Screening of Faba Bean (Vicia faba L.) for Resistance to Aphis craccivora Koch

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Abstract

A fava bean aphid screening program was started in the laboratory established at the Agricultural Research Center, Giza, Egypt, as part of the ICARDA/IFAD Nile Valley Project on fava bean. This laboratory is used as a center for screening fava bean lines (breeding lines, germplasm, pure lines, and populations) from Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, and ICARDA on a continuing basis. Studies were undertaken to develop a simple reliable method for screening. Growing fava bean seedlings under controlled conditions, artificially infesting them with one adult female Aphis craccivora Koch/seedling and counting the progeny 10 days after infestation proved to be an effective and rapid technique. During a 4-year period, a total to 7156 fava bean lines were evaluated for aphid resistance of which 114 lines were rated resistant after retesting. Using the most promising, reconfirmed lines, a Regional Aphid Screening Nursery has been established and planted in the 3 countries. Selected resistant lines will be subject to further detailed biological studies.

Key words: Faba bean, Resistance, Aphis craccivora, Egypt.

Introduction

In many of the fava bean growing areas of West Asia and North Africa the black bean aphid (Aphis fabae Scop.) and the cowpea aphid (Aphis craccivora Koch) are the main insect pests limiting fava bean yield. A. fabae is predominant in cooler regions, whereas in hot and dry climates A. craccivora predominantes. In the Mediterranean region and West Asia both species often occur together, with A. fabae being the predominant species in Syria (8) and Tunisia (3) and A. craccivora in Morocco (3). In Egypt and Sudan, infestations consist almost exclusively of A. craccivora.

Although effective insecticides for aphid control are available, host plant resistance is preferable to reduce production costs and protect beneficial insects. Aphid resistance in fava beans has been studied for many years, but so far only a few fava bean cultivars having some level of resistance have been identified (7, 2, 4). Acceptable levels of resistance have been detected in a few fava bean landraces and in some wild Vicia species (2, 1, 5).

Since West Asia is the center of origin of Vicia faba L., the germplasm originating in this area should vary in its reaction to aphids. The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) has developed a large collection of fava bean germplasm from the ICARDA region and elsewhere. The collection is maintained in two forms, the ILB collection comprising original heterogeneous populations, and the BPL collection, a set of inbred lines developed from the ILB collection. The BPL collection is used in the breeding program of ICARDA and national programs. ICARDA also operates a regional research program on fava bean improvement in collaboration with Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, where a large number of breeding lines have been developed. It was, therefore, thought worthwhile to screen this material for aphid resistance over the last 4 years.

Materials and Methods

Faba bean aphid screening started in 1985/86 with the establishment of the aphid screening laboratory at the Agricultural Research Center, Giza, Egypt as part of the Fava Bean Nile Valley Research Project. Mass aphid rearing and screening was conducted under controlled conditions in two separate rooms, both with a temperature of 20±2°C, relative humidity of 60±5% and a 16h photoperiod. Colonies of A. craccivora were reared on pot grown fava bean seedlings of the susceptible Egyptian variety Giza 402.

For the screening, 7 seeds of each of 7 fava bean genotypes were sown in metal trays (30cm×60cm×7cm) filled with a 3:1 mixture of soil and peat moss. Randomly allocated rows of Giza 402 served as susceptible check. Five days after emergence, leaf sections infested with approximately 5 adult aphids each were placed on each seedling. Two days after artificial infestation, plants were checked to ensure the presence of 5 aphids per seedling. Fifteen days after infestation, the total number of aphids per seedling was counted and used as an indication of the degree of resistance or susceptibility. Since one A. craccivora female produces a mean of 48 nymphs on a susceptible cultivar during
a 15-day period, faba bean lines having less than a mean of
20 aphid individuals per seedling were considered to have
some degree of resistance. The rating scale developed was:

1 =  20 aphids/plant (resistant)
2 = 20 – 50 aphids/plant (tolerant)
3 = 50 – 100 aphids/plant (susceptible)
4 = > 100 aphids/plant (highly susceptible)

However, based on the experience gained during the first
3 years, the screening methodology was modified as follows
and has been in use since 1989/90 season: Five seeds of each
 genotype were sown in 3 pots (12 cm diameter) Five days
after emergence each seedling was artificially infested with
a single adult female of A. cracciua using a fine camel-

hair brush. Seedlings were covered with a lantern glass hav-
ing a muslin top confining the aphids to the respective
plants. Plants were examined for the presence of the aphid
2 days after infestation. Ten days after infestation, the total
number of aphids per seedling was counted and the mean of
15 plants calculated. The infestation level of each genotype
was rated according to the following scale:

1 =  5 aphids/plant (resistant)
2 = 6 – 20 aphids/plant (tolerant)
3 = 21 – 50 aphids/plant (susceptible)
4 = > 50 aphids/plant (highly susceptible)

These modifications improved the screening methodology
with regard to standardization, practicability, and reliability.
The earlier infestation technique of placing infested
leaves on the seedlings gave uneven infestations, which
were laborious to rectify. Also, the infestation rate of 5
adult aphids per seedling used in the initial screening tech-
nique resulted in enormous numbers of aphids on suscepti-
ble faba bean lines (the majority) and counting was rela-
tively laborious and time consuming. The modified infes-
tation method of placing 1 adult aphid per seedling re-
sults in sufficient numbers of progeny and permits easy
identification of differences between lines. Besides the use
of pots provides better growing conditions for the plants
and excludes any effects of preference.

Comparison of screening the same lines by both methods
showed no significant differences, thus the results were
pooled from both techniques. Promising genotypes were re-
tested in the laboratory and then tested in the field under
natural infestation.

Results and Discussion

During the first year (1986/87) a total of 2607 faba bean
lines were screened in the laboratory. The ICARDA ma-
terial included 840 pure lines (BPL), 653 germplasm acces-
sions from yield trials and nurseries, and 126 breeding lines.
Of these 12, 22, and 5 lines, respectively, were rated resis-
tant, having fewer than 20 aphids per seedling 15 days after
infestation (Table 1). Of the Egyptian faba bean lines, 3 of
115 selections of Giza 402 and 5 of 517 breeding lines were
found resistant. From Sudan 356 lines of the Shambat 85
collection were evaluated and 18 rated resistant.

Table 1. Number and origin of faba bean lines evaluated and found promising (in parenthesis) for resistance to (Aphis
cracciua) in the laboratory during four years of screening.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICARDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPL Lines from yield trials, nurseries</td>
<td>840 (12)</td>
<td>1253 (9)</td>
<td>644 (19)</td>
<td>600 (7,25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding lines</td>
<td>653 (22)</td>
<td>454 (0)</td>
<td>154 (4)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Giza 402 selections</td>
<td>115 (3)</td>
<td>256 (3)</td>
<td>116 (5)</td>
<td>192 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding lines, F4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>165 (11)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding lines</td>
<td>517 (5)</td>
<td>242 (4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Segregating material</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>121 (4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeding lines</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21 (3)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shambat 85 breeding lines</td>
<td>356 (18)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudanese coll. 87/88</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>206 (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudeiba breeding lines</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>125 (1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2607</td>
<td>2657</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>792</td>
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* tolerant lines
In 1987/88 none of the newly tested 2657 faba bean lines including ICARDA pure lines and germplasm accessions, Egyptian breeding lines, segregating material and selections from Giza 402 as well as Sudanese lines, was rated resistant. Only 22 lines were found to be tolerant having a mean of 30 – 50 aphids per seedling.

The screening in 1988/89 involved a total of 1100 new faba bean lines, of which 644 were pure lines and 154 germplasm accessions from ICARDA yield trials, 165 breeding lines and 116 selections from Giza 402 from Egypt, and 21 lines from Ethiopia. Of the pure lines 19 were rated resistant, two of which had already been selected for Botrytis (B88123) and stem nematode (BPL 23) resistance. Four lines of the ICARDA yield trials, and 5 lines of the Giza 402 selections and 11 of the Egyptian breeding lines were promising, and 3 of the Ethiopian genotypes were rated resistant.

Of the 600 new ICARDA pure lines screened in 1989/90, 7 were found resistant and 25 tolerant. None of the 192 Egyptian selections from Giza 402 was rated resistant.

Thus, during the period of 4 years a total of 7156 faba bean lines from ICARDA, Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia have been evaluated, and a total of 114 lines have been rated resistant. All these promising lines have been screened twice and considered resistant only if showing consistently low numbers of aphids. The BPL’s and breeding lines found resistant are identified in Table 2.

The laboratory screening method described above has provided an effective and rapid technique for screening large numbers of faba bean lines against aphids. Using the most promising reconfirmed lines a Regional Aphid Screening Nursery has been established consisting of 20 entries (8 from Egypt, 8 from Sudan, and 4 from Ethiopia) plus the respective local susceptible check. This nursery was planted in all the 3 countries in the 1990/91 season for the first time and will provide important information on the correlation between the resistance found in the laboratory and in the field in different countries. In the future, countries in North Africa will also be included and are planned to receive the Aphid Screening Nursery, as faba bean lines from Morocco are currently (1991) being screened in the laboratory. Selected resistant lines will be subject for further detailed studies on their effect on aphid development and reproduction and possible mechanisms of resistance.

References

المملوكة
Aphis craccivora Koch

اباءه، و بعد النظر بعد عشرة أيام من الإعداد طرية فاعلة و سريعة. وقد تم تم على مدى أربع سنوات تقويم ما مجموعه 7156 سلالة، و بين أن 114 منها كانت مقاومة بعد إعادة الاختبار. وقد تم بالاعتماد على السلالات المشتركة، إنشاء مسئول ملئي للسلالات المقاومة، تم إجازة في الدول الثلاث. و نتائج السلالات المقاومة لدراسات حياتية تفصيلة في المستقبل.

Aphis craccivora، كلمة مفتاحية: الفول، مقاومة، مصر.

Table 2. Identification numbers of faba bean pure lines and breeding lines found resistant for A. craccivora in laboratory screening.

| BPL | 23, 132, 153, 542, 544, 547, 557, 558, 647, 804, 820, 1852, 1958, 2291, 2292, 2302, 2315, 2350, 2356, 2381, 2423, 2505, 2507, 2545, 2560, 2609, 2613, 2666, 2789, 2790, 3345, 3416, 3129, 3351, 3474, 3116, 3347, B 88123. |
| Breeding lines | ICARDA |
| | 2269/86, 2493/86, 2526/86, 2570/86, 2575/86 S 83115-16-1-1, L 83149-75-6-1-1, S 822238-42-7-1-5-1, D 84081-7-1-1 |
| Egypt | 30/18/82, 373/600/83, 592/1782/86, 592/1809/86, 593/1919/86 |
| Ethiopia | PGRC/E 207209, ALAD/25 (mc) – 3, NEB 207 × 74 TA 74 – 6D |
| Sudan | 120002, 120003, 120005, 120008, 120009, 120010, 120011, 120013, 120014, 120015, 120016, 120066, 120067, 120085, 120150, 120419, 120420 |

المفاهيم 9 (2) : 141 – 138.

بدأ برنامج تقييم مدخلات الفول لمقاومة المئذن في المختبر الذي أحدث في مركز البحث الزراعي، بالجهة - جمهورية مصر العربية كجزء من مشروع وادي النيل على الفول بالتعاون بين إيكاداو/ إيفاد. و يستخدم هذا المختبر كمركز لتصنف سلالات الفول (سلالات الشرق، أصول وراثية، سلالات نقاء، و عوامل) من مصر والسودان والثروية وإيكاداو على نحو مستمر. وقد أجريت دراسات لتطوير طريقة بسيطة ويعتمد عليها للتقسيم. وقد تبين أن زراعات سلالات الفول تحت ظروف محاكاة، وإعداداً اصطلاحياً بمعدل بالغة من 391.


