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**B CHROMOSOME NUMBER VARIABILITY IN THE KOREAN FIELD MOUSE
APODEMUS PENINSULAE (RODENTIA) FROM THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST****G.V. Roslik, I.V. Kartavtseva***Institute of Biology and Soil Science of Far-Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences,
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Karyotype analysis of wild mice, *Apodemus peninsulae* ($n = 355$) from 41 trapping points from the Russian Far East made it possible to reveal B chromosomes in 87.9 % animals, 61.7 % of them were mosaics. Different levels of the variability on B chromosome numbers as represented by inter-, intrapopulational and intraindividual (mosaicism) have been studied. It has been revealed that frequencies of occurrence of individuals with B chromosomes and mosaicism were not constant between different population samples.

The spectra of B chromosome variability were wider in mosaics (from 0 to 7) in comparison with animals with stable karyotype (from 0 to 4). There 78 variants of the B chromosome system have been first found out, distinguished by the number, size and morphology of B-chromosomes. The combinations of the variants and their percent correlations were often unique. We described 22 variants in animals with stable karyotype ($n = 136$). The greatest variety of the variants (up 76) has been found in mosaics divided into two subgroups - with one and with two or more prevailing variants. In the first subgroup ($n = 90$) 68 and in another subgroup ($n = 129$) 104 combinations of the variants have been revealed. There were 5 of the most frequently met variants of the B chromosome system both in the group of mosaics and in animals with stable karyotype. In these variants both 0 B-chromosomes and 1-2 metacentric B-chromosomes, small and middle in the size, have been found. The optimum chromosome number (50) has been established.

The adaptive role of the low number of B chromosomes (1-2) is assumed and the B chromosome system seems not to be balanced in the species as a whole. The distribution of mice with the similar variants of the B chromosome system in the Far-Eastern populations of species seems to be of the chaotic nature.