

Karyological study in fifteen *Leucocoryne* taxa (Alliaceae)

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The karyotype of fifteen *Leucocoryne* taxa was studied, assessing characteristics such as chromosome morphology and size, secondary constriction location, and asymmetry level. Two groups of *Leucocoryne* taxa were described based on chromosome number ($2n = 10$ and $2n = 18$) and karyotype asymmetry. The haploid karyotype formula for the group $2n = 10$ was $3m + 2st$ (or $2t$), whereas for the group $2n = 18$ was $7m + 2st$ (or $2t$). Such results corroborate the karyotype descriptions previously carried out for some taxa of the genus. *Leucocoryne* taxa showed a high resemblance in chromosome morphology, but inter-specific differences were found in mean chromosome size. These data and previous studies based on gross chromosome morphology support Crosa's hypothesis, which suggests that the cytotype $2n = 10$ is diploid and perhaps ancestral, whereas that the cytotype $2n = 18$ is tetraploid but with an additional chromosome fusion being probably a derived status. © 2012 Versita Warsaw and Springer-Verlag Wien