

Karyotypes of



The chromosomes of three commercially important species of veneroid bivalves were studied: *Cerastoderma edule* (Cardiidae), *Venerupis pullastra* and *Venerupis rhomboides* (Veneridae, Tapetinae) using conventional Giemsa staining and morphometric measurements. *C. edule* showed a diploid chromosome number of $2n=38$ and a variable occurrence of supernumerary chromosomes. Its karyotype consists of 12 submetacentric, 4 subtelocentric and 3 telocentric chromosome pairs. The supernumerary chromosomes were easily distinguished by their reduced differentiated size and by their intra and inter-individual variability. *C. edule* is the first bivalve species where supernumerary chromosomes have been observed. *V. pullastra* had $2n = 38$ with a karyotype including 3 metacentric, 8 submetacentric and 8 subtelocentric chromosome pairs. *V. rhomboides* had $2n = 38$ with a karyotype including 4 metacentric, 8 submetacentric, 4 subtelocentric and 3 telocentric chromosome pairs. Cytotaxonomic relationships are proposed within Tapetinae from comparative analysis of karyotypes of two species studied here and three other species of the same subfamily previously studied.

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