

Combining disease resistance and postharvest quality traits by early marker-assisted backcrossing in carioca beans

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ABSTRACT: Common bean is a worldwide important crop. The development of varieties with durable resistance to diseases is a major challenge in common bean breeding. The present study aimed at evaluating the phenotypic and molecular selection of anthracnose resistance in a population obtained by assisted backcrossing from IAC Formoso (resistant, donor parent) × BRS Pérola (susceptible, recurrent parent). Nine microsatellites (SSRs) and one Sequence Tagged Sites (STS) markers previously linked to ANT resistance were used to genotype this progeny, and the results showed that the selection of the genotypes closest to the donor parent in the BC₁F₁ population decreased the number of backcrossing cycles necessary to obtain advanced isogenic lines, potentiating the use of this tool for early selection of resistant cultivars. A total of 31 % of the BC₁F₁ progeny was selected and backcrossed again. The progeny derived from the second backcross (BC₂F₃) was selected for the Carioca grain ideotype, and 42 % of the genotypes showed high resistance to anthracnose under controlled conditions of infection for races 65 and 81. Superior resistant plants were selected and evaluated under natural conditions of infection to fusarium wilt and angular leaf spot, allowing the selection of two inbred lines with higher resistance to anthracnose, fusarium wilt, angular leaf spot and postharvest quality traits such as yield, 100 seed weight, L value at seed harvest grain darkening and cooking time. The approach outlined in this paper proved to be effective to simultaneously select for disease resistance without losing technological quality aspects of the bean.

Keywords: *Phaseolus vulgaris*, SSRs, marker-assisted selection, genetic resistance, grain darkening

Introduction

Common bean / dry edible bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), together with rice, constitutes a staple food of the Brazilian population, with nutritional and economic importance. It is the most consumed species of the *Phaseolus* genus (Broughton et al., 2003; CONAB, 2019). One of the factors that affect yield in Brazil is the prevalence of bean plant diseases, with more than 45 types. Some of the most widespread diseases that cause extensive damage are the fungal ones that affect the aerial part, such as anthracnose (ANT), angular leaf spot (ALS), and rust (Silva et al., 2007). Another important disease is the fusarium wilt, which is a soil and seed borne disease caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* Schlecht. f. sp. *phaseoli* Kendrick & Snyder (*Fop*, Pereira et al., 2013).

The anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* (Sacc. and Magnus) Briosi and Cavara. is one of the most destructive diseases as it occurs in the three growing seasons (rainy, dry and winter) with reduction in the production and quality of the grain produced (Chiorato et al., 2006). The pathogen is characterized by its wide variability, with more than 182 physiological races identified worldwide (Padder et al., 2017). Anthracnose resistance in common bean is governed by monogenic independent genes identified by the *Co* symbol (Ferreira et al., 2013). Nowadays, there have been found around 25 major ANT resistance genes

belonging to the Andean and Mesoamerican gene pools (Banoo et al., 2020; Vaz Bisneta and Gonçalves-Vidigal, 2020).

However, a strategy for accelerating plant breeding is to introgress quantitative trait loci (QTLs) through marker-assisted backcrossing (MABC), and then, perform a final phenotypic screen to select the best varieties (Ribaut et al., 2010). Previous studies used MABC to develop common bean cultivars with resistance to multiple biotic stress (Alzate-Marin et al., 1999; Boersma et al., 2014; Kelly and Vallejo, 2004; Miklas et al., 2006; Oliveira et al., 2008; Tryphon et al., 2013).

The MABC method has been the most effective strategy employed in common beans to obtain beneficial QTLs from donor parents with shortened time frame in both foreground and background selection (Carneiro et al., 2010; Kelly, 2004; Varshney et al., 2010). Indeed, QTL detection is facilitate in the backcrossed inbred lines (Kaeppeler, 1997) as these loci have a greater probability of being identical by descent, and their interaction with other traits is more sharply detected (Teran et al., 2020). The purpose of this study was to evaluate a bean marker-assisted backcrossing scheme with the emphasis on obtaining advanced inbred carioca lines resistant to ANT, ALS and *Fop* diseases and portraying technological quality traits through an early generation MABC approach.

Materials and Methods

Plant material and breeding approach

In order to obtain a plant resistant to ANT, the cultivar IAC Formoso (donor parent) was crossed with the cultivar BRS Pérola (recurrent parent). The IAC Formoso parent originated from the Gen 96A28P4-1-1-1-1 × CNFC9484 cross, within the Mesoamerican gene pool. One of its important agronomic characteristics is resistance to some bean diseases, such as anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* (Carbonell et al., 2010a). The BRS Pérola cultivar resulted from a pure-line selection in the Aporé cultivar (Carioca / México 168 // Carioca / BAT 76). It has a light beige seed coat with light streaks and high yield potential. However, it is susceptible to diseases such as ANT (Melo et al., 2017).

The crosses were carried out in a greenhouse in the early morning due to milder temperatures and higher relative humidity. IAC Formoso was used as a female parent and BRS Pérola as a male parent, and the hybridization procedure began when the plants of IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola entered the R5 (appearance of flower buds) and R6 (opening of the first flower) reproductive phases, respectively.

The F_1 seeds obtained from crossing ♀ IAC Formoso × ♂ BRS Pérola were used for backcrossing with the recurrent parent BRS Pérola in the manner previously described. The progenies obtained from the first backcross (BC_1F_1) were evaluated for the presence of resistance alleles of the donor parent. The genotypes selected were backcrossed again, giving rise to the BC_2F_1 progeny, which was self-pollinated. To meet the commercial requirements of the Brazilian market for the carioca commercial grain type, the BC_2F_2 progenies were selected for absence of yellow hilum, standard carioca color (cream-colored seed coat with brown streaks), sieve size 12, and short oblong/reniform grain shape (Silva et al., 2016). The selected families were multiplied in the field, giving rise to the BC_2F_3 progeny, which was evaluated for resistance to ANT the V3 phenological stage, under controlled environmental conditions greenhouse.

The resistant genotypes were sown in an experimental field for evaluation of resistance to infection from *P. griseola* under natural conditions and for visual selection regarding the appearance of each BC_2F_3 line. Four resistant plants were selected within each family for evaluation the V3 stage in the field, considering plants with desirable seed size and growth habit determined. Seeds from selected plants were sown once more in a field infested with *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *phaseoli*, the causal agent of Fusarium wilt. After harvest, the selected BC_2F_3 constituted 5 inbred lines, and they participated in a competitive trial along with commercial controls and the recurrent parent (Figure 1).

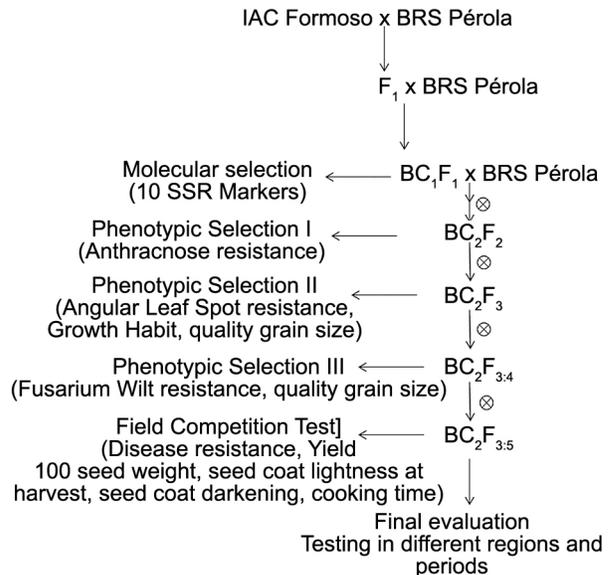


Figure 1 – Schematic representation of the stages of marker-assisted backcrossing selection aiming at anthracnose resistance and other important agronomic traits such as resistance to fusarium wilt and angular leaf spot, yield, 100 seed weight, value at seed harvest (L), grain darkening and cooking time.

DNA extraction, genotyping, and marker-assisted selection

For the modified MABC approach, the first three-leaflet leaf of each BC_1F_1 plant was collected, frozen in liquid nitrogen, macerated, and used for extraction of total DNA. Approximately 50 mg of macerated leaves were used for CTAB extraction according to the protocol proposed by CIMMYT (2005). After extraction, DNA was quantified and diluted to 10 ng μL^{-1} .

A total of 10 microsatellites (Single Sequence Repeats, SSRs) previously associated with ANT resistance QTL were used for selection of the BC_1F_1 progeny. These markers were characterized for polymorphism between the parents (Table 1). The selected SSRs and STS were associated with 6 ANT resistance QTL (Oblessuc et al., 2014). The g2303 marker was previously associated with the *Co-10* (renamed *Co-3'*) and *Phg-ON* (renamed *Phg-3*) genes of the Ouro Negro cultivar (Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2013).

PCR amplifications were performed in a BioRad thermocycler (My Cycler) with a final volume of 15 μL [2 μL of primer - forward and reverse, 2.5 μL of Milli-Q water, 3 μL of diluted DNA (30 ng), 7.5 μL of Master Mix]. Reaction conditions were the same as described in the previous articles (Campos et al., 2011; Gaitán-Solís et al., 2002; Hanai et al., 2007; McConnell et al., 2010; Oblessuc et al., 2014). The quality of the amplifications was confirmed on a 3 % agarose gel. The amplification products were separated by capillary electrophoresis using a 96-capillary

Table 1 – Microsatellite (SSR) and Sequence Tagged Site (STS) molecular markers associated with anthracnose resistance loci in previous studies (Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2013; Oblessuc et al., 2014).

Marker	Type	Linkage Group	QTLs	Reference
BMd7	SSR	2	ANT2.2 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
DROUG	SSR	2	ANT2.2 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
SSR-IAC245	SSR	4	ANT4.1 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
g2303	STS	4	Co-3 ^d /Phg-3	Gonçalves-Vidigal et al. (2013)
PVM40	SSR	7	ANT7.1 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
BM210	SSR	7	ANT7.3 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
BM185	SSR	7	ANT7.3 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
SSR-IAC262	SSR	7	ANT7.3 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
BM165	SSR	8	ANT8.1 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)
SSR-IAC143	SSR	11	ANT11.1 ^{uc}	Oblessuc et al. (2014)

Automated CE System, using the DNF-905 double-stranded DNA Reagent Kit. For this analysis, 5 µL of each amplification product was diluted in 19 µL of buffer and placed in 96-well microplates.

The genotype matrix was converted into a numerical GenAlEx format in which the allele of each genotype was compared to parental alleles, with the allele of the resistant parent (IAC Formoso) represented by the number 1 and the susceptible parent (BRS Pérola) by the number 2. As the species is diploid, the allele numbers were considered twice, both for homozygous (11 or 22) and for heterozygous (12). First, the genetic distance of Nei (1978) was estimated by the POPPR package (Kamvar et al., 2015), and then, the genotypes were clustered by neighbor-joining analysis. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was also performed by the ADE 4 package (Dray et al., 2007), and were used to better explore the variability of the inbred lines using a multivariate analysis approach. The genes from the donor parent in the BC₁F₁ progeny for the resistance loci under evaluation was determined by the total number of alleles of the IAC Formoso parent identified in each one, including SSRs and STS in homozygosity and heterozygosity.

The last step consisted of selection of the genotypes to be backcrossed, which were discriminated and grouped by Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components (DAPC) proposed by Jombart et al. (2010) and implemented in the ADEGENET v2.1.1 package (Jombart et al., 2011), which is considered free of Hardy-Weinberg and linkage equilibrium. DAPC analysis consists of the transformation of genotypic data by the PCA into components that better explain the genetic variance, and they are used for linear Discriminant Analysis (DA). Therefore, the genetic variance within the group is minimized and between groups is maximized (Jombart et al., 2010). The number of groups required for clustering was

two, one group for the resistant parent and another for the susceptible parent. Due to the high heterosis expected for the BC₁F₁ generation and the recovery of the recurrent parental genome, all genotypes with a participation coefficient greater than 10 % for the resistant group were selected.

Evaluation and selection for anthracnose resistance

After the prior molecular selection with microsatellites based on the donor parent, the second backcross was performed, followed by self-pollination to obtain a larger number of individuals in the population aiming at gain from selection. Thus, BC₂F₂ genotypes were obtained, which were evaluated for the severity of resistance to ANT in an experiment with artificial inoculation, with IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola as resistant and susceptible controls, respectively.

A randomized block experimental design (RBD) was used, with three replications. Each block was composed of two plots of the same genotype, each plot consisting of a pot with two plants. Twenty seeds of each genotype were pre-germinated on germination paper (Germitest), previously moistened with distilled water, and placed in a BOD incubator for germination at 24 °C for three days. Subsequently, under greenhouse conditions, the seeds with radicle emergence were transplanted in plastic pots (11 × 8 × 9 cm) containing plant substrate, and they were irrigated once a day. When 50 % of the plants showed complete expansion of the first three-leaflet leaf, marking the beginning of the V3 phenological stage, they were placed in an inoculation chamber, where they remained under controlled temperature (21 °C), humidity (95-100 %) and photoperiod (12/12) conditions, ideal for development of the pathogen (Pastor-Corrales et al., 1995).

For inoculation, the monospore isolate previously characterized as physiological race 65 was used, and to obtain conidia for inoculation, the fungus was cultivated in tubes with pods to stimulate sporulation of the colonies and obtain more conidia at a concentration of 1.2 × 10⁶ conidia mL⁻¹ for inoculation (Pastor-Corrales et al., 1995).

Plants were inoculated by manual spraying with an air compressor (De Vilbiss) on both the adaxial and abaxial surfaces of each plant. Evaluation of disease severity occurred 10 days after inoculation and was performed using a scoring scale from 1 to 9, where 1 represents no visible symptoms (i.e., immune) and 9 represents severely diseased (Pastor-Corrales et al., 1995).

The final score for each genotype was comprised by the arithmetic mean of the individual evaluation in each block; heritability in the broad sense and the analysis of variance were performed by the RBio program (Bhering, 2017).

Field evaluation and selection for angular leaf spot resistance and agronomic traits of interest

The genotypes considered to be resistant to anthracnose (score < 3) constituted the BC₂F₃ progeny, which were sown in a field infested with the *P. griseola* pathogen that causes angular leaf spot, to assess resistance under natural conditions of infection. A randomized block design was used with 4 replications. The plot consisted of 10 plants sown in a 1-m row, with 0.5 m spacing between rows. The AND 277 and IAC Milênio cultivars were included as resistant and susceptible controls, respectively, between treatments. To increase the degree of infection in the experiment, artificial inoculation was performed using a mixture of *P. griseola* isolates at a concentration of 2×10^4 conidia mL⁻¹, 30 days after sowing (Van-Schoonhoven and Pastor-Corrales, 1987), where plants with infection scores from 1 to 3 were considered resistant, from 4 to 6 moderately resistant, and from 7 to 9 susceptible. The final score of each genotype was comprised by the arithmetic mean of the 6 plants evaluated in each plot.

Individual plants were selected among the plots considered as resistant based on agronomic performance, considering determined (type I) growth habit, number of pods, pod size, first pod height, stem diameter, and resistance to other diseases, constituting the BC₂F_{3:4}.

Field evaluation and selection for resistance to Fusarium wilt

The selected lines of the BC₂F_{3:4} progeny was planted in the field with natural infestation of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *phaseoli* (*Fop*) causing Fusarium wilt, the field evaluation was conducted in an area with a history of occurrence of Fusarium wilt that is routinely used to test genotypes for the reaction to *Fop*. It was used disease severity rating with a scoring scale adapted from Pastor Corrales and Abawi (1987), ranging from 1 to 9: 1 = no symptoms; 3 = light vascular discoloration on one side of the stem and symptoms of chlorosis, wilt and necrosis restricted to the first leaves of the plant; 5 = traces of intermediate vascular discoloration throughout the length of the stem and symptoms of chlorosis, wilt and necrosis in the leaves below the pointer; 7 = dark vascular discoloration throughout the length of the stem and severe symptoms of wilt and necrosis generalized in the aerial part and 9 = dead plant. The plants with scores 1.0 to 3.0 were classified as resistant; from 3.1 to 6.0 as intermediate and from 6.1 to 9.0 as susceptible (Pastor Corrales and Abawi, 1987).

After harvest, the selected BC₂F_{3:5} lines were included in a competitive trial between commercial and parental controls to assess the success of backcrosses in obtaining lines superior to the recurrent parent, as well as to compare agronomic performance in relation to other commercial cultivars.

Competitive trials, grain quality traits, and anthracnose resistance

The experiment was carried out during the dry season in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil (22°54' S, 47°03' W, altitude of 854 m) in 2019. A randomized block design was adopted, with 3 replications. Each plot was composed of 4 m rows, with 10 plants in each row. In addition to the selected lines, the IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola cultivars were sown as control cultivars. The crop treatments were in conformity with bean's requirements; however, fungicide and acaricide were not used.

The length of the cycle, plant size, plot appearance, and disease incidence were evaluated during the experiment. At harvest, only the central rows of each plot were considered, with evaluation of the following traits: yield (kg ha⁻¹), 100 seed weight (g), L value at seed harvest, grain darkening, cooking time, and anthracnose resistance.

The cooking analysis was performed following the methodology proposed by Proctor and Watts (1987), with adaptations. Approximately 30 g of whole uniform seeds were sampled, which were soaked in distilled water for 16 h, at room temperature. Of these, 25 beans were chosen at random and placed in the Mattson Cooker.

The assessment of lightness (L) of the seed coat was performed with a chroma meter (model CR-10). One hundred beans from each plot were randomly sampled and used to read L after harvest. They were then stored in transparent plastic bags and left on shelves under natural light (fluorescent) for 12-h photoperiod. The positions of the seeds were changed weekly through side inversion, aiming at complete exposure of the grain to light, and the plastic bags were randomized again under the shelf. The second luminosity reading was performed after 30 days of storage.

Finally, as all cultivars recommended by the bean breeding program of the Agronomic Institute (IAC) must be resistant to ANT, the resistance of the selected lines was confirmed by inoculation with a mixture of the *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* isolates, corresponding to physiological races 65 and 81. Survey studies in Brazilian bean producing regions have been carried out and races 65, 73, 81 and 89 have been the most frequent (Ferreira et al., 2008; Mahuku and Riascos, 2004; Pinto et al., 2012; Ribeiro et al., 2016; Silva et al., 2007). Among these, race 65, has been reported as a stable race and widely distributed in most producing regions. Inoculation and evaluation followed the same steps described above in 2.3.

Results

Marker-assisted selection

The relationship between the remaining 29 genotypes and the parental distance can be visualized through the PCA scatter plot and the dendrogram (Figure 2).

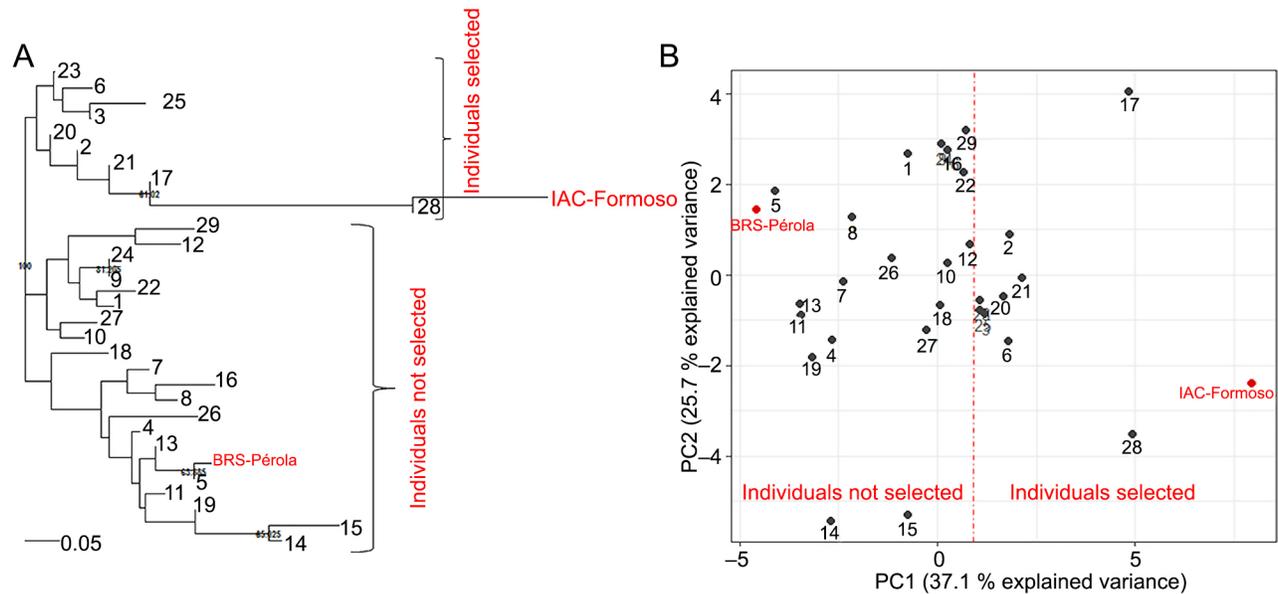


Figure 2 – Neighbor-joining dendrogram from Nei's (1978) genetic distance estimates (A), and Principal Component Analysis (PCA) (B) calculated for the BC₁F₁ progeny and the parents from 10 molecular markers. Nine individuals were selected based on the donor parent alleles (inside the red outline: 2, 3, 6, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, and 28).

The average heterosis observed was 47 % for the BC₁F₁ lines for the 9 SSRs and 1 STS, with genotypes 3, 20, 21, and 23 being the most heterozygous (> 75 %). The average percentage of genome introgression from the donor parent for the ANT resistance loci was 33.5 %, indicating success in the crosses.

The PCA clearly separated the parents in the 1st component, which explained 34.1 % of the genetic variance, while 25.7 % of the variance was explained by 2nd component. As expected, the progeny was clustered closer to the recurrent parent since it represented 66.8 % of the progeny's genetic base.

The clustering carried out by DAPC and plotted in two distinct groups was used for molecular selection. The donor (resistant) parent was located in group 2, with 100 % of the participation coefficient, whereas the recurrent (susceptible) parent was located in group 1. Nine genotypes (2, 3, 6, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, and 28), with a participation coefficient greater than 90 % for the resistant parent group, were selected for the second backcross cycle (Figure 3).

However, in the present study, genotypes clustered with the recurrent parent were discarded according to the analyses observed in the PCA and DAPC dendrogram, since the markers used were associated with ANT resistance loci and, the objective was the selection of genotypes with alleles of the resistant parent (IAC Formoso).

Phenotypical selection (BC₂F₂ and BC₂F_{3,4})

The 9 genotypes selected were backcrossed with the

recurrent parent (BRS Pérola), with an average of 3 crosses per plant and 3 seeds per pod, for a total of 81 BC₂F₁ plants. Each seed obtained was planted under greenhouse conditions in an individual pot and was harvested separately. Backcrossing was an advantage, as 31 BC₂F₂ genotypes were selected in all and gain was observed for grain size and quality in relation to the recurrent parent.

For the 31 BC₂F₂ genotypes evaluated for ANT resistance under controlled conditions with inoculation, 13 plants (41.9 %) showed resistance to race 65 (score < 3). The average scores of the IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola parents were 1.3 and 7.5, respectively. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) confirmed the variability between genotypes due to the high significance of the F test ($p < 0.0001$), however, broad sense heritability was moderate ($h^2 = 0.77$).

The incidence of the disease was confirmed by the disease symptoms in the susceptible control IAC Milênio, which had an average score of 6.8. All the 9 BC₂F₃ genotypes (25.7 %) showed resistance (score < 4). Analysis of variance revealed significance for genotypes, and heritability was 0.70.

The BC₂F₃ genotypes considered as resistant plants were selected based on their agronomic appearance, such as determined growth habit, larger number of pods, greater first pod height, larger stem diameter, and early maturity. In all, 6 selected plants were harvested individually and sown in the field with natural infestation of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *phaseoli* (Fop), causing Fusarium wilt, for seed multiplication of BC₂F_{3,4}. During multiplication and evaluation, two

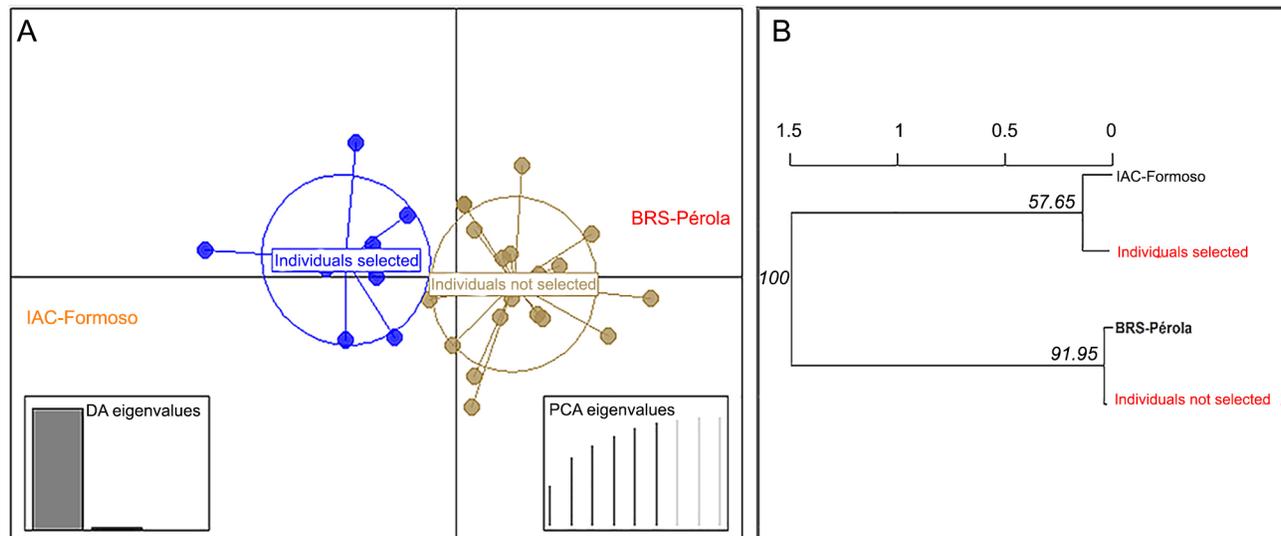


Figure 3 – Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components (DAPC) with $K = 2$: (A) From parental clustering, the group on the left in blue indicates the respective genotypes (9 individuals selected based on the donor parent IAC Formoso). (B) Clustering of parents and the selected and non-selected genotypes based on the neighbor-joining dendrogram.

lines (FP15 and FP75) showed superior appearance and superior resistance to *Fop*, so they were selected for the competitive trial.

Competitive trial

The FP15 and FP75 lines of the $BC_2F_{3;5}$ generation were evaluated in a competitive trial with the respective parents, BRS Pérola and IAC Formoso, as control cultivars. The selected lines performed better than IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola for almost all the traits evaluated. According to the Tukey test, there was no significant difference in cooking time among the four genotypes. Regarding 100 seed weight, both lines had a significantly higher weight than BRS Pérola, especially FP75, which had 25 % greater yield in relation to the recurrent parent and 16 % in relation to the donor parent. There was no significant difference for lightness ($L = 0$) at harvest between the lines, IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola (control cultivars). In analysis of darkening due to loss of lightness, the FP75 line also showed less loss of (L) and, consequently, lighter colored grain. It did not differ significantly from IAC Formoso and the FP15 line, but it remained lighter than BRS Pérola after 30 days on the shelf (Table 2).

Discussion

Marker-assisted selection and Phenotypical selection (BC_2F_2 and $BC_2F_{3;4}$)

Higher than expected parent introgression values were also reported by Oliveira et al. (2008), with average introgression of 29.6 % and 32.8 % for two

Table 2 – Yield ($kg\ ha^{-1}$), 100 seed weight (g), L value at seed harvest, grain darkening, cooking time, and anthracnose resistance, coefficient of experimental variation (CV%) and Tukey test per sowing in the dry season in comparison with IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola as control cultivars in the competitive trials of common beans (Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil), in 2019.

Carioca bean cultivar	Agronomic trait					
	Yield	100 seed weight	L	Darkening	Cooking	ANT
	$kg\ ha^{-1}$	g		ΔL^*	min	
IAC Formoso	2.408 ab*	32.2 a	55.0 a	3.0 ab	18.0 a	1 a
BRS Pérola	2.243 b	29 b	55.9 a	3.8 a	19.6 a	8 b
FP15	2.174 b	27.3 c	54.8 a	2.8 ab	22.3 a	1 a
FP75	2.814 a	26.5 c	54.7 a	2.62 b	20.0 a	1 a
Mean	2.409	28.7	55.1	3.1	20	2.75
CV%	9.3 %	2.0 %	0.9 %	12.3 %	11.4 %	5.4 %

ANT = Anthracnose resistance races 65 and 81; CV% = Coefficient of experimental variation; *The different letters represent the groupings by the Tukey test.

BC_1F_2 common bean progenies evaluated by 20 SSRs. Some of the possible causes for higher than expected introgression values are the low number of markers used, the lack of coverage of all chromosomes, and the association of some markers with the same genomic region, as they were previously associated with ANT resistance QTL and the *Co-10* (renamed *Co-3'*) and *Phg-ON* (renamed *Phg-3*) genes of the Ouro Negro and IAC UNA cultivars (Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2013; Oblessuc et al., 2014; Table 1).

Most of ANT genes show complete dominance (Ferreira et al., 2013), except for the recessive gene *co-8* (Alzate-Marin et al., 1997). From the major genes and

respective alleles identified until now, 17 were numbered from *Co-1* to *Co-17*, and others received alphabet letters such as *Co-u*, *Co-v*, *Co-w*, *Co-x*, *Co-y*, *Co-z*, *Co-AC*, *Co-Pa*, *Co-1^{HY}*, *CoPv01^{CDRK}* and *Co-RVI* (Banoo et al., 2020; Vaz Bisneta and Gonçalves-Vidigal, 2020; Zuiderveen et al., 2016). Some resistance genes were named after their chromosome location, name of the isolate or race (in superscript), followed by the bean genotype in which the resistance gene was identified such as *CoPv02c^{3-X}*, *CoPv02c^{7-X}*, *CoPv02c^{19-X}*, *CoPv02c^{449-X}* and *CoPv09c^{453-C}* (Campa et al., 2014). Most classical studies considered that different resistance spectra in genotypes were due to different alleles of the same gene.

Quantitative resistance loci (QRLs) has also been reported and genomic regions associated with important races such as the 3, 4, 9, 38, 55, 65, 73, 87, 503, 2047 and 3481 (Banoo et al., 2020; Oblessuc et al., 2014; Perseguini et al., 2016; Vidigal-Filho et al., 2020). Indeed, these *Co loci* may be part of disease resistance clusters and QRL on all bean chromosomes (from Pv01 to Pv11, Banoo et al., 2020; Campa et al., 2014; Ferreira et al., 2013; Geffroy et al., 2008; Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2011; Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2012; Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2013; Mungalu et al., 2020; Murube et al., 2019; Oblessuc et al., 2014; Perseguini et al., 2016; Richard et al., 2014; Rodríguez-Suárez et al., 2007; Sousa et al., 2014; Vaz Bisneta and Gonçalves-Vidigal, 2020; Vidigal-Filho et al., 2020; Zuiderveen et al., 2016).

Additional analyses have revealed that some of these loci are organized in closely linked race-specific gene clusters, which is especially evident on Pv01, Pv02, Pv04, Pv07, Pv08 and Pv11 (Campa et al., 2009, 2014; Chen et al., 2017; Davide and Souza, 2009; Gonçalves-Vidigal et al., 2011, 2012, 2013; Meziadi et al., 2016; Oblessuc et al., 2014; Rodríguez-Suárez et al., 2007; Zuiderveen et al., 2016). Disease resistance genes and QTL are clustered in the genome, and the immune response can be demonstrated in genetic and associative mapping (Neupane et al., 2018; Perseguini et al., 2016; Valentini et al., 2017; Vidigal-Filho et al., 2020).

In this study, 35 selected genotypes were used for an experiment to evaluate resistance under natural conditions of *P. griseola* in the field. Fritsche-Neto et al. (2019) reported an estimated heritability of 0.64 for anthracnose under field conditions and SNPs associated to ANT on Pv02 and heritability of 0.93 and SNPs associated for ALS on Pv10. Pereira et al. (2019) demonstrated an observed heritability of 0.79 under conditions of natural incidence of angular leaf spot.

Apart from being resistant to ANT, the IAC Formoso was resistant to angular leaf spot and fusarium wilt. According to Gonçalves-Vidigal et al. (2011), there may be co-segregation of genes from more than one disease, as in the case of the *Phg-1* gene, which is strongly linked to the *Co-1^t* gene present in the AND 277 cultivar, responsible for providing resistance to ANT race 65.

Previous studies with the Ouro Negro cultivar by Gonçalves-Vidigal et al. (2013) revealed that the ANT resistance *Co-10* (renamed *Co-3^t*) and *Phg-ON* (renamed *Phg-3*) genes approved by the Genetic Committee BIC co-segregated and were tightly linked at a distance of 0.0 cM on Pv04. The close linkage between the *Co-3^t* and *Phg-3* genes and prior evidence are consistent with the existence of a resistance gene cluster in the end of chromosome Pv04, that besides containing the *Co-3^t* and *Phg-3* contains the ANT resistance QTL ANT4.1^{UC} (Oblessuc et al., 2014).

After BC₂F₂ harvest, segregation was observed for grain quality, and all genotypes that did not show the standard commercial Carioca seed tegument ideotype, particularly those with darker colored beans at harvest, were discarded in BC₂F₃ and BC₂F₄. The slow darkening of beans is a trait desired by bean breeders and a strong characteristic of the IAC Formoso parent, as consumers consider that darker beans require a longer time to cook (Carbonell et al., 2010a; Spitti et al., 2019).

Competitive trial

Regarding the diseases evaluated, both lines selected showed high resistance for anthracnose, angular leaf spot, and fusarium wilt. The cross between the IAC Formoso and BRS Pérola cultivars not only exhibited resistance to angular leaf spot, fusarium wilt but also allowed the introgression of ANT resistance to physiological races 65 and 81, races of extreme agronomic importance due to their frequent occurrence in Brazil (Ribeiro et al., 2016).

Obtaining lines superior to the parents is a consequence of strategic planning in the formation of blocks of crosses aiming at the choice of parent combinations for the greatest number of favorable characteristics. The IAC Formoso cultivar has grain quality, upright growth habit, semi-early cycle, and ANT resistance, and it is considered tolerant to the golden mosaic virus and *Fusarium solani*, which are considered important diseases. These are traits of interest for a commercial cultivar (Carbonell et al., 2010a).

The BRS Pérola cultivar, considered for many years as a reference for the commercial carioca grain type, has resistance to the soil pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *phaseoli*, the causal agent of Fusarium wilt, and common mosaic (Melo et al., 2017). It is noteworthy that although the BRS Pérola cultivar has a good sieve yield, with medium-sized grains between sieves 12 and 13 (Carbonell et al., 2010b).

According to Carbonell et al. (2010b), not only yield and grain size determine the success of a bean cultivar, but also other traits inherent to the cultivars. Therefore, besides these prominent traits, a common bean cultivar must have resistance to grain darkening, tolerance to biotic and abiotic factors, upright plant architecture, nutritional and technological quality, and post-harvest quality. The combination of all desirable characteristics in a single genotype is not an easy task,

since, once one trait of interest is introgressed and fixed, there is the possibility of damaging other traits by linkage drag (Hospital, 2001).

The combination of elite cultivars, as in the case of the cultivars selected as parents in this study with the aid of molecular markers used in early generations of backcrossing proved to be an efficient strategy. The main advantage is that many plants with unwanted gene combinations, especially those that lack essential disease resistance traits and carioca ideotype can be simply discarded associating phenotypical selection in the process. This has important consequences in the later stages of the breeding program because the evaluation for other traits can be more efficiently and cheaply designed for fewer breeding lines, especially in terms of field space. After selection, lines were obtained with superior resistance to the main Brazilian bean diseases (ANT, ALS, *Fop*) and with postharvest quality traits, such as yield, 100 seed weight, L value at seed harvest, grain darkening and cooking time.

The use of the molecular markers previously described as associated with ANT resistance genes for selection of genotypes with a greater number of resistant parent alleles proved to be an efficient strategy in the selection of the first backcross, using phenotypical selection after the first backcross. Currently, one of the most important barriers for MAS (marker-assisted selection) today is the prohibitive costs. For early generation MABC, the initial cost of using markers would be not very expensive compared to conventional breeding in the short term, and time savings could lead to an accelerated variety release which could translate into greater profits in the medium to long term. Phenotypic selection is not feasible in the first backcross generation, due to the small number of seeds and high rate of heterozygosity. The effectiveness of the scheme resulted in two lines with multiple disease resistance and superiority for several agronomic traits.

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