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JOINT ANALYSIS OF TRIPLE TEST CROSSES OF A SINGLE POPULATION WITH ASSOCIATED AND DISPERSED INBRED TESTERS

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SUMMARY

If two pairs of pure breeding lines and their respective F_1 's are used as two sets of testers in triple test cross investigations of the same population, the data can be subjected to a combined orthogonal analysis of variance. Where one pair of pure breeding testers is relatively dispersed (usually the parents whose cross produced the population) and the other pair is relatively associated (usually extreme selections from the population), the orthogonal comparisons yield estimates of the additive genetic, dominance and epistatic components of variation and information about the genetical constitution of the testers.

The theoretical expectations for the six principal orthogonal comparisons of the combined analysis are presented for the simple case which assumes no non-allelic interaction and a linkage equilibrium, and for more complex situations where one or both of these assumptions is relaxed. The combined analysis of two triple test crosses on 60 F_{∞} families derived from the cross of V2 and V12 of Nicotiana rustica, using V2, V12 and their F_1 as one set of testers and two extreme F_{∞} families, D10 and D17 and their F_1 as the other set, confirm earlier analyses of this cross. The estimates of the genetical components are intermediate in value between those of the separate, conventional triple test cross analyses but the standard errors of the dominance components are lower. In addition the combined analyses show that there have been major changes in the distribution of dominant alleles between the two sets of inbred testers as well as changes in the phases of alleles in the testers at loci that contribute to the epistatic variation. These changes are in the direction expected from the origins of the testers and their estimated coefficients of association/dispersion.

1. INTRODUCTION

In a previous paper (Pooni and Jinks, 1983) the consequences of using associated as opposed to dispersed inbred testers $(L_1 \text{ and } L_2)$ in a triple test cross were examined theoretically and experimentally in material from the cross of varieties 2 and 12 of *Nicotiana rustica*. While only one set of inbred testers and their F_1 is required for a triple test cross, in this paper we shall examine the additional information that can be obtained when both relatively dispersed and associated pairs of inbred testers and their F_1 's are used simultaneously to investigate the same population.

2. Theory

With associated (a) and dispersed (d) pairs of inbred testers (L_1 and L_2) and their respective F_1 's (L_3 or L_3 and RL_3 if reciprocals are used) six (or eight with reciprocals) orthogonal comparisons can be made among the *n* groups of six (or eight) families produced by crossing each plant or family

of the n under test with each tester. For the *i*th group these comparisons are:

Without reciprocal F1 testers

Comparison	Dis	spersed	testers		Ass	ociated	l testers	5
	$d\bar{L}_{1i}$	$d\bar{L}_{2i}$	$d\bar{L}_{3i}$	a	\bar{L}_{1i}	$a \overline{L}_{2i}$	aĒ _{3i}	
1	+1	+1	+1	-	⊦1	+1	+1	
2	+1	+1	+1	-	-1	-1	-1	
3	+1	-1		-	⊦1	-1		
4	+1	-1		-	-1	+1		
5	+1	+1	-2	-	⊦1	+1	-2	
6	+1	+1	-2		-1	-1	+2	

With reciprocal F_1 testers

	$d\overline{L}_{1i}$	$d\bar{L}_{2i}$	$d\overline{L}_{3i}$	$dR\bar{L}_{3i}$	аĒ1i	$a \overline{L}_{2i}$	aĹ _{3i}	a $R\bar{L}_{3i}$
1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1
3	+1	-1			+1	-1		
4	+1	-1			-1	+1		
5	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	-1	-1
6	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1
7			+1	-1			+1	-1
8			+1	-1			-1	+1

Leaving aside comparisons 7 and 8 which detect differences between reciprocal F_1 testers ascribable to the usual causes of differences between reciprocal crosses (Mather and Jinks, 1971), comparisons 1, 3 and 5 are the standard ones for the additive genetic, dominance and epistatic components of variation, respectively, summed over the two triple test crosses. The remaining three comparisons, 2, 4 and 6 are the standard ones for the same three genetical components differenced over the two triple test crosses.

The expectations for comparisons 1 to 6 have been obtained for a single pair of loci at which the alleles are associated (AABB and aabb) and dispersed (AAbb and aaBB) in the two sets of inbred testers respectively. The populations under test are the F_2 and F_{∞} generations of a cross between two pure breeding lines in which the alleles are dispersed. Four levels of complexity of the genetical variation are considered:

- 1. No epistasis and linkage equilibrium.
- 2. No epistasis and linkage disequilibrium.
- 3. Epistasis and linkage equilibrium.
- 4. Epistasis and linkage disequilibrium.

As in the previous paper (Pooni and Jinks, 1983) all the expectations have been adjusted to make them directly comparable. The expectations for comparisons 1, 3 and 5 are given in table 1 and those for comparisons 2, 4 and 6 in table 2, for the case where reciprocal F_1 testers (L₃ and RL_3) are available.

Irrespective of whether we assume the simplicity of model 1 or allow for the greater complexities of models 2, 3 and 4, all of the additive genetic contribution to the variance goes into comparison 1 and none into comparison 2. In the presence of epistasis (models 3 and 4), however, the

Comparison	Model Linkage disequilibrium	Epistasis	${ m F}_2$	ъ 8	
1. Additive genetic	1. No	No	$d_a^2 + d_b^2$	$d_a^2 + d_b^2$	
$(d\bar{L}_{1i} + d\bar{L}_{2i} + d\bar{L}_{3i} + dR\bar{L}_{3i})$	2. Yes	No	$d_a^2 + d_b^2 - 2(1-2p)d_ad_b$	$d_a^2 + d_b^2 - \frac{2(1-2p)}{1+2p} d_a d_b$	
$+(\mathbf{a}\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_{1i}+\mathbf{a}\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_{2i}+\mathbf{a}\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_{3i}+\mathbf{a}\mathbf{R}\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_{3i})$	3. No	Yes	$d_a^2 + d_b^2 + \frac{1}{4}(\frac{1}{2}i_{ab}^2 + j_{ab}^2 + j_{ba}^2) + (d_a j_{ab} + d_b j_{ba})$	$d_{a}^{2} + d_{b}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}(i_{ab}^{2} + j_{ab}^{2} + j_{ba}^{2}) + (d_{ajab} + d_{bjba})$	•
	4. Yes	Yes	$da^2 + db^2 - 2(1 - 2p)d_ad_b$	$d_a^2 + d_b^2 - \frac{2(1-2p)}{1+2n}d_ad_b + \frac{2p}{(1+2n)^2}l_{ab}^2$	
			$\begin{array}{l} +\frac{1}{2}(7-16p+34p^2-40p^3+24p^4)i_{ab}^2+\frac{1}{4}(i_{ab}^2+i_{ba}^2)\\ +\frac{1}{32}p^2(2-8p+7p^2+4p^3-4p^4)i_{ab}^2+(d_{aj}i_{ab}+d_{bjba})\\ -2(1-2p)(d_{aj}i_{ab}+d_{bj}i_{ab})-\frac{1}{2}(1-2p)j_{ab}j_{ba}\\ -\frac{1}{15}(4-16p+25p^2-30p^3+28p^4-8p^5)i_{ab}l_{ab}\end{array}$	$ + \frac{1}{4} (i_{ab}^{2} + i_{ba}^{2}) + \frac{1}{4} (i_{ab}^{2} + i_{ba}^{2}) + (d_{aj}a_{b} + d_{bj}b_{a}) - \frac{(1-2p)}{1+2p} (d_{aj}b_{a} + d_{bj}a_{b}) + \frac{(1-2p)}{2(1+2p)} i_{ab}b_{a} + \frac{(1-2p)}{2(1+2p)} i_{a}b_{a} + \frac{(1-2p)}{2($	
3. Dominance $(d\bar{L}_{1i} - d\bar{L}_{2i}) + (a\bar{L}_{1i} - a\bar{L}_{2i})$	1. No	No	h ²	h_a^2	
	2. Yes 3. No 4. Yes	No Yes Yes	$ \begin{aligned} h_{a}^{2} & \\ h_{a}^{2} + \frac{1}{4} (i_{a}^{2} b + \frac{1}{2} i_{b}^{2} a + l_{a}^{2} b) + h_{a} l_{ab} \\ h_{a}^{2} + \frac{1}{4} i_{ab}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} p (2 - 5p + 4p^{2}) i_{ba}^{2} + \frac{1}{4} l_{ab}^{2} \\ h_{a}^{2} + \frac{1}{4} i_{ab}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} p (2 - 5p + 4p^{2}) i_{ba}^{2} l_{ab} \\ + (1 - 2p) h_{a} i_{ab} + h_{a} l_{ab} + \frac{1}{2} (1 - 2p) i_{ab} l_{ab} \end{aligned} $	$ \begin{aligned} & h_a^2 \\ & h_a^2 + \frac{1}{4}(i_{ab}^2 + j_{ba}^2 + l_{ab}^2) + h_a l_{ab} \\ & h_a^2 + \frac{1}{4}(i_{ab}^2 + l_{ab}^2) + \frac{2p}{(1+2p)^2} i_{ba}^2 + \frac{(1-2p)}{1+2p} h_a l_{ab} \\ & + h_a l_{ab} + \frac{(1-2p)}{4(1+2p)} i_{ab} l_{ab} \end{aligned} $	•
5. Epistasis ($d\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{3i} - dR\tilde{L}_{3i}$) $+ (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} - a\tilde{L}_{3i} - aR\tilde{L}_{3i}$)	1. No 2. Yes 3. No 4. Yes	No No Yes Yes	0000	0000	1

Expectations for the genetical components of variation (orthogonal comparisons 1. 3 and 5) for a combined analysis of two triple test crosses on the same population

TABLE 1

TRIPLE TEST CROSSES

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Expectations for the genetical co	mponents of variati (F ₂ and	on (orthogo F_{∞}) for four	Expectations for the genetical components of variation (orthogonal comparisons 2, 4 and 6) for a combined analysis of two triple test crosses on the same population $(F_2 \text{ and } F_\infty)$ for four models of increasing complexity all adjusted as in table 1		514
Comparison	Model Linkage disequilibrium	Epistasis	${ m F}_2$	ъ.	
2. Additive genetic $(d\overline{L}_{1i} + d\overline{L}_{2i} + d\overline{L}_{3i} + dR\overline{L}_{3i})$ $-(a\overline{L}_{1i} + a\overline{L}_{2i} + a\overline{L}_{3i} + aR\overline{L}_{3i})$	1. No 2. Yes 3. No 4. Yes	No Yes Yes	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 1_{ab}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}j_{ab}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}j_{ba}^{2}+\frac{1}{4}l_{b}^{2}\\ 16(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}p-\frac{1}{8}p^{2}+\frac{1}{4}p^{3})^{2}i_{ab}^{2}\\ +\frac{1}{4}p^{2}(2-8p+7p^{2}+4p^{3}-4p^{4})i_{ab}^{2}\\ +2(1-p)^{2}(j_{ab}^{2}+j_{ba}^{2})\\ +2(1-p)^{2}(j_{ab}^{2}+j_{ba}^{2})\\ +\frac{1}{4}p(32-158p+344p^{2}-409p^{3}+260p^{4}-68p^{5})\\ \times l_{ab}^{2}-4(1-2p)j_{ab}j_{ba}\\ -\frac{1}{2}p^{2}(6-36p+77p^{2}-68p^{3}+20p^{4})j_{ab}l_{ab}\\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 0\\ 1\\ a_{ab}^{2}+j_{ab}^{2}+j_{ba}^{2}+l_{ab}^{2}\\ 4(1-p)^{2}t_{ab}^{2}+4(1-p)^{2}(j_{ab}^{2}+j_{ba}^{2}+l_{ab}^{2})\\ -4(1-2p)(1-p)^{2}j_{ab}j_{ba}\\ 1+2p\end{array}$	II. J. FOONT AT
4. Dominance ($d\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}$) – ($a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}$)	1. No 2. Yes 3. No 4. Yes	No Yes Yes	$ \begin{aligned} & h_{5}^{2} \\ & h_{5}^{2} \\ & h_{2}^{2} \\ & h_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}(i_{ab}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}i_{ab}^{2} + 1_{ab}^{2}) + h_{b} l_{ab} \\ & h_{2}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}i_{ab}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}p(2-5p+4p^{2})j_{ab}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}l_{ab}^{2} \\ & +(1-2p)h_{b}i_{ab} \\ & h_{b} l_{ab} + \frac{1}{2}(1-2p)i_{ab} l_{ab} \end{aligned} $	$ \begin{aligned} h_{b}^{2} \\ h_{b}^{2} \\ h_{b}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}(i_{a}^{2} + j_{a}^{2}) + 1_{ab}^{2}) + h_{b} 1_{ab} \\ h_{b}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}(i_{a}^{2} + l_{ab}^{2}) + \frac{2p}{(1+2p)^{2}} j_{a}^{2} + h_{b} l_{ab} \\ h_{b}^{2} + \frac{1}{(1-2p)} h_{b} i_{ab} + \frac{(1-2p)}{4(1+2p)} i_{ab} l_{ab}^{2} \end{aligned} $	ID 1. C. JIIMO
6. Epistasis (d \tilde{L}_{1i} + d \tilde{L}_{2i} - d \tilde{L}_{3i} - d $R\tilde{L}_{3i}$) -($\tilde{a}\tilde{L}_{1i}$ + $\tilde{a}\tilde{L}_{2i}$ - $\tilde{a}\tilde{L}_{3i}$ - $\tilde{a}R\tilde{L}_{3i}$)	1. No 2. Yes 3. No 4. Yes	No No Yes Yes	$0 \\ 1 \\ \frac{1}{i_{ab}^{ab} + \frac{1}{2}(j_{ab}^{2} + j_{ba}^{2}) + \frac{1}{4}l_{ab}^{2}} \\ 4p^{2}i_{ab}^{2} + 2p^{2}(j_{ab}^{2} + j_{ba}^{2}) \\ + 2p^{3}(6-21p+29p^{2}-16p^{3}+4p^{4})l_{ab}^{2} \\ -4p^{2}(1-2p)j_{ab}j_{ba}$	$0 \\ 0 \\ i_{ab}^{2} + j_{ab}^{2} + j_{ba}^{2} + l_{ab}^{2} + l_{ab}^{2} \\ 4p^{2}i_{ab}^{2} + 4p^{2}(j_{ab}^{2} + j_{ba}^{2} + l_{ab}^{2}) \\ - \frac{8p^{2}(1-2p)}{1+2p} j_{ab}j_{ba}$	

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Ċ	1
μ	1
-	j
β	1
_	Ç

epistatic bias on the additive genetic component appears partly in comparison 1 and partly in comparison 2. As a consequence comparison 2 for models 3 and 4 measures purely epistatic variation and, therefore, provides an additional test for its presence.

In contrast, the dominance contribution to the variance is split between comparisons 3 and 4 for all four models. The dominance contribution of loci whose alleles are distributed in the same way between the L_1 and L_2 testers in both the associated and dispersed sets, that is, L_1 is AA and L_2 is aa for both sets of testers, appears in comparison 3. The contribution of loci whose alleles are distributed in the opposite way between the L_1 and L_2 testers in the associated and dispersed sets, that is L_1 is BB and L_2 is bb in one set and L_1 is bb and L_2 is BB in the other set, appears in comparison 4. The epistatic bias on the dominance component in models 3 and 4 is also split between comparisons 3 and 4 on the same basis.

The epistatic comparisons, 5 and 6, differ yet again in that comparison 5 has an expectation of zero for all four models; for models 1 and 2 because there is no epistasis and for models 3 and 4 because the epistatic contributions of the associated and dispersed sets of testers cancel out. For comparison 6 there is an epistatic contribution for models 3 and 4. It should be noted that comparisons 2 and 6 for model 3 have exactly the same expectation (table 2).

Extension of these expectations to many pairs of loci introduces no new principles but modifies points of detail. In the straightforward case where there is complete dispersion in the dispersed testers $(r_d = 0)$ and complete association in the associated testers $(r_d = 1)$, the increasing allele at loci responsible for half of the additive genetic effects in the L_1 tester of the associated pair will have been substituted for the decreasing allele in the L_1 tester of the dispersed pair. Hence, half the alleles in the L_1 tester of the associated and dispersed pairs will be the same and half different. The dominance contribution would, therefore, be expected to be divided approximately equally between comparisons 3 and 4. We should note, however, that differences in the distribution of alleles between the L_1 and L_2 testers of the associated and dispersed pairs do not necessarily contribute to differences in the degree of association/dispersion (r_d) . For example, if at the A, a and B, b loci L_1 is AAbb and L_2 aaBB in the dispersed pair and L_1 is a BB and L_2 AAbb in the associated pair these loci will not contribute to any change in r_d but their dominance contributions will be made exclusively to comparison 4. There is, therefore, no direct relationship between the relative values of r_d in the associated and dispersed pairs of testers and the relative contributions of the dominance component to comparisons 3 and 4.

For many pairs of interacting gene loci comparison 5 for models 3 and 4 is no longer necessarily zero. Thus it will be zero only if every pair of interacting genes which is dispersed in one pair of L_1 and L_2 testers is associated in the other pair and vice versa. Any pair of genes which is in the same phase, associated or dispersed, in both pairs of testers will contribute to comparison 5 but not to comparison 6, while any pair of genes, which is in the opposite phase will contribute to comparison 6 but not to comparison 6 but not to comparison 6 but not to comparison 5.

In general the dispersed set of testers will be the parents and F_1 of the cross from which the F_2 and F_{∞} populations under test will have been

derived while the associated set will be the extreme phenotypes of the F_{∞} and their F_1 cross. This guarantees that the dispersed testers will differ for the same alleles at the same loci as are segregating in the population under test which is a requirement for the standard analysis and interpretation of triple test crosses. While the choice of extreme phenotypes from the F_{∞} maximises the probability of this requirement being met in the associated testers, it does not guarantee it and by chance the L_1 and L_2 testers may have fixed the same allele at some of the loci with consequences that are well known (Virk and Jinks, 1977; Jinks and Virk, 1977). The effect of the resulting inadequacy of the testers on the various comparisons is, however, relatively small because the proportion of fixed loci is itself usually small and while they are fixed in the testers they are still segregating in the population under test.

2. MATERIAL

The material is identical to that described by Pooni and Jinks (1983) except that six characters *viz*, three heights taken 2, 4 and 6 weeks after transplanting into the field (H_1 , H_2 and H_3), height at flowering time (HFT) and length and width of the largest leaf (LL and LW), in addition to final height (FH) and flowering time (FT), will be analysed to increase the range of combinations of r_d values in the dispersed and associated sets of testers. The r_d values of the V2 and V12 and D10 and D17 testers used in the present experiment have been given by Pooni and Jinks (1981) and are repeated below for convenience.

Testers	H_1	H_2	H ₃	\mathbf{FT}	HFT	LL	LW	FH
V2 and V12	0.45	0.82	0.95	0·59	0.21	0.13	0.25	0.35
D10 and D17	0.82	0·74	0.35	0.85	0.82	0.84	0 ·96	0 ·94

The proportions of decreasing and increasing alleles in the higher scoring (L_1) tester and therefore of decreasing and increasing alleles in the lower scoring (L_2) tester for any character can be obtained from these r_d values as $(1-r_d)/2$ and $(1+r_d)/2$ respectively. For instance for final height these proportions are 0.03 and 0.97 for D17 and 0.97 and 0.03 for D10.

4. Results

The mean squares corresponding with the six orthogonal comparisons and their respective errors for each of the eight characters are given in table 3. With one exception, that is, comparison 6 for LL, all mean squares are significant (P < 0.05). Furthermore, with the exception of comparison 2, the difference comparisons (4 and 6) are the same order of magnitude as the corresponding sum comparisons (3 and 5, respectively).

As expected from previous analyses of derivatives of the cross of varieties 2 and 12 (Pooni and Jinks, 1981; Pooni, Jinks and Jayasekara, 1978) there is significant epistasis for all characters (comparisons 5 and 6, table 3). In general, comparison 5, which is the contribution of interactions at loci whose alleles have retained the same phase (association or dispersion) in the two sets of testers, is of the same order of magnitude as comparison 6, which is the contribution of interactions at loci whose alleles have retained the same order of magnitude as comparison 6, which is the contribution of interactions at loci whose alleles have reversed their phase between the two sets of testers. It is noteworthy that

TABLE 3

Mean squares for the 6 orthogonal comparisons and their respective errors of the combined analyses of two triple test crosses on an F_{∞} population using V2, V12 and solution using V2, V12 and D10, D17 and their F_1 's as two sets of testers

$ \begin{array}{c} \mbox{Additive genetic} \\ \mbox{1.} (d\tilde{\Gamma}_{1i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{3i} + d\tilde{R}_{13}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} + a\tilde{R}\tilde{L}_{3i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{\Gamma}_{1i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} + a\tilde{R}\tilde{L}_{3i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{\Gamma}_{1i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} + a\tilde{R}\tilde{L}_{3i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{\Gamma}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} + d\tilde{\Gamma}_{2i}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{\Gamma}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{R}\tilde{L}_{3i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + a\tilde{L}_{2i}) + (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{3.} (d\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) - (a\tilde{L}_{1i} - a\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (a\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{L}_{1i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} - d\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{L}_{2i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ \mbox{2.} (d\tilde{L}_{2i} + d\tilde{L}_{2i}) \\ $	Comparison	d.f.	H1	H ₂	H ₃	Character FT	HFT	TT	LW	FH
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Additive genetic 1. $(d\overline{L}_{1i} + d\overline{L}_{2i} + d\overline{L}_{3i} + d\overline{R}_{13i}) + (a\overline{L}_{1i} + a\overline{L}_{2i} + a\overline{L}_{3i} + a\overline{R}\overline{L}_{3i})$ 2. $(d\overline{L}_{1i} + d\overline{L}_{2i} + d\overline{L}_{2i} + d\overline{R}_{13i})$	59 59	8-05 0-42	84·39 4.76	520-01 28-54	102-75 5-51	667.02 40·22	29-20 1-31	35-70 1-88	987-42 42·67
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	– (al.1i + al.2i + al.3i + al.Kl.3i) Error	4285	0.25	2.41	14.22	2.21	19-55	0.88	1.10	23.75
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Dominance 3. $(d\overline{L}_{11} - d\overline{L}_{21}) + (a\overline{L}_{11} - a\overline{L}_{21})$	59	0.78	8.73	51.87	13.16	50.37	1.34	2-00	112.50
) 59 0.47 5.91 36.98 4.45 37.25) 59 0.45 4.12 32.63 4.71 36.46	4. $(d\overline{L}_{11}^{-1} - d\overline{L}_{21}^{-1}) - (a\overline{L}_{11}^{-1} - a\overline{L}_{21}^{-1})$ Error	59 2138	0.55 0.21	5·34 2·16	36-37 9-64	5.43 1.48	117-16 14-12	1-39 0-66	2·14 0-82	68-41 14-86
	Epistasis 5. $(d\underline{\Gamma}_{11} + d\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - d\underline{\Gamma}_{31} - dR\underline{\Gamma}_{31}) + (a\underline{\Gamma}_{11} + a\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - a\underline{\Gamma}_{31} - aR\underline{\Gamma}_{31})$ 6. $(d\underline{\Gamma}_{11} + d\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - d\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - dR\underline{\Gamma}_{21}) - (o\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - a\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - a\underline{\Gamma}_{21} - aR\underline{\Gamma}_{21})$	59	0.47	5.91 4.12	36.98 37.63	4.45 4.71	37-25 36.46	1.43 1.05 ^{NS}	1.86	34.45 48.64
0.25 2.41 14.22 2.21 19.55	Error	4285	0.25	2.41	14.22	2.21	19.55	0.88	1.10	23.75

NS = P > 0.05; for rest of the components P is < 0.05.

FT and FH, the two characters of primary concern when the testers D10 and D17 were chosen as extremes, show the highest proportion of contributions from loci where there has been a change of phase (comparison 6 > comparison 5, table 3). A further point of interest is the clear confirmation of the theoretical expectation (tables 1 and 2) that in the presence of epistasis comparisons 2 and 6 would be independent estimates of the same epistatic components of variation.

Comparisons 3 and 4 (table 3) confirm the presence of dominance for all characters. With the exception of HFT, comparison 3, which is the dominance contribution of loci where the same allele is present in the L_1 tester of both sets, is greater than comparison 4, which is the dominance contribution of loci where the alternative alleles are present in the L_1 testers of the two sets. The total dominance contribution of all loci segregating in the population is obtained from the sum of the mean squares from comparisons 3 and 4. Comparison 1 provides the corresponding additive genetic contribution.

The estimates of the additive genetic (D) and dominance (H) components of variation are present in table 4 along with those from the two independent conventional triple test cross analyses. For every character the combined estimate falls between the two independent estimates in magnitude and the combined estimates of H have smaller standard errors.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The theory presented in section 2 and the results of its application to an F_{∞} population in section 4 shows that a combined orthogonal analysis of two triple test crosses can be used to detect and estimate the additive genetic, dominance and epistatic components of variation. The combined analysis is applicable only where each individual or family in the sample drawn from the population is crossed to all six (or eight) testers. It cannot, therefore, be used to compare two different populations by crossing them to the same or different sets of testers. The estimates of the genetical components from the combined analysis are intermediate in value between those from the separate triple test cross analyses (table 4) but the estimates of the dominance components have smaller standard errors.

The additional information the combined analysis provides over and above either of the single triple test crosses relates almost entirely to the properties of the testers. Thus comparisons 3 and 4 tell us about the relative distributions of alleles in the two sets of testers at loci that contribute to the dominance components while comparisons 5 and 6 tell us about the changes in phase of alleles in the testers at the pairs of loci that contribute to the epistatic components. Comparison 2 provides an independent estimate of the epistatic component of comparison 6. The new information that emerges from the analysis of the F_{∞} population confirms the major redistribution of alleles between the V2 and V12, and D10 and D17 pairs of inbred testers that was expected from their different origins and r_d values (section 3).

From the practical point of view the most encouraging result is the robustness of the estimates of D (table 4) which do not differ significantly over the three sources of estimates for any character. This is no more than was expected for FH and FT since D10 and D17 were chosen to be extreme

TRIPLE TEST CROSSES

Estimates of D and H and their standard errors from the combined and separate analyses of two triple test crosses on an F_{∞} population using V2, V12 and D10, D17 and their F_1 's as two sets of testers	H and their standar	d errors from the	combined and sep D17 and their	thined and separate analyses of two trip $D17$ and their F_1 's as two sets of testers	f two triple test cro of testers	sses on an F_∞ po	opulation using V	'2, V12 and D10,
Component	H1	H ₂	H ₃	ET Cha	Character HFT	п	MT.	FH
D (combined) $D(V2 \times V12)$	3.90 ± 0.74 3.78 ± 0.74	40.99 ± 7.77 37.87 ± 7.44	252.90 ± 47.87 277.62 ± 53.90	50.27 ± 9.46 58.13 ± 11.16	323.74 ± 61.40 345.89 ± 67.18	14.60 ± 2.69 14.76 ± 2.89	17.30 ± 3.29 19.38 ± 3.78	481.82 ± 90.90 472.24 ± 91.35
D(D10×D17) H (combined)	$4 \cdot 19 \pm 0 \cdot 82$ $0 \cdot 91 \pm 0 \cdot 18$	46.46 ± 8.97 9.75 ± 1.89	242.51 ± 47.10 68.96 ± 11.68	45.72 ± 8.77 15.63 ± 2.62	322.25 ± 63.04 139.29 ± 23.50	13.98 ± 2.73 1.41 ± 0.36	16.00 ± 3.14 2.50 ± 0.54	510.35 ± 98.31 151.19 ± 24.26
$H(V2 \times V12)$ $H(D10 \times D17)$	0.86 ± 0.22 0.98 ± 0.27	7.68 ± 2.34 11.86 \pm 2.85	74.66 ± 17.24 63.52 ± 15.34		$131 \cdot 10 \pm 28 \cdot 50$ $147 \cdot 48 \pm 33 \cdot 24$	1.32 ± 0.49 1.50 ± 0.51	2.58 ± 0.77 2.42 ± 0.75	209.22 ± 43.65 93.14 ± 23.02

TABLE 4

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combinations for these characters but it is equally true for characters such as H_2 and H_3 for which D10 and D17 are less extreme than V2 and V12.

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