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# Mitotic instability in triploid and tetraploid one-year-old eastern oyster, Crassostrea virginica, assessed by cytogenetic and flow cytometry techniques

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Genome / Génome

# **Mitotic instability in triploid and tetraploid one-year old Eastern oyster, Crassostrea virginica, assessed by cytogenetic and flow cytometry techniques**



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# **Abstract**

tically significant<br>ic versus non-mo<br>onfirm that chron For commercial oyster aquaculture, triploidy has significant advantages. To produce triploids, the principal technology uses diploid x tetraploid crosses. The development of tetraploid brood stock for this purpose has been successful, but as more is understood about tetraploids, it seems clear that chromosome instability is a principal feature in oysters. This paper is a continuation of work to investigate chromosome instability in polyploid *Crassostrea virginica*. We established families between tetraploids – apparently stable (non-mosaic) and unstable (mosaic) – and normal reference diploids, creating triploid groups, as well as tetraploids between mosaic and non-mosaic tetraploids. Chromosome loss was about the same for triploid juveniles produced from either mosaic or non-mosaic tetraploids or from either male or female tetraploids. However, there was a statistically significant difference in chromosome loss in tetraploid juveniles produced from mosaic versus non-mosaic parents, with mosaics producing more unstable progeny. These results confirm that chromosome instability, as manifested in mosaic tetraploids, is of little concern for producing triploids, but is clearly problematic for tetraploid breeding. Concordance between the results from cytogenetics and flow cytometry was also tested for the first time in oysters, by assessing the ploidy of individuals using both techniques. Results between the two were non-concordant. 

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**Key words:** *Crassostrea virginica*, aneuploidy, polyploidy, mitotic instability, cytogenetics, flow cytometry

# **Introduction**

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k et al. 2000; Pet Polyploids, organisms having more than two chromosome sets, possess some advantages compared to diploids (Comai 2005). One of the advantages, hybrid vigor, can obtain in organisms with more than two alleles (Chen 2010). In nature, these advantages have allowed the proliferation of polyploid species, especially in plants. Polyploidy has also been exploited in plants for agricultural advantages, like heterosis, gene redundancy, and self-fertilization, but this is seldom the case in animals. An exception to polyploidy in animal breeding is oysters of the genus *Crassostrea*, which have been successfully exploited as triploids (Guo et al. 2009; Nell 2002; Piferrer et al. 2009). Triploid oysters are valued for their sterility that generates several advantages for oyster culture, such as reduced gonadal development that allows for higher 57 growth rates and superior market quality during the reproductive season (Allen 1988). Otherwise, natural polyploidy in bivalves is rare, documented in only a few species (Foighil and Thiriot-Quievreux, 1991; Lee 1999; Park et al. 2000; Petkevičiūtė et al. 2007; Thiriot-Quiévreux et al. 1988).

For all the advantages that polyploidy can confer, there are also disadvantages. For example, during mitosis, polyploidy increases the occurrence of spindle irregularities, which can lead to the chaotic segregation of chromatids and to the production of aneuploid cells (cells with a chromosome number that is not the exact multiple of the haploid karyotype) (Comai 2005; Griffiths et al. 1999; Storchova and Kuffer 2008). Indeed, aneuploidy is frequently observed in chemically induced triploid (Wang et al. 1999) and tetraploid oysters (Guo and Allen 1994; Wang et al. 1999). For oysters, chromosome loss is not limited to aneuploidy, but also includes the loss of what appear to be entire sets of chromosomes (as principally observed through flow cytometry) to become heteroploid mosaics (herein called "mosaics") through a process called

cycle of the anim<br>ucleic acids in the<br>DAPI). Typically reversion (Allen et al. 1996; Zhang et al. 2010). Initial investigations into using mosaic tetraploids to make triploids concerned ramifications to commercial production, that is, would triploids produced from mosaics show evidence of chromosome loss, show evidence of decreased performance, or both – the so-called heritability of chromosome loss. Earlier work on this subject found no evidence of heritability of chromosome instability between non-mosaic and mosaic parents in triploid *Crassostrea virginica*, as measured by both flow cytometry (FCM) (Matt and Allen 2014) and chromosome counts (de Sousa et al. 2016), revealing that tetraploid mosaics seem to have little impact at least for commercial triploid production. Still at issue, however, is the implication of chromosome instability in tetraploid x tetraploid crosses. FCM is the principal research tool for detecting reversion because it is highly reliable and cost-effective for every stage in the life cycle of the animal. For estimation of DNA content, FCM relies on quantitative staining of nucleic acids in the nucleus, such as with propidium iodide or 4,6-diamino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). Typically, cells from any given tissue are disaggregated, and sometimes enucleated, to create a suspension of single cells (or nuclei) in which the DNA contents are individually quantified at a high rate of speed. FCM is the technique of choice for detecting triploidy because it is fast, accurate, and can be used on a variety of tissues that can be sampled without killing the animal (Allen 1983). However, it is more difficult to detect small differences in DNA content and, consequently, the data contain little information about aneuploidy. To overcome these issues, cytogenetics (chromosome counts) can be performed. Although the technique is time consuming and involves a certain degree of expertise, it is a reliable and direct method of ploidy verification. At issue is the level of chromosome loss – undetectable with FCM – in progeny created from either mosaic or non-



("mosaics"). Gametes from diploids were obtained from a single male or a single female,

depending on the test crosses.

Crosses were made in July 2014. After confirmation of ploidy in parents, males and females were strip spawned using the technique outlined by Allen and Bushek (1992). We made a total of 30 families: 20 triploid families with either non-mosaic (13) or mosaic tetraploid parents (7), using both sexes, with a single reference diploid (Fig. 1). We also made 10 tetraploid x tetraploid matings between non-mosaic parents (5) and between mosaic parents (5). Only 6 families from groups 2 and 7 were used for cytogenetic analysis. The crossing design is shown in Figure 1.

### **Larval rearing**

Vith continuous air<br>and experienced Larvae were reared in 110 L tanks with continuous airflow for oxygenation and circulation. 127 Larval tanks were kept at  $25\text{ °C} \pm 0.9\text{ °C}$  and experienced a salinity range from 12.5 to 14 PSU. Water changes occurred every other day and were larvae fed once daily with a mixture of the microalgae *Isochrysis galbana* (clone T-ISO), *Tetraselmis chui* and *Chaetoceros muelleri* (Chagra).

On day 2, in order to calculate the total number of larvae in the culture and their length, 132 larvae were isolated on a top (48 µm) and bottom sieve (35 µm). Larvae collected on the 48 µm sieve on day 2 were returned to culture until day 4, at which time they were isolated on larger and larger sieve sizes until setting started on day 17, following standard protocol. Larvae were sampled on day 8 for ploidy analysis. Number of larvae collected on sieves was estimated during each water change by counting three aliquots at appropriate dilutions. An average size was taken from 10 random larvae for each culture. The sizes and larval counts were used to



# **Ploidy analysis**

In May 2015, 15 individuals from 6 different crosses (3 half sib families from cross 2 using non-mosaic parents and 3 half sib families from cross 7 using mosaic parents – Fig. 1) were incubated for 8h in seawater containing 0.005% colchicine. Live weight and length were

be air dryi<br>stained for 20 min<br>by microscope c measured. For each individual, the ploidy was analyzed by two different techniques: FCM and cytogenetics, the latter following the air drying technique of Thiriot-Quiéveux and Ayraud 163 (1982). Gills were dissected in seawater, with a small portion  $(4 \text{ mm}^2)$  used for FCM and the remaining gill used for later cytogenetic analysis. 165 Some histograms resulting from the FCM analysis were further analyzed using ModFit LT (Verity House Software, Topsham, Maine) for curve fitting. DNA content relative to the diploid standard was determined and the CV of DNA content in the population of cells was recorded for each group. For cytogenetic analysis, the gill was treated for 30 min in 0.9% sodium citrate and fixed in a freshly prepared absolute alcohol-acetic acid (3:1) with three changes at 20 min. intervals. Slides were made from one individual gill following the air drying technique of Thiriot-Quiéveux and Ayraud (1982). The preparations were stained for 20 min with Giemsa (4%, pH 6.8). Chromosome counts were made directly by microscope observation (Nikon Eclipse 50i with camera image acquisition incorporated Nikon DS-Fi1) of apparently intact metaphases. Thirty metaphases is the minimal statistical number per individual typically accepted in cytogenetic studies (Leitão et al. 2001b). The level of aneuploidy was estimated by counting the total number of aneuploid metaphases out of the total number of metaphases counted per individual. Counting of chromosomes of all the individuals was performed by the same observer (JDS) to eliminate subjectivity associated with different observers. **Data analysis** 

Statistical analyses were computed using STATGRAPHICS Centurion XV.II. Differences in chromosome counts between groups were assessed using the nonparametric Kruskal–Wallis test,



# **Results**

### **Offspring performance**

Larvae

day 2 to 12 in all<br>traploid groups ( Larval survival was estimated from day 2 to 12 in all 30 families. No significant differences 196 were found among all the triploid and tetraploid groups  $(p= 0.41)$ . As far as we know, this is the first paper comparing larval survival of three different ploidy groups in *C. virginica*. The lack of differences among the groups might be attributable to high variance among families within groups, especially 3F and 4N larvae. The source of the egg seemed a determinant in the survival 200 of larvae. There was a positive correlation  $(R=0.58, p=0.02)$  in survival of tetraploid larvae and triploid larvae (4N vs 3F) made with the same eggs. There was no such correlation between 202 tetraploid larvae and triploid larvae made from tetraploid sperm  $(4N \text{ vs } 3M - R = -0.18, p=0.001)$ . We did not attempt to analyze larval growth rate among the families, but we measured the terminal size of oyster larvae just before setting. Significant differences were found among the 205 groups ( $p<0.05$ ). Both spawns using mosaic and non-mosaic tetraploids as females (3F) had 206 larger eyed larvae (342.6  $\mu$ m  $\pm$  15.4, n= 3 families and 342.3  $\mu$ m  $\pm$  6.7, n= 7 families,



228 Spat



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# Juveniles

O Ten juveniles were sampled from the 6 families used for cytogenetic analysis at one year old, also by FCM. All diploid x tetraploid individuals sampled were triploid. Contrary to the spat, 243 the triploid juveniles showed a significant difference between groups ( $p= 0.016$ ). Families with a 244 non-mosaic female parent (3F) having a lower relative DNA content (1.45,  $n = 10$ ) than families 245 using a non-mosaic male parent  $(3M, 1.49, n = 10)$  (Table 4).

For tetraploid families (4N) using non-mosaic parents, only one individual out of 10 (10%) was mosaic, which is, having both triploid and tetraploid cell populations. However, in the tetraploid families using mosaic parents, four out of 10 (40%) had triploid and tetraploid cell populations. For the families using non-mosaic parents, average relative DNA content was 1.88  $(n = 9)$  and average CV of 4.63  $(n = 9)$  for tetraploid cell populations. For the triploid cell 251 population, the relative DNA content was 1.44 ( $n = 1$ ) and CV of 4.74 ( $n = 1$ ). One of the 10

individuals from this group was a triploid and was removed from the experiment. For the cross using mosaic parents, average relative DNA content was 1.99 (n = 10) and average CV of 4.59 (n  $254 = 10$ ) for tetraploid cell populations. For the triploid cell populations, average relative DNA 255 content was 1.54 (n = 4) and average CV of 5.34 (n = 4) (Table 4). On average, the ratio of the mean relative DNA content of the triploid cell population to the mean relative DNA content of 257 the tetraploid population was  $0.77$  (n = 5) slightly higher than the expected 0.75 (Table 4).

# **Cytogenetic analysis**

piled (Fig. 5). For<br>males displayed<br>omes (Figs. 5a, 5 Chromosome counts of triploid (4 families, 10 individuals per family, 30 counts per 261 individual:  $n = 1200$ ) and tetraploid (2 families, 10 individuals per family, 30 counts per 262 individual:  $n = 600$ ) juveniles were compiled (Fig. 5). For triploid juveniles, cells from progeny of non-mosaic and mosaic, males and females displayed a wide variation of chromosome number, ranging from 14 to 30 chromosomes (Figs. 5a, 5b, 5e, 5f). Interestingly, the number of metaphases showing 24, 26 and 28 chromosomes in triploid progenies are much higher than those showing 25, 27 or 29; a similar situation, although less marked, is also present in tetraploid progenies, with metaphases showing 34, 36 and 38 being higher than those showing 35, 37 or 39 (Figs. 5a, 5b, 5e, 5f). Despite this wide variation, the mode of all triploid families ranged from 28 to 30 chromosomes, among the 10 individuals (Table 5). More than 3/4 of all metaphase spreads from triploid embryos were aneuploid regardless of the origin of the tetraploid parent, non-mosaic vs mosaic or male vs female. For the families using a tetraploid male, 79% of chromosome spreads from the non-mosaic parent were aneuploidy and 76% from the mosaic parent (Table 5). For the families using a tetraploid female, 78% of cells from both the non-mosaic and mosaic tetraploid parents were aneuploid (Table 5).

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#### Genome



tetraploid embry<br>0% for the cross ip<br>among the media progeny from non-mosaic parents and 80% for the cross using mosaic parents (Table 5). There was a statistically significant difference among the medians of the chromosome counts between 288 these two types of crosses  $(p = 2x10^{-6})$ .

To examine the evolution of chromosome loss over time in triploid progeny, we compared the results from our last study using the same type of crosses on 1-h-old and 6-h-old triploid embryos (de Sousa et al., 2016). In de Sousa et al (2016), 1-h-old and 6-h-old triploids were examined at two time periods of the same cohort. The data reported here for juveniles represent the same type of crosses but from new cohorts. At 1-h-old, aneuploidy was considerably lower (10% for non-mosaic females and 8% for mosaic females) than in 6-h-old embryos (68% for non-mosaic females, 67% for non-mosaic males, 64% for mosaic females and 69% for mosaic males). In 1-year-olds reported here, aneuploidy was higher still (78% for non-mosaic females, 79% for non-mosaic males, 77% for mosaic females and 76% for mosaic males) (Fig. 6).

Unfortunately, at 1-h-old, only the embryos from female tetraploids showed adequate metaphase spreads to perform chromosome counts, perhaps owing to the physical nature of the eggs (de Sousa et al., 2016).

# **Correlation between size and aneuploidy**

Is were tested sep<br>
iosaic:  $y = 0.005x$ No correlations were observed between live weight and percentage of aneuploidy in the 304 triploid progeny using male ( $p = 0.257$ ) or female ( $p = 0.592$ ) tetraploid parents (Figs. 7, 3M, 3F). There was, however, a significant negative linear correlation between percent aneuploidy in 306 an individual and its live weight for tetraploids overall ( $p = 0.006$ ,  $r^2 = 0.1255$ ) (Fig. 7, 4N). Interestingly, this negative correlation was entirely due to the negative correlation in mosaics. When non-mosaic and mosaic individuals were tested separately, only the mosaic individuals 309 showed this negative correlation (non-mosaic:  $y = 0.005x + 12.0$ ,  $p = 0.11$ ; mosaic:  $y = -0.58x +$ 310  $7.51$ , p = 0.09).

# **Concordance between Cytogenetics and FCM**

Parallel cytogenetic and FCM data were obtained for all 60 individuals among 6 families. By flow cytometry, none of the triploids was mosaic as evidenced by presence of a single DNA content peak at the expected triploid level. For chromosome counts, however, there were clearly counts that occurred in the diploid range (15-24). When we binned these counts and plotted the histograms, every triploid individual had some "diploid" cells present (data not shown), which were not observed by FCM.

Examples of FCM and cytogenetic (chromosome number) histograms are shown in Figure 8 for tetraploids. For tetraploid progeny, there was also a general lack of concordance between

**O**<br>Discussion FCM and chromosome counts (Figs. 8a, 8b). Here we binned counts into three ranges of ploidy 322 corresponding to diploid ( $\leq 24$ ), triploid (25-34), and tetraploid ( $\geq 35$ ). These values should correspond to relative DNA contents (as measured by fluorescence) of 50, 75, and 100. In all cases, however, we disregarded the diploid (50) peak. Diploid peaks could be the result of either reversion to the diploid stage or the presence of di-haploid sperm from the tetraploid. We argue that the diploid cells observed through FCM were di-haploid sperm cells, and therefore not part of the chromosome instability story, due to the high frequency of diploid cells and because every one of the occurrences of diploid cells corresponded to a male. Thus, we were more interested in correspondence between the tetraploid and triploid peaks for FCM and chromosome counts. There was little agreement between FCM results and the chromosome counts in virtually every individual (Figs. 8a, 8b). 

# **Discussion**

Our results contribute to the developing body of knowledge about the heritability of chromosome instability in polyploid oysters. From previous studies in our laboratory, we found no evidence of heritability for chromosome instability in triploid embryos and juveniles of *C. virginica*, as measured through both FCM (Matt and Allen 2014) and chromosome counts (de Sousa et al. 2016). That is, triploids produced from tetraploids with obvious chromosome loss (mosaics) and those produced from "stable" tetraploids (non-mosaics) had the same degree of aneuploidy. A thorough study of this same condition in tetraploid crosses, using stable and 341 unstable parents, has not been accomplished until now. We confirmed that in tetraploid  $\times$ tetraploid crosses, however, chromosome instability in the parent does matter. Additionally, we confirmed the progressive loss of chromosomes over time by comparing aneuploidy at one year

old versus earlier life stages (de Sousa et al. 2016). Finally, we observed generally poor concordance in ploidy evaluation between FCM and cytogenetics.

# **Offspring performance**

Exercise 1. For tetraploid 1.<br>
Exercise 1. The set of the C.<br>
Drama is the C. For larval survival, although no significant differences were found among all the crosses, triploids from the male tetraploid parent (3M – mosaics and non-mosaics combined) had higher survival (0.46) than triploid (3F) or tetraploid (4N) progeny from the female tetraploid parent (0.32 and 0.39, respectively). The results among triploid groups are similar to those obtained by Guo et al. (1996) and Matt and Allen (2014) with triploid *C. gigas* and *C. virginica* larvae, respectively. That is, triploids made from the eggs of tetraploids had generally lower larval survival than triploids from diploid eggs. For tetraploid larvae, only one other report is available for comparison (Guo et al. 1996) in *C. gigas*. In that report, the tetraploid crosses (n=3) had an average survival of 0.17 versus 0.39 in our study with *C. virginica*. Besides the obvious species 357 difference, Guo et al. (1996) were using  $F_1$  tetraploids, that is, had just been mated compared to 358 ours that were  $\geq F_{10}$ . Domestication is likely to have improved tetraploid performance over the generations. Tetraploid eggs are not used in the production of triploid for commercial purposes. This has as much to do with logistics as with survival of tetraploid eggs, simply because the fecundity of males is vastly greater than that of females. The problem with low survival of triploid larvae using tetraploid eggs reinforces this practice (Guo et al. 1996; Matt and Allen 2014).

Size of larvae was only compared at their terminal size as eyed larvae, although we do have data for sizes as D-stage. Not surprisingly, larvae derived from tetraploid eggs were larger at D-stage than those from diploid eggs (average 90.6 µm vs 78.2 µm, respectively) owing to the

difference in egg size. That is, tetraploid eggs of *C. virginica* average about 70 µm diameter and 368 diploids – 50  $\mu$ m. For eyed larvae length, measured during harvests from day 22 to day 27, 3F triploids were significantly larger than 4N or 3M. While the difference in the size of eyed larvae would be expected between those starting as tetraploid eggs and those starting with diploid ones, it is harder to account for the difference in eyed larvae size between the 3F and 4N groups, and especially since 4N survival was higher. Both started with the same egg source. Besides Guo et al. (1996), there have been no other reports of size of tetraploid eyed larvae produced from 4n x 4n mating. Despite the marginally higher survival of tetraploid larvae overall, compared to 3F larvae, the smaller size of eyed larvae in 4N may be related to genome instabilities or regulatory incompatibilities that often accompany autopolyploidy (Chen 2007; Comai 2005).

es of crosses, 3F,<br>od. Of ten families<br>milies survived. Offspring of the three major types of crosses, 3F, 4N, and 3M, were exposed to the same conditions during their deployment period. Of ten families deployed from each group, only 4 – 3F and 6 – 4N survived while all 3M families survived. In contrast to larval survival, there appeared to be no clear correlation between survival of juveniles sharing the same female, indicating that more than maternal effect is contributing to adult survival. Although tetraploid families had better survival, they were smaller. Between the non-mosaic and mosaic tetraploid parents, those produced from non-mosaics were larger and heavier. Survival, length, and live weight results from juvenile tetraploids suggests that, contrary to the triploid progeny from this and the previous work by Matt and Allen (2014), the use of non-mosaic or mosaic tetraploid parents influences the performance of the tetraploid progeny. Previous studies have shown that aneuploidy can adversely affect fitness in bivalves, as for example, size. Linking aneuploidy of this phenomenon to size differences has been observed in diploid oysters (Leitão et al. 2001b; Thiriot-Quiévreux et al. 1992; Zouros et al. 1996), although, unlike diploids, chromosome loss

ies of all genes (C<br>plyploidy oysters<br>nromosome const from polyploids does not appear to be associated with small size (Guo and Allen 1994; Wang et al. 1999). In the present study, no correlation was observed between live weight and degree of aneuploidy of triploid progeny. On the other hand, there was a negative correlation between degree of aneuploidy and live weight for tetraploids that seemed entirely driven by tetraploids of mosaic parents, which were also smaller than tetraploids produced from non-mosaic parents. Nevertheless, this correlation was not as strong as in the studies of diploid oysters mentioned above. That the negative effects of aneuploidy seem to be smaller in polyploids than in diploids may be due to the fact that in diploids, chromosome loss has the effect of haploidization, where deleterious or lethal effects are expressed alleles that are no longer masked (Zouros et al. 1996). On the other hand, in polyploids, considerable chromosome loss might be tolerated, with small phenotypic effect, due to their extra copies of all genes (Comai 2005). In fact, the presence of a majority of aneuploidy cells in all the polyploidy oysters suggests that as long as there is some 402 redundancy  $(>=2)$  in genes, almost any chromosome constitution is viable.

#### **Heritability of chromosome instability between non-mosaic and mosaic parents**

Based on FCM of spat sampled at 2 months, there were no differences among the 20 triploid families or among the 10 tetraploid families in mean relative DNA content. However, we found 3 triploids in a total of two tetraploid cultures. Because of the close proximity and simultaneity of these 30 spawns during larval rearing, we believe this is a result of contamination since a likely genetic explanation for triploids from tetraploid crosses eludes us. For example, if non-disjunction or other mechanism of producing haploid gametes from tetraploid parents were the cause, then we may have seen diploid progeny in either of the 3F or 3M families that shared tetraploid gametes with the 4N families in question. In addition, flow cytometry analysis of

ies comes from R<br>nosaicism betwee<br>variability amon broodstock revealed that sperm from mosaic tetraploids were consistently di-haploid and virtually indistinguishable from sperm of non-mosaics. On a separate note, three families of the 2 month old spat had one mosaic individual (10%). In previous work with tetraploid families, Ritter and Allen (2015) found mosaics in 2 month old individuals from tetraploid families. In that study, the percent of mosaics among 11 families ranged from 7% to 70%, with all 11 families affected. However, Ritter and Allen (2015) did not discriminate among non-mosaic and mosaic crosses. In 1 year-old juveniles, we only evaluated two tetraploid families by FCM – the ones used for cytogenetic analysis. One of ten individuals (10%) of the progeny using non-mosaic parents was mosaic (with triploid and tetraploid cell populations), whereas four of ten (40%) were mosaic when mosaic tetraploids were the parents. Again, the only other comparison of rates of mosaicism in tetraploid families comes from Ritter and Allen (2015) where all 11 tetraploid families studied had rates of mosaicism between 39% and 87%. The difference 425 between these two studies highlights the variability among tetraploid crosses for just about every trait. Indeed, previous studies have suggested that aneuploidy might be influenced by genetic background, not only in diploids (Leitão et al. 2001a) but also in tetraploids (McCombie et al. 2005) of *C. gigas*.

Leitão et al. (2001a) hypothesized a maternal effect in the inheritance of aneuploidy in diploid populations. They examined crosses made by two female parents that differed in their level of aneuploidy and observed that levels of aneuploidy in the female parents were positively correlated to levels of aneuploidy in progeny. The confirmation of this hypothesis could also be an important study for tetraploids, where perhaps it might be advantageous to eliminate mosaic females only.



polyploids or diploids observed this same pattern. Since we assume aneuploidy progresses



# **Concordance between Cytogenetics and FCM**

 $54\%$  for bone and<br>y a few similar st<br>m of cancer (Reno In all families examined cytogenetically (3n: n=4; 4n: n=2), individuals were also analyzed by FCM. Although FCM allows rapid analysis of large numbers of cells, cytogenetics can detect smaller differences in DNA content through chromosome loss or gain. The majority of the studies comparing these two techniques were made in human cancers (e.g., Adeyinka et al. 2003; Al-Mozain et al. 2015; Shackney et al. 1990), with a wide range of concordance depending on the tumor type: 37%–73% for bladder cancer, 43% for prostate cancer, 30% for various solid 467 tumors, 69% for pediatric solid tumors, 54% for bone and soft tissue tumors, and 54% for breast carcinomas (Adeyinka et al. 2003). Only a few similar studies have been made in bivalves and these concerned neoplasias, another form of cancer (Reno et al. 1994; Smolarz et al. 2005a, 2005b). In bivalve neoplasias, the proportion of normal and affected individuals using flow cytometry was comparable to the proportion determined by chromosome analysis, using histology as the reference technique (Smolarz et al. 2005b, 2005a). However, we must make the distinction between the agreement between techniques for detection of abnormalities and the agreement (or not) between techniques for showing the same degree of abnormality. The above studies showed the former, but not the latter. In cells affected by neoplasia, chromosome numbers tend to be tetraploid and higher. Moreover, clams with neoplasia have a high mitotic index (up to 500 mitoses in gills of affected clams) compared to healthy clams (Smolarz et al. 2005a). As far as we know, this study of ours is the first for assessing the ploidy in polyploid oysters using both techniques.

rentrations to maintend<br>to DNA and fluor<br>prough the system In our work, we observed a lack of concordance between the techniques. One possible reason for this lack of concordance could be the selective nature of sampling cells for cytogenetics. In our work, both FCM and cytogenetics used gill tissue. For obtaining chromosome spreads, only cells that are actively in the process of mitosis will become a chromosome spread. This is accomplished by arresting active mitotic divisions in metaphase with a spindle inhibitor (colchicine, here), when chromosomes are maximally condensed (and duplicated). Once arrested, chromosomes become detached from the metaphase plate and are more amenable to display when the nucleus ruptures during preparation. High mitotic index is essential for finding sufficient cells in the metaphase. FCM, on the other hand, is indiscriminate in the cells it targets. The DAPI stain formulation we used contains detergent to dissociate and 490 lyse the cells with high magnesium concentrations to maintain the integrity of the nuclear membrane. The stain covalently bonds to DNA and fluorescence is emitted in accordance to DNA content of every cell that passes through the system. Cells in G1 phase are numerically the most predominant cell type, and, consequently, show up as the largest or even the unique peak in the FCM histograms (Rabinovitch 1994). For example, in a typical cycle of a human cell with a total cycle time of 24 hours, the G1 phase last about 11 hours, S phase about 8 hours, G2 about 4 hours, and M only about 1 hour (Cooper 2000). In our experience, G2 peaks are very small and mostly absent in typical gill preparations for flow cytometry. G1 cells detected by FCM have half the DNA content of G2 and mitotic cells (cytogenetics). Consequently, the two techniques are analyzing cells in different cycle phases. One possibility for the discrepancy between cytogenetics and FCM may be the selectivity of sampling cells of these two techniques. Mitotic index of oysters may contribute to the problem of lack of concordance. Because the mitotic index is usually low in marine invertebrate adults (Sole-Cava et al. 2013), chromosome

counts are mainly dependent on the animal condition. In our case, we tried to stimulate mitotic indices by sampling oysters that were growing in the spring time, when we know growth rate is high. Even so, mitotic spreads are rare in some cases, vastly outnumbered by interphase nuclei. In the present study, 30 cells per animal were analyzed, whereas, for example, in a study also comparing the two techniques in bivalves (Reno et al. 1994), 100 chromosome spreads per animal were considered. Therefore, it could be helpful in future studies to, whenever possible, increase the number of cells analyzed cytogenetically.

omosomes of sor<br>ume chromosoma<br>ere avoided. In ea Another possible explanation for lack of concordance between FCM and chromosome counts is loss of chromosomes by artifact, for example during the preparation. The air drying technique of Thiriot-Quiéveux and Ayraud (1982) is intended to promote chromosome spreading. During preparation it is possible that certain chromosomes of some metaphases are "over-spread" and/or overlapping, leading the observer to assume chromosomal loss and/or gain. To avoid this bias in this study, such apparent metaphases were avoided. In early cytogenetic work in human lymphocytes, a significant excess of hypoploid over hyperploid cells were often attributed to technical artifact (Ford et al. 1988). Indeed, in humans, due to the possible difficulty in distinguishing true aneuploidy from random loss, gain, or rearrangement as a result of technical artifact, guidelines have been established requiring, for example, the loss of the same chromosome in at least three cells, in order to become reportable (Arsham et al. 2017). Questionable gains or losses are always verified by checking the surrounded area to determine if, for example, a gain can be attributed to a neighboring metaphase (Arsham et al. 2017). In our case, since we are dealing with bivalves where the effects of somatic aneuploidy are tolerated, higher percentages of chromosome loss in polyploids seems logical and, therefore, judging artifact becomes more difficult. In other polyploid species, like autotetraploid yeast (Mayer and

Aguilera 1990) and polyploid plants (De Storme and Mason 2014), high levels of somatic aneuploidy also seem to be well tolerated. Somatic aneuploidy has been detected cytogenetically in several polyploid plants, e.g., *Arabidopsis suecica*, a natural allotetraploid (Wright et al. 2009), potato-tomato hybrids (Wolters et al. 1994) and the Moscow salsify, *Tragopogon miscellus* (Chester et al. 2012)*.* Higher genome redundancy in polyploid genomes can allow a greater tolerance of chromosome loss compared to diploid genomes (De Storme and Mason 2014).

er percentages of<br>bing were consiste<br>the formation of so One final point deserves discussion. Previous work by Zhang et al. (2010) and Zhang et al. (2013) in triploid *C. gigas* and *C. ariakensis* led to a hypothesis for chromosome loss due to chromosome clumping during mitotic divisions. Mosaic individuals with more chromosome clumps in their cells tended to have higher percentages of aneuploidy. de Sousa et al. (2016) hypothesized that observations of clumping were consistent with chromosome loss due to supernumerary centrosomes, such that the formation of supernumerary centrosomes would encourage chromosome mis-segregation and leave partial karyotypes at large in the cell or in micro-cells. We cannot rule out that some of the chromosomes counts reported here were the product of counting a "clump." As a result of the air drying technique, we can hypothesize that those clumps could dissociate from the original metaphase, giving the impression of a new highly aneuploid metaphase with enough scattered chromosomes to count. We think this is improbable but at the same time, a good number of peridiploid metaphases were found in tetraploids.

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# 715 **Tables**

- 716 Table 1. Length (µm) of *C. virginica* pediveliger larvae just before setting for each cross for
- 717 triploid families using tetraploid female non-mosaic (4n NM) and mosaic (4n M) parents x
- 718 diploid (2n) to create 3F families; using male non-mosaic and mosaic tetraploid parents to create
- 719 3M families, and using mosaic and non-mosaic parents to create 4N families.



729 Table 2. Length (mm) and live weight (g) of *C. virginica* juveniles for triploid families using

730 tetraploid female non-mosaic (4n NM) and mosaic (4n M) parents x diploid (2n) to create 3F

731 families using male non-mosaic and mosaic tetraploid parents to create 3M families, and using

732 mosaic and non-mosaic parents to create 4N families.

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- 742 Table 3. Flow cytometric analysis of 2 month old spat, showing the average of the relative
- 743 DNA content and the average of the coefficient of variation (CV) for ten spat of *C. virginica*
- 744 from each family for cell populations of somatic cells: tetraploid (4n) and triploid cells (3n).

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<sup>1</sup>745 Pure triploids found in these cultures (two in 4N1 and one in 4N3).

746 <sup>2</sup> One mosaic individual found in each of these cultures (4N2, 4N4 and 4N10).









# **Figure captions**





Solid circle – non-mosaic; open circle – mosaic.

Figure 8. Parallel cytogenetic and FCM data are shown for the tetraploid progeny, obtained by crossing non-mosaic x non-mosaic tetraploids (4N Non-Mosaic, a) or mosaic x mosaic

- 828 tetraploids (4N Mosaic, b). Chromosome counts were binned into three categories: ≤24 (first
- 829 bar), 25-34 (second bar), and ≥35 (third bar) corresponding to 2n, 3n, and 4n ranges. These 3
- 830 categories correspond to the 3 main peaks frequently observed in the FCM histograms.

Our



C. virginica crossing design with a total of 30 families: 10 triploid families were produced using non-mosaic (7 families; no boxes) or mosaic tetraploid female parents (3 families; in boxes) – 3F; 10 triploid families were produced using non-mosaic (6 families; no boxes) or mosaic tetraploid male parents (4 families; in boxes) – 3M; 10 tetraploid x tetraploid families were produced, 5 families between non-mosaic parents and 5 families between with one or more mosaic parents. For the diploid half of triploid crosses, a single male and a single female diploid were split 10 ways to produce 3M and 3F crosses, respectively. Crosses 2 and 7 were used for subsequent cytogenetic analysis (arrows pointing right).

156x137mm (300 x 300 DPI)



C. virginica larval survival estimated from day 2 to 12 in all 30 families. Horizontal bar represents overall average for non-mosaic (solid bars) and mosaic (checkered bars) families. The last solid bar in the 3M group corresponds to non-mosaic family 10 and its value was included in the overall average represented by horizontal bar over the values for the other non-mosaics families at the left.

274x60mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**Draft** 



C. virginica juveniles survival estimated at 1 year old the 30 families deployed to the field. Each group of crosses had 10 families. 0 denotes complete mortality in corresponding family. Horizontal bar represents overall average for non-mosaic (solid bars) and mosaic (checkered bars) families. The last solid bar in the 3M group corresponds to non-mosaic family 10 and its value was included in the overall average represented by horizontal bar over the values for the other non-mosaics families at the left.

320x55mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**U**<br>Part



C. virginica juveniles live weight estimated at 1 year old in the 22 out of 30 families that survived through winter. Horizontal bar represents overall average for non-mosaic (solid bars) and mosaic (checkered bars) families.

236x62mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Our



Compiled frequency distribution of chromosome number of cells from triploid C. virginica juveniles produced by crossing either tetraploid non-mosaic females (a) or mosaic females (b) with a diploid male (10 individuals per family), tetraploid non-mosaic males (e) or mosaic males (f) with a diploid female (10 individuals per family) and from tetraploid C. virginica juveniles produced by crossing non-mosaic tetraploid x non-mosaic tetraploid (c) or mosaic tetraploid x mosaic tetraploid (d) (10 individuals per family).

183x180mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Percent aneuploidy in various crosses shows the evolution of chromosome loss in triploid progeny of C. virginica from 1-h-old embryos until 1-year-old juveniles produced by crossing either tetraploid non-mosaic female (NM female) or mosaic tetraploid female (M Female) with a diploid male or tetraploid non-mosaic male (NM Male) or mosaic male (M Male) with a diploid female. Comparison with the results from de Sousa et al. (2016) using the same type of crosses on 1-h-old and 6-h-old triploid embryos.

152x111mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Correlation between live weight and percentage of aneuploidy in the triploid progeny of C. virginica produced by crossing either tetraploid non-mosaic or mosaic tetraploid females with a diploid male (3F), tetraploid non-mosaic or mosaic males with a diploid female (3M) and in the tetraploid progeny produced by crossing non-mosaic or mosaic tetraploids (4N). Solid circle – non-mosaic; open circle – mosaic.

109x175mm (300 x 300 DPI)



three categories:  $\leq$ <br>n ranges. These 3<br>bserved in the FCM<br>170mm (300 x 300 Figure 8. Parallel cytogenetic and FCM data are shown for the tetraploid progeny, obtained by crossing nonmosaic x non-mosaic tetraploids (4N Non-Mosaic, a) or mosaic x mosaic tetraploids (4N Mosaic, b). Chromosome counts were binned into three categories: ≤24 (first bar), 25-34 (second bar), and ≥35 (third bar) corresponding to 2n, 3n, and 4n ranges. These 3 categories correspond to the 3 main peaks frequently observed in the FCM histograms.

334x170mm (300 x 300 DPI)