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AGRONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF COWPEA ELITE LINES IN THE STATES OF MINAS GERAIS AND MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL¹

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ABSTRACT – The objective of this work was to evaluate the agronomic performance of erect and semi-erect cowpea elite lines grown in the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil. The experiments were conducted in Jaíba, Janaúba, Sete Lagoas (Minas Gerais), Primavera do Leste and Nova Ubiratã (Mato Grosso), with 20 genotypes of cowpea, arranged in a randomized block design with four replications. The data were subjected to individual and joint analyses of variance and means grouped by the Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$). The plant growth habit, lodging, cultivation value, pod length and bean yield were evaluated. The lines MNC04-768F-21 and MNC04F-795F-168 had the highest bean yield in the experiments conducted in Mato Grosso, and their growth habit, lodging and cultivation value were similar to those of the cultivar BRS-Guariba. The lines MNC04-769F-30, MNC05-795F-154 and MNC04-769F-49 and the cultivar BRS-Tumucumaque had the highest bean yield in the experiments conducted in Minas Gerais. However, the cultivars BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera, BRS-Itaim and BRS-Cauamé and the lines MNC04-792F-143 and MNC04-792F-144 showed satisfactory bean yield and good growth habit, plant lodging and cultivation value in the State of Minas Gerais, especially in the northern region of the state (Jaíba and Janaúba), representing good alternatives for the genotypes recommended for this region.

Keywords: *Vigna unguiculata* L.. Yield. Cultivation value. Genotype-environment interaction.

DESEMPENHO DE LINHAGENS ELITE DE FEIJÃO-CAUPI EM AMBIENTES DE MINAS GERAIS E MATO GROSSO

RESUMO – O objetivo do trabalho foi avaliar o desempenho de linhagens elite de feijão-caupi de porte ereto e semiereto em ambientes de Mato Grosso e Minas Gerais. Os ensaios foram conduzidos em Jaíba, Janaúba e Sete Lagoas em Minas Gerais, e em Primavera do Leste e Nova Ubiratã em Mato Grosso. Foram avaliados 20 genótipos de feijão-caupi. Utilizou-se o delineamento de blocos casualizados, com quatro repetições. Os dados obtidos foram submetidos a análises de variância individuais e conjunta e as médias agrupadas pelo teste de Scott-Knott ($P < 0,05$). Foram avaliados os caracteres porte da planta, acamamento, valor de cultivo, comprimento de vagem e rendimento de grãos. Nos ambientes do Mato Grosso, destacaram-se as linhagens MNC04-768F-21 e MNC04F-795F-168 como as mais produtivas e com características de porte da planta, acamamento e valor de cultivo semelhantes às da cultivar BRS Guariba. Nos ambientes de Minas Gerais, especialmente na região Norte do Estado, representada pelos ambientes de Jaíba e Janaúba, destacaram-se como mais produtivas as linhagens MNC04-769F-30, MNC05-795F-154, MNC04-769F-49 e a cultivar BRS Tumucumaque. Entretanto, as cultivares BRS Guariba, BRS Tumucumaque, BRS Novaera, BRS Itaim e BRS Cauamé, e as linhagens MNC04-792F-143 e MNC04-792F-144 apresentam produtividades satisfatórias e boas características de porte, acamamento e valor de cultivo, representando boas alternativas para recomendação de cultivo nesta região.

Palavras-chave: *Vigna unguiculata* L.. Produtividade. Valor de cultivo e uso. Interação genótipos x ambientes.

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INTRODUCTION

The world planted area of cowpea is 10.4 million hectares, which is located mainly in tropical and subtropical regions of America, Asia and Africa; the world production of cowpea beans is about 5.5 million Mg, and Nigeria is the world's largest producer (FAO, 2016).

Cowpea is mainly grown in Brazil by small farms using low technological level, thus, the average national crop yield is very low, approximately 401 kg ha⁻¹ (EMBRAPA, 2016). However, the demand for cultivars with appropriate characteristics to planting and harvesting mechanization is increasing due to the interest of more producers in this crop (FREIRE FILHO, 2011). Thus, researches have sought to develop genotypes of more erect growth habit, compact architecture and more adapted to mechanization, that result in shorter maturation cycle, greater plant densities and higher yields.

The Northeast of Brazil is the main producing region of cowpea, however, its production area has expanded to the Brazilian Southeast and Center-West regions, especially to the State of Mato Grosso, where it is produced on approximately 140,000 hectares (CONAB, 2016), focused mainly in international markets. Cowpea crops are conducted with high technology in these new areas, with pest and disease control, balanced soil fertilization and mechanized harvesting. The northern State of Minas Gerais (Brazilian Southeast region) has an expressive consumer market and production of cowpea, however, this production is limited by several factors, especially by the low technology level used and current cultivars recommended for planting in this region, which are based on results of researches carried out in other regions of the country.

In this context, the objective of this work was to evaluate the agronomic performance of erect and semi-erect cowpea elite lines in the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiments were conducted in Jaíba, Janaúba and Sete Lagoas in the State of Minas Gerais (MG) and in Primavera do Leste and Nova Uiratã, in the State of Mato Grosso (MT), in 2013 (Jaíba, Primavera do Leste and Nova Uiratã) and 2014 (Janaúba and Sete Lagoas) during the summer-fall crop season, with planting in February to March.

These locations are considerable different in edaphoclimatic conditions; they include the Cerrado, Cerrado-Amazon and Cerrado-Caatinga biomes.

Nova Uiratã MT (9°28'4"S, 44°14'52"W and altitude of 400 m), located in a Cerrado-Amazon transition ecosystem, has annual average temperature of 26.3 °C, annual average rainfall of 2.250 mm and predominance of Yellow Latosol (Oxisol). Primavera do Leste (15°33'32"S, 54°17'46"W and altitude of 465 m), located in an ecosystem with characteristics of Cerrado, has annual average temperature of 23.7 °C, annual average precipitation of 1,784 mm and predominance of Yellow Latosol (Oxisol) (IBGE, 2016).

Jaíba (15°20'18"S, 43°40'18"W and altitude of 475 m) and Janaúba (15°48'13"S, 49°19'3"W and altitude of 510 m) are located in the northern region of Minas Gerais, whose predominant ecosystem is Cerrado-Caatinga. They have semiarid climate, annual average precipitation of 900 mm, annual average temperature of 24 °C and predominance of Red Latosol (Oxisol). Sete Lagoas (19°28'4"S, 44°14'52"W and altitude of 751 m), located in a Cerrado ecosystem, has humid tropical climate, annual average temperature of 19 °C, annual average precipitation of 1,384 mm and predominance of Yellow Latosol (Oxisol) (IBGE, 2016).

The experiments were conducted with 20 erect and semi-erect cowpea genotypes, consisted of 15 elite lines and five cultivars (controls). These genotypes were selected by the Cowpea Breeding Program of the Embrapa Meio-Norte and subjected to cultivation and use value experiments in 2013 to 2014 (Table 1).

A randomized block experimental design with four replications was used, with plots consisted of four 5-meter rows, spaced 0.50 m apart, totaling an area of 10 m², and evaluation area of 5 m² (two central rows).

Conventional system of soil preparation was used in all locations evaluated, with one plowing and two harrowings at pre-planting. The soils of the areas were then furrowed and fertilized with a fertilizer equipment with spacing and rates adjusted as required. Sowing was carried out with manual seeders. The recommendations of Melo, Cardoso and Salviano (2005) for fertilization of cowpea crops was followed.

Approximately 15 seeds per meter were sown and after their germination a thinning was carried out, leaving approximately ten plants per meter. Manual weeding with hoes was performed from the 20th to the 30th day after emergence.

Irrigation was performed by a conventional sprinkler system from planting to the beginning of maturation in Jaíba, Janaúba and Sete Lagoas. The experiment in Nova Uiratã and Primavera do Leste were conducted in the rainfed system. Harvesting was carried out manually, according to the maturity of each genotype.

Table 1. Erect and semi-erect cowpea genotypes subjected to cultivation and use value experiments in 2013 to 2014 and their parental and commercial subclass.

Genotype	Parental	Commercial Subclass
MNC04-762F-3	TE96-22G x (TE96-282-22G X VITA7)	Branco
MNC04-768F-21	TE97-321G-2 x CE-315	Mulato
MNC04-769F-30	CE-315 x TE97-304G-12	Mulato
MNC04-769F-48	CE-315 x TE97-304G-12	Mulato
MNC04-769F-49	CE-315 x TE97-304G-12	Mulato
MNC04-769F-62	CE-315 x TE97-304G-12	Mulato
MNC04-782F-104	(TE97-304G-24 x TE96-406-2E-28-2) x TE97-309G-24	Sempre Verde
MNC04-792F-143	MNC00-553D-8-1-2-3 x TV x 5058-09C	Mulato
MNC04-792F-144	MNC00-553D-8-1-2-3 x TV x 5058-09C	Sempre Verde
MNC04-792F-148	MNC00-553D-8-1-2-3 x TV x 5058-09C	Mulato
MNC04-795F-153	MNC00-518G-2 x IT92DK-279-3	Mulato
MNC04-795F-154	MNC00-518G-2 x IT92DK-279-3	Sempre Verde
MNC04-795F-155	MNC00-518G-2 x IT92DK-279-3	Mulato
MNC04-795F-159	MNC00-518G-2 x IT92DK-279-3	Mulato
MNC04-795F-168	MNC00-518G-2 x IT92DK-279-3	Brancão
BRS-Guariba	IT85F-2687 x TE87-98-8G	Branco
BRS-Tumucumaque	TE96-282-22G x IT87D-611-3	Branco
BRS-Novaera	TE97-404-1F x TE97-404-3F	Brancão
BRS-Itaim	MNC01-625E-10-1-2-5 x MNC99-544D-101-2-2	Branco
BRS-Cauamé	TE93-210-13F x TE96-282-22G	Branco

Plant growth habit, lodging, and cultivation value, which was visually attributed according to a scale of grades (Table 2), were evaluated at the physiological maturity stage. Pod length and bean yield were evaluated after harvesting. Twenty pods, randomly chosen in each plot, was measured during

the harvesting to assess the mean pod length. The beans harvested in the evaluation area of each plot were weighed to estimate the bean yield, correcting their weights for beans with 13% of moisture and transforming their results to kg ha⁻¹.

Table 2. Scales of grades used to classify the growth habit, lodging and cultivation value of cowpea plants.

Grade	Growth habit	Lodged plants (%)	Cultivation value
1	Erect	No lodged plant	Line/cultivar without suitable characteristics for commercial cultivation
2	Semi-erect	1 to 5	Line/cultivar with little suitable characteristics for commercial cultivation
3	Semi-prostrate	6 to 10	Line/cultivar with most of the suitable characteristics for commercial cultivation
4	Prostrate	11 to 20	Line/cultivar with all suitable characteristics for commercial cultivation
5	-	Above of 20	Line/cultivar with all excellent characteristics for commercial cultivation

The data were subjected to individual and joint analyzes of variance. The homogeneity of the residual variances was evaluated for the joint analysis. It was found that the ratio between the highest and The mean square of the residue was greater than Seven, indicating that the residual variances were homogeneous (PIMENTEL-GOMES, 2009). Like this, adjustment of the degrees of freedom of the Mean and GxE interaction, according to the method of Cochran (1954).

The relevance of each source of variation in the total variation of the mean was estimated by the ratio between the sum of squares of the source of variation i (SQ_i) and the total sum of squares (SQ_t), thus defining the coefficient of determination (R^2). The means of the genotype were grouped by the Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$). All analyses were performed using the program GENES (CRUZ, 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of variance showed a significant effect of the genotype (G) and environment (E) on all characteristics evaluated. The genotype x environment interaction (GxE) affected most of the characteristics evaluated, except pod length (Table 3).

According to the coefficient of determination (R^2) found, the effect of the genotypes was responsible for most of the total variation of the pod length means. The environment as a source of variation was the main responsible for the variation of the growth habit and bean yield means in Janaúba, Jaíba, Sete Lagoas, Nova Ubiratã and Primavera do Leste, and the GxE caused the greatest variation in the means of plant lodging and cultivation value of the genotypes evaluated (Table 3).

Table 3. Joint analysis of variance of growth habit, lodging, cultivation value, pod length and bean yield of 20 erect and semi-erect cowpea genotypes, evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Source of Variation	DF	Growth habit		Lodging		Cultivation value		Pod length		Bean yield	
		MS	R ²	MS	R ²	MS	R ²	MS	R ²	MS	R ²
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(cm)	(%)	(kg ha ⁻¹)	(%)
Blocks		0.11 ^{ns}		0.33 ^{ns}		0.59 ^{ns}		0.49 ^{ns}		412832.032 ^{ns}	
Genotype (G)	19	0.19*	7.4	5.67*	23.29	2.22*	15.62	37.23*	40.14	412832.03*	9.22
Environment (A)	4	5.53*	44.07	24.94*	21.59	6.63*	9.8	16.17*	3.58	8406950.79*	38.68
GxE	76	0.10*	32.41	2.22*	36.51	1.12*	42.54	1.47 ^{ns}	5.85	364929.39*	31.90
Residue	285	0.05		0.28		0.37		1.77		58376.31	
CV%		15.09		21.42		23.76		19.18		16.3	

*= significant at 5% and ^{ns}= not significant by the F test. R² = Coefficient of determination (%); CV = coefficient of variation (%); DF = degrees of freedom; MS = mean square.

According to the results of the coefficient of determination, the pod length was greatly affected by the genotype and little affected by the environment. This result is due to the high heritability of the pod length, which is an important and desirable characteristic for the selection of lines (TEIXEIRA et al., 2007).

Bean yield was significantly affected by G, E and G-E, which were responsible for 38.68% (E), 31.90% (G-E) and 9.22% (E) of its variations (Table 3). These results were probably because the genetic similarity between the genotypes, since most of them have common parents (Table 1). Moreover, bean yield is a polygenic quantitative characteristic, and thus highly affected by the environment (SANTOS et al., 2014).

The lines MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-792F-148, MNC04-795F-153, MNC04-795F-155 and MNC04-795F-168 and the cultivars

BRS-Guariba, BRS, Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim were the most erect genotypes in Jaíba, with maximum growth habit of 1.43. The genotypes showed similarity for growth habit in Janaúba and Sete Lagoas. The cultivar BRS-Itaim was more erect than the other genotypes Nova Ubiratã and Primavera do Leste, and the only one among the more erect genotypes in all environments. MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-792F-148, MNC04-795F-153, MNC04-795F-155, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque and BRS-Novaera were among the most erect genotypes in the environments of Minas Gerais (Table 4).

Growth habit is an important characteristic and its improvement is one of the main objectives of cowpea breeding researches, since it selects more adapted cultivars to mechanization, which has been adopted by producers.

Table 4. Average grades attributed to growth habit of 20 genotypes of cowpea, evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Genotype	Environment				
	Jaíba	Janaúba	Sete Lagoas	Nova Ubiratã	Primavera do Leste
MNC04-762F-3	1.43 Ba	1.50 Aa	1.25 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
MNC04-768F-21	1.62 Bb	1.37 Aa	1.25 Aa	1.62 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-769F-30	1.50 Ba	1.31 Aa	1.50 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.62 Ba
MNC04-769F-48	1.62 Bb	1.31 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.75 Bb	1.87 Bb
MNC04-769F-49	1.25 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.37 Aa	1.75 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-769F-62	1.50 Ba	1.37 Aa	1.25 Aa	1.87 Bb	1.87 Bb
MNC04-782F-104	1.62 Bb	1.37 Aa	1.25 Aa	1.87 Bb	1.75 Ba
MNC04-792F-143	1.68 Bb	1.25 Aa	1.50 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-792F-144	1.12 Aa	1.43 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.75 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-792F-148	1.31 Aa	1.43 Aa	1.37 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
MNC04-795F-153	1.31 Aa	1.37 Aa	1.25 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
MNC04-795F-154	1.50 Ba	1.31 Aa	1.25 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.62 Ba
MNC04-795F-155	1.31 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.50 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
MNC04-795F-159	1.43 Ba	1.37 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.75 Bb	1.87 Bb
MNC04-795F-168	1.31 Aa	1.43 Aa	1.37 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.75 Bb
BRS-Guariba	1.31 Aa	1.18 Aa	1.25 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
BRS-Tumucumaque	1.18 Aa	1.31 Aa	1.25 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.75 Bb
BRS-Novaera	1.31 Aa	1.18 Aa	1.50 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb
BRS-Itaim	1.43 Ab	1.18 Ab	1.31 Ab	1.00 Aa	1.00 Aa
BRS-Cauamé	1.50 Ba	1.31 Aa	1.37 Aa	2.00 Bb	2.00 Bb

Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the columns (comparing genotypes) and lowercase in the lines (comparing environments) do not differ by Scott-Knott test (p<0.05).

Plant lodging was affected by the genotypes, except in Sete Lagoas. The mean test used grouped the genotypes according to grades attributed to the lodging. Thus, genotypes were grouped into four groups in Jaíba. The group with the lowest grades consisted of nine genotypes, with maximum grade of 1.25. The cultivars BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim, and the line MNC04-792F-143 had the lowest grade in Janaúba, with maximum grade of 1.50. Twelve genotypes with the lowest grades were grouped in Nova Ubiratã, with maximum grade of 1.25, and 11

in Primavera do Leste, with maximum grade of 2.25. The cultivars BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim were in the group of genotypes that had the lowest grades for plant lodging in all environments evaluated, denoting their greater resistance to lodging compared with the other genotypes evaluated (Table 5).

Rocha et al. (2011) evaluated the adaptability and stability of erect cowpea genotypes in the Brazilian Northeast region and found average plant lodging grade of 1.58.

Table 5. Average grades attributed to plant lodging of 20 genotypes of cowpea, evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil, from 2013 to 2014.

Genotype	Environment				
	Jaíba	Janaúba	Sete Lagoas	Nova Ubiratã	Primavera do Leste
MNC04-762F-3	2.50 Cc	3.50 Dd	3.25 Ad	1.00 Aa	2.00 Ab
MNC04-768F-21	4.00 Db	3.75 Db	3.00 Aa	4.25 Db	2.75 Ba
MNC04-769F-30	1.25 Aa	4.25 Dd	3.25 Ac	1.00 Aa	2.25 Ab
MNC04-769F-48	3.75 Dc	3.00 Cb	3.75 Ac	1.25 Aa	2.50 Bb
MNC04-769F-49	3.25 Ca	2.50 Ca	3.00 Aa	3.75 Da	3.00 Ba
MNC04-769F-62	4.00 Dc	3.00 Cb	3.25 Ac	2.75 Cb	2.00 Aa
MNC04-782F-104	4.00 Db	3.25 Ca	3.00 Aa	4.00 Db	2.50 Ba
MNC04-792F-143	2.25 Bb	1.50 Aa	3.25 Ab	1.00 Aa	2.75 Bb
MNC04-792F-144	1.00 Aa	3.50 Dc	3.75 Ac	3.25 Cc	2.50 Bb
MNC04-792F-148	1.00 Aa	3.50 Dc	3.00 Ac	1.00 Aa	2.25 Ab
MNC04-795F-153	2.00 Ba	4.00 Dc	3.25 Ac	2.00 Ba	2.75 Bb
MNC04-795F-154	1.25 Aa	3.00 Cc	3.00 Ac	2.25 Bb	2.25 Ab
MNC04-795F-155	1.25 Aa	2.75 Cb	3.25 Ab	1.00 Aa	2.75 Bb
MNC04-795F-159	2.75 Ca	2.75 Ca	3.75 Ab	3.00 Ca	2.75 Ba
MNC04-795F-168	1.00 Aa	3.25 Cb	3.00 Ab	1.00 Aa	1.50 Aa
BRS-Guariba	2.50 Cb	2.25 Bb	3.25 Ac	1.00 Aa	2.25 Ab
BRS-Tumucumaque	1.75 Ba	2.75 Cb	3.00 Ab	1.00 Aa	2.25 Ab
BRS-Novaera	1.00 Aa	1.41 Aa	3.25 Ac	1.00 Aa	2.00 Ab
BRS-Itaim	1.00 Aa	1.00 Aa	3.75 Ab	1.00 Aa	1.00 Aa
BRS-Cauamé	1.50 Aa	2.50 Cb	3.00 Ab	1.00 Aa	2.00 Ab

Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the columns (comparing genotypes) and lowercase in the lines (comparing environments) do not differ by Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$).

According to Araújo and Watt (1988), low temperatures can prolong the vegetative phase of cowpea with emission of new branches, and a greater number of trifoliate leaves, favoring the lodging of cowpea plants. Sete Lagoas had the lowest average and minimum temperatures among the environments evaluated, and the highest grades for plant lodging (Table 5), denoting the lower resistance of the genotypes to lodging in this environment. This result denotes the effect of the environment on the growth habit of the lines and the need for recommendation of cultivars based on tests in different producing regions.

Genotypes with erect growth habit are selected for cultivars of low plant lodging and more compact and erect growth habit, which are suitable to grown in high technological fully-mechanized production systems. Thus, the lines

MNC04-792F-143 and MNC04-795F-155, and the cultivars BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim stood out with more erect growth habit and lower plant lodging in most of the environments evaluated.

The cultivation value represents the general aspects of the plant, such as architecture, pod loading, pod and bean quality and phytosanitary condition. Cultivation values of 3.0 is the minimum grade for commercial genotypes, indicating that the genotype has most of the suitable characteristics for commercial cultivation (Table 2). The cultivation values of the genotypes had significant differences in all environments evaluated (Table 6). According to the grouping test, the genotypes with the highest grades showed groups of 11 (Jaíba), 8 (Janaúba), 4 (Sete Lagoas), 6 (Nova Ubiratã) and 11 (Primavera do Leste) genotypes.

Thus, genotypes that stood out with good

commercial characteristics were MNC04-792F-143, MNC04-792F-144 and BRS-Itaim in Jaíba; MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-792F-143, MNC04-792F-144, BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim in Janaúba; MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-792F-143, MNC04-792F-144, BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim in Sete Lagoas; MNC04-762F-3, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Guariba, BRS-Novaera, BRS-Itaim and BRS-Cauamé in Nova Ubitatã; and MNC04-762F-3, MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim in Primavera do Leste, whose grades of cultivation value were higher than 3. The genotypes BRS-Novaera, BRS-Itaim and MNC04-795F-168 stood out as the only ones that presented grades equal to or above 3.0 in at least three of the five environments evaluated (Table 6). The line MNC04-795F-168 and the cultivar

BRS-Novaera produce beans classified in the commercial subclass Brancão (Table 1), which are large and rough beans, and preferred by many consumers in both domestic and international markets (FREIRE FILHO et al., 2008). According to Pereira et al. (2012), not only the bean yield is essential to select genotypes to develop new cultivars, but also other characteristics, such as growth habit, lodging and bean size.

The mean cultivation values found were higher than those found by Teixeira et al. (2007), who evaluated production and production components of erect cowpea genotypes in the Northeast region of Brazil and found average cultivation value of 2.59. Benvindo et al. (2010) evaluated the agronomic performance of irrigated and rainfed cowpea genotypes, also in the Northeast region of Brazil, and found average cultivation value of 3.7.

Table 6. Average grades attributed to the cultivation value of 20 cowpea genotypes evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Genotype	Environment				
	Jaíba	Janaúba	Sete Lagoas	Nova Ubitatã	Primavera do Leste
MNC04-762F-3	1.75 Bb	2.50 Bb	2.50 Bb	3.75 Aa	3.25 Aa
MNC04-768F-21	1.50 Bb	3.25 Aa	2.50 Ba	1.75 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-769F-30	2.25 Aa	2.00 Ba	3.00 Ba	2.00 Ba	2.00 Ba
MNC04-769F-48	1.75 Ba	2.75 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.00 Ba
MNC04-769F-49	1.50 Bb	3.00 Aa	3.75 Aa	2.00 Bb	1.75 Bb
MNC04-769F-62	1.00 Bb	2.75 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.00 Ba	1.50 Bb
MNC04-782F-104	1.75 Ba	2.25 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.00 Ba	2.25 Ba
MNC04-792F-143	3.00 Aa	3.50 Aa	3.00 Ba	2.00 Bb	1.50 Bb
MNC04-792F-144	3.25 Aa	3.25 Aa	2.75 Ba	2.00 Bb	3.00 Aa
MNC04-792F-148	2.25 Ab	2.25 Bb	3.75 Aa	2.25 Bb	2.75 Ab
MNC04-795F-153	2.75 Aa	2.25 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.00 Ba	2.50 Aa
MNC04-795F-154	2.25 Aa	2.25 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.00 Ba	2.75 Aa
MNC04-795F-155	2.25 Aa	2.75 Ba	3.00 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.25 Ba
MNC04-795F-159	2.25 Aa	2.50 Ba	2.75 Ba	2.00 Ba	2.25 Ba
MNC04-795F-168	1.75 Bb	2.25 Bb	3.75 Aa	3.75 Aa	3.25 Aa
BRS-Guariba	1.75 Bb	3.50 Aa	2.50 Bb	3.25 Aa	2.75 Aa
BRS-Tumucumaque	2.00 Ba	3.25 Aa	2.50 Ba	2.50 Ba	2.50 Aa
BRS-Novaera	2.50 Ab	3.00 Ab	3.00 Bb	4.00 Aa	3.00 Ab
BRS-Itaim	3.00 Aa	3.75 Aa	2.75 Ba	3.50 Aa	3.00 Aa
BRS-Cauamé	2.50 Ab	2.25 Bb	3.75 Aa	3.00 Ab	2.75 Ab

Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the columns (comparing genotypes) and lowercase in the lines (comparing environments) do not differ by Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$).

The genotypes that stood out with the better results of pod length, according to the environment in which they were grown (Table 7) were MNC04-736F-30, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim (Jaíba); MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-769F-62, MNC04-795F-168, BRS Nova Era and BRS-Itaim (Janaúba); MNC04-769F-62, BRS Nova Era and BRS-Itaim (Sete Lagoas); MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-769F-30, MNC04-795F-159, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim (Nova Ubitatã); and MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-736F-30, MNC04-769F-48, MNC04-795F-168, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Itaim (Primavera do Leste). The cultivars BRS-Itaim and BRS-Novaera were superior in all environments and the line MNC04-795F-168 was among the genotypes with best results in Jaíba,

Janaúba, Nova Ubitatã and Primavera do Leste.

The ideal pod length for erect cowpea genotypes has not yet been established. However, Freire Filho (2011) reported average pod length of 18 cm for cultivars released between 1991 and 2010. The pod length of the lines MNC04-795F-168, MNC04-769F-30, MNC04-769F-62 and MNC04-795F-159, and the cultivars BRS-Itaim, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Guariba are within this range (Table 7). Smaller pods have been preferred by producers, since they facilitate harvest mechanization, and prevent contact of the pods with the soil and consequently, their rotting. Moreover, smaller pods are generally lighter and reduce bending and breaking of the peduncle at harvesting (SILVA; NEVES, 2011).

Table 7. Average pod length (cm) of 20 genotypes of cowpea, evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso from 2013 to 2014.

Genotype	Environment				
	Jaíba	Janaúba	Sete Lagoas	Nova Ubiratã	Primavera do Leste
MNC04-762F-3	18.94 B	19.71 B	16.53 B	20.15 B	19.88 B
MNC04-768F-21	19.28 B	19.32 B	19.01 B	18.95 A	19.41 A
MNC04-769F-30	17.61 A	16.66 B	18.81 B	18.50 A	19.36 A
MNC04-769F-48	18.78 B	18.63 B	19.99 B	20.90 B	19.48 A
MNC04-769F-49	19.27 B	18.38 A	19.29 B	19.55 B	20.84 B
MNC04-769F-62	18.36 B	18.14 A	17.71 A	17.80 B	18.54 A
MNC04-782F-104	18.84 B	18.74 B	19.26 B	19.90 B	21.04 B
MNC04-792F-143	18.31 B	18.64 B	19.80 B	20.11 B	21.16 B
MNC04-792F-144	18.37 B	20.18 B	20.07 B	20.11 B	19.31 A
MNC04-792F-148	19.43 B	19.32 B	19.83 B	19.90 B	20.65 B
MNC04-795F-153	19.05 B	19.74 B	19.74 B	20.05 B	20.73 B
MNC04-795F-154	20.37 B	19.97 B	21.63 B	21.75 B	20.93 B
MNC04-795F-155	18.74 B	19.85 B	18.68 B	20.10 B	20.29 B
MNC04-795F-159	18.54 B	19.56 B	18.59 B	18.65 A	19.06 A
MNC04-795F-168	17.02 A	16.93 A	18.26 B	16.20 A	18.11 A
BRS-Guariba	18.49 B	18.12 A	18.80 B	18.30 A	18.61 A
BRS-Tumucumaque	20.30 B	21.23 B	21.83 B	22.65 B	21.93 B
BRS Nova Era	16.22 A	16.15 A	15.04 A	16.60 A	16.91 A
BRS-Itaim	15.99 A	16.43 A	15.79 A	18.10 A	17.38 A
BRS-Cauamé	21.13 B	21.13 B	21.43 B	21.57 B	21.33 B

Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the columns (comparing genotypes) and lowercase in the lines (comparing environments) do not differ by Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$).

The bean yield varied in different environments with a same genotype (Table 8). According to Freire Filho et al. (2005), Rocha et al. (2007) and Matos Filho et al. (2009), differences in the same genotype in different environments can also occur as a function of biotic factors and genetic response to the environmental variations. Zilio et al. (2011) stated that these differences show the presence of genetic variability among the genotypes and the effect of the environment on them.

The most productive genotypes in Jaíba were BRS-Tumucumaque (2,021.17 kg ha⁻¹) and MNC04-795F-154 (1,730.27 kg ha⁻¹).

The lines MNC04-769F-30 and MNC04-769F-49 had the highest bean yield in Janaúba, which had averages of 2,002.92 to 2,590.47 kg ha⁻¹. The genotypes MNC04-769F-30, MNC04-769F-49, MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-795F-154, MNC04-795F-155, MNC04-795F-159 and BRS-Novaera had the highest bean yield in Sete Lagoas, which had averages of 1,389.03 to 1,730.78 kg ha⁻¹ (Table 8).

The genotypes MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-795F-168, MNC04-762F-3, MNC04-795F-159 and BRS-Novaera had the highest bean yield in Nova Ubiratã, which had averages of 2,150.70 to 2,485.71 kg ha⁻¹. The lines MNC04-768F-21, MNC04-769F-

30, MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-795F-153, MNC04-795F-168, and the cultivars BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera and BRS-Cauamé had the highest bean yield in Primavera do Leste, which had averages of 1,359.30 to 1,823.22 kg ha⁻¹.

The genotypes MNC04-792F-144, MNC04-782F-104, MNC04-769F-30, BRS-Guariba and BRS-Novaera had the highest bean yield in three of the five evaluated environments (Table 8). Nunes et al. (2014) also reported the cultivar BRS-Novaera as the most productive, in an experiment conducted in Primavera do Leste, with average bean yield of all genotypes evaluated of 2,103.53 kg ha⁻¹.

The bean yield found in this work can be considered high in most situations, since it was well above the national average of 401 kg ha⁻¹ (EMBRAPA, 2016). However, the national average often denotes the effect of the low technology applied to the crops, which affects bean yield. Moreover, a number of experiments (FREIRE FILHO et al., 2005; ROCHA et al., 2007; TEIXEIRA et al., 2010; VALADARES et al., 2012; BEZERRA et al., 2012; SANTOS et al., 2016) conducted in similar conditions, reported average yields between 1,015 kg ha⁻¹ and 1,390 kg ha⁻¹, which are close to those found in the present work.

Table 8. Average bean yield (kg ha⁻¹) of 20 erect and semi-erect cowpea genotypes evaluated in five environments of the States of Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso.

Genotype	Environment				
	Jaíba	Janaúba	Sete Lagoas	Nova Ubiratã	Primavera do Leste
MNC04-762F-3	802.32 Dc	1,278.44 Cb	1,144.51 Bb	2,485.71 Aa	1,305.21 Bb
MNC04-768F-21	1,119.56 Cc	1,653.25 Cb	1,108.25 Bc	2,331.49 Aa	1,659.74 Ab
MNC04-769F-30	1,113.78 Cd	2,590.47 Aa	1,492.59 Ac	1,861.45 Bb	1,431.19 Ac
MNC04-769F-48	936.83 Cb	1,570.31 Ca	975.66 Bb	1,883.50 Ba	1,166.55 Bb
MNC04-769F-49	1,188.47 Cc	2,309.39 Aa	1,431.66 Ab	1,678.00 Bb	1,026.96 Bc
MNC04-769F-62	1,370.48 Bc	1,610.90 Cb	1,236.16 Bc	1,978.20 Ba	1,267.28 Bc
MNC04-782F-104	1,554.19 Bb	2,002.92 Ba	908.94 Bc	2,013.10 Ba	973.35 Bc
MNC04-792F-143	1,243.11 Cb	1,889.33 Ba	1,149.06 Bb	2,080.60 Ba	1,080.24 Bb
MNC04-792F-144	1,228.76 Cb	1,801.76 Ba	1,582.04 Aa	1,697.46 Ba	1,563.13 Aa
MNC04-792F-148	453.45 Dc	551.58 Dc	1,238.74 Bb	1,882.33 Ba	1,307.83 Bb
MNC04-795F-153	1,102.43 Cb	1,875.49 Ba	1,257.52 Bb	2,010.05 Ba	1,657.05 Aa
MNC04-795F-154	1,730.27 Aa	1,398.56 Cb	1,730.78 Aa	1,760.80 Ba	1,218.85 Bb
MNC04-795F-155	1,403.18 Bc	1,549.88 Cb	1,393.73 Ab	1,957.67 Ba	1,119.65 Bb
MNC04-795F-159	589.92 Dc	1,431.94 Cb	1,389.03 Ab	2,316.20 Aa	1,178.97 Bb
MNC04-795F-168	1,041.30 Cc	1,465.87 Cb	1,207.65 Bc	2,150.70 Aa	1,406.97 Ab
BRS-Guariba	1,646.55 Bb	2,126.14 Ba	1,301.24 Bc	1,762.00 Bb	1,390.62 Ac
BRS-Tumucumaque	2,021.17 Aa	1,332.92 Cb	1,309.78 Bb	1,924.30 Ba	1,426.68 Ab
BRS-Novaera	1,145.95 Cb	1,609.24 Ca	1,727.47 Aa	2,019.67 Ba	1,823.22 Aa
BRS-Itaim	941.13 Cb	1,623.50 Ca	1,192.32 Bb	1,894.60 Ba	1,249.29 Bb
BRS-Cauamé	1096.16 Cc	1,489.89 Cb	973.03 Bc	1,778.33 Ba	1,359.30 Ab

Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the columns (comparing genotypes) and lowercase in the lines (comparing environments) do not differ by Scott-Knott test ($p < 0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS

The cultivar BRS Nova Era and the lines MNC04-768F-21 and MNC04F-795F-168 had the highest bean yield in the environments evaluated in the State of Mato Grosso (Nova Ubiratã and Primavera do Leste) and also showed growth habit, plant lodging and cultivation value similar to those of the cultivar BRS-Guariba, which is widely cultivated in this region, and cultivar BRS-Tumucumaque, which is recommended for this state.

The cultivars BRS-Guariba, BRS-Tumucumaque, BRS-Novaera, BRS-Itaim and BRS-Cauamé and the lines MNC04-792F-143 and MNC04-792F-144 showed satisfactory bean yield and good growth habit, plant lodging and cultivation value in the environments of the State of Minas Gerais, especially in the state northern region (Jaíba and Janaúba), representing good alternatives for the genotypes recommended for this region.

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