



Occurrence of natural triploidy in *Rhamdia quelen* (Siluriformes, Heptapteridae)

J.R. Tsuda, V.P.O. de Moraes, L. Giuliano-Caetano and A.L. Dias

Departamento de Biologia Geral, CCB,
Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, PR, Brasil

Corresponding author: A.L. Dias
E-mail: anadias@uel.br

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ABSTRACT. Five specimens of *Rhamdia quelen* collected from the Lindóia Stream, PR, Brazil, were cytogenetically analyzed. The diploid chromosome number found was 58, including 30 metacentric, 16 submetacentric, 10 subtelocentric, and 2 acrocentric chromosomes. Supernumerary or B chromosomes, frequently observed in this fish group, were not detected. One of the individuals was triploid, with $3n = 87$. A silver-stained nucleolar organizer region was found on a pair of submetacentric chromosomes of the diploid specimens, and on three chromosomes of the triploid individual, confirming triploidy. Treatment with fluorochrome chromomycin A₃ revealed fluorescent bands coincident with those of the silver-stained nucleolar organizer region, in both diploid and triploid individuals, showing that this is a GC-rich region. Heterochromatin distribution was visualized by the C-banding technique, mainly in the terminal chromosome regions of the individuals and was also observed in the pericentromeric regions of some chromosomes and at both telomeres.

Key words: Fish cytogenetics; Polyploidy; Triploid fish