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ABSTRACTS

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**MORPHOTYPICAL DIFFERENCES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE THIRD UPPER MOLARS FOUND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO CHROMOSOMAL RACES OF *ALEXANDROMYS EVORONENSIS* (ARVICOLINAE, RODENTIA)**

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The Evoron vole *Alexandromys evoronensis* is an endemic species of northeastern Asia and the southern Russian Far East. It has three isolated populations and two-chromosome races - "evoron" (2n = 38-41) and "argi" (2n = 34-37) (Kartavtseva et al., 2021). Karyotype polymorphism is associated with multiple chromosomal structural rearrangements of eleven chromosomes - two Robertsonian fusions and five tandem fusions. There are no studies of the morphotypic variability of the molars in chromosomal races with multiple tandem fusions.

It is known that molar morphotypes are controlled by a number of genes. It has been suggested that multiple chromosomal rearrangements, including tandem chromosome rearrangements, may affect the morphotypic variability of the third upper molars.

We have shown for the first time that animals of the chromosomal race "evoron" have both M3 morphotypes with fused first two prisms and lower morphotypic variability compared to the chromosomal race "argi". It has also been shown that chromosomal races have differences in the number of morphotypes, their combinations, asymmetry index and frequency of morphotype combinations. (Kartavtseva et al., in press). It has been concluded that chromosomal rearrangements could affect the genes responsible for molar formation.

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