

Torramilans, X. and E. Juan. Universidad de Barcelona, Spain. Surface spreading of *Drosophila subobscura* polytene chromosomes.

The technique of Kalisch (1981, 1983) was applied to spread the chromosomes of *D. subobscura*, but the pretreatment solution of propionic and citric acid in several proportions proved inadequate to allow the spreading of the chromosomes on the urea drop.

The spreading was obtained by pretreating the chromosomes with 50% acetic acid.

Eggs were placed in cornmeal agar medium (50 eggs/30 cm³ medium) at 17°C until 2nd instar larvae developed. Then the cultures were transferred to 13°C.

Glands were excised in 50% acetic acid, mechanically destroyed with a drawn glass rod and pretreated in the same solution for 45 min.

Other parts of the process are the same as in Kalisch (1981).

Acknowledgements. We are indebted to Dr. E.W. Kalisch who has kindly helped us with this technique. Thanks are also given to Dr. Prevosti for his support and to M. Papaceit for the squash photomicrograph.

References: Kalisch, W.E. & K. Hagele 1981, *Eur. J. Cell Biol.* 23: 317-320; Kalisch, W.E. & T. Whitmore 1983, *Cytobios* 37: 37-43; Kunze-Mühl, E. & E. Müller 1958, *Chromosoma (Berl.)* 9: 559-570.

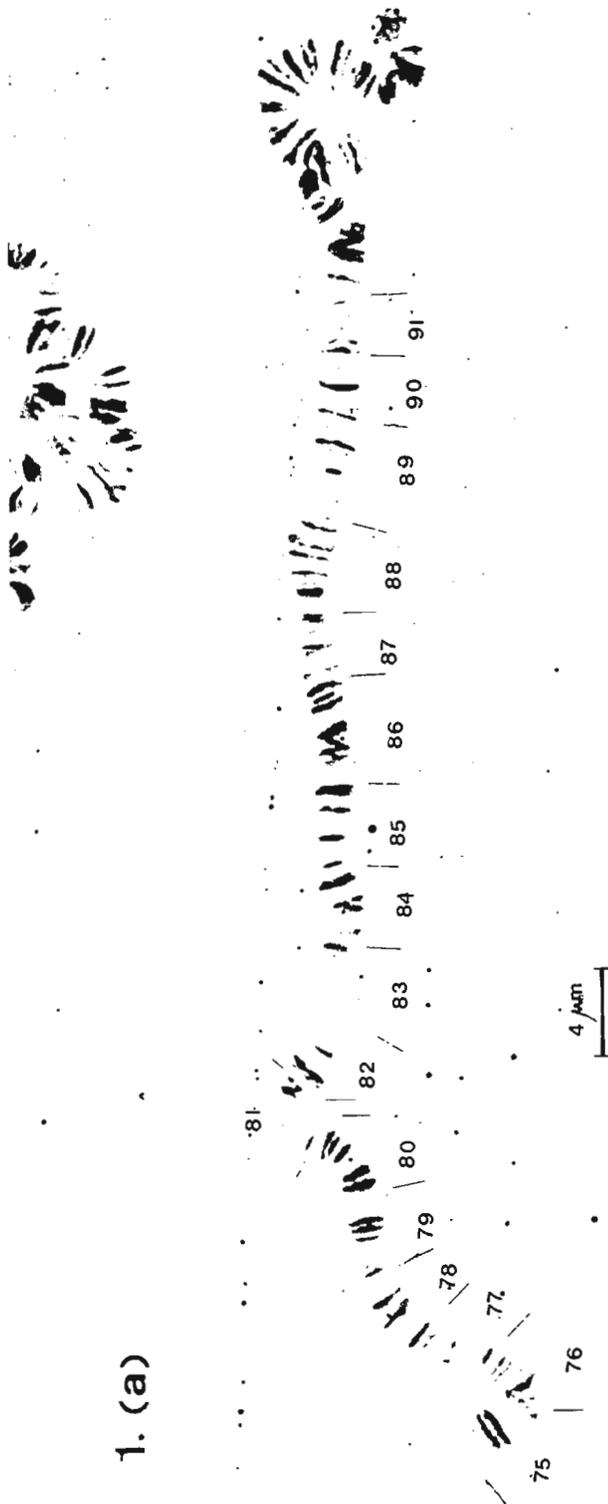


Figure 1(a). Squash preparation of *Drosophila subobscura* 0std chromosome. Total magnification: X 2.880. Number of bands observed (for the equivalent region in Fig.1(b)): 133. Section(s) and numbers in both figures correspond to the published map of Kunze-Mühl & Müller (1958).



Figure 1(b). Proximal end of the surface spread O_{std} chromosome of *D. subobscura*. Total magnification: X 4.500. The capacity to differentiate bands has been increased with respect to squash preparations. The degree of spreading represents 2-3 times in comparison with the corresponding values of polytene chromosomes in squash preparations. Number of bands observed: 299.