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Heritability and genetic advancement on agronomic characters of Toraja red rice x Inpari-4 white rice genotypes

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Abstract. Limbongan YL, Driyunitha, Sjahri R, Riadi M, Jamaluddin I, Okasa AM, Panga NJ. 2021. Heritability and genetic advancement on agronomic characters of Toraja red rice x Inpari-4 white rice genotypes. *Biodiversitas* 22: 3446-3451. Determination of genetic diversity, heritability, and genetic advance on specific agronomic characters of cross-breed red rice genotypes (Toraja red rice 'Pare Lea' x Inpari-4) was done in Tallunglipu, North Toraja, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The experiment was designed using a randomized complete block design. Twenty-one days old seedlings were transplanted following the system of rice intensification practices. Selection was conducted at F₂ as a novel method to speed up genetic advancement and ensure progeny production with desired agronomic traits. Results indicated existence of a considerably high level of diversity among genotypes tested, where the highest value for genetic advance was observed in filled-grain weight per hill of F₂ plants (983.890), followed by plant height (335.124), and filled-grain weight per hill of F₁ (306.645). The highest estimate of broad-sense heritability was recorded in 1000-grain weight (0.915), number of productive tillers (0.788), plant height (0.765), flag leaf length (0.705), filled-grain weight per hill (0.688), and harvest age (0.594). Genetic advance of agronomic characters between genotypes varied from 1.631-38%, where the highest estimate was recorded in filled-grain weight per hill (38%) and plant height (24.648%). The above-mentioned characters could be used for selection in further rice breeding programs to obtain plants with superior genotypes.

Keywords: cross-breeding, genetic advance, heritability, Inpari-4, selection intensity, Toraja local red rice "Pare Lea"

INTRODUCTION

The demand for red rice has been increasing because of awareness for healthy living (Morat and Nalley 2019). Red rice has higher nutritional values than uncolored grain and high composition of anthocyanins, which function as antioxidants and exhibit positive effects on the health of humans (Ahmad et al. 2015; Bharathi et al. 2016; Durand-Morat et al. 2018). Genetic constituents mainly cause variation in grain color (Bhati et al. 2015; Lingalah 2015; Kamara et al. 2017). As a result, there has been a recent interest in genetic characteristics to improve nutritional qualities and production through effective breeding programs.

In Indonesia, red rice is indigenous as a local variety (Javanica type), one of which is South Sulawesi's Toraja red rice (var. 'Pare Lea'). Despite an increase in consumption, its tall stand, long life span, and low yield potential have limited its cultivation by farmers. Toraja red rice productivity can be improved by crossing with similar species with desirable traits such as short life span and high yield, to obtain progeny with superior genotypes. However, the effectiveness and efficiency of selecting varieties are determined by genetic diversity, heritability, and genetic advance of the traits possessed. Therefore, it is important to

ensure that traits selected have high genetic diversity and heritability, thereby resulting in favorable genetic advances (Asante et al. 2019; Saha et al. 2019).

The knowledge of genetic diversity, heritability, and estimate of the genetic advance of red rice variants is quintessential to successful development of a superior variety (Nalley et al. 2016) because they provide valuable information about its genetic advance (Adhikari et al. 2018a; Saha et al. 2019). A heritability value is a quantitative statement that gives information about the plant phenotype (Islam et al. 2018). High heritability and genetic diversity are essential for effective phenotype selection process (Abebe et al. 2017). A high heritability value indicates that a crop's artificial selection can be effectively conducted in early generations (Nalley et al. 2016), designating that phenotypic trait is more likely to be controlled by genetic factors other than environmental factors (Rashid et al. 2017; Sumanth et al. 2017; Rife et al. 2019). Moreover, the heritability of a particular plant can be determined by comparing the magnitude of the phenotypic variability to that of the total genetic diversity (Bandi et al. 2018; Gyawali et al. 2018). If the difference between genetic diversity for each generation is large enough to trigger an increase in its heritability value, it may be inferred that the phenotypic expression of such plants is

mainly caused by genetic factors (Ndjiondjop et al. 2018). These parameters are often used in artificial selection to determine genetic advances.

To improve yield, we have explored various methods, including conventional cross-breeding with short-lived and high-yielding "Inpari-4" white rice variety (Limbongan et al. 2019), and plant mutation using the heavy-ion beam (Sjahril et al. 2020; Riadi et al. 2018). Consequently, we have opted for conventional breeding to produce new varieties, which began with forming new populations through crossings to combine important agronomic characters from different parents. The F2 and F1 generations were planted from crosses between Toraja red rice "Pare Lea" with Inpari-4 and its parents. The selection of these plant varieties at F2 genotype offspring was carried out as a novel method to speed up genetic advancement and ensure progeny production with desired agronomic traits.

This study was conducted to determine the genetic diversity, heritability, and genetic advance on specific agronomic characters of red rice genotype offspring from a cross between Toraja red rice and Inpari-4 white rice with high genetic diversity and heritability values at F2 generation formed after selection.

²¹ MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research site

This study was conducted on the paddy fields in Tallunglipu Village, North Toraja Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. The research site is located between 2° 56' 57 "S and 119° 53' 4" E.

Research design

The randomized complete block design (RCBD) was used for this study. The treatments were not replicated since the previous data documentation for F2 (segregating) population indicated a reliable estimate of the variability of the seeds used in this study. The four different populations of seeds were labeled P1, P2, F1, and F2.

Sample collection

The seeds used in this study were obtained from the Sukamandi Rice Research Center. The plant varieties used were the parental *Pare Lea*' (P1) and parental Inpari-4 (P2) and their F1 and F2 offspring genotypes. The seeds were treated and planted using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) methods. The number of seeds used in this study is presented in Table 1.

Cultivation of seeds

Male and female seeds of parental *Pare Lea*' plants (P1) and Inpari-4 parental (P2) and F1 plants were planted in plastic buckets (10 liters), whereas seeds from F2 plants were cultivated in paddy fields with a spacing of 50 × 25 × 15 cm. P1 and P2 were cultivated from January to May

2017 and from February to May 2017; F1 was cultivated from July to October 2017, whereas F2 was cultivated from February to May 2018 (Limbongan et al. 2019). The germinated seeds were transplanted after 21 days to a well-pulverized soil using the System of Rice Intensification practices.

Data collection

The following characteristics of the different plant varieties were observed and recorded during this study: plant height (cm), numbers of productive tillers (stem), harvest age (day), panicle length (cm), flag leaf length (cm), the percentage of filled grains (%), 1,000-grain weight (g), and filled-grain weight/hill (Limbongan et al. 2019). The standard value for each parameter was documented using the Standard Evaluation System (SES) recommended by the International Rice Research Institute.

Data analysis

The mean, genetic diversity, and standard deviation value for each parameter were analyzed using Microsoft Excel. The estimated value for the heritability was determined using the Burton formula shown below (Sumanth et al. 2017).

$$h^2 bs = \frac{\sigma^2 F2 - \sigma^2 F1}{\sigma^2 F2} \times 100\%$$

Where: $h^2 bs$ = heritability, σ = phenotype standard deviation, and F1 and F2 = first- and second-generation offspring, respectively.

The estimated value of genetic advance of each population were calculated using the formula:

$$G = i \times \sigma \times h^2 bs$$

Where: G: Genetic advance response to selection; i : selection intensity; σ : phenotype standard deviation; $h^2 bs$: heritability.

If $G < 7\%$, genetic advance is low. However, a G value within the range $7\% \leq G \leq 14\%$ is considered intermediate, whereas G values that are more than 14% are described as high. In this study, the selection intensity is 10%, and the value of $i = 1.76$.

Table 1. Number of plants used for each population

Population	No. of plants	Cultivation period
P1, Male Parental (Toraja Local Rice: <i>Pare Lea</i> ')	5	January-May 2017
P2, Female Parental (Inpari-4)	5	February-May 2017
F1 red rice genotype	9	July-October 2017
F2 red rice genotype	268	February-May 2018

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two hundred eighty-seven plants were cultivated and analyzed in this study. These included 5 female parental plants of Inpari-4, 5 male parental plants of *Pare Lea'*, 9 F1 plants, and 268 F2 plants. Results are presented in Table 2.

Genetic diversity

Further studies finding revealed that wide genetic diversity values were recorded in red rice plants with different heights, the number of productive tillers, harvest age, percentage of filled grains, flag leaf length, 1,000-grain weight, and filled-grain weight per hill. Alternatively, genetic variability recorded in plants with varying lengths of panicle was low. The highest value for genetic diversity was observed in the filled-grain weight per hill of F2 plants (983.890). The second highest value was recorded for the height of F2 plants (335.124), followed by the filled-grain weight per hill of F1 plants (306.645). However, the lowest genetic diversity value was recorded in the percentage of filled grains for the P2 plants (0.233) (Table 2).

Heritability

The highest estimate of broad-sense heritability (bs) was recorded in the 1,000-grain weight (0.915). The second highest value was observed in the number of productive tillers (0.788), followed by the plant's height (0.765), flag leaf length (0.705), filled-grain weight per hill (0.688), percentage of filled grains (0.687), and the harvest age of the different plant varieties (0.594). However, the least estimate of heritability was seen in panicle length (0.442) (Table 2).

Genetic advance

The genetic advance of the different agronomic characters of the cultivars varied from 1.631% to 38%. The highest estimate was recorded in filled-grain weight per hill (38%). The second highest value was seen in the height of plants (24.648%), followed by the harvest age (7.875%), flag leaf length (7.749%), percentage of filled grains (5.910%), the 1,000-grain weight (4.382%), and the number of productive tillers (3.290%) of the different varieties of red rice. However, the lowest value of genetic advance was observed in panicle length (1.631%) (Table 2).

Table 2. The genetic diversity of red rice with different agronomic characteristics

Variable		Mean	σ^2g	STD	N	h^2bs	G (%)
Plant height (cm)	P1	180.500	0.500	0.707	5	0.765	24.648
	P2	104.000	2.000	1.414	5		
	F1	155.667	78.750	8.874	9		
	F2	127.220	335.124	18.306	268		
Numbers of productive tillers (stem)	P1	17.500	0.500	0.707	5	0.788	3.290
	P2	32.500	0.500	0.707	5		
	F1	24.222	1.194	1.093	9		
	F2	20.257	5.630	2.373	268		
Harvest age (day)	P1	180.500	0.500	0.707	5	0.594	7.875
	P2	119.000	2.000	1.414	5		
	F1	127.000	23.000	4.796	9		
	F2	124.280	56.689	7.529	268		
Panicle length (cm)	P1	30.500	0.500	0.707	5	0.442	1.631
	P2	28.500	0.500	0.707	5		
	F1	32.222	2.444	1.563	9		
	F2	29.190	4.384	2.094	268		
Flag leaf length (cm)	P1	78.000	8.000	2.828	5	0.705	7.749
	P2	35.500	0.500	0.707	5		
	F1	76.444	11.528	3.395	9		
	F2	34.993	39.034	6.248	268		
Percentage of filled-grain (%)	P1	91.100	8.992	2.999	5	0.687	5.910
	P2	92.341	0.233	0.483	5		
	F1	71.468	7.484	2.736	9		
	F2	90.110	23.899	4.889	268		
1000-Grain weight (g)	P1	28.500	0.500	0.707	5	0.915	4.382
	P2	26.000	2.000	1.414	5		
	F1	28.583	0.632	0.795	9		
	F2	28.680	7.410	2.722	268		
Filled-grain weight per-hill (g)	P1	73.200	0.720	0.849	5	0.688	38.000
	P2	150.400	3.920	1.980	5		
	F1	181.778	306.645	17.511	9		
	F2	129.048	983.890	31.367	268		

Note: σ^2g : genetic diversity; $h^2(bs)$: broad sense heritability; G: genetic advance

Discussion

The specific characteristics of the cultivars that were assessed in this study included plant height, flag leaf length, panicle length, the number of productive tillers, percentage of filled grains, 1,000-grain weight, and the age of harvest. The findings generated in this research indicate that all agronomic characters of varieties of red rice plants exhibited a broad-sense heritability value ranging from 0.442 to 0.915. Agronomic traits that can be used as indicators for superior rice plants are filled grains, weight per hill, and length of panicle. So, when looking at rice plants, people can quickly determine that the rice is superior regardless of its genotype.

Several genetic advance values were also recorded in cultivars with different heights, numbers of productive tillers, harvest ages, percentages of filled grains, flag leaf lengths, 1,000-grain weights, and filled-grain weights per hill. On the other hand, the genetic variability documented in plants with varying lengths of panicle was low. These findings are presented in Table 2. The highest value for genetic diversity was observed in the filled-grain weight per hill of F2 plants (983.890). The second highest value was recorded for the height of F2 plants (335.124), followed by the filled-grain weight per hill of F1 plants (306.645). However, the lowest genetic diversity value was recorded in the percentage of filled grains for the P2 plants (0.233). Considering the results obtained in this study, it may be inferred that these agronomic characters are controlled by genetic factors rather than environmental factors. The data recorded in this research are in line with reports of Abengmeneng et al. (2015), Sumanth et al. (2017), Yadav et al. (2017), and Gyawali et al. (2018). These researchers also observed various genetic diversity values for the agronomic characters of the plants investigated in their studies. The high estimates reported in this research suggest the strong influence of genetic factors on the observable phenotype in each variety of the rice plant.

Although genetic diversity is an important prerequisite for choosing plant varieties with superior genotypes compared to other cultivars, this information must be supplemented with heritability values to evaluate the genetic advance of the plant varieties' cross breeding (Abengmeneng et al. 2015). Heritability may have narrow or broad range effects on the phenotypic variation observed in a plant population. The broad effects are caused by the genotypic expression of non-additive and additive genes, whereas the narrow sense impact is triggered by the additive components of a plant's gene (Yadav et al. 2017). Some studies have reported that the calculated values of the genetic diversity and heritability of plants enabled breeders to precisely predict the genetic advance of the artificial process of selecting plant varieties with desirable traits (Abebe et al. 2017; Veludandi et al. 2017; Adhikari et al. 2018b). Based on this knowledge, the heritable portion of the variation in rice plants' genotype were determined in this research. This research provided an estimate of the broad-sense effects of heritability on the following agronomic characters: plant height, the number of productive tillers, harvest age, panicle length, flag leaf

length, percentage of filled grains, and 1,000-grain weight. Different estimates of heritability values for the aforementioned characteristics were recorded for each variety of rice plants. The highest estimate of heritability was recorded in the 1,000-grain weight (0.915 bs). The second highest value was observed in the number of productive tillers (0.788 bs), followed by the plant's height (0.765 bs), flag leaf length (0.705 bs), filled-grain weight per hill (0.688 bs), percentage of filled grains (0.687 bs), and the harvest age of the different plant varieties (0.594 bs). However, the least estimate of heritability was seen in panicle length (0.442 bs). These results indicated the broad-sense heritability in the agronomic characters of different Toraja red rice plant genotypes. The data trends observed in this study are in agreement with those reported by Prasad et al. (2017) and Yadav et al. (2017). Considering the results obtained in this study, it can be suggested that the genetic diversity and heritability of cultivars influence the genetic advance of heritable characters and facilitate the precise prediction of the outcome of selecting plants with superior genotypes.

The high heritability values reported in this paper indicate that the various characteristics expressed by plant varieties are less likely to be influenced by environmental factors (Bhati et al. 2015; Kamara et al. 2017). Some studies have corroborated that high estimate of heritability values are caused by the most significant separation of alleles responsible for the expression of specific agronomic characters in rice plants (Ingalah 2015; Kamara et al. 2017). According to Kamara et al. (2017), high heritability values indicate that the desirable traits of a rice plant can be selected and inherited by the offspring. The authors also emphasized that genetic factors caused the expression of such phenotypic features. This means that rice breeders can cultivate wide varieties of rice plants with superior genotypes by selecting cultivars with desirable phenotypic traits (Bagati et al. 2016; Srujana et al. 2017). Furthermore, the findings conveyed in this research paper suggest that the selection of cultivars based on agronomic characters such as the height of plant, length of the flag leaf, the number of productive tillers, percentage of filled grains, 1,000-grain weight, and harvest age will be effective and reliable (Devi et al. 2015; Islam et al. 2015; Tuhina-Khatun et al. 2015; Kamara et al. 2017). However, studies on the influence of additive and non-additive genes must be conducted to ascertain that environmental factors do not influence the expression of the aforementioned agronomic characters in rice plants. Moreover, the comparison of variances in the phenotype of a rice plant should be compared with that of its genotype to obtain more information about the heritability of agronomic characters of rice plants.

Estimates of the genetic advance for each agronomic character were also calculated in this research. The result indicated that the genetic advance of each agronomic character of the cultivars varied from 1.631% to 38% (Table 2). The data trends documented in this research are in accordance with the research of Upadhyay and Jaiswal (2015), Kamara et al. (2017), Yadav et al. (2017), and Devi et al. (2019). The high estimate of genetic advances in the

different rice plant varieties indicates that the expression of the agronomic character may be controlled by the action of additive genes. Under these circumstances, the desirable features of the cultivars can be improved through mass selection of progeny with desirable characters (Anis et al. 2016; Anis 2019). However, subsequent studies must be conducted to ascertain that the observable expression of the agronomic characters in different rice plant varieties is mainly caused by additive genes.

The results of this research indicated that the high estimates of genetic advance values were recorded in the height of plants, filled-grain weight per hill, harvest age, percentage of filled grains, and length of the flag leaf, whereas low estimates of genetic advance values were observed in the number of productive tillers, 1,000-grain weight, and length of the panicle. High values of genetic advance indicate that the trait is influenced by genetic factors (Akinola et al. 2019). In this regard, this study infers that the expression of agronomic characters such as the height of plants, the amount of filled-grain weight per hill, harvest age, percentage of filled grains, and length of the flag leaf are caused by genetic factors. These results corroborate the study conducted by Nandini et al. (2017) and Onyia et al. (2017), who explained that high estimates of genetic diversity and heritability suggest that genetic factors determine the physical expression of agronomic characters in rice plants. Based on these findings, researchers have envisaged that selecting plants with these traits will result in great genetic advances (Devi et al. 2015; Islam et al. 2015; Tuhina-Khatun et al. 2015; Kamara et al. 2017). However, further studies must be conducted on plants with these agronomic features to validate that the physical expression of the height of plants, filled-grain weight per hill, harvest age, percentage of filled grains, and length of the flag leaf are mainly caused by genetic factors.

High values of genetic diversity and heritability were recorded in the following agronomic features of characters: plant height, the number of productive tillers, harvest age, panicle length, flag leaf length, percentage of filled grains, and 1,000-grain weight. Moreover, the data trends in this study revealed that the height of the plant and filled-grain weight of rice per hill had broad genetic diversity values, high predictive heritability values, and high genetic advances. The harvest age, percentage of filled grains, and flag leaf length also had broad genetic diversity values, high estimates of heritability, and moderate genetic advance.

These findings depict the significant degree of efficiency, efficacy, and reliability associated with artificial selection and cultivation of red rice varieties with these agronomic features. By contrast, the panicle length of all cultivars had low genetic diversity, heritability values, and genetic advance. These data suggest that breeders will find it difficult to select and enhance specific agronomic character in different cultivars of red rice. In conclusion, the data presented in this study indicate that breeders may consider the selection and cultivation of red rice varieties based on their height, filled-grain weight per hill, harvest age, percentage of filled grains, length of the flag leaf, the number of productive tillers, and the 1,000-grain weight to

obtain plants with superior genotypes. However, the most important characters for selecting and cultivating red rice with superior genotype are filled-grain weight per hill and harvest age.

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