

## **COMBINING ABILITY, PHENOTYPIC AND GENOTYPIC CORRELATIONS OF DIALLEL CROSSES IN YELLOW MAIZE EVALUATED UNDER TWO NITROGEN LEVELS.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Six yellow inbred lines of maize, were setup in a half diallel crosses mating design, to produce 15 F<sub>1</sub> hybrids. All genotypes with the three commercial checks : SC 155, SC 162 and SC 170 were evaluated using the two nitrogen levels : 80 and 120 kg N/fed during the 2007 growing season at Sakha Agriculture Research station Kafr El- Sheikh. The aim of this study was to estimate the phenotypic and genotypic correlations, GCA, SCA and their interactions with the two nitrogen levels. The results would also identify the superior genotypes for yielding performances. The studied traits were : grain yield (Ard./fed), ear length (cm), ear diameter (cm), number of rows / ear and weight of 100 kernels(g).

The results indicated the presence of significant differences among genotypes for most studied traits .This finding was expected due to the different origin of the parental inbred lines.

General combining ability (GCA) and specific combining ability (SCA) mean squares were significant or highly significant for most studied traits under both nitrogen levels. The interactions between GCA and SCA with nitrogen levels were not significant for all studied traits except for SCA x N which was significant for weight of 100 kernels(g).

The values of SCA mean squares were higher than those of GCA mean squares for grain yield (Ard./fed.), No. of rows / ear and weight of 100 kernels(g) traits. All means were higher under the high nitrogen level than the low nitrogen level for all studied traits.

The best general combiners for grain yield (Ard./fed.) were the inbred lines: Sk 5001/50 and Sk 7070/62.

The single hybrids Sk5001/50 x Sk 5005/ 12, Sk 5002/9 x Sk 5005/16, Sk 5001/50 x Sk5005/16 and Sk 5002/9 x Sk 5001/5 showed positive significant SCA under the two nitrogen levels for grain yield Ard./fed.

The phenotypic and genotypic correlations among the five studied traits were positive for all studied traits.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Diallel crosses have been widely used in genetic research to investigate the inheritance of important traits among a set of genotypes (Yan and Hunt 2002). It was especially devised to determine the magnitude of combining abilities inbred lines for the purpose of identifying the lines which produce superior hybrids. In this respect, diallel crosses analysis has been extensively used by breeders to obtain informations about genetic behavior of quantitative traits Jinks and Hayman (1953), Stuber *et al.* (1966) and Razaei *et al.* (2004).

The importance of proper nitrogen (N) management in maize (*Zea mays*, L.) is known to be a critical and important factor in maize production.

Grain yield in maize is a complex trait and depends on various yield component traits (Grafius (1960)). Thus, genotypic and phenotypic correlation coefficients among various traits would help to identify the traits which were associated with economic productivity. The association between two traits could be directly observed as phenotypic correlation while genotypic correlation expresses the extent to which two traits are genetically associated. Both genotypic and phenotypic correlations among pairs of agronomic traits provide scope for indirect selection.

The main objectives of this investigation were to:

- 1- Evaluate six yellow inbred lines of maize and their 15 F<sub>1</sub> hybrids under two nitrogen levels.
- 2- Determine the superior inbred lines which produce the best F<sub>1</sub> hybrids.
- 3- Estimate general and specific combining ability variances and their interactions with the two nitrogen levels.
- 4- Determine phenotypic and genotypic correlations between pairs of traits.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Six maize inbred lines were provided by maize research program, Field Crops Research Institute (FCRI), Agricultural Research Center (ARC) to be used in this study. These inbred lines were: Sk 5002/9 (P<sub>1</sub>), Sk 5001/6 (P<sub>3</sub>), Sk 5001/50 (P<sub>2</sub>), Sk 7070/62 (P<sub>4</sub>), Sk 5005/12 (P<sub>5</sub>) and Sk 5005/16 (P<sub>6</sub>).

In early 2007 growing season, the parental inbred lines were crossed according to a half diallel crosses mating design to obtain 15 F<sub>1</sub> hybrids. In late 2007 growing season, the 15 F<sub>1</sub> hybrids and the three commercial checks SC 155 (Ch<sub>1</sub>), SC 162 (Ch<sub>2</sub>) and SC 170 (Ch<sub>3</sub>) were evaluated in a Randomized Complete Blocks Design with three replications under two nitrogen levels i.e. 80 (N<sub>1</sub>) and 120 (N<sub>2</sub>) kg N/fed at Sakha Agriculture Research Station Kafr El-Sheikh. Each plot was one row, 6 m long and 80 cm in width. The recommended cultural practices were applied as recommended for maize cultivation. Data were recorded on: grain yield (Ard./fed.), ear length (cm), ear diameter (cm), number of rows / ear and weight of 100 kernels (g).

The results were statistically analyzed and the L.S.D. values were calculated according to Steel and Torrie (1980). Combining ability was computed using Griffing's (1956) Method-4 Model 1 for each nitrogen level. The combined analysis of the two experiments (nitrogen levels) was done wherever, homogeneity of variance was not significant. Phenotypic and genotypic correlation coefficients were computed according to Steel and Torrie (1960).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of variance and mean squares for the five studied traits under two nitrogen levels and their combined data are presented in Table 1.

The mean squares due to the two nitrogen levels were significant for all studied traits except for ear diameter and No. of rows/ear, indicating over all differences between the two nitrogen levels for these traits. This result supports the findings of El-Aref *et al.* (2004) and Abd El-Aty and Darwish (2006).

The mean squares due to genotypes (G) were partitioned into crosses (C), checks (Ch) and C Vs. Ch. The differences between different crosses (C) were significant to highly significant for all studied traits under the two nitrogen levels and their combined except for number of rows/ear. The mean squares due to checks (Ch) and C Vs. Ch were either significant or highly significant for most studied traits under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data.

The interaction between crosses (C), checks (Ch) and C Vs. Ch with nitrogen levels were not significant for all studied traits except for C x N for weight of 100 kernels and C Vs. Ch x N for grain yield and ear length indicating that the crosses, checks and C Vs. Ch were not influenced by changing in levels of environments. These results agree with those results obtained by Abd El-Hadi *et al.*, (2005), El-Shenawy (2005), Motawei (2005) and Abd El-Aty and Darwish (2006).

Mean performances of 15 crosses and three checks for the five traits under two nitrogen levels and their combined data are shown in Table 2. The mean values for all crosses and checks were higher under the high nitrogen level (120 kg N/fed.) than the low nitrogen level (80 kg N/fed.) for all studied traits. Similar results obtained by Khalil (1999), El-Absawy (2000) and El-Aref *et al.* (2004).

The crosses : SK 5001/50 x SK 7070/62 and SK 5001/50 x SK 5005/12 out yielded the three checks under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data. For ear length, the crosses : SK 5001/50 x SK 7070/62, SK 5001/50 x SK 5005/12 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12 showed higher mean values over the checks : SC 155 (Ch<sub>1</sub>) and SC 170 (Ch<sub>3</sub>) under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data. For ear diameter, the crosses : SK 5002/9 x SK 5001/50, SK 5002/9 x SK 5001/6, SK 5002/9 x SK 5005/12 and SK 5002/9 x SK 5005/16 had the highest mean values compared with the three checks under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data. With respect to no. of rows/ear, this trait showed that the crosses : SK 5001/6 x SK 5005/12 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12 had the highest mean values over all checks under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data. For weight of 100 kernels (g), the highest mean value was obtained from the crosses SK 5001/6 x SK 5001/50 and SK 5001/50 x SK 5005/16 compared with all the checks at the two nitrogen levels and their combined data.

Analysis of variance and mean squares for general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining abilities of the 15 F<sub>1</sub> crosses for the five traits at the two nitrogen levels and their combined data are shown in Table 3.





General combining ability (GCA) and specific combining ability (SCA) mean squares were either significant or highly significant for all studied traits at both nitrogen levels and their combined except for GCA at N<sub>2</sub> for No. of rows/ear.

The interaction between GCA or SCA with nitrogen levels were not significant for all studied traits except for SCA x N for weight of 100 kernels (g) at combined data. These results indicated that the additive and non-additive effects would contribute to the inheritance of all studied traits. These results are in common agreement with those obtained by Abd El-Hadi *et al.* (2005), El-Shenawy (2005) and Katta *et al.* (2007).

The values of SCA mean squares were higher than those of GCA mean squares for grain yield (Ard./fed.), No. of rows/ear and weight of 100 kernels (g). Similar results were obtained by Nigussie and Zelleke (2001), Soliman *et al.* (2005), Mosa (2006), Motawei (2006) and Katta *et al.* (2007). These results generally indicated the presence of superior hybrids would be associatal with significant SCA.

Estimates of GCA effects ( $g_i$ ) were calculated for each parental line at the two nitrogen levels and combined data as appeared in Table 4. The parental inbred line SK 5001/50 expressed highly significant positive GCA effect for grain yield Ard./fed., ear length, ear diameter and weight of 100 kernels at both nitrogen levels and their combined data. For No. of rows/ear, the inbred line SK 5005/12 showed significant positive GCA effects under N<sub>1</sub> level and the combined data.

Specific combining ability effects ( $S_{ij}$ ) of the 15 crosses for the five traits at both nitrogen levels and combined data are presented in Table 5. The most desirable specific combining ability effects at both nitrogen levels and their combined were obtained for grain yield (Ard./fed.) in the crosses SK 5001/50 x SK 5005/12, SK 5002/9 x SK 5005/16 and SK 5001/6 x SK 7070/62, for ear length in the crosses SK 5001/50 x SK 5005/16 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12, for ear diameter in the crosses SK 5001/6 x SK 5005/12 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/16, for No. of rows/ear in the cross SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12 and for weight of 100 kernels in the crosses SK 5002/9 x SK 5005/12 and SK 7070/62 x SK 5005/12. Those significant effects would contribute the superiority of their hybrids.

The phenotypic and genotypic correlations between each pair of the five studied traits were calculated for the F<sub>1</sub> hybrids from the combined data and the results are presented in Table 6. Correlation coefficients were highly significant for most traits. Phenotypic and genotypic correlations between grain yield and other studied traits had positive values. These results agree with similar results obtained by El-Hadidi *et al.* (1981), Burak and Mago (1990), Galal (1992) and Mosa and El-Shenawy (2005).

In general these results indicated that selection for one trait would also lead to the selection at the other traits .

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**Table 6: Phenotypic and genotypic correlations among five studied traits for F<sub>1</sub> hybrids from the combined data over the two nitrogen levels.**

| Traits                    | Grain yield (Ard./ fed.) | Ear length (cm) | Ear diameter (cm) | Number of rows / ear | Weight of 100 kernels (g) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Grain yield (Ard./Fed.)   | -                        | -               | -                 | -                    | -                         |
| Ear length (cm)           | 0.826**                  | -               | -                 | -                    | -                         |
| Ear diameter (cm)         | 0.559**                  | 0.410**         | -                 | -                    | -                         |
| Number of rows / ear      | 0.223                    | 0.197           | 0.408**           | -                    | -                         |
| Weight of 100 kernels (g) | 0.471**                  | 0.345**         | 0.582**           | 0.21                 | -                         |
|                           | 0.517**                  | 0.394**         | 0.640**           | 0.211                | -                         |

Where: Phenotypic correlations above and genotypic correlations below.

\* and \*\* Significant at 5% and 1% levels of probability, respectively.

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القدرة على التألف والارتباط المظهري والوراثي في التهجين النصف دوري للذرة الصفراء تحت مستويان من التسميد النتروجيني  
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تم تكوين 15 هجين ناتجة من التهجين النصف دوري لـ 6 سلالات من الذرة الشامية الصفراء. قيمت كل هذه التراكيب الوراثية مع بعض الهجن الاختبارية وهي هجين فردى 155، هجين فردى 162، هجين فردى 170 تحت معدلين من التسميد الأزوتى 120،80 كجم/ فدان خلال موسم نمو 2007 بمحطة البحوث والتجارب الزراعية بسخا كفر الشيخ. حيث كان الهدف من هذه الدراسة تقدير الارتباط المظهري والوراثي والقدرة العامة على الإنتلاف والقدرة الخاصة على الإنتلاف وتفاعلهم مع معدلات التسميد النتروجيني. وقد تم دراسة كل الصفات التالية:- محصول الحبوب بالأردب/ الفدان، طول الكوز، قطر الكوز، عدد السطور/ كوز ووزن 100 حبة.

اشارت النتائج إلى وجود فروق عالية المعنوية بين التراكيب الوراثية فى معظم الصفات المدروسة ويرجع ذلك إلى إستخدام مصادر مختلفة المنشأ من سلالات الأباء. كما كانت تباينات القدرة العامة والخاصة على الإنتلاف معنوية أو عالية معنوية فى معظم الصفات المدروسة تحت كلا المستويان من التسميد الأزوتى. أظهر التفاعل بين كل من القدرة العامة والخاصة على الإنتلاف مع التسميد النتروجيني فروقاً غير معنوية لكل الصفات المدروسة ما عدا تفاعل القدرة الخاصة على الإنتلاف مع التسميد كانت معنوية فقط لصفة وزن الـ 100 حبة. كانت قيم تباين القدرة الخاصة على الإنتلاف أكثر أهمية من قيم تباين القدرة العامة على الإنتلاف فى الصفات المدروسة هي محصول الحبوب بالأردب للفدان وعدد السطور/ كوز ووزن الـ 100 حبة.

كانت قيم متوسطات الهجن الفردية الناتجة تحت المستوى العالى للتسميد الأزوتى أعلى منها تحت المستوى المنخفض من التسميد الأزوتى لجميع الصفات المدروسة. كانت السلالات سخا 5001/50 وسخا 7070/62 أفضل السلالات للقدرة العامة على الإنتلاف لصفة محصول الحبوب للفدان.

أعطت الهجن الفردية التالية سخا 5001/50 x سخا 5005/12، وسخا 5002/9 x سخا 5005/16، وسخا 5001/50 x سخا 7070/62، وسخا 5001/6 x سخا 5005/12 فروقاً معنوية وموجبة للقدرة الخاصة على الإنتلاف تحت المستويان من التسميد وتفاعلهم المشترك لصفة محصول الحبوب للفدان. كما أظهرت قيم الارتباط المظهري والوراثي بين الخمس الصفات محل الدراسة ارتباطاً موجباً.

قام بتحكيم البحث

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**Table 1: Analysis of variance for five studied traits under two nitrogen levels and their combined data.**

| S.V.                | d. f   |       | Grain yield<br>Ard./ fed. |                |         | Ear length<br>(cm) |                |        | Ear diameter<br>(cm) |                |         | No. of rows /<br>ear |                |        | Weight of 100<br>kernels (g) |                |        |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|--------|----------------------|----------------|---------|----------------------|----------------|--------|------------------------------|----------------|--------|
|                     | Single | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>            | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>     | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  | N <sub>1</sub>       | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>       | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  | N <sub>1</sub>               | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  |
| Nitrogen levels (N) | -      | 1     | -                         | -              | 702.**  | -                  | -              | 33.1*  | -                    | -              | 0.623   | -                    | -              | 4.81   | -                            | -              | 191**  |
| Rep/ N              | 2      | 4     | -                         | -              | 15.6    | -                  | -              | 3.83   | -                    | -              | 0.164   | -                    | -              | 0.960  | -                            | -              | 4.78   |
| Genotypes (G)       | 17     | 17    | 136.**                    | 158.**         | 274.**  | 15.5**             | 10.1**         | 24.2** | 0.179**              | 0.21**         | 0.354** | 2.06*                | 1.95*          | 3.39** | 61.8**                       | 47.4**         | 87.2** |
| Crosses (C)         | 14     | 14    | 149.**                    | 183.**         | 319.**  | 13.0**             | 10.1**         | 22.7** | 0.208**              | 0.248**        | 0.419** | 1.36                 | 2.18*          | 2.94** | 71.5**                       | 54.4**         | 101**  |
| Check s(Ch)         | 2      | 2     | 16.8                      | 47.2*          | 54.9**  | 31.8**             | 10.7*          | 39.2** | 0.013                | 0.04           | 0.023   | 1.01                 | 0.498          | 1.23   | 8.76                         | 21.5           | 24.5   |
| C. vs. Ch.          | 1      | 1     | 184.**                    | 36.8           | 82.9**  | 17.4**             | 7.99           | 15.7** | 0.105                | 0.018          | 0.106   | 14.0**               | 1.69           | 14.0** | 31.4                         | 1.29           | 10.1   |
| G x N               | -      | 17    | -                         | -              | 20.7*   | -                  | -              | 1.42   | -                    | -              | 0.035   | -                    | -              | 0.625  | -                            | -              | 22.1   |
| C x N               | -      | 14    | -                         | -              | 13.9    | -                  | -              | 0.559  | -                    | -              | 0.037   | -                    | -              | 0.60   | -                            | -              | 24.3*  |
| Ch x N              | -      | 2     | -                         | -              | 9.21    | -                  | -              | 3.33   | -                    | -              | 0.03    | -                    | -              | 0.275  | -                            | -              | 5.79   |
| C. vs. Ch. X N      | -      | 1     | -                         | -              | 138.5** | -                  | -              | 9.71*  | -                    | -              | 0.017   | -                    | -              | 1.67   | -                            | -              | 22.5   |
| Error               | 34     | 68    | 8.466                     | 9.522          | 8.99    | 1.158              | 2.361          | 1.75   | 0.069                | 0.06           | 0.064   | 0.878                | 0.844          | 0.861  | 8.30                         | 18.352         | 13.3   |

\*, \*\* Significant at 5% and 1% levels of probability, respectively.

**Table 2: Mean performance of 15 crosses resulted form six inbred lines of maize evaluated at the two nitrogen levels and their combined data for all the studied traits.**

| Crosses                 | Grain yield Ard./ fed. |                |       | Ear length (cm) |                |       | Ear diameter (cm) |                |       | No. of rows / ear |                |       | Weight of 100 kernels (g) |                |       |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------|----------------|-------|
|                         | N <sub>1</sub>         | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>  | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>            | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. |
| Sk 5002/9 x Sk 5001/6   | 31.25                  | 33.43          | 32.34 | 19.13           | 19.26          | 19.2  | 5.0               | 5.2            | 5.10  | 14.66             | 15.73          | 15.2  | 38.93                     | 40.49          | 39.71 |
| x Sk 5001/50            | 29.05                  | 33.85          | 31.45 | 19.0            | 21.13          | 20.06 | 5.06              | 5.46           | 5.26  | 15.33             | 15.6           | 15.46 | 39.86                     | 38.99          | 39.43 |
| x Sk 7070/62            | 23.74                  | 28.12          | 25.93 | 18.73           | 20.40          | 19.56 | 4.53              | 4.96           | 4.75  | 14.26             | 14.4           | 14.33 | 30.59                     | 33.17          | 31.88 |
| x Sk 5005/12            | 24.06                  | 26.55          | 25.30 | 17.93           | 18.46          | 18.2  | 5.0               | 5.13           | 5.06  | 15.2              | 15.46          | 15.33 | 33.41                     | 43.43          | 38.42 |
| x Sk 5005/16            | 25.93                  | 29.99          | 27.96 | 18.13           | 18.66          | 18.4  | 5.0               | 5.0            | 5.0   | 14.53             | 15.93          | 15.23 | 41.72                     | 39.67          | 40.69 |
| Sk 5001/6 x Sk 5001/50  | 20.0                   | 27.18          | 23.59 | 17.6            | 17.8           | 17.7  | 4.86              | 4.93           | 4.9   | 13.73             | 14.0           | 13.86 | 40.49                     | 43.61          | 42.05 |
| x Sk 7070/62            | 27.49                  | 36.03          | 31.76 | 18.66           | 19.6           | 19.13 | 4.6               | 4.66           | 4.63  | 14.26             | 14.53          | 14.40 | 30.92                     | 36.74          | 33.83 |
| x Sk 5005/12            | 17.34                  | 27.65          | 22.49 | 17.86           | 19.26          | 18.56 | 4.93              | 4.93           | 4.93  | 15.6              | 15.13          | 15.36 | 30.16                     | 33.92          | 32.04 |
| x Sk 5005/16            | 21.87                  | 26.24          | 24.05 | 15.73           | 18.86          | 17.3  | 4.53              | 5.0            | 4.76  | 14.36             | 15.6           | 14.98 | 37.65                     | 38.03          | 37.84 |
| Sk 5001/50 x Sk 7070/62 | 35.62                  | 40.1           | 37.86 | 20.93           | 22.46          | 21.7  | 4.66              | 4.8            | 4.73  | 14.13             | 14.13          | 14.13 | 38.15                     | 41.51          | 39.83 |
| x Sk 5005/12            | 34.40                  | 39.37          | 36.88 | 20.66           | 21.53          | 21.1  | 4.66              | 5.0            | 4.83  | 15.86             | 15.6           | 15.73 | 39.56                     | 39.24          | 39.40 |
| x Sk 5005/16            | 28.74                  | 36.55          | 32.64 | 20.86           | 20.46          | 20.66 | 4.93              | 4.96           | 4.95  | 14.8              | 15.43          | 15.11 | 39.48                     | 45.0           | 42.24 |
| Sk 7070/62 x Sk 5005/12 | 19.21                  | 34.68          | 26.94 | 21.13           | 21.93          | 21.53 | 4.66              | 4.8            | 4.73  | 15.46             | 15.86          | 15.66 | 40.85                     | 38.01          | 39.43 |
| x Sk 5005/16            | 19.68                  | 20.93          | 20.31 | 15.93           | 17.60          | 16.76 | 4.8               | 4.86           | 4.83  | 13.6              | 14.53          | 14.06 | 34.0                      | 45.04          | 39.52 |
| Sk 5005/12 x Sk 5005/16 | 8.62                   | 9.68           | 9.15  | 13.86           | 15.8           | 14.83 | 4.06              | 4.13           | 4.10  | 14.4              | 13.33          | 13.86 | 25.89                     | 30.90          | 28.39 |
| SC. 155 (Ch.1)          | 26.87                  | 27.81          | 27.34 | 16.46           | 18.73          | 17.6  | 4.8               | 4.8            | 4.8   | 12.93             | 14.26          | 13.6  | 36.29                     | 36.04          | 36.17 |
| SC. 162 (Ch.2)          | 29.85                  | 35.47          | 32.66 | 22.93           | 22.26          | 22.6  | 4.86              | 5.0            | 4.93  | 13.06             | 13.73          | 13.4  | 39.65                     | 38.86          | 39.25 |
| SC. 170 (Ch.3)          | 31.56                  | 33.43          | 32.49 | 20.40           | 21.66          | 21.03 | 4.93              | 5.0            | 4.96  | 14.0              | 14.53          | 14.26 | 38.55                     | 41.40          | 39.97 |
| L.S.D. 0.05             | 4.82                   | 5.11           | 3.46  | 1.78            | 2.54           | 1.53  | 0.435             | 0.406          | 0.292 | 1.55              | 1.52           | 1.07  | 4.77                      | 7.10           | 4.21  |
| L.S.D. 0.01             | 6.48                   | 6.8            | 4.60  | 2.39            | 3.42           | 2.03  | 0.585             | 0.546          | 0.388 | 2.08              | 2.047          | 1.40  | 6.42                      | 9.54           | 5.60  |

**Table 3: Analysis of variance and mean squares for general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining ability of six inbred lines and their F<sub>1</sub> crosses for all studied traits in the two nitrogen levels and their combined data.**

| S.V.    | d. f   |       | Grain yield Ard./ fed. |                |       | Ear length (cm) |                |         | Ear diameter (cm) |                |         | No. of rows / ear |                |        | Weight of 100 kernels (g) |                |        |
|---------|--------|-------|------------------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|--------|---------------------------|----------------|--------|
|         | Single | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>         | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb. | N <sub>1</sub>  | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  | N <sub>1</sub>            | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  |
| GCA     | 5      | 5     | 140**                  | 155**          | 303** | 20.03**         | 14.6**         | 34.16** | 0.222*            | 0.456**        | 0.636** | 2.19**            | 1.05           | 2.32*  | 70.5**                    | 44.9*          | 98.6** |
| SCA     | 9      | 9     | 166**                  | 190**          | 328** | 9.243**         | 7.68**         | 16.36** | 0.200**           | 0.132*         | 0.298** | 0.906             | 2.81**         | 3.29** | 72.1**                    | 59.8**         | 103**  |
| GCA x N | -      | 5     | -                      | -              | 3.50  | -               | -              | 0.537   | -                 | -              | 0.042   | -                 | -              | 0.918  | -                         | -              | 16.8   |
| SCA x N | -      | 9     | -                      | -              | 17.64 | -               | -              | 0.563   | -                 | -              | 0.034   | -                 | -              | 0.423  | -                         | -              | 28.5*  |
| Error   | 34     | 68    | 8.46                   | 9.52           | 8.99  | 1.15            | 2.36           | 1.75    | 0.069             | 0.06           | 0.064   | 0.878             | 0.844          | 0.861  | 8.3                       | 18.3           | 13.3   |

\*, \*\* Significant at 5% and 1% levels of probability, respectively.

**Table 4: Estimates of general combining ability effects (gi) of parental inbred lines for all studied traits under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data.**

| Lines          | Grain yield Ard./ fed. |                |        | Ear length (cm) |                |          | Ear diameter (cm) |                |          | No. of rows / ear |                |         | Weight of 100 kernels (g) |                |         |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|
|                | N <sub>1</sub>         | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.  | N <sub>1</sub>  | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.    | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.    | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>            | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   |
| Sk 5002/9      | 2.80**                 | 0.444          | 1.62** | 0.166           | 0.083          | 0.125    | 0.138             | 0.277**        | 0.208**  | 0.111             | 0.444          | 0.277   | 0.888                     | -0.055         | 0.416   |
| Sk 5001/6      | -1.02                  | 0.027          | -0.500 | -0.750*         | -0.750         | -0.750** | 0.055             | 0.027          | 0.041    | -0.222            | 0.027          | -0.097  | -0.527                    | -0.888         | -0.708  |
| Sk 5001/50     | 6.47**                 | 6.86**         | 6.66** | 1.83**          | 1.41**         | 1.62**   | 0.14*             | 0.111          | 0.125**  | 0.027             | -0.055         | -0.013  | 4.30**                    | 3.19**         | 3.75**  |
| Sk 7070/62     | 0.888                  | 2.52**         | 1.70** | 0.833**         | 1.08*          | 0.958**  | -0.027            | 0.027          | 0.00     | -0.305            | -0.472         | -0.388* | -1.527                    | -0.388         | -0.958  |
| Sk 5005/12     | -4.77**                | -3.22**        | -4.0** | -0.166          | -0.333         | -0.250   | -0.194**          | -0.222**       | -0.208** | 0.777**           | 0.111          | 0.44*   | -2.69**                   | -2.63*         | -2.66** |
| Sk 5005/16     | -4.36**                | -6.63**        | -5.5** | -1.91**         | -1.50**        | -1.70**  | -0.111            | -0.222**       | -0.166** | -0.388            | -0.055         | -0.222  | -0.444                    | 0.777          | 0.166   |
| L.S.D.(g) 0.05 | 1.55                   | 1.65           | 1.11   | 0.575           | 0.821          | 0.494    | 0.140             | 0.131          | 0.094    | 0.501             | 0.491          | 0.345   | 1.54                      | 2.29           | 1.36    |
| L.S.D.(g) 0.01 | 2.09                   | 2.22           | 1.48   | 0.774           | 1.10           | 0.657    | 0.188             | 0.176          | 0.125    | 0.674             | 0.660          | 0.450   | 2.07                      | 3.08           | 1.80    |

\*, \*\* Significant at 5% and 1% levels of probability, respectively.

**Table 5: Estimates of specific combining ability effects ( $S_{ij}$ ) under the two nitrogen levels and their combined data for all studied traits.**

| Crosses                  | Grain yield Ard./ fed. |                |         | Ear length (cm) |                |         | Ear diameter (cm) |                |           | No. of rows / ear |                |          | Weight of 100 kernels (g) |                |         |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------|---------|
|                          | N <sub>1</sub>         | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>  | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.     | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.    | N <sub>1</sub>            | N <sub>2</sub> | Comb.   |
| Sk 5002/9 x Sk 5001/6    | 5.00**                 | 3.15*          | 4.07**  | 1.51**          | 0.467          | 0.992*  | -0.016            | -0.283*        | 0.160*    | 0.001             | 0.15           | 0.075    | 2.43                      | 2.1            | 2.29    |
| x Sk 5001/50             | -4.83**                | -3.35*         | -4.09** | -1.40**         | 0.300          | -0.550  | -0.100            | 0.300**        | 0.100     | 0.416             | 0.233          | 0.325    | -1.68                     | -3.31          | -2.5*   |
| x Sk 7070/62             | -4.58**                | -5.02**        | -4.8**  | -0.733          | -0.700         | -0.717  | -0.266*           | 0.050          | -0.108    | -0.250            | -0.683         | -0.467   | -5.18**                   | -5.4**         | -5.29** |
| x Sk 5005/12             | 1.41                   | -0.93          | 0.242   | -0.733          | -0.950         | -0.842* | 0.233             | -0.033         | 0.100     | -0.333            | -0.267         | -0.300   | -1.01                     | 6.85**         | 2.91*   |
| x Sk 5005/16             | 3.00*                  | 6.15**         | 4.57**  | 1.35**          | 0.883          | 1.11**  | 0.150             | -0.033         | 0.058     | 0.166             | 0.567          | 0.367    | 5.4**                     | -0.238         | 2.58*   |
| Sk 5001/6 x Sk 5001/50   | -9.66**                | -9.93**        | -9.8**  | -1.81**         | -2.53**        | -2.17** | -0.016            | -0.116         | -0.066    | -0.916*           | -1.01*         | -0.967** | 0.733                     | 2.18           | 1.45    |
| x Sk 7070/62             | 2.91*                  | 3.4*           | 3.15**  | -0.150          | -0.200         | -0.175  | -0.183            | -0.033         | -0.108    | 0.083             | 0.067          | 0.075    | -3.1*                     | -1.23          | -2.16   |
| x Sk 5005/12             | -1.41                  | 0.82           | -0.3    | 0.517           | 0.550          | 0.533   | 0.316*            | 0.216          | 0.266**   | 0.333             | 0.150          | 0.242    | -2.6*                     | -1.98          | -2.29   |
| x Sk 5005/16             | 3.16*                  | 2.57           | 2.86**  | -0.067          | 1.71*          | 0.825   | -0.100            | 0.216          | 0.058     | 0.50              | 0.650          | 0.58*    | 2.48                      | -1.06          | 0.708   |
| Sk 5001/50 xSk 7070/62   | 4.08**                 | 0.9            | 2.49*   | -0.067          | 0.633          | 0.283   | 0.066             | -0.450**       | -0.191*   | -0.166            | -0.517         | -0.342   | -0.6                      | -0.65          | -0.625  |
| x Sk 5005/12             | 8.41**                 | 5.65**         | 7.03**  | 0.600           | 0.717          | 0.658   | -0.100            | 0.133          | 0.016     | 0.416             | 0.567          | 0.492    | 1.9                       | -0.4           | 0.750   |
| x Sk 5005/16             | 2.00                   | 6.73**         | 4.36**  | 2.68**          | 0.883          | 1.78**  | 0.150             | 0.133          | 0.141     | 0.250             | 0.733          | 0.492    | -0.35                     | 2.18           | 0.917   |
| Sk 7070/62 xSk 5005/12   | -1.33                  | 5.32**         | 1.99*   | 2.26**          | 1.71*          | 1.99**  | 0.066             | 0.216          | 0.141     | 0.416             | 1.31**         | 0.867**  | 9.06**                    | 1.85           | 5.45**  |
| x Sk 5005/16             | -1.08                  | -4.6**         | -2.84** | -1.31*          | -1.45*         | -1.38** | 0.316*            | 0.216          | 0.266**   | -0.083            | -0.183         | -0.133   | -0.183                    | 5.43**         | 2.62*   |
| Sk 5005/12 xSk 5005/16   | -7.08**                | -10.85**       | -8.96** | -2.65**         | -2.03**        | -2.34** | -0.516**          | -0.533**       | --0.525** | -0.833            | -1.76**        | -1.30**  | -7.35**                   | -6.31**        | -6.83** |
| L.S.D. ( $S_{ij}$ ) 0.05 | 2.64                   | 2.80           | 1.89    | 0.976           | 1.39           | 0.838   | 0.238             | 0.222          | 0.160     | 0.850             | 0.834          | 0.586    | 2.60                      | 3.88           | 2.30    |
| L.S.D. ( $S_{ij}$ ) 0.01 | 3.55                   | 3.76           | 2.52    | 1.31            | 1.87           | 1.11    | 0.320             | 0.299          | 0.212     | 1.14              | 1.12           | 0.780    | 3.51                      | 5.23           | 3.07    |

\*, \*\* Significant at 5% and 1% levels of probability, respectively.