**Genetic Associations in Four Decades of Multi-Environment Trials Reveal Agronomic Trait Evolution in Common Bean**

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Genotypic data is available on SRA under submission number SUB6162710*.*

Code for SNP calling is available at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/SNP-calling-pipeline-GBS-ApeKI>.

Aligned SNP data is available at <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/RTBTIR>.

Raw phenotypic data is available in the National Agricultural Library: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>.

Code used to generate data used in this analysis from the raw phenotypic data is available at Rpubs, found at: <http://rpubs.com/alice_macqueen/CDBN_Phenotype_Standardization>.

Code and data necessary to replicate this analysis are available as part of the R package CDBNgenomics, found at: <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/CDBNgenomics>.

Supplementary data for this manuscript is available at: <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/KZFZ6K>.

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**Abstract**

Multi-environment trials (METs) are widely used to assess the performance of promising crop germplasm. Though seldom designed to elucidate genetic mechanisms, MET datasets are often much larger than could be duplicated for genetic research and, given proper interpretation, may offer valuable insights into the genetics of adaptation across time and space.  The Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN) is a MET for common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) grown for over 70 years in the United States and Canada, consisting of 20 to 50 entries each year at 10 to 20 locations. The CBDN provides a rich source of phenotypic data across entries, years, and locations that is amenable to genetic analysis. To study stable genetic effects segregating in this MET, we conducted genome-wide association (GWAS) using best linear unbiased predictions (BLUPs) derived across years and locations for 21 CDBN phenotypes and genotypic data (1.2M SNPs) for 327 CDBN genotypes. The value of this approach was confirmed by the discovery of three candidate genes and genomic regions previously identified in balanced GWAS. Multivariate adaptive shrinkage (mash) analysis, which increased our power to detect significant correlated effects, found significant effects for all phenotypes. The first use of mash on an agricultural dataset discovered two genomic regions with pleiotropic effects on multiple phenotypes, likely selected on in pursuit of a crop ideotype. Overall, our results demonstrate that by applying multiple statistical genomic approaches on data mined from MET phenotypic data sets, significant genetic effects that define genomic regions associated with crop improvement can be discovered.

**Introduction**

Almost every crop improvement program assesses the performance of promising germplasm and breeding material via multi-environment trials (METs). The phenotypic data produced by these trials are extremely important guides to growers, private seed companies, and public institutions involved in crop improvement, because combining trial data from multiple years and locations increases the probability of identifying genotypes that perform well or show especially desirable traits (Bowman 1998). Many cooperative testing networks conduct METs to enable cooperators and other interested parties to observe performance over a wider range of environments than if they were only tested locally (Annicchiarico 2002). This supports the identification of advanced lines with stable, high performance in multiple production environments. Amongst many others, crop testing networks that conduct METs include the US cooperative regional performance testing program, the University Crop Testing Alliance, and the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN) (Singh 2000).

Longstanding METs such as the CDBN have often focused on breeding for crop ideotypes, in addition to breeding to eliminate defects and to select for yield. Donald (1968) defined a crop ideotype as an idealized plant with trait combinations expected to produce a greater yield quantity or quality. In contrast, approaches that eliminate defects or select for yield do not consider desirable combinations of traits; thus, these approaches only produce desirable combinations by chance. Selection for an ideotype involves selection for correlated traits, and could lead to substantial pleiotropy, where a single gene affects multiple traits. METs like the CDBN that were used to select for specific crop ideotypes could provide insight into the genetics of trait correlations in crop genomes.

Though METs are often used to measure genetic gain over time (Graybosch and Peterson 2010; Vandemark *et al.* 2014), the vast majority of METs are designed to measure phenotypic responses to a broad set of targeted growing environments. The experimental designs of METs can pose substantial analytical challenges to additional, unplanned genetic analyses. METs typically produce sparse data matrices of phenotypes across germplasm entries, locations, and years (Fig. 1). The frequency of different germplasm entries may vary as part of the normal selection process. Thus, entries with good performance are often tested in more locations and years than those with poor performance. With the exception of few standard checks, the set of genotypes tested each year typically varies, with most genotypes tested in only one or two years. In addition, the total number of genotypes tested each year can vary substantially, and this number is typically too small for genome-wide association on any one year’s data alone. Over the years, MET cooperators can also join or leave the network and add or drop MET sites or phenotypes due to changes in research focus, personnel, or funding. All of these variations make METs into large unbalanced datasets that need to be handled properly for genetic work. Genetic analyses of MET germplasm can also be hampered by the difficulty of obtaining and genotyping previously evaluated entries, particularly entries with poor trial performance that were not tested further. This difficulty may bias or prevent studies that require genetic diversity to explain phenotypic variation, such as genome-wide association studies. In contrast, field experiments designed for genetic studies assess complete, balanced designs, and produce data matrices of phenotypes across genotypes and environments with few or no missing cells. Ideally, the number of genotypes is identical across all environments, and a minimum of a few hundred genotypes are tested in each environment. Each genotype is also tested an equivalent number of times across sites and years.

Despite these analytical issues, METs often produce decades of phenotypic data, which gives them substantial appeal for use in genetic analyses of phenotypic variation. Genetic analyses of MET datasets have recently been implemented in several crop species (Hamblin *et al.* 2010; Rife *et al.* 2018; Sukumaran *et al.* 2018). Its nutritional and agronomic importance, long history of multi-environment trials (METs), and emerging genomic tools makes common bean an outstanding species in which to assess METs that might support the genetic analysis of phenotypic variation. Common bean is the most consumed plant protein source worldwide and is a particularly important source of protein in the developing world (FAOSTAT 2015).In North America, common bean improvement efforts remain mostly in the public sector, and over the past 70 years, the CDBN has been a major testing platform for these improvement efforts. The CDBN is the largest MET for common bean in the United States and Canada (Myers 1988; Singh 2000) and CDBN cooperators have collected phenotypic data on over 150 traits for hundreds of advanced breeding lines and released cultivars (hereafter entries) of common bean at over 70 locations (Fig. 1), which produced up to 18,000 recorded data points per trait (Fig. 2a). The traits are of economic and/or agronomic importance to bean producers, and include seed yield, growth habit, seed size, phenology, and disease responses, among others (Fig. 2a, S1).

More than 500 CDBN entries have been grown since the 1980’s (Fig. 1). These entries include released cultivars and unreleased advanced breeding lines representing most bean types grown in North America. These represent at least thirteen market classes of common bean that group into three major races from two independent domestication events (Mamidi *et al.* 2011) (Fig. 1). Therefore, the CDBN can be used as a representative sample of the genetic diversity being used by North American bean breeders in their programs throughout the last 70 years. However, phenotypic data from the CDBN is sparse and unevenly distributed: the average CDBN entry was grown at only 19 of the 70 locations and in two of the 34 years, with substantial variation in these numbers. CDBN cooperators grew between 16 and 61 of the 500+ entries each year and used ten to 28 of the 70+ locations per year (Fig. 1). Individual CDBN locations grew between eight and 514 entries, with a median of 74 entries. Locations were used in the CDBN for as few as one to as many as 34 years, with a median of five years of participation. Though genotypes are present only intermittently over CDBN locations and years, the vast phenotyping effort on this interrelated set of bean germplasm, when combined with genomic data, offers an excellent opportunity to identify genomic regions affecting phenotypic variation in this species.

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have elucidated candidate genes and genomic regions that affect trait variation in many other crop species (Atwell *et al.* 2010; Kirby *et al.* 2010; Mackay *et al.* 2012; Lin *et al.* 2014; McCouch *et al.* 2016; MacArthur *et al.* 2017; Xiao *et al.* 2017; Togninalli *et al.* 2018)and have recently been implemented in common bean (Cichy *et al.* 2015; Kamfwa *et al.* 2015b; Kamfwa *et al.* 2015a; Moghaddam *et al.* 2016; Soltani *et al.* 2017; Tock *et al.* 2017; Nascimento *et al.* 2018; Soltani *et al.* 2018; Oladzad *et al.* 2019a; Oladzad *et al.* 2019b; Raggi *et al.* 2019). Combining sparse phenotypic data in agricultural datasets to look for pleiotropic effects across conditions has parallels in human biomedical GWAS. In these trials, individual clinics can assess only a subset of human genotypes, and patients are evaluated using institution-specific criteria (Lotta *et al.* 2017; Visscher *et al.* 2017).Human GWAS often look for common variants for common diseases and correct phenotypes for effects of age, sex, and location (Schork *et al.* 2009; Mefford and Witte 2012; Zaitlen *et al.* 2012). Analogously, we seek common, genetically stable variants for important phenotypes evaluated in a MET, corrected for effects of location, year, kinship, and assessment criteria. In human biomedical GWAS, pleiotropic effects of SNPs on multiple diseases have frequently been observed (Sivakumaran *et al.* 2011). Selection for a common bean crop ideotype, with a long hypocotyl, many nodes carrying long pods and without side branches, small leaves, and determinate growth (Adams 1982; Kelly 2001), is known to have led to pleiotropic effects on multiple traits, such as seed yield, biomass, lodging, and plant height (Soltani *et al.* 2016). To study the genetic effects of this aspect of the CDBN selection framework, we used multivariate adaptive shrinkage (mash) to find genomic associations with significant effects on one or more CDBN phenotype (Urbut *et al.* 2019). Mash is a flexible, data-driven method that shares information on patterns of effect size and sign in any dataset where effects can be estimated on a condition-by-condition basis for many conditions (here, phenotypes) across many units (here, SNPs). It first learns patterns of covariance between SNPs and phenotypes from SNPs without strong effects, then combines these data-driven covariances with the original condition-by-condition results to produce improved effect estimates. In this way, mash shares information between conditions to increase the power to detect shared patterns of effects. Mash was originally used for analyses of human biomedical data (Urbut *et al.* 2019) and has yet to be used in an agricultural setting. This analysis method could be used with the rich phenotypic resources of crop METs to understand genetic effects across multiple phenotypes or across multiple locations and years.

Here, we demonstrate that the CDBN MET dataset can be used to make genetic discoveries, despite the sparse nature of the data, by using BLUPs for entries phenotyped in the CDBN. We explore whether this approach can find genomic regions significantly associated with phenotypic variation, and compare associations found with this approach to published GWAS results obtained from more balanced trials. We also explore patterns of genomic associations with significant effects on more than one CDBN phenotype using mash. Our results demonstrate the value of adding a genetic component to datasets such as the CDBN and provide a starting point for future work that explores the genetics of phenotypes evaluated in METs.

**Materials and Methods**

***Background principles: processing, digitization and genetic analysis of phenotypic data***

MET datasets represent substantial phenotypic resources that can aid in the genetic study of important agronomic phenotypes. Several important steps in preparing the CDBN data for analysis fall under the remit of data science, and specifically involve the data processing steps outlined here. First, when available only from printed reports, the data was rendered machine-readable. Processing of the digitized data next involved cleaning the data to remove inconsistencies and spurious data, then filtering to retain only the relevant data. The data was stored in a consistent form where the semantics of the dataset matched the way it was stored. Then, various data scales for individual traits such as growth habit were standardized to create phenotypes that were more consistent across locations and years. The phenotypic data was next enriched with additional attributes that made subsequent analyses more meaningful, such as germplasm, environment, and crop management information. Then, the data was aggregated to create summary data, by estimating BLUPs for each phenotype. We next used a GWAS modeling approach to determine the genomic regions associated with these data summaries. Finally, we used multivariate adaptive shrinkage (mash) to examine the patterns of overlap between genomic associations with significant effects on one or more phenotype (Urbut *et al.* 2019).

*Phenotypic data processing*

Phenotypic data for entries grown in the CDBN were available mainly as hard-copy reports providing plot averages at named locations. Some reports were available in the National Agricultural Library from the 1950s onwards; however, reports from 1981 onwards had substantial additional available genetic material and were the focus for this analysis (Table S1). Reports from 1981 to 2015 were scanned if not in digital format, digitized using optical image recognition as required, and then reformatted using custom SAS (SAS System, version 9.4, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC) scripts that also standardized nomenclature and units of measurement.

Much of the phenotypic data required additional processing to allow comparisons across locations and years. The long timespan and large number of testing locations led to the scoring of 152 traits. Many of these traits represented distinct methods for scoring similar phenotypes; for example, lodging was scored on a percent scale, a 1 to 5 scale, a 0 to 9 scale, and a 1 to 9 scale at different locations and in different years; for this analysis, these lodging traits were standardized to one lodging phenotype on a 1 to 5 scale. From 152 traits reported, 22 phenotypes were standardized for use in GWAS, including eight quantitative phenotypes and fourteen qualitative phenotypes created from visual scores and/or specific measurements (Fig. 2a). The output from the R script used to standardize the phenotypes across locations and years can be found online at <http://rpubs.com/alice_macqueen/CDBN_Phenotype_Standardization>.

We generated phenotypes associated with location code, year, and genotype information. A total of 70 location codes were created as four-letter abbreviations with the U.S. state or Canadian province abbreviation as the first two letters, and the specific site abbreviation as the second two letters. Five location codes ending in “2” corresponded to a second trial grown at that location and year, usually with a treatment such as drought or disease applied. Location codes were associated with latitude, longitude, elevation, and other location-specific metadata (Table S2), while genotypes were associated with market class and race, as well as the availability of seed from the holdings of CDBN cooperators and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data, where available (Table S2).

In general, location by year (L\*Y) combinations with outlier phenotypic values (values above the third quartile or below the first quartile by 1.5 times the interquartile range, or IQR) were removed for every entry in that L\*Y combination. Removing outlier L\*Y combinations prevented possible bias from linear models using a biased sample of datapoints for a L\*Y, while still removing points that, by IQR measures and by knowledge of reasonable ranges for common bean quantitative phenotypes, were likely due to mismeasurement or data entry errors. The specifics of phenotype standardization for all 22 phenotypes are given in the Supplementary Note and the code is available on GitHub at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/CDBNgenomics/tree/master/analysis-paper>.

***Germplasm: CDBN Breeding Strategies, Diversity Panel and Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Dataset***

*Germplasm recovery and sequencing*

To detect genomic regions associated with phenotypic variation in a GWAS framework, it is particularly valuable to have a large amount of heritable phenotypic variation. Thus, it was equally important to include entries from the CDBN with poor seed yields or non-ideal phenotypic traits as high yielding, commercially released varieties. We thus went to considerable effort to obtain seed of unreleased, unarchived materials from the holdings of CDBN cooperators. Germplasm from the entries grown in the CDBN was obtained from multiple sources, including the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), and three common bean diversity panels, the Mesoamerican Diversity Panel (MDP) (Moghaddam *et al.* 2016), Durango Diversity Panel (DDP) (Soltani *et al.* 2016), and Andean Diversity Panel (ADP) (Cichy *et al.* 2015). Seed was also obtained from holdings of CDBN cooperators, including Mark Brick (Colorado State University), Jim Kelly (Michigan State University), Phil McClean (North Dakota State University), Phil Miklas (USDA-ARS), James Myers (Oregon State University), Juan Osorno (North Dakota State University), and Tom Smith (University of Guelph).

The SNP dataset was created from this germplasm in two ways. First, raw sequence data was obtained from the ADP, DDP, and MDP (Cichy *et al.* 2015; Moghaddam *et al.* 2016) for CDBN entries and all parents of CDBN entries which had been sequenced as part of these panels. The remainder of the CDBN was genotyped using identical methodology to these previous diversity panels, dual-enzyme genotyping-by-sequencing (Schröder *et al.* 2016). Unfortunately, 39 of the older, unreleased varieties would no longer germinate. For these varieties, we obtained DNA for sequencing by rehydrating sterilized seeds on wetted Whatman paper in petri plates for 2-3 days, then dissecting the embryo from the seed and extracting DNA from the embryo. The DNA from the remaining entries was extracted from young trifoliates. The enzymes *MseI* and *TaqI* were used for digestion following the protocol from Schröder *et al.* (2016).SNPs were called from this raw sequence data using the pipeline found at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/SNP-calling-pipeline-GBS-ApeKI>. Briefly, cutadapt was used to trim adapters and barcodes (Marcel 2011), sickle adaptive trimming was used to remove ends of reads with quality scores below 20 (Joshi and Fass 2011), bwa mem was used to align reads to V2.0 of the G19833 reference genome found at <https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html#!info?alias=Org_Pvulgaris> (Li and Durbin 2010; Schmutz *et al.* 2014), and NGSEP was used to call SNPs for the entire set of CDBN entries and all parents in the CDBN pedigrees (Duitama *et al.* 2014). SNPs were imputed using FILLIN in TASSEL. This resulted in the creation of a diversity panel of 327 entries with MET data in the CDBN, (Table S2) with aligned SNP data available on the UT Libraries data repository at doi: [https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/RTBTIR](https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/RTBTIR" \t "_blank) for use in the CDBNgenomics R package at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/CDBNgenomics>.

*Genome-wide association study*

To explore consistent genetic effects that could be compared to balanced genetic trials, analyses were performed on genetic BLUPs for each phenotype. BLUPs were calculated using the ASReml package in R, treating CDBN germplasm entry as a fixed effect, and treating location, the interaction between location and year, the interaction between CDBN germplasm entry and location, and the interaction between CDBN germplasm entry and year as random effects. The R code to generate the BLUPs is available on GitHub at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/CDBNgenomics/tree/master/data-raw>. The BLUPs are available in Table S2, and tables of model fixed and random effects are available in Table XXX.

For GWAS phenotypes, BLUPs were retained only for CDBN entries with estimable effects in ASReml. The kinship matrix was calculated using default methods in GAPIT. A total of 1,221,540 SNPs with a minor allele frequency greater than 5% in the CDBN diversity panel were identified and used for the CDBN GWAS. GWAS analyses were performed using compressed mixed linear models (Zhang *et al.* 2010) implemented in GAPIT with the optimum level of compression (Lipka *et al.* 2012). These models used a kinship matrix calculated within GAPIT to account for individual relatedness, and some number of principle components (PCs) to account for population structure. The optimum number of principle components (PCs) to account for population structure was determined using model selection in GAPIT, and by selecting the number of PCs that maximized the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). Typically, zero PCs were used; two PCs were used for days to maturity and BCMV damage score, while seven PCs were used for seed weight (Table S3). GAPIT was used to calculate narrow sense heritability (h2), defined as Vg / (Vg + Ve), where Vg is the estimate of the genetic variance from GAPIT and Ve is the estimate of the error variance. The final Manhattan plots were created using the ggman R package. Plots of intersecting sets were created using the UpSetR package (Lex *et al.* 2014). Candidate genes for phenotypes with *p*-values above a Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate (FDR) threshold of 0.1 were selected using a local score approach with ξ = 3 (Bonhomme et al 2019). This approach uses the cumulative association signals caused by LD between SNPs in a genomic region containing a causal variant to improve GWAS resolution and increase the power to detect QTL of minor effect. Candidate genes for phenotypes that did not have *p-*values above a FDR threshold of 0.1 are available on Github.

*Comparison to published genome-wide associations in common bean*

Out of the 21 BLUPs estimated from CDBN phenotypes, a group of 13 also had published associations from GWAS on common bean. To compare the major associations in our study to those of published studies on balanced genetic trials, we collected the major associations reported in eleven published GWAS studies of common bean (Cichy *et al.* 2015; Kamfwa *et al.* 2015b; Kamfwa *et al.* 2015a; Moghaddam *et al.* 2016; Soltani *et al.* 2017; Tock *et al.* 2017; Nascimento *et al.* 2018; Soltani *et al.* 2018; Oladzad *et al.* 2019a; Oladzad *et al.* 2019b; Raggi *et al.* 2019). We compared these published associations to the associations for the top 10 SNPs for each of the 13 phenotypes in this study, thinned to one SNP per 20kb region. Unfortunately, these comparisons were likely very conservative, in that most of these publications used panels of common bean that were comprised of material from different genepools than the CDBN, with the exception of the MDP and DDP (Moghaddam *et al.* 2016; Soltani *et al.* 2016; Oladzad *et al.* 2019a; Oladzad *et al.* 2019b). Both Andean and Middle-American genepools have been observed to have different SNPs underlying domestication traits (Schmutz *et al.* 2014). Eight of these publications used v1.0 of the *Phaseolus vulgaris* genome annotation, while our associations were mapped to v2.0. We used the genome browser located at <https://legumeinfo.org/genomes/gbrowse/phavu.G19833.gnm2> to convert associations between these two versions of the genome annotation. We then determined the number of overlapping associations meeting two criteria: first, those within 200kb of one another, and second, within 20kb of one another and with the same candidate gene. We determined these overlaps for the 80 associations from the eleven published GWAS to find an expected rate of overlap, then compared this to the rate of overlap between this study and the eleven balanced GWAS.

*Analysis of pleiotropy or linked effects on multiple phenotypes*

To increase our power to detect associations above a FDR, and to find genomic associations with significant effects on one or more CDBN phenotype, we used a two-step empirical Bayes procedure, mash, to estimate effects of ~30000 SNPs from 17 GWAS conducted on CDBN phenotypes (Urbut *et al.* 2019). Mash has been used to increase power to detect effects in analyses of human data, and while the methods are extensible to any dataset with many SNPs/markers and many phenotypes/conditions, it has not yet been used in an agricultural setting. It can be used for any dataset where effects can be estimated for many conditions (here, phenotypes) across many units (here, SNPs). Mash first learns patterns of covariance between SNPs and phenotypes from SNPs without strong effects, then combines these data-driven covariances with the original condition-by-condition results to produce improved effect estimates. In this way, mash shares information between conditions to increase the power to detect shared patterns of effects. Importantly, this method does not have restrictive assumptions about the patterns of effects between markers or conditions. In addition, estimates with little uncertainty are not adversely affected by the inclusion of estimates with high uncertainty. Thus, we included 17 phenotypes in the mash analysis, including twelve phenotypes with no signal above the Benjamini-Hochberg FDR threshold in individual GWAS. Five low-signal phenotypes with narrow-sense heritability estimates below 30% were not included; inclusion of these phenotypes did not significantly alter the mash results (data available on Github). The procedure we used to generate input matrices for mash is captured in the R package gapit2mashr, available at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/gapit2mashr>. Briefly, the effect of the alternate allele relative to the reference allele was determined for each SNP using GAPIT. To allow mash to converge effectively on effect estimates, the effects for each phenotype were standardized to fall between -1 and 1, with a mean of 0. Because mash does not accept NA values, when GAPIT calculated standard errors for 95% or fewer of the SNPs in the GWAS, we instead calculated standard errors for that phenotype using Hedges’ G (Hedges and Olkin 1985).

Data-driven covariance matrices were estimated using 30,000 randomly selected SNPs from the entire set of 1,221,540 SNPs. These matrices were then used on the top 2,500 SNPs for each of the 17 traits, as determined by *p*-value in the individual GWAS, which produced a matrix of strong effects for 30,000 SNPs. We then explored the patterns of significant effects in the mash output. We first determined which SNPs had evidence of significant phenotypic effects by determining SNPs with the largest Bayes factors. In this analysis, the Bayes factor was the ratio of the likelihood of one or more significant phenotypic effects at a SNP to the likelihood that the SNP had only null effects. Here, following Kass and Raftery (1995), a Bayes factor of > 102 is considered decisive evidence in favor of the hypothesis that a SNP has one or more significant phenotypic effect. We also compared the size of significant phenotypic effects, as determined by SNPs with a local false sign rate of 0.05 or less for one or more phenotype. The local false sign rate is analogous to a FDR, but is more conservative, in that it also reflects the uncertainty in the estimation of the sign of the effect (Stephens 2017).

*Data availability statement*

Genotypic data is available on SRA under submission number SUB6162710*.* Code for SNP calling is available at <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/SNP-calling-pipeline-GBS-ApeKI>.

Aligned SNP data is available at <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/RTBTIR>. Raw phenotypic data is available in the National Agricultural Library: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>. Code used to generate data used in this analysis from the raw phenotypic data is available at Rpubs, found at: <http://rpubs.com/alice_macqueen/CDBN_Phenotype_Standardization>. Code and data necessary to replicate this analysis are available as part of the R package CDBNgenomics, found at: <https://github.com/Alice-MacQueen/CDBNgenomics>. Supplementary data for this manuscript is available at: <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/KZFZ6K>.

**Results**

*Phenotypic Correlations in the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery*

The CDBN contains a wealth of data to study the genetics of phenotypes and phenotypic correlations (Fig. 1, Fig. 2a). We were able to obtain and genotype 327 germplasm entries from the 544+ entries present in the CDBN trials from 1981 to 2015, including 124 entries that were neither released commercially nor submitted to the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS 2017), and 39 entries whose seed would not germinate. Most of the remaining entries were grown in the CDBN before 1990 and had seed stocks that, for reasons of practicality, were no longer maintained by breeders (Fig. 1). GBS of the available genotypes generated 1.2M SNPs for analysis of stable effects in the CDBN.

BLUPs of phenotypes from the CDBN, conditioned on location, location by year, and the kinship matrix, are analogous to breeding values for the CDBN entries. We determined the correlations between the BLUPs of CDBN phenotypes, or the genetic correlations. Correlation coefficients between BLUPs of CDBN phenotypes varied between -0.63 and 0.73, and 45% of phenotypic pairs had a correlation coefficient of 20% or greater (Figure S1). Two major groups of phenotypes were positively correlated: biomass, days to flowering, plant height, and days to maturity were in the first of these groups, and white mold damage score, growth habit, seed yield, harvest index, lodging, and rust damage score were in the second of these groups. With the exception of biomass, these two groups had modest negative phenotypic correlations with each other.

*Eight CDBN phenotypes have genetic associations above the false discovery rate*

We conducted GWAS on 21 phenotypes using best linear unbiased predictors (BLUPs) calculated using a kinship matrix, location, and an interaction between location and year as fixed effects. (for details, see the *Genome-wide association study* section in the Materials and Methods). To determine if any SNP frequencies had changed over the duration of the CDBN, we also conducted GWAS on the earliest year that each germplasm entry was present in the CDBN as a proxy for the age of the entry. This GWAS was analogous to an environmental GWAS that uses climatic variables associated with a genotype’s location of origin (Hancock *et al.* 2011; Morris *et al.* 2013), though this GWAS is fitted to a variable correlated with the age of the genotype rather than with its location of origin.

Given the analytical issues surrounding the use of METs for unplanned genetic analyses, it was unclear whether GWAS on CDBN phenotypes would find significant associations, or if these associations would be reduced or eliminated by environmental noise or by experimental design biases. We first determined the narrow-sense heritability, h2, measured for each trait by GAPIT. Five out of 22 traits had h2 below 30%, and thus likely had little genetic variation for GAPIT to detect (Table 1). We then determined if any GWAS on CDBN phenotypes had significant associations after a Benjamini-Hochberg FDR correction of 10%. With this criterion, significant associations were discovered for five of the 21 phenotypes. There were more than 22 peaks with SNPs with *p*-values above the FDR, indicating the presence of 20 or more distinct, significant associations with these five CDBN-derived phenotypes. Phenotypes with associations above the FDR generally had more datapoints in the CDBN (7800 vs 2700 datapoints, Wilcoxon rank sum test *p* = 0.026; Fig. 2a). Phenotypes with associations above the FDR also had significantly higher narrow-sense heritabilities estimated from GAPIT (h2 of 84.2% vs 50.9%, Wilcoxon rank sum test *p* = 0.013, Table 1). We briefly discuss the associations above the FDR for these five phenotypes in the order of most to fewest datapoints in the CDBN. In cases where there were multiple associations for a single phenotype, we discuss only the top associations by *p*-value.

Seed yield (kg ha-1) had one significant peak after FDR correction, on Pv01 at 42.2Mb (Fig. 2b, 2c, Table S4). This association was correlated with a difference in seed yield of 139 kg ha-1 (Fig. 2f, Supplementary Table 4). Median seed yield in the CDBN for the Durango, Mesoamerican, and Nueva Granada races was 2803, 2443, and 2038 kg ha-1, respectively; thus, this genomic region accounts for changes in seed yield of 5-6%, or three to four years of improvement effort at historical rates of bean improvement (Vandemark *et al.* 2014). This association was 3.7kb upstream of the gene *Phvul.001G167200*, agene that is highly expressed in the shoot and root tips of common bean at the 2nd trifoliate stage of development (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016). The *A. thaliana* homolog of this gene, *VERNALIZATION INDEPENDENCE 5* (*VIP5*), affects flowering time by activating Flower Locus C (FLC), which is a repressor of flowering (Oh *et al.* 2004). To improve GWAS resolution and account for LD, we applied the local score approach to this peak, and found the top association mapped to the same location (Figure SX).

Seed weight (mg) had associations on six chromosomes that were significant after FDR (Fig. 2d, 2e); the strongest of these were on Pv02 (Fig. 2g), Pv03, Pv05, and Pv08, though each explained less than 2% of the variation in seed weight (Table S4). Because seed weight correlates strongly with population structure in the three bean races and two bean gene pools, seven principal components were used to correct for population structure in this GWAS (Table S3). The association on Pv02 was 2kb upstream of gene model *Phvul.002G151800*, an uncharacterized protein highly expressed in flower tissue. The association on Pv03 was 10kb upstream of gene model *Phvul.003G039900*, a jasmonic acid carboxyl methyltransferase. The association on Pv05 was not within 20kb of any gene. The association on Pv08 fell in the coding sequence of *Phvul.008G290600*, a choline-phosphate cytidylyltransferase highly expressed in many tissues, including roots and pods and seeds at the heart stage and stage 2, or seeds 3 – 4 and 8 – 10mm wide (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016). To improve GWAS resolution, we applied the local score approach to these peaks, but found that these four associations mapped to the same location (identical in 3 cases and shifted by 7bp in one case).

Lodging score, where higher scores indicated more stem breakage near ground level, had associations on three chromosomes that were significant after FDR; one on Pv04 at 2.9 Mb, one on Pv08 at 18.2 Mb, and one on Pv07 at 34.5 Mb (Figure S2b, Table S4). In total, these three associations explained 11% of the variation in lodging (Supplementary Figure 4). The strongest signal for lodging, explaining 3% of the variation, fell in the promoter region of gene model *Phvul*.*007G221800*, which is orthologous to *SUPPRESSOR OF AUXIN RESISTANCE 1* (SAR1). In *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *SAR1* increases plant height and internode distance and appears to affect stem thickness (Cernac *et al.* 1997; Parry *et al.* 2006). local score approach found that themapped to five distinct regions from 2.86Mb to 3.15Mb; this kind of imprecise mapping could indicate an imperfectly tagged non-SNP type of polymorphism, such as an insertion-deletion polymorphism. The association at 18.2Mb on Pv08 was 18kb from *Phvul.008G122133*, though the local score approach did not recover a significant signal at this genomic location.

Growth habit encompasses both determinate and indeterminate types (I and II/III), as well as upright and prostrate indeterminate types (II and III). Growth habit had significant associations on eight chromosomes after FDR; the strongest four associations were on Pv01 at 6.2 and 42.2 Mb, on Pv09 at 30.9 Mb, and Pv10 at 42.7 Mb (Figure S2d, Table S4). There are known to be multiple determinacy loci segregating in different gene pools of common bean (Kwak *et al.* 2012), which could complicate associations between growth habit and genomic regions in the CDBN panel. These four associations were associated with variation in determinacy in this panel; however, these four associations were not sufficient to explain all variation in determinacy, in that 13 genotypes had all alleles that were associated with determinacy, but were indeterminate, and one genotype had all alleles that were associated with indeterminacy, but was determinate (Figure S3c). The association at 6 Mb on Pv01 fell in the coding sequence of the gene model *Phvul.001G055600*, a RING-CH type zinc finger protein expressed highly in roots and in stem internodes above the cotyledon at the 2nd trifoliate stage (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016). The association at 42.2 Mb was 3.7 kb upstream of the gene VIP5; as noted above, this gene and genomic region were also candidate associations for seed yield (kg ha-1). The association on Pv09 was 5 kb upstream of model *Phvul.009G204100* that encodes a signal peptide peptidase A highly expressed in pods associated with stage 2 seeds and in stem internodes above the cotyledon at the 2nd trifoliate stage (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016). The association on Pv10 was 1 kb upstream of model *Phvul.010G146500*, a gene from an uncharacterized protein family highly expressed in roots, pods with seeds at the heart stage, and stem internodes above the cotyledon at the 2nd trifoliate stage (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016). The local score approach found peaks that were at their maximum 300bp or less away from the peaks on Pv01 at 6Mb, Pv09, and Pv10; however, the maximum peak near Pv01 at 42.2Mb was 52kb away, at 42.28 Mb, and 5000bp upstream of Phvul.001G167600, a WD repeat-containing protein highly expressed in pods and heart-staged seeds.

Bean rust (*Uromyces appendiculatus*) causes leaf and pod pustules and leads to losses in vigor and seed yield. Higher plant damage caused by rust was indicated by a higher rust score. The strongest association for rust score was located on Pv11 at 50.6 Mb and overlapped a major cluster of disease resistance genes containing the rust resistance genes *Ur-3*, *Ur-6*, *Ur-7*, and *Ur-11* (Hurtado-Gonzales et al. 2017). This signal fell just upstream of the gene model *Phvul.011G193100*, which maps in the interval suggested to contain the resistance gene *Ur-3* (Hurtado-Gonzales *et al.* 2017). The alternate allele was present in the early years of our CDBN data within Mesoamerican race, but was either absent or rare within the Durango race in the CDBN until 1988, when it was observed in the pinto Sierra and the great northern Starlight. The alternate allele was not widely distributed in the Durango race until the mid-1990’s (Figure S3d).

*Three CDBN genetic associations overlap genetic associations from balanced genetic field trials*

The presence of many associations above the FDR threshold supports using MET data for genetic analyses. However, the assortative mating employed purposefully by breeders of entries in the CDBN could potentially lead to a high rate of false positives (Li *et al.* 2017). Overall, it was unclear whether GWAS using phenotypes derived from sparse MET datasets would yield similar genetic associations as published, balanced field trials. Thus, we compared the top associations discovered here to associations from eleven published GWAS papers on common bean. This allowed us to compare association overlaps for 13 phenotypes, seven of which that had associations above the FDR, and gave 34 top associations from this study to compare to 80 published association regions. In addition to these GWAS associations, the bean rust resistance phenotype overlapped with a candidate rust resistance gene, *Ur-3*, one of the two genes pyramided in the 1980s in bean breeding to provide comprehensive rust resistance.

Three top associations from this study were within 20kb of, and had the same candidate gene as, top associations from published, balanced GWAS: days to flowering, on Pv01 at 13.7 Mb; growth habit, on Pv01 at 42.2 Mb; and lodging, on Pv07 at 34.2 Mb (Table 2). Interestingly, when considering all 114 associations, each of these three regions had significant effects for three phenotypes: lodging, growth habit, and days to flowering on Pv01 at 13.7Mb; growth habit, seed yield, and biomass on Pv01 at 42.2Mb; and plant height, lodging, and growth habit on Pv07 at 34.2Mb (Table 2). In this study, the top 10 SNPs for harvest index and days to maturity also had the same candidate gene on Pv03 at 36.8 Mb, the gene model *Phvul.003G153100*. *Phvul.003G153100* is an AP2-like ethylene-responsive transcription factor highly expressed in root tissue and nodules (O’Rourke *et al.* 2014; Dash *et al.* 2016).

In comparisons involving only the eleven balanced studies, nine of 80 associations fell into three 20kb regions, while 15 of the 80 associations fell into six 200kb regions. When this study was added, seven additional associations fell into four 20kb regions, while twelve additional associations fell into 14 overlapping 200kb regions (Table 2). This study did not identify many new overlaps at the 20kb level, though it did find associations in all three 20kb overlapping regions found by comparing the eleven balanced studies alone. It did, however, find many new overlaps with previously published studies at the 200kb level, twice as many as expected given the rate of overlap in the eleven balanced studies (chi-squared *p* = 0.025). However, as the balanced studies often did not conduct GWAS on similar phenotypes, our “expected” rate of overlap is likely to be biased. Thus, we consider the fact that this study found the same three 20kb regions that overlap in balanced GWAS comparisons to be stronger evidence than the large number of overlaps at the 200kb level that this panel can yield similar associations to balanced GWAS of common bean diversity panels.

*Extensive linked effects or pleiotropy within CDBN genetic associations*

We observed that numerous CDBN phenotypes had overlapping distributions of significantly associated SNPs. These overlaps could be due to pleiotropy – one genetic locus affecting multiple phenotypes – or due to multiple tightly linked genetic loci affecting multiple phenotypes. Loci could be tightly linked due to low recombination rates caused by small physical distances or recombination cold spots that occur naturally or due to assortative mating. To formally compare these overlaps, we used mash on 16 sets of 2,500 SNPs with the smallest *p*-values for phenotypes from the CDBN as well as 2,500 SNPs for the earliest year an entry was grown in the CDBN (Figure 3). Mash shares information about effect sizes of SNPs across all phenotypes, while accounting for data-driven covariances in the patterns of effects (Urbut *et al.* 2019). In contrast to phenotype-by-phenotype analyses, where only five phenotypes had associations above the FDR, in mash, all seventeen phenotypes had SNPs with p-values below the local false sign rate, an analog for the FDR. In addition, SNPs typically had local false sign rates below this threshold for 9-12 phenotypes; thus, there was either extensive pleiotropy or frequent linked effects on multiple phenotypes within entries in the CDBN. SNPs with Bayes factors above ~102, indicative of decisive evidence favoring that SNP having a significant effect on one or more phenotypes, were distributed very unevenly across the genome, with the vast majority of SNPs clustering within two large regions on Pv01 (Fig. 3b, Table S5), from 5.3Mb to 20.5Mb, and from 34.1Mb to 45.4Mb. These associations encompass two regions of intermediate gene density surrounding the centromere on Chromosome 1, but do not include the gene-rich edges of this chromosome (5 and 6Mb in size, respectively). Though SNPs for mash were chosen to have low LD (r2 < 0.2), they nonetheless highlight large linked regions on chromosome one that have effects on many phenotypes. Two top SNPs in these regions, at positions 15.4 Mb and 42.2 Mb, overlapped with top associations from published, balanced GWAS (Table 2). Outside of chromosome Pv01, the most significant Bayes factor was found for a SNP on Pv04 at 2.48Mb. This SNP was in a 100kb region with 12 genes, the closest ten of which were cytochrome P450 superfamily proteins, the largest enzymatic protein family in plants (Xu *et al.* 2015).

The alternate allele for the SNP on Pv01 at 15.4 Mb was associated with significant decreases in biomass, days to flowering, days to maturity, early vigor, earliest year in the CDBN, plant height, and seed yield. It was also associated with increases in harvest index, lodging, root rot damage score, seed fill duration, white mold damage score, and zinc deficiency damage score (Figure 3d). Here, higher damage scores indicate increased levels of damage. The alternate allele for the SNP on Pv01 at 43.8 Mb was associated with significant increases in eleven phenotypes, including biomass, days to flowering, days to maturity, growth habit (as an increased tendency towards determinacy), harvest index, lodging score, plant height, and seed yield, and decreases in root rot damage score (Figure 3e). The allele was also significantly associated with later ‘earliest year in the CDBN’, indicating that this allele has been increasing in frequency in entries in the CDBN over time. The alternate allele for the SNP on Pv04 at 2.4 Mb was associated with significant increases in biomass, harvest index, and with a later ‘earliest year in the CDBN’, as well as a decrease in lodging, plant height, rust damage score, and seed weight (Figure 3f). Overall, two groups of phenotypes had consistent patterns of effect sign and effect magnitude for most significant SNPs (Fig. 3c). Days to maturity, growth habit, seed yield, days to flowering, biomass, lodging, and plant height had a large fraction of SNPs with significant effects with similar effects on these phenotypes; in all but one pairwise comparisons of these seven traits, 40 – 100% of SNPs had the same sign and similar magnitudes of effect (Fig. 3c). The same was true for early vigor, earliest year in the CDBN, blackroot BCMV response, and rust damage score; in pairwise comparisons of these four traits, 25 – 80% of SNPs had the same sign and similar magnitudes of effect (Fig. 3c). The phenotypes in the first group corresponded to plant architecture and size, while several phenotypes in the second group were related to disease response. Few other SNPs (~<10%) affected these two clusters of phenotypes in a similar magnitude with the same sign. Interestingly, groups of highly positively correlated phenotypic BLUPs, or genetic values, did not consistently match groups with large fractions of SNP effects of the same sign and similar magnitude (Figure S4). 70% SNPs with Bayes factors above 102 affected 9 or more phenotypes (Table S5), and typically affected phenotypes in the two groups in similar ways; however, a few exceptions included Pv03 at 10.64 Mb, which affected only plant height; Pv04 at 17.77 Mb, which affected seed weight and varied with earliest year in the CDBN; Pv07 at 13.94 Mb, which affected biomass; and Pv08 at 33.18 Mb, which affected days to flowering, plant height, and seed appearance.

**Discussion**

The genes and genomic regions affecting phenotypic variation in common bean are now being narrowed down with the aid of a recently released high-quality reference genome (Schmutz *et al.* 2014). Using previously generated phenotypic data for genetic analysis could circumvent the “phenotypic bottleneck” that has previously constrained our understanding of the genotype-phenotype map in this species. The CDBN offers a vast phenotypic data resource for common bean; however, it was unclear whether the sparse phenotypic data matrix from the CDBN, where only 20 to 30 entries were tested in each location and year, could be used for GWAS. Our results provide evidence supporting the use of METs such as the CDBN for genetic analysis. First, eight of the 22 phenotypes created using the CDBN data had associations that fell above the Bonferroni-Hochberg FDR threshold, and five of these phenotypes had multiple independent peaks that fell above this threshold. Given our FDR of 10%, there were at least 30 distinct, significant associations with these CDBN-derived BLUPs for phenotypes, and these associations tended to be found in phenotypes with higher narrow-sense heritabilities. However, it is still surprising that only eight of the 22 phenotypes had significant associations by the FDR criterion.

We hypothesized that noise caused by environmental variation in phenotypes across years and locations reduced our ability to find significant associations in a condition-by-condition analysis. Supporting this hypothesis, we found that phenotypes with more datapoints in the CDBN were more likely to have associations above the FDR. Thus, we used mash to increase our power to detect significant effects for 20 of these phenotypes, and used an analogue of the FDR, the local false sign rate, to determine whether an effect was significant. By combining information about phenotypic effects across correlated phenotypes, we found significant associations for all phenotypes included in the mash analysis. Thus, phenotypes derived from CDBN MET data are suitable for analysis using GWAS, and the additional phenotypic data available in this MET can be analyzed in mash to boost the power to detect significant genetic effects for traits with pleiotropic genetic architectures.

Second, associations found in our GWAS coincided with results of previous GWAS using balanced phenotypic datasets. Three associations from this study overlapped top associations from published, balanced GWAS: Pv01 at 13.7 Mb, Pv01 at 42.2 Mb, and Pv07 at 34.2 Mb (Table 2). The association at 13.7 Mb fell near the candidate gene *KNU*, a gene which is activated in, and later promotes, the transition to determinate floral meristem development. This peak falls within an association for days to flowering observed previously (Moghaddam *et al.* 2016). The association at 42.2 Mb fell near the candidate gene *VIP5*, an important regulator of flowering time in *A. thaliana* and other species (Huang *et al.* 2012). Other mapping studies have also co-located *VIP5* with QTL for flowering time (Zhou *et al.* 2014). The association at 34.2 Mb on Pv07 also overlapped the strongest association for the earliest year each entry was grown in the CDBN, a proxy for the age of the CDBN entry. This association fell near the candidate gene *SAR1*, which increases plant height and internode distance in *A. thaliana* (Cernac *et al.* 1997; Parry and Estelle 2006). In common bean, a region affecting determinacy on Pv07 has been confirmed – a genomic region affecting determinacy, part of growth habit, would also affect the traits varying at this region: biomass, days to flowering, plant height, and seed appearance score. The alternate allele for the signal on Pv07 occurred in newer CDBN entries.

Third, our results are consistent with the recent history of breeding efforts in common beans and provide a map of the genomic regions that have been associated with improvement in the species. We find two major genomic regions on Pv01 associated with many CDBN phenotypes (Figure 3b), which we suggest were major targets of selection by breeders for entries that match an ‘ideotype’ for common bean. The original ideotype had a long hypocotyl, many nodes carrying long pods and without side branches, small leaves, and determinate growth (Adams 1982; Kelly 2001). The primary plant architecture change introduced into genotypes tested in the CDBN over the past 30 years was the adoption of upright indeterminate architecture (Type II), which replaced upright determinate (Type I) architecture in the Mesoamerican race and was introduced into prostrate indeterminate (Type III) germplasm (Kelly 2001; Soltani *et al.* 2016). Generally, entries with Type II architecture yielded more than determinate (Type I) entries, due to the increased pod set associated with indeterminate growth (Kelly 2001), and could yield more than Type III entries under grower-preferred direct harvest (Eckert *et al.* 2011). An association for growth habit on Pv01 at 42.2 Mb fell near the gene *VIP5*; this SNP and gene were also candidate associations for seed yield in this study and days to flowering in Moghaddam *et al.* (2016). The Pv01, Pv09, and Pv10 associations for growth habit, specifically, variation in determinacy, segregate in different genotypes, consistent with the known multiple origins of determinacy segregating in this species (Figure S3c). However, these associations were not sufficient to explain all variation in determinacy present in this panel, perhaps due to the relative rarity of some variants controlling determinacy within the CDBN panel.

Bean breeders in North American generally avoided modifying days to flowering over the years of the CDBN, to protect matching of phenology to specific production environments. However, when Type II architecture was introduced from Mesoamerica race into the Durango/Jalisco race, the first entries with this architecture showed delayed flowering, which prevented pod set on lower nodes (Vandemark *et al.* 2014). Our strongest association for days to flowering was near the candidate gene *KNU.* This gene is a candidate for the gene *Higher response* (*Hr)* (Gu *et al.* 1998), which affects flowering time. A BLAST analysis of RAPD primers from previous work constrains the location of *Hr* between 1.4 and 21Mb on Pv01 (Gu *et al.* 1998). *Hr* is thus a plausible candidate for the peak at 13Mb. *Hr* is known to be in LD with the common bean gene *terminal flower 1 (PvTFL1* or *fin*) on Pv01, a major determinacy gene in common bean, (Repinski *et al.* 2012). Thus, this gene could plausibly have been introduced during the introduction of Type II architecture.

The primary disease resistance phenotype introduced into entries in the CDBN over the past 30 years was bean rust resistance. Bean rust (*Uromyces appendiculatus*) was a major disease in North America in the 20th century (Zaumeyer 1947). Though the first rust resistant varieties were released in the 1940’s (Zaumeyer 1947), rust was primarily controlled by chemicals prior to the concerted introduction of rust resistance genes in the mid-1980s (Kelly 2001). Our strongest association for rust damage score fell just upstream of the gene model *Phvul.011G193100*, which maps in the interval suggested to contain the resistance gene *Ur-3*(Hurtado-Gonzales *et al.* 2017). Initially described by Ballantyne (1978), *Ur-3* was the first gene aggressively used by US breeders to address bean rust in the mid-1980s (Hurtado-Gonzales *et al.* 2017). Combining *Ur-3* and *Ur-11* provides resistance against all known rust races (Pastor-Corrales *et al.* 2003), and the two genes formed the basis of breeding efforts to pyramid major bean rust resistance genes that led to the release of pinto, great northern, and black bean germplasm currently used in breeding programs. The alternate allele was present in the early years of the CDBN data in the Mesoamerican race but was either absent or rare in the Durango/Jalisco race in the CDBN until 1988, when it was observed in the pinto Sierra and the great northern variety Starlight. The alternate allele was not widely distributed in the Durango/Jalisco race until the mid-1990’s (Figure S3d). These results agree with the known timing of breeding for rust resistance.

Finally, this work allowed us to characterize the patterns of sharing of genetic effects on phenotypes in the CDBN. Selection for the common bean ideotype is known to have led to pleiotropic effects on, and associations with other traits, such as seed yield, biomass, and plant height (Soltani *et al.* 2016). Previous work indicated that genes responding to photoperiod have a major influence on many traits, including biomass, harvest index, days to maturity, and plant architecture traits such as the number of branches and nodes (Wallace *et al.* 1993; Gu *et al.* 1994). Our associations also revealed substantial overlaps in the genomic regions affecting phenotypic variation, suggesting the presence of substantial pleiotropy or linked genes of major effect. The genomic region on Pv01 from 34 – 48 Mb has also been identified in previous QTL mapping studies as one that affects many traits, including seed yield, days to flowering, days to maturity, seed fill duration, seed weight, biomass, and pod wall ratio (Trapp *et al.* 2015; Trapp *et al.* 2016). Our mash analysis reveals two major groups of phenotypes with commonly shared SNP effects, one corresponding to plant architecture and size, and the other related disease response. Very few SNPs had similar effects on both groups of traits (Figure 3c). This indicates pleiotropy or correlated effects within each group of phenotypes, and unlinked effects or antagonistic pleiotropy between these groups of phenotypes. In addition, the two groups of phenotypes that had similar genetic effects at the SNP level did not substantially overlap groups of phenotypes with highly correlated genetic values by BLUP estimation (Figure S4). Though many genomic regions affect multiple phenotypes in the CDBN, the large shared effects detected by mash do not always combine additively into the overall patterns of genetic correlation present in this dataset. However, two sets of phenotypes did have shared SNP effects and similar patterns of phenotypic correlations: lodging, seed yield, and growth, and biomass, plant height, days to flowering, and days to maturity. We suggest that these seven phenotypes were the most important when breeders selected for preferred common bean ideotypes. In contrast, many of the remaining phenotypes were related to disease damage; these phenotypes might be more affected by epistatic interactions between genomic regions, or by tradeoffs across environments.

Overall, METs such as the CDBN offer a remarkable opportunity to identify candidate genes underlying phenotypic variation and phenotypic plasticity and to identify how artificial selection has affected crop phenotypes through time. We note that the genomic regions found with this approach are likely to have consistent, stable phenotypic effects across a large range of environments. These genomic regions are thus likely to be generally useful to bean breeding. Detailed mapping and cloning of the causative genes in these regions will provide insight into molecular mechanisms that control these critical phenotypes important for high productivity of common bean. In the future, we also believe that it would be of great value to crop breeding and genetics to archive DNA from all material used in breeding programs and MET trials.

Many crops, both in the U.S. and worldwide, have public trials that could be mined in a manner similar to our approach. This work will require collaborative efforts between crop breeders and bioinformaticians to digitize, clean, and analyze phenotypic data from METs and to obtain genetic material from successful and unsuccessful trial entries. Phenotypic and genetic data can be combined using genomic selection approaches, or by GWAS using models that adjust BLUPs for effects of kinship, trial location, and trial year (Rife *et al.* 2018; Sukumaran *et al.* 2018). If effect estimates for genetic markers can be obtained, and some effects are strong, the patterns of significant effects across markers and phenotypes can be determined using a metanalysis approach such as mash (Urbut *et al.* 2019). A broader effort to collectively mine such extensive phenotypic data could identify conserved genetic factors important for improved productivity for many crops in major production regions.

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**Author contributions**

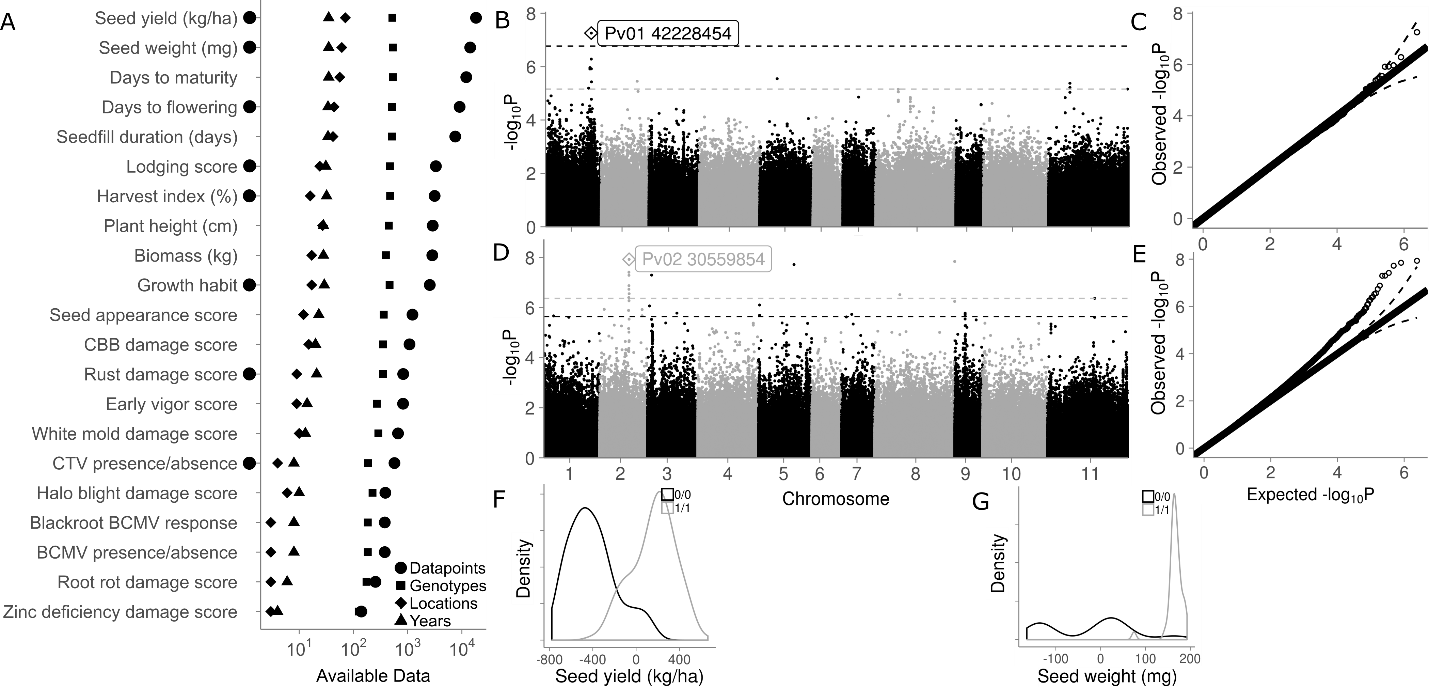
AHM, JMO, JWW, PEM, and TEJ conceived of the analysis. PEM, JMO, PNM, and JM provided seed for varieties in the CDBN. AHM, RL, PEM, and JS sequenced the CDBN. RL and PEM provided sequence data from the ADP and MDP. JWW compiled the phenotypic data from the annual CDBN reports. AHM conducted the analyses with input from JWW, PEM, and TEJ. AHM wrote the manuscript with contributions from all authors.

**Figures & Tables**

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**Figure 1.** The Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN) is an extensive multi-environment trial with hundreds of germplasm entries for common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) grown at 75 locations over 35 years. The relationships between germplasm entries (first row and column), locations (second row and column), and years (third row and column) used in the CDBN are shown in the grid. Purple represents genotyped germplasm entries from the Durango race of the Mesoamerican gene pool, blue represents genotyped entries in the Mesoamerican race of the Mesoamerican gene pool, green represents genotyped entries in the Nueva Granada race of the Andean gene pool, and yellow represents entries that were not genotyped. Beans of the two most commonly genotyped market classes from each race are pictured to the right of the color key, and the number of entries of each race that were genotyped is displayed to the left of the color key. On the maps of CDBN locations, pie chart size is scaled relative to the total number of entries grown at that location, and circle saturation represents locations with a greater number of years of data available.

**Figure 2.** Phenotypic data available in the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN), and genetic variation within the two of these phenotypes with the most data. A) Details of 22 phenotypes present in the CDBN; best linear unbiased predictors (BLUPs) from these phenotypes were used for genome-wide association. Black circles left of the y-axis indicate phenotypes with one or more genetic associations that had *p*-values above the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate. B) Manhattan plot of BLUPs for seed yield (kg/ha) from the CDBN data. The dashed lines are the cutoff values for peak significance. Single-nucleotide polymorphisms above the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate are above the black line, and those in the 0.001 percentile are above the grey line. C) Quantile-quantile (Q-Q) plot of the goodness of fit of the model on seed yield. D) Manhattan plot of BLUPs for seed weight (mg) from the CDBN data, as in B). E) Q-Q plot of the goodness of fit of the model on seed weight. Distribution of the BLUPs for F) seed yield and G) seed weight. Black represents the presence of the reference allele for the top SNP labeled in panel B) and D), respectively, and grey represents the presence of the alternate allele.

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**Figure 3.** Patterns of phenotypic effects of genetic associations for 22 phenotypes from the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN), determined using multivariate adaptive shrinkage (mash). A) Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with significant effects on one or more of the 22 phenotypes in the CDBN. B) Manhattan plot of the Bayes factor (log10) comparing the model likelihood that the SNP has significant effects to the likelihood that it has no significant effects. Bayes factors of > 102 are considered decisive evidence in favor of the alternate model. Point color represents the number of phenotypes for which the SNP has a local false sign rate < 0.05. Squares represent even chromosomes, while circles represent odd chromosomes. The top associations for three regions of the genome are highlighted. C) Correlation in the sign and magnitude of significant effects in all pairwise comparisons of the 22 CDBN phenotypes. Circle size and color indicate the fraction of all significant SNPs that have the same effect sign and similar effect magnitude. D-F) Effect estimates and standard errors for 22 phenotypes for the top associations from three regions of the genome, D) *Phaseolus vulgaris* chromosome 1 (Pv01) at 15.4 Mb, E) Pv01 at 42.2 Mb, F) Pv07 at 14.5 Mb. Genomic locations are based on the *Phaseolus vulgaris* v2.1genome annotation. Point estimates with higher certainty are indicated by larger rectangles, while standard error bars are colored by the six groups present in C.

**Table 1**. Best linear unbiased predictor statistics, with phenotypes ordered as in Figure 2.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Phenotype** | **Vg** | **Ve** | **h2** | **BLUP Range** | **Units** |
| Seed yield (kg/ha) | 53173 | 222409 | 0.193 | 1727 | kg ha-1 |
| Seed weight (mg) | 2340 | 1076 | 0.685 | 443 | mg |
| Days to maturity | 12.3 | 18.3 | 0.402 | 17.0 | days |
| Days to flowering | 4.68 | 6.11 | 0.434 | 11.7 | days |
| Seedfill duration (days) | 5.584 | 17.812 | 0.239 | 12.7 | days |
| Lodging score | 0.244 | 0.466 | 0.344 | 2.97 | 1-5 scale |
| Harvest index (%) | 13.5 | 31.5 | 0.299 | 20.1 | % |
| Plant height (cm) | 13.8 | 42.5 | 0.245 | 18.1 | cm |
| Biomass | 2.46E+05 | 6.72E+05 | 0.268 | 2990 | kg |
| Growth habit | 0.160 | 0.154 | 0.509 | 2.19 | 1-3 scale |
| Seed appearance score | 0.017 | 0.241 | 0.067 | 0.346 | 1-3 scale |
| CBB damage score | 0.282 | 1.127 | 0.200 | 2.32 | 1-9 scale |
| Rust damage score | 3.201 | 1.957 | 0.621 | 7.35 | 1-9 scale |
| Early vigor score | 0.064 | 0.747 | 0.078 | 0.957 | 1-9 scale |
| White mold damage score | 0.143 | 0.631 | 0.185 | 2.60 | 1-5 scale |
| CTV presence/absence | 0.025 | 0.132 | 0.157 | 0.432 | 0-1 scale |
| Halo blight damage score | 0.176 | 0.708 | 0.199 | 1.12 | 1-5 scale |
| BCMV blackroot response | 0.049 | 0.086 | 0.363 | 0.843 | 0-1 scale |
| BCMV presence/absence | 0.016 | 0.097 | 0.145 | 0.428 | 0-1 scale |
| Root rot damage score | 0.455 | 3.193 | 0.125 | 2.25 | 1-9 scale |
| Zinc deficiency damage score | 3.831 | 1.395 | 0.733 | 8.96 | 1-9 scale |

Vg is the REML estimate of the genetic variance from rrBLUP. Ve is the REML estimate of the error variance. h2 is broad sense heritability, defined as Vg / (Vg + Ve).

**Table 2.** Major associations in genome-wide associations (GWAS) from phenotypes from the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery (CDBN) and from previously published GWAS. FDR indicates associations from this paper which were above the Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate correction. Colors indicate associations in more than one published GWAS: blue indicates associations within 20kb, with the same candidate gene, and grey indicates associations within 200kb.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Trait** | **Study** | **Chr** | **Position in v2.0** | **Candidate gene** |
|  | Plant height (cm) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 6.13 | *Phvul.001G054800* |
| FDR | Growth habit | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 6.28 | *Phvul.001G055600* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 6.49 | *Phvul.001G057100* |
|  | Lodging score | Resende *et al.,* 2018 | 1 | 13.76 | *Phvul.001G087900* |
|  | Growth habit | Resende *et al.,* 2018 | 1 | 13.76 | *Phvul.001G087900* |
|  | Days to flowering | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 1 | 13.76 | *Phvul.001G087900* |
| FDR | Days to flowering | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 13.45 - 15.36 | *Phvul.001G087900* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 1 | 23.92 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 1 | 27.68 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 1 | 33.03 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 36.72 | *Phvul.001G132516* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 1 | 37.20 |  |
|  | Plant height (cm) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 38.74 | *Phvul.001G143800* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 1 | 40.20 |  |
| FDR | Growth habit | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 42.17 | *Phvul.001G167200* |
| FDR | Seed yield | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 42.23 | *Phvul.001G167200* |
|  | Growth habit | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 1 | 42.23 | *Phvul.001G167200* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 1 | 42.27 | *Phvul.001G167200* |
|  | Growth habit | Cichy *et al.,* 2015 | 1 | 44.80 | *Phvul.001G189200* |
|  | Growth habit | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 1 | 44.80 | *Phvul.001G192200* |
|  | Days to flowering | Nascimento *et al.,* 2018 | 1 | 47.07 | *Phvul.001G214500* |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 1 | 48.86 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 1 | 49.65 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 2 | 16.17 | *Phvul.002G091900* |
| FDR | Seed weight | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 2 | 30.38 | *Phvul.002G150600* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 2 | 38.07 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | Tock *et al.,* 2017 | 2 | 49.08 | *Phvul.002G326200* |
| FDR | Harvest index (%) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 2.16 | *Phvul.003G023000* |
| FDR | Seed weight | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 4.40 | *Phvul.003G039900* |
|  | days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 15.75 |  |
|  | Days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 32.04 | *Phvul.003G128400* |
|  | Harvest index (%) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 36.82 | *Phvul.003G153100* |
|  | days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 3 | 36.83 | *Phvul.003G153100* |
|  | Seed yield | Kamfwa *et al.,* 2015 | 3 | 37.60 | *Phvul.001G136600* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 40.27 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 41.09 |  |
|  | Harvest index (%) | Kamfwa *et al.,* 2015 | 3 | 46.70 | *Phvul.003G233400* |
|  | Harvest index (%) | Kamfwa *et al.,* 2015 | 3 | 47.17 | *Phvul.003G237900* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 47.35 |  |
|  | Seed yield | Resende *et al.,* 2018 | 3 | 49.28 - 50.33 | *Phvul.003G253700* |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 51.48 |  |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 52.32 |  |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 3 | 52.6 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | Tock *et al.,* 2017 | 4 | 0.55 - 1.899 | *Phvul.004G007600* |
|  | Days to maturity | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 4 | 1.94 | *Phvul.004G011400* |
| FDR | Lodging score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 4 | 2.87 | *Phvul.004G025600* |
|  | Growth habit - indeterminate | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 4 | 3.20 | *Phvul.004G027800* |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 4 | 6.79 | *Phvul.004G051500* |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 4 | 16.37 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 4 | 36.88 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | Tock *et al.,* 2017 | 4 | 46.20 | *Phvul.004G158000* |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 4 | 46.33 |  |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 4 | 47.06 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 5 | 13.25 | *Phvul.005G074200* |
|  | Halo blight damage score | Tock *et al.,* 2017 | 5 | 39.00 | *Phvul.005G162500* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 0.57 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 5.75 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 6.89 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 8.16 | *Phvul.006G017211* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 12.20 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 6 | 17.85 |  |
|  | Plant height (cm) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 6 | 20.89 | *Phvul.006G098300* |
|  | Growth habit - indeterminate | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 6 | 29.92 | *Phvul.006G203400* |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 6 | 31.60 |  |
|  | Days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 7 | 1.15 | *Phvul.007G017000* |
|  | Growth habit - indeterminate | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 7 | 34.12 | *Phvul.007G246700* |
|  | Lodging score | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 7 | 34.20 | *Phvul.007G218900* |
| FDR | Lodging score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 7 | 33.60 - 34.51 | *Phvul.007G218900* |
|  | Plant height (cm) | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 7 | 34.20 | *Phvul.007G218900* |
|  | Growth habit - indeterminate | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 7 | 34.20 | *Phvul.007G218900* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 7 | 35.74 | *Phvul.007G233700* |
|  | Seed weight | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 8 | 1.10 | *Phvul.008G013300* |
|  | root rot damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 8 | 1.34 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 8 | 4.93 |  |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 8 | 6.86 | *Phvul.008G073000* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 8 | 7.60 | *Phvul.008G078200* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 8 | 15.26 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 8 | 17.72 |  |
|  | days to flower & days to maturity | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 8 | 24.95 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Raggi *et al.,* 2019 | 8 | 26.40 |  |
|  | Halo blight damage score | Tock *et al.,* 2017 | 8 | 61.34 | *Phvul.008G268700* |
|  | root rot damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 8 | 61.98 | *Phvul.008G277352* |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 9 | 5.42 | *Phvul.009G022400* |
|  | days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 9 | 5.85 |  |
|  | Seed yield | Kamfwa *et al.,* 2015 | 9 | 10.00 | *Phvul.009G051600* |
|  | Plant height (cm) | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 9 | 27.98 | *Phvul.009G185100* |
| FDR | Growth habit | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 9 | 30.93 | *Phvul.009G204100* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 10 | 0.60 | *Phvul.010G003600* |
|  | Seed weight | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 10 | 2.60 | *Phvul.010G017600* |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 10 | 16.40 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 10 | 19.51 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 10 | 25.44 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 10 | 29.88 |  |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 10 | 36.45 | *Phvul.010G099100* |
|  | Halo blight damage score | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 10 | 41.52 | *Phvul.010G133101* |
|  | Days to flowering | Nascimento *et al.,* 2018 | 10 | 42.50 | *Phvul.010G142900* |
| FDR | Growth habit | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 10 | 42.79 | *Phvul.010G146500* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 11 | 1.59 | *Phvul.011G020500* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 4.02 |  |
|  | Days to maturity | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 11 | 4.46 | *Phvul.011G050300* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 10.66 |  |
|  | days to maturity | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 11 | 14.8 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 11 | 26.41 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 27.27 |  |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 36.22 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 11 | 41.36 |  |
|  | Days to maturity | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 11 | 45.09 | *Phvul.011G158300* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 45.29 |  |
|  | Growth habit - indeterminate | Moghaddam *et al.,* 2016 | 11 | 46.75 | *Phvul.011G164800* |
|  | Days to flower | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019a | 11 | 47.3 |  |
|  | Root rot damage | Oladzad *et al.,* 2019b | 11 | 50.59 |  |
| FDR | Rust | MacQueen *et al.,* XXXX | 11 | 50.67 | *Phvul.011G193100* |
|  | Rust | Phil McClean | 11 | 50.67 | *Phvul.011G193100* |
|  | Biomass (kg) | Soltani *et al.,* 2017 | 11 | 52.55 | *Phvul.011G207500* |

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**Supporting Information**

Supplementary data for this manuscript is available at: <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/KZFZ6K>.

**Notes.** Further details on the methods used to generate 22 phenotypes from the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery dataset of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). Additional materials and methods concerning phenotypic data processing, greenhouse phenotypes, single nucleotide polymorphism imputation and significance and candidate gene identification criteria.

**Table S1** Summary of the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery Dataset of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) phenotypes and the subset used in the present analysis.

**Tables S2** Excel File. Location information, genotyped Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery germplasm information, and corrected phenotype medians for 22 phenotypes used for each entry for genome-wide association on common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).

**Table S3** Number of principle components that maximized the Bayesian Information Criterion for model selection in GAPIT, for each set of BLUPs derived from phenotypes in the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery dataset.

**Table S4** Excel File. Associations from single phenotype genome-wide association significant using a Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate threshold of 10%. Separate tabs of the document are associations for separate phenotypes.

**Tables S5** Excel File. Associations from the multivariate shrinkage analysis significant using a local false sign rate threshold of 5%.

**Fig. S1** Correlations between best linear unbiased predictors (BLUPs) for each phenotyped entry in the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery.

**Fig. S2** Genomic associations for six additional phenotypes with associations above a Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate correction.

**Fig. S3** Specific effects of top associations for four phenotypes in the Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery dataset of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).

**Fig. S4** Overlap between genetic correlation and effect size correlation groups.