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CYTOGENETIC DATA ABOUT SOME BRAZILIAN ACCESSIONS OF *PASPALUM*. Luciene Regina Carraro, Patricia Matias de Freitas, Maria Suely Pagliarini, Neide Silva, DBC/UEM, Maringá-PR. Luiz Alberto Rocha Batista. CPPSE/EMBRAPA, São Carlos-SP.

Although the cytogenetic studies on genus *Paspalum* have been started six decades ago, no more than 100 species have been evaluated. Several species are economically important for forage, turf and ornamental purposes. The botanical composition of natural grassland communities in Brazil shows a high contribution of species of this genus. Despite the enormous genetic variability existent, few forage options are available. About 215 accessions of some species from different regions of Brazil are under evaluation at the CPPSE/EMBRAPA. The studies are directed at the choice of accessions for intra- and interspecific hybridization. As polyploid is frequent in the genus and it is correlated with apomixis, the knowledge of chromosome number is essential to the breeders. Young inflorescences were collected at CPPSE and fixed in Carnoy for 24 h and then transferred to 70% alcohol and stored under refrigeration. Microsporocytes were prepared by squashing and staining with 1% propionic carmine. The chromosome number and the pairing relationships were determined in diakinesis. Twenty eight accessions belonging to 12 species and 20 accessions not yet identified were analyzed. Among them, five presented $2n=2x=20$, fourty presented $2n=4x=40$ and three presented $2n=6x=60$ chromosomes. The diploid accessions showed only bivalent associations at diakinesis, while in the tetraploid the pairing relationships were irregular with the chromosomes associating as univalents, bivalents and quadrivalents. The frequency of multivalents in tetraploid accessions suggest that the most of them are segmental allotetraploid. There was no evidence for autotetraploidy among the accessions analyzed. The results showed the among the 48 accessions, only the five diploid present potential for breeding program.

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