Supplementary Materials and Methods: Detailed materials and methods

Numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families vary by more than four fold within a plant species and are regulated by multiple factors

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Plant materials

A total of 187 lines or cultivars randomly selected from 57 species of *Oryza*, *Glycine* and *Gossypium* were used in this study (Supplementary Table S1). Of theses lines, 62 were from 12 *Oryza* species representing 8 diploids and 4 polyploids, or 2 cultivated species and 10 wild species, with 1 - 18 lines per species (Supplementary Table S1A); 28 from 10 *Glycine* species representing 1 cultivated species and 9 wild species, with 1 – 11 lines per species (Supplementary Table S1B); and 97 from 35 *Gossypium* species representing 30 diploids and 5 polyploids, or 4 cultivated species and 31 wild species, with $1 - 12$ lines per species (Supplementary Table S1C).

DNA isolation and purification

The plants of each line were grown in a greenhouse and phenotypically verified during growth and development. Young leaves were collected from 1 - 5 plants of each line verified to be its representative. Nuclear DNA was isolated with a modified CTAB (cetytrimethylammonium bromide) method. Nuclei were first isolated in a buffer containing 350 mM sorbitol, 100 mM Tris, 5 mM EDTA and 0.38% (w/v) bisulfate, and then lysed to release nuclear DNA in the nuclei lysis buffer containing 0.2 M Tris.HCl, 50 mM EDTA, 2.0 M NaCl and 2% (w/v) CTAB. The DNA was purified with a chloroform/iso-amyl alcohol (24:1) mixture, collected by precipitation with isopropanol and dissolved in TE (10 mM Tris.HCl, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0). Furthermore, to minimize its effect on array preparation and gene copy number assay, RNA contaminated in the DNA was completely removed by treatment with RNase at 37° C for 30 min, followed by extracting with phenol/chloroform/iso-amyl alcohol (25:24:1) mixture, precipitation with ethanol

and washing twice in 70% ethanol. DNA pellet was dried and dissolved in TE and the DNA concentration determined with a nanodrop spectrophotometer and a fluorometer, followed by verification on agarose gels.

Assay for numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families

Methodology: Several methods have been used to assay the number of genes in a gene family in a genome. These include [1] wholegenome sequence blast analysis (WSBA) (1-3,6-10,14,15,19-21, 40), [2] membrane array (MA) (30), [3] microarray (M) (27), [4] random genomic clone sequencing (RGCS) (16,28), and [5] quantitative real-time PCR (qrtPCR) (29,31) (Supplementary Table S2). For the WSBA method, high-quality whole-genome sequence is generated, assembled into contigs and annotated. The number of genes in a gene family is assayed by iterative blast analysis of the sequence using the targeted gene nucleotide or amino acid sequence as inquiries. For the MA method, arrays are fabricated by printing total nuclear DNA or cDNA of target lines onto nylon membrane and probed with overgos designed from target genes. The hybridization signals or intensities of the samples are quantified using a PhosphorImager and the copy number of the genes in a genome is calculated using the hybridization signal data and the known copy number of the target genes. For the microarray method, arrays are fabricated by printing or synthesizing *in situ* genespecific oligos or large-insert DNA clones (such as BAC) on a chemically-coated glass slide and probed with total genomic DNA or cDNA. The hybridization signals or intensities of the target elements are quantified using a microarray analyzer and the copy number of a gene or sequence in a genome is calculated as above for the MA method. For the RGCS method, shotgun or other types of DNA libraries having gene-length insert sizes are constructed and all clones or a sample of clones of the library are sequenced. The number

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of genes in a gene family in a genome is calculated based on the number of clones sequenced, number of clones discovered to contain the target gene, clone insert size and genome coverage, and genome size. For the qrtPCR method, target gene-specific probes and/or primers are designed and used to amplify the DNA of a target genome and the copy number of a gene in the genome is determined based on fluoresce signal or intensity of the PCR product using the known copy number of the target element as a reference. In conclusion, these five methods are divided into two types. One is based on copy number counting, including the WSBA and RGCS methods, and the other is based on hybridization or fluorescent intensity, including the microarray, MA and qrtPCR methods.

We first evaluated the methods according to their sensitivity, reliability/reproducibility, and throughput/cost (Supplementary Table S2). It seems from previous studies (2,21,27-31,40) that all five methods have reasonable sensitivity, reproducibility and reliability that allow to determine the copy number change of a gene family in a genome; however, they have advantages and disadvantages in different aspects. The MA method is readily fabricated, simple and economical, and could be readily repeated. It is suitable for estimation of gene copy numbers with a range from a few to thousands of copies. The microarray and qrtPCR methods are often used to estimate the copy number of genes in a genomic region or that are smaller in the genome such as dozens of copies. Nevertheless, the results of the methods could be more significantly influenced by the nucleotide sequence homology among the members of genes and assay stringency, especially the qrtPCR method because it needs target-highly specific primers and/or probes for its reaction. Such primers or probes may make qrtPCR difficult to equally amplify all members of the targeted genes that may somehow differ at the sequence level in a gene family. The WSBA method has been widely used to estimate the number of genes in a gene family in a genome (1-3,6-10, 14,15,19-21,40); however, its reliability is often subjected to the source sequence genome coverage, sequence assembly accuracy (particularly those of sequence-identical gene member assembly) and annotation accuracy (3,15,19-21). Therefore, this method often leads to underestimation of gene copy number of a gene family. It is also expensive to sequence a large number of genomes even though the new-generation high-throughput sequencing technology is used and it is rare to sequence a genome repeatedly for statistical analysis. The RGCS method reduces the sequencing cost and makes it feasible to sequence a large number of genomes, but the number of genes in a family is estimated based on sample sequencing and is more sensitive to original copy number counting because it is often subjected to the insufficient sequence read length and will be further modified to obtain the number of genes in the family in the entire genome (28).

Experimental design and pilot experiments: According to the above analysis, we chose the MA method as one candidate method and proposed another method named small-insert DNA library screening (SDLS) for this study. The MA method is similar to the microarray and qrtPCR methods in principle, all of which are hybridization or fluorescent intensity-based, but much simpler, more economical, and more readily repeatable, without having to sequence and annotate the entire genomes. The SDLS method takes the advantages of the sequence-based WSBA and RGCS methods in their countability of individual gene copy number change, but is much simpler and more economical. We conducted two pilot experiments to test the methods. The first pilot experiment was to test the MA and SDLS methods using 7 of the 187 lines and compared the results with those of rice cv. Nipponbare estimated by the WSBA method (15,19-21). *Oryza sativa* ssp. *japonica* cv. Nipponbare, *O. sativa* ssp. *indica* cv. Teqing and *O. rufipogon* acc.

PI590422 were selected for *Oryza* and *G. max* cv. Forrest for *Glycine*. This was because the numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families were available for Nipponbare (15,19-21) and *O. sativa* ssp. *indica* cv. 93-11 (22) obtained by the WSBA method and we had the large-insert BAC library screening results for Nipponbare, Teqing and Forrest so that the results could be verified. PI590422 was a random sample. For *Gossypium*, *G. hirsutum*, *G. herbaceum* and *G. raimondii* were selected from its phylogenetic tree, each presenting a major lineage, the AD-genome, A+B+C+E+F+G+K-genome or D-genome lineage and the latter two being considered to be the donor diploid species of the former one.

For the MA method, 1,000 ng of the purified nuclear DNA for *Oryza*, 2,000 ng for *Glycine*, and 320, 640 and 960 ng for *Gossypium* D-genome, A-, B-, C-, E-, F-, G- and K-genome and AD-genome species, respectively, were printed per dot onto Hybond N+ membrane using an array blotting apparatus as described by the manufacturer (Bio-Rad, USA). To remove the potential noise background and determine the copy number of the target genes, two control groups were included in the arrays. The first group consisted of NBS and RLK family representative genes or degenerate overgos of known copy number as the positive controls and references to estimate the number of genes in the families in each genome. Furthermore, to minimize the potential effect of the plot plateau of hybridization intensity versus copy number on the assay, three levels of copy numbers for each target gene were applied on the array, with 50, 500 and 5000 copies per dot for NBS genes and 100, 1000 and 5,000 copies for RLK genes. Moreover, the hybridized arrays were exposed from 10 min to 5 hours to optimize the hybridization intensities of the samples for copy number estimation. The second group consisted of the printing buffer and non-homologous (salmon sperm) DNA as the negative controls to

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remove the noise background. Six to eight sets of arrays for the experimental samples were fabricated independently for experimental replication.

To minimize the influence of gene member sequence homology on the gene number assay, for *Oryza* and *Glycine* we designed the NBS and RLK-specific degenerate overgos from the amino acid sequences of their conserved regions and verified them using 10 or more NBS or RLK genes cloned from the genera, followed by blast against GenBank. For *Gossypium*, we randomly chose 16 NBS genes cloned from *G. hirsutum* that represent all subfamilies of the cotton NBS family (53) (Supplementary Table S3). Subfamily-specific primers were used to amplify the genes using their clones as templates. The expected PCR products of the genes were purified on agarose gels. The *Oryza* and *Glycine* NBS and RLK degenerate overgos and the mixture of the 16 *Gossypium* NBS gene PCR products were used as the copy number positive control for array preparation as described above and as the probes for array hybridization and small-insert DNA library screening described below to estimate the number of genes in the families.

The MA hybridization experiment was conducted using the NBS and RLK degenerate overgos as probes for *Oryza* and *Glycine* and the combined PCR products of the 16 NBS genes as a probe for *Gossypium*. To minimize the potential influence of the hybridization stringencies on the copy number assay, we tested different hybridization stringencies, especially the washing stringencies, including high (0.2 x SSC), moderate (0.5 x SSC) and low (2 x SSC) stringencies. The PhosphoImager Bio-Imaging Analyzer BAS-1800II was used to quantify the hybridization signal or intensity of each line with the probes. The number of genes in the families in the genome of each line was estimated by comparing the hybridization intensity of each sample with that of the target gene positive controls of known copy number that were printed on the same array and had hybridization intensities closest to those of

the samples for *Oryza* and *Gossypium*. Since the hybridization of the copy number positive controls of target genes was unclear on some technical replicates for the *Glycine* arrays, the numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the cultivar Forrest determined by the SDLS method (Supplementary Table S4C) were used as the positive controls and copy number reference for the estimation of numbers of genes in the families in other *Glycine* species lines. Comparative analysis showed that the numbers of the genes in the two families obtained from the three washing stringencies were identical or extremely similar; hence, the moderate washing stringency (0.5 x SSC) was used in this study. The MA experiment was replicated for 4 - 8 times so that the data could be analyzed by statistical tools (below).

For the SDLS method, two types of small-insert DNA libraries, shotgun-like and regular, were constructed from the nuclear DNA of the selected genotypes. The shotgun-like DNA libraries were constructed from the DNA partially digested with three 4-bp, blunt-ended enzymes, *Alu*I, *Hae*III and *Rsa*I, simultaneously, so that the resultant libraries would have a genome coverage as does a shotgun library constructed from DNA fragments physically sheared. The partially digested DNA was selected on an agarose gel, and the DNA fragments that best reflected the average size of target genes were selected and cloned in the *Eco*RV site of the pGEM5 vector. The regular DNA libraries were constructed from the DNA partially digested with one 4-bp enzyme, *Mbo*I, and size-selected on an agarose gel in the *Bam*HI site of the pUC18 vector (Supplementary Table S4). The titers, percentages of clones containing inserts and insert sizes of the libraries were determined by plating on agar selective medium and insert analysis of approximately 100 random clones of each library on agarose gels.

 The libraries were blotted onto Hybond-N+ nylon membrane as described by the manufacturer (Amersham, USA) and screened by hybridization, as described above, using the same *Oryza* and *Glycine* NBS and RLK degenerate overgos or the 16 selected *Gossypium* NBS genes as probes, as those used in the MA hybridization. The actual number of positive clones were counted and used to calculate the number of genes in the gene families in the genomes of the genotypes (Supplementary Table S4). From this experiment we expected to get a second estimation of number of the genes in the selected genotypes, which were used to further verify the results of the MA hybridization, thus providing additional, independent references for estimation of the number of genes in the families.

Supplementary Table S5 shows the numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the selected genotypes estimated by the MA and SDLS methods. The result showed that similar numbers of genes in the families were obtained for a line by the two methods $(r = 0.9656, p \le 0.001)$, with a different range from $0.51 - 13.6\%$. This percentage was comparable to the artificial variation (17.5%) in number of NBS genes in Nipponbare estimated by the WSBA method using its whole genome sequence (47) by different researchers (15,19-21). The numbers of NBS genes obtained between the MA (679) and WSBA (597) methods for Nipponbare differed by 13.7%. The difference was close to the above 13.6% or 17.5% range and probably due to the incomplete genome coverage of the rice sequence (47), improper assembly of the sequence-identical gene members and/or stringency and method of blast (3). Moreover, the results obtained from both MA and SDLS experiments agreed with the above large-insert BAC library screening results, all suggesting that Teqing have more NBS genes than Nipponbare. Therefore, we concluded that the MA, WSBA and SDLS methods have a similar sensitivity and reliability for our research purposes.

Furthermore, we conducted the second pilot experiment to further test the reliability and reproducibility of the MA method using the DNA of two rice cultivars, Nipponbare and Teqing, with five plants from each cultivar and 8 replicates for the entire pilot experiment as described above. Statistical analysis showed that no significant difference in number of genes in either NBS or RLK family was detected with the MA method among the replicates and individual plants of either cultivar ($P = 0.305 \sim 0.650$), confirming that the MA method is reliable and reproducible for our research purpose. In addition, among the methods used to date (Supplementary Table S2) the MA method is the most cost-efficiency and most readily repeated, thus being well suited for statistical analysis by which experimental errors, if any, could be excluded from the analysis. Hence, we decided to use the MA method to measure the numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the genomes of all 187 lines collected. The experimental design was as described above and the experiment was technically duplicated 4 – 8 times. Biological replicates or multiple plants per line was not included because the pilot experiment in rice cv. Teqing and cv. Nipponbare showed that there was no significant variation in the number of genes in both NBS and RLK families among different plants of a cultivar.

Data analysis

Since the MA experiment was technically replicated for 4 – 8 times, statistical analyses could be conducted so that experimental errors, if any, resulting from the technical issues could be excluded from the comparative analysis between and among lines or species. ANOVA, Pearson's correlation and t-test were used at two-tailed significance levels. Since some data were some apart from the expected normal distribution, the measured numbers of genes in the families were transformed into log_{10} -number of genes before the analyses. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out here that identical or very similar results of significance levels were obtained when the numbers of genes or hybridization signals were directly used in the statistical analyses. Therefore, use of the hybridization signal data, actual numbers of genes and the log₁₀-number of genes would not influence the conclusions of this study in the variation and evolution of the two gene families. The analyses were performed using the computer statistical program SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

Supplementary Table S1A. Numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the genomes of different accessions or cultivars of *Oryza* species estimated by membrane array.

Supplementary Table S1A (continued)

Supplementary Table S1A (continued)

Supplementary Table S1A (continued)

a The genome size data are from Miyabayashi et al. (45).

^b The mean number of genes in each accession or cultivar was calculated from six replicates for the NBS family and four replicates for the RLK family.

Supplementary Table S1B. Numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the genomes of different accessions or cultivars of *Glycine* species estimated by membrane array.

Supplementary Table S1B (continued)

^a The genome size data are from Bennett and Leitch (43).

^b The mean number of genes in each accession or cultivar was calculated from eight replicates.

Species	Genome	Genome size $(pg/1C)$ ^a	Accession /cultivar	Geographical origin	Acc. or cultivar mean ^b (No. / 1C)	Species mean (No. / 1C)	Genome mean (No. / 1C)
G. sturtianum	C1	2.060	$C1-4$	Australia	170.04	220.78	380.07
			$C1-7$	Australia	271.52		
G. nandewarense	$C1-n$		$C1 - n - 5$	Australia	330.77	539.37	
			$C1-n-6$	Australia	747.96		
G. costulatum	$\bf K$		$C5-3$	Australia	406.77	362.96	459.53
			$C5-4$	Australia	319.14		
G. nobile	$\bf K$	2.840	NWA35	Australia	397.82	397.82	
G. pulchellum	$\bf K$		$C8-1$	Australia	693.48	693.48	
G. marchantii	K	2.675	NWA-6	Australia	383.87	383.87	
G. australe	$\mathbf G$	1.875	$C3-1$	Australia	428.97	472.44	423.27
			$C3-4$	Australia	515.90		
G. nelsonii	G	1.795	$C9-1$	Australia	516.07	434.61	
			$C9-2$	Australia	353.15		
G. bickii	G1	1.795	$G1-1$	Australia	336.95	362.76	
			$G1-3$	Australia	388.57		
G. thurberi	D1	0.860	$D1-1$	Mexico	281.48	523.50	445.59
			$D1-7$	Mexico	765.52		
G. trilobum	D ₈	0.870	D8-7	Mexico	1167.19	1710.02	
			D8-8	Mexico	1999.34		
			D8-9	Mexico	1963.52		

Supplementary Table S1C. Numbers of genes in the NBS family in the genomes of different accessions or cultivars of *Gossypium* species estimated by membrane array.

Species	Genome	Genome size $(pg/1C)$ ^a	Accession /cultivar	Geographical origin	Acc. or cultivar mean ^b (No. / 1C)	Species mean (No. / 1C)	Genome mean (No. / 1C)
G. davidsonii	D_{3d}	0.930	D_{3d} -1	Mexico	110.99	90.60	
			D_{3d} -2	Mexico	70.20		
G. klotzschianum	D_{3-k}	0.900	$D_{3-k} - 57$	Ecuador	174.81	123.27	
			D_{3-k} -58	Ecuador	132.44		
			$D_{3-k} - 59$	Ecuador	62.55		
G. armourianum	D_{2-1}	0.875	D_{2-1} -7	Mexico	187.42	319.78	
			$D_{2-1}-9$	Mexico	452.14		
G. harknessii	D_{2-2}	0.930	$D_{2-2}-4$	Mexico	816.26	816.26	
G. turneri	D10	0.930	$D10-1$	Mexico	1017.46	909.83	
			D10-2	Mexico	802.19		
G. aridum	D ₄	0.940	$D4-5$	Mexico	185.65	185.65	
G. lobatum	D7	0.955	$D7-4$	Mexico	159.49	136.08	
			0208082.07	Mexico	112.66		
G. laxum	D ₉	0.955	$D9-3$	Mexico	210.24	189.73	
			0208021.08	Mexico	169.22		
G. schwendimanii	D11		$D11-1$	Mexico	88.39	88.39	
G. gossypioides	D ₆	0.860	D6-6	Mexico	269.81	269.86	
			0208082.05	Mexico	269.91		
G. raimondii	D ₅	0.900	$D5-3$	Peru	412.10	429.72	
			$D5-6$	Peru	550.13		
			$D5-8$	Peru	326.94		

Supplementary Table S1C (continued)

Supplementary Table S1C (continued)

Supplementary Table S1C (continued)

Supplementary Table S1C (continued)

^a The genome size data are from Hendrix and Stewart (44).

^b The mean number of genes in each accession or cultivar was calculated from six replicates.

Supplementary Table S2. Comparison of the methods used for estimation of number of genes in a gene family.

Supplementary Table S3. Probes used in estimation of the number of genes in the NBS and RLK families

Oryza

1. NBS family:

PCR products of the NBS genes used as probes for BAC library screening:

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r2 (AF032689), r3 (AF032690), r4 (AF032691), r5 (AF032692), r7 (AF032694), r8 (AF032695), 
r9 (AF032696), r12 (AF032699), r13 (AF032700), r16 (AF032703)
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2. RLK family:

Glycine

1. NBS family:

PCR products of the NBS genes used as probes for BAC library screening: RGA3 or RLG3 (U55805)

2. RLK family:

EKSDVYSFGVVLLE (domain-IX)

Degenerate nucleotide oligo: 5'-GA(A/G)AA(A/G)(T/A)(C/G)NGA(T/C)GTNTA(T/C)(T/A)(C/G) NTT(T/C)GGNGTNGTN(T/C)TN(T/C)TNGA(A/G)-3'

Overgo-A: 5'- GA(A/G)AA(A/G)(T/A)(C/G)NGA(T/C)GTNTA(T/C)(T/A)(C/G)NTT(T/C)G-3'

Overgo-B: 5'-(T/C)TCNA(A/G)NA(A/G)NACNACNCC(A/G)AAN(C/G)(A/T)(A/G)-3'

Gossypium

NBS family:

2D17 (AY600405), 2B19 (AY600394), 2A21 (AY600391), 2B05 (AY600392), 2K15 (AY600423), 2O05 (AY600431), 2B08 (AY600382), 2D03 (AY600401), 2D14 (AY600383), 2B06 (AY600385), 2H01 (AY600413), 1C08 (AY600376), 2J21 (AY600419), 2K13 (AY600422), 2G13 (AY600410), 2F07 (AY600409)

Supplementary Table S4A. Number of genes in the NBS family in the genomes of three *Oryza* lines estimated by small-insert DNA library screening (SDLS) using the degenerate overgos designed from the conserved NBS domain amino acid sequences of the family as a probe (see Supplementary Table S3).

a The pUC18 libraries were constructed from nuclear DNA partially digested with *Mbo*I and size-selected on agarose gels, and the pGEM5 libraries from nuclear DNA partially digested with an enzyme mixture of *Hae*III, *Alu*I and *Rsa*I and size-selected on agarose gels.

Supplementary Table S4B. Number of genes in the RLK family in the genomes of three *Oryza* lines estimated by small-insert DNA library screening (SDLS) using the degenerate overgos designed from the conserved domain amino acid sequences of the family as a probe (see Supplementary Table S3).

Supplementary Table S4C. Number of genes in the NBS and RLK families in the genome of *Glycine max* cv. Forrest estimated by small-insert DNA library (SDLS) screening using the degenerate overgos designed from the conserved domain amino acid sequences of the families as probes, respectively (see Supplementary Table S3).

Supplementary Table S4D. Number of genes in the NBS family in the genomes of three *Gossypium* lines estimated by small-insert DNA library screening (SDLS) using purified PCR products of the 16 NBS genes representing the family (see Supplementary Table S3).

Supplementary Table S5. Comparison in the numbers of genes in the NBS and RLK families estimated with different methods.

^a The numbers of genes measured with the membrane array (MA) method correlated with those measured by the small-insert DNA library screening (SDLS) method ($r = 0.966$, $P < 0.001$).

 b The number of NBS genes in the Nipponbare genome estimated by the WSBA method ranged from 508 – 597 by different researchers (15,19-21) (also see Supplementary Table S2). The number of NBS genes in Nipponbare estimated by the MA method differed by 13.7% [(679-597)/597 x 100] from that (957) estimated by the WSBA method, but the percentage was close to the 17.5% [(597-508)/508 x 100] artificial variation of the result estimated with WSBA by different researchers (15,19-21).

Supplementary Table S6. Variation in the number of genes in the NBS family between two rice cultivars, Nipponbare and Teqing, and between two soybean cultivars, Williams 82 and Forrest, estimated by screening BAC libraries using its subfamily-specific probes.

^a See Leister et al. (32) for the detail of rice probes and Kanazin et al. (38) for the detail of soybean probe.

b Both Nipponbare (35) and Teqing (33,34) BAC libraries were constructed with *Hin*dIII, *Bam*HI and *Eco*RI, respectively. The Nipponbare BAC libraries have an average insert size of 151 kb and the Teqing BAC libraries have an average insert size of 133 kb. A total of 23,040 (8.3x) Nipponbare BACs and 26,112 (8.1x) Teqing BACs were screened. Both Williams 28 (36) and Forrest (37) BAC libraries were constructed with *Eco*RI. The Williams 82 library has an average insert size of 150 kb and the Forrest BAC library has an average insert size of 157 kb. A total of 40,000 (5.5x) Williams 82 BACs and 38,400 (5.5x) Forrest BACs were screened.

Supplementary Table S7. Variation correlation between species phylogenetic distance and log₁₀-transformed number of genes in the NBS and RLK families

^a "*", "**" and "***" indicate that the variation is significant in two tails at $P \le 0.05$, 0.01 and 0.001, respectively.