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STUDIES ON COMBINING ABILITY UNDER TWO SOWING DATES IN SOME TOP-CROSSES IN MAIZE

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ABSTRACT

Sixty S₁ white maize inbred lines were derived from Giza-2 population in 2007 summer season and top crossed with two testers i.e., Giza-2 and SC-128 in 2008 summer season. The obtained 120 top-crosses and one check SC-10 were evaluated on two sowing dates i.e., 1st June and July 2009 at the Experimental Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, Assiut branch to identify the best combiners inbred lines regarding to the general combining ability and the best top-crosses regarding to the specific combining ability. The obtained results revealed significant or highly significant differences among the lines and top-crosses as well as between testers and the interaction of lines x testers in each sowing dates and combined over dates for all studied traits, except testers for number of days to 50% tasseling in each sowing dates and combined over dates, number of days to 50% silking in the second sowing date and combined over dates and number of rows/ear in the first sowing date. Also, significant or highly significant differences were found between sowing dates and the interactions of top-crosses, lines, testers and lines x testers with sowing dates for all studied traits, except ear length of the interactions of crosses and lines x testers with sowing dates and number of days to 50% tasseling, number of rows/ear and grain yield/plant of the interaction of testers x sowing dates.

The average of the top-crosses in the first sowing date was significantly higher than their average in the second sowing date for all studied traits.

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Significant desirable GCA effects were found in some inbred lines for all studied traits.

The tester SC-128 was the best combiner for plant height, ear length, 100-kernel weight and grain yield/plant in sowing dates as well as number of days to 50% silking in the first sowing date and number of rows/ear in the second sowing date. However, non of the two testers had significant GCA effects for number of days to 50% tasseling in each of sowing dates, number of days to 50% silking in the second sowing date and number of rows/ear in the first sowing date.

Significant desirable SCA effects were found in some top-crosses for all studied traits. Average variance of GCA exceeded that of SCA for all studied traits, indicating that the largest part of genetic variability could be attributed to additive gene action which played an important role in the inheritance of all studied traits over dates. However, additive type of gene action was more affected by environments than non-additive type for all studied traits over dates.

The inbred lines played the major role in the inheritance of all studied traits in each of sowing dates.

INTRODUCTION

Maize is the third most important cereal crop in the world, providing nutrient for humans and animals. Successful development of improved maize (*Zea mays L.*) hybrids depends on combining ability of inbred lines. The concepts of characterizing inbred lines in their crosses were defined by Sprague and Tatum (1942). Hallauer (1970) indicated that a suitable tester should be characterized by its simplicity in use and provide information that correctly classifies the relative merits of lines and maximizes genetic gain. Ameha (1977), Hallauer and Lopez-Perez (1979) and Diab *et al* (1994) suggested that narrow genetic base tester can be effectively used to identify lines having good GCA and the most efficient tester is that one having a low frequency favorable alleles.

Nawar and El-Hosary (1984) and Attia (1992) reported that the variance component due to SCA for grain yield and other agronomic traits was relatively larger than that due to GCA, indicating that the non-additive type of gene action appeared to be more important in lines previously

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selected for grain yield performance. On the other hand, El-Zeir *et al* (1999) stated that when the lines were relatively unselected GCA or additive type of gene action became more important, developing improved hybrids mainly depends on the improvement of the breeding source populations. S₁ progeny selection scheme subsequently imposed to improve population per se. This helps to eliminate deleterious recessive alleles that became homozygous due to inbreeding followed by selection, which leads to increase the gene frequency of favorable alleles at all loci. Theoretically selection based on S₁ is expected to utilize additive genetic variance better than intra-population selection methods.

The present investigation was designed to identify the best combiners inbred lines regarding to the general combining ability and to identify the best top-crosses regarding to the specific combining ability. Also, to determine the important types of gene action.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sixty S₁ white maize inbred lines were derived from Giza-9 population in 1997 summer season where, 100 vigorous plants were selected before silking and self pollinated. After harvesting, 100 selfed ears (S₁'s) which gave sufficient grains were chosen. In 1998 summer season, top-crosses were formed between selected 100 S₁ inbred lines and the two testers i.e., Giza-9 and SC-128 in two isolated blocks and among them sixty S₁ inbred lines were succeeded cross with the two testers and gave sufficient grains to be evaluated in the next season. In 1999 summer season, the 120 top-crosses and one check SC-10 were evaluated in the two sowing dates i.e., 1st June and July at the Experimental Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, Assiut branch. The experiments were laid out in a randomized complete block design (R.C.B.D) with three replications. Experimental plot size was one ridge, 3 m in long with 40 cm between ridges. Planting was done in hills spaced 20 cm apart on one side of the ridge. The recommended cultural practice of maize production were applied at the proper time.

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Data were collected for number of days to 50% tasseling, number of days to 50% silking, plant height (cm), ear length (cm), number of rows/ear, 1000-kernel weight (g) and grain yield/plant (g).

Statistical analysis

Data of each sowing date and combined over dates were subjected to analysis of variance according to Gomez and Gomez (1984) and treatment means were compared statistically using the test of the Least Significant Differences (L.S.D.). The combining ability effects and types of gene action were estimated according to Kempthorne (1957).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of variance and mean performance

The analysis of variance of all studied traits in each sowing dates and combined over dates (Tables 1 and 2) indicated significant or highly significant differences among lines and top-crosses as well as between the two testers and the interaction of lines x testers in each sowing dates and combined over dates for all studied traits, except that of testers for number of days to 50% tasseling in each sowing date and combined over dates, number of days to 50% silking in the second sowing date and combined over dates and number of rows/ear in the first sowing date. Also, significant or highly significant differences were found between sowing dates and the interactions of top-crosses, lines, testers and lines x testers with sowing dates for all studied traits, except the ear length of the interactions of crosses and lines x testers with sowing dates and number of days to 50% tasseling, number of rows/ear and grain yield/plant of the interaction of testers x sowing dates.

Mean performance values of the top-crosses for all studied traits are presented in Table 3. The obtained results showed that the average of the top-crosses in the first sowing date was significantly higher than their average in the second sowing date for all traits. The top-crosses 31 x SC-128 and 32 x SC-128 had the earliest tasseling date in the first and second sowing dates with values of 48.33 and 46.33 days, respectively.

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Table 3: Means of all studied traits for 120 top-crosses in the each of sowing date.

Lines	Number of days to 50% tasseling						Number of days to 50% silking					
	First date			Second date			First date			Second date		
	Giza-7	SC-11A	Mean	Giza-7	SC-11A	Mean	Giza-7	SC-11A	Mean	Giza-7	SC-11A	Mean
1	04.7V	01.00	02.8E	00.7V	08.3F	04.50	07.7V	02.00	00.3E	02.3F	00.00	01.7V
2	01.7V	06.3F	03.00	01.00	02.00	01.50	08.3F	7.00	09.1V	04.00	09.3F	00.1V
3	04.7V	04.7V	04.7V	02.00	01.00	01.50	09.00	06.00	07.00	00.7V	00.00	00.3E
4	04.00	04.3F	04.1V	08.7V	01.00	04.8E	07.00	07.3F	07.1V	02.00	04.00	03.00
5	02.00	00.7V	02.8E	09.3F	02.00	00.7V	04.00	07.3F	00.7V	02.00	06.00	04.00
6	00.3F	01.00	00.7V	08.00	08.3F	08.1V	02.7V	04.3F	04.00	09.7V	01.3F	00.00
7	01.7V	09.3F	00.00	08.3F	07.7V	08.00	06.3F	02.7V	04.00	02.7V	00.00	01.3E
8	08.7V	00.00	09.3E	07.00	07.00	07.00	01.3F	04.00	02.7V	09.00	00.00	09.00
9	07.7V	07.00	07.3E	02.7V	06.00	04.8E	07.7V	7.00	09.1V	07.00	09.7V	08.3E
10	09.3F	00.7V	02.00	07.00	09.7V	08.3E	06.3F	00.3F	00.8F	01.00	02.3F	02.1V
11	04.7V	04.3F	04.00	04.00	01.7V	02.8E	7.00	02.7V	08.00	08.00	00.7V	08.8E
12	07.00	07.7V	07.3E	02.00	02.7V	02.8E	09.7V	7.00	7.3E	02.7V	00.7V	02.1V
13	00.00	04.3F	04.7V	02.00	02.00	02.00	09.3F	09.00	09.1V	04.3F	01.3F	00.3F
14	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.7V	01.7V	02.1V	7.00	7.00	7.3E	07.7V	02.3F	06.00
15	01.3F	04.7V	02.8F	09.7V	02.7V	01.1V	06.3F	08.00	07.1V	04.00	06.3F	00.1V
16	02.7V	06.7V	06.7V	04.3F	02.7V	04.00	04.00	7.00	7.00	07.7V	02.7V	06.1V
17	09.7V	02.00	00.8E	02.7V	00.3F	08.00	01.7V	02.3F	02.00	09.00	02.00	01.00
18	07.00	00.00	01.00	02.7V	02.7V	02.1V	7.3F	7.00	7.00	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
19	07.3F	07.00	07.1V	06.00	00.7V	00.8E	7.00	7.00	7.00	09.7V	08.00	08.8E
20	07.7V	08.00	07.8E	07.7V	02.3F	02.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.3F	08.7V	09.00
21	02.7V	02.7V	02.1V	09.3F	08.7V	09.00	08.7V	09.3F	09.00	01.3F	01.3F	01.3F
22	02.00	00.3F	00.7V	02.7V	01.3F	02.00	7.00	09.7V	7.8E	04.7V	04.3F	04.00
23	04.00	02.7V	02.8E	02.00	02.00	02.00	08.3F	08.3F	08.3F	08.00	00.3F	00.7V
24	04.00	08.7V	06.1V	02.7V	00.3F	04.00	09.00	7.7V	7.8E	00.7V	09.00	07.3E
25	08.00	02.7V	07.3E	00.3F	02.3F	04.3F	7.3F	7.00	7.7V	08.00	07.7V	07.3E
26	04.00	06.7V	00.3E	09.3F	09.3F	09.3F	08.00	09.3F	08.7V	01.7V	02.7V	02.7V
27	02.00	02.00	02.00	04.00	02.3F	02.1V	7.3F	7.00	7.1V	02.7V	00.00	00.8E
28	01.7V	02.7V	02.7V	01.00	00.00	00.00	7.7V	7.1V	7.1V	02.7V	02.00	02.00
29	07.3F	04.7V	02.00	04.00	02.7V	02.3E	7.00	09.3F	7.00	07.00	06.3F	06.7V
30	04.00	04.7V	04.3E	02.00	02.00	02.00	09.3F	06.00	07.7V	07.7V	00.7V	02.7V
31	00.00	08.3F	09.1V	07.00	02.3F	02.7V	02.00	01.7V	02.3E	09.3F	08.3F	08.8F
32	01.3F	08.3F	09.8F	09.3F	02.3F	02.8F	04.3F	01.3F	02.8F	02.8F	02.8F	02.7V
33	00.00	00.3F	00.1V	08.3F	08.3F	08.3F	01.3F	02.3F	01.8F	00.3F	01.7V	01.00
34	09.3F	02.3F	01.3F	07.00	00.3F	08.7V	02.3F	08.7V	00.00	09.3F	02.00	01.1V
35	01.7V	09.3F	00.00	09.7V	08.00	08.8E	02.3F	02.3F	02.8F	02.8F	01.7V	02.00
36	00.7V	04.7V	00.1V	00.3F	02.00	04.1V	09.7V	7.00	7.00	07.7V	07.7V	07.7V
37	02.00	00.7V	01.3E	09.3F	09.00	09.1V	00.00	02.7V	04.3E	02.00	02.00	02.00
38	02.7V	02.00	02.3E	01.3F	01.00	01.1V	06.7V	02.00	02.3E	04.00	02.00	02.00
39	02.7V	02.00	02.8E	02.00	09.7V	00.8E	02.7V	02.00	02.3E	00.7V	02.00	04.3E
40	04.3F	04.3F	04.3F	02.3F	02.00	02.1V	09.00	08.00	08.00	06.3F	00.00	00.7V
41	08.7V	00.3F	09.3F	09.7V	07.7V	07.1V	02.7V	02.3F	02.00	09.00	00.3F	09.7V
42	02.3F	01.7V	02.00	08.7V	08.7V	08.7V	02.7V	02.00	04.8E	00.3F	09.7V	00.00
43	04.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	01.3F	02.3F	01.8F	00.3F	01.7V	01.00
44	09.3F	02.3F	01.3F	07.00	00.3F	08.7V	02.3F	08.7V	00.00	09.3F	02.00	01.1V
45	01.7V	09.3F	00.00	09.7V	08.00	08.8E	02.3F	02.3F	02.8F	02.8F	01.7V	02.00
46	00.7V	04.7V	00.1V	00.3F	02.00	04.1V	09.7V	7.00	7.00	07.7V	07.7V	07.7V
47	02.3F	00.00	00.00	02.3F	02.00	02.00	09.3F	09.3F	09.3F	02.7V	02.7V	02.7V
48	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	01.00	01.3F	01.1V	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.00	04.00	04.00
49	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
50	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
51	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
52	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
53	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
54	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
55	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
56	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
57	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
58	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
59	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
60	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
61	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
62	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
63	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
64	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
65	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
66	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
67	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
68	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
69	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
70	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F	02.3F
Mean	02.9E	04.00	04.00	01.31	01.10	01.2E	07.79	07.49	07.6E	04.19	04.31	04.20
SC-10		08.00			07.00			7.00			09.00	
L.S.D	0.00 0.01	1.73 2.27	1.70 2.10	1.78 2.20	1.43 1.88	1.46 1.91	1.40 1.90	1.33 1.74	1.26 1.70	1.29 1.79	1.38 1.81	1.32 1.73

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The top-crosses $\Delta \times$ Giza- γ , $\gamma\gamma \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ and $\gamma\gamma \times$ Giza- γ with value of 51.33 days in the first sowing date and the top-cross $\gamma\Delta \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ with value of 48.33 days in the second sowing date had the earliest silking date. The top-cross $\gamma \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ exhibited shorter plant height in the first and second sowing dates with values of 202.67 and 186.67 cm, respectively. The top-cross $\xi\xi \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ had the longest ear length in the first and second sowing dates with values of 20.80 and 24.83 cm, respectively. The top-crosses $\gamma \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ and $\gamma\circ \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ exhibited higher number of rows/ear in the first and second sowing dates with values 18.00 and 17.33 rows/ear, respectively. The top-cross $\circ \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ with value of 49.34 g in the first sowing date and the top-cross $\gamma\circ \times$ SC- $\gamma\Delta$ with value of 47.18 g in the second sowing date had the heaviest 100-kernel weight. The top-cross $\gamma \times$ Giza- γ had the highest grain yield/plant in the first and second sowing dates with values of 281.40 and 271.06 g, respectively. The obtained results of the top-crosses over the two testers clearly revealed that twenty six top-crosses in each sowing dates and twenty five out of them in both sowing dates were significantly out-yielded the check hybrid. These results are in time with the findings of El-Itriby et al (1990, a & b), Mahgoub et al (1996), Shehata et al (1997), Soliman and Sadek (1999), Abd El-Moula (2001), Mahmoud and Abd El-Azeem (2004), Amer and El-Shenawei (2007) and Manal (2010).

Combining ability

A- General combining ability

Estimates of general combining ability effects for all traits of the 60 S₁ white maize inbred lines and the two testers in each sowing dates are presented in Table 4.

A.1- General combining ability for the two testers

The obtained results revealed that tester SC- $\gamma\Delta$ was the best combiner for plant height, ear length, 100-kernel weight and grain yield/plant in each sowing dates, number of days to 50% silking in the first sowing date and number of rows/ear in the second sowing date. While, non of the two testers had significant GCA effects for number of days to 50% tasseling in each sowing dates, number of days to 50% silking in the second sowing date and number of rows/ear in the first sowing date.

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Table 4: Cont.

Lines	Number of rows/ear		1000-kernel weight		Grain yield/plant	
	First date	Second date	First date	Second date	First date	Second date
1	.22	.48	1.91**	9.18**	2.22**	2.99**
2	1.89**	1.48**	.17*	1.13**	2.81**	2.99**
3	-.18*	-1.10**	-3.47**	-4.90**	-1.91**	-2.01**
4	.22	-.02	1.00**	0.18**	3.81**	3.81**
5	-.44	-1.10**	2.00**	2.22**	-2.17**	-2.23**
6	-.44	-1.02**	-.91**	-1.32**	-2.22**	-2.81**
7	.06	.48	9.18**	9.32**	0.17**	0.22**
8	-.18*	-2.18**	-4.22**	-4.77**	-2.91**	-2.01**
9	-1.44**	-2.10**	-.9	-1.94**	-2.01**	-2.22**
10	.06	1.10**	2.44**	2.44**	3.17**	3.22**
11	.22	.48	1.99**	2.44**	2.81**	0.10**
12	.22	.10	-4.22**	-3.80**	2.17**	2.81**
13	.06	-.18	4.22**	4.11**	4.01**	4.49**
14	.06	1.82**	2.22**	2.99**	4.22**	4.22**
15	1.06**	.48	-4.71**	-4.44**	-3.91**	-4.22**
16	.22	-.18*	-2.22**	-4.00**	-2.81**	-2.22**
17	.22	1.10**	1.00**	2.11**	1.22**	1.81**
18	-.44	-1.18**	1.22**	1.11**	-2.81**	-2.17**
19	-.18*	.18	2.81**	3.81**	2.22**	1.22**
20	-.11	.18	-2.99**	-1.44**	1.22**	1.00**
21	-.11	-1.18**	-3.81**	-3.44**	-1.91**	-4.00**
22	-1.18**	.48	-1.18**	-1.44**	-0.22**	-0.22**
23	-2.44**	-2.18**	1.22**	1.17**	-4.22**	-4.81**
24	-.11	-1.02**	-1.00**	-1.82**	-4.22**	-4.22**
25	1.89**	1.82**	1.22**	1.99**	2.81**	3.22**
26	-.18*	.18	.44	1.17**	2.22**	2.22**
27	-.18*	-1.02**	-4.00**	-4.00**	-4.22**	-4.00**
28	-.11	-.02	2.22**	4.22**	2.17**	2.22**
29	-2.44**	-2.18**	-0.22**	-1.22**	-4.22**	-0.22**
30	-.44	-.02	9.18**	11.22**	0.99**	0.99**
31	-.44	-.02	-0.81**	-1.22**	-1.99**	-1.44**
32	.06	.48	-3.00**	-2.99**	-1.22**	-1.17**
33	.06	.18	-2.99**	-1.07**	1.11**	2.17**
34	.22	.48	-3.77**	.22	-1.44**	-1.44**
35	-.18*	2.10**	-.17**	-.17**	3.01**	3.22**
36	-.18*	-.02	4.22**	0.44**	2.22**	2.22**
37	.22	.48	-3.22**	-3.22**	-0.22**	-1.00**
38	.06	.48	-2.99**	-2.99**	3.01**	3.01**
39	.22	.48	1.00**	9.32**	3.81**	4.11**
40	-.18*	.18	2.22**	4.22**	2.44**	2.81**
41	-1.11**	-1.18**	-3.00**	-3.22**	-1.81**	-1.00**
42	.22	.48	-.99**	.22	1.44**	1.44**
43	1.89**	1.82**	-3.17**	-3.99**	-4.22**	-4.81**
44	-.44	.48	.44	.44	1.22	2.22**
45	1.22**	2.82**	0.22**	1.22**	2.22**	2.22**
46	-1.18**	-.02	2.10**	3.17**	2.99**	1.22**
47	.22	-.18	1.22**	1.22**	-4.81**	-1.81**
48	.22	1.10**	1.11**	1.44**	2.22**	2.22**
49	-.44	-1.18**	-1.07**	-1.82**	-1.17**	-1.22**
50	.06	1.10**	-1.22**	-2.17**	-1.22**	-1.00**
51	-.44	.48	-.17**	-.17**	1.00**	1.17**
52	-.18*	.18	4.22**	3.99**	.01	1.00**
53	-.18*	-1.18**	-3.99**	-4.22**	-4.81**	-0.22**
54	-1.44**	-2.02**	-3.99**	-0.22**	-3.22**	-4.17**
55	.06	1.10**	-2.99**	-4.17**	-1.99**	-1.99**
56	.22	1.10**	2.44**	4.22**	3.81**	4.22**
57	1.22**	2.82**	-0.22**	-0.22**	-3.22**	-4.22**
58	-.11	-.18*	-2.99**	-3.44**	-1.44**	-1.09**
59	.22	-.18	-.17**	-.17**	-1.22**	-1.22**
60	-.11	.10	2.22**	-.22**	4.09**	4.09**
Testers						
Giza-7	-.06	-.10*	-.17**	-.17**	-3.44**	-3.00**
SC-128	.06	.10*	.17**	.17**	3.44**	3.00**
S.E. lines	.05	.08	.13	.13	.04	.05
S.E. testers	.05	.10	.13	.13	.04	.05

A.2- General combining ability for the inbred lines

The obtained results of number of days to 50% tasseling showed that the most superior general combiner for tasseling earliness was line number 31 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 4.83 and -4.07, respectively. Nineteen S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, twenty two in the second sowing date and seventeen out of them over both sowing dates expressed significant negative desirable GCA effects.

Regarding to number of days to 50% silking, the most superior general combiners for silking earliness were the line number 33 with value of 0.81 in the first sowing date and the line number 31 with value of 0.41 in the second sowing date. Twenty two S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, twenty three in the second sowing date and seventeen out of them in both sowing dates had significant negative desirable GCA effects.

As for plant height the most superior general combiner for plant height was line number 36 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 34.04 and - 40.60, respectively. Thirty S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, twenty six in the second sowing date and twenty five out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant negative desirable GCA effects.

Concerning ear length the highest desirable general combiner was the line number 44 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 3.91 and 4.10, respectively. Twenty S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, twenty three in the second sowing date and seventeen out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant positive desirable GCA effects.

As for number of rows/ear the highest desirable general combiners were line number 43 with value of 1.89 in the first sowing date and lines number 40 and 07 with value of 2.82 in the second sowing date. Ten S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, thirteen in the second sowing date and six out of them in both sowing dates had significant positive desirable GCA effects.

Regarding to 100-kernel weight the most superior general combiner for 100-kernel weight was line number 30 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 9.78 and 11.72, respectively.

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Twenty six S₁ inbred lines, twenty nine in the second sowing date and twenty six out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant positive desirable GCA effects.

Concerning grain yield/plant the most superior general combiner for grain yield/plant was line number 4 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 56.37 and 57.29, respectively. Twenty seven S₁ inbred lines in the first sowing date, twenty nine in the second sowing date and twenty seven out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant positive desirable GCA effects. These results are in agreement with the findings of Soliman et al (1990), Gado (2000), Mostafa (2000), Sadek et al (2000), Mahmoud and Abd El-Azeem (2004), Abd El-Moula (2000) and Manal (2010).

B- Specific combining ability

Estimates of specific combining ability effects of 120 top-crosses for all traits in each sowing dates are presented in Table 6.

Concerning number of days to 50% tasseling the obtained results revealed that the most desirable specific combiners were the top-cross between the line number 10 x the tester SC-128 with value of 3.11 in the first sowing date and the top-cross between the line number 14 x the tester Giza-2 with value of 1.91 in the second sowing date. Eleven top-crosses in the first sowing date, fifteen in the second sowing date and seven out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant negative desirable SCA effects.

Regarding to number of days to 50% silking the most desirable specific combiners were the top-cross between the line number 32 x tester Giza-2 with value of 3.31 in the first sowing date and the top-crosses between line number 6 x tester Giza-2 and line number 14 x tester Giza-2 with value of 1.90 in the second sowing date. Twenty top-crosses in the first sowing date, twenty four in the second sowing date and fifteen out of them in the both sowing dates had significant negative desirable SCA effects.

Concerning plant height the most desirable specific combiner was the top-cross between line number 3 x tester SC-128 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 39.06 and - 38.39, respectively.

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Table 2: Estimates of specific combining ability effects for all the studied traits of 120 top-crosses in the each of sowing date.

Lines	Number of days to 50% tasseling				Number of days to 50% silking				Plant height				Ear length			
	First date		Second date		First date		Second date		First date		Second date		First date		Second date	
	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A	Giza-Y	SC-12A
1	-1.89**	1.89**	1.09*	-1.09*	2.19**	-2.19**	1.72**	-1.72**	12.28	12.28**	12.78	12.78**	0.03	-0.03	1.09*	-1.09*
2	-0.22	0.22	-1.07*	1.07*	-0.98*	0.98*	-1.11*	1.11*	2.03**	2.03**	22.22**	22.22**	-1.47**	1.47**	-1.24*	1.24*
3	-0.22	0.22	0.93	-0.93	1.30**	-1.30**	0.39	-0.39	39.06**	39.06**	38.39**	38.39**	0.03	-0.03	0.09	-0.09
4	0.11	-0.11	-1.24*	1.24*	-0.31	0.31	-0.90*	0.90*	2.73**	-2.73**	-0.28	0.28	0.20	-0.20	0.09	-0.09
5	1.78**	-1.78**	-1.41**	1.41**	-1.81**	1.81**	-1.90**	1.90**	2.06*	-2.06*	0.06	-0.06	1.20*	-1.20*	0.09	-0.09
6	0.28	-0.28	-0.24	0.24	-0.48	0.48	-0.78	0.78	2.08	2.08**	18.71	18.71**	1.03	-1.03	2.09**	-2.09**
7	-1.22*	1.22*	0.26	-0.26	1.79**	-1.79**	1.29**	-1.29**	2.23**	-2.23**	0.29	-0.29	0.20	-0.20	0.43	-0.43
8	0.71	-0.71	-0.07	0.07	-1.48**	1.48**	-0.40	0.40	0.89**	-0.89**	4.39	-4.39	1.20*	-1.20*	1.76**	-1.76**
9	-0.39	0.39	-1.24*	1.24*	-1.70**	1.70**	-1.28**	1.28**	10.71	10.71**	14.28	14.28**	-2.14**	2.14**	-1.07**	1.07**
10	2.11**	-2.11**	-1.41**	1.41**	0.30	-0.30	-1.11*	1.11*	2.78**	2.78**	-8.28**	8.28**	-1.47**	1.47**	-2.41**	2.41**
11	-0.22	0.22	1.09*	-1.09*	1.79**	-1.79**	1.22**	-1.22**	8.06**	-8.06**	8.06**	-8.06**	-0.14	0.14	0.09	-0.09
12	0.28	-0.28	0.09	-0.09	-0.81	0.81	0.00	-0.00	8.73**	-8.73**	12.06**	12.06**	2.37**	-2.37**	2.76**	-2.76**
13	-0.39	0.39	-0.07	0.07	0.02	-0.02	-0.90*	0.90*	2.06	-2.06	7.06	-7.06	-2.47**	2.47**	-1.91**	1.91**
14	-0.00	0.00	0.93	-0.93	0.02	-0.02	1.22**	-1.22**	14.39**	14.39**	11.22**	11.22**	0.74	-0.74	0.07	-0.07
15	1.40*	-1.40*	-1.07**	1.07**	-0.98*	0.98*	-1.11*	1.11*	28.28	28.28**	23.11	23.11**	1.03	-1.03	1.09*	-1.09*
16	-0.00	0.00	0.26	-0.26	0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.00	22.39**	22.39**	20.06**	20.06**	0.03	-0.03	0.41	-0.41
17	1.11	-1.11	-1.91**	1.91**	-0.98*	0.98*	-1.90**	1.90**	-0.94	0.94	0.06	-0.06	0.03	-0.03	0.26	-0.26
18	-1.00	1.00	0.43	-0.43	0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.00	19.39**	19.39**	20.39**	20.39**	-0.14	0.14	-1.07**	1.07**
19	-0.22	0.22	0.09	-0.09	-0.10	0.10	0.89	-0.89	19.39**	19.39**	18.06**	18.06**	0.20	-0.20	0.09	-0.09
20	0.11	-0.11	0.09	-0.09	-0.10	0.10	0.89	-0.89	18.06**	18.06**	17.89**	17.89**	-0.80	0.80	-0.74	0.74
21	0.40	-0.40	0.26	-0.26	-0.48	0.48	0.00	-0.00	0.06	-0.06	1.39	-1.39	-0.74	0.74	-0.07	0.07
22	-0.39	0.39	0.09	-0.09	1.02*	-1.02*	0.22	-0.22	27.28	27.28**	24.11	24.11**	0.74	-0.74	0.07	-0.07
23	-0.22	0.22	-0.07	0.07	-0.10	0.10	0.39	-0.39	13.11	13.11**	11.28	11.28**	-1.74**	1.74**	-1.41**	1.41**
24	2.11**	-2.11**	-1.41**	1.41**	-1.98**	1.98**	-1.71**	1.71**	8.06**	-8.06**	8.06**	-8.06**	-0.47	0.47	-0.41	0.41
25	-0.72	0.72	0.93	-0.93	0.02	-0.02	0.72	-0.72	-2.11	2.11	-7.31*	7.31*	-2.97**	2.97**	-2.07**	2.07**
26	1.28**	-1.28**	-0.07	0.07	-0.81	0.81	-0.78	0.78	1.22	-1.22	1.72	-1.72	1.20*	-1.20*	1.09*	-1.09*
27	-0.00	0.00	0.26	-0.26	0.02	-0.02	0.89	-0.89	0.06**	-0.06**	9.89**	-9.89**	0.03	-0.03	0.09	-0.09
28	-0.00	0.00	0.43	-0.43	0.30	-0.30	0.39	-0.39	2.23**	-2.23**	2.89**	-2.89**	-0.80	0.80	-1.24*	1.24*
29	-1.39**	1.39**	0.09	-0.09	0.02	-0.02	0.39	-0.39	-4.78**	4.78**	-3.31*	3.31*	0.36	-0.36	0.93	-0.93
30	0.28	-0.28	0.43	-0.43	1.02**	-1.02**	1.00**	-1.00**	-1.94	1.94	2.06	-2.06	1.37*	-1.37*	1.43**	-1.43**
31	-0.89	0.89	0.26	-0.26	0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.00	2.06	-2.06	7.06*	-7.06*	1.03**	-1.03**	0.93	-0.93
32	-1.00*	1.00*	1.43**	-1.43**	1.30**	-1.30**	1.72**	-1.72**	13.44	13.44**	13.44	13.44**	1.37*	-1.37*	2.09**	-2.09**
33	0.11	-0.11	-0.07	0.07	-0.70	0.70	-0.71	0.71	13.11	13.11**	14.28	14.28**	0.03	-0.03	0.41	-0.41

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34	1.90**	-1.90**	1.74**	1.74**	-3.31**	3.31**	-1.78**	1.78**	14.44	14.44**	17.11	17.11**	1.37*	-1.37*	0.93	-0.93
35	-1.22*	1.22*	0.76	-0.76	0.30	-0.30	0.00	-0.00	-0.94	0.94	1.22	-1.22	-0.14	0.14	0.43	-0.43
36	0.00	0.00	1.09*	-1.09*	-0.70	0.70	0.00	-0.00	6.39**	-6.39**	1.94	1.94**	1.20*	-1.20*	0.76	-0.76
37	-0.72	0.72	0.09	-0.09	0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.00	0.23	-0.23	4.39	-4.39	1.03	-1.03	1.09**	-1.09**
38	-0.39	0.39	0.09	-0.09	0.19	-0.19	0.00	-0.00	17.94	17.94**	11.78	11.78**	0.20	-0.20	0.09	-0.09
39	-0.89	0.89	1.09*	-1.09*	0.19	-0.19	1.39**	-1.39**	10.78	10.78**	13.11	13.11**	-0.74	0.74	-0.74	0.74
40	0.00	0.00	0.09	-0.09	0.30	-0.30	0.72	-0.72	-8.28**	8.28**	12.94	12.94**	-1.30*	1.30*	-2.07**	2.07**
41	0.90	-0.90	-0.07	0.07	-0.48	0.48	-0.71	0.71	-8.11**	8.11**	-2.28	2.28	1.37**	-1.37**	1.09*	-1.09*
42	-0.89	0.89	-0.07	0.07	1.79**	-1.79**	0.39	-0.39	11.73**	11.73**	7.07*	-7.07*	-1.97**	1.97**	-2.24**	2.24**
43	0.00	0.00	-1.24**	1.24**	0.02	-0.02	0.39	-0.39	-8.28**	8.28**	14.44	14.44**	0.03	-0.03	-0.41	0.41
44	-0.00	0.00	-0.24	0.24	0.19	-0.19	0.00	-0.00	3.07*	-3.07*	-4.71	4.71	-0.47	0.47	-1.07*	1.07*
45	0.00	0.00	0.93	-0.93	0.30	-0.30	0.72	-0.72	2.03**	2.03**	21.39**	21.39**	0.03	-0.03	0.07	-0.07
46	-0.00	0.00	-0.07	0.07	-0.70	0.70	-0.90**	0.90**	-4.71**	4.71**	-7.44*	7.44*	-2.14**	2.14**	-2.41**	2.41**
47	0.71	-0.71	-0.91	0.91	-0.98*	0.98*	-1.71**	1.71**	11.94	11.94**	-4.78	4.78	1.20*	-1.20*	1.77**	-1.77**
48	0.00	0.00	-0.07	0.07	0.19	-0.19	0.39	-0.39	23.07**	23.07**	27.72**	27.72**	-0.47	0.47	0.09	-0.09
49	0.00	0.00	-0.07	0.07	-0.81	0.81	-1.78**	1.78**	-0.71**	0.71**	-0.28	0.28	-0.30	0.30	-0.24	0.24
50	0.40	-0.40	-0.74	0.74	-0.81	0.81	-0.71	0.71	12.94	12.94**	-7.94*	7.94*	0.86	-0.86	1.27*	-1.27*
51	-0.22	0.22	0.76	-0.76	1.79**	-1.79**	1.00	-1.00	4.89**	-4.89**	3.22	-3.22	1.03	-1.03	1.09**	-1.09**
52	-0.72	0.72	0.76	-0.76	1.30**	-1.30**	0.00	-0.00	-1.78	1.78	-4.94	4.94	-1.14*	1.14*	-1.24**	1.24**
53	0.78	-0.78	0.09	-0.09	-0.10	0.10	0.39	-0.39	18.07**	18.07**	20.89**	20.89**	-0.47	0.47	-0.41	0.41
54	-0.22	0.22	0.09	-0.09	0.19	-0.19	0.00	-0.00	-0.11**	0.11**	-0.44	0.44	0.70	-0.70	0.76	-0.76
55	0.40	-0.40	-0.07	0.07	-0.10	0.10	-0.90**	0.90**	-2.78*	2.78*	-9.71**	9.71**	-2.30**	2.30**	-2.74**	2.74**
56	-0.22	0.22	0.09	-0.09	0.30	-0.30	0.72	-0.72	-8.94**	8.94**	-9.44**	9.44**	-0.74	0.74	-1.07**	1.07**
57	0.71	-0.71	-0.07	0.07	-0.31	0.31	-0.11	0.11	-7.11**	7.11**	-9.44**	9.44**	-0.74	0.74	-0.07	0.07
58	-0.39	0.39	-0.07	0.07	0.02	-0.02	0.39	-0.39	12.11	12.11**	13.94	13.94**	2.00*	-2.00*	0.43	-0.43
59	0.28	-0.28	-0.41	0.41	-0.70	0.70	-1.40**	1.40**	-0.94**	0.94**	-2.71	2.71	1.70**	-1.70**	2.27**	-2.27**
60	-0.72	0.72	0.76	-0.76	1.02*	-1.02*	1.39**	-1.39**	-0.94	0.94	-0.44	0.44	0.70	-0.70	0.76	-0.76
S.E.	0.00	1.19	1.02	0.91	0.93	0.93	0.93	2.17	3.00	6.32	1.11	1.46	1.07	1.41	1.07	1.41

Table 5: Cont.

Lines	Number of rows/ear				1000-kernel weight				Grain yield/plant			
	First date		Second date		First date		Second date		First date		Second date	
	Giza-2	SC-128	Giza-2	SC-128	Giza-2	SC-128	Giza-2	SC-128	Giza-2	SC-128	Giza-2	SC-128
1	-1.28*	1.28*	-0.86	0.86	4.30**	-4.30**	3.43**	-3.43**	21.93**	-21.93**	23.10**	-23.10**
2	-1.71**	1.71**	-1.87**	1.87**	-1.30**	1.30**	-1.29**	1.29**	-3.07**	3.07**	-2.72**	2.72**
3	1.07	-1.07	0.81	-0.81	0.31	-0.31	-0.13	0.13	3.26**	-3.26**	3.99**	-3.99**
4	0.07	-0.07	0.14	-0.14	-1.03**	1.03**	-1.40**	1.40**	-3.04**	3.04**	-0.22**	0.22**
5	1.39*	-1.39*	0.81	-0.81	-9.14**	9.14**	-9.40**	9.40**	-17.00**	17.00**	-20.44**	20.44**
6	-1.28*	1.28*	-0.86	0.86	1.70**	-1.70**	1.01*	-1.01*	-17.44**	17.44**	-17.14**	17.14**
7	0.39	-0.39	0.47	-0.47	2.74**	-2.74**	1.90**	-1.90**	27.70**	-27.70**	27.44**	-27.44**
8	-0.28	0.28	-0.19	0.19	4.73**	-4.73**	4.79**	-4.79**	34.78**	-34.78**	30.94**	-30.94**
9	0.39	-0.39	0.47	-0.47	0.38	-0.38	-0.71	0.71	-3.20**	3.20**	-1.37*	1.37*

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10	.39	-.39	-.19	.19	-1.17**	1.17**	-1.98**	1.98**	-2.11**	2.11**	-1.03**	1.03**
11	.07	-.07	-.07	.07	-.03	.03	-.03	.03	-2.12**	2.12**	-2.12**	2.12**
12	.07	-.07	.14	-.14	2.22**	-2.22**	2.00**	-2.00**	2.41**	-2.41**	2.22**	-2.22**
13	-.28	.28	.47	-.47	1.19**	-1.19**	1.41**	-1.41**	-1.79**	1.79**	-2.22**	2.22**
14	1.22**	-1.22**	.14	-.14	-2.44**	2.44**	-2.79**	2.79**	-1.03**	1.03**	-1.22**	1.22**
15	-1.28**	1.28**	-.07	.07	0.20**	-0.20**	0.10**	-0.10**	-2.11**	2.11**	-2.47**	2.47**
16	.07	-.07	-.07	.07	-0.20**	0.20**	-0.10**	0.10**	-2.01**	2.01**	-2.22**	2.22**
17	.07	-.07	-.19	.19	2.13**	-2.13**	2.00**	-2.00**	2.78**	-2.78**	1.80**	-1.80**
18	-.22	.22	.14	-.14	2.90**	-2.90**	2.73**	-2.73**	1.72**	-1.72**	1.49**	-1.49**
19	-.94	.94	.14	-.14	.98	-.98	1.10	-1.10	1.20**	-1.20**	1.21**	-1.21**
20	-1.21**	1.21**	-1.19**	1.19**	-2.22**	2.22**	2.33**	-2.33**	2.44**	-2.44**	2.22**	-2.22**
21	-.28	.28	.14	-.14	-.01	.01	-.09	.09	-2.07**	2.07**	-2.47**	2.47**
22	.07	-.07	.47	-.47	2.10**	-2.10**	2.00**	-2.00**	2.91**	-2.91**	2.02**	-2.02**
23	-.21	.21	1.14	-1.14	-1.44**	1.44**	-1.73**	1.73**	-2.04**	2.04**	-2.07**	2.07**
24	1.07	-1.07	1.14	-1.14	-.00	.00	-1.03	1.03	1.30**	-1.30**	1.42**	-1.42**
25	-1.21**	1.21**	-1.03**	1.03**	1.23**	-1.23**	1.30**	-1.30**	-2.13**	2.13**	-2.18**	2.18**
26	.22	-.22	.01	-.01	1.22**	-1.22**	1.27**	-1.27**	2.44**	-2.44**	2.27**	-2.27**
27	-.28	.28	-.07	.07	-1.23**	1.23**	-1.17**	1.17**	-2.10**	2.10**	-1.83**	1.83**
28	-.39	.39	.14	-.14	-1.92**	1.92**	-0.20**	0.20**	-1.07**	1.07**	-0.50**	0.50**
29	.22	-.22	.14	-.14	.40	-.40	-.08	.08	1.21**	-1.21**	1.27**	-1.27**
30	.07	-.07	.14	-.14	.40	-.40	-1.07	1.07	-2.01**	2.01**	-1.89**	1.89**
31	-.21	.21	-.03	.03	2.09**	-2.09**	0.27**	-0.27**	1.97**	-1.97**	1.97**	-1.97**
32	-.39	.39	.47	-.47	1.84**	-1.84**	2.43**	-2.43**	1.07**	-1.07**	1.03**	-1.03**
33	-.28	.28	.14	-.14	-2.99**	2.99**	-2.08**	2.08**	-1.43**	1.43**	-1.30**	1.30**
34	.07	-.07	-.07	.07	-.22	.22	2.94**	-2.94**	-.20	.20	-2.20**	2.20**
35	.22	-.22	.01	-.01	.28	-.28	.90	-.90	1.40**	-1.40**	1.69**	-1.69**
36	-.94	.94	.14	-.14	.47	-.47	-.14	.14	1.07**	-1.07**	2.07**	-2.07**
37	.07	-.07	1.14	-1.14	2.00**	-2.00**	1.38**	-1.38**	2.42**	-2.42**	2.27**	-2.27**
38	-.39	.39	1.14	-1.14	.49	-.49	.99	-.99	2.02**	-2.02**	2.19**	-2.19**
39	.07	-.07	-.07	.07	-1.27**	1.27**	-.27	.27	-2.30**	2.30**	-2.44**	2.44**
40	-.21	.21	-1.19**	1.19**	-.89**	.89**	.47	-.47	-1.94**	1.94**	-2.08**	2.08**
41	.22	-.22	.14	-.14	.02	-.02	-.20	.20	2.17**	-2.17**	2.11**	-2.11**
42	.07	-.07	-.19	.19	-2.02**	2.02**	-2.28**	2.28**	-2.49**	2.49**	-2.67**	2.67**
43	1.07	-1.07	-.19	.19	-.00	.00	-.04	.04	-2.13**	2.13**	-1.14**	1.14**
44	1.39	-1.39	.47	-.47	-0.94**	0.94**	-2.26**	2.26**	-1.07**	1.07**	-2.11**	2.11**
45	1.07	-1.07	.14	-.14	-1.29**	1.29**	-1.14**	1.14**	2.27**	-2.27**	2.27**	-2.27**
46	.07	-.07	-1.19**	1.19**	-1.14**	1.14**	-.29	.29	-1.49**	1.49**	-1.01**	1.01**
47	.07	-.07	.47	-.47	1.18**	-1.18**	1.12**	-1.12**	2.30**	-2.30**	2.14**	-2.14**
48	-.21	.21	1.14	-1.14	2.41**	-2.41**	2.02**	-2.02**	2.09**	-2.09**	2.28**	-2.28**
49	-.21	.21	-.03	.03	1.27**	-1.27**	1.20**	-1.20**	1.07**	-1.07**	2.27**	-2.27**
50	-.39	.39	-.19	.19	2.23**	-2.23**	2.27**	-2.27**	2.73**	-2.73**	1.37**	-1.37**
51	-1.28**	1.28**	.47	-.47	2.08**	-2.08**	2.26**	-2.26**	2.97**	-2.97**	1.30**	-1.30**
52	1.07	-1.07	1.47**	-1.47**	0.17**	-0.17**	-2.46**	2.46**	-1.18**	1.18**	-1.83**	1.83**
53	.07	-.07	.14	-.14	-2.49**	2.49**	-2.04**	2.04**	-2.04**	2.04**	-1.97**	1.97**
54	-.28	.28	.14	-.14	.07	-.07	.00	-.00	1.29**	-1.29**	1.03**	-1.03**
55	-.39	.39	-1.03**	1.03**	.24	-.24	-.20	.20	-2.20**	2.20**	-2.29**	2.29**
56	-1.28**	1.28**	-.07	.07	.28	-.28	-.08	.08	-1.04**	1.04**	-2.07**	2.07**
57	1.07	-1.07	.14	-.14	-.29	.29	-.27	.27	-1.08**	1.08**	-1.10**	1.10**
58	-.94	.94	.47	-.47	-1.07**	1.07**	-1.79**	1.79**	-1.07**	1.07**	-2.04**	2.04**
59	.07	-.07	-.19	.19	1.10**	-1.10**	1.10**	-1.10**	2.43**	-2.43**	2.18**	-2.18**
60	-.39	.39	.01	-.01	-.40	.40	1.27**	-1.27**	-2.01**	2.01**	-1.47**	1.47**
S.E.	.00 .01	1.11 1.40	1.19 1.06	.89 1.17	.87 1.13	.87 1.13	.87 1.13	.87 1.13	2.17 2.80	2.17 2.80	1.30 1.77	1.30 1.77

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Forty nine top-crosses in the first sowing date, forty in the second sowing date and thirty eight out of them in the both sowing dates had significant negative desirable SCA effects.

As for ear length the most favorable specific combiners were the top-cross between line number 20 x tester SC-128 with value of 2.97 in the first sowing date and the top-cross between line number 00 x tester SC-128 with value of 2.74 in the second sowing date. Twenty four top-crosses in the first sowing date, twenty nine in the second sowing date and nineteen out of them in both sowing dates had significant positive desirable SCA effects.

Concerning number of rows/ear the most favorable specific combiners were top-cross between line number 14 x tester Giza-2 with value of 1.72 in the first sowing date and line number 2 x tester SC-128 with value of 1.86 in the second sowing date. Ten top-crosses in the first sowing date, seven in the second sowing date and three out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant positive desirable SCA effects.

Regarding to 100-kernel weight the most superior specific combiner was top-cross between line number 0 x tester SC-128 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 9.14 and 9.40, respectively. Forty one top-crosses in the first sowing date, forty five in the second sowing date and thirty eight out of them in both sowing dates had significant positive desirable SCA effects.

Concerning grain yield/plant the most superior specific combiner was top-cross between line number 22 x tester Giza-2 in the first and second sowing dates with values of 43.91 and 40.21, respectively. Fifty nine top-crosses in the first sowing date, sixty top-crosses in the second sowing date and fifty nine out of them in both sowing dates possessed significant positive desirable SCA effects. These results are in accordance with those of Gado (1999), Soliman and Sadek (1999), El-Zeir *et al* (2000), Mostafa (2000), Abd El-Moula *et al* (2004), Abd El-Moula (2000) and Manal (2010).

Genetic variance components

Estimation of the general combining ability variances of S_i inbred lines (σ^2_{GCA-L}) and testers (σ^2_{GCA-T}) in addition to, specific combining ability variance of top-crosses (σ^2_{SCA}) and their

interaction with sowing dates for all traits are shown in Table 6. The obtained results revealed that variance due to GCA-L was higher than GCA-T for all traits, indicating that most of GCA variance was due to lines. The variance of GCA (average) exceeded variance of SCA for all traits, indicating that the largest part of genetic variability associated with traits was a result of additive gene action. The ratio of $\sigma^2_{GCA}/\sigma^2_{SCA}$ was more than the unity for all traits, indicating that additive gene action played an important role in the inheritance of all traits. The interaction of $\sigma^2_{GCA-L} \times E$ was larger than $\sigma^2_{GCA-T} \times E$ for all studied traits, except 100-kernel weight, indicating that σ^2_{GCA-L} was more affected by environment than σ^2_{GCA-T} for all traits, except 100-kernel weight. The magnitude of σ^2_{GCA} (average) $\times E$ interaction was higher than $\sigma^2_{SCA} \times E$ for all traits, indicating that additive type of gene action was more affected by environment than non-additive type of gene action. These results are in line with the findings of Sadek *et al* (2001), El-Shenawy *et al* (2003), Abd El-Azeem *et al* (2004), Barakat and Abd El-Moula (2008) and Mosa (2010).

Table 6 :Genetic parameters for grain yield and other agronomic traits over the two sowing dates.

Parameters	Tasseling date	Silking date	Plant height	Ear length	Number of rows/ear	100-kernel weight	Grain yield /plant
σ^2_{GCA-L}	4.226	0.704	216.224	1.668	0.639	7.900	798.973
σ^2_{GCA-T}	-0.021	-0.020	29.001	0.394	0.003	0.140	12.063
$\sigma^2_{GCA(average)}$	1.940	4.107	12399.376	100.684	7.024	20.202	900.638
σ^2_{SCA}	1.088	1.602	333.702	2.827	0.790	24.900	727.840
$\sigma^2_{GCA}/\sigma^2_{SCA}$	1.787	2.487	37.107	00.077	8.891	8.104	12.442
$\sigma^2_{GCA-L} \times E$	0.377	1.042	9.280	0.147	0.120	0.007	11.008
$\sigma^2_{GCA-T} \times E$	0.008	0.032	1.903	0.143	-0.003	0.042	-0.062
$\sigma^2_{GCA(average)} \times E$	2.834	7.214	393.908	26.020	1.290	13.288	6.04
$\sigma^2_{SCA} \times E$	0.13	0.237	11.223	0.023	0.233	1.800	3.990
$\sigma^2_{GCAx E}/\sigma^2_{SCAx E}$	21.799	30.481	30.102	1110.378	0.029	7.382	1.017

All negative estimates of variance were considered equal zero.

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Proportion contribution

The obtained results (Table V) concluded that the inbred lines contributed with the large percentage and played the major role in the inheritance of all studied traits in each sowing dates. The lines x testers interaction followed the lines of the previous result for all studied traits. On the other hand, the testers contributed with the smallest percentage and played the lowest role in the inheritance of all traits.

Table V: Proportion contributions of lines, testers and their interaction for all studied traits in the each of sowing date .

Traits	Lines		Testers		Lines x testers	
	First date	Second date	First date	Second date	First date	Second date
Days to 50% tasseling	86.47	88.42	0.00	0.09	13.49	11.00
Days to 50% silking	88.60	86.62	0.24	0.04	11.17	13.34
Plant height	60.67	68.89	4.33	2.03	30.01	29.08
Ear length	60.87	67.04	9.06	1.46	30.06	31.00
Number of rows/ear	07.19	74.16	0.29	0.84	42.01	20.00
100-kernel weight	62.00	60.39	1.38	0.43	36.62	39.17
Grain yield/ear	74.27	76.69	0.86	0.77	24.88	22.03

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دراسات على القدرة على الأنتلاف تحت موعدين زراعه فى بعض الهجن القميه فى الذرة الشاميه

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أجريت هذه الدراسة خلال الفترة من ٢٠٠٧-٢٠٠٩ بهدف التقدير المبكر للقدرة العامة والخاصة على التآلف وطبيعة الفعل الجينى لـ ٦٠ سلالة من الذرة الشاميه البيضاء الحبوب المرباه داخليا (الجيل الذاتى الأول) المستنبطة من الصنف المفتوح التلقيح جيزة-٢. فى موسم ٢٠٠٧ تم الحصول على الـ ٦٠ سلالة بالتلقيح الذاتى لأفضل النباتات. فى موسم ٢٠٠٨ تم عمل التهجين القمى لهذه السلالات مع كشافين وهما الصنف جيزة-٢ والهجين الفردى ١٢٨ فتم الحصول على ١٢٠ هجين قمى . فى موسم ٢٠٠٩ تم تقييم الـ ١٢٠ هجين قمى بالإضافة الى الهجين الفردى ١٠ للمقارنة وذلك فى ميعادين زراعه هما الاول من يونيه ويوليو فى تصميم القطاعات الكاملة العشوائية فى ثلاث مكررات وقد دونت البيانات على صفات عدد الأيام حتى نثر حبوب لقاح ٥٠% من النورات المذكرة ، عدد الأيام حتى ظهور ٥٠% من الحرير، ارتفاع النبات، طول الكوز، عدد صفوف الكوز، وزن الـ ١٠٠ حبه ومحصول حبوب النبات. أوضحت نتائج التحليل لكل ميعاد منفردا وجود اختلافات معنوية او عاليه المعنوية لكلا من الهجن والسلالات والكشافين وكذلك تفاعل السلالة x الكشاف لكل الصفات المدروسة فى كلا الميعادين ما عدا صفات عدد الأيام حتى نثر حبوب لقاح ٥٠% من النورات المذكرة فى كلا الميعادين وعدد صفوف الكوز فى الميعاد الأول وعدد الأيام حتى ظهور ٥٠% من الحرير فى الميعاد الثانى وذلك بالنسبة للكشافين.

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اظهر التحليل المشترك لميعادى الزراعة اختلافات عالية المعنوية بين ميعادى الزراعة والهجن والسلالات والكشافين وتفاعل السلالة x الكشاف وتفاعل السلالات x ميعادى الزراعة لكل الصفات المدروسة ما عدا صفتى عدد الأيام حتى نثر حبوب لقاح ٥٠% من النورات المذكرة وعدد الأيام حتى ظهور ٥٠% من الحرير وذلك بالنسبة للكشافين . كذلك أظهرت التفاعلات بين كلا من الهجن والكشافين مع ميعادى الزراعة وكذلك تفاعل السلالة والكشاف وميعادى الزراعة اختلافات معنوية او عالية المعنوية لكل الصفات المدروسة ما عدا صفه طول الكوز لتفاعل الهجن مع ميعادى الزراعة وكذلك تفاعل السلالة والكشاف وميعادى الزراعة وصفات عدد الأيام حتى نثر حبوب لقاح ٥٠% من النورات المذكرة وعدد صفوف الكوز ومحصول حبوب النبات لتفاعل الكشافين مع ميعادى الزراعة.

أظهرت السلالة رقم ٧ تفوقا معنويا موجبا فى قدرتها العامة على التآلف فى الميعادين لصفه محصول حبوب النبات.

سجل الهجين القمى (السلالة ٢٢ x الكشاف جيزه-٢) تفوقا معنويا موجبا للقدرة الخاصة على التآلف لصفه محصول الحبوب فى الميعادين.

أظهرت نتائج التحليل المشترك لميعادى الزراعة ان الفعل المضيف للجينات لعب الدور الرئيسي فى توريث كل الصفات المدروسة كما كان أكثر تأثرا بالبيئة عن الفعل السيادةى لكل الصفات المدروسة.

أظهرت النتائج ان السلالات لعبت الدور الرئيسي فى توريث جميع الصفات فى الميعادين.