

Two lineages, diploid and tetraploid, demonstrated in African species



Enzymatic polymorphism was studied in nine enzyme systems of four species of large African Barbus (*B. bynni occidentalis* Boulenger, 1911; *B. sacrus* Daget, 1963; *B. petitjeani* Daget 1962; and *B. wurtzi* Pellegrin, 1908), two species of small African Barbus (*B. guineensis* Pellegrin, 1913 and *B. cadenati* Daget, 1962), and two species of European Barbus (*B. barbus* Linnaeus, 1758 and *B. meridionalis*). Like European Barbus, the large African Barbus were found to express more than 20 enzymatic loci for these systems (21 to 23), whereas the small African Barbus only expressed 14. This result suggests that large African Barbus are tetraploid like European Barbus and that small African Barbus are diploid like the Asian species. The two groups of African Barbus do not appear to be phylogenetically closer to each other than they are to European Barbus. Consequently, tetraploidization must have occurred long ago in large African Barbus, and may correspond to the same event responsible for the origin of the European species.

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