

## REPRODUCTIVE ISOLATION IN *Drosophila prosaltans* (*saltans* GROUP)

Hermione E.M.C. Bicudo<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Reproductive isolation among 18 strains of *D. prosaltans* was studied in mass mating crosses. On the basis of the results, 3 isolation sets of strains were distinguished: set A, including strains from Central America; set B, including strains from South America, north of the Amazon River; and set C, including Brazilian strains, south of the Amazon River. Sexual isolation and hybrid sterility were isolating mechanisms found to operate between the 3 sets, mainly between A and B, and A and C. The results are to some extent comparable to those of *D. paulistorum* semispecies and in this way the 3 sets could also be classified as 3 semispecies. Analysis of chromosomal polymorphism of strains in every set indicated that sets B and C are ancestral to set A, thus suggesting that *D. prosaltans* originated in South America and dispersed to Central America.

### INTRODUCTION

In spite of the many biological and environmental aspects involved in speciation, the whole process may be summarized in two basic events: adaptation and selection for reproductive isolation. The multiple aspects of these events and their interplay in speciation allow us to consider as probably unique the evolutionary history of each group of populations of a given species or the evolutionary history of each group of related species. Thus new lights on the knowledge of the speciation process may be expected from each of these newly studied groups.

---

<sup>1</sup> Instituto de Biociências, Letras e Ciências Exatas de São José do Rio Preto, Universidade Estadual Júlio de Mesquita Filho. - 15100 São José do Rio Preto - SP - Brasil.

The purpose of the present work was to study the speciation process in *Drosophila prosaltans*. Since this species has a large distribution area (the largest among species in the saltans subgroup) which extends from Costa Rica to the south of Brazil and Paraguay, its populations are exposed to many different environments, among them geographic barriers such as mountains, rivers and forests. Under these conditions, genetic differences are expected to accumulate as the populations adapt to their environments. The development of reproductive isolation would then lead to the formation of independent gene pools.

Genetic differences in *Drosophila prosaltans* strains due to paracentric inversions have already been described (Cavalcanti, 1948; Bicudo, 1967, 1973; Bicudo, Hosaki, Machado and Marques, 1978). Data on hybridization tests are presented in this study. They show that a variable degree of reproductive isolation also exists between *D. prosaltans* strains. The evolutionary divergence within *D. prosaltans*, analyzed on the basis of both cytological and isolational pictures, is to some extent comparable to that of *D. paulistorum*, considered as a cluster species in "statu nascendi" (Dobzhansky and Spassky, 1959).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Geographical origins and stock references of the strains used are in Table I. Eighteen strains from several localities including the northern and southern limits of the species distribution area were analyzed for reproductive isolation.

The experiments involved reciprocal mass crosses of ten pairs per vial (250 ml) using flies aged from 5 to 7 days. Two mass crosses were made in each direction and changed to new vials on the fifth day. The analysis was performed 25 days later. On the basis of the results, the crosses were classified into sterile, high productivity, or low productivity. This last class included crosses which yielded from just one larva up to about 20 adults. Females of sterile crosses were dissected and examined for the presence of spermatozoa in their reproductive tracts.

Depending on the number of available flies, the fertility of  $F_1$  progeny was verified using pair mating or mass endocrosses which were classified, at the time of analysis, like the parental crosses. When  $F_1$  endocrosses did not yield progeny, backcrosses were prepared in order to detect the sterile sex.

Banana culture medium was used and the stocks and tests were maintained at the temperature of  $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Table I - Geographical origins and stock references of the strains used.

Origin		Reference
Costa Rica	Palmar	P <sub>1a</sub>
	Piedras Blancas	P <sub>2a</sub>
	San Isidro	P <sub>3</sub>
Panamá		P <sub>26</sub>
Trinidad	Sangre Grande	P <sub>4</sub>
Colombia	Bucaramanga	P <sub>5</sub>
Venezuela	Barquisimeto	P <sub>25</sub>
Guiana	Apoteri	P <sub>22</sub>
		P <sub>23</sub>
Brazil	Macapá	P <sub>12</sub>
	Belém (PA)	P <sub>6</sub>
	Várzea, Belém (PA)	P <sub>13</sub>
	(CE)	P <sub>10</sub>
	Boa Viagem (CE)	P <sub>16</sub>
	Salvador (BA)	P <sub>17</sub>
	Campo Grande	P <sub>18</sub>
	Leste (PA)	P <sub>20</sub>
	(RS)	P <sub>21</sub>

## RESULTS

The results of intercrosses between 3 strains from Costa Rica (P<sub>1a</sub>, P<sub>2a</sub>, P<sub>3</sub>), one strain from Panama (P<sub>26</sub>), Trinidad (P<sub>4</sub>), Colombia (P<sub>5</sub>), Venezuela (P<sub>25</sub>), and 2 strains from Guiana (P<sub>23</sub> and P<sub>22</sub>) are shown in Figure 1. This Figure is arranged in such a way that the large triangle above the diagonal (where the strain symbols are presented) contains the results of fertility and fecundity of the parental crosses, and the large triangle below the diagonal contains the results of F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses.

The 2 triangles in each small square are related to both directions of crosses of every combination: the triangle below the diagonal refers to the crosses between females from the left strain and males from the strain below (which are respectively above and right strains considering F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses); the triangle above the diagonal is indicative of the reciprocal crosses.

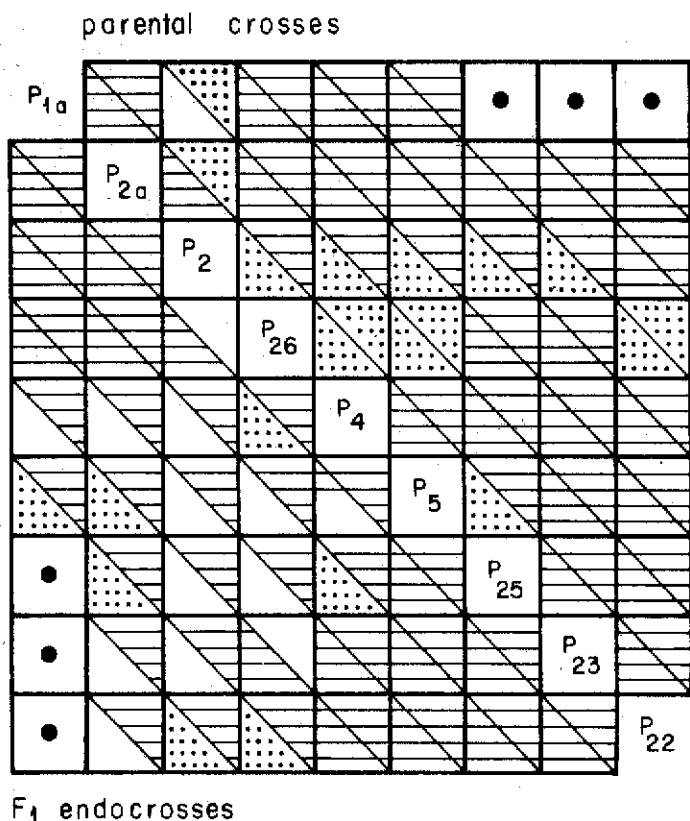


Figure 1. Fertility and Fecundity of the parental crosses and F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses of strains from Costa Rica ( $P_{1a}$ ,  $P_{2a}$ ,  $P_2$ ), Panama ( $P_{26}$ ), Trinidad ( $P_4$ ), Colombia ( $P_5$ ), Venezuela ( $P_{25}$ ), and Guiana ( $P_{23}$ ,  $P_{22}$ ). Full lines = high fecundity; dotted lines = low fecundity; absence of lines = sterile crosses; a single dot = not prepared cross.

In both parental crosses and F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses fertility is indicated by the presence of lines (fertile crosses) or the absence of lines (sterile crosses); and fecundity is indicated by full lines (high productivity) or dotted lines (low productivity). Crosses which were not prepared because the strain  $P_{1a}$  was lost are indicated by a single dot in the center of the empty square.

Crosses in Figure 1 showed variable results. For example, the crosses of strains from Trinidad ( $P_4$ ), Colombia ( $P_5$ ), Venezuela ( $P_{25}$ ), and Guiana ( $P_{23}$  and  $P_{22}$ ) with each other were fertile and produced fertile progeny in both directions. In two cases, fecundity was low: in the parental crosses of  $P_5$  females X  $P_{25}$  males and in F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses of  $P_4$  females X  $P_{25}$  males. All the other combinations presented high fecundity.

The crosses of strains from Costa Rica ( $P_{1a}$ ,  $P_{2a}$  and  $P_3$ ) and Panama ( $P_{26}$ ) with each other showed that, when  $P_{1a}$ ,  $P_{2a}$  and  $P_{26}$  were involved, the fecundity of the parental crosses was high and their progeny was fully fertile. However, in the tests involving any of these strains and  $P_3$  (also from Costa Rica), a variable degree of isolation was detected. Productivity was low in all of the parental crosses in which  $P_3$  were the females. In the crosses between  $P_{26}$  and  $P_3$  the isolation affected also the fertility of  $F_1$  progeny: their intercrosses were sterile in the direction  $P_{26}$  females X  $P_3$  males.

Crosses of the strains from Costa Rica ( $P_{1a}$ ,  $P_{2a}$  and  $P_3$ ) and Panama ( $P_{26}$ ) with the strains from Trinidad ( $P_4$ ), Colombia ( $P_5$ ), Venezuela ( $P_{25}$ ) and Guiana ( $P_{23}$  and  $P_{22}$ ) showed 3 situations concerning the parental crosses: (1) crosses in both directions were fully fertile; (2) crosses in one direction were fully fertile and the other exhibited a low productivity; and (3) crosses in both directions presented low productivities. The first situation was the most frequent. The second was detected in crosses in which the  $P_3$  strain was used, and the third situation occurred in crosses which involved the  $P_{26}$  strain.

Most of the  $F_1$  endocrosses in the 3 cases at hand exhibited one fully fertile direction while the reciprocal was sterile or yielded a low number of progeny, frequently half a dozen of pupae or adults at most.

The sterile or almost sterile  $F_1$  endocrosses were produced in most cases by females from Central America and males from northern South America. Two exceptions were the combinations  $P_{2a}$  X  $P_{22}$  and  $P_{26}$  X  $P_{23}$ . In the first case, sterile  $F_1$  endocrosses were produced in both directions of crosses, and, in the second, in the direction involving  $P_{23}$  females.

Figure 2 is arranged like Figure 1. Data included in it are concerned with the experiments involving the strain from Trinidad ( $P_4$ ) and 9 strains from Brazil ( $P_{12}$ ,  $P_6$ ,  $P_{15}$ ,  $P_{10}$ ,  $P_{16}$ ,  $P_{17}$ ,  $P_{18}$ ,  $P_{20}$  and  $P_{21}$ ). Except for the crosses of  $P_{12}$  X  $P_6$ ,  $P_{10}$ ,  $P_{18}$  or  $P_{21}$ , and the crosses of  $P_{10}$  X  $P_{17}$ , all of the other combinations showed high productivity in both directions of the parental crosses and in both directions of the  $F_1$  endocrosses.

The isolation degrees in crosses of  $P_{12}$  X  $P_6$  and  $P_{12}$  X  $P_{18}$  were the strongest among Brazilian combinations: in both cases, a single direction was fertile and the small number of produced hybrids failed to yield  $F_2$ . In this direction females were  $P_{12}$ . In the intercrosses of  $P_{12}$  X  $P_{21}$  a single direction (also involving  $P_{12}$  females) was also fertile, but the progeny was numerous and fully fertile.

The isolation in the combinations  $P_{12}$  X  $P_{10}$  and  $P_{10}$  X  $P_{17}$  affected a single direction of the parental crosses, causing the production of a small number of progeny. This direction involved  $P_{10}$  females in the crosses with  $P_{17}$ , and  $P_{10}$

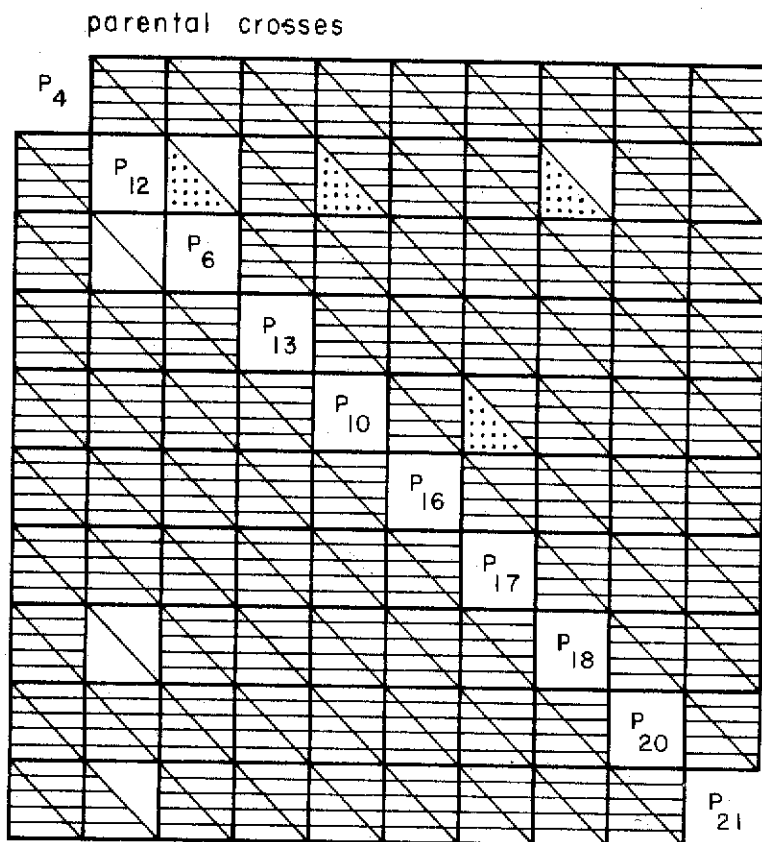


Figure 2. Fertility and fecundity of the parental crosses and F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses of strains from Trinidad (P<sub>4</sub>) and Brazil P<sub>12</sub>, P<sub>6</sub>, P<sub>13</sub>, P<sub>10</sub>, P<sub>16</sub>, P<sub>17</sub>, P<sub>18</sub>, P<sub>20</sub> and P<sub>21</sub>). For symbols, cf. Figure 1.

males in the crosses with P<sub>12</sub>. The F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses were fully fertile in both directions of these combinations.

The results of crosses between strains from Colombia (P<sub>2</sub>), Venezuela (P<sub>25</sub>), and Guiana (P<sub>23</sub> and P<sub>22</sub>) and 4 Brazilian strains (P<sub>12</sub>, P<sub>6</sub>, P<sub>10</sub>, and P<sub>21</sub>) are given in Figure 3. In this Figure, data on parental crosses and F<sub>1</sub> endocrosses are presented separately, (3a and 3b, respectively). The triangles inside the small squares refer to both directions of crosses of every combination: those under the diagonal are concerned with crosses of females from strains included in the vertical column with males from the horizontal column; those above the diagonal

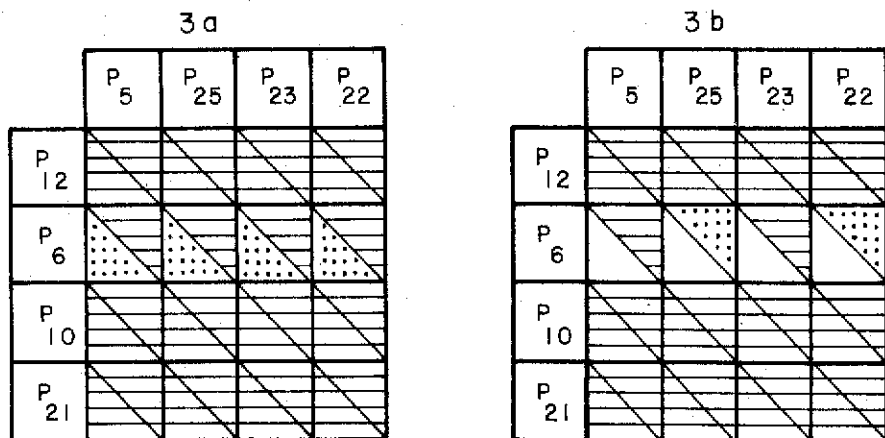


Figure 3. Fertility fecundity of the parental crosses (3a) and  $F_1$  endocrosses (3b) of strains from Colombia (P<sub>5</sub>), Venezuela (P<sub>25</sub>) and Guiana (P<sub>23</sub> and P<sub>22</sub>) with Brazilian strains (P<sub>12</sub>, P<sub>6</sub>, P<sub>10</sub> and P<sub>21</sub>). For symbols, cf. Figure 1.

are concerned with the reciprocal crosses (females from horizontal column and males from vertical column).

The data in this Figure show that, except for the intercrosses which used the Brazilian strain P<sub>6</sub>, all others succeeded very easily at the parental and at the  $F_1$  endocrosses level. The P<sub>6</sub> strain showed a decrease in its ability to hybridize and to produce fertile hybrids with any of the strains from northern South America. In all of the intercrosses involving that strain, the direction of parental crosses which used P<sub>6</sub> females showed low productivity and failed to produce fertile  $F_1$  endocrosses.

Figure 4 (a and b) is arranged like Figure 3. It includes the results of the intercrosses between the strains from Costa Rica (P<sub>1a</sub>, P<sub>2a</sub>, P<sub>3</sub>) and Panama (P<sub>26</sub>) and the Brazilian strains P<sub>12</sub>, P<sub>6</sub>, P<sub>10</sub> and P<sub>21</sub>.

The combinations in this Figure exhibited strong degrees of isolation. Most of the parental crosses (Fig. 4a) were fertile in a single direction and this direction either failed to produce fertile  $F_1$  endocrosses or produced only poorly fertile  $F_1$  endocrosses (Fig. 4b). The origin of males and females in this fertile direction was variable except when parental crosses involved the strain P<sub>2a</sub>. In this case every combination was fertile when females were P<sub>2a</sub>. In general, the

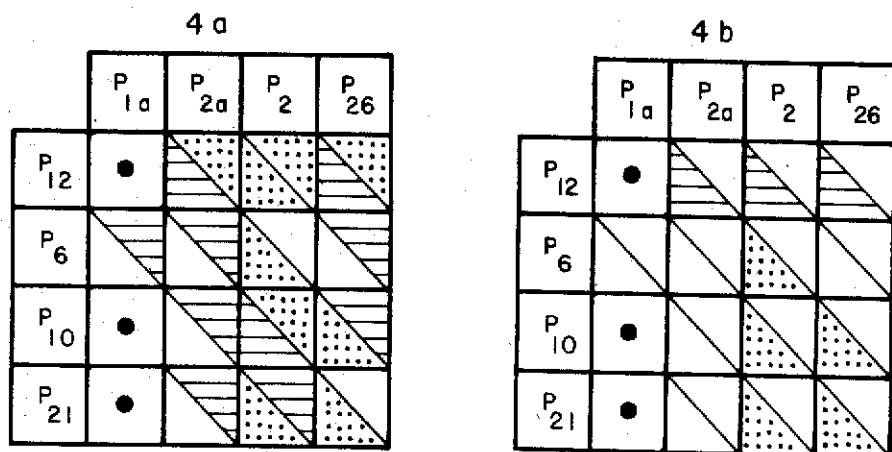


Figure 4. Fertility and fecundity of the parental crosses (4a) and  $F_1$  endocrosses (4b) of strains from Costa Rica ( $P_{1a}$ ,  $P_{2a}$ ,  $P_2$ ) and Panama ( $P_{26}$ ) with Brazilian strains ( $P_{12}$ ,  $P_6$ ,  $P_{10}$  and  $P_{21}$ ). For Symbols, cf. Figure 1.

sterility in the parental crosses was observed more often when females were from Brazil than when they were from Central America. The parental crosses of  $P_{12}$  were fertile in both directions, but one or both of these directions produced a small number of progeny. Their  $F_1$  endocrosses did not yield any progeny when the males were  $P_{12}$ .

The other combinations which showed both fertile directions in the parental crosses ( $P_2 \times P_{10}$ ,  $P_2 \times P_{21}$ , and  $P_{26} \times P_{10}$ ) produced fertile  $F_1$  endocrosses only when Brazilian females were used, but even in these cases a small number of progeny was yielded.

Parental crosses involving  $P_6$  showed a single fertile direction in every combination, but the  $F_1$  endocrosses failed to produce progeny except in the crosses with  $P_2$ .

The number of females per sterile parental cross available for dissection at the time of analysis for any combination in this study varied from 6 to 20. No sperm was found in most of them. No inseminated female was detected in the sterile direction of the 3 combinations in Figure 2, and, among the 7 combinations which showed one sterile direction in Figure 4a, one inseminated female only was detected in the crosses of  $P_6$  females  $\times$   $P_{26}$  males (1 inseminated: 6 dissected).

Females from several low productive parental crosses in Figures 1 to 4



were also dissected. From Figure 1:  $P_6$  females X  $P_{2,2}$  males,  $P_2$  females X  $P_{2,2}$  males,  $P_2$  females X  $P_6$  males, and  $P_{2,2}$  females X  $P_6$  males. From Figure 2:  $P_{1,2}$  females X  $P_{1,2}$  males. From Figure 3:  $P_6$  females X  $P_{2,2}$  males. From Figure 4:  $P_6$  females X  $P_2$  males. Most of the flies in every case had not been inseminated.

None of the dissected females from sterile or low productive crosses showed insemination reaction.

The backcrosses of females and males from sterile  $F_1$  endocrosses showed that the males were sterile and the females were fertile in every case.

## DISCUSSION

The genetic events leading to reproductive isolation and consequently to speciation are still unknown. Differences in gene regulation (King and Wilson, 1975, Wilson, 1975) or differences in structural genes not detected by current techniques (Ayala, 1976; Coyne, 1976) are hypotheses which still remain to be proved.

Species in "statu nascendi" (Dobzhansky and Spassky, 1959) constitute apparently the most promising material for the study of the genetic basis of speciation. Since evolution is a continuous process, many species are expected to present such borderline populations. However, examples of these species are relatively rare. The explanation advanced by Dobzhansky and his research group for this discrepancy is that the critical stages of the speciation process are passed rather rapidly (Dobzhansky, 1959, 1970; Richmond and Dobzhansky, 1976).

The most studied example of species in "statu nascendi" is *D. paulistorum*, considered as a superspecies evolving into 6 semispecies or incipient species (Dobzhansky and Spassky, 1959; Dobzhansky and Powell, 1975; Richmond and Dobzhansky, 1976; Ayala, 1976).

The present study indicated that *D. prosaltans* may constitute a species in the critical stages of the speciation process. Among the strains analyzed in this paper, those from Central America (Costa Rica and Panama) showed reproductive isolation in crosses with the strains from northern South America and from Brazil. The isolation degree was higher when Brazilian strains were used. In this case some combinations produced hybrids in a single direction of the parental crosses and the male hybrids were completely or almost completely sterile. Other combinations produced hybrids in both directions of crosses, but in many cases these hybrids were scarce and the males were completely sterile in one of the directions and almost completely sterile in the other.

The partial or complete absence of inseminated females among those

dissected from sterile parental crosses indicates that sexual isolation is an isolating mechanism which, with hybrid sterility, is acting to prevent laboratory crosses between strains from Central America and Brazil. In most cases, sexual isolation was stronger when the females were from Brazil than when they were from Central America, but when hybrids were produced in both directions of the crosses, male sterility was stronger in the direction involving females from Central America.

In crosses between strains from Central America and strains from northern South America, sexual isolation was less widespread than in crosses with Brazilian strains. This kind of isolating mechanism was only found in crosses involving strains  $P_{34}$  (Panama) and  $P_1$  (Costa Rica). However, complete or almost complete hybrid sterility was detected in at least one direction of the crosses in every combination.

Despite the different behavior of strains from Brazil and northern South America in crosses with Central-American strains, most of the intercrosses of strains from northern South American and Brazilian strains were highly productive in both directions of the laboratory crosses and yielded fertile hybrids. However, one of the Brazilian strains,  $P_6$ , which intercrosses freely with the other Brazilian strains exhibited some sexual isolation and complete male sterility in the direction involving  $P_6$  females and males from northern South America. The behavior of the Brazilian strain  $P_{12}$  should also be pointed out. This strain intercrossed easily with the strains from northern South America but showed a variable degree of isolation in crosses with other Brazilian strains. Thus, the behavior of  $P_{12}$  is closer to that of strains from northern South America than to that of other Brazilian strains. This fact was also observed in crosses with Central American strains:  $P_{12}$  showed a degree of isolation lower than that shown by other Brazilian strains and similar to that exhibited by strains from northern South America.

These results provided evidence for dividing the *D. prosaltans* strains into 3 isolation sets which obey the geographic origin of the strains on the basis of their ability to hybridize with each other. One of these sets is composed of strains from Central America, including Costa Rica and Panama; another is composed of strains from northern South America, including Trinidad, Colombia, Venezuela, Guiana and Brazil, north of the Amazon River; and the last is composed of the remaining Brazilian strains. In Figure 5 the 3 sets are respectively referred to as A, B, and C.

While the crosses of strains from different sets showed variable degrees of reproductive isolation, the results of tests within every set showed, with few exceptions, high productivity of parental crosses and fully fertile  $F_1$  hybrids. The exceptions were strain  $P_1$ , in set A, and strain  $P_{28}$ , in set B. Both strains exhibited an incipient isolation in crosses with other strains from the same set.

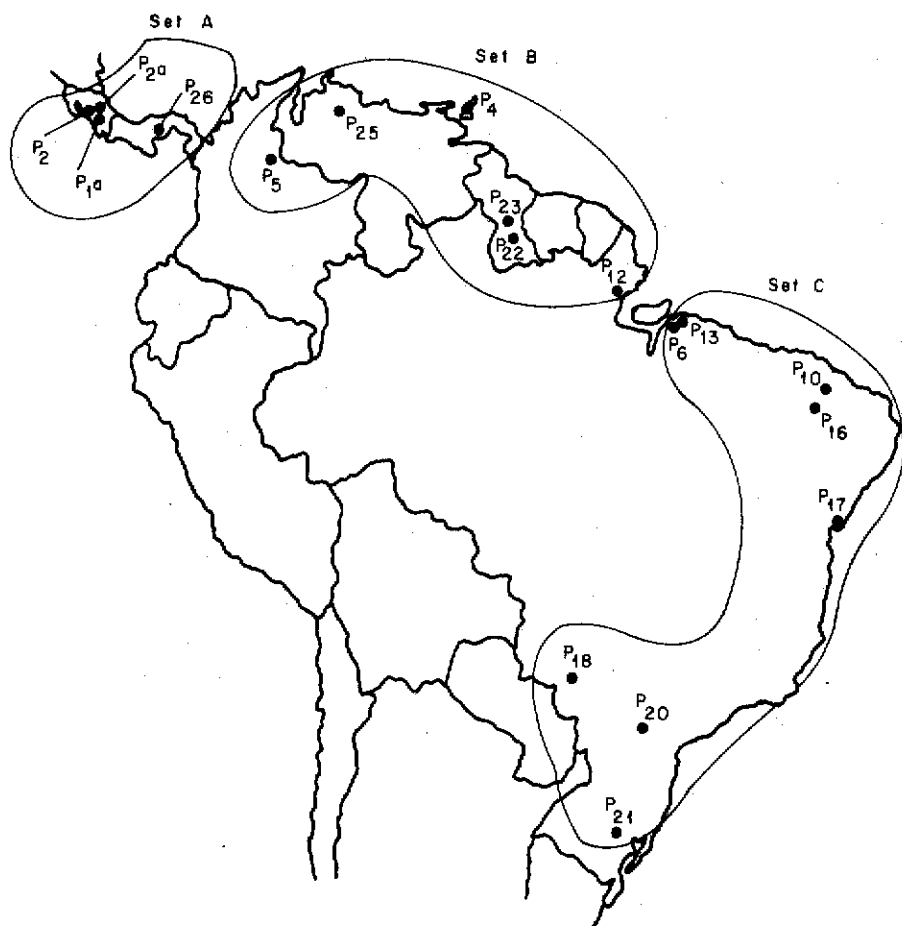


Figure 5. Distribution area of the 3 isolation Sets. Set A = strains from Central America; Set B = strains from South America, north of the Amazon River; Set C = strains from Brazil, south of the Amazon River.

Strain  $P_4$ , from Trinidad, deserves a special mention. This strain barely intercrossed with a single strain from Set A ( $P_{24}$ ), but intercrossed freely with the strains from Set B (except  $P_{24}$ ) and with all of the strains from set C. The decision to include  $P_4$  in set B and not in C was based mainly on geographical origin. In cases like this, it is possible that other methods may reveal lower degrees of isolation than those shown by mass mating crosses. On the other hand, we cannot discard the possibility that, if a greater number of mass crosses were prepared, few hybrids could be obtained in crosses which were completely sterile in these experiments. Anyway, the present data show very clearly the existence of a speciation process in progress in *D. prosaltans*.

In this study, laboratory strains were used. Many of them were kept as laboratory stocks for several years before these experiments were made. This situation must be mentioned because there is one well known case of origin of incipient isolation in the laboratory reported by Dobzhansky and Pavlovsky (1966, 1967, 1971) and Dobzhansky and Powell (1975). In *D. prosaltans*, however, the behavior of the strains consistent with their distribution area makes us believe that the isolation detected among the strains analyzed reflects the evolutionary stage of the natural populations from which they came, rather than an evolutionary response to laboratory conditions. Besides, the use of natural samples in studies of *D. prosaltans* is very difficult. This species, in spite of its large distribution area, is considered "rare". It has been collected, using different methods, in very low frequencies such as 1:10,000 (Cavalcanti, 1950), 1:2,700 (Pavan, 1959), and 1:200 to 1:2,000 (Mourão, 1966). A frequency of 1:50 was considered good (Bicudo *et al.*, 1978), but exceptionally good was a single collection of 28 *D. prosaltans* in 36 flies caught in the secretion of a *Campomanesia cagaiteira* Keaersk tree (Pavan, 1959). The impossibility of getting new samples using the same methods, and in the same places where the species was detected in previous collections, is another problem which has been mentioned by some authors (Cavalcanti, 1950; Pavan, 1959; this author's personal experience).

We still do not know if the "rarity" of flies in the collections really reflects the population size of *D. prosaltans* or is only the consequence of an almost complete absence of knowledge about feeding habits and their behavior in nature. Anyway, the "rarity" of the species makes the laboratory stocks very precious because they are the only available source of information on the species.

A discussion on the evolutionary status of *D. prosaltans* strains must involve concepts accepted by evolutionists. Ayala (1976) described 2 main stages in the geographic speciation. In the first, the allopatric populations (subspecies) exhibit incipient reproductive isolation in the form of partial hybrid sterility. In the second stage, the populations (semispecies) became sympatric and are

being submitted by natural selection to the development of more complete reproductive isolation mainly in the form of sexual isolation. Ayala (1976) mentioned, as examples of the first stage, 2 species from the willistoni group: *D. willistoni* and *D. equinoxialis* which are composed of 2 subspecies (*D. willistoni willistoni* and *D. w. quechua*, respectively, and *D. equinoxialis equinoxialis* and *D. e. caribbensis*). In both cases crosses of the subspecies in one direction produced sterile hybrid males, but no evidence of sexual isolation was obtained. The second stage of the speciation process was exemplified by *D. paulistorum* (also from the willistoni group), whose 6 semispecies show strong, although incomplete, ethological isolation and complete sterility of male  $F_1$  hybrids. Some of the semispecies of *D. paulistorum* are sympatric, with apparently complete sexual isolation.

Although isofemale lines of *D. prosaltans* are not available at present for detection of sympatric reproductive isolation, the situation in *D. prosaltans* is to some extent comparable to the situation encountered in *D. paulistorum*. The presence of sexual isolation and male hybrid sterility operating between strains from Central America (set A) and Brazil (set C), and between Central America and northern South America (set B) is an argument to classify the 3 sets as 3 semispecies. The results of crosses between strains from sets B and C are similar to those of Transitional semispecies of *D. paulistorum* in crosses with Central American semispecies. Strains in set B are closely related to strains in set C, but, while some crosses of B x C succeeded easily and the hybrids were fertile, other crosses showed some sexual isolation and male progeny was sterile.

Accumulated data on chromosomal polymorphism of *D. prosaltans* revealed a total of 14 inversions distributed in the chromosome arms as follows: XL - 7 inversions; XR - 1 inversion; IIL - 1 inversion; IIR - 3 inversions; III - 2 inversions (Bicudo *et al.*, 1978). The gene arrangements of *D. prosaltans* strains used in the present study are shown in Table II. Among the 3 sets, set A is the most homogeneous as to chromosomal polymorphism: all of the strains in this set are homozygous for the inversion PXL<sub>a</sub> and for the standard arrangements in the other chromosomes (The P<sub>2a</sub> strain has a homozygous and exclusive inversion overlapping PXL<sub>a</sub>: the PXL<sub>b</sub> inversion). However, the arrangements shared by the strains in set A are not exclusive of this set. The PXL<sub>a</sub> inversion was also found in the P<sub>1</sub> strain, included in set B and geographically close to set A; and the standard arrangements of chromosome arms XR, IIL, IIR and chromosome III were also found in some strains from sets B and C.

The distribution of the gene arrangements in the strains from sets B and C is as follows. Three inversions are shared by some strains from both sets (PIIL<sub>a</sub>, PIIR<sub>a</sub>, PIIL<sub>b</sub>), while other inversions are exclusive of set B (PIIR<sub>b</sub>, PIIR<sub>c</sub>) or exclusive of set C (PXL<sub>d</sub>, PXR<sub>a</sub>). However, in both sets the exclusive inversions

Table II - Chromosomal arrangements of strains in every set. Data from Cavalcanti (1948); Bicudo (1967, 1973); Bicudo et al. (1978).

SET	STRAIN	Chromosomal arrangements				
		XL	XR	IIL	IIR	III
A	P <sub>1a</sub>	a	+	+	+	+
	P <sub>2a</sub>	ab	+	+	+	+
	P <sub>3</sub>	a	+	+	+	+
	P <sub>26</sub>	a	+	+	+	+
B	P <sub>4</sub>	+	+	+	+	+
	P <sub>5</sub>	ac	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	a
	P <sub>25</sub>	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	<sup>+</sup> b	+
	P <sub>22</sub>	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	+	+
	P <sub>23</sub>	+	+	+	<sup>+</sup> bc	+
	P <sub>12</sub>	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	<sup>+</sup> a	<sup>+</sup> b
C	P <sub>6</sub>	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	+	+
	P <sub>15</sub>	+	+	a	<sup>+</sup> a	+
	P <sub>16</sub>	<sup>+</sup> d	+	a	+	+
	P <sub>18</sub>	d	+	+	<sup>+</sup> a	<sup>+</sup> b
	P <sub>17</sub>	d	+	a	+	+
	P <sub>19</sub>	<sup>+</sup> d	+	<sup>+</sup> a	+	<sup>+</sup> b
	P <sub>20</sub>	+	a	+	+	+
	P <sub>21</sub>	+	+	+	+	+

are only present in some of the strains.

The chromosomal 1 polymorphism in *D. prosaltans* strains of sets B and C resembles that of *D. paulistorum*, in which some inversions are shared by 2 or more semispecies, while other inversions are found in some species and not in others (Kastritsis, 1967, Dobzhansky and Powell, 1975). The monomorphism of *D. prosaltans* strains in set A is very interesting because it may be indicative of the origin and dispersion of the species.

According to Carson (1959), new strains arise mostly from peripheral populations of parental species. The peripheral populations are usually monomorphic (da Cunha et al., 1959; Carson, 1959). In this way the polymorphic sets of *D. prosaltans* strains (B and C) may be considered ancestral to set A. This idea is reinforced by comparison of the present isolation data with Kaneshiro's (1976) data. This investigator, in a study of Hawaiian *Drosophila*, assumed that females of derived species mate randomly with males of ancestral species but females of ancestral species show strong sexual discrimination against males of the more derived species. The justification was that the courtship pattern of the derived species has elements in common with the ancestral population so that the females may recognize those elements in the courtship of males of ancestral species. The same does not happen between females of ancestral species and males of derived species since the courtship of these males contains only some elements of the pattern of ancestral species.

Crosses between *D. prosaltans* strains from Central America and strains from Brazil showed sexual isolation which in most combinations was stronger when females were from Brazil than when they were from Central America.

Thus, based on Kaneshiro's assumption, it is also possible to consider Central America strains of *D. prosaltans* to be derived from South American strains. These observations are also consistent with the ideas of Throckmorton (1974) on the origin and spreading of the saltans subgroup. On the basis of the geographic distribution of the species (Magalhães, 1962), this author suggested that the saltans subgroup originated in South America, and diffused northward into Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The discovery of semispecies in *D. prosaltans* increases the opportunity of getting new information on the speciation process of the saltans group and may become useful in the approach to general problems such as the kind and the amount of genetic changes involved in speciation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Drs. Chana Malogolowkin-Coehn, R.H. Richardson

and H. L. Carson for particularly helpful discussions of this work. I would also like to thank Dr. A.B. da Cunha for reading and criticizing the manuscript and Dr. C. Daghlilan for checking the English. This research was partially supported by FAPESP and CNPq.

## REFERENCES

- Ayala, F.J. (1976). El proceso de la especiación y su base genética. *Ciência e Cultura*, 28:617-624.
- Bicudo, H.E.M.C. (1967). *Variabilidade cromossômica e isolamento reprodutivo em quatro espécies do subgrupo saltans (Drosophila)*. Ph. D. thesis, University of São Paulo, São Paulo.
- Bicudo, H.E.M.C. (1973). Chromosomal polymorphism in the saltans group of *Drosophila*. I. The saltans subgroup. *Genetica*, 44:520-552.
- Bicudo, H.E.M.C., Hosaki, M.K., Machado, J. and Marques, M.C.N. (1978). Chromosomal polymorphism in the saltans group of *Drosophila*. II. Further study on *D. prosaltans*. *Genetics* (In press).
- Carson, H.L. (1959). Genetic conditions which promote or retard the formation of species. *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 24:87-105.
- Cavalcanti, A.G.L. (1948). Geographic variation of chromosome structure in *Drosophila prosaltans*. *Genetics*, 33:529-536.
- Cavalcanti, A.G.L. (1950). *Contribuição à genética de populações naturais: análise dos gens autossômicos recessivos dos cromossomos II e III de Drosophila prosaltans Duda*. Edited by Departamento de Imprensa Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, 98 p.
- Coyne, J.A. (1976). Lack of genic similarity between two sibling species of *Drosophila* as revealed by varied techniques. *Genetics*, 84:593-607.
- da Cunha, A.B., Dobzhansky, Th., Pavlovsky, O., and Spassky, B. (1959). Genetics of natural populations. XXVIII. Supplementary data on the chromosomal polymorphism in *Drosophila willistoni* in its relation to the environment. *Evolution*, 13:389-404.
- Dobzhansky, Th. (1959). *Genetics and the origin of species*. 3rd. rev. ed., Columbia University Press, 364 p.
- Dobzhansky, Th. (1970). *Genetics of the Evolutionary Process*. Columbia University Press, 453 p.
- Dobzhansky, Th., and Pavlovsky, O. (1966). Spontaneous origin of an incipient species in *Drosophila paulistorum* complex. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 55: 727-733.



- Dobzhansky, Th., and Pavlovsky, O. (1966). Spontaneous origin of an incipient species of *Drosophila paulistorum* complex. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 55:727-733.
- Dobzhansky, Th., and Pavlovsky, O. (1967). Experiments on incipient species of *Drosophila paulistorum*. *Genetics*, 55: 141-156.
- Dobzhansky, Th., and Pavlovsky, O. (1971). Experimentally created incipient species of *Drosophila*. *Nature (London)*, 230:289-292.
- Dobzhansky, Th., and Powell, J.R. (1975). The *Willistoni* group of sibling species of *Drosophila*. In: *Handbook of Genetics, Vol. 3: Invertebrates of Genetic Interest* (King, R.C., Ed.) Plenum Publishing Corporation, New York, pp. 589-622.
- Dobzhansky, Th., and Spassky, B. (1959). *Drosophila paulistorum* a cluster of species in "statu nascendi". *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 45:419-428.
- Kaneshiro, K.Y. (1976). Ethological isolation and phylogeny in the *Planitibia* subgroup of Hawaiian *Drosophila*. *Evolution*, 30: 740-745.
- Kastritsis, C.D. (1967). A comparative study of the chromosomal polymorphs in the incipient species of the *Drosophila paulistorum* complex. *Chromosoma*, 23:180-202.
- King, M.C., and Wilson, A.C. (1975). Evolution at two levels: molecular similarities and biological differences between humans and chimpanzees. *Science*, 188: 107-116.
- Magalhães, L.E. (1962). Notes on the taxonomy, morphology and distribution of the saltans group of *Drosophila*, with descriptions of four new species. *Univ. of Texas Publ.*, 6205:135-154.
- Mourão, C.A. (1966). *Estudos ecológicos e taxonômicos em populações naturais do gênero Drosophila Fallen (1923) que habitam duas matas no município de Mirassol, S. Paulo*. Ph. D. thesis, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras, São José do Rio Preto (State of São Paulo).
- Pavan, C. (1959). Relações entre populações naturais de *Drosophila* e o meio ambiente. *Boletim da Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras da Universidade de São Paulo*, 221. *Biologia Geral*, 11, 81p.
- Richmond, R.C., and Dobzhansky, Th. (1976). Genetic differentiation within the Andean semispecies of *Drosophila paulistorum*. *Evolution*, 30:746-756.
- Throckmorton, L.H. (1975). The philogeny, ecology and geography of *Drosophila*. In: *Handbook of Genetics. Vol. 3. Invertebrates of Genetic Interest* (King, R.C., Ed.), Plenum Publishing Corporation, New York, pp. 421-469.
- Wilson, A.C. (1975). Evolutionary importance of gene regulation. *Stadler Symp.* 7:117-133.

(Received February 28, 1978)