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# Inheritance of Mitochondrial DNAs and Allozymes in the Female Hybrid Lineage of Two Japanese Pond Frog Species

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**ABSTRACT**—In order to elucidate the nucleotide sequence divergence of mitochondrial DNAs between two Japanese pond frog species  $Rana\ nigromaculata$  and  $R.\ brevipoda$ , and the mode of inheritance of cytoplasmic genomes in the female hybrid lineages of the two species, the cleavage patterns of mtDNAs digested with 10 restriction endonucleases were examined by agarose gel electrophoresis using a total of 52 frogs including  $Rana\ nigromaculata$  and  $R.\ brevipoda$ , their reciprocal hybrids and the backcross offspring ( $B_1$  and  $B_2$ ) derived from female hybrids by crossing with the paternal species. The cleavage patterns for mtDNA of  $Rana\ nigromaculata$  were different from those of  $R.\ brevipoda$  digested with all the restriction endonucleases used except EcoRV. The nucleotide sequence divergence of mtDNAs between these two species was roughly estimated to be 8.5%. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring were clearly similar to those of the maternal species, and paternal mtDNAs could not be detected. On the other hand, the proportions of original maternal nuclear genes at the 22 allozyme loci were 50% in the reciprocal hybrids, 21.9% or 25.6% in the  $B_1$  offspring, and 7.5% in the  $B_2$  offspring. These results demonstrate that nuclear genomes decrease the original maternal constitution in the female hybrid lineages generationally, whereas the mtDNAs are inherited maternally during repeated backcrossing.

## INTRODUCTION

The two Japanese pond frog species, Rana nigromaculata and R. brevipoda (= R. porosa brevipoda), are nearly completely isolated by male hybrid sterility (Moriya, 1951, 1960; Kawamura, 1962; Kawamura and Nishioka, 1977). By contrast, the females of reciprocal hybrids between these two species are fertile to a large extent. Kawamura and Nishioka (1978) examined the change of reproductive capacity in the descendants of their reciprocal hybrids, and clarified that female hybrids were more or less inferior to their parents in reproductive capacity. There was scarcely any improvement in females of the B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub> or B<sub>3</sub> generation on an average in reproductive capacity as compared with their female parents. In each of four lineages derived from the reciprocal female hybrids by backcrossing with the paternal and maternal species, males were distinctly inferior to their sisters in reproductive capacity.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has been shown to be predominantly maternally inherited in *Xenopus* (Dawid and Blackler, 1972), *Drosophila* (Reilly and Thomas, 1980) and *Heliothis* (Lansman *et al.*, 1983). Maternal inheritance of mtDNA has also been observed in horse-donkey hybrids

(Hutchison et al., 1974), the rat Rattus norvegicus (Buzzo et al., 1978; Francisco et al., 1979; Hayashi et al., 1978; Kroon et al., 1978), the white-footed mouse Peromyscus polionotus (Avise et al., 1979), Mus (Gyllensten et al., 1985), human (Giles et al., 1980), Onchorhynchus (Ginatulina and Maksimovich, 1994), chicken-quail hybrids (Watanabe et al., 1985) and ducks (Lin et al., 1990). Strictly maternal inheritance of mtDNA has been demonstrated during extensive backcrossing in both directions between Mus domesticus and Mus spretus (Gyllensten et al., 1985) and between Heliothis virescens and H. subflexa (Lansman et al., 1983).

As to the nuclear genomes, the preferential expression of a maternal or paternal allele has been reported frequently in the somatic cells of hybrids (Castro-Sierra and Ohno, 1968; Hitzeroth *et al.*, 1968; Whitt *et al.*, 1972, 1973; Honjo and Reeder, 1973; Yamaguchi and Goldberg, 1974; Schmidtke *et al.*, 1976; Etkin, 1977; Durica and Krider, 1977), but rarely in the germ cells of hybrids (Brown and Blackler, 1972; Vogel and Chen, 1976; Graf *et al.*, 1977) (Elinson, 1981).

In the present study, the cleavage patterns of mtDNAs were examined using two Japanese pond frog species Rana nigromaculata and R. brevipoda, their reciprocal hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring derived from fertile female hybrids backcrossed with the paternal species, in order to elucidate the nucleotide sequence divergence of mtDNAs between two species and the mode of inheritance of cytoplasmic genomes

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during repeated backcrossing of Japanese pond frogs. The enzymes and blood proteins encoded by nuclear genes were also examined to confirm the expression of parental genes and the chromosomal genome constitutions in the reciprocal hybrids and the backcross offspring.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A total of 52 mature frogs was used in the present study (Table 1). These included eight *Rana nigromaculata*, eight *R. brevipoda* (= R.~p.~brevipoda), 24 reciprocal hybrids, and 12 B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> offspring derived from reciprocal female hybrids. All the crossing experiments were carried out by artificial fertilization method during the breeding seasons of 1990~1994. Ovulation was accelerated by injection of suspension of bullfrog pituitaries into the body cavity. Tadpoles were fed on boiled spinach. Metamorphosed frogs were fed on two-spotted crickets. The 14 enzymes extracted from livers and skeletal muscles and the three blood proteins of the above 52 frogs were analyzed by means of starch gel electrophoresis according to the method of

Nishioka *et al.* (1980, 1992) with a slight modification, whereas the amylase of blood sera was examined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (Table 2). Each enzyme was detected by the agaroverlay method outlined by Harris and Hopkinson (1976). The detection of blood proteins was made with the amido-black staining method.

Mitochondria were isolated from livers or ovaries. Tissues were homogenized in a decuple volume of STE buffer cooled with ice (0.25 M sucrose, 0.03 M Tris-HCl, 0.01 M EDTA, 0.11 M NaCl, pH 7.6), and centrifuged at  $800 \times g$  for 10 min at 2°C. The supernatant was centrifuged at  $10,000 \times g$  for 10 min at 2°C. MtDNAs were purified by CsCl ethidium bromide density gradient centrifugation described by Yonekawa *et al.* (1980) as follows.

Mitochondria obtained from each frog were lysed completely by suspending the pellet in 3.6 ml (final volume) of 0.6% sarcosyl, 10 mM EDTA and 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0). The lysate was then dialyzed against the above buffer for 4 hr at room temperature. The volume of lysate was adjusted to 3.6 ml by the same buffer, and 3.6 grams of solid CsCl and 0.24 ml of 4.6 mg/ml ethidium bromide were added to the lysate and mixed well. Then the lysate was centrifuged at 36,000 rpm (Hitachi RPS-40 rotor) for 40 hr at 20°C. The fraction containing

IZ:	Out to stime of	Alekanishinah	No. of frogs					
Kind <sup>a</sup>	Crossing	Abbreviation <sup>b</sup>	Female	Male	Total			
Rana nigromaculata	(N) NN ♀ × (N) NN ♂	(N) NN	4	4	8			
Rana brevipoda	(B) BB ♀ × (B) BB ♂	(B) BB	4	4	8			
F <sub>1</sub> hybrid	(N) NN $\stackrel{\circ}{+}$ × (B) BB $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$	(N) NB	8	5	13			
F₁ hybrid	(B) BB $+ \times$ (N) NN $3$	(B) BN	8	3	11			
B₁ offspring	(N) NB $\stackrel{\circ}{+}$ × (B) BB $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$	(N) NB × BB	4	0	4			
B₁ offspring	(B) BN $\stackrel{\circ}{+}$ × (N) NN $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$	(B) BN × NN	4	0	4			
B <sub>2</sub> offspring	$\{(N) \mid NB \times BB\} \mid \uparrow \times (B) \mid BB \mid \delta$	(N) NB $\times$ BB $\times$ BB	1	3	4			
- · · · · ·	Total		33	19	52			

Table 1. Number of specimens used in the present study

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> N and B refer to a genome of *Rana nigromaculata* and a genome of *R. brevipoda*, respectively. The letters in parentheses indicate sources of cytoplasm.

Enzyme or blood protein	Abbreviation	E.C.No.	Sample	Buffer system <sup>a</sup>			
Adenosine deaminase	ADA	3.5.4.4	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Alcohol dehydrogenase	ADH	1.1.1.1	Liver	T-B-E pH 8.0			
Aldolase	ALD	4.1.2.13	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Amylase	AMY	3.2.1.1	Blood serum	T-G pH 8.6 (PAGE)			
Enolase	ENO	4.2.1.11	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	GPD	1.1.1.8	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 6.0			
Glucose phosphate isomerase	GPI	5.3.1.9	Skeletal muscle	T-B-E pH 8.0			
Hexokinase	HK	2.7.1.1	Liver	T-C pH 7.0			
Isocitrate dehydrogenase	IDH	1.1.1.42	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Lactate dehydrogenase	LDH	1.1.1.27	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 6.0			
Malate dehydrogenase	MDH	1.1.1.37	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 6.0			
Malic enzyme	ME	1.1.1.40	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Peptidase	PEP	3.4.11	Liver	T-B-E pH 8.0			
Superoxide dismutase	SOD	1.15.1.1	Skeletal muscle	T-C pH 7.0			
Sorbitol dehydrogenase	SORDH	1.1.1.14	Liver	T-C pH 7.0			
Serum albumin	Alb	_	Blood serum	T-B-E pH 8.0			
Hemoglobin	Hb	_	Erythrocyte	T-B-E pH 8.6			
Serum protein C	Prot-C	_	Blood serum	T-B-E pH 8.0			

Table 2. Enzymes and blood proteins analyzed in the present study

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> F<sub>1</sub> represents the first filial generation of interspecific hybrid. The first and second generation backcrosses are abbreviated to B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> T-C, T-B-E and T-G represent Tris-citrate buffer, Tris-borate-EDTA buffer and Tris-glycine buffer, respectively. Amylase was analyzed by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

closed circular mtDNA was collected, extracted three times with CsCl-saturated isopropanol to remove the dye and dialyzed against 0.1 mM EDTA (pH 8.0) for 20 hr with two changes of the medium. The mtDNA solutions were stored at -20°C until used.

Ten kinds of six-base recognizing restriction endonucleases,

Bam HI, Eco RI, Eco RV, Hae II, HindIII, Hpa I, Pst I, Pvu II, Sac I and Xba I, were purchased from TaKaRa. The mtDNAs were digested by incubating at 37°C for 2 hr with appropriate amounts of the enzymes under conditions described by the suppliers. Agarose slab gel (1% Sigma agarose) electrophoresis was carried out in the standard TAE

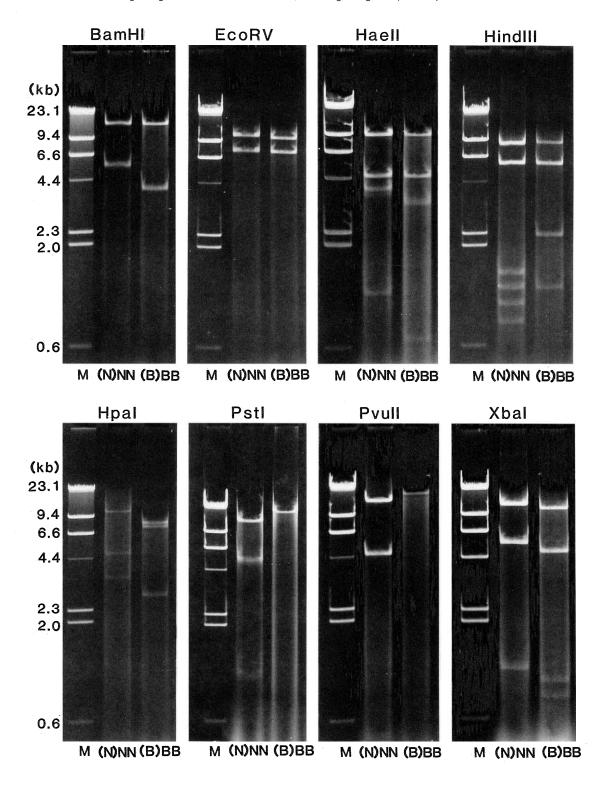


Fig. 1. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of *Rana nigromaculata* and *R. brevipoda* digested with eight restriction endonucleases. M = λ-DNA digested with *HindIII* as molecular weight standards. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of *R. nigromaculata* were different from those of *R. brevipoda* digested with all the enzymes used except *Eco* RV.

buffer (0.04 M Tris, 0.001 M EDTA, 0.02 M sodium acetate, pH 8.3). After electrophoresis, the gels were stained with 0.1  $\mu$ g/ml ethidium bromide and photographed under ultraviolet light.  $\lambda$ -DNA digested with *Hin*dIII was used as molecular weight standards. Nucleotide sequence divergence was calculated by the method of Gotoh *et al.* (1979).

The abbreviations of N and B refer to a genome of Rana nigromaculata and a genome of R. brevipoda, respectively. The letters in parentheses indicate sources of cytoplasm. The first and second generation backcrosses are abbreviated to  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ , respectively.

### **RESULTS**

### Mitochondrial DNAs

Figure 1 shows a comparison of the cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of two Japanese pond frog species, Rana nigromaculata and R. brevipoda, digested with eight restriction endonucleases, Bam HI, Eco RV, Hae II, HindIII, Hpa I, Pst I, Pvull and Xbal. The cleavage patterns for mtDNA of R. nigromaculata were different from those of R. brevipoda digested with all the enzymes used except EcoRV. The molecular weight of each restriction fragment of these mtDNAs was estimated by comparing relative mobility to those of molecular weight standards (Table 3). The molecular weight of total mtDNA genome was estimated to be  $19.1 \pm 0.19$  kb in Rana nigromaculata and  $18.4 \pm 0.18$  kb in R. brevipoda. The numbers of common and different cleavage sites between R. nigromaculata and R. brevipoda were inferred from those of the fragments. The nucleotide sequence divergence between these two species was roughly estimated to be 8.5%.

Figures 2 and 3 show the cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids between these two species and the B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> offspring digested with three restriction endonucleases, *BamHI*, *HindIII* and *PstI*. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of 13 hybrids (N)NB between female *Rana nigromaculata* and male *R. brevipoda*, four B<sub>1</sub> offspring

(N)NB  $\times$  BB obtained from matings between female hybrids and male R. brevipoda, and four  $B_2$  offspring (N)NB  $\times$  BB  $\times$  BB obtained from matings between female  $B_1$  offspring and male R. brevipoda were clearly similar to those of R. nigromaculata. Likewise the cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of 11 hybrids (B)BN between female R. brevipoda and male R. nigromaculata, and four  $B_1$  offspring (B)BN  $\times$  NN obtained from matings between female hybrids and male R. nigromaculata were clearly similar to those of R. brevipoda. The mtDNA cleavage patterns observed in the hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring are summarized in Table 4. The paternal mtDNA cleavage patterns could not be detected at all in these hybrids nor backcrosses. These results demonstrate that mtDNAs were primarily maternally inherited in these hybrids and backcrosses.

### Nuclear genome constitutions

Figures 4 and 5 show the electrophoretic patterns of enzymes and blood proteins in R. nigromaculata, R. brevipoda, their reciprocal hybrids and the B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> offspring. The electrophoretic patterns of two species were clearly different from each other at all the 22 diagnostic loci (Table 5). They were NN and BB in genotype, respectively. The electrophoretic patterns of each hybrid consisted of the sum of those of the two parental species at all the 22 loci. They were NB or BN in genotype. In the four B<sub>1</sub> offspring (N)NB × BB, 7~10 of 20 loci showed hybrid pattern, NB in genotype, and the remaining 10~13 loci revealed the brevipoda pattern, BB in genotype (Table 5). In the four B₁ offspring (B)BN × NN, 7~14 of 22 loci showed hybrid pattern, BN in genotype, and the other 8~15 loci revealed the nigromaculata pattern, NN in genotype (Table 5). Of the four  $B_2$  offspring (N)NB × BB × BB, one showed the brevipoda pattern, BB in genotype, at all the 20 loci examined. The remaining three showed the hybrid pattern, NB in

Table 3. Restriction fragments of mtDNAs from Rana nigromaculata and R. brevipoda

<b>-</b>	011		(N) NN			No. of sites			
Enzyme	Site	No.ª	Size (kb)	Total⁵	No.ª	Size (kb)	Totalb	C <sub>i</sub> c	d <sub>i</sub> d
Bam HI	THI GGATCC 2 13.6 5.3 18.9		18.9	2	14.6 3.9	18.5	1	2	
Eco RI	GAATTC	3	8.8 5.6 4.4	18.8	1	18.6	18.6	1	2
Eco RV	GATATC	2	11.1 7.5	18.6	2	11.1 7.5	18.6	2	0
Haell	PuGCGCPy	4	8.7 4.4 3.7	17.9	5	8.7 4.4 3.2	17.6	3	3
	-		1.1			0.7 0.6			
<i>Hin</i> dIII	AAGCTT	6	8.6 5.8 1.4	18.8	4	8.6 5.8 2.3	17.9	4	2
			1.2 1.0 0.8			1.2			
Hpa1	GTTAAC	3	11.1 4.6 3.4	19.1	3	8.4 7.6 2.8	18.8	1	4
Pst1	CTGCAG	3	13.4 5.2 1.0	19.6	1	18.7	18.7	1	2
Pvull	CAGCTG	2	15.4 4.5	19.9	1	19.3	19.3	1	1
Sacl	GAGCTC	2	13.6 5.9	19.5	1	18.7	18.7	1	1
Xbal	TCTAGA	3	13.4 5.5 1.0	19.9	4	11.2 4.8 0.9	17.6	1	5
						0.7			
Average		3.0		19.1	2.4		18.4	1.6	2.2
(Sequence divergence)								(8.5	5%)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Number of restriction fragments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Total length (kb) of fragments.

<sup>°</sup> Number of common cleavage sites between R. nigromaculata and R. brevipoda.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Number of different cleavage sites between *R. nigromaculata* and *R. brevipoda*.

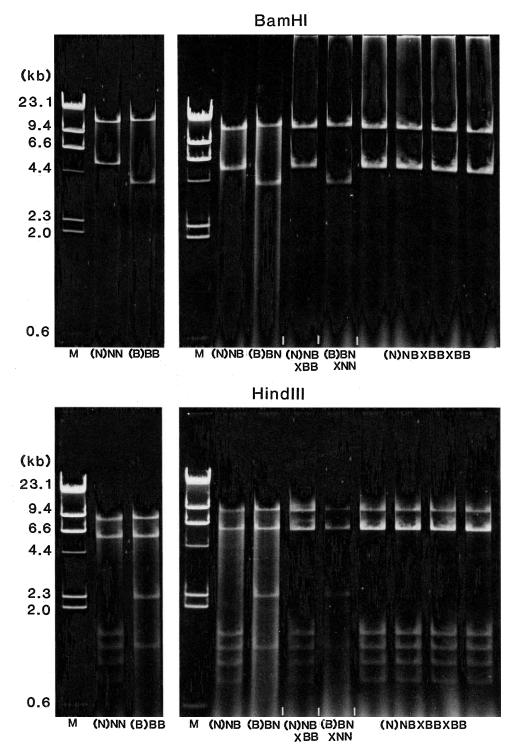


Fig. 2. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids between two species and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring digested with Bam HI and HindIII.  $M = \lambda$ -DNA digested with HindIII as molecular weight standards. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring were clearly similar to those of the maternal parent.

genotype, at 3~5 loci and the *brevipoda* pattern, *BB* in genotype, at the other 15~17 loci (Table 5).

The proportions of original maternal genes were 50% in the reciprocal hybrids, 21.9% or 25.6% in the  $B_1$  offspring, and 7.5% in the  $B_2$  offspring (Table 5). Thus it was found that

the nuclear genomes decreased the original maternal constitution in the female hybrid lineages generationally.

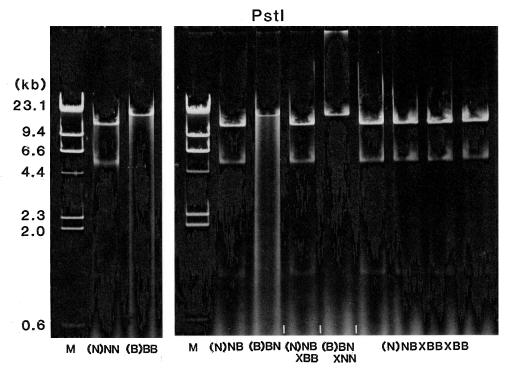


Fig. 3. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids between two species and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring digested with Pst1.  $M = \lambda$ -DNA digested with HindIII as molecular weight standards. The cleavage patterns for mtDNAs of the reciprocal hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring were clearly similar to those of the maternal parent.

Table 4	. MtDNA cleavage patterns of the reciprocal hybrids and	the backcross offspring
Table 4.	. WILDINA cleavage patterns of the reciprocal hybrids and	ine backeross onspring

Kind (N) NB (B) BN				(N) NE	3 × BB			(B) B1	1×NN		(N) $NB \times BB \times BB$				
Ind.no.	1~13	1~11	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Bam HI	N	В	N	N	N	N	В	В	В	В	N	N	N	N	
<i>Hin</i> dlll	N	В	N	Ν	N	Ν	В	В	В	В	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Pstl	Ν	В	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	В	В	В	В	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	

### **DISCUSSION**

The present results demonstrate that the inheritance of mtDNAs is not governed by the same rules that apply to chromosome genes. As shown in Fig. 6, mtDNAs are maternally inherited; the mtDNAs of the original maternal parent are transmitted in the fertile female hybrid lineage during extensive backcrossing. On the other hand, both maternal and paternal nuclear genes are expressed in the reciprocal hybrids, and chromosomal genomes decrease the constitution of the original maternal parent in the fertile female hybrid lineage generationally (Fig. 6). Nishioka and Ohtani (1986) examined the lampbrush chromosome constitution of oocytes in 100 female backcrosses produced from female hybrids between female brevipoda and male nigromaculata by backcrossing with male nigromaculata. Of 1300 bivalents in total, 656 were BN in chromosome constitution and the other 644 were NN in chromosome constitution. These results showed that 656

(25.2%) of all the lampbrush chromosomes were derived from maternal species of the hybrids. Theoretically, in the course of extensive backcrossing of the fertile female hybrids with paternal species, the original maternal chromosomes or genes decrease to 50% in reciprocal hybrids, to 25.0% in the  $B_1$  offspring and to 12.5% in the  $B_2$  offspring. In the present study, the proportions of original maternal genes were 50.0% in reciprocal hybrids, 21.9% or 25.6% in the  $B_1$  offspring and 7.5% in the  $B_2$  offspring. These values almost coincide with the expected values stated above ( $\chi^2 = 0 \sim 2.29$ , P > 0.13).

Nishioka, Ohtani and Sumida (1980, 1987), Nishioka and Ohtani (1986), Nishioka and Sumida (1994a, b), Sumida and Nishioka (1994a, b) and Sumida (1996) reported several linkage groups of enzyme and blood protein loci, color mutant genes and sex-linked genes in the *Rana nigromaculata* group and the Japanese brown frog *Rana japonica*. According to these studies, 10 linkage groups were established in the *Rana nigromaculata* group; *Alb*, *ADH-2* and albino gene *b* on

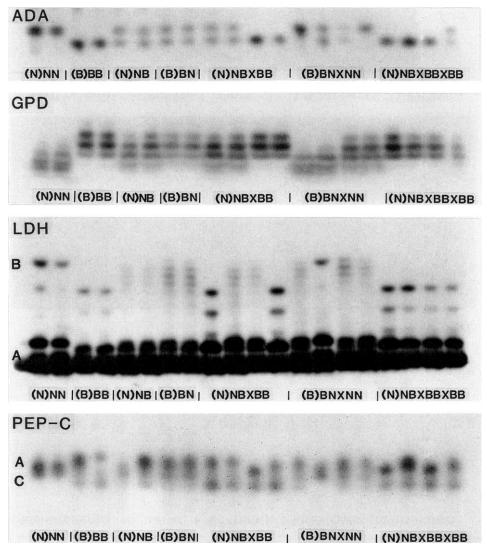


Fig. 4. The electrophoretic patterns of ADA, GPD, LDH and PEP-C in *R. nigromaculata, R. brevipoda*, the reciprocal hybrids and the B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> offspring. In the PEP-C patterns, the substrate L-leucyl-alanine also detected the PEP-A.

chromosome No. 1; *GPD*, *SOD-1*, *PEP-C*, *ME-2* and albino genes *a* and *c* on chromosome No. 2; *MDH-1*, *ME-1*, albino gene *e* and olive mutant gene on chromosome No. 3; *LDH-B*, *PEP-B*, *HK*, *MPI*, *SORDH* and *ENO* on chromosome No. 4; *PEP-A* on chromosome No. 5; *Hb* and *IDH-1* on chromosome No. 6; blue mutant gene on chromosome No. 8; *Prot-C*, *ALD* and albino gene *d* on chromosome No. 9; *PEP-D*, *EST-1*, *EST-2*, *EST-4* and *EST-5* on chromosome No. 10; *ADA* on chromosome No. 11. The present results gave definite evidence of linkages between the *SOD-1* and *PEP-C* loci, between *LDH-B* and *HK* loci, between *SORDH* and *ENO* loci and between *Hb* and *IDH-1* loci (Table 5), where the recombination rates were 16.7% ( $\chi^2 = 5.33$ , P < 0.03), 8.3% ( $\chi^2 = 8.33$ , P < 0.004), 8.3% and 16.7%, respectively.

The evidence presented here demonstrates that the mtDNAs were primarily maternally inherited during repeated backcrossing. The earliest evidence for maternal inheritance of mtDNA in animals came from the crossing experiments

performed by Dawid and Blackler (1972) on two species of *Xenopus*. The studies of maternal inheritance using intra- and interspecific or intergeneric hybrids and repeated backcrosses also produced results concordant with the present ones (Avise *et al.*, 1979; Buzzo *et al.*, 1978; Francisco *et al.*, 1979; Giles *et al.*, 1980; Ginatulina and Maksimovich, 1994; Gyllensten *et al.*, 1985; Hayashi *et al.*, 1978; Kroon *et al.*, 1978; Lansman *et al.*, 1983; Lin *et al.*, 1990; Reilly and Thomas, 1980; Watanabe *et al.*, 1985).

According to Hutchison *et al.* (1974), two mechanisms for maternal inheritance are considered: (1) paternal mitochondria may be incapable of replication during development of the fertilized eggs, (2) maternal inheritance may result from a quantitative preponderance of maternal mitochondria in the zygotes. Gillham (1978) has raised the possibility that maternal inheritance in a single generation cross could be determined by interaction between nuclear and mitochondrial genes. It is believed that as little as 5% paternal

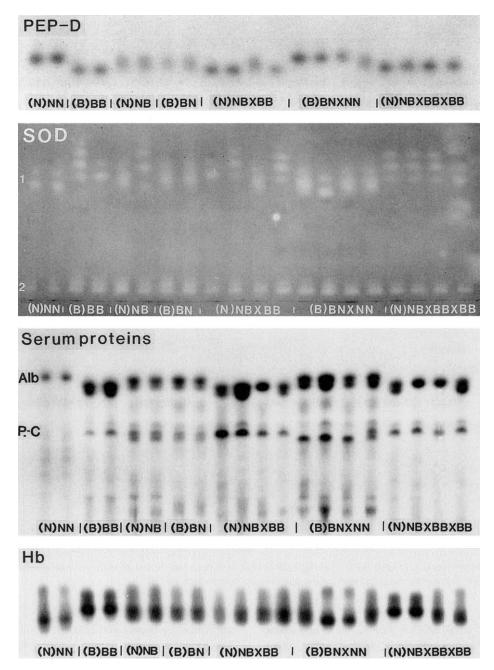


Fig. 5. The electrophoretic patterns of PEP-D, SOD, serum proteins and Hb in R. nigromaculata, R. brevipoda, the reciprocal hybrids and the  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  offspring.

mtDNAs will have been detectable in this experiment, however the presence of smaller amounts of paternal mtDNAs cannot be excluded. In *Xenopus laevis*, an egg contains more than 10<sup>8</sup> mtDNA molecules, whereas each sperm is estimated to contain about 100 molecules (Dawid, 1966; Dawid and Blackler, 1972). 10<sup>-6</sup> of the mtDNA paternally derived would be below the limit of detection in this experiment. Nevertheless, some papers have shown paternal leakage of mtDNAs in the interspecific backcrosses of *Drosophila* (Kondo *et al.*, 1990) or *Mus* (Gyllensten *et al.*, 1991) using sufficiently sensitive techniques such as the Southern hybridization or the

polymerase chain reaction. Kaneda *et al.* (1995) demonstrated that in intraspecific hybrids of *Mus musculus*, the paternal mtDNA genome got into the egg but was rapidly destroyed, whereas in interspecific hybrids between *Mus musculus* and *M. spretus*, the paternal mtDNA contribution persisted at least up until the neonate stage of development. It would be of interest to know whether leaky paternal inheritance of mtDNAs occurs during early development in the female hybrid lineages of the two Japanese pond frog species. These female hybrid lineages are considered to be very useful and attractive systems for examining the paternal mtDNA contribution during

Kind (N) NB (B) BN (N) NB × BB						(B) BN × NN					(N) $NB \times BB \times BB$						
Kind	(N) NB	(B) BN		(N) NE	3 × RR				(R) RI	1 × 1/1/1/			(IX	1) NR ×	BB×	3B	
Ind.no.	1~13	1~11	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
ADA	NB	BN	NB	NB	BB	BB		NN	BN	BN	NN		BB	BB	BB	NB	
ADH-2	NB	BN	BB	BB	BB	NB		NN	BN	NN	NN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
ALD	NB	BN	NB	BB	NB	NB		NN	NN	NN	BN		NB	BB	BB	BB	
AMY	NB	BN	BB	BB	NB	NB		NN	BN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
ENO	NB	BN	BB	NB	BB	NB		BN	BN	NN	NN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
GPD	NB	BN	NB	NB	BB	BB		NN	NN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	NB	
GPI	NB	BN	BB	BB	BB	NB		BN	BN	BN	NN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
HK	NB	BN	BB	NB	NB	BB		BN	NN	BN	NN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
IDH-1	NB	BN	NB	NB	BB	NB		BN	NN	NN	NN		BB	BB	NB	NB	
LDH-B	NB	BN	BB	NB	NB	BB		BN	NN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
MDH-1	NB	BN	NB	BB	NB	BB		NN	NN	NN	BN		NB	BB	NB	BB	
ME-1	NB	BN	NB	BB	NB	BB		NN	NN	NN	BN		NB	BB	NB	BB	
ME-2	NB	BN	BB	NB	NB	BB		NN	NN	NN	BN		BB	BB	BB	NB	
PEP-A	NB	BN	_			_		BN	NN	BN	BN		_		_		
PEP-B	NB	BN	-	_		-		BN	NN	BN	NN		_		_	_	
PEP-C	NB	BN	BB	NB	BB	BB		BN	NN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
PEP-D	NB	BN	BB	BB	NB	BB		NN	NN	NN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
SOD-1	NB	BN	BB	BB	NB	BB		BN	NN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
SORDH	NB	BN	BB	NB	BB	NB		BN	BN	BN	NN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
Alb	NB	BN	BB	BB	BB	BB		BN	BN	BN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
Hb	NB	BN	NB	NB	NB	NB		BN	NN	NN	BN		BB	BB	NB	NB	
Prot-C	NB	BN	BB	BB	BB	BB		NN	NN	NN	BN		BB	BB	BB	BB	
N(%) <sup>a</sup>	50	50		21	.9			74.4						7	7.5		
B(%) <sup>b</sup>	50	50		78.1					25.6				92.5				

Table 5. Genotypes at 22 loci of enzymes and blood proteins in the reciprocal hybrids and the backcross offspring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Average percentage of genes derived from *R. brevipoda*.

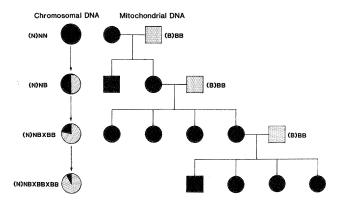


Fig. 6. Scheme illustrating the inheritance of the nuclear and cytoplasmic genomes in the female hybrid lineage of two Japanese pond frog species. The chromosomal genomes decrease the original maternal constitution generationally, whereas the mitochondrial genomes are inherited maternally during repeated backcrossing. Circular, female; square, male; black, nigromaculata genome; dot, brevipoda genome.

early development. Subsequent examination using polymerase chain reaction will clarify this point.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Average percentage of genes derived from R. nigromaculata.

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