

Cytological studies of *archachatina marginata* and *achatina sp.* From southwestern Nigeria

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Abstract

African giant snails, *Archachatina marginata* and *Achatina sp.* were examined cytologically with the aim of determining their chromosome numbers. The chromosome numbers were $2n=56$ and $2n=44$ for *A. marginata* and *Achatina sp.* respectively. Using the metaphase spreads of meiosis 1 in the ovotestes tissues of the snails, 28 and 22 bivalents were observed for *A. marginata* and *Achatina sp.* respectively. The chromosomes were large and rod like. Prometaphase and mitotic metaphase stages were also recorded for *A. marginata* while only mitotic metaphase stages were recorded for *Achatina sp.* The chromosomes at these stages were reduced in size. This could probably be an intrinsic feature of these species. No polyploidy was observed in all the cells examined.