

# Karyomorphological studies on section *Bucerates* Boiss. of *Trigonella* L. (Leguminosae) from Turkey

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**Abstract** — The Karyomorphology of all taxa of section *Bucerates* Boiss. genus *Trigonella* L. (Leguminosae) were made using Image Analysis System. The chromosome numbers of 14 taxa of *Trigonella* ( $2n=16$ ), *T. fischeriana* Ser. and *T. monantha* C.A.Meyer subsp. *noeana* (Boiss.) Hub.-Mor. ( $2n=14$ ), *T. monantha* C.A.Meyer subsp. *monantha* Verz. ( $2n=16, 28, 30$ ) and *T. orthoceras* Kar. & Kir. ( $2n=16, 46$ ) were counted. B chromosomes were observed on *T. arcuata* C.A.Meyer. and there were two chromosomes with a satellite in *T. crassipes* Boiss. In the section *Bucerates*, 12 taxa of *Trigonella* showed tetraploidy, with  $2n=32$  and two taxa of *Trigonella* had hexaploidy ( $2n=48$ ). The range of chromosome length ranged from 3.26  $\mu\text{m}$  to 0.56  $\mu\text{m}$ . Whereas *T. orthoceras* had the longest chromosome length, *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* had shortest.

**Key words:** *Bucerates*, *Fabaceae*, Image Analysis System, karyotype, *Trigonella*, Turkey.

## INTRODUCTION

*Trigonella* L. (Leguminosae) is represented worldwide with about 100 species. In Turkey there are 13 sections and 50 taxa localized in different phytogeographical regions. The taxa number of the genus endemic in Turkey is 21, with a 42 % endemism (DAVIS *et al.* 1970; AKAN *et al.* 2005; AKAN *et al.* Unpl. data 2006).

*Bucerates* Boiss. section of *Trigonella* in Turkey is represented with 14 endemic species and 2 subspecies. The phytogeographical distribution of the members of the section is as follows: 10 taxa in the Irano-Turanian and 6 taxa in the East Mediterranean region. The morphological characteristics of section *Bucerates* is as follows; annual, stipules at least in part dentate or incised, keel and wings tightly joined, and the legumes are erect or spreading, linear, reticulate or transversely-nerved, and their sutures thickened.

There are some previous studies focusing on the *Trigonella* species (SMALL *et al.* 1981; BROOKES and SMALL 1988; SMALL *et al.* 1990; ALHABORI *et al.* 1998; PANDITA *et al.* 1999; MURAKAMI *et al.* 2000; KABILAN *et al.* 2002). The cytological information

of *Trigonella* consists of chromosome counts of approximately hundred species. Chromosome numbers of some taxa belonging to the section were determined previously (DARLINGTON and WYLIE 1955; BİDAK and AMIN, 1996; MARTIN *et al.* 2006a; YILMAZ, Unpl. data, 2006).

Except *T. fischeriana* and *T. astroites*, the chromosome numbers and karyotypes of *Bucerates* section are presented here for the first time. The significance of the results is discussed with regard to their systematic position and their relationship among each of these taxa.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the material investigated was collected from different part of Turkey, as given in Table 1. Voucher accessions have been deposited at the herbarium of Gazi University (GAZI) and Harran University.

Karyological studies were conducted with metaphase cells obtained from the root tips of germinated mature seeds. The root tips' pretreatment was conducted in  $\alpha$ -monobromonaphthalene for 16 hours; afterwards they were fixed in Carnoy for 24 hours; their hydrolysis was done in 1N HCl for 13 minutes at room temperature and staining with 2 % aceto-orcein for 2 hours. The karyotype analyses were conducted as described by MARTIN *et al.* 2006b.

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Table 1 — The localities, collector and chromosome numbers of *Trigonella* specimens studied karyologically.

Taxon	2n	Ploidy level	Localities	Collector and no
<i>T. aurantiaca</i>	16	4x = 32	Burdur	H.Akan 5753 & M.Ekici
<i>T. arenicola</i>	16	4x = 32	Antalya	H.Akan 3311 & M.Ekici
<i>T. fischeriana</i>	14	4x = 28	Kayseri	H.Akan 3654, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
<i>T. tenuis</i>	16	6x = 48	Kars	H.Akan 3742, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
<i>T. cancellata</i>	16	4x = 32	Ağrı	H.Akan 3757, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
<i>T. astroites</i>	16		Kayseri	H.Akan 3771 & M.Ekici
<i>T. halophila</i>	16	4x = 32	Mersin	H.Akan 3279 & M.Ekici
<i>T. crassipes</i>	16	4x = 32	Antalya	H.Akan 3325 & M.Ekici
<i>T. polycarpa</i>	16	4x = 32	Antalya	H.Akan 5658 & M.Ekici
<i>T. rigida</i>	16		Adana	H.Akan 4683 & M.Ekici
<i>T. pamphylica</i>	16		Antalya	H.Akan 5764 & M.Ekici
<i>T. carica</i>	16	4x = 32	Muğla	H.Akan 3366 & M.Ekici
<i>T. arcuata</i>	16A+2B	4x = 32	Kayseri	H.Akan 3723, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
<i>T. monantha</i> subsp. <i>monantha</i>	16		Antalya	H.Akan 3656, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
	28			
	30	4x = 32	Şanlıurfa Kayseri	MNM 1061
				H.Akan 3356, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
<i>T. monantha</i> subsp. <i>noeana</i>	14	4x = 32, 6x = 48	Şanlıurfa	H.Akan 3207 & M.Ekici
<i>T. orthoceras</i>	16		Kars	H.Akan 3746, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici
	46	4x = 32	Kayseri	H.Akan 3658, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici

## RESULTS

The chromosome numbers and morphology of 16 taxa of *Trigonella* from Turkey belonging to section (*Bucerates*) are studied. Out of these 16 taxa, 12 are studied for the first time (except *T. fischeriana* and *T. astroites*). In the section *Bucerates*, the chromosome numbers varied among the taxa. There were polyploid in 13 taxa (Table 1, Fig. 1-19).

Diploid chromosome numbers, chromosome sizes, karyotype formula, satellite presences, basic chromosome numbers and B chromosomes of the sixteen taxa of section *Bucerates* studies are given in Table 2. The asterisk in Table 2 indicates the taxa with a pair of satellites.

### Section *Bucerates* Boiss

*Trigonella aurantiaca* Boiss. - C2 Burdur: Gölhisar-Altinyayla 12. km, 29.06.2005, 1275 m, forest clearings, H.Akan 5753 & M.Ekici. This species is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Stony slopes, limestone steppe, clearances, gardens, road sides, oak woods, forest clearances, 50-1600 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Similarity with *T. fischeriana* is significant but the sutures on

the fruits are not wavy but plain. This is the first report on the chromosome number and morphology of this species. Mitotic chromosome number is  $2n=16$  (Fig. 1). The chromosome lengths range between 1.40 - 2.08  $\mu\text{m}$ . Six chromosome pairs are metacentric and two are submetacentric. The total haploid chromosome length is 13.54  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20. *Trigonella arenicola* Hub.-Mor. - C3 Antalya: Lara, 22.05.2002, 5 m, sands, H.Akan 3311 & M.Ekici. It is endemic to Turkey, East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and IUCN category is CR. Habitat and altitude: Sands, 0-10 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, a species localized in the south west Anatolia, among the narrow endemics. The chromosome number of *T. arenicola* is  $2n=16$ . Besides there is tetraploidy in this species (Fig. 2). There are five metacentric and three submetacentric chromosomes. Chromosomes range from 0.64 to 1.14  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 6.83  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella fischeriana* Ser. - B5 Kayseri: Ali Mountain, East slopes, 08.07.2002, 1300 m, roadside, H.Akan 3654, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Stony slopes, steppe,

clearances, road sides and oak groves, 500-2000 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Russia and Transcaucasia. No significant characteristics accept the undulate areas on the sutures of its fruits. The mitotic metaphase chromosome number and karyotype formula are  $2n=14=7m$  (Fig. 3). The basic chromosome number is  $x=7$ . This species is apparently diploid; however, the accession  $4x=28$  may be tetraploid based on  $x=7$ . Chromosomes lengths vary from 0.79 to 1.67  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 7.81  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella tenuis* Fisch. - A9 Kars: Kağızman-Cumaçay 26. km, 14.07.2002, 1800 m, meadows, H.Akan 3742, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Stony slopes, steppe, forest clearings, oak groves and road sides, 300-1500 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Balkans, Crimea, S Russia and Caucasia. The diploid chromosome number is  $2n=16$  (Fig. 4). The metaphase karyotype comprises three metacentric and five submetacentric chromosomes. The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . The level of ploidy,  $6x=48$ , is similar to the other members. Chromosomes length range from 1.79 to 2.87  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 17.69  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2).

The idiogram of this taxon, studied for the first time in the present study, is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella cancellata* Desf. - B10 Ağrı: Doğubeyazıt-Çaldıran 20. km, 14.07.2002, 1350 m, steppe, H.Akan 3757, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is CR. Habitat and altitude: Stony areas, steppe, and 1250-2250 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, S Russia, Caucasia, N Iran, Transcaucasia and Turkistan. The natural dispersion of this taxon is in Turkey only in the eastern Anatolia. The closest taxon is *T. tenuis*. Since the amount of flowers of *T. cancellata* is more than *T. tenuis* (4-5, rarely 8) and its peduncle is longer (1-3 cm) it can easily be differentiated. This is the first chromosome count and morphology-study of this species. The somatic chromosome number is  $2n=16$  (Fig. 5). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . Seven chromosome pairs are metacentric and one is submetacentric. The level of ploidy is similar to other members, with  $4x=32$ . Chromosomes lengths range from 0.83 to 1.30  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 8.19  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella astroites* Fisch. & Mey. - B5 Kayseri: Kayseri-Ürgüp, 29. km, 16.08.2002, 1180 m,

Table 2 — Comparison of the chromosomes of the sixteen *Trigonella* taxa examined (AR: arm ratio; CI: centromeric index; THC: total length of haploid complement; M: metacentric; SM: submetacentric; X: chromosome basic number, \* a pair of satellites seen in the chromosome pairs are marked with an asterisk).

Taxon	Chromosome numbers (2n)	Chromosome sizes ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	AR	CI	THC ( $\infty\text{m}$ )	M	SM	X
<i>T. aurantiaca</i>	16	1.40-2.08	1.50	6.79	13.54	6	2	8
<i>T. arenicola</i>	16	0.64-1.14	1.68	4.87	6.83	5	3	8
<i>T. fischeriana</i>	14	0.79-1.67	1.37	6.00	7.81	7	-	7
<i>T. tenuis</i>	16	1.79-2.87	1.67	4.73	17.69	3	5	8
<i>T. cancellata</i>	16	0.83-1.30	1.36	5.40	8.19	7	1	8
<i>T. astroites</i>	16	0.74-1.24	1.28	5.50	7.40	8	-	8
<i>T. balophila</i>	16	0.73-1.27	1.25	5.60	8.52	8	-	8
<i>T. crassipes</i> *	16	1.31-1.83	1.30	5.50	12.25	7	1	8
<i>T. polycarpa</i>	16	1.53-2.44	1.62	4.84	15.30	6	2	8
<i>T. rigida</i>	16	0.93-1.59	1.23	5.61	9.23	8	-	8
<i>T. pamphylica</i>	16	1.56-2.71	1.27	5.51	16.28	8	-	8
<i>T. carica</i>	16	0.82-1.26	1.40	5.30	8.08	7	1	8
<i>T. arcuata</i>	16+2B	0.62-1.12	1.40	5.24	6.39	6	2	8
<i>T. monantha</i> subsp. <i>monantha</i>	16	0.61-1.14	1.69	4.81	6.32	4	4	8
	28	1.32-3.26	1.35	3.14	25.19	13	1	-
	30	0.56-0.96	1.20	3.04	11.71	15	-	-
<i>T. monantha</i> subsp. <i>noeana</i>	14	1.57-2.65	1.71	5.38	14.72	4	3	7
<i>T. orthoceras</i>	16	0.59-1.08	1.31	5.50	6.16	7	1	8
	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

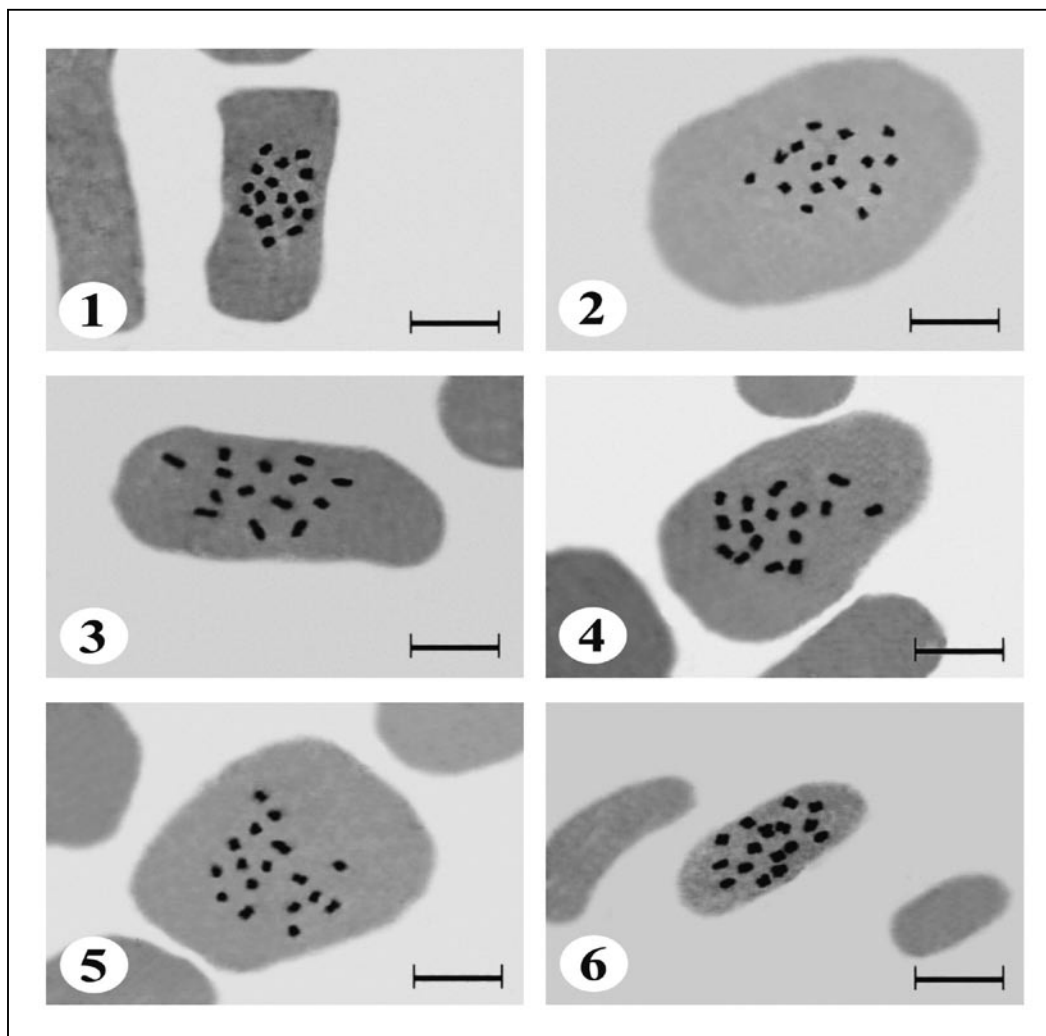


Fig. 1-6 — (1). *Trigonella aurantiaca* ( $2n=16$ ), (2). *T. arenicola* ( $2n=16$ ), (3). *T. fischeriana* ( $2n=14$ ), (4). *T. tenuis* ( $2n=16$ ), (5). *T. cancellata* ( $2n=16$ ), (6). *T. astroites* ( $2n=16$ ), Scale Bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

roadside, *H.Akan* 3771 & *M.Ekici*. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Slopes, steppes, forest clearings, 0-1750 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Syria desert, Anti-Lebanon, Palestina, Trans Caucasia, N Iraq and N Iran. It is among the ones with the highest population of *Trigonella* species. The somatic chromosome number and morphology is  $2n=16=8m$  (Fig. 6). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . Chromosomes lengths range from 0.74 to 1.24  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 7.40  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella halophila* Boiss. - C5 Mersin: Mersin-Egemen, 21.05.2002, 50 m, sandy hills, *H.Akan* 3279 & *M.Ekici*. It is endemic to Turkey, distribut-

ed only in the south of Mersin province. It is East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and IUCN category is CR. Habitat and altitude: Seaside sandy areas, 0-50 m. Distribution areas: Turkey. It is among the endemic species disperses narrowly of southern Anatolia. Its morphological closeness to *T. astroites* is significant. The habitat of *T. halophila* is the salty-sandy and thus different form *T. astroites*. This is the first chromosome number and morphology for this species are determined as  $2n=16=8m$  (Fig. 7). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . In addition, tetraploid cells have been observed. Chromosomes lengths vary from 0.73 to 1.27  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 8.52  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella crassipes* Boiss. - C3 Antalya: Antalya-Hafızpaşa, 23.05.2002, 750 m, maquis, *H.Akan* 3325 & *M.Ekici*. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Maquis, pine forest clearings, empty plains, 600-1700 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Anti-Lebanon, N Iraq and W Iran. It is among the species with the widest spread population in Turkey. The chromosome number and morphology of this species, studied for the first time, is  $2n=16=7m+1sm$  (Fig. 8). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$  and there are two pairs of satellite mitotic metaphases. There are also some tetraploid cells. Chromosome sizes vary from 1.31 to 1.83  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid

chromosome length is 12.25  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella polycarpa* Boiss. & Heldr. - C3 Antalya: Antalya-Lara, 07.05.2005, 5 m, sands, *H.Akan* 5658 & *M.Ekici*. It is endemic to Turkey, East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and IUCN category is CR. Habitat and altitude: Shore, sandy areas, pebbled areas, pine forest clearings, 0-50 m. Distribution areas: Turkey. Its one of the endemic taxon of this species spread narrowly. It is generally located at southern Anatolia. It is one of the well known species. Though significant for its resemblance with *T. arenicola*, it can easily be separated due to higher number of flowers and longer peduncle.

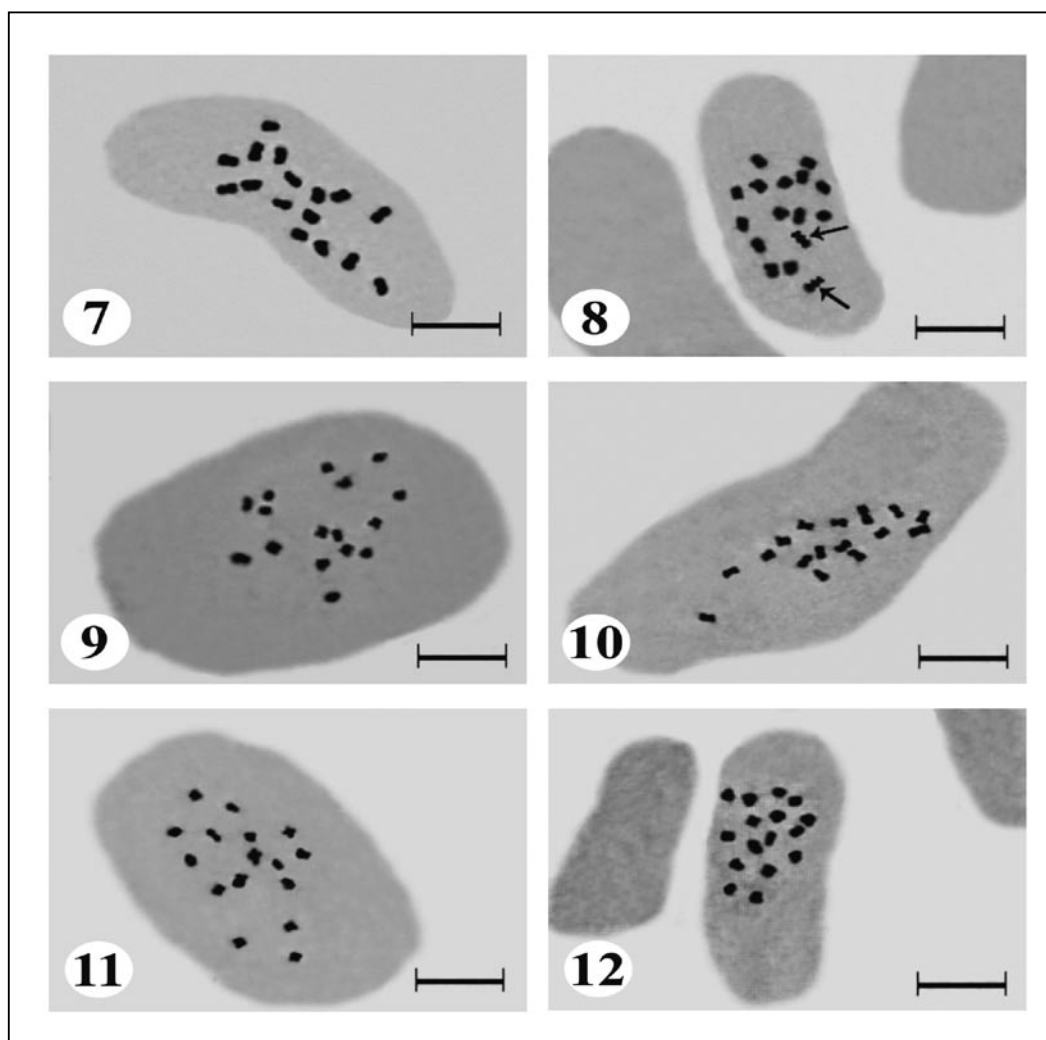


Fig. 7-12 — (7). *T. halophila* ( $2n=16$ ), (8). *T. crassipes* ( $2n=16$ ), (9). *T. polycarpa* ( $2n=16$ ), (10). *T. rigida* ( $2n=16$ ), (11). *T. pamphylica* ( $2n=16$ ), (12). *T. carica* ( $2n=16$ ), Scale Bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

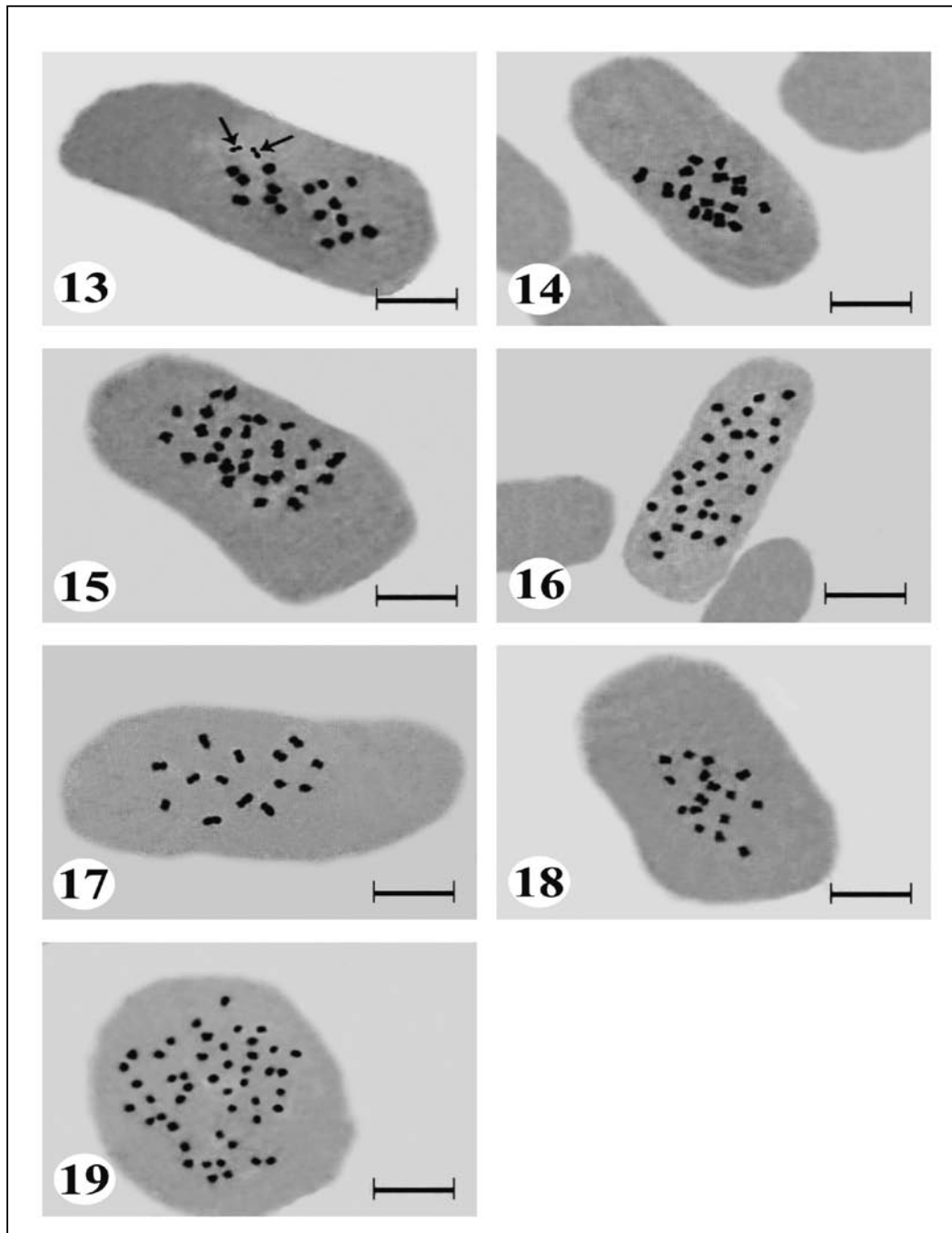


Fig. 13-19 — (13). *T. arcuata* ( $2n=16$ ), (14-16). *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* ( $2n=16$ , 28, 30), (17). *T. monantha* subsp. *noeana* ( $2n=14$ ), (18-19). *T. orthoceras* ( $2n=16$ , 46), Scale Bar: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

The chromosome number and morphology of this Turkish species, studied for the first time, is  $2n=16=6m+2sm$  (Fig. 9). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$  and there are tetraploidy in the somatic chromosomes of this taxon. Chromosomes lengths vary from 1.53 to 2.44  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromo-

some length is 15.30  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

*Trigonella rigida* Boiss. & Bal.- C6 Adana: Pozantı-Çiftehan 8. km, 08.06.2003, 852 m, stony slopes, H.Akan 4683 & M.Ekici. It endemic to Turkey, East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and

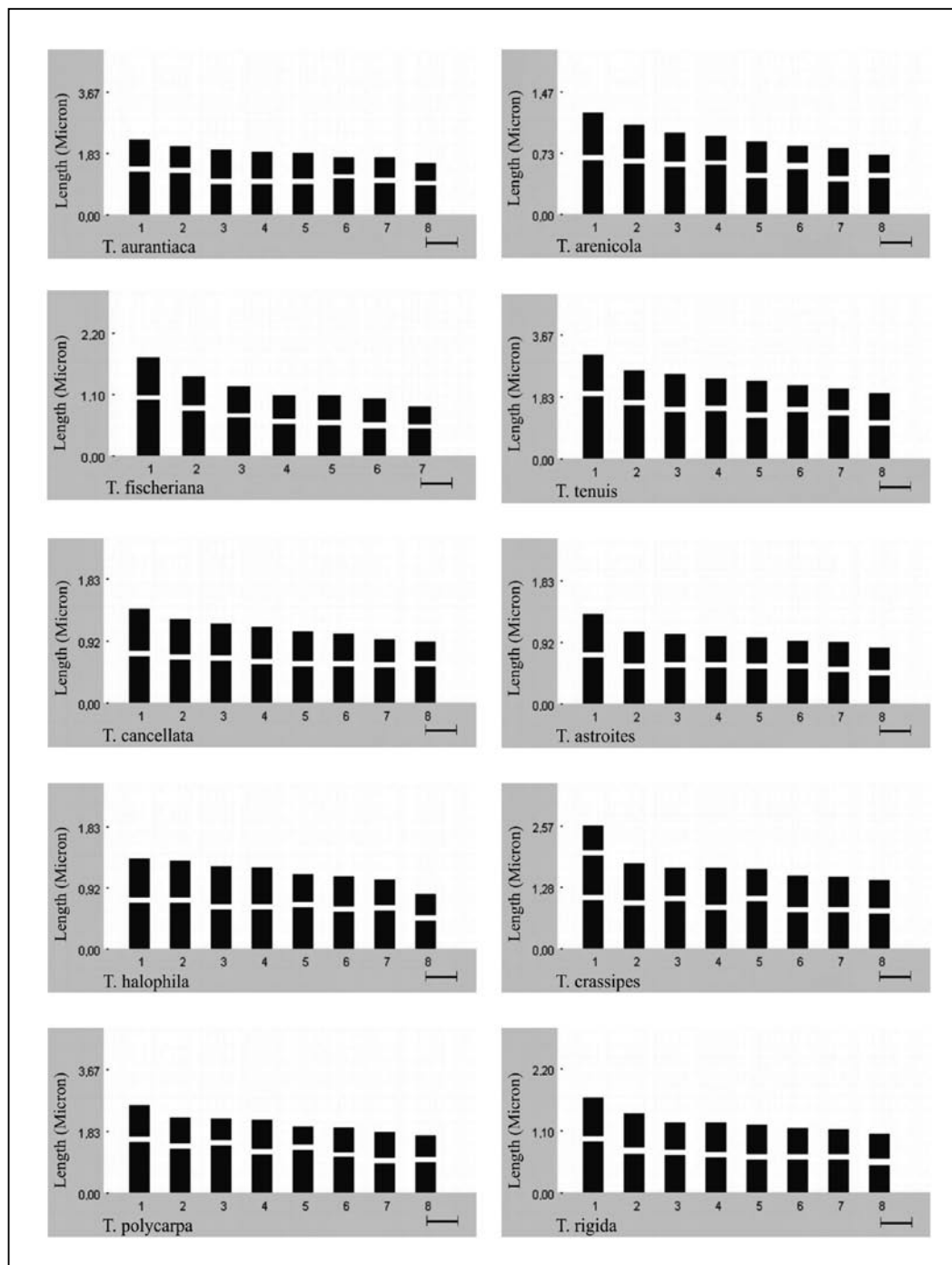


Fig. 20 — Haploid idiograms in taxa belonging to section *Bucerates*.

IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Calcareous stone hedges, sandy river beds, 120-900 m. Distribution areas: Turkey. This taxon, close to *T. crassipes*, can be easily differentiated for its shorter neck. This is the first report on the chromosome number and morphology of this species.

The diploid chromosome number is  $2n=16=8m$  (Fig.10). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . Chromosomes lengths are from 0.93 to 1.59  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 9.23  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 20.

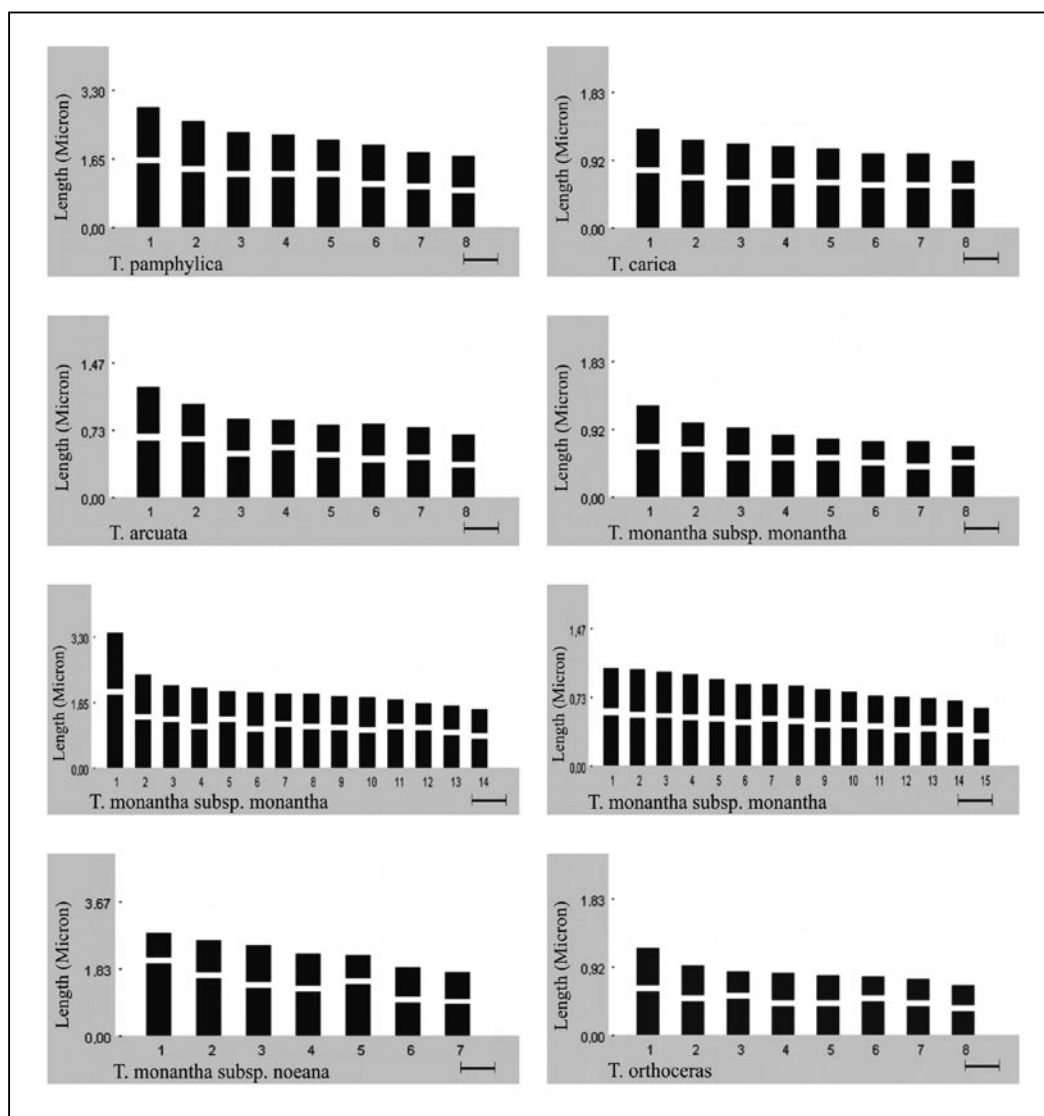


Fig. 21 — Haploid idiograms in taxa belonging to section *Bucerates*.

*Trigonella pamphylica* Hub.-Mor. & Sirj. - C4 Antalya: Akseki-Seydişehir 10. km, 30.06.2005, 1200 m, *Pinus brutia* clearings, *H.Akan* 5764 & *M.Ekici*. The species is East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and IUCN category is VU. Habitat and altitude: Maquis, fir tree forest clearings, 800-1500 m. Distribution areas: Turkey. It is an endemic species only spread in Antalya. The present study determined for the first time the chromosome number and morphology as  $2n=16=8m$  of this species (Fig.11). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . Chromosome lengths vary from 1.56 to 2.71  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome

length is 16.28  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 21.

*Trigonella carica* Hub.-Mor. - C2 Muğla: Marmaris, İnişdibi district, 24.05.2002, 200 m, maquis, *H.Akan* 3366 & *M.Ekici*. It endemic of Turkey, East Mediterranean Element (E. Medit. el.) and IUCN category is NT. Habitat and altitude: Calcareous stone slopes, maquis, 0-1250 m. Distribution areas: Turkey. It is located mostly in the regions of Muğla and Antalya. This is the first report on the chromosome number and morphology of this species. The somatic chromosome number and karyotype formula is  $2n=16=7m+1sm$  (Fig. 12). The basic



chromosome number is  $x=8$  and the ploidy level is ( $4x$ ). Chromosomes sizes vary from 0.82 to 1.26  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 8.08  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 21.

*Trigonella arcuata* C.A. Meyer - B6 Kayseri: Kayseri-Hisarçık road, 08.07.2002, 1250 m, roadside, H.Akan 3723, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is NT. Habitat and altitude: Steppe, river sides, 900-1950 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, S Russia, Caucasia, Iran and Middle Asia. It is a species only spread in eastern Anatolia and has a good population in its location. This is the first report on the chromosome number and morphology of this species. The mitotic chromosome number is  $2n=16$  (Figure 13). The basic chromosome number is  $x=8$ . There are 2B chromosomes in some cells. The presence of B chromosome in the genus is unusual because there are rare evidences in the literature. The chromosome lengths range from 0.62 to 1.12  $\mu\text{m}$ . Six chromosome pairs are metacentric and two are submetacentric. The total haploid chromosome length is 6.39  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 21.

*Trigonella monantha* C.A. Meyer subsp. *monantha* Verz. - C3 Antalya: Antalya-Kalkan, 24.05.2002, 20 m, maquis, H.Akan 3356, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici, C7 Şanlıurfa: Şanlıurfa-Bozova, exit of Tektaş village, 13.05.2006, 720 m, fieldside, MNM 1061, B5 Kayseri: Ali Mountain, NW foots, 08.07.2002, 1350 m, in the opening of *Quercus*, H.Akan 3656, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Steppe, slopes, agricultural areas, 300-1850 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, N Iraq and Syria desert, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran and Trans Caucasia. In this study, three different localities have been studied. The count of somatic chromosome numbers for this subspecies have been determined as  $2n=16$ , 28 and 30 (Fig. 14-16). The accessions that have been gathered from Antalya province have a diploid chromosome number of  $2n=16$  and the karyotype formula is  $4m+4sm$ . The chromosome lengths vary from 0.61 to 1.14  $\mu\text{m}$  and the total haploid chromosome length is 6.32  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). However, the accessions that have been collected from Şanlıurfa province have  $2n=28$  somatic chromosome number and the karyotype formula is  $13m+1sm$ . Chromosome lengths are varying from 1.32 to 3.26  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the total haploid chromosome length is 25.19  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). On the other hand, the accessions from Ali mountain, province of Kayseri, have mitotic metaphase chromosome number of  $2n=30$  and all

pairs are metacentric. Chromosome lengths are varying between 0.56 and 0.96  $\mu\text{m}$  and the total haploid chromosome length is 11.71  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). Among all chromosome pairs from these three different localities, only this one, (Antalya province) has tetraploidy ( $4x=32$ ) (Table 2). The idiogram of subspecies are given in Fig. 21.

*Trigonella monantha* C.A. Meyer subsp. *noeana* (Boiss.) Hub.-Mor. - C7 Şanlıurfa: Birecik-Nizip 4. km, meadows, H.Akan 3207 & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Vineyards, agricultural land, 400- 1300 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, Syria desert, Palestine, N Iraq, Trans Caucasia, Iran, Afghanistan and Turkistan. It has been studied for the first time in the present study and the chromosome numbers are  $2n=14=4m+3sm$  (Fig. 17). The basic chromosome number is  $x=7$ . There are  $4x$  and  $6x$  cytotypes in almost all polyploidy subspecies. The presence of polyploidy in the same populations or within one (mixopolyploidy) indicates the autopolyploid origin of the tetraploid cytotypes and suggests recurrent origins. Chromosomes lengths are between 1.57 to 2.65  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 14.72  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 21.

*Trigonella orthoceras* Kar. & Kir. - A9 Kars: Kağızman-Cumaçay 26. km, 14.07.2002, 1800 m, meadows, H.Akan 3746, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici, B5 Kayseri: Hisarçık-Erciyes road, 08.07.2002, 1550 m, H.Akan 3658, Z.Aytaç & M.Ekici. It is Irano-Turanian Element (Ir.-Tur.) and IUCN category is LC. Habitat and altitude: Slopes, steppe, meadows and 350-2000 m. Distribution areas: Turkey, N Iraq, S Russia, Caucasia and Middle Asia. It is mainly spread in middle and eastern Anatolia. It differs from *T. monantha* for the shorter fruit necks. This is the first report on the chromosome number and morphology of this species. The chromosome number of two accessions are defined as  $2n=16$  and 46 (Fig. 18-19). The distribution locality of this species is far away from each other and the different chromosome numbers are cytological very interesting. The accessions that have been collected from Kars province have a somatic chromosome numbers of  $2n=16$ , and their karyotype formula is  $7m+1sm$ . Chromosomes lengths vary from 0.59 to 1.08  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 6.16  $\mu\text{m}$  (Table 2). However, the accessions collected from Kayseri province have a somatic chromosome number of  $2n=46$ . The metaphase chromosomes are very small. Therefore their centromer points could not determined, and thus the karyotype study couldn't be conducted (Table 2). The idiogram of this taxon is given in Fig. 21.

## DISCUSSION

The karyomorphological study on the section of *Bucerates* shows that chromosome numbers of these taxa are  $2n=14, 16, 28, 30$  and  $46$ . In the relevant literature, the chromosome numbers are given as  $2n=16, 46$  and  $48$  (TUTIN and HEYWOOD 1964; LADIZINSKY and VOSA 1986; MARTIN *et al.* 2006a; 2006b; YILMAZ, Unpl. data 2006).

In this section, there are two different basic chromosome numbers ( $x=7$  and  $8$ ). The chromosome numbers and karyotypes are determined for all taxa, except *T. fischeriana* and *T. astroites*, for the first time in the present study.

In this caryological study, the members of *Bucerates* section have been collected and examined from different parts of Turkey. Among the taxa studied, 14 are collected from one locality. *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha*, on the other hand, has been gathered from three and *T. orthoceras* from two different localities.

*T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* has the smallest centromeric index (3.04). This taxon has been collected from different localities and it was determined that it has three different chromosome numbers and morphology. This subspecies has the biggest total length of haploid chromosome (25.19  $\mu\text{m}$ ). It has the shortest arm ratio (1.20) among the section members. The diploid chromosome numbers have been detected as  $2n=16, 28$  and  $30$ .

One of the accessions, the one from Antalya province has  $2n=16$  somatic chromosome number; the total haploid chromosome length is 6.32  $\mu\text{m}$ , the shortest chromosome length is 0.61  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the tallest chromosome length is 1.14  $\mu\text{m}$ . The karyotype formula is  $4m+4sm$ . However, the other locality, the one from Şanlıurfa province, has a somatic chromosome number of  $2n=28$ . Its total haploid chromosome length is 25.19  $\mu\text{m}$ , the shortest chromosome length is 1.32  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the tallest chromosome length is 3.26  $\mu\text{m}$ . The karyotype formula for this locality is  $13m+1sm$ . The last accession, from Kayseri province, has a diploid chromosome number of  $2n=30$ . The total haploid chromosome length of this accession is 11.71  $\mu\text{m}$ , the shortest chromosome length is 0.56  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the tallest chromosome length is 0.96  $\mu\text{m}$ . The karyotype formula of this locality is  $15m$ .

The somatic chromosome number of *Trigonella monantha* subsp. *noeana* is  $2n=14$  and its chromosome morphology is  $4m+3sm$ . This fact confirms that *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* is a tetraploid as the accessions gathered from Bozova, (Şanlıurfa). Among the section members, *T.*

*monantha* subsp. *noeana* has the tallest arm ratio (1.71).

As previously mentioned, *Trigonella orthoceras* has been collected from two different localities; Kars and Kayseri provinces. The accessions that have been collected from Kars province have somatic chromosome numbers of  $2n=16$ , and karyotype formula is  $7m+1sm$ . Chromosomes lengths range from 0.59 to 1.08  $\mu\text{m}$ . The total haploid chromosome length is 6.16  $\mu\text{m}$ . In the specimens of this locality the shortest chromosome length is 0.59  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the tallest chromosome length is 1.08  $\mu\text{m}$ . However, the accessions collected from Kayseri province has a somatic chromosome number of  $2n=46$ . The metaphase chromosomes are very small making the determination of centromer points impossible. Therefore the karyotype analysis couldn't be conducted for this accession.

YILMAZ, Unpl. data, 2006) reported the chromosome number and morphology of *Trigonella fischeriana* as  $2n=14$ . His findings are similar to the findings in our study. His findings regarding *Trigonella astroites*,  $2n=16$ , supports the findings of the present study as well.

The chromosome numbers of section *Bucerates* taxa are determined to be the same as previously defined (LADIZINSKY and VOSA 1986). The ploidy level for this genus is  $4x$ .

The results of the present study confirm earlier studies on *Trigonella polycarpa* that have determined its chromosome number as  $2n=16$  to be the most common chromosome number of this genus (TUTIN and HEYWOOD 1964).

In this study, two different basic chromosome numbers ( $x=7$  and  $x=8$ ) are counted for the species and subspecies of *Bucerates* section. Among these, only two taxa (*T. fischeriana* and *T. monantha* subsp. *noeana*) have  $x=7$  as their basic chromosome number.

The basic chromosome number of *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* and *T. orthoceras* couldn't be determined. The different diploid chromosome numbers have been observed on the different accessions of different localities. These differences hindered the determination of the basic chromosome numbers of *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* and *T. orthoceras*.

*T. arcuata* is the only species among the members of section that has  $2B$  chromosomes. This finding is mentioned for the first time in section *Bucerates* and even in genus *Trigonella*.

*T. crassipes* is the unique species in section for having satellite metaphase chromosomes. The results of the present study confirm earlier studies on genus *Trigonella*. Although *T. strangulata* Boiss.

and *T. cariensis* Boiss. have two pairs of satellite chromosome, a pair of satellite chromosome in *T. velutina* Boiss. (MARTIN *et al.* 2006a).

The karyotype formula of *T. fischeriana*, *T. astroites*, *T. halophila*, *T. rigida*, *T. pamphylica* and *T. monantha* subsp. *monantha* consist only of metacentric chromosome pairs.

The metaphase chromosome cells of some taxa reveal mixoploidy. In the metaphase chromosome preparations, cells with diploid chromosomes and cells with polyploidy chromosomes are present on the same root tips. Two different ploidy levels are observed on the members of section. These are 4x (tetraploid) and 6x (hexaploid). No polyploidy has been detected for *T. astroites*, *T. rigida* and *T. pamphylica*.

The presence of tetraploidy and hexaploidy at the same time is unique to *T. monantha* subsp. *noeana*. Besides, hexaploidy was present in the metaphase chromosome cells of *T. tenuis*.

The chromosome morphology of the members of this section is consists of metacentric and sub-metacentric chromosome pairs. Among the taxa studied, the chromosome morphology of *T. orthoceras* could not be conducted.

The factors endangering living creatures such as destruction of natural habitats, field clearances, tourism, dams and irrigation system construction affects the taxon of *Trigonella* as well. Therefore, our biological treasures but especially endemic plant species is endangered. Thus it is an obligation to protect them as *Ex-situ* or *In-situ*.

*T. rigida* is among the widely spread endemics. The other endemics are *T. arenicola*, *T. halophila*, *T. polycarpa*, *T. pamphylica* and *T. carica*, spread narrowly. The *Trigonella* species are generally localized in the Mediterranean and Western Anatolia but is also partially seen in Western Europe, and in Eastern Anatolia.

The findings of the present and previous studies reveal that the chromosome numbers of different taxa of section *Bucerates* differ. The chromosome numbers and karyotype formula of accessions collected from different localities may be different. These cytogenetical diversions may be a result of infrageneric and infraspecific variations.

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