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Sowing dates and node emission in buckwheat cultivars

Datas de semeadura e emissão de nós em cultivares de trigo mourisco

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Highlights _____

The rate of node appearance ranges from 2.20 to 8.23 days node⁻¹. The final number of nodes varies from 2.20 to 17.20. The period of node emission ranges from 16.60 to 49.20 days.

Abstract _

The aim of this study was to determine the rate of node appearance (RNA), the final number of nodes (FNN) and the period of node emission (PNE) in two buckwheat cultivars (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) for different sowing dates, and to check variability in the RNA, FNN and PNE between the cultivars and sowing dates. The IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars were evaluated for 29 and 31 sowing dates from October to May in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 agricultural years respectively. In each experiment, a completely randomised design with five replications was used. The number of nodes (NN) on the main stem was counted twice a week in each plant (replication), from emission of the first node until the end of the cycle. The linear regression (y = a + bx) of the number of nodes (NN, y) was adjusted for each plant based on the number of days after emergence (DAE, x). The rate of node appearance (RNA), in days node⁻¹, was determined from the inverse of the slope of the linear regression between NN and DAE (RNA = 1/b). The RNA was calculated for the period of node emission (PNE, in days), i.e. from emergence to emission of the last node. The final number of nodes (FNN) was counted at the end of node emission. Variability was found in the rate of node appearance (RNA), the final number of nodes (FNN) and the period of node emission (PNE) between the cultivars and sowing dates. The rate of node appearance ranges between 2.20 and 8.23 days node⁻¹, the final number of nodes between 2.20 and 17.20, and the period of node emission between 16.60 and 49.20 days. Plants of the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars show better vegetative development (lower RNA,

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higher FNN and greater PNE) when sown in November, December, January and February, compared to those sown in October, March, April and May.

Key words: Vegetative development. *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench. Final number of nodes. Period of node emission. Rate of node appearance.

Resumo _

Os objetivos deste trabalho foram determinar a taxa de aparecimento de nós (TAN), o número final de nós (NFN) e o período de emissão de nós (PEN) em duas cultivares de trigo mourisco (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) em datas de semeadura e verificar a variabilidade da TAN, do NFN e do PEN entre as cultivares e as datas de semeadura. As cultivares IPR91-Baili e IPR92-Altar foram avaliadas em 29 e 31 datas de semeadura, nos anos agrícolas 2017/2018 e 2018/2019, respectivamente, durante os meses de outubro a maio. Nos dois experimentos foi utilizado o delineamento inteiramente casualizado com cinco repetições. Em cada planta (repetição) foi contado o número de nós (NN) da haste principal, duas vezes por semana, a partir da emissão do primeiro nó até o final do ciclo. Para cada planta foi ajustada a regressão linear (y=a+bx) do número de nós (NN, y) em função do número de dias após a emergência (DAE, x). A taxa de aparecimento de nós (TAN), em dias nó⁻¹, foi determinada pelo inverso do coeficiente angular da regressão linear entre o NN e o DAE (TAN=1/b). A TAN foi calculada para o período de emissão de nós (PEN, em dias), ou seja, entre a emergência até a emissão do último nó. O número final de nós (NFN) foi contabilizado na avaliação em que a planta cessou a emissão de nós. Há variabilidade da taxa de aparecimento de nós (TAN), do número final de nós (NFN) e do período de emissão de nós (PEN) entre as cultivares e as datas de semeadura. A taxa de aparecimento de nós oscila entre 2,20 e 8,23 dias nó⁻¹, o número final de nós entre 2,20 e 17,20 nós e o período de emissão de nós entre 16,60 e 49,20 dias. As plantas das cultivares IPR91-Baili e IPR92-Altar, apresentam melhor desenvolvimento vegetativo (menor TAN, maior NFN e maior PEN) nas semeaduras nos meses de novembro, dezembro, janeiro e fevereiro em comparação com as semeaduras realizadas em outubro, março, abril e maio.

Palavras-chave: Desenvolvimento vegetativo. *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench. Número final de nós. Período de emissão de nós. Taxa de aparecimento de nós.

Introduction _____

Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench) is an annual plant of family Polygonaceae, presenting fast growth, a short cycle, a high tolerance to acidity, and the ability to grow in low-fertility soils (Gonçalves et al., 2016). Studies with the crop show that its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, and its nutritional content, enable its use in human nutrition and as a medicinal plant (Accame & Ortega, 2019; Gonçalves et al., 2016; Mikhailovich, 2019; Ratan & Kothiyal, 2011; Yilmaz, Ayhan, & Meriç, 2020). In addition, it can serve as forage for animal feed (Görgen et al., 2016), and as ground cover and a weed suppressor (Falquet, Gfeller, Pourcelot, Tschuy, & Wirth, 2015; Pereira et al., 2017; Skora & Campos, 2017). A comprehensive review of buckwheat has been made (Jacquemart, Cawoy, Kinet, Ledent, & Quinet, 2012); the authors point out that characteristics such as a high sensitivity to abiotic factors, problems with pollen compatibility, sterility of female flower organs, and the lack of consistent flowering and grain maturation, need to be improved.

The buckwheat plant is sensitive to frost, heat, water deficit and photoperiod (Jacquemart et al., 2012), and genotypes have shown different development in different environments (Facho, Farhatullah, Khalil, Khan, & Ali, 2016; Fesenko, Romanova, & Fesenko, 2012; Jung et al., 2015). Therefore, varying the conditions of temperature, insolation, solar radiation, photoperiod and rainfall between sowing dates can influence vegetative development in the plant. It is therefore important to characterise genotypes and identify the environmental conditions that favour vegetative development, in order to obtain information as an aid to appropriate crop management.

The rate of node appearance represents the number of days necessary for the emission of one node and can be used to assess vegetative development (Baker & Reddy, 2001). The smaller the number of days, the more accelerated vegetative development occurs. The final number of nodes and the period of node emission, between emergence and emission of the last node, are important in helping to characterise the vegetative development of the plants. Research involving aspects related to node emission and sowing dates has been carried out on buckwheat (Fesenko et al., 2012; Jung et al., 2015; Mikhailovich, 2019) and soybeans (Martins, Radons, Streck, Knies, & Carlesso, 2011; Rocha et al., 2018), showing different plant responses to environmental variations, and highlighting the direct association between the number of nodes and leaf area, responsible for intercepting solar radiation and biomass accumulation (Xue, Weiss, & Baenziger, 2004). The number of nodes has been considered in studying the phenological and productive behaviour of buckwheat (Toledo & Esteves, 2019).

In Brazil, only two cultivars are registered (IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar) (Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento [MAPA], 2020), and there is a lack of information on the crop. It is assumed that the buckwheat cultivars (IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar) have different responses in relation to node emission, and that it is possible to identify which sowing dates afford better vegetative development. As such, the aim of this study was to determine the rate of node appearance (RNA), the final number of nodes (FNN) and the period of node emission (PNE) in two buckwheat cultivars (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) for different sowing dates, and to check variability in the RNA, FNN and PNE between the cultivars and sowing dates.

Material and Methods ____

Two experiments were conducted with buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) in an experimental area located at 29°42' S and 53°49' W, at an altitude of 95 m. According to the Köppen classification, the climate is type Cfa, humid subtropical, with hot summers and no dry season (Alvares, Stape, Sentelhas, Gonçalves, & Sparovek, 2013); the soil is a Distrophic Arenic Red Argisol (Santos et al., 2018). A physical and chemical analysis of the soil at a depth of 0-20 cm revealed: pH_{H20} 1:1:5.5, Ca: 4.7 cmol dm⁻³, Mg: 1.9 cmol dm⁻ ³, Al: 0.0 cmol dm⁻³, H+Al: 4.4 cmol dm⁻³; SMP index: 6.0, organic matter: 2.3%, clay content: 29.0%, S: 1.5 mg dm⁻³, P (Mehlich): 32.8 mg dm⁻ ³, K: 0.532 cmol dm⁻³, CEC H_{PH7}: 11.6 cmol dm⁻³, Cu: 2.2 mg dm⁻³, Zn: 1.01 mg dm⁻³, and B: 0.2

mg dm⁻³. These results were used to define the type of fertilisation (Comissão de Química e Fertilidade do Solo [CQFS], 2016).

buckwheat cultivars (IPR91-Two Baili and IPR92-Altar) were evaluated for 29 and 31 sowing dates, during the 2017/2018 (experiment 1) and 2018/2019 (experiment 2) agricultural years respectively. A completely randomised design with five replications was used in a factorial scheme of 58 treatments in experiment 1 (2 cultivars × 29 sowing dates) and 62 treatments in experiment 2 (2 cultivars × 31 sowing dates). For each date, manual sowing was carried out in rows spaced 0.5 m apart at a density of 50 kg ha-1, with a base fertilisation of 35 kg ha⁻¹ N, 135 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ and 135 kg ha⁻¹ K₂O. The plots comprised three rows, each 2 m in length (3 m²), with 85 seeds per metre of row.

Seedling emergence was determined daily by counting the number of plants visible above the ground, considering emergence as when 50% of the seedlings were visible. After emergence, five plants were randomly chosen per plot (five replications). For each plant (replication) from each treatment, the number of nodes (NN) on the main stem was counted. A node was considered visible when the leaf originating from that node was expanded, i.e. when the edges of the leaf were no longer touching. Therefore, 290 plants were evaluated in experiment 1 (5 plants per treatment × 58 treatments) and 310 plants in experiment 2 (5 plants per treatment × 62 treatments), giving a total of 600 plants. The counts were carried out twice weekly until the end of the plant cycle.

For each plant, the linear regression (y = a + bx) of the number of nodes (NN, y) was adjusted based on the number of days after emergence (DAE, x). The rate of

node appearance (RNA), in days node⁻¹, was determined by the inverse of the slope of the linear regression between NN and DAE (RNA = 1/b). The RNA was calculated for the period of node emission, i.e. from emergence to emission of the last node. As an example, consider the data from a plant which was sown on 08/11/2017, emergence was on 18/11/2017 and the end of the cycle on 26/12/2017. NN was evaluated on 23/11/2017, 27/11/2017, 30/11/2017. 04/12/2017. 07/12/2017. 11/12/2017. 14/12/2017. 18/12/2017. 21/12/2017 and 26/12/2017, when the number of nodes was 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 10 respectively. The plant issued the last node (10th node) on 21/12/2017 (9th evaluation), and on 26/12/2017 (10th evaluation) it still had 10 nodes. Therefore, for the linear regression, the values of y were 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 8 and 10 nodes, and for x the values were 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 and 33 days after emergence respectively. The resultant linear regression was y = -0.683+ 0.290 x; r² = 0.953, so RNA = 1/0.290 = 3.450 days node⁻¹. The plant cycle was therefore 48 days (08/11/2017 to 26/12/2017), the period of node emission (PNE) was 38 days (18/11/2017 to 21/12/2017), and the final number of nodes (FNN) was 10.

The daily data for minimum (Tmin) and maximum (Tmax) air temperature, in °C; insolation, in hours day⁻¹; daily solar radiation, in MJ m⁻² day⁻¹; and rainfall, in mm were collected from the Weather Station of the 8th Meteorological District of the National Institute of Meteorology, located 70 m from the experimental area. The average daily air temperature (Tave), in °C, was calculated from the expression: Tave = (Tmin + Tmax)/2.

The data for the rate of node appearance, final number of nodes and period of node emission were submitted to analysis of variance and the mean values compared Dec by Scott-Knott test at 5% probability. The was statistical analysis was carried out with the aid of Microsoft Office Excel[®] and the Genes software (Cruz, 2016).

Results and Discussion ____

During the 2017/2018 agricultural year (experiment 1), the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar buckwheat cultivars (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) were evaluated from 01/11/2017 (first sowing date) until 14/062018 (final evaluation on the 29th sowing date), and during the 2018/2019 agricultural year (experiment 2), from 04/10/2018 (first sowing date) until 17/06/2019 (final evaluation on the 31st sowing date). From October to June in each agricultural year, the monthly mean values for minimum (Tmin), maximum (Tmax) and average (Tave) air temperatures, in °C, were higher in December, January and February, gradually reducing until June. The monthly averages for daily sunlight, in hours day-1, and daily solar radiation, in MJ m⁻² day⁻¹, were higher in November, December, January and February, with a gradual reduction towards October and June, except for January 2019, with 5.3 hours of insolation per day and solar radiation of 19.0 MJ m⁻² day⁻¹. The high volume of rainfall during that month (266.1 mm) is possibly the reason for the lower number of hours of sunlight and solar radiation (Table 1). These results are directly associated with the length of the day (photoperiod). On 1 October, the photoperiod at the experimental site was 12.32 hours, with a gradual and non-linear increase until 21

December, when it reached 13.91 hours. There was then a gradual and non-linear reduction until 21 June, reaching 10.09 hours (Figure 1).

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The respective mean values for Tmin, Tmax and Tave were 16.1, 26.9 and 21.5 °C for the 2017/2018 agricultural year, and 17.4, 27.4 and 22.4 °C for 2018/2019. Mean daily insolation was 6.7 hours day⁻¹ during the 2017/2018 agricultural year, and 6.3 hours day⁻¹ during 2018/2019, which shows that on average, in experiment 1 the plants received 0.4 hours day⁻¹ more sunlight. During the 2017/2018 agricultural year, the mean daily solar radiation was 17.7 MJ m⁻² day⁻ ¹ and in 2018/2019, it was 17.2 MJ m⁻² day⁻¹. Accumulated rainfall from October 2017 to June 2018 was 1,173.9 mm and from October 2018 to June 2019 it was 1,513.5 mm. These values were similar to the climate normal for 1981-2010 (Table 1). Therefore, considering the same period (October to June) the plants in the 2017/2018 agricultural year (experiment 1) were exposed to lower temperatures, greater insolation, more solar radiation and less rainfall in relation to the 2018/2019 agricultural year (experiment 2). Such different environmental conditions between agricultural years can result in different plant responses for the rate of node appearance, the final number of nodes and the period of node emission. According to Jacquemart et al. (2012), buckwheat phenology and production mainly respond to three climate factors: temperature, rainfall and photoperiod. The authors also state that the plant is sensitive to frost, heat, water deficit and, for photosensitive varieties, an extended photoperiod.

Table 1

Monthly mean minimum (Tmin), maximum (Tmax) and average (Tave) air temperature, in °C, monthly mean daily insolation, in hours day⁻¹, monthly mean daily solar radiation, in MJ m⁻² day⁻¹, total rainfall, in mm, during the evaluation periods of the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar buckwheat cultivars (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench), with the climate normal for 1981-2010

Month	Year	Tmin (°C)	Tmax (°C)	Tave (°C)	Insolation (hrs day-1)	Radiation (MJ m ⁻² day ⁻¹)	Rainfall (mm)
		2017/2	018 agricultu	ıral year (exp	eriment 1)		
October ⁽¹⁾	2017	15.4	25.0	20.2	5.7	17.5	243.2
November	2017	14.8	28.1	21.4	9.0	24.4	70.0
December	2017	19.2	30.9	25.1	8.5	24.1	83.9
January	2018	19.9	30.3	25.1	7.8	22.2	122.2
February	2018	18.4	29.9	24.1	8.5	22.7	108.9
March	2018	17.3	28.9	23.1	7.1	17.7	167.6
April	2018	18.5	28.8	23.6	6.0	13.1	167.6
May	2018	13.6	22.2	17.9	4.4	9.7	59.9
June	2018	7.9	17.7	12.8	3.8	7.8	150.6
Mean		16.1	26.9	21.5	6.7	17.7	130.4
		2018/2	019 agricultu	ıral year (exp	eriment 2)		
October	2018	15.3	25.4	20.4	6.6	18.9	101.5
November	2018	17.7	28.8	23.3	7.9	22.8	245.1
December	2018	18.7	30.0	24.4	8.3	24.4	176.2
January	2019	21.9	30.8	26.4	5.3	19.0	266.1
February	2019	19.1	30.0	24.6	8.1	21.7	83.4
March	2019	17.2	28.1	22.7	7.2	18.3	136.3
April	2019	17.3	26.4	21.8	5.1	12.6	210.4
May	2019	15.4	22.5	19.0	3.6	8.2	260.2
June	2019	14.2	24.4	19.3	4.3	9.2	34.3
Mean		17.4	27.4	22.4	6.3	17.2	168.2
		C	Climate norma	al for 1981-2	010		
October		14.8	25.2	19.4	5.8	-	173.3
November		16.4	27.8	21.6	7.3	-	132.7
December		18.6	30.3	24.1	8.1	-	154.3
January		19.8	30.9	24.9	7.9	-	166.3
February		19.4	29.9	24.0	7.1	-	139.6
March		18.5	29.1	22.9	6.8	-	127.7
April		15.0	25.7	19.4	5.8	-	170.1
May		12.0	22.0	16.0	5.0	-	154.4
June		10.3	19.7	14.2	4.1	-	149.1
Mean		16.1	26.7	20.7	6.4		151.9

⁽¹⁾ In October 2017, no buckwheat was sown due to the high volume of rainfall (243.2 mm); however, the data are shown in order to compare the two agricultural years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019) for the same period, i.e. from October to June.



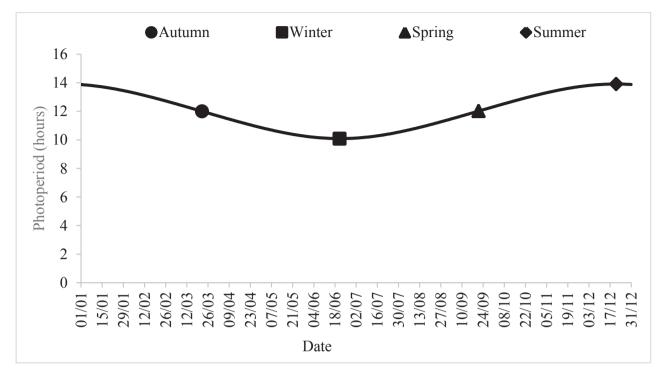


Figure 1. Photoperiod, in hours, from 01 January to 31 December showing the start of each season in the area of the experiments with the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar buckwheat cultivars (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench).

The relationship between the number of nodes (NN, y) and the number of days after emergence (DAE, x) in the 600 buckwheat plants was linear, showing high coefficients of determination (r^2), which ranged from 0.80 to 1.00, with an average r^2 for the 600 estimates of 0.96. It can be inferred from this that the rate of node appearance estimated by the method of linear regression (y = a + bx) between NN and DAE was applicable and reliable.

In the 2017/2018 agricultural year (experiment 1), using the F-test from the analysis of variance, it was found that there was no cultivar × sowing date interaction (p>0.05) in relation to the rate of node appearance (RNA, days node⁻¹), the final number of nodes (FNN) or the period of node emission (PNE, in days) in

buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench). This means that the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars showed similar responses for the 29 sowing dates. The main effect of the cultivars was not significant (p>0.05), whereas that of the sowing dates was significant (p \leq 0.05), inferring that the RNA, FNN and PNE vary between sowing dates. This makes it possible to investigate the dates that afford the best vegetative plant development.

Irrespective of sowing date, the mean RNA of the IPR91-Baili cultivar (3.19 days node⁻¹) did not differ from that of the IPR92-Altar cultivar (3.25 days node⁻¹). This means that for the sowing carried out from 01/11/2017 to 16/05/2018 the cultivars emitted an average of one node every 3.22 days (Table

2). However, the RNA differed between sowing dates, ranging from 2.34 to 5.31 days node⁻¹. Three groups of mean values were formed by the Scott-Knott test, with the highest RNA values concentrated on the later sowing dates, which suggests less plant development, as they took longer for node emission. For the 29 sowing dates, the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars emitted an average of 10.39 nodes per plant, showing no difference from each other. Between the sowing dates, the FNN ranged from 2.20 to 15.70 nodes and seven

groups of mean values were formed. Higher values for FNN were observed for plants sown in December, with a gradual reduction towards November and May. The mean value for PNE in the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars was the same, i.e. the time between emergence and emission of the last node was 35.2 days. Between the sowing dates, the PNE ranged from 21 to 47.7 days and six groups of mean values were formed. The PNE was longer in December, with a gradual reduction towards November and May.

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Dates of sowing and emergence, mean rate of node appearance (RNA, days node⁻¹), final number of nodes (FNN) and period of node emission (PNE, in days) in the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar buckwheat cultivars (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) for each of the 29 sowing dates (D). Mean value for the sowing dates in each month

	Sowing	Emergence		RNA			FNN			PNE	
			IPR91-Baili	IPR92-Altar	Mean	IPR91-Baili	IPR92-Altar	Mean	IPR91-Baili	IPR91-Baili IPR92-Altar	Mean
	01/11/2017	06/11/2017	3.21	3.14	3.18 b	8.40	10.60	9.50 e	37.4	43.4	40.4 b
2	08/11/2017	18/11/2017	3.11	2.98	3.05 b	8.20	8.40	8.30 e	27.0	25.0	26.0 e
ო	14/11/2017	20/11/2017	2.92	3.03	2.98 b	11.60	12.40	12.00 c	40.8	43.2	42.0 a
4	22/11/2017	29/11/2017	3.18	2.96	3.07 b	11.20	11.80	11.50 c	43.6	36.8	40.2 b
വ	29/11/2017	08/12/2017	2.90	2.69	2.79 c	15.00	16.40	15.70 a	48.4	47.0	47.7 a
	Mean for November	vember	3.06	2.96	3.01	10.88	11.92	11.40	39.4	39.1	39.3
9	06/12/2017	14/12/2017	2.44	2.96	2.70 c	17.20	14.00	15.60 a	46.0	43.8	44.9 a
2	14/12/2017	21/12/2017	2.85	3.36	3.11 b	15.60	11.80	13.70 b	49.2	42.4	45.8 a
ω	20/12/2017	26/12/2017	3.03	2.99	3.01 b	12.00	13.20	12.60 c	41.0	42.2	41.6 a
თ	28/12/2017	02/01/2018	3.01	3.04	3.03 b	14.20	12.40	13.30 b	48.6	43.6	46.1 a
	Mean for December	cember	2.83	3.09	2.96	14.75	12.85	13.80	46.2	43.0	44.6
10	03/01/2018	18/01/2018		3.31	3.29 b	12.00	12.00	12.00 c	37.4	36.8	37.1 b
11	10/01/2018	15/01/2018	2.68	2.74	2.71 c	12.60	12.40	12.50 c	39.6	39.0	39.3 b
12	17/01/2018	24/01/2018	3.59	3.12	3.35 b	12.60	12.40	12.50 c	41.8	37.8	39.8 b
13	24/01/2018	30/01/2018	2.70	3.19	2.94 b	10.80	11.40	11.10 d	34.4	40.0	37.2 b
14	31/01/2018	07/02/2018	2.27	2.69	2.48 c	11.20	10.20	10.70 d	32.2	35.6	33.9 c
	Mean for January	anuary	2.90	3.01	2.96	11.84	11.68	11.76	37.1	37.8	37.5
15	07/02/2018	12/02/2018	3.22	2.90	3.06 b	11.40	10.80	11.10 d	40.2	36.8	38.5 b
16	14/02/2018	19/02/2018	2.96	2.52	2.74 c	12.00	10.80	11.40 c	38.8	32.2	35.5 b
17	21/02/2018	27/02/2018	2.80	3.33	3.06 b	10.20	10.20	10.20 d	31.6	34.8	33.2 c
18	28/02/2018	06/03/2018	3.44	2.43	2.94 b	10.40	10.80	10.60 d	38.6	30.4	34.5 b
	Mean for February	bruary	3.10	2.79	2.95	11.00	10.65	10.83	37.3	33.6	35.4
19	07/03/2018	15/03/2018	2.28	2.81	2.55 c	10.80	10.80	10.80 d	26.8	32.6	29.7 d
20	14/03/2018	19/03/2018	2.70	3.65	3.17 b	10.60	10.20	10.40 d	33.2	39.0	36.1 b
21	22/03/2018	30/03/2018	2.64	3.92	3.28 b	9.80	9.80	9.80 d	26.0	30.6	28.3 d
22	28/03/2018	03/04/2018	3.02	2.95	2.99 b	9.40	8.40	8.90 e	27.4	24.6	26.0 e
	Mean for March	Aarch	2.66	3.33	3.00	10.15	9.80	9.98	28.4	31.7	30.0
23	04/04/2018	09/04/2018	2.20	2.48	2.34 c	7.60	8.40	8.00 e	20.8	23.6	22.2 f
24	11/04/2018	17/04/2018	3.18	2.96	3.07 b	6.80	9.80	8.30 e	24.6	31.2	27.9 d

25	25 18/04/2018 24/04/2018	24/04/2018	3.52	3.25	3.39 b	8.60	9.20	8.90 e	28.8	30.4	29.6 d
26	25/04/2018 30/04/2018	30/04/2018	4.87	4.87	4.87 a	8.40	8.00	8.20 e	36.2	33.6	34.9 b
	Mean for April	April	3.44	3.39	3.42	7.85	8.85	8.35	27.6	29.7	28.7
27	02/05/2018 07/05/2018	07/05/2018	5.37	5.24	5.31 a	6.40	7.20	6.80 e	32.6	34.2	33.4 c
28	09/05/2018 14/05/2018	14/05/2018	5.46	4.65	5.06 a	4.20	5.20	4.70 f	27.6	28.4	28.0 d
29	16/05/2018	16/05/2018 21/05/2018	3.60	4.00	3.80 b	2.20	2.20	2.20 g	21.0	21.0	21.0f
	Mean for May	May	4.81	4.63	4.72	4.27	4.87	4.57	27.1	27.9	27.5
	Overall mean	ean	3.19 A	3.25 A	3.22	10.39 A	10.39 A	10.39	35.2 A	35.2 A	35.2
	Minimum	E	2.20	2.43	2.34	2.20	2.20	2.20	20.8	21.0	21.0
	Maximum	E	5.46	5.24	5.31	17.20	16.40	15.70	49.2	47.0	47.7
	Number of groups ⁽¹⁾	roups ⁽¹⁾	I	·	ო	I	I	7	,	I	9
0	Coefficient of variation (%)	iriation (%)		20.19			17.96			15.46	
Mean	values not follow	Mean values not followed by the same uppercase letter in a row (comparison of cultivars) and lowercase letter in a column (comparison of sowing dates)	ppercase lette	r in a row (co	omparison o	f cultivars) an	d lowercase l	etter in a co	lumn (comp	arison of sow	ing dates)

ת differ by the Scott-Knott test at 5% probability.⁽¹⁾ Number of groups of mean values for sowing dates formed by the Scott-Knott test.

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During the 2017/2018 agricultural year, it was generally found that the values for RNA remained similar up to the sowing carried out in February, and gradually increased from the sowings carried out in March onwards. Higher values for FNN and PNE were seen in December, gradually decreasing towards November and May. These results suggest better vegetative development of the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars for sowings carried out in November, December, January and February. For these months, the mean values for RNA were respectively 3.01, 2.96, 2.96 and 2.95 days node-1, for FNN 11.40, 13.80, 11.76, 10.83 nodes, and for PNE 39.3, 44.6, 37.5 and 35.4 days (Table 2). Therefore, from November to February, the plants spent more time emitting nodes (greater PNE) and at a higher rate (lower RNA), consequently issuing more nodes (higher FNN). In March, April and May the mean values for RNA were respectively 3.00, 3.42 and 4.72 days node ¹, for FNN 9.98, 8.35 and 4.57 nodes, and for PNE 30.0, 28.7 and 27.5 days. This means a gradual reduction in vegetative development for plants sown in March, April and May, i.e. there was a gradual increase in RNA and a gradual reduction in FNN and PNE. This slower plant development in March, April and May is possibly associated with the gradual reduction in the minimum (Tmin), maximum (Tmax) and average (Tave) air temperature, insolation, radiation and photoperiod (Table 1 and Figure 1). It can therefore be inferred that as the sowing date advanced there was a reduction in plant development. A similar result was seen by Martins et al. (2011) and Rocha et al. (2018), who found a reduction in the final number of nodes on the main stem of soybeans when sown late.

In the 2018/2019 agricultural year (experiment 2), the F-test in the analysis of variance revealed an interaction between cultivar \times sowing date (p≤0.05) in relation to the RNA, FNN and PNE. This means that the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars showed different responses for the sowing dates, inferring variability in the RNA, FNN and PNE between cultivars and between sowing dates; however, greater variation was seen between the sowing dates within each cultivar than between cultivars within each sowing date. An interaction between 20 buckwheat genotypes and four environments has been found for the number of days to flowering, number of days to maturation, plant height and 1000-grain weight (Facho et al., 2016).

Only on sowing date 02/05/2019 was the RNA of IPR92-Altar (8.23 days node-1) higher than that of IPR91-Baili (5.01 days node-¹); on the remaining sowing dates there was no difference between cultivars. When comparing sowing dates within each cultivar, three and four groups of mean RNA values were formed for IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar respectively. The RNA of the IPR91-Baili cultivar varied between 3.02 and 7.31 days node⁻¹, and of the IPR92-Altar cultivar, between 2.72 and 8.23 days node⁻¹ (Table 3); albeit, with the presence of the interaction, it was seen that RNA values were lower from October to February and then gradually increased for sowings carried out in March, April and May. This means that with the delay in sowing date, the plants took longer to emit nodes from March onwards.

Table 3

Dates of sowing and emergence, mean rate of node appearance (RNA, days node⁻¹), final number of nodes (FNN) and period of node emission (PNE, in days) in the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar buckwheat cultivars (Fagopyrum esculentum Moench) for each of the 31 sowing dates (D). Mean value for the sowing dates in each month

				RNA			ENN F			PNE	
۵	Sowing	Emergence	IPR91-Baili	PR91-Baili IPR92-Altar	Mean	IPR91-Baili	IPR91-Baili IPR92-Altar	Mean	IPR91-Baili IPR92-Altar	IPR92-Altar	Mean
-	04/10/2018	15/10/2018	4.26 Ac	4.15 Ac	4.20	6.80 Ad	5.80 Ad	6.30	28.0 Ad	16.6 Bd	22.3
7	11/10/2018	22/10/2018	4.06 Ac	3.42 Ad	3.74	7.00 Bd	10.40 Ab	8.70	25.8 Ad	31.4 Ac	28.6
ო	18/10/2018	29/10/2018	3.67 Ac	2.72 Ad	3.19	8.60 Bc	11.00 Aa	9.80	31.8 Ac	27.0 Ac	29.4
4	25/10/2018	01/11/2018	3.02 Ac	3.21 Ad	3.11	12.20 Aa	10.20 Bb	11.20	39.4 Ab	29.6 Bc	34.5
	Mean for October	tober	3.75	3.37	3.56	8.65	9.35	9.00	31.3	26.2	28.7
വ	01/11/2018	08/11/2018	3.57 Ac	3.56 Ad	3.57	11.00 Aa	9.80 Ab	10.40	37.6 Ab	30.4 Bc	34.0
9	08/11/2018	19/11/2018	3.30 Ac	3.33 Ad	3.31	11.00 Aa	10.40 Ab	10.70	37.0 Ab	31.6 Ac	34.3
7	15/11/2018	22/11/2018	4.68 Ab	4.80 Ac	4.74	9.80 Ab	9.00 Ab	9.40	44.4 Aa	35.2 Bb	39.8
ω	22/11/2018	30/11/2018	4.05 Ac	3.47 Ad	3.76	9.80 Ab	11.40 Aa	10.60	37.0 Ab	34.8 Ab	35.9
ი	29/11/2018	04/12/2018	3.78 Ac	3.79 Ad	3.78	10.80 Aa	12.00 Aa	11.40	41.4 Aa	44.2 Aa	42.8
	Mean for November	ember	3.88	3.79	3.83	10.48	10.52	10.50	39.5	35.2	37.4
10	06/12/2018	12/12/2018	3.41 Ac	4.16 Ac	3.78	12.40 Aa	11.00 Aa	11.70	44.6 Aa	42.0 Aa	43.3
11	13/12/2018	26/12/2018	3.62 Ac	3.73 Ad	3.67	9.40 Ab	9.60 Ab	9.50	32.0 Ac	34.2 Ab	33.1
12	22/12/2018	02/01/2019	3.90 Ac	3.74 Ad	3.82	10.20 Ab	10.00 Ab	10.10	34.2 Ac	34.2 Ab	34.2
13	27/12/2018	05/01/2019	4.02 Ac	4.02 Ad	4.02	11.40 Aa	9.60 Bb	10.50	41.4 Aa	35.4 Ab	38.4
	Mean for December	ember	3.74	3.91	3.83	10.85	10.05	10.45	38.1	36.5	37.3
14	03/01/2019	07/01/2019	4.76 Ab	4.54 Ac	4.65	11.40 Aa	10.00 Ab	10.70	45.2 Aa	38.8 Ba	42.0
15	10/01/2019	14/01/2019	5.15 Ab	4.93 Ac	5.04	10.40 Ab	10.00 Ab	10.20	47.8 Aa	42.2 Aa	45.0
16	24/01/2019	31/01/2019	3.61 Ac	3.36 Ad	3.48	11.60 Aa	11.40 Aa	11.50	36.6 Ab	32.4 Ac	34.5
17	31/01/2019	14/02/2019	3.28 Ac	3.34 Ad	3.31	11.60 Aa	11.20 Aa	11.40	29.8 Ac	29.0 Ac	29.4
	Mean for January	nary	4.20	4.04	4.12	11.25	10.65	10.95	39.9	35.6	37.7
18	07/02/2019	14/02/2019	3.76 Ac	3.19 Ad	3.47	10.80 Aa	11.20 Aa	11.00	41.6Aa	31.8 Bc	36.7
19	14/02/2019	21/02/2019	4.21 Ac	3.62 Ad	3.91	9.20 Bb	11.00 Aa	10.10	35.8Ab	35.2 Ab	35.5
20	21/02/2019	28/02/2019	3.58 Ac	3.35 Ad	3.47	9.20 Bb	11.40 Aa	10.30	33.8Ac	36.2 Ab	35.0
21	28/02/2019	04/03/2019	3.68 Ac	3.97 Ad	3.82	9.60 Ab	9.20 Ab	9.40	34.6Ac	32.0 Ac	33.3
	Mean for February	ruary	3.81	3.53	3.67	9.70	10.70	10.20	36.5	33.8	35.1
22	07/03/2019	11/03/2019	3.58 Ac	3.80 Ad	3.69	9.40 Ab	9.00 Ab	9.20	36.0 Ab	31.2 Ac	33.6
23	14/03/2019	19/03/2019	3.98 Ac	4.36 Ac	4.17	8.00 Ac	6.60 Ac	7.30	30.8 Ac	26.0 Ac	28.4

~		10	~	~	0	(0		(0	~	~	0	~	~			
27 B	32.3	30.5	29.0	29.0	28.2	28.6	28.7	27.6	23.0	25.3	33.2	22.3	45.C	I		
26 4 AC	32.2 Ac	29.0	28.6 Ac	27.6 Ac	29.0 Ac	27.4 Ac	28.2	28.0 Ac	24.2 Ac	26.1	31.8	16.6	44.2	4	15.02	
29 2 Ar	32.4 Ac	32.1	29.4 Ac	30.4 Ac	27.4 Ad	29.8 Ac	29.3	27.2 Ad	21.8 Ad	24.5	34.7	21.8	47.8	4		
7 20	8.70	8.10	8.20	7.80	6.20	6.10	7.08	4.90	3.90	4.40	9.17	3.90	11.70	ī		
7 60 Ac	9.00 Ab	8.05	8.20 Ac	8.00 Ac	6.40 Ac	5.80 Ad	7.10	4.60 Ad	4.20 Ad	4.40	9.19	4.20	12.00	4	14.47	
6 RO Ad	8.40 Ac	8.15	8.20 Ac	7.60 Ac	6.00 Ae	6.40 Ad	7.05	5.20 Ae	3.60 Af	4.40	9.15	3.60	12.40	9		
4 28	3.85	4.00	4.21	4.43	5.18	5.38	4.80	6.62	6.93	6.78	4.15	3.11	6.93	ı		
4 05 Ad	3.68 Ad	3.97	4.66 Ac	4.47 Ac	5.10 Ac	5.27 Ac	4.88	8.23 Aa	6.56 Ab	7.40	4.15	2.72	8.23	4	19.74	
4 51 AC	4.01 Ac	4.02	3.75 Ac	4.39 Ac	5.26 Ab	5.49 Ab	4.72	5.01 Bb	7.31 Aa	6.16	4.15	3.02	7.31	ო		
27/03/2019	28/03/2019 09/04/2019	arch	15/04/2019	18/04/2019	23/04/2019	02/05/2019	pril	08/05/2019	16/05/2019 23/05/2019	Aay	an	ſ	L	oups ⁽¹⁾	iation (%)	
21/03/2019 27/03/2019	28/03/2019	Mean for March	04/04/2019 15/04/2019	11/04/2019	18/04/2019	25/04/2019	Mean for April	02/05/2019 08/05/2019	16/05/2019	Mean for May	Overall mean	Minimum	Maximum	Number of groups ⁽¹⁾	Coefficient of variation (%)	
74	25		26	27	28	29		30	31						ů	

Mean values not followed by the same uppercase letter in a row (comparison of cultivars on each sowing date) and lowercase letter in a column (comparison of sowing dates within each cultivar) differ by the Scott-Knott test at 5% probability.⁽¹⁾ Number of groups of mean values for sowing dates formed by the Scott-Knott test.



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There was a difference between cultivars in relation to the FNN for six sowing dates. On dates 2, 3, 19 and 20, the IPR92-Altar cultivar emitted more nodes than did IPR91-Baili, whereas on dates 4 and 13 the opposite occurred, showing cultivar responses in opposite directions (complex interaction). When comparing sowing dates within each cultivar, six and four groups of mean FNN values were formed for the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars respectively. The FNN varied between 3.60 and 12.40 nodes for IPR91-Baili and between 4.20 and 12.00 nodes for IPR92-Altar (Table 3). Again, despite the interaction, higher values for FNN were seen in November, December, January and February compared to October, March, April and May, with a gradual reduction towards October and May. Variability in the number of nodes between buckwheat cultivars and between sowing dates was found by Jung et al. (2015) in Central Korea. In Brazil, in the same place as the present experiments, Rocha et al. (2018) found that the final number of nodes in soybeans varies with the photoperiod to which the plant is exposed during the vegetative phase (emergence until the appearance of the last node) and differs between cultivars, with the lowest values seen in early sowings (September) and late sowings (January and February).

For six sowing dates (1, 4, 5, 7, 14 and 18) the IPR91-Baili cultivar presented a greater PNE than did IPR92-Altar, which shows that the differing responses of the cultivars were in the same direction (simple interaction). Between sowing dates, the PNE of the IPR91-Baili cultivar ranged from 21.8 to 47.8 days, and of IPR92-Altar from 16.6 to 44.2 days, with four groups of mean values being formed when comparing the dates within each cultivar (Table 3). The values for PNE were higher during November,

December, January and February, showing a gradual reduction towards October and May.

IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar The cultivars showed better development during November, December, January and February, i.e. the mean values for RNA were respectively 3.83, 3.83, 4.12 and 3.67 days node⁻¹, for FNN 10.50, 10.45, 10.95 and 10.20 nodes, and for PNE 37.4, 37.3, 37.7 and 35.1 days. In October, March, April and May, the cultivars showed less development, i.e. the mean values for RNA were respectively 3.56, 4.00, 4.80 and 6.78 days node⁻¹, for FNN 9.00, 8.10, 7.08 and 4.40 nodes, and for PNE 28.7, 30.5, 28.7 and 25.3 days (Table 3). This means that during October, March, April and May the plants took longer to emit nodes, continued to emit nodes for a shorter period and, as a result, emitted less nodes. During these months, heat availability, insolation, radiation and photoperiod were lower, and are possibly the cause of the slower vegetative development (Table 1 and Figure 1).

During the 2017/2018 agricultural year (experiment 1) the mean values for RNA, FNN and PNE were 3.22 days node⁻¹, 10.39 nodes and 35.2 days (Table 2). Whereas for 2018/2019 (experiment 2), the mean values were 4.15 days node⁻¹, 9.17 nodes and 33.2 days (Table 3). The lower temperature, greater insolation, higher solar radiation and lower rainfall during the 2017/2018 agricultural year (experiment 1) may have contributed to the better vegetative development of the plants. Despite this slight difference between agricultural years, cultivar response for sowing date within each agricultural year was similar. Better vegetative plant development was seen in November, December, January and February. During these months the plants emitted nodes more quickly (lower RNA), spent more time on node emission (greater PNE) and consequently emitted more nodes (greater FNN). Vegetative development in the plants gradually decreased towards October and May, i.e. the plants spent less time emitting nodes (smaller PNE) and at a lower rate of emission (higher RNA), which resulted in a smaller final number of nodes (lower FNN). As such, it can be inferred that the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars showed better performance in relation to node emission for sowings in November, December, January and February.

Conclusions ____

For buckwheat, variability exists between cultivars and sowing dates in the rate of node appearance (RNA), the final number of nodes (FNN) and the period of node emission (PNE). The rate of node appearance varies between 2.20 and 8.23 days node⁻¹, the final number of nodes between 2.20 and 17.20 nodes, and the period of node emission between 16.60 and 49.20 days. Plants of the IPR91-Baili and IPR92-Altar cultivars display better vegetative development (lower RNA, higher FNN and greater PNE) for sowing dates in November, December, January and February compared to sowing dates in October, March, April and May.

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