

**VARIABILITY AND ASSOCIATION OF SOME CHARACTERS WITH
YIELD IN SHALLOT (*Allium cepa* var. *Aggregatum* Don.)**

M.Sc THESIS

BY

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March, 2011

Jimma University

**VARIABILITY AND ASSOCIATION OF SOME CHARACTERS WITH
YIELD IN SHALLOT (*Allium cepa* var. *Aggregatum* Don.)**

M.Sc Thesis

**Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies Jimma University, College of
Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the DEGREE OF MASTER
OF SCIENCE IN HORTICULTURE (VEGETABLE SCIENCE)**

By

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VETERINARY MEDICINE

As thesis research advisors we hereby certify that we have read and evaluated the thesis prepared under our direction by **Awale Degewione Shardon**, entitled “**Variability and Association of some Characters with Yield in Shallot (*Allium cepa* var. *Aggregatum* Don.)**.” We recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the thesis requirements.

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DEDICATION

I dedicated this thesis manuscript to my grand father **ASSOWE SHARDON**, who devoted to bring me to this level from my early childhood.

STATEMENT OF THE AUTHOR

First, I declare that this thesis is my bonafide work and that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged. This thesis has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for an advanced M.Sc degree at the Jimma University, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and is deposited at the University Library to be made available to borrowers under the rules of the Library. I solemnly declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma or certificate.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Awale Degewione Shardon was born in October 12, 1977 in Afdem warada, Shinille Zone, Eastern Somali Region, Ethiopia. From 1989 to 1995, he attended Elementary School at Afdem Elementary School. He also attended Junior Secondary and High School between 1996 and 1997, and 2001, respectively, both in Dire Dawa.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conducting of this thesis research from project proposal, field work, and to the final write up of the thesis could have not been fruitful if it were not for a generous assistance of individuals, research center, and institutions.

I am particularly grateful to my major advisor, Dr. Sentayehu Alamerew, for his encouragements and willingness to supervise my research and his valuable comments from early stage of proposing of the research to the final thesis research result write up which helped me to develop interest and background in the field of my study. I am also grateful to my co-advisor, Dr. Getachew Tabor, for his valuable comments on the thesis research all stages from proposal to final thesis result write up. His technical advice was from field work up to accomplishment of the thesis work. So I would like extend my deepest gratitude to them for their continuous technical support and commitment throughout my research.

I am highly indebted to Dr. Kebede W/Tsadik and Horticulture Laboratory staff members, Horticulture Section at Haramaya University, for their dedicated help in mobilizing and providing all the necessary chemicals and facilities that enabled me to accomplish this work successfully.

I am also indebted to Rural Capacity Building Project for funding my research work, and Somali Region Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Research Institute for the opportunity offered to continue my graduate study with my salary and Jimma University, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, for providing excellent teachers to succeed my thesis work. Finally I wish to express my deep appreciation to my wife W/o Ifrah Ali for the affection understanding and patience during the entire study period.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CA	Cluster Analysis
CSA	Central Statistical Authority
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DZARC	Debre-Zeit Agricultural Research Center
GA	Genetic Advance
GCV	Genotypic Coefficient of Variation
GLM	General linear model
H ²	Heritability in broad sense
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resource Institute
K	Selection differential
LSD	Least Significant Difference
m.a.s.l.	Meters above sea level
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
PCA	Principal Component Analysis
PCV	Phenotypic Coefficient of Variation
RCBD	Randomized Complete Block Design
RCBP	Rural Capacity Building Project
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
SoRPARI	Somali Region Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Research Institute
TSC	Total sugar content

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ABSTRACT

Shallot is used to be and indispensable crop used as condiment, cash source, and medicinal plant. Information about genetic variability and knowledge of quantitative characters with yield and among themselves is important for improvement of the crop through breeding; however, there is little information for genetic variability of different shallot accessions in Ethiopia using quantitative and qualitative traits. Forty nine shallot accessions were tested in a 7x7 simple lattice design at Debre-Zeit Agricultural Research Center in 2009/10. The over all objective was to study the extent of genetic variation and association among bulb yield and bulb yield related traits. The accessions differ significantly for most of the characters and relatively wide range of the mean for most of characters indicated the existence of variation among the tested accessions. High phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) and genotypic coefficient variation (GCV) were recorded for leaf diameter and percentage of bulb sprouting. High GCV along with high heritability and genetic advance was obtained from leaf diameter and percentage of bulb sprouting. Bulb yield was positively and significantly associated with plant height, leaf length, leaf sheath length, leaf sheath diameter, bulb length, bulb diameter, bulb dry weight, biological yield per plant, and marketable yield per plant at both phenotypic and genotypic levels. Path-coefficient analysis revealed that bulb dry weight exerted maximum positive direct effect on bulb yield followed by leaf length, leaf sheath diameter, and number of bulb splits per plant. D² analysis showed the 49 shallot accessions grouped into six clusters. This makes the accessions to become moderately divergent. Principal component analysis showed that the first six principal components explained about 76.15% of the total variation. The phenotypic diversity index for qualitative traits were ($H' = 0.58$) for leaf color, ($H' = 0.47$) for foliage attitude, ($H' = 0.36$) for both leaf cross section and bulb skin color each revealed high diversity. Whereas, bulb shape ($H' = 0.07$) showed the lowest diversity. From the result of this study, it could be concluded that BDW and LL can be considered for selection.

