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Author(s)	Li, Ya-Juan; Gao, Yang-Chun; Zhou, He; Ma, Hai-Yan; Lin, Zhong-Qiao; Ma, Tian-Yu; Sui, Yi; Arai, Katsutoshi
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1 Aneuploid progenies of triploid hybrids between diploid and tetraploid loach *Misgurnus*
2 *anguillicaudatus* in China

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4 Ya-Juan Li¹, Yang-Chun Gao², He Zhou¹, Hai-Yan Ma¹, Zhong-Qiao Lin¹, Tian-Yu Ma¹,
5 Yi Sui¹, Katsutoshi Arai³

6
7 ¹Key Laboratory of Mariculture and Stock Enhancement in North China's Sea, Ministry
8 of Agriculture, Dalian Ocean University, Dalian 116023, China.

9
10 ²Research Center for Eco-Environmental Science, Chinese Academy of Science, 18
11 Shuangqing Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100085, China

12
13
14 ³Corresponding author Email: arai^{kt}@fish.hokudai.ac.jp
15 Faculty and Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, 3-1-1, Minato,
16 Hakodate, Hokkaido, 041-8611, Japan.

37 **Abstract**

38 Triploid Chinese loach, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, hybrids between tetraploids from
39 Hubei Province and diploids from Liaoning Province were mated with either diploid
40 wild-type or triploid hybrids to analyze viability and ploidy of the resultant progenies.
41 Both triploid males and females generated fertile gametes, but progenies from the
42 crosses using gametes of triploid hybrids did not survive beyond the larval stages. In
43 crosses between wild-type diploid females and triploid hybrid males, embryos ranging
44 from 2.2n to 2.6n were predominant with a mode of either 2.4n (chromosome numbers
45 59, 60, 61) or 2.5n (chromosome numbers 62, 63). Those from the crosses between
46 triploid hybrid females and diploid males gave a modal ploidy level at approximately
47 2.5n in one case, but a shift to a higher ploidy level was observed in other embryos. In
48 the progenies between triploid hybrid females and males, the ploidy level at
49 approximately 3.0n (chromosome numbers 74, 75, 76) was most frequent. The
50 cytogenetic results of the progenies suggest the production of aneuploid gametes with a
51 modal ploidy level at approximately 1.5n in triploid hybrids. However, a shift to higher
52 chromosome numbers in gametes was observed in certain cases, suggesting the
53 involvement of mortality selection of gametes
54 and/or zygotes with lower chromosome numbers.

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56 **Key-words:** Bivalent • Gamete • Meiosis • Polyploid • Trivalent • Univalent

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64 **Abbreviation**

65 Ag-NORs; silver staining nucleolus organizer regions

66 CMA₃; chromomycin A₃,

67 CN; chromosome number,

68 DA; distamycin A,

69 DAPI; 4'6-diamidino-2-phenylindole

70 FISH; fluorescence in situ hybridization

71

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73

74 **Introduction**

75

76 Meiotic chromosome configurations give insights into the pairing behavior of extra
77 homologous chromosomes as well as the reproductive capacity of resultant gametes in
78 polyploid animals. However, the relationship between meiotic configurations of
79 chromosomes and gametogenesis has not well been clarified both in either natural or
80 induced triploid teleosts.

81 In several auto- and allotriploid fishes, which were artificially induced by
82 inhibiting the second polar body release just after fertilization, gametes with a ploidy
83 level of approximately $1.5n$ have been reported (Allen et al. 1986; Benfey et al.1986;
84 Ueda et al. 1987, 1991; Van Eenennaam et al. 1990; Zhang and Arai 1999; Gomelsky et
85 al. 2015). Among them, however, meiotic configurations have not been well
86 investigated except for induced triploid loach *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, in which
87 about 25 bivalents (IIs hereafter) and 25 univalent (Is hereafter) were observed (Zhang
88 and Arai 1999).

89 In China, bisexually reproducing diploid ($2n = 50$) - tetraploid ($4n = 100$) complex
90 exists and thus triploid hybrids are easily produced by cross-breeding (Li et al. 2008,
91 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013). Since we observed that meiotic cells most frequently exhibited
92 25IIs and 25Is in triploid hybrids, we predicted the formation of gametes with a mode at
93 $1.5n$ (37 or 38) chromosomes as a result of equal segregation of 25IIs and random
94 segregation of 25Is (Li et al. 2015).

95 In the present study, we examined the chromosomes (ploidy level) and viability of
96 progenies from inter-crosses between (1) diploid females and triploid males, (2) triploid
97 females and diploid males, and (3) triploid females and triploid males, to elucidate the
98 relationship between the complicated meiotic configurations and gametogenesis in
99 triploid Chinese loach hybrids.

100

101 **Materials and methods**

102

103 Triploid hybrids were reciprocally produced between tetraploids from Hubei Province,
104 China and diploids from Liaoning Province, as previously described in Li et al. (2012,
105 2013, 2015). Using two females and two males selected from each triploid (tetraploid
106 females \times diploid males) hybrid, diploid, and tetraploid brood-stock, we produced the
107 two sets (no. 1 and 2) of following progenies in 2012: $2n$ (hereafter female first) \times $2n$
108 (male), $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$, $4n \times 4n$, $2n \times 3n$, $3n \times 2n$, and $3n \times 3n$. Using two females and

109 two males selected from each triploid (diploid females x tetraploid males) hybrid and
110 diploid brood-stock, we produced two sets (no. 3 and 4) of $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 3n$, $3n \times 2n$
111 and $3n \times 3n$ progenies in 2014.

112 At approximately 0.5h post fertilization, the diameter of fertilized eggs ($n = 30$)
113 from the $2n \times 2n$, $3n \times 2n$ and $3n \times 3n$ crosses was measured using a digital caliper on
114 photographed images in accordance with the procedures described in Li et al. (2012)
115 and then compared statistically (t -test).

116 Testicular cells were examined by flow-cytometry in 15 approximately 4-year-old
117 triploid (tetraploid females x diploid males) hybrid males according to the methods
118 described in Oshima et al. (2005) and Yoshikawa et al. (2007). As a control, one diploid
119 and one tetraploid male of the same age were randomly taken to sample testicular cells.

120 Survival parameters were estimated as described in Li et al. (2013). Fertilization
121 rate was calculated as the proportion of cleaved eggs relative to the initial number of
122 eggs. Hatching rate was calculated as the proportion of hatched eggs relative to the
123 initial number of eggs. Normal rate was calculated as the proportion of normal larvae
124 relative to the number of hatched larvae. Survival rate at 7 days after hatching was
125 calculated as the proportion of surviving larvae relative to the number of hatched larvae.
126 Rearing water was changed daily after the larvae were first fed *Artemia*.

127 Chromosome preparation was individually conducted on each optic vesicle stage
128 embryo after manually removing the yolk in physiological saline under a stereoscopic
129 microscope. Chromosome preparation procedures were the same as those described in
130 Li et al. (2013). Chromosome counting was made on conventional Giemsa-stained
131 metaphases on a slide directly under a microscope and/or on their photographed images.
132 In the progenies, the modal chromosome number was determined in each embryo.
133 Karyotyping was conducted according to Levan et al. (1964). Differential staining with
134 CMA₃/DA/DAPI (Schweizer 1976; Schweizer et al. 1978) and the Ag-NOR method
135 (Howell and Black 1980) was applied to the chromosome slides in accordance with Li
136 et al. (2010). FISH using human 5.8S + 28S rDNA sequences as a probe was applied
137 according to Li et al. (2010).

138

139 **Results**

140

141 Survival potential of triploid hybrid progenies

142

143 Parameters for zygote survival capacity are shown in Table 1. Fertilization rates were >
144 80 % in all of the crosses using the eggs and sperm of wild-type diploid and natural

145 tetraploid loaches. In contrast, reduced fertilization rates were always observed in
146 crosses using triploid hybrid eggs and/or sperm. Hatching rates were $> 80\%$ in the $2n \times$
147 $2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses, but approximately 14 to 67% hatching rates
148 were recorded in $2n \times 3n$, $3n \times 2n$ and $3n \times 3n$. Almost all ($> 92\%$) of the hatched larvae
149 were normal in the $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses, but reduced normal
150 rates (41 to 55%) were recorded in most of the crosses using triploid hybrid eggs and/or
151 sperm except for $3n \times 2n$ crosses in 2014 (81 to 83%). Survival rates of 7-day-old larvae
152 after hatching were relatively high in the $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses
153 (about 84 to 98%), while reduced rates were recorded in the triploid hybrid progenies (3
154 to 33%). The larvae from the $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses survived
155 beyond the beginning of feeding and most exhibited further growth. However, all the
156 survivors from the $3n \times 2n$, $2n \times 3n$ and $3n \times 3n$ crosses exhibited external
157 malformations including microcephaly, microphthalmia, edema, dwarfism, curved trunk
158 and tail, and so on (Fig. 1) and no larvae survived for more than 10 days after hatching.

159

160 Triploid hybrid egg sizes

161

162 The mean egg diameters were 0.83 ± 0.02 mm (SD) in $2n \times 2n-1$, 0.94 ± 0.04 mm in $3n$
163 $\times 2n-1$ and 0.94 ± 0.03 mm in $3n \times 3n-1$ crosses (Fig. S1). Both $3n \times 2n-1$ and $3n \times$
164 $3n-1$ had significantly larger egg diameters than the control $2n \times 2n-1$ ($p < 0.05$). Thus,
165 eggs laid by triploid females were larger than those laid by wild-type diploids.

166

167 Triploid hybrid chromosomes

168

169 Here, we confirmed the genomic constitution of triploid hybrids based on chromosome
170 numbers, karyotypes, and NOR numbers detected by differential staining and FISH. In
171 20 embryos from each of the $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses,
172 chromosomes were individually counted (Table S1). Out of 543 metaphases from $2n \times$
173 $2n$ embryos ($n=20$), 266 cells had 50 chromosomes. Out of 594 metaphases from $2n \times$
174 $4n$ embryos ($n=20$), 272 cells had 75 chromosomes. Out of 529 metaphases from $4n \times$
175 $2n$ embryos ($n=20$), 267 cells had 75 chromosomes. Out of 463 metaphases from $4n \times$
176 $4n$ embryos ($n=20$), 249 cells had 100 chromosomes. Thus, $2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$
177 and $4n \times 4n$ crosses generated diploid ($2n = 50$), triploid ($3n = 75$), triploid ($3n = 75$)
178 and tetraploid ($4n = 100$) progenies, respectively.

179

180 Based on a good quality conventional Giemsa-stained metaphase from triploid
hybrids (Fig. 2a), a karyotype comprising five metacentric (M), two submetacentric

181 (SM), and 18 telocentric (T) triplet chromosomes clearly indicated triploidy with three
182 sets of homologous chromosomes (Fig. 2b). In static triploid hybrid somatic cells,
183 maximum of three Ag-NORs were detected (Fig. 2c). In a triploid metaphase, Ag-NORs
184 were detected on the short arms of the three largest M chromosomes (Fig. 2d, e). CMA₃
185 positive sites were detected on the short arms of the three largest M chromosomes (Fig.
186 2f, g). The rDNA loci FISH signals were also detected on the short arms of the three
187 largest M chromosomes (Fig. 2h, i). All of these results from differential staining and
188 FISH, indicated that triploid hybrids had three sets of homologous chromosomes, one
189 set from diploid wild-type and two sets from tetraploid loaches.

190

191 Flow cytometry of testicular cells

192

193 Flow cytometry was carried out on the testicular tissues taken from 15 triploid hybrid
194 males (tetraploid × diploid). When control diploid and tetraploid males produced
195 haploid (1C DNA content) and diploid (2C DNA content) sperm, respectively (Fig. 3a,
196 b), 12 out of 15 triploid males produced a major peak at approximately 1.5C DNA
197 content, with minor peaks at 3C and 6C DNA content (Fig. 3c). These histograms
198 showed major production of 1.5n spermatozoa. While one of the 15 triploids produced
199 two major peaks at 3C and 6C DNA content and no peak corresponding to spermatozoa
200 was detected (Fig. 3d). Two out of 15 triploids produced a major peak at 3C DNA
201 content and minor peaks at approximately 1.6C and 6C DNA content (Fig. 3e). A minor
202 peak at approximately 1.6C DNA content seemed to be cell populations of either
203 spermatozoa or spermatids.

204

205 Ploidy level and chromosomes of triploid (tetraploid female × diploid male) hybrid
206 progenies

207

208 Chromosomes were individually counted in progenies from the $2n \times 3n-1$ (Table S2), $3n$
209 $\times 2n-1$ (Table S3) and $3n \times 3n-1$ (Table S4) crosses (Fig. S2a–c). Embryos with a mode
210 at the ploidy level 2.4n (CN 59, 60, 61), 3.0n (CN 74, 75, 76) and 2.8n (CN 69, 70, 71)
211 occurred most frequently in $2n \times 3n-1$, $3n \times 2n-1$, and $3n \times 3n-1$, respectively (Table
212 S2–4). The mean chromosome numbers calculated from the cells of $2n \times 3n-1$, $3n \times$
213 $2n-1$, and $3n \times 3n-1$ progenies were 58.76 (2.4n), 67.18 (2.7n) and 73.49 (2.9n),
214 respectively (Fig. 4).

215 In the $2n \times 3n-1$ cross (Fig. 4a), 2.2n (CN 54, 55, 56: 12.4%), 2.3n (CN 57, 58:
216 13.7%), 2.4n (CN 59, 60, 61: 21.9%), 2.5n (CN 62, 63: 11.7%), and 2.6n (CN 64, 65, 66:

217 16.7%) cells were predominant. Aneuploid cells with 2.1n (52, 53: 4.2%), 2.7n (CN 67,
218 68: 5.4%), 2.8n (CN69, 70, 71: 1.3%) and 3.0n (CN74: 0.1%) occurred in lower
219 frequencies. In the $3n \times 2n-1$ cross (Fig. 4b), embryos with 2.1n (CN 52, 53) to 2.5n
220 (CN 62, 63) cells appeared at a total rate of 19.7%, while 2.6n (CN 64, 65, 66) to 2.9n
221 (CN 72, 73) aneuploid cells occurred at higher rates (total 52.1%) (Fig. 4b). Triploids
222 (3.0n, CN74, 75, 76) appeared at the highest rate (14.8%) and hyper-triploid cells (3.1n–
223 3.8n) appeared at the rate of 7.3%. In the $3n \times 3n-1$ cross (Fig. 4c), 2.8n (CN 69, 70, 71)
224 to 3.1n (CN 77, 78) aneuploid cells appeared most frequently (total 71.7%), but cells
225 with less than 2.7n and more than 3.2n occurred at relatively lower rates.

226

227 Ploidy level and chromosomes of triploid (diploid female \times tetraploid male) hybrid
228 progenies

229

230 Chromosomes were individually counted in the progenies of the $2n \times 3n-3$ (Table S5),
231 $3n \times 2n-3$ (Table S6) and $3n \times 3n-3$ (Table S7) crosses (Fig. S2d–f). Embryos with a
232 mode of the ploidy level 2.5n (CN 62, 63), 2.4n (CN 59, 60, 61), and 3.0n (CN74, 75,
233 76) occurred most frequently in $2n \times 3n-3$, $3n \times 2n-3$, and $3n \times 3n-3$, respectively (Table
234 S5–7). The mean chromosome number calculated from the cells of the $2n \times 3n-3$, $3n \times$
235 $2n-3$, and $3n \times 3n-3$ progenies were 61.63 (2.5n), 61.11(2.4n), and 73.00 (2.9n),
236 respectively (Fig. 5).

237 In the $2n \times 3n-3$ cross (Fig. 5a), aneuploid cells with 2.5n (CN 62, 63: 34.7%)
238 appeared most frequently, followed by those with 2.4n (CN 59, 60, 61: 32.1%) and 2.6n
239 (CN 64, 65, 66: 19.2%). The occurrence rates of other 2.1n, 2.2n, 2.3n, 2.7n and 2.8n
240 cells were low. In the $3n \times 2n-3$ cross (Fig. 5b), aneuploid cells with 2.4n (CN59, 60,
241 61: 37.3%) appeared most frequently, followed by those with 2.5n (CN62, 63: 28.9%)
242 and 2.6n (CN64, 65, 66: 17.3%). The occurrence rates of other 2.1n to 2.3n cells and
243 2.7n to 2.8n cells were low. In the $3n \times 3n-3$ cross (Fig. 5c), no cells with $< 2.5n$ ploidy
244 occurred. Aneuploid cells with 3.0n ploidy level (CN 74, 75, 76: 34.4%) appeared most
245 frequently, followed by those with 2.9n (CN 72, 73: 26.1%) and 2.8n (CN 69, 70, 71:
246 18.7%). The occurrence rates of other cells were low.

247

248 Discussion

249

250 The most frequent occurrence of progenies with 2.4n to 2.5n in reciprocal crosses
251 between diploid and triploid hybrids is easily explained by fertilization of haploid
252 gametes (1n eggs, 1n sperm) from wild-type diploids with 1.4n to 1.5n gametes from

253 triploid hybrids. The $1.5n$ gametes can be predicted by equal segregation of 25 IIs
254 formed by 25 pairs of homologous chromosomes and random assortment of the extra 25
255 Is of 75 chromosomes in triploid, according to the binominal distribution previously
256 reported by Zhang and Arai (1999) and Li et al. (2015). In the $3n \times 3n-3$ crosses,
257 triploid to near-triploid progenies ranging from $2.6n$ to $3.3n$ with a modal ploidy level of
258 about $3.0n$ appeared according to the expectation from the crosses between gametes
259 with a modal ploidy level of approximately $1.5n$.

260 Although the appearance of $2.5n$ and $3.0n$ was also predicted in the $2n \times 3n-1$ (and
261 $3n \times 2n-1$) and $3n \times 3n-1$ progenies, respectively, wide ranges of aneuploid cells $< 2.3n$
262 occurred in the $2n \times 3n-1$ cross. In the $3n \times 2n-1$ cross, frequencies of cells ranging
263 from $2.6n$ to $3.0n$ were much higher than the expectation. In the $3n \times 3n-1$ cross,
264 frequencies of cells $< 2.8n$ ploidy and $> 3.1n$ were higher than those in $3n \times 3n-3$ cross.
265 Such deviations from the predicted distribution based on the modal meiotic
266 configuration might be related to the formation of diversified gametes with various
267 chromosomes from non-typical meiotic configurations including various numbers of
268 chromosomes, such as $24IIs + 24IIs + 1III$ (trivalent), $23IIs + 23IIs + 2IIIs$, $22IIs + 22IIs +$
269 $3IIIs$ and so on (Li et al. 2015). In our previous study, we also reported failure of
270 synapsis between homologues and thus formation of gametes with unbalanced genetic
271 materials was also predicted (Li et al. 2015).

272 Fankhauser and Humphrey (1950, 1954) observed a shift toward the lower
273 chromosome numbers in diploid \times triploid axolotl progenies and suggested that this was
274 caused by the elimination of some lagging chromosomes and the resultant failure of
275 gametogenesis in gametes with higher numbers of extra chromosomes. A shift to lower
276 chromosome numbers was also described in a cross between triploid and diploid rice
277 plants (Fukui and Tsujimoto 2010). However, in the present study, a shift toward the
278 higher chromosome numbers was found in triploid hybrid progeny $3n \times 2n-1$ and $3n \times$
279 $3n-1$ crosses. One explanation is the involvement of atypical diploid ($2n$) eggs generated
280 by triploid hybrid females in such a cross-breeding. Thus, progenies might have been
281 contaminated by unpredicted triploid embryos that arose from the fertilization of diploid
282 eggs with haploid sperm. Oshima et al. (2005) reported the spawning of a few diploid
283 eggs in natural triploid loaches. A similar shift of the modal ploidy level toward $2.6n$ to
284 $2.7n$ was recently reported in the progenies of fertile induced triploid ornamental carp
285 (Gomelsky et al. 2015). This is presumably explained by selective mortality against
286 eggs during oogenesis and the resultant zygotes (embryos) $< 2.5n$. The other
287 explanation for the shift to higher chromosome numbers may be the failure of gamete
288 formation with lower numbers of extra chromosomes ($< 1.5n$). However, it is difficult to

289 apply this assumption to the shift to lower ploidy, because the modal ploidy level in
290 progenies from the $2n \times 3n-1$ cross was $2.5n$. Flow cytometry indicated that the most
291 frequent ploidy level of spermatozoa was approximately $1.5n$ in triploid hybrids,
292 suggesting the production of $\sim 2.5n$ progenies after the fertilization of eggs of wild-type
293 female.

294 In the present triploid hybrids, both males and females produced fertile aneuploid
295 gametes and all progenies from the fertilization with these aneuploid gametes were
296 inviable, probably due to deficiency and/or excess of genetic materials. These results
297 differ from those previously reported in artificially induced triploids produced from
298 wild-type diploids, in which triploid males generated unusual aneuploid spermatozoa,
299 but triploid females were sterile (Zhang and Arai 1999). A part of progenies from
300 fertilization of aneuploid spermatozoa of induced triploids were viable (Zhang and Arai
301 1999; Arai and Inamori 1999). In contrast, triploid hybrids between Japanese wild-type
302 diploids and origin-unknown tetraploids from market samples were sterile in males, but
303 females laid both meiotic haploid and unreduced triploid eggs, which produced viable
304 progenies after fertilization with normal spermatozoa (Matsubara et al. 1995; Arai and
305 Mukaino 1997, 1998; Zhang et al. 1998). Clone-origin natural triploids were sterile in
306 males, but fertile haploid eggs were mainly formed in females by meiotic
307 hybridogenesis, followed by the appearance of normal diploid embryos after
308 fertilization with normal spermatozoa (Oshima et al. 2005; Morishima et al. 2008).

309 Such differences in gametogenesis and embryogenesis between present triploid
310 hybrids and previous induced triploids or other types of triploid hybrids are likely
311 related to the genomic constitution of resultant triploids. Genetic characteristics of
312 Chinese loach are poorly understood and the detailed mechanisms for explaining above
313 mentioned differences have not yet been elucidated. Thus, further genetic studies are
314 especially required on loaches in China.

315

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317

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323

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401

402

403

404 **Legends of figures**

405

406 Fig. 1 External appearance of (a) normal larvae from crosses ($2n \times 2n$, $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$
407 and $4n \times 4n$) using gametes of wild-type diploid and those of natural tetraploid loach
408 and (b) abnormal larvae from crosses ($3n \times 2n$, $2n \times 3n$ and $3n \times 3n$) using gametes of
409 triploid hybrids and those of wild-type diploids. Scales denote 10 μm .

410

411 Fig. 2 Conventional Giemsa-stained metaphase (a); karyotype (b) including five
412 metacentric (M), two submetacentric (SM), and 18 telocentric (T) triplet chromosomes;
413 presence of three nucleoli shown by Ag-NOR in static cells (c); silver nitrate stained
414 metaphase (d); its partial karyotype showing Ag-NOR on short arms of the largest
415 metacentric chromosomes (e); CMA₃ stained metaphase (f); its partial karyotype
416 showing CMA₃ positive site on short arms of the largest metacentric chromosomes (g);
417 FISH metaphase probed by rDNA sequences (h); its partial karyotype showing rDNA
418 loci with FISH signals on short arms of the largest metacentric chromosomes (i). Scale
419 bar = 10 μm .

420

421 Fig. 3 Flow cytometry histograms of testicular cells taken from diploid (a), tetraploid
422 (b), and triploid hybrid males (c–e). Note the presence of a major peak of haploid (DNA
423 content, 1C), diploid (2C), and 1.5n (1.5C) spermatozoa in diploid (a), tetraploid (b) and
424 triploid hybrid (c) males. No spermatozoa peak (d) and presence of a minor peak of 1.6n
425 (1.6C) spermatozoa (e) in triploid males. Y-axis denotes cell numbers and X-axis
426 denotes channel numbers in each graph.

427

428 Fig. 4 Chromosome distributions in progenies from $2n \times 3n-1$ (a), $3n \times 2n-1$ (b) and $3n$
429 $\times 3n-1$ (c) crosses using the triploid hybrids (tetraploid female \times diploid male). Y-axis
430 denotes cell numbers and X-axis denotes chromosome numbers and ploidy levels in
431 each graph. Numbers in parenthesis under ploidy level indicate percentage of cells.

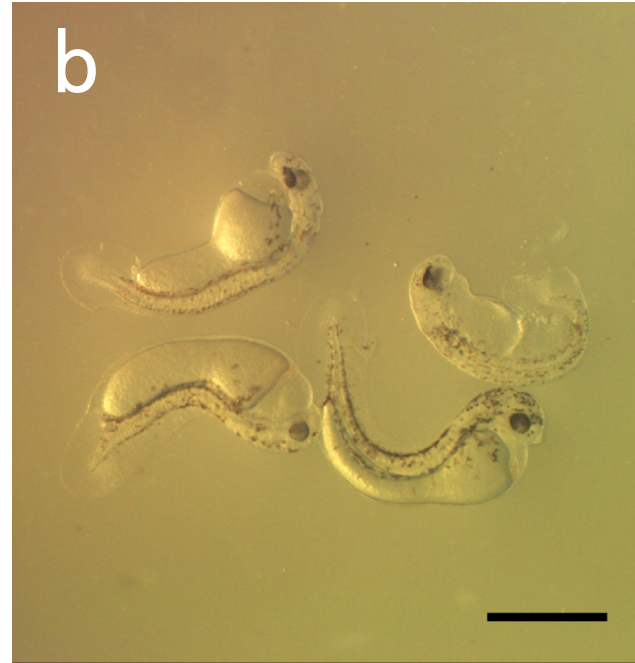
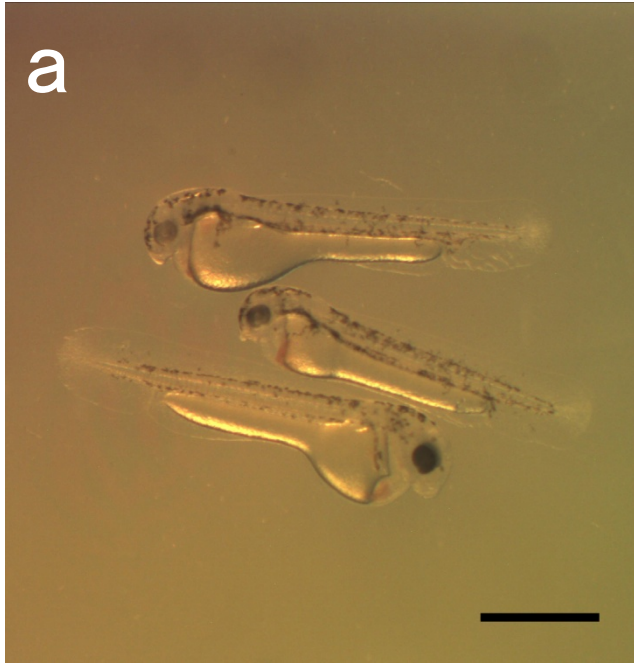
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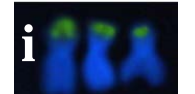
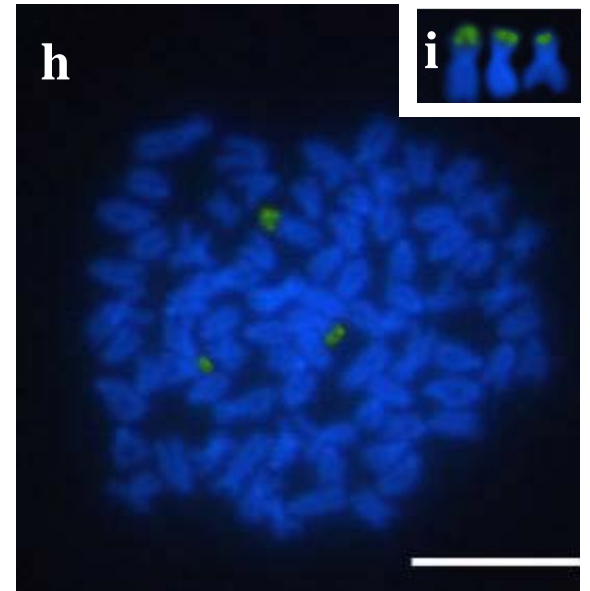
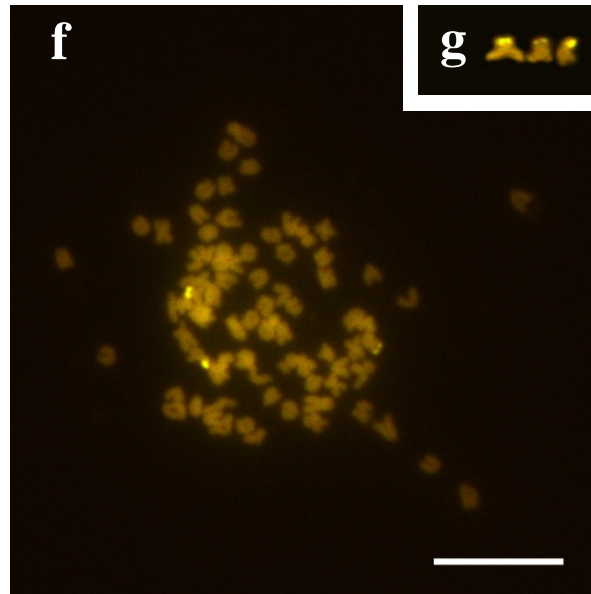
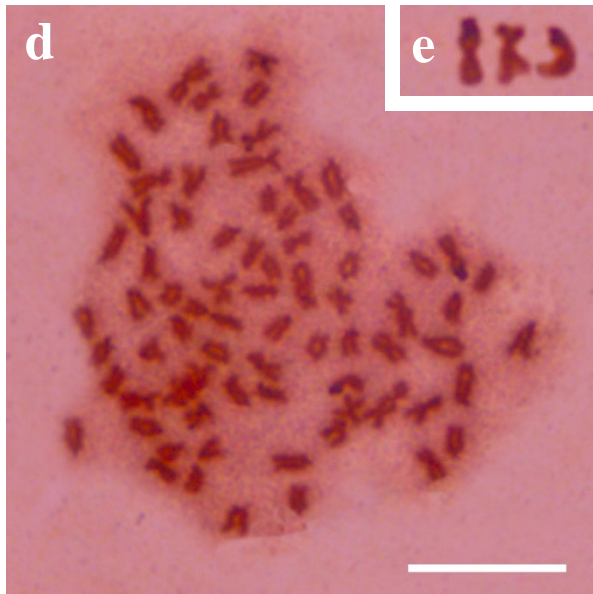
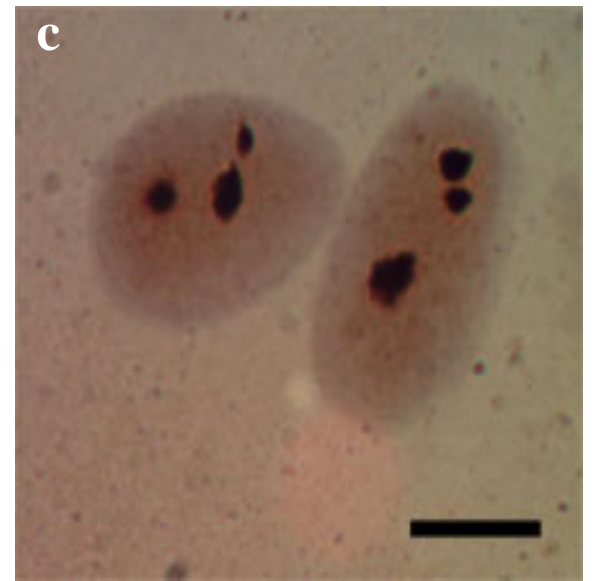
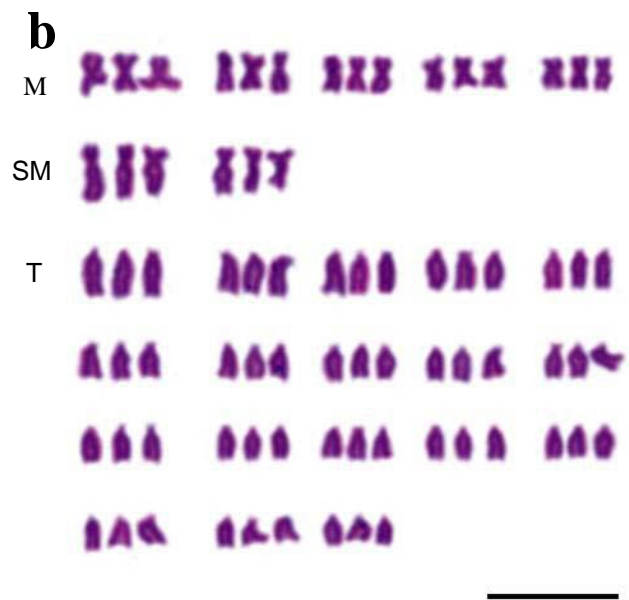
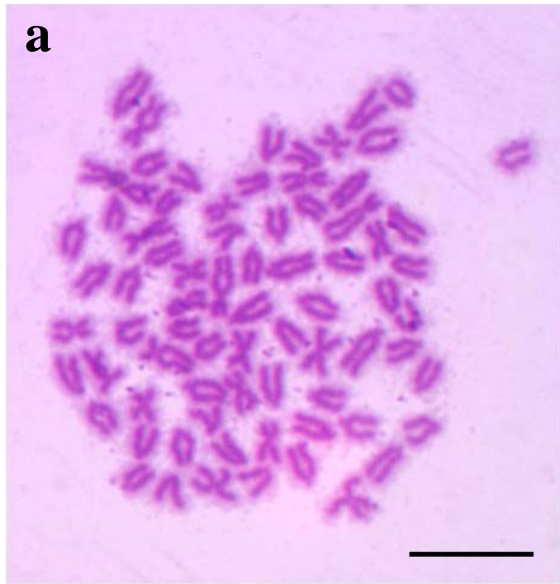
433 Fig. 5 Chromosome distributions in progenies from $2n \times 3n-3$ (a), $3n \times 2n-3$ (b) and $3n$
434 $\times 3n-3$ (c) crosses using the triploid hybrids (diploid female \times tetraploid male). Y-axis
435 denotes cell numbers and X-axis denotes chromosome numbers and ploidy levels in
436 each graph. Numbers in parenthesis under ploidy level indicate percentage of cells

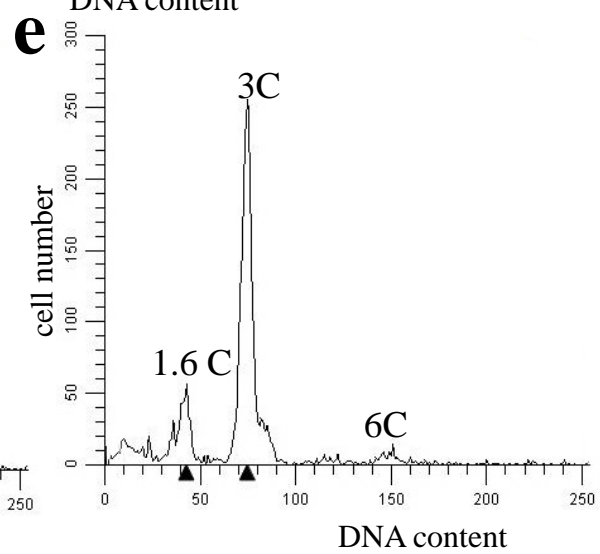
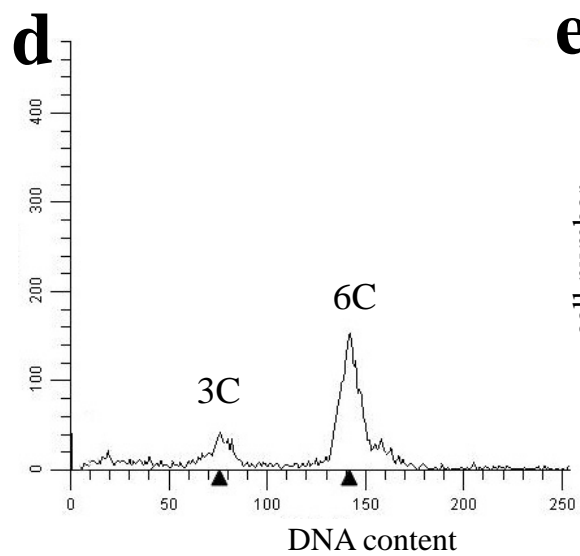
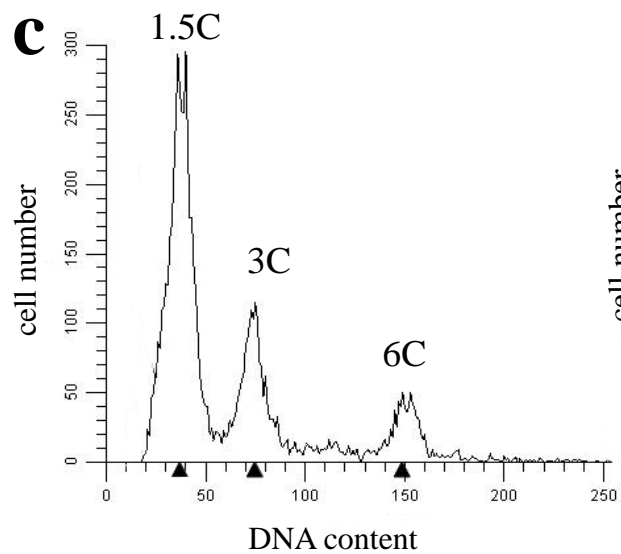
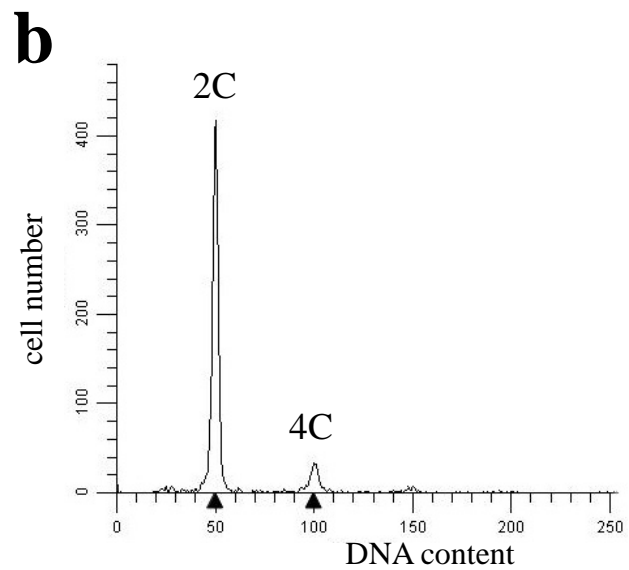
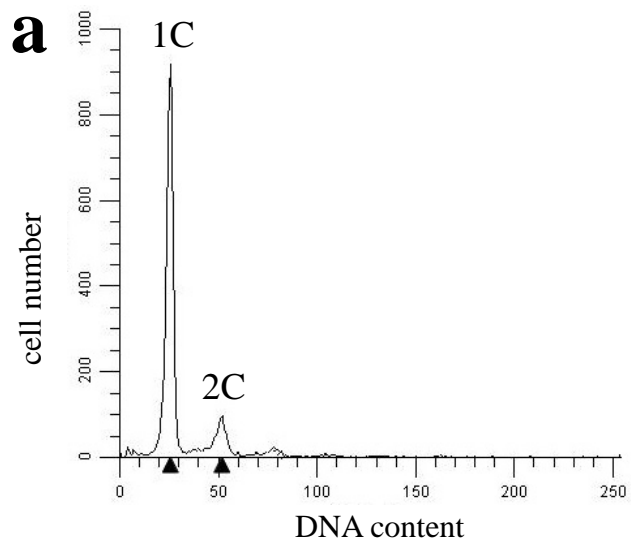
Table 1. Number of eggs, fertilization rate, hatching rate, normal rate and survival rate at 7 days after hatching in the different crosses using diploid, tetraploid and triploid (diploid female \times tetraploid male) loaches in 2012 and 2014.

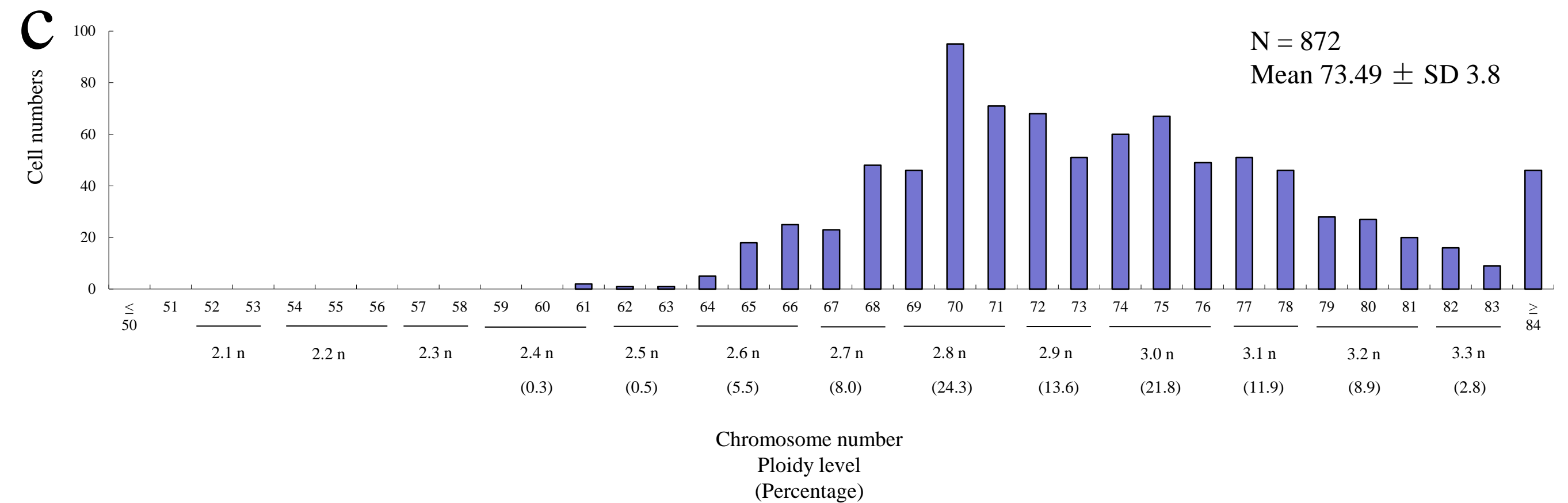
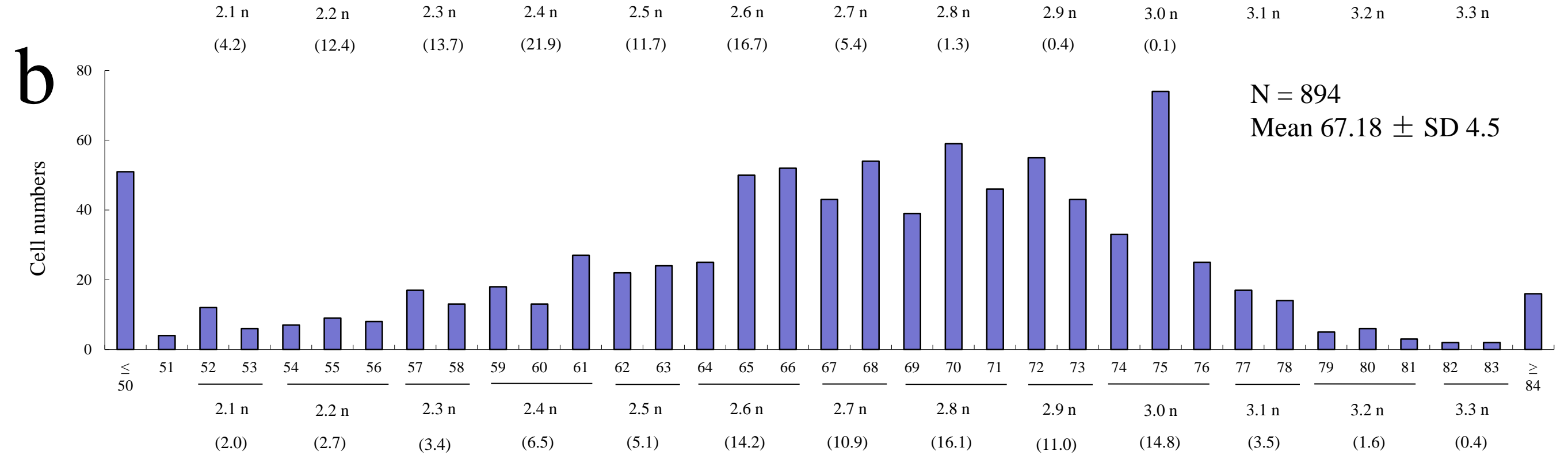
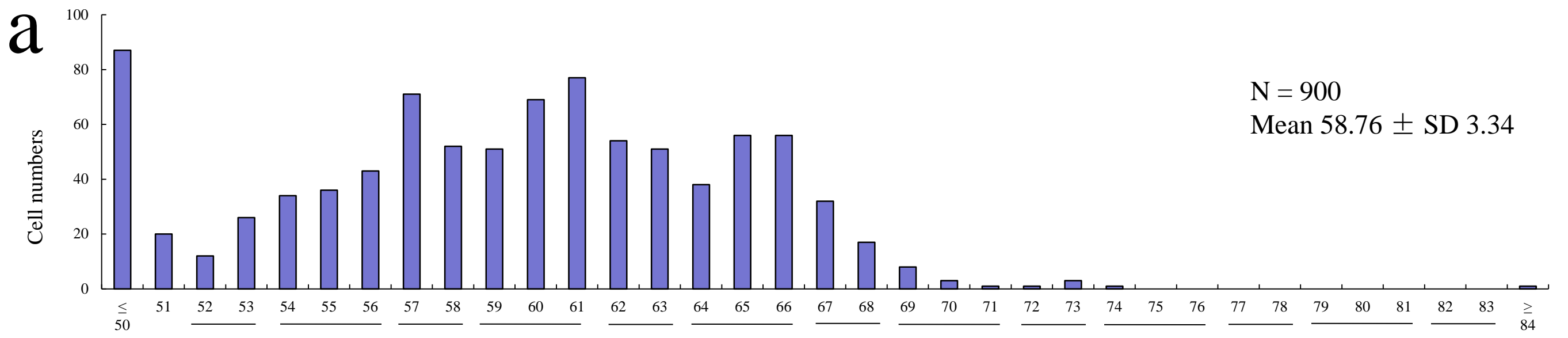
Year	Cross	No. of eggs	Fertilization rate (%)	Hatching rate (%)	Normal rate (%)	Survival rate at 7 days after hatching (%)
2012	2n \times 2n-1	1562	87.00	82.10	94.30	83.60
	2n \times 2n-2	1663	87.90	80.60	91.70	83.50
	Mean \pm SD		87.45 \pm 0.64 ^a	81.35 \pm 1.06 ^b	93.00 \pm 1.84 ^a	83.55 \pm 0.07 ^d
	2n \times 4n-1	1509	80.73	89.25	96.22	92.31
	2n \times 4n-2	770	82.21	86.21	96.65	91.55
	Mean \pm SD		81.47 \pm 1.05 ^a	87.73 \pm 2.15 ^{ab}	96.44 \pm 0.30 ^a	91.93 \pm 0.54 ^b
	4n \times 2n-1	1521	81.22	91.14	91.82	87.98
	4n \times 2n-2	1021	80.13	89.11	92.21	87.33
	Mean \pm SD		80.68 \pm 0.77 ^a	90.13 \pm 1.43 ^a	92.02 \pm 0.28 ^a	87.66 \pm 0.46 ^c
	4n \times 4n-1	640	83.60	80.60	96.80	98.37
	4n \times 4n-2	804	82.70	86.60	96.70	96.86
	Mean \pm SD		83.15 \pm 0.64 ^a	83.60 \pm 4.24 ^b	96.75 \pm 0.07 ^a	97.62 \pm 1.07 ^a
	2n \times 3n-1	566	57.10	32.00	56.00	31.90
	2n \times 3n-2	1066	70.50	37.80	53.60	34.20
	Mean \pm SD		63.8 \pm 9.48 ^b	34.9 \pm 4.10 ^c	54.8 \pm 1.70 ^b	33.05 \pm 1.63 ^c
	3n \times 2n-1	399	33.80	16.30	48.10	7.41
	3n \times 2n-2	421	31.60	16.20	51.10	9.02
	Mean \pm SD		32.7 \pm 1.56 ^c	16.25 \pm 0.07 ^d	49.6 \pm 2.12 ^b	8.22 \pm 1.14 ^f
	3n \times 3n-1	331	34.70	16.00	45.20	7.82
	3n \times 3n-2	644	32.90	12.40	37.70	7.07
Mean \pm SD		33.8 \pm 1.27 ^c	14.2 \pm 2.55 ^d	41.45 \pm 5.30 ^c	7.45 \pm 0.53 ^f	
2014	2n \times 2n-3	1329	87.13	88.17	91.77	82.56
	2n \times 2n-4	1560	88.91	90.12	94.24	85.36
	Mean \pm SD		88.02 \pm 1.26 ^a	89.15 \pm 1.38 ^a	93.01 \pm 1.75 ^a	83.96 \pm 1.98 ^a
	2n \times 3n-3	1458	58.30	55.29	56.6	3.41
	2n \times 3n-4	1617	64.56	59.39	53.87	3.07
	Mean \pm SD		61.43 \pm 4.43 ^c	57.34 \pm 2.90 ^c	55.24 \pm 1.93 ^c	3.24 \pm 0.24 ^b
	3n \times 2n-3	589	74.87	65.53	81.31	4.08
	3n \times 2n-4	632	73.26	67.60	83.39	3.67
	Mean \pm SD		74.07 \pm 1.14 ^b	66.57 \pm 1.46 ^b	82.35 \pm 1.47 ^b	3.88 \pm 0.29 ^b
	3n \times 3n-3	667	55.62	52.02	47.67	3.50
	3n \times 3n-4	656	58.69	57.66	53.15	4.42
	Mean \pm SD		57.16 \pm 2.17 ^c	54.84 \pm 3.99 ^c	50.41 \pm 3.87 ^c	3.96 \pm 0.65 ^b

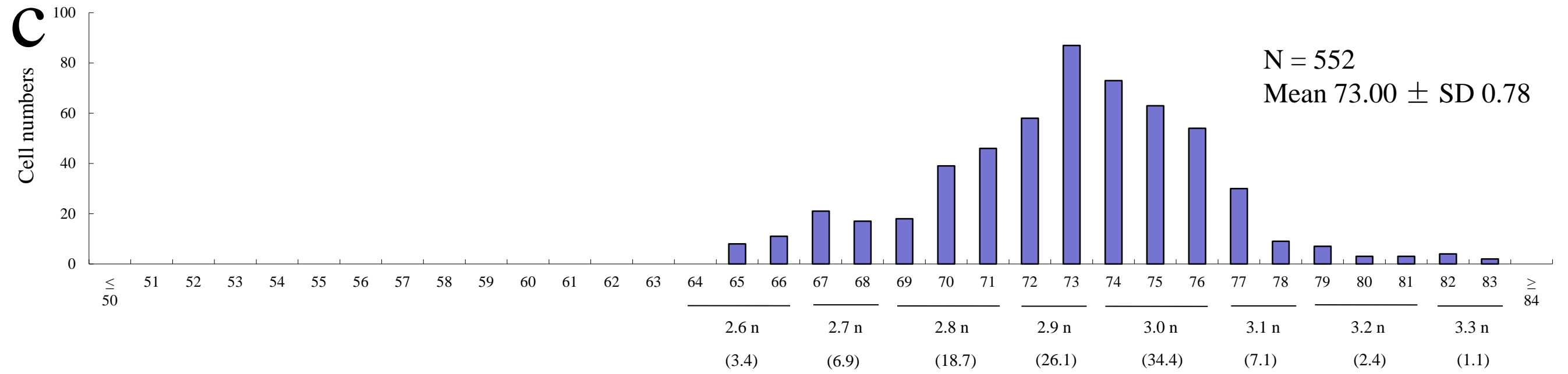
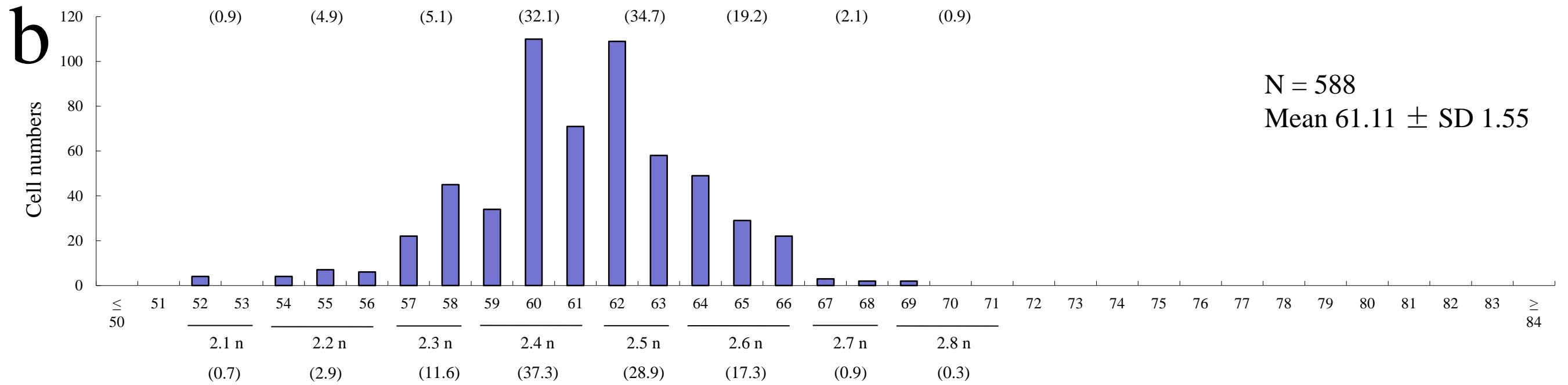
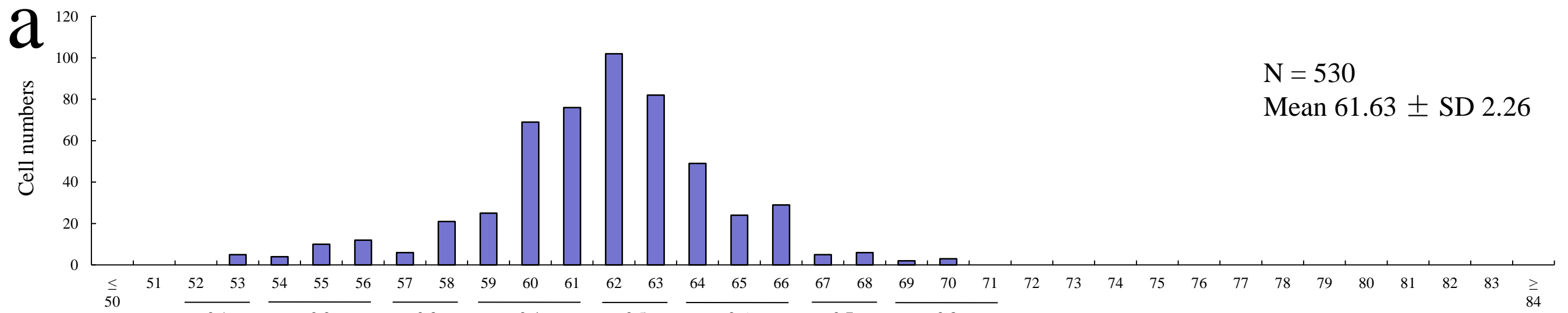
Note: Different lowercase letters in the same row indicated significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among different crosses; and same letters indicated no significance ($P > 0.05$).











Chromosome number
 Ploidy level
 (Percentage)

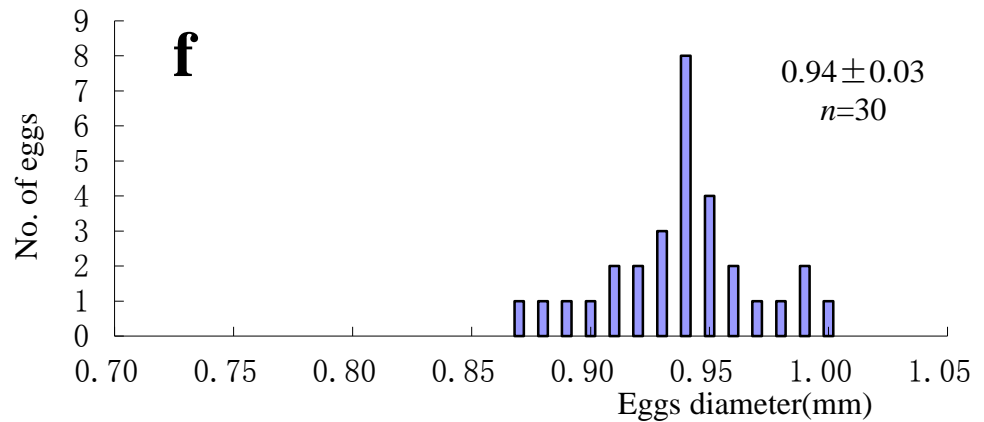
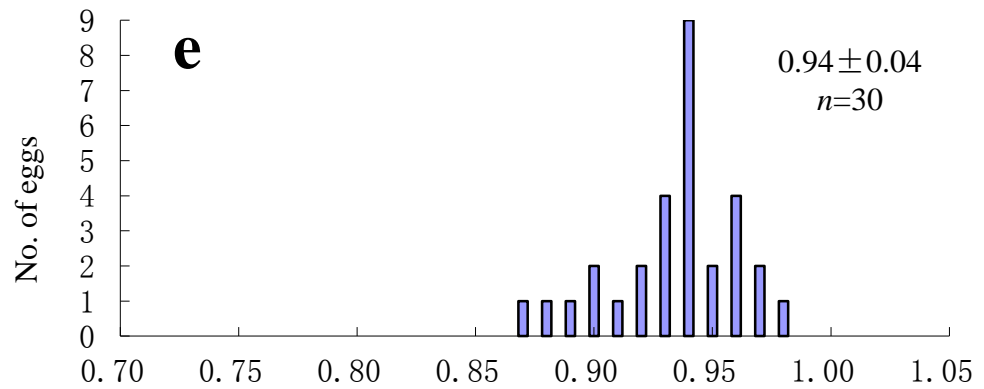
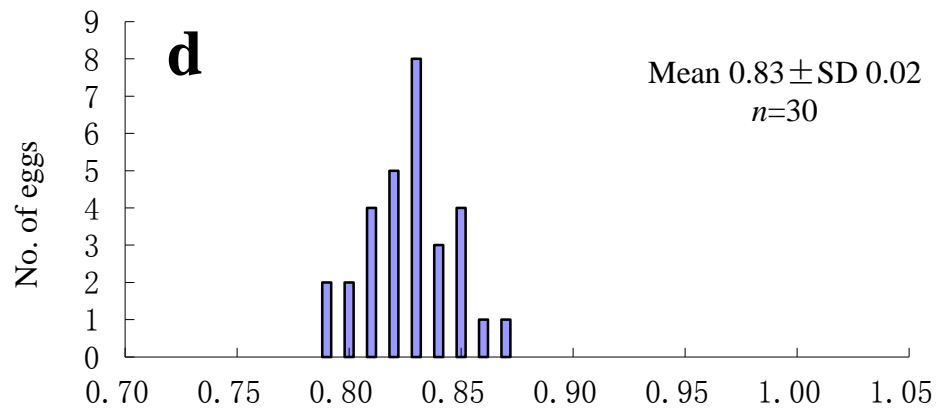
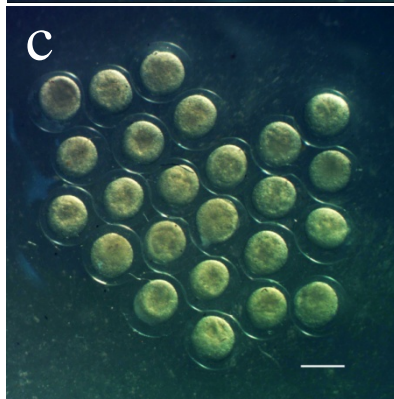
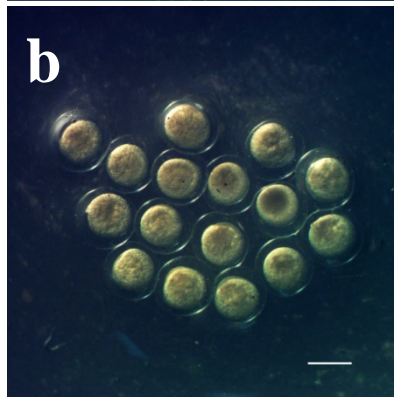
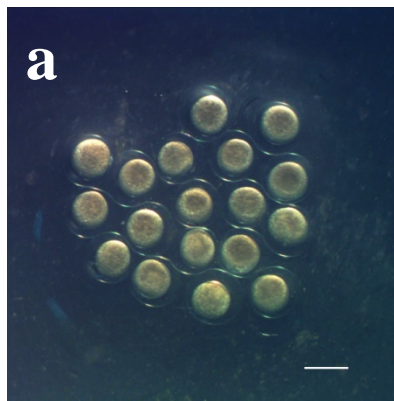


Fig. S1 External appearance (a-c) and diameters (d-f) of eggs from three crosses of loaches (a, d: 2n female \times 2n male-1, b, e: 3n \times 2n-1, and c, f: 3n \times 3n-1) at 30 min after fertilization. Scales denote 1 mm.

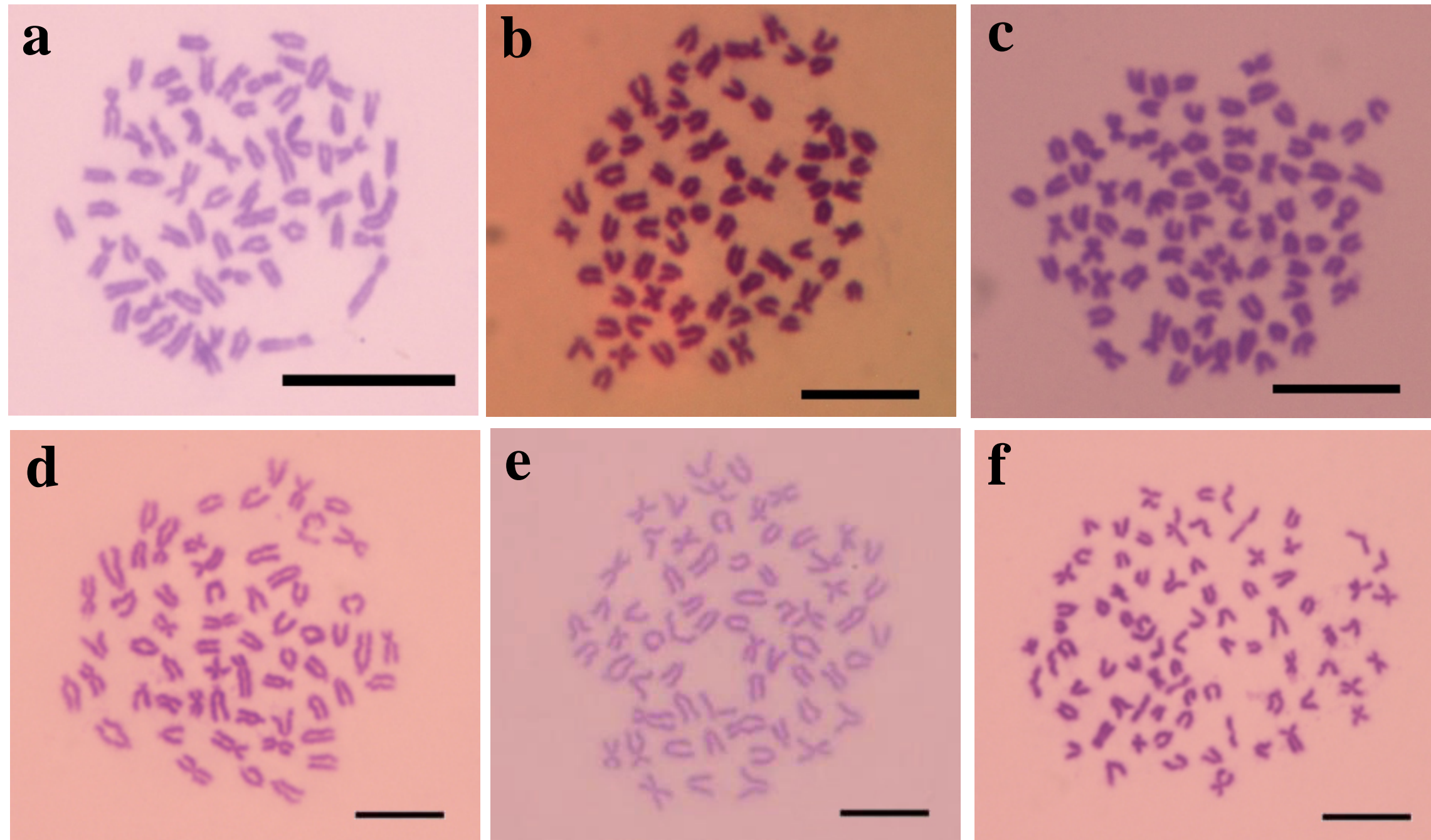


Fig. S2 Metaphase spreads observed in embryos from $2n \times 3n$ (a, d), $3n \times 2n$ (b, e) and $3n \times 3n$ crosses (c, f). (a) Chromosome number (CN) = 62, 7m (metacentric chromosomes) + 12sm (submetacentric chromo.) + 43 t (telocentric chromo.) from $2n \times 3n-1$ cross; (b) CN = 71, 13m + 6 sm + 52t from $3n \times 2n-1$ cross; (c) CN = 80, 15m + 8sm + 57t from $3n \times 3n-1$ cross; (d) CN=58, 9m + 6sm + 45t from, $2n \times 3n-3$ cross; (e) CN = 62, 13m + 5sm + 44t from $3n \times 2n-3$ cross; (f) CN = 75, 12m + 6sm + 57t from $3n \times 3n-3$ cross. Scales denote 10 μ m.

Table S1. Chromosome numbers in the embryos from $2n$ (female) \times $2n$ (male), $2n \times 4n$, $4n \times 2n$ and $4n \times 4n$ crosses.

cross	Chromosome no.	Embryo no.																			total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
$2n \times 2n$	41	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	42	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	43	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
	44	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	45	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14
	46	1	4	0	2	4	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	30
	47	2	2	1	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	0	4	1	1	4	1	0	3	2	40
	48	4	5	7	4	6	2	3	6	4	4	7	5	2	0	3	5	6	2	5	88
	49	6	2	4	8	4	3	2	9	4	5	5	5	2	1	5	8	2	2	2	81
	50	6	6	11	11	5	17	21	15	17	14	18	14	19	20	13	13	12	18	2	266
	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
total	22	23	23	29	24	30	32	38	30	29	32	30	29	26	28	29	22	25	12	30	543
$2n \times 4n$	69	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	6	
	70	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	21
	71	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	20
	72	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	2	1	1	3	0	2	1	0	2	25
	73	3	0	0	1	2	1	3	1	3	3	5	2	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	31
	74	1	2	1	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	0	1	4	2	3	4	2	1	2	43
	75	8	9	15	19	18	13	12	15	16	11	11	13	15	16	11	12	16	14	16	272
	76	4	3	5	2	2	3	2	6	3	6	6	2	0	2	3	0	3	3	2	62
	77	3	7	3	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	2	4	2	2	4	2	43
	78	3	4	2	3	0	3	4	1	0	2	1	3	1	2	5	2	3	3	2	47
	79	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	16
	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	8
total	27	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	28	29	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	594
$4n \times 2n$	68	5	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	20
	69	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	11
	70	4	0	0	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	25
	71	0	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	24
	72	1	2	0	7	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	0	4	0	4	2	41
	73	3	3	4	4	4	7	0	1	2	6	1	1	0	1	3	3	4	5	5	64
	74	0	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	0	2	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	1	3	32
	75	12	15	16	10	13	10	16	21	14	9	14	17	13	9	11	17	10	19	10	267
	76	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	18
	77	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	14
	78	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	10
	79	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
total	28	28	26	30	23	27	29	29	26	28	26	26	26	21	22	29	23	30	27	25	529
$4n \times 4n$	90	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
	91	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	8
	92	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
	93	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	15
	94	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	14
	95	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	2	24
	96	1	0	0	4	1	2	5	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	25
	97	1	0	0	2	2	4	1	0	1	1	3	3	0	3	1	2	2	4	0	31
	98	2	1	3	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	26
	99	1	2	2	1	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	26
	100	11	16	11	13	11	9	10	14	11	10	16	13	14	13	12	13	14	12	14	249
	101	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	15
102	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	12
total	22	21	20	26	22	29	20	23	20	22	30	21	20	28	23	23	22	25	24	22	463

Table S4. Distribution of chromosome numbers and ploidy level in embryos from the 3n x 3n cross

Ploidy level	Chromosome number	Embryo number																												Total	Sum(%)			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			29	30	
2.4n	61				2															1												3	3(0.3)	
2.5n	62				1					1																						2	4(0.5)	
	63				1																				1							2		
2.6n	64				3																1										1	5		
	65			3		3	3															2			3				4			18	48(5.5)	
	66			4	4																	2			4				10	1		25		
2.7n	67		2	2	6	2															1	2									2	21	70(8.0)	
	68			4	2	1		2	4								3	1			10	2			8	4			6	2		49		
2.8n	69		2	5	2	1		5	2								2				10	1		8	3				3	1		45		
	70	4	1	6	2	3		7	10	1							1	3	6	2	7	3	8	8	5			1	1	12	1	96	212(24.3)	
	71		4	1	4	1	4	1	5	5	1	1			6	1		8	8	1	1	4	4	1		1	2		6	4	2	71		
2.9n	72	1		4	1	1	1	6	2	2	2			6	1	2		6	4	3		2	10	1	1	1	1		3		1	4	66	119(13.6)
	73		2	1	1	1			3	1	3			1	4	2		4	5	1		2	1		3		2	4	6		2	4	53	
3.0n	74	2	1		1	5	1	3		2	2	1	5	4	3	1	1	4	4		1	1	2	3			1	7		2	4	61		
	75	2			2	3	1	1	10	7	4	7	3	2	2	1		7			2	3		3	1	2	1	6		3	2	75	190(21.8)	
	76	4	3			1	5	1	1	3	6			3	2		1	1	5				3		4	2	5	1			3	54		
3.1n	77	7	3			4			5	2	1		2	8	3	1		1			1		1	4		6	2				3	54	104(11.9)	
	78	2	3			1	5		3	2	2		1	6	3		1	1			1		1	6		3	6	1			2	50		
3.2n	79	1	2			1	1		1	1	1		1	2	7									4		2	3				1	1	29	
	80		1							3	3	1	3	3	4								1		3		3	2		1		1	29	78(8.9)
	81		1						2		6		1		4												5		1			20		
3.3n	82	3	1									3		1	3											3		1			15	24(2.8)		
	83					1						5			1														1	1		9		
3.4n	84										2	1																				3		
	85			1												1																2	8(0.9)	
	86		2																						1							3		
3.5n	87	1									2	1																				4	6(0.7)	
	88															1											1					2		
3.6n	89								1									1														2		
	90																										1		1			2	4(0.5)	
	91																															0		
3.7n	92																															0	1(0.1)	
	93														1																	1		
3.8n	94																															0	1(0.1)	
	95								1																							1		
Total		29	26	30	30	26	22	30	30	31	30	30	32	24	32	31	30	30	26	30	26	31	30	31	30	26	30	30	31	30	28	872		

Table S5. Distribution of chromosome numbers and ploidy level in embryos from 2n x 3n-3 cross

Ploidy level	Chromosome number	Embryo number																			Total	Sum(%)	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			20
2.1n	53		1										1	1				1	1		5	5(0.9)	
2.2n	54		1				2					1										4	
	55					1		2	1			1	3				1	1				10	26(4.9)
	56				2	3		1					2	1	1	1		1				12	
2.3n	57				2								4									6	27(5.1)
	58				5	1	2	1	1	1		1	2		2	4	1					21	
2.4n	59				3	2	3			1		1	8	1	2			4				25	
	60	4		2	8	1	5	6	4	1	2	2	3	2	6	4	4	1	9	4	1	69	170(32.1)
	61	4	1	7	1	3	7	9	6	3	1	5	4		6	4	1	4	4	2	4	76	
2.5n	62	7	3	6	1	4	3	3	3	9	5	6	3		12	8	12	2	6	3	6	##	184(34.7)
	63	7	5	5		6	1	3	7	4	2	6	4		1	3	2	10	1	11	4	82	
2.6n	64	4	2	1		1	2		1	8	3	7	2		1	2	1	6		2	6	49	
	65	1	2	2		4						5	6			1	1	1			1	24	102(19.2)
	66	2	4	2		1				2	9	1	1			2					5	29	
2.7n	67		3							1											1	5	11(2.1)
	68	1		2											1				1		1	6	
2.8n	69										1				1							2	
	70			1							1										1	3	5(0.9)
Total		30	22	28	22	27	25	25	23	30	28	30	25	22	30	30	27	26	27	23	30	##	

Table S6. Distribution of chromosome numbers in embryos from 3n x 2n-3 cross

Ploidy level	Chromosome number	Embryo number																				Total	Sum(%)												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20														
2.0n	50																					0	0(0)												
	51																					0													
2.1n	52			2																1					1					4	4(0.7)				
	53																					0													
2.2n	54								2							1								1				4	17(2.9)						
	55				2	2											1			1	1						7								
	56				1	1	1				2	1														6									
2.3n	57	1			1	5	1											2	6			2					1	1				2	67(11.6)		
	58				6	10	1	2	1	3	7			1	1	4					1	3				5	45								
2.4n	59	5			7	2	1	1											1	2			2	2	5	1				1	1	2	34	215(37.3)	
	60	11	4	7	5	21	7	1	5	7	6	2	3	4				2	6	7	4	2	6				110								
	61	3	4	4	4	1	1											4	2	4	12	2	2				3	7	3	4	4	7	71		
2.5n	62	2	10	1	1	3	13											3	2	14	9	8	4	2	9	4	9	6	9				109	167(28.9)	
	63			9											2	4	1			1			5	1	3	7	5	2	6	11	1	58			
2.6n	64			2				1	2	8											2	3			5	3	12	2	1	1	4	1	2	49	100(17.3)
	65			1											1	8				1				6	5	2				3	2	29			
	66								6			1	2	1	2	1	5	2	2											22					
2.7n	67								2														1											3	5(0.9)
	68																	1						1				2							
2.8n	69																				1				1				2	2(0.3)					
	70																					0													
Total		22	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	25	30	30	30	29	28	30	30	30	27	30	30	26	577												

Table S7. Distribution of chromosome numbers in embryos from 3n x 3n-3 cross

Ploidy level	Chromosome number	Embryo number																			Sum (%)		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		20	Total
2.6n	65			2			2	1	1				1						1		8	19(3.4)	
	66	2		1			1					1	1	2	1			1		1	11		
2.7n	67			3			2				2	2	3	3		4			2		21	38(6.9)	
	68			2			1	1			3	1	2		1	4			1		17		
2.8n	69	1		2		3		2	1		1	1			1	4	1			1	18	103(18.7)	
	70	3	2	6	1	1	1	3	2	2		2	4		3	1		3	3	2	39		
	71	1	2	6	2	2		6	1	1		2	2	1	1	3	4		3	6	3		46
2.9n	72	3	7	3		2	2	4	2	3		3	2	5	1	7	1	1	3	6	3	58	144(26.1)
	73	7	2	1	1	5	5	4		5	3	4	1	7	4	7	6	5	4	8	7	86	
3.0n	74	6	6		4		4	2	4	10	1	6	3	5	5	2	2	3	3	2	5	73	190(34.4)
	75	1	2			5	2	3	7	3	13	5	2		2		4	7	4		3	63	
	76	2			5	4	3	3	4		4	3	2	1	5	1	1	10	3	1	2	54	
3.1n	77		2		7		3		3		2		4		4			2	2		1	30	39(7.1)
	78					2		1			1		1				1		2		1	9	
3.2n	79	1				1			1		1		1		1			1				7	13(2.4)
	80						1						1								1	3	
	81											1			1				1			3	
3.3n	82						2									1		1				4	6(1.1)
	83										1		1									2	
Total		27	23	26	20	25	29	30	26	24	27	30	26	30	30	30	29	30	30	30	30	##	