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Author(s)	SHIMA, Toshio
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Some Aspects of Courtship Behavior in Drosophila nigromaculata, with Regard to Sperm Storage¹⁾²⁾

By

Toshio Shima³⁾

Zoological Institute, Hokkaido University (With 1 Text-figure and 3 Tables)

Drosophila nigromaculata belongs to the quinaria species group of the subgenus Drosophila (Kikkawa and Peng, 1938). It is remarkable for its wide geographical distribution in Hokkaido (Momma 1957; Shima 1960; Wakahama et al. 1963; Kaneko and Shima 1965; Makino et al. 1964, 1965, and some others).

Since 1958, the present author has undertaken a study on some sexual activity of *D. nigromaculata*. Insemination reaction and sperm storage in once-mating specimens were published by Shima (1966a, b). This paper reports the results of some observations, regarding courtship behavior, remating and sperm storage of this species in homogamic matings.

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Material and method: Two strains of flies coming from Sapporo and Matsumae (southern part of Hokkaido) were used for study. These strains have been maintained in the laboratory for two or three years. After emergence, males and females were kept separately at a constant temperature of 20°C for 8 days, at the time when sexual activity reached its maximum. Flies of uniform ages were employed for the study of courtship behavior. Two females were placed together with one male in a clean vial of 1.5×7.5 cm, and they were observed through a period of 30 minutes. The male choice method was adopted for the observation (Dobzhansky and Mayr 1944). Courtship behavior was analyzed and recorded according to the nomenclature described by Spieth (1952).

1) This paper is dedicated to Professor Sajiro Makino, Zoological Institute, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, in honor of his sixtieth birthday, June 21, 1966.

2) Contribution No. 735 from the Zoological Institute, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.

3) Present address: Hokkaido Science Educational Center, Sapporo

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T. Shima

The remating experiments were carried out in 120 small vials as follows: the first mated female was placed individually per a vial, into with two virgin males. Virgin males were always used as the second mate. After been placed with the

Days after first mating	Number	Total		
(8 days after emergence)	second mating	non remating	examined	
2-7	0	20	20	
8	13	7	20	
9	15	5	20	
10	18	2	20	
11	18	2	20	
12	20	0	20	

Table 1 Number of females remated on various days after the first mating

second males, the females were kept under observation for a period of 2 hours. If the second mating did not ensue during the observation period, the female was separated from the second males. On the next day the same female was paired again with the second male. When the second matings occurred, the second males were removed, and the remated females were individually subcultured. Further, the mating more than twice was also tested in a few females. Some of females used in the second mating test were dissected at varying intervals ranging from 2-5minutes to about 4 days after copulation. The preparation was covered with a coverglass, with special care. The reproductive tract was observed under a binocular microscope.

The test of male potential in successive insemination was carried out as follows: A virgin male was placed together with four females in a vial. Observations were made for 4 hours.

Generally the observations were made in the morning at room temperatures ranging from 23 to 26° C. All the flies were cultured at a constant temperature of 20° C, use being made of the standard medium.

Results

Courtship behavior of *D. nigromaculata* was described as below:

1) Shortly after a pair of flies were placed in a vial, the male oriented himself toward the passing female. He quickly followed her, either with rapid vibration of his wings (usually, more than 10 strokes), or directing his wings slightly upward, and keeping this angle.

2) The female reacted towards the courting male as follows: either she faced the male directly, or moved her abdomen when the male displayed his wings. Finally she either stood still to receive the male or left him.

764

3) The male tapped the female first with one or both of his fore legs on her wing of one side, and finally on her genital region and then with the proboscis.

4) He circled her and made a dance head to head with her, sometimes touching her antinnae with his own, or he remained at a small distance from her. When the female remained stationarily he could made circling completely around her several times (either clockwise or counter-clockwise).

5) Then the male licked her genitalia with his proboscis, while in most cases the female spread her wings in a sharp angle upwards.

6) The male mounted and grasped the posterior part of her thorax, unless she did not refuse him by kicking, fluttering her wings, running or flying away, closing her wings and twisting her abdomen towards inside.

Immediately after copulation, the female usually made a movement of circle from left to right or inversely in the state of mounts and sometimes took a short walk, and finally stood still.

Shortly after copulation, most males reassumed courtship behavior to other females in the vicinity.

The males courted continuously up from 5 seconds to 20 minutes. Courtship duration of the male was in general prolonged when the female was not ready to mating, but a long courtship sometimes seemed to be effective to put unreceptive females in mating condition. Copulation usually took place after courtship of 10 to 60 second. Average time of copulation was about 6 minutes. It was sometimes reduced by female's refusal during copulation. No attempt was made to examine whether these short time copulatios included ejaculation, or not. Generally, courtship patterns of this species were not different between the first and the second matings.

The results of remating were given in the accompanying Table 1 and 2. The duration until occurrence of the second mating after the first mating varied from 8 days to 12 days, except a few females (Table 1). When females were dissected soon after copulation, the ventral receptacle and the spermathecae were completely filled with sperm, and reaction mass reached its maximum size at an hour as shown in Fig. 1 C, in similar manner to the first mated females. A great number of sperm were retained in the storage organs for several days (Fig. 1 and Table 2).

The uniform aged virgin males (8 days after emergence) were used, as test of a male potential in successive insemination, to mate in succession with several 8days-aged virgin females. It was evident that a male was capable of mating with three different females within 3 or 4 hours. The dissection of females confirmed that some males were especially able to inseminate as many as six different females within a period of 3 days.

Discussion

Courtship is the ritual which precedes mating, and the components of this ritual are so specific that they may be useful for taxonomic characteristics T. Shima

	Number of	T		Sperm	Remarks		
dissection	dissected females	reaction	uterus	$\operatorname{terus} egin{array}{c} \operatorname{ventral} & \operatorname{sper} \\ \operatorname{recep.} & \operatorname{the} \end{array}$			
before remating	15	none		+	+	8 days after first mating	
$2 \mathrm{minutes}$	15	reaction mass in uterus	-+++	++	+	few sperm in both organs	
$5 \mathrm{minutes}$	20	small mass	++	++	#	highly motile sperm in both organs	
30 minutes	15	mass enlarge	+	++	++	same condition	
60 minutes	15	mass maximum	+		++	ventral recepta- cle full of sperm	
2 hours	15	densely mass	+	+#	\ 	both organs full of sperm	
12 hours	15	same condition		+	-+++	same condition	
24 hours	15	clearing	_	++	+#	sperm reduced in both organs	
48 hours	15	uterus normal	-	++	#	sperm more re- duced	
96 hours	15	no change	-	+	++	sperm more re- duced in vent- ral receptacle	
∰ large an	nount of spen	rm ++ less speri	m +	a few sp	erm –	no sperm	

Table 2 Insemination reaction, and survival of sperm within the ventral receptacle and spermathecae, of females dissected at regular intervals after the second mating



Fig. 1. Preparations of the reproductive and sperm storage organs. \times 80.

A The reaction mass grew into maximum size at an hour after the first mating.

- B Motile sperm remained alive in the sperm storage organs, just before the second mating (8 days after the first mating).
- C The reaction mass repeatedly grew into maximum size at an hour after the second mating.
- e, egg; m, reaction mass; s, spermathecae; u, uterus; v, ventral receptacle.

(Spieth, 1952). Courtship behavior is also a part of the sexual isolating mechanisms (Koref-Santibañez and Solar, 1961, 1963). The discriminating ability of both sexes of D. nigromaculata does not always correspond to their courtship behavior. A general mating pattern of D. nigromaculata resembles in many aspects other species belonging to the subgenus Drosophila group as described by Spieth (1952), but differs in a few points: they are 1) the males may court continuously up from 5 seconds to 20 minutes, 2) a copulation takes place usually after courtship of 10 to 60 seconds, and 3) most females make movement of circle from left to right or inversely being as mounts and they occasionally take a short walk.

The reproductive organs were dissected at different times from immediately to about 40 days after the first copulation. In the dissection of 2 minutes after copulation, it became evident that the uterus was enlarged with an appeareance of opaque reaction mass containing many sperm and granular-like substances. Fifteen minutes after copulation a bigger mass was found in the uterus and reached its maximum size at an hour (Fig. 1 A). Some motile sperm were observed in the ventral receptacle and spermathecae. Motile sperm maintained alive in the ventral receptacle from 2 minutes to 360 hours, and in spermathecae from 5 minutes to 480 hours after first copulation (Shima 1966b). Lefevre and Jonsson (1962) showed that in D. melanogaster one insemination was normally enough to fill those organs to its capacity, leaving no space for storage of sperm from second mating, and that although fecundity of twice-mated females did not significantly exceed once-mated females, the majority of their progeny derived from sperm of second mating. Gugler et al. (1965) concluded that within 20-minutes sperm from the second mating could replace sperm in the first mating in both storage organs of D. melanogaster.

In *D. nigromaculata*, a female preserved some sperm within her storage organs when she remated. The anatomy of the receptacle and spermathecae seems to indicate that no mechanism on preservation of a double volume of sperm exists in a well-inseminated female. The sperm storage organs are non-elastic and do not bulge even in repletion with sperm. The second mating is generally the same as the first one, in an insemination reaction and survival of sperm within the ventral receptacle and spermathecae at regular time intervals after mating (Shima 1966b). On the 8th day after the first mating, the female (just before the second mating) preserved a few survived sperm in the storage organs (Fig. 1B). As far as the scope of the present observations is concerned, it is not evident whether these survived sperm were displaced or diluted by the sperm from the second male. The preliminary experiments for remating more than twice resulted in that they could mate a few times in their lifetime (Table 3).

In conclusion, sperm displacements, sperm mixing, and the sequence of sperm utilization have remained as questions for further studies.

T. Shima

Summary

The courtship behavior in D. nigromaculata differs in some aspects from other species of the same subgenus Drosophila, showing generally no difference between the first and the second pairings. It required 8-12 days that a female

Table 3 Variability in number of eggs laid during lapses since the time of mating (8 days after emergence) in an example out of the data on remating more than twice

Copulation time Days after mating No. of eggs laid No. of hatched eggs Hatchability	6' 1 5 5	22' 2 3 2 4 2 4	15 15	5 5 14 5 9	6 2 2	7 8 8	8 : 5 : 3 :	91 4 3	LO 0 0	11 5 5	$12 \\ 5 \\ 2$	13 11 0	14 25 0	tot 105 56 53	al .3?	б			
Second mating Copulation time Days after first mating No. of eggs laid No. of hatched eggs Hatchability	5′ 15 1 0	50/ 16 11 9	/ 24 19	18 10 6	19 0 0	2	0 9 9 1 6	21 11 3	22 46 10	23 30 7	24 15 (28 5 30 5 12	5 20 0 30 2 10	3 27) 26 3 0	28 0 0	29 28 0	total 271 88 32.5%		
Third mating Copulation time Days after first mating No. of eggs laid No. of hatched eggs Hachability	6′ 30 4 4	09/ 31 3 3	/ 32 1 (33 0 0	34 6 4	31 4 (5 5 4 0	36 4 2	37 2 0	38 5 0	39 4 0	4() 4] } 4]) (42 1 0	43 2 0	44 0 0	total 49 13 26.5 %	Grand 425 157 36.	total 9%

happened to mate with the second male after mating with the first male. When the females were dissected at regular intervals after remating, many mortile sperm were observed in the storage organs for several days, as reported in once-mated.

A virgin male was capable of inseminating in three successive different females within 4 hours.

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