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## **Original Research Article**

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# Effect of Different Salinity Levels on Fruit and Yield Attributes of Brinjal Varieties Grafted on Solanum torvum



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## **ABSTRACT**

The current experiment was conducted at the College of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra) during the year 2020 and 2021. The pot experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design (FRBD) which was replicated twice with two factors, i.e., grafts and salinity levels. In grafts, there were four varieties grafted on Solanum torvum i.e., Phule Arjun, Phule Harit, Krishna and Manjari Gota, by adopting cleft method and there were five salinity levels i.e., Control, 2, 3, 4 and 5 dS m<sup>-1</sup> which were imposed with the help of sodium chloride (NaCl) salt to assess the response of rootstock towards the fruit and yield attributes under salinity stress conditions. Among the different varieties grafted on Solanum torvum Phule Harit showed significantly superior performance for fruit (fruit weight, volume, diameter and length), yield (fruit yield/plant and hectare). In interactions, Phule Harit grafted on Solanum torvum was found maximum for fruit weight, volume, diameter and length, yield per plant and hectare.

Keywords: Brinjal, Eggplant, Grafting and Salinity levels, Frut and yield attributes.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Brinjal (Solanum melongena), generally known as eggplant, is among the well-known and extensively cultivated vegetable in India, its primary center of origin. called as the "poor man's vegetable," it is grown throughout the year across various agroclimatic zones (Praveenkumar et al., 2023) and available in several shapes (Solanum melongena, viz., var. esculentum, var. serpentinum and var. depressum), colors, and sizes (Swarup, 2016). Additionally, flavonoids isolated from eggplant have shown a great antioxidant activity and their presence in diet is associated with lower risk of heart disease, lung cancer and stroke (Sabatino et al., 2018). In spite of its adaptability, eggplant is moderately sensitive to salinity, which significantly effects the crop productivity. Universally, about 800 million hectares of land are salt-affected soils, affecting more than 20% of irrigated lands (Basak et al., 2022). This salinity issue is additional deepened on factors like poor irrigation management and extreme chemical fertilizer use. In response, grafting has become as an effective method to improve salinity tolerance in brinjal. Grafting brinjal onto salt-tolerant rootstock such as Solanum torvum can enhance antioxidant responses and minimizes ion toxicity (Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup>), so sustaining yield and fruit quality under saline environments (Mozafarian et al., 2023). This eco-friendly approach is more chosen by traditional breeding approaches. However, while extensive studies have investigated salinity effects on own-root brinjal, research is still

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lacking on the response of grafted brinjal under saline conditions, underscoring the need for further exploration to expand cultivation into salt-affected regions.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This experiment was conducted at College of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani during the year 2020 and 2021. The experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design (FRBD) with two replications and it consisted of two factors, i.e., Grafts (viz., Phule Arjun (F1), Phule Harit, Krishna (F1) and Manjari Gota on Solanum torvum (Turkey Berry)) by using cleft grafting method and Salinity levels (2, 3, 4 and 5 dS m<sup>-1</sup>). The observations were recorded from all randomly selected plants of each variety from each replication and the average was worked out in each replication. The data obtained during experiment were analyzed as per the standard statistical methods prescribed by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The pooled results presented in table 1 and 2 was clearly explaining about significance difference of different parameters and Illustrated in figure 2, 3, 4 and 5. Among the grafts, significantly the maximum weight of fruit (129.25 g), volume of fruit (146.32 ml), diameter of fruit (9.13 cm), length of fruit (11.81 cm), yield of fruit per plant (2611.09 g) and yield of fruit per ha (58.02 Mt) was noted in Phule Harit grafted on Solanum torvum. Whereas, significantly the lowest weight of fruit (64.86 g), volume of fruit (85.09 ml), diameter of fruit (6.82 cm), length of fruit (6.41 cm), yield of fruit per plant (1362.16 g) and yield of fruit per ha (30.27 Mt) was observed in Phule Arjun grafted on Solanum torvum. The highest number of fruits per plant was found in Manjari Gota grafted on Solanum torvum (22.66).

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Whereas, significantly the lowest number of fruits per plant was recorded in Krishna grafted on Solanum torvum (19.01). Grafted plants generally perform greater compared to the self-rooted ones in terms of fruit yield and quality, which might be due to the enhanced efficiency of vigorous rootstocks in water and nutrients uptake, which leads to improvement in xylem sap flow and hormonal balance. These physiological advantages lead to maximum yield (fruit number and weight), and enhanced fruit shape. Fruit length and diameter were also increased in grafted plants, may be influenced by both varietal characters, scion and rootstock compatibility levels, particularly Solanum torvum, which endorses vigor and growth through enhanced hormonal signaling. Desirable climatic conditions, extended cropping period, and rootstock-scion compatible interactions play a important role in increasing fruit number and yield per plant, as increase in number of flowers and fruit setting. maximum yields in grafted plants are due to improved nutrient uptake, higher CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation, and improved source-to-sink relationships. The varieties viz., Phule Harit and Manjari Gota, F1 hybrids like as Phule Arjun and Krishna, maintained a more positive balance between root and shoot development, while F1 hybrids have a tendency to exhibit extreme vegetative growth at the extent of reproductive development. These results are in confirmation with earlier findings of Aslam et al. (2020); Lang et al. (2020); Musa et al. (2020); Sabatino et al. (2020); Sudesh et al. (2021) and Sarswatetal. (2020).

Under salt concentrations, the maximum weight of fruit (100.20 g), volume of fruit (120.70 ml), diameter of fruit (7.96 cm), length of fruit (9.81 cm), number of fruits per plant (24.58), yield of fruit per plant (2469.07 g) and yield of fruit per ha (54.87 Mt) was observed in the control. The minimum weight of fruit (83.89 g), volume of fruit (98.85 ml), diameter of fruit (7.39 cm), length of fruit (8.23 cm), number of fruits per plant (16.49), yield of fruit per plant (1373.45 g) and yield of fruit per ha (30.52 Mt) was noticed in 5 dS m<sup>-1</sup>. All the fruit related parameters were decreased at higher level of salt concentration due restriction in nutrient uptake and metabolism activities (photosynthesis). Our results seem to be in accordance with those obtained by Uddin *et al.* (2016); Al-Harbi *et al.* (2017); and Al-Zubaidi (2018).

Among the treatment combinations, Phule Harit grafted on *S. torvum* with control was observed significantly the maximum weight of fruit (140.69 g), volume of fruit (162.93 ml), diameter of fruit (9.47 cm), length of fruit (12.89 cm), number of fruits per plant (25.95), yield of fruit per plant (3302.74 g) and yield of

fruit per hactare (73.40 Mt). Whereas, significantly the lowest weight of fruit (57.63 g), volume of fruit (79.01 ml), diameter of fruit (6.62 cm), length of fruit (5.74 cm), yield of fruit per plant (903.53 g) and yield of fruit per hectare (20.08 Mt) was found in Phule Arjun grafted on *Solanum torvum*. The minimum number of fruits per plant (13.25) was found in Krishna with 5 dS m<sup>-1</sup> in the pooled mean. These findings are consistent with Nirmal (2017) and Marsic *et al.* (2014), who investigated that grafted plants produced consistently more fruits per plant than ungrafted plants

Phule Harit grafted on *Solanum torvum* was proved to be maximum for weight of fruit (130.18 g, 124.13 g and 118.50 g), volume of fruit (139.55 ml, 136.08 ml and 134.69 ml), diameter of fruit (9.15 cm, 8.91 cm and 8.81 cm), length of fruit (11.67 cm, 11.39 cm and 11.03 cm), yield of fruit per plant (2603.47 g, 2411.82 g and 1920.60 g), yield of fruit per hectare (57.85 Mt, 53.60 Mt and 42.68 Mt) and Manjari Gota grafted on *Solanum torvum* was proved to be maximum for number of fruits per plant (22.44, 21.63 and 220.44, respectively) at 3.00, 4.00 and 5.00 dS m<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

### **CONCLUSION**

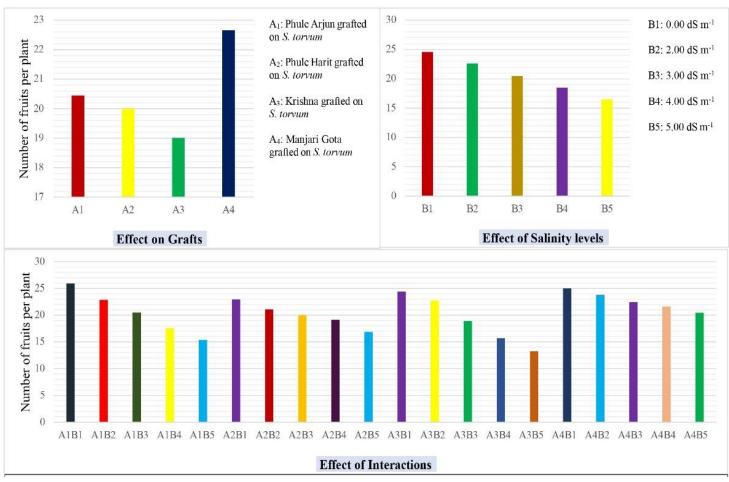
Grafting of different varieties of brinjal as scion onto Solanum torvum Sw. rootstock shown a positive effect. Among the grafts, results showed that Phule Harit grafted on Solanum torvum was shown maximum values for fruit weight, volume, diameter and length, fruit yield per plant and hectare. While, Manjari Gota grafted on Solanum torvum was observed significantly, the highest number of fruits. Among the different salinity levels, majority of the characters were noted significantly maximum in control treatment viz., fruit weight, volume, diameter and length, fruits, yield per plant and hectare. Phule Harit grafted on *Solanum torvum* was proved to be maximum for scion diameter, scion to stock ratio, plant height, leaves, fruit weight, volume, diameter and length, yield per plant and hectare, chlorophyll and membrane stability index, peroxidase, NDVI and minimum  $\,$ solasodine at 3.00, 4.00 and 5.00 dS m<sup>-1</sup>. While, rootstock diameter was reported at 4.00 and 5.00 dS m<sup>-1</sup>; primary roots, proline and EVI at 3.00 and 5.00 dS m<sup>-1</sup>; catalase activity at 3.00 dS m<sup>-1</sup>.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

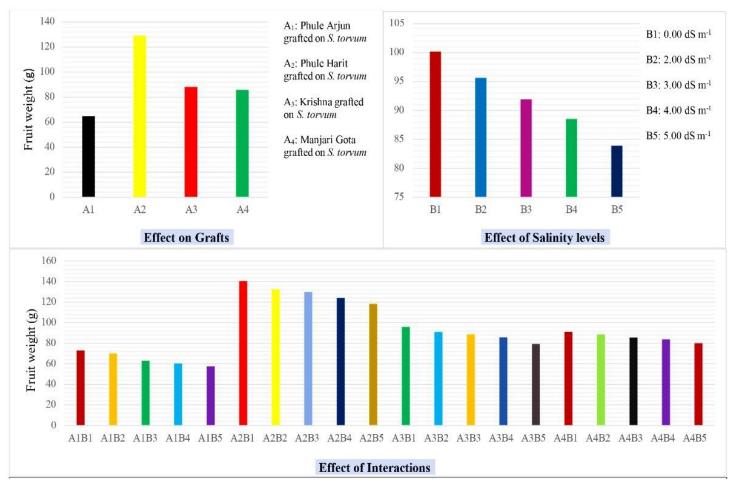
The authors were greatly acknowledged to the College of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, VNMKV, Parbhani for providing all necessary facilities to conduct research.



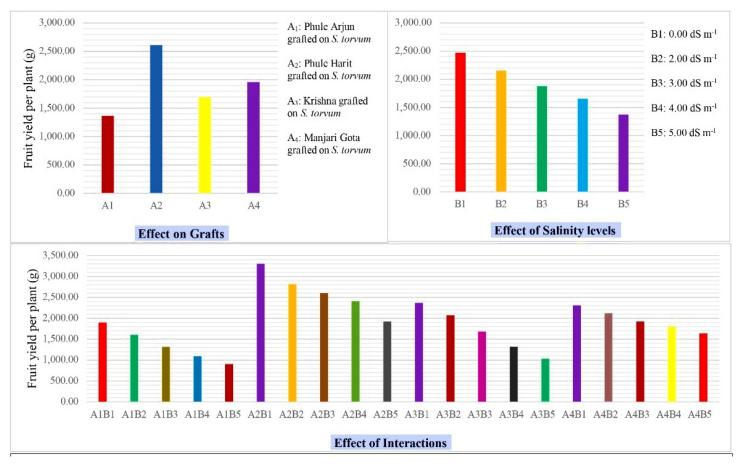
 $Figure 1: Fruit morphology of brinjal varieties (Phule Arjun, Phule Harit, Krishna \ and \ Manjari \ Gota) \ grafted \ on Solanum torvum \ under salinity stress$ 



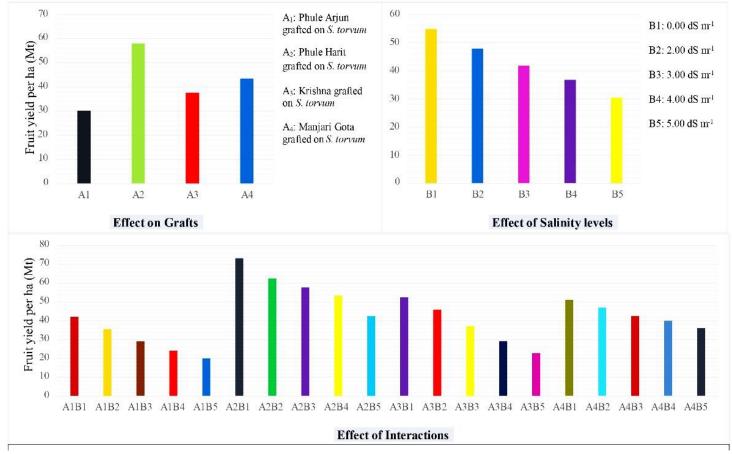
 $Figure\ 2: Effect\ of\ grafts, salinity\ levels\ and\ their\ interactions\ on\ fruit\ weight\ (g)\ of\ brinjal\ varieties\ grafted\ on\ Solanum\ torvum$ 



 $Figure 3: \textit{Effect of grafts, salinity levels and their interactions on number of fruits per plant of brinjal varieties \textit{grafted on Solanum tor vum} \\$ 



 $Figure \ 4: Effect of grafts, salinity \ levels \ and \ their interactions \ on fruit \ yield \ (g/plant) \ of brinjal \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ for \ varieties \ grafted \ on \ Solanum \ torvum \ for \ varieties \ f$ 



 $Figure \, 5: \textit{Effect of grafts, salinity levels and their interactions on fruit yield} \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions on fruit yield \, (\textit{Mt/ha}) \, of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum torvum and their interactions of the solanum torvum torvum to the solanum torvum torvum torvum to the solanum torvum torvum torvum to the solanum torvum to$ 

 $\textit{Table 1:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 1:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 2:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of brinjal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of bringal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of bringal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of bringal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of bringal varieties grafted on Solanum tor vum \textit{Table 3:} \textit{Effect of different salinity levels on fruit parameters of bringal varieties grafted on fruit parameters of bring$ 

Factors	Treatment Details	Fruit weight (g) (Pooled mean)	Fruit volume (ml) (Pooled mean)	Fruit diameter (cm) (Pooled mean)	Fruit length (cm) (Pooled mean)
A <sub>1</sub>	Phule Arjun grafted on Solanum torvum	64.86	85.09	6.82	6.41
$A_2$	Phule Harit grafted on Solanum torvum	129.25	146.32	9.13	11.81
$A_3$	Krishna grafted on Solanum torvum	88.19	104.19	7.50	8.93
$A_4$	Manjari Gota grafted on Solanum torvum	85.87	100.14	7.12	8.47
SE (m) ±		0.376	0.368	0.010	0.019
C.D at 5 %		1.120	1.097	0.031	0.056
$B_1$	0 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	100.20	120.70	7.96	9.81
B <sub>2</sub>	2.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	95.66	116.83	7.79	9.41
$B_3$	3.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	91.90	107.19	7.63	8.65
$B_4$	4.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	88.55	101.12	7.45	8.42
B <sub>5</sub>	5.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	83.89	98.85	7.39	8.23
	SE (m) ±	0.420	0.411	0.012	0.021
	C.D at 5 %	1.253	1.226	0.034	0.063
$T_1$	$A_1B_1$	73.13	91.63	7.11	7.11
$T_2$	$A_1B_2$	70.19	90.88	6.90	6.92
T <sub>3</sub>	$A_1B_3$	62.93	83.31	6.80	6.39
T <sub>4</sub>	$A_1B_4$	60.44	80.63	6.68	5.89
T <sub>5</sub>	$A_1B_5$	57.63	79.01	6.62	5.74
T <sub>6</sub>	$A_2B_1$	140.69	162.93	9.47	12.89
T <sub>7</sub>	$A_2B_2$	132.75	158.38	9.31	12.08
T <sub>8</sub>	$A_2B_3$	130.18	139.55	9.15	11.67
T <sub>9</sub>	$A_2B_4$	124.13	136.08	8.91	11.39
T <sub>10</sub>	$A_2B_5$	118.50	134.69	8.81	11.03
T <sub>11</sub>	$A_3B_1$	95.88	117.25	7.48	10.14
T <sub>12</sub>	$A_3B_2$	91.01	111.07	7.62	9.82
T <sub>13</sub>	$A_3B_3$	88.82	108.50	7.41	8.31
T <sub>14</sub>	A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	85.82	93.33	7.31	8.22
T <sub>15</sub>	$A_3B_5$	79.44	90.82	7.29	8.16
T <sub>16</sub>	$A_4B_1$	91.13	111.00	7.39	9.12
T <sub>17</sub>	$A_4B_2$	88.69	107.00	7.32	8.84
T <sub>18</sub>	$A_4B_3$	85.69	97.39	7.14	8.25
T <sub>19</sub>	A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	83.82	94.44	6.91	8.17
T <sub>20</sub>	$A_4B_5$	80.01	90.88	6.85	8.00
SE (m) ±		0.840	0.822	0.023	0.042
	C.D at 5 %	2.505	2.452	0.069	0.126

 $Table\,2: Effect\,of\,different\,s a linity\,levels\,on\,yield\,parameters\,of\,brinjal\,varieties\,grafted\,on\,Solanum\,torvum$ 

Factors	Treatment Details	Number of fruits per plant (Pooled	Fruit yield per plant (g) (Pooled	Fruit yield per ha (Mt) (Pooled
		mean)	mean)	mean)
$A_1$	Phule Arjun grafted on Solanum torvum	20.45	1,362.16	30.27
$A_2$	Phule Harit grafted on Solanum torvum	20.00	2,611.09	58.02
A <sub>3</sub>	Krishna grafted on Solanum torvum	19.01	1,694.70	37.66
$A_4$	Manjari Gota grafted on Solanum torvum	22.66	1,959.39	43.54
	SE (m) ±	0.227	14.242	0.316
	C.D at 5 %	0.678	42.467	0.943
B <sub>1</sub>	0 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	24.58	2,469.07	54.87
B <sub>2</sub>	2.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	22.62	2,153.66	47.86
B <sub>3</sub>	3.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	20.47	1,880.32	41.78
B <sub>4</sub>	4.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	18.50	1,657.66	36.84
B <sub>5</sub>	5.00 dS m <sup>-1</sup>	16.49	1,373.45	30.52
	SE (m) ±	0.254	15.923	0.354
	C.D at 5 %	0.758	47.480	1.055
T <sub>1</sub>	$A_1B_1$	25.95	1,897.67	42.17
$T_2$	$A_1B_2$	22.87	1,604.58	35.66
T <sub>3</sub>	$A_1B_3$	20.51	1,315.69	29.24
$T_4$	$A_1B_4$	17.57	1,089.32	24.21
T <sub>5</sub>	$A_1B_5$	15.38	903.53	20.08
T <sub>6</sub>	$A_2B_1$	22.94	3,302.74	73.40
T <sub>7</sub>	$A_2B_2$	21.07	2,816.85	62.60
T <sub>8</sub>	$A_2B_3$	20.01	2,603.47	57.85
T <sub>9</sub>	$A_2B_4$	19.13	2,411.82	53.60
T <sub>10</sub>	$A_2B_5$	16.88	1,920.60	42.68
T <sub>11</sub>	$A_3B_1$	24.44	2,368.07	52.62
T <sub>12</sub>	$A_3B_2$	22.75	2,069.94	46.00
T <sub>13</sub>	$A_3B_3$	18.92	1,679.56	37.33
T <sub>14</sub>	$A_3B_4$	15.69	1,321.60	29.37
T <sub>15</sub>	$A_3B_5$	13.25	1,034.33	22.99
T <sub>16</sub>	$A_4B_1$	25.00	2,307.82	51.29
T <sub>17</sub>	$A_4B_2$	23.79	2,123.30	47.19
T <sub>18</sub>	$A_4B_3$	22.44	1,922.57	42.73
T <sub>19</sub>	A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	21.63	1,807.92	40.18
T <sub>20</sub>	$A_4B_5$	20.44	1,635.33	36.34
SE (m) ±		0.509	31.846	0.707
C.D at 5 %		1.517	94.960	2.109

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