



GENETIC ANALYSIS FOR SEED YIELD AND SOME RELATED CHARACTERS IN FOUR SOYBEAN CROSSES

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ABSTRACT

Six populations of four soybean crosses (L-86-K-96 × Ware), (Egyptian × Ware), (H129 × Crawford) and (DR101 × Giza 111) were conducted during three successive summer seasons 2019, 2020 and 2021 at the experimental farm of Sakha agricultural research station (SARS), Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt for estimate the adequacy of genetic model and types of gene action for earliness, seed yield and its attributes. The scaling test provides evidence of non-allelic interaction in controlling all characters in all studies crosses. The additive, dominance and their digenic interaction types, additive x additive and dominance x dominance gene effects were significant and involved in the inheritance of days to 50% flowering in all crosses, days to 90% maturity and 100 seed weight in 1st cross, plant height in 3rd cross and number of pods/plant in 1st and 4th crosses. Duplicate type of epistasis was registered in 3rd cross for plant height; 4th cross for number of pods/plant; 1st and 2nd crosses for 100-seed weight and 1st cross for seed weight /plant. Heritability in narrow sense was high for plant height and seed weight /plant in 2nd cross and number of pods/plant in 3rd one. Positive and significant heterosis relative to mid and best parent were detected for number of pods/plant, number of seeds/plant and seed weight /plant in all crosses. Positive and significant correlation was detected between seed weight /plant and each of number of pods/ plant and number of seeds/plant. Number of seeds/plant, 100-seed weight and number of pods/plant had the highest direct effect on seed weight /plant.



INTRODUCTION

Soybean (*Glycin max* L. Merrill) is one of the important legume crops for oil and protein production. Soybean seeds have about 14 to 24% oil and about 45 to 48% protein (Brim and Burton, 1979). It is significantly used in Egypt for poultry and human consumption. The quantity of oil seeds produced in Egypt is away from the great request. Therefore, Egyptian plant breeders have glorified all efforts to improve soybean seed yield and to cover the rising demand for oil and protein consumption (Talwar *et al.*, 1986). Consequently, the plant breeder usually has

in mind an ideal plant that includes a maximum number of good characteristics. Improvement of seed yield and agronomic characters are the main objectives of soybean breeders. So, an understanding of the fundamental nature of the actions and interactions of genes involved in the inheritance of quantitative characters is very helpful to soybean breeders to choose the appropriate breeding procedure.

The generations mean analysis technique has been used to obtain considerable information on the types of gene action controlling earliness and seed yield as well as its attributes. Many quantitative characteristics in soybean may be governed

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by additive and dominance gene actions, information on epistatic interactions would also be valuable to improve yield attributing traits in soybean (Thakare *et al.*, 2017; Abou Sen, 2020). Additive gene action was found predominant in the inheritance of yield and yield contributing characters *viz.*, number of primary branches /plant, number of clusters/plant, number of pods/cluster, 100 seed weight and yield/ plant. Both additive and non-additive gene effects were significantly involved in the expression of nine quantitative traits with duplicate epistasis (Adsul *et al.*, 2016; Ramírez *et al.*, 2022). Whereas Nagarajan *et al.* (2022) found that the adequacy of the additive dominance model was predominant to explain the inheritance of plant height in the crosses Co 3 × LP 5-1 and Co 3 × LP 13-1 and seed yield/plant in Co 3 × LP 5-2. The remaining crosses exhibited epistatic interactions with all other traits. Krisnawati and Adie (2022) revealed that heterosis according to mid-parent for F₁ crosses ranged from -61.20 to 27.57%, heterobeltiosis ranged from -71.17 to 9.84% and the degree of dominance ranged from 6.45 to 19.40. Jain *et al.* (2018), Koraddi and Basavaraja (2019), Jandong *et al.* (2020) and Prathima *et al.* (2022) observed high heritability coupled with high genetic advance for plant height and number of pods. The present investigation aimed to estimate the gene action, heritability, heterosis and predicated genetic gain for seed yield and some agronomic characters of four soybean crosses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out at Sakha farm, Sakha Agricultural Research Station (SARS), Kafr El-sheikh, Egypt, during the three summer seasons of 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Seven soybean genotypes of wide divergent origin were used as parental material (L-86-K-96, Crawford, Giza 111, H129, Egyptian, Ware and D.R101) (Table 1).

In 2019 season, four crosses, I (L-86-K-96×Ware), II (Egyptian × Ware), III (H129 × Crawford) and IV (D.R101 × Giza 111), were made. In 2020 season, parents and F₁'s of each cross were planted and F₁ plants in each cross were self-pollinated and back-crossed to both parents to obtain the F₂'s and the back crosses seeds.. Crosses between the parental varieties were repeated to obtain additional hybrid seeds for further evaluation.

In 2021 season, the six populations (P₁, P₂, F₁, BC₁, BC₂ and F₂) of each cross were evaluated in randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications. Each replicate was consisted of two rows for P₁, P₂ and F₁ generations, four rows for back crosses and eight rows for F₂ generation. Each row was 4 m. long, and 60 cm width. Seeds were planted at 20 cm hill spacing on one side of the ridge with one seed per hill. Before flowering, 20, 40 and 80 plants were tagged for P₁, P₂ and F₁ generations, back-crosses and F₂ in each replicate, respectively. The total plants tagged for each cross was P₁, P₂, and F₁, 120 plants of BC₁ and BC₂, and 240 F₂ plants in the three replications to determine the studied characters *viz.*, number of days to 50% flowering, number of days to 90% maturity, plant height, number of branches / plant, number of pods/plant, number of seeds/plant, 100 seed weight and seed yield/plant.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was used to calculate the means and variances for the six generations. Population means and variances were used to estimate the type of gene action for each character. A two-tail F-ratio was calculated to test the significance of the F₂ variance from environmental variance, as follows: $F = F_2 \text{ variance} / \text{environmental variance}$, if the F-ratio was significant, Mather's procedure was used to calculate the components of genetic variance.

Table 1. Pedigree, maturity group, origin, flower color and growth habit of the studied soybean genotypes

Cod. No.	Parent	Pedigree	Maturity group	Origen	Flower color	Growth habit
1	L-86-K-96	Williams 82 x L76.0279	III	**USDA, ARS, Illinois	White	Indeterminate
2	Crawford	Williams x Columbus	IV	USA, Illinois	Purple	Indeterminate
3	Giza 111	Crawford X Celest	IV	*FCRI (Egypt)	Purple	Indeterminate
4	H129	D76-8070 X Giza 35	IV	FCRI (Egypt)	white	Indeterminate
5	Egyptian	Franklin x J 74-5	IV	Virginia, ***AES	White	Indeterminate
6	Ware	PI80-837xV63-76 (Hill x D53-354)	IV	Virginia, AES	Purple	determinate
7	D.R 101	Selected from Elgin	V	USDA, ARS, Illinois	Purple	determinate

* FCRI = Field Crops Research Institute, Giza, Egypt.

**USDA = U.S. Regional soybean laboratory at Urbana, Illinois, and Stoneville, Mississippi.

*** AES = Agricultural Experiment Station.

The following four tests for scale effects were estimated according to **Hayman and Mather (1955)** as follow:

$$A = 2 \overline{BC_1} - \overline{P_1} - \overline{F_1} \quad VA = 4V(BC_1) + V(P_1) + V(F_1)$$

$$B = 2 \overline{BC_2} - \overline{P_2} - \overline{F_1} \quad VB = 4V(BC_2) + V(P_2) + V(F_1)$$

$$C = 4\overline{F_2} - 2\overline{F_1} - \overline{P_1} - \overline{P_2} \quad VC = 16V(F_2) + 4V(F_1) + V(P_1) + V(P_2)$$

$$D = 2\overline{F_2} - \overline{BC_1} - \overline{BC_2} \quad VD = 4V(F_2) + V(BC_1) + V(BC_2)$$

The adequacy genetic model estimated the various genetic component according to **Hayman (1958)** as follow:

m = Mean of F2

d = Additive effect = $\overline{BC_1} - \overline{BC_2}$

h = Dominance effect = $\overline{F_1} - 4\overline{F_2} - (1/2)\overline{P_1} - (1/2)\overline{P_2} + 2\overline{BC_1} + 2\overline{BC_2}$.

i = Additive x Additive type of gene interaction = $2 \overline{BC_1} + 2\overline{BC_2} - 4 \overline{F_2}$

j = Additive x Dominance type of gene interaction = $\overline{BC_1} - 1/2 \overline{P_1} - \overline{BC_2} + 1/2 \overline{P_2}$.

I = Dominance x Dominance type of gene interaction

$$= \overline{P_1} + \overline{P_2} + 2\overline{F_1} + 4\overline{F_2} - 4\overline{BC_1} - 4\overline{BC_2}$$

Heterosis and inbreeding depression were determined according to **Mather and Jinks (1982)**. The two estimates of epistatic deviation (E_1) and (E_2) were calculated as the deviation of segregating populations *i.e.*, F_2 , BC_1 and BC_2 from their nonsegregating populations (F_1 and parents). $E_1 = F_2 - 1/2 F_1 - 1/4 P_1 - 1/4 P_2$; $E_2 = BC_1 + BC_2 - F_1 - 1/2 P_1 - 1/2 P_2$

Where, E_1 is the epistatic deviation of F_2 and E_2 is the epistatic deviation of $BC_1 + BC_2$ (**Mather and Jinks, 1982**).

The relative of potence ratio (P) was used to determine the degree of dominance and its direction according to (**Mather and Jinks, 1982**) as follows: Potence ratio = $(F_1 - M.P) / 1/2 (P_2 - P_1)$, where P_1 is the mean of the low parent and P_2 is the mean of the high parent.

The six population means in each cross were used to estimate the six parameters for gene effects using the relationships. Given by **Jinks and Jones (1958)**; namely, d, h, i,

j, and l. Where, d = additive effect, h = dominance effect, i = additive × additive type of epistasis, j = additive × dominance type of epistasis, and l = dominance × dominance type of epistasis. The estimates variances of additive (VD), dominance (VH), phenotypic (VP), environmental (VE), and genotypic (VG), from generations variances were calculated according to **Wright (1968)**.

Mather (1949) derived the expected genetic variance of VBC_1 , VBC_2 and VF_2 in terms of additive ($1/2D$) and dominance ($1/4H$) genetic variance as follows: $\frac{1}{2}D = 2VF_2 - (VBC_1 + VBC_2)$, while $\frac{1}{4}H = VBC_1 + VBC_2 - VF_2 - VE$.

The variance of each of the genetic variance components was estimated as linear function of the variance of the mean squares. The variance of a mean square was calculated as given by **Anderson and Bancroft (1952)**. The standard error of the estimate is the square root of variance.

Heritability estimates were calculated in the F_2 generation as follows:

$$h^2 \text{ (broad sense)} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}D + \frac{1}{4}H}{\frac{1}{2}D + \frac{1}{4}H + E}$$

$$h^2 \text{ (narrow sense)} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}D}{\frac{1}{2}D + \frac{1}{4}H + E}$$

Where $E = VP_1 + VP_2 + VF_1 / 3$

Expected and predicted values of genetic advance (GS and GS %) were calculated according to **Johnson *et al.* (1955)** as $GS = K \times h^2_{(ns)} \times \sigma_{ph}$ where, K = selection differential (K = 2.06 when selection intensity 5%), and σ_{ph} = phenotypic standard deviation of F_2 . Genetic advance as a percent of the F_2 mean (GS %) was calculated as given by **Miller *et al.* (1958)** as $GS\% = (GS / F_2) \times 100$. Correlation coefficients calculated according to **Snedecor and Cochran (1981)**. Path coefficient analysis was computed according to **Dewey and Lu (1959)**.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mean Performance

Mean and standard error of the six populations (P_1 , F_1 , F_2 , Bc_1 , Bc_2 and P_2) of four soybean crosses for the studied characters are shown in Table 2. The results revealed that, the F_1 's means were lower than the mean of parents for days to flowering and days to maturity in 2nd, 3rd and 4th crosses. These results provide evidence for the presence of heterotic effects and over-dominance gene effects and the decreasing alleles were more frequent than increasing ones in the genetic constitution of soybean genotypes. The 1st cross (L-86-K-96 × Ware) had F_1 mean higher than both parents for days to 90% maturity, suggesting the presence of over-dominance gene effects and the increasing alleles of this case was predominant than decreasing ones.

The F_2 means were more than the F_1 values for days to flowering and days to maturity in all crosses, indicating the accumulation of increasing alleles for these characters.

The back cross population means are in the mid-way between the F_1 and the parental genotypes for days to flowering and maturity in 2nd and 4th crosses, suggesting absence of dominance and genes controlling these characters are independently segregated. But it deviated from the mid values of parents and their respective F_1 for the other cases. These results indicate that, polygenic and non-mendelian inheritance are more pronounced. Indicating that, these traits were quantitatively inherited. Similar results were recorded by **Adsul *et al.* (2016)**, **Thakare *et al.* (2017)**, **Abou Sen (2020)** and **Ramírez *et al.* (2022)**.

Mean and standard error of the six population (P_1 , P_2 , F_1 , F_2 , Bc_1 , and Bc_2) of four soybean crosses for yield and its

Table 2. Means ± S.E. of the six populations for days to 50% flowering, days to 90% maturity, plant height, number of branches/plant and number of pods/plant of four soybean crosses during 2021 season

Populations	Crosses I (L-86-K-96 × Ware)	II (Egyptian × Ware)	III (H129 × Crawford)	IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)
Days to 50% flowering				
P₁	40.58±0.156	50.25±0.174	41.25±0.358	52.64±0.247
P₂	38.64±0.151	37.54±0.155	36.38±0.297	40.11±0.281
F₁	40.84±0.138	42.35±0.188	37.54±0.416	42.34±0.390
F₂	43.98±0.269	44.54±0.261	44.85±0.307	48.67±0.375
BC₁	39.54±0.323	42.88±0.298	41.74±0.353	46.84±0.407
BC₂	37.54±0.251	40.84±0.298	38.94±0.365	43.81±0.437
LSD_{0.05}	2.3	2.15	1.46	2.55
Days to 90% maturity				
P₁	120.25±0.182	129.64±0.189	126.88±0.286	144.11±0.325
P₂	124.84±0.196	125.84±0.218	122.97±0.253	128.69±0.352
F₁	126.46±0.217	122.34±0.244	121.44±0.378	133.57±0.396
F₂	133.85±0.279	127.95±0.255	135.98±0.358	138.69±0.368
BC₁	122.81±0.323	125.64±0.308	130.11±0.387	140.67±0.406
BC₂	126.06±0.281	123.67±0.308	128.61±0.409	135.67±0.444
LSD_{0.05}	3.15	2.95	2.37	3.48
Plant height (cm)				
P₁	70.85±0.189	104.45±0.237	122.01±0.388	79.67±0.325
P₂	45.84±0.150	48.69±0.200	104.33±0.379	110.55±0.352
F₁	88.11±0.207	100.84±0.287	116.64±0.427	115.38±0.396
F₂	74.68±0.480	74.65±0.482	90.41±0.410	99.64±0.368
BC₁	71.94±0.530	81.45±0.508	110.33±0.433	86.54±0.406
BC₂	75.94±0.611	66.75±0.489	105.84±0.479	101.14±0.444
LSD_{0.05}	8.10	7.5	6.34	8.53
Number of branches / plant				
P₁	4.64±0.101	5.07±0.119	4.49±0.102	5.02±0.117
P₂	3.84±0.065	3.42±0.089	4.012±0.095	3.7±0.130
F₁	6.5±0.117	6.012±0.133	4.76±0.179	4.22±0.178
F₂	4.21±0.080	4.054±0.099	3.91±0.121	3.15±0.142
BC₁	3.99±0.104	4.15±0.117	4.51±0.133	3.88±0.164
BC₂	4.45±0.098	3.81±0.125	4.11±0.155	3.25±0.164
LSD_{0.05}	1.5	1.62	1.1	1.2
Number of pods / plant				
P₁	119.67±0.691	111.35±0.751	133.25±0.752	99.74±0.961
P₂	95.45±0.598	85.67±0.658	118.64±0.692	131.67±0.851
F₁	194.84±0.96	189.81±1.13	166.99±0.865	215.88±1.01
F₂	128.09±1.903	142.85±1.99	121.38±1.42	129.54±1.60
BC₁	145.8±2.41	150.54±1.33	134.65±1.34	138.14±1.62
BC₂	122.03±1.92	131.54±1.25	125.34±1.63	167.24±1.85
LSD_{0.05}	15.3	14.78	15.4	16.2

Table 3. Means \pm S.E. of the six populations for number of seeds/plant, 100- seed weight and seed weight / plant of four soybean crosses during 2021 season

Crosses	I (L-86-K-96 \times Ware)	II (Egyptian \times Ware)	III (H129 \times Crawford)	IV (D.R101 \times Giza 111)
Populations				
	Number of seeds / plant			
P₁	270.98 \pm 2.17	332.54 \pm 1.77	255.37 \pm 1.77	187.41 \pm 1.90
P₂	180.840 \pm 1.68	171.000 \pm 1.91	210.84 \pm 1.66	266.38 \pm 1.76
F₁	408.640 \pm 2.28	433.650 \pm 2.50	374.35 \pm 1.88	318.46 \pm 2.01
F₂	283.640 \pm 3.66	311.540 \pm 1.63	260.84 \pm 3.00	255.46 \pm 3.68
BC₁	301.640 \pm 3.54	341.540 \pm 1.86	277.98 \pm 3.5	210.56 \pm 3.84
BC₂	255.810 \pm 4.76	285.460 \pm 2.05	230.84 \pm 4.58	289.88 \pm 4.1
LSD_{0.05}	22.4	23.78	21.47	25.14
	100- seed weight (g)			
P₁	11.33 \pm 0.036	9.212 \pm 0.045	17.33 \pm 0.05	21.88 \pm 0.149
P₂	18.540 \pm 0.064	18.650 \pm 0.063	15.38 \pm 0.086	17.24 \pm 0.170
F₁	16.050 \pm 0.148	14.850 \pm 0.167	17.88 \pm 0.182	20.66 \pm 0.191
F₂	14.550 \pm 0.116	14.250 \pm 0.135	16.89 \pm 0.135	17.14 \pm 0.163
BC₁	15.021 \pm 0.133	11.330 \pm 0.158	17.06 \pm 0.158	19.64 \pm 0.169
BC₂	16.650 \pm 0.120	15.850 \pm 0.143	16.11 \pm 0.152	17.85 \pm 0.201
LSD_{0.05}	1.74	2.5	2.1	1.65
	Seed weight / plant (g)			
P₁	28.97 \pm 0.266	28.345 \pm 0.307	45.92 \pm 0.368	39.45 \pm 0.506
P₂	34.840 \pm 0.278	33.650 \pm 0.356	33.28 \pm 0.459	45.21 \pm 0.555
F₁	68.940 \pm 0.868	65.840 \pm 0.806	58.46 \pm 1.01	60.38 \pm 0.790
F₂	43.840 \pm 0.996	46.450 \pm 0.872	41.38 \pm 1.138	44.64 \pm 1.32
BC₁	38.670 \pm 1.023	39.740 \pm 0.956	46.44 \pm 1.24	46.25 \pm 1.37
BC₂	44.520 \pm 1.139	51.540 \pm 0.893	40.83 \pm 1.33	52.67 \pm 1.61
LSD_{0.05}	6.4	3.98	2.47	5.46

attributes *i.e.* plant height, number of branches/ plant, number of pods/ plant, number of seeds/ plant, number of seeds/ plant, 100 seed weight and seed weight / plant are given in Tables (2 and 3). The four studied crosses varied greatly in the two parents involved in each cross and their populations of yield and its attributes. Such wide variation indicated the presence of the appreciable amount of genetic variability.

The results indicated that the F₁'s means were lower than P₁ and more than P₂ and mid-parents for plant height in the 2nd,

and 3rd, crosses. These results provide evidence for the presence of heterotic effects and partial-dominance gene effects in the genetic constitution of soybean genotypes. Meanwhile, the F₁'s exceeding the high-performing parent for plant height in crosses 1st and 4th, all crosses for number of branches/ plant, number of pods/ plant, number of seeds/ plant and seed yield/ plant and in the 3rd cross for 100-seed weight. These results provide evidence for the presence of over-dominance gene effects and increasing alleles were more frequent than decreasing ones in the genetic makeup of soybean genotypes.

The F_2 means were lower than F_1 values for yield and its attributes in all crosses. These results suggest that decreasing alleles for these characters were more frequent than increasing ones, indicating the presence of inbreeding depression.

The backcross population means are in the mid-way between the F_1 and the parental genotypes for number of branches/plant in the 3rd cross, 100 seed weight and seed weight / plant in all crosses as well as plant height in the 1st one. Also, the mid-way between the F_1 and the parental genotypes means were detected in BC_1 for number of pods/plant in the 2nd cross; BC_2 for plant height in the 1st cross and number of seeds/plant in the 4th one, suggesting the absence of dominance and genes controlling these characters are independently segregated. On the other hand, the backcross population means deviated from the mid values of parents and their respective F_1 for the other cases. These results are in harmony with those obtained by **Adsul *et al.*, 2016; Thakare *et al.*, 2017; Abou Sen, 2020 and Ramírez *et al.*, 2022.**

Scaling Test, Gene Effects and Heritability

Flowering and to maturity dates

The scaling tests A, B, C and D were employed to test the presence of epistasis. The results given in Table 4 indicate significant non-allelic interactions for number of days to flowering and maturity in all crosses. These results indicated the presence of epistasis and the digenic model was adequate to explain the genetics of the aforementioned characters in the corresponding crosses. In this connection, the complex genetic model has controlled the inheritance of flowering and to maturity dates, **Adsul *et al.* (2016) and Ramírez *et al.* (2022).**

The additive (d), dominance (h) and their digenic interaction types, additive x additive (i) and dominance x dominance (l) gene effects were significant in almost cases and involved in the inheritance of days to 50% flowering in all crosses and days to 90% maturity in 1st cross. Hereby, recurrent selection system could be used for improving these characters in those crosses. In this respect, **Adsul *et al.* (2016) and Ramírez *et al.* (2022)** found that additive and dominance gene action were of primary importance in controlling flowering and to maturity dates characters.

The digenic interaction types additive x additive (i) and additive x dominance (j) in the 2nd and 4th crosses for days to 50% flowering and in the 1st cross for days to 90% maturity were involved in the inheritance of these traits. Additive x dominance (j) and dominance x dominance (l) were involved in the inheritance of days to 90% maturity only in the 4th cross. These cross-combinations could be considered the most promising materials for recurrent selection programs for earliness. Similar results were recorded by **Thakare *et al.* (2017) and Abou Sen (2020).**

It is interesting to mention that, the additive (d) and dominance (h) gene actions were negative and significant for days to 90% maturity in the 1st cross, indicating that decreasing alleles were more frequent than increasing ones in favor of decreasing days to 90% maturity.

It is noticeable that the dominance (h) and its digenic interaction type dominance x dominance (l) were significant and had different signs in all crosses for days to 50% flowering and in the 1st and 2nd crosses for days to 90% maturity, suggesting that interaction was predominantly of duplicate type.

Table 4. Scaling tests and gene action for days to 50% flowering and days to 90% maturity using six populations of four soybean crosses during 2021 season

Crosses Estimates	I (L-86-K-96 × Ware)	II (Egyptian × Ware)	III (H129 × Crawford)	IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)
Days to 50% flowering				
A	-2.34**	-6.84**	4.69**	-1.3
B	-4.4**	1.79**	3.96**	5.17**
C	15.02**	5.67**	26.69**	17.25**
D	10.88**	5.36**	9.02**	6.69**
Adequacy genetic model				
m	43.98**	44.54**	44.85**	48.67**
d	2.00**	2.04**	2.8**	3.03**
h	-20.53**	-12.27**	-19.32**	-17.42**
i	-21.76**	-10.72**	-18.04**	-13.38**
j	1.03*	-4.315**	0.365	-3.235**
l	28.5**	15.77**	9.39**	9.51**
Days to 90% maturity				
A	-1.09	-0.7	11.9**	3.66**
B	0.82	-0.84	12.81**	9.08**
C	37.39**	11.64**	51.19**	14.82**
D	18.83**	6.59**	13.24**	1.04
Adequacy genetic model				
m	133.85**	127.95**	135.98**	138.69**
d	-3.25**	1.97**	1.5**	5.0**
h	-33.75**	-18.58**	-29.96**	-4.91*
i	-37.66**	-13.18**	-26.48**	-2.08
j	-0.955*	0.07	-0.455	-2.71**
l	37.93**	14.72**	1.77	-10.66**

*, ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 probability levels, respectively.

Seed yield and its attributes

The results in Tables 5 and 6 indicate significant non-allelic interactions for yield and its attributes in all crosses. These results indicated the presence of epistasis and the digenic model was adequate to explain the genetics of the aforementioned characters in the corresponding crosses. In this connection, the digenic model was found to be adequate to explain the genetics of plant height, number of branches/plant, number of pods/plant, number of seeds/plant, 100 seed weight, and seed weight /

plant (Adsul *et al.*, 2016; Ramírez *et al.*, 2022).

The additive (d), dominance (h), additive × additive (i), additive × dominance (j) and dominance × dominance (l) gene actions were significant for plant height in the 3rd cross, number of pods/plant in the 1st and 4th crosses and 100 seed weight in the 1st cross. Therefore, a recurrent selection procedures could be used for improving such characters.

It is interesting to mention that, the additive (d) and dominance (h) gene actions

Table 5. Scaling tests and gene action for plant height, number of branches/plant and number of pods/plant using six populations of four soybean crosses during 2021 season

Estimates	Crosses I (L-86-K-96 × Ware)	II (Egyptian × Ware)	III (H129 × Crawford)	IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)
Plant height (cm)				
A	-15.08**	-42.39**	-17.99**	-21.97**
B	17.93**	-16.03**	-9.29**	-23.65**
C	5.81**	-56.22**	-97.98**	-22.42**
D	1.48	1.1	-35.35**	11.6**
Adequacy genetic model				
M	74.68**	74.65**	90.41**	99.64**
d	-4.00**	14.7**	4.49**	-14.6**
h	26.805**	22.07**	74.17**	-2.93
i	-2.96	-2.2	70.7**	-23.2**
j	-16.51**	-13.18**	-4.35**	0.84
l	0.11	60.62**	-43.42**	68.82**
Number of branches / plant				
A	-3.16**	-2.782**	-0.23	-1.48
B	-1.44**	-1.812**	-0.552	-1.42
C	-4.64**	-4.298**	-2.382**	-4.56**
D	-0.02	0.148	-0.8*	-0.83
Adequacy genetic model				
M	4.21**	4.054**	3.91**	3.15**
d	-0.46**	0.34*	0.4*	0.63**
h	2.3**	1.471**	2.11**	1.52*
i	0.04	-0.296	1.6*	1.66*
j	-0.86**	-0.485**	0.161	-0.03
l	4.56**	4.89**	-0.818	1.24
Number of pods / plant				
A	1.31	25.6**	-16.33**	-71.27**
B	-70.46**	-38.08**	-49.56**	18.86**
C	-92.44**	-5.24	-100.4**	-145**
D	-11.65*	3.62	-17.23**	-46.3*
Adequacy genetic model				
M	128.09**	142.85**	121.38**	129.54**
d	23.775**	19.0**	9.31**	-29.1**
h	110.57**	84.06**	75.505**	192.78**
i	23.29*	-7.24	34.46**	92.6**
j	11.665**	6.16**	2.005	-13.14**
l	45.86**	19.72*	31.43**	-40.19**

*, ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 probability levels, respectively.

Table 6. Scaling tests and gene action for number of seeds/plant, 100- seed weight and seed weight per plant using six populations of four soybean crosses during 2021 season

Crosses Estimates	I (L-86-K-96 × Ware)	II (Egyptian × Ware)	III (H129 × Crawford)	IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)
Number of seeds / plant				
A	13.8	78.43**	-29.23**	-163.7**
B	-168**	-195.3**	-168**	73.89**
C	-134.5**	-124.7**	-171.6**	-68.87**
D	9.83	-3.92	12.86	10.48
Adequacy genetic model				
M	283.64**	311.54**	260.84**	255.46**
d	45.83**	56.08**	47.14**	-79.32**
h	163.07**	189.72**	115.53**	70.605**
i	-19.66	7.84	-25.72	-20.96
j	0.76	-24.69**	24.875**	-39.84**
l	173.86**	109**	222.99**	110.79**
100- seed weight (g)				
A	-4.548**	-10.84**	0.86*	1.38**
B	5.92**	7.638**	-2.99**	-6.84**
C	-3.77**	-0.562	-0.91	-11.88**
D	-2.571**	1.32**	0.61	-3.21**
Adequacy genetic model				
M	14.55**	14.25**	16.89**	17.14**
d	-1.629**	-4.52**	0.95**	1.79**
h	6.257**	-1.721*	0.305	7.52**
i	5.142**	-2.64**	-1.22	6.42**
j	1.976**	0.199	-0.025	-0.53
l	-6.514**	5.842**	3.35**	-0.96
Seed weight per plant (g)				
A	-26.44**	-20.01**	1.14	-13.09**
B	-8.87**	8.895**	-22.72**	5.51
C	-26.33**	-7.875*	-30.6**	-26.86**
D	4.49	1.62	-4.51	-9.64**
Adequacy genetic model				
M	43.84**	46.45**	41.38**	44.64**
d	-5.85**	-11.8**	5.61**	-6.42**
h	28.055**	31.603**	27.88**	37.33**
i	-8.98	-3.24	9.02	19.28**
j	-2.915	-9.148**	-0.71	-3.54
l	44.29**	14.355**	12.56	-11.7

*, ** significant at 0.05 and 0.01 probability levels, respectively.

were negative and significant for plant height in the 4th cross, indicating that decreasing alleles were more frequent than increasing ones for plant height, on the other hand, it was positive and significant for a number of branches/ plant in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th crosses, number of pods/ plant in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd crosses, number of seeds/ plant in all crosses, 100- seed weight in the 4th cross and seed weight /plant in the 3rd one, suggesting that increasing alleles were more frequent than decreasing ones for these traits.

It is noticeable that the dominance (h) and its digenic interaction dominance \times dominance (l) were significant and have different signs in the 3rd cross for plant height; the 4th cross for number of pods plant; the 1st and 2nd crosses for 100-seed weight and the 1st cross for seed weight /plant. These results indicate that interaction is predominantly of duplicate type. Whereas the sign of dominance (h) and dominance \times dominance (l) was similar in the 2nd cross for plant height, the 1st and 2nd crosses for number of branches/plant, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd crosses for number of pods/ plant, all crosses for number of seeds/plant and the 1st and 2nd crosses for seed weight/plant, revealing that interaction is predominantly of complementary type.

Heterosis, inbreeding depression, F₂ deviation and potence ratio

Results presented in Table 7 show that heterosis relative to mid and best parent for all traits were highly significant. Furthermore, useful heterosis relative to mid-parent was detected by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th crosses for days to 50% flowering and days to 90% maturity as well as relative to best parent by the 2nd and 3rd crosses for days to 90% maturity and plant height, these results suggest that these crosses could be promising for earliness and plant height shortness through recurrent selection method.

Meanwhile, positive and significant heterosis relative to mid and best parent were detected for number of pods/ plant, number of seeds/ plant and seed weight / plant in all crosses and in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd crosses for number of branches/plant. Moreover positive and significant heterosis relative to the mid parent was detected in all crosses and relative to the best parent in the 3rd and 4th crosses for 100- seed weight, these results suggest that, these crosses could be promising for seed yield and its components through selection in the advanced generation.

The inbreeding depression was negative and highly significant for days to 50% flowering in all crosses and for days to 90% maturity in the 1st and 3rd crosses. Meanwhile, positive highly significant inbreeding depression was detected in all crosses for all yields and its attributes. Significant effects for both heterosis and inbreeding depression seem logical since the expression of heterosis in F₁ s was followed by a considerable reduction in the F₂ performance. Also, a reduction in values of non-additive genetic components is expected caused through inbreeding depression. In addition, the conflicting estimates of heterosis and inbreeding depression were associated in most traits.

Potance ratio was less than unity but not equal to zero for days to 50% flowering in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cross; days to 90% maturity and number of branches/ plant in the 4th cross; plant height in the 2nd and 3rd crosses and 100 seed weight in 1st, 2nd, and 4th crosses, indicating partial dominance. Similar results were also reported by **Adsul *et al.* (2016)** as well as **Krisnawati and Adie (2022)**. Meanwhile, days to 50% flowering in the 1st cross; days to 90% maturity and number of branches/ plant in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd crosses; plant height in the 1st and 4th crosses; 100 seed weight in the 2nd cross and number of pods/plant, number of seeds/plant and seed weight/plant

Table 7. F₂ deviation (E1), back cross deviation (E2), heterosis, inbreeding depression percentage and potence ratio for the studied characters in four crosses of soybean

Character	Cross	(E1)	(E2)	Heterosis		Inbreeding depression (%)	Potence ratio (P)
				M.P.	B.P.		
Days to 50% flowering	I	3.76**	-3.37**	3.11**	5.69**	-7.67**	1.27
	II	1.42**	-2.53**	-3.52**	12.81**	-5.17**	-0.24
	III	6.67**	4.33**	-3.28**	3.19**	-19.47**	-0.52
	IV	4.31**	1.94**	-8.70**	5.56**	-14.95**	-0.64
Days to 90% maturity	I	9.35**	-0.13	3.19**	1.30**	-5.84**	-1.71
	II	2.91**	-0.77	-4.23**	-2.78**	-4.59	-2.84
	III	12.80**	12.36**	-2.79**	-1.24**	-11.97**	-1.78
	IV	3.71**	6.37**	-2.07**	3.79**	-3.83	-0.37
Plant height (cm)	I	1.45*	1.43	51.02**	24.36**	15.24**	2.38
	II	-14.01**	-29.21**	31.70**	-3.46**	25.97**	0.87
	III	-24.50**	-13.64**	3.07	-4.40**	22.49**	0.39
	IV	-5.61**	-22.81**	21.31**	44.82**	13.64**	-1.31
Number of branches / plant	I	-1.16**	-2.30**	53.30**	40.09**	35.23**	5.65
	II	-1.10**	-2.30**	41.63**	18.58**	32.57**	2.14
	III	-0.60**	-0.39	11.97**	6.01**	17.86**	2.13
	IV	-1.14**	-1.45**	-3.21	-15.94**	25.36**	-0.21
Number of pods / plant	I	-23.11**	-34.58**	81.15**	62.81**	34.26**	-7.21
	II	-1.31	-6.24**	92.68**	70.46**	24.74**	-7.11
	III	-25.09**	-31.95**	32.59**	25.32**	27.31**	-5.62
	IV	-36.25**	-26.21**	86.58**	116.44**	39.99**	6.27
Number of seeds / plant	I	-33.64**	-77.10**	80.89**	50.80**	30.60**	-4.05
	II	-31.17**	-58.42**	72.24**	30.41**	28.16**	-2.25
	III	-42.89**	-98.64**	60.59**	46.59**	30.32**	-6.34
	IV	-17.22**	-44.92**	40.36**	69.93**	19.78**	2.32
100- seed weight (g)	I	-0.94**	0.69**	7.47**	-13.43**	9.35**	0.31
	II	-0.14	-1.60**	6.60**	-20.4**	4.04**	0.19
	III	-0.23	-1.07**	9.32**	16.25**	5.54**	-1.56
	IV	-2.97**	-2.73**	5.62**	19.84**	17.04**	-0.47
Seed weight /plant (g)	I	-6.58**	-17.66**	116.08**	97.88**	36.41**	12.62
	II	-1.97*	-5.56**	112.40**	95.66**	29.45**	13.14
	III	-7.65**	-10.79**	47.63**	75.66**	29.22**	-2.98
	IV	-6.72**	-3.79	42.64**	33.55**	26.07**	6.27

I (L-86-K-96 × Ware), II (Egyptian × Ware), III (H129 × Crawford), and IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)

in all crosses were more than unity, showed over dominance. These results are in agreement with those reported by **Adsul *et al.* (2016)** as well as **Krisnawati and Adie (2022)**.

F₂ deviation (E1) and back cross deviation (E2) for all traits studied were either positive or negative significant or highly significant, however (E2) for days to 90% maturity in the 1st and 2nd crosses, plant height in the 1st cross, number of branches/plant in the 3rd cross and seed weight / plant in the 4th cross as well as (E1) for number of pods/plant in the 2nd cross and 100 seed weight in the 2nd and 3rd crosses were non-significant.

Heritability and genetic advance

Heritability values are important to the breeder since it quantifies the expected improvement upon selection to achieve genetic improvement through selection, heritability must be reasonably high. In the present investigation, the results in Table 8 show high values of heritability in broad sense.

The highest broad sense heritability values were recorded in the 1st cross for plant height (96.33%) and number of pods/plant (95.96%), the 4th one for number of seeds/pod (93.41%), and seed weight / plant (94.28%). Furthermore, the highest narrow sense heritability values were observed for plant height (92.96%) in the 2nd cross, number of pods/ plant (89.88%) in the 3rd cross and seed weight / plant (87.59%) in the 2nd one. Meanwhile, the lowest broad sense heritability estimates were detected for number of seeds/ pod (59.09%) in the 2nd cross, number of branches/ plant in the 1st cross and days to 50% flowering (65.70%) in the 3rd cross. Moreover, the lowest narrow sense heritability estimates were recorded for number of seeds/pod (16.11%) in the 3rd cross, number of branches/plant in the 1st cross (39.75%) and the 2nd one (48.93%) and plant height (58.17%) in the 1st cross. The values of heritability in narrow sense which indicate

to the proportion of phenotypic variance that results from additive genetic variance, were high in magnitude but were lower than their corresponding broad sense values. Genetic advance estimates from selection 5% superior plants of the F₂ generation showed the highest values for number of seeds/ plant in the 1st cross (80.35) and in the 4th cross (98.31), number of pods/ plant in the 3rd cross (40.84) and the 4th one (41.79) and seed weight / plant in 3rd cross (26.47) and 4th one (30.05). While, low estimates were observed for number of branches/plant in all crosses (1.01, 1.54, 2.30 and 3.02, respectively) and 100 seed weight in all crosses (3.03, 3.24, 2.90 and 3.63, respectively). Genetic advance values as a percentage of F₂ mean (G.S/F₂%) were high for the number of branches/ plant in the 2nd cross (37.95), 3rd cross (58.80) and 4th one (96.01); number of pods/ plant in 1st cross (32.58), 3rd cross (33.64) and 4th one (32.26); number of seeds/ plant in the 4th cross (38.48) and seed weight / plant in all crosses.

The genetic advance under selection depends on the amount of genetic variability, the magnitude of the masking effect of the environment and the intensity of selection that is practiced. In terms of the progress expected, the confounding of non-additive with the additive genetic variance will have an effect in future generations, due to the non-additive variance included in the estimates. Therefore, the expected genetic advance for characters in this study was derived by using heritability in the narrow sense. These results are in harmony with the findings by, **Jain *et al.* (2018)**, **Koraddi and Basavaraja (2019)**, and **Prathima *et al.* (2022)**.

Correlation and path coefficient

Correlation results indicated that number of branches/plant, number of pods/ plant and number of seeds/ plant had significant positive correlation with seed weight / plant, whereas, days to 50% flowering had negative correlation with this parameter

Table 8. Heritability in broad and narrow senses and genetic advance for studied characters in four crosses of soybean

Character	Cross	Heritability		Genetic advance	
		Broad sense	Narrow sense	ΔG	ΔG (%)
Days to 50% flowering	I	92.39	84.06	7.21	16.40
	II	89.07	81.38	6.79	15.24
	III	65.70	63.60	6.24	13.91
	IV	69.84	67.37	5.13	10.54
Days to 90% maturity	I	87.31	82.11	7.31	5.46
	II	81.76	80.50	6.56	5.13
	III	81.28	76.88	8.80	6.47
	IV	82.66	73.19	8.75	6.31
Plant height (cm)	I	96.33	58.17	8.91	11.94
	II	93.57	92.96	14.29	19.14
	III	76.38	75.82	9.92	10.97
	IV	76.22	66.65	7.83	7.86
Number of branches / plant	I	63.06	39.75	1.01	23.97
	II	65.81	48.93	1.54	37.95
	III	71.00	59.32	2.30	58.80
	IV	74.59	66.74	3.02	96.01
Number of pods / plant	I	95.96	68.70	41.73	32.58
	II	86.79	83.99	32.14	22.50
	III	92.62	89.88	40.84	33.64
	IV	91.32	81.75	41.79	32.26
Number of seeds / plant	I	92.09	68.78	80.35	28.33
	II	59.09	55.90	29.09	9.34
	III	91.29	16.11	15.44	5.92
	IV	93.41	83.69	98.31	38.48
100- seed weight (g)	I	83.15	81.57	3.03	20.82
	II	84.34	75.40	3.24	22.73
	III	80.35	67.28	2.90	17.14
	IV	72.48	69.86	3.63	21.19
Seed weight/plant (g)	I	92.43	82.04	26.09	59.50
	II	90.48	87.59	24.39	52.50
	III	91.17	72.87	26.47	63.96
	IV	94.28	71.54	30.05	67.31

I (L-86-K-96 × Ware), II (Egyptian × Ware), III (H129 × Crawford), and IV (D.R101 × Giza 111)

(Table 9). Positive and significant correlation was recorded between days to 50% flowering had negative correlation with this parameter (Table 9). Positive and significant correlation was recorded between days to 50% flowering with days to 90% maturity (0.771**); plant height with number of pods/plant (0.484*); days to 90% maturity with 100-seed weight (0.494*); number of branches/ plant with number of pods/ plant (0.401*), and number of seeds/ plant with number of branches/plant (0.628**) and number of pods/plant (0.783**). 100- seed weight exhibited negative and significant correlation with number of seeds/ plant (-0.424*). Number of branches (0.92) showed the uttermost correlation with seed yield (Ghanbari *et al.* 2018). Santosh *et al.* (2020) showed that number of branches/ plant and number of seeds/pod exhibited significantly positive correlation with seed weight/ plant. On the other side, Kuswanto *et al.* (2018) reported that, the correlation of all seed yield components with yield was not significant, while plant height tended to have a higher number of branches.

Direct and indirect effects for some agronomic traits on seed yield/plant relative to correlation coefficients are showing in Table 10. The direct effect on seed weight /

plant for most studied traits was positive except days to 50% flowering (-0.300) and plant height (-0.072). The results displayed that number of seeds/ plant had the largest direct effect on seed weight / plant (0.906) followed by 100- seed weight (0.565), then days to 90% maturity (0.303), number of pods/plant (0.134), and number of branches /plant (0.040). Number of seeds/plant showed the highest positive indirect effects on seed weight /plant *via* number of pods/ plant (0.709), Number of branches/ plant (0.569), and Plant height (0.329). 100- seed weight had positive indirect effect on seed yield/ plant *via* and days to 90% maturity (0.279). On the other hand, days to 50% flowering, plant height and number of seeds/ plant showed negative indirect effect on seed weight / plant *via* 100- seed weight. Also, Ferrari *et al.* (2018) reported that, the number of branches and number of pods/plant had the greatest direct and indirect effects on seed yield.

Generally, the previous results revealed that number of seeds/plant, 100-seed weight, number of pods/ plant, number of branches/ plant, and days to 90% maturity were considered the major seed yield components and attributes that the soybean breeder should take into account for developing high yielding soybean genotypes.

Table 9. Simple correlation coefficients for various metric traits in soybean genotypes

Trait	Days to 50% flowering	Days to 90% maturity	Plant height	Number of branches/ plant	Number of pods/ plant	Number of seeds/ plant	100- seed weight	Seed weight / plant
Days to 50% flowering	1							
Days to 90% maturity	0.771**	1						
Plant height	0.099 ^{ns}	0.136 ^{ns}	1					
Number of branches/ plant	0.069 ^{ns}	-0.238 ^{ns}	0.185 ^{ns}	1				
Number of pods/ plant	-0.065 ^{ns}	-0.083 ^{ns}	0.484*	0.401*	1			
Number of seeds/ plant	0.002 ^{ns}	-0.341 ^{ns}	0.363 ^{ns}	0.628**	0.783**	1		
100- seed weight	0.009 ^{ns}	0.494*	0.052 ^{ns}	-0.211 ^{ns}	0.054 ^{ns}	-0.424 ^{ns}	1	
Seed weight / plant	-0.072 ^{ns}	0.012 ^{ns}	0.37 ^{ns}	0.437*	0.849**	0.666**	0.323 ^{ns}	1

ns, * and ** no significant, significant at 0.05 and significant at 0.01, probability levels respectively.

Table 10. Direct (Diagonal) and indirect effect for studied traits on seed weight/plant

Trait	Days to 50% flowering	Days to 90% maturity	Plant height	Number of branches/ plant	Number of pods/ plant	Number of seeds/ plant	100- seed weight
Days to 50% flowering	-0.300	0.234	-0.007	0.003	-0.009	0.002	0.005
Days to 90% maturity	-0.231	0.303	-0.010	-0.009	-0.011	-0.309	0.279
Plant height	-0.030	0.041	-0.072	0.007	0.065	0.329	0.029
Number of branches/ plant	-0.021	-0.072	-0.013	0.040	0.054	0.569	-0.119
Number of pods/ plant	0.020	-0.025	-0.035	0.016	0.134	0.709	0.031
Number of seeds/ plant	-0.001	-0.103	-0.026	0.025	0.105	0.906	-0.240
100- seed weight	-0.003	0.150	-0.004	-0.008	0.007	-0.384	0.565

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المخلص العربي

التحليل الوراثي لمحصول البذور وبعض الصفات المرتبطة به لاربعة هجن من فول الصويا

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أجريت هذه الدراسة خلال المواسم الزراعية الصيفية للأعوام 2019، 2020 و2021، تحت ظروف محطة البحوث الزراعية بسخا، كفر الشيخ، مصر. وذلك لتحديد الموديل الوراثي الملائم وطرز الفعل الجيني المتحكم في وراثة صفات التكاثر وكذلك محصول البذور ومساهماته في العشائر الستة لأربعة هجن من فول الصويا هي، (L-86-K-96x Ware) I (Egypian x Ware) II، III (H129 x Crawford) IV (D.R101x Giza 111) وقد أظهرت نتائج اختبار المقياس (A, B, C and D) أن الموديل الوراثي المعقد هو الملائم لتفسير وراثة جميع الصفات في جميع الهجن تحت الدراسة. كان الفعل الجيني المضيف والسيادي والتفاعل (مضيف × مضيف)، (مضيف × سيادي)، و(سيادي × سيادي) معنوية لصفات عدد الأيام حتى 50% تزهير في جميع الهجن، عدد الأيام حتى النضج ووزن 100 بذرة في الهجين الأول، ارتفاع النبات في الهجين الثالث، عدد القرون/النبات في الهجينين الأول والرابع. كان التفاعل غير الأليلى من النوع المتضاعف هو السائد في وراثة صفات ارتفاع النبات في الهجين الثالث، عدد القرون/النبات في الهجين الرابع، وزن 100 بذرة في الهجينين الأول والثاني. سجلت الصفات ارتفاع النبات ووزن البذور/النبات في الهجين الثاني وعدد القرون/النبات في الهجين الثالث أعلى القيم لكفاءة التوريث في المعنى الضيق. كانت قوة الهجين بالنسبة لمتوسط الأباء والأب الأفضل موجبة ومعنوية لصفات عدد القرون/النبات وعدد البذور/النبات ووزن البذور/النبات في جميع الهجن وعدد الأفرع/النبات في الهجن الأول والثاني والثالث. كان الارتباط موجب ومعنوي بين وزن البذور/النبات وبين كل من عدد القرون/النبات وعدد البذور/النبات. كان لعدد البذور/النبات، وزن 100 بذرة وعدد القرون/النبات أعلى تأثير مباشر على كمية وزن البذور/النبات.

الكلمات الاسترشادية: فول الصويا، العشائر الستة، التكاثر، محصول البذور.

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