

The impact of linkage disequilibrium and epistasis in the studies of inheritance based on Hayman's diallel and generation mean analysis

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1 **The impact of linkage disequilibrium and epistasis in the studies of inheritance based on**
2 **Hayman's diallel and generation mean analysis**

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6
7 **Abstract** This simulation-based study assessed the impact of linkage disequilibrium (LD) and
8 epistasis on Hayman's diallel and generation mean analysis, assuming hundreds of genes, variable
9 degree of dominance, and seven types of digenic epistasis. The diallel parents were 15 doubled-
10 haploid lines from a high LD population. The generation mean analysis was based on seven
11 generations, assuming association. Under low LD and no epistasis, the diallel analysis provided
12 confident results about the inheritance of the quantitative trait and high correlation between number
13 of recessive genes and $W_r + V_r$, but biased estimates of the dominance components and genetic
14 parameters. The additional consequences of high LD under no epistasis were rejection of the
15 additive-dominance model assuming high heritability and lower correlation. Assuming 100% of
16 epistatic genes, for four epistasis types there was evidence of inadequacy of the additive-dominance
17 model. Assuming 30% of epistatic genes, there was a tendency for accepting the additive-
18 dominance model for low heritability traits and for rejecting for high heritability traits. Linkage and
19 epistasis affects the estimates of the genetic components of the generation means. Even assuming
20 100% of interacting genes, for most epistasis types there was no statistical evidence of epistasis.
21 Assuming positive partial dominance, the signs of the epistatic components do not allow
22 discriminate complementary, recessive, dominant and recessive, duplicate genes with cumulative
23 effects, and non-epistatic genic interaction. Negative epistatic components evidence dominant
24 epistasis. When the additive x additive and dominance x dominance components are positive and
25 the additive x dominance component is negative, there is duplicate epistasis.

26 **Keywords** linkage disequilibrium, epistasis, diallel, generation mean analysis.

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13 **Introduction**

14 The genetic design diallel is regularly used in plant breeding. It is commonly employed to
15 provide interpopulation crosses or single crosses/ F_1 's from inbred/pure/doubled haploid (DH) lines,
16 for assessing heterosis, combining ability, or molecular genetic diversity, for predicting non-
17 assessed testcrosses and single-crosses, among other applications (Mowers et al. 2018; Kadam et al.
18 2016; Yu et al. 2020; Leng et al. 2019). There are several methods of analysis but most
19 investigations are based on the models (fixed or random) and methods proposed by Griffing
20 (1956a). The main reasons that explain the general choice by breeders for the Griffing's combining
21 ability analysis are: the methodology can be used for any crop and trait and the computation and
22 interpretation of the genetic parameters are simple. Concerning the study of inheritance of
23 quantitative traits, both heterosis and combining ability analyses allows testing non-additive effects,
24 if there is genetic variability between the parents. But it is not possible to test for epistasis.

25 In the context of inheritance, an interesting approach based on diallel cross was proposed by
26 Hayman (1954). However, very few inheritance studies based on Hayman's method were published

1 in the last 10 years (de Lima et al. 2019; Makumbi et al. 2018; Shahadati-Moghaddam et al. 2017;
2 Kalinina and Lyakh 2011). The Hayman's method has indeed some limitations, as the assumptions
3 of no epistasis (independent action of non-allelic genes) and no linkage disequilibrium (LD) (genes
4 independently distributed in the parents). But it has positive aspects as testing the adequacy of the
5 additive-dominance model. Then, if there is epistasis, the breeder can ignore the trait or take into
6 account the influence of epistasis on the analysis. Why, then, the Hayman's method has been almost
7 ignored in the studies of inheritance of quantitative traits? For sure, this cannot be attributable to a
8 regular evidence of epistasis since most of the empirical data show mainly additive genetic variation
9 (Hill et al. 2008). In my opinion, the main reasons are: the method seems very complex for breeders
10 in regard to computation and interpretation; the breeders guess that the Griffing's method provides
11 the same inferences; and the method is restricted for diploids and homozygous parents. However,
12 Hayman's approach is not very complex for computing and interpreting and it provides some
13 information on inheritance that a combining ability analysis does not offer.

14 Another interesting approach for the study of inheritance of quantitative traits is the
15 generation mean analysis, proposed by Mather and Jinks (1971). Similar to the heterosis and
16 combining ability analysis, this biometrical genetics methodology is based on the estimation of
17 linear components of means of populations derived from homozygous parents. This approach has
18 been commonly used by breeders of self- and cross-pollinated crops since its proposition (Rai et al.
19 2020; Addy et al. 2020; Verma and Singh 2018). Its main advantages are: it is easily performed for
20 crops with inbred/pure/DH lines; it is applicable to any trait but few studies involved grain yield
21 (Mohammed et al. 2018); it allows for testing dominance and epistasis separately; and the
22 computation and the interpretation are simple.

23 Assuming absence of epistasis, the linear components of means do not depend on the LD.
24 However, the genotypic variance and its genetic components are affected by LD (Hill and Maki-
25 Tanila 2015). Because joint modelling epistasis and LD is a challenger for quantitative and
26 biometrical geneticists, in the most important theoretical papers on heterosis and combining ability

1 analysis there is only superficial information on the influence of non-allelic interaction (Gardner
2 and Eberhart 1966; Kempthorne 1956; Griffing 1956b). Because his method is based on
3 components of the genotypic variance for parents and F_1 's, Hayman (1954) makes some statements
4 on how LD and epistasis affects the diallel analysis (see sections 4.4. Correlated gene distributions
5 and 4.5. Non-allelic gene interaction). The knowledge provided by Hayman (1954) was extended in
6 the studies of Hill (1964), Nassar (1965), Mather (1967), and Coughtrey and Mather (1970). In
7 regard to generation mean analysis, Mather and Jinks (1971) included theory and some general
8 conclusions for the analysis assuming LD and epistasis (see section 5.18 Linkage of interacting
9 genes). Hill (1964) and Nassar (1965), based on 3- and 10-gene models, provided contrasting
10 results regarding the consequences of LD on the W_r/V_r graph and the order of dominance. Mather
11 (1967) and Coughtrey and Mather (1970) assumed only complementary and duplicate epistasis in a
12 two-gene model with no LD. Thus, none previous published study provided general information on
13 the joint impact of LD and epistasis on the Hayman's diallel and generation mean analyses. Then,
14 the objective of this study was to provide significant additional knowledge about the influence of
15 LD and epistasis on the Hayman's diallel and generation mean analyses, based on simulated data. I
16 assumed hundreds of genes, variable degree of dominance, variable gene frequencies, LD, and
17 seven types of digenic epistasis. In the first part of this study I present the theoretical background
18 that supports the software used for simulating the data set.

19 **Material and Methods**

20 Genetic variances and covariances of the Hayman's diallel assuming LD and epistasis

21 Consider n inbred/pure/DH lines ($n > 3$). Assume initially LD but no epistasis. In regard to
22 two genes, the genotype probabilities are $P(AABB) = f_{22} = u_a u_b + \Delta_{ab}$, $P(AAbb) = f_{20} =$
23 $u_a v_b - \Delta_{ab}$, $P(aaBB) = f_{02} = v_a u_b - \Delta_{ab}$, and $P(aabb) = f_{00} = v_a v_b + \Delta_{ab}$, where u and v are
24 the allelic frequencies and Δ_{ab} is the measure of LD in the gametic pool. Note that I did not state
25 that the parents are a sample from a reference population or that the two genes are linked. Using the
26 same definition of Hayman (1954) for the genotypic values of the r -th parent and the F_1 between

1 parents r and s, the variance of the parents is $V_{0L0} = (1 - w_a^2)d_a^2 + (1 - w_b^2)d_b^2 + 8\Delta_{ab}d_ad_b = D$,

2 where d is the deviation between the genotypic value of the homozygote of greater expression and

3 the mean of the genotypic values of the homozygotes (m) and $w = u - v$. Because the means of the

4 parents and the F_1 are not affected by the LD (in the absence of epistasis), the difference between

5 the mean of the n^2 progeny (m_{L1}) and the mean of their parents (m_{L0}) is equal to the function

6 derived by Hayman (1954): $(1/2)[(1 - w_a^2)h_a + (1 - w_b^2)h_b] = (1/2)h$, where h_i is the

7 dominance deviation. The variance of the r-th array is $V_r = (1/4)D + (1/4)H_1 - (1/4)F_r -$

8 $(1/4)F_{1r}$, where

9 $H_1 = (1 - w_a^2)h_a^2 + (1 - w_b^2)h_b^2 + 8\Delta_{ab}h_ah_b$,

10 $F_r = 2[(1 - w_a^2)d_a\theta_ah_a + (1 - w_b^2)d_b\theta_bh_b + 4\Delta_{ab}d_a\theta_bh_b + 4\Delta_{ab}d_b\theta_ah_a]$, where $\theta = 1$ if AA

11 or BB and $\theta = -1$ if aa or bb, and

12 $F_{1r} = 16k\Delta_{ab}h_ah_b$, where $k = 0$ if AABB or aabb and $k = 1$ if AAbb or aaBB.

13 Thus, the average variance is $V_{1L1} = (1/4)D + (1/4)H_1 - (1/4)F - (1/4)F_1$, where

14 $F = 2[w_a(1 - w_a^2)d_ah_a + w_b(1 - w_b^2)d_bh_b + 4\Delta_{ab}w_bd_ah_b + 4\Delta_{ab}w_ad_bh_a]$ and

15 $F_1 = 16\Delta_{ab}(u_av_b + u_bv_a - 2\Delta_{ab})h_ah_b$.

16 The covariance between the non-recurrent parents and their offspring in the r-th array is $W_r =$

17 $(1/2)D - (1/4)F_r$. Thus, the average covariance is $W_{0L01} = (1/2)D - (1/4)F$. Then, if there is

18 dominance and LD, the difference between the covariance and the variance in the arrays is not a

19 constant value. The difference is $(1/4)(D - H_1) + k(1/4)F_{1r}$. This implies that the points (V_r, W_r)

20 does not lie on a straight line of unit slope through their mean point (V_{1L1}, W_{0L01}) . However, the

21 function does not allow realizing how much LD affects the deviation from 1. The variance of the

22 array means is $V_{0L1} = (1/4)D + (1/4)H_1 - (1/4)H_2 - (1/4)F$, where $H_2 = (1 - w_a^2)^2h_a^2 +$

23 $(1 - w_b^2)^2h_b^2 + 8\Delta_{ab}(1 - w_aw_b)h_ah_b$. Finally, the total genotypic variance is $V_{0L1} + V_{1L1} =$

24 $(1/2)D + (1/2)H_1 - (1/4)H_2 - (1/2)F - (1/4)F_1$. Note that, because LD, the four equations

25 independent of r allows the estimation of the parameters D , $H_1 - F_1$, $H_2 - F_1$, and F . This implies

26 that the genetic parameters that are dependent of H_1 and/or H_2 – average degree of dominance,

1 mean value of uv (symmetry) for dominant genes, proportion between dominant and recessive
2 genes, and number of dominant genes – are biased. Because the functions for these parameters are
3 complex, the magnitude of the bias can only be assessed using simulated data. Further, it is not also
4 clear how LD affects the order of dominance of the parents in the graph (W_r, V_r).

5 Assume now that the two genes are epistatic. Assuming an epistatic effect (I_{ij} ; $i, j = 2, 1$, and
6 0) for each genotype, the variance of the parents is $V_{0L0}^* = V_{0L0} + V(I)_0 + 2Cov_0$, where $V(I)_0 =$
7 $f_{22}I_{22}^2 + f_{20}I_{20}^2 + f_{02}I_{02}^2 + f_{00}I_{00}^2 - [E(I)_0]^2$ is the epistatic variance of the parents and $Cov_0 =$
8 $f_{22}(d_a + d_b)I_{22} + f_{20}(d_a - d_b)I_{20} + f_{02}(-d_a + d_b)I_{02} + f_{00}(-d_a - d_b)I_{00} - (m_{L0} - m_a -$
9 $m_b)E(I)_0$ is the covariance between the sum of additive deviations and the epistatic effect for the
10 parents. The diallel mean is $m_{L1}^* = m_{L1} + E(I)_1$, where $E(I)_1 = f_{22}I_{22} + 2f_{22}f_{20}I_{21} + \dots + f_{00}^2I_{00}$.
11 Because $m_{L0}^* = m_{L0} + E(I)_0$, $m_{L1}^* - m_{L0}^* = (1/2)h + E(I)_1 - E(I)_0$. The variance in the r-th
12 array is $V_r^* = V_r + V(I)_r + 2Cov_r$, where, for example, for the array of the parent AABB, $V(I)_{22} =$
13 $f_{22}I_{22}^2 + f_{20}I_{21}^2 + f_{02}I_{12}^2 + f_{00}I_{11}^2 - [E(I)_{22}]^2$ is the epistatic variance in the array and $Cov_{22} =$
14 $f_{22}(d_a + d_b)I_{22} + f_{20}(d_a + h_b)I_{21} + f_{02}(h_a + d_b)I_{12} + f_{00}(h_a + h_b)I_{11} - (E(G)_{22} - m_a -$
15 $m_b)E(I)_{22}$ is the covariance between the non-epistatic deviation and the epistatic effect in the
16 array. Thus, $V_{1L1}^* = V_{1L1} + V(I)_1 - V(\bar{I})_1 + 2Cov_1^1 - 2Cov_1^2$, where $V(I)_1 = f_{22}I_{22}^2 +$
17 $2f_{22}f_{20}I_{21}^2 + \dots + f_{00}^2I_{00}^2 - [E(I)_1]^2$ is the F_1 epistatic variance, $V(\bar{I})_1 = f_{22}[E(I)_{22}]^2 +$
18 $f_{20}[E(I)_{20}]^2 + f_{02}[E(I)_{02}]^2 + f_{00}[E(I)_{00}]^2 - [E(I)_1]^2$ is the variance of the average epistatic
19 values of the array means, $Cov_1^1 = f_{22}(d_a + d_b)I_{22} + 2f_{22}f_{20}(d_a + h_b)I_{20} + \dots + f_{00}^2(-d_a -$
20 $d_b)I_{00} - (m_{L1} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_1$ is the covariance between the non-epistatic deviation and the
21 epistatic effect in the F_1 , and $Cov_1^2 = f_{22}(E(G)_{22} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_{22} + f_{20}(E(G)_{20} - m_a -$
22 $m_b)E(I)_{20} + f_{02}(E(G)_{02} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_{02} + f_{00}(E(G)_{00} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_{00} - (m_{L1} - m_a -$
23 $m_b)E(I)_1$ is the covariance between the average non-epistatic and the epistatic values of the array
24 means.

25 The covariance in the r-th array is $W_r^* = W_r + Cov_{01(r)}^1 + Cov_{01(r)}^2 + Cov_{01(r)}^3$, where, for
26 example, for the array of the parent AABB,

$$1 \quad Cov_{01(22)}^1 = f_{22}(d_a + d_b)I_{22} + f_{20}(d_a - d_b)I_{21} + f_{02}(-d_a + d_b)I_{12} + f_{00}(-d_a - d_b)I_{11} -$$

$$2 \quad (m_{L0} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_{22} ,$$

$$3 \quad Cov_{01(22)}^2 = f_{22}I_{22}(d_a + d_b) + f_{20}I_{20}(d_a + h_b) + f_{02}I_{02}(h_a + d_b) + f_{00}I_{00}(h_a + h_b) -$$

$$4 \quad E(I)_0(E(G)_{22} - m_a - m_b), \text{ and}$$

$$5 \quad Cov_{01(22)}^3 = f_{22}I_{22}^2 + f_{20}I_{20}I_{21} + f_{02}I_{02}I_{12} + f_{00}I_{00}I_{11} - E(I)_0E(I)_{22}$$

6 are the covariances between the non-epistatic deviation of non-recurrent parent and the epistatic
7 effect of F₁, between the non-epistatic deviation of F₁ and the epistatic effect of non-recurrent
8 parent, and between the epistatic effects of non-recurrent parent and F₁, respectively. The average
9 covariance is $W_{0L01}^* = W_{0L01} + Cov_{01}^1 + Cov_{01}^2 + Cov_{01}^3$, where

$$10 \quad Cov_{01}^1 = f_{22}(d_a + d_b)E(I)_{22} + f_{20}(d_a - d_b)E(I)_{20} + f_{02}(-d_a + d_b)E(I)_{02} + f_{00}(-d_a -$$

$$11 \quad d_b)E(I)_{00} - (m_{L0} - m_a - m_b)E(I)_1 ,$$

$$12 \quad Cov_{01}^2 = f_{22}I_{22}(E(G)_{22} - m_a - m_b) + f_{20}I_{20}(E(G)_{20} - m_a - m_b) + f_{02}I_{02}(E(G)_{02} - m_a -$$

$$13 \quad m_b) + f_{00}I_{00}(E(G)_{00} - m_a - m_b) - E(I)_0(m_{L1} - m_a - m_b) , \text{ and}$$

$$14 \quad Cov_{01}^3 = f_{22}I_{22}E(I)_{22} + f_{20}I_{20}E(I)_{20} + f_{02}I_{02}E(I)_{02} + f_{00}I_{00}E(I)_{00} - E(I)_0E(I)_1 .$$

15 Note that the difference between the covariance and the variance in the arrays is $W_r^* - V_r^* =$
16 $(1/4)(D - H_1) + k(1/4)F_{1r} + Cov_{01(r)}^1 + Cov_{01(r)}^2 + Cov_{01(r)}^3 - V(I)_r - 2Cov_r$. Thus, the
17 epistasis is an additional factor that deviate the points (W_r^*, V_r^*) from a straight line of unit slope
18 through the mean point (V_{1L1}, W_{0L01}) . However, the function does not also allow realizing how
19 much epistasis affects the deviation from 1. The variance of the array means is $V_{0L1}^* = V_{0L1} +$
20 $V(\bar{I})_1 + 2Cov_1^2$. Finally, the total genotypic variance is $V_{0L1}^* + V_{1L1}^* = V_{0L1} + V_{1L1} + V(I)_1 +$
21 $2Cov_1^1$. Thus, epistasis introduces an additional bias in the estimates of the Hayman's genetic
22 parameters, which can only be assessed using simulated data.

23 Generation mean analysis with LD and epistasis

24 Assuming two linked epistatic genes, an epistatic effect for each genotype, and parents AABB
25 and aabb (association), the genotypic values of the parents and the F₁ are $G_{22} = m_a + m_b + d_a +$

1 $d_b + I_{22}$, $G_{00} = m_a + m_b - d_a - d_b + I_{00}$, and $G_{11} = m_a + m_b + h_a + h_b + I_{11}$. Using the
2 notation of Mather and Jinks (1971) for the additive and dominance components, $P_1 = m + [d] +$
3 I_{22} , $P_2 = m - [d] + I_{22}$, and $F_1 = m + [h] + I_{11}$. Because epistasis, m is not the F_∞ mean, given
4 by $F_\infty = m + [1/2(1 + 2r)](I_{22} + I_{00}) + [1/(1 + 2r)](I_{20} + I_{02}) = m + E(I)^{(\infty)}$, where r is the
5 recombination frequency. Note that in F_2 , linked genes with r lower than 0.5 are in LD. The
6 absolute LD value in the gametic pool of F_1 is $(1 - 2r)/4$. The value is positive with coupling and
7 negative with repulsion. The mean of the F_2 generation is $F_2 = m + (1/2)[h] + E(I)^{(0)}$, where
8 $E(I)^{(0)} = [(1 - r)/2]^2 I_{22} + 2[(1 - r)/2](r/2)I_{21} + \dots + [(1 - r)/2]^2 I_{00}$ is the expectation of
9 the epistatic values. The F_{n+2} mean is $F_{n+2} = m + (1/2)^{n+1}[h] + E(I)^{(n)}$, where n is the number
10 of selfing generations. It is interestingly to note that the expectation of the epistatic values in a
11 generation is not directly proportional to the expectation in the F_2 generation, since $E(I)^{(n)} =$
12 $E(I)^{(0)} + deviation$ (see the deviation for the F_{n+2} generation in the Appendix).

13 The average genotypic values of the two backcross generations are $BC_1 = m + (1/2)[d] +$
14 $(1/2)[h] + (1/2)E(I)_1$ and $BC_2 = m - (1/2)[d] + (1/2)[h] + (1/2)E(I)_2$, where $E(I)_1 =$
15 $(1 - r)(I_{22} + I_{11}) + r(I_{21} + I_{12})$ and $E(I)_2 = (1 - r)(I_{11} + I_{00}) + r(I_{10} + I_{01})$. Thus, assuming
16 digenic epistasis, the means of the parents, F_1 , F_2 , F_3 , and backcrosses (seven equations) depend on
17 10 genetic linear components (seven epistatic components). A very known approach for allowing
18 testing epistasis and estimating and testing epistatic components was provided by Mather and Jinks
19 (1971). This simplified approach has been used for modelling epistasis in genomic selection,
20 GWAS (genome-wide association studies), and QTL mapping. Mather and Jinks (1971) assumed
21 $I_{22} = I_{00} = -I_{20} = -I_{02} = [i]$, $I_{21} = -I_{01} = [j]$, $I_{12} = -I_{10} = [j']$, and $I_{11} = [l]$. However,
22 because linkage (LD), $E(I)^{(0)} = [(1 - 2r)/2][i] + (1/4)[1 + (1 - 2r)^2][l]$, $E(I)_1 =$
23 $(1 - r)([i] + [l]) + r([j] + [j'])$, and $E(I)_2 = (1 - r)([i] + [l]) - r([j] + [j'])$. Note that I wrote
24 simplified approach because the assumptions for the additive x additive, additive x dominance, and
25 dominance x additive components do not necessarily met for any type of digenic epistasis,
26 including complementary, duplicate, dominant, recessive, dominant and recessive, duplicate genes

1 with cumulative effects, and non-epistatic genic interaction, regardless of the degree of dominance.
2 To characterize complementary epistasis it is necessary to assume $d_a = d_b = h_a = h_b = i_{ab} =$
3 $j_{ab} = j_{ba} = l_{ab}$; for duplicate epistasis, $d_a = d_b = h_a = h_b = -i_{ab} = -j_{ab} = -j_{ba} = -l_{ab}$;
4 assuming recessive epistasis implies $d_a = h_a = i_{ab} = j_{ba}$ and $d_b = h_b = j_{ab} = l_{ab}$ or $d_a =$
5 $-h_a = -i_{ab} = j_{ba}$ and $d_b = -h_b = j_{ab} = -l_{ab}$; in case of dominant epistasis, $d_a = h_a = -i_{ab} =$
6 $-j_{ba}$ and $d_b = h_b = -j_{ab} = -l_{ab}$ or $d_a = -h_a = i_{ab} = -j_{ba}$ and $d_b = -h_b = -j_{ab} = l_{ab}$
7 (Mather 1967). Then, it is assumed complete dominance ($|h/d| = 1$).

8 Data simulation

9 The simulated data set was generated using the software *REALbreeding* (available by
10 request). *REALbreeding* has been used in studies related to genomic selection (Viana et al. 2018),
11 GWAS (Pereira et al. 2018), QTL mapping (Viana et al. 2017), LD (Andrade et al. 2019),
12 population structure (Viana et al. 2013b), heterotic grouping/genetic diversity (Viana et al. 2020),
13 and plant breeding (Viana et al. 2013a). In summary, the software simulates individual genotypes
14 for genes and molecular markers and phenotypes in three phases using inputs from the user. The
15 first phase (genome simulation) is the specification of the number of chromosomes, molecular
16 markers, and genes as well as marker type (dominant and/or codominant; bi- or multi-allelic) and
17 density. The second phase (population simulation) is the specification of the population(s) and
18 sample size or progeny number and size. A population is characterized by the average frequency for
19 the genes (biallelic) and markers (first allele). The last phase (trait simulation) is the specification of
20 the minimum and maximum genotypic values for homozygotes, the minimum and maximum
21 phenotypic values (to avoid outliers), the direction and degree of dominance, and the broad sense
22 heritability. The current version allows the inclusion of digenic epistasis, gene x environment
23 interaction, and multiple traits, including pleiotropy. The population mean (M), additive (A),
24 dominance (D), and epistatic (additive x additive (AA), additive x dominance (AD), dominance x
25 additive (DA), and dominance x dominance (DD)) genetic values or GCA and SCA effects or
26 genotypic values (G) and epistatic values (I), depending on the population, are calculated from the

1 parametric gene effects and frequencies and the parametric LD values. The population in LD is
 2 generated by crossing two populations in linkage equilibrium followed by a generation of random
 3 cross. The parametric LD is $\Delta_{ab}^{(-1)} = [(1 - 2r_{ab})/4](p_{a1} - p_{a2})(p_{b1} - p_{b2})$, where the indexes 1
 4 and 2 stand for the gene frequencies in the parental populations. The phenotypic values (P) are
 5 computed assuming error effects (E) sampled from a normal distribution ($P = M + A + D + AA +$
 6 $AD + DA + DD + E = G + E$ or $P = M + GCA1 + GCA2 + SCA + I + E = G + E$).

7 The types of digenic epistasis are: complementary ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11}$ and $G_{20} = G_{10} =$
 8 $G_{02} = G_{01} = G_{00}$; proportion of 9:7 in a F_2), duplicate ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{20} = G_{12} = G_{11} = G_{10} =$
 9 $G_{02} = G_{01}$; proportion of 15:1 in a F_2), dominant ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{20} = G_{12} = G_{11} = G_{10}$ and $G_{02} =$
 10 G_{01} ; proportion of 12:3:1 in a F_2), recessive ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11}$, $G_{02} = G_{01}$, and $G_{20} = G_{10} =$
 11 G_{00} ; proportion of 9:3:4 in a F_2), dominant and recessive ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11} = G_{20} = G_{10} =$
 12 G_{00} and $G_{02} = G_{01}$; proportion of 13:3 in a F_2), duplicate genes with cumulative effects ($G_{22} =$
 13 $G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11}$, and $G_{20} = G_{10} = G_{02} = G_{01}$; proportion of 9:6:1 in a F_2), and non-epistatic genic
 14 interaction ($G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11}$, $G_{20} = G_{10}$, and $G_{02} = G_{01}$; proportion of 9:3:3:1 in a F_2).
 15 Because the genotypic values for any two interacting genes are not known, there are infinite
 16 genotypic values that satisfy the specifications of each type of digenic epistasis. For example, fixing
 17 the gene frequencies (the population) and the parameters m , d , h , and h/d (degree of dominance) for
 18 each gene (the trait), the solutions $G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11} = 5.25$ and $G_{20} = G_{10} = G_{02} = G_{01} =$
 19 $G_{00} = 5.71$ or $G_{22} = G_{21} = G_{12} = G_{11} = 6.75$ and $G_{20} = G_{10} = G_{02} = G_{01} = G_{00} = 2.71$ define
 20 complementary epistasis but the genotypic values are not the same. The solution implemented in the
 21 software allows the user to control the magnitude of the epistatic variance ($V(I)$), relative to the
 22 magnitudes of the additive and dominance variances ($V(A)$ and $V(D)$). As an input for the user, the
 23 software requires the ratio $V(I)/(V(A) + V(D))$ for each pair of interacting genes (a single value; for
 24 example, 1.0). Then, for each pair of interacting genes the software samples a random value for the
 25 epistatic value I_{22} (the epistatic value for the genotype AABB), assuming $I_{22} \sim N(0, V(I))$. Then, the
 26 other epistatic effects and genotypic values are computed. In this study, I assumed ratio 1.

1 Increasing the ratio increases the magnitude of the additive, dominance, and epistatic genetic
2 values.

3 For the diallel cross I generated 1,000 DH lines from a population with high LD and selected
4 15 DHs. The criterion for selecting the parents was two to three DHs at random from six classes for
5 the number of dominant genes: 0 to 140 up to 261 to 290. The number of dominant genes in the
6 selected DHs ranged from 161 to 246. Then, the selected DHs were crossed in a complete diallel
7 without reciprocals. For the generation mean analysis I generated the contrasting parental inbred
8 lines (P_1 and P_2), assuming all genes in association, and the generations F_1 , F_2 , F_3 , BC_1 , and BC_2 .
9 The numbers of plants per generation were 50, 50, 50, 400, 400, 400, and 400, respectively. The
10 number of genes was 400, distributed in 10 chromosomes of 200 cM. I simulated grain yield
11 (g/plant), assuming positive dominance (average degree of dominance of 0.6), and expansion
12 volume (a measure of popcorn quality; ml/g), assuming bidirectional dominance (average degree of
13 dominance of 0.0). For grain yield, the minimum and maximum genotypic values for homozygotes
14 were 30 and 160. The minimum and maximum phenotypic values for homozygotes were 10 and
15 180. For expansion volume I assumed 5 and 55 as the minimum and maximum genotypic values for
16 homozygotes. The minimum and maximum phenotypic values were 0 and 60. I assumed no
17 epistasis (but LD), seven types of digenic epistasis and an admixture of these types, defining 30 and
18 100% of epistatic genes. I also generated a scenario of low LD and no epistasis, assuming 10
19 independent genes and 10 DHs sampled from 1,000 DHs. The criterion for selecting the 10 DHs
20 was minimization of the LD. The LD values ($\Delta_{ab} = p_{AB} - p_A p_B$) ranged from -0.11 to 0.09
21 (absolute average value 0.04). For comparison purpose, I computed the LD values for the 80 genes
22 in the chromosomes 1 and 2. The ranges and the means of the absolute values for the genes in
23 chromosomes 1, 2 and for the independent genes were, respectively, -0.15 to 0.25 and 0.07, -0.16
24 to 0.21 and 0.05, and -0.20 to 0.20 and 0.05. The broad sense heritability at the plant level was
25 20%. For the progeny level were 40, 60, and 80%. To avoid the influence of the experimental error,

1 all analyses were based on the parametric genotypic values and variances and covariances, provided
2 by *REALbreeding*.

3 **Results**

4 The impact of LD on the Hayman's diallel analysis is evident even in the scenario of
5 independent genes. The analysis of variance of $W_r - V_r$ indicated adequacy of the additive-
6 dominance model (P value of 1.00) even assuming a heritability of 80%. The regression of W_r on V_r
7 indicated partial dominance ($\beta_0 = 0.02$; P value of 0.00) and β_1 equal to 1 (P value of 0.38). The
8 coefficient of determination was 0.99. The conclusion of partial dominance is correct since the
9 average degree of dominance is 0.52 (in the range 0.01 to 1.16). However, the LD between the
10 independent genes led to a bias of -22.5 and -27.3% in the estimates of the dominance components
11 and bias in the range -13.8 to -47.7% for three of the genetic parameters, ignoring the estimate of
12 the number of dominant genes that is always sub estimated (4 versus 9, because the DHs have one
13 fixed gene). The correlation between the number of recessive genes and $W_r + V_r$ was 0.92 and the
14 number of dominant genes for the parents' order of dominance was 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 5, 4, 5, 4, and 2.
15 These results indicates that when there is low LD and no epistasis, the Hayman's diallel analysis
16 provides confident results about the inheritance of the quantitative trait but biased estimates of the
17 dominance components and the genetic parameters. The negative consequences of high LD under
18 no epistasis are also biased estimates of the dominance components and genetic parameters plus a
19 biased estimate of the covariance F, a significant test for the homogeneity of $W_r - V_r$ assuming a
20 heritability of 80%, and an intermediate value for the correlation between the number of recessive
21 genes and $W_r + V_r$ (Table 1). Thus, high LD can lead to inadequacy of the additive-dominance
22 model for a high heritability trait. The number of dominant genes for the parents' order of
23 dominance was 245, 176, 246, 195, 230, 229, 203, 189, 191, 217, 166, 176, 214, 203, and 161.
24 Regardless of the heritability trait, there was evidence of partial dominance and a slight deviation
25 from 1.0 for the regression coefficient.

1 As demonstrated from the theory, epistasis is a significant additional factor negatively
2 affecting the Hayman's diallel analysis, especially assuming a high proportion of interacting genes.
3 Assuming 100% of epistatic genes and dominant, recessive, duplicate genes with cumulative
4 effects, and non-epistatic genic interaction, there was evidence of inadequacy of the additive-
5 dominance model, regardless of the trait heritability (Table 1). Irrespective of the type of epistasis
6 and significance of the test of adequacy of the additive-dominance model, there was a tendency for
7 concluding in favor of overdominance, which is a wrong inference. Further, the correlation between
8 the number of recessive genes and $W_r + V_r$ tends to be lower (in the range -0.01 to 0.67 ; 0.39 on
9 average) and all genetic components and parameters will be very biased. Assuming 30% of epistatic
10 genes, there was a tendency for accepting the additive-dominance model for low heritability traits
11 and for rejecting the model for high heritability traits (Table 1 and Online Resource Table 1).
12 Regardless of the significance level of the adherence test, there was evidence of partial dominance
13 and the correlation between the number of recessive genes and $W_r + V_r$ had intermediate magnitude
14 (in the range 0.31 to 0.62 ; 0.50 on average). However, as demonstrated from the theory, the genetic
15 components and parameters will be very biased. Note that, in general, the coefficient of regression
16 has a magnitude close to 1.0 , but only assuming an admixture of epistasis it is consistently not
17 statistically different from 1.0 . In regard to the heterosis, that is unaffected by LD, note that the
18 epistasis tends to decrease it, except assuming duplicate genes with cumulative effects and non-
19 epistatic genic interaction (Table 1 and Online Resource Table 1).

20 In the absence of epistasis, as theoretically demonstrated, linkage (LD) does not affect the
21 generation mean analysis, respecting that this method cannot distinguish absence of dominance
22 from symmetrical bidirectional dominance. Under the sample sizes and heritability (a low value,
23 20%) assumed, the experimental evidence is that there is additive variability, dominance, and no
24 epistasis, for both traits (Table 2). Additionally, there was evidence of (predominantly) positive
25 dominance for grain yield and (predominantly) negative dominance for expansion volume. Note
26 also that, regardless of the trait, heritability, and genetic control, if the sample sizes for parents and

1 derived generations are representative, the analysis will provide confident estimates of the
2 parametric means (correlations close to 1.0 between the estimated and true means). However,
3 linkage and epistasis significantly affects the estimates of the genetic components of the generation
4 means, regardless of the type of epistasis, proportional the percentage of epistatic genes (Table 2).
5 One impressive result by fitting the epistatic components ([i], [j], and [l]) is that, even assuming
6 100% of interacting genes, for most epistasis types there were evidence of no epistasis (P values in
7 the range 0.052 to 0.15). Another remarkable result is a null or negative correlation between the
8 epistatic components of my model and of the Mather and Jinks' model, for most of the epistasis
9 types. Note that the two higher correlations (among four) are associated with the less biased
10 estimates of the non-epistatic components, under duplicate genes with cumulative effects and non-
11 epistatic genic interaction. Fitting the Mather and Jinks' complete model when there is statistical
12 evidence of epistasis or fitting the additive-dominance model when there is epistasis but no
13 statistical evidence of epistasis provides biased estimates of the genetic components, proportional to
14 the percentage of epistatic genes (Table 2 and Online Resource Table 2). Under duplicate and
15 dominant and recessive epistasis, a wrong inference about dominance occurred (negative
16 dominance and absence of dominance, respectively, instead of positive dominance).

17 **Discussion**

18 Probably because Hill (1964), Nassar (1965), Mather (1967), and Coughtrey and Mather
19 (1970) used simplified genetic models (2 to 10 genes, complete dominance, only LD or epistasis)
20 for investigating the effects of LD or epistasis on Hayman's diallel analysis, their main findings are
21 very limited and only partially confirmed in this study. Hill (1964) concluded that LD led to a
22 significant upward curvature on the W_r/V_r graph and alters the level of dominance. My results do
23 not support his conclusions. I observed a downward curvature and a change in the level of
24 dominance only under a high proportion of epistatic genes. Nassar (1965) observed that LD
25 determines serious deviations in the slope of the W_r/V_r regression line (consistently lower than one)
26 and an intercept predominantly below the origin (indicating overdominance). I generally observed a

1 slope with magnitude close to 1 but statistically lower than one in 50% of the scenarios, but there
2 was evidence of overdominance only under a high proportion of epistatic genes. I also did not
3 observed a W_r/V_r graph concave upwards with complementary epistasis, regardless of the
4 percentage of interacting genes, as emphasized by Mather (1967) and Coughtrey and Mather
5 (1970).

6 Concerning the impact of LD and epistasis on the Hayman's diallel analysis, the results
7 describe an apparently very negative effect: biased estimates of the non-additive components and,
8 consequently, biased estimates of the genetic parameters. But in my opinion, average degree of
9 dominance, symmetry, proportion of dominant to recessive genes and, especially, number of
10 dominant genes has no current significance for breeders. Assuming no epistasis or 30% of
11 interacting genes the results show a correct inference on the inheritance of a low heritability
12 quantitative trait: partial positive dominance. The decrease in the correlation between the number of
13 dominant genes and $W_r + V_r$ is not so serious to make the Hayman's diallel analysis useless.
14 However, breeders should be conscious to process and interpret only the traits that show adequacy
15 of the additive-dominance model (homogeneity of the difference $W_r - V_r$), functional relationship
16 between W_r and V_r (slope of the regression statistically different from zero), and especially a
17 reasonable coefficient of determination of the regression analysis (say, greater than 75%).
18 Unfortunately, this was not observed in some recently published studies (Pessoa et al. 2019; de
19 Lima et al. 2019; Shahadati-Moghaddam et al. 2017). Thus, breeders must realize that LD and
20 epistasis are not their major problem when processing a Hayman's diallel analysis, but the
21 experimental error.

22 As theoretically demonstrated, only in a very particular case the Mather and Jinks' model will
23 provide unbiased estimates of the genetic components. This will occur only if $I_{22} = I_{00}$, $I_{21} + I_{12} =$
24 $-I_{01} - I_{10}$, and $E(I)^{(n)} = (1/4)^{n+1}I_{11}$. But, because epistasis implies in more genetic components
25 than generations, the only option is to fit the Mather and Jinks' model. In my opinion, biased
26 estimates of the genetic components are not a serious problem if the inferences on the inheritance of

1 the quantitative trait are correct. In general, even assuming 100% of epistatic genes, the analyses
2 correctly evidenced positive dominance for grain yield but, unfortunately, in 5 out of 10 scenarios
3 the epistasis was not detected. Thus, a more serious problem of the generation mean analysis is not
4 allowing the detection of epistasis even when the percentage of interacting genes is high. When
5 there is evidence of epistasis, another serious problem is the correct attribution of the predominant
6 type. Regardless of the percentage of interacting genes, the signs of the seven epistatic components
7 do not separate complementary, recessive, and dominant and recessive types, as well as duplicate
8 genes with cumulative effects and non-epistatic genic interaction. Assuming positive partial
9 dominance and 100% of interacting genes, the signs of the epistatic components [i], [j], and [l] do
10 not allow discriminate complementary, recessive, dominant and recessive, duplicate genes with
11 cumulative effects, and non-epistatic genic interaction (all positive). When the three components are
12 negative, there is predominantly dominant epistasis. If the additive x additive and dominance x
13 dominance components are positive and the additive x dominance component is negative, there is
14 duplicate epistasis, as emphasized by Mather and Jinks (1971).

15 Recent published generation mean analyses based on field data, involving diverse crops and
16 traits, six to seven generations, one to six crosses, one or more seasons or environments, evidenced
17 epistasis in many cases but not all epistatic components were statistically different from zero
18 (Shirinpour et al. 2020; Rai et al. 2020; Pal et al. 2020; Verma and Singh 2019, 2018; Mohammed
19 et al. 2018). This is not a problem since the non-additive components are a sum of effects that take
20 sign. In few studies, the authors concluded in favor of complementary or duplicate epistasis but
21 assuming diverse combinations of signs for the epistatic components. This is not in agreement with
22 Mather and Jinks (1971). In two investigations also involving a qualitative analysis, the two
23 analyses provided inconsistent results. For example, the qualitative analysis showed dominant and
24 recessive epistasis and the generation mean analysis evidenced complementary epistasis.

25 Concluding, taking into account the theory presented and the results from the simulation
26 study, LD and epistasis can have negative effects on the Hayman's diallel analysis and on the

1 Mather and Jinks' generation mean analysis, proportional to the LD level and the percentage of
 2 epistatic genes, and depending on the predominant type of epistasis. However, biased estimates of
 3 quadratic or linear genetic parameters are not so serious if the inheritance of the quantitative trait is
 4 correctly inferred, at least partially. Note that, excepting for a high proportion of epistatic genes
 5 under high LD, the general correct conclusion was partial positive dominance for grain yield from
 6 both analysis. Further, the order of dominance provides a good discrimination between the parents,
 7 regardless of the type of epistasis, percentage of interacting genes, and level of LD. Unfortunately,
 8 the detection of epistasis from both analyses is highly affected by the trait heritability, predominant
 9 type of epistasis, and percentage of interacting genes.

10 **Data Availability Statement:** The dataset is available at
 11 <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.16732888.v1>.

12 **Supplementary Material** Two additional tables.

13 Appendix

14 The expectation of the epistatic effects in the F_{n+2} generation is $E(I)^{(n)} = E(I)^{(0)} + p_{22}^{(n)} I_{22} +$
 15 $p_{21}^{(n)} I_{21} + p_{20}^{(n)} I_{20} + p_{12}^{(n)} I_{12} + p_{11}^{(n)} I_{11} + p_{10}^{(n)} I_{10} + p_{02}^{(n)} I_{02} + p_{01}^{(n)} I_{01} + p_{00}^{(n)} I_{00}$, where n is the
 16 number of selfing generations and

$$17 \quad p_{22}^{(n)} = (F/2)(f_{21}^{(0)} + f_{12}^{(0)}) + P_1^{(n)}$$

$$18 \quad p_{21}^{(n)} = (1 - F) \left[f_{21}^{(0)} + (1 - c^n) f_{11}^{(0)} / 2 \right] - f_{21}^{(0)}$$

$$19 \quad p_{20}^{(n)} = (F/2)(f_{21}^{(0)} + f_{10}^{(0)}) + P_2^{(n)}$$

$$20 \quad p_{12}^{(n)} = (1 - F) \left[f_{12}^{(0)} + (1 - c^n) f_{11}^{(0)} / 2 \right] - f_{12}^{(0)}$$

$$21 \quad p_{11}^{(n)} = [(1 - F)c^n - 1] f_{11}^{(0)}$$

$$22 \quad p_{10}^{(n)} = (1 - F) \left[f_{10}^{(0)} + (1 - c^n) f_{11}^{(0)} / 2 \right] - f_{10}^{(0)}$$

$$23 \quad p_{02}^{(n)} = (F/2)(f_{01}^{(0)} + f_{12}^{(0)}) + P_2^{(n)}$$

$$24 \quad p_{01}^{(n)} = (1 - F) \left[f_{01}^{(0)} + (1 - c^n) f_{11}^{(0)} / 2 \right] - f_{01}^{(0)}$$

1 $p_{00}^{(n)} = (F/2)(f_{01}^{(0)} + f_{10}^{(0)}) + P_1^{(n)}$

2 where $F = 1 - (1/2)^n$ is the inbreeding coefficient and $f_{ij}^{(0)}$ is a genotype probability in F₂ (i and j
 3 = 2, 1, or 0). Defining $P_{11}^{(0)}$, $P_{10}^{(0)}$, $P_{01}^{(0)}$, and $P_{00}^{(0)}$ as the gamete probabilities of the F₁, where, for
 4 example, $P_{11}^{(0)} = P_{00}^{(0)} = (1 - r)/2$ and $P_{10}^{(0)} = P_{01}^{(0)} = r/2$ for coupling, the probability of the
 5 genotype AABb in F₂ is $f_{21}^{(0)} = 2P_{11}^{(0)}P_{10}^{(0)}$. Further, $c = 1 - 2r(1 - r)$, $P_1^{(n)} = (1/4)\{[F - (1 -$
 6 $F)(1 - c^n)]f_{11}^{(0)} + c_1^{(n)}(1 - 2r)\Delta\}$, $P_2^{(n)} = (1/4)\{[F - (1 - F)(1 - c^n)]f_{11}^{(0)} - c_1^{(n)}(1 - 2r)\Delta\}$,
 7 $c_1^{(n)} = \{2[1 - ((1 - 2r)/2)^n]/(1 + 2r)\}$, and $|\Delta| = (1 - 2r)/4$ (positive for coupling and
 8 negative for repulsion).

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Table 1 Probability values for the hypothesis of homogeneity of $W_r - V_r$ (P1), assuming heritabilities of 40, 60, and 80, respectively, $\beta_0 = 0$ (P2), $\beta_1 = 0$ (P3), and $\beta_1 = 1$ (P4), parametric values of the coefficients of the regression of W_r on V_r (β_0 and β_1) and the coefficient of determination (R^2), parametric average heterosis (h) and correlation between the number of recessive genes and $W_r + V_r$ (r1), parametric^a and estimated components of the genotypic variance for parents and F₁s, and total genotypic variance (V), assuming no epistasis (No), seven types of digenic epistasis^b and an admixture of types, and 100 and 30% of epistatic genes (% eg)

% eg	Model	P1	β_0	P2	β_1	P3	P4	R^2	h	r1	D	H ₁	H ₂	F	F1	V	
0	No	0.40/0.20/0.00	30.47	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.02	0.99	36.9	0.51	208.9 ^a	85.8 ^a	122.3 ^a	-2.9 ^a	-47.4 ^a	130.0	
											208.9	139.8	169.7	3.8	-	130.0	
100	Co	0.46/0.05/0.00	-1.88	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.03	0.98	21.2	0.49	38.7	67.6	67.0	-22.8	-	47.8	
	Du	0.94/0.53/0.04	-0.12	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.24	0.96	-11.3	0.20	34.3	32.1	22.5	36.6	-	9.3	
	Do	0.00/0.00/0.00	2.01	0.00	0.32	0.10	0.00	0.77	-1.6	0.67	70.4	170.9	89.2	82.2	-	57.2	
	Re	0.00/0.00/0.00	-1.88	0.00	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.99	33.5	0.55	56.4	125.8	138.2	-42.7	-	77.9	
	DR	0.86/0.32/0.00	0.71	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.91	4.3	-0.1	10.0	17.2	12.1	6.6	-	7.2	
	Dg	0.00/0.00/0.00	-67.49	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.36	0.99	62.9	0.43	153.8	444.9	447.3	-159.1	-	267.1	
	Ne	0.00/0.00/0.00	-45.01	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.04	0.98	63.9	0.48	157.1	449.8	454.6	-157.8	-	268.7	
	All	0.61/0.11/0.00	-5.63	0.00	1.05	0.00	0.37	0.96	21.8	0.43	55.4	71.7	77.0	-2.4	-	45.5	
	30	Co	0.77/0.22/0.00	14.4	0.00	0.86	0.00	0.02	0.99	32.2	0.46	129.0	105.2	124.7	-9.4	-	90.6
			0.44/0.05/0.00	19.1	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.01	0.99	32.1	0.52	141.9	108.2	124.5	-0.27	-	94.4
0.36/0.03/0.00			16.6	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.18	0.99	32.9	0.54	155.8	111.4	131.0	-9.9	-	105.8	
0.28/0.02/0.00			21.7	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.01	0.99	31.7	0.52	147.2	104.2	130.7	-10.2	-	98.1	
0.50/0.07/0.00			15.8	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.12	0.99	33.4	0.48	152.6	115.8	139.2	-7.8	-	103.2	
Du		1.00/0.90/0.29	7.16	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.02	0.99	24.2	0.49	67.2	60.1	72.2	-9.9	-	50.4	
Do		0.16/0.00/0.00	14.87	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.01	0.99	25.3	0.52	126.0	87.8	84.0	68.5	-	51.7	
Re		0.59/0.10/0.00	19.75	0.00	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.99	36.4	0.48	141.2	136.0	166.4	-25.5	-	109.8	
DR		0.89/0.45/0.02	9.59	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.10	0.99	27.2	0.31	97.6	79.1	91.8	-3.74	-	62.3	
Dg		0.97/0.67/0.08	5.82	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.20	0.99	43.9	0.49	191.3	195.9	230.2	-57.4	-	164.8	
Ne		0.71/0.17/0.00	15.63	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.01	0.99	45.2	0.51	198.2	211.4	246.4	-61.1	-	173.8	
All		0.37/0.04/0.00	8.96	0.00	1.01	0.00	0.38	0.99	33.1	0.43	152.6	113.3	132.0	13.6	-	93.2	
		0.81/0.27/0.01	3.22	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.37	0.99	41.5	0.56	165.8	160.5	178.9	20.8	-	108.0	
		0.94/0.06/0.00	12.64	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.28	0.99	31.2	0.39	137.6	101.2	120.5	1.9	-	88.3	
		0.79/0.25/0.01	9.17	0.00	0.95	0.00	0.31	0.99	32.0	0.53	131.1	106.6	126.7	-6.3	-	90.3	
		0.39/0.04/0.00	14.24	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.22	0.99	30.6	0.44	142.8	100.2	123.7	-4.4	-	92.8	
		0.59/0.10/0.00	13.65	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.17	0.99	33.7	0.55	151.1	114.6	136.0	-1.6	-	99.6	
	0.32/0.02/0.00	15.92	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.19	0.99	31.9	0.49	151.9	106.2	127.0	-0.6	-	97.6		
	0.20/0.01/0.00	12.86	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.39	0.99	31.0	0.53	151.3	100.9	121.7	0.0	-	95.7		
	0.79/0.24/0.01	10.2	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.14	0.99	32.3	0.50	127.7	107.8	128.7	-3.2	-	87.2		
	0.31/0.02/0.00	16.54	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.16	0.99	33.5	0.49	158.5	120.3	136.2	11.7	-	99.5		

^bCo = complementary, Du = duplicate, Do = dominant, Re = recessive, DR = dominant and recessive, Dg = duplicate genes with cumulative effects, and Ne = non-epistatic genic interaction.

Table 2 Parametric linear components of means, probability values for the tests of additive effects (P1), dominance (P2), and epistasis (P3), correlation between the parametric and estimated means (r_1), and correlation between epistatic components (my model and Mather and Jinks' model; r_2), assuming no epistasis (No), seven types of digenic epistasis^a and an admixture of types, 100 and 30% of epistatic genes, and grain yield (GY; g/plant) and expansion volume (EV; ml/g)

Trait	Model	m	[d]	[h]	I ₂₂	I ₀₀	I ₁₁	E(I) ⁽⁰⁾	E(I) ⁽¹⁾	E(I)1	E(I)2	[i]	[j]	[l]	P1	P2	P3	r ₁	r ₂	
GY	No	95.0	65.0	40.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.003	0.007	0.320	1.00	-	
	Co	95.0	65.0	40.6	-8.1	70.0	16.2	14.2	15.5	8.1	61.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		113.3	25.9	26.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.6	25.1	12.5	0.005	0.009	0.067	1.00	-0.22
	Du	95.0	65.0	40.6	-10.3	73.4	-32.2	-8.8	5.0	-88.8	65.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		115.2	23.1	-22.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.3	-70.1	11.0	0.015	0.025	0.091	1.00	0.78
	Du ²	95.0	65.0	40.6	-16.2	27.5	-8.2	-2.1	1.1	-24.4	17.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		99.5	43.1	26.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	2.4	1.2	0.001	0.001	0.031	1.00	0.00
	Do	95.0	65.0	40.6	-87.7	-1.2	-63.4	-11.8	3.6	-151.1	47.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		107.0	21.7	20.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-56.5	-112.1	-55.6	0.052	0.033	0.078	0.97	0.73
	Re	95.0	65.0	40.6	-8.6	71.0	15.7	13.9	15.3	7.1	61.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		113.3	25.2	25.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.9	25.4	12.6	0.004	0.006	0.041	1.00	-0.21
	DR	95.0	65.0	40.6	-9.7	120.3	14.7	25.9	33.7	5.0	110.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		138.1	0.0	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.2	24.2	12.0	0.260	0.212	0.043	1.00	-0.30
	DR ²	95.0	65.0	40.6	-2.6	36.4	5.4	8.2	10.4	2.8	34.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		108.0	45.5	29.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.9	7.7	3.8	0.001	0.003	0.054	1.00	-0.30
	Dg	95.0	65.0	40.6	18.2	44.4	42.6	7.7	-2.5	60.8	9.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		87.2	51.9	52.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39.2	77.8	38.7	0.018	0.035	0.122	0.98	0.83
	Ne	95.0	65.0	40.6	17.2	44.5	41.6	7.8	-2.1	58.8	10.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		87.7	51.3	51.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.1	75.7	37.5	0.017	0.028	0.116	0.97	0.82
	All	95.0	65.0	40.6	-20.8	78.5	3.6	6.5	10.4	-17.1	56.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	110.9	15.4	15.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.0	25.7	12.8	0.008	0.016	0.052	1.00	-0.24	
All ²	95.0	65.0	40.6	-8.7	17.6	-0.6	0.8	1.8	-9.3	14.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	98.0	51.9	35.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	2.8	1.4	0.001	0.002	0.115	1.00	-0.34	
EV	No	30.0	25.0	-0.81	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.001	0.076	0.201	1.00	-	
	All	30.0	25.0	-0.81	-11.6	24.5	14.2	7.6	4.9	2.6	31.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		32.7	7.0	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.7	7.4	3.7	0.012	0.025	0.150	1.00	-0.32

^aCo = complementary, Du = duplicate, Do = dominant, Re = recessive, DR = dominant and recessive, Dg = duplicate genes with cumulative effects, and Ne = non-epistatic genic interaction; ²30% of epistatic genes.

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