

Evaluation and stability analysis of some bread wheat genotypes under heat stress

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Abstract

This study was conducted at Kom-Mombo Agricultural Research Station, Aswan governorate, ARC, Egypt to study the performance and stability analysis of some wheat genotypes under heat stress. Twelve genotypes of bread wheat were investigated under six environments; two years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019 seasons) and three sowing dates (normal (D₁), 23rd of Nov., late (D₂), 13th of Dec. and very late (D₃), 16th of January). The differences among years, dates and genotypes were significant ($p < 0.01$) for heading date, plant height, 100-grain weight and grain yield. All first order interactions were significant for most studied traits. Mean squares due to interaction between genotypes, sowing dates and years were significantly for heading date and grain yield. The early sowing outyielded late and very late one by 17.79 and 63.50%, respectively. Delaying sowing date reduced all traits under investigated. Five genotypes were less susceptible (heat susceptibility index less than one) and less sensitive (less than one) for heat stress. The stability analysis for grain yield exhibited that the intermediate yielding genotypes (Masr 1, Masr 2, Sids 12, Sids 13, Sids 14, BAG#1 and KACHU*2) were stable and ranged in yield from 8.90 to 12.28Ard/fed.). However, the genotype Masr 1 was stable and high in grain yield. While, the highest yielding genotype; Gimmiza 11 was unstable.

Key words: Wheat; Evaluation; Stability; Interaction.

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the leading cereal crops and used as a staple for human not only in Egypt but also all over the world. Beside staple food for human beings, wheat straw is a good source of feed for a large population of animals (buffaloes, cow and cattle) in Egypt and also used for manufacturing of straw boards, papers and other pulp Tammam and Abd-El-Rady (2011) and Hakim et al (2012) stated that number of days to heading tended to decrease by

products. The sowing time plays an important role among various agronomic factors, which influencing the quality and yield of wheat. Normal sowing has longer growth during which consequently provides an opportunity to accumulate more biomass as compared to late sowing, hence manifested in higher grain and biological yields (Singh and Pal, 2003).

delaying sowing date. Dokuyucu et al (2004) and Asmaa et al (2018) found a significantly decrease, in heading date, plant height, 100-grain weight and grain yield/plant by delaying sowing date.

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Al-Otayk (2010), Tammam and Abd-El-Rady (2011), Hamam *et al* (2015), Bankar *et al* (2018), Patel *et al* (2019) and Ali *et al* (2020) mentioned that plant height, 100-grain weight and grain yield were the greatest in wheat sown in mid-November compared to the other dates. Tahir *et al* (2009) and Bachhao *et al* (2018) reported that sowing date on 1st of December gave maximum grain yield compared to late sowing on 30th of Dec. Shahzad *et al* (2002) and Shah *et al* (2006) reported that sown on 1st of November gave maximum mean values of plant height, 1000-grain weight and grain yield compared with other sowing dates.

Significant effect of heat stress in reduction of plant height, number of kernels/plant, 100-kernels weight, and grain yield was registered by Oliveira *et al.* (2011), Hamda and Ibrahim (2016) and Jaiswal *et al* (2017).

Some genotypes showed great heat tolerance and gave the highest grain yield per plant under both sowing dates was observed Khajuria *et al* (2016) and Ali *et al* (2020). Heritability estimates were moderate for grain yield (Sharma *et al* (2010), Ahmad *et al.*, 2017 and Mwadzingeni *et al.*, 2018). High heritability in broad sense estimates for days to heading (Singh *et al.*, 2013 and Elbasier *et al.*, 2019).

Stability parameters have been proposed to identify superior genotypes under normal and stress conditions, so, the breeder must be select the productive and stable genotypes under poor and normal environments (Guttieri *et al.*, 2001). Berke *et al* (1992) demonstrated that stability of quantitative traits is influenced by one or more major loci. The objective of this study to evaluate 12 bread wheat genotypes of diverse origin under three sowing dates for

yielding ability and its components and to estimate the stability for grain yield and its components of the genotypes to identify the most genotype which behave consistently over a wide range of environments.

Materials and Methods

This research was carried out during the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 at Kom-Mombo Agricultural Research Station, Aswan governorate, ARC, Egypt to evaluated 12 genotypes of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). The local name, pedigree and origin of these genotypes are presented in Table 1. Minimum, maximum and daily temperatures as well as relative humidity at Aswan are given in Table 2.

The twelve genotypes of bread wheat were evaluated under six environments; two years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019) and three sowing dates [23rd of Nov. (normal sowing date; D₁), 16th of Dec. (late sowing date; D₂) and 16th of January (very late sowing date; D₃)]. The experiment designed in split-plot arranged in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications. The main plot treatments comprised of three sowing dates. However, the sub-plot treatments were allocated to 12 genotypes. Total area of the sub-plot was 4.80 m²; each sub-plot consists of six rows of 4 m long and 20 cm spacing between 2 rows. The recommended agronomic practices were followed for good crop and competitive crop stand.

Data were recorded on days to heading, plant height, number of grains/plant, biological yield/plant, 100-grain weight and grain yield/plant on sub-plot basis for each genotype.

Table 1. The local name, pedigree and origin of the used genotypes.

No.	Name	Pedigree	Origin
1	Masr 1	OASIS/SKAUZ//4*BCN/3/2*PASTORCMSS00Y01881T-050M-030Y-030M-030WGY-33M-0Y-0S	Egypt
2	Masr 2	SKAUZ/BAV92CMSS96M03611S-1M-010SY-010M-010SY-8M-0Y-0S	Egypt
3	Masr 3	ROHF07*2/KIRITICGSS05B00123T-099T-0PY-099M-099NJ-6WGY-0B-0BGY-0GZ	Egypt
4	Sids 12	BUC//7C/ALD/5/MAYA74/ON//1160,1473//BB/GII14/CHAT"s"/6/MAYA/VUL//	Egypt
5	Sids 13	KAUZ//TSI/SNBICW94-0375-4AP-2AP-030AP-0APS-3AP-0APS-050AP-0AP-SD	Egypt
6	Sids 14	SW8488*2/KUKUNACGSS01Y00081T-099M-099Y-099M-099B-9Y-0B-0SD.	Egypt
7	BAJ#1//WAXING/PIHA	CMSS10Y00027S-099Y-099NJ-099NJ-6WGY-0B	ICARDA
8	Giza 171	ROLF07*2/KRITARICGSS05B00123T-099TOPY-099M-099NJ-6WGY-0B-0EGY	Egypt
9	Sakha 95	PASTOR//SITE/MO/3/CHEN/AEGILOPSSQUARROSA(TAUS)//BCN/4/WBLLI	Egypt
10	KACHU*2/CIRNO C2008	CMSS10B0120IT-099TOPY-099M-0SY-31M-0WGY	ICARDA
11	Gimmaza 11	BOW"S"/KVZ//7C/SER182/3/GIZA 168/SAKHA61.GM7892-2GM-1GM-2GM-1GM-0GM.	Egypt
12	Shandaweel 1	SITE//M0/4/NAC/TH.AC//3*PVN/3/MIRLO/BUF.CMSS03B00567S-72Y-010M-010Y-010M-0HTY-0SH	Egypt

C- Heatsusceptibility index and the sensitivity test:

Estimates of heat susceptibility index (HSI) for grain yield was computed according to the method of Fischer and Maurer (1978). The sensitivity was computed according to Falconer (1990).

Statistical analysis:

The obtained data were subjected to analysis of variance of split-plot design according to Gomez and Gomez (1984). The combined analysis was performed by MSTAT-C Computer program after

carrying out homogeneity test. Differences among means were assessed by the revised least significant differences (LSD') at 5 and 1% levels of probability according to (El-Rawi and Khalafalla; 1980).

Components of variances

The phenotypic (σ^2_p) and genotypic (σ^2_g) variance were estimated according to Al-Jibouri *et al* (1958). According to Comstock and Robinson (1952), broad sense heritability estimates for grain yield and related traits as the ratio of genotypic variance (σ^2_g) to phenotypic variance (σ^2_p).

Table 2. Minimum, maximum and mean daily temperature and humidity as well as relative humidity at Kom-Mombo from sowing to harvesting date in both seasons.

season Month		2017/2018						2018/2019					
		temperature			humidity			Temperature			Humidity		
		Mini.	Max.	Daily mean	Mini.	Max.	Daily mean	Mini.	Max.	Daily mean	Mini.	Max.	Daily Mean
Nov.	21-30	8.3	25.4	16.9	56.0	100.0	78.0	11.2	28.7	20.0	27.0	68.0	47.5
	Mean	8.3	25.4	16.9	56.0	100.0	78.0	11.2	28.7	20.0	27.0	68.0	47.5
Dec.	1-10	9.9	28.1	19.0	48.0	100.0	74.0	6.8	23.7	15.3	28.0	91.0	59.5
	11-20	9.7	28.7	19.2	39.0	100.0	69.5	5.0	24.1	14.6	26.0	97.0	61.5
	21-31	11.9	27.0	19.5	41.0	90.0	65.5	5.9	22.9	14.4	29.0	91.0	60.0
	Mean	10.5	27.9	19.2	42.7	96.7	69.7	5.9	23.6	14.8	27.7	93.0	60.4
Jan.	1-10	4.8	23.5	14.2	35.0	100.0	67.5	4.0	20.7	12.4	28.0	89.0	58.5
	11-20	6.5	24.0	15.3	34.0	92.0	63.0	2.5	21.6	12.1	26.0	94.0	60.0
	21-31	5.7	23.0	14.4	36.0	95.0	65.5	6.2	26.3	16.3	24.0	85.0	54.5
	Mean	5.7	23.5	14.6	35.0	95.7	65.3	4.2	22.9	13.6	26.0	89.3	57.7
Feb.	1-10	9.1	31.9	20.5	29.0	88.0	58.5	9.2	26.5	17.9	27.0	80.0	53.5
	11-20	11.4	27.2	19.3	47.0	91.0	69.0	4.7	23.8	14.3	27.0	93.0	60.0
	21-28	12.1	31.2	21.7	35.0	91.0	63.0	9.5	26.7	18.1	26.0	75.0	50.2
	Mean	10.9	30.1	20.5	37.0	90.0	64.0	7.8	25.7	16.8	26.7	82.7	54.7
March	1-10	11.9	35.1	23.5	32.0	95.0	63.5	6.9	26.8	16.9	23.0	74.0	48.5
	11-20	12.8	34.7	23.8	35.0	93.0	64.0	10.1	29.9	20.0	22.0	60.0	41.0
	21-31	17.2	36.1	26.7	42.0	75.0	58.5	13.2	30.6	21.9	24.0	55.0	39.5
	Mean	14.0	35.3	24.7	36.3	87.7	62.0	10.1	29.1	19.6	23.0	63.0	43.0
April	1-10	14.5	34.3	24.4	45.0	91.0	68.0	14.1	23.9	19.0	26.0	47.0	36.5
	11-20	16.4	39.1	27.8	42.0	92.0	67.0	14.5	32.8	23.7	27.0	63.0	45.0
	21-30	15.8	35.5	25.7	49.0	92.0	70.5	14.3	36.6	25.5	24.0	58.0	41.0
	Mean	15.6	36.3	26.0	45.3	91.7	68.5	14.3	31.1	22.7	25.7	56.0	40.9
May	1-10	22.8	42.2	32.5	43.0	86.0	64.5	19.4	39.9	29.7	24.0	48.0	36.0
	11-20	20.5	40.5	30.5	23.0	54.0	38.5	18.8	40.8	29.8	26.0	53.0	39.5
	Mean	21.65	41.35	31.5	33	70	51.5	19.1	40.35	29.75	25	50.5	37.75

Meteorological Authority at Kom-Mombo, Aswan governorate, Egypt.

Stability analysis

Stability analysis for all studied traits was carried out using Eberhart &

Russell model (1966).

Results and discussion

The mean monthly temperature and relative humidity are given in Table 2. Mean monthly temperature were almost different in both seasons of study except for the month of November. The December

Analysis of variance

The combined analysis of variance (Table 3) exhibited significant ($P < 0.01$) differences between years for all studied traits; heading date, plant height, 100-grain weight and grain yield, indicating that the wide differences in climatic changes prevailing in the two seasons. The main effect of dates was significant ($P < 0.01$) for these traits, as it would be expected for early and late date of sowing. Moreover, the effect of sowing dates was more pronounced than that of years for all studied traits except grain yield. The first order interaction of year's \times dates was significant ($P < 0.01$) for the studied traits except plant height, revealing that the effect of sowing date varied from year to another. The differences among genotypes were significant ($P < 0.01$), showing that the presence of considerable genetic diversity among the genotypes for these traits. Mean squares due to interaction between genotypes, sowing dates and years for these traits were significant ($P < 0.01$) except 100-grain weight was not significant under $Y \times G$ and $D \times G$, respectively. The second order interaction $Y \times D \times G$ was significant for days to heading and grain yield. This reflects that the sensitivity of these genotypes to environmental changes suggesting the assessment of genotypes under different environments for identifying the best genotype(s) for particular environment as well as finding the stable ones over such array of conditions. A considerable variation among cultivars of wheat were

to May months of 2017/2018 experiences 4 – 5°C higher temperature than the year 2018/2019. The mean monthly relative humidity was 8 – 28% higher in 2017/2018 compared to 2018/2019.

reported by Shah *et al* (2006), Wajid *et al* (2006), Bankar *et al* (2018) and Ali *et al* (2020).

Days to heading

Results in Table 4 showed that the early sowing date gave 85.74 compared with 81.56 and 62.81 days resulted from late and very late sowing date, respectively. The average number of days to heading at second and third date was nearly early by 4 and 23 days, respectively. These results could be because heat units and the accumulated metabolites required for wheat flowering were reduced in the late and very late sowing dates. Over all environments, the average days to heading ranged from 71.72 for the genotype BAG#1 to 81.00 for the genotype Masr 2 with an average of 76.70 days (Table 4). Data in Table 4 indicated that the genotype BAG#1 was the earliest at all sowing dates, indicating that this genotype had accumulated desirable alleles for earliness and could be used in future breeding programs. On the other hand, the genotypes Masr 2 and Sids 14 were the latest under all sowing dates, indicating that these genotypes had accumulated desirable alleles for lateness. In general, the results indicate that genotypes early flower under late sowing date than under normal date. Similar results were observed by Wajid *et al* (2006), Bankar *et al* (2018), Mukherjee *et al* (2018), and Ali *et al* (2020).

Plant height

With respect to plant height, data in Table 4 illustrated that planting wheat early produced taller plants than late and very late planting. Over all environments, the genotype of wheat had significant

effect on plant height, among the genotypes BAG#1 (92.7 cm) was found shorter and Masr 2 (106.9 cm) was taller (Table 4). Average height required for

Table 3. Combined analysis of variance, genotypic (σ^2g) and phenotypic (σ^2p) variance and broad sense heritability (h^2_b) of 12 genotypes over six environments for the studied traits.

S.O.V	d.f	Mean squares			
		Days to heading	Plant height (cm)	100-grain weight (g)	Grain yield/plant (Ard./fed.)
Years (Y)	1	2845.63**	4163.30**	6.13**	1982.53**
Error (a)	4	3.39	31.62	0.40	2.76
Sowing dates (D)	2	11041.14**	9967.76**	21.35**	1780.54**
Y \times D	2	63.00**	16.29	2.19**	398.85**
Error (b)	8	3.05	15.74	0.18	2.50
Genotypes (G)	11	111.57**	415.57**	2.10**	22.30**
Y \times G	11	12.80**	48.87**	0.09	17.60**
D \times G	22	6.43**	48.11**	0.20*	4.80**
Y \times D \times G	22	11.65**	22.27	0.12	9.45**
Error (c)	132	2.79	14.73	0.12	1.65
σ^2g	-	5.49	20.37	0.11	0.26
σ^2p	-	6.42	25.28	0.15	0.81
h^2_b	-	0.86	0.81	0.73	0.32

*, **; Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively.

Table 4. Average performance of days to heading and plant height for the 12 genotypes under different sowing dates over two years.

No.	Genotypes	Days to heading				Plant height (cm)			
		D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Combined	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Combined
1	Masr 1	85.67	83.83	63.83	77.78	106.5	100.7	83.7	97.0
2	Masr 2	90.00	86.17	66.83	81.00	115.2	110.4	95.1	106.9
3	Masr 3	84.83	81.00	60.17	75.33	107.2	102.5	87.2	99.0
4	Sids 12	84.83	79.00	60.33	74.72	103.0	99.1	77.8	93.3
5	Sids 13	88.33	82.83	64.67	78.61	106.7	92.9	78.9	92.8
6	Sids 14	91.17	85.83	64.00	80.33	111.7	109.7	89.7	103.7
7	BAG #1	79.33	74.50	61.33	71.72	99.1	96.9	82.0	92.7
8	Giza 171	84.50	81.83	63.33	76.56	108.1	107.7	86.6	100.8
9	Sakha 95	87.33	84.50	65.50	79.11	118.6	113.4	86.1	106.0
10	KACHU*2	83.67	78.83	59.50	74.00	103.6	103.3	86.8	97.9
11	Gimmaza 11	83.00	78.50	61.00	74.17	106.1	103.3	87.8	99.1
12	Shandaweel 1	86.17	81.83	63.17	77.06	106.5	104.3	85.6	98.8
Mean		85.74	81.56	62.81	76.70	107.7	103.7	85.6	99.0
RLSD _{0.05}		-	-	-	1.09	-	-	-	2.48
RLSD _{0.01}		-	-	-	1.49	-	-	-	3.40

height was 99.0 cm. Heat stress exerts its inhibitory effect on cell elongation and the accompanied by a reduction in plant

height. These results are in accordance with those obtained by Jaiswal *et al.* (2017), Kiran and Alagundagi (2018),

Sharma *et al* (2019), Bajaniya *et al* (2019) and Ali *et al* (2020).

100-grain weight

Considering 100-grain weight, data from Table 5 revealed that favourable sowing produced significantly heavier grain weight than late and very late sowing date. This could be due to that grain maturity may be affected by high temperatures and resulted in shrunked grains. Over all environments, the average 100-grain weight of all genotypes was 4.14 g. Among the genotypes, Giza 171 produced maximum 100-grain weight (4.74 g), which is statistically at par with Gimmaza 11 (4.71 g), minimum 100-grain weight (3.72 g) was produced by the genotype Masr 2 (Table 5). Delay the sowing of wheat decreased the 100-grain weight similar results were line up with Marasini *et al* (2010), Bankar *et al* (2018), Bachhao *et al* (2018), Patel *et al* (2019) and Ali *et al* (2020).

Grain yield, Ard/fed.

The combined analysis of variance (Table 3) indicated significant effect in grain yield as influenced by planting, years and genotypes studied. The normal sowing date gave 15.18 compared with 12.48 and 5.54 Ard/fed produced from late and very late planting dates, respectively (Table 5). Genotypes showed differential responses for either dates or years for grain yield (Table 5). Over all environments, the average grain yield of the genotypes was 11.07 Ard/fed. Among the genotypes, the higher grain yield (12.53 Ard/fed) was recorded by Gimmaza 11, which was found at par with Masr 1, Masr 2, Giza 171 and Sakha 95 (12.28, 11.66, 11.90 and 11.81Ard/fed, respectively) and significantly superior to remaining genotypes (Table 5). On mean basis, under timely and both late sowing conditions, Gimmaza 11 produced maximum

grain yield (17.78, 14.73 and 5.06 Ard/fed, respectively) compared to rest of genotypes. The results are in agreement with those reported by Sial *et al* (2005), Tahir *et al* (2009), Vahid *et al* (2010), Aslani and Mehrvar (2012), Parwaizalam *et al* (2013), Mahajan *et al* (2018), Bachhao *et al* (2018), Patel *et al* (2019) Ali *et al* (2020).

Heat susceptibility index and sensitivity

Five genotypes; Masr 1, Masr 2, Masr 3, Sids 12 and Sids 14 exhibited heat susceptibility index less than one (less susceptible) and gave also values less than one (less sensitive) in sensitivity test (Table 5), since they gave intermediate yield compared to yield under normal ones. Similar results were obtained by Zakaria (1999), Taghian and Abo-Elwafa (2003), Ali (2006) and Ali *et al* (2020).

Variance components

Results in Table 3 showed that the phenotypic variance was higher than genotypic ones for all traits under study. The small difference between σ^2g and σ^2p was observed for days to heading, plant height, and 100-grain weight, indicating that there was little influence of environmental factors on their phenotypic expression. Heritability in the broad sense (h^2_b) was high for these traits. The phenotypic variance is a good index of genotypic variance in these traits. Selection is also easy for these traits. Similar results were obtained by Singh *et al* (2013) and Elbasier *et al* (2019). On the other hand, the large difference between σ^2g and σ^2p

Table 5. Average performance of 100-grain weight and grain yield for the 12 genotypes under different sowing dates over two years.

No.	Genotypes	100-grain weight (g)				Grain yield (Ard./fed.)					
		D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Combined	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	Combined	HSI ⁺⁺	S ⁺⁺⁺
1	Masr 1	4.67	4.13	3.70	4.16	16.18	12.97	7.71	12.28	0.82	0.88
2	Masr 2	4.08	3.64	3.45	3.72	15.21	13.79	5.97	11.66	0.95	0.96
3	Masr 3	4.70	4.10	3.25	4.02	13.36	11.06	5.13	9.85	0.96	0.85
4	Sids 12	4.23	3.98	3.62	3.94	14.30	11.98	5.31	10.53	0.98	0.93
5	Sids 13	4.27	3.89	3.47	3.87	14.35	13.27	4.79	10.80	1.04	0.99
6	Sids 14	4.50	4.28	3.72	4.17	14.77	13.24	5.81	11.28	0.95	0.93
7	BAG #1	4.37	3.91	3.35	3.87	13.07	9.70	3.92	8.90	1.09	0.95
8	Giza 171	5.50	4.65	4.07	4.74	16.56	12.63	6.52	11.90	0.95	1.04
9	Sakha 95	4.78	4.23	3.62	4.21	16.96	12.06	6.42	11.81	0.97	1.09
10	KACHU*2	4.98	4.60	3.75	4.44	13.94	10.63	4.77	9.78	1.03	0.95
11	Gimmaza 11	5.52	4.74	3.88	4.71	17.78	14.73	5.06	12.53	1.12	1.32
12	Shandaweel 1	4.37	3.92	3.05	3.78	15.65	13.70	5.06	11.47	1.06	1.10
Mean		4.66	4.17	3.58	4.14	15.18	12.48	5.54	11.07	-	-
RLSD _{0.05}		-	-	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.97	-	-
RLSD _{0.01}		-	-	-	0.27	-	-	-	1.18	-	-

HSI⁺ =Heat susceptibility index and S⁺⁺=Sensitivity to heat stress.

observed for grain yield, indicating that there was large influence of environmental factors on their phenotypic expression. A low heritability estimate was found for these traits. The low heritability estimate was attributed to the facts that yields were quantitative traits that were controlled by many genes (Elbasier *et al*; 2019).

In conclusion, these results declare significant effects of years, sowing dates and their different order interactions on the different genotypes for most of the studied traits. This means that the studied genotypes responded differently for sowing dates and years, which caused difficulty in demonstrating the significant superiority of any genotype for all dates, and years. Therefore, it may be informative to study the stability parameters of each genotype.

Stability analysis:

Mean squares of joint regression analysis of variance (Table 6) for days to heading and grain yield were significant ($p < 0.01$) differences among genotypes and environments. This indicates that the presence of genetic and environmental variation of these traits. Moreover, partitions of the genotypes \times environments interaction as indicated by Env. + (G \times Env.), Envi. (Linear) and genotypes \times environments interaction had significant ($p < 0.01$) effects for these traits. The genotype \times environment (Linear) was significant; therefore, the stability analysis was performed according to Eberhart & Russell (1966). This reflects that the change in performance of a genotype from year to another or genotypes showed different responses to heading date and yield when growing in different environments. These findings are in agreement with those obtained by Hamam

Table 6. Joint regression analysis of variance of 12 genotypes for days to heading and grain yield over six environments.

S. O. V	df	Days to heading (days)	Grain yield/plant (Ard/fed.)
Genotypes (G)	11	45.55**	7.41**
Env.+ (G × Env.)	60	139.10**	38.07**
Env. (Linear)	1	8138.87**	2115.15**
G × Env. (Linear)	11	7.05*	5.57*
Pooled deviation	48	2.70**	2.24**
Pooled error	132	0.90	0.54

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

and Abdel-Sabour (2009), Parveen *et al.* (2010), Mohamed and Said (2014) and Abd El-Rady and Koubisy (2017).

Days to heading

Respecting days to heading, the regression coefficient (b_i) and deviation from regression (S^2d_i) for five genotypes; Masr 3, BAG#1, Giza 171, Sakha 95 and KACH4*2 were insignificant from unity and zero, respectively (Table 7 and Fig. 1), showing that these genotypes considered to be stable for this trait. Two of them (BAG#1 and KACHU*2) were also stable for grain yield. According to Eberhart & Russell (1966), the genotype KACHU*2 considered to be superior because the regression coefficient of this genotype equal one ($b_i = 1$), deviation from regression (S^2d_i) were insignificant from zero and a low (earlier) mean when compared with the mean overall genotypes. Therefore, this wheat genotype could be grown under a wide range of environments (sowing dates). The regression coefficient value was deviated insignificantly and more than unity ($b_i > 1$) in variety Masr 3, indicating relatively suitable in favourable environments, normal sowing date and other inputs.

Meanwhile, the b_i values deviated insignificant and less than unity ($b_i < 1$) in the genotypes BAG#1 and Giza 171. Thus, they were adapted to late (13th of Dec.) and very late sowing dates (16th of January). The remainder genotypes were unstable (Table 7 and Fig. 1). These findings are in agreement with those obtained by Ram *et al.* (2010), Mohamed and Said (2014) and Abd El-Rady and Koubisy (2017).

Grain yield (Ard/fed)

The stability parameters (Table 7 and Fig. 2) showed that the genotypes varied in their b_i values as well as S^2d_i . It noticed that the intermediate yielding genotypes (Masr 1, Masr 2, Sids 12, Sids 13, Sids 14, BAG#1 and KACHU*2) were stable and ranged in grain yield from 8.90 to 12.53 Ard/fed. According to Eberhart & Russell (1966) the variety Masr 2 and Sids 14 considered to be superior because the regression coefficient of this genotype equal one ($b_i = 1$), the deviation from regression (S^2d_i) was insignificant from zero and a high mean when compared with the mean overall genotypes. Therefore, these wheat genotypes could be grown under a wide range of environments. The regression coefficient value was deviated

Table 7. Stability parameters for days to heading and grain yield of 12 genotypes over six environments.

No.	Genotypes	Days to heading			Grain yield		
		(\bar{X})	b_i	S^2d	(\bar{X})	b_i	S^2d
1	Masr 1	77.78	0.96	2.65*	12.28	0.87	0.16
2	Masr 2	81.00	0.97	5.15**	11.66	1.00	-0.07
3	Masr 3	75.33	1.10	0.95	9.85	0.54**	5.71**
4	Sids 12	74.72	1.12*	3.58**	10.53	0.98	0.61
5	Sids 13	78.61	0.99*	0.85	10.80	1.07	0.75
6	Sids 14	80.33	1.15**	0.37	11.28	1.05	0.26
7	BAG #1	71.72	0.76	0.33	8.90	0.99	-0.05
8	Giza 171	76.56	0.95	1.08	11.90	1.21	2.45**
9	Sakha 95	79.11	0.96	1.37	11.81	1.11	1.37*
10	KACHU*2	74.00	1.04	0.41	9.78	0.95	0.10
11	Gimmaza 11	74.17	0.97	2.34*	12.53	0.99	8.53**
12	Shandaweel 1	77.06	1.04	2.47*	11.47	1.24*	0.56
Mean		76.70	-	-	11.07	-	-
R. L. S. D. 0.05		1.84	-	-	1.81	-	-
R. L. S. D. 0.01		2.53	-	-	2.49	-	-

*, ** Significantly from unity for (b_i) and from zero for (S^2d) at 0.05 and 0.01 probability levels, respectively.

insignificantly and more than unity ($b_i > 1$) in varieties Sids 14, indicating relatively suitable in favourable environments, normal sowing date and other inputs. While, the variety Masr 1 was performed consistently less in favourable environments ($b_i < 1.0$) (Table 7 and Fig. 2). The remainder genotypes were unstable (Table 7 and Fig. 2).

It is clear that the highest yielding variety Gimmaza 11, which was unstable, performed well under normal sowing date (17.78 Ard/fed). Moreover, the same previous genotype also was the best under late (13th of Dec.) and very late (16th of January) sowing date (14.73 and 5.06 Ard/fed, respectively). Under conditions such as exist late (16th of Dec.) and very late (23rd of January) sowing

dates; the breeder was obliged to recommend the highest yielding genotype (Gimmaza 11) for such specific environments irrespective of their stability parameters. These results are in line with those reported by Okuyama *et al* (2005), Ali (2006), Hamam and Khaled (2009), Ram *et al* (2010), Abd El-Shafi *et al* (2014), El-Moselhy *et al* (2015), Hamam *et al* (2015), Ali (2017), Khan *et al* (2018) and Ahmed *et al* (2019).

Conclusion

This study revealed that timely sown wheat crop (normal date, 23rd of Nov.) showed highest growth parameters (days to heading and plant height) and yield attributing

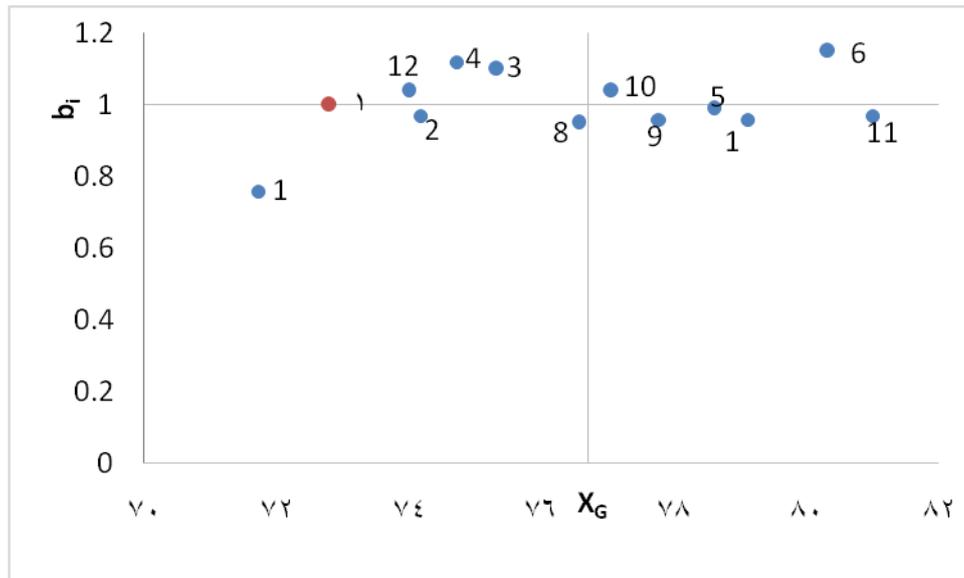


Fig. 1. Graphical illustration of the stability parameter (b_i) and the mean performance of individual genotypes (\bar{X}) for days to heading.

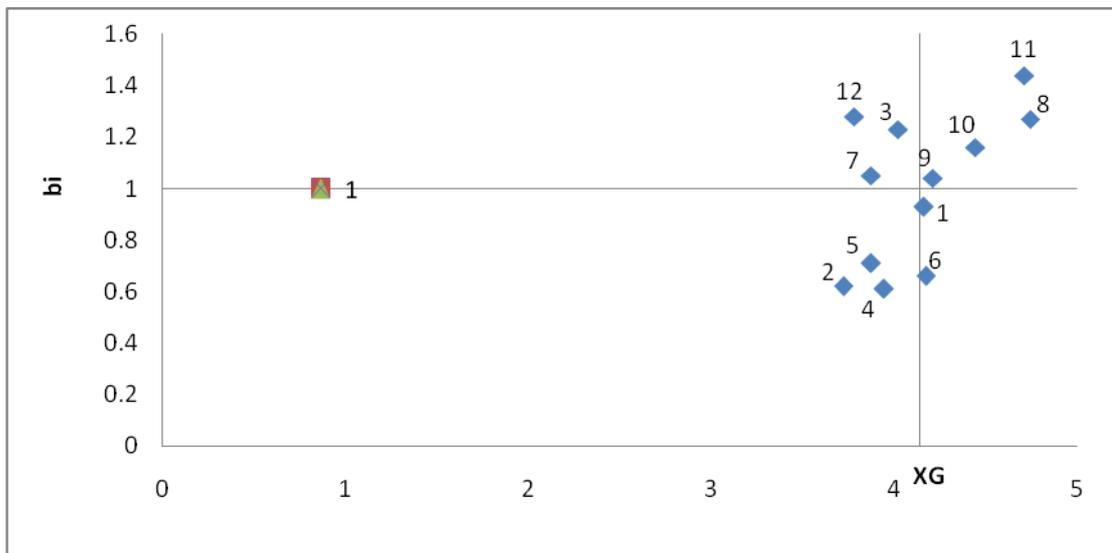


Fig. 2. Graphical illustration of the stability parameter (b_i) and the mean performance of individual genotypes (\bar{X}) for grain yield.

characters (100-grain weight and grain yield) compared to late (13th of Dec.) and very late (16th of January) sown crop. Among the genotypes under study, Giza 171 and Sakha 95 performed better in terms of grain yield, 100-grain weight

and plant height especially under late sowing conditions. Hence, from the above study, it may be conclude that under normal sown condition any genotypes i.e., Masr 1, Masr 2, Masr 3,

Sids 12, Sids 13, Sids 14, BAG#1, Giza 171, Sakha 95, KACHU*2, Gimmaza 11 and Shandaweel 1 can be recommend. However, under late sown condition Giza 171 and Sakha 95 can be recommend for higher grain yield, 100-grain weight and plant height. The stability analysis revealed that the intermediate yielding genotypes (Masr 1, Masr 2, Sids 12, Sids 13, Sids 14, BAG#1 and KACHU*2) were stable under different environments and ranged in grain yield from 13.20 to 17.82 Ard/fed. These genotypes could be

useful in wheat improvement programs for enhancing stability. Meanwhile, the highest yielding variety; Gimmaza 11, which was unstable, performed well under normal, late and very late sowing dates (17.78, 14.73 and 5.06 Ard/fed, respectively). Under conditions such as exist late (13th of Dec.) and very late (16th of January) sowing date; the breeder was obliged to recommend the highest yielding genotype (Gimmaza 11) for such specific environments irrespective of their stability parameters.

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