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VARIATION OF REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS IN A HAPLO-DIPLOID RED ALGA, *GRACILARIA VERRUCOSA*: EFFECTS OF PARENTAL IDENTITIES AND CROSSING DISTANCE¹

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The factors influencing reproductive success in a haplo-diploid marine alga, *Gracilaria verrucosa*, have been determined through single-male crosses in the laboratory. Crossing success was assessed by measuring its early components, fertility, and abortion rate. The effects of the male or female parent identity, of the male \times female interaction, and of the geographical distance between mates were tested in crosses within or between populations at different geographical scales. The identity of the female parent has a predominant effect on crossing success. Interparent distance has no effect in within-population crosses; this strongly suggests an absence of inbreeding depression, expected in a species where the haploid phase is individualized and isomorphic to the diploid one. Crossing success tends to increase with distance between mates in between-population crosses. This heterosis effect seems to indicate that the marine environment could allow genetic divergence between populations, even at short distances (about 100 m).

The amount of gene flow in plant species is tightly linked with the reproductive and dispersal systems. It is a parameter of great evolutionary importance in determining the level and pattern of genetic differentiation of populations, and therefore the possibility of local adaptation (Wright, 1943). Dispersal in plants is usually philopatric and leptokurtic (Levin and Kerster, 1974; Shields, 1982). The consequence of a limited gene flow is to produce a substructured population with a negative correlation between interplant distance and genetic relatedness (Price and Waser, 1979; Levin, 1984; Fenster and Sork, 1988; Fenster, 1991b). This strong genetic substructure promotes genetic adaptation to various environmental conditions, even at a small geographic scale (Antonovics, 1968: Valero and Olivieri, 1985; Waser and Price, 1985; Ducousso et al., 1990).

Evidence that crossing success may be influenced by parental factors is widespread in plants (reviews in Charlesworth, Schemske, and Sork, 1987; Queller, 1987; Lyons et al., 1989; Marshall and Folsom, 1991). The possible sources of variation of reproductive success are the female identity effect, the male identity effect, or the male \times female interaction effect. Among these, the effect of the genetic relatedness between parents is of particular interest. Crossing success and interparental genetic distance can be positively or negatively related. Parents that are too similar genetically may suffer from reduced cross-

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ing compatibility due to inbreeding depression (Levin, 1984, 1989a, b; Charlesworth and Charlesworth, 1987; Johnston, 1992), whereas crosses between parents that are too different genetically may lead to an outbreeding depression by disrupting adaptive complexes (Antonovics, 1968; Price and Waser, 1979; Shields, 1982; Waser and Price, 1983, 1989; Parker, 1992). An intermediate optimal outcrossing distance is therefore expected as a compromise between inbreeding depression and outbreeding depression, and can be found when individuals separated by increasing distance are crossed (Price and Waser, 1979; Waser and Price, 1983, 1989; 1991a; Waser et al., 1987; Sobrevila, 1988; McCall, Mitchell-Olds, and Waller, 1991).

Although they lead to a variety of results, these problems are intensively studied in higher plants; yet they are quite ignored in algae, whose particular features (marine environment, life cycle) give rise to interesting questions. First, the evolutionary consequences of a marine environment are poorly known: dispersal distances and amount of gene flow in the sea have been rarely studied (Santelices, 1990; Destombe et al., 1992), and as a consequence the degree of reproductive isolation between populations, the possibility of local adaptation, and the speciation rates of marine organisms are largely speculative questions (Russell, 1986; Palumbi, 1992). Second, some algae display complex life cycles, involving an alternation of possibly isomorphic haploid and diploid individuals. The consequences of such cycles for the reproductive system have been little studied experimentally (Hawkes, 1990; Valero et al., 1992). In particular, inbreeding depression should be reduced in an isomorphic haplo-diploid life cycle: as the same genes are likely to be expressed in the two phases, deleterious mutations are removed from the genome during the haploid phase (Bernstein et al., 1985; Charlesworth and Charlesworth, 1992).

Here, we investigate the pattern of crossing compatibility found in a haplo-diploid red alga, *Gracilaria ver*- *rucosa.* Male gamete dispersal in this species is leptokurtic and limited to less than 100 m in the field (Destombe, Godin, and Remy, 1990). Potential dispersal distance of diploid spores is expected to be small (Destombe et al., in *A*

1992), and it has been shown in many algal species that dispersal range is limited to a maximum of between 10 and 100 m (Santelices, 1990). In these conditions, we expect gene flow to be reduced between populations, genetic similarity to increase among individuals of the same population, and local adaptation to occur in populations submitted to different environments, e.g., different tidal levels.

In this study we first investigate male, female, and male \times female interaction effects on reproductive success, and then look at crossing compatibility between individuals separated by increasing geographic distance, either belonging to the same population or to different close or distant populations. Number of fertilizations and abortion rate were measured in single-male crosses in laboratory conditions, as estimates of prezygotic and early postzygotic compatibility between individuals from different regions, to test differential reproductive success on a wider geographic scale.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study organism-Gracilaria verrucosa (Huds.) Papenfuss (Gracilariales, Rhodophyta) is a haplo-diploid red alga, with a worldwide distribution. Haploid and diploid individuals are isomorphic and coexist in populations. The individuals consist of a perennial holdfast fixed to the substratum, bearing branched spaghettilike thalli. Haploid individuals are dioecious and produce gametes by mitosis. Mature male individuals bear small sexual crypts on large parts of the thallus, that liberate a large number of small nonpigmented and nonflagellated spermatia (Yamanouchi, 1906; Fredericq and Hommersand, 1989). Female thalli bear uniformly distributed gametangia, which consist of three cells and can be observed only on thallus sections under microscope (Kling and Bodard, 1987). Fertilization occurs on the female individual and involves complex cytological events, resulting in the formation of a cystocarp on the female (Hommersand and Fredericq, 1990). The development of a haploid pericarp is induced, within which the zygote divides mitotically, protected and nurtured by the female. After 3 weeks of maturation the cystocarp liberates thousands of diploid spores (Lefebvre, Destombe, and Godin, 1987; Fredericq and Hommersand, 1989). In some cases, the zygote does not divide normally and gives a pseudocystocarp. This cystocarplike swelling does not produce viable spores (McLachlan, van der Meer, and Bird, 1977; Plastino and de Oliveira, 1988; Destombe, Godin, and Remy, 1990) and will be considered as a postzygotic incompatibility between mates.

Study sites – Geographical location – For within-region crosses, male and female individuals were sampled and mapped in four populations located at two sites in northern France (Pas-de-Calais, on North Sea and Channel coasts). At each of these two sites (Audresselles and Cape Gris-Nez), two populations were chosen at the two extremes of the intertidal range of the species, to maximize their environmental difference. High and low populations were noted as Gh and Gl in Gris-Nez, and as Ah and Al in Audresselles, respectively. Individuals of the same population are 0.5 m to 25 m apart, high and low populations of the same site are approximately 100 m apart (50 to 70 m in Gris-Nez and 150 m in Audresselles due to the difference of slope of the shore in both sites), and the two sites (Audresselles and Gris-Nez) are 3 km apart.

For between-regions crosses, additional samples were taken from two other French localities: Roscoff (Brittany) and Bouzigues (Etang de Thau, a lagoon connected to the Mediterranean Sea). Each locality is about 1,000 km from the others.

Environmental characteristics—Ecological conditions differ among the three regions. In Audresselles and Gris-Nez, populations are located in rocky pools. Individuals are fixed to the substratum and range from lower to midintertidal level of the shore (Destombe et al., 1989). High and low populations are subjected to different tide and light conditions. In Roscoff, individuals are fixed to small pebbles and drift with strong tidal movements, thus experiencing different tidal level conditions during their lifetime. In Bouzigues, individuals are attached to the substrate just beneath the water surface in the lagoon. They are deprived of tidal fluctuations and are submitted to higher light intensity, temperature, and salinity levels than in the two other sites.

Crossing experiments - Crossing method - Female thalli were sampled in the field in March 1991, at the beginning of the season of growth and reproduction (from March to September; Destombe et al., 1989) and grown in culture for 3 months (filtered sea water, natural light conditions) to obtain virgin new-grown branches (Destombe, Godin, and Remy, 1990). Males were sampled in the same locations in June 1991, just before performing the crosses. Two 10-cm fragments of new grown thallus from one female and two 1-cm fragments of mature thallus from one male were put together in a tube with filtered sea water and periodically shaken (see method in Destombe, Godin, and Remy, 1990). Males were removed after 1 month. The total length of each female fragment was measured 1 month later, and the total number of cystocarps was counted. The occurrence of spores in each cystocarp was determined under the microscope.

Another series of crosses was performed at a later date, in September 1991, after a longer culture period. This series included only individuals that had served for the fourth set of crosses (see below).

As a control for parthenogenesis and virginity, a fragment of each female individual was isolated from the males and grown in the same experimental conditions. No cystocarps were observed in these controls.

Experimental design—As the number of crosses that can be performed with one female is limited by its available length of new-grown thallus, we chose to perform four independent sets of crosses to test different effects (cross design described in the Appendix).

The first set concerns within-population crosses. It was designed to test male and female identity effects, and male

 \times female interaction effects. The same design was replicated in two Northern populations (yielding two independent data sets).

The second set of crosses was performed between individuals from two populations from the same site located at different tidal levels to test the magnitude of reproductive isolation that might be due to ecotypic differentiation. Indeed, individuals located at the two extremes of the species' intertidal range are potentially exchanging genes (ca. 100 m apart) and are exposed to very different environmental conditions. The same design was replicated in the two Northern sites: Audresselles and Gris-Nez (two data sets).

The third set involved crosses between the two Northern sites to test if reproductive isolation can occur between populations separated by a distance of less than 5 km.

The fourth set of crosses was designed to test compatibility between individuals from different geographical origins (1,000 km apart) that are assumed to be reproductively isolated. These crosses were performed at a later date.

Statistical analyses – All analyses were performed using the SAS statistical package (SAS Institute, Inc., 1988). Two variables were considered: 1) the total number of fertilizations (cystocarps) per centimeter of female thallus, as an estimate of prezygotic isolation; and 2) the percentage of aborted fertilizations (i.e., when the zygote did not develop normally giving a pseudocystocarp), as an estimate of the first stage of postzygotic isolation (number of empty cystocarps per total number of cystocarps).

These two variables were rank transformed into normal scores (proc RANK; SAS, 1988; midranks are used for tied values) in order to make the ANOVA computation a nonparametric test (Sokal and Rohlf, 1981, p. 429). Values reported in the text and tables are untransformed.

Parental identities and population origin effects—A mixed model ANOVA (partially nested for some sets of crosses) was applied as a general design for each set of crosses using the SAS GLM procedure. Type III sums of squares were used for tests of significance (Freund, Littell, and Spector, 1986).

To test effects of parental identities and population origin, the following analyses were performed: 1) The two data sets (Al and Gl populations) from the first set of crosses were analyzed separately for the effects of both parental identities and the interaction between male and female identity. 2) The two data sets (A and G sites) from the second set of crosses were analyzed separately for the effects of the tidal levels of male and female, the male \times female tidal levels interaction, and both male and female identities nested within tidal levels. Then these two data sets were analyzed together to test the differences between the two sites, and the site \times parental tidal levels interactions. 3) In the third set of crosses, the tested effects were site origins of male and female, the male \times female site interaction, and male and female identities nested within parental site of origin. 4) A similar design to 3) was carried out for the fourth set of crosses, with geographical region instead of site as factor. Male and female tidal level, site, and geographical region are fixed effects, and male and female identities are random effects.

Effects of parental proximity—The relationship between interparent distance and reproductive success was assessed in two ways.

At a large scale (between sites), the effect of parental proximity was investigated with a one-way ANOVA, using a pooled data set from northern France populations (crosses of sets 1, 2, and 3), to test differences of reproductive success for within- compared to between-site crosses. The fourth data set was not included because it concerns crosses performed later in the season that gave significantly lower outputs.

At a smaller scale (within sites), the occurrence of a relationship between interparent distance and reproductive success was tested within and among populations (crosses of sets 1 and 2, in which precise distance between male and female was known from the mapping of individuals) using linear and quadratic regressions. The hypothesis of monotonous decrease in reproductive success with increasing distance between mates was tested by a linear regression, while the search for an intermediate optimal outcrossing distance was carried out using a quadratic regression (Mitchell-Olds and Shaw, 1987). As the data used for regression are not independent, because the same individual is used in different crosses, the level of significance of the regression coefficients was assessed using a randomization test (Sokal and Rohlf, 1981, p. 787). This nonparametric method allows one to empirically find the probability of obtaining an equal or higher coefficient than the observed one, with the same set of data in which the variates are randomly rearranged (10,000 random permutations were performed). Nontransformed variates were used for this analysis.

RESULTS

For the three sets of crosses performed in June, all the females stayed alive and grew during the experiment. The mean number of fertilizations obtained per centimeter of female thallus was 0.42 (SE = 0.02, N = 269). The female thalli grew from 20 cm at the beginning of the experiment up to a mean thallus length per female individual of 53.9 cm (SE = 0.9, N = 269). Among the 269 crosses performed, only 15 gave no cystocarps at all (6%) and thus were removed from the analysis for abortion rate. Among the 5,744 cystocarps initiated, 2,325 failed to give spores, leading to 40.5% abortion on average.

For the fourth set of crosses performed in September, over the 81 crosses, only 62 female thalli stayed alive throughout the experiment, so that mortality rate was high (23.4%) compared to the June experiment. The mean number of fertilizations obtained per centimeter of female thallus was 0.12 (SE = 0.03, N = 62) and mean length of female was 8.2 cm (SE = 1.4, N = 62), due to thallus decay. More than half of the crosses (59.7%) gave no cystocarps at all and thus were removed from the analysis for abortion rate. Of the 104 cystocarps initiated, 32 failed to give spores, leading to 30.8% abortion on average.

Parental identity effects—Male effect—No male identity effect is demonstrated in this study. There is no significant variability between males belonging to the same population for mean reproductive success, fertility and

TABLE 1. Mean number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus and mean abortion percentage for each crossing combination within populations (first set of crosses).

In Audresselles lov	v tidal level p	opulation (A	1)									
			Fert	tility			Abortion					
Males					Female	Males					_ Female	
Females	1	2	3	4	5	5 mean	1	2	3	4	5	mean
1	0.26	0.80	0.28	0.34	0.51	0.44	39.40	38.70	50.00	62.50	45.80	47.30
2	0.46	0.39	0.32	0.22	0.38	0.36	40.40	27.40	31.70	72.70	23.10	39.10
3	0.41	0.74	0.90	0.68	0.93	0.73	67.80	23.90	13.20	44.00	4.60	30.70
4	0.56	0.62	0.50	0.81	0.07	0.51	65.60	64.90	78.90	34.40	60.70	60.90
5	0.60	0.43	0.55	0.48	0.16	0.44	46.40	39.20	38.00	46.00	83.30	47.00
Male mean	0.46	0.60	0.51	0.51	0.41		51.90	38.80	42.40	51.90	39.10	

b) In Gris Nez low tidal level population (G1)

		Fertility							Abortion							
	Males						Female	Males						_ Female		
Females	1	2	3	4	5	6 mean	1	2	3	4	5	6	mean			
1	0.76	0.85	1.18	1.09	0.97	1.32	1.03	25.40	35.90	37.30	55.10	45.00	29.10	38.00		
2	0.14	0.34	0.29	0.30	0.21	0.16	0.24	55.60	63.90	65.00	91.00	56.60	61.90	66.30		
3	0.14	0.21	0.16	0.07	0.42	0.28	0.21	36.70	32.90	9.50	16.70	32.50	50.90	29.90		
4	0.07	0.12	0.14	0.16	0.40	0.29	0.20	39.30	55.30	39.60	46.40	20.50	41.00	40.40		
5	0.23	0.12	0.33	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.16	77.30	100.00	80.60	75.00	82.90	90.00	84.70		
6	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.20	0.06	0.17	0.08	_	100.00	100.00	80.40	75.00	78.80	84.80		
Male mean	0.23	0.30	0.37	0.34	0.37	0.41		44.20	60.60	51.70	59.80	52.10	55.60			

abortion rate (within the two populations Al and Gl, first set of crosses: Table 1 for means, Table 2 for ANOVA results). This result is confirmed by the absence of male identity effect in the other sets of crosses. Indeed, male effect is not significant when nested 1) within tidal level origin of males (Table 3), 2) within site origin of males, where its higher signification level is obtained (P = 0.092,

TABLE 2.ANOVA on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus
and percentage of abortion within-population crosses in population
A1 and G1 (first set of crosses, rank tranformed data, using type
III sums of squares).

Source of variation	df	MS	F	Р
a) Numb	er of fe	rtilizatior	15	
Population A1 ($N = 50$)				
Male identity	4	1,463	1.07	0.403
Female identity	4	1,300	0.95	0.460
Male × female interaction	16	1,366	1.37	0.234
Error	25	998		
Population G1 ($N = 96$)				
Male identity	5	1,010	1.27	0.308
Female identity	5	23,410	29.43	< 0.001***
Male \times female interaction	25	795	1.44	0.127
Error	60	553		
b) A	bortio	n rate		
Population A1 ($N = 50$)				
Male identity	4	468	0.33	0.857
Female identity	4	3,326	2.32	0.101
Male \times female interaction	16	1,431	1.31	0.264
Error	24	1,091		
Population G1 ($N = 96$)				
Male identity	5	707	0.94	0.474
Female identity	5	15,118	20.05	< 0.001***
Male × female interaction	24	754	0.90	0.599
Error	53	837		

Table 4), and 3) within geographical origin of males (Table 5).

Female effect—Variability among females for reproductive success is revealed at all tested scales. It is slightly stronger on abortion rate than on fertility, and depends on the site of origin of the females.

In within-population crosses, the range of variation among female means is always wider than that of males (Table 1). Variation among females depends on the population, and is larger in the Gl population (Table 1: mean female fertility ranged from 0.08 to 1.03 in Gl, from 0.36 to 0.73 in Al; mean female abortion rate ranged from 29.9 to 84.8 in Gl, and from 30.7 to 60.9 in Al). The female effect is thus highly significant within Gl, but not within Al (Table 2), for both fertility and abortion.

In larger scale crosses, there is a female effect on abortion rate when nested 1) within tidal level origin of female in both sites Audresselles and Gris-Nez (Table 3b), and 2) within site origin of female (P = 0.067, Table 4b). It could not be tested in the fourth set of crosses between mates from different geographical origins (Table 5) because of the low fertilization rate in this experiment.

Female effect on number of fertilizations, nested within female tidal level, is significant in the Gris-Nez site (Table 3a), but only close to significant (P = 0.071, Table 3a) in the Audresselles site. As a result, female effect nested within site is not significant over northern populations (Table 4a). Nevertheless, fertility varies significantly among females in the fourth set of crosses between mates from different geographical origins (Table 5).

 $Male \times female interaction$ —The lack of significance of the male \times female interaction suggests that female reproductive success does not depend on the male donor (Table 1 for means; Table 2 for ANOVA results).

 TABLE 3. ANOVA on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus and percentage of abortion for crosses between tidal levels within sites

 Audresselles and Gris-Nez (second set of crosses, rank transformed data, using type III sums of squares).

Source of variation	df	MS	F	Р
	a) Number of	fertilizations		
Site Audresselles ($N = 48$)				
Male tidal level	1	3,163	4.67	0.048*
Female tidal level	1	497	0.59	0.461
Male tidal level × female tidal level	1	1	0.00	0.973
Male identity within male tidal level	14	676	1.71	0.138
Female identity within female tidal level	10	848	2.14	0.071
Error	20	396		
Site Gris-Nez ($N = 56$)				
Male tidal level	1	11	0.04	0.846
Female tidal level	1	816	0.36	0.559
Male tidal level \times female tidal level	1	30	0.13	0.723
Male identity within male tidal level	14	284	1.22	0.319
Female identity within female tidal level	12	2,264	9.72	< 0.001***
Error	26	233	···=	
Data pooled over the two sites $(N = 104)$				
Site	1	5,098	5.87	0.017*
Site \times male tidal level	1	1,958	2.26	0.136
Site \times female tidal level	1	95	0.11	0.744
Error	100	868	0.11	0.744
Endi	100	000		
	b) Aborti	on rate		
Site Audresselles ($N = 45$)				
Male tidal level	1	91	0.22	0.644
Female tidal level	1	1,133	1.12	0.315
Male tidal level × female tidal level	1	64	0.21	0.653
Male identity within male tidal level	14	408	1.32	0.289
Female identity within female tidal level	10	1,014	3.29	0.015*
Error	17	308		
Site Gris-Nez ($N = 55$)				
Male tidal level	1	136	0.50	0.492
Female tidal level	1	9,818	5.45	0.037*
Male tidal level \times female tidal level	1	292	1.16	0.291
Male identity within male tidal level	14	275	1.10	0.406
Female identity within female tidal level	12	1,802	7.17	< 0.001***
Error	25	251		
Data pooled over the two sites ($N = 100$)				
Site	1	4,327	5.50	0.021*
Site \times male tidal level	1	19	0.02	0.889
Site \times female tidal level	1	9,859	12.54	< 0.001***
Error	96	786		- 0.001

Population origin effects—Effects of male and female tidal level origins-Means for males or females coming from high or low tidal levels are given in the two sites in Fig. 1. Effects of the tidal level on reproductive success of males or females are not generally evident (Table 3). Only two results are significant. 1) In the Audresselles site, males coming from the higher tidal level are significantly more fertile than those from the lower level. Mean values for females show the same trend, although not significant. 2) In the Gris-Nez site, females coming from the higher tidal level population abort significantly less than those coming from the lower level. The opposite is observed in the Audresselles site (Fig. 1), as indicated by the highly significant interaction between site and female tidal level for abortion rate (P < 0.001; Table 3b, data pooled over the two sites).

There is no significant interaction between the tidal level of the male and the tidal level of the female, for either variable, and at either site (Table 3).

Effects of male and female site of origin—There is no significant effect of either male or female site of origin on either the number of fertilizations or the abortion rate (Table 4 for ANOVA results and Table 6 for means). Nevertheless, females from Audresselles tend to be more fertile than females from Gris-Nez (fertility of females coming from Audresselles was 0.61 compared to 0.36 for Gris-Nez females, Table 6; P = 0.087; Table 4a). The higher fertility of Audresselles females leads to a higher reproductive output of within Audresselles matings compared to within Gris-Nez matings (Table 6).

TABLE 4. ANOVA on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus and percentage of abortion for crosses between sites Audresselles and Gris-Nez (third set of crosses, rank transformed data, using type III sums of squares).

Source of variation	df	MS	F	Р
a) Number of fertil	izatior	15		
Male site origin	1	169	1.82	0.197
Female site origin	1	566	3.35	0.087
Male site origin \times female site origin	1	130	4.45	0.169
Male identity within (male site origin)	15	93	3.17	0.265
Female identity within (female site				
origin)	15	169	5.75	0.158
Error	2	29		
b) Abortion ra	ate			
Male site origin	1	147	1.82	0.198
Female site origin	1	117	0.77	0.395
Male identity within (male site origin)	15	81	72.23	0.092
Female identity within (female site				
origin)	15	153	136.30	0.067
Error	1	1		

This difference in reproductive output between sites is confirmed by analysis of the data from the second set of crosses (Fig. 1; significant site effect for fertility, Table 3a; and for abortion rate, Table 3b; data pooled over the two sites).

There is no significant interaction between the site of the female and the site of the male for fertility (Table 4a). Interaction could not be tested for abortion due to missing values (sterile crosses).

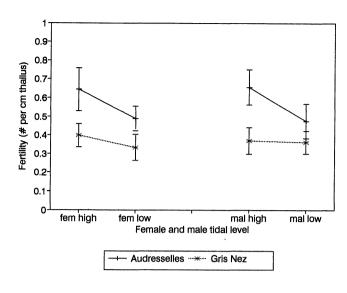
Effects of male and female geographical origin—Roscoff females had a significantly lower fertility than those coming from the other regions (Table 5 for results of ANOVA, Table 7 for means). Interaction between male and female origin was significant (P = 0.006; Table 5). However, it does not indicate a systematically greater success of crosses involving mates coming from the same geographical origin, because Bouzigues females are more fertile when mated with males from Roscoff than with males from their own locality (Table 7).

Abortion rate has not been statistically analyzed because this set of crosses performed later in the season had a high rate of mortality and sterility; the means are given in Table 7, and do not show clear differences between within- and between-region crosses.

Effect of parental proximity—*At a large scale*—Fertility does not vary significantly for within- and between-site

TABLE 5. ANOVA on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallusfor crosses between geographical origins: northern France, Roscoff,and Bouzigues (fourth set of crosses, rank transformed data, usingtype III sums of squares).

Source of variation	df	MS	F	Р
Male geographical origin	2	21	0.12	0.900
Female geographical origin	2	2,405	5.53	0.043*
Male origin \times female origin	4	579	4.26	0.006**
Male identity (within male origin) Female identity (within female	6	178	1.31	0.277
origin)	6	435	3.20	0.012*
Error	41	136		



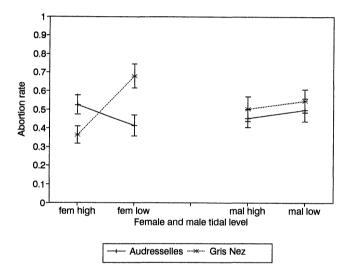


Fig. 1. Effect of the tidal level of the mates on crossing success. Mean number of fertilizations per centimeter female thallus and mean percentage of abortion are shown for crosses between tidal levels high and low, within sites Audresselles and Gris-Nez (second set of crosses). Standard error of the mean is indicated. fem = females, mal = males.

crosses (Table 8a; Fig. 2), while a nearly significant decrease in abortion rate is observed for between-site crosses (P = 0.068; Table 8b; Fig. 2).

At a smaller scale—No significant effect of interparent distance is found on the two components of reproductive success, within distances less than 20 m, that correspond to within-population crosses (Table 9a for regression analyses and Fig. 3).

Nevertheless, when between-population crosses are included, a significant quadratic effect of distance on fertility is revealed (Table 9b; Fig. 4). The slope of the distance term is negative and the quadratic term (squared distance) is positive, which suggests that the number of fertilizations does not increase linearly with crossing distance. Fertility increases from a distance corresponding to between population crosses.

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TABLE 6.	Mean number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus (\pm
stand	ard error) and mean abortion rate (\pm standard error) for cross-
es bet	ween sites (third set of crosses).

		Fertility		Abortion rate
	N	Mean ± SE	N	Mean ± SE
Male origin effect:				<u></u>
Male Audresselles (A)	19	0.44 ± 0.10	19	0.48 ± 0.07
Male Gris Nez (G)	20	0.54 ± 0.11	18	0.41 ± 0.08
Female origin effect:				
Female A	20	0.61 ± 0.12	18	0.40 ± 0.06
Female G	19	0.36 ± 0.08	19	0.49 ± 0.08
Within site crosses:				
Audresselles site	10	0.56 ± 0.17	10	0.48 ± 0.09
Gris Nez site	10	0.41 ± 0.14	1	0.50 ± 0.13
Between sites crosses:				
Male $G \times$ female A	10	0.66 ± 0.17	8	0.30 ± 0.09
Male A × female G	9	0.31 ± 0.07	9	0.48 ± 0.12

For abortion rates the same trend is revealed, close to significance (Table 9b; Fig. 4).

DISCUSSION

This study demonstrates that the major source of variation of early components of crossing success is the female identity effect. Second, it shows that crossing success is also significantly influenced by mate origin and especially that of the female parent. Finally, an effect of interparent distance is observed on fertility.

Parental identity effects and sexual selection in a red alga—Variation among females is a major cause of differential crossing success in *Gracilaria verrucosa*. Indeed, female identity effect on prezygotic and/or postzygotic control was found whatever the geographical scale of the crosses (within-population, Table 2; between close populations, Table 3; between sites, Table 4, between regions, Table 5). This indicates that there is phenotypic variability among females for reproductive success, either genetic or due to an epigenetic maternal effect. An effect of female identity on reproductive success is expected when fertilization occurs on the female. In higher plants, extensive

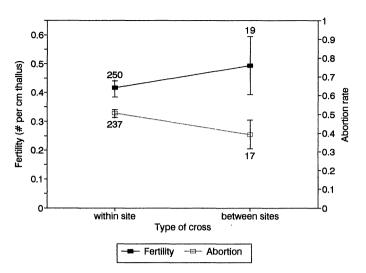


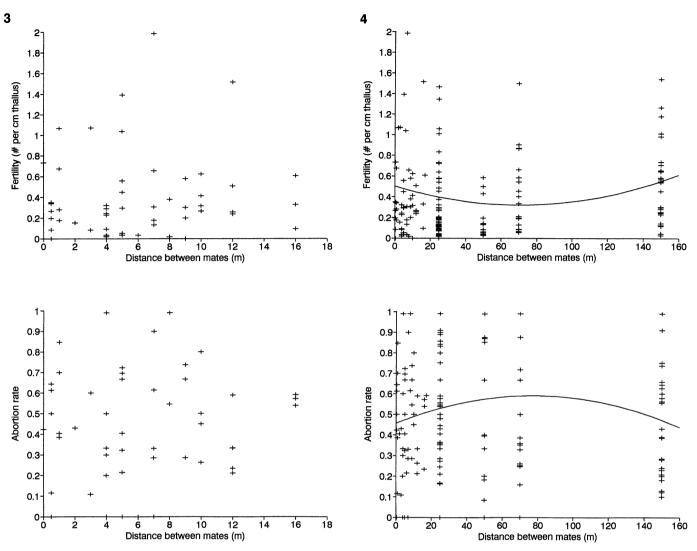
Fig. 2. Effect of parental proximity on crossing success at a large scale. Mean number of fertilizations per centimeter female thallus and mean rate of abortion are shown for crosses within and between the two northern sites, Audresselles and Gris-Nez, distant from 5 km (pooled crosses of sets 1, 2, and 3). Standard error of the means and number of observations are indicated.

evidence documents the effects of the female parent on pollen germination, abortion rate, seed set, and offspring fitness (Hill and Lord, 1986; Marshall and Ellstrand, 1986, 1988; Mazer, 1987; Roach and Wulff, 1987; Fenster and Sork, 1988; Hossaert and Valero, 1988; Pittman and Levin, 1989; Schlichting and Devlin, 1989; Fenster, 1991a). Here we demonstrate for the first time that the same phenomenon exists in an oogamous alga. In this species, fertilization occurs on the female gametophyte, and the reproductive success seems to be dependent on the processing and transfer of photoassimilate from the female to the zygote development (cystocarp) (Hommersand and Fredericq, 1990). This functional relationship between the cystocarp and the female gametophyte may account for the strong maternal effect revealed in this study (this point is further discussed in the last paragraph of the discussion).

The absence of variation among males for reproductive success suggests that the quantity and quality of the male

TABLE 7. Means and standard errors for crosses between localities (fourth set of crosses).

			Fer	tility			Abo	ortion	
			Male locality						
Female locality		Northern France	Roscoff	Bouzigues	Female mean	Northern France	Roscoff	Bouzigues	Female mean
Northern France	N	7	9	5		7	4	4	
	Mean	0.326	0.085	0.258	0.207	0.584	0.250	0.299	0.419
	SE	0.145	0.035	0.143	0.062	0.179	0.083	0.140	0.098
Roscoff	N	8	9	5		1	1	0	
	Mean	0.003	0.028	0.000	0.013	1.000	1.000		1.000
	SE	0.003	0.028	0.000	0.011	—			-
Bouzigues	Ν	7	9	3		1	6	1	
Ū	Mean	0.075	0.243	0.086	0.156	0.000	0.222	0.200	0.191
	SE	0.075	0.131	0.086	0.069	—	0.102		0.080
Male mean	Mean	0.129	0.119	0.119		0.565	0.303	0.279	
	SE	0.058	0.048	0.063		0.160	0.092	0.110	



Figs. 3, 4. Effect of parental proximity on crossing success at a smaller scale, within the two northern sites, Audresselles and Gris-Nez. The number of fertilizations per centimeter female thallus and the rate of abortion for each cross are plotted against distance between mates. **3.** Within-population crosses. **4.** Within-site crosses. Quadratic regressions lines are drawn—in straight line when significant and dotted line when close to significance level—and correspond to the following equations: fertility = $0.50140 - 0.00514 \cdot \text{distance} + 0.00004 \cdot (\text{distance})^2$, *P*(linear term) = 0.007; *P*(quadratic term) = 0.002; abortion = $0.45521 + 0.00349 \cdot \text{distance} - 0.0002 \cdot (\text{distance})^2$, *P*(linear term) = 0.051; *P*(quadratic term) = 0.069.

gametes emitted do not differ among males, and that male competition should be low. In higher plants, male effects are difficult to demonstrate, and may depend on experimental conditions (Fenster and Sork, 1988; Marshall, 1988, 1991; Marshall and Whittaker, 1989; Schlichting and Devlin, 1989; Cruzan, 1990; Fenster, 1991a).

No variation for crossing success could be revealed among male \times female combinations. Male \times female interactions in higher plants cover a variety of complex phenomena, such as complementarity between male and female genomes (Charlesworth, Schemske, and Sork, 1987; Queller, 1987; Lyons et al., 1989; Marshall and Folsom, 1991), and are not easily demonstrated (Hill and Lord, 1986; Marshall, 1988; Schlichting and Devlin, 1989; Nakamura and Wheeler, 1992).

The lack of male identity effect and male \times female interactions in this study suggests that the possibility for sexual selection is reduced in red algae compared to higher plants. In higher plants, 60% to 80% of the sporophytic

genes are expressed in the pollen tube (Tanksley, Zamir, and Rick, 1981; Sari Gorla et al., 1986), and there is opportunity for sexual selection through gametophytic competition among pollen tubes and pollen-style interactions (Haldane, 1932; Mulcahy, Curtis, and Snow, 1983; Charlesworth, Schemske, and Sork, 1987). The opportunity for sexual selection is different in red algae, first because of the haplo-diploid life cycle, and second because of algal reproductive characteristics. In haplo-diploid species, selection on the gametophytic phase differs from that of higher plants, because the haploid phase is individualized, and may even be isomorphic to the diploid phase (as in G. verrucosa). It is thus submitted to very similar selection forces as the diploid phase, and this prior to gamete production. On the other hand, algal reproductive features seem unlikely to produce any selection-arena as in higher plants (Labeyrie and Rojas-Rousse, 1985; Stearns, 1987). There are few opportunities for competition between male gametes in red algae, because 1) male

TABLE 8. Effect of parental proximity at a large scale: ANOVA on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus and percentage of abortion for within and between-sites crosses (1, 2, and 3 pooled set of crosses, rank transformed data, using type I sums of squares).

Source of variation	df	MS	F	Р
	a) Numbe	er of fertilizati	ons	
Type of cross	1	2,277	0.38	0.541
Error	267	6,066		
	b) A	bortion rate		
Type of cross	1	17,977	3.37	0.068
Error	252	5,334		

gametes are nonflagellated and nonmotile, and 2) there is no known morphological female structure similar to the style or stigma, where competition among male gametes could occur, since the female carpogonium consists only of a few cells. More than one male nucleus has never been observed around the carpogonium during fertilization (Fredericq and Hommersand, 1989). Thus fertilization is assumed to be a rare event, the outcome of which is maximized through zygote multiplication in the cystocarp (Searles, 1980). As a result, we should expect mate choice through male gamete competition to be difficult to operate, as male gametes might be a factor limiting female fertility. This does not prevent a possible choice of the male gamete by the female that can be demonstrated when the genetic divergence between mates is sufficient, as we will see later.

However, effects of male identity or male \times female interaction could have been missed due to the experimental conditions. Experiments were designed to maximize the number of fertilizations, with a long contact between mates, and involved only single-male crosses. As gametes are produced by mitosis on haploid individuals, all male as well as female gametes are genetically identical within each cross, a condition quite different from that in higher plants. More stringent conditions, leading to competition within and among males, might have yielded different results, as has been found in higher plants (Marshall, 1988, 1991; Lyons et al., 1989; Schlichting and Devlin, 1989; Cruzan, 1990).

Effect of male and female population origins—An effect of population origin of mates is clearly demonstrated by

our study. Mean reproductive success differs among populations and sites, mainly because of female origin effects. It can be also noticed that variance among females differs between populations.

These phenotypic effects may be due either to genetic or to epigenetic maternal effects. On one hand, if genetic, this differentiation reveals an isolation due to limited gene flow among populations, and even on a small scale, between populations within a site. On the other hand, environmental conditions differ between tidal levels and sites, which could lead to differential resource availability for the individuals and consequently to phenotypic variation in their fertility. The origin effect is mainly expressed for female individuals because fertilization occurs on them (Roach and Wulff, 1987). However, although significant, this effect is relatively weak compared to female identity effect.

Effect of interparental distance on reproductive success: inbreeding depression, outbreeding depression, and heterosis-Our study shows that the distance between mates influences crossing success. In within-population crosses, reproductive success does not vary with interparent distance, ranging from 0.5 m to 20 m (Table 9a; Fig. 3). No inbreeding depression is thus revealed. In between-population crosses, reproductive success tends to increase when the distance between the origin population of male and female increases. This trend is found for both fertility and abortion rate in crosses between populations of different tidal levels at the same site (Table 9; Fig. 4). The same trend is present for between-sites crosses, close to significance for abortion rate (Table 8; Fig. 2). Heterosis on prezygotic and early postzygotic stages is thus revealed among populations within the same geographical origin (distant from 50 m to 5 km).

Inbreeding depression is assumed to be mainly caused by the unmasking of deleterious recessive mutations in homozygotes (Levin, 1984, 1989a, b; Charlesworth and Charlesworth, 1987; Johnston, 1992). Therefore a reduction of inbreeding depression is strongly expected in haplo-diploid species, because deleterious mutations are selected against in the haploid stage (Bernstein et al., 1985). A model considering selection acting on the gametophytic phase in higher plants (Charlesworth and Charlesworth, 1992) shows that inbreeding depression is significantly

TABLE 9. Regression analysis of the effect of parental proximity at small scale on number of fertilizations per centimeter of thallus and abortion; slopes for the effect of distance and square distance. *P* is the probability of higher coefficients of regression estimated by data randomization test (Sokal and Rohlf, 1981, p. 787).

Trait	Type of regression	Slope of distance	Р	Slope of distance ²	Р
	a) '	Within population (interp	arent distance 0.5 to 20) m)	,
Fertility	Linear Quadratic	$0.01063 \\ -0.00323$	0.459 0.253	0.00090	0.279
Abortion rate	Linear Quadratic	0.00222 0.00399	0.177 0.141	-0.00011	0.259
		b) Within site (interparen	t distance 0.5 to 150 m)	
Fertility	Linear Quadratic	0.00057 - 0.00514	0.115 0.007**	0.00004	0.002**
Abortion rate	Linear Quadratic	0.00007 0.00349	0.501 0.051	-0.00002	0.069

reduced when more than 60% of the genes are expressed and submitted to selection in pollen. In haplo-diploid species inbreeding depression should be minimum, because in isomorphic species like *Gracilaria*, the same genes are likely to be expressed in both phases, and selection in the haploid phase is then equivalent to selection in diploid homozygotes. In accordance with this prediction our study does not show any significant inbreeding depression.

In crosses between widely separated individuals, two contradictory effects can be expected, as soon as divergence between parents is sufficient. 1) An enhanced fitness of hybrids (heterosis) can be caused by the masking of mildly deleterious alleles of both parents by dominance (Levin, 1984, 1989a), even in inbred species (Levin and Clay, 1985), or by overdominance due to possession of different alleles at one locus providing high adaptation to a wider environmental range (Shields, 1982; Fenster, 1991c). 2) The reverse effect, i.e., outbreeding depression, is expected in two cases. When parents have evolved specific adaptation to different environments, the F1 may be disadvantaged in either parental environment (Antonovics, 1968; Price and Waser, 1979; Waser and Price, 1983, 1989; Schemske and Pautler, 1984; Bennett and Grace, 1990): outbreeding depression is caused by rupture of genome-environment interactions. Outbreeding depression can also occur when parental genomes have separately evolved strong interloci epistatic interactions and coadapted allelic combinations, which are broken by recombination in F2 (Shields, 1982; Parker, 1992: "intrinsic genomic outbreeding depression"). This latter case is compatible with the observation of a heterosis in F1, before recombination occurs (Shields, 1982). As our experiment focuses only on early components of reproductive success, involving no recombination, occurrence of such an intrinsic outbreeding depression cannot be tested.

The observation of a heterosis effect on early reproductive success between populations of Gracilaria verrucosa seems to indicate that genetic divergence, and thus partial reproductive isolation, could occur between close populations belonging to different tidal levels in a marine environment. Contrary to the intuition that dispersal in the sea is large, data on recruitment (Santelices, 1990), dispersal potentialities (Destombe et al., 1992), and fertilization distances (Destombe, Godin, and Remy, 1990) show that dispersal is leptokurtic and limited to the order of 100 m. This corresponds to the distance between high and low populations in each site that should then be able to diverge genetically. On the one hand, this divergence would be linked with differential adaptation, since tidal level has important selective effects on algae, but on the other hand, it could lead to fixation of mildly deleterious alleles in populations, producing a heterosis effect in crosses between the populations studied.

In higher plants it is not common to find an effect of distance on early components of reproductive success. Most attempts based on early reproductive success, i.e., pollen and seed characters, fail (Galen, Plowright, and Thomson, 1985; Ritland and Ganders, 1987; Fenster and Sork, 1988; Sobrevila, 1988; Newport, 1989; Redmond, Robbins, and Travis, 1989; Fenster, 1991a). These effects may appear only at later stages, on offspring characters (Fenster, 1991c; McCall, Mitchell-Olds, and Waller, 1991;

Johnston, 1992; Parker, 1992). Few studies are able to detect an influence of interparent distance on fertility (Sobrevila, 1988), and, as far as we know, only the work of Waser and Price demonstrates that the same patterns occur for numerous pre- and postzygotic characters (Price and Waser, 1979; Waser and Price, 1983, 1989, 1991a, b; Waser et al., 1987).

In haplo-diploid algae, due to their complex life cycle, numerous developmental stages are likely to reveal a differential crossing compatibility. These are, besides cystocarp formation and spore formation (Hommersand and Fredericq, 1990): the number of spores produced by a cystocarp, the survival of the diploid F1, its fertility involving the process of meiosis, or the fitness of the haploid F2 after segregation. In *Gracilaria verrucosa*, late depressive effects on F1 have indeed been observed in crosses between widely separated strains (Rice and Bird, 1990).

The possibility of prezygotic isolation as well as selective abortion in algae is poorly known, but pseudocystocarps may reflect such processes, as discussed by Hommersand and Fredericq (1990). Formation of pseudocystocarps, i.e., pericarps containing no diploid spores, has been reported in previous hybridization studies with Gracilaria verrucosa and other Gracilaria species. They appear in interspecific sterile crosses (McLachlan, van der Meer, and Bird, 1977; Plastino and de Oliveira, 1988), or in intraspecific crosses, where their frequency increases with the age of the male gamete (Destombe et al., 1990). The formation of a pseudocystocarp, i.e., the abortion of a fertilization, is assumed to be under the control of interactions between maternal haploid tissue and sporogenic diploid tissue within the cystocarp (nutrients transfer), and specifically of the fusion cell (Hommersand and Fredericq, 1990). Formed just after karyogamy, this fusion cell contains a mixture of haploid and diploid nuclei, and, according to these authors, "may play a role in rejecting incompatible or disharmonious fertilizations." Its role may thus correspond partly to that of the style of higher plants, allowing a mate choice by the female. However this cell does not seem to be a place or arena for intermale competition, since male gametes are rare. Acceptation or rejection of a male gamete by the female could be based on the genetic complementarity between male and female mates, as has been postulated for pollenstyle interaction in plants. The observation of an effect of intermate distance in Gracilaria verrucosa indicates that such a choice is possible, and effective at very early stagesnamely fertilization and early zygotic development.

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- APPENDIX. Experimental crossing design: number of crosses performed for each crossing combination, in the four sets of crosses. Distinct numbers refer to distinct individuals in the same population, i.e., same site and same tidal level (numbering is independent for males and females, and for different populations). When only some of the crossing combinations are realized, as in cross set 2 and 3, mates were randomly chosen according to a balanced design.

					Cross se	t 1: Intrapopulatio	n crosses						
Within Aud	Within Audresselles low population (50 crosses)						Within Gris-Nez low population (96 crosses)						
	Males								M	ales			
Females	1	2	4	5	8	Females	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	
4	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
6	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	
7	2	2	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	
						6	2	2	2	2	2	2	

Cross set 2: Between tidal levels crosses, within the same site

Male tidal level

	-	High									Low								
Female tidal	-				Ma	ales			Males										
level	Females	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Within Au	dresselles	site (48	8 crosses	5)															
High	1	_	_	_	1	_	_	1	_	_	_	1	1	_	_		_		
-	2	_	1	_	_	_	_		1	_	1	_	_	_	_	1	_		
	3	_	_	1	_	_	1	. —	_	_	-	1	_	_	-		1		
	4	1	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	-	-		_	1	1	_		
	5	-	1	-	-	1		_	-	1	-		_	-	_	-	1		
	6	1	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	-	-	-	1	1	_	-		
Low	1	_	_	_	1	_ ·	_	1	_	_	1	_	_	_		1	_		
	2	_		1	_		1	_	_	1			1				-		
	3	1	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	1		1	_		-	_		
	4	-	_	_	-	1	_	_	1	-	_	1	—	—	1	-	-		
	5	—	1	1	_	_		_	_	1				1		_			
	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	_	-	—	_	1	1	-		

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APPENDIX. Continued.

			Cross set 2: Between tidal levels crosses, within the same site Malc tidal level															
	-				Hi	gh			Low									
Female tidal	-				Ma	iles		<u> </u>				Ma	ales					
level	Females	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Within Gr	is-Nez site	e (56 ci	osses)															
High	1	_	_	_	_	1		1	_	1						1		
•	2	1	1	_	—	_	_		_	-	1	_	_	_		_	1	
	3		_	1	—	_	_	_	1	1		_	_	_	1	_		
	4		_	_	_	1	1	_	_	_		_	_	_	_	1	1	
	5	1	1	_	_	_				_	_	_	1	_	1	_	_	
	6	_	_	_	1	_		1	_	_	_		1	1	_	_	_	
	7	_	-	1	1				-	-	_	1	-	1.	-	-	-	
Low	2	_	_	_		_	1	1	_	_		_	1	1	_	_	_	
	4	1	_	1	_		_	_	_	1	_	1	_	_	_		_	
	7	_	_	_	1	1		_	_	-	1	1	_		_		_	
	8	1	_	1		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	—	1	
	9	_	1		1	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	1	_	
	10	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	1	1	_	_	_		_	1		
	11	_	1	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	1	

Cross set 3: Among sites crosses,	within Northern region (40 crosses)
	Male site and tidal level

				Audresselles									Gris-Nez									
Fomolo	Female tidal level				High					Low					High					Low		
Female site		Fem	1	2	4	5	7	1	2	3	4	8	1	2	3	4	5	9	10	11	12	13
Audresselles	High	1	1	_	_	_					_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	_
		2		_	1				-							1	_		_	_	_	_
		3					_		-	_	1	-	-	1		_	_	_		—		_
		5	-	-	-	1		_	-		-		-	-		-		_	-	_	1	_
		6		—				_	-			1	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	1		_
	Low	1	_	_	_	_	1		_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_		_	_	_
		2	_	_	_	_			1	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_
		4	_	-	_	-	_	1	-	-	_	—	_	_	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	1
		6	_	-	-	-		_	-	1	-	_	_	-	-	-	1	_	_	_		_
		8	_	1	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	
Gris-Nez	High	1	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_
	Ũ	2	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	_		_	1	_	_	_	_	
		3	-	-	-	—	_	_	_	1	_		_	_	1	_				_		_
		6	_	1	_			_	_		_	_		_	_	_	_	_	_		1	
		7	-	_	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	-	_	1	_	_
	Low	2									1	_		_	_			1		_	_	—
		7	_	_	_	-			1		_	_	_	_	_	1		_	_	_		_
		9	1	_		-		_			-	_	-	1				_	_	—		_
		10	_	_	_	1	_	-					1							_	_	
		11	_			-	_					1					_	—		—	_	1

		Cross set 4: Among region crosses (81 crosses) Male region										
Ferrels			Northern			Roscoff	<u>.</u>		Bouzigues	1997 - 1998 - 1998 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -		
Female region	Female	14	15	16	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Northern	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Roscoff	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Bouzigues	1	1	1	. 1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
C C	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

Cross set 4: Among region crosses (81 crosses)