

Chromosome count in *Dendrobium* I. 87 species*

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デンドロビウム属の染色体数 I. 87種

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The genus *Dendrobium* comprising over 2,000 species is floriculturally one of the most useful orchid. The species have been subdivided into 41 sections by Schlechter (1912), while taxonomists today placed them in genera *Ephemerantha*, *Epigenium*, *Diplocaulobium* and so on (Brieger 1981). In the present paper the taxonomy of the species was followed to Schlechter (1912, 1927).

Chromosome numbers of the genus *Dendrobium* have been recorded by many authors, e.g. Hoffmann 1929, 1930, Miduno 1940, Eftimiu-Heim 1941, Ito and Matsuura 1957, Kosaki 1958, Tanaka 1962, 1964, 1965, Matsuura and Nakahira 1958, 1959, Vajrabhaya and Randolph 1960, Kamemoto *et al.* 1961, Kosaki and Kamemoto 1961, Dorn and Kamemoto 1962, Jones 1963, Chardard 1963, Shindo and Kamemoto 1963, Pancho 1965, Sharma and Chatterji 1966, Kamemoto and Sagarik 1967, Kamemoto *et al.* 1967, Kamemoto and Tara 1968, Arora 1968, 1971, Mehra and Vij 1970, Sharma 1970, Banerji and Chaudhuri 1972, Hsu 1972, Roy and Sharma 1972, Hedge and Boraiah 1973, Mehra and Sehgal 1975, 1976, Mehra and Kashyap 1976, 1978, Chatterji 1976, Vij *et al.* 1976, Malla *et al.* 1977, 1978, and Sarkar *et al.* 1978.

According to these records the chromosome numbers have been reported in 143 species and 34 varieties. Except the horticultural or irregular variants, 106 taxa of them are $2n=38$, 24 are $2n=40$, 24 are both $2n=38$ and $2n=40$, and the rest 23 are various from $2n=30$ to $2n=114$. The present paper was undertaken to expand the chromosome number determinations of 87 species in the genus *Dendrobium*.

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Materials and Methods

All materials identified by the observation of flowers were grown in the Hiroshima Botanical Garden.

Observation of somatic chromosomes was made with the aceto-orcein technique developed by Tanaka and Kamemoto (1960) : Active root tips were immersed in 0.002 M 8-hydroxyquinoline for 4 hours at 16°C. They were then transferred to a modified Carnoy's solution (1:1:2) for 15 minutes at 16°C, hydrolyzed in 1N HCl at 60°C for 2 minutes, transferred to 45% acetic acid for 3 minutes, and squashed and stained in 1% aceto-orcein.

For observation of meiosis, bud materials were prepared essentially as above but omitting the pretreatment and maceration.

Results and Discussion

The somatic chromosomes observed in the present investigation were shown in Figs. 1-9. Results of the chromosome counts of all species investigated were listed in alphabetical orders in Table 1. In Table 1 the previous counts appeared in papers were also listed. Among the 87 species in the genus *Dendrobium*, 59 were $2n=38$, 21 were $2n=40$ and the rest were other numbers such as $2n=36+2f$ in *D. insigne*, $2n=39$ in *D. dicuphum*, $2n=40+1f$ in *D. densiflorum*, $2n=40+2f$ in *D. dixanthum*, $2n=43$ in *D. longicornu* var. *java*, and $2n=76$ in *D. kingianum*. *D. distichum* was both $2n=38$ (diploid) and $2n=57$ (triploid).

The chromosome numbers of following 36 species were recorded for the first time: *D. acerosum* $2n=38$, *D. aemulum* $2n=38$, *D. agrostophyllum* $2n=38$, *D. amethystoglossum* $2n=40$, *D. aphrodite* $2n=40$, *D. batanense* $2n=38$, *D. beckleri* $2n=38$, *D. cucumerinum* $2n=38$, *D. cymbidioides* $2n=40$, *D. equitans* $2n=38$, *D. falconeri* $2n=38$, *D. finisterreae* $2n=40$, *D. forbesii* $2n=40$, *D. guerreroi* $2n=40$, *D. insigne* $2n=36+2f$, *D. lasianthera* $2n=38$, *D. lichenastrum* $2n=40$, *D. longicornu* var. *java* $2n=43$, *D. ophioglossum* $2n=38$, *D. phlox* var. *flava* $2n=38$, *D. platygastrium* $2n=40$, *D. plicatile* $2n=38$, *D. pugioniforme* $2n=38$, *D. quinquecostatum* $2n=38$, *D. ramosii* $2n=40$, *D. rhodopterigium* $2n=38$, *D. ruppianum* $2n=38$, *D. sanseicense* $2n=40$, *D. schneiderae* $2n=38$, *D. scopa* $2n=38$, *D. stuposum* $2n=38$, *D. sulcatum* $2n=40$, *D. teretifolium* var. *fassiculatum* $2n=40$, *D. terminale* $2n=38$, *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* $2n=38$, and *D. wassellii* $2n=38$.

The chromosome number of 14 species were here redocumented as follows: $2n=38$ to $2n=40$ in *D. delacourii*, *D. densiflorum*, *D. senile*, $2n=40$ ($n=20$) to $2n=38$ in *D. crumenatum*, *D. infundibulum*, *D. leonis*, *D. moschatum*, *D. nobile*, *D. parishii*, *D. pierardii*, *D. superbum*, *D. tosaense*, $2n=ca. 80$ to $2n=38$ in *D. sophronites*, $n=20$ and $2n=36$ to $2n=38$ in *D. heterocarpum*. Those appear to be either in error or representing abnormal types of the species.

The chromosome numbers of $2n=38+1f$, $40+1f$, $40+2f$, 43, 57 and 76 investigated,

Table 1. Chromosome numbers of the species of *Dendrobium* studied

Species	Chromosome number				References
	Present count		Previous count		
	2n	n	2n	n	
<i>acerosum</i> Lindl.	38				
<i>aemulum</i> R.Br.	38				
<i>aggregatum</i> Roxb.					
var. <i>majus</i> Rolfe	38		38		Kosaki 1958
<i>agrostophyllum</i> F. Muell.	38				
<i>amethystoglossum</i> Rchb. f.	40		20		
<i>aphrodite</i> Rchb. f.	40				
<i>batanense</i> Ames et Quisumb.	38				
<i>beckleri</i> F. Muell.	38				
<i>bigibbum</i> Lindl.					
var. <i>superbum</i> Hort.					
subvar. <i>compactum</i>					
Dockr.	38		38, ca. 57		Jones 1963
<i>canaliculatum</i> R.Br.	38	19	2x		Jones 1963
			38		Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>candidum</i> Wall.	38		38		Jones 1963
<i>capra</i> J.J.Sm		19		19	Malla <i>et al.</i> 1977
<i>chrysotoxum</i> Lindl.	38		38		Jones 1963
<i>compactum</i> Rolfe	40	20			
<i>crassinode</i> Benth. & Rchb. f.	38		38		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
			2x		Jones 1963
<i>crumenatum</i> Sw.	38		38		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
			38+1f		Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
			40		Jones 1963
					Pancho 1965
<i>cucumerinum</i> Macleay	38				
<i>cymbidioides</i> Lindl.	40				
<i>delacourii</i> Guill.	40	20	38		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>densiflorum</i> Wall.	40+1f		40+2f		Kosaki 1958
			20+(1-2)		Mehra & Vij 1970
			42		Chatterji 1976
			38		Sharma 1970
				20	Mehra & Sehgal 1976
<i>denudans</i> D. Don	40		40		Jones 1963
				20	Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
<i>dicuphum</i> Muell.	39	19,20	38		Jones 1963
<i>distichum</i> Rchb. f.	57	variable	57		Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
	38	19	38		Pancho 1965,
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971

Table 1. (continued)

Species	Chromosome number				References
	Present count		Previous count		
	2n	n	2n	n	
<i>dixanthum</i> Rchb. f.	40+2f		40		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
				41	Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
					Jones 1963
<i>equitans</i> Kränzl.	38				
<i>falconeri</i> Hk.	38		2x		Jones 1963
<i>farmeri</i> Paxt.	40		40		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Sharma 1970
					Banerji & Chaudhuri 1972
<i>fimbriatum</i> Lindl.					
var. <i>oculatum</i> Hk.	38		38		Ito & Matsuura 1957
					Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
			38+2B		Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
<i>findlayanum</i> Par. & Rchb. f.	38		38		Jones 1963
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>finisterreae</i> Schltr.	40				
<i>forbesii</i> Ridl.	40				
<i>formosum</i> Roxb.					
var. <i>giganteum</i>	38		38		Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>friedericksianum</i> Rchb. f.	38		38		Jones 1963, Chardard 1963
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>guerreroi</i> Ames & Quisumb.	40				
<i>heterocarpum</i> Wall.	38		38		Kosaki 1958
					Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
					Jones 1963, Pancho 1965
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
					Banerji & Chaudhuri 1971
			36		Sharma 1970
				20	Mehra & Sehgal 1976
<i>infundibulum</i> Lindl.	38		38		Tanaka 1964
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
			40		Hoffmann 1930
				19	Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
				20	Hoffmann 1929
<i>insigne</i> Rchb. f.	36+2f				
<i>kingianum</i> Bidw.	76		76		Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1961
					Tanaka 1964
			38		Jones 1963
			112-114		Jones 1963
<i>lasianthera</i> J.J.Sm.	38				
<i>leonis</i> Rchb. f.	38	19	40		Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971

Table 1. (continued)

<i>lichenastrum</i> Kränzl.	40			
<i>linguiforme</i> Smith.	38	38		Jones 1963
<i>longicornu</i> Lindl.				
var. <i>java</i>	43			
<i>lyonii</i> Ames	40	20	40	Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
<i>macraei</i> Lindl.	38		38	Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
			19	Mehra & Vij 1970
<i>macrophyllum</i> A. Rich.	38		38	Kosaki 1958
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
<i>miyakei</i> Schltr.	38		38	Hsu 1972
<i>monile</i> Kränzl.	38		38	Miduno 1940
				Ito & Matsuura 1957
				Matsuura & Nakahira 1958
<i>moschatum</i> Sw.	38		38	Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
				Jones 1963, Tanaka 1971
				Hsu 1972
		ca.38		Nakasone & Moromizato 1964
		38+1–3f		Jones 1963
		38		Chardard 1963
				Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
		39		Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
		40		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
			19	Jones 1963, Sharma 1970
			ca.20	Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
<i>nobile</i> Lindl.	38		38	Hoffmann 1929, 1930
				Miduno 1940b
				Ito & Matsuura 1957
				Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
				Jones 1963
				Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
				Sharma 1970, Tanaka 1971
			19	Miduno 1940b
				Ito & Matsuura 1957
				Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
				Chardard 1963
		40		Eftimiu-Heim 1941
		57		Jones 1963
<i>ophioglossum</i> Rchb. f.	38			Ito & Matsuura 1957
<i>parishii</i> Rchb. f.	38	40		Sharma 1970, Chatterji 1976
				Jones 1963
		38		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>phalaenopsis</i> Fitzg.	38	38		Kosaki 1958
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
			19	Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961

Table 1. (continued)

Species	Chromosome number				References
	Present count 2n	n	Previous count 2n	n	
<i>phlox</i> Schltr.					
var. <i>flava</i>	38				
<i>pierardii</i> Roxb. ex. Hook.	38	19	38		Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
					Sharma & Chatterji 1966
					Jones 1963
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Sarkar <i>et al.</i> 1978
			19		Kosaki 1958
					Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
			40		Sharma & Chatterji 1966
					Sharma 1970
					Roy & Sharma 1972
			19-20		Chardard 1963
				57	Sharma & Chatterji 1966
<i>platygastrium</i> Rchb. f.	40				
<i>plicatile</i> Lindl.	38				
<i>pugioniforme</i> A. Cunn.	38				
<i>quinquecostatum</i> Schltr.	38				
<i>ramosii</i> Ames	40				
<i>revolutum</i> Lindl.	40		40		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>rhodopterygium</i> Rchb. f.	38				
<i>ruppiatum</i> A.D. Hawkes	38				
<i>sanseiense</i> Hayata	40				
<i>scabrilinge</i> Lindl.	38		38		Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>schniderae</i> F.M. Bail.	38				
<i>scopa</i> Lindl.	38				
<i>secundum</i> Lindl.	40	20	40		Jones 1963
				20	Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
<i>senile</i> Par. & Rchb. f.	40		38		Chardard 1963
					Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>smilliae</i> F.v. Muell.	38		38		Jones 1963
<i>sophronites</i> Schltr.	38		ca. 80		Jones 1963
<i>strebloceras</i> Rchb. f.	38		38		Jones 1963
					Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>stuposum</i> Lindl.	38				
<i>sulcatum</i> Rchb. f.	40				
<i>superbiens</i> Rchb. f.	38		38		Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
					Jones 1963
					Vij <i>et al.</i> 1976
<i>superbum</i> Rchb. f.	38			19	Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
					Eftimiu-Ileim 1941
					Ito & Matsuura 1957

Table 1. (continued)

			19	Kosaki 1958
				Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
<i>sutepense</i> Rolph et Downie	38	2x		Jones 1963
		38		Wilfret & Kamemoto 1961
<i>taurinum</i> Lindl.	38	38		Kosaki 1958
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
<i>teretifolium</i> R.Br.				
var. <i>fasciculatum</i> Rupp.	40			
<i>terminale</i> Par. et Rchb. f.	38			
<i>tetragonum</i> A. Cunn.				
var. <i>giganteum</i> Gilbert	38			
<i>thyrsiflorum</i> Rchb. f.	40	40		Vajrabhaya & Randolph 1960
				Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
			20	Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
				Hoffmann 1929, 1930
<i>topaziacum</i> Ames	38	19	38	Pancho 1965
<i>tortile</i> Lindl.	38		38	Kosaki & Kamemoto 1961
				Jones 1963
				Kamemoto & Sagarik 1967
				Wilfret & Kamemoto 1971
<i>tosaense</i> Makino	38	19	38	Tanaka 1965, 1971
			40	Matsuura & Nakahira 1959
<i>wardianum</i> Warn.	38		2x	Jones 1963
			19	Mehra & Sehgal 1976
<i>wassellii</i> S.T. Blake	38			

might have been horticultural or natural variants. On the other hand the chromosome number of $2n=39$ in *D. dicuphum*, a new count, was found to be hybrid combination since the meiotic configuration was observed to be 19 II + 1I.

Summary

1. Chromosome counts were carried out in 87 species of *Dendrobium*.
2. Among these 87 species, 59 species were $2n=38$, 21 were $2n=40$, and the rest seven were $2n=36+2f$, $2n=39$, $2n=40+1f$, $2n=40+2f$, $2n=43$, $2n=76$, and $2n=38$ and 57, respectively.
3. The chromosome numbers of 36 species were recorded for the first time and those of 14 species were redocumented.

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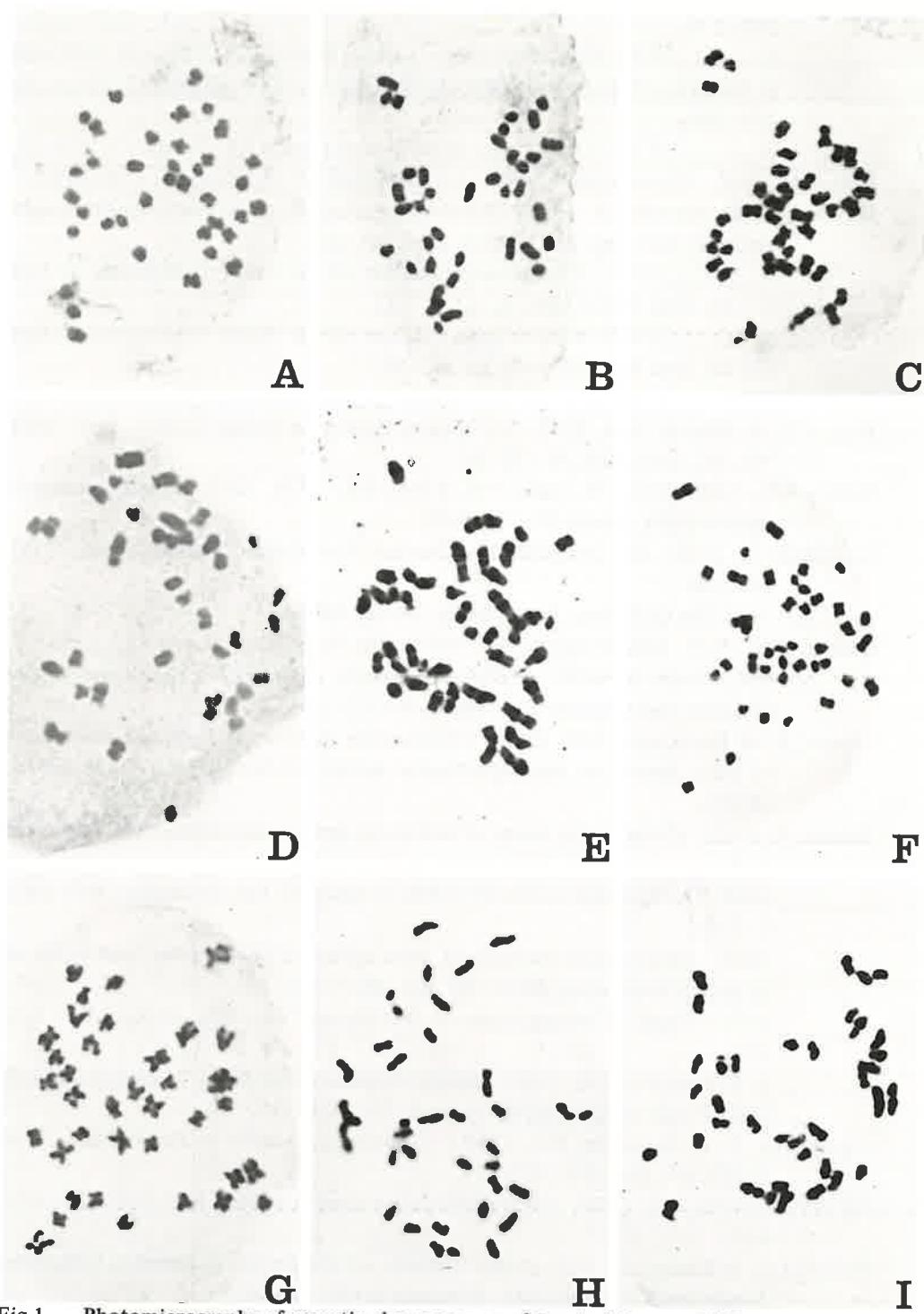


Fig 1. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.

A, *D. acerosum* $2n=38$. B, *D. aemulum* $2n=38$. C, *D. aggregatum* var. *majus* $2n=38$. D, *D. agrostophyllum* $2n=38$. E, *D. amethystoglossum* $2n=40$. F, *D. aphrodite* $2n=40$. G, *D. batanense* $2n=38$. H, *D. beckleri* $2n=38$. I, *D. bigibbum* var. *superbum* subvar. *compactum* $2n=38$.

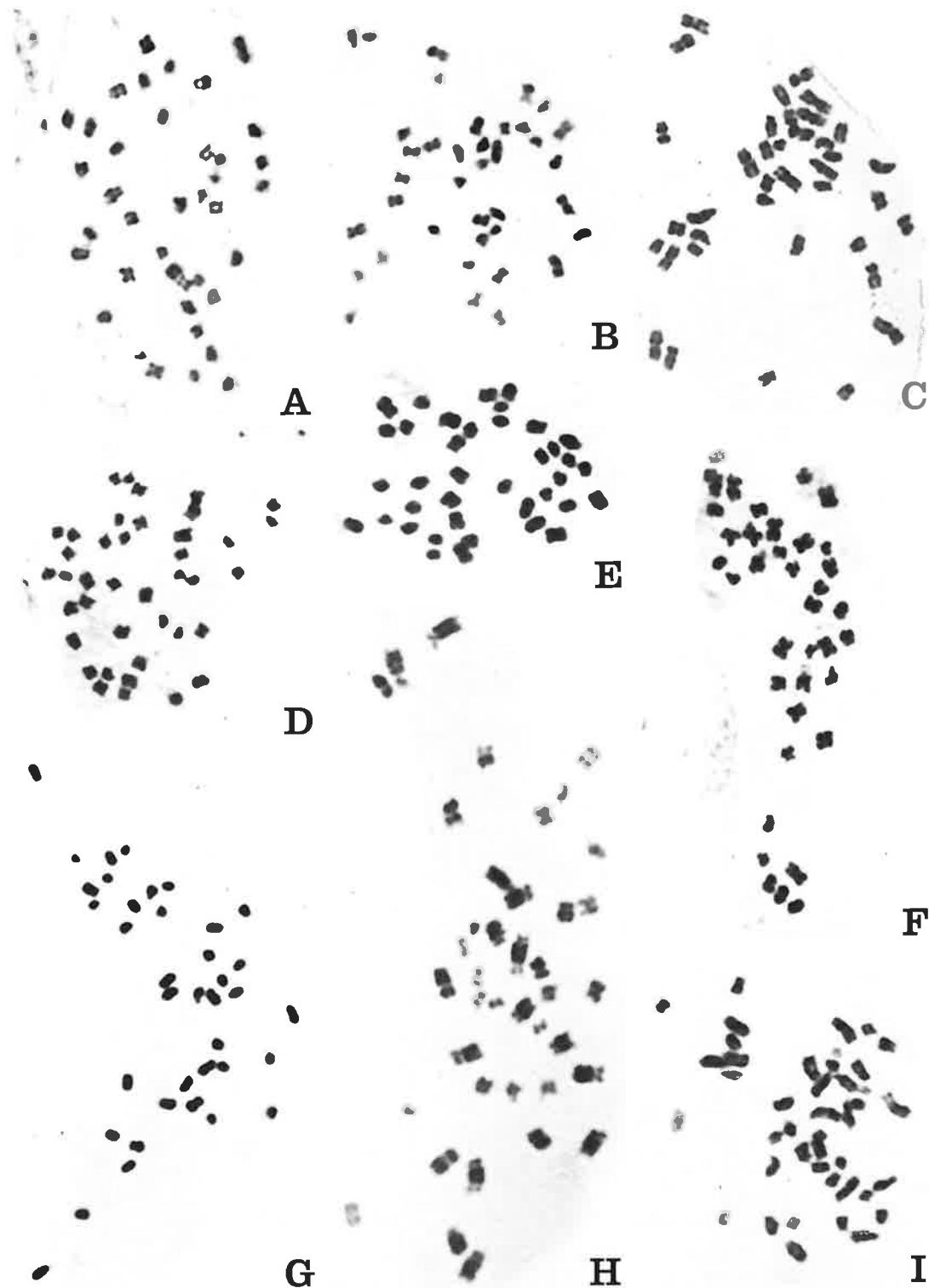


Fig. 2 Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. canaliculatum* $2n=38$. B, *D. candidum* $2n=38$. C, *D. chrysotoxum* $2n=38$.
D, *D. compactum* $2n=40$. E, *D. crassinode* $2n=38$. F, *D. crumenatum* $2n=38$.
G, *D. cucumerinum* $2n=38$. H, *D. cymbidioides* $2n=40$. I, *D. delacourii* $2n=40$.

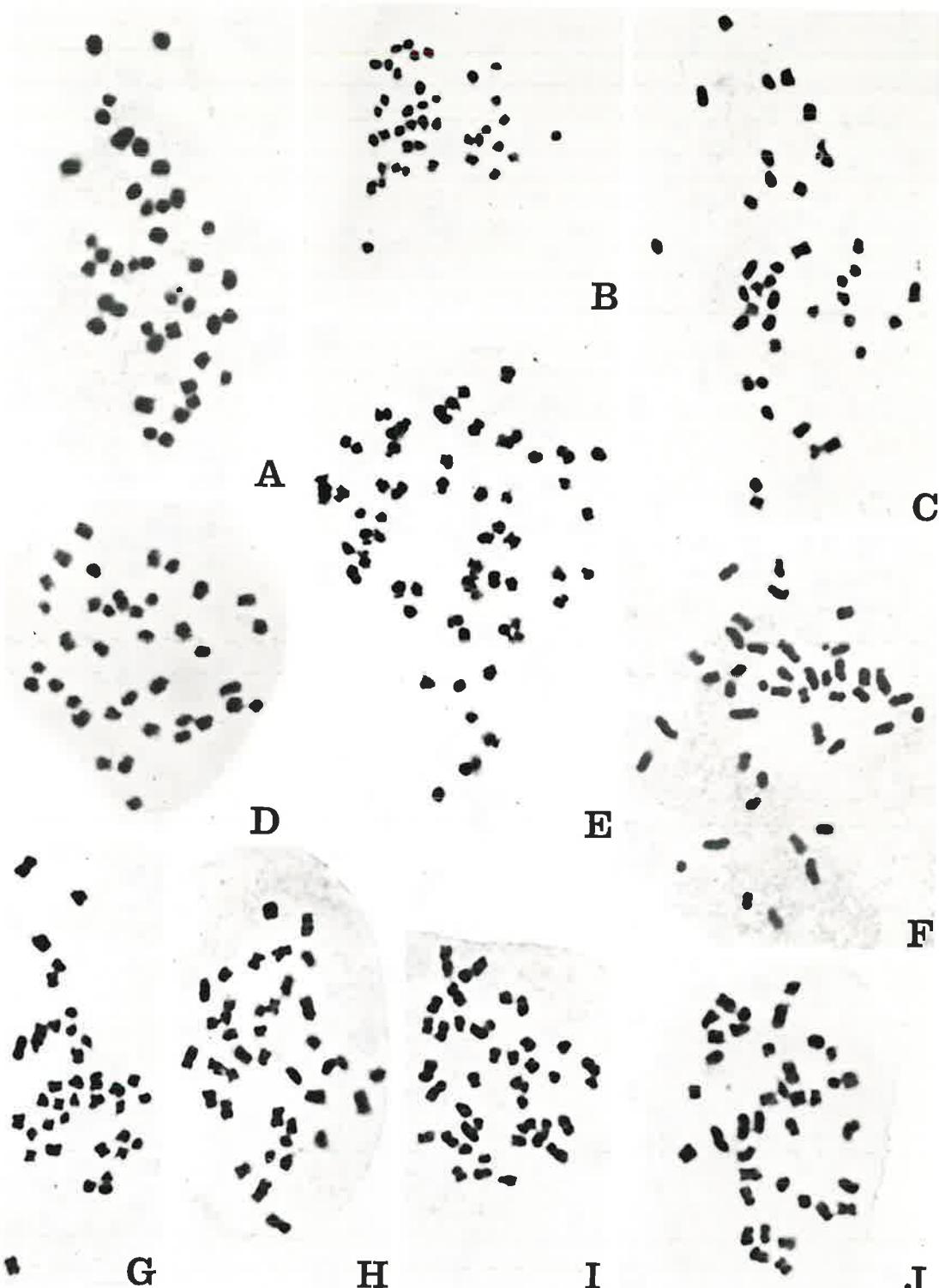


Fig. 3. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. densiflorum* $2n=40+1f$. B, *D. denudans* $2n=40$. C, *D. dicuphum* $2n=39$.
D, *D. distichum* $2n=38$ (diploid). E, *D. distichum* $2n=57$ (triploid). F, *D. dixanthum* $2n=40+2f$. G, *D. equitans* $2n=38$. H, *D. falconeri* $2n=38$. I, *D. farmeri* $2n=40$. J, *D. findlayanum* $2n=38$.

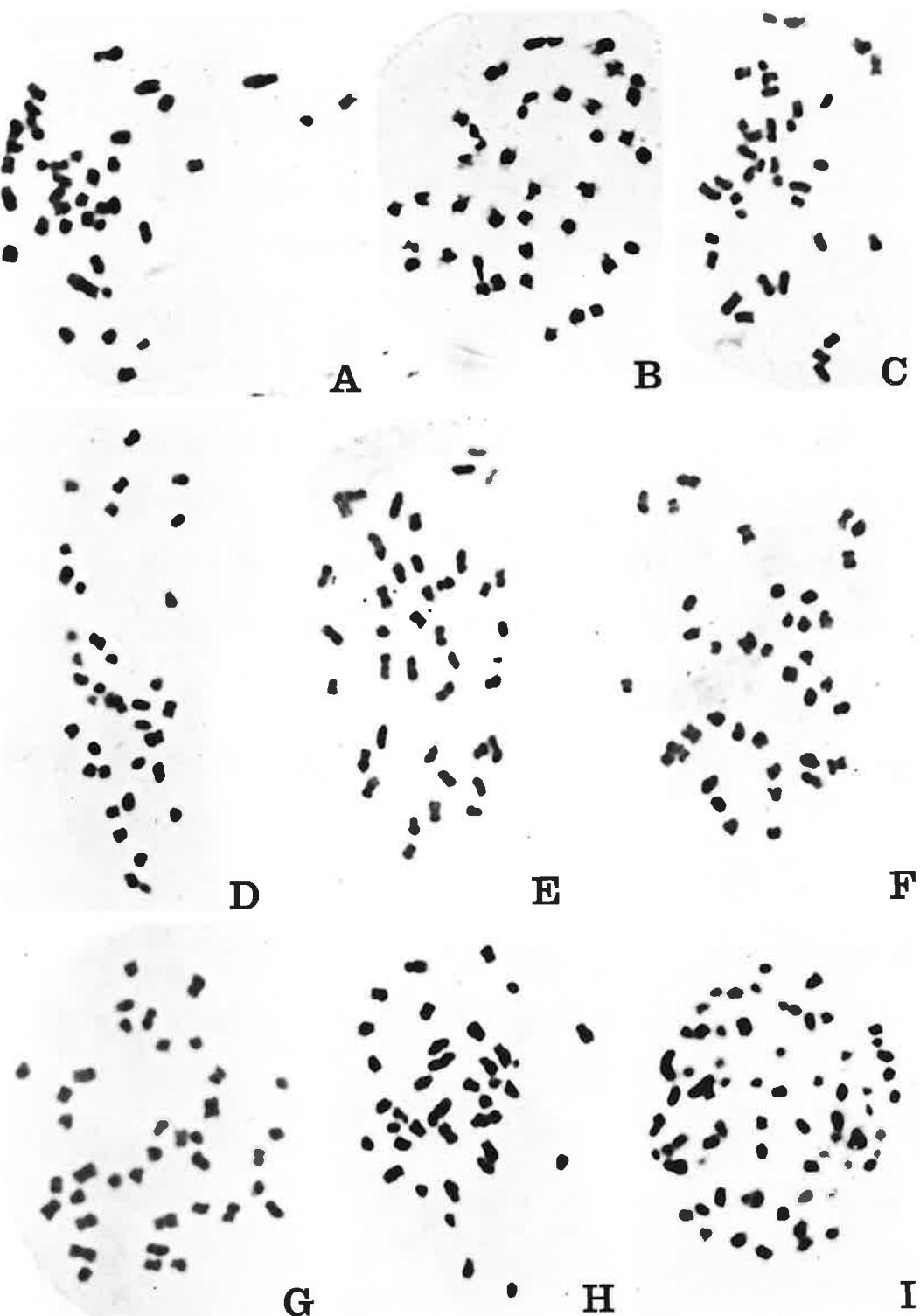


Fig. 4. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. finisterrae* $2n=40$. B, *D. forbesii* $2n=40$. C, *D. formosum* var. *giganteum* $2n=38$. D, *D. friedericianum* $2n=38$. E, *D. guerreroi* $2n=40$. F, *D. heterocarpum* $2n=38$. G, *D. infundibulum* $2n=38$. H, *D. insigne* $2n=36+2f$. I, *D. kingianum* $2n=76$ (tetraploid).



Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. lasianthera* $2n=38$. B, *D. leonis* $2n=38$. C, *D. lichenastrum* $2n=40$. D, *D. linguiforme* $2n=38$. E, *D. longicornu* var. *java* $2n=43$. F, *D. lyonii* $2n=40$. G, *D. macraei* $2n=38$. H, *D. macrophyllum* $2n=38$. I, *D. miyakei* $2n=38$.



Fig. 6. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. monile* $2n=38$. B, *D. moschatum* $2n=38$. C, *D. nobile* $2n=38$. D, *D. ophioglossum* $2n=38$. E, *D. parishii* $2n=38$. F, *D. phalaenopsis* $2n=38$. G, *D. phlox* var. *flava* $2n=38$. H, *D. pierardii* $2n=38$. I, *D. platygastrium* $2n=40$. J, *D. plicatile* $2n=38$. K, *D. pugioniforme* $2n=38$.

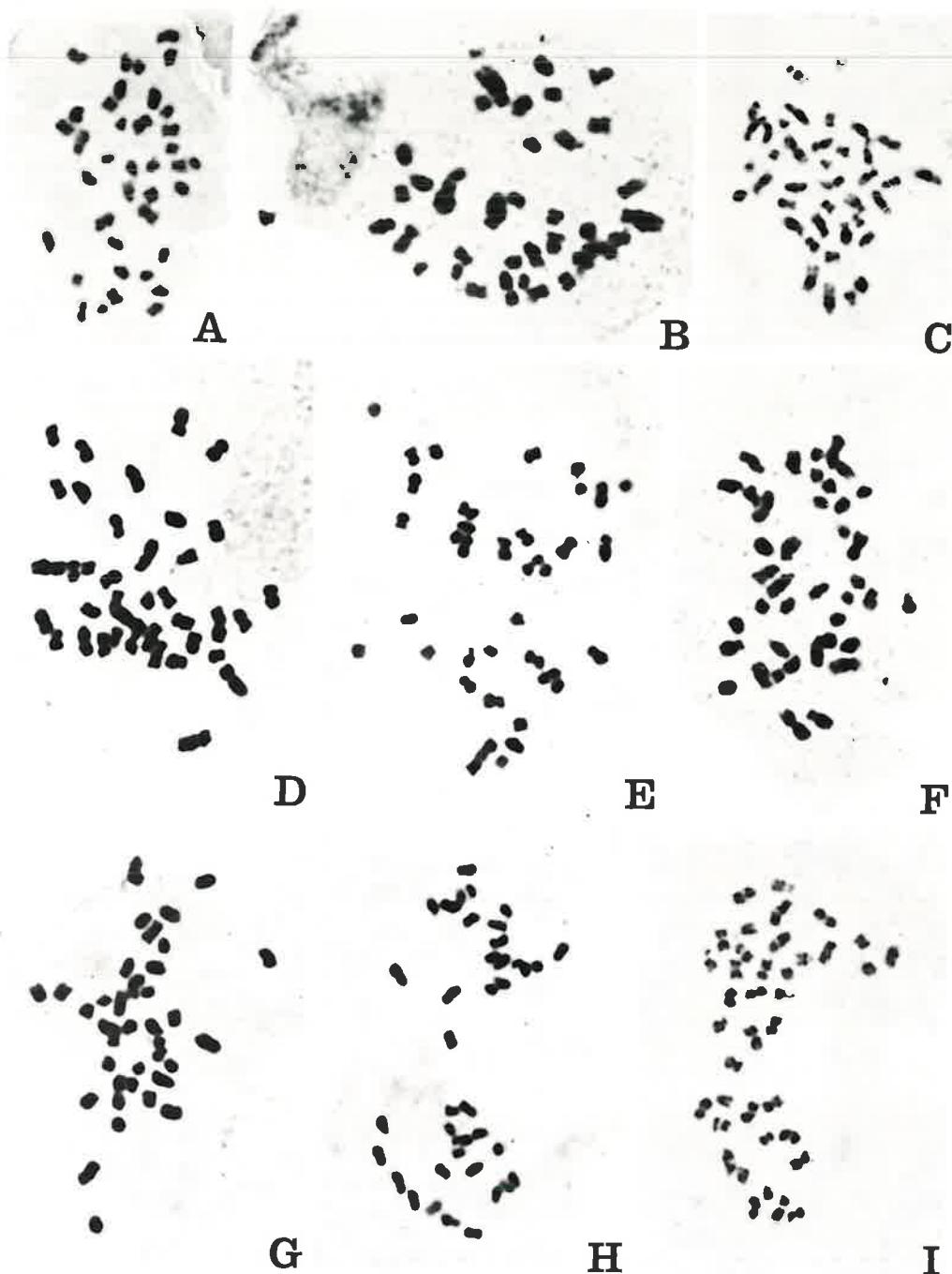


Fig. 7. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. quinquecostatum* $2n=38$. B, *D. ramosii* $2n=40$. C, *D. revolutum* $2n=40$.
D, *D. rhodopterygium* $2n=38$. E, *D. rupppianum* $2n=38$. F, *D. sansevierense* $2n=40$.
G, *D. scabrilingue* $2n=38$. H, *D. schneiderae* $2n=38$. I, *D. scopo* $2n=38$.

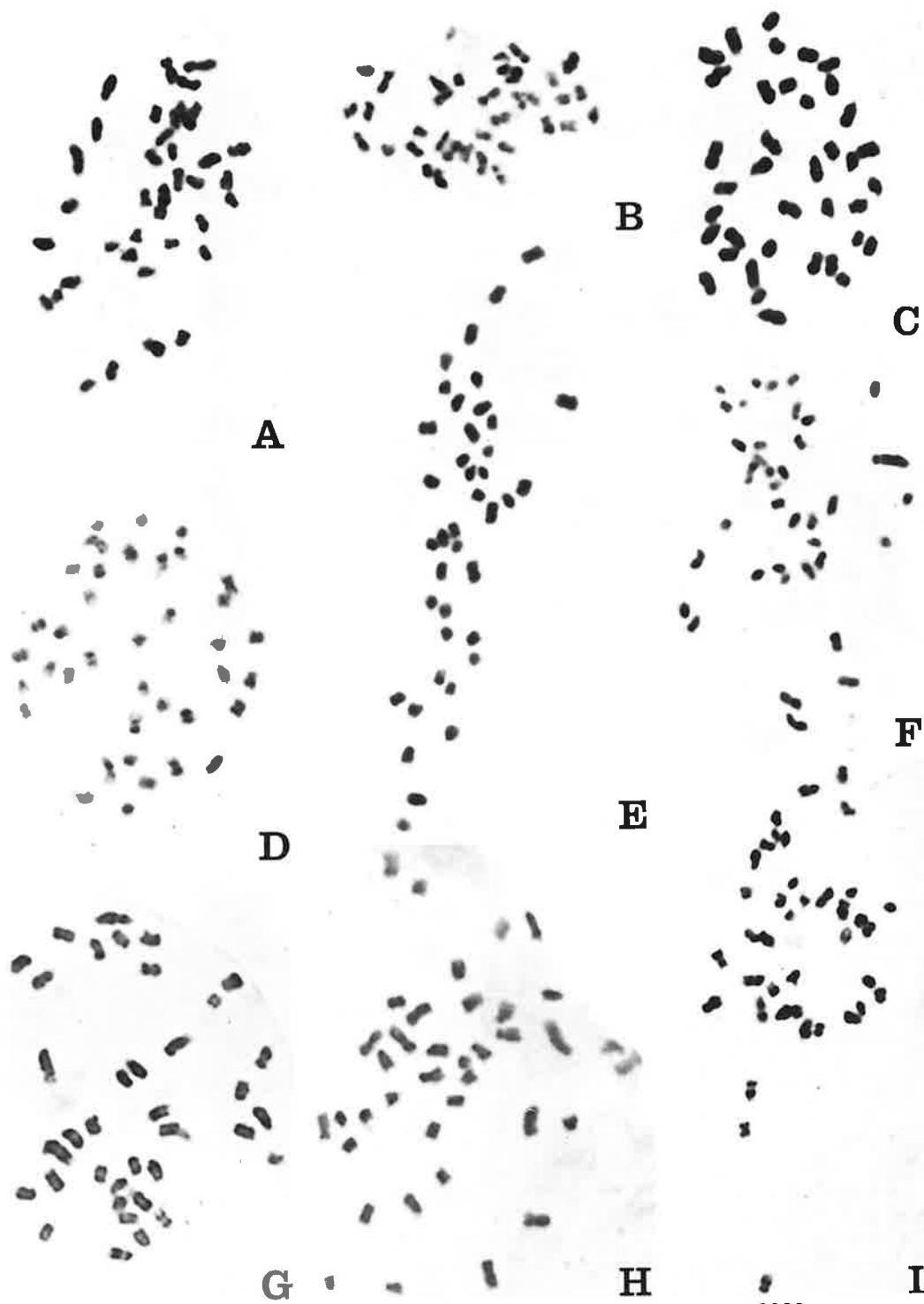


Fig. 8. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. senile* $2n=40$. B, *D. smilliae* $2n=38$. C, *D. sophronites* $2n=38$. D, *D. stuposum* $2n=38$. E, *D. sulcatum* $2n=40$. F, *D. superbiens* $2n=38$. G, *D. superbum* $2n=38$. H, *D. sutepense* $2n=38$. I, *D. taurinum* $2n=38$.

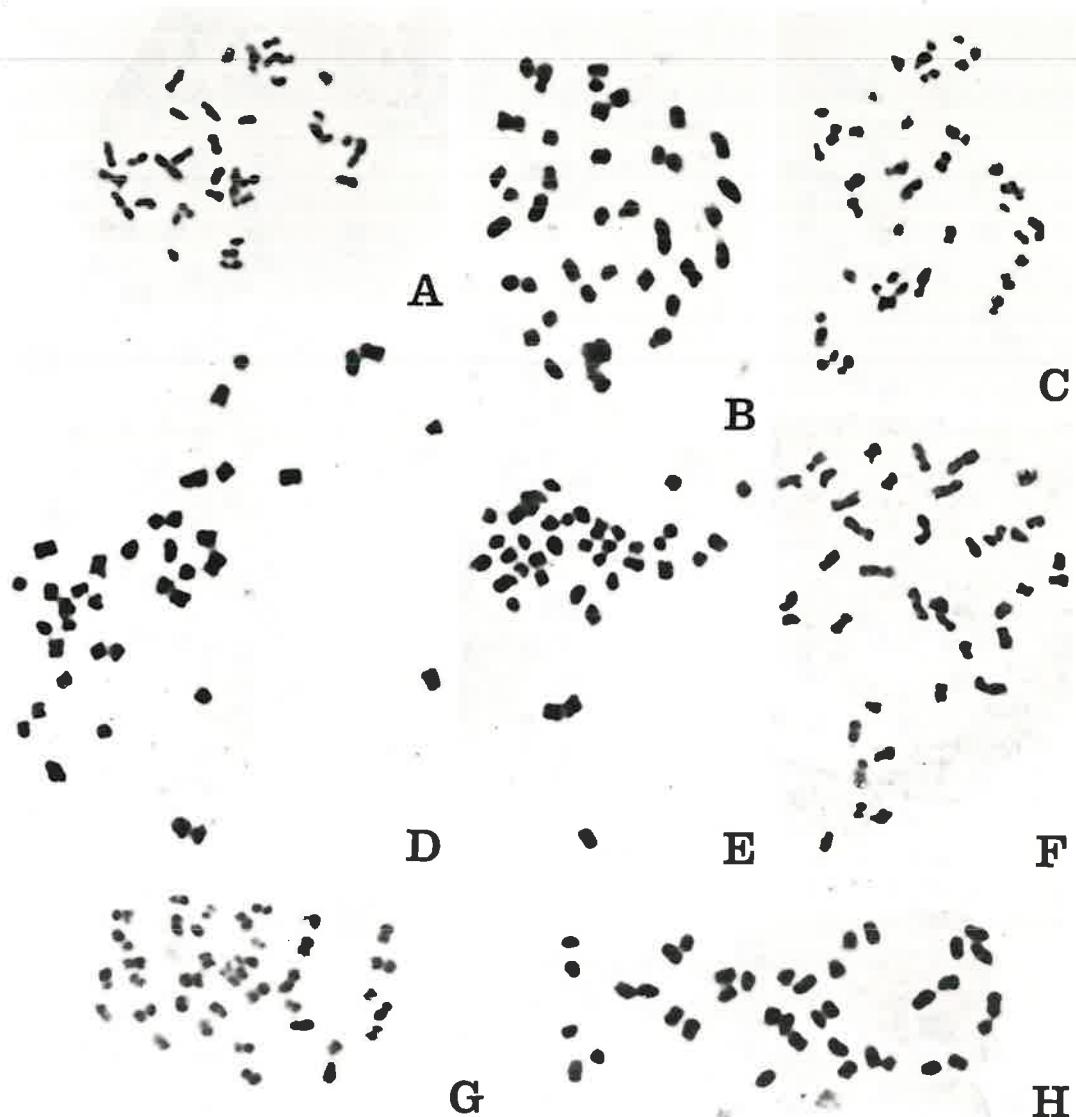


Fig. 9. Photomicrographs of somatic chromosomes of *Dendrobium*. $\times 2000$.
A, *D. teretifolium* var. *fasciculatum* $2n=40$. B, *D. terminale* $2n=38$. C, *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* $2n=38$. D, *D. topaziacum* $2n=38$. E, *D. tortile* $2n=38$. F, *D. tosaense* $2n=38$. G, *D. wardianum* $2n=38$. H, *D. wassellii* $2n=38$.