References: Bucheton et al. 1976, Heredity 36:305-314; Bucheton and Picard 1978, Heredity 40:207-223; Kidwell 1979, Genet. Res. in press; Pelisson 1978, Genet. Res. 32:113-122; Pelisson and Picard 1979, Genetics in press; Picard 1976, Genetics 83:107-123; Picard 1978, Molec. Gen. Genet. 164:235-247; Picard et al. 1977, Biol. Cell. 29:89-98; Picard et al. 1978, Genet. Res. in press.

Brncic, D. and Budnik, M. Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile. Colonization of Drosophila subobscura Collin in Chile.

In February 1978, Mr. H. Fenner of our laboratory collected for the first time in Chile Drosophila subobscura Collin, in an orchard near Puerto Montt (S.41°30'). A laboratory stock was established and our determination was confirmed by crosses with stocks from Bilbao (Spain) provided by Prof. Antonio Prevosti (Barcelona), and from Norway (Stock TX 2361-01 provided by the Univ. of Kansas). F_1 and F_2 were fully fertile in both tests. Photomicrographs of the giant salivary gland chromosomes of the larvae from the Chilean stock were studied by Prof. A. Prevosti (Barcelona), who kindly informs us that the band sequences correspond most probably to those observed in the Western Mediterranean Europe region (Meridional Spain), and in the Mediterranean coast of North Africa (Marruecos and Tunis). This first observation of D. subobscura in Puerto Montt (Chile) is significant, because Drosophila have been collected there practically every summer for the last 25 years.

Eight months later (November and December 1978), we collected D. subobscura in large numbers in the following places in Chile, that correspond to a north-south gradient of about 1200 km: Santiago (S.33°30'), Lake Rapel (S.34°15'), Talca (S.35°26'), Chillan (S.36°36'), Salto del Laja (S.37°10'), Los Angeles (S.37°28'), Pucon (S.39°15'), Valdivia (S.39°50') and Puerto Montt (S.41°30'). Most collections were made utilizing fermenting banana traps placed in orchards or gardens, with the exception of the Salto del Laja and Pucon localities in which the baits were placed in small natural forests of Notofagus. In addition, a few flies were collected in a fruit-vegetable store in Chillan City by sweeping the net over the fruits. In none of the above mentioned places was D. subobscura recorded before, indicating that it represents a newly introduced species coming most probably from the Paleartic zone. We have no information of the existence of the species in other places of Neotropical zone or in the Neartic.

The quantitative data of the collections seems to indicate that the rapid invasion of subobscura has displaced some "domestic" species, particularly D. simulans, which was a very abundant species all over the central and south-central parts of Chile, and has now become a relatively rare species.

Stocks of D. subobscura, originated from the above indicated places, were sent to Prof. A. Prevosti of Barcelona for further research. [The authors would like to thank Mrs. Hertha Fenner and Mr. Gonzalo Gajardo from our Department and Prof. Eduardo del Solar from the Univ. Austral (Valdivia - Chile), who collected the flies at Puerto Montt, Lake Rapel and Valdivia respectively, supported by grants from PNUD/UNESCO (Proyect RLA 76/006) and Univ. of Chile (Proyect B 027 - 784).]

Bryant, M. L. and M. R. Murnik. Western Illinois University. The mutagenicity of herbicides in Drosophila melanogaster.

Our laboratory is interested in the potential mutagenicity of herbicides. Trifluralin (Eli Lilly Company) is an herbicide commonly used for weed prevention in soybean crops. It is a yellow liquid, miscible with with water. According to several investigators (Andersen, Leighty, and Takahashi 1972; Shirasu, 1975), trifluralin is not mutagenic in any of four different microorganisms. Since tests in microorganisms test only for point mutations, we decided to test this herbicide in Drosophila. Male, wild type Oregon-R flies, fed as larvae 0.01 trifluralin (w/w in modified Carpenter's medium) were mated with virgin Basc females. The concentration of trifluralin used was the highest dose not toxic to the developing flies. The treated group produced 0.09% sex-linked recessive lethals, while the control group had 0.12% of these mutations. Thus, the results of these tests indicate that trifluralin does not produce sex-linked recessive lethals in Drosophila.