

# Genomic projects

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## Abstract

The first project is about the high-density characterization of Durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum* subsp. *durum*). The second and third projects are genomic tutorials on two animal studies, the first on worldwide populations of goats, the second on the association of deafness in three dog breeds.

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# 1 Project: SNP Profiling Durum Wheat

## 1.1 Data

Mengistu, D.K., Kidane, Y.G., Catellani, M., Frascaroli, E., Fadda, C., Pè, M.E. and Dell'Acqua, M. (2016), High-density molecular characterization and association mapping in Ethiopian durum wheat landraces reveals high diversity and potential for wheat breeding. *Plant Biotechnol J*, 14: 1800-1812. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.12538>

The data used in this case study are derived from the durum wheat molecular characterization above-mentioned. 311 accessions of durum wheat were genotyped and phenotyped for some agronomic traits of interest.

The data are available in the DRYAD repository <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.w6m905qrv>.

For convenience, the abstract of the data accession is reported below:

«Abstract:

*In smallholder, low-input farming systems diffused in the Global South, farmers select and propagate crop varieties based on their traditional knowledge and experience. A quantitative integration of their knowledge into breeding pipelines may support the sustainable intensification of local farming. This data entry combines genomics with socioeconomics to tap into traditional knowledge in smallholder farming systems, focusing on durum wheat (*Triticum durum* Desf.). Data refer to a large nested association mapping (EtNAM) population that we developed by recombining elite international breeding line with Ethiopian traditional varieties maintained by local farmers. This entry carries also molecular and phenotypic data produced on a diversity panel (DP) of Ethiopian landraces previously characterized in four year-location combinations and published in Mengistu et al 2016.*

*EtNAM lines and DP genotypes were evaluated for agronomic performances and farmers appreciation in multiple locations, revealing that gender and location can influence farmers preference and that women and men farmers can consistently identify the best durum wheat genotypes. We used this data to train a genomic selection (GS) model with farmer scores to show that their prediction accuracy over grain yield was higher than that of the benchmark GS model trained on grain yield. The data was also used in a genome wide association mapping (GWAS) and quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping to identify genetic determinants of agronomic traits and farmer scores. Our data shows that farmers traditional knowledge can be integrated in a quantitative framework to increase genetic gain in pre-breeding programs, supporting genomics-driven breeding for local adaptation.*

*The Rdata files contain phenotypic and molecular characterization data for 1,200 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) deriving from the EtNAM and phenotypic and molecular characterization data for 400 durum wheat genotypes in the Ethiopian DP.»*

(Mengistu et al 2016 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.12538>).)

## 1.2 Phenotype data

In the Rdata `diversity.panel.data.gp.Rdata`, the agronomic traits of the population of Durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum* subsp. *durum*).

### 1.2.1 Correlation between variables

In Fig. 1 the Pearson's correlation between agronomic traits is computed.

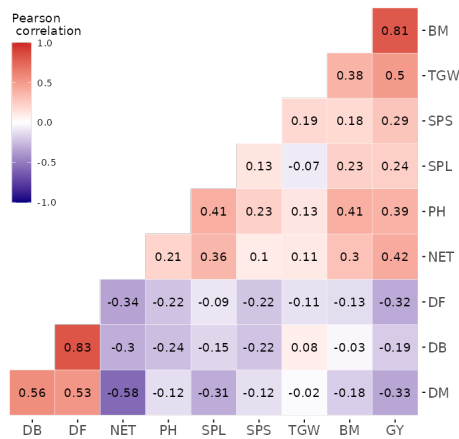


Figure 1: Correlation between wheat agronomic traits variables. DB = days to booting (days), DF = days to flowering (days), DM = days to maturity (days), PH = plant height (days), NET = number of effective tillers per plant (n), SPL = spike length (cm), SPS = number of seeds per spike (n), BM = biomass (t/ha), GY = grain yield (t/ha), TGW = thousand grain weight (g).

### 1.2.2 PCA

As the agronomic data table (phenotypic data) has nine variables, a multivariate analysis is necessary to better explore the data. In Fig. 2a we show the scree plot of the phenotype data. From this figure it follows that there are approximately 3 dimensions necessary to explain 88.5% of the dataset variance.

# 1 Genomic projects tutorials

:warning: This repository is under construction :warning:

This repository contains a collection of genomic projects that I am working on. GitHub repository of bioinformatic projects revolving around genomics using different tools like Plink through `plinkr` R package, `rTASSEL` and `TASSEL 5` (GUI), `GEMMA` for mixed models analysis in R, `SAMtools` to analyze BAM files, and other coming soon!

The repository has been created for testing and self-teaching purposes of biological concept and bioinformatic tools, and make use of other repositories, scripts and data sources, taken or modified as such.

The report of the studies is in progress in `Report/build/Genomics_proj.pdf` contents

## 1.1 Contents

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tools

## 1.2 Tools

- **PLINK 1.90** <https://www.cog-genomics.org/plink2/>
- `plinkr` R package repository documentation. <https://github.com/AJResearchGroup/plinkr>
- **TASSEL 5** <https://www.maizegenetics.net/tassel>. **Bradbury et al.**, (2007) TASSEL: software for association mapping of complex traits in diverse samples, *Bioinformatics*, Volume 23, Issue 19, Pages 2633–2635 <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btm308>

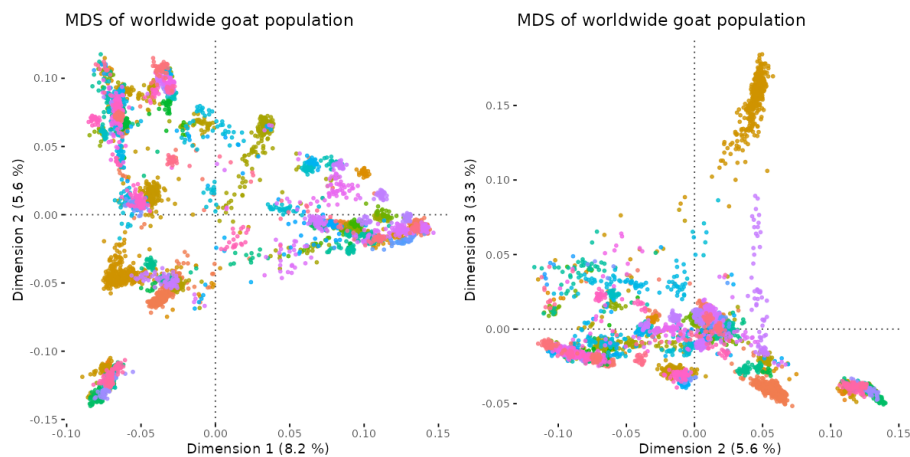


Figure 1: Multidimensional scaling of the genotypes

- rTASSEL R package repository documentation. Vignettes: <https://rtassel.maizegenetics.net/index.html>, Repository: <https://github.com/maize-genetics/rTASSEL>. **Monier et al.**, (2022). rTASSEL: An R interface to TASSEL for analyzing genomic diversity. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 7(76), 4530, <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.04530>
- GEMMA Genome-wide Efficient Mixed Model Association <https://github.com/genetics-statistics/GEMMA>. **Xiang Zhou and Matthew Stephens** (2012). Genome-wide efficient mixed-model analysis for association studies. *Nature Genetics* 44, 821–824.
- rMVP A Memory-efficient, Visualization-enhanced, and Parallel-accelerated Tool for Genome-Wide Association Study <https://github.com/xiaolei-lab/rMVP>
- GPtour Genomic Prediction in R using Keras models <https://github.com/miguelperezenciso/GPtour> and [https://keras.posit.co/articles/getting\\_started.html](https://keras.posit.co/articles/getting_started.html)
- GAPIT Genome Association and Integrated Tools <https://github.com/jiabowang/GAPIT>

example-case-studies

### 1.3 Example case studies

1. SNP profiling of goat breeds. *Data source: Colli et al.* (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12711-018-0422-x>

#### **Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) Plot of a population of 4,653 Individuals from 169 Goat Breeds genotyped with 49,953 SNPs.**

The MDS plot visualizes the genetic relationships among 4,653 individuals from 169 goat breeds. Genetic distances were computed using PLINK to generate the distance matrix, and MDS analysis was conducted with the `cmdscale` function based on genotyping data from

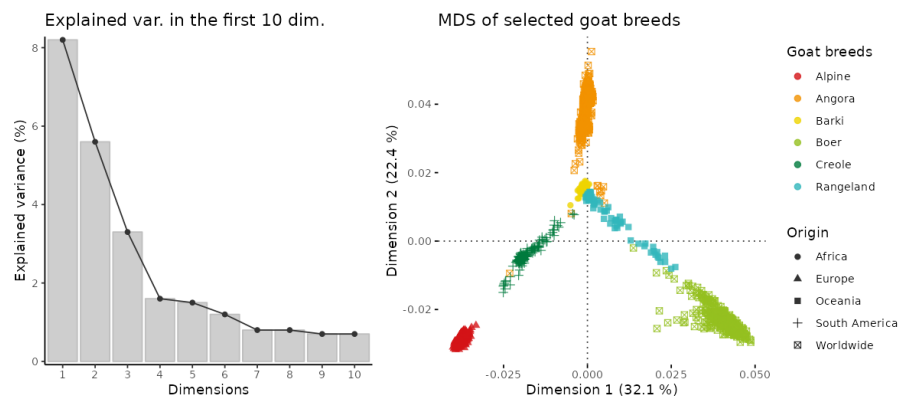


Figure 2: Scree plot of all genotypes and multidimensional scaling of a subset of genotypes

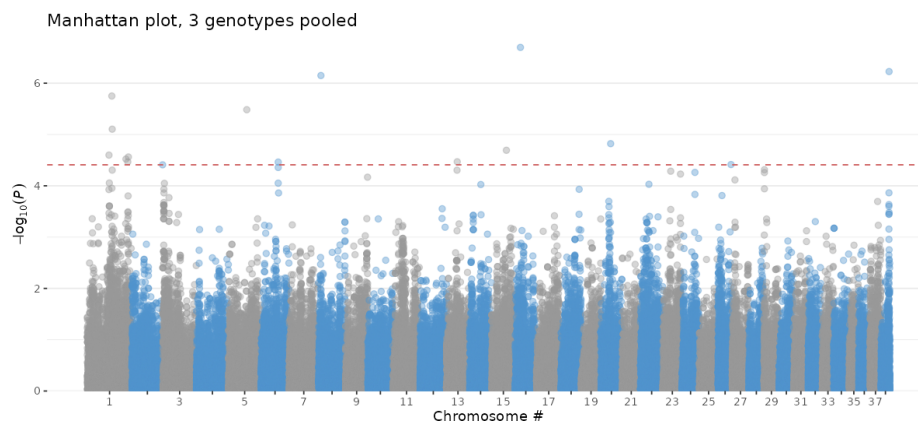


Figure 3: Manhattan plot

49,953 SNPs. Each point represents a goat, and spatial arrangement reflects genetic dissimilarities. This exploratory analysis offers insights into genetic diversity, population structure, and relatedness.

1. a. Manhattan plot of a GWAS on dog population for deafness. Data source\_: **Hayward et al. (2020)** <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0232900>

Manhattan plots showing the genome wide association (GWA) between dog deafness and their genotype. The plot displays the genomic positions of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) across the genome on the x-axis, with the corresponding  $-\log_{10}$  transformed P-values indicating the strength of association with the trait on the y-axis. The red-dashed lines are representation of the 99.99 percentile threshold of the LOD values.

1. b. Plot of the top significant SNPs identified in the above GWAS. Points are jittered around their respective chromosome.

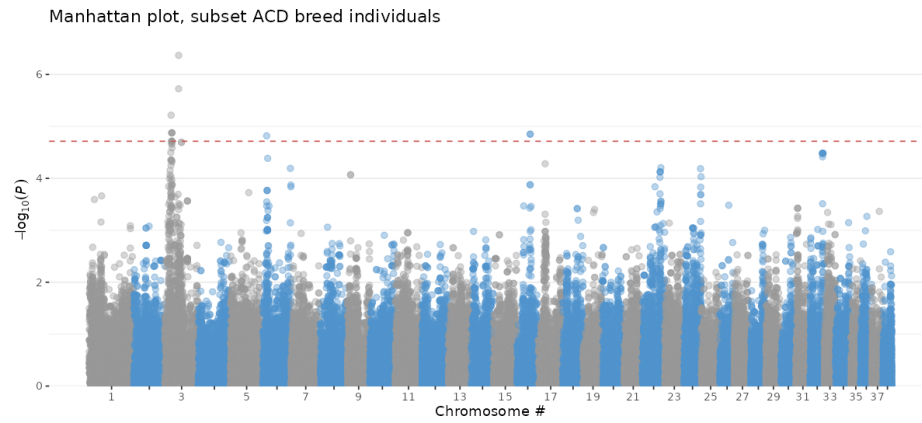


Figure 4: Manhattan plot of a single canine breed

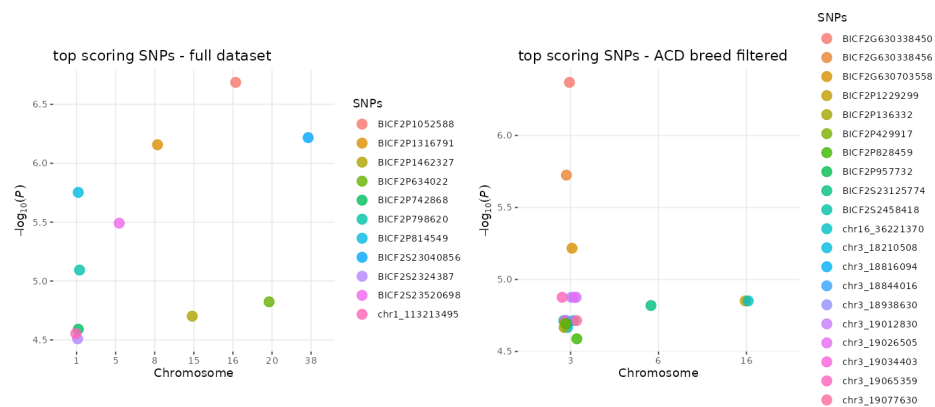


Figure 5: Top scoring SNPs

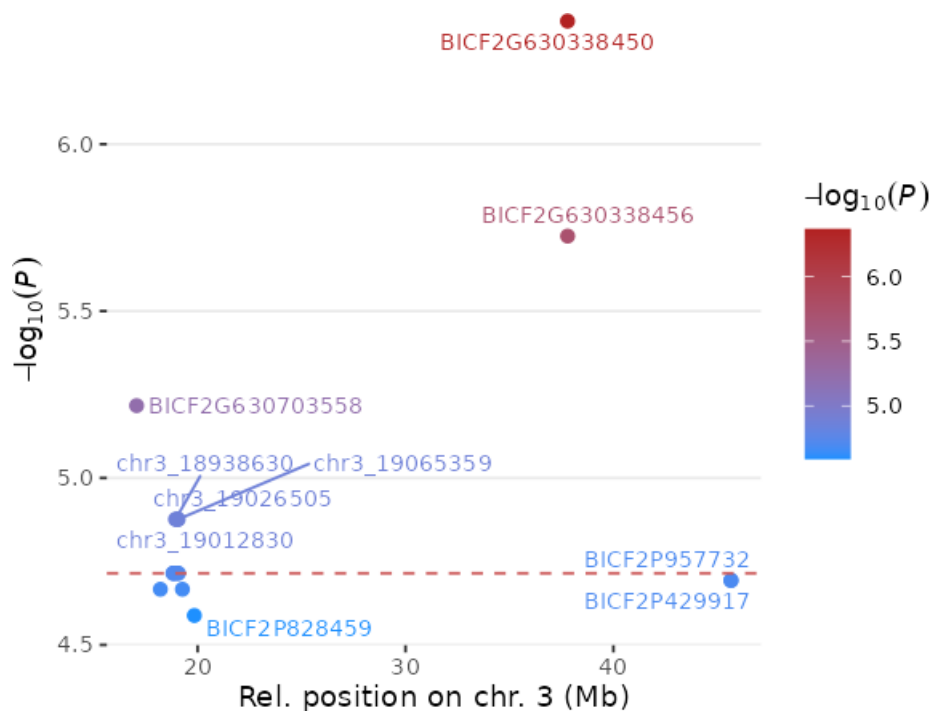


Figure 6: Top scoring SNPs of a ABC breed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chromosome

and a zoom in the chromosome 3 above the 99.99 percentile (LOD score = 4.71).

resources-data

## 1.4 Resources & Data

- **Marees et al.** (2018) A tutorial on conducting genome-wide association studies: Quality control and statistical analysis. *Int J Methods Psychiatr Res.* 27:e1608. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mpr.1608>
- **Marees et al.** (2018) tutorial [https://github.com/MareesAT/GWA\\_tutorial](https://github.com/MareesAT/GWA_tutorial)
- **Gábor Mészáros** (2021) Genomic Boot Camp Book <https://genomicsbootcamp.github.io/book/>
- **Gábor Mészáros** video tutorials <https://www.youtube.com/c/GenomicsBootCamp>
- **Colli et al.** (2018) Genome-wide SNP profiling of worldwide goat populations reveals strong partitioning of diversity and highlights post-domestication migration routes. *Genet Sel Evol* 50, 58. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12711-018-0422-x>
- DATA: **Colli et al.** (2020). Signatures of selection and environmental adaptation across the goat genome post-domestication

*Dataset*



. Dryad. <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.v8g21pt>

- **Decker et al.** (2014) Worldwide Patterns of Ancestry, Divergence, and Admixture in Domesticated Cattle. *PLOS Genetics* 10(3): e1004254. <https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgen.1004254> <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1004254>,
- DATA: **Decker et al.** (2015) Worldwide patterns of ancestry, divergence, and admixture in domesticated cattle

#### Dataset

. Dryad. <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.th092>

setup-of-the-working-environment

## 1.5 Setup of the working environment

Install R: [https://cran.r-project.org/The Comprehensive R Archive Network \(CRAN\)](https://cran.r-project.org/The%20Comprehensive%20R%20Archive%20Network%20(CRAN))

IDE: <https://code.visualstudio.com/VSCode> <sup>\*</sup><https://posit.co/download/RStudio>

Install Python: <https://docs.anaconda.com/free/miniconda/index.html> Miniconda

3<sup>\*</sup>

OS: Linux<sup>\*</sup>/WSL

<sup>\*</sup>Suggested

get-plink-working-in-linux

### 1.5.1 Get PLINK working in Linux

1. Download [https://s3.amazonaws.com/plink1-assets/plink\\_linux\\_x86\\_64\\_20231211.zip](https://s3.amazonaws.com/plink1-assets/plink_linux_x86_64_20231211.zip) *PLINK1.90Linux64* –

2. PLINK in `/usr/local/bin`

```
cd plink_install
sudo cp plink /usr/local/bin
sudo chmod 755 /usr/local/bin/plink
```

3. Add PLINK to PATH

with `bash/zsh/...`

```
sudo nano ~/.bashrc
```

and include the line:

```
export PATH=/usr/local/bin:$PATH
```

Save and exit. Refresh the terminal and you should be able to call `plink` from the terminal at any user position in the system.

```
source ~/.bashrc
plink --help
```

get-plink-r

PLINK directly in R.  
refer to the installation guide at <https://github.com/AJResearchGroup/plinkr/blob/master/doc/install.md>

```
library(remotes)
install_github("richelbilderbeek/plinkr")
remotes::install_github("chrchang/plink-ng/2.0/pgenlibr")
library(plinkr)
install_plinks()

get-tassel-gui-on-linux
```

### 1.5.2 Get TASSEL (GUI) on Linux

1. Go on the website <https://www.maizegenetics.net/tassel> and download the last UNIX version.
2. Download the TASSEL\_{xxx}\_unix.sh and make it executable

```
chmod +x ~/Downloads/TASSEL_{xxx}_unix.sh
```

3. Run the TASSEL installer

```
~/Downloads/TASSEL_{xxx}_unix.sh
```

```
get-rtassel-r
```

1. rJava installation

```
sudo apt install default-jdk
sudo R CMD javareconf
R install.packages("rJava")
```

2. Installation in R

```
if (!require("devtools")) install.packages("devtools")
devtools::install_github(
  repo = "maize-genetics/rTASSEL",
  ref = "master",
  build_vignettes = TRUE,
  dependencies = TRUE
)
```

### 3. Run rTASSEL

- Allocate job's memory<sup>1</sup> and start the logger (here at the root of the project):

<sup>1</sup>"-Xmx50g" and "-Xms50g", "50g" represents 50 Gigabytes of memory.

*!! Choose an appropriate value that fits your machine !!*

```
options(java.parameters = c("-Xmx50g", "-Xms50g"))
rTASSEL::startLogger(fullPath = NULL, fileName = NULL)
```

- Run & infos

```
library(rTASSEL)
??rTASSEL
```

Useful resource for rTASSEL are the vignettes and tutorials at <https://rtassel.maizegenetics.net/index.html>

get-gemma

#### 1.5.3 Get GEMMA

GEMMA can be installed from source at the GitHub repo, but is also available through Bioconda <http://www.ddocent.com/bioconda/>. To install is suggested to have miniconda installed and working, and then added the channel for Bioconda, you should already have defaults and conda-forge.

```
conda config --add channels defaults
conda config --add channels conda-forge
conda config --add channels biocond
conda install gemma
```

And use GEMMA with

gemma -h

get-gapit-r

#### 1.5.4 Get GAPIT (R)Get GAPIT (R)

R package, here we are going to install it through GitHub. For the manual visit [https://zzlab.net/GAPIT/gapit\\_help\\_document.pdf](https://zzlab.net/GAPIT/gapit_help_document.pdf)

```
R> install.packages("devtools")
R> devtools::install_github("jiabowang/GAPIT", force=TRUE)
R> library(GAPIT)
```

---

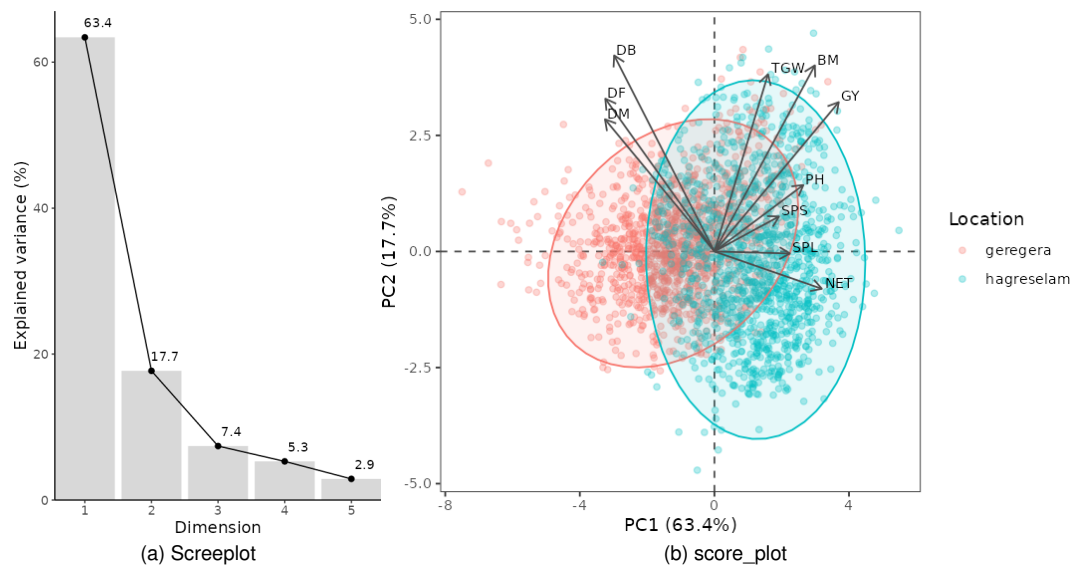


Figure 2: a) Scree plot of the phenotype-agronomic data. b) PCA biplot of the agronomic traits. In the biplot, the ellipses are calculated on a normal multivariate distribution that indicate the 95% CI. PCA of the wheat agronomic traits dataset. DB = days to booting (days), DF = days to flowering (days), DM = days to maturity (days), PH = plant height (days), NET = number of effective tillers per plant (n), SPL = spike length (cm), SPS = number of seeds per spike (n), BM = biomass (t/ha), GY = grain yield (t/ha), TGW = thousand grain weight (g)