Original Research Article 1 2 3 DIALLEL ANALYSIS OF SWEET POTATO [IPOMOEA BATATUS (L.) LAM] **GENOTYPES FOR COMBINED BETA CAROTENE AND DRY MATTER CONTENT** 4 IN SOUTHERN GUINEA SAVANNA, NIGERIA. 5 6 7 Abstract 8 Roots of orange fleshed sweet potato varieties currently available in Nigeria contain high 9 quantities of β -carotene or pro-vitamin A but have high moisture content. These varieties have 10 11 been found to be a cheap and crucially important remedy for vitamin A deficiency. The cream or white fleshed varieties on the other hand, have a sweet taste with high dry matter content, giving 12 a dry texture, a quality trait preferred in Nigeria. Development of sweet potato genotypes that 13 14 can combine these two important quality traits is the objective of this breeding work. A diallel experiment using six parental sweet potato genotypes crossed in all possible 15 combinations were carried out and thirty progenies were evaluated for beta carotene (β -carotene) 16 17 and dry matter content in Landmark University, Omu Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. The 30 F₁ progenies along with their parental lines were planted in the same field trial. The trial was laid 18 out in 6 x 6 triple lattice in two replications. Highly significant ($P \le 0.01$) differences were 19 observed among the genotypes for the traits. The average β -carotene content among the 20 progenies was 2.86 (mg/100g.f.w) while the dry matter content had a mean value of 31.89%. The 21 cross progenies 199024.2 x Excel had the highest beta carotene (14.37mg/100g.f.w) content with 22 highest dry matter content (40.10%) and are therefore recommended for further evaluation. 23 Key words: Diallel analysis; dry matter; Southern Guinea Savanna; sweet potato; Vitamin A, β-24

carotene.

27 INTRODUCTION

Sweet potato [*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam] is the seventh most important crop in the world with an estimated 124 million metric tons produced annually. In the tropics, sweetpotato ranks fifth in terms of caloric contribution after rice, wheat, maize, and cassava [1,2]. In many developing countries, sweetpotato is a staple because they are easy to propagate and maintain, and yield well under a variety of adverse conditions, including drought. The potential of this crop as a food, and carbohydrate source is widely recognized [3].

Sweet potato is one of the most under exploited of the developing world's major crops 34 [4] as evidenced by its breeding initiatives that are at relatively early stages compared to other 35 crops. The need to identify local germplasm with desirable traits has long been recognised by 36 breeders [4]. It has been long known that many sweetpotato traits are mainly quantitatively 37 inherited [5]. To meet the quality needs there is a need to take into account the farmer and 38 consumer preferences when developing and selecting sweetpotato varieties and in most cases this 39 can be addressed through participatory variety selection. Fortunately, the attributes considered 40 most important by farmers and consumers were already identified and ranked by [4]. Given the 41 enormous genetic diversity of sweet potato in Uganda [6], the possibility for sweetpotato 42 improvement to accommodate specific uses is expected to be rapid [4]. There is wide genetic 43 44 variability for vitamin A occurring naturally in sweetpotato. This means conventional breeding 45 techniques can be employed to combine β -carotene and dry matter into sweetpotato varieties.

Diallel mating designs have been widely used in genetic research to investigate the inheritance of important traits in a set of genotypes [7, 8]. Diallel mating designs were devised, specifically to investigate the combining ability of the parental lines for the purpose of 49 identification of superior parents for use in hybrid development programmes. A diallel cross is a set of p^2 possible single crosses and selfs between p homozygous [9,10,11,12] or heterozygous 50 [13] parents; it provides a powerful method for investigating the relative genetic properties of 51 these parents. It is possible to partition treatment variation into components due to general 52 combining ability (GCA) and specific combining ability (SCA) [14, 7, 16, 17]. General 53 combining ability (GCA) is the average performance of a genotype in hybrid combination while 54 Specific combining ability (SCA) are those cases in which certain combinations perform 55 relatively better or worse than expected on the average [18]. The estimates of the relative 56 magnitude of the variances of GCA and SCA indicate the type of gene action determining the 57 traits. Variance due to GCA indicates the predominance of additive gene action while that of 58 SCA indicates the predominance of non-additive gene action arising largely from dominance and 59 epistatic deviations [19]. The present research examined the quantitative inheritance of important 60 traits in sweet potato by means of a diallel analysis with a view to estimating the GCA and SCA 61 components of genetic variance, and to determine the associated type of gene action controlling 62 β -carotene content and root dry mass. 63

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65 **2. Materials and Methods**

66 2.1. Description of the Study Area

A field experiment was conducted on six sweet potatoes genotypes (three orange flesh and three white flesh) at the Teaching and Research Farm of Landmark University, Omu Aran, Nigeria. The experimental site is located at the Southern Guinea Savanna agro-ecological zone of Nigeria with district wet and dry seasons. The land had been used continuously for the cultivation of arable crops like maize, melon, cowpea and vegetables for more than three years. Soil samples were collected from the trial site before cropping and were analyzed in the laboratory for physical and chemical properties (Table 2). The soil texture was loamy sand.

75 2.2. Treatments and Experimental Design

The parents materials used for the experiment were obtained from the germplasm 76 collection centre of the Department of Agronomy, University of Ibadan which was originally 77 from the listed sources in Table 1. The parents were selected on the basis of being cross-78 compatible. Hand crosses were carried out in a 6 x 6 full diallel, excluding selfs from 2010 to 79 2011 at the Teaching and Research Farm of Landmark University, Omu Aran, Nigeria. Fruits 80 were harvested between 30-50 days after pollination in the early morning to prevent scattering. 81 The fruits were further air dried, shelled, put in a labeled envelope and kept in desiccators. The 82 harvested seeds were soaked in water over night and planted into polythene bags filled with 83 loamy soil. Once the plants were about 30cm tall, they were transplanted to well-prepared ridges 84 for further growth and development. Twenty cuttings of 25cm length of the sweet potato vines 85 from F₁ progeny were made to represent each cross. The selected 30 F₁ progeny along with their 86 parental lines were planted in the same field trial. The trial was laid out in 6 x 6 triple lattice in 87 two replications. The plot size used was 3m x 1m in two rows. Each plot comprised the 20 88 cuttings from each progeny of a cross. Each vine was inserted at a slant, with two-third buried 89 below the soil surface. Weeding was done 4, 6 and 8 weeks after planting, using small hoes. No 90 herbicides or fertilizers were applied. Appropriate agronomic practices were followed to raise a 91 good crop. 92

93 2.3. Data Collection

All data were recorded on individual plant basis and then averaged across the 20 progeny of each F_1 cross. The quantitative traits were evaluated as follows: β - carotene content expressed as mg 100 g⁻¹ and dry matter content (g) expressed as a percentage of root fresh mass (g).

100 2.4 Statistical analysis of triple lattice

Data collected on the two traits were subjected to diallel analysis using Griffing (1956) Method II (parents and crosses together), Mixed I (fixed effects). Both general and specific combining abilities were computed using [20] for the parent and crosses.

104 Diallel analysis

To test the null hypothesis of no genotypic differences among parents and crosses, one way analysis of variance was performed. Treatment sum of squares were partitioned into three components, parents (P), crosses (C), and parent vs. crosses (P. vs. C.). General Combining Ability and Specific Combining Ability variance components of the cross mean square were computed according to Griffing's (1956) fixed-effects model I. Reciprocals were defined as being below the diagonal. Adopting [14] notation the following genetic statistical model for an analysis within one environment.

112 **3. Results**

3.1 Analysis of variance for β-carotene and dry matter content

 β -carotene content and dry matter content means squares were both significant (p<0.01) among 114 the parents and their 30F1 families, this shows that there are genetic variation among the parents 115 and their crosses as shown in table 4. Crosses out-performing their parents can be attributed to 116 transgressive segregation which is desirable for improving β -carotene content and dry matter 117 118 content. The results of average performances of some of the crosses presented in table 5 shows that the performances of crosses are significantly higher than the two parents for the traits. Cross 119 1 x 3 had the highest values in term of β -carotene and dry matter content with means of 14.37 mg 120 100 g⁻¹ and 40.10% respectively followed by 1 x 4 for β -carotene content with means of 12.39 121

mg 100 g⁻¹ and dry matter content with a mean of 30.05% while 2 x 4 had the least β -carotene content and dry matter content with a means square values of 0.03 mg 100 g⁻¹ and 31.15%.

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3.2 General and specific combining ability analysis for β-carotene content and dry matter content

128 General combining ability and Specific combining ability means sum of squares for β -carotene 129 content and dry matter content were highly significant (p<0.01) across the parents, parent x cross 130 and the crosses as presented in Table 6. The mean squares for reciprocals of β -carotene content 131 were significant (p<0.01) whereas mean squares for dry matter for the reciprocal is not

132 significant.

133 **3.3 COMBINING ABILITY EFFECTS**

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135 **3.3.1 Beta-carotene content**

Table 7 presented estimates of GCA effects for β-carotene content and dry matter content of six 136 sweet potato parents. The GCA effects for β -carotene content of parent 1, 2 and 3 were positively 137 and highly significant (p<0.01). The GCA effects for parent 5 is significant (p<0.01) but 138 negative. The GCA effect for parent 4 and 6 were negative and were not significant. The SCA 139 effects of crosses 1 x 2, 1 x 4,1 x 5 1 x 6, 2 x 3, 2 x 5, 2 x 6 and 3 x 5 were positive and highly 140 significant (p<0.01)(Table 8) whereas cross 3 x 6, 4 x 6 is also significant but negative. The rest 141 of the crosses are positive and not significant, apart from 1 x 3 which was negative and is not 142 significant (p < 0.01). Four reciprocals (5 x 2, 5 x 4, 6 x 5 and 6 x 2) were not significant (p < 0.01) 143 and negative except cross 6 x 2 which is positive. Crosses 3 x1 and 3 x 2 were highly significant 144 although they were negative. The rest crosses were positive and highly significant (p<0.01) 145 146 (Table 8).

147 **3.3.2 Dry Matter Content**

The GCA effects for parent 2, 4 and 6 were positively and highly significant (p<0.01). The GCA effects for parent 1 is also significant (p<0.01) but negative. The GCA effect for parent 5 was not significant but positive (Table 7). Crosses 1 x 2 and 3 x 5 were positive although not significant (Table 8). This is against crosses 2 x3, 3 x 4, 4 x 5 and 4 x 6 which were negative and not significant (p<0.01). SCA effect for the rest of the crosses were significant (p<0.01) and positive (Table 8). For reciprocal, crosses 6 x 1 and 6 x 2 are the only crosses that were positively and highly significant (p<0.01).

156 **4 Discussion**

157 4 .1 General and specific combining ability for β-carotene content and dry matter content

Both GCA and SCA variances were significantly (Table 5), this suggest that both additive and 158 non-additive gene effects played major role in the inheritance of β-carotene and dry matter 159 content. The GCA and SCA mean squares for the β -carotene and dry matter content were 160 significant (p<0.01). This implies that both additive and non-additive gene action were involved 161 in their expression. This study indicates that additive gene action was relatively more 162 predominant than non-additive gene action in controlling the expression β -carotene content and 163 dry matter content. Hence, predicting progeny performance based on GCA for the traits will be 164 largely successful. The highly significant (p < 0.01) reciprocal mean squares for β -carotene and 165 dry matter content indicates that maternal effects can play a major role in the inheritance of these 166 traits and consequently the performance of a parent in a cross is dependent on whether it is used 167 as a female or a male. 168

169 4.2 β - carotene content

170 The GCA effects for parent 1 (1.33) and (1.12) were significant (p<0.01) and positive indicating 171 that additive gene action contributed positively to the expression β -carotene content consequently,

their cross 1 x 2 is positive (3.28) and significant (p<0.01) SCA effect. This means

that the interaction between the parent for the non-additive gene action resulted in the cross 173 performing above the expectation based on additive effects. The crosses that had positive and 174 significant (p<0.01) SCA effects were 1 x 4, 1 x 5, 1 x 6, 2 x 3, 2 x 5, 2 x 6 and 3 x 5 indicating 175 that the non-additive gene action arising from the interaction of the parents contributed positively 176 to the expression of the trait. Parents 5 that had negative GCA effects (-0.44) produced a cross 177 with a positive (0.022) and highly significant (p<0.01) SCA effect (Table 6). This shows that 178 parents cannot be disgualified solely on the basis of negative GCA effects. In other word, parents 179 with high positive GCA effects did not necessarily produce crosses with the desired 180 performance. The parents used in this study as well as the crosses generated exhibit different 181 level of significant and desirable crosses were obtained from crossing parents with high GCA 182 effects with parents with low GCA effects that is 1 x 5, 2 x 5 and 3 x 5. 183

184 **4.3 Dry Matter Content**

The GCA and SCA mean squares for dry matter content were significant (p<0.01), but the reciprocal mean square was not significant. For the specific combiners for dry matter content parent 3 had a positive GCA and their crosses with parent 1 and 2 given dry matter content of 40.01% and 38.20%.

189 **5. Recommendation**

190 It is therefore recommend that:

191 1. The parent 1 and 3 identified to be good general and specific combiners of β - carotene 192 and dry matter content should be further intrigressed into other proven cultivatrs in the 193 improvement of β - carotene and dry matter content in sweetpotato. The identified crosses with the highest dry matter and β- carotene content could be
incorporate into on-farm trial for proof.

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No	Genotype	Root flesh colour	Root Dry mass	Source
			(%)	
1	199024.2	Orange	31.02	CIP Kenya
2	440034	Orange	26.92	CIP Kenya
3	Excel	Orange	28.53	South Africa
4	W-151	Yellow	34.29	CIP Kenya
5	TIS 87/0087	White	30.67	IITA Ibadan
6	440168	White	32.31	CIP Kenya

Table 1: Parental genotypes and their traits used in a 6x6 full diallel excluding selfs

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Table 2. Physical and chemical characteristics of the experimental site soil at Landmark

243 University, Omu Aran.

4 Physical characteristics	properties
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Texture	Loamy sand
pH 1:1 (H ₂ O)	5.4
Sand %	84.1
Clay %	8.02
Silt %	6.42
Chemical characteristics	
Exchangeable $Ca^{2+}(C. mol kg^{-1})$	1.12
Exchangeable $Mg^{2+}(C. mol kg^{-1})$	1.62
Exchangeable Na^+ (C. mol kg ⁻¹)	0.19
Exchangeable K^+ (C. mol kg ⁻¹)	0.01
Total acidity $H^+(C. mol kg^{-1})$	0.05
Cation exchange capacity (C. mol kg $^{-1}$)	2.83
% Organic Carbon	0.24
% Soil organic matter	1.03
% Total Nitrogen	0.24
Available Phosphate (mg kg ⁻¹)	20.31
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Table 3 Analysis of variance for Griffing's (1956b) Model I, Method I and the expected

mean squares for a full diallel.

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	Source	Df	sum of	mean squares	Expected mean	F-ratio
			squares		squares	
	GCA	p-1	$\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{g}}$	M_{g}	$\delta^2 + 2p[1/p-1]\Sigma gi^2$	M_g/M_e
	SCA	p(p-1)/2	$\overline{S_s}$	M _s	$\delta^{2+1/p(p-1)} \sum_{i} \sum_{j} S_{ij}^{2}$	M_{s}/M_{e}
	Reciprocal effects	p(p-1)/2	S_v	$M_{\rm v}$	$\delta^{2+2} [2/p(p-1)] \sum_i \sum_j r_{ij}^2$	M_r/M_e
	Error	М	Se	Me	δ ²	
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Table 4: ANOVA for six sweetpotato parents and their 30 F₁ families evaluated in a triple lattice design

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264 265	lattice design	1 1		
	Source		Mean s	squares
		Df	β-carotene content(mg 100 g-1)	Dry Matter content (%)
	Rep	1	0.75 ^{ns}	7.85 ^{ns}
	Treatment	35	38.39**	34.28**
	Block within reps	35	14.1	29.60
	Intra-block error	70	0.32	5.10
	Total	141		
266	*, ** Significant at (p<0.05) a	and (<i>p</i> <0.01) (<i>F</i> -p	robability) respe	ctively; ns=not significant
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Parents/Crosses	β-carotene content (mg 100 g ⁻¹)	Dry content (%)	Matter
1 x 2	1.5	33.00	
1 x 3	14.37	40.10	
1 x 4	12.39	30.5	
1 x 5	1.32	31.88	
1 x 6	3.37	28.43	
2 x 3	5.49	38.67	
2x 4	0.03	31.15	
2 x 5	0.03	27.38	
2x 6	1.74	27.27	
3 x 4	1.5	29.49	
3 x 5	0.12	31.67	
3 x 6	1.38	35.71	
4 x 5	0.02	37.04	
4 x 6	0.03	38.89	
5 x 6	1.38	34.15	
Reciprocal			
2 x 1	11.03	33.82	
3 x 1	4.92	31.86	
4 x 1	4.41	29.73	
5 x 1	0.12	34.00	
6 x 1	1.38	34.78	
3 x2	4.92	25.86	
4 x 2	0.13	35.00	
5 x 2	1.66	32.69	
6 x 2	1.50	34.72	
4 x 3	6.12	32.56	
5 x 3	4.92	28.30	
6 x 3	0.03	33.33	
5 x 4	1.38	24.49	
6 x 4	1.5	33.94	
6 x 5	0.03	27.47	
Parent 1	13.38	36.25	
Parent 2	0.15	32.00	
Parent 3	5.49	26.47	
Parent 4	0.00	25.86	
Parent 5	0.03	29.73	
Parent 6	0.12	28.30	
Mean	2.86	31.89	
s.e	0.39	5.38	
CV (%)	15.1	7.01	
LSD 0.05	0.85	6.04	

277 Table 5: Block corrected means for six sweet potato parents and their diallel evaluated

	Df	Mean	Mean squares	
Source		β-carotene content(mg 100 g ⁻¹)	Dry Matter content (%)	
Rep	1	0.65**	7.85 ^{ns}	
Parent	5	31.39**	134.28**	
Parent x cross	1	11.1**	29.60**	
Crosses	11	62.32**	25.10**	
GCA	5	83.98**	54.76**	
SCA	6	53.76**	10.80**	
Reciprocal	12	54.23**	6.9ns	
Error	100	0.032	7.63	
Total	141			

279 Table 6: Combining ability ANOVA for β-carotene content and dry matter content

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** Significant at p<0.01 (by *F*-probability); ns=not significant; GCA=variation due to general
combining ability, SCA=variation due to specific combining ability, reciprocal=variation
between reciprocal

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287 Table 7 Estimates of GCA effects for β -carotene content and dry matter content of six

288 sweet potato parents

200	sweet potato parents		
	Parent	β -carotene content	Dry Matter Content
	1	1.33**	-3.41**
	2	1.12**	4.38**
	3	0.50**	- 2.88**
	4	-2.13ns	2.05**
	5	-0.44**	0.12ns
	6	-0.355ns	1.04**
289	** Significant at <i>p</i> <0.01 (by <i>F</i>	-probability); ns=not significant.	
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Table 8: Estimates of SCA effects for the Diallel analysis for β-carotene content and dry
matter content

Crosses	β-carotene	Dry Matter
	content	content
	(mg 100 g-1)	(%)
1 x 2	3.28**	1.64ns
1 x 3	-2.14ns	3.10**
1 x 4	5.16**	0.78**
1 x 5	0.022**	1.88**
1 x 6	3.37**	3.43**
2 x 3	5.49**	-8.67ns
2x 4	0.03ns	1.15**
2 x 5	4.03**	2.38**
2x 6	1.74**	2.92**
3 x 4	1.27ns	-2.49ns
3 x 5	0.12**	1.67ns
3 x 6	-1.38**	3.76**
4 x 5	-0.02ns	-3.04ns
4 x 6	-7.03**	-3.89ns
5 x 6	-1.38ns	3.15**
Reciprocal		
2 x 1	11.03**	-3.82ns
3 x 1	-4.92**	-1.86**
4 x 1	-6.41**	2.73**
5 x 1	-3.12**	3.00ns
6 x 1	1.38**	3.73**
3 x2	-4.92**	-2.06ns
4 x 2	0.13**	-3.00ns
5 x 2	-1.66ns	2.69Ns
6 x 2	5.50ns	3.72**
4 x 3	6.12**	-3.56
5 x 3	4.92**	2.30ns
6 x 3	0.02**	-3.33
5 x 4	-1.38ns	-2.49
6 x 4	1.5ns	-3.94ns
6 x 5	-5.03ns	2.47ns

*, ** Significant at (p<0.05) and (p<0.01) (*F*-probability) respectively; ns=not significant 309

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