

Evaluation of resistance to black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) in selected varieties and mutant genotypes of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)

by Zimba, K.J., Sohati, P.H., Munyinda, K., Kamfwa, K., Roberts, J.M. and Pope, T.W.

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1 **Running head:** Resistance to aphid in common bean genotypes

2

3 **Evaluation of resistance to black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*) in selected varieties and mutant**
4 **genotypes of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)**

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1 **Abstract**

2 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) is an important food crop across sub-Saharan Africa.
3 In Zambia, actual common bean yields are typically lower than potential yields due to the impact
4 of invertebrate pests and plant diseases. Black bean aphids (*Aphis fabae*) (Hemiptera: Aphididae)
5 negatively impact bean productivity directly by ingesting plant assimilates and indirectly by
6 vectoring diseases such as bean common mosaic virus (BCMV). Current breeding programs aim
7 to develop bean cultivars with improved yield and tolerance to pests. The objective of this study
8 was to screen five common bean varieties (Rozi Koko, Mwezi Moja, Majesty, KK25 and AO-1012-
9 29-3A) and four mutation-derived genotypes (CA 3, CA 15, CA 24 and CA 38) for resistance to
10 black bean aphid. Commercial bean cultivars, Kabulangeti and Carioca (variety from which all
11 mutants were derived) were used as controls for the selected varieties and mutant genotypes,
12 respectively. Several parameters of aphid resistance traits were assessed. Deterrence to aphid
13 was assessed by settling preference while physical barriers to aphid feeding were evaluated by
14 nymph survival. Reduction in palatability of phloem sap was evaluated by nymph development
15 and mean relative growth rate. Electrical penetration graph recordings of feeding behaviour were
16 performed in order to localise aphid resistant factors. Nymph development was significantly longer
17 on AO-1012-29-3A compared to Kabulangeti despite the fact that there were significantly fewer
18 glandular trichomes on this line. The variety AO-1012-29-3A can be used in genetic improvement
19 of common bean for aphid resistance.

20 **Keywords**

21 Nymph development, mutagenesis, host plant resistance, cross resistance, plant breeding.

22

23 **1 | INTRODUCTION**

24 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is an important staple crop widely grown across
25 sub-Saharan Africa (De Jager, Borgonjen-Van Den Berg, Giller, & Brouwer, 2019; Ronner,
26 Descheemaeker, Almekinders, Ebanyat, & Giller, 2018). Beans are extremely nutritious as they
27 are rich in protein (Buruchara et al., 2011; Snapp, Rahmanian, & Batello, 2018), amino acids
28 (Mweetwa, Chilombo, & Gondwe, 2016; Ronner et al., 2018), vitamins, starch and fibre (Castro-
29 guerrero, Isidra-arellano, Mendoza-cozatl, González-guerrero, & Grusak, 2016). As well as being
30 nutritious, beans contain high quantities of polyphenolic compounds, such as flavonoids and
31 bioactive peptides, which offer health benefits by reducing risk to obesity and disease (Lin et al.,
32 2016; Ramírez-Jiménez, Reynoso-Camacho, Tejero, León-Galván, & Loarca-Piña, 2015).

1 Although common bean plays a vital role in improving food security, their economic importance
2 is also increasing as a method of generating income for smallholder farming communities
3 (Buruchara et al., 2011; Tembo, Namebo, Chanda, Kamfwa, & Munyinda, 2019). In Zambia,
4 common bean is the second most widely grown legume crop after groundnuts (*Arachis hypogea*
5 L.), with a total production area of 84,500 ha and average annual production of 52,300 t (Chapoto,
6 Chisanga, & Kabisa, 2019). However, common bean yields are low, varying from 300 to 500
7 kg/ha, compared to the yield potential of 2000 kg/ha (Kamfwa, Beaver, Cichy, & Kelly, 2018;
8 Tembo et al., 2019). Pests and diseases, particularly aphids and the viral pathogens they vector,
9 are among the major constraints to productivity (Worrall et al., 2015).

10 Black bean aphid, *Aphis fabae* Scopoli (Hemiptera: Aphididae), is one of the most
11 important common bean pests in sub-Saharan Africa (Abate & Ampofo, 1996; Esmaeili-
12 Vardanjani et al., 2013). While estimates in Zambia are not available, yield losses of up to 37 %
13 in Uganda have been attributed to black bean aphid (Mwangi, Deng, & Kamau, 2009). Crop
14 damage to susceptible cultivars by aphids occurs directly through feeding or indirectly through
15 virus transmission (Wainaina et al., 2019; Worrall et al., 2015). The ability of black bean aphids
16 to vector plant viruses, such as bean common mosaic virus (BCMV) has a greater impact on yield
17 than direct feeding damage (van Emden & Harrington 2017; Wainaina et al. 2019). Bean common
18 mosaic virus exists as a complex of strains, with seven pathotypes, belonging to the *Potyvirus*
19 genus in the *Potyviridae* family and is responsible for serious economic losses in common bean
20 (Feng, Poplawsky, Nikolaeva, Myers, & Karasev, 2014). This virus complex is “stylet borne” and
21 non-persistently transmitted between plants during feeding (Flores-Estévez, Acosta-Gallegos, &
22 Silva-Rosales, 2007; Wainaina et al., 2019; Worrall et al., 2015).

23 Several strategies are used in Zambia to control aphids on common bean crops, but each
24 has limited efficacy. Early planting is one cultural measure used to prevent susceptible seedlings
25 coinciding with high aphid populations soon after the cropping season begins (Musenga et al.,
26 2016). Another widely used measure is intercropping common bean with cereal crops like maize,
27 which has been found to reduce aphid colonisation of common bean plants (Ogenga-Latigo,
28 Baliddawa, & Ampofo, 1993). Foliar application of synthetic insecticides such as deltamethrin,
29 cypermethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin and thiamethoxam early in the season can also help to reduce
30 aphid colonisation of seedlings (Musenga et al., 2016). The use of synthetic insecticides,
31 however, may be detrimental to pollinators and natural enemies (Desneux, Decourtye, &
32 Delpuech, 2006) as well as human health (Carvalho, 2017; Kim, Kabir, & Jahan, 2017). Black
33 bean aphid is also known to have developed resistance to certain synthetic insecticides (e.g.,

1 carbamates and organophosphates), further reducing the reliability of chemical control (van
2 Emden & Harrington, 2017). In addition to environmental and health concerns, high costs and
3 limited availability further prevents widespread use of synthetic insecticides by resource poor
4 farmers (Souleymane, Ova Aken, Fatokun, & Alabi, 2013). Therefore, there is an urgent need for
5 cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to manage black bean aphid on common bean.

6 Developing common bean cultivars resistant to aphid pests could provide a sustainable,
7 environmentally friendly and cost effective option for their management (Miklas, Kelly, Beebe, &
8 Blair, 2006; Mwangi et al., 2009). Aphid resistance traits in plants may be classified in to three
9 categories: (i) chemical deterrence to settling, (ii) physical barriers to feeding, and (iii) reduction
10 in palatability (Nalam, Louis, & Shah, 2019; Züst & Agrawal, 2016). Plant cells on leaf surfaces
11 often harbour lipids and secondary metabolites that may release aphid deterrent volatiles (Nalam
12 et al., 2019). Trichomes on plant surfaces provide a physical barrier to aphid movement and
13 feeding (Jaouannet et al., 2014). Plants may contain compounds such as protease inhibitors and
14 lectins which reduce palatability of phloem sap to aphids. Lectins bind to carbohydrates in the
15 midgut of insects, interfering with their digestion processes and consequently reducing the
16 performance of aphids (Chougule & Bonning, 2012). Protease inhibitors interfere with protease
17 function in herbivorous insects and inhibit protein metabolism (Zhu-Salzman & Zeng, 2015).
18 These anti-aphid plant traits may be expressed either constitutively or induced by feeding (Smith
19 & Chuang, 2014; Westwood & Stevens, 2010).

20 To successfully breed resistant cultivars, sources of resistance are needed. Such
21 resistance sources could include existing cultivars, wild relatives of crops, germplasm collections
22 or induced mutations (Olasupo, Ilori, Forster, & Bado, 2018; Omoigui et al., 2017). Mutations can
23 be induced by exposing plant propagules to physical or chemical mutagens that cause DNA
24 changes, resulting in altered traits of treated plants (Mba, Afza, Bado, & Jain, 2010; Novak &
25 Brunner, 1992). Such induced mutations also often produce genes or alleles not present in the
26 natural population, increasing the chances of generating novel resistance traits (Novak & Brunner,
27 1992). Mutants showing desired traits could be used as parental genotypes for future breeding
28 programs or further processed into varieties using systematic breeding procedures (Mba et al.,
29 2010). Selected examples of legume cultivars developed through induced mutations include high
30 protein cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L.) (Adekola & Oluleye, 2007), drought tolerant cowpea (De
31 Ronde & Spreeth, 2007), high yielding cowpea (Horn, Shimelis, & Laing, 2015) and early maturing
32 common bean (Tulmann Neto et al., 2011).

1 Despite the economic importance of aphids in common bean, previous efforts to identify
2 resistant genotypes have been limited. Identification of aphid resistant genotypes could support
3 genetic enhancement of common bean for aphid resistance and mitigate the yield losses
4 associated with aphids. Differential responses of aphids to plants based on life table parameters
5 provide a reliable basis for identifying resistant genotypes including the mechanisms mediating
6 resistance (Nalam et al., 2018; Obopile & Ositile, 2010). This study aimed to identify aphid
7 resistant genotypes from selected varieties and mutants as well as any mechanisms mediating
8 resistance. Specifically, deterrence to aphid was assessed by measuring settling preference.
9 Physical barriers to aphid feeding were assessed by nymph survival while reduction in palatability
10 of phloem sap was evaluated by nymph development and mean relative growth rate (MRGR).
11 Electrical penetration graph (EPG) recordings of aphid feeding behaviour were performed to
12 localise plant resistance factors.

13

14 **2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS**

15 **2.1 | Common bean genotypes and experimental design**

16 A total of eleven common bean genotypes were evaluated for aphid resistance (Table 1).
17 Of these genotypes five were selected from the Andean Diversity Panel (ADP) (Cichy et al., 2015),
18 four were mutant genotypes, one (Carioca) is a parent of the mutant lines, and one (AO-1012-29-
19 3-3A) (AO) is a released variety. The genotypes selected from the ADP included Rozi Koko (ADP
20 1), Mwezi Moja (ADP 466), Majesty (ADP 684), and KK 25 (ADP 765). The ADP genotypes were
21 selected based on their agronomic traits (ADP 1 and ADP 684), and anecdotal evidence on their
22 resistance to pests such as weevils (ADP 765) and bean stem maggot (ADP 466). AO is a
23 determinate dark red kidney variety that was developed, and released cooperatively by Sokoine
24 University of Agriculture, Oregon State University, USDA-ARS and the University of Puerto Rico
25 (Kusolwa et al., 2016). AO is resistant to common bean weevil (*Acanthoscelides obtectus*)
26 (Kamfwa et al., 2018; Kusolwa et al., 2016). In addition, AO is resistant to Bean Common Mosaic
27 Virus (Kusolwa et al., 2016) and some races of anthracnose (Mungalu et al., 2020). The
28 commercial variety Kabulangeti (KAB), which is widely grown in Zambia, and Carioca (CA), a
29 parent for the mutants were used as checks.

30 Two seeds of each genotype were sown in plastic pots (diameter and height: 9 cm)
31 containing potting soil (John Innes No. 2, J. Arthur Bower's, Westland Horticulture Limited,
32 Cheshire, UK) and placed in an insect proof mesh cage within a controlled environment room

1 maintained at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod (Fitotron, Weiss Technik
2 UK limited, Loughborough, UK). Seeds were allowed to germinate and grow until they were ten
3 days old (BBCH growth stage 11-12) (Lancashire et al., 1991), when plants were thinned to leave
4 one seedling per pot. Irrigation was done by adding water to trays twice weekly throughout the
5 study period. Twelve-day old common bean plants (BBCH growth stage 12) were used for the
6 nymph development, settling preference, nymph survival, mean relative growth rate (MRGR) and
7 feeding behaviour experiments. Twelve-day old plants were used in bioassays to match the aphid
8 susceptible growth stage (Esmaeili-Vardanjani et al., 2013). Plants for the trichome density
9 experiment were sown and thinned as described above but cultivated in an insect rearing tent
10 within a glasshouse at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with an 18:6 photoperiod. Approximately
11 15 days after germination, a 1 m long stake was inserted into each pot (9 cm depth) to provide
12 support to the growing bean plants. Plants were allowed to grow for approximately 28 days (BBCH
13 growth stage 16+) to match the timing of the trichome study.

14

15 **2.2 | Aphid culture and age-synchronised cohort production**

16 A stock culture of black bean aphids (*Aphis fabae* Scopoli) was reared on field bean
17 seedlings (*Vicia faba* cv. Tundra) in an insect proof mesh cage within a controlled environment
18 room (Fitotron) maintained at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod. The
19 culture was maintained by transferring aphids onto new field bean seedlings weekly throughout
20 the study period.

21 To produce a cohort of age-synchronised apterous adult aphids for nymph development,
22 nymph survival, MRGR and feeding behaviour experiments, two to five apterous adult aphids
23 were transferred onto individual broad bean seedlings within an insect proof cage. After 24 hours,
24 adult aphids were removed from the plants using a paintbrush to leave only first instar nymphs.
25 To prevent escape of nymphs and plants becoming infested with other insects, each plant was
26 covered with a fine light-transmitting mesh bag, secured around the pot using an elastic band.
27 Plants were maintained in a controlled environment room at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with
28 a 16:8 photoperiod until the nymphs moulted into adults (approximately seven to eight days).

29 To produce winged adult aphids for the settling preference experiment, ten to fifteen
30 apterous adult aphids were transferred onto individual 2-week-old field bean seedlings within an
31 insect proof mesh cage. After 24 hours, adult aphids were removed from the plants using a
32 paintbrush to leave only first instar nymphs. As described above, each plant was covered with a

1 fine light-transmitting mesh bag. Development of winged aphids was stimulated by the higher
2 population of nymphs on seedlings and consequent rapid deterioration of plant nutrition quality
3 (Blackman & Eastop, 2000). Plant nutritional quality was further reduced by irrigating bean plants
4 only once per week. Field bean seedlings were maintained in a controlled environment room at
5 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod until the majority of nymphs moulted
6 into winged adults (approximately seven to eight days).

7

8 **2.3 | Assessment of nymph development**

9 Development of black bean aphid nymphs was assessed using a procedure adapted from
10 Soffan and Aldawood (2014). Using a paint brush, age-synchronised adult apterous aphids were
11 individually placed onto common bean plant leaves in an insect proof mesh cage within a
12 controlled environment room at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod. After
13 24 hours, all aphids were removed, leaving a single first instar nymph per plant. Each plant was
14 covered with a fine light-transmitting mesh bag and returned to the controlled environment room.
15 Development through the immature nymph life cycle stages was monitored by the presence of
16 exuviae, which were removed using a paintbrush and the date recorded. The total number of days
17 between birth and adult emergence was also recorded simultaneously for each bean genotype
18 within a replicate. Ten plants from each genotype were tested in this bioassay.

19

20 **2.4 | Determination of trichome density**

21 Glandular and hooked trichome density on common bean leaves was determined using a
22 procedure adapted from Dahlin et al. (1992). A fully expanded middle leaflet was excised using a
23 pair of scissors from the third trifoliolate on each bean plant. Using a surgical blade, a 1 cm² section
24 of leaf was removed from between the lateral veins at the widest region of the leaflet. Leaf sections
25 were affixed onto scanning electron microscope (SEM) stubs using a double-sided adhesive tape,
26 with the lower leaf surface facing up. Only trichomes on the lower leaf surface were considered
27 in this study as it is the primary feeding site for black bean aphid (Prado & Tjallingii, 1997). Leaf
28 samples were placed in a SEM specimen holder and dried in a desiccator for 48 hours. Dry leaf
29 samples were then coated with a gold film using a sputter coater (Edwards S 150, Edwards High
30 Vacuum, Crawley, Sussex, England). Hooked and glandular trichomes were counted and

1 photographed using the scanning electron microscope (Cambridge Stereoscan 200, Cambridge
2 Instruments Ltd, Cambridge, UK). Four plants from each common bean genotype were evaluated.

3

4 **2.5 | Settling preference of aphids on bean genotypes**

5 Settling preference of black bean aphid was evaluated as described by Laamari et al.
6 (2008) and Kamphuis et al. (2012). A single plant of each genotype was placed into a cage within
7 a controlled environment room at 20 °C and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod. Plants
8 were placed in a circular pattern such that the pots were equidistant from each other and spaced
9 as far apart as possible (approximately 15 cm) to prevent leaves of adjacent plants touching one
10 another. A plastic 90 mm Petri dish containing a cohort of 120 age-synchronised alate aphids was
11 placed at the centre of the cage, approximately 20 cm from each plant. Aphids were allowed to
12 select plants on which to land and settle for a period of 72 hours. The number of aphids settling
13 on each plant were recorded at 24, 48 and 72 hours after being released. Numbers of aphids
14 settling on bean plants 24 hours after release indicated whether immediate deterrent factors (i.e.
15 trichomes) were present or absent in bean genotypes while numbers of aphids recorded from 24
16 to 72 hours (through 48 hours) provided information whether the numbers of aphids settling on
17 plants increased or decreased. The position of each genotype in the cage was randomly allocated
18 in each replicate. Ten plants from each genotype were tested in this bioassay.

19

20 **2.6 | Assessment of nymph survival**

21 Survival of black bean aphid nymphs was as described by Obopile & Ositile (2010). Using
22 a paintbrush, two age-synchronised apterous adult aphids were placed on each common bean
23 plant in an insect proof mesh cage within a controlled environment room at 20 °C and 60 % relative
24 humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod. After 24 hours, aphids were removed from plants using a
25 paintbrush, leaving ten first instar nymphs per plant. Each plant was covered with a fine light-
26 transmitting mesh bag and returned to the controlled environment room. Nymph survival was
27 estimated as the number of aphids found on each plant after seven days, expressed as a
28 proportion of the initial count on each bean plant. Ten plants from each genotype were tested in
29 this bioassay.

30

1 **2.7 | Mean relative growth rate of nymphs on bean genotypes**

2 Mean relative growth rate of aphids was evaluated as described by van Emden & Bashford
3 (1969). Using a paintbrush, two age-synchronised apterous adult aphids were placed on each
4 common bean plant in an insect proof mesh cage within a controlled environment room at 20 °C
5 and 60 % relative humidity with a 16:8 photoperiod. After 24 hours, all aphids were removed
6 except ten first instar nymphs per plant which were weighed using a microbalance to record the
7 initial mean weight. After weighing, nymphs were placed back onto respective plants and covered
8 with a fine light-transmitting mesh bag. Plants were maintained in the controlled environment room
9 for five days, when a single nymph from each plant was re-weighed to record the final weight.
10 Mean relative growth rate was calculated using:

$$11 \quad MRGR (\mu g/\mu g/day) = \frac{(\log(W_2) - \log(W_1))}{(t_2 - t_1)}$$

12 Where W_1 = initial mean weight of nymphs, W_2 = weight of a single nymph after five days and (t_2
13 – t_1) = period (days) between the first (t_1) and final weighing (t_2) (Castle & Berger, 1993). Ten
14 plants from each genotype were tested in this bioassay.

15

16 **2.8 | Monitoring of aphid feeding behaviour**

17 Direct-current (DC) electrical penetration graph (EPG) recording was used to monitor
18 probing and feeding behaviour of apterous adult aphids (Tjallingii, 1978). Since mutant common
19 bean genotypes did not have a negative biological effect on aphids in preceding experiments
20 (nymph development, settling preference, nymph survival and MRGR), only breeding lines were
21 subjected to EPG recording. A plant probe, soldered to an electrical wire, was inserted into the
22 moist soil of a potted plant while the free end of the wire was connected to the out-put voltage
23 socket of the Giga-8 EPG device (EPG Systems, Wageningen, The Netherlands). An aphid probe
24 was assembled by attaching a 3-4 cm piece of gold wire (diameter 20 μ m) to the copper electrode
25 end of brass pin using conductive silver glue (EPG Systems). Using this glue, the other end of
26 the gold wire was attached onto the aphid dorsum. Brass pins with wired aphids were then
27 inserted into the EPG probes mounted on retort stands. The EPG probes were carefully lowered
28 to allow aphids contact with leaves of wired individual plants. Feeding behaviour of eight aphids
29 was monitored simultaneously over a four-hour period using a Giga-8-EPG device connected to
30 a laptop computer. A total of fourteen successful recordings were carried out for individual aphids

1 feeding on each bean genotype. Plants and aphids were contained in a grounded faraday cage
2 during EPG recording.

3 Data was acquired using the stylet+ D software (EPG Systems) while waveforms; non-
4 probing (np), pathway phase (pp), sieve element phase (SEP) and xylem ingestion (G) were
5 annotated using the stylet+ A software (EPG Systems) based on the wave categories described
6 by Tjallingii (1988). Annotated waveforms were transformed into time-series data using the Excel
7 macro software developed by Sarria et al. (2009).

8

9 **2.9 | Experimental design and data analysis**

10 Due to the homogeneity of environmental conditions in the controlled environment room
11 and glasshouse as well as potting soil, a complete randomised design (CRD) was used for all
12 experiments.

13 Statistical analyses were carried out using R version 4.0.2 (R Core Team, 2020). Prior to
14 analysis, key assumptions for parametric statistical tests were checked. Normality of distribution
15 was checked using the Shapiro-Wilk test while homogeneity of variance was assessed by the
16 Bartlett test. Data that satisfied parametric test assumptions were analysed using one-way
17 analysis of variance (ANOVA). Data that was neither normally distributed nor with homogenous
18 variance, such as for settling preference and feeding behaviour, were log-transformed to meet
19 parametric assumptions before analysis using one-way ANOVA and pairwise comparisons with
20 the Holm-Sidak method. Data that did not meet parametric assumptions following log-
21 transformation were analysed with Kruskal-Wallis rank-sum tests. For each experiment the
22 common bean varieties and corresponding mutation derived genotypes were analysed
23 separately, except for the settling preference experiment where all varieties and mutant
24 genotypes were analysed together.

25

26 **3 | Results**

27 Aphid performance bioassays were undertaken to assess the relative resistance of
28 common bean genotypes in comparison with susceptible commercial cultivars. Among the
29 parameters measured, significant differences in aphid performance were observed on nymph

1 development, trichome density and feeding behaviour (phloem ingestion). No significant
2 differences were detected for settling preference, nymph survival and MRGR.

3

4 **3.1 | Assessment of nymph development**

5 Nymph development on common bean varieties ranged from 9.4 (ADP 684) to 13.6 (AO)
6 days with a mean of 10.8 days. Significant differences in nymph development were detected
7 between common bean varieties (one-way ANOVA: $F = 12.58$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.001$) (Figure 1A).
8 Nymph development was significantly longer on AO-1012-29-3A compared to the commercial
9 variety (KAB) (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.006$). Nymph development on mutant lines ranged from
10 11.3 (CA 3) to 13.7 (CA 38) days with a mean of 12.4 days. Significant differences in nymph
11 development were observed between mutant lines (one-way ANOVA: $F = 4.26$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.005$).
12 However, none of the mutant lines differed significantly from the parent (Holm-Sidak test, $P >$
13 0.05) (Figure 1B).

14

15 **3.2 | Determination of trichome density**

16 Mean hooked trichome density on common bean varieties ranged from 9 (AO) to 39.7
17 (ADP 466) with a mean of 21.8. Significant differences were detected between common bean
18 varieties (one-way ANOVA: $F = 25.59$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.001$). Genotypes ADP 466 (Holm-Sidak test,
19 $P < 0.0001$) and ADP 765 (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.002$) had 26.3 and 17.0 more hooked trichomes
20 respectively compared to the commercial variety (KAB) (Figure 2A). Densities of hooked
21 trichomes in mutant derived genotypes ranged from 12.5 (CA 24) to 21.5 (CA) with a mean of
22 15.8. Significant differences were detected between mutation derived genotypes (one-way
23 ANOVA: $F = 3.69$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.03$) (Figure 2B). Genotype CA 24 had lower numbers of hooked
24 trichomes compared to the parent (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.03$) (Figure 2B).

25 In the case of glandular trichomes, densities on common bean varieties ranged from 0.25
26 (AO) to 3.75 (ADP 684 and KAB) with a mean of 2.4. Significant differences were observed
27 between bean varieties (one-way ANOVA: $F = 7.92$, $df = 5$, $P < 0.001$). Genotypes ADP 1 (Holm-
28 Sidak test, $P = 0.049$) and AO (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.001$) had 2.3 and 3.5 less glandular
29 trichomes respectively compared to the commercial variety (KAB) (Figure 2C). No significant
30 differences were observed between mutation derived genotypes and the parent (one-way
31 ANOVA: $F = 2.84$, $df = 4$, $P > 0.05$) (Figure 2D).

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3.3 | Settling preference of aphids on bean genotypes

The number of alate aphids settling on plants did not differ significantly between the common bean genotypes (one-way ANOVA: $F = 0.82$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.59$) 24 hours after being released (Table 2). Alate aphid numbers did not change significantly either 48 hours (one-way ANOVA: $F = 1.03$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.38$) or 72 hours (one-way ANOVA: $F = 1.03$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.40$) after release (Table 2).

3.4 | Assessment of nymph survival

Nymph survival on mutation derived genotypes ranged from 33 (CA) to 70 % (CA 38) with a mean of 49.4 %. Significant differences were observed between mutation derived genotypes and the parent (one-way ANOVA: $F = 7.09$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.0002$). On genotype CA 38, 37 % more aphids survived compared to the parent (CA) (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.0001$) (Figure 3B). In the case of common bean varieties, there were no significant differences in nymph survival between common bean varieties and the commercial variety (KAB) (one-way ANOVA: $F = 1.42$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.23$) (Figure 3A).

3.5 | Mean relative growth rate of nymphs on bean genotypes

When MRGR was assessed, significant differences were detected between common bean varieties (one-way ANOVA: $F = 2.52$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.04$). However, none of the bean varieties were differed significantly from the commercial variety. In the case of mutation derived genotypes, no significant differences were detected between mutant genotypes (one-way ANOVA: $F = 1.55$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.20$).

3.6 | Monitoring of aphid feeding behaviour

Total duration of phloem ingestion ranged from 2.5 (ADP 1) to 22.4 minutes (ADP 684) with a mean of 6.9 minutes. Significant differences in the phloem ingestion were observed between the common bean varieties and the commercial variety (KAB) (one-way ANOVA: $F = 4.39$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.002$) (Figure 4F). Aphids fed on ADP 684 for 18.2 more minutes compared to

1 the commercial variety (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.01$) (Figure 4F). There were no significant
2 differences between bean varieties in the duration of the non-probing phase (Kruskal-Wallis: X^2
3 = 7.96, $df = 5$, $P = 0.15$) (Figure 4A), period to first probe from beginning of EPG recording (one-
4 way ANOVA: $F = 1.07$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.28$) (Figure 4B), pathway phase (one-way ANOVA: $F = 1.06$,
5 $df = 5$, $P = 0.39$) (Figure 4C), period from first probe to phloem ingestion (one-way ANOVA: $F =$
6 0.79 , $df = 5$, $P = 0.55$) (Figure 4D), and phloem salivation (one-way ANOVA: $F = 0.72$, $df = 5$, $P =$
7 0.51) (Figure 4E).

8

9 **4 | DISCUSSION**

10 A greater understanding of the mechanisms mediating plant-aphid interactions is an
11 important preliminary step in breeding aphid resistant crop varieties. This study demonstrated that
12 some biological parameters of black bean aphid were significantly influenced by common bean
13 genotypes. Nymph development was significantly longer on AO compared to the commercial
14 cultivar KAB, indicating a level of host plant resistance (Obopile & Ositile, 2010). Longer nymph
15 development may suggest reduced nutritional quality of phloem sap, which could have resulted
16 in poor nourishment and therefore slower development (Leybourne et al., 2019). Indeed, although
17 statistically insignificant, EPG analysis indicated reduced phloem feeding by aphids on AO
18 compared to aphids on KAB. This adverse effect of AO on aphid nymph development may
19 suggest that reduced palatability is the major resistant trait against the cowpea aphid.
20 Characterisation of amino acids and defense compounds in AO should be considered in future
21 studies in order to establish the modality of resistance.

22 Studies in other legume-aphid systems have also pointed to the importance of mesophyll-
23 and phloem-based resistance traits (Kamphuis et al., 2012; Leybourne et al., 2019). Resistance
24 to pea aphid (*Acyrtosiphon pisum* Harris) in pea cultivars (*Pisum sativum* L.), for example, has
25 been partly attributed to imbalances in essential amino acid composition in the phloem sap
26 (Sandström & Pettersson, 1994). The variety AO is resistant to common bean weevil (*A. obtectus*)
27 (Kusolwa et al., 2016) and this resistance has been attributed to insecticidal activity of three
28 proteins including arcelins, phytohemagglutinin and alpha-amylase (Kusolwa & Myers, 2011).
29 There is a possibility of cross-resistance to black bean aphid since the aphicidal effects of lectins
30 and protease inhibitors are well known (Nalam et al., 2019). However, biochemical
31 characterisation of essential amino acids and their role in cross-resistance to common bean
32 weevil and black bean aphid, should be considered in future studies. Results presented here

1 reflect the interaction between a range of plant lines but only a single aphid clone. As such it
2 would be useful to repeat this work using other aphid clones in order to establish if the results
3 reported here are consistent for a wider range of aphid genotypes.

4 Common bean plants are known to possess trichomes that serve as physical defences
5 against aphid attack (Xing et al., 2017). Hooked trichomes, for example, may trap or impale
6 aphids while glandular trichomes may exude toxic compounds or adhesive fluids that trap insects
7 (Saska et al., 2020). In this study, significantly fewer glandular trichomes were detected on lines
8 ADP 1 and AO compared to the commercial cultivar. Since low glandular trichome densities did
9 not reflect an increased survival of aphids on ADP 1 and AO, it is likely that glandular trichomes
10 were not a primary modality of resistance to black bean aphid in these genotypes. Nymph survival
11 is among other factors often associated with high trichome density (Saska et al., 2020). This study
12 showed that nymph survival did not vary significantly between the bean genotypes. Indeed, no
13 significant differences were detected in the number of hooked trichomes between the bean
14 genotypes that usually affect nymph survival on common bean (Xing et al., 2017). Given the
15 presence of other resistance mechanisms, low trichome density on bean genotypes would benefit
16 the performance of natural enemies which could complement aphid control (Riddick & Simmons,
17 2014). Although the adverse impacts of hooked trichomes to black bean aphid are well studied
18 for common bean (Xing et al., 2017), the impact of glandular trichomes is poorly understood and
19 would warrant further study.

20 Alate aphids often use visual and volatile cues to locate their host plants (Döring, 2014;
21 Powell, Tosh, & Hardie, 2006; Webster et al., 2008). Observations of black bean aphid settling
22 behaviour showed that their preference for the tested common bean genotypes did not vary
23 significantly between the genotypes 24 hours after release, suggesting similarities in aphid host
24 location cues. Between 24 and 72 hours, there was little movement of aphids between plants,
25 indicating lack of host preference. Black bean aphid is known to discriminate host plants based
26 on colour and semiochemicals. For example, using a wind tunnel and monochromatic light, Hardie
27 (1989) showed that black bean aphids were preferentially attracted to the green region of the
28 spectrum, indicating a preference for green coloured plants. In olfactometer experiments,
29 Nottingham et al. (1991) showed that black bean aphids were able to discriminate between
30 cultivars (“Sutton Dwarf” and “Tick Bean”) of field bean, suggesting the role of semiochemicals in
31 host location.

32 Nymph MRGR on common bean breeding lines did not vary significantly when compared
33 to the commercial cultivar. However, the general trend showed lowest and highest weight gain of

1 nymphs on AO and ADP 684, respectively, which may be a consequence of phloem nutrition
2 quality of these genotypes. Feeding analysis by EPG indicated significantly prolonged phloem
3 feeding on ADP 684 compared to the commercial cultivar, suggesting higher susceptibility through
4 reduced resistance in the phloem. Mean relative growth rate is often a good predictor of aphid
5 performance since lower weight gains are associated with reduced fecundity and population
6 growth (Dixon & Wratten, 1971). Based on the trend, lower MRGR of black bean aphid on AO
7 may be attributed to reduced food quality (Obopile & Ositile, 2010).

8 This study showed that black bean aphid nymphs feeding on AO developed more slowly
9 than other lines tested or KAB. Although not significant, AO further reflected reduced aphid weight
10 gain and phloem feeding. Lower glandular trichome density was also recorded on AO, which could
11 benefit natural enemy performance and consequently enhance biological control of aphids
12 (Riddick & Simmons, 2014). AO is therefore a promising variety that should be further evaluated
13 for useful genetic attributes that may be used to develop aphid resistant common bean varieties.
14 On the other hand, mutagenesis did not generate resistance to black bean aphid in the tested
15 mutant lines. Future studies should consider screening a wider range of mutants in order to
16 increase chances of finding aphid resistant genotypes. However, based on other grower preferred
17 attributes (i.e., seed size and colour) associated with the mutants tested, further studies are
18 needed to establish if mutagenesis generated other useful traits that may be beneficial to aphid
19 natural enemies.

20

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26

27 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

28 Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

29

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27 TABLES

28 **TABLE 1** List and category of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) genotypes used in the
29 study.

Common bean line	Seed colour	Country of origin	Category
Rozi Koko (ADP 1)	Red-Mottled	Kenya	Variety
Mwezi Moja (ADP 466)	Purple	Kenya	Variety
Majesty (ADP 684)	Red Kidney	Canada	Variety
KK25 (ADP 765)	Red	Malawi	Landrace
AO 1012-29-3A	Red	-	Variety
Kabulangeti (KAB)	Purple	Zambia	Variety
CA 3	Brown-Mottled	Zambia	Mutant
CA 15	Brown-Mottled	Zambia	Mutant
CA 24	Brown-Mottled	Zambia	Mutant
CA 38	White	Zambia	Mutant
CA	Brown	Brazil	Parent line (for mutants)

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12 **TABLE 2** Settling preference of adult winged aphid black bean aphid (*Aphis fabae* Scopoli) on
13 common bean genotypes 24, 48 and 72 hours after being released in the cage (SE = standard

1 error; $n = 10$). Common bean breeding lines and mutation derived genotypes were analysed
 2 together.

Genotype	Category	No. aphids per plant (mean \pm SE)		
		24 hrs	48 hrs	72 hrs
Rozi Koko (ADP 1)	Variety	2.2 \pm 0.4	2.4 \pm 0.5	2.6 \pm 0.5
Mwezi Moja (ADP 466)	Variety	6.9 \pm 1.4	7.7 \pm 1.5	7.3 \pm 1.5
Majesty (ADP 684)	Variety	5.4 \pm 1.7	5.2 \pm 1.6	5.1 \pm 1.4
KK25 (ADP 765)	Landrace	4.9 \pm 1.4	4.9 \pm 1.4	4.5 \pm 1.3
AO 1012-29-3A	Variety	5.5 \pm 1.6	6.1 \pm 1.9	5.7 \pm 1.9
Kabulangeti (KAB)	Variety	5.2 \pm 1.6	5.7 \pm 1.0	5.6 \pm 0.9
CA 15	Mutant	6.3 \pm 1.4	6.7 \pm 1.9	5.5 \pm 1.3
CA 24	Mutant	4.6 \pm 1.1	5.2 \pm 1.1	4.9 \pm 1.1
CA 3	Mutant	8.0 \pm 2.3	7.5 \pm 2.0	6.7 \pm 1.8
CA 38	Mutant	3.6 \pm 0.8	3.4 \pm 0.7	2.9 \pm 0.5
CA	Parent line (for mutants)	3.8 \pm 0.9	3.4 \pm 0.9	3.0 \pm 0.7
<i>P</i> -value		0.596	0.383	0.402

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FIGURE LEGENDS

1 **FIGURE 1** Black bean aphid nymph development on (A) common bean breeding lines and (B)
2 mutation derived genotypes ($n = 10$). Bars followed by different letters are significantly different
3 (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test). Among the common bean breeding lines, nymph development was
4 significantly longer on AO-1012-29-3A compared to the commercial variety Kabulangeti (Holm-
5 Sidak test, $P = 0.006$). Among mutation derived genotypes, none of the mutants differed
6 significantly from the parent (CA) (Holm-Sidak test, $P > 0.05$). Error bars represent standard error
7 of the mean (SE). Common bean breeding lines and corresponding mutation derived genotypes
8 were analysed separately. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP
9 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

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11 **FIGURE 2** Median densities and confidence intervals of (A) hooked trichomes on common bean
12 breeding lines (B) hooked trichomes on mutation derived genotypes (C) glandular trichomes on
13 common bean breeding lines and (D) glandular trichomes on mutation derived genotypes, on
14 lower leaf surfaces ($n = 4$). Among common bean breeding lines, ADP 765 (Holm-Sidak test, $P =$
15 0.002) as well as ADP 466 (Holm-Sidak test, $P < 0.0001$) had significantly higher numbers of
16 hooked trichomes compared to the commercial variety. For mutation derived genotypes, CA 24
17 had smaller numbers of hooked trichomes compared to the parent (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.03$).
18 For glandular trichomes on common bean breeding lines, AO-1012-29-3A (Holm-Sidak test, $P =$
19 0.001) and ADP 1 (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.049$) had fewer trichomes compared to the commercial
20 variety Kabulangeti. Common bean breeding lines and corresponding mutation derived
21 genotypes were analysed separately. Groups followed by different letters are significantly different
22 (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test), ns = non-significant differences between groups. Genotype name;
23 ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

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25 **FIGURE 3** Black bean aphid nymph survival on (A) common bean breeding lines and (B) mutation
26 derived genotypes ($n = 10$). Among the mutation derived genotypes, more aphids survived on CA
27 38 compared to the parent (CA) (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.0001$). Bars followed by different letters
28 are significantly different (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test). ns = non-significant differences among bars.
29 Error bars represent standard error of the mean (SE). Common bean varieties and corresponding
30 mutation derived genotypes were analysed separately. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP
31 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

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1 **FIGURE 4** Aphid probing and feeding behaviour on common bean breeding lines. (A) total time
2 of non-probing phase, (B) time to first probe from beginning of EPG recording, (C) total time of
3 pathway phase, (D) time from first probe to sustained phloem ingestion, (E) total time of phloem
4 salivation and, (F) total time of phloem ingestion ($n = 14$). In the case of phloem ingestion (4F),
5 aphids fed longer on ADP 684 compared to the commercial variety Kabulangeti (Holm-Sidak test,
6 $P = 0.01$), Common bean genotypes in figures A-F were analysed separately. Error bars represent
7 standard error of the mean (SE), Bars followed by different letters are significantly different (Holm-
8 Sidak post-hoc test), ns = non-significant differences among bars. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi
9 Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

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FIGURES

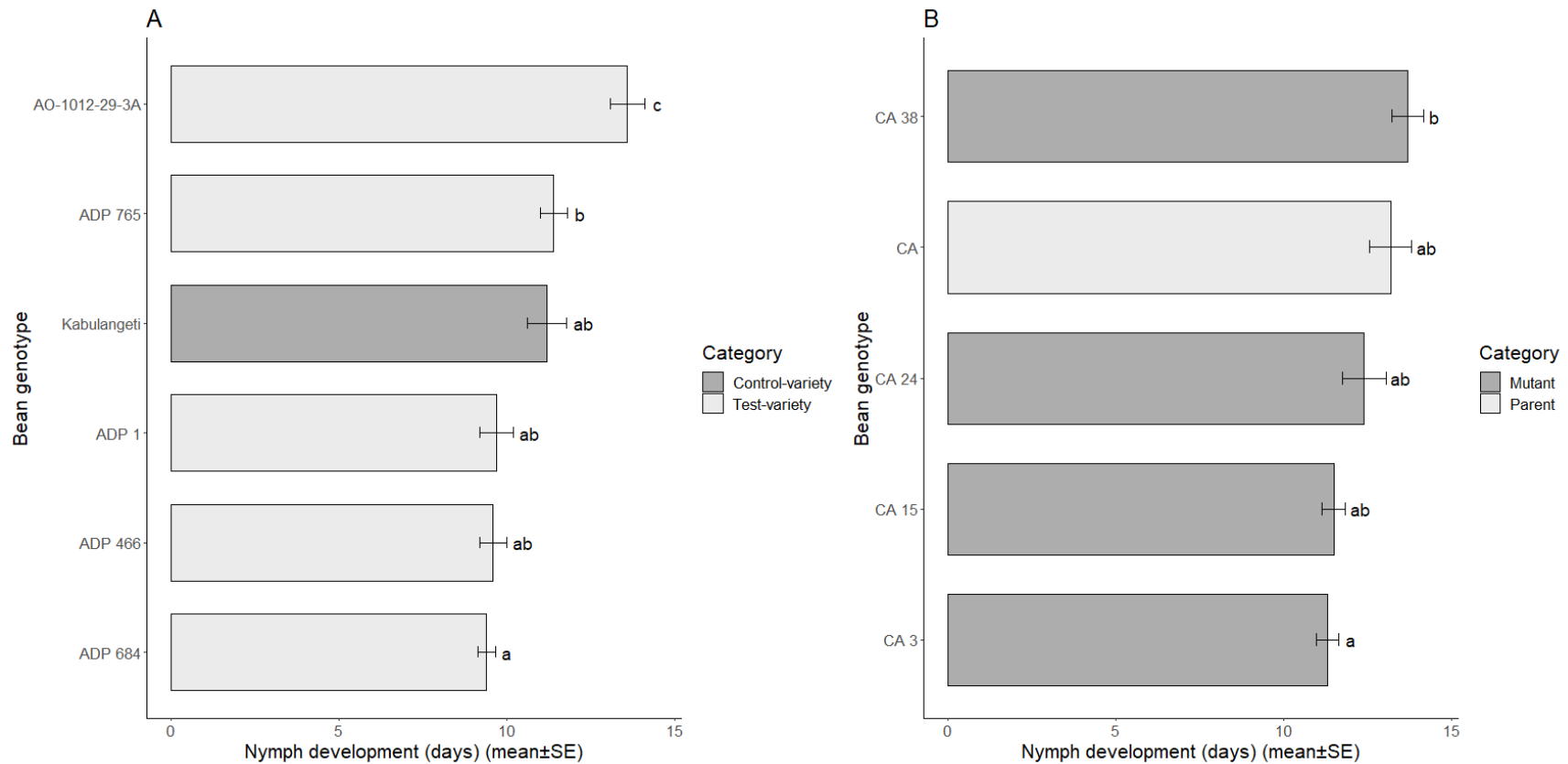


FIGURE 1 Black bean aphid nymph development on (A) common bean breeding lines and (B) mutation derived genotypes ($n = 10$). Bars followed by different letters are significantly different (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test). Among the common bean breeding lines, nymph development was significantly longer on AO-1012-29-3A compared to the commercial variety Kabulangeti (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.006$). Among mutation derived genotypes, none of the mutants differed significantly from the parent (CA) (Holm-Sidak test, $P > 0.05$). Error

bars represent standard error of the mean (SE). Common bean breeding lines and corresponding mutation derived genotypes were analysed separately. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

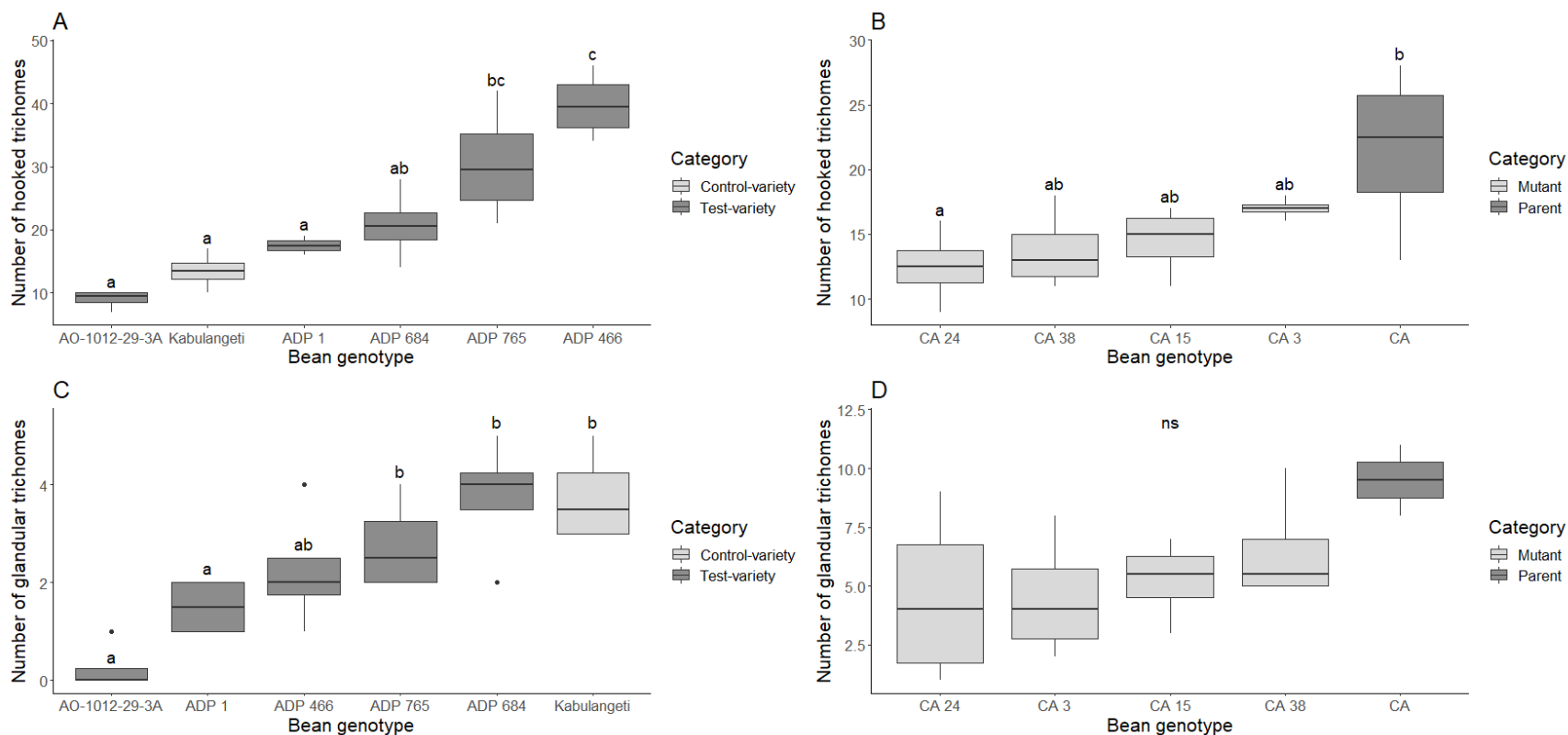


FIGURE 2 Median densities and confidence intervals of (A) hooked trichomes on common bean breeding lines (B) hooked trichomes on mutation derived genotypes (C) glandular trichomes on common bean breeding lines and (D) glandular trichomes on mutation derived genotypes, on lower leaf surfaces ($n = 4$). Among common bean breeding lines, ADP 765 (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.002$) as well as ADP 466 (Holm-Sidak test, $P < 0.0001$) had significantly higher numbers of hooked trichomes compared to the commercial variety.

For mutation derived genotypes, CA 24 had smaller numbers of hooked trichomes compared to the parent (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.03$). For glandular trichomes on common bean breeding lines, AO-1012-29-3A (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.001$) and ADP 1 (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.049$) had fewer trichomes compared to the commercial variety Kabulangeti. Common bean breeding lines and corresponding mutation derived genotypes were analysed separately. Groups followed by different letters are significantly different (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test), ns = non-significant differences between groups. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

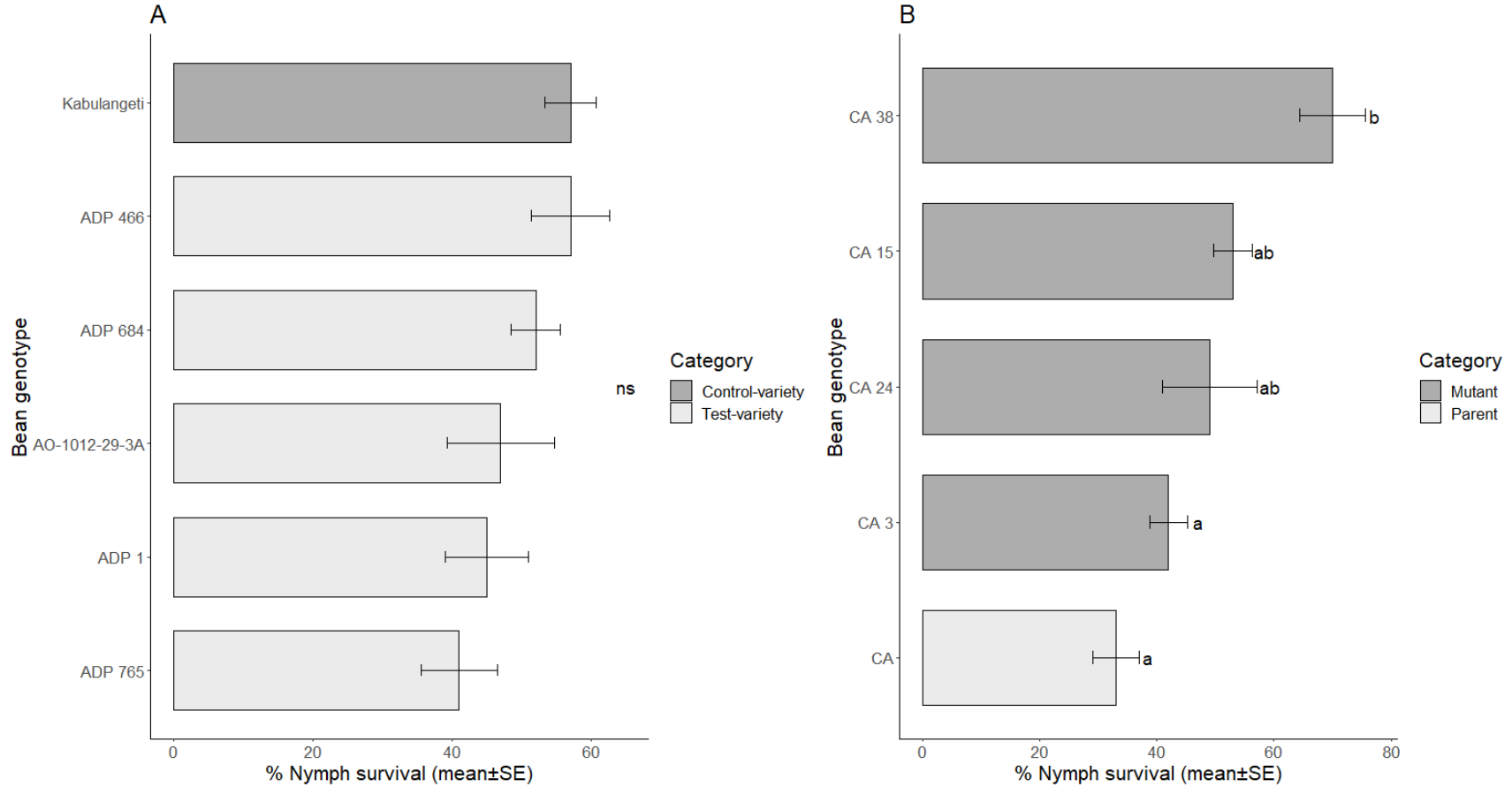


FIGURE 3 Black bean aphid nymph survival on (A) common bean breeding lines and (B) mutation derived genotypes ($n = 10$). Among the mutation derived genotypes, more aphids survived on CA 38 compared to the parent (CA) (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.0001$). Bars followed by different letters are significantly different (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test). ns = non-significant differences among bars. Error bars represent standard error of the mean (SE). Common bean varieties and corresponding mutation derived genotypes were analysed separately. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25

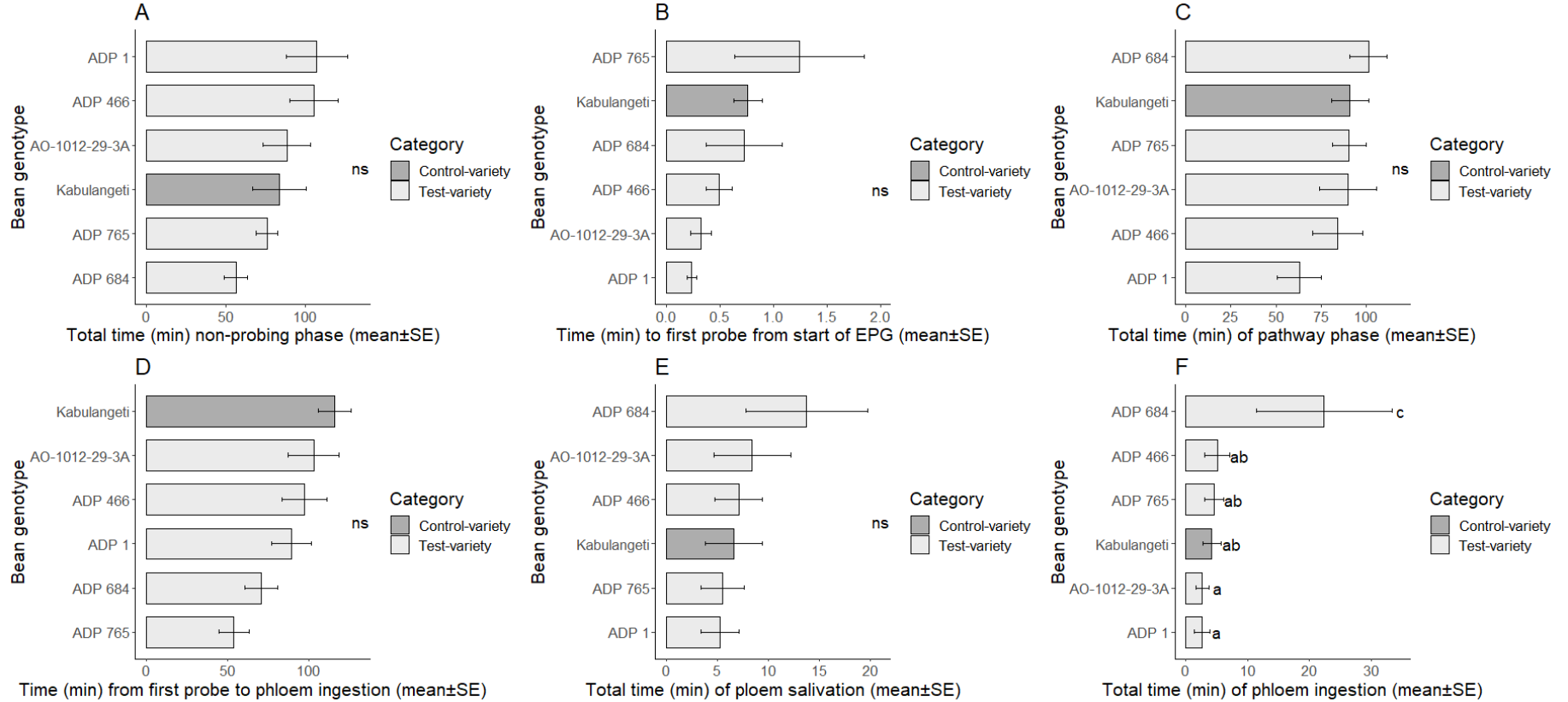


FIGURE 4 Aphid probing and feeding behaviour on common bean breeding lines. (A) total time of non-probing phase, (B) time to first probe from beginning of EPG recording, (C) total time of pathway phase, (D) time from first probe to sustained phloem ingestion, (E) total time of phloem salivation and, (F) total time of phloem ingestion ($n = 14$). In the case of phloem ingestion (4F), aphids fed longer on ADP 684 compared to the commercial variety Kabulangeti (Holm-Sidak test, $P = 0.01$), Common bean genotypes in figures A-F were analysed separately. Error bars represent standard error of the mean (SE), Bars followed by different letters are significantly

different (Holm-Sidak post-hoc test), ns = non-significant differences among bars. Genotype name; ADP 1 = Rozi Koko, ADP 466 = Mwezi Moja, ADP 684 = Majesty, ADP 765 = KK25