

Genetic Plasticity Studies in *Portulaca* (*Portulaca oleracea* L.)

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ABSTRACT: The Experiment was conducted at Kittur Rani Channamma College of Horticulture, Arabhavi, UHS, Bagalkot during the year 2018-19. In India even though it is rich source of nutraceuticals, still being treated only as a weed and its cultivation as a food crop and the effects of cultural conditions on its nutritional value is known very little. Estimation of the phylogenetic relationship and knowing the genetic diversity between genotypes in germplasm of any species is essential as it provides useful traits for further genetic development and increase selection efficiency. Genetic diversity in plant varieties can be estimated by observing the phenotypes of the plants and measuring the morphological characters which in turn lay foundation for breeding programs. Hence the present study on Genetic plasticity studies in portulaca, accessions collected from different location of Karnataka were undertaken. The experiment was laid out using randomized block design (RBD) with three replications. Observations were recorded on various yield and yield contributing characters. Analysis of variance indicated highly significant difference among the genotypes for all the characters indicating the presence of wide range of variability in the genotypes. The PCV was invariably higher than their corresponding GCV for all the traits. High GCV and PCV was observed for plant height (21.81 per cent and 22.71 per cent), number of leaves (29.95 per cent and 32.59 per cent), leaf area (30.31 per cent and 33.10 per cent), number of branches, number (25.20 per cent and 26.37 per cent), foliage yield per plant (43.51 per cent and 44.60 per cent), foliage yield per plot (34.77 per cent and 36.34 per cent), foliage yield per hectare (34.73 per cent and 36.31 per cent) and for quality parameters calcium, magnesium content, iron content, oxalate, nitrates and chlorophyll. It indicates existence of broad genetic base. High heritability coupled with high genetic advance over percent mean observed for the traits viz., plant height, number of leaves, leaf area, number of branches, number of inflorescence per plant, secondary branches, plant spread E-W, plant spread N-S, stem girth, number of node, number of flowers, 1000 seed weight, fresh weight of plant, dry weight of plant, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, Vit-A, Vit-C, protein calcium, magnesium content, iron content, zinc, oxalate, nitrates and chlorophyll. This shows predominance of additive component for these characters and hence direct selection would be more effective in improving these traits.

Keywords: Variability, Heritability, Genetic Advance and *Portulaca oleracea*.

INTRODUCTION

Portulaca (*Portulaca oleracea*) is an important underutilised leafy vegetable crop, and it belongs to family Portulacaceae with an chromosome number $2n=6x=54$. Portulacaceae family comprises about 40-100 species (Mitich, 1997).

Portulaca oleracea is described as a succulent annual with predominately prostrate growth, reproducing by stem cutting and also through seeds. Stems are glabrous, reddish in colour, and branch radially from the central axis forming a mat up to 60 cm in diameter. Leaves are alternate, sub alternate, or opposite; glabrous; succulent; sessile; and broad-rounded at the tips. Roots consist of a long thick tap root as well as many fibrous lateral roots. Flowers are yellow open on hot sunny mornings, and they are self-pollinate (Zimmerman, 1976).

The fruit is called as capsule contains minute many black colour seeds. Seeds are tuberculate, brownish-black and shiny in colour and measure 0.5 to 0.8 mm in diameter. Seeds are disseminates through wind and water. A signal plant may produce around 10,000 seeds (Holm *et al.*, 1977; Matthews *et al.*, 1993; Zimmerman, 1976). Seeds develop on the main branches first followed by on secondary branches throughout the growing season (Egley, 1974). It was recorded that on an average of 72 seeds per capsule (Dunn, 1970). *Portulaca* rich source of potassium 494 mg/100g, magnesium (68mg/100g) and calcium (65mg/100g). and can used as potential source of omega-3 fatty acid and it is excellent source of alpha-tocopherol and ascorbic acid (26.6 mg and 506 mg per 100g of fresh and dry weight, respectively). The oxalate content range from 671 to 869mg/100g fresh weight. The antioxidant content and tremendous nutritional value of

Portulaca are essential for human consumption can be used as potential herb for the future (Kamal Uddin *et al.*, 2014). Due to its high nutritive and antioxidant properties purslane has been described as a “power food” (Alam *et al.*, 2014). Purslane is an important plant rich in important phytochemicals and nutritional components possessing medicinal, nutritional, medicinal, phytoremediation, and pharmacological properties (Alam *et al.*, 2015; Uddin *et al.*, 2014; Zhou *et al.*, 2015). Purslane is also traditionally used as an ethnomedicinal plant (Sultana and Raheman, 2013; Iranshahy *et al.*, 2017). Despite its multiple benefits, such as its nutritional and phytochemical richness, purslane still remains a neglected food crop of the indigenous communities, and studies on the genetic regulation of important traits and their improvement strategies is limited. Still being treated only as a weed and its cultivation as a food crop and the effects of

cultural conditions on its nutritional value is known very little. Estimation of the phylogenetic relationship and knowing the genetic diversity between genotypes in germplasm of any species is essential as it provides useful traits for further genetic development and increase selection efficiency. Hence the present study on Genetic plasticity studies in portulaca, accessions collected from different location of Karnataka were undertaken.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at research block of department of Vegetable Science at Kittur Rani Channamma College of Horticulture, Arabhavi, Belagavi district (Karnataka), UHS, Bagalkot during 2018-2019. The details twenty five genotypes mentioned in Table 1.

Table 1: Details of portulaca genotypes collected from various locations of Karnataka.

| Sr. No. | Genotypes | Source |
|---------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | HUB-1 | Mannali |
| 2. | HUB-2 | Yakrana |
| 3. | HUB-3 | Gouspur |
| 4. | HUB-4 | Handikera |
| 5. | HUB-5 | Halburga |
| 6. | HUB-6 | Chandanahalli |
| 7. | HUB-7 | Ghatbora |
| 8. | HUB-8 | Ghatbora |
| 9. | HUB-9 | Ghatbora |
| 10. | HUB-10 | Ghatbora |
| 11. | HUB-11 | Ghatbora |
| 12. | HUB-12 | Ghatbora |
| 13. | HUB-13 | Ghatbora |
| 14. | HUB-14 | Ghatbora |
| 15. | HUB-15 | Ghatbora |
| 16. | HUB-16 | Ghatbora |
| 17. | HUB-17 | Ghatbora |
| 18. | HUB-18 | Bidar |
| 19. | HUB-19 | Bidar |
| 20. | HUB-20 | Bidar |
| 21. | HUB-21 | Bidar |
| 22. | HUB-22 | Bidar |
| 23. | HUB-23 | Bidar |
| 24. | HUB-24 | Bidar |
| 25. | HUB-25 | Bidar |

The experiment was laid out by using Randomized complete block design (RCBD) design with three replications. The genotypes were randomly assigned in each replication. During study, observations *viz.*, plant height, number of leaves, leaf area, number of branches, primary branches, secondary branches, plant spread E-W, plant spread N-S, stem girth, number of node, internode distance, number of flowers, days to first flowering, days to 50% flowering, number of inflorescence per plant, fresh weight of plant, dry weight of plant, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, 1000 seed weight, Vit-A, Vit-C, protein, calcium, magnesium content, iron content, oxalate, nitrates and chlorophyll were recorded the data was subjected to statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis of variance for thirty two traits are presented in Table 2 indicated that there is highly significant (at P = 0.01) differences among 25 genotypes of portulaca.

With a view to understand the extent to which the observed variations are due to genetic factors, the range, mean, phenotypic variance (PV), genotypic variance (GV), phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV), genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV), broad sense heritability (h^2), genetic advance (GA) and genetic advance as per cent of mean (GAM) were calculated and presented in Table 2. The data show that, existence of large amount of variability to most of the characters studied.

Table 2: Analysis of variance (mean sum of squares) for growth, yield and quality traits of portulaca genotypes.

| Sr. No. | Source of variation/Characters | Replications | Treatments (germplasm) | Error |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Plant Height (cm) | 10.46 | 159.93** | 4.33 |
| 2. | Number of leaves per plant | 83.71 | 897.72** | 51.764 |
| 3. | Leaf area (cm ²) | 1601.17 | 23849.44** | 1438.64 |
| 4. | Number of branches per plant | 2.99 | 23.71** | 0.72 |
| 5. | Primary branches | 0.019 | 0.12* | 0.05 |
| 6. | Secondary branches | 0.035 | 7.8** | 0.58 |
| 7. | Plant spread N-S (cm) | 0.14 | 570.25** | 1.79 |
| 8. | Plant spread E-W (cm) | 28.78 | 350.71** | 15.68 |
| 9. | Stem girth (mm) | 0.95 | 16.85** | 0.80 |
| 10. | Number of nodes | 4.75 | 481.18** | 6.66 |
| 11. | Internode distance | 0.27 | 1.31** | 0.11 |
| 12. | Days to first flowering | 10.65 | 14.64* | 6.23 |
| 13. | Days to 50% flowering | 6.97 | 26.59* | 11.65 |
| 14. | Number of inflorescence per plant | 1.48 | 181.39** | 1.75 |
| 15. | Number of flower | 12.11 | 8833.83** | 32.11 |
| 16. | Fresh weight of plant (g) | 14.97 | 1327.87 ** | 13.99 |
| 17. | Dry weight of plant (g) | 0.11 | 9.74** | 0.144 |
| 18. | Foliage yield per plant (g) | 31.20 | 2231.26** | 37.03 |
| 19. | Foliage yield per plot (kg) | 0.017 | 10.81** | 0.324 |
| 20. | Foliage yield per hectare (t) | 0.078 | 46.87** | 1.40 |
| 21. | 1000 seed weight (g) | 0.0013 | 0.011** | 0.0009 |
| 22. | Vitamin- A (mg/ 100 g) | 0.39 | 15.00** | 0.38 |
| 23. | Vitamin -C (mg/100 g) | 0.77 | 37.18** | 0.133 |
| 24. | Protein (g) | 0.007 | 1.47** | 0.011 |
| 25. | Calcium (mg/100 g) | 5.61 | 3622055.27** | 13.44 |
| 26. | Magnesium (mg/ 100 g) | 130.84 | 1572191.58** | 281.09 |
| 27. | Iron (mg/100 g) | 0.000007 | 0.068** | 0.000013 |
| 28. | Zinc (mg/100 g) | 0.000004 | 0.0010** | 0.000004 |
| 29. | Chlorophyll (mg/100 g) | 0.027 | 111.3** | 0.010 |
| 30. | Oxalates (mg/100 g) | 0.18 | 41651.31** | 01.49 |
| 31. | Nitrates (mg/100 g) | 11.94 | 4969.4** | 9.87 |
| 32. | Total Phenols (mg/100 g) | 33.54 | 826.46** | 15.86 |

The mean values of different germplasm has indicates wide range of variability for various traits, which were studied in present investigation (Table 3). The range record for various traits viz., plant height (50.71-23.05), number of leaves (96.60-33.15), leaf area (527.43-135.57), number of branches (16.67-5.36), primary branches (2.33-1.33), secondary branches (10.06-2.13), plant spread E-W (46.19-6.66), plant spread N-S (47.93-5.14), stem girth (13.99-4.86), number of nodes (66.23-10.87), internode distance (5.35-3.07), number of flowers (225.16-33.61), days to first flowering (30.81-23.67), days to 50 per cent flowering (40.59-27.74), number of inflorescence per plant (31.80-6.40), fresh weight of plant (99.01-23.40), dry weight of plant (9.97-2.38), foliage yield per plant (129.09-20.31), foliage yield per plot (9.896-2.77), foliage yield per hectare (20.62-5.78), 1000 seed weight (0.48-0.24), Vit-A (17.10-8.78), Vit-C (30.12-19.58), protein (5.65-2.71), calcium (3721-100.66), magnesium (3240.66-6.66) content, iron (0.8317-0.3625) content, zinc (0.1963-0.1069), oxalate (610.78-113.82), nitrates (255.46-123.16), phenols (298.89-231.29) and chlorophyll (30.17-11.84).

Alone range values cannot asses variability, because it includes genotypic, environment and genotypic x environment variations. Hence, the estimation of GCV and PCV were carried out. In the present study, grater GCV and PCV were observed for observation viz., leaf area, number of inflorescence per plant, fresh weight of plant, dry weight of plant, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, magnesium, iron, and zinc content of leaves. This shows that the existence of broad genetic base, which would be liable for further selection. This results agree the findings of Bhargava *et al.*, (2007); Bhargava *et al.*, (2010); Umakanta *et al.*, (2014); Meena *et al.*, (2014) for leaf area; Panda *et al.*, (2017), Bhargava *et al.*, (2007) for number of inflorescence per plant; Panda *et al.*, (2017); Ahammed *et al.*, (2012); Hasan *et al.*, (2013) for fresh weight of plant; Panda *et al.*, (2017); Hasan *et al.*, (2013); Shephalika (2010); Panda (2015) for foliage yield per plant; Bhargava *et al.*, (2007); Hasan *et al.*, (2013); Kujur (2015) for dry weight of plant; Bhargava *et al.*, (2006); Kujur (2015); Shukla *et al.*, (2005), Umakanta *et al.*, (2014) for foliage yield per plot; Bhargava *et al.*, (2010) for zinc content.

Table 3: Estimates of mean, range, components of variance, heritability, genetic advance and genetic advance over percent of mean for growth, yield and quality parameters in portulaca genotypes.

| Sr. No. | Character | Mean | Range | GCV (%) | PCV (%) | h ² | GA | GAM (%) |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Plant Height (cm) | 33 | 50.71-23.05 | 21.81 | 22.71 | 92.29 | 14.25 | 43.17 |
| 2. | Number of leaves per plant | 56.05 | 96.60-33.15 | 29.95 | 32.59 | 84.49 | 31.79 | 56.79 |
| 3. | Leaf area (cm ²) | 285.08 | 527.43-135.57 | 30.31 | 33.10 | 83.85 | 163.03 | 57.18 |
| 4. | Number of branches per plant | 10.98 | 16.67-5.36 | 25.20 | 26.37 | 91.32 | 5.44 | 49.62 |
| 5. | Primary branches | 1.60 | 2.33-1.33 | 10.04 | 17.37 | 33.43 | 0.19 | 11.96 |
| 6. | Secondary branches | 4.19 | 10.06-2.13 | 37.22 | 41.46 | 80.72 | 2.88 | 68.89 |
| 7. | Plant spread N-S (cm) | 23.16 | 47.93-5.14 | 59.41 | 59.69 | 99.06 | 28.22 | 121.81 |
| 8. | Plant spread E-W (cm) | 25.97 | 46.19-6.66 | 40.68 | 43.44 | 87.69 | 20.38 | 78.47 |
| 9. | Stem girth (mm) | 9.02 | 13.99-4.86 | 25.62 | 27.48 | 86.92 | 4.44 | 49.21 |
| 10. | Number of nodes | 29.15 | 66.23-10.86 | 43.13 | 44.03 | 95.96 | 25.37 | 87.04 |
| 11. | Internodes distance | 4.19 | 5.35-3.07 | 15.09 | 17.11 | 77.74 | 1.14 | 27.41 |
| 12. | Days to first flowering | 29.07 | 30.81-23.67 | 5.75 | 10.33 | 31.00 | 1.91 | 6.60 |
| 13. | Days to 50% flowering | 36.32 | 40.59-27.74 | 8.31 | 8.38 | 98.29 | 6.61 | 16.97 |
| 14. | Number of inflorescence per plant | 16.20 | 31.80-6.40 | 47.74 | 48.43 | 97.14 | 15.71 | 96.93 |
| 15. | Number of flowers | 94.98 | 225.16-33.6 | 57.02 | 57.33 | 98.92 | 57.02 | 57.33 |
| 16. | Fresh weight of plant (g) | 55.14 | 99.01-23.40 | 37.94 | 38.55 | 96.90 | 42.43 | 76.95 |
| 17. | Dry weight of plant (g) | 5.28 | 9.97-2.38 | 33.85 | 34.61 | 95.67 | 3.60 | 68.21 |
| 18. | Foliage yield per plant (g) | 62.15 | 129.09-20.31 | 43.51 | 44.60 | 95.18 | 54.35 | 87.45 |
| 19. | Foliage yield per plot (kg) | 5.37 | 9.896-2.77 | 34.77 | 36.34 | 91.51 | 3.68 | 68.52 |
| 20. | Foliage yield per hectare (t) | 11.20 | 20.62-5.78 | 34.73 | 36.31 | 91.51 | 7.67 | 68.45 |
| 21. | 1000 seed weight(g) | 0.35 | 0.48-0.24 | 16.95 | 19.13 | 78.45 | 0.10 | 30.92 |
| 22. | Vitamin- A (mg) | 13.63 | 17.10-8.78 | 16.18 | 16.81 | 92.66 | 4.37 | 32.09 |
| 23. | Vitamin –C (mg) | 24.96 | 30.12-19.58 | 14.07 | 14.15 | 98.93 | 7.20 | 28.84 |
| 24. | Protein (g) | 3.65 | 5.65-2.71 | 19.13 | 19.36 | 97.61 | 1.42 | 38.94 |
| 25. | Calcium (mg) | 1281.89 | 3721-100.66 | 85.71 | 85.71 | 100 | 2263 | 176.57 |
| 26. | Magnesium (mg) | 2372 | 3240.66-600 | 30.51 | 30.52 | 99.95 | 1490.25 | 62.81 |
| 27. | Iron (mg) | 0.67 | 0.8317-0.3625 | 22.31 | 22.32 | 99.94 | 0.311 | 45.95 |
| 28. | Zinc (mg) | 0.13 | 0.1963-0.1069 | 14.03 | 14.10 | 99.97 | 0.038 | 28.75 |
| 29. | Chlorophyll (mg) | 21.82 | 30.17-11.84 | 28.29 | 28.3 | 99.97 | 12.7 | 58.27 |
| 30. | Oxalates (mg) | 379.22 | 610.78-113.82 | 31.07 | 31.07 | 99.99 | 242.71 | 64.00 |
| 31. | Nitrates (mg) | 200.57 | 255.46-123.16 | 20.27 | 20.33 | 99.41 | 83.50 | 41.63 |
| 32. | Total Phenols (mg) | 258.22 | 298.89-231.29 | 6.36 | 6.54 | 94.46 | 32.90 | 12.74 |

Moderate GCV and PCV were recorded for plant height, primary branches, internode distance, 1000 seed weight, vitamin –A, vitamin-C, protein, zinc content. This indicates equal importance of additive and non additive gene action in these traits. These results are accordance with results of Panda *et al.*, (2017); Rekha and Pandey (2010); Selvan *et al.*, (2013); Hasan *et al.*, (2013); Mishra (2016); Meena *et al.*, (2014); Sharma (2016) for plant height; Selvin *et al.*, (2013) for protein content; Bhargava *et al.*, (2007) for vitamin –A content.

Low GCV and PCV was recorded for days to first flowering, days to 50 per cent flowering; stem girth, total phenol content of leaves. This indicates the narrow genetic base hence variability can be generated in these traits either through hybridization with divergent genotypes to recover transgressive segregants or by

mutation breeding. These results are in conformity with the results of Bhargava *et al.*, (2007); Fikreselassie *et al.*, (2012) for days to 50% flowering, Shukla *et al.*, (2005), Diwan (2015) for stem girth.

High broad sense heritability (> 60%) was observed with respect to plant height, number of leaves per plant, leaf area, number of branches, secondary branches, plant spread N-S, plant spread E-W, stem girth, number of node, internode distance, days to 50 percent flowering, number of inflorescence, number of flowers, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, 1000 seed weight, Vitamin-A, vit-C, Protein, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, oxalates, nitrates and chlorophyll. Similar trends also reported by Panda *et al.*, (2017); Bhargava *et al.*, (2010); Umakanta *et al.*, (2014) for leaf area; Bhargava *et al.*, (2007), Shephalika (2010); Selvin *et al.*, (2013); Kujur (2015)

for days to 50% flowering; Panda *et al.*, (2017); Hasan *et al.*, (2013); Esiyok *et al.*, (2011) for fresh weight of plant; Bhargava *et al.*, (2008); Hasan *et al.*, (2013) for dry weight of plant; Panda *et al.*, (2017); Hasan *et al.*, (2013) for foliage yield per plant; Bhargava *et al.*, (2008), Umakanta *et al.*, (2014) for vitamin-A content; Bhargava *et al.*, (2003) for protein content; Bhargava *et al.*, (2010) for calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc content.

The very high estimates of heritability coupled with high values of genetic advance over per cent mean were observed for traits such as plant height, leaf area, number of branches, number of leaves, secondary branches, plant spread N-S, plant spread E-W, stem girth, number of node, internode distance, number of inflorescence, number of flowers, fresh weight of plant, dry weight of plant, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, 1000 seed weight, Vitamin-A, vitamin-C, Protein, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, oxalates, nitrates and chlorophyll. These characters are under the influence of additive gene action. These results are confirms the findings of Panda *et al.*, (2017), Umakanta *et al.*, (2014); Meena *et al.*, (2014) for leaf area; Panda *et al.*, (2017); Ahammed *et al.*, (2012) for fresh weight of plant; Hasan *et al.*, (2013), Esiyok *et al.*, (2011) for dry weight of plant; Panda *et al.*, (2017), Hasan *et al.* (2013) for foliage yield per plant; Umakanta *et al.*, (2014) for vitamin-A and calcium content; Selvin *et al.*, (2013) for protein content; Bhargava *et al.*, (2010) for magnesium, iron and zinc content; Singh and Pramila, (2009); Ahari *et al.*, (2010); Verma and Ali, (2012); Kole and Saha, (2013) for 1000 seed weight; Bhojanagouda, (2011); Abhishek, (2012) for plant height.

CONCLUSION

High degree of additive components like high estimates of heritability coupled with high GAM and presence of high GCV and PCV were obtained for the characters like plant height, number of leaves, leaf area, number of branches, number of inflorescence per plant, secondary branches, plant spread E-W, plant spread N-S, stem girth, number of node, number of flowers, 1000 seed weight, fresh weight of plant, dry weight of plant, foliage yield per plant, foliage yield per plot, foliage yield per hectare, Vit-A, Vit-C, protein calcium, magnesium content, iron content, zinc, oxalate, nitrates and chlorophyll. It indicates in portulaca genetic improvement can be achieve through selection by using the existing germplasm for above characters.

Conflict of Interest. None.

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