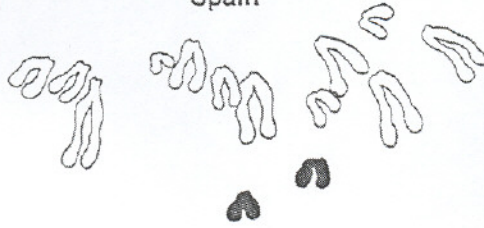


1st B-CHROMOSOME CONFERENCE

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B-chromosomes in the gomphocerine grasshoppers *Stauroderus scalaris* and *Chorthippus saxatilis*.

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B-chromosomes are present in gomphocerine grasshoppers *Stauroderus scalaris* from Siberia and *Chorthippus saxatilis* from Kazakhstan ($2n$ male = 17, NF = 23). They belong to the range of small chromosomes and are similar to chromosomes 6-7 in size and morphology. C-banding shows large blocks of heterochromatin similar to those present in the standard chromosome set. B chromosomes form bivalents and trivalents but do not pair with the standard set.

The origin of these B-chromosomes is discussed taking into account their similarities with the small standard autosomes. Thus, polysomy might be involved in the origin of these B-chromosome systems.