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**Karyotype analysis of two *Ophiopogon* species  
(Convallariaceae) from Taiwan and the Ryukyus of Japan**

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The genus *Ophiopogon* is an evergreen perennial herb that forms attractive clumps of simple, linear, and lush leaves with spikes of showy white flowers. In the Ryukyu Archipelago, besides *O. jaburan* (Kunth) Lodd., which have been listed in the floras of this area, *O. reversus* C.C. Huang was recently reported from Yonaguni-jima in the southern Ryukyus. Apart from the Ryukyus, *O. reversus* is distributed in southern China (Hainan Island, western Guangxi and Hong Kong) and Taiwan.

Accumulation of cytological data is important to deepen our understanding of the cytotaxonomical features of the genus *Ophiopogon*. With regard to *O. reversus*, however, no cytological observations have been made to date. This study is intended to reveal the karyotype of *O. reversus* collected in Taiwan and the southern Ryukyus for accumulating cytotaxonomical information of the genus. *Ophiopogon jaburan* collected from the central Ryukyus was also examined for comparison.

All plants of *O. reversus* and *O. jaburan* investigated were the diploid ( $2n=36$ ). Somatic metaphase chromosomes of these two species consisted of one pair of long (ca. 7.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ) metacentric chromosomes, two pairs of medium-sized (ca. 5.7 to 4.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ) submetacentric chromosomes, and 15 pairs of short (ca. 3.8 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ) metacentric or submetacentric chromosomes. Among 36 chromosomes of *O. reversus*, one pair of short chromosomes with submedian centromeres had secondary constrictions at the proximal region of the long arms. While in *O. jaburan*, one pair of short metacentric chromosomes had secondary constrictions at the proximal region of the short arms. Although *O. reversus* is morphologically resemblant to *O. jaburan*, these two species are clearly distinguishable from each other based on this cytotaxonomical character.

As indicated by Tanaka (2001), misidentification between *O. reversus* and *O. jaburan* might cause problems in identifying the distribution range and abundance of *O. reversus* in the southern Ryukyus. It remains unclear whether *O. reversus* and *O. jaburan* occur sympatrically in the southern Ryukyus or whether their distribution does not overlap in this area. For further study to reveal the relationship between *O. reversus* and *O. jaburan* and for deepening our understanding of the flora of the Ryukyus and Taiwan, distribution of these two species in the southern Ryukyus must be reinvestigated through careful and precise identification.