

Path Analysis of Some Yield Contributing Traits in Ash Gourd (*Benincasa hispida*(Thumb)Cogn.)

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ABSTRACT

A total of forty ash gourd collected from different parts of India were studied during kharif season of 2007 and 2008. The data for correlation and path coefficient analysis were recorded for eight characters viz., days to first male flowering, days to first female flowering, number of node at which first male flower appears, number of node at which first female flower appears, number of male flowers, number of female flowers, number of fruits and total fruit yield/plant. The results revealed that genotypic coefficient of variation was lower than corresponding phenotypic coefficient of variation for all the characters studied. High estimates of heritability was recorded for days to first female flowering, days to first male flowering, yield/plant and node at which first female flower appears. Majority of the characters possessed higher genotypic correlations than their corresponding phenotypic values. It may be suggested that an indo-type plant of ash gourd for maximization of fruit yield should have early female flower appearance, number of female flowers and number of fruits.

Key words : *Benincasa hispida*, Path analysis, Yield traits.