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Evidence to support karyotypic variation of the mosquito, Anopheles peditaeniatus in Thailand

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Abstract

Eight isoline colonies of *Anopheles peditaeniatus* Leicester (Diptera: Culicidae) were established from wild-caught females collected from buffalo-baited traps at 8 localities in Thailand. They showed 2 types of X (X₂, X₃) and 4 types of Y (Y₂, Y₃, Y₄, Y₅) chromosomes based on the number and amount of major block(s) of heterochromatin present in the heterochromatic arm, and were tentatively designated as Forms B (X₂, X₃, Y₂), C (X₃, Y₃), D (X₃, Y₄) and E (X₂, X₃, Y₅). Form B was found in Nan, Ratchaburi, and Chumphon provinces; Form C was obtained in Chon Buri province; Form D was recovered in Kamphaeng Phet province; and Form E was acquired in Chiang Mai, Udon Thani, and Ubon Ratchathani provinces. Crossing studies among the 8 isoline colonies, which were representative of 4 karyotypic forms of *An. peditaeniatus*, revealed genetic compatibility in providing viable progenies and synaptic salivary gland polytene chromosomes through F₂-generations, thus suggesting the conspecific nature of these karyotypic forms. These results were supported by the very low intraspecific sequence variations (0.0 - 1.1%) of the nucleotide sequences in ribosomal DNA (ITS2) and mitochondrial DNA (COI and COII) of the 4 forms.

Keywords: COI, COII, crossing experiment, Hyrcanus group, ITS2, metaphase karyotype

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Introduction

The Hyrcanus group of the Myzorhynchus series of the subgenus Anopheles (Diptera: Culicidae) comprises a large number of species that occur widely in Asia. At least 8 species of this group, i.e. Anopheles argyropus Swellengrebel, An. crawfordi Reid, An. nigerrimus Gilles, An. nitidus Harrison, Scanlon and Reid, An. paraliae Sandosham, An. peditaeniatus Leicester, An. pursati Laveran, and An. sinensis Wiedemann are recorded in Thailand (Harrison and Scanlon 1975; Rattanarithikul et al. 2006). Among these, An. nigerrimus, An. peditaeniatus, and An. sinensis are suspected as vectors of Plasmodium vivax Grassi and Feletti in Thailand (Harrison and Scanlon Rattanarithikul et al. 1996), while An. sinensis has been incriminated as a natural vector of P. vivax in Korea (Chai 1999; Ree et al. 2001) and An. peditaeniatus as a secondary vector of Japanese encephalitis virus in China and India (Mourya et al. 1989; Zhang 1990; Kanojia et al. 2003). Although An. peditaeniatus has been found abundantly and widely distributed throughout Thailand, its status as a vector of the Japanese encephalitis virus remains a crucial question that needs to be clarified more thoroughly. Additionally, this species was also considered an economic pest of cattle because of its vicious biting-behavior and ability to transmit cervid filariae of the genus Setaria (Reid 1968; Harrison and Scanlon 1975).

Regarding the cytogenetic investigations of *An. peditaeniatus*, the results indicated that at least 3 types of $X(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ and 5 types of $Y(Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5)$ chromosomes were found in both sympatric and/or allopatric populations in Chanthaburi, Chiang Mai and Phrae provinces (Baimai et al. 1993).

Chromosomes X_1 , X_2 and X_3 differ from each other in the number and amount of major block(s) of heterochromatin present in the heterochromatic arm, making them appear as metacentric X_1 , small submetacentric X_2 , and submetacentric X₃ chromosomes. Likewise, the evolution of Y chromosome types, i.e. very small telocentric Y₁, medium telocentric Y₂, large telocentric Y₃, very large telocentric Y₄, and submetacentric Y₅ could have arisen via the process of gain, rather than loss, of major block(s) of heterochromatin (Baimai et al. 1993; Baimai 1998). Although marked genetic variation at the chromosomal level of An. peditaeniatus has obviously been illustrated, little is known about its genetic proximities. Accordingly, the chromosomal variant and/or distinction might be manifested as an important role in generating post-mating barrier and DNA sequence variation of some specific genomic regions. Thus, this paper presents the results of crossing experiments and comparative DNA sequencing of the ribosomal DNA (ITS2) and mitochondrial DNA (COI and COII) regions of 4 karyotypic forms of An. peditaeniatus strains from 8 localities in Thailand.

Materials and Methods

Field collections and the establishment of isoline colonies

Wild, fully engorged female *An. peditaeniatus* were collected from buffalo-baited traps from November 2007 to September 2008 at 8 localities in Thailand (Figure 1; Table 1). Eight isoline colonies were successfully established and maintained in an insectary using the techniques described by Kim et al. (2003). These isoline colonies were used for studies on metaphase karyotypes, crossing experiments, and molecular analyses.

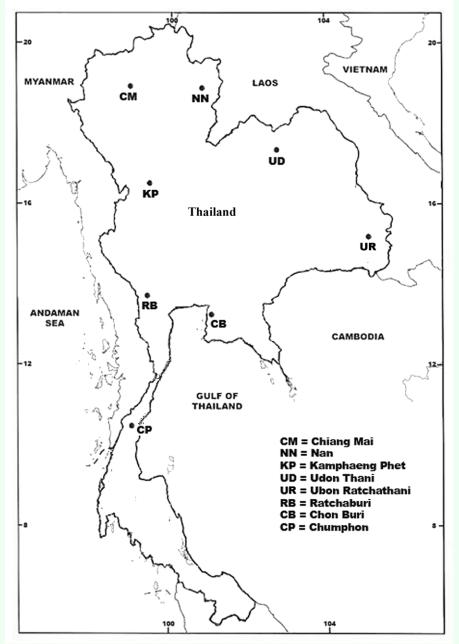


Figure 1. Map of Thailand showing 8 locations where mosquitoes were collected; northern region: Chiang Mai and Nan provinces; northeastern region: Udon Thani and Ubon Ratchathani provinces; central region: Kamphaeng Phet province; western region: Ratchaburi province; eastern region: Chonburi province; and southern region: Chumporn province. High quality figures are available online.

Metaphase chromosome preparation

Metaphase chromosome preparation was the technique used for chromosome preparation in adult mosquitoes, as described by Choochote et al. (2001). Briefly, newly emerged adult males of laboratory-raised *An. peditaeniatus* (aged about 6-12 hr) were intra-thoracically inoculated with 0.30 µl of 1% ethanol-

extracted *Gloriosa superba* L. (Liliales: Colchicaceae) solution and held in an insectary at 27 ± 2°C, with 70-80% relative humidity for 3 hr. The excised testes were incubated in 1% hypotonic sodium citrate solution, fixed in Carnoy's fixative, stained with 10% Giemsa in phosphate buffer pH 7.2, mounted in Permount® (Fisher,

Table 1. Locations, isoline colonies and karyotypic forms of Anopheles peditaeniatus and An. lesteri, and their GenBank accession numbers.

Location Geographical coordinate	Code of Karyotypic		Region	GenBank accession number			Reference	
Date	isoline	form	· ·	ITS2	COI	COII		
An. peditaeniatus								
Chiang Mai, Thailand								
18°47′N 98°59′E	CmE	E (X ₃ ,Y ₅)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539056	AB539064	AB539072	This study	
8 November 2007		, , , ,					,	
Nan, Thailand								
19°21′N 100°39′E	NnB	B (X ₂ ,Y ₂)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539057	AB539065	AB539073	This study	
17 November 2007		<u> </u>					,	
Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand								
16°50′N 99°04′E	KpD	D (X ₃ ,Y ₄)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539058	AB539066	AB539074	This study	
2 December 2007							·	
Udon Thani,Thailand								
17°24′N 102°47′E	UdE	E (X ₃ ,Y ₅)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539059	AB539067	AB539075	This study	
14 May 2008								
Ubon Ratchathani,Thailand								
15°27′N 105°03′E	UrE	E (X ₂ ,Y ₅)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539060	AB539068	AB539076	This study	
23 July 2008								
Ratchaburi, Thailand								
13°21′N 99°22′E	RbB	B (X ₃ ,Y ₂)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539061	AB539069	AB539077	This study	
2 August 2008		(**************************************	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				,	
Chon Buri, Thailand								
13°26′N 101°03′E	СЬС	C (X ₃ ,Y ₃)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539062	AB539070	AB539078	This study	
16 September 2008		(2, 2)					,	
Chumphon, Thailand								
10°29′N 99°11′E	СрВ	B (X ₃ ,Y ₂)	ITS2, COI, COII	AB539063	AB539071	AB539079	This study	
27 September 2008	i i							
China	-	-	ITS2	AY129958	-	-	Ma and Xu (2005)	
An. lesteri							,	
Japan	-	-	ITS2	AB159606	-	-	Sawabe et al. (unpublished data	
China	-	-	COI	-	EU699048		Yang and Ma (2009)	
China	-	-	COII	-	-	AY753146	Ma et al. (unpublished data)	

www.fishersci.com), and examined under a compound microscope. Identification of types of sex chromosomes followed the cytotaxonomic key of Baimai et al. (1993).

Crossing experiments

In crossing experiments, the 8 laboratoryraised isoline colonies of An. peditaeniatus were representative of the 4 karyotypic forms, i.e. Forms B [Nan strain: NnB (X₂, Y₂), Ratchaburi strain: RbB (X₃, Y₂), Chumphon strain: CpB (X_3, Y_2)], C [Chon Buri strain: CbC (X₃, Y₃)], D [Kamphaeng Phet: KpD (X_3, Y_4)], and E [Chiang Mai strain: CmE (X_3, Y_4)] Y₅), Udon Thani strain: UdE (X₃, Y₅), Ubon Ratchathani strain: UrE (X_2, Y_5)] (Table 1). These isoline colonies were used for crossing experiments in order to determine post-mating reproductive isolation by employing techniques reported previously by

Thongsahuan et al. (2009). Experiments were carried out once for each crossing of karyotypic forms. The salivary gland polytene chromosomes of 4th instar larvae from the crosses were investigated using the techniques described by Kanda (1979).

DNA extraction, amplification, sequencing and analysis

One individual F₁-progeny adult female from each isoline colony of *An. peditaeniatus* forms was used for DNA extraction and amplification. Genomic DNA was extracted from individual adult mosquitoes using a RED Extract-N-AmpTM Tissue PCR Kit (Sigma-Aldrich). The ribosomal DNA (rDNA) internal transcribed spacer 2 (ITS2), and mitochondrial cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit I (COI) and subunit II (COII) were amplified using the primers described by Park et al.

(2003), with minor modifications: 5.8S + 35(5'-ACG CAT ATT GCA CGT CGT GG-3') and 28S - 20 (5'-GGG TTG TCA CAC ATA ACT TGA GGC-3') for ITS2; LCO1490 (5'-GGT CAA CAA ATC ATA AAG ATA TTG G-3') and HCO2198 (5'-TAA ACT TCA GGG TGA CCA AAA AAT CA-3') for COI; AnoCO2+1 (5'-GAT TAG TGC AAT GAA TTT AAG C-3') and AnoCO2END (5'-GAG ATC ATT ACT TGC TTT CAG TC-3') for COII. The PCR condition, cloning, and followed sequencing the techniques previously reported by Park et al. (2008). The PCR products were purified using the QIAquick® Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen, www.giagen.com), and directly sequenced with an ABI PRISMH® 3700 DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, www.appliedbiosystems.com) using a Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit (Applied Biosystems). Both strands were sequenced and aligned using the ClustalX multiple alignment programs (Thompson et al. 1997). The nucleotide sequence data reported are in the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank nucleotide sequence databases with the accession numbers AB539056-AB539079. Geographical

type of specimens and their sequence accession numbers within GenBank are denoted in Table 1.

Results

Cytological observations of F₁-progenies of 8 isoline colonies demonstrated 2 types of X (X_2, X_3) and 4 types of Y (Y_2, Y_3, Y_4, Y_5) chromosomes. Based on uniquely different characteristics of Y chromosome from each isoline colony, they were tentatively designated as Forms B (X₂, X₃, Y₂), C (X₃, Y_3), D (X_3 , Y_4), and E (X_2 , X_3 , Y_5). Form B was detected in 3 isoline colonies from Nan (X₂, Y₂), Ratchaburi (X₃, Y₂), and Chumphon (X_3, Y_2) provinces. Form C was found in 1 isoline colony from Chonburi (X₃, Y₃) province. Form D was obtained in 1 isoline colony from Kamphaeng Phet (X_3, Y_4) province. Form E was recovered in 3 isoline colonies from Chiang Mai (X3, Y5), Udon Thani (X_3, Y_5) and Ubon Ratchathani (X_2, Y_5) provinces (Figure 2; Table 1).

For crossing experiments, details of hatchability, pupation, emergence, and adult

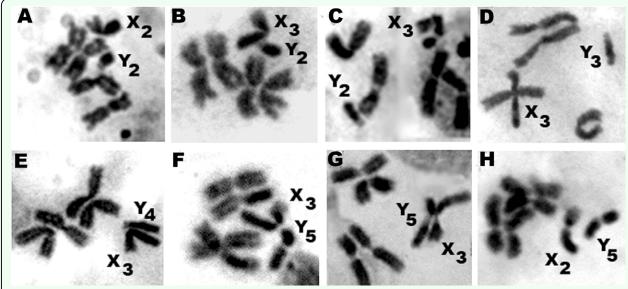


Figure 2. Metaphase karyotypes of *Anopheles peditaeniatus*. Form B: (A) Nan strain: showing X_2 , Y_2 chromosomes; (B) Ratchaburi strain: showing X_3 , Y_2 chromosomes; (C) Chumphon strain: showing X_3 , Y_2 chromosomes. Form C: (D) Chonburi strain: showing X_3 , Y_3 chromosomes. Form D: (E) Kamphaeng Phet strain: showing X_3 , Y_4 chromosomes. Form E: (F) Chiang Mai strain: showing X_3 , Y_5 chromosomes; (G) Udon Thani strain: showing X_3 , Y_5 chromosomes. High quality figures are available online.

sex-ratio of parental, reciprocal, and F₁-hybrid crosses among the 8 isoline colonies of An. peditaeniatus Forms B (X₂, X₃, Y₂), C (X₃, Y_3), D (X_3 , Y_4), and E (X_2 , X_3 , Y_5) are shown in Table 2. All crosses yielded viable through F₂-generations. progenies No evidence of genetic incompatibility and/or post-mating reproductive isolation observed among these crosses. The salivary gland polytene chromosomes of the 4th stage larvae from all crosses showed complete synapsis along the whole length of all autosomes and the X chromosome (Figure 3).

In the DNA sequence analysis, DNA sequences were determined and analyzed for the ITS2, COI, and COII regions from 8 isoline colonies representative of 4 karyotypic forms of An. Peditaeniatus. In these, all sequences of the ITS2 region were found to be completely identical with a length of 463 bp, but in comparison with An. lesteri they had a very high interspecific sequence variation of 35.4%. The results of comparative sequences of COI and COII regions revealed 548 bp for COI with 0.0 -1.1% intraspecific sequence variations, and 672 bp for COII with 0.0 - 0.8% intraspecific sequence variations, and seven variable sites were observed from both (Figure Interspecific sequence variations between An. peditaeniatus and An. lesteri in COI and COII were 3.6 - 4.0% and 3.1 - 3.5%, respectively.

Discussion

Karyotypic variation, due to the addition of an extra block of herterochromatin on sex chromosome (X, Y), is an important mechanism in the speciation process of anopheline mosquitoes and/or other dipteran insects. It could be used as a primary marker for further investigations of sibling species or subspecies status in natural populations of mosquitoes, particularly in those that have heteromorphic sex chromosomes anophelines (Baimai 1998; Subbarao 1998). Nonetheless, limitation in use should be kept in mind since either markedly different or identical metaphase karyotypes could be cytological characteristics of sibling species or subspecies (cytological races). For example, An. minimus Theobald (minimus species A) has uniquely submetacentric X₁, medium submetacentric X₂, and submetacentric Y₁ chromosomes. Anopheles harrisoni Harbach and Manguin (minimus species C) has unique submetacentric large X_3 and large submetacentric Y2 chromosomes (Baimai et al. 1996). Anopheles barbirostris Van der Wulp species A1, A2, A3, and A4 share characteristics common of medium submetacentric X₂ and subtelocentric Y₁ chromosomes, whereas submetacentric X_1 , large submetacentric X₃, submetacentric Y₂, and large submetacentric Y₃ chromosomes were common phenomena of the karyotypic variation of An. barbirostris species A1 (Suwannamit et al. 2009).

Crosses	Total eggs	Embryonation	Number	Number	Number	Number fr	om total emergence (
(Female x Male)	(number) ^a	rate ^b	hatched (%)	pupation (%)	emergence (%)	Female	Male
Parental cross							
NnB x NnB	316 (179, 137)	94	259 (81.96)	243 (93.82)	236 (97.12)	125 (52.97)	111 (47.03)
СрВ х СрВ	360 (196, 164)	85	281 (78.06)	267 (95.02)	267 (100.00)	128 (47.94)	139 (52.06)
RbB x RbB	341 (167, 174)	83	273 (80.06)	240 (87.91)	240 (100.00)	122 (50.83)	118 (49.17)
CbC x CbC	461 (283, 178)	80	323 (70.06)	297 (91.95)	297 (100.00)	154 (51.85)	143 (48.15)
KpD x KpD	271 (179, 92)	90	236 (87.08)	184 (77.97)	182 (98.91)	93 (51.10)	89 (48.90)
CmE x CmE	259 (136, 123)	87	210 (81.08)	174 (82.86)	167 (95.98)	77 (46.11)	90 (53.89)
UdE x UdE	325 (154, 171)	85	247 (76.00)	212 (85.83)	208 (98.11)	108 (51.92)	100 (48.08)
UrE x UrE	284 (158, 126)	78	213 (75.00)	202 (94.84)	198 (98.02)	109 (55.05)	89 (44.95)
Reciprocal cross							
NnB x CpB	336 (197, 139)	94	259 (77.08)	256 (98.84)	256 (100.00)	128 (50.00)	128 (50.00)
CpB x NnB	323 (199, 124)	91	258 (79.88)	253 (98.06)	253 (100.00)	111 (43.87)	142 (56.13)
NnB x RbB	268 (118, 150)	87	188 (70.15)	169 (89.89)	169 (100.00)	83 (49.11)	86 (50.89)
RbB x NnB	381 (185, 196)	84	267 (70.08)	251 (94.01)	251 (100.00)	128 (51.00)	123 (49.00)
NnB x CbC	391 (174, 217)	75	281 (71.87)	253 (90.04)	250 (98.81)	112 (44.80)	138 (55.20)
CbC x NnB	285 (164, 121)	73	205 (71.93)	203 (99.02)	201 (99.01)	106 (52.74)	95 (47.26)
NnB x KpD	368 (281, 87)	81	291 (79.08)	253 (86.94)	250 (98.81)	138 (55.20)	112 (44.80)
KpD x NnB	344 (192, 152)	89	306 (88.95)	294 (96.08)	291 (98.98)	163 (56.01)	128 (43.99)
NnB x CmE	374 (169, 205)	84	262 (70.05)	233 (88.93)	226 (97.00)	111 (49.12)	115 (50.88)
CmE x NnB	389 (204, 185)	85	292 (75.06)	272 (93.15)	272 (100.00)	133 (48.90)	139 (51.10)
NnB x UdE	369 (182, 187)	83	292 (79.13)	266 (91.10)	266 (100.00)	128 (48.12)	138 (51.88)
UdE x NnB	257 (161,96)	85	213 (82.88)	207 (97.18)	199 (96.14)	98 (49.25)	101 (50.75)
NnB x UrE	374 (214, 160)	91	340 (90.91)	299 (87.94)	299 (100.00)	132 (44.15)	167 (55.85)
UrE x NnB	361 (144, 217)	72	256 (70.91)	256 (100.00)	256 (100.00)	118 (46.09)	138 (53.91)
FI cross							
NnB x CpB)F ₁ x (NnB x CpB)F ₁	349 (162, 187)	88	293 (83.95)	264 (90.10)	259 (98.11)	135 (52.12)	124 (47.88)
$CpB \times NnB)F_1 \times (CpB \times NnB)F_1$	260 (174, 86)	94	229 (88.08)	183 (79.91)	183 (100.00)	90 (49.18)	93 (50.82)
NnB x RbB)F ₁ x (NnB x RbB)F ₁	400 (130, 270)	97	328 (82.00)	302 (92.07)	302 (100.00)	148 (49.00)	154 (51.00)
$RbB \times NnB)F_1 \times (RbB \times NnB)F_1$	399 (264, 135)	93	311 (77.94)	292 (93.89)	292 (100.00)	134 (45.89)	158 (54.11)
$InB \times CbC)F_1 \times (NnB \times CbC)F_1$	337 (168, 169)	82	276 (81.90)	276 (100.00)	226 (81.88)	115 (50.88)	111 (49.12)
$CbC \times NnB)F_1 \times (CbC \times NnB)F_1$	392 (201, 191)	81	282 (71.94)	282 (100.00)	234 (82.98)	122 (52.14)	112 (47.86)
$NnB \times KpD)F_1 \times (NnB \times KpD)F_1$	312 (102, 210)	99	306 (98.08)	291 (95.10)	288 (98.97)	153 (53.12)	135 (46.88)
$(pD \times NnB)F_1 \times (KpD \times NnB)F_1$	354 (191, 163)	88	304 (85.88)	222 (73.03)	220 (99.10)	112 (50.91)	108 (49.09)
$NnB \times CmE)F_1 \times (NnB \times CmE)F_1$	279 (102, 177)	88	243 (87.10)	228 (93.83)	221 (96.93)	115 (52.04)	106 (47.96)
CmE x NnB)F ₁ x (CmE x NnB)F ₁	266 (98, 168)	79	207 (77.82)	192 (92.75)	184 (95.83)	101 (54.89)	83 (45.11)
NnB x UdE)F ₁ x (NnB x UdE)F ₁	314 (175, 139)	91	279 (88.85)	279 (100.00)	279 (100.00)	139 (49.82)	140 (50.18)
UdE x NnB)F ₁ x (UdE x NnB)F ₁	328 (98, 230)	92	285 (86.89)	257 (90.18)	257 (100.00)	123 (47.86)	134 (52.14)
NnB x UrE)F, x (NnB x UrE)F,	296 (196, 100)	90	252 (85.14)	237 (94.05)	237 (100.00)	135 (56.96)	102 (43.04)
UrE x NnB)F ₁ x (UrE x NnB)F ₁	319 (129, 190)	96	290 (90.91)	267 (92.07)	262 (98.13)	136 (51.91)	126 (48.09)

^aTwo selective egg-batches of inseminated females from each cross

Crossing experiments for determining hybrid non-viability, sterility, or breakdown are still a useful tool used in the recognition of anopheline species complexes. Detailed genetic incompatibility, including lack of insemination, embryonation, hatchability, larval survival, pupation, emergence, adult sex distortion, abnormal morphology, reproductive system are useful criteria for elucidating sibling species or subspecies status (Baimai et al. 1987, 1988; Sawadipanich et al.

1990; Subbarao 1998). However, a point worth noting is that an isoline colony established from the combinative characters of morphological and/or cytological markers has to be seriously considered. A laboratory-raised colony established from a naturally mixed population should be omitted, since it may be a mixture of cryptic species or sibling species. Several intra-taxa of the anopheline species that were primarily detected with cytological differences and/or variations that

^bDissection from 100 eggs

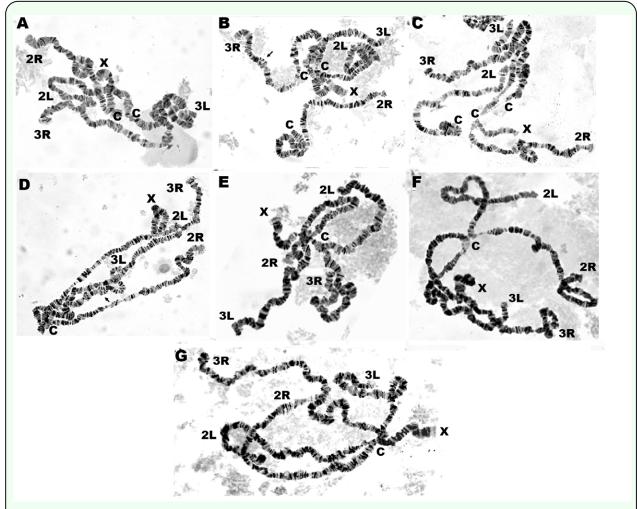


Figure 3. Complete synapsis in all arms of salivary gland polytene chromosome of F_1 -hybrid 4^{th} stage larvae of *Anopheles peditaeniatus*. (A) NnB female \times CpB male; (B) NnB female \times RbB male, note: small gap of homosequential asynapsis was found on chromosome 3R; (C) NnB female \times CbC male; (D) NnB female \times KpD male, note: small gap of homosequential asynapsis was found on chromosome 3L; (E) NnB female \times CmE male; (F) NnB female \times UdE male; (G) NnB female \times UrE male. High quality figures are available online.

led to doubt of the status of sibling species or subspecies were subsequently confirmed by crossing experiments. These crossing experiments were for sibling species, e.g. An. dirus Peyton and Harrison complex (Baimai et al. 1987, 1988; Sawadipanich et al. 1990), An. maculatus Theobald complex (Chabpunnarat 1988, Thongwat et al. 2008), and An. minimus complex (Choochote et al. 2002b; Somboon et al. 2005); and subspecies (cytological races), e.g. An. sinensis Wiedemann Forms A and B (Park et al. 2008), An. vagus Doenitz Forms A and B (Choochote et al. 2002a), An. pullus Yamada Forms A and B (Park et al. 2003),

An. aconitus Doenitz Forms B and C (Junkum et al. 2005), and An. campestris-like Form B, E, and F (Thongsahuan et al. 2009).

In this study, 4 tentative karyotypic forms of *An. peditaeniatus*, i.e. Form B (X_2, X_3, Y_2) , C (X_3, Y_3) , D (X_3, Y_4) , and E (X_2, X_3, Y_5) were obtained from natural populations in Thailand. It is interesting to note that the ancestral Form A (X_2, Y_1) , reported by Baimai et al. (1993), was not detected in any isoline colonies, as only a few samples appeared to be used in the current study. Even though Form A (X_2, Y_1) was not detected in the present investigation

		COI							
	1	2	2	2	3	3	4		
	5	1	8	9	1	7	8		
	3	6	2	8	5	5	9		
NnB	A	T	T	G	A	A	T		
RЪВ	-	-	C	-	G	-	c		
CpB	-	-	-	-	-	G	-		
СРС	-	-	-	-	-	G	-		
KpD	G	-	-	A	-	G	-		
CmE	-	-	-	-	G	G	-		
UdE	-	C	-	-	-	G	-		
UrE	-	-	-	-	-	G	-		

	соп									
1	1	2	3	4	5	5				
0	0	6	8	8	1	7				
2	5	4	1	1	0	0				
T	G	A	T	G	T	A				
-	A	-	-	-	-	-				
-	A	-	-	-	-	-				
-	A	-	-	-	-	-				
-	A	-	-	A	-	-				
С	-	G	-	-	-	-				
_	A	-	-	-	-	-				
_	A	-	-	_	-	-				

Figure 4. Variable sites in the sequence alignment of the COI and COII sequences. Bases are numbered relative to the alignment. Only those positions differing from the consensus are shown. A dot indicates a base pair identical to that of the NnB sequence. Sequence names are defined in Table 1. High quality figures are available online.

markedly distinct characteristics, particularly the Y chromosomes among the 4 karyotypic forms, were enough to perform their genetic proximity thoroughly. Accordingly, crossing experiments were carried out among the 4 karyotypic forms in order to determine the degree of genetic proximity. In addition, their comparative DNA sequences of ITS2, COI, and COII were included in this study. The results of no post-mating reproductive isolation among the 4 karyotypic forms, by yielding viable progenies and synaptic salivary gland polytene chromosomes through F₂-generations, suggested their conspecific nature. The very low intraspecific sequence variations (0.0 - 1.1%) of the nucleotide sequences of ribosomal DNA (ITS2) and mitochondrial DNA (COI and COII) of the 4 karyotypic forms were strong supportive evidence. Additionally, the length (463 bp) and sequences of ITS2 regions of An. peditaeniatus forms obtained in this study were identical to that of a previous report (Ma and Xu 2005). Similar results have been reported in An. sinensis Forms A and B (Park et al. 2008), An. vagus Forms A and B (Choochote et al. 2002a), An. pullus Forms A and B (Park et al. 2003), An. aconitus Forms B and C (Junkum et al. 2005), and An. campestris-like Forms B, Ε, and (Thongsahuan et al. 2009).

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