

Occurrence of multiple nucleolus organizer regions and intraspecific karyotype variation in *Scaptotrigona xanthotricha* Moure (Hymenoptera, Meliponini)

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ABSTRACT. *Scaptotrigona xanthotricha* has a wide geographic distribution in the Brazilian Atlantic rainforest. One population from southeast and two from northeast Brazil were analyzed and were found to have chromosome polymorphisms. Although the chromosome number $2n = 34$ is conserved in this species, karyotypic analysis revealed clear differences between the three populations. Congruent and ubiquitous multiple nucleolus organizer regions, heterochromatin and CMA₃-positive blocks were found. The variations suggest that this species is in a process of genetic differentiation. This differentiation process might have been enhanced by restricted nesting preferences, combined with recent extensive fragmentation of the

Atlantic rainforest, which limits gene flow between populations.

Key words: Chromosome; Fluorochrome staining; Ag-NOR;
Stingless bee