

HOPSTEINER DISCOVERS WILD GENETIC ANOMALIES IN HOPS

| BREEDING PROGRAM |

The goal of the Hopsteiner breeding program is to develop competitive hop varieties for efficient and resource-saving hop growing and establish them on the relevant markets. The program was created to develop new, top quality, grower and brewer friendly as well as disease resistant hop varieties.

The only way to master all the demands is to implement the latest research methods. Scientists at Hopsteiner, in collaboration with Florida State University, play a leading role on the international stage to examine specific characteristics in the hop genome.

The findings brought light on long-standing questions concerning the unusual transmission genetics and phenotypic variation in hops with major implications for breeding, cultivation and the natural history of hops.

What was discovered after having placed DNA strands from a male sperm cell sample under a laser florescent microscope can only be described as a genetic mystery. At first glance, atypical whole chromosome shapes were observed. At the late meiotic prophase, the chromosomes should have been paired in twos with donut-like shapes (Fig. 1) — but what was discovered here were chromosomes that were linked together in long chains (LC) and rings (Fig.2).

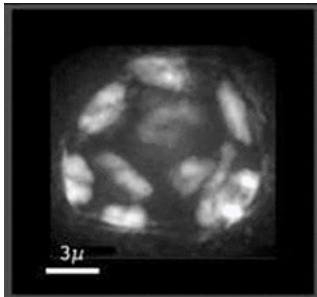


Figure 1

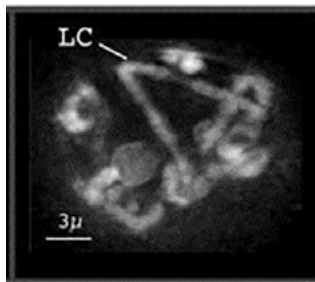


Figure 2

Offspring from such strange behavior can be less viable or show unexpected traits. It is essential to understand the aberrant behavior in order to make substantial new progress in hop variety development.

To learn more about Hopsteiner's discovery please read the full research report: <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/tpg/pdfs/10/3/plantgenome2017.04.0032> or visit hopsteiner.com.

Simon H. Steiner, Hopfen, GmbH & S. S. Steiner, Inc.
 Newsletter, April 2018

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