ON WHEAT (TRITICUM AESTIVUM L. EM THELL.) BREEDING

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Abstract: A small data set on wheat breeding is used here to demonstrate a nonparametric statistical analysis to select desirable plant types. Only six varieties in three replications were evaluated on nineparameters. The proposed selection procedure has the flexibility to consider any combination of parameters and gives a preference order of selected plant types. The selection was carried out in two steps: 1. calculation of ranks of each genotype and summing the ranks to find cumulative ranks, and 2. normalizing the cumulative ranks by minimum value to find a preference order of genotypes by sorting the normalized cumulative ranks. The two steps are represented by the following set of two formulae: 1. $CR = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Ri$ and 2. NCR = CR/CR_{min}, where, CR = cumulative rank; NCR = normalized cumulative rank; R = Rank; n = number of parameters/characters evaluated. The values of NCR range from one to CR_{max}/CR_{min}. The higher valuesof NCR indicate the worst genotypes and range is an indicator of diversity evaluated. The NCR values near one indicate the most desired genotypes. In this example, the whole preference order is 1. HD3086, 2.Goal, 3.HD2967, 4.PBW502, 5.PBW343 and 6.NABI-BW.Crisscross planting, flowering synchronization and suitable modifications in crossing technique were also suggested for wheat breeding.

Keywords: Crop ideotype, Normalized cumulative ranks, Selection, Wheat breeding

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