



Mining Allelic Diversity Associated with Drought and Salinity Tolerance in the Reference Subset of Chickpea Germplasm Collections

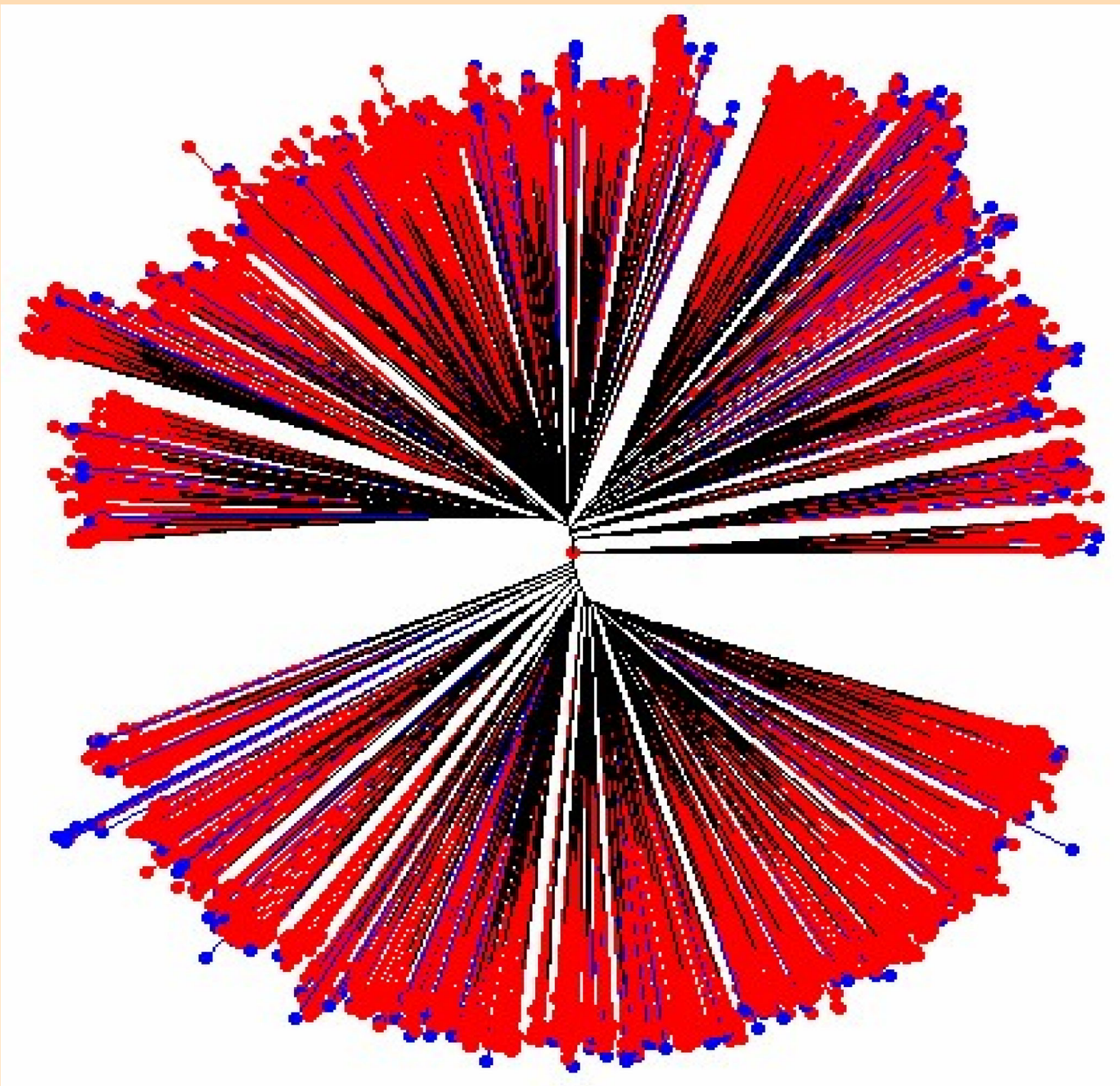


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Chickpea is the 4th largest grain legume crop, predominantly grown in Asia. Drought, salinity, and variations in temperature are the major abiotic constraints. CGIAR genebanks maintain a large collection of chickpea germplasm. For enhancing the utilization of chickpea germplasm in breeding and genomics applications, a global composite collection (Upadhyaya et al. 2006) and reference subset have been developed (<http://www.generationcp.org>).

| A Historical Perspective of Composite Collection and Reference Subset in Chickpea | |
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| Genetic structure of composite collection | |
| Allelic richness | 1791 alleles (994 rare and 797 common) Range 14-67; Average 36 alleles/locus |
| Marker polymorphism (PIC) and gene diversity (GD) | PIC: 0.468 to 0.974 GD: 0.534 to 0.975 |
| Seed type-specific alleles | Kabuli 117, desi 310, pea-shaped 5 |
| Region-specific alleles | Mediterranean (M) 122 West Asia (WA) 121 South and Southeast Asia (SSEA) 123 |
| Common alleles | Kabuli and desi 458 SSEA and WA 77 M and SSEA 33 M and WA 39 |
| Wild <i>Cicer</i> specific alleles | 74 |
| Genetic structure of reference subset (300 accessions) | |
| Allelic richness | 78% (1403 alleles) of the 1791 alleles of the composite collection |
| Allelic range | 8 to 56 alleles, 28 alleles per locus |
| Marker polymorphism (PIC) and gene diversity (GD) | PIC: 0.488 to 0.964; GD: 0.540 to 0.965 |



• 300 accessions representing reference set
• Remaining 2615 accessions of the composite collection (2915 accessions)
Figure 1. Tree diagram of the chickpea reference subset showing allelic diversity in composite collection

Phenotypic Screens for Drought Tolerance

- A PVC cylinder (18 cm diameter and 120 cm tall) technique developed to screen for drought-avoidance root traits (Kashiwagi et al. 2006)



Figure 2. PVC-based screening technique for drought tolerance in chickpea



Assessing Genetic Variation in Chickpea Mini Core for Drought and Salinity Tolerance

Variability for drought and salinity tolerance traits

Drought (Kashiwagi et al. 2005)

- Largest variation for root length density (RLD) and plant dry weight to RLD (PDW/RLD) ratio
- Several accessions with high RLD and PDW/RLD ratio identified
- ICC 8261 with largest RLD and deepest root while ICC 4958 with prolific and deep roots
- Landraces from central Asia showed relatively larger RLD



Figure 3. Genotypic variation for root mass in chickpea germplasm

Salinity (Vadez et al. 2007)

- Six-fold variation for seed yield under salinity (80mM NaCl)
- Desi's had higher salinity tolerance than Kabuli's
- Number of filled pods the major salinity tolerance trait
- Tolerance not related to the shoot Na⁺ or K⁺ concentrations
- Several tolerant accessions identified



Figure 4. Genotypic variation for salinity tolerance in chickpea germplasm

Phenotypic Screens for Salinity Tolerance

- A pot (27 cm diameter) screening technique for salt tolerance (80mM to 100mM NaCl) developed (Vadez et al. 2007)

Future Perspective to the Utilization of Reference Subset in Chickpea Genomics and Breeding

- Saturate with more number of SSRs and DArT markers
- Evaluate for drought and salinity tolerance
- Evaluate for agronomic and seed quality traits
- Detect allelic variation associated with drought and salinity using association genetics
- Identify accessions with contrasting response for diverse uses

References

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