



## The study of important agronomic traits by multivariate analysis in winter rapeseed cultivars

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### Abstract

In order to group winter rapeseed cultivars according to evaluated traits, an experiment was conducted in the Research Greenhouse of Agriculture Faculty, University of Tabriz – IRAN. In the experiment were included 12 cultivars of winter rapeseed and 3 levels of water deficit stress. Gypsum blocks were used to monitor soil moisture. Water deficit stress was imposed from stem elongation to physiological maturity. According to the principal component analysis, five principal components were chosen with greater eigenvalue (more than 0.7) that are including 81.34% of the primeval variance of variables. The first component that explained the 48.02% of total variance had the high eigenvalue. The second component could justify about 13.64% of total variance and had positive association with leaf water potential and proline content and had negative relationship with leaf stomatal conductivity. The third, fourth and fifth components expressed around, 10.18, 4.83 and 4.68% of the total variance respectively. The third component had the high eigenvalue for plant dry weight. The fourth component put 1000-seed weight, seed yield, Silique per Plant and root dry weight against plant dry weight, chlorophyll fluorescence and leaf water potential. The fifth component had the high eigenvalue for root dry weight, root volume and 1000-seed weight.

**Keywords:** winter rapeseed; water deficit stress; principal component analysis.

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## Introduction

Rapeseed is the most important plant oil source and the third most important oil plant in the world after soybean (FAO, 2007). Typically the seed of new varieties contain 40% -45% Rapeseed oil which is used as raw materials to produce industrial and hydraulic oil, cleaner, soap and biodegradable plastics (Friedt, 2007). After extracting the oil, the remained oil cake, which contains 38 – 44% high-quality proteins, is used for animal nutrition (Walker and Booth, 2001). Available water is one of the main limitations in the yield and quality for most species and it may appear during the whole growth stage or in critical conditions (Parry et al, 2005). Plants apply a range of particular responses in order to minimize the effects of water shortage or to increase water absorbing rate (Morison et al, 2008). The effect of water stress is a function of genotype, stress degree, weather condition, growth and developing stage of rapeseed (Robertson and Holland, 2004). Water stress in particular stages of rapeseed phenology affects seed qualitative properties such as oil and protein's percentage and the amount of glucosinolate (Strocher et al, 1995). Liang et al (1992) by evaluating the morphological and physiological responses to water stress showed that *Brassica juncea* is more adaptable to water stress than *B.napus*. The results of Kumar and Singh experiments (1998) indicate that in oily species of *Brassica* the genotypes with high osmotic adjustment maintained their cell turgid up to -2.4 Mega Pascal, but in genotypes with low osmotic adjustment, the fall rate in pressure potential was fast accordingly. Also Valeric et al (2002) remarked that when the separately planted rapeseed leaves were positioned under high osmotic laboratory, huge amount of proline flocked in leaves. Zulini et al (2002) found a significant correlation between Fv/Fm (Fv: variable chlorophyll fluorescence, Fm: maximum chlorophyll fluorescence) and leaf water potential in stressed plants so when leaf water potential decreases to less than 0.9 Mega Pascal, decrease in Fv/Fm can be observed. Numerous experiments suggest that the rapeseed yield is influenced by high number of pods per plant or per area unit (Rao and Mendham, 1991). Jensen et al (1996) reported that the eruption of water stress in vegetative growth and flowering stages didn't have significant effect on each rapeseed weight. However, during water shortage in seed filling stage their weight reduce. It has shown that supplemental irrigation of rapeseed increases the number of pods and seeds per pod by extending flowering stage (Kimber and McGregor, 1995).

## Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted under greenhouse conditions in Agricultural Faculty of Tabriz-Iran University, in 2007-2008. Temperature during the day was 23°C-25°C and during the night was between 15°C and 17°C with 14 hours lightening. The relative moist was between 50 and 60 percent.

### Plant Materials:

Plant material include 12 winter rapeseed cultivars named Zarfam, Okapi, Modena, Licord, Olera, Dexter, Arc-4, Elite, Opera, SLM046, Fornax, and Orient kindly provided by Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center of East Azerbaijan province-Iran. Cultivation was done in 8-kilogram (soil) flowerpots with 5 seeds planted in each. Then thinning was done when the plants had two leaves and one plant was kept in each flowerpot. Considering that cultivars were winter type, vernalization was done. Water deficit stress was imposed from stem elongation to physiological maturity. Gypsum blocks were used in order to control soil moist. The factorial experiment was done with two factors irrigation at 3 levels: well watered stress (100% FC), mild stress (75% FC), severe stress (50% FC) and 12 winter rapeseed cultivars in randomized complete block design with 3 replications.

### Abbreviation:

LWP: Leaf Water Potential, RWC: Relative Water Content, LOP: Leaf Osmotic Potential, PC: Proline Content, CF: Chlorophyll Fluorescence, CI: Chlorophyll Index, LSC: Leaf Stomata Conductance, PH: Plant Height, PDW: Plant Dry Weight, RV: Root Volume, RDW: Root Dry Weight, SL: Siliques Length, SPP: Siliques per Plant, SPS: Seed Per Siliques, 1000-SW: 1000-Seed Weight, SY: Seed Yield

### Measured traits:

The following traits were recorded during the experiment:

1. Leaf water potential measured by Pressure Chamber; model: Soil Moisture Equipment Crop, Sanata Barbara, CA.
2. Relative water content:

The method of Morant-manceau et al (2004) was used. First the Fresh Weight (FW) of samples was measured. Then we put the samples in distilled water and after 24 hours the Turgid Wight (TW) was measured and after putting samples in 75°C Aven the Dry Weight (DW) was measured. Finally the leaf relative water content measured percent by this theorem:

$$RWC = \frac{FW - DW}{TW - DW} * 100$$

3. Osmotic potential measured by Osmometer; mode: Osmomat 010, Genotel.
4. Stomata conductance measured by Porometer; model: AP4- Porometer (Delta-T Devices) Cambridge, UK.
5. For chlorophyll fluorescence we used fluorometer; model: Opti Science, OS-30, USA.
6. Chlorophyll index is determined by Chlorophyll meter; model: SPAD-502, Minolta, Japan.
7. Proline contents were measured by Acid Hydrin method.



The plant height, plant dry weight, volume of root, root dry weight, length of silique, silique per plant, seed per silique and 1000-grain weight were measured at the end of growth stage. Factor analysis was performed using SPSS software.

## Results and discussion

Principal component analysis grouped 12 cultivars based on traits that about 81.34% of the total variance is explained by the first five principal components (Table 1). The Selection of principal component was based on the greater amount of eigenvalue (more than 0.7) that expressed 81.34% of the primeval variance of variables. The first component is about 48.02% of the variation that can be explained with a high coefficient for the root volume (Table 2). The second component is about 13.64% of the original variables that explained variation traits and leaf osmotic potential and proline content are positively associated with trait negative relationship between leaf stomatal conductivity (Table 2). The third component explained 10.18% of the total variation with relatively high positive factor for plant dry weight (Table 2). The fourth component explains about 4.83 percent of the variation equation is that the grain weight, grain yield per plant, number of pods per plant and root dry weight of the plant dry weight, chlorophyll fluorescence, and leaf water potential. The fifth component is about 4.68 percent of the variation that can be explained with a high ratio of root dry weight, root volume and grain weight (Table 2).

Table 1: The results of component analysis

Principal component	Eigenvalue	Variance %	Cumulative variance %
1	7.68	48.02	48.02
2	2.18	13.64	61.66
3	1.63	10.18	71.83
4	0.77	4.83	76.66
5	0.75	4.68	81.34

**Table2: Principal components in studied traits under water deficit stress**

Component Trait	Component				
	1	2	3	4	
LWP	0.104	0.109	-0.045	-0.366	0.096
RWC	0.092	0.125	-0.156	-0.143	0.276
LOP	-0.033	0.375	0.111	0.080	-0.166
PC	-0.042	0.361	0.152	-0.046	-0.091
CF	0.102	0.077	0.129	-0.286	0.307
CI	0.096	0.171	0.095	-0.065	0.281
LSC	0.076	-0.271	-0.092	0.026	0.028
PH	0.177	-0.081	0.059	-0.064	0.105
PDW	0.044	-0.122	0.489	-0.298	-0.031
RV	0.940	0	0.170	-0.154	-0.506
RDW	0.090	-0.026	0.144	0.333	-0.710
SL	0.110	-0.002	-0.139	0.185	-0.029
SPP	0.103	0.138	-0.154	0.444	0.019
SPS	0.113	-0.045	0.074	-0.059	0.055
1000-SW	-0.039	-0.067	0.419	0.596	0.505
SY	0.114	0.060	-0.040	0.477	0.093

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