



Short Communication

Meiotic behavior and pollen viability in *Moringa oleifera* (Moringaceae) cultivated in southern Brazil

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ABSTRACT. Although originally from India, *Moringa oleifera* is now cultivated throughout most of the tropics, including Brazil. Despite its multipurpose value for food and traditional medicine, little is known about the meiotic behavior and pollen viability of *M. oleifera*. We evaluated microsporogenesis and pollen viability in eleven plants grown in southern Brazil (Maringá, Paraná). Bud flowers were collected in different stages of development. All plants that we analyzed presented $2n = 28$ chromosomes, as previously reported for this species. Chromosomes paired as bivalents. Meiotic abnormalities were rare and metaphase I was the most affected phase. Pollen viability was superior to 88%. Tripolar spindles in metaphase II, leading to the formation of unreduced gametes, were

recorded in some plants at a low frequency.

Key words: *Moringa oleifera*; Meiosis; Tripolar spindles;
Unreduced gametes; Pollen viability