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## Genetic diversity analysis of *Brassica rapa* germplasm collected from Uttarakhand hills

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**Abstract**

Diversity among thirty *Brassica rapa* germplasm accessions was analysed through Mahalanobis's  $D^2$  statistic. The accessions were evaluated in RBD with two replications along with three checks to identify genetically diverse accessions for the improvement of yield and other traits in *Brassica rapa*. Data was recorded on 8 characters *viz.*, plant height, shoot length, siliqua length, beak length, number of siliqua, number of seeds per siliqua, siliqua density and grain yield per plant. All the germplasm accessions were grouped into nine clusters using Tocher's method. Cluster I was largest containing 20 accessions followed by cluster II and III each with three germplasm accessions and cluster IV having two accessions. Highest intra-cluster distance was recorded for cluster IV followed by cluster III, cluster II and cluster I. Maximum inter cluster distance was observed between cluster VI and IV followed by cluster VII and V and cluster VIII and IX. Therefore, probability of obtaining useful segregants and promising recombinants is expected to be more by selecting genotypes from these clusters.

**Keywords:** *Brassica rapa*, diversity, Mahalanobis's  $D^2$  statistic, clustering

**Introduction**

The genus *Brassica* belongs to the family cruciferae and consists of some economically important species useful for various purposes. The genus contains over 3200 species having highly diverse morphology. Among them rapeseed-mustard is one of the most important oilseed crop of India. Many species are used as a source of oil and some are grown as forage crop. Out of the total rapeseed-mustard production of India, Indian mustard accounts for 75-80% and contributes 24.2% of the total edible oil pool of the country (Devi *et al.*, 2017) [4]. Many species are used as a source of oil and some are grown as forage crop. The oil is primarily used as edible oil and also as solvent of vitamin A, D, E and K. The oil cake contains proteins of high biological value with appreciable quantities of calcium and phosphorus and used as a very good animal feed as well as fertilizer for various crops (Khatun *et al.*, 2010) [9]. The primary centre of origin for *Brassica campestris* (now *Brassica rapa*) is near Himalayan region and the secondary centre of origin is the European-Mediterranean area and Asia (Downey and Robbelen, 1989) [6]. *Brassica rapa* L. commonly known as field or turnip mustard. The seeds of *Brassica rapa* L. contain 42% oil and 25% protein (Khaleque, 1985) [8] and also provides raw material for different industrial purposes such as hair oils, soaps, textile auxiliaries, wall paints, and different kinds of pharmaceutical products. For increasing the production of *Brassica rapa*, there is a need to expand the area under cultivation and per unit area production. But the scope of area increase under cultivation is limited therefore one way to increase production is to enhance production per unit area. Moreover the crop should fit in the cropping pattern. Therefore, high yielding and short duration *Brassica rapa* varieties should be developed to fit into the existing cropping pattern (Naznin *et al.*, 2015) [12]. According to a report of National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), the production of all oilseeds has increased from 24.35 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 26.68 million tonnes in 2014-15. The oilseeds yield which was 885 kg per hectare in 2004-05 increased to 1037kg per hectare in 2014-15 (Annual report 2015-16). Globally, India is third largest producer of edible oils and among them *Brassica* accounts for almost 5% gross national product and 10% of the value of agricultural products. India is the third largest producer of rapeseed and mustard after China and Canada. In India the production of all *Brassica* species was 6.31 million tonnes from an area of 5.79 million hectares with average productivity of 1089 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2015) [2]. Major rapeseed and mustard growing states are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal. In any breeding programme, the existence of genetic variability is of great value. For the development of superior improved cultivar, utilization of existing germplasm, the sum total of existing variability in a crop species and its related species is important to fulfil different kinds

of needs of the present day and future. Existing genetic variability for important characters plays an important role in plant breeding as selection will be effective. Diverse lines when used in hybridization programme generally display a great heterosis and throws transgressive segregants in future generations. Genetic diversity can be estimated through biometrical procedures such as Mahalanobis's  $D^2$  which helps the breeder in identification of parents for specific breeding objectives. Multivariate analysis is a useful tool in quantifying the degree of divergence between biological population at genotypic level and to assess relative contributions of different components to the total divergence both at intra- and inter-cluster levels (Zahan *et al.*, 2008). Therefore the present study was carried out to reveal genetic divergence in the collected germplasm accessions and for the identification of suitable divergent parents for future hybridization program.

### Materials and methods

Thirty *Brassica* germplasm accessions collected from different districts of Uttarakhand hills were used in this experiment. These thirty germplasm along with three check varieties viz., Kranti, PPS-1 and PT-303 were grown in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with two replications during Rabi 2017-18 at the experimental field of Pantnagar Centre of Plant Genetic Resources, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. Each accession was sown in a single row of 3m in each replication with row to row spacing of 30 cm. Data were recorded on 5 plants from each line for eight quantitative characters viz., plant height (cm), shoot length (cm), siliqua length (cm), beak length (cm), number of siliqua, number of seeds per siliqua, siliqua density and seed yield per plant (g). Genetic distance among the test entries was measured by using Mahalanobis's (1936)  $D^2$  statistic. The clusters of genotypes was formed by using Tocher's method as described by Rao (1952)<sup>[13]</sup> while the intra and inter cluster distance was calculated using formula given by Singh and Choudhary (1985)<sup>[14]</sup>.

### Results and Discussion

Thirty-three *Brassica rapa* genotypes were classified into nine clusters (Table 1) after comparing  $D^2$  values in such a way that within cluster genotypes had smaller genetic distance as compare to genotypes in other clusters. Clustering pattern reflected that considerable amount of genetic variability was present among the germplasm accessions under study. Cluster I was largest containing 20 accessions followed by cluster II and III each with three germplasm accessions and cluster IV having two accessions. All remaining cluster contained one accession each. Similarly, Doddabhimappa *et al.*, (2010)<sup>[5]</sup> got seven clusters while assessing 46 Indian mustard germplasm accessions and Naznin *et al.*, (2015)<sup>[12]</sup> obtained five clusters by using thirty-three genotypes in their experiment. Cluster I contained germplasm accessions GP-2017-775, GP-2017-769, PT-303, GP-2016-1, GP-2016-4, GP-2016-3, GP-2016-2, GP-2016-7, GP-2016-115, GP-2016-46, GP-2016-5, GP-2016-6, GP-2016-14, GP-2017-404, GP-2017-422, GP-2016-254, GP-2017-52, GP-2016-253 and GP-2016-252 while cluster II and III had GP-2017-806, GP-2017-773, GP-2017-776 and GP-2017-771, GP-2017-772, GP-2016-15 germplasm accessions, respectively. Cluster IV composed of GP-2017-392 and GP-2017-774 whereas cluster V had GP-2017-770, cluster VI GP-2016-47, cluster VII PPS-1, cluster VIII and IX had Kranti and GP-2016-52, respectively. The clustering pattern of these germplasm accessions revealed that the germplasm collected from the

same region can also be grouped into different clusters indicated that geographic diversity was not related to genetic diversity of the materials.

Cluster mean values for different characters are represented in Table 2. Results showed that Cluster II had the highest mean values for shoot length (74.41) while cluster IV had highest mean for number of siliqua (34.65) and siliqua density (1.61). Similarly, cluster V possessed highest cluster mean value for siliqua length (5.99) and beak length (1.60). Cluster VI had highest mean value for number of seeds per siliqua (37.00) and cluster VIII exhibited highest mean value for plant height (166.00 cm) and seed yield per plant (70.60 g). If parents from cluster IV and V are involved in hybridization program then the highest heterosis with respect to number of siliqua, siliqua density and siliqua length might be obtained. Similarly if crossing involves parents from cluster VIII and IV then there is a good chance of obtaining higher heterosis for seed yield per plant. Jahan *et al.*, 2013<sup>[7]</sup> reported that cluster III had highest value of cluster mean for plant height, number of siliqua per plant and seed yield per plant while for number of seeds per siliqua cluster II had highest cluster mean. Devi *et al.*, 2017<sup>[4]</sup> obtained highest cluster mean values for plant height, shoot length, siliqua length, number of seeds per siliqua and seed yield per plant. Percent contribution of all the traits to total divergence presented in Table 3. It was found that maximum contribution towards divergence was attributed by seed yield per plant (19.13) followed by number of siliqua (14.77), siliqua length (13.64), plant height (13.26), shoot length (11.94), number of seeds per siliqua (11.74), beak length (11.18) and siliqua density (4.36).

The intra and inter cluster distances among the different clusters of *Brassica* accessions are presented in Table 4. The intra cluster distance was ranged from 2.69 (cluster I) to 3.59 (cluster IV). Highest intra cluster distance was observed for cluster IV (3.59) followed by cluster III (3.22), cluster II (2.96) and cluster I (2.69). Similar results are also obtained by Bind *et al.*, 2015<sup>[3]</sup>. Maximum inter cluster distance was observed between cluster VI and IV (6.00), followed by between cluster VII and V (5.54), cluster VIII and IX (5.52), cluster IV and V (5.49), Cluster II and Cluster IV (5.45) and between cluster IV and IX (5.28). Cluster IV showed highest within cluster distance i.e., diversity within the cluster leave the scope of inter crossing among genotypes of this cluster. Earlier, similar confirmatory results had also been obtained by Khatun *et al.*, 2010<sup>[9]</sup> and Jahan *et al.*, 2013<sup>[7]</sup> in *Brassica rapa* and also by Lodhi *et al.*, 2013<sup>[10]</sup> in *Brassica juncea*. It was observed that the inter-cluster distances were higher as compare to intra cluster distances. These results indicated that greater amount of genetic diversity was present among germplasm accessions of different clusters and therefore can serve as a selection criteria for the selection of genetically diverse parents from the germplasm accessions. Maximum diversity between clusters based on inter-cluster distance was recorded for cluster VI and IV followed by cluster VII and V and cluster VIII and IX. Therefore, genotypes from these clusters could be used in hybridization programme by crossing genotypes of one cluster with genotypes of others. This could lead to maximum heterosis and useful transgressive segregants in future generations.

### Conclusion

All the accessions were classified into nine clusters based on eight quantitative traits. Present results revealed that cluster IV, VI and VIII exhibit larger mean values for yield and yield contributing traits. The highest intra cluster distance was

observed for cluster IV and maximum inter-cluster distance was recorded for cluster VI and IV. Presence of greater amount of genetic diversity was revealed from present investigation among germplasm accessions of different clusters. Therefore these results can serve as selection criteria for the selection of genetically diverse germplasm accessions

for further hybridization programme. The results of the present study will also help to improve the understanding of diversity within a germplasm collection so that these germplasm could be used to fulfil various requirements of present day and future breeding programmes.

**Table 1:** Clustering pattern of 33 *Brassica rapa* genotypes on the basis of D<sup>2</sup> values

Cluster No.	No. of genotypes	Name of germplasm lines
I	20	GP-2017-775, GP-2017-769, PT-303, GP-2016-1, GP-2016-4, GP-2016-3, GP-2016-2, GP-2016-7, GP-2016-115, GP-2016-46, GP-2016-5, GP-2016-6, GP-2016-14, GP-2017-404, GP-2017-422, GP-2016-254, GP-2017-52, GP-2016-253, GP-2016-252
II	3	GP-2017-806, GP-2017-773, GP-2017-776
III	3	GP-2017-771, GP-2017-772, GP-2016-15
IV	2	GP-2017-392, GP-2017-774
V	1	GP-2017-770
VI	1	GP-2016-47
VII	1	PPS-1
VIII	1	Kranti
IX	1	GP-2016-52

**Table 2:** Cluster means for different characters in *Brassica rapa*

Cluster	Plant height (cm)	Shoot Length (cm)	Silique length (cm)	Beak length (cm)	No of siliqua	No of seeds/ siliqua	Silique density (cm)	Seed yield/plant (g)
I	129.15	47.94	5.60	1.57	29.95	16.63	0.63	37.29
II	131.44	74.41	4.74	1.36	33.30	14.33	0.45	53.92
III	120.13	50.18	3.82	0.61	32.37	17.17	0.65	25.40
IV	155.45	21.60	2.96	0.93	34.65	12.25	1.61	17.80
V	141.90	52.88	5.99	1.60	17.00	21.50	0.32	37.45
VI	104.80	48.00	5.25	1.42	32.90	37.00	0.69	51.25
VII	98.50	37.00	5.66	1.27	33.40	18.00	0.91	61.95
VIII	166.00	62.50	4.16	0.61	32.00	17.50	0.51	70.60
IX	79.30	42.50	5.34	1.44	17.50	21.50	0.64	24.00

**Table 3:** Relative contribution of different characters towards genetic divergence in *Brassica rapa*

S. No.	Character	Contribution %
1	Plant height	13.26
2	Shoot length	11.94
3	Silique length	13.64
4	Beak length	11.18
5	No of siliqua	14.77
6	No of seeds/siliqua	11.74
7	Silique density	4.36
8	Seed yield per plant	19.13

**Table 4:** Intra and Inter cluster distance between clusters of *Brassica rapa* based on D values as revealed by Mahalanobis D<sup>2</sup> statistic

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	
I		2.69	3.97	3.83	4.76	3.56	4.56	3.77	3.86	4.20
II			2.96	4.62	5.45	4.65	5.17	5.06	4.00	4.83
III				3.22	5.22	4.70	5.07	4.63	3.79	4.69
IV					3.59	5.49	6.00	5.21	5.16	5.28
V						0	4.53	5.54	4.06	3.73
VI							0	4.85	4.62	4.79
VII								0	4.53	4.55
VIII									0	5.52
IX										0

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