

New insights into telomeric DNA sequence (TTAGGG)_n location in bat chromosomes

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Genet. Mol. Res. 8 (3): 1079-1084 (2009)

Received May 18, 2009

Accepted July 6, 2009

Published September 1, 2009

ABSTRACT. Molossidae species, *Cynomops abrasus* (2n = 34, fundamental number, FN = 64), *Eumops auripendulus* (2n = 42, FN = 62), *Molossus rufus* (2n = 48, FN = 64), *Molossops temminckii* (2n = 48, FN = 64), and *Nyctinomops laticaudatus* (2n = 48, FN = 64), and Phyllostomidae species, *Phyllostomus discolor* (2n = 32, FN = 60), have karyotypes with different chromosome and fundamental numbers, different localization of constitutive heterochromatin, and different numbers and location of nucleolar organizer regions (NORs). Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization with a human probe of the telomeric sequence (TTAGGG)_n produced fluorescent signals in telomeric regions of the six bat species' chromosomes; in *E. auripendulus*, pericentromeric signals were also observed in the acrocentric and subtelocentric chromosomes. A relationship between telomeric sequences and NORs, and

between telomeric sequences and constitutive heterochromatin was detected in chromosomes bearing NORs in *C. abrasus*, *M. temminckii*, *N. laticaudatus*, and *P. discolor*. No interstitial signal was observed in the meta- or submetacentric chromosomes of these species.

Key words: Molossid; Phyllostomid; Chiroptera; Telomeric sequence; Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization