

Inversion dynamics in some population of an emerging vector of malaria *Anopheles (Celia) subpictus* Grassi (Diptera: Culicidae)

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Abstract: The present paper deals with the polytene chromosome inversion polymorphism based genomic characterization of *Anopheles subpictus* Grassi (Culicidae: Diptera) which has attained the status of an emerging vector of malaria in Srilanka, West Bengal and some coastal parts of India. The inversion data of the present population from Hoshairpur, Punjab (pop.A), India has also been compared with five other populations of this species worked out earlier in this laboratory so as to have a comprehensive assessment of inversion dynamics in this taxon. From the percentage frequency of inversions it was also evident that both rural and urban populations of *An. subpictus* had nearly similar inversion frequencies. In addition to these observations, it was interesting to note that irrespective of the number of individuals sacrificed, cells studied and the number of aberrations encountered from each population, inversions always constituted 50% of the total mutational index. On the basis of the present comparative data of inversion polymorphism, it is logical to suggest that, similar to "meiotic drive" and "molecular drive" there is also a type of "inversion drive" which constantly changes population genomics to augment competitive fitness of the species. Our recent studies on the r DNA ITS2 sequence variations also suggest this contention.

Keywords: *Anopheles subpictus* populations, Genomic, Inversions, Polytene chromosome

INTRODUCTION

Prior to the advent of molecular systematics the area of comparative cytogenetics of mosquitoes involved the comparison of the diploid karyotypes of the gonial metaphase and the banding pattern of the polytene chromosomes of different species of the genus *Anopheles*. As a result of these studies the occurrence of chromosomal polymorphism in the form of inversions and translocations proved quite useful in understanding the phylogenetic relationships, karyosystematics and speciation in the family Culicidae (Munstermann, 1995; Toure *et al.*, 1998; Chaudhry, 1999; Subbarao *et al.*, 2000; Chaudhry, 2003; Chillar and Chaudhry, 2004). The data generated so far has revealed that most of the epidemiologically important species exist in the form of a complex of two or more sibling species with subspecific variants or biological species. In fact, the concept of species complexes first discovered in *An. maculipennis* and *An. gambiae* was the outcome of comparative cytogenetics involving species-specific polytene chromosome banding pattern (Coluzzi and Kitzmiller, 1975; Kitzmiller, 1976; Steiner *et al.*, 1988; Subbarao *et al.*, 1988; Green *et al.*, 1992; Subbarao, 1996; Chaudhry, 1999; Beebe *et al.*, 2000; Ramirez and Dessen, 2000; Chaudhry, 2003). In fact, the cytogenetic recognition of genotypic variations in some of the major vectors of malaria have actually provided some valuable information about the

genetic basis of vectorial capacity and insecticide resistance. In spite of the fact that cytogenetic investigations have graduated from chromosome analysis to PCR based DNA diagnostics yet polytene chromosome based genomic analysis is fundamental to molecular genomics as the use of species-specific banding pattern is a first important step in the molecular identification of sibling species in the family Culicidae. In relevance to this, the present paper deals with the polytene chromosome inversion polymorphism based genomic characterization of *Anopheles subpictus* Grassi (Culicidae: Diptera) which has attained the status of an emerging vector of malaria in Sri Lanka, West Bengal and some coastal parts of India (Panicker *et al.*, 1981; Amersinghe *et al.*, 1992; Abhayawardana, 1996 a b; Sahu, 1998; Chatterjee and Chandra, 2000, Chaudhry *et al.*, 2005). Recently, Thenmozhi *et al.* (2006) have also detected its role as a vector of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu, India. The inversion data of the present population from Hoshairpur, Punjab (pop.A), India has also been compared with five other populations of this species worked out earlier in this laboratory so as to have a comprehensive assessment of inversion dynamics in this taxon.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Anopheles subpictus is one of the commonest species in the entire Indian subcontinent where its breeding is

associated with clear rain water pools, water in hoof marks and leakage along irrigation channels (Rao, 1984). For the present purpose of research adults and larvae were collected from a village Khani near Hoshiarpur, Punjab (Latitude: 31° 32' N ; Longitude: 75° 57' E) 136 kms North-west of Chandigarh (Latitude: 30° 42' N; Longitude: 76° 54' E) (Table 1). The fourth instar larvae were immediately sacrificed for obtaining the salivary glands while the younger stages were reared in the laboratory till they reached fourth instar stages. Alternatively, the field collected specimens were identified by following the keys of Wattal and Kalra (1967) and the species-specific banding pattern of the polytene X- chromosome (Chaudhry, 1986; Chaudhry and Rani, 1988; Chaudhry *et al.*, 2005). The gravid females were held in test tubes in small numbers where they were allowed to lay eggs on a strip of wet filter paper. The eggs procured in this way were allowed to hatch in water filled rearing bowls where the larvae were fed on finely powdered and sieved mixture of dog biscuits and yeast tablets (Singh *et al.* 1975, Clements 1992). The temporary squash preparations of polytene chromosomes were made by following the modified protocol of French *et al.* (1962) and Chaudhry *et al.* (2005). The desired quality of preparations were immediately examined under Nikon phase contrast microscope and photographed on a 35 mm black and white nova silver plus film of 200 ASA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Like all the species of the genus *Anopheles*, the diploid karyotype from the gonial metaphase of *Anopheles subpictus* consists of three pairs of unequal chromosomes (2N= 6, B and XY, @and XX) represented by three polytene chromosomes of dimensions typical of the species belonging to subgenus *Cellia*. For the purpose of identifying the zones/ subzones involved in the structural alterations, the polytene chromosome map produced by Chaudhry *et al.* (2005) was taken as a reference standard. Accordingly, the X-chromosome and the right and left arms of autosomes 2 and 3 (2R, 2L, 3R, 3L) were identified from the shape and banding pattern of the free and centromeric ends together with prominent series of bands and puffs along the length of each element (Chaudhry and Chaudhry, 1981). Nearby 200 larvae were sacrificed for studying the incidence of various different

types of structural alterations. Accordingly, there were a total of 27 different types of structural aberrations out of which 12 were inversions, 8 instances of ectopically associated bands of the same or different chromosomes, 3 cases of insertional translocations, 2 asynaptic regions and 2 telomeric fusions. These types of structural changes are in conformity with the results obtained earlier by various workers about the incidence of chromosomal polymorphism in a number of species from the Oriental region (Chaudhry and Soni, 1987; Chaudhry, 1999; Suguna *et al.*, 1994; Subbarao *et al.*, 1994, 1999; Chillar and Chaudhry, 2004; Chaudhry *et al.*, 2005). As a consequence of the emergence of *An. subpictus* as a potential vector of human malaria and JEV, it became mandatory to study the pattern of chromosomal inversions in a large number of populations of this species from different regions. The logic behind such an exercise lies in the fact that certain inversions have been found to be responsible for influencing the vectorial capacity and insecticide resistance of a species. For this, the chromosomal polymorphism in the present population was compared with five other populations of this species worked out earlier in this laboratory (Tables 2,3,4). The total number of different types of aberrations reported by various workers along with the zones/subzones of chromosomes involved, percentage frequency of inversions and percentage frequency of inversions in individual chromosomal arm was taken into consideration for the final assessment of inversion dynamics as inversions predominate all the other types of structural alterations. The maximum number of paracentric heterozygous inversions in the autosomes were concentrated in 2L zones 22 to 25 and 3R zones 30 to 32 as these regions seem to be more prone to this two break chromosomal rearrangements. From the percentage frequency of inversions it was also evident that both urban and rural populations of *An. subpictus* had nearly similar inversion frequencies. In other words, the host preference for a blood meal i.e. anthrophilic and zoophilic tendencies had no marked effect in modifying the genomic qualities of the species. In addition to these observations, it was interesting to note that irrespective of the number of individuals sacrificed, cells studied and the number of aberrations encountered from a population, inversions always constituted 50% of the total mutational load. The

Table 1. Sources and references of *An. subpictus* populations.

S. No.	Locality	Population	References
1	P.U. Campus	Pop.A	Kaur, 1999
2	Khudda Lahora (Chd.)	Pop.B	Simarjot, 1995
3	Burail (Chd.)	Pop.C	Kumari, 1993
4	Nadasahib (HR)	Pop.D	Rani, 1984
5	Hoshiarpur (PB)	Pop.E	Savita, 2006
6	Sonipat (HR)	Pop.F	Chillar, 2001

Table 2. Comparison of inversion data of different populations of *An. subpictus*.

S.No.	Locality	Populations		X-Chr.		2R-Chr.		2L-Chr.		3R-Chr.		3L-Chr.		Reference
		No. of inversions	Subzones involved											
1.	P.U.campus (Chd.)	1	2A-3C	8	8B-10C	2	21B-23B	7	29B-31C	3	42A-42C	Kaur, 1999		
					10D-12B		27C-28C		29D-30B		44A-43B			
					11A-12C				30A-31B		46B-46D			
					11B-12B				31A-32B					
					11C-12C				33A-33D					
					13A-13C				31D-33D					
					14C-15C				33A-3C					
					14A-16B									
2	Khudda Lahora (Chd.)	-	-	3	8C-9B	1	23A-23C	1	30C-33A	4	39B-40C	Simarjot, 1995		
					9A-10C						4 0A-41A			
					11B-12B						43A-44A			
					7B-8C	1	24A-23B	-	-	5	39A-39D	Kumari, 1993		
					8B-14B						42B-40D			
					9C-11B						42B-42E			
					9C-12B						44B-43A			
					9C-13C						4 6B-45C			
					10B-12B									
					10C-12B									
					10D-13B									
					14B-15C									
4.	Nadasahib (Haryana)	4	2B-4C	14	7B-8C	1	27C-28A	3	32A-33B	3	39A-40A	Rani, 1984		
					3B-4C						43B-46D			
					2C-5C						43C-45C			
					7B-11C									
					8A-9C									
					9A-9C									
					9B-10D									
					10B-11C									
					12A-14C									
					13A-14B									

Table 3. Percentage frequency of inversions in different populations of *An. subpictus*.

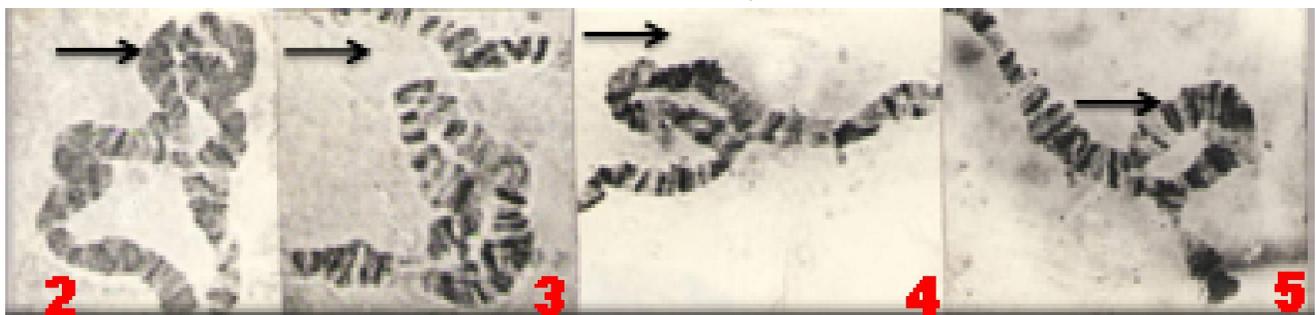
S. No.	Locality	Population	X-Chr	2R-Chr	2L-Chr	3R-Chr	3L-Chr	Reference
1.	P.U. Campus (Chd.)	Pop.A	0.00 +7.60	29.40 +30.70	11.76 +15.30	35.20 +30.70	23.50 +15.30	Kaur, 1999
2.	Khudda Lahora (Chd.)	Pop.B	0.00	22.23 +37.50	29.62 +12.50	14.81 +12.50	33.34 +37.50	Simarjot, 1995
3.	Burail (Chd.)	Pop.C	6.25	56.25	6.25	0.00	31.25	Kumari, 1993
4.	NadaSahib (Hr.)	Pop.D	15.38 +15.00	61.53 +65.0	76.15	76.15	76.15	Rani, 1984
5.	Hoshiarpur (Pb.)	Pop.E	25.00	16.67	25.00	25.00	0.00	Savita, 2006
6.	Sonipat (Hr.)	Pop.F	12.50	37.50	20.83	8.33	20.83	Chillar, 2001

Table 4. Comparison of percentage frequency of inversions in individual chromosomal arm in different populations of *An. subpictus*.

S. No.	Place	Populations	Total no. of aberrations	Total no. of inversions	% of inversions	Reference
1.	P.U. campus (Chd.)	Pop.A	25+28	17+ 13	68.00 +53.33	Kaur, 1999
2.	Khudda Lahora (Chd.)	Pop.B	45+15	27+8	68.00 +53.33	Simarjot, 1995
3.	Burail (Chd.)	Pop.C	25	16	64.00	Kumari, 1993
4.	Nadasahib (Hr.)	Pop.D	28+32	14+20	50.00 +62.50	Rani, 1984
5.	Hoshiarpur (Pb.)	Pop.E	27	12	44.44	Savita, 2006
6.	Sonipat (Hr.)	Pop.F	40	24	60.00	Chillar, 2001



Fig.1. Complete set of three polytene chromosomes of *Anopheles subpictus* (X-chromosome and right and left arms of chromosomes 2 and 3-2R, 2L, 3R, 3L). C-chromocentre.



Figs. 2-5. Example of heterozygous inversion loops (→) in different chromosomal arms.

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