



Genetic, embryonic and anatomical study of an interspecific cassava hybrid

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Genet. Mol. Res. 9 (1): 532-538 (2010)

Received November 23, 2009

Accepted January 4, 2010

Published March 23, 2010

ABSTRACT. A molecular, anatomical and cytogenetic study of an interspecific hybrid between *Manihot esculenta* (cassava) and the wild species *M. oligantha* was carried out. Cytogenetics revealed relatively complete chromosome pairing and high viability of the pollen grains. Ovule structure examined by the clearing method showed polyembryony in 2.7% of the ovules. Doubling of the chromosome number resulted in an increase in polyembryony of up to 18% and a reduction in pollen viability. Multivalent formation was also observed. An anatomical study of stems of diploid and tetraploid hybrids showed a larger number of vascular bundles in the tetraploid type.

Key words: Genetics; Embryology; Anatomy; Cassava hybridization