

REGULAR ARTICLE

Estimation of genetic parameters and prediction of genotypic values in common beans using mixed models[#]

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ABSTRACT

In the international scenario of agriculture, Brazil stands out as the main producer and consumer of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.). The increase in the productive potential of the crop is mainly due to breeding programs. The objective of this study was to estimate genetic parameters, predict genotypic values with REML/BLUP (Restricted Maximum Likelihood/Best Linear Unbiased Prediction) and, based on these values, study the variability in common bean cultivars with carioca and black grain. Twenty three agromorphological descriptors were evaluated, among them grain yield. Deviance analysis detected significant differences between the cultivars in both groups. Selective accuracy (Ac) was considered high for most of the traits. Broad-sense heritability (b^2_g) ranged from 0.05 to 0.72, but it was low for the trait yield (YLD). In the carioca grain group, the b^2_g values for the traits related to plant morphology were higher than in the black group. Nevertheless, the b^2_g values in the black group were higher in relation to the pod and seed traits. The correlations for YLD were moderate but different in the two commercial groups studied. In the black group, variables related to the seed morphology were correlated with grain yield, and in the carioca group, traits related to seed quantity. Based on the groupings, variability among the cultivars was observed. Three distinct clusters were formed for the carioca group and four for the black group. Based on the predicted genetic values, genetic variability and the most adapted and stable cultivars were detected among the cultivars in the studied environments.

Keywords: Genetic diversity; *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.; REML/BLUP

INTRODUCTION

Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is cultivated all over the world; it is considered the most important legume for fresh consumption and a chief source of proteins (approximately 22%), vitamins and minerals (Ca, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Zn) of human food, in particular in developing countries (Broughton et al., 2003). In the international scenario, Brazil stands out as the world's third largest producer and one of the largest consumers of common bean (FAO, 2016). The crop is produced in different growing seasons (rainy, dry and fall-winter seasons), and is planted in most Brazilian states, providing constant supply of the product on the market. The country's annual common bean production is grown on an area of approximately 3.2 million hectares,

with an output of around 3.4 million tons and a mean yield of 1,069 kg ha⁻¹, in the growing seasons of 2016/17 (CONAB, 2017).

In Brazil, common bean yield was significantly optimized in the last decades, as a result of breeding for technological and nutritional quality of common bean (Ramalho et al., 2012). The yield increase is due to several factors, such as technologies of crop planting and management, cultural practices and soil management and conservation. However, the greatest yield gain resulted mainly from the planting of improved cultivars with high yield potential, yield stability resulting from resistance and/or tolerance to adverse biotic and abiotic factors, and suited for mechanical harvesting (Ramalho et al., 2012; Tsutsumi et al., 2015).

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The existence of genetic variability in the species *P. vulgaris* allows the recombination and selection of cultivars adapted to different environments and to meet the demand of consumers and industry for different purposes and uses (Kelly et al., 1998). The study of genetic variability in commercial cultivars or elite lines is extremely relevant for crop breeding, for underlying the exploitation of traits that are already adapted to specific climatic conditions (Franco et al., 2001). In spite of the variability available in the species, a narrowing of the genetic base of the cultivars developed in Brazilian breeding programs has been observed, since these use mostly Mesoamerican germplasm as parents, with little introduction of alleles derived from other gene pools (Delfini et al., 2017).

The use of mixed models to estimate genetic parameters and predict genotypic values, excluding environmental effects, is extremely important in the orientation of breeding programs, allowing the study of cultivar behavior without the influence of genotype - environment (GE) interaction (Chiorato et al., 2008). In view of the above, this study had the objective of estimating genetic parameters, predicting the genotypic values via REML/BLUP (Restricted Maximum Likelihood/Best Linear Unbiased Prediction) and based on these values, to study the variability of common bean cultivars of the carioca and black grain market groups.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant material

The data used in this study resulted from two independent trials (carioca and black commercial groups), with economically important, widely grown cultivars in Brazil. All of them were bred in programs of public or private institutions and registered by the National Register of Cultivars of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Brazil.

One trial assessed 20 carioca beans cultivars (IAPAR 81, IPR Eldorado, IPR Tangará, IPR Campos Gerais, IPR Curió, IPR Andorinha, IPR Maracanã, IPR Bem-te-vi, IPR Quero-quero, Pérola, BRS Estilo, BRS Notável, Carioca, IAC Alvorada, IAC Formoso, IAC Imperador, FT 65, TAA Bola Cheia, TAA Gol e TAA Dama) and the other 19 black bean cultivars (IAPAR 8 – Rio Negro, IAPAR 20, IAPAR 44, IAPAR 65, Rio Tibagi, IPR Uirapuru, IPR Chopim, IPR Graúna, IPR Gralha, IPR Tuiuiú, IPR Nhambu, BRS Valente, BRS Campeiro, BRS Supremo, BRS Esteio, IAC Una, IAC Diplomata, FT Soberano e FT 41).

Experimental design and phenotyping

The experiments of agromorphological characterization were installed in four environments in the state of Paraná

(BR); two in the rainy season of 2014/2015, in Ponta Grossa (25°09'11"S; 50°09'22"W; altitude: 869 m) and in Guarapuava (25°23'51"S; 51°32'36"W; altitude: 1041 m), and two in the dry season of 2015, in Ponta Grossa and Santa Tereza do Oeste (25°05'20"S; 53°35'25"W, altitude: 750 m). The experiments were arranged in a randomized complete block design with three replications and plots consisting of four 4-m rows spaced 0.5 m apart, at a density of 12 plants per linear meter, considering the two central rows for evaluation.

This study analyzed a total of 23 quantitative agromorphological traits, namely: primary leaf length (PLL); primary leaf width (PLW); primary leaf index (PPL/PLW) (PLI); central leaflet length (CLL); central leaflet width (CLW); central leaflet index (CLL/CLW) (CLI); main stem length (StL); insertion height of the 1st pod (IFP); number of nodes on the main stem (NN); pod length (PL); number of seeds per pod (SP); number of locules per pod (LP); total number of pods per plant (NPP); total number of seeds per plant (NSP); main stem thickness (StTh); seed length (SL); seed width (SWth); seed thickness (STh); total seed weight per plant (TSW); weight of 1,000 seeds (W1000); coefficient J (COEF J); coefficient H (COEF H); and grain yield (YLD).

Data analysis

The agromorphological data were analyzed using the mixed model methodology (model 54), of software Selegen-REML/BLUP (Resende, 2016). The statistical model was $y = Xr + Zg + Wi + e$, where y is the data vector; r the vector of replication effects (assumed as fixed) added to the general mean; g the vector of genotypic effects (assumed as random); i the vector of the effects of the genotype - environment interaction (GE) (random); and e the vector of (random) errors. X , Z and W represent the incidence matrices for the above effects. The assumed distributions and structures of means (E) and variances (Var) were:

$$E \begin{bmatrix} y \\ g \\ i \\ e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Xr \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}; \text{Var} \begin{bmatrix} g \\ i \\ e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I\sigma_g^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I\sigma_i^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I\sigma_e^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

The model was fitted using the mixed model equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} X'X & X'Z & X'W \\ Z'X & Z'Z + I\lambda_1 & Z'W \\ W'X & W'Z & W'W + I\lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} \hat{r} \\ \hat{g} \\ \hat{i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X'y \\ Z'y \\ W'y \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\text{where } \lambda_1 = \frac{\sigma_e^2}{\sigma_g^2} = \frac{1 - b_g^2 - i^2}{b_g^2}; \text{ where } b_g^2 = \frac{\sigma_g^2}{\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_i^2 + \sigma_e^2}$$

corresponds to the individual heritability in the broad sense of the block; $i^2 = \frac{\sigma_i^2}{\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_i^2 + \sigma_e^2}$ to the coefficient of determination of the GE interaction effects; σ_g^2 is the genotypic variance between common bean cultivars; σ_i^2 the variance of the GE interaction; σ_e^2 the residual variance between plots; $r_{gloc} = \frac{\sigma_i^2}{\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_i^2} = \frac{b_g^2}{b_g^2 + i^2}$ corresponds to the genotypic correlation of genotypes across environments.

The iterative estimators of the variance components, by restricted maximum likelihood (REML) and the EM algorithm, were $\hat{\sigma}_e^2 = \frac{[y'y - \hat{r}'X'y - \hat{g}'Z'y - \hat{i}'W'y]}{[N - r(x)]}$;

$$\hat{\sigma}_g^2 = \frac{[\hat{g}'\hat{g} + \hat{\sigma}_e^2 \text{tr}C^{22}]}{q}; \quad \hat{\sigma}_i^2 = \frac{[\hat{i}'\hat{i} + \hat{\sigma}_e^2 \text{tr}C^{33}]}{s};$$

where: C^{22} and C^{33} were from

$$C^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} \\ C_{21} & C_{22} & C_{23} \\ C_{31} & C_{32} & C_{33} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} C^{11} & C^{12} & C^{13} \\ C^{21} & C^{22} & C^{23} \\ C^{31} & C^{32} & C^{33} \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } C \text{ is the}$$

matrix of the coefficients of mixed model equations; tr the matrix trace operator; $r(x)$ is the rank of matrix X; N, q, s = total number of data, number of genotypes and number of GE combinations, respectively.

By this model, the empirical BLUP predictors (eBLUP or REML/BLUP) of the interaction-free genotypic values were obtained, given by $\hat{\mu} + \hat{g}_i$, where $\hat{\mu}$ is the mean of all environments and \hat{g}_i the genotypic effect free of the GE interaction. For each environment j, the genotypic values (Vg) are predicted by $\hat{\mu}_j + \hat{g}_i + (\hat{ge})_{ij}$, where $\hat{\mu}_j$ is the mean of environment j; \hat{g}_i the genotypic effect of genotype i in environment j; and $(\hat{ge})_{ij}$ is the effect of the GE interaction in relation to genotype i.

The prediction of genotypic values by capitalizing the mean interaction (\hat{ge}_m) in the different environments is given by

$$\hat{\mu}_i + \hat{g}_i + \hat{ge}_m, \text{ and is calculated by: } \hat{\mu} + \left(\frac{\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_i^2}{n} \right) \hat{g}_i,$$

in which $\hat{\mu}$ is the overall mean of all environments; n the number of environments, and \hat{g}_i the genotypic effect of genotype i.

The Harmonic Mean of Genetic Values (HMGV) to assess yield stability was computed by the equation:

$$HMGV_i = \frac{n}{\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{V_{g_{ij}}} \right)}, \text{ where } n \text{ is the number of}$$

environments ($n = 4$) in which genotype i was evaluated, and $V_{g_{ij}}$ the genotypic value of genotype i in environment j , expressed as the proportion of the mean of this environment. The Relative Performance of Genetic Values (RPGV) for adaptability was calculated by the expression:

$$RPGV_i = \frac{1}{n} \frac{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n V_{g_{ij}} \right)}{M_j}, \text{ where } M_j \text{ is the mean common}$$

bean yield in environment j . The combined selection, considering common bean yield, stability and adaptability simultaneously, is given by the statistics HMRPGV:

$$HMRPGV_i = n / \frac{\left(\sum_{j=1}^n \times 1 \right)}{V_{g_{ij}}}.$$

The predicted genotypic values of the agromorphological traits were used for Pearson's correlation analysis and Ward's hierarchical cluster analysis based on the mean standardized Euclidean distance. For these analyses we used software R (R Core Team 2017) with the packages *corrplot* and *ade4*.

RESULTS

By analysis of deviance, a significant effect of genotypes ($P < 0.05$) was detected by the chi-square test for all traits evaluated. A significant effect was also observed for the GE interaction for most traits, except StTh and COEF J in the carioca group and SL and SWth in the black group. The selective accuracy (Ac) ranged from 0.60 (NPP) to 0.98 (COEF J) and from 0.50 (PLI) to 0.98 (PL) in the carioca and black groups, respectively (Tables 1 and 2).

Heritability in the broad sense (b_g^2) varied from 0.07 (NPP) to 0.72 (COEF J) in the carioca group and from 0.05 (PLI) to 0.72 (PL) in the black group. In both groups, b_g^2 for YLD was considered low (0.12). The b_g^2 values for the carioca group were higher than for the black group for the traits related to plant morphology (PLL, PLW, PLI, CLL, CLW, CLL, StL, NN and StTh), while for the black group, b_g^2 was higher for pod and seed-related traits (PL, SP, LP, NPP, SL, StTh, W1000 and COEF H).

The r_{gloc} values, which indicate the genotypic correlation between trait performance in the different environments,

Table 1: Genetic parameters for 23 agromorphological traits in the characterization study of carioca bean cultivars in four environments in the state of Paraná in the rainy (2014/15) and dry growing seasons (2015/15)

Traits ^(b)	Genetic parameters ^(a)							Mean
	Vg	Vint	Ve	Vph	b_g^2	Ac	r_{gloc}	
PLL	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.28	0.36	0.90	0.63	6.70
PLW	0.08	0.03	0.08	0.20	0.43	0.93	0.75	5.39
PLI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.90	0.75	1.24
CLL	0.10	0.06	0.29	0.46	0.23	0.85	0.64	9.19
CLW	0.09	0.03	0.18	0.31	0.29	0.89	0.73	7.14
CLI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.56	0.96	0.87	1.29
StL	239.48	33.93	77.75	351.16	0.68	0.97	0.88	79.46
IFP	1.12	1.32	4.69	7.14	0.16	0.78	0.46	15.45
NN	1.27	0.34	1.40	3.01	0.42	0.93	0.79	13.89
PL	0.27	0.03	0.12	0.41	0.65	0.97	0.91	11.27
SP	0.10	0.03	0.15	0.28	0.34	0.91	0.74	5.96
LP	0.10	0.02	0.08	0.20	0.51	0.95	0.84	6.62
NPP	1.27	4.57	12.66	18.50	0.07	0.60	0.22	20.15
NSP	103.48	99.19	267.18	469.86	0.22	0.83	0.51	90.18
StTh	0.22	0.00	0.23	0.45	0.48	0.96	0.98	6.17
SL	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.15	0.55	0.95	0.83	10.76
SWth	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.61	0.96	0.86	6.82
STh	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.39	0.90	0.61	5.11
TSW	6.94	9.58	19.26	35.77	0.19	0.80	0.42	23.50
W1000	294.18	141.33	223.20	658.71	0.45	0.92	0.68	261.69
COEF J	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.98	0.94	1.58
COEF H	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.86	0.53	0.75
YLD	50553.00	52571.65	312176.82	415301.47	0.12	0.75	0.49	2564.32

^(a)Vg: genotypic variance; Vint: variance of genotype-environment interaction; Ve: residual variance; Vph: phenotypic variance; b_g^2 : broad-sense heritability; Ac: selective accuracy; r_{gloc} : genotype correlation between performance in various environments; and Mean: overall mean. ^(b)Primary leaf length (PLL); primary leaf width (PLW); primary leaf index (PPL/PLW) (PLI); central leaflet length (CLL); central leaflet width (CLW); central leaflet index (CLL/CLW) (CLI); main stem length (StL); insertion height of the 1st pod (IFP); number of nodes on the main stem (NN); pod length (PL); number of seeds per pod (SP); number of locules per pod (LP); total number of pods per plant (NPP); total number of seeds per plant (NSP); main stem thickness (StTh); seed length (SL); seed width (SWth); seed thickness (STh); total seed weight per plant (TSW); weight of 1,000 seeds (W1000); coefficient J (COEF J); coefficient H (COEF H); and grain yield (YLD).

confirmed the results for heritability in the black and carioca groups. In both, the traits with higher b_g^2 were associated with a higher r_{gloc} . The b_g^2 values for YLD were equal for both groups, although r_{gloc} was higher for the black group.

In Pearson's linear correlation analysis, the correlations were high between IFP x StL (0.73 and 0.78, respectively), NPP x NSP (0.80 and 0.87, respectively) and SP x LP (0.93 and 0.89, respectively) (Fig. 1). No variables with high correlations with YLD were detected. Moderate correlations were observed for SP, NSP and TSW (0.52, 0.57 and 0.61, respectively) in the carioca group, and for PLL (0.62), PLW (0.61), SL (0.58), SWth (0.47), STh (0.40), and W1000 (0.67) for the black group.

By Ward's clustering method, the carioca cultivars were separated in three groups; the first with the cultivars IAC Imperador, IPR Curió, IPR Andorinha and Gol; the second and most numerous contained 11 cultivars (BRS Notável, IPR Quero-quero, IPR Eldorado, IPR Campos

Gerais, BRS Estilo, IAC Formoso, IPR Bem-te-vi, Carioca, Pérola, IAPAR 81 and IPR Maracanã); and the third group comprised the cultivars IAC Alvorada, FT-65, IPR Tangará, Bola Cheia and Dama (Fig. 2a).

In the black group, the cultivars were separated in four groups; group I was constituted by cultivars IAPAR 44, IAPAR 20 and Rio Negro; group II consisted of IPR Graúna, IAC Diplomata, IPR Gralha and FT 41; group III of IAPAR 65, IPR Nhambu, BRS Campeiro, IPR Uirapuru and BRS Esteio; and group IV consisted of the cultivars BRS Valente, IPR Chopim, IAC Una, FT Soberano, BRS Supremo, IPR Tuiuiú and Rio Tibagi (Fig. 2b).

According to estimates of genotype values of YLD of common bean cultivars for the four environments and their means, and by the methods applied in the analysis of adaptability (HMGV), stability (RPVG) and both together (HMRPGV), five cultivars stood out above the others in the different environments, for all methods (Tables 3 and 4). For both groups, the mean environment and the HMRPGV

Table 2: Genetic parameters for 23 agromorphological traits in the characterization study of black bean cultivars in four environments in the state of Paraná, in the rainy (2014/15) and dry growing seasons (2015/15)

Traits ^(b)	Genetic parameters ^(a)							Mean
	Vg	Vint	Ve	Vph	b_g^2	Ac	r_{gloc}	
PLL	0.06	0.12	0.09	0.27	0.23	0.79	0.34	6.23
PLW	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.15	0.19	0.76	0.32	4.83
PLI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.50	0.11	1.29
CLL	0.11	0.07	0.31	0.50	0.22	0.84	0.59	9.37
CLW	0.06	0.04	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.86	0.63	7.12
CLI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.84	0.72	1.32
StL	31.90	23.27	79.07	134.24	0.24	0.85	0.58	84.48
IFP	1.72	1.92	4.43	8.07	0.21	0.82	0.47	16.19
NN	0.57	0.23	1.10	1.89	0.30	0.89	0.72	14.33
PL	0.49	0.05	0.14	0.68	0.72	0.98	0.91	10.36
SP	0.08	0.01	0.13	0.22	0.37	0.92	0.87	6.21
LP	0.09	0.01	0.07	0.17	0.53	0.96	0.90	6.76
NPP	3.09	3.40	14.92	21.42	0.14	0.77	0.48	21.65
NSP	60.12	104.89	371.55	536.55	0.11	0.72	0.36	103.62
StTh	0.09	0.06	0.24	0.38	0.23	0.85	0.61	6.54
SL	0.12	0.00	0.06	0.19	0.64	0.97	0.96	10.34
SWth	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.09	0.57	0.96	0.92	6.53
STh	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.41	0.93	0.88	4.79
TSW	4.15	5.10	19.10	28.35	0.15	0.77	0.45	23.44
W1000	298.53	95.83	211.31	605.67	0.49	0.94	0.76	225.07
COEF J	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.97	0.91	1.58
COEF H	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.93	0.75	0.73
YLD	28996.66	16806.49	199931.17	245734.32	0.12	0.76	0.63	2411.00

^(a)Vg: genotypic variance; Vint: variance of genotype-environment interaction; Ve: residual variance; Vph: phenotypic variance; b_g^2 : broad-sense heritability;

Ac: selective accuracy; r_{gloc} : genotype correlation between performance in various environments; and Mean: overall mean. ^(b)Primary leaf length (PLL); primary leaf width (PLW); primary leaf index (PPL/PLW) (PLI); central leaflet length (CLL); central leaflet width (CLW); central leaflet index (CLL/CLW) (CLI); main stem length (StL); insertion height of the 1st pod (IFP); number of nodes on the main stem (NN); pod length (PL); number of seeds per pod (SP); number of locules per pod (LP); total number of pods per plant (NPP); total number of seeds per plant (NSP); main stem thickness (StTh); seed length (SL); seed width (SWth); seed thickness (STh); total seed weight per plant (TSW); weight of 1,000 seeds (W1000); coefficient J (COEF J); coefficient H (COEF H); and grain yield (YLD).

method were completely coincident, and the variations in the other environments were small.

The cultivars that stood out in the carioca group were IPR Bem-te-vi, FT-65, BRS Notável, Bola Cheia and Dama (yields from 2,783.37 to 2,971.44 kg ha⁻¹). Among the black-grain cultivars, those with the best performance were IPR Nhambu, IPR Uirapuru, BRS Esteio, IAC Una and BRS Campeiro (yields from 2,773.37 to 2,971.44 kg ha⁻¹). These grain yield values indicate the mean genotypic value, penalized by instability and capitalized by adaptability (HMRPGV). In both experiments, the yield of the best-performing cultivars exceeded the general mean (2,558.52 and 2,409.03 kg ha⁻¹ for the carioca and black groups, respectively).

DISCUSSION

Common bean is fundamental in the Brazilian agriculture, grown all year long by small, medium and large producers and in diverse farming systems and different climates (Faria

et al., 2014). Consequently, cultivars with wide adaptation, yield stability as well as a high yielding potential must be developed (Moda-Cirino et al., 2012), wherefore germplasm with high variability must be used in the crop breeding programs. For the commercial cultivars investigated in this study, genetic variability was detected by deviance analysis, allowing progress of the breeding programs.

According to Resende and Duarte (2007), selective accuracy (Ac) was considered high or very high for most traits, and moderate only for the variables NPP and PLI, respectively, in the carioca and black groups. This is a precision measure based on the correlation between the predicted and true genetic values, and shows the quality of data and procedures used to predict genetic values; the higher the Ac, the greater the reliability of a predicted genetic value (Pimentel et al., 2014).

Traits with b_g^2 between ≥ 0.49 and < 0.81 are considered high (Cargnelutti Filho et al., 2009), and most of them coincided for both groups (PL, LP, SL, SWth and COEF J),

Table 3: Estimates of genotypic values of grain yield (kg ha⁻¹) of carioca and black bean cultivars for four environments and for the mean environment

Cultivars	Environment 1 ^(a) $\mu_1 + g + ge$	Environment 2 $\mu_2 + g + ge$	Environment 3 $\mu_3 + g + ge$	Environment 4 $\mu_4 + g + ge$	Mean $\mu + g$
Carioca beans					
Carioca	1984.44	3418.80	2333.26	2700.36	2599.95
IAPAR 81	2008.66	3396.23	2076.47	2642.55	2537.86
IPR Tangará	2196.31	3497.71	2000.56	2723.00	2596.13
IPR Campos gerais	2455.72	3513.49	2138.29	2648.37	2663.25
IPR Bem-te-vi	2596.66	3937.40	2466.08	2857.76	2881.92
IPR Quero-quero	1979.47	3172.69	1896.27	2460.89	2415.91
IPR Curió	2132.74	2972.57	2032.86	2075.79	2357.31
IPR Andorinha	2066.47	3348.96	2254.59	2525.31	2552.03
IPR Eldorado	1531.67	2892.69	1595.12	2330.26	2185.83
IPR Maracanã	1827.51	3442.96	1844.10	2639.15	2464.40
BRS Estilo	2018.79	3275.25	2042.02	2545.67	2489.81
BRS Notável	2237.68	3642.99	2393.05	2860.41	2738.30
Pérola	2108.89	3828.68	2260.29	2647.37	2680.98
IAC Alvorada	1778.94	3377.52	2077.13	2540.45	2468.44
IAC Formoso	2164.08	3421.78	2171.63	2523.28	2568.98
IAC Imperador	1814.63	3089.26	1978.36	2177.50	2326.71
FT-65	2382.84	3529.31	2412.41	2872.46	2750.78
Bola cheia	2228.06	3656.15	2369.26	2865.37	2735.27
Gol	2067.44	3493.27	2193.49	2362.95	2536.52
Dama	2155.94	3851.21	2335.71	2779.74	2736.02
Black beans					
IPR Tuiuiú	2397.71	3518.21	1677.19	2098.33	2421.36
IPR Uirapuru	2719.73	3607.32	1781.55	2277.54	2573.05
IPR Chopim	2405.95	3532.95	1670.01	2063.02	2417.10
IPR Gralha	2269.43	3428.51	1675.69	2041.10	2360.94
IPR Graúna	2462.84	3475.80	1777.27	2265.28	2484.62
IPR Nhambu	2603.56	3742.36	1874.77	2314.90	2605.68
IAPAR 65	2489.69	3510.64	1730.29	2202.60	2474.15
IAPAR 20	2360.86	3403.28	1515.19	1986.32	2328.38
IAPAR 44	1997.93	3216.58	1337.43	1737.73	2115.28
Rio Negro	2171.80	3296.63	1541.57	1875.35	2245.34
Rio Tibagi	2417.32	3564.95	1572.30	1966.48	2384.15
FT 41	2397.47	3506.19	1775.74	2219.26	2466.61
FT Soberano	2129.43	3320.16	1361.26	1807.52	2187.05
IAC Una	2466.17	3668.85	1745.87	2275.30	2522.84
IAC Diplomata	2359.68	3410.64	1617.68	2017.54	2358.93
BRS Esteio	2532.79	3632.21	1890.90	2281.43	2562.39
BRS Campeiro	2494.76	3582.00	1763.54	2231.71	2504.46
BRS Supremo	2306.42	3518.48	1576.51	1968.79	2351.21
BRS Valente	2507.44	3510.96	1741.28	2041.91	2445.41

^(a) Environment 1: Ponta Grossa (rainy season-2014/15), Environment 2: Guarapuava (rainy season-2014/15), Environment 3: Ponta Grossa (dry season-2015) and Environment 4: Santa Tereza do Oeste (dry season-2015).

whereas heritability was high for CLI and StL only for the carioca group and for W1000 only for the black group. The traits with high b_g^2 values had little influence of the GE interaction on the observed phenotypic values. In addition, the correlation between environments (r_{gloc}) was higher, i.e., these traits are more stable in different environments, mainly influenced by the genotype.

The b_g^2 and r_{gloc} values of the yield-related traits (NPP, NSP, TSW and YLD) were low (<0.25), and moderate only

for W1000 (Cargnelutti Filho et al., 2009). These values coincide with the values reported by other authors, for common bean as well as cowpea, snap bean, and cotton (Chiorato et al., 2008; Carvalho et al., 2015; Farias et al., 2016; Sousa et al., 2017), demonstrating that these traits are strongly influenced by GE interaction.

The b_g^2 values for YLD were equal for both groups, although r_{gloc} of the black group was higher than that of the carioca group. These values can be explained by the

Table 4: Stability of genetic values (HMGV), adaptability of genetic values (RPGV and RPGV μ), stability and adaptability of genetic values (HMRPGV and HMRPGV μ) of carioca and black bean cultivars predicted by BLUP analysis

Cultivars	HMGV	RPGV	RPGV μ	HMRPGV	HMRPGV μ
Carioca beans					
Carioca	2507.32	1.02	2613.62	1.02	2606.92
IAPAR 81	2420.87	0.99	2525.74	0.98	2524.42
IPR Tangará	2487.08	1.01	2599.52	1.01	2593.29
IPR Campos gerais	2602.33	1.05	2704.87	1.05	2693.40
IPR Bem-te-vi	2868.39	1.16	2977.10	1.16	2971.44
IPR Quero-quero	2280.39	0.93	2376.21	0.93	2374.21
IPR Curió	2248.52	0.91	2331.47	0.90	2311.92
IPR Andorinha	2466.02	1.00	2558.92	1.00	2556.41
IPR Eldorado	1946.82	0.80	2064.02	0.80	2049.08
IPR Maracanã	2274.25	0.94	2408.46	0.93	2394.43
BRS Estilo	2376.43	0.96	2472.00	0.96	2471.58
BRS Notável	2686.60	1.09	2790.73	1.09	2789.47
Pérola	2571.48	1.05	2693.34	1.05	2689.54
IAC Alvorada	2307.77	0.95	2426.59	0.94	2418.01
IAC Formoso	2482.73	1.01	2577.17	1.00	2575.83
IAC Imperador	2174.51	0.88	2264.39	0.88	2261.64
FT-65	2729.14	1.10	2822.90	1.10	2818.13
Bola Cheia	2678.45	1.09	2784.35	1.09	2783.37
Gol	2425.64	0.99	2527.65	0.98	2522.44
Dama	2646.60	1.08	2767.32	1.08	2764.96
Black beans					
IPR Tuiuiú	2254.66	1.01	2423.05	1.01	2423.04
IPR Uirapuru	2431.20	1.08	2609.00	1.08	2605.85
IPR Chopim	2244.40	1.00	2414.87	1.00	2414.71
IPR Gralha	2198.99	0.98	2358.23	0.98	2357.16
IPR Graúna	2355.92	1.04	2516.57	1.04	2513.67
IPR Nhambu	2474.20	1.10	2647.57	1.10	2646.58
IAPAR 65	2327.68	1.03	2494.23	1.03	2493.40
IAPAR 20	2126.71	0.96	2302.97	0.95	2300.84
IAPAR 44	1873.91	0.85	2043.30	0.85	2038.14
Rio Negro	2055.80	0.92	2214.51	0.92	2213.74
Rio Tibagi	2175.42	0.98	2360.00	0.98	2356.84
FT 41	2330.92	1.03	2491.52	1.03	2489.21
FT Soberano	1943.01	0.88	2123.03	0.88	2116.93
IAC Una	2366.40	1.05	2542.21	1.05	2541.14
IAC Diplomata	2184.83	0.97	2350.07	0.97	2349.95
BRS Esteio	2443.04	1.08	2606.95	1.08	2603.93
BRS Campeiro	2359.68	1.05	2528.25	1.05	2527.58
BRS Supremo	2150.51	0.96	2326.26	0.96	2324.74
BRS Valente	2288.77	1.02	2456.35	1.02	2454.29

fact that the variance in the GE interaction (Vint) was higher in the carioca than the black group (12.7% and 6.8% respectively), i.e. for YLD, the carioca cultivars are more influenced by the environment and therefore less stable than those of the black group.

For the carioca group, b_g^2 was high (0.68) for the trait stem length (StL), and little influenced by the environment (9.7%), different from the black group for this trait (b_g^2 and Vint of 0.24 and 17%, respectively). These values were probably due to the presence of genotypes with a determinate growth habit among the carioca cultivars.

Similar results found in the literature, Kornegay et al. (1992) showed that, in crosses with at least one of the parents with determinate growth habit, heritability was higher than in crosses between parents with indeterminate growth habit.

The correlation between traits is extremely useful in breeding programs, especially when based on predicted genotypic values, unaffected by environmental effects. The correlations for YLD were different in the two commercial groups (Fig. 1). In the black group, the variables correlated with grain yield were related to seed morphology (SL,

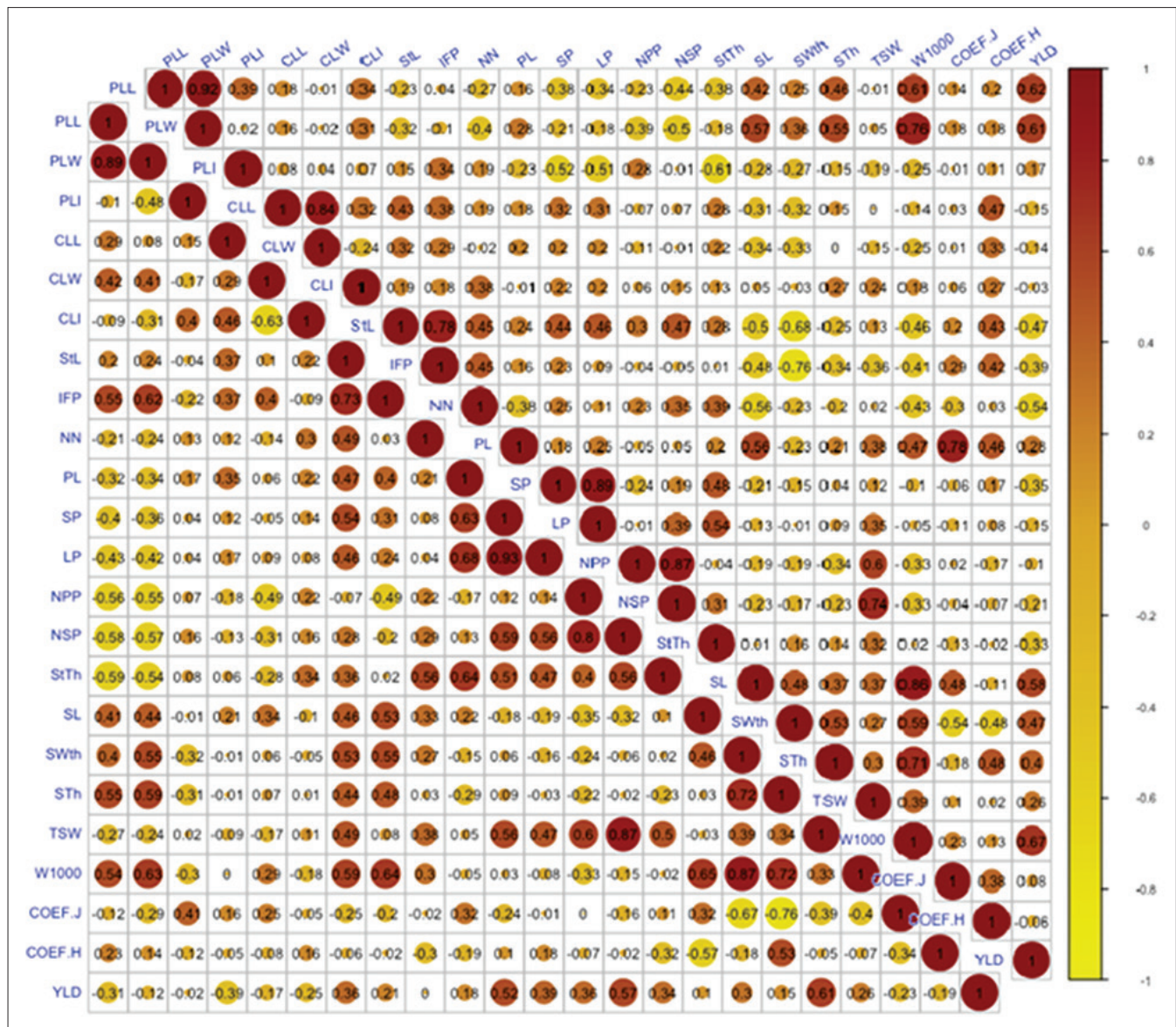


Fig 1. Pearson's genotypic correlation among 23 agronomic traits evaluated in 20 and 19 carioca (bottom) and black bean cultivars (top), respectively. primary leaf length (PLL); primary leaf width (PLW); primary leaf index (PPL/PLW) (PLI); central leaflet length (CLL); central leaflet width (CLW); central leaflet index (CLL/CLW) (CLI); main stem length (StL); insertion height of the 1st pod (IFP); number of nodes on the main stem (NN); pod length (PL); number of seeds per pod (SP); number of locules per pod (LP); total number of pods per plant (NPP); total number of seeds per plant (NSP); main stem thickness (StTh); seed length (SL); seed width (SWth); seed thickness (STh); total seed weight per plant (TSW); weight of 1,000 seeds (W1000); coefficient J (COEF J); coefficient H (COEF H); and grain yield (YLD).

SWth, STh and W1000), and the seed quantity produced (SP, NPP, NSP and TSW) in the carioca group. However, all correlations with yield-related variables were moderate.

One of the main differences between the purpose of common bean breeding programs of the carioca and black groups in Brazil is related to grain traits. Breeding programs for carioca cultivars emphasize grain size, shape and color, selecting plants with large grains, oblong shape and a light beige skin with light brown stripes, according to the preference and acceptance of consumers and producers (Pereira et al. 2017). It is known that cultivars

with larger seeds produce less than those with smaller seeds (White and Gonzalez, 1990). Therefore, since for the black group there is no demand for large seeds, cultivars with smaller seeds and high yield potential were selected, as demonstrated by the correlations between grain size and yield.

In agreement with these results, Cabral et al. (2011) observed a significant phenotypic correlation between the variable yield and the number of pods per plant and number of seeds per plant, while the other variables studied were weakly correlated with grain yield. Likewise, Barili

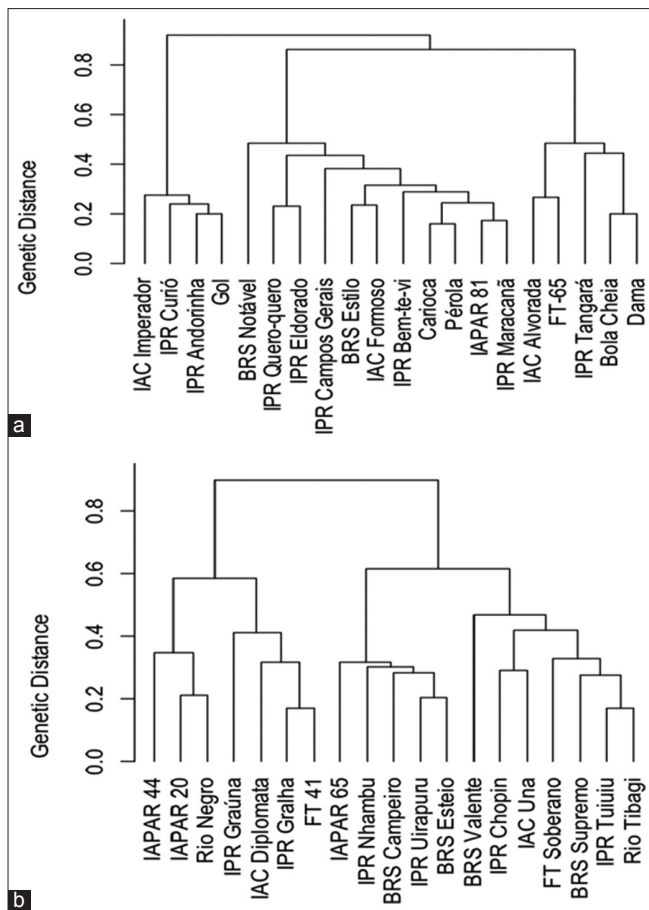


Fig 2. Dendrogram of genetic dissimilarity between 20 and 19 carioca (a) and black (b) bean cultivars grouped by Ward's method, based on the standardized mean Euclidean distance matrix.

et al. (2011) observed that 1000-grain weight and number of pods per plant are correlated with grain yield.

In the clustering of the carioca cultivars, group I was characterized by cultivars with shorter stem length (StL), for being cultivars with a determinate growth habit, with lowest means for NSP and StTh as well. For group II, the means were lowest in relation to leaf size traits (PLL, PLW, CLL and CLW) while number of seeds per plant (NSP) was highest. For group III, stem length (StL) was longest, higher means for seed size (SL, SWth, STh) and consequently higher means for W1000 and YLD. Three of the cultivars identified as higher-yielding and more adapted and stable in the carioca group, were grouped in group III.

The main differentiating traits of the black bean cultivars clustered in group I were a longer mean stem length (StL) and higher insertion height of the first pod (IFP). The seed means (SL, SWth, STh) were the lowest, characterizing this group by smaller seeds than those of the others. This group had the lowest mean YLD, probably because it is formed by ancient cultivars. In group II, no markedly

different traits from the others groups were observed. In group III the means for W1000 and YLD were highest. With the exception of cultivar IAC Una, the cultivars with improved performance of yield, stability and adaptability were assigned to this group. In group IV, on the other hand, the mean IFP values were lower.

With regard to YLD, for the best-performing cultivars, the predicted means for the environments and the HMRPGV values coincided 92 and 84%, respectively, for the black and carioca groups. In other words, there were small variations in relation to the assessed cultivars and alterations in the ranking among the environments. However, the highlighted cultivars were generally the most productive in the four environments, demonstrating that the efforts of breeding programs invested in adaptability and yield stability in different environments were effective.

Other authors reported similar results, reinforcing that this method leads to a refinement of cultivar selection, as well as having the advantage of providing results on the proper measurement scale of the trait (Carbonell et al., 2007). The GE interaction is one of the great challenges for breeders, particularly in the evaluation stages of genotypes for recommendation for producers, since the experiments are carried out at different locations and in different years and growing seasons (Peixoto et al., 2016).

Owing to breeding efforts, the carioca cultivars developed since 2005 reach higher production levels than the older ones (Barili et al., 2015). The cultivars used in this study were generally developed and registered in the last 10 years, except for the cultivars Pérola, Carioca and IAPAR 81 (registered in 1998), although, all produced satisfactory yields.

The black group accounts for only 17% of the Brazilian production (Faria et al., 2014), therefore, less breeding efforts are invested than for the carioca group. However, since 1988, significant progress was observed in the genetic gain of black bean cultivars, and cultivars that reach higher yield levels are still being developed (Barili et al., 2016).

CONCLUSIONS

Although breeding led to a bottleneck in the genetic base of the species, genetic variability among the cultivars was detected, for both market groups studied. Based on the genetic values predicted for the evaluated traits, free of GE interaction, genetic variability was observed among the cultivars, and the best adapted and most stable in the studied environments were identified.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

J.D.: Designed and conducted the experiment, wrote the manuscript draft; V.M.C.: study design and supervised the research project; C.F.R. and P.M.R.: were involved in manuscript preparation; J.S.N.: Participate on carrying out the field experiments; L.S.A.G.: did the statistical analysis, contributed to writing of discussions and reviewed the paper.

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