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Correlation between the Spike Parameters of Bulgarian Triticale Cultivars under Contrasting Conditions of the Environment

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SUMMARY

Abiotic stress is a key factor that significantly affects the magnitude of yield and its components in triticale. This is related not only to the values of the individual parameters, but also to the relationships that exist between them. In order to determine the influence of abiotic stress factors (temperature, precipitation), 11 Bulgarian triticale varieties (Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) were tested within three contrasts periods (2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017). The phenotypic correlations between the parameters number of grains in a spike, weight of grains per spike, thousand kernels weight, fertility by varieties and by years were investigated. The relationships between the individual studied parameters were established on the basis of the regression analysis and the change of these dependences under different environmental conditions was monitored. The studied phenotypic correlations show

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Boyer (1982)

80%.

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that at the cultivar level, regardless of the cultivation period, the correlation coefficients for most of the studied genotypes vary relatively little. An exception to this dependency is the Respect cultivar. The most stable is the correlation between the number of grains in a spike and the fertility of the spikelet. The most susceptible to environmental conditions is the correlation between the number of grains in a spike and thousand kernels weight. The results of the regression analysis show that the relationships between the spike parameters have a nonlinear nature. Regardless of the environmental conditions, the correlations between the number of grains in a spike and the weight of grains per spike remain reliable, significant and high. This shows that the number of grains in a spike is essential for the formation of the spike productivity and is a key component of the yield of the Bulgarian triticale cultivars.

Key words: correlations, environmental conditions, regression analysis, spike productivity, triticale.

INTRODUCTION

The yield from cultural plants is a main agricultural parameter characterizing the amount of produce from area unit. Its values depend on a large number of factors of different origin – biotic, abiotic, and agronomy practices-related.

The abiotic stress factors have significant influence on the yields from cultural plants. According to Boyer (1982), the decrease of yield as a result from abiotic stress is more than 80 %. Such values reveal the utmost importance of the abiotic stress factors and the tolerance to them for agricultural production.

The formation of the yield value is directly related to its components. In cereals, these are number of grains per spike, 1000 kernel weight and number of tillers per m² (Rachinski, 1999; Tsenov et

m² (Rachinski, 1999; Tsenov et al., 2013).

(Dhindsa et al., 2002; Kociuba, 2002; Yoshihira et al., 2002; Kutlu and Kinaci, 2010; Tsenov et al., 2013; Baychev, 2013; Ozturk et al., 2014; Mihova et al., 2017; Stoyanov, 2018).

(Arny and Garber, 1918; Shahid, 2000; Kashif and Khaliq, 2004; Khaliq et al., 2004; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2005; Khan et al., 2005; Ali et al., 2008; Anwar et al., 2009; Khan and Dar, 2010; Khokhar et al., 2010).

(Kashif and Khaliq, 2004).

(Sechnyak and Sulima, 1984).

(Baychev, 1990).

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016),

(Tsenov et al., 2013).

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al., 2013). A number of researchers report that these parameters are affected by the environmental conditions, similar to yield itself (Dhindsa et al., 2002; Kociuba, 2002; Yoshihira et al., 2002; Kutlu and Kinaci, 2010; Tsenov et al., 2013; Baychev, 2013; Ozturk et al., 2014; Mihova et al., 2017; Stoyanov, 2018).

At the same time, a number of dependencies occur between them in relation to plant growth and development (Arny and Garber, 1918; Shahid, 2000; Kashif and Khaliq, 2004; Khaliq et al., 2004; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2005; Khan et al., 2005; Ali et al., 2008; Anwar et al., 2009; Khan and Dar, 2010; Khokhar et al., 2010). These dependencies, expressed through the values of phenotypic correlations, allow determining the degree to which the yield components correlate with agricultural produce (Kashif and Khaliq, 2004).

Triticale being a product from wide hybridization, certain peculiarities are observed in the formation of yield and of the correlations between the separated components (Sechnyak and Sulima, 1984). The amphidiploid nature of this crop and the presence of genetic material from wheat and rye condition the lower fertility of triticale in comparison to common wheat and rye (Baychev, 1990).

On the other hand, the number of grains in spike have greater importance for the formation of yield in the greater part of the triticale cultivars developed (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016), while in common winter wheat, the predominant yield component is strongly dependent on the studied genotype (Tsenov et al., 2013). In some genotypes, 1000 kernel weight is more important, in others – the number of tillers and the number of grains in spike. This is an indication that the correlations of the yield with its components, as well as the correlations in-between components, are genetically determined (Kaltsikes and

(Kaltsikes and Bebeli, 1993). Dogan et al. (2009)	Bebeli, 1993). Dogan et al. (2009) point out that in old and new triticale lines there is a significant correlation between yield and number of grains in spike, while the correlation of 1000 kernel weight with yield is not statistically significant. These authors also state that the parameter weight of grains in spike reacts to number of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight in a manner similar to that of yield. Kociuba (1992), Yagbasanlar and Yozkan (1995) and Gulmezoglu et al. (2010) came to similar conclusions with regard to the correlations between spike indices.
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Kociuba (1992), Yagbasanlar and Yozkan (1995) Gulmezoglu et al. (2010)	
(Stoyanov, 2016, Aycicek and Yildirim, 2006; Dogan, 2009; Okuyama et al., 2004). Subhani and Chowdhry (2000)	The phenotypic correlations during the individual periods of growing can differ significantly (Stoyanov, 2016, Aycicek and Yildirim, 2006; Dogan, 2009; Okuyama et al., 2004). The investigations of Subhani and Chowdhry (2000) revealed that wheat genotypes grown under drought conditions demonstrated correlations between the yield components different from the correlations under other conditions. Van Ginkel et al. (1998) reported differing correlations in the common winter wheat genotypes they studied under four regimes of drought. The data of Villegas et al. (2010) showed that the relationships of yield with its components differed even within a single period of vegetative growth, but registered at different locations.
Van Ginkel et al. (1998)	
4 Villegas et al. (2010)	
Giunta et al. (1999),	There are no such investigations on triticale described in literature with the exception of the study of Giunta et al. (1999), who do not, however, indicate the dependencies between the direct yield components. At the same time, a large number of investigations in triticale show that the separate yield components are influenced by the environment (Dogan et al., 2009; Gulmezoglu et al., 2010; Cifci et al., 2010; Biberdzic et al., 2013; Saglam and Ustunalp, 2014; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017). This implies that the correlations between them, expressed through phenotype correlation
(Dogan et al., 2009; Gulmezoglu et al., 2010; Cifci et al., 2010; Biberdzic et al., 2013; Saglam and Ustunalp, 2014; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017).	

coefficients, could also change under contrasting conditions of the environment. From a breeding and economic point of view, this is important since the correlations between the separate components allow determining the degree to which a certain component causes a change in another during specific periods of growing. This allows the identification of triticale varieties suitable for cultivation under certain environmental conditions.

The aim of this research was to determine the effect of the environmental conditions on some dependencies between economically important parameters in Bulgarian triticale cultivars.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To realize the above aim and tasks, 11 Bulgarian triticale cultivars were used; these are presented in Table 1.

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Table 1. Triticale cultivars used

No	Name	Origin	Release year
1	Kolorit	BGL "S" – BGC / 568-343	2005
2	Atila	AD 8x(Er 1034/79 Charkovska 60) /F ₁ [F ₁ (Yuzhnaya zarya / Charkovska 60) / 804-503]	2007
3	Akord	-3 / F ₂	2007
4	Respekt	1262-12-2-10 / Veleten	2008
5	Bumerang	LP 3090.91 / 2853-1044	2009
6	Irnik	5252 - 131 / 2853-1044	2011
7	Dobrudzhanets	Chrono / 2853-1044	2012
8	Lovchanets	F ₁ (Tornado / 3493-699) / Zaryad	2013
9	52 Doni 52	5279-131 / 3370-190	2014
10	Blagovest	32/99 / Zaryad	2015
11	Borislav	46/95-96 / 129/98	2016

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- obtained correlation coefficients (Table 3)
- showed slow to moderate change of the phenotypic correlations in the individual cultivars. Nevertheless, the correlations
- between the spike parameters reacted within different range. The lowest response as a result from the changeable environment was observed in the
- correlations between number of grains in spike and fertility – the correlation coefficients varied insignificantly between the separate periods in all studied genotypes.

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Table 2. Meteorological characterization of the period of the experiments

Parameter	Period	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
AMT, °C	2014/2015	11.2	5.6	3.1	1.4	2.0	5.0	10.1	16.4	19.4	22.4
	2015/2016	10.9	9.3	3.4	-0.8	7.3	6.8	13.2	14.7	20.9	22.8
	2016/2017	10.6	6.5	-0.6	-4.1	2.0	7.3	8.7	15.0	20.2	21.8
	2014/2017	10.9	7.1	2.0	-1.2	3.8	6.4	10.7	15.4	20.2	22.3
	1960/2017*	11.6	6.7	1.9	-0.3	1.1	4.6	9.8	15.2	22.1	21.4
TMP, mm	2014/2015	57.9	33.2	87.0	33.2	79.5	67.7	8.5	12.9	31.3	27.2
	2015/2016	78.3	55.1	0.4	86.3	40.7	52.7	20.8	117.1	55.7	2.8
	2016/2017	72.2	43.3	12.5	48.4	27.4	48.9	38.4	29.0	87.7	66.3
	2014/2017	69.5	43.9	33.3	56.0	49.2	56.4	22.6	53.0	58.2	32.1
	1960/2017*	42.7	42.9	41.7	36.6	34.2	36.4	40.5	51.8	59.1	52.0

/AMT –

/average monthly temperature;

/TMP –

/total monthly precipitation

*

/Long term trend

- The correlation between fertility and number of grains in spike was characterized with very high correlation coefficient values in all cultivars and periods of the study. However, a clear tendency with regard to the effect of the conditions of the environment was not observed.

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Table 3. Correlation analysis between the studied components of spike productivity in Bulgarian triticale cultivars under contrasting conditions of growing

Cultivar	Year	Correlations			
		/ NGS/F	/ NGS/WGS	1000/ M1000/WGS	/ 1000 NGS/M1000
Kolorti	2014/2015	0.891**	0.725**	0.622**	-0.076
	2015/2016	0.905**	0.759**	0.874**	0.391
	2016/2017	0.891**	0.914**	0.497**	0.107
Atila	2014/2015	0.791**	0.874**	0.623**	0.171
	2015/2016	0.951**	0.821**	0.663**	0.143
	2016/2017	0.961**	0.954**	0.571**	0.307
Akord	2014/2015	0.917**	0.829**	0.547**	-0.006
	2015/2016	0.936**	0.796**	0.777**	0.253
	2016/2017	0.905**	0.964**	0.469**	0.224
Respekt	2014/2015	0.956**	0.929**	0.704**	0.401*
	2015/2016	0.985**	0.289*	0.372*	-0.525*
	2016/2017	0.933**	0.896**	0.215*	-0.236
Bumerang	2014/2015	0.888**	0.857**	0.621**	0.138
	2015/2016	0.911**	0.777**	0.699**	0.109
	2016/2017	0.772**	0.906**	0.612**	0.222
Irnik	2014/2015	0.961**	0.868**	0.713**	0.284
	2015/2016	0.962**	0.922**	0.779**	0.499*
	2016/2017	0.917**	0.929**	0.673**	0.549**
Dobrudzhanets	2014/2015	0.959**	0.859**	0.644**	0.182
	2015/2016	0.916**	0.928**	0.746**	0.456*
	2016/2017	0.998**	-0.243	0.485**	-0.938**
Lovchanets	2014/2015	0.951**	0.927**	0.542**	0.192
	2015/2016	0.949**	0.834**	0.685**	0.194
	2016/2017	0.837**	0.95**	0.578**	0.298
52 Doni 52	2014/2015	0.942**	0.94**	0.688**	0.428
	2015/2016	0.891**	0.794**	0.771**	0.249
	2016/2017	0.901**	0.804**	0.643**	0.065
Blagovest	2014/2015	0.918**	0.924**	0.593**	0.246
	2015/2016	0.943**	0.813**	0.672**	0.134
	2016/2017	0.862**	0.863**	0.585**	0.1
Borislav	2014/2015	0.89**	0.823**	0.734**	0.228
	2015/2016	0.722**	0.756**	0.81**	0.238
	2016/2017	0.851**	0.913**	0.787**	0.471**

/NGS – of grains per spike, 1000 – /Number of grains in a spike, 1000 /WGS – /Thousand kernels weight, /F – /Weight /Fertility

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In 6 out of the 11 investigated genotypes (Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Lovchanets and Blagovest), lower correlation coefficients between fertility and number of grains in spike were determined in the third growing period (2016/2017). In cultivars Kolorit and Atila, the lowest correlation was observed during economic year 2014/2015, and in Dobrudzhanets, Doni 52 and Borislav – during 2015/2016. Such results are obtained when there is a difference in the growth and development of individual plants from a certain genotype during the early stages of ontogenesis. Such differences were observed in cultivars Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Lovchanets and Blagovest because their development in the spring of 2016/2017 was uneven as a result from the lower temperatures during October – November. Similar tendency was registered also in Atila and Kolorit during 2014/2015, but in this case, an unfavorable effect from the low temperatures in January of 2014 was observed. The behavior of Dobrudzhanets, Doni 52 and Borislav in harvest year 2015/2016 was different. As a result from the good development of the plants due to the favorable March and April conditions with regard to temperatures and moisture reserves in soil, comparatively equal spikes were formed. The uneven distribution of the rainfalls in May caused formation of different number of grain in spikes, but under high difference in the variation of the number of spikelets in spike and number of grains in spike. Therefore, the variation in the fertility increased less than the variation in the number of grains in spikes, and this was the reason for the lower correlation coefficient between them. The importance of fertility for productivity is studied in detail by Estrada-Campuzano et al. (2012). The authors point out that the trends between fertility (number of fertile flowers) and number of grains per spike are maintained, regardless of the growing conditions.

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In the correlations of number of grains in spike with weight of grains in spike, lower but more significant values of the correlation coefficients were observed (Table 3). This is related to the higher dynamics of the two parameters and the correlations between them. In this case, a clear tendency was observed: the correlation was high during the first period of growing (2014/2015), low during 2015/2016 and significantly higher during 2016/2017. This was due to the unfavorable conditions for the formation and nutrition of the grain in harvest year 2015/2016 – uneven rainfalls in May and June and low temperatures in May. Cultivars, Kolorit, Irnik and Dobrudzhanets were an exception from this tendency. In Kolorit and Irnik, the number of grains in spike under favorable conditions for pollination and fertilization (as those observed in 2014/2015) reached very high values (Stoyanov, 2018). At the same time, however, the higher number of grains followed by an unfavorable period (uneven rainfalls, drought, lodging), was related to insufficiently good nutrition and high variation of the weight of grains in spike between the individual plants, regardless of the high number of grains.

On the other hand, under very good conditions for grain nutrition, plants, which differed in their development regardless of the high number of grains, will also form higher variation in the weight of grain in spike, and their correlation coefficients will be low. Such conditions were observed in 2016/2017 and therefore the correlations of NGS and WGS were comparatively low in Kolorit and Irnik.

During the next period, unfavorable conditions were observed for both pollination and fertilization, and for nutrition of the grains in the spike. This lead to identical variation and covariation of the two parameters and simultaneously to higher values of the correlation coefficients. During the third period of

(2016/2017), the conditions for pollination and fertilization, as well as for grain formation, were comparatively good, although some unfavorable processes were present (uneven rainfalls in both periods and lower temperatures at anthesis); their intensity, however, was lower than in the preceding period (2015/2016). This was the reason for the highest values of the correlation coefficients in cultivars Kolorit and Irnik during the third period.

In the rest of the cultivars, the low correlation coefficients during the second period (2015/2016) were due to the lower variation in the number of grain in spike resulting from the conditions of the environment in June of 2016 (intensive uneven rainfalls).

The high and significant correlations between NGS and WGS demonstrated the high importance of the formed number of grains for the productivity of the spike. In spite of the presence of some variation in the investigated cultivars, the correlations remained high during all three investigated periods. This showed that the NGS was a main component of the yield in these genotypes and its change caused a change in the productivity of the spike. Similar data in investigating the correlations between the parameters NGS and WGS of new and old triticale lines cultivars were obtained by Dogan et al. (2009). A large number of investigations on common wheat (Villegas et al., 2010; Tsenov et al., 2013; Estrada-Campuzano et al., 2012; Slafer et al., 2014; Ugarte et al., 2007) and other amphidiploid forms (Stoyanov, 2015; Stoyanov, 2016) demonstrate that the NGS is highly important for the formation of the value of grain yield. Aycicek and Yildirim (2006) in common winter wheat and Dogan (2009) in durum wheat indicate that the correlation between NGS and WGS is highly dependent on environmental conditions.

The opposite tendency was

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(Stoyanov, 2013; Ashfaq et al. 2003; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2004; Shahid et al., 2002). Aycicek and Yildirim

observed, however, in the correlation between M1000 and WGS. During the first period of growing (2014/2015), the correlations were comparatively low but significant, during 2015/2016 they were significantly higher, and during 2016/2017 - low, often being lower than that in the first harvest year. This shows that in 2014/2015 and 2016/2017, the number of grain in spike had a significantly higher effect on spike productivity than 1000 kernel weight. This tendency was observed in all cultivars, with the exception of Respekt, which is an indication that in the studied genotypes, 1000 kernel weight was less significant as a component of yield than the number of grains in spike. The lower values of the correlation coefficients between WGS and M1000, regardless of the environmental conditions, undoubtedly confirmed this dependence.

The differences observed in cultivar Respekt were related to its very high susceptibility to unfavorable environmental conditions. Stoyanov (2018) reported very low productivity and low values of NGS, WGS and M1000 at high level of variation of all three parameters under environmental conditions, which did not allow proper grain nutrition (intensive rainfalls, lodging, low temperatures during anthesis).

Identical data on the correlation of WGS with M1000 in triticale is provided by Dogan et al. (2009) and no correlation between the two parameters was reported by Gulmezoglu et al. (2010). It should be emphasized that in crops with wider gene pool such as common winter wheat, the correlation between the two parameters varies within a wide range, which is related to the predominance of M1000 as a component of yield. This is pointed out by a number of authors under variable conditions for growing of the crop (Stoyanov, 2013; Ashfaq et al. 2003; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2004; Shahid et al., 2002). Aycicek and Yildirim (2006)

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(Ali et al., 2003; Ashfaq et al., 2003; Aycicek and Yildirim, 2006; Ehdaye and Waines, 1989; Dogan, 2009; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2004; Kalimullah et al, 2012; Kashif and Khaliq, 2004; Khaliq et al., 2004; Khan and Dar, 2010; Korkut et al., 2001; Shahid et al., 2002; Sidwell et al, 1975; Zhang et al., 2012).

- report a high degree of variability in this phenotypic correlation by year conditions as well as by location in the genotypes of common winter wheat studied by them. Dogan (2009) points to strongly different phenotypic correlations between M1000 and WGS in durum wheat according to the conditions of the year.

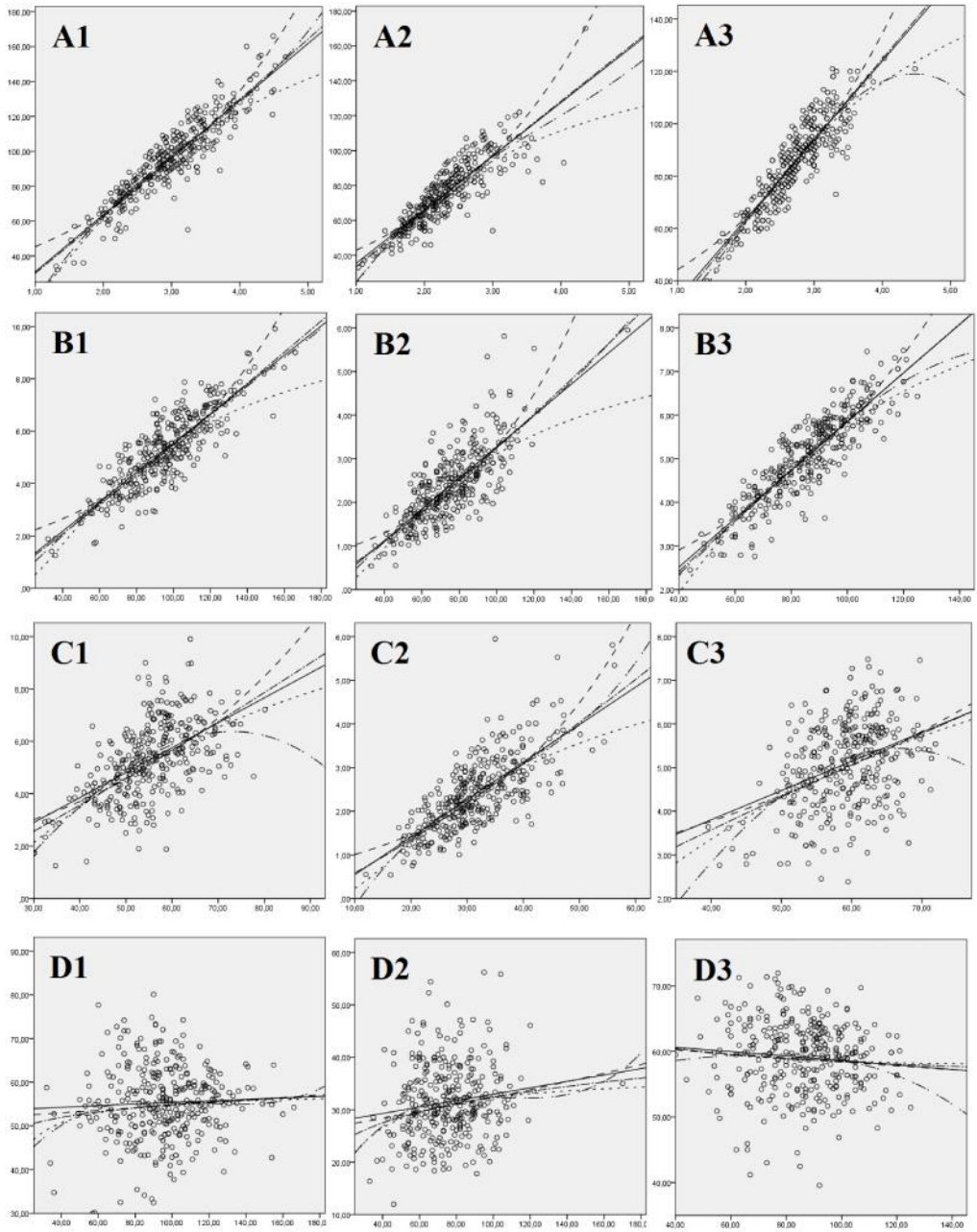
- Variable values of the correlation coefficients are observed with regard to the correlation of NGS and M1000.

- Different studies both in triticale and in other amphidiploids, and in common winter wheat show that these two parameters often were in low or negative correlation (Ali et al., 2003; Ashfaq et al., 2003; Aycicek and Yildirim, 2006; Ehdaye and Waines, 1989; Dogan, 2009; Leilah and Al-Khateeb, 2004; Kalimullah et al, 2012; Kashif and Khaliq, 2004; Khaliq et al., 2004; Khan and Dar, 2010; Korkut et al., 2001; Shahid et al., 2002; Sidwell et al, 1975; Zhang et al., 2012).

- Our results showed that in practice there was no such correlation in the investigated cultivars. The obtained values were extremely low and in the greater part of the genotypes were not significant. This is an indication that in triticale the two processes of fertilization and grain nutrition belong to different genetic systems on the one hand, and on the other, there are no compensatory mechanisms between them. The formed number of grains received or not good nutrition depending on the presence of suitable conditions of the environment. If the conditions allow it, the high number of grains will be with normal values of M1000. On the other hand, if a low number of grains are formed, their 1000 kernel weight will not be high as compared to a significantly higher number of grains. This mechanism of spike productivity formation is again related to the fact that the predominant component is the number of grains in spike.

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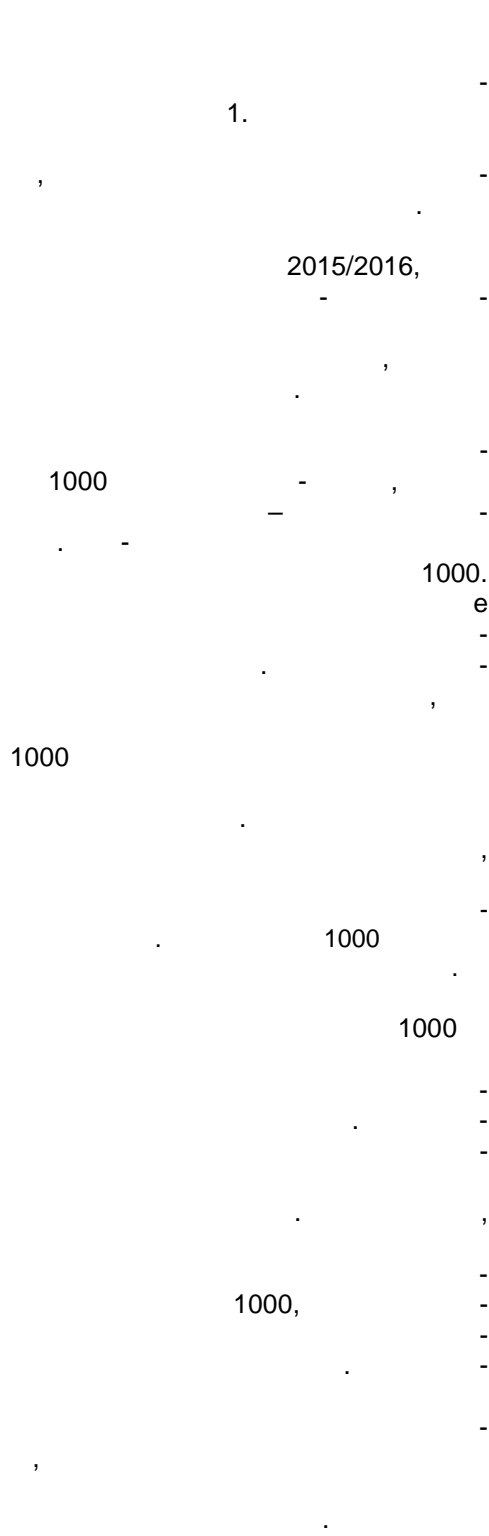
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Fig. 1. Graphical analysis of the relationships between the studied components of spike productivity by study periods

A – /Fertility and number of grains in a spike; B – /Number of grains in a spike and Weight of grains per spike; C – /Thousand kernels weight and Weight of grains per spike; D – /Number of grains in a spike and Thousand kernels weight; 1 – 2014/2015; 2 – 2015/2013; 3 – 2016/2017



The above correlations between the parameters were confirmed also by the ranking of the values presented in Figure 1. The high correlations between F and NGS, which varied slightly according to the different periods of the study, were clearly outlined. Considering the correlations between NGS and WGS, harvest year 2015/2016 should be pointed out, when greater dispersion of the individual elements from the sample was observed in comparison to the other two periods.

During the same period, a tendency was observed of a higher correlation between M1000 and WGS, while during the other two periods it was considerably lower. The lack of a correlation between NGS and M1000 was clearly outlined. The significances of the individual elements were ranked without forming a tendency between themselves. The data from the graphic representation determined no tendency of the correlations between F with NGS and NGS with M1000 according to the conditions of growing due to the low variation in the number of spikelets in spike between the individual genotypes. In NGS and M1000, on the other hand, there was no correlation, in practice.

In the other two correlations between NGS and WGS, and M1000 and WGS, clear tendencies were observed in the change of correlations under the influence of the environment. In a great part of the investigated cultivars, the decrease of one correlation caused increase in the other. This shows that although there was no relationship and compensatory mechanisms in the values between NGS and M1000, they were present with regard to the variation between the two parameters. The presence of such tendencies is extremely important from a breeding point of view because they indicate similarity in the behavior of certain genotypes according to the environmental conditions. The obtained results define the greater part of

- the investigated genotypes as being practically identical by their way of forming spike productivity.

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Table 4. Regression analysis and type of relationship between the investigated components of spike productivity

Cultivar	Year	/ Regressions			
		/ NGS/WGS		1000/ M1000/WGS	
		R ² Non-linear	R ² Linear	R ² Non-linear	R ² Linear
Kolorti	2014/2015	0.561 C ¹	0.526	0.519 S	0.386
	2015/2016	0.674 S	0.576	0.774 P	0.763
	2016/2017	0.839 C	0.836	0.28 S	0.247
Atila	2014/2015	0.85 P	0.765	0.393 C	0.389
	2015/2016	0.833 S	0.674	0.632 S	0.44
	2016/2017	0.922 P	0.911	0.355 C	0.327
Akord	2014/2015	0.712 P	0.688	0.3 C	0.299
	2015/2016	0.715 S	0.633	0.65 C	0.604
	2016/2017	0.931 P	0.929	0.236 S	0.22
Respekt	2014/2015	0.837 P	0.863	0.532 Cm	0.495
	2015/2016	0.579 C	0.577	0.258 C	0.127
	2016/2017	0.814 P	0.802	0.069 C	0.046
Bumerang	2014/2015	0.762 S	0.734	0.442 S	0.386
	2015/2016	0.629 P	0.604	0.539 C	0.489
	2016/2017	0.827 L	0.82	0.409 Cm	0.375
Irnik	2014/2015	0.791 P	0.754	0.509 C	0.509
	2015/2016	0.871 C	0.85	0.644 Cm	0.606
	2016/2017	0.887 P	0.862	0.416 C	0.415
Dobrudzhanets	2014/2015	0.751 C	0.739	0.569 S	0.415
	2015/2016	0.882 C	0.862	0.67 C	0.553
	2016/2017	0.869 P	0.867	0.241 S	0.23
Lovchanets	2014/2015	0.902 P	0.859	0.43 C	0.293
	2015/2016	0.715 P	0.696	0.491 C	0.469
	2016/2017	0.88 S	0.903	0.488 C	0.334
52 Doni 52	2014/2015	0.885 C	0.883	0.652 S	0.473
	2015/2016	0.664 C	0.63	0.708 S	0.595
	2016/2017	0.657 C	0.646	0.446 S	0.414
Blagovest	2014/2015	0.859 C	0.854	0.451 S	0.352
	2015/2016	0.663 C	0.661	0.508 S	0.452
	2016/2017	0.745 C	0.745	0.356 Cm	0.343
Borislav	2014/2015	0.714 S	0.677	0.542 Cm	0.539
	2015/2016	0.599 Cm	0.572	0.656 C	0.656
	2016/2017	0.858 C	0.833	0.678 S	0.619

/NGS – of grains per spike, 1000 – /Number of grains in a spike, /WGS – /Thousand kernels weight, /F – /Fertility
¹C – Cubic/ ; P – Power/ ; S – Sigmoid/ ; L – Logarithmic/ ; Cm – Compound/

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Stoyanov and Baychev (2016)

52,

1000

- Although the correlation coefficients between NGS and WGS, and between M1000 and WGS were high, the relationship between these parameters, regardless of the cultivar and the environment, was non-linear (Table 4).

- This demonstrates the extremely complex formation of spike productivity, which is directly dependent on both the environmental conditions and the genotype, as well as on their interaction.

- The obtained coefficients of determination approximate the relationships to certain functional equation, without a definite correspondence. Although in most of the cultivars an approximation to the cubic, power of sigmoid relationship is observed, such a definition would be highly conditional. Regardless of the conditions of the environment, the relationships between the parameters were strictly non-linear, which indicates that the components of spike productivity are definitely influenced by the genotype x environment interaction, and the individual genotypes have distinct stability with regard to these components. This thesis is supported by the studies of Stoyanov and Baychev (2016), applying different statistical methods.

- The analysis of the correlations of the individual genotypes under meteorologically different periods of investigation allowed following the cultivars, in which the formation of the spike productivity followed a certain tendency. The results from the investigated cultivars showed that varieties such as Irnik and Kolorit formed their productivity primarily on the basis of number of grains in spike. In cultivars Atila, Akord, Bumerang, Dobrudzhanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav, both the number of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight were important, although to different degree depending on the conditions of the environment. In cultivar

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Agro-morphological Characterization of Wild Einkorn Wheat Accessions Collected on the Territory of South Bulgaria

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

- The objective of the study was to assess the morphological and agronomic characteristics of original germplasm of wild einkorn wheat (*T. boeoticum* Boiss.), collected on the territory of south Bulgaria and maintained in *ex situ* collection in IPGR-Sadovo.
- Forty six accessions were conducted in the experimental field of IPGR-Sadovo, Bulgaria during 2016-2017 growing season. A randomized complete block design with three replications was used.
- There was significant variation in the morphological characters as leaf-flag attitude, spike attitude and in the glume colour. ANOVA's and Duncan tests showed also that there is significant variability for the all agronomical characters indicating considerable variations among genotypes for each

(*T. boeoticum* Boiss.),

ex situ

2016-2017.

. ANOVA

Duncan

25%
 B6E0388, B6E0405, B6E0385,
 B6E0389, B6E0402B, B6E0412B, B6E0383,
 B6E0419 B6E0421

19,57%

1000

B6E0386 B6E0417

1 m².

, *T. boeoticum* Boiss.,

(PH),
 (NPT),
 (LSWA),
 (LSWOA),

(WS),

(WGS),
 1000

(WTG).

1 m²

(NSS),

(NGS),

- character. Hierarchical cluster analysis
 - based on Euclidean dissimilarity using
 - Between groups method classified the
 - tested accessions into four significant
 - different clusters at 25 % linkage distance.
 B6E0388, B6E0405, B6E0385, B6E0389,
 B6E0402B, B6E0412B, B6E0383,
 B6E0419 B6E0421 were classified in
 second cluster including 19,57% of total
 genotypes.

- Genotypes in this group were in the
 highest rate with respect to length of spike
 without awn, number of spikelets per
 spike, number of grains per spike, weight
 of the spike, weight of grain per spike and
 weight of 1000 grains and with at least
 values for plant height and number of
 productive tillers per 1 m². The most
 genetically distant was found between
 B6E0386 and B6E0417. The results of
 this study will support efforts of
 conservation and utilization of wild einkorn
 wheat in the wheat breeding programs.

Key words: wild einkorn, *T. boeoticum* Boiss., morphological and agronomical characters, cluster analyses, correlation

Abbreviation: plant height (PH), number of productive tillers per 1 m² (NPT), length of spike with awn (LSWA), length of spike without awn (LSWOA), number of spikelets per spike (NSS), weight of the spike (WS), weight of grain per spike (WGS), number of grains per spike (NGS), and weight of 1000 grains (WTG).

INTRODUCTION

Rapid changes in climatic and environmental conditions constitute significant threats to cultivated crops for adaptation to newly emerging conditions.

Due to universal problems such as air and soil pollution, depletion of the ozone layer, and global warming, it is inevitable that popular cultivars of today are not likely to be able to cope with these challenges in the near future (Karagoz et al., 2006).

(Karagoz et al., 2006).

, Diuraphis noxia (Deol et al., 1995). *T. boeoticum* Boiss. -
T. dicoccoides, *T. araraticum* (Sultan et al., 2012). -
T. boeoticum Boiss. -
(Liu et al., 2015). -
(T. *boeoticum* Boiss.), *ex situ* -

Some *T. boeoticum* Boiss. lines were also found to be resistant to the Russian wheat aphid, *Diuraphis noxia* (Deol et al., 1995). *T. boeoticum* Boiss. is more tolerant to drought than other wheat relatives, such as *T. dicoccoides*, *T. araraticum* and common wheat cultivars (Sultan et al., 2012). Results of the above mentioned studies indicate that *T. boeoticum* Boiss. is a suitable and promising gene source for improving modern wheat (Liu et al., 2015). Efficient utilization of this species requires detailed knowledge of their genetic, cytogenetic and agromorphological characteristics.
- Therefore the objective of this study was to assess the morphological and agronomic characteristics of original germplasm of wild einkorn wheat (*T. boeoticum* Boiss.), collected on the territory of south Bulgaria and maintained in *ex situ* collection in IPGR-Sadovo.

T. boeoticum Boiss. 2015 . ,
" " .
2016-2017.
5 ,
1 m,
20 m
5 m.
(Anonymous, 1984).
10

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant material

Forty six accessions of *T. boeoticum* Boiss. that were collected in 2015 from South Bulgaria are included in the study.

Field experiments

The present study was conducted in the experimental field of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources "Konstantin Malkov" at Sadovo, Bulgaria during 2016-2017 growing season.

Sowing was performed by hand at five row plots, in 1 m length and 20 cm row spacing and plant distance of 5 cm. A randomized complete block design with three replications was used.

Chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides were not used. Observations and evaluations of morphological, biological and agronomic traits were carried out according to international descriptors lists (Anonymous, 1984). At maturity, 10 plants were randomly

18. There was significant variation in the glume colour. Nineteen samples were with straw-yellow colour of glume, 16 with black against a red background and 11 with red colour of glume. Awns colour was the same as spike (Table 1).

1. (T. boeoticum Boiss.) 46

Table 1. Morphological characters of 46 wild einkorn wheat (T. boeoticum Boiss.)

/Type of bush			
	/erect	/drooping	/prostrate
Number of accessions	0	0	46
- /Ligule –presence			
	/absent	/present	
Number of accessions	0	46	
- /Auricles-length			
	/short	/medium	/long
Number of accessions	46	0	0
/Leaf-flag-attitude			
	semi-upright	horizontal	drooping
Number of accessions	4	3	39
- /Leaf-pubescence			
	/absent	/present	
Number of accessions	0	46	
/Spike-attitude			
	semi-erect	horizontal	nodding
Number of accessions	28	18	0
- /Spike-shape			
	/pyramidal	/cylindrical	
Number of accessions	46	0	
- /Glume-pubescence			
	/absent	/medium	
Number of accessions	30	16	
- /Glume-colour			
	straw-yellow	red	black against a red background
Number of accessions	19	11	16
- /Awnes-colour			
	same as spike		different
Number of accessions	11		35

ANOVA Duncan

Agronomic characters
ANOVA's and Duncan tests showed that there is significant variability for all the characters indicating considerable variations among genotypes

. Seifolahpour et al. (2017),
 (2016), Pour-
 Aboughadareh et al. (2012) Moghaddam
 et al. (2012)

(CV%)
 9,26 32,15%. Dotlacil et al. (2000)
 10% CV

(WGS) (32,15%),
 1 m² (NPT)
 (23,65%) (WS)
 (22,93%).

(Desheva,
 2014).

(9,26%) (2).

(Karagoz et al., 2006).

159,33 cm.
 180 cm

B6E0404C (181,8 cm) B6E0387
 (182 cm).

B6E0380 (126 cm) (2).
 1 m² (NPT)

249,4 724.
 NPT, 600-

700 (LSWA) 18,08

20,36 cm,
 (LSWOA) B6E0410

(12,21 cm) p 0,001. B6E0378
 (NSS), NGS, WS WTG (

35;6 g; 1,58 g 13,78 g).
 WGS
 B6E0384 (0,87 g)

(2).

for each character. Seifolahpour et al.
 (2017), Uzundzhaliyeva et al. (2016), Pour-
 Aboughadareh et al. (2012) and
 Moghaddam et al. (2012) also observed
 high significant differences among einkorn
 wheat based on agro-morphological traits
 which indicated the high genetic variation
 among samples.

The values of coefficient of variation
 (CV%) varied from 9,26 to 32,15 %.
 Dotlacil et al. (2000) considered a
 minimum 10% CV a sign of wide diversity
 in wheat landraces and obsolete varieties.
 In our study the most relative variable
 character during the period of study was
 weight of grain per spike (WGS) (32,15
 %), following to number of productive
 tillers per 1 m² (NPT) (23,65 %), and
 weight of spike (WS) (22,93 %).

The values of these coefficients confirm
 that these traits were more susceptible to
 change under the influence of different
 factors (Desheva, 2014). Relatively the
 least variable for the period of study
 indicated the plant height (9,26%) (Table 2).

Plant height is a major agronomic
 character in wheat breeding. Modern high
 yielding wheat cultivars are shorter than
 landraces, old cultivars and wild wheat
 (Karagoz et al., 2006). In this study the
 mean value of plant height was 159,33 cm.
 Accessions with tall plants above 180 cm
 were B6E0404C (181,8 cm), and B6E0387
 (182 cm). The sample with the shortest stem
 was B6E0380 (126 cm) (Table 2). Number
 of productive tillers per 1 m² (NPT) varied
 from 249,4 to 724. Six accessions had high
 NPT, respectively between 600-700
 numbers. Ten samples had length of spike
 with awn (LSWA) between 18,08 and 20,36
 cm, while length of spike without awn
 (LSWOA) was significant for B6E0410
 (12,21 cm) at p 0,001. B6E0378 had the
 highest number of spikelets per spike (NSS)
 together with high NGS, WS and WTG (35,6
 number, 1,58 g and 13,78 g, respectively).
 The biggest WGS was found in B6E0384
 (0.87 g) (Table 2).

Table 2. Means for 9 traits in 46 wild einkorn wheat accessions

Accession number	NPT	PH, cm	LSWA, cm	LSWOA, cm	NSS	NGS	WS, g	WGS, g	WTG, g
B6E0378	419.2ij	137abc	19.2k-m	11e-m	35.6g	57.6t	1.58k	0.8h-j	13.78q
B6E0379	529.6op	138abc	15.8b-i	10.6c-l	34e-g	33de	0.72a	0.35a-d	9.10c
B6E0380	489mn	126a	15.8b-i	9.9a-k	30.2a-g	45j-n	1.14c-i	0.6d-h	13.36pq
B6E0381	572.4qr	138abc	16b-i	9.5a-j	30a-g	41.3ghi	1.02-h	0.52a-g	12.26lm
B6E0382	553.8pq	149c-g	19.6l-m	11.1f-m	29.2a-g	32.3cde	0.88a-e	0.56c-h	11.48ghi
B6E0383	307.4k	147b-f	17e-l	10.8d-m	35.2f-g	47.6m-p	0.98b-g	0.34abc	6.38a
B6E0384	428.8jk	162f-o	15.5b-h	10.3b-l	31.8a-g	52.3rs	1.2e-j	0.87j	15.44vwx
B6E0385	345.4cde	152c-i	16.4b-k	10.6c-l	35.6g	41.8hgi	1.1c-i	0.54b-j	11.94i-e
B6E0386	387.0fgh	172l-q	14.8a-f	10.4b-l	34.4e-g	53.5s	1.36g-k	0.85ij	15.13tuv
B6E0387	556.7pqr	182q	13.8abc	8.9a-f	31.2a-j	43.3ijk	1.1c-i	0.51a-g	11.73h-k
B6E0388	248.2a	133ab	13.8abc	9.4a-i	32.4b-g	51.3q-s	1.12c-i	0.6d-h	11.76h-k
B6E0389	358def	156dk	12.2a	7.7a	28.4a-f	41.3ghi	1.3g-k	0.6d-h	14.44rs
B6E0390	390.2ghi	174n-q	16.2b-j	11.3g-m	34.4e-g	50.4p-s	1.3g-k	0.7g-j	14.30r
B6E0391	585.4r	149c-g	16b-i	9.2a-h	29.2a-g	42.8ijk	0.938b-j	0.52a-g	11.63hij
B6E0392	373.6efg	166h-o	15.8b-i	9.6a-j	33.6d-g	44i-l	1.02b-h	0.5a-g	11.37gh
B6E0397	469.8lm	157d-i	13.6ab	9a-f	31.2a-j	50.6p-s	1.1c-i	0.6d-h	12m
B6E0398	417ij	156d-k	14.6a-f	8.2ab	29.2a-g	34.2e	1.02b-h	0.44a-f	12.14klm
B6E0399	415.4hij	158d-m	15.4b-g	9.6a-j	30.4a-g	29.4bc	0.81abc	0.37a-e	10.35e
B6E0400	518.6o	166.6i-p	16.4b-k	9.4a-i	32.4b-g	32.6cde	0.92a-f	0.4a-f	12.46mn
B6E0401A	461.6lm	145b-e	15a-f	9.4a-i	34.8e-g	38fg	0.9a-f	0.42a-f	10.55e
B6E0401B	528op	145.4b-e	14a-d	8.8a-e	30.4a-g	39.2gh	1.04b-h	0.5a-g	12.84no
B6E0402A	575.2qr	159.8e-n	13.8abc	8.4abc	30a-g	31.6cde	0.6a	0.34abc	9.66d
B6E0402B	362.2efg	150.8c-h	19j-m	12.8m	32.8c-g	45.4k-n	1.52-k	0.74g-j	15.62wxy
B6E0404A	473lm	169.4j-q	18.6i-m	10.1b-l	27.8a-e	27.4ab	0.84a-d	0.44a-f	14.86stu
B6E0404B	519.4o	171k-q	18.6i-m	10b-l	25.2a	32.2cde	0.94b-f	0.5a-g	15.68xy
B6E0404C	514.6no	181.8pq	18.2g-m	9.8a-k	29.6a-g	38fg	1.24f-j	0.5a-g	13.23op
B6E0405	249.4a	172.4l-q	16.4b-k	9.4a-i	27.8a-e	45j-n	1.33h-k	0.8h-j	17.74z
B6E0406	663.4u	157.2d-i	16.6c-k	9.4a-i	27.6a-e	28.2ab	0.99b-f	0.3ab	10.76ef
B6E0407	521.2o	159.8e-n	16.9d-l	8.6a-d	26abc	26a	1.14c-i	0.28a	7.74b
B6E0409	584.2qr	158d-m	14.2a-e	10b-l	32.8c-g	43.6ijk	1.08c-h	0.5a-g	11.65hij
B6E0410	460.2lm	173.4m-q	18.38h-m	12.2l-m	32.2a-j	45.2j-n	1.42i-k	0.6d-h	13.38pq
B6E0411	659.4u	170k-q	13.86abc	9.4a-i	31.6a-j	49.2o-r	1.24f-j	0.6d-h	12.27lm
B6E0412A	407hij	173m-q	17.22f-l	11.44h-m	33.2d-g	48.2n-q	1.16d-i	0.54b-j	10.45e
B6E0412B	350de	143bcd	14.86a-f	9.82a-k	32.1a-j	33de	1.04b-h	0.52a-g	15.15tuv
B6E0413	647.2tu	174n-q	15.42b-g	10.16b-l	28.8a-g	30.4bcd	0.84a-d	0.43a-f	12.9no
B6E0414	568.6qr	164g-o	15.4b-g	9.48a-j	28a-e	45.2j-n	1.24f-j	0.6d-h	13.36pq
B6E0415	517.8o	154d-j	14.5a-f	9.1a-g	28.4a-f	34.4e	0.94b-f	0.53a-g	14.7rst
B6E0417	724.0v	150i-g	14.9a-f	8.4abc	26.6a-d	33de	0.82a-d	0.43a-f	12.15klm
B6E0418A	581.6qr	160e-n	14.06a-d	10.32b-l	32.6b-g	46k-o	1.2e-j	0.74g-j	15.21uvw
B6E0418B	630.4st	156d-k	14.74a-f	10.5c-l	31a-g	34.4e	0.94b-f	0.4a-f	11.73h-k
B6E0419	318bc	170k-q	16.92d-l	11.1f-m	29.6a-g	41ghi	1.24f-j	0.64f-j	14.63rs
B6E0420	617.2s	163.4g-o	17.9g-m	11.62i-m	31.4a-g	45.2j-n	1.06c-h	0.5a-g	11.12fg
B6E0421	329.2bcd	175.2n-q	18.54i-m	12k-m	32.8c-g	47.4l-p	1.5jk	0.64f-j	12.94op
B6E0422	425.6jk	161.6fo	20.36m	11.74j-m	25.6ab	35ef	1.1c-i	0.44a-f	11.48ghi
B6E0423	449.2kl	175.2n-q	15.94b-i	9.76a-k	30.8a-g	41ghi	1.04b-h	0.62e-i	14.62rs
B6E0004	524.4o	177o-q	18.08g-m	9.84a-k	26abc	44.2i-m	1.3g-k	0.72g-j	15.93y
Average	478.86	159.33	16.09	10.00	30.74	40.70	1.09	0.54	12.68
SD	113.27	14.76	2.19	1.43	3.95	7.86	0.25	0.17	2.22
CV,%	23.65	9.26	13.62	14.26	12.85	19.31	22.93	32.15	17.49

(p 0.001),

Duncan's test.

Means in the same column followed by the same letters are not significantly different (p 0.001), according to Duncan's test.

CV, %-

/Coefficient of variation

SD -

/Std. Deviation

9
3.
(0,698**) <0,01.
NPT (-0,353*)
(0,373**).
(0,317*)
(0,556**)
NPT (-0,377**).
Seifolahpour et al. (2017)
WS
0,01 (0,709**). WS
LSWOA (0,421**)
NPT (-0,439**).
NPT, WGS, LSWOA, NGS WS
(-0,381**, 0,309*,
0,764** 0,754**).
(0,751**) WS (0,481**).

Correlation

Pearson's correlation coefficients between 9 characters are presented in Table 3. Spike length without awns was in positive relationship with spike length with awns (0,698**) at p 0.01. Number of spikelets per spike correlated negatively with NPT (-0,353*) and positively with spike length without awn (0,373**). Number of grain per spike showed significant positive correlations with spike length without awn (0,317*) and number of spikelets per spike (0,556**) and negative relationship with NPT (-0,377**). Seifolahpour et al.(2017) also noted significant and positive correlation between and number of spikelets per spike and number of kernel per spike. The correlation between WS and grain weight per spike was positive and significant at the 0.01 level (0,709**). WS also correlated positively with LSWOA (0,421**) and negatively with NPT (-0,439**). The relationships between NPT, WGS, LSWOA, NGS and WS were also significantly (-0,381**, 0,309*, 0,764** and 0,754**). Increase of thousand grain weight is associated with increase of grain weight per spike (0,751**) and WS (0,481**).

3.

Triticum boeoticum Boiss.

Table 3. Phenotypic correlation coefficients between investigated characters in *Triticum boeoticum* Boiss.

	NPT	PH	LSWA	LSWOA	NSS	NGS	WS	WGS	WTG
NPT	1								
PH	0.035	1							
LSWA	-0.137	0.172	1						
LSWOA	-0.256	0.133	0.698**	1					
NSS	-0.353*	-0.202	-0.132	0.373*	1				
NGS	-0.377**	0.01	-0.061	0.317*	0.556**	1			
WS	-0.439**	0.221	0.253	0.421**	0.225	0.709**	1		
WGS	-0.381**	0.161	0.061	0.309*	0.234	0.764**	0.754**	1	
WTG	-0.207	0.285	0.064	0.102	-0.184	0.251	0.481**	0.751**	1

*. 0.05/Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** 0.01/Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

(PH), 1 m² (NPT), (LSWA), (LSSO), (WS), (WGS), (NGS), 1000 (WTG).
plant height (PH), number of productive tillers per 1 m² (NPT), length of spike with awn (LSWA), length of spike without awn (LSWOA), number of spikelets per spike (NSS), weight of the spike (WS), weight of grain per spike (WGS), number of grains per spike (NGS), and weight of 1000 grains (WTG).

Cluster analysis

Hierarchical cluster analysis based on Euclidean dissimilarity using Between groups method classified the tested wild eikorn wheat accessions into four significant different clusters at 25 % linkage distance (Figure 1).

25%

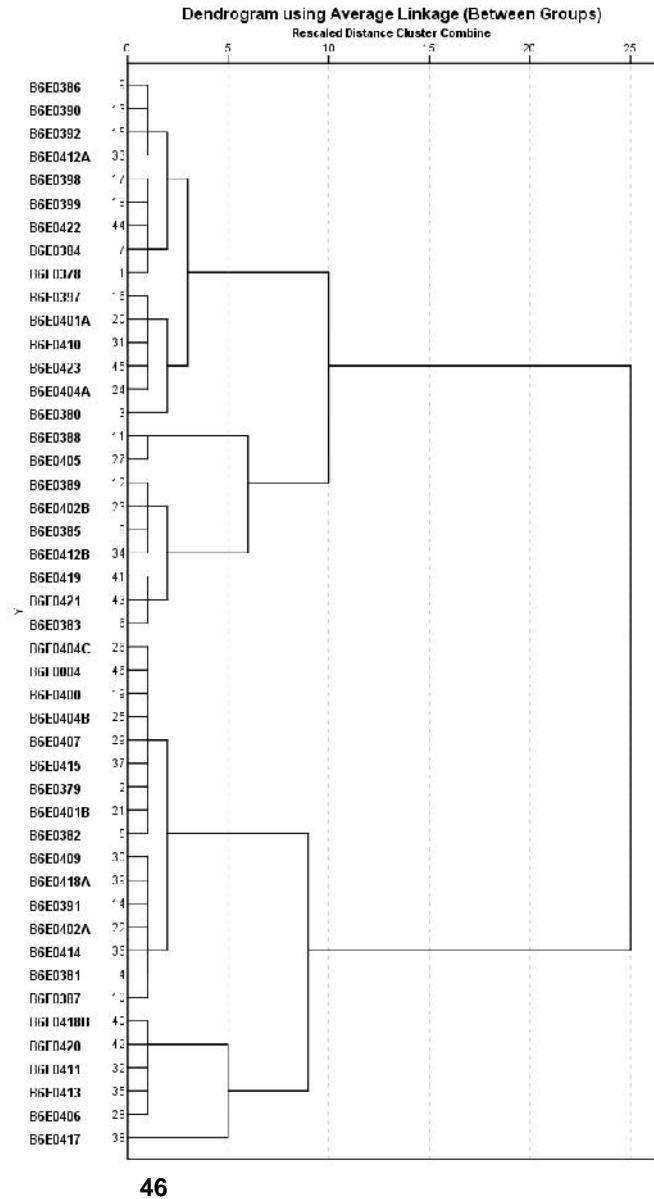


Fig. 1. Tree diagram of 46 genotypes wild eikorn for 9 agronomical characters using hierarchical cluster analysis (Between groups method and Euclidean distance)

(3). B6E0386, B6E0390, B6E0392, B6E0412A, B6E0398, B6E0399, B6E0422, B6E0384, B6E0378, B6E0397, B6E0401A, B6E0410, B6E0404A, B6E0480, B6E0423 B6E0380
 32,60%
 PH,
 - NPT,
 LSWOA WTG - B6E0388, B6E0405, B6E0385, B6E0389, B6E0402B, B6E0412B, B6E0383, B6E0419 B6E0421
 19,57%
 LSWOA (10,40 cm), NSS (31,86), NGS (43,77), WS (1,24 g), WGS (0,60 g) WTG (13,40 g) - r - PH (155,49 cm) NPT (318,64).
 34,78%
 (B6E0404C, B6E0004, B6E0400, B6E0404B, B6E0407, B6E0415, B6E0379, B6E0382, B6E0401B, B6E0391, B6E0409, B6E0418A, B6E0381, B6E0387, B6E0402A B6E0414).
 6
 13,04%
 NPT PH -
 -
 NSS (29.50), NGS (36.37), WS (0.97 g), WGS (0.44 g) WTG (11.82 g) (4).

- The first cluster included fifteen genotypes, the second cluster nine, the third cluster sixteen and the fourth cluster six genotypes. Analysis of mean and standard deviation were made for all four clusters (Table 3). B6E0386, B6E0390, B6E0392, B6E0412A, B6E0398, B6E0399, B6E0422, B6E0384, B6E0378, B6E0397, B6E0401A, B6E0410, B6E0404A, B6E0423 and B6E0380 were grouped in the first cluster including 32,60% of total genotypes.

- The values of the all traits excepting PH varied from moderate to high. Standard deviations of the traits - NPT, LSWOA and WTG were less than the total standard deviations. B6E0388, B6E0405, B6E0385, B6E0389, B6E0402B, B6E0412B, B6E0383, B6E0419 B6E0421 were classified in second cluster including 19,57% of total genotypes. Genotypes in this group were in the highest rate with respect to LSWOA (10,40), NSS (31,86), NGS (43,77), WS (1,24), WGS (0,60) and WTG (13,40) and with at least values for PH (155,49 cm) and NPT (318,64).

- The third cluster included 34,78% of total genotypes (B6E0404C, B6E0004, B6E0400, B6E0404B, B6E0407, B6E0415, B6E0379, B6E0382, B6E0401B, B6E0391, B6E0409, B6E0418A, B6E0381, B6E0387, B6E0402A and B6E0414). The average values of traits in this group were near to the total means of all genotypes. In the fourth cluster 6 genotypes were classified including 13,04% of total accessions.

- Values of NPT and PH were the highest in compare with the values of the total means of all genotypes. Genotypes in this group were in the least rate with respect NSS (29,50), NGS (36,37), WS (0,97), WGS (0,44) and WTG (11,82) (Table 4).

4.
(Sd)

(x)

46

Table 4. The average of characters (x) and Standard deviation (Sd) for achieved groups from cluster analysis based on the Between groups method and Euclidean distance in 46 wild einkorn wheat genotypes

Characters	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3		Group 4	
	x	Sd	x	Sd	x	Sd	x	Sd
NPT	431.11	34.68	318.64	43.5	546.97	27.58	656.93	37.21
PH, cm	160.37	14.61	155.49	14.38	159.59	13.88	161.77	9.08
LSWA, cm	16.43	1.91	16.12	2.18	15.96	1.88	15.57	1.45
LSWOA, cm	10.26	1.1	10.4	1.53	9.57	0.74	9.91	1.11
NSS	31.68	2.79	31.86	2.76	29.69	2.57	29.5	2.13
NGS	43.46	9.09	43.77	5.28	37.86	6.15	36.73	8.48
WS, g	1.13	0.22	1.24	0.19	1.02	0.19	0.97	0.16
WGS, g	0.59	0.16	0.6	0.13	0.5	0.12	0.44	0.1
WTG, g	12.88	1.8	13.4	3.24	12.42	2.32	11.82	0.79

(PH), (LSWOA), (NSS), (WS), (LSWA), (WGS), (NGS), 1000 (WTG).
 plant height (PH), number of productive tillers per 1 m² (NPT), length of spike with awn (LSWA), length of spike without awn (LSWOA), number of spikelets per spike (NSS), weight of the spike (WS), weight of grain per spike (WGS), number of grains per spike (NGS), and weight of 1000 grains (WTG).

CONCLUSIONS

Analysis of variance revealed considerable variability among wild einkorn genotypes in all of the investigated agronomical characters. The most relative variable character was weight of grain per spike, following to number of productive tillers per 1 m², and weight of spike. Simply correlation analysis determined that number of productive tillers per 1 m² correlated negatively with number of spikelets per spike, weight of the spike, weight of grain per spike and number of grains per spike. Hierarchical cluster analysis based on Euclidean dissimilarity using Between groups method classified the tested wild einkorn wheat accessions into four significant different clusters at 25 % linkage distance. B6E0388, B6E0405, B6E0385, B6E0389, B6E0402B, B6E0412B, B6E0383, B6E0419 B6E0421 were classified in second cluster including 19,57% of total genotypes. Genotypes in this group were in the highest rate with respect to length of spike

1000

1 m².

B6E0386 B6E0417.

without awn, number of spikelets per spike, number of grains per spike, weight of the spike, weight of grain per spike and weight of 1000 grains and with at least values for plant height and number of productive tillers per 1 m². The most genetically distant was found between B6E0386 and B6E0417. A database with assessment information of regenerated accessions was created. The results of this study will support efforts of conservation and utilization of wild einkorn in wheat breeding programs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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01/11-16.12.2016.

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400

” . ”, 4122 ,

Correlation Analysis of Yield and Some Biological and Economic Traits at FAO 400 Experimental Maize Hybrids

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

2012-2015 .
- .
400.
: -42 DK-16/G2.
-
,
2013 . 2014 .
.
(, 1000 ,
, ,
,).
1000 (r=-0.631**).
:

At the period 2012-2015 in the Plant Genetic Resources Institute, located in Sadovo, Bulgaria was conducted a field experiment with 14 experimental crosses of corn from FAO 400 group. Hybrids are derived from the crossover of pre-breeding female components with two test lines: PHK-42 and DK-16/G2. Being more favorable on a complex of factors to demonstrate the productive possibilities of hybrids were determined 2013 and 2014.
- The plants were raised under conditions with irrigation. A positive correlation between yield and some of its structural elements (length of the cob, number of rows in the cob, mass of 1000 grains, hectoliter mass, grain length, plant height, leaf length and leaf width) was established. A well-proven negative correlation was established between the number of rows in the cob and the mass of 1000 grains ($r = -0.631^{**}$).
- An unproven negative correlation was established between: hectoliter mass,

1000
 (r=-0.254 r=-0.063),
 (r=-0.221 r=-0.152).
 :
 (Angelov et al., 1995),
 (Valchinkov and Valchinkova, 2001).
 (Delibaltova et al.,
 2009).
 (Petrov
 and Angelov, 2003; Stoyanov and Tonev,
 2001).
 (Angelov and Valchinkov, 2009).

mass of 1000 grains and plant height (r =- 0.254 and r=-0.063), as well as between the number of kernel rows, plant height and the leaf width (r =-0.221 and r=-0.152). Correlation between the individual signs can be used in the selection process when genotypes of appropriate quality and characteristics are created.

Key words: experimental hybrids, roductivity, tester lines, correlation

INTRODUCTION

The need to expand the genetic base and the genetic fund for maize selection requires continuous study of new hybrids created and distributed worldwide (Angelov et al., 1995), and the creation of new hybrids and their introduction into production requires a study of their productivity and other important economic traits (Valchinkov and Valchinkova, 2001).

This is the subject of in-depth and targeted research that is constantly being worked on (Delibaltova et al., 2009). Based on these studies, new maize hybrids with high genetic potential are being incorporated into production. Their cultivation in different agro-ecological regions of the country is of great interest and has important scientific and practical importance (Petrov and Angelov, 2003; Stoyanov and Tonev, 2001).

In the selection of new hybrids and starting forms at maize, it is important to know which of the traits are mutually inherited and which are inherited independently. This allows timely determination of the direction of the selection by one or more desirable traits and properties (Angelov and Valchinkov, 2009). The results of the correlation dependencies studied are not always one-way. They depend on the type of hybrid, the growing conditions, the number of genotypes included in the sample under

(Ilchovska, 2012).
 (Anashenkov, 2012; Volf, 1980; Valkova et al., 2018; Ivanov et al., 2014; Pakudin, 1972; Ilchovska, 2013; Petrovska, 2013).

(Zozulya, 1979; Kostyuchenko, 1976; Yugenheimer, 1979).

(400-500),

2012-2015 .
 - , 14

10 m².

-5000 plant/da.

1000

- study, and more (Ilchovska, 2012).

The combinative ability for the elements of productivity and yield in maize has been studied by a lot of authors (Anashenkov, 2012; Ilchovska, 2013; Ivanov et al., 2014; Pakudin, 1972; Petrovska, 2013; Valkova et al., 2018; Volf, 1980).

- Correlation relationships between plant morphological and economic traits in maize lines and hybrids have been repeatedly investigated. Many authors establish a link between them and conclude that, with the targeted selection of appropriate traits, breeding programs for the creation of new hybrids with valuable economic qualities will be more effective and simplified (Zozulya, 1979; Kostyuchenko, 1976; Yugenheimer, 1979).

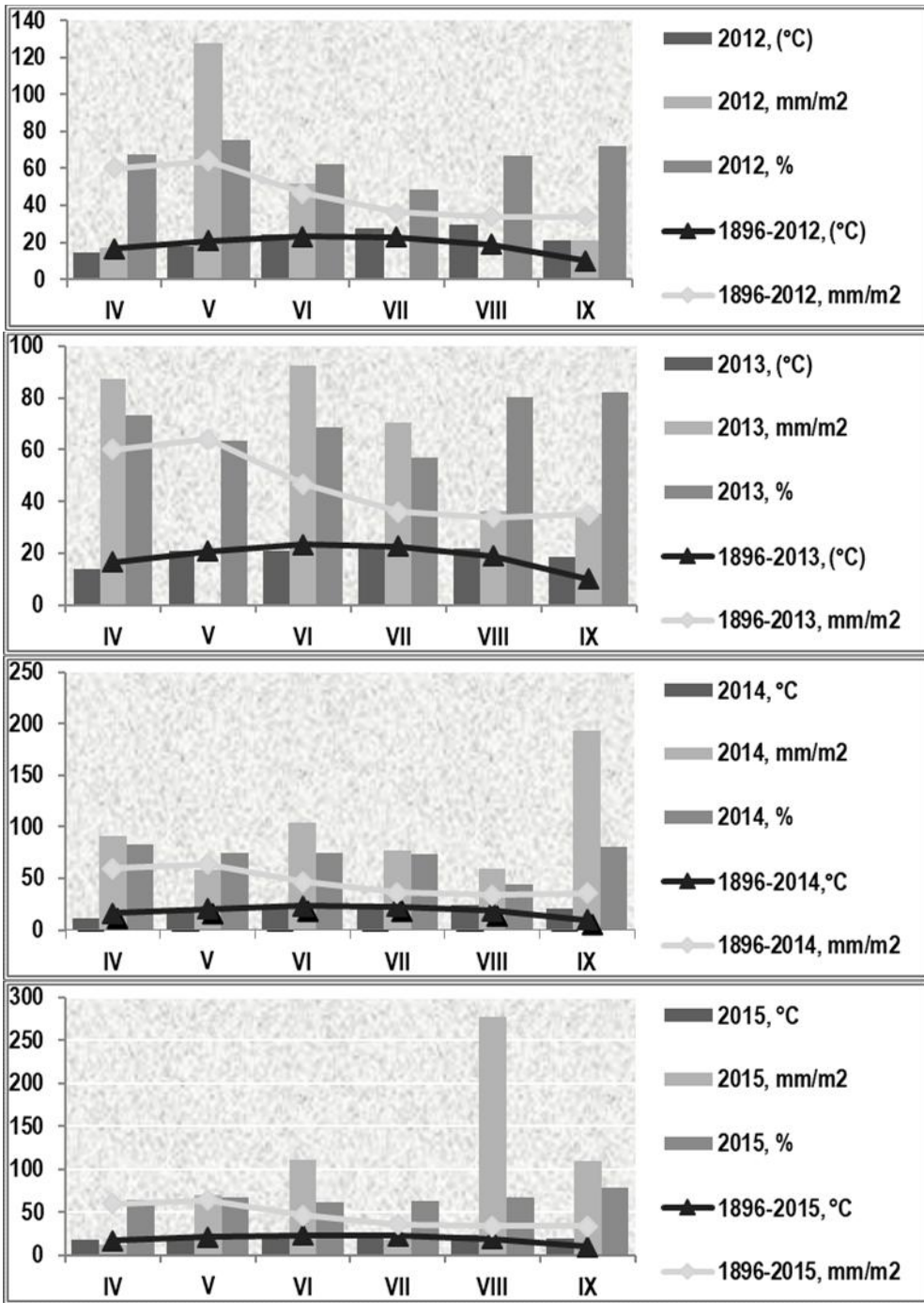
- The aim of this study was to investigate some correlation relationships between morphological and economic traits of experimental maize hybrids in the middle early group (FAO 400-500), grown under conditions with irrigation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study was conducted in the period 2012-2015 in the experimental field of IRGR-Sadovo, with 14 experimental hybrids under irrigation conditions.

- The experiments were based on the block method in two repetitions, with a plot size of 10 m². The sowing density is in accordance with the FAO group on the hybrids-5000 count/da. The soil is resinous meadow-cinnamon type and the agro-technology of cultivation is in accordance with the accepted ones for the region.

- The traits were reported: vegetation period and morphological traits: plant height, length and width of the leaf attached to the kernel. For the grain yield and its elements are analyzed: kernel length and number of kernel rows, grain length, mass of hectolitre and mass of



. 1. (°), (mm/m²)
 2012-2015

Fig. 1. Average daily temperature (°), rainfall (mm/m²) and relative air humidity (%) during the period 2012-2015

(), ,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 1
 :
 ,
 (),
 5% 1%
 (r=0.419**)
 (r=0.393**)
 ,
 (r=0.407**)
 (r=0.392**).
 (r=0.394**).
 . -
 (r=0.583**),
 (r=0.470**),
 1000 (r=0.372**).
 (r=0.337*). -
 (r=282*),
 (iryakov
 et al., 1965; Petrovska and Valkova, 2010).
 ,
 (r=0.406**)

The application of the correlation analysis to determine the phenotypic correlation coefficients between the extraction of grain yield and each of its components (traits), as well as the interaction between them, allows to determine the extent to which the individual traits are appropriately combined in the sampled local samples. In addition to revealing the existing links between the traits, it makes it possible to direct the selection in the desired direction, to eliminate the shortcomings in the individual genotypes and to improve for future selection and improvement work.

In Table 1 presents the results of correlation relationships between the traits: vegetation period, grain yield and some of its components, as well as the confidence level of P_{5%} and P_{1%}.

The vegetation period is in a well proven positive correlation with the length (r=0.419**) and the width (r=0.393**) of the leaf attached to the kernel, as well as with the mass of hectoliter (r=0.407**) and grain length (r=0.392**). Demonstrated positive correlation was established between vegetation period and grain yield (r=0.394**).

The yield at the crosses studied correlates positively with all the traits studied. The strongest positive correlation exists between yield and kernel length (r=0.583**), as well as between yield and leaf length (r=0.470**), between yield and mass of 1000 grains (r=0.372**). Mean significant correlation is the correlation between yield and leaf width (r=0.337*). A weaker positive correlation was found between yield and number of kernel rows (r = 282*), as confirmed by earlier studies by other authors (Kiryakov et al., 1965; Petrovska and Valkova, 2010).

The kernel length has a positive, well-proven dependence on the number of kernel rows (r=0.406**) and a negative one

($r=-0.631^{**}$).	1000	with a mass of 1000 grains ($r=-0.631^{**}$). A low positive correlation was found between kernel length and grain length ($r=0.343^*$), leaf length ($r=0.305^*$), and mass of hectolitre ($r=0.299^*$).
($r=0.343^*$),	($r=0.305^*$), ($r=0.299^*$).	Unproven positive and negative correlation relationships exist between the mass of hectolitre and the other studied traits.
($r=0.373^{**}$)	1000	There is a proven positive correlation between the mass of 1000 grains, the mass of hectolitre and the width of the leaf attached to the kernel, respectively ($r=0.373^{**}$) and ($r=0.474^{**}$).
($r=0.474^{**}$).		The trait grain length has the highest correlation with the width of the leaf attached to the kernel ($r=0.472^{**}$), at leaf length it is weak ($r=0.336^*$), and for the other traits it is unproven.
($r=0.472^{**}$),	($r=0.336^*$),	
($r=0.318^*$)		The height of the plant is low positively correlated with the duration of the the period of growth ($r=0.318^*$) and unproven correlation with other traits.
($r=0.664^{**}$).		The highest, approaching one (full correlation) is that between leaf length and height of the plant ($r=0.664^{**}$). Strong correlation relationships also exist between leaf length, grain yield and the vegetation period: ($r=0.47^{**}$), ($r=0.419^{**}$).
($r=0.419^{**}$).	($r=0.470^{**}$),	Proven positive correlation was also found between leaf length, kernel length and mass of 1000 grains: ($r=0.336^*$), ($r=0.305^*$).
1000	($r=0.336^*$), ($r=0.305^*$).	
($r=0.472^{**}$),	1000	The trait leaf width has a well-proven positive correlation with the economic traits: mass of hectolitre and mass of 1000 grains ($r=0.474^{**}$), ($r=0.472^{**}$), as well as the other two morphological traits: leaf length and plant height - ($r=0.436^{**}$), ($r=0.404^{**}$).
($r=0.436^{**}$)	($r=0.474^{**}$),	
($r=0.404^{**}$).		A proven correlation was also found between traits: leaf width, vegetation period length and grain yield: ($r=0.393^{**}$), ($r=0.337^*$). Only between the kernel length and the width of the leaf attached
($r=0.393^{**}$), ($r=0.337^*$).		

(r=-0.152).

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1.

to the kernel is the correlation unproven and negative (r=-0.152).

The following conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of the correlation relationships between the biological, morphological and economic traits, studied in 14 experimental hybrids.

Table 1. Correlations between some traits of experimental maize hybrids

Parameters	/Vegetation period (days)	/Yield of grain, kg/da	/Length of the ear, cm	/Number of rows of the ear	/Hectolitre mass, kg/l	1000 /Mass of the 1000 grains, g	/Length of grain, mm	/Height of the plant, cm	/Leaf blade-length, cm	/Leaf blade-width, cm
1.	1	0.394**	0.323*	0.141	0.407**	0.287	0.392**	0.318*	0.419**	0.393**
2.		1	0.583**	0.282*	0.175	0.372**	0.227	0.288*	0.470**	0.337*
3.			1	0.406**	0.299*	-0.631**	0.343*	-0.221	0.305*	-0.152
4.				1	0.285	-0.254	0.196	-0.063	0.254	0.076
5.					1	0.373**	0.160	0.198	-0.002	0.474**
6.						1	0.047	0.041	0.336*	0.472**
7.							1	0.151	0.176	0.021
8.								1	0.664**	0.436**
9.									1	0.404**
10.										1

/Significant at = 0.05 (*), = 0.01 (**)

CONCLUSIONS

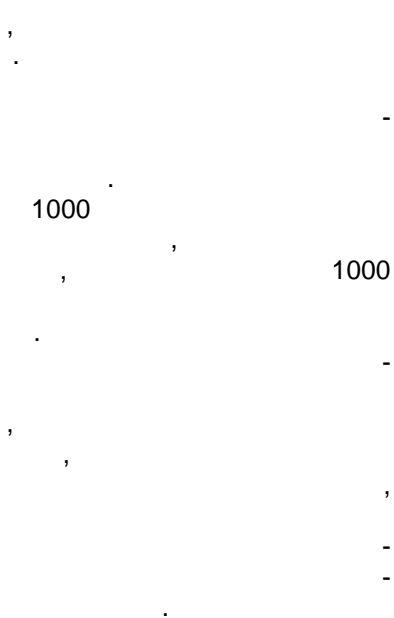
Positive correlation relationships between grain yield, vegetation period, and some morphological and economic traits were found in a set of 14 mid-early experimental maize hybrids.

The correlation coefficients of yield with the kernel length, the leaf length and the mass of 1000 grains are highly reliable.

The three morphological traits correlate positively and reliably with the vegetation period and economic traits,

14

1000



except for the kernel length.

- There are positive correlations between the parameters of the kernel and the grain with varying degrees of confidence. The correlation between the mass of 1000 grains and the kernel length is negative, with a high degree of significance and between the mass of 1000 grains and the number of kernel rows is unproven.

- The discovery of existing relationships between individual traits, especially those of high significance, enables the selection to be directed in the desired direction, to eliminate deficiencies in individual genotypes and to be improved for future breeding and improvement activities.

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