ ), ( $P_2XP_1$ ) and ( $P_6XP_1$ ). Only five hybrids showed negative and significant SCA effects for protandrous interval; ( $P_7XP_1$ ), ( $P_2XP_6$ ), ( $P_2XP_1$ ), ( $P_6XP_1$ ) and ( $P_6XP_7$ ). Most of these crosses involved one or two parents of good GCA effects, so they might be exploited for breeding high earlier hybrids.

**Table 2: Mean performance of the parents and their  $F_1$  crosses for days to 50% pollen shedding, days to 50% silking, protandrous interval, grain yield per plant (gm) and 100-kernel weight (gm).**

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Genotypes	Days to 0.7 pollen shedding	Days to 0.7 silking	Protandrous interval	Grain yield per plant (gm)	1000- kernel weight (gm)
1. Inb-101 (P <sub>1</sub> )	06.37	61.26	4.89	27.01	28.20
2. Inb-80 (P <sub>2</sub> )	63.80	69.61	0.70	20.02	22.39
3. Inb-144 (P <sub>3</sub> )	61.04	64.23	3.19	18.21	24.79
4. Inb-173 (P <sub>4</sub> )	07.12	60.77	3.60	26.76	20.10
5. Inb-74 (P <sub>5</sub> )	00.38	66.22	10.84	39.12	20.46
6. Inb-102 (P <sub>6</sub> )	61.31	67.79	6.47	31.96	19.67
7. Inb-120 (P <sub>7</sub> )	06.80	61.02	4.60	24.68	22.49
1. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	04.20	09.36	4.96	79.14	27.70
2. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	00.44	03.72	3.28	133.20	26.97
3. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>4</sub>	03.80	07.12	3.26	124.10	20.20
4. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	00.28	04.90	4.66	140.43	29.03
5. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	06.18	62.04	0.80	98.83	30.77
6. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	03.96	07.81	3.84	110.09	26.62
7. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	00.40	60.40	4.90	111.86	21.22
8. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>4</sub>	03.80	07.64	3.84	102.78	20.48
9. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	04.61	61.34	6.72	79.86	23.42
10. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	08.29	68.48	10.18	42.97	21.72
11. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	03.99	08.17	4.18	101.08	22.87
12. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>4</sub>	03.22	07.00	3.83	101.02	20.20
13. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	03.13	07.14	4.00	149.44	28.90
14. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	04.00	06.42	2.42	80.97	30.13
15. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	04.63	07.03	2.89	122.80	20.64
16. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	02.16	00.04	2.88	100.34	24.97
17. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	03.36	00.23	1.87	107.44	22.76
18. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	02.20	00.06	2.81	123.49	23.36
19. P <sub>5</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	03.00	06.67	3.17	70.83	20.00
20. P <sub>5</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	00.47	08.30	2.83	132.10	23.97



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$\bar{y}_i$ , $P_i$ , $XP_i$	55.76	59.31	3.55	100.97	25.61
Mean parents	58.83	64.48	5.633	26.90	22.58
L.S.D <sup>1</sup> . . . 5	3.10	5.41	3.22	10.07	5.65
Mean crosses	53.93	58.04	4.093	108.57	25.34
L.S.D <sup>1</sup> . . . 5	2.26	3.30	1.88	20.37	3.05

Table 3: GCA and SCA effects of the parents and their F<sub>1</sub> crosses for days to 50% pollen shedding, days to 50% silking, Protandrous interval, grain yield per plant (gm) and 1000-kernel weight (gm).

Genotypes	Days to 50% pollen shedding	Days to 50% silking	Protandrous interval	Grain yield per plant (gm)	1000-kernel weight (gm)
1. Inb-101 (P <sub>1</sub> )	-1.076**	-1.070**	-0.022	4.468	2.893**
2. Inb-80 (P <sub>2</sub> )	1.807**	3.046**	1.166**	-16.210**	-1.670**
3. Inb-144 (P <sub>3</sub> )	0.190*	-0.719**	-0.899**	3.902	1.164**
4. Inb-173 (P <sub>4</sub> )	-0.930**	-2.007**	-1.110**	6.900**	-1.661**
5. Inb-74 (P <sub>5</sub> )	-1.260**	-0.146	1.124**	11.230**	-0.006
6. Inb-102 (P <sub>6</sub> )	1.380**	1.830**	0.460**	-14.918**	-0.209
7. Inb-120 (P <sub>7</sub> )	-0.176*	-0.880**	-0.710**	4.028	-0.462*
1. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>2</sub>	-1.744**	-2.261	-0.666	2.742	1.826
2. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>3</sub>	-3.837**	-4.130**	-0.281	36.681**	-1.737
3. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>4</sub>	0.693	0.602	-0.078	24.083**	-0.636
4. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	-2.048**	-3.470*	-0.917	36.070**	2.039
5. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	0.704	1.627	0.930	21.134**	3.439
6. P <sub>1</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	0.048	0.121	0.102	18.442**	-0.408
7. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>1</sub>	-1.700**	-1.073	0.201	30.977**	-2.928
8. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>2</sub>	-2.283**	-2.999*	-0.692	23.900**	-0.840
9. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>3</sub>	-1.140	-1.210	-0.040	-3.300	0.496
10. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>4</sub>	-0.100	3.949**	4.076**	-14.046*	-1.000
11. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>5</sub>	-2.844**	-3.637**	-0.703	20.122**	0.348
12. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>6</sub>	-0.193	0.180	1.363**	1.969	1.093
13. P <sub>2</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	-0.960	-1.648	-0.703	46.101**	3.139
14. P <sub>3</sub> XP <sub>1</sub>	-2.731**	-4.349**	-1.623**	8.783	4.028*
15. P <sub>3</sub> XP <sub>2</sub>	-0.037	-0.018	0.020	26.170**	0.288

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16. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>0</sub>	-0.807	-2.404	-1.703**	49.010**	2.040
17. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	-2.201**	-4.198**	-1.907**	27.262**	-0.021
18. P <sub>4</sub> XP <sub>9</sub>	-1.801**	-1.744	0.162	23.863**	0.829
19. P <sub>0</sub> XP <sub>7</sub>	-1.782**	-4.772**	-2.890**	-13.733*	0.710
20. P <sub>0</sub> XP <sub>9</sub>	1.740**	-0.310	-2.057**	28.241**	-0.177
21. P <sub>7</sub> XP <sub>9</sub>	-0.707	-1.289	-0.777	23.207**	1.727
Gi	0.077	0.167	0.072	2.012	0.230
Sij	0.749	1.410	0.024	7.217	1.948
Gi-Gj	0.179	0.389	0.140	3.837	0.037
Sij-Sik	1.432	3.111	1.107	10.804	4.299
Sij-Skl	1.203	2.722	1.013	10.103	3.772

\*, \*\* Significant and highly significant at 5% and 1%, respectively.

Most crosses had positive and highly significant values of SCA effects for grain yield per plant. For 1000-kernel weight, all of crosses had insignificant values of SCA effects except one hybrid (P<sub>7</sub>XP<sub>7</sub>) which had positive and significant values of SCA effects.

It is of interest to note that most of the crosses selected on the basis of significant SCA effects for earliness and yield also had high mean performance (Tables 2 and 3).

### CONCLUSION

The results of the combining ability pointed to the role of both additive and non-additive effects in the inheritance of the studied traits. The largest part of the total genetic variance was due to non-additive gene action.

The results indicated that the inbred line P<sub>0</sub> was the earliest, which had 50.38 days to 50% pollen shedding, while it was the latest for protandrous interval (10.84 days). At the same time this line P<sub>0</sub> had the highest grain yield per plant (39.12 gm).

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The parental lines  $P_r$ ,  $P_\xi$  and  $P_v$  were the earliest for days to 0.0% silking and protandrous interval, while the parental line  $P_1$  gave the heaviest 1000-kernel weight.

For  $F_1$ 's crosses, the most desirable cross for grain yield per plant was the hybrid ( $P_\xi XP_\circ$ ) which had 100.34 gm. The hybrids ( $P_1XP_r$ ) and ( $P_\circ XP_r$ ) were the best cross for days to 0.0% pollen shedding, days to 0.0% silking and protandrous interval.

Estimates of GCA effects ( $g_i$ ) for parental inbred lines in each trait were computed. The parental lines  $P_\xi$  and  $P_\circ$  seemed to be good combiners for grain yield per plant. These results suggest that hybrids involving these lines in multiple crossing programs are expected to have high yielding ability.

Estimates of SCA effects ( $s_{ij}$ ) in the 21 crosses showed that fifteen crosses gave significantly positive SCA effects for grain yield per plant. Three of them namely ( $P_1XP_r$ ), ( $P_rXP_\circ$ ) and ( $P_\xi XP_\circ$ ) gave the highest yield 133.20, 149.44 and 100.34 gm, respectively.

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### □ الأداء والقدرة علي التآلف لبعض سلالات الذرة الشامية وهجن الجيل الأول

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تمت زراعة سبع سلالات من الذرة الشامية البيضاء في الموسم الصيفي ٢٠٠٧ ، ٢٠٠٨ بالمزرعة التعليمية بكلية الزراعة-جامعة المنيا. وتم عمل كل التهجينات الممكنة بين السبع آباء (بدون الهجن العكسية) في أثناء وقت التزهير للحصول علي ٢١ هجين فردي. وفي نفس الوقت تم عمل التلقيح الذاتي الصناعي للسبع آباء وفي الموسم الصيفي ٢٠٠٩ تمت زراعة الـ ٢١ هجين المتحصل عليهم والسبع سلالات في تجربة حقلية وكان التصميم المستخدم هو قطاعات كاملة العشوائية في ثلاث مكررات. وقد تم دراسة عدد من الصفات النباتية وهي عدد الأيام حتي نثر ٥٠% من حبوب اللقاح وعدد الأيام حتي ظهور ٥٠% من الحريرة و الفرق بين عدد الأيام حتي نثر ٥٠% من حبوب اللقاح وعدد الأيام حتي ظهور ٥٠% من الحريرة بالإضافة إلي صفة محصول الحبوب للنبات و صفة وزن الـ ١٠٠ حبة وتم حساب تحليل التباين وتم تقسيم التباين إلي قدرة عامة وقدرة خاصة علي الانتلاف باستخدام طريقة جريفنج ١٩٥٦ الثانية-الموديل الأول. وتبين من تحليل التباين أن القدرة العامة علي التآلف كانت معنوية في كل الصفات وكذلك القدرة الخاصة علي التآلف

## Combining ability of some maize inbred lines

كانت معنوية لكل الصفات ما عدا وزن الحبة. وهذه النتائج تشير الي أهمية التأثير الإضافي والغير إضافي للصفات المدروسة.  
أشارت النتائج الي أن السلالة ٥ كانت الابكر حيث أعطت ٥٥.٣٨ يوم حتي ٥٠% نثر حبوب لقاح كما أنها الأعلى محصولا للنبات (٣٩.١٢ جرام). كما أن الهجين ٤ × ٥ من أفضل الهجن لمحصول الحبوب في النبات حيث أعطي ١٥٥.٣٤ جرام.