

Inheritance of Kernel Elongation in Rice

GOLAM FARUQ¹, MOHAMAD O. HADJIM K[†] AND C.A. MEISNER[‡]

School of Environmental Science and Natural Resource Science, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

[†]*Malaysian Agricultural Research Institute (MARDI), Selangor, Malaysia*

[‡]*International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), El Baten, Mexico*

¹Corresponding author's e-mail: faruqwrc@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

In the present investigations, an attempt was made to know the inheritance pattern of cooked kernel elongation in Mahsuri Mutant crosses. In all the three Mahsuri Mutant crosses, the frequency distribution of kernel elongation ratio of segregating populations always formed a bimodal curve. However, in crosses of Mahsuri Mutant and Mahsuri (even in the reciprocal cross) the bimodal curve progressed towards lower kernel elongation. So it can be assumed that this character may be governed from 1 or 2 loci. But in cross of Mahsuri Mutant and 9192 a very smaller peak compared to the other was noted, which denotes the predominance of one major gene along with few modifier genes.

Key Words: Mahsuri mutant; Cooked kernel elongation; Controlling genes

INTRODUCTION

Linear elongation of kernel on cooking is one of the major characteristics of fine rice (Sood *et al.*, 1979). Genetic evaluation of kernel appearance and its cooking quality form important objectives in rice grain quality improvement programmes. Grain size and shape largely determine the market acceptability of rice, while cooking quality is influenced by the properties of starch. Some varieties expand more in size than others upon cooking. Lengthwise expansion without increase in girth is considered a high desirable trait in high quality rice (Khush *et al.*, 1979; Sood *et al.*, 1983). Grain elongation of pre-soaked milled rice seems greater with intermediate-amylase, low-gelatinization temperature (Juliano & Perez, 1984). Different type of Indian and Pakistani Basmati, Afghanistan's Sadri and Myanmar's D25-4 (Nga Kyee) possess this extreme elongation property. University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Malaysian Agricultural Research Institute developed Mahsuri Mutant as blast resistant line. Later on, it becomes more popular for its high cooked kernel elongation ratio (Hadjim *et al.*, 1994; Faruq *et al.*, 2003). The interesting observation is that only through aging condition this Mutant shows its kernel elongation character and according to Sood and Siddiq's (1980) classification the degree of kernel elongation of this mutant can be considered as high (proportionate change 0.57-0.74) like several Basmati type of rice varieties. But without aging this mutant cannot perform high kernel elongation like Thai Jasmine or different basmati type fine rice varieties in Pakistan and India. So, it can be assumed that the nature of kernel elongation in Mahsuri Mutant is quite different compared to the common fine rice varieties. In the present work we sought to identify a procedure to study the segregation

pattern of cooked kernel elongation ability in a suitable F₂ population of three Mahsuri Mutant crosses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three crosses were made among Mahsuri Mutant, Mahsuri and 9192. F₁ and F₂ populations were raised at Malaysian Agricultural Development Research Institute. Kernel elongations of F₂ populations were measured as follows by partially modified protocol of Sood and Siddiq (1980). About 210 plants representing F₂ generation of each cross were analysed to study the segregation pattern of kernel elongation. It was not possible to measure elongation ratio in F₁ seeds, because of their weak stature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Elongation ratio and grain shape of the parental materials have been described in Table I. The fitness of Mendelian inheritance pattern of these crosses has been stated in Table II.

Cross-of Mahsuri Mutant X Mahsuri. This cross of Mahsuri Mutant and Mahsuri involved a high and low kernel elongation ratio parents. The mean of elongation ratio was within the parental limits. Range of variation was

Table I. Cross descriptions

Cross	Elongation ratio	Grain shape
Mahsuri Mutant X Mahsuri	High X Low	Long X Short
Mahsuri Mutant X 9192	High X Medium	Long X Long
Mahsuri X Mahsuri Mutant	Low X High	Short X Long

substantially high in F₂, indicating generation of additional variation for this grain quality character (Kernel elongation ratio). The frequency distribution of this character in F₂

Table II. Mode of segregation of kernel elongation ratio in F₂ populations of Mahsuri Mutant based 3 crosses

Cross	Observed segregation Elongation			Expected ratio	χ^2	P
	High	Low	Very Low			
Mahsuri Mutant X Mahsuri	148	60	1	3:1	2.17	0.10-0.25
Mahsuri Mutant X 9192	161	49	-	3:1	0.69	0.25-0.50
Mahsuri X Mahsuri Mutant	153	57	-	3:1	0.51	0.25-0.50

Table III. Mean and range of kernel elongation of parents and F₂ Segregations

Parents / Cross	Mean	Range	Variance	CV
Mahsuri	1.70	1.55 - 1.86	0.00	1.5
Mahsuri Mutant	2.14	2.00 - 2.31	0.00	2.1
9192	1.92	1.73 - 2.29	0.02	1.8
F ₂ of Mahsuri Mutant X Mahsuri	2.04	1.65 - 2.31	0.07	11.3
F ₂ of Mahsuri Mutant X 9192	2.07	1.78 - 2.28	0.09	10.6
F ₂ of Mahsuri X Mahsuri Mutant	2.02	1.62 - 2.30	0.02	6.9

Fig. 1. Frequency distribution of kernel elongation ratio in F₂ Populations of the cross Mahsuri Mutant X Mahsuri

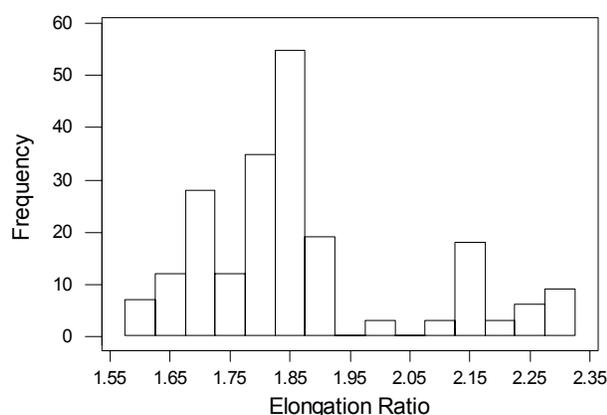
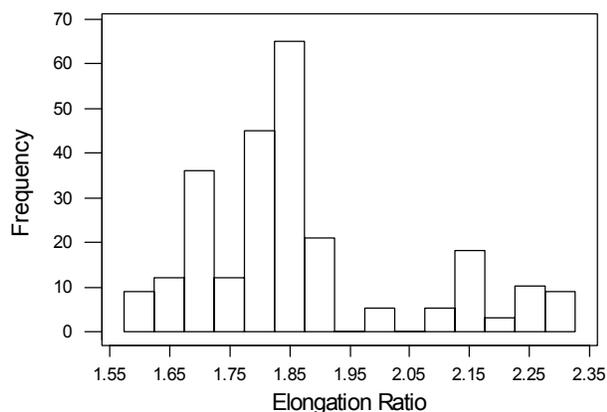


Fig. 2. Frequency distribution of kernel elongation ratio in F₂ populations of the cross, Mahsuri Mutant X 9192

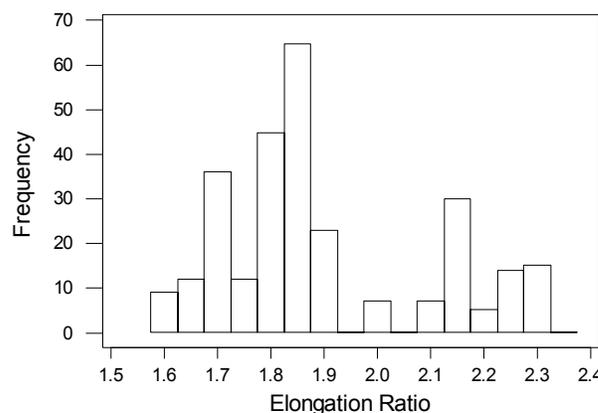


generation formed a bimodal curve (Fig. 1) with transgression towards low kernel elongation, which indicated the predominance of major genes in controlling this trait. The mean elongation ratio of the F₂ populations was (2.04), where as the lowest and the highest values observed in parental lines, Mahsuri and Mahsuri Mutant, were 1.70 and 2.14, respectively (Table III). The ranges of the F₂ populations were 1.65-2.31, whereas the ranges of 2.00-2.31 and 1.55-1.86 were observed in parental lines (Table III).

Cross-of Mahsuri Mutant X 9192. This cross also involved a high and a medium kernel elongation ratio parents. The range of variation in F₂ was also in the parental limits, indicating the absence of transgressive segregation. The frequency distribution of this character in F₂ generation formed a bimodal curve (Fig. 2) where one of the peaks was much smaller than the other, indicates the predominance of one major gene along with few modifier genes. The mean elongation ratios of the F₂ populations were observed as 2.07, whereas the highest ratio and the lowest ratio observed in parental lines were 2.14 and 1.92, respectively. The ranges of the F₂ populations were 1.78-2.28, whereas the ranges in parental materials were 2.00-2.31 and 1.73-2.29, respectively (Table III). The CV in F₂ was highest for kernel elongation (11.3) in Mahsuri Mutant/Mahsuri, followed by 10.6 in Mahsuri Mutant/9192 and 6.9 in Mahsuri/ Mahsuri Mutant.

Cross-of Mahsuri X Mahsuri Mutant. This cross-involved a low and a high kernel elongation ratio parents like the first cross and only maternal parents was changed. Here the mean elongation ratio was also within the parental limits. Ranges of variation were substantially high in F₂, indicating generation of additional variation for the kernel elongation ratio. The frequency distribution of this character in F₂ generation formed a bimodal curve (Fig. 3) with the values towards low kernel elongation, which indicated the predominance of major genes in controlling this trait. Hadzim *et al.* (1994) mentioned that in the Mahsuri Mutant the low kernel elongation ratio was dominant over higher

Fig. 3. Frequency distribution of kernel elongation ratio in F₂ populations of the cross Mahsuri X Mahsuri Mutant



kernel elongation ratio. The mean elongation ratios of the F₂ populations were 2.02, whereas the highest ratio and the lowest ratio observed in parental lines were 2.14 (Mahsuri Mutant) and 1.70 (Mahsuri), respectively. The ranges of the F₂ populations were observed as 1.62-2.30, whereas the 2.00-2.31 and 1.55-1.86 were observed in parental lines (Table III).

CONCLUSION

From the observed findings, it can be concluded that kernel elongation ratio is controlled by 1 or 2 major genes and those were influenced with few modifier genes. However, it is noted that nature of kernel elongation of Mahsuri Mutant is totally different compare too Basmati type rices. Because only through aging this Mutant perform good kernel elongation ratio.

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