# Evolutionary trends and mechanisms of chromosome number variation



#### Basic or base chromosome number (x)

- a relative concept [x has to be related to a certain taxonomic unit, e.g. genus or (sub)family]
- monobasic taxa (single x number), dibasic taxa (two x nos.) and polybasic taxa (>2 x nos.)
- are there any evolutionary trends in chromosome number changes?
- are the same chromosome number and similar karyotype structure indicative of close phylogenetic relationship?
- can polybasic taxa be regarded as monophyletic?
- is the most common basic chromosome number automatically the ancestral one?

#### Asteraceae - example of a polybasic family



Genus	Region	"Basic" chromosome numbers
Amellus L.	(Africa)	x = 6, 8, 9 (diploid)
Aphanostephus DC.	(N. AmMex.)	x = 3, 4, 5 (diploid)
Aster L.	(cosmopolitan)	x = (4-)5, 7, 8, 9, 13 (polyploid to $16x$ )
Astranthium Nutt.	(N. AmMex.)	x = 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, etc. (dysploid; polyploid to $6x$ ?)
Brachyscome Cass.	(Austr., N.Z., N.G.)	x = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, etc. (dysploid; poly- ploid to 18x?)
Calotis R. Br.	(New Zealand)	x = 4, 7, 8, 9, etc. (polyploid to 14x?)
Chrysopsis Nutt.	(N. Am.)	x = 4, 5, 9 (polyploid to $6x$ )
Felicia Cass.	(Africa)	x = 5, 6, 8, 9 (diploid and tetraploid)
Haplopappus Cass. sensu lato	(N. AmS. Am.)	x = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, etc. (dys- ploid; polyploid to 18x?)
Machaeranthera Nees	(N. AmMex.)	x = 2, 4, 5, 8, 9? (dysploid; dip- loid and tetraploid)
Psilactis A. Gray	(N. AmS. Am.)	x = 4, 5, 9 (perhaps dibasic with dysploidy; diploid)

Table 4. Tri- and polybasic genera in the Astereae.

#### Chromosome number variation

Chromosome numbers of plants vary enormously over a 360-fold range.

n = 2 in five angiosperm speciesn = 630 in the fern *Ophioglossum reticulatum* 



Haplopappus gracilis



ORMTUNGA, OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM L

#### Chromosome number variation

- Stasis
- Decrease (descending dysploidy)
- Increase (polyploidy and ascending dysploidy)

#### Chromosome Number Diversity Across Land Plants



Fern "Polyploidy Paradox": high chromosome nos., but no clear evidence. Multiple WGDs and Dysploidies ?



Clark et al. (2016) New Phytologist

#### Reduced Chromosome Number Diversity and Rare Neopolyploids in Gymnosperms x = 22 21 M 12 11, 22 12 28 (69% species polyploid 12, 12 8-1 12 12 Ginkgo 12 Amborella **Natioglossun** $x = 9 - 19_{excer}$ 13 Li et al. (2015) Sci Adv 11 Murray (2013) in Plant Genome Diversity 12 Ickert-Bond and Renner (2016) JSE

#### Ancient Whole-Genome Duplications in Gymnosperms



#### Post-Polyploidy Chromosomal Schuffling in Coniferales ?



de Miguel et al. (2015) GBE; Li et al. (2015) Sci Adv

#### A 160-Fold Variation of Chromosome Numbers in Angiosperms

#### Haplopappus gracilis n = 2



Jackson et al. (2002) Am J Bot

#### Strasburgeria robusta n = 250





Zingeria biebersteiniana



Kotseruba et al. (2003) Genon

Voanioala gerardii n = 303



Röser et al. (2015) CGR

Distribution of Haploid Chromosome Numbers in Angiosperms Was Shaped by Polyploidy and Subsequent Dysploidy



Table 3 Major groups even vs odd chromosome counts<sup>a</sup>

Clade	Number of total counts	Percentage of even counts
Angiosperm	70 338	56%
Monocots	15 528	58%
Eudicots	53 492	55%
Monilophytes	2986	63%
Lycophytes	220	53%
Gymnosperms	488	59%
Bryophytes	1446	48%



#### Chromosome number variation

- Stasis
- **Decrease** (descending dysploidy)
- Increase (polyploidy and ascending dysploidy)

### Allopolyploidy (and of course autopolyploidy)



#### Ascending dysploidy

#### **1.** Centric fission (1 metacentric chromosome $\rightarrow$ 2 telocentrics)



probably in orchids, cycads...

#### 2. Meiotic misdivision (non-disjunction)

misdivision resulting in a tetrasomic plant (2n+2) (or first trisomy: 2n+1 followed by tetrasomy, 2n+2) or monosomic plant (2n-1, this is descending dysploidy)

• the extra chromosome can diverge from their homologues through a translocation with nonhomologous chromosomes



Centric fissions  $\rightarrow$  telocentric chromosomes in cycads (Zamia) 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 3 33 66 38 51 31 88 14 B3 86 93 (11) (12) 

#### Centric Fissions Increase Chromosome Number in Seed Plants



Cox et al. (1998) Am J Bot; Leitch et al. (2009) Ann Bot

### Centric Fissions Are Rare in Seed Plants Despite Evidence of Efficient Chromosome Healing



"Sticky" chromosome ends can be stabilized by *de novo* telomere formation or "chromosome healing."

Luzula elegans

**CRW Telomere** 



Jankowska et al. (2015) Chromosoma



**bread wheat**, ditelosomic Dt 3AS courtesy of B. Friebe (Koo et al. 2015, PLoS ONE)

Telocentrics can be "unstable"...

Wanner et al. (2015) Chromosoma

McClintock (1941), Marks (1957), Brighton (1978), Schubert et al. (1992), Slijepcevic and Bryant (1998), Tsujimoto et al. (1999), Jankowska et al. (2015), Koo et al. (2015), Wanner et al. (2015), Rocha et al. (2016)



#### Boechera genomes originated from eight ancestral chromosomes



Mandáková et al. (2016) Plant J

#### Ascending dysploidy by centric fission fixed due to apomixis





Mandáková et al. (2016) Plant J

#### Chromosome number variation

- Stasis
- Decrease (descending dysploidy)
- Increase (polyploidy and ascending dysploidy)

Descending Dysploidy via Terminal Chromosome Translocations



Robertsonian (unequal reciprocal) translocation and meiotic seqregation



End-to-End Translocations in Plants Are Probably More Common Than Previously Thought



Mandáková et al. (2016) Am J Bot

Wang and Bennetzen (2012) PNAS

Chromosome "fusion" - the origin of the human (dicentric) chromosome 2



Two optionss how the "fusion" chromosome 2 was stabilized

- the ancestral centromere (AC) was either epigenetically inactivated or centromeredetermining sequences were excised
- the excision is more probable what mechanism?
- recombination-based excision, most likely in one step (similar human clinical cases...)

# Crucifers (Brassicaceae): the origin of the common ancestral genome



Ancestral Crucifer Karyotype (ACK)

(24 ancestral genomic blocks)

WGD = whole-genome duplication (polyploidization)

Arabidopsis thaliana - extensive chromosome reshuffling linked with chromosome number reduction from n=8 to n=5



Lysak et al. 2006, PNAS; Hu et al. 2011, Nat Genet

#### **Reductions of Chromosome Numbers Were Independent and**

**Used Different Chromosome Breakpoints** 



Descending Dysploidy in Grasses is Mediated by Nested Chromosome Insertions (NCIs)



#### Nested Chromosome Insertions Repeatedly Mediated

#### Descending Dysploidy in Grasses



Wang et al. (2014) New Phytol

#### Did Nested Chromosome Insertions Occur Only in Grasses ?



### Chromosome number change due to aneuploidy



## Odd basic chromosome numbers in Rosaceae (x=7, 8 and 7; x=17 in the tribe Pyreae) (x=7, 8 and 7;

the Pyreae have long been considered an example of allopolyploidization between species related to extant Spiraeoideae (x = 9) and Amygdaleoideae (x = 8) taxa



the diploid apple tree - Malus (Considine et al.)

- all tetraploid seedlings were derived from 2*n* ova fertilized with 2*n* spermatozoa
- all triploids from 2*n* ova fertilized with *n* spermatozoa
- all aneuploids from *n* ova fertilized with aneuploid spermatozoa

Thus ova only contributed euploidy while spermatozoa contributed a range of cytotypes, including aneuploidy, to non-diploid seedlings in the diploid *Malus*.

Considine MJ et al. (2012) Molecular Genetic Features of Polyploidization and Aneuploidization Reveal Unique Patterns for Genome Duplication in Diploid *Malus*. PLoS ONE 7(1): e29449.

Schematic Summary of the Features of Gametic Combinations for Apple Polyploidization in Diploid *Malus* 



#### Odd basic chromosome numbers in the Pyreae (x=17)

Three-step scenario to the odd basic chromosome number in *Malus*: (aneuploidization - eupolyploidization - diploidization)

- ✤ aneuploidization of two sister taxa (x = 9, 2n = 18) to 2n = 17 (x = 9)
- ❖ whole-genome duplication in both ova and spermatozoa → tetraploids (x = 9, 4n = 34)
- ♦ diploidization  $\rightarrow$  the extant diploid state (x = 17, 2n = 34) (diploid-like meiosis)

Aneuploidization can result in speciation with both odd and even basic chromosome numbers, while eupolyploidization can ONLY contribute to even basic chromosome numbers. Chromosome number evolution in phylogenetic contexts

#### Descending dysploidy in Hypochaeris (Asteraceae)





— 0.001 substitutions/site

#### Descending dysploidy in Podolepis (Asteraceae)

• the extraordinary series of chromosome numbers, n = 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7and 3 (dysploidy)

• chromosome number of n = 10 is the most common in the genus, and thus, x = 10 was regarded as the ancestral chromosome base number for the genus



#### Descending dysploidy in Podolepis (Asteraceae)

• the haploid chromosome number of n = 12 is the most common in the related genera (*Chrysocephalum*, *Waitzia*, *Leptorhynchos*, *Pterochaeta*)

• according to the phylogenetic analysis, the ancestral chromosome base number in the genus *Podolepis* may be x = 12



• chromosome number reduction has occurred in three lineages:

- from n = 12 to n = 10 and 9 in the subclade A
- from n = 12 to n = 8 and 7 in the subclade B1
- from n = 12 to n = 11 and 3 in the subclade B2

• the low chromosome numbers of n = 8, 7 and 3 were found only in annual species which were distributed in semi-arid regions

• comparing the karyotypes between the taxa with n = 12 (in *Waitzia* and *Chrysocephalum*) and n = 10 (perennial *Podolepis*), the increase in the number of large chromosomes accompanies the decrease in the number of medium-sized chromosomes in *Podolepis*  $\rightarrow$  the reduction in chromosome number has been achieved by the unequal reciprocal translocations, followed by the loss of the short translocation product



# Chromosome number pattern congruent with phylogenetic relationships: Ranunculaceae

• Langlet (1927, 1932) recognized two subfamilies of *Ranunculaceae* (*Ranunculoideae* and *Thalictroideae*) on the basis of cytological characters, including chromosome size and basic number

- the *Ranunculus* group of genera (R-chromosome group) has large and long chromosomes with a basic number of 8
- the *Thalictrum* group (T-chromosome group) has short and small chromosomes with a basic number of 7 or 9



• Ro et al. (1997): chromosome type and base number are congruent with the inferred molecular (rDNA) phylogeny

 fruit type (often used for the higher classification) was not congruent with karyological data and phylogenetic patterns



#### Descending and ascending (?) dysploidy in *Calochortus* (*Liliaceae*)

• c. 67 spp.

• chromosome numbers n = 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

 molecular phylogenetic study carried out to test the monophyly of the three sections and 12 subsections erected by Ownbey (1940) based on morphology and chromosome number





Descending and ascending (?) dysploidy in *Calochortus* (*Liliaceae*)

- the ancestral chromosome number of *Calochortus* is x = 9
- descending an euploidy (9  $\rightarrow$  8, 7, 6)
- ascending an euploidy (9  $\rightarrow$  10) BUT is this true or the phylogeny is wrong?

![](_page_41_Figure_4.jpeg)

Patterson and Givnish (2003)

![](_page_41_Figure_6.jpeg)

end

### Crucifers (Brassicaceae): evolution of an ancestral genome

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### **Evolution of the Ancestral Crucifer Genome – DIPLOIDS**

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Different fates of the Ancestral Crucifer Karyotype in "diploids" and polyploids

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

Ancestral Crucifer Karyotype (ACK)

(24 ancestral genomic blocks)

WGD = whole-genome duplication (polyploidization)

Lysak et al. 2006, PNAS; Schranz, Lysak & Mitchell-Olds 2006, TiPS

Ancestral Crucifer Karyotype remained conserved in some taxa of Lineage I

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

Diversification without large-scale chromosome rearrangements: karyotype stasis in the Cardamineae

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Descending dysploidy and genome stasis across Lineage II

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

Mandáková and Lysak 2008, Plant Cell; Cheng et al. 2013, Plant Cell

#### Reconstructing the ancestral base number for angiosperms

 the reconstructed ancestral base chromosome number is x=6

 x=6 is a theoretical reconstructed base number, it can be said that the ancestral number was low - between x=6 nad 9

#### 300 CHAPTER 13

number (x =)

(unordered)

7

8

10

11

12

≥13

FIGURE 13.8 MacClade reconstruction of base chromosome number diversification in angiosperms obtained using the "all most parsimonious states" option. This reconstruction uses the actual numbers reported in the literature for many of the genera and families indicated. However, there is evidence for ancient polyploidy in many basal lineages. For those taxa thought to be ancient polyploids, a hypothetical original base number has been substituted (see text). Most gymnosperms (outgroups) have n = 11 or 12. This figure represents a simplified version of a larger reconstruction involving 172 taxa. The large rosid, asterid, Caryophyllales, Santalales, and Saxifragales clades have been reduced to a single terminal. The ancestral state shown for each of these clades is that reconstructed using the larger matrix.

![](_page_49_Figure_5.jpeg)

#### Reconstructing the ancestral chromosome number and paleogenomes

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

Salse 2012

#### Reconstructing the ancestral chromosome number and paleogenomes

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Reconstructing the ancestral chromosome number and paleogenomes

![](_page_52_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Reconstructed genome evolution in grasses

![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

Murat et al. (2014) GBE

150

### Descending and ascending aneuploidy in Sideritis (Lamiaceae)

- bimodal pattern of chromosomal change
- Clade 1 shows decreasing aneuploid series, with 2n=44 being the ancestral number
- Clade 2 (with some ambiguity): 2n=36 is the ancestral number and ascending aneuploidy has occurred

![](_page_54_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_5.jpeg)