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India. *Drosophila albomicans* - a race of
Drosophila nasuta.

Biological species are genetically closed systems. *D. nasuta* subgroup of the immigrans species group includes 3 major morphophenotypic complexes - one with frontal sheen, other with orbital sheen and another without any such sheen on frons. The frontal sheen complex includes 4 species - *D. nasuta*, *D. albomicans*, *D. kohkoa* and *D. kepulauanana*; orbital sheen complex includes 4 species - *D. neonasuta*, *D. sulfurigaster*, *D. pulaua* and *D. nixifrons*; and the third complex includes only one species - *D. pallidifrons*. The present report discusses the status of *D. albomicans* (received from Mrs. F.D. Wilson, Genetics Foundation, Austin, Texas) in the light of the results obtained from the genetic tests between *D. albomicans* and *D. nasuta*.

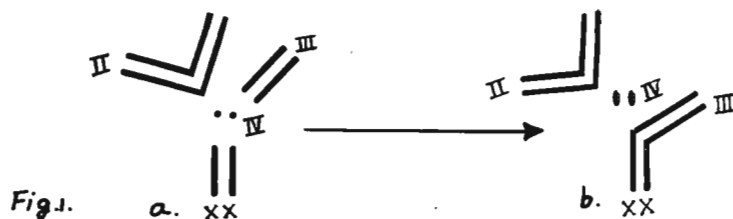


Figure 1. a. Karyotype of *D. nasuta*
b. Karyotype of *D. albomicans*

D. albomicans (Duda 1923) is morphologically similar to *D. nasuta*, but differs cytologically valid species by Wilson et al. (1969) only because of the difference encountered in the karyotype. However, the crosses between *D. nasuta* and *D. albomicans* have yielded very interesting results. All the F_1 , F_2 and F_3 generations are fertile. Males and females are produced in equal proportions. The karyotype of the F_1 consists of $2n = 7$, while that of F_2 and F_3 revealed only $2n = 8$.

As *D. albomicans* crosses freely with *D. nasuta* and has not yet reproductively isolated, it cannot be considered to be a full fledged species. The authors opine that *D. albomicans* certainly is nothing but a chromosomal race of *D. nasuta*. The karyotype of *D. albomicans* might have originated from that of *D. nasuta* by centric fusion of sex chromosomes to the third chromosome and involving also an addition of heterochromatin to the dot (Fig. 1). In the authors' opinion *D. albomicans* could as well be called *D. nasuta albomicana*.

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References: Lamb, C.G. 1914, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 16:307-372; Sajjan, S.N. and N. B. Krishnamurthy 1971, DIS 47:121; Wakahama, K. and O. Kitagawa 1972, Jap. J. Genet. Vol. 47 No. 2; Wilson, F.D., M.R. Wheeler, M. Harget and M. Kambysellis 1969, Univ. Tex. Publ. 6918: 207-254.

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Medium for *Drosophila* cells in vitro
without serum.

Echalier and Ohanessian's medium for *Drosophila* cells in vitro contains 20% of bovine foetal serum. In order to eliminate from the medium ingredients, the chemical composition of which is not exactly known, an attempt has been made to grow cells without serum. Three established cell lines obtained two years ago in our Laboratory (GM1, GM2 and GM3) have been submitted to a gradual elimination of the amount of serum. Each step consisted in a 2% decrease of serum, the duration of a step being nearly 20 days.

During this process the cells did not show any serious indication of damage. Cell line GM2 has been, up to now, in a medium without serum for two months. The cells look perfectly healthy and multiply normally. Lines GM1 and GM3 are on the way to complete the same process.