

Chromosome Number of *Drimiopsis Botryoides*

Drimiopsis is a genus of about six species of little known green house bulbous plants belonging to the family Liliaceae. *D. Botryoides* thrives very well under the shade and is

of horticultural importance due to the light green large irregular spots on the leaves which are lanceolate, a foot long, acute, narrower towards the base, pale green on the upper surface with large irregular blotches of dark green, much paler beneath. The plant flowers over a period of several months extending from November to February. The inflorescence is a raceme with the flower confined to the upper portion of the scape which is terete and a foot or more long. Flowers are dull white with cucullate petals.

The chromosome number of this plant is not worked out as this has not been listed in the recent compilation of chromosome numbers by Darlington and Wylie (1955) and in the "Cytogenetics and Plant breeding" by Krishnaswamy and Chandrasekharan (1960). The author chanced to come across this plant among the horticultural collections of the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Vellayani, Trivandrum.

Cytological studies were made from acetocarmine preparations of pollen mother cells. The flower buds were fixed in Carnoy's fluid

and were treated with Normal HCl for two minutes before staining. Beautiful stages were observed for chromosome counts in the developing pollen grain. Pollen mitosis showed a chromosome number of 33 in the haploid condition (Fig. I). There are small as well as large chromosomes and during metaphase these are arranged on the spindle with dot chromosomes in the centre and the longer ones towards the periphery.

For confirming the counts in the developing pollen, somatic chromosome numbers from root tips were also studied. Up-rooted plants with the bulbs in tact were grown in pots and after 7- to 10 days developing sturdy root tips were gathered. Squash preparations of the root tip cells showed that the somatic number is 66 (Fig. II Plate) during metaphase of mitosis.

The author wishes to express his thanks to Dr. A. Abraham, Professor of Botany, University College, Trivandrum for giving him facilities to take the microphotographs and also to P. I. Kuriachan, Research Scholar for the technical help in the preparation of the root tip smear and for taking the microphotographs. My thanks are also due to the Director, Botanic Gardens, Howrah, Calcutta, for identifying the plant.

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1. "Chromosome Atlas of flowering plants" by Darlington and Wylie 1955.
2. "Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding" by Krishnaswamy and Chandrasekharan 1960.
3. "Dictionary of Gardening" by George Nicholson.