Chromosome-wide linkage disequilibrium as a consequence of meiotic drive

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Adaptation by natural selection proceeds most efficiently when alleles compete solely on the basis of their effects on the survival and reproduction of their carriers. A major condition for this is equal Mendelian segregation, but meiotic drive can short-circuit this process. The evolution of drive often involves multiple, interacting genetic components, together with enhancers and suppressors of drive. Chromosomal inversions that suppress crossing over are also frequently associated with drive systems. This study investigates the effects of these processes on patterns of molecular evolution in the fly Drosophila recens, which is polymorphic for a driving X chromosome (X0). Whereas standard wild-type chromosomes exhibit high levels of polymorphism at multiple loci, all of the X0 chromosomes effectively carry a single multilocus haplotype that spans at least 130 cM. The X0 is associated with a complex set of inversions that completely suppresses recombination between the standard wild-type chromosome and X0 in heterozygous females, which maintain nonrandom associations among loci that presumably interact epistatically for the expression of drive. The long-term costs of foregoing recombination may be substantial; in combination with its low equilibrium frequency, this makes the X0 chromosome susceptible to the accumulation of deleterious mutations. Consistent with this, X0 chromosomes are apparently fixed for a recessive mutation that causes female sterility. Thus, the X0 in D. recens appears to be in chromosome-wide linkage disequilibrium and in the early stages of mutational degradation.

Drosophila recens | genetic conflict | inversion | population genetics | segregation distortion

Mendelian segregation ensures that alleles compete on a level playing field, thus maximizing the efficiency of natural selection (1). Although the deterministic spread of an allele under selection is generally thought to occur because of a fitness benefit to its carriers, this can also come about as a result of biased transmission through mechanisms such as meiotic drive (2). By being transmitted to more than half of the gametes, driving alleles can spread even if they adversely affect the fitness of their carriers. Furthermore, when such alleles occur on the X or Y chromosome, this can result in an unequal population sex ratio, further penalizing individuals that produce an excess of the more abundant sex (3). This can even lead to population extinction if the driver reaches a sufficiently high frequency (4).

Drive systems involve multiple, interacting components, usually with both enhancers and suppressors of drive (2). Epistatic interactions among these components favor suppression of crossing over among them (5). Close linkage among the core components of drive systems may be required for their initial evolution, because otherwise low-fitness genotypes are produced by recombination (6). It is therefore not surprising that drive loci are often found in low recombination regions, such as heterochromatin, and/or are associated with chromosomal inversions that suppress crossing over (but see ref. 7). Through an intragenomic arms race, a drive system may eventually come to involve a complex of unlinked suppressors, as well as tightly linked enhancers and core components (8).

As a consequence of selection for tight linkage, a drive system may eventually tie up a large block of genes as a single segregating unit. Accordingly, the best-studied drive systems [SD in Drosophila melanogaster (9) and t-haplotype in Mus (10)] are associated with regions of reduced recombination caused by inversions, which can extend for up to 20 cM. As a result, patterns of polymorphism and linkage disequilibrium (LD) throughout such regions may be affected. In D. melanogaster, polymorphism is reduced near SD, and very weak LD among sites extends up to 3 cM away (11). In contrast, in Drosophila pseudoobscura, four allozyme loci that span a distance of ~50 cM on the right arm of the X (XR) are differentiated between sex ratio and standard chromosomes, which differ by a complex of three inversions (12, 13). At the DNA level, one of the two XR loci surveyed (Esy-5) was in LD with sex ratio, whereas none of the three on the left arm of the X showed an association with sex ratio (14). In neither of these cases is crossing over suppressed, or LD maintained, over the entire chromosome.

Here we conducted an evolutionary genetic analysis of the X chromosome in Drosophila recens to infer the evolutionary history of X-drive and to understand its genomic consequences. D. recens is a mycophagous species in the quinaria group of the subgenus Drosophila and is found in boreal forests of eastern and central North America. In this study we surveyed six loci that span most of the X chromosome and asked whether any show an association with X-drive (the exact genes underlying X-drive in D. recens are unknown). Patterns of molecular variation of driving X chromosome (X0) and standard wild-type chromosome (XST) in D. recens indicate that the evolution of X-drive has resulted in a dramatic molecular signature: a chromosome-wide X0 haplotype that harbors little polymorphism. This pattern of chromosome-wide suppression of recombination, which is associated with multiple inversions, suggests that Hill–Robertson interference among closely linked loci subject to selection (15) will eventually lead to the evolutionary degradation of this X0 system.

Results

Sequences from six X-linked loci (cp36, elav, per, runt, v, and y) were obtained from D. recens. We first determined the gene order and recombination distances on the XST background among these loci and two visible markers (y and b). The recombination map in Fig. 1 indicates that the seven loci are spread over ~129 cM. Species within the subgenus Drosophila...
have Muller’s element A as their X chromosome, which ranges in size: 109 cM in Drosophila buzzatii (16), 116 cM in Drosophila hydei (17), 131 cM in Drosophila mojavensis (18), and 170 cM in Drosophila virilis (19). Because the cumulative runt-to-per map distance of D. recens falls within this range, it is likely that these loci span most of the X chromosome.

To characterize X chromosomes from natural populations as XD or XST, we surveyed the offspring sex ratio of 262 wild-caught males collected throughout the range of D. recens. Seven of these males (2.6%) sired almost exclusively daughters (mean fraction female = 0.982 ± 0.009) and were classified as XST. The remaining 255 males produced ~1:1 offspring sex ratios (mean fraction female = 0.536 ± 0.005) and were classified as XD. Offspring sex ratio is biased offspring sex ratio for the males that carry these chromosomes (Fisher’s exact test, \( P = 0.0001 \)). This perfect association suggests that most of the loci are located in regions of at least moderate recombination. To test for nonrandom associations within and among loci, we concatenated the data from the six loci (\( n = 23 \) chromosomes), which resulted in 259 informative segregating sites and thus 10,560 pairwise comparisons among sites. We identified 22 pairs of sites with a significant nonrandom association; all 22 pairs were among loci (SI Fig. 6), indicating independence among loci on the XST background.

In contrast to the XST sample, the XD chromosomes show a consistently low level of polymorphism. Summed over all loci, we identified seven segregating sites, of which two were singletons, resulting in silent site polymorphism estimates of \( \pi = 0.0012 \) and \( \theta = 0.0011 \). None of these seven segregating sites results in an amino acid change, and two of these are also polymorphic within XST. Because of the abundance of multiple hits and high recombination in the XST samples it is difficult to determine with certainty whether these two shared polymorphisms are identical by descent. We also identified two indels within noncoding regions of the XD sample: a polymorphic (A)n in \( \gamma \) that differs by 1 bp and is polymorphic within both XD (in 2 of 14 XD chromosomes) and XST, and a 17-bp deletion in \( \gamma \) that is polymorphic only within XD (in 4 of the 14 XD chromosomes). The overall Tajima’s \( D \) for the XD sample is 0.45, which is not significantly different from the neutral expectation.

Within the XD chromosomes there is some evidence for recombination: excluding indels we find evidence for a single recombination event, and including indels there is evidence for three recombination events. To test for LD between XST and XD we used the concatenated sequences of both XST and XD haplotypes (\( n = 37 \)), which resulted in 284 informative segregating sites and 14,290 valid comparisons among sites. We identified 561 pairs of sites with a significant nonrandom association: of these, 325 pairs (58%) occurred among loci, including all pairwise combinations (SI Figs. 7 and 8), indicating that LD between chromosome types (XST vs. XD) is maintained throughout the chromosomal region we sampled.

Comparisons of the levels of silent nucleotide polymorphism between XD and XST chromosomes yield ratios \( \pi_{\text{XD}}/\pi_{\text{XST}} = 0.0478/0.00012 \approx 40 \) and \( \theta_{\text{XD}}/\theta_{\text{XST}} = 0.0589/0.001 \approx 53 \). Using coalescent simulations assuming a constant population size, we determined the maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) of this difference in polymorphism, and hence effective population size (\( N_e \)), between the XST and XD subpopulations. As shown in Fig. 2, the XD has an \( N_e \) of 2.8% of the XST, with a 2-unit support interval of 1.2–5.4%.

The phylogenetic tree made from the concatenation of the six loci shows several important aspects of the evolutionary history of the XD (Fig. 3). First, the XD samples are monophyletic, both for the concatenated data set and for each of the individual loci (SI Fig. 9), indicating that the XD chromosome in D. recens has a single origin. For each individual locus, as well as for the concatenated data set, there is a perfect association between the XD haplotype group and a biased offspring sex ratio for the males that carry these chromosomes (Fisher’s exact test, \( P < 0.0001 \)). This perfect association indicates that suppressors of drive are rare or absent in D. recens. Thus, the XD forms a single and unique haplogroup that encompasses all of the loci we surveyed and that must, therefore, span at least 129 cM of the X chromosome.

Second, the phylogenetic tree clearly shows that the XD chromosome is derived from XST and does not represent an ancient polymorphism (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, all of the loci are differentiated between the XD and XST chromosomes (Table 1). Comparing the XD with all XST samples, there are 10 fixed nucleotide differences, including four synonymous changes and one nonsynonymous change in coding regions and five changes in noncoding regions. To
estimate the evolutionary age of the current XD haplotype, we used
the nine silent fixed differences between XD and all XST and assume
a molecular clock of 1.5 × 10^{-9} silent substitutions per site per year
(22, 23). This gives an expected XD age of 300,000 years, with a
range of 100,000–400,000 years. To determine the minimum age of
the XD (or time to most recent common ancestor) we used the
method of Andolfatto et al. (24). This method assumes, first, that
the XD inversion has a unique origin from a XST ancestor, and, sec-
cond, that the XD inversion brought about complete genetic
isolation from the XST. If we assume the same molecular clock as
above and three generations per year, the minimum age of the XD
haplotype is 250,000 years. Note that these methods estimate the age
of the current XD haplotype, not the age of the underlying drive
system (which may be much older).

To estimate recombination rates in XD/XST females we used
the visible X-linked mutants y and b. In XST/XST females there
is nearly free recombination between y and b: among 1,936 F_2
progeny of +++/++ females, 40.7% were recombinants, resulting
in a distance of 60 cM using Kosambi’s (25) mapping function.
To estimate recombination between y, b, and the loci responsible
for drive in XD/XST females, we scored 5,402 progeny of y b/XD
females and recovered no recombinant y or + b genotypes. We
determined the offspring sex ratio of 281 F_2 males and found that
all y b males produced normal 1:1 sex ratios, whereas all ++ males
sired only daughters. Thus, whereas y and b segregate nearly inde-
dependently in XST/XST females, recombinant y or + b females is
completely suppressed between y, b, and drive in XD/XST
females.

Chromosomal inversions are common in Diptera (26) and are
known to be associated with driving chromosomes in other
systems. Fig. 4 shows the polytene X chromosomes of an
XD/XST(y b) female. As evidenced by the two inversion shifts
noted in the figure, which are indicative of overlapping inver-
sions, this complex probably contains at least four different and
overlapping inversions. It is likely that these inversions suppress
recombination and thus maintain linkage among the multiple
loci required for full drive expression.

Laboratory culturing revealed that eight of eight independ-
ently sampled XD females from across the range of D. recens carried a
recessive female sterile mutation. To determine whether the
different XD isolates carry the same sterility mutation, we

![Fig. 2.](image) Scalar XD/XST. The MLE of this ratio of
0.0276 is indicated by the dotted line, and the 2-unit support interval of
0.0118–0.054 is indicated by the gray line.

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conducted complementation tests. By crossing different strains we produced X^D/X^K_d females, where X^K_d represents an X^D from Bemidji, MN, and X^K_d represents one of six other X^D isolates. In no case did an X^D/X^K_d female produce any offspring (n > 20 tested females per cross type). Thus, the sterility mutations carried by the different X^D's are allelic and most likely share a single origin.

**Fig. 4.** Polytenic X chromosomes of X^D/X^ST female. Inversion shifts, which indicate overlapping inversions, are noted by the black arrows, and the tip of the chromosome is indicated by the white arrow.

**Discussion**

X chromosome drive has had a dramatic impact on the genome of D. recens. Our data show that drive is associated with a unique X chromosome haplotype that harbors little polymorphism in comparison to the nondriving X^ST chromosome. Furthermore, all six of the X-linked loci we examined are strongly differentiated between the X^D and X^ST chromosomes. These loci span ~130 cM, which is likely to encompass most of the X chromosome. Thus, the evolution of this drive system has tied up the entire X^D chromosome as a single nonrecombining unit. This pattern is probably the result of the accumulation of inversions that now suppress recombination between X^D and X^ST chromosomes and have been selected to maintain associations among the loci that control drive (6).

Our sample of D. recens X^ST chromosomes indicates that these are highly polymorphic and freely recombining chromosomes. However, compared with X^ST, the X^D sample harbors 20- to 80-fold less polymorphism, with perfect association with X-drive across all six loci. Males carrying an X^D were found across the range of D. recens, but there was no geographic differentiation among the X^D samples (H_{ST} = -0.03, P = 0.60, using populations with at least two X^D alleles). Such patterns could have arisen if the X^D chromosome has gone through a recent bottleneck as the result of the spread of a new sex ratio inversion or enhancer-of-drive allele. Although such sweeps probably have occurred several times during the history of the X^D (because it has apparently accumulated multiple inversions), three lines of evidence suggest that the X^D has experienced neither a very recent sweep nor a recent dramatic reduction in frequency. First, a sweep of a nonrecombining chromosome will eliminate standing polymorphism, yet we find several polymorphic sites among extant X^D chromosomes, almost all of which are mutations absent from the X^ST class. Second, during the initial recovery phase after a sweep, most polymorphisms will be unique, resulting in a star-like phylogeny and an excess of low-frequency mutations. However, only 2 of the 11 polymorphisms (including indels) are singletons, resulting in a frequency spectrum of mutations consistent with neutral expectations, or possibly with a gradual decline in frequency of the X^D, because there is a (nonsignificant) deficit of low-frequency mutations. Finally, after accounting for the difference in recombination between the two types of chromosomes, the polymorphism-based MLE of the ratio of N_e between X^D and X^ST of 0.0276 is nearly identical to the current X^D/X^ST frequency ratio of 0.028 (Fig. 2). In other words, the X^D chromosome harbors a level of variation consistent with equilibrium expectations. Thus, although the X^D may have experienced selective sweeps in the past, we see no evidence of this; if anything, our data suggest that X^D has been at a consistently low or declining frequency in the recent evolutionary past.

The inversions that suppress recombination between X^D and X^ST in D. recens probably maintain linkage among the genes that interact epistatically for the expression of drive (6). There is some evidence for historical recombination events within the X^D chromosomes; these may have occurred before the establishment of the sterility mutation, or possibly may represent a low level of fertility of X^D/X^D females in the wild (although such females must be very rare, unless X^D used to be at a higher frequency). Nevertheless, compared with the X^ST chromosomes the X^D has severely reduced recombination. In the long-term, the costs of foregoing recombination can be substantial because nonrecombining chromosomes are likely to suffer low polymorphism, reduced potential for adaptation to changing conditions, and more frequent fixation of deleterious mutations due to Hill–Robertson interference (15, 27). The lack of recombination, in combination with its low equilibrium frequency, may make the X^D chromosome particularly susceptible to accumulation of deleterious mutations, akin to the process seen in Y and neo-Y chromosomes (28). In these systems, however, it is possible for dosage compensation to evolve by coopting of the
molecular machinery used to up-regulate the XST chromosome in males (29), but this is not possible for the XD in females. We therefore hypothesize that a positive feedback between declining chromosome frequency and increasing vulnerability to the spread of deleterious mutations will lead to a downhill spiral in the fitness and frequency of the XD, eventually resulting in its loss from the species.

Preliminary evidence suggests that the XD of D. recens is already fixed for at least one deleterious mutation. XP's collected from throughout the range all carry the same recessive female sterility factor, resulting in sterility of XD/XD females. Because XD/XD females are sterile and recombination is suppressed in XD/XST females, neither this nor any other deleterious mutation can be eliminated from the XD via recombination. Regardless of whether this female sterile mutation was captured when an XD-associated inversion first arose, or arose within the XD lineage, this mutation will constrain the XD to low frequencies. If we assume that the dynamics of XD is governed solely by its transmission advantage in males and the sterility of XD/XD females, its expected equilibrium frequency is 25%. However, the current and evolutionarily recent frequency of XD is 2.8%, i.e., 9-fold less than expected, indicating that there must be additional deleterious fitness effects of the XD chromosome, such as lower fertilization success of XD males or reduced fitness of XD/XST females.

Although much of the XD chromosome evidently does not experience recombination, gene conversion between the XD and XST chromosomes may reduce the rate of XD degeneration. Gene conversion may play a substantial role in the maintenance of polymorphism, particularly in inversions and other regions of low recombination (21, 30, 31). Using the method of Betrán et al. (32), we analyzed each gene individually and identified seven unique gene conversion events, all of which are from XD to XST and which range from 2 to 443 bp, with an average of 172 bp (SI Table 3). However, because all of the gene conversion events we identified are from XD to XST, these tracts may represent ancestral polymorphism and in any case do not represent rescue of XD by XST sequences.

There has been renewed interest in the effect of inversions on patterns of molecular evolution, particularly with respect to detecting the signal of coadapted gene complexes (33, 36). If the genes tied up within inversions do not interact epistatically, then differentiation among inversion types is expected to persist near the breakpoints but will break down throughout the inverted regions because of double crossovers and gene conversion events in heterozygotes (34, 35). Although allozymes were found in LD between inversion karyotypes (26), early studies of DNA polymorphism within and around inversions found LD only near the breakpoints (30). However, some more recent studies have revealed some LD at the DNA level among loci within inversions (36–38). Our results indicate that the D. recens XD haplotype is maintained in perfect LD across a chromosomal region with several inversions and that, on the XST chromosome, spans at least 130 cM. This LD is much more extensive than any other known drive or inversion system and may be the largest known segregating haplotype in any sexually outcrossing system. However, by preventing recombination over such a large genomic region, presumably to maintain a coadapted set of genes, the XD may ensure its own eventual demise as a result of an increasing load of deleterious mutations.

Materials and Methods

Markers and Map Order. The X chromosome in D. recens is telocentric and equivalent to Muller’s element A (39). The six loci were randomly chosen with respect to gene order and chromosomal location (because there was no genetic map for this species) and include portions of chorian protein 36 (cp36), elav (elav), period (per), runt, vermilion (v), and yellow (y). Primer sequences and fragment details are listed in Table 4. DNA was extracted from single males, and all PCR, sequencing, and data editing were performed by using standard protocols.

We determined the gene order and recombination distances among the molecular and available visible markers on an XST background. We crossed a single wild-type male to homozygous yellow (y) brown (b) females from a stock that was isogenic for a single y b XST chromosome, which produced y b/+ + females that all carried the same two X chromosomes. We designed restriction digests based on single nucleotide differences between the male’s allele and the corresponding allele on the y b chromosome. The genotypes of 230 of the sons of the y b/+ + females were used to determine the distances among the markers. All map distances were calculated by using the Kosambi mapping function (25).

XO Characterization and Samples for Polymorphism Analyses. From populations spanning most of the known range of D. recens (40) we characterized naturally occurring chromosomes as XD and XST. Wild-caught males were mated to laboratory virgin females, and the offspring sex ratio scored: males were characterized as carrying an XD if they produced ≥10 offspring, of which ≥90% were female; otherwise they were characterized as XST as long as they sired ≥10 offspring. All fly cultures were maintained at 22°C on Instant Drosophila Medium (Carolina Biological Supply, Burlington, NC) supplemented with commercial mushroom (Agaricus bisporus).

The 14 XD chromosomes used in this study come from populations across the range of the species, including Chebeague Island, ME (n = 2), Rochester, NY (n = 4), Mattawa, ON, Canada (n = 5), Smoky Mountains, TN (n = 1), Bemidji, MN (n = 1), and Edmonton, AB, Canada (n = 1). The 29 XST chromosomes were sampled randomly from the central populations in the range of D. recens, which do not show any signature of population structure (data not shown). These are from Bemidji, MN (n = 6), Bethlehem, NH (n = 7), Munising, MI (n = 7), and Rochester, NY (n = 9). One individual of the closely related species D. subquinaria was used for an outgroup.

Molecular Population Genetic Analyses. From each of the 44 chromosomes we surveyed the pattern of DNA polymorphism at the six mapped molecular loci. DNA sequences were aligned manually, taking coding frames into account, and molecular evolutionary analyses were conducted by using DNAmp version 4.0 (41) unless otherwise noted. Sites with alignment gaps were excluded from the analyses. In addition, one XST sample was excluded from the analyses because it contained an indel that spanned the entire 3' half of the fragment, and a polymorphic glutamine repeat region was excluded from the elav sequence alignment. Polymorphism was measured at silent sites, including pairwise nucleotide diversity, \( \pi \) (42), and nucleotide site variability based on the number of segregating sites, \( \theta_\text{st} \) (43). The frequency spectrum of polymorphisms was tested for departure from neutrality by using Tajima’s D (44) using silent sites only. An overall D for the set of loci was determined by using the program HKA (http://lifesci.rutgers.edu/~heylab/HeylabSoftware.htm#HKA) with 10⁴ coalescent simulations without recombination within loci.

Phylogenetic relationships were constructed for each locus and for all six loci concatenated by chromosome (herein referred to as the concatenated data set) using parsimony with 10,000 bootstrap replicates in PAUP* v4.0b10 (45). We determined the degree of genetic differentiation between XD and XST samples using \( F_{ST} \) (46) and \( K_{ST} \) (47), with significance determined by using 10,000 permutations.

The population recombination parameter, \( \rho \), was inferred for each locus by using the composite-likelihood method of Hudson (48), as implemented in the program LDhat (49), \( \rho \) is equal to \( 4N_r r \), where \( r \) is the per-generation recombination rate, taking into account the lack of crossing over in males. N segregating sites at locus i, the effective
population size; for the X chromosome, this equals 0.75 of the autosomal value if there is no sexual selection (50). Fisher’s exact test (51) was used to test whether pairs of variable sites within and between loci showed significant associations. We used the concatenated sequences, excluded singleton polymorphisms and sites with more than two alleles segregating, and applied a sequential Bonferroni correction (52) to account for multiple comparisons.

To infer the relative $N_e$ of the $X^B$ versus the $X^S$ chromosome, we used simulations of the coalescent process using methods similar to those of Bachtrog and Charlesworth (53). This enabled us not only to account for the difference in recombination environments between the two types of chromosomes, but also to estimate confidence intervals for this difference. We simulated a single tree with six completely linked loci for the $X^B$ and six independent trees for the $X^S$. We used a sample size of 14 chromosomes, using all of the $X^B$ data and a random sample of the $X^S$ data. For each locus the total number of segregating sites was assigned to the $X^B$ and $X^S$ trees in proportion to their length. After each run the number of segregating sites on the $X^B$ and $X^S$ was determined and the quantity $\Delta S_{\text{sim}} = (S_{\text{ST}} - S_{\text{DB}})/S_{\text{ST}}$ was computed. To estimate the reduction in $N_e$, the tree length was multiplied by a scaling factor $k$ before mutations were laid down on the tree. The proportion of runs $M_k$ for which $\Delta S_{\text{sim}} \leq 0.002$ was tallied, and the MLE of $k$ was determined by $L(k|\Delta S) = (M_k/n)$, where $n = 100,000$ replicates.

Suppression of Recombination in $X^B/X^S$ Females. We used X-linked visible markers to test directly for suppressed recombination in heterozygous $X^B/X^S$ females. Recombination between $y$ and $b$ on an $X^S$ background was determined by using offspring of heterozygous $y/b + +$ females, and recombination on the heterozygous $X^B/X^S$ background was determined by using the offspring of heterozygous $y/bX^B$ females. The rate of recombination and distance in cm between $y$ and $b$ were determined by scoring the offspring of these heterozygous females that had been mated to $y/b$ males. To estimate the recombination distances between $y$, $b$, and drive, sons of $y/bX^B$ females were crossed individually to virgin females, the offspring sex ratio was scored, and the male was genotyped for $X^B$ as described above.

Identification of $X^B$ Inversions. To identify chromosomal inversions we used standard cytological techniques to prepare orcein-stained polytene chromosome squashes of third instar larvae. The X chromosome was identified from male $y/b$ larvae because it consistently did not show regions of nonpairing, which were common among the autosomes, and it was paler in appearance than the autosomes. We crossed $X^B$ males to virgin $X^B/y$ females, which produced the $X^ST/X^B$ females that we then used to identify inversions associated with the $X^B$.

Allelism of the $X^S$ Female Sterility Factor. All of the $X^S$s from this study that we have maintained in the laboratory harbor a recessive female sterility factor [$n = 7 X^S$s from this study and 1 from Jaenike (20)]. We conducted complementation tests to determine whether this sterility factor was allelic in the various $X^B$ chromosomes. Because females that carry two copies of the same $X^B$ are sterile, to test whether two different $X^B$ chromosomes, e.g., $X^B_1$ and $X^B_2$, were allelic, we crossed $X^B/y$ b females to $X^B/y$ males. Because the resulting $F_1$ daughters were either $X^B_1X^B_1$ or $X^B_2X^B_2$, both of which appear to be wild type, we determined the genotype of each daughter by mating them to $X^B$ males and scoring their offspring for the presence of $y/b$ males. $F_2$ daughters that produced $y/b$ sons were inferred to be $X^B/y$, and those that produced only wild-type offspring were inferred to be $X^B/X^B$, but with sterility factors that complemented each other. If the sterility factors on the two different $X^B$ chromosomes were allelic and did not complement, then the female produced no offspring.

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