

# The phylogeny of nine species of the *Drosophila obscura* group inferred by the banding homologies of chromosomal regions

## II. Element E

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BREHM, A. and KRIMBAS, C. B. 1990. The phylogeny of nine species of the *Drosophila obscura* group inferred by the banding homologies of chromosomal regions. II. Element E. — *Hereditas* 113: 157–168. Lund, Sweden. ISSN 0018-0661. Received June 19, 1990. Accepted August 21, 1990

The phylogenetic relationships among nine species of *Drosophila* belonging to the *obscura* group were investigated by establishing (according to their banding similarities) the homologous chromosome segments of element E (equivalent to chromosome O of *D. subobscura*). The phylogenetic relationships were based on the existence of segments in different triads of species, which could only be produced by overlapping inversions. This permitted the ordering of the species belonging to each triad. *Drosophila obscura*, *D. ambigua* and *D. tristis* were found to be very closely related and thus forming a cluster in which *D. ambigua* occupies an intermediate position between the other two species. *Drosophila obscura* seems to be the species more directly linked to three other separate lineages, that of *D. subsilvestris*, the two African species (*D. microlabis* and *D. kitumensis*), and the *subobscura* cluster. The species from this last cluster may be ordered as follows: *D. subobscura* — *D. madeirensis* — *D. guanche*. It is not clear which species of this triad is the direct link to *D. obscura*. These results completely agree with those produced in an independent study, where element B was considered for the same nine species. Furthermore, the present study clarifies some ambiguities concerning the phylogenetic relationships which remained obscure due to the conservative nature of chromosome B.

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In the previous paper of this series (BREHM et al. 1990) we have reported the results of a study concerning the homologies of segments belonging to element B (according to the terminology of MULLER 1940) for nine species of the *obscura* group. From these data, phylogenetic relationships among these species were inferred. In the present study we pursue further the examination of the phylogenetic relations with data concerning element E for the same nine species. Thus, we are in a position to compare phylogenies derived from independent chromosomes and discuss their agreement.

The ultimate aim of these studies is to produce phylogenetic trees that will depict accurately the sequence of natural events that have occurred. Trees based on several studies of chromosomal data (there are five long chromosomal elements that can be studied independently) will be compared with DNA sequence data gathered from the same species. A consensus tree, eventually produced, could be considered as a good approximation to the "natural" tree. It can then be used to replace invented trees in simulation procedures in order to test the per-

formance of different genetic distance estimators and/or algorithms for tree construction when electrophoretic and molecular data are utilized. The adoption of the most efficient distance estimators and algorithms is a valuable information for those using electrophoretic or, possibly, other kinds of data to detect phylogenetic relationships.

Until now, some studies have appeared in which banding similarities are used in order to ascertain homologies between sections or regions of salivary gland chromosomes of *Drosophila* (for the *D. melanogaster* subgroup, see LEMEUNIER and ASHBURNER 1976, 1984, for the Hawaiian picture wing *Drosophila*, see CARSON and KANESHIRO 1976, for the *repleta* group WASSERMAN 1982, and for the *virilis* group, see THROCKMORTON 1982), but these generally concern species that are evolutionary closely related. It is indeed difficult, but by no means impossible (STALKER 1972), to deal with *Drosophila* species further apart. Regarding the *obscura* group of species, phylogenies based on overlapping inversions have been constructed for the *pseudoobscura* cluster (DOBZHANSKY 1970), the *bifasciata* cluster

(YAMAGUCHI 1973), and for the subgroup *affinis* (MILLER 1977). Finally, KRIMBAS and LOUKAS (1984) and BREHM and KRIMBAS (1990a), homologized the species from the *subobscura* cluster. However, a serious work trying to link the different clusters from the subgroup *obscura* using such a classical approach has not been conducted until now.

Attempts to establish a phylogeny for the *obscura* group of species have been made using diverse techniques. LAKOVAARA et al. (1976), LOUKAS et al. (1984), CABRERA et al. (1983), and CARIOU et al. (1988) constructed phylogenetic trees using electrophoretic data. Most of the times the patterns depicted by such trees are not in agreement with each other. The first two works appear to be the ones more consistent either with morphological characters or chromosome banding pattern data. In the tree depicted by Cariou et al., the *obscura* cluster seems to occupy a central position in the group, from which the *subobscura*, the African, and the *pseudobscura* clusters may have departed, which is supported by the data we present here.

Mitochondrial DNA also has been used to track phylogenetic relationships. The technique, while having a wide range of applications between populations of the same species (AVISE et al. 1979a) or very closely related species (AVISE et al. 1979b), has severe limitations. LATORRE et al. (1986) could not find the European population of *D. subobscura* from which the colonizers of Chile (and the rest of the New World) may have originated and, attempting to do a phylogeny for the *obscura* group, clustered the species in evident opposition to data obtained from morphological characters, chromosomal homologies, and electrophoretic markers (LATORRE et al. 1988).

More recently GODDARD et al. (1990), using DNA-DNA hybridization, made a phylogeny for 5 species from the *obscura* group, but none in common to the nine studied by us.

The present study and the data in BREHM et al. (1990) prove that using an especially rich photographic material chromosomal homologies can be established for most part, if not for the entire length, of the chromosome even if the species involved are not so closely related.

## Material and methods

*D. subobscura* strains used in this study, originated from Crete (monomorphic for the  $O_{3,4}$  gene arrangement) and from Switzerland (Kusnacht, mo-

nomorphic for the  $O_{st}$  gene arrangement). *D. madeirensis* and *D. guanche* strains originated, respectively, from the Madeira and Canary Islands. One strain of *D. kitumensis* and another of *D. microlabis* both originated from Kenya (CARIOU et al. 1988). A number of European strains of *D. obscura* were investigated but the gene arrangement depicted in the photographs is found in a strain from Switzerland. One strain of *D. tristis*, one from *D. ambigua*, and one from *D. subsilvestris*, all from Switzerland, were also used.

Details on culture of strains, salivary gland preparations and photography of slides are as the ones described in BREHM et al. (1990).

Except for the species belonging to the *subobscura* cluster (*D. subobscura*, *D. madeirensis* and *D. guanche*) the species studied do not hybridize.

## Results

From the comparison of a number of homologous segments produced by overlapping inversions between triads of the nine species studied, it became apparent that the arrangement displayed by *D. obscura* occupies an intermediate position. Thus, we decided to use this species as a pivotal extant gene arrangement with which all others are directly or indirectly compared. Of course this species displays an extremely rich inversion polymorphism which is discussed elsewhere (BREHM and KRIMBAS 1990b). We chose one common gene arrangement, which we present here, in order to proceed to comparisons with the other species studied. This gene arrangement was divided in 13 sections in order to facilitate identification of segments in the other species.

Except for *D. obscura*, *D. subobscura* and *D. kitumensis* all the other species are considered to be monomorphic for this chromosome. *D. obscura* is polymorphic for 6 inversions but none of them is useful for determining phylogenetic relationships with any of the other 8 species studied. *D. kitumensis* is polymorphic for an inversion by which it differs from its closely related species, *D. microlabis*.

Segment of chromosomes from all species, displayed in Fig. 3 to 5, are compared with segments of *D. obscura* that can be exactly located in the entire sequence of this species, displayed in Fig. 1 and 2. In order to avoid doubtful inferences, the overlapping homologies used to construct the unrooted phylogenetic tree presented in the Discussion are made of segments for which the banding patterns are clearly identical in a given triad of species.



Fig. 1.

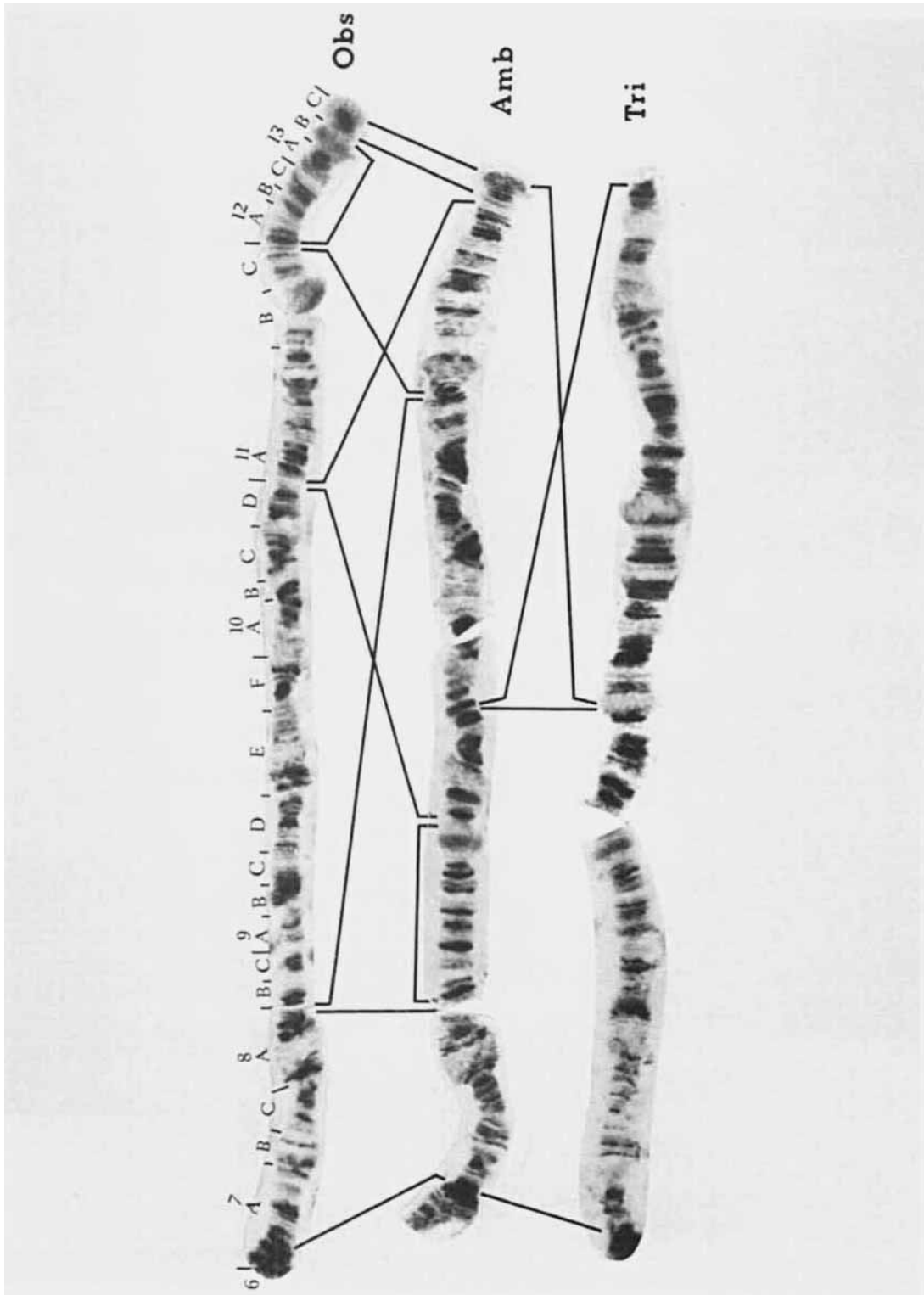


Fig. 2.

It seems relatively simple to derive *D. ambigua*'s gene arrangement from that of *D. obscura* (Fig. 1 and 2). Only four inversions are needed for that, two located in the left arm and two overlapping ones in the right arm; these last ones produce the displacement of a segment comprising sections 12A to 13B by inverting it twice subsequently. *D. tristis* differs only by one inversion from *D. ambigua*; however, this inversion is an overlapping one on the previously mentioned inversions in the right arm of *D. ambigua*. This observation permitted us to order the gene arrangements of the three species depicted in the following sequence, according to the principles stated by STURTEVANT and DOBZHANSKY (1936) and DOBZHANSKY (1937):

*D. obscura* — *D. ambigua* — *D. tristis*

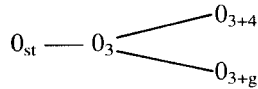
The gene sequences of these two species in relation to the *D. obscura*'s standard gene arrangement are

<i>ambigua</i>	1AB/4A-1C/4DCB/5A-8A/12A-13B/10D-8B/11CBA/13C
<i>tristis</i>	1AB/4A-1C/4DCB/5A-8A/12A-13B/10DCB/13C/11ABC/8B-10A

The chromosomal element E of *D. guanche* compared with that of *D. obscura* indicates extensive rearrangements. *D. guanche* (as well as its closely related *D. subobscura* and *D. madeirensis*) have an acrocentric chromosome while in all other species examined it is metacentric. The centromere of *D. guanche*'s element E lies at the extreme left part of the chromosome, as depicted in Fig. 3. The homology of segments 3C/4A is not completely convincing, but after consulting a great amount of photographs for this region we are inclined to interpret them as homologous. For other segments we could not find any correspondence between the two species. The remaining segments show fairly good homologies and some could be easily identified with the help of landmarks as, for example, the puff regions of subsections 5BC and 11B.

The situation between the three species, *D. subobscura*, *D. madeirensis* and *D. guanche* is quite clear because of the presence of overlapping inversions. *D. madeirensis* has a gene arrangement characterized by inversion  $0_3$  (which is fixed in all

chromosomes 0, equivalent to the E element), while in *D. guanche* over the inversion  $0_3$  another one is superimposed specific to it (KRIMBAS and LOUKAS 1984). *D. subobscura* has several arrangements deriving from two basic ones: one bears the combination 3+4 (that is an inversion  $0_4$  superimposed (overlapping) on inversion  $0_3$ ), and a second one is  $0_{st}$ . The order of gene arrangements, according to the rule of Sturtevant and Dobzhansky, is

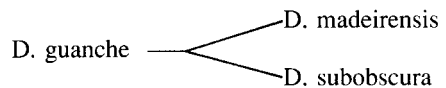


where g is an inversion specific to *D. guanche*.

*D. subobscura* natural populations contain both  $0_{st}$  and  $0_{3+4}$  gene arrangements but not  $0_3$ . We may suppose that, originally,  $0_3$ , the middle gene arrangement of the triad, was sometimes present also in *D. subobscura* but has been lost later on, probably according to WALLACE'S rule (1953a, b). This rule predicts that the middle member of a triad tends to be selectively lost in order to preserve coadapted gene blocks included in the two extreme members of the triad. Taking all this into consideration, the ordering of the three *subobscura* cluster species may be indicated as follows either:

*D. guanche* — *D. madeirensis* — *D. subobscura*

or, if we take into consideration that *D. subobscura* once contained also the  $0_3$  gene arrangement:



From the data gathered it is not possible to know which one of the three species is directly related to *D. obscura*. This species could be more directly derived either by an  $0_{3+g}$ ,  $0_3$  or  $0_{st}$  arrangement but not by  $0_{3+4}$ . The arrangement  $0_{3+4}$  could not be a link to *D. obscura*. As shown in Fig. 3, the segment 7AB and part of C is clearly homologized to *D. guanche*. The inversion 4 (from the arrangement  $0_{3+4}$ ), marked as 2/2 on the chromosome of this last species, would split the segment 7ABC into two. The breakage points for the other inversions ( $0_3$ ,  $0_{3+g}$  and  $0_{st}$ ) do not lie in any homologized segment

**Fig. 1 and 2.** Homologies of the small and long arms of element E from *D. obscura* (OBS), *D. ambigua* (AMB), and *D. tristis* (TRI). The Standard gene arrangement of *D. obscura* is depicted and divided in sections in order to facilitate the recognition of segments in the other species. In order to get a better visualization of the homologies, the photographs were cut in appropriate places to make them linear. Thus all intervals (nicks, \*) between places of chromosome photographs do not correspond to genetic material.

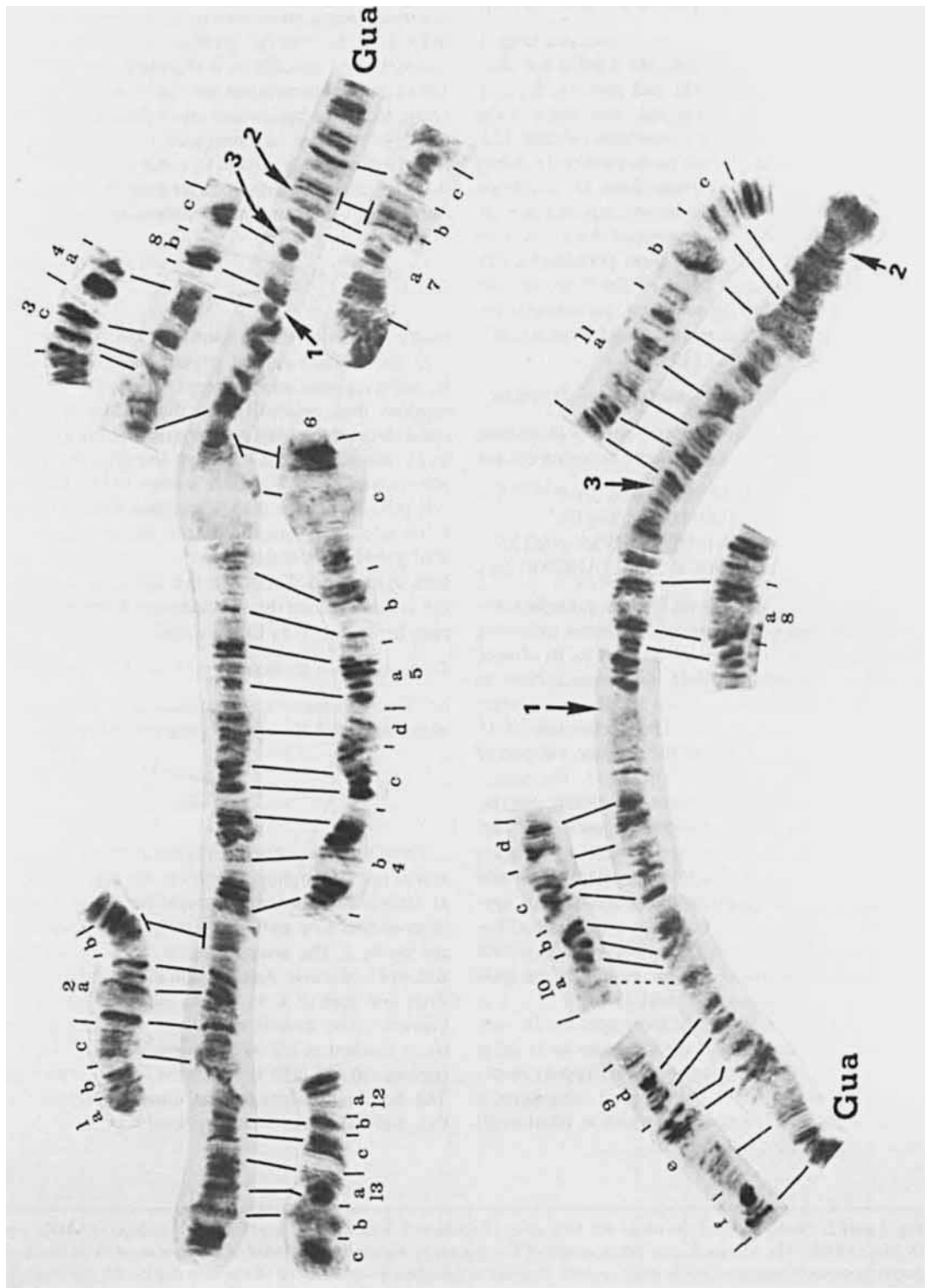


Fig. 3.

and thus can not provide a clue for inferring which of them is the link to the standard arrangement of *D. guanche*.

In Fig. 3 we indicate the breakage points of these inversions by arrows on the *D. guanche* chromosome: 1/1 refers to the inversion specific to *D. guanche*, 3/3 to that of the 0<sub>3</sub>, and 2/2 to that of 0<sub>4</sub>. These breakage points may not coincide with those of MOLTO and MARTINEZ-SEBASTIAN (1986) and MOLTO et al. (1987) but have been derived from the comparison of photographs of the gene arrangements mentioned above.

All three species from the *subobscura* cluster could have been derived only from *D. obscura* (and not from *D. ambigua* or *D. tristis*). The proof for this assertion is segment 4B–5C, which is intact only in *D. obscura* and every species of the *subobscura* cluster.

*D. guanche* could not be derived directly from *D. subsilvestris*. In *D. guanche*, segment 10ABCD is intact, as it is in *D. obscura*, but in *D. subsilvestris* it is split into two. Besides, in *D. guanche*, the segment 8BC is not followed by the bands of section 9A. Segment 8BC9A is a landmark for the remaining species (it appears unchanged in *D. subsilvestris*, the African, and the *obscura* cluster).

The gene sequence of *D. guanche* chromosome expressed in terms of the standard map of *D. obscura* is the following:

...13B-12B/.../1C-2B/4B-5C/.../3C4A/8BC/7A-C/.../9F-D/10A-D/.../8A/.../11A-11C/...

In Fig. 4, the relationships of segments from *D. subsilvestris*'s chromosome have been established with respect to those of *D. obscura*. In spite of having large homologous portions, *D. subsilvestris* comprises many displaced and/or inverted segments.

The picture on the small arm of both species is clear, with the exception, perhaps, of subsection 3B. The other arm, on the contrary, presents more difficulties. Homologies of subsections 12C/13A are doubtful and should be simply considered as our interpretation. The other photographs are convincing enough for the remaining segments. Subsection 13B, in spite of being just a small puff, is a well-known landmark. The gene sequence of *D.*

*subsilvestris* in relation to that of *D. obscura* is the following:

3C-5B/1BA/3B-1C/5C-8A/10AB/9B-F/13B/10DC/12C/9A-8B/13A/12B-11A/13C.

*D. subsilvestris* could not be derived from *D. ambigua* or *D. tristis* but only from *D. obscura*. The segment 4B to 5C is carried by *D. obscura* and *D. subsilvestris* but not by the other two species. It contains one of the breakage points for an inversion in the transition from *D. obscura* to *D. ambigua* (and consequently to *D. tristis*). The same segment excludes all hypotheses in which any of the African species is an intermediate step between the two species *D. obscura* and *D. subsilvestris*.

In Fig. 5 the gene arrangement of another cluster of species is depicted, that of the two African, *D. kitumensis* and *D. microlabis*. The direct comparison is made between *D. kitumensis* and *D. obscura*. Some small segments in this case remain unidentified as far as their correspondence is concerned. *D. kitumensis* is polymorphic for an inversion by which it differs from the gene arrangement of *D. microlabis*, as indicated in Fig. 5.

Segments of the *D. obscura* element E were homologized either to *D. microlabis* or to *D. kitumensis*, depending of the quality of photographs. Some of the homologies were arrived at with the help of classical landmarks like the puffs of subsections 5C and 11B. If the small arm is reasonably recognized (with the exception of two small segments and subsection 1AB, which are not so clear), problems arise with the longer arm. We did not find any correspondence for the entire section 7 and subsections 13BC. However, an important segment, 8A–9A, was easily homologized, and in *D. subsilvestris* its resemblance with *D. kitumensis* is even more clear. This segment includes one breakage point of a big inversion, which makes the difference between *D. kitumensis* and *D. microlabis*, fixing a seriation of this cluster with *D. obscura* as

*D. microlabis* — *D. kitumensis* — *D. obscura*

Segment 10CD11A can be found in *D. kitumensis* and in *D. obscura*, but not in *D. subsilvestris*, where it is splitted in two separate segments.

A careful reading of subsections 10AB shows

**Fig. 3.** Homologies of element E between *D. guanche* (GUA) and *D. obscura*. *D. guanche* is shown in its complete sequence. The number 6 always represents the centromere. Arrows with numbers 1 to 3 are breakpoints of known inversions of the *subobscura* cluster (1 is of the g inversion, 2 of 0<sub>3</sub> and 3 of 0<sub>4</sub>).

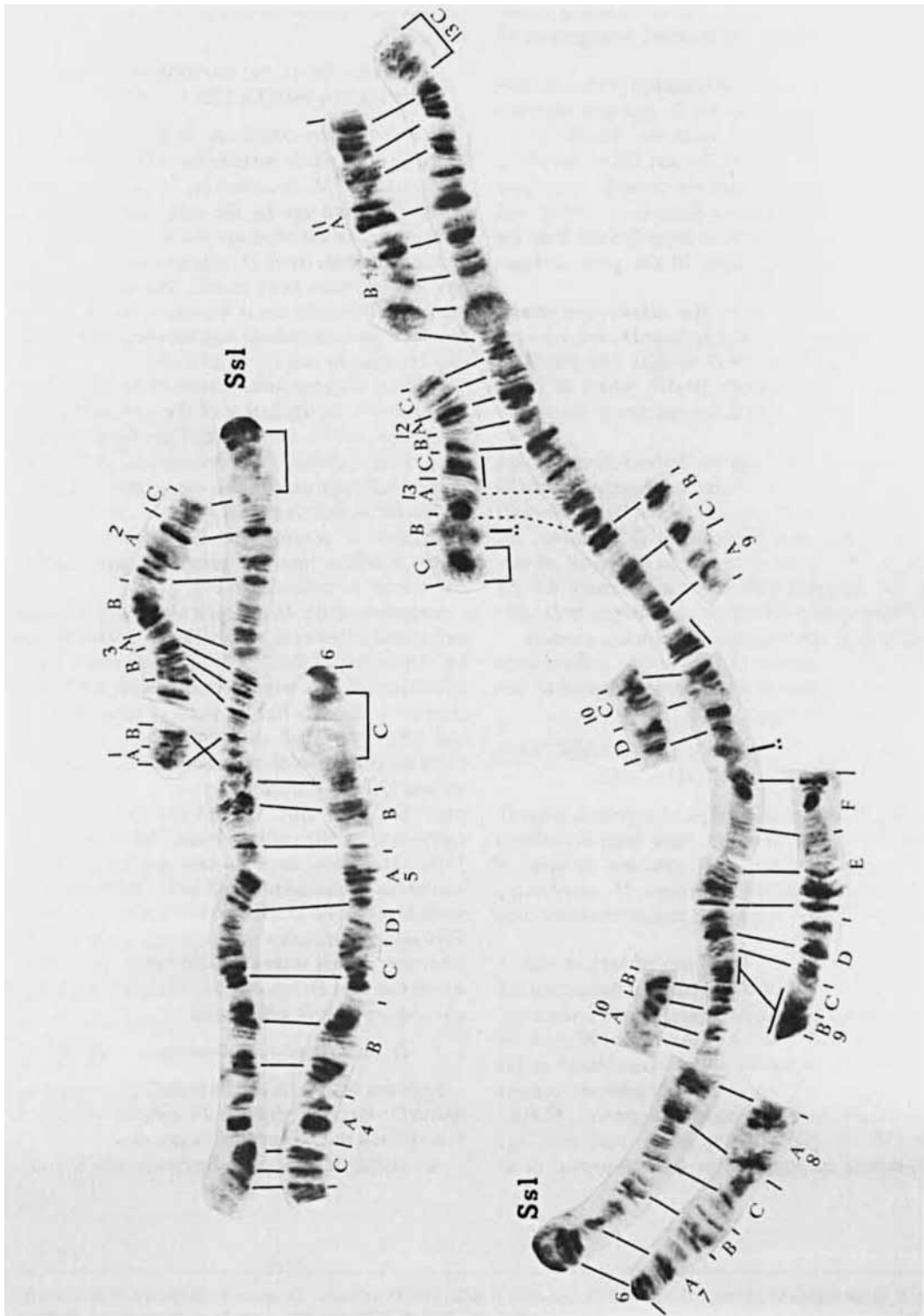
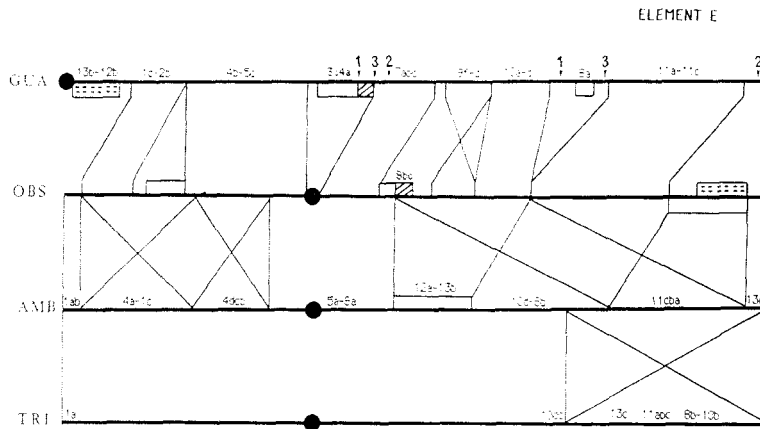


Fig. 4. Homologies of element E between *D. subsilvestris* (SSL) and segments of *D. obscura*. *D. subsilvestris* is shown in its complete gene sequence.







**Fig. 6 and 7.** Schematic representation of homologies between the nine species used in the present study. Segments that are found inverted in two species are indicated by crossed lines or boxes with arrows with inverted directions. When there are more, then one pair of boxes is used between two species, their correspondence is indicated by using different patterns. Sections of each segment are numbered according to the photographic map of *D. obscura*, and in accordance to the ones depicted in Fig. 1 to 5. Numbers 1 to 3 on *D. guanche* chromosome indicate the specific inversions differentiating the three species of the *subobscura* cluster (see text). The black circle represents the centromere.

**Fig. 6.**

that it is the same in *D. obscura* and *D. kitumensis* but some other remaining segments are unknown or doubtful, because of their small size, which does not permit to establish with certainty the homologies. The complete gene sequence of *D. kitumensis* is

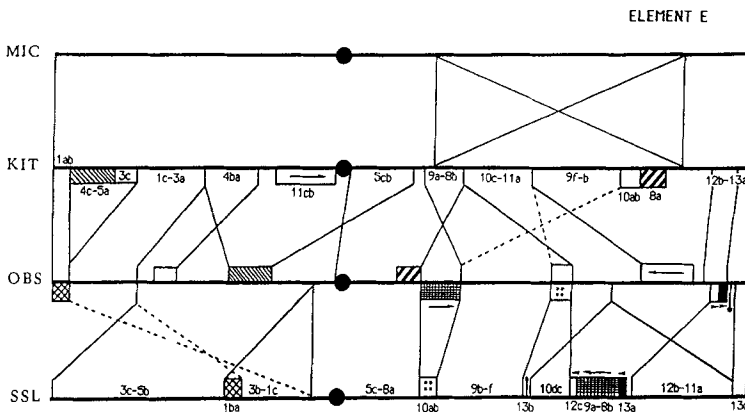
1AB/4C-5A/3C/1C-3A/4BA/3B/11CB/6/5CB/  
.../9A-8B/10C-11A/9F-B/10AB/8A/.../12B-  
13A/...

where  $\overline{3C}$  means that the segment is inverted in relation to the position it occupies in *D. obscura*.

## Discussion

The data presented here can be summarized in the drawings of Fig. 6 and 7. In these Figures the homologies of segments among all chromosomes of the nine species studied are shown. Detection of homologous sections was made in part with the help of six puff regions which appear unchanged in all species studied and are situated in subsections 2A, 5C, 8A, 11A (part), 11B and 13B from the map of *D. obscura*. These puff regions behave like landmarks, having the same function as, for example, the sites of label of a number of repetitive genes used by STEINMANN et al. (1984) in an attempt to investigate chromosomal homologies in the *obscura* group

of species. Two of the recombinant DNA clones ( $\lambda$ Dmir 1023 and  $\lambda$ Dmir 1025) reported by these authors are situated in element E in the four species common to our work (*subobscura*, *obscura*, *ambigua*, *subsilvestris*). One other clone (12D8) was labeled on the E element in *subobscura* and *obscura*, but on the B element in *ambigua* and *subsilvestris*. In none of these cases do the authors present the exact localization of the label sites as well as the complete homologous segments of the same chromosome in all species studied. Also FELGER and PINSKER (1987) made a phylogeny for 7 species, all from the *obscura* group, using the histone genes' label sites as landmarks, in spite of these genes not being located in homologous chromosomal elements and varying in their number in the species studied. They constructed two phylogenetic trees for the species of the *subobscura* and *obscura* clusters, based on the number of inversions needed to pass from one to another species. However, these authors do not present a comparison of chromosome banding homologies to make these numbers reliable. We do not agree with the data of FELGER and PINSKER (1987) concerning the species from the *subobscura* cluster (see BREHM and KRIMBAS 1990a) as well as those concerning the E element, which do not coincide with the data presented here. Felger and Pinsker found a four inversions difference between *ambigua* and *obscura*, four between *ambigua* and *tristis*, and eight between *obscura* and *tristis*.



in opposition to our present results which are four, one and five, respectively. However, it is possible that the differences are due to the use of strains with more complicated gene arrangements.

The present work is the first that presents element E banding sequence homologies for the nine species studied. Based on these homologies and using *only* qualitative criteria, that is to say, the rule of triads of gene arrangements enunciated by Sturtevant and Dobzhansky, we may be able to arrive at a phylogenetic topology, an unrooted phylogenetic tree, in the following way. It has been noted already that the three species of the *subobscura* cluster, regarding the inversions  $O_g$ ,  $O_3$  and  $O_4$ , can be arranged in the linear way:

*D. subobscura* — *D. madeirensis* — *D. guanche*

Furthermore, based on the inversions of the right arm of *D. tristis* and the two other species of the *obscura* cluster we may arrive at the ordering:

*D. obscura* — *D. ambigua* — *D. tristis*

In case *D. kitumensis* would lose its polymorphism and get fixed for the alternative gene arrangement to that fixed in *D. microlabis*, we would also produce an ordering of a third triad.

*D. microlabis* — *D. kitumensis* — *D. obscura*

Three more orderings may be added to these, all of them deriving from the data summarized in Fig. 6 and 7:

*D. subsilvestris* — *D. obscura* — *D. kitumensis*,

based on the inversions of the small arm of element E;

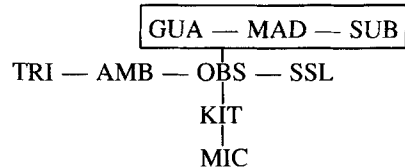
*D. kitumensis* — *D. obscura* — *D. guanche*,

based on the segments 4AB and 4B-5C; and finally

*D. subsilvestris* — *D. obscura* — *D. guanche*,

based on the segments 3C-5B and 4B-5C. To these data one should add that *D. subsilvestris*, *D. obscura*, and the two African species share a segment, 8BC9A, which is not found intact in the remaining species studied here.

There is only one way to arrange all these orderings, respecting also this constraint, in an unrooted phylogenetic tree:



This topological arrangement agrees completely with the one presented in the first paper of this series, dealing with element B, in which three separate lineages (that of the two African species, *D. subsilvestris*, and the *subobscura* cluster) derived independently from the members of the *obscura* cluster. Due to the conservative nature of the B element this tree contained a restricted amount of information. Element E is a much richer source of information, and we can furthermore clarify several features of this topology. Thus the species of the *subobscura* cluster are resolved, as well as those of

the *obscura* cluster; it is not clear which one of the species of the *subobscura* cluster is directly linked to *D. obscura*. This last species holds a pivotal place, from which four different lineages are derived. The excellent agreement between two trees, derived from independent sources of data (two independent chromosomes), is a strong indication for the validity of the qualitative method used.

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