

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

Forty-Sixth Session

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Technical Working Party for Vegetables

Fifty-First Session

Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands, July 3 to 7, 2017

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

Fiftieth Session

Victoria, Canada, September 11 to 15, 2017

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

Forty-Eighth Session

Kelowna, Canada, September 18 to 22, 2017

Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

Thirty-Fifth Session

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 14 to 17, 2017

STATISTICAL METHODS FOR VISUALLY OBSERVED CHARACTERISTICS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning “Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics”.

2. The TWPs are invited to note that:

(a) an expert from France will make a report to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland;

(b) the TC, at its fifty-third session, agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination; and

(c) China made a presentation at the thirty-fourth session of the TWC to describe the statistical methods used in the DUSTC software package for the analysis of distinctness and uniformity.

3. The TWC is invited to consider the report on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland, to be provided by the expert from France.

4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- TC: Technical Committee
- TC-EDC: Enlarged Editorial Committee
- TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
- TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
- TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
- TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables

5. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

6. The recent background to this matter is provided in documents TWC/34/18, TWO/48/20, TWV/49/20, TWA/45/23 and TWF/46/20 and TC/52/24 “Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics”. “Molecular Techniques”.

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES IN 2016

7. At their sessions in 2016, the TWC and TWA considered documents TWC/34/18 and TWA/45/23 “Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics”, respectively.

8. The TWC and TWA noted that the expert from France would make a report to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, to be held in 2017, on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland (see documents TWC/34/32 “Report”, paragraph 87 and TWA/45/25 “Report”, paragraph 74).

9. The TWC agreed and the TWA noted that appropriate naming and drafting guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination (see documents TWC/34/32 “Report”, paragraph 88 and TWA/45/25 “Report”, paragraph 73).

10. The TWA noted that China had made a presentation at the thirty-fourth session of the TWC to describe the statistical methods used in the DUSTC software package for the analysis of distinctness and uniformity (see document TWA/45/25 “Report”, paragraph 72).

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IN 2017

11. The TC, at its fifty-third session, noted that an expert from France would make a report to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, to be held in 2017, on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland (see document TC/52/31 “Report”, paragraphs 194 to 196).

12. The TC agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination.

13. The TC noted that China had made a presentation at the thirty-fourth session of the TWC to describe the statistical methods used in the DUSTC software package for the analysis of distinctness and uniformity.

14. *The TWPs are invited to note that:*

(a) an expert from France will make a report to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland;

(b) the TC, at its fifty-third session, agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination; and

(c) China made a presentation at the thirty-fourth session of the TWC to describe the statistical methods used in the DUSTC software package for the analysis of distinctness and uniformity.

15. The TWC is invited to consider the report of the progress of development of the new method of calculation of COYU, to be provided by the expert from the United Kingdom.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

NEW STATISTICAL METHOD FOR VISUALLY OBSERVED CHARACTERISTICS
WITH MULTINOMIAL DISTRIBUTED DATA

I. ORDINAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

- The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:
- The characteristic is ordinal and recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The distribution of the characteristic should be unimodal, i.e. notes with large number of plants should occur next to each other, zeros at one or both ends of the scale should not cause problems as long as most varieties have plants that fall in different notes
- The total number of plants for each variety should not be too low, at least 5 times the number of notes the variety covers

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. Also the χ^2 -test does not take the ordering of the notes into account. The combined over-years method for ordinal characteristics takes other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). It takes the ordering of notes into account by using a cumulative function over the ordered notes. The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years. Taking the ordering of notes into account is expected to increase the power of the test and thus to increase the number of distinct pairs.

The method is based on a generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called "generalized linear mixed models". A general description of the method may be found in Agresti (2002) and a more specific description – using other examples of data may be found in Kristensen (2011).

The combined over-years method for ordinal characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table (see the example)
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Example

For demonstration a subset of varieties from a DUS experiment with Meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*) in Finland was chosen. The notes for Plant: growth habit at inflorescence emergence (Characteristic 9 of TG/39/8) in 2010, 2011 and 2012 were analysed (Table 4). In most cases 40-60 plants were recorded in each year. This characteristic is rather sensitive to the growing conditions. This is apparent from table 4 where it is seen that the note 1 was recorded only in 2012 while note 7 was recorded only in 2010. Also it is seen that the most common note (over all varieties) in the three years was note, 5, 3 and 3, respectively in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The applied analysis method takes this into account by calculating an additive effect of each year (as for the COYD method for normal distributed data).

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The estimated percent of plants in each note for each variety are shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Number of individual plants with each note for each variety and year for the characteristic Plant: growth habit at inflorescence emergence in Meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*)

Variety	Note																				
	1			2			3			4			5			6			7		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
A	0	0	2	0	2	20	4	27	23	1	23	5	32	2	8	4	0	1	0	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	12	21	9	5	11	29	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	4	24	3	21	21	1	21	7	30	7	6	8	1	1	0	0	0
D	0	0	2	0	6	17	7	35	23	6	11	14	31	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
E	0	0	1	1	9	22	9	30	28	13	12	6	31	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	13	14	6	22	15	27	14	18	10	4	1	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	3	29	8	34	25	10	18	4	25	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	5	0	6	28	7	48	21	19	6	4	19	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
I	0	0	1	0	2	20	5	29	21	6	23	8	29	5	9	6	0	0	0	0	0
J	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	35	27	0	16	12	35	5	6	4	0	0	2	0	0
K	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	24	14	4	17	13	29	17	13	9	0	2	2	0	0
L	0	0	3	0	3	20	4	34	26	7	17	8	28	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
M	0	0	0	0	1	18	5	24	22	7	27	13	30	7	6	5	0	0	2	0	0
N	0	0	0	0	2	10	3	18	24	2	15	9	25	16	14	11	1	1	1	0	0
O	0	0	0	0	5	19	9	39	29	9	8	10	23	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	2	0	9	23	13	30	32	7	4	3	19	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Q	0	0	1	0	4	24	9	27	24	10	19	8	28	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
R	0	0	0	0	3	24	2	30	26	6	21	6	35	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	1	0	5	16	6	25	27	14	19	11	26	8	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
T	0	0	0	0	6	19	3	36	24	4	5	7	18	3	7	5	0	0	0	0	0
U	0	0	2	0	7	17	11	41	31	15	11	8	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
V	0	0	3	0	15	32	11	33	18	13	6	5	30	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
W	0	0	0	0	7	22	4	28	30	6	16	6	37	5	2	6	0	0	1	0	0
X	0	0	1	0	5	19	2	24	17	4	17	15	40	6	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Y	0	0	1	0	3	12	2	8	24	4	6	5	24	0	13	6	0	0	0	0	0
Z	0	0	0	0	1	14	1	25	17	2	16	15	26	10	13	10	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	2	0	6	24	5	38	24	8	9	8	34	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	1	4	20	5	29	26	5	16	11	37	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	2	0	10	24	7	28	27	8	12	4	30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0	9	17	7	31	28	6	10	9	30	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	3	14	1	24	26	9	22	16	36	8	4	5	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Estimated percent of plants for each note of each variety

Variety	Note						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	0.2	5.7	34.8	33.7	24.5	1.1	0.1
B	0.2	5.9	35.4	33.5	23.9	1.0	0.0
C	0.1	4.8	31.2	34.4	28.1	1.3	0.1
D	0.2	8.2	41.8	30.8	18.2	0.7	0.0
E	0.4	12.4	48.7	25.7	12.4	0.5	0.0
F	0.0	1.7	14.6	28.9	51.0	3.6	0.2
G	0.3	10.3	45.8	28.2	14.9	0.6	0.0
H	0.6	17.0	52.3	20.9	8.9	0.3	0.0
I	0.2	5.6	34.1	33.9	25.1	1.1	0.1
J	0.1	4.3	29.2	34.6	30.3	1.4	0.1
K	0.1	2.5	19.6	32.5	42.8	2.5	0.1
L	0.2	7.8	40.8	31.4	19.1	0.8	0.0
M	0.1	4.6	30.2	34.5	29.1	1.3	0.1
N	0.1	2.2	18.1	31.6	45.1	2.8	0.1
O	0.3	10.1	45.5	28.4	15.1	0.6	0.0
P	0.5	16.0	51.8	21.8	9.5	0.3	0.0
Q	0.3	8.8	43.1	30.0	17.1	0.7	0.0
R	0.2	6.7	37.8	32.7	21.7	0.9	0.0
S	0.2	7.0	38.8	32.3	20.8	0.8	0.0
T	0.2	7.9	41.0	31.2	18.8	0.7	0.0
U	0.4	12.1	48.4	25.9	12.7	0.5	0.0
V	0.5	16.5	52.1	21.4	9.2	0.3	0.0
W	0.2	7.1	38.9	32.2	20.7	0.8	0.0
X	0.1	5.2	32.6	34.2	26.6	1.2	0.1
Y	0.1	4.4	29.7	34.6	29.7	1.4	0.1
Z	0.1	2.7	21.3	33.3	40.3	2.2	0.1
1	0.3	10.6	46.2	27.8	14.5	0.5	0.0
2	0.2	6.7	37.8	32.7	21.7	0.9	0.0
3	0.4	12.6	49.0	25.4	12.2	0.4	0.0
4	0.3	9.3	44.1	29.4	16.3	0.6	0.0
5	0.1	4.4	29.7	34.6	29.7	1.4	0.1

The candidates were variety A and B and the remaining varieties C, D, ..., 5 were reference varieties, a measure of the differences and the P-values for testing the hypothesis of no difference between candidate and reference varieties were calculated. The differences and the P-values are shown in Table 6. An F_3 -value is calculated in a similar way as for COY-D for normally distributed characteristics and is used in order to ensure that the pair did not become distinct because of a very large difference in only of the years without being different in other years (TGP/8/1 Draft 13 Section 3.6.3). Therefore, a significant difference between two varieties with a high F_3 -value should be examined carefully before the final decision is taken. The F_3 -values and their significances are also shown in Table 6.

For the data shown here candidate A could be separated from 11 of the reference varieties when using a 1% level of significance while candidate B could be separated from 10 of the reference varieties. The two candidates could not be separated from each other. The largest F_3 -value, 5.43, was found for variety pair B-S (the approximate threshold for the F_4 values to be significant is 4.98). This means that the interaction for this pair should have been considered if this pair had been distinct on this characteristic.

Table 3. Differences and F_3 values together with P-values for relevant pairs of varieties

Variety	Candidate A				Candidate B			
	Difference	P _{Difference}	F ₃	P _{F₃}	Difference	P _{Difference}	F ₃	P _{F₃}
A	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.9011	0.22	0.4051
B	-0.03	0.9011	0.21	0.6566	-	-	-	-
C	0.19	0.4507	0.02	0.8782	0.22	0.4051	0.09	0.7694
D	-0.39	0.1243	0.04	0.8522	-0.35	0.1856	0.07	0.7947
E	-0.84	0.0011	0.73	0.4154	-0.81	0.0030	1.73	0.2215
F	1.26	<.0001	0.56	0.4743	1.29	<.0001	1.46	0.2584
G	-0.63	0.0125	1.66	0.2298	-0.60	0.0255	3.06	0.1144
H	-1.22	<.0001	1.17	0.3080	-1.19	<.0001	2.37	0.1579
I	0.03	0.8922	0.29	0.6041	0.07	0.8004	0.99	0.3448
J	0.30	0.2267	1.13	0.3146	0.34	0.2081	0.37	0.5600
K	0.88	0.0007	0.00	0.9669	0.91	0.0010	0.25	0.6274
L	-0.33	0.1879	0.52	0.4895	-0.30	0.2651	1.39	0.2681
M	0.24	0.3255	0.82	0.3878	0.28	0.2949	1.87	0.2047
N	0.99	0.0002	0.00	0.9734	1.02	0.0003	0.18	0.6805
O	-0.61	0.0162	0.27	0.6151	-0.58	0.0317	0.96	0.3525
P	-1.15	<.0001	0.24	0.6350	-1.11	0.0001	0.90	0.3664
Q	-0.47	0.0630	2.59	0.1421	-0.43	0.1039	4.28	0.0685
R	-0.17	0.5056	0.06	0.8115	-0.13	0.6174	0.50	0.4984
S	-0.22	0.3813	3.50	0.0943	-0.18	0.4858	5.43	0.0448
T	-0.34	0.1848	0.82	0.3879	-0.31	0.2578	0.20	0.6650
U	-0.82	0.0013	1.04	0.3352	-0.79	0.0035	2.18	0.1735
V	-1.18	<.0001	0.03	0.8674	-1.15	<.0001	0.08	0.7799
W	-0.23	0.3621	0.17	0.6870	-0.19	0.4653	0.00	0.9662
X	0.12	0.6441	0.00	0.9863	0.15	0.5764	0.23	0.6444
Y	0.27	0.3246	0.19	0.6753	0.30	0.2936	0.00	0.9791
Z	0.77	0.0032	0.64	0.4435	0.80	0.0038	0.12	0.7404
1	-0.66	0.0093	0.00	0.9861	-0.63	0.0196	0.23	0.6443
2	-0.17	0.5049	0.15	0.7116	-0.13	0.6165	0.71	0.4219
3	-0.87	0.0009	0.07	0.8017	-0.83	0.0026	0.52	0.4907
4	-0.53	0.0393	0.03	0.8714	-0.49	0.0684	0.09	0.7760
5	0.27	0.2712	0.31	0.5938	0.31	0.2471	1.03	0.3376

In order to examine whether one or more varieties have a different variety by year interaction than the main part of the varieties, the actual contribution to the interaction was calculated for each variety and compared to the average contribution from all varieties. This was done using an F -value, F_4 .

The F_4 values for each variety in the analysis are shown in Figure 2. The largest F_4 -value, 2.78, was found for variety S (the approximate threshold for the F_4 -values to be significant is 4.98). This value was not significantly larger than 1. The F_4 -value is calculated as the quotients between the each varieties contribution to the overall interaction and the average interaction over all varieties. As the contribution for the actual variety enters in both the numerator and denominator of the F_4 -value this test is approximate.

It is also seen that some varieties, e.g. I, K, N, X, 1, 2, 3 and 5 have a very low interaction with year indicating that their response to year is very close to the mean reaction for all varieties.

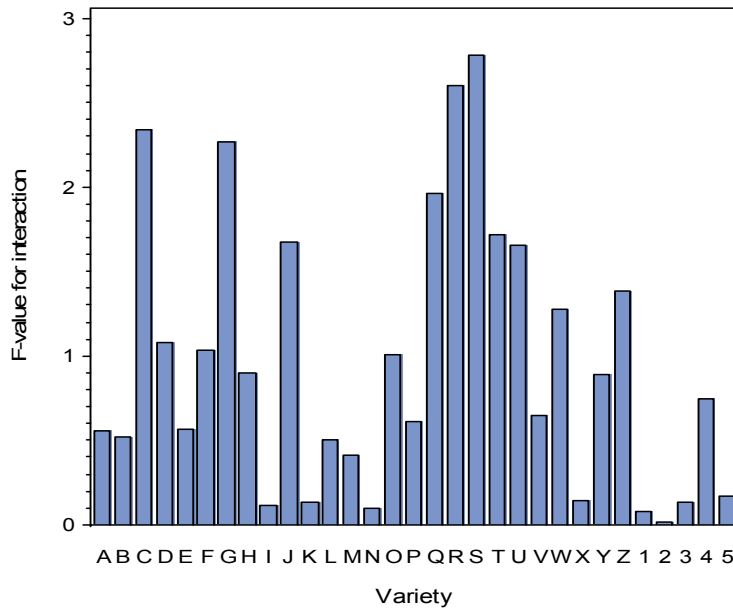


Figure 1. F_4 -values for each variety's contribution to the interaction for ordinal characteristic growth habit

II. NOMINAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:

- The characteristic is nominal and recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The expected number of plants for each combination of variety and note should be at least one – and for most of the combinations the number should be at least 5.

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. The combined over-years method for nominal characteristics takes other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years. The method is based on a generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called “generalized linear mixed models”. A detailed description of the method – using other examples of data may be found in Agresti (2002) or Kristensen (2011).

The combined over-years method for nominal characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table (see the example)
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Example

No example shown at present.

III. BINOMIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:

- The characteristic is recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually) using a scale with only 2 levels (such as present/absent or similar)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The expected number of plants for each combination of variety and note should be at least one – and for most of the combinations the number should be at least 5.

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. The combined over-years method for binomial characteristics take other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years.

The method is based on generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called “generalized linear mixed models”.

The combined over-years method for binomial characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Example

The proportion of plants with cyanid glucoside (Characteristic 4 in TG/38/7) was measured for some white clover varieties in Northern Ireland in each of 3 years. The variable was recorded as absent or present. In this example only 20 varieties are used and variety 1 and 2 are considered as candidates, while the remaining varieties are considered as references. The data are shown in Table 7.

Table 4. Number of plants without and with cyanid glucoside in 20 white clover varieties in each of 3 years

Variety	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present
1	31	29	22	38	17	43
2	40	20	42	18	41	19
3	50	10	52	8	55	5
4	42	18	40	20	34	26
5	37	23	42	18	37	23
6	51	9	49	11	52	8
7	30	30	25	35	26	34
8	37	23	31	29	30	30
9	27	33	27	33	25	35
10	48	12	47	13	43	17
11	40	20	40	20	32	28
12	18	42	13	47	12	48
13	10	50	12	48	5	55
14	41	19	46	14	45	15
15	58	2	55	5	58	2
16	7	53	10	50	11	49
17	25	35	22	38	20	40
18	48	12	54	6	52	8
19	20	40	20	40	23	37
20	57	3	54	6	55	5

The analysis showed that for these data there was no interaction between variety and year, which means that the variance component for year by variety was estimated to be zero and thus all variation in the data could be explained by sampling variation. The F-test for comparing the varieties was 36.67 with a P-value less than 0.01%, so there were clearly some differences among the varieties.

More specifically the analysis showed that candidate variety 1 was significantly different from 12 of the reference varieties at the 1% level (Table 8) whereas candidate variety 2 was significantly different from 11 of the reference varieties. Also the two candidate varieties were significantly different at the 1% level (Table 8).

As there was no interaction between variety and year, all F_3 and F_4 values are estimated to be zero for these data. Therefore, they are not shown here.

Table 5. Estimated percent of plants with cyanid glucoside for each variety and comparison of each variety with the candidate varieties 1 and 2 using F-tests

Variety	Estimated percent	Candidate 1		Candidate 2	
		F	P	F	P
1	61.1			30.45	<.0001
2	31.6	30.45	<.0001		
3	12.7	77.01	<.0001	17.58	0.0002
4	35.5	23.05	<.0001	0.61	0.4395
5	35.5	23.05	<.0001	0.61	0.4395
6	15.5	70.09	<.0001	12.54	0.0011
7	55.0	1.38	0.2473	19.58	<.0001
8	45.5	8.69	0.0054	7.27	0.0104
9	56.1	0.93	0.3414	21.39	<.0001
10	23.3	49.59	<.0001	3.12	0.0853
11	37.8	19.27	<.0001	1.48	0.2309
12	76.1	9.28	0.0042	66.21	<.0001
13	85.0	24.61	<.0001	90.68	<.0001
14	26.6	41.43	<.0001	1.09	0.3034
15	5.0	82.34	<.0001	33.21	<.0001
16	84.5	23.44	<.0001	89.25	<.0001
17	62.8	0.11	0.7463	33.81	<.0001
18	14.4	72.95	<.0001	14.45	0.0005
19	65.0	0.58	0.4492	38.53	<.0001
20	7.8	84.99	<.0001	28.18	<.0001

IV. COMMON TO ALL THREE METHODS

Software

The procedure *GLIMMIX* of SAS (SAS Institute Inc., 2010) can be used to estimate the parameters of the generalised linear mixed model, and the data-step facilities (and/or the procedure *IML*) of the same package can be used for the remaining calculations. However, similar facilities may be found in other statistical packages, thus the *glmer()* function of the package *lme4* of R can do the binomial analysis provided that there are more than one observation for each combination of variety and year.

Final note

In the case where there are only two notes, the methods for nominal and ordinal scaled characteristics both become identical as they reduce to the same binomial method: meaning that both methods can be applied to binomially distributed data.

References and literature

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