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# Biometric analyses of drought tolerance in populations of *Coffea canephora*

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## Abstract

Coffee is one of Brazil's main commodities. Among the goals of crop improvement, the search for drought-tolerant materials has stood out, mainly due to the water scarcity of the producing regions. The knowledge of genetic diversity and the morphophysiological analysis of plants allow the identification of genotypes with potential use in genetic improvement. Thus, this study aimed to evaluate the diversity, by morphophysiological characteristics, in 173 genotypes of *Coffea canephora*, from populations of contrasting crosses regarding the drought tolerance of the breeding program of Incaper, and to identify the relative importance of traits, subsidizing the selection for drought tolerance, based on the factor analysis index (FAI). The experiment was conducted in three

evaluation periods, under field conditions without irrigation at the Incaper Experimental Farm of Marilândia, in the state of Espírito Santo. There was great variability between and within populations, which was affected by the evaluation season. Based on the traits of greater relative importance identified in this work (LL, LW, SLA, LAR, LT, TLA, PBL, CHL,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , TSP, PRO, A, and iWUE), the FAI identified the genotypes 76 × 48 - 1, 76 × 48 - 10, 76 × 48 - 16, 76 × 48 - 76, 76 × 48 - 77, 76 × 48 - 83, 76 × 48 - 90, 76 × 48 - 128, 76 × 04 - 1, and 76 × 04 - 32 as more promising, from the ideotype of lower LL, LW, SLA, and LAR, and higher LT, TLA, PBL, CHL,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , TSP, PRO, A, and iWUE.

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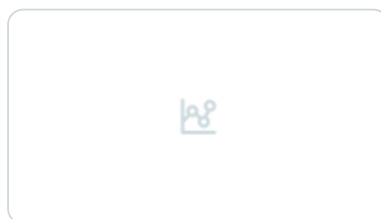
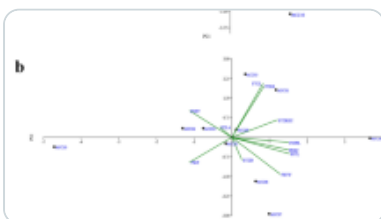
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## Data Availability

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The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on request.

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## **Contributions**



F.D.S. and F.B.S.S. worked together in data collection and manipulation, statistical analysis, interpretation of results, and writing of the study. E.M.Jr. and C.F.T. contributed to the collection of morphophysiological data in field and laboratory. P.S.V. contributed to the conduction and field evaluations of the experiment, as well as supporting the collection of morphophysiological data. P.C.C. contributed with the orientation in the evaluation methodology of the morphophysiological characteristics, in the statistical analyses, and in the interpretation of the results. M.A.G.F. conceived and designed the study, contributed to the development of the object of study, orientation in the evaluation methodology statistical analyses, and interpretation of the results. T.C.B.S. planned and conceived the study, contributed with the orientation in the evaluation methodology, in the interpretation of the results, and in the writing of the study. All authors read and approved the manuscript.

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## Ethics declarations

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## Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

## Additional information

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