# **Origin of** *C. latifolia* **and** *C. aurantiifolia* **triploid limes: the preferential disomic inheritance of doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime is consistent with an interploid hybridization hypothesis**

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<span id="page-0-4"></span>**• Background and Aims** Two main types of triploid limes are produced worldwide. The 'Tahiti' lime type (*Citrus latifolia*) is predominant, while the 'Tanepao' type (*C. aurantiifolia*) is produced to a lesser extent. Both types result from natural interspecific hybridization involving a diploid gamete of *C. aurantiifolia* 'Mexican' lime type (itself a direct interspecific *C. micrantha × C. medica* hybrid). The meiotic behaviour of a doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime, the interspecific *micrantha/medica* recombination and the resulting diploid gamete structures were analysed to investigate the possibility that 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' varieties are derived from natural interploid hybridization. • **Methods** A population of 85 tetraploid hybrids was established between a doubled-diploid clementine and a doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime and used to infer the genotypes of 'Mexican' lime diploid gametes. Meiotic behaviour was studied through combined segregation analysis of 35 simple sequenbce repeat (SSR) and single nucleotide polymorphismn (SNP) markers covering the nine citrus chromosomes and cytogenetic studies. It was supplemented by pollen viability assessment.

**• Key Results** Pollen viability of the doubled-diploid Mexican lime (64 %) was much higher than that of the diploid. On average, 65 % of the chromosomes paired as bivalents and 31.4 % as tetravalents. Parental heterozygosity restitution ranged from 83 to 99 %. Disomic inheritance with high preferential pairing values was deduced for three chromosomes. Intermediate inheritances, with disomic trend, were found for five chromosomes, and an intermediate inheritance was observed for one chromosome. The average effective interspecific recombination rate was low  $(1.2 \text{ cM Mb}^{-1})$ .

• **Conclusion** The doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime had predominantly disomic segregation, producing interspecific diploid gamete structures with high *C. medica/C. micrantha* heterozygosity, compatible with the phylogenomic structures of triploid *C. latifolia* and *C. aurantiifolia* varieties. This disomic trend limits effective interspecific recombination and diversity of the diploid gamete population. Interploid reconstruction breeding using doubled-diploid lime as one parent is a promising approach for triploid lime diversification.

**Key words:** Triploid limes, *Citrus latifolia*, *Citrus aurantiifolia*, phylogeny, tetraploid, meiosis, disomic inheritance, polyploidy breeding, cytogenetic, single nucleotide polymorphism, simple sequence repeats.

# INTRODUCTION

Diploidy is the general rule in citrus with a basic chromosome number of nine  $(x = 9)$  [\(Krug, 1943\)](#page-13-0) and an estimated genome size of approx. 367 Mb (Terol *et al.*[, 2008](#page-14-0)). Only a few triploid and tetraploid genotypes have been found in citrus germplasm [\(Longley, 1925](#page-13-1); [Lee, 1988\)](#page-13-2). Despite this scarcity of polyploid germplasm, it appears that polyploidization events are relatively frequent in citrus seedlings. Polyploidization is a major mechanism of angiosperm evolution [\(Soltis and Soltis, 1993;](#page-14-1) [Wendel and Doyle, 2005](#page-14-2)), and many authors consider that most polyploids arise from unreduced (2*n*) gametes [\(Bretagnolle](#page-12-0)

[and Thompson, 1995;](#page-12-0) [Ramsey and Schemske, 1998](#page-14-3), [2002](#page-14-4)). However, in citrus, doubled-diploid plants were observed in seedlings of diploid apomictic genotypes ([Lapin, 1937;](#page-13-3) [Russo](#page-14-5) [and Torrisi, 1951](#page-14-5); [Cameron and Frost, 1968](#page-12-1)). They arise from spontaneous duplication of chromosomes in nucellar cells, and their frequency depends on the genotypes and environment ([Cameron and Frost, 1968](#page-12-1); [Aleza](#page-12-2) *et al.*, 2011). The tetraploid 'Giant Key' lime originated from this mechanism [\(Curk](#page-12-3) *et al.*, [2016](#page-12-3)). Unreduced female and male gametes have also been described in citrus ([Esen and Soost, 1971](#page-12-4); [Ollitrault](#page-13-4) *et al.*, 2008; [Cuenca](#page-12-5) *et al.*, 2015; [Rouiss](#page-14-6) *et al.*, 2017*a, b*), and they can lead to the creation of triploid and tetraploid hybrids. Various mechanisms can produce 2*n* gametes in citrus. Second division restitution (SDR) is predominant for mandarin 2*n* megagametophytes (Esen *et al.*[, 1979](#page-12-6); [Cuenca](#page-12-7) *et al.*, 2011, [2015; Aleza](#page-12-8) *et al.*, 2015), while first meiotic restitution (FDR) was described as the major mechanism for the production of 2*n* pollen in a clementine  $\times$ sweet orange hybrid ([Rouiss](#page-14-6) *et al.*, 2017*a*) and a secondary mechanism in lemon megagametophytes ([Rouiss](#page-14-7) *et al.*, 2017*b*).

Lime is the only horticultural group of the *Citrus* genus that includes triploid and tetraploid natural germplasm in addition to diploid germplasm. Limes are cultivated under sub-tropical and inter-tropical climates, and lime consumption has increased dramatically since the 1980s [\(Duportal](#page-12-9) *et al.*, 2013). Interestingly, the triploid 'Tahiti' lime is one of the least susceptible citrus varieties with regard to the main threat to citrus production in tropical and sub-tropical areas, Huanglongbing disease (HLB) caused by the phloem-limited bacterium *Candidatus liberibacter* spp. [\(Folimonova](#page-13-5) *et al.*, 2009). However, lime production is founded on a very narrow genetic base including a few diploid and triploid cultivars, and varietal diversification is needed to promote sustainable lime production. At the triploid level, the seedless 'Tahiti' lime type is predominantly produced for the export market. The other major triploid variety, i.e. the 'Tanepao' lime type, produces seedy fruits and has only limited areas of production.

Cultivated lime varieties are based on complex interspecific genomic structures, like most cultivated citrus. *Citrus* is a large genus that includes several major cultivated species. It is believed to be native to South-east Asia [\(Webber](#page-14-8) *et al.*, 1967), and it was probably first cultivated as a fruit crop >4000 years ago [\(Legge, 1865\)](#page-13-6). Molecular markers and genomic studies have identified four taxa, i.e. *Citrus reticulata* Blanco, *C. maxima* (Burm.) Merr., *C. medica* L. and *C. micrantha* Wester, as the ancestors of all cultivated *Citrus* species [\(Nicolosi](#page-13-7) *et al.*, [2000](#page-13-7); [Barkley](#page-12-10) *et al.*, 2006; [Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*a*; [Garcia-Lor](#page-13-9)  *et al.*[, 2013](#page-13-9)*a*; Curk *et al.*[, 2016](#page-12-3)). Differentiation between these ancestral taxa occurred through allopatric evolution, and then the so-called secondary species [*C. sinensis* (L.) Osb, sweet oranges; *C. aurantium* L., sour oranges; *C. paradisi*, grapefruits Macf; *C. limon* (L.) Burm., lemons] and particularly limes [*C. aurantiifolia* (Cristm.) Swing. and C. *latifolia* Tan.] were the result of reticulate evolution with a limited number of interspecific meiosis events.

While many citrus horticultural groups are diploid and result only from *C. reticulata* and *C. maxima* gene pools [\(Nicolosi](#page-13-7)  *et al.*[, 2000;](#page-13-7) [Barkley](#page-12-10) *et al.*, 2006; [Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*a*; [Garcia-](#page-13-9)Lor *et al.*[, 2013](#page-13-9)*a*), the genomic structure of limes appears more complex. Indeed, it involves the four ancestral taxa ([Curk](#page-12-3)  *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3). Various molecular analyses ([Nicolosi](#page-13-7) *et al.*, 2000; [Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*a*; [Garcia-Lor](#page-13-9) *et al.*, 2013*a*; [Curk](#page-12-3) *et al.*, [2016\)](#page-12-3) and cytogenetic studies ([Carvalho](#page-12-11) *et al.*, 2005) revealed that diploid 'Mexican' lime (*C. aurantiifolia*) results from direct natural hybridization between *C. micrantha* as female parent and *C. medica* as male parent. The tetraploid 'Giant Key' lime was selected by H. C. Barrett in Florida (US Horticultural Research Laboratory, Orlando) in a seedling of the diploid 'Key' lime classified as *C. aurantiifolia* by [Tanaka \(1961\)](#page-14-9).

Recently, Curk *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3) demonstrated the contribution of the four ancestral taxa to the *C. latifolia* triploid variety ('Tahiti' lime type) genome and proposed that it resulted from fertilization of a haploid ovule of *C. limon* by a diploid gamete of *C. aurantiifolia*. Lemon is a complex genome resulting from the hybridization of a citron (*C. medica*) and sour orange (a *C. maxima × C. reticulata* direct hybrid). The same authors proposed that *C. aurantiifolia* triploid varieties ('Tanepao' lime like) with only the contribution of *C. medica* and *C. micrantha*, probably resulted from an interspecific backcross with a diploid ovule of *C. aurantiifolia* (*C. micrantha* × *C. medica*) fertilized by *C. medica*. The actual phenotypic diversity around the 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' lime types should be the result of asexual variations (mutations or somaclonal variations). Today there is no evidence on the polyploidization mechanisms (interploid hybridization or 2*n* gametes) that produced triploid *C. latifolia* and *C. aurantiifolia* limes.

The genetic structure of diploid gamete populations and particularly the parental heterozygosity restitution (PHR) are driven by the diploid gamete origin. Therefore, molecular marker studies of diploid gametes may cast light on their origin. In the case of 2*n* gametes, PHR is a function of the genetic distance to the centromere [\(Zhao and Speed, 1998;](#page-14-10) [Cuenca](#page-12-5) *et al.*, 2015). In the centromeric area, PHR is null and total for SDR and FDR, respectively, increasing and decreasing with the genetic distance to the centromere. There are two extreme models for diploid gametes produced by tetraploid plants, i.e. disomic in allotetraploids and tetrasomic in autotetraploids [\(Stebbins, 1947](#page-14-11); [Stift](#page-14-12)  *et al.*[, 2008](#page-14-12); [Sybenga, 2012](#page-14-13)). In allotetraploids resulting from the merging of two species' genomes, there are two sets of homologous chromosomes. Each chromosome pairs only with its homologous form during meiosis [\(Sybenga, 2012\)](#page-14-13), and only bivalents are formed [\(Stebbins, 1947\)](#page-14-11). This results in disomic inheritance, with 100 % of the interspecific heterozygosity transmitted by each gamete (Stift *et al.*[, 2008\)](#page-14-12). In autotetraploids, the presence of four homologous chromosomes instead of two results in equal opportunities to pair at meiosis, leading to multivalent formation and tetrasomic inheritance ([Jackson](#page-13-10)  [and Jackson, 1996;](#page-13-10) [Sybenga, 1996](#page-14-14)). For doubled diploids, it hypothetically leads to 66 % restitution of the heterozygosity of the diploid that led to the tetraploid ([Sanford, 1983](#page-14-15); [Aleza](#page-12-12)  *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-12). Allo- and autotetraploids (with disomic and tetrasomic inheritance, respectively) are the extremes of the range. In cases where parents are divergent but have retained enough homology to prevent exclusive preferential pairing, inheritance patterns intermediate between di- and tetrasomic can be expected [\(Stebbins, 1947](#page-14-11); [Sybenga, 1996](#page-14-14); Stift *et al.*[, 2008](#page-14-12); Jeridi *et al.*[, 2012](#page-13-11)). Many polyploid taxa display a combination of autopolyploid and allopolyploid pairing behaviour ([Jackson](#page-13-10) [and Jackson, 1996](#page-13-10); [Allendorf and Danzmann, 1997;](#page-12-13) [Fjellstrom,](#page-12-14)  *et al.*[, 2001\)](#page-12-14), and several studies have revealed inheritance patterns intermediate between disomic and tetrasomic [\(Danzmann](#page-12-15)  [and Bogart, 1983](#page-12-15); [Hickok, 1978;](#page-13-12) [Marsden](#page-13-13) *et al.*, 1987; [Stift](#page-14-12)  *et al.*[, 2008\)](#page-14-12). Stift *et al.* [\(2008\)](#page-14-12) developed a likelihood-based approach to evaluate whether disomic, intermediate or tetrasomic inheritances best fitted the segregation of genetic markers and to estimate preferential pairing and double reduction (DR) rates. DR can occur for tetravalents and increases the homozygosity of diploid gametes ([Sybenga, 1995;](#page-14-16) [Ronfort](#page-14-17) *et al.*, 1998; Stift *et al.*[, 2008](#page-14-12); [Aleza](#page-12-12) *et al.*, 2016). This method was simplified for doubled diploids by Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\).](#page-12-12)

In the present study, we analyzed the preferential chromosome pairing and inheritance of the interspecific (*C. medica/C. micrantha*) doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime.

This was performed by combining a meiotic cytogenetic study and the analysis of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) and simple sequence repeat (SSR) marker segregation. The interspecific recombination and interspecific structures of diploid 'Mexican' lime gametes were then analysed from the genetic marker data, and their compatibility with *C. aurantiifolia* and *C. latifolia* triploid lime phylogenomic structure was evaluated. The implications for lime breeding programmes are discussed.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### *Plant materials*

Sexual hybridization between doubled-diploid 'Clemenules' clementine (*C. clementina* Hort. Ex Tan.) as female parent and doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime as male parent (Cl4*x* × ML4*x* hybridization) was performed at IVIA (Moncada, Spain) to obtain tetraploid hybrids (named ClemMex). The ClemMex hybrids were used to study the segregation model of doubleddiploid 'Mexican' lime. Doubled-diploid 'Clemenules' clementine was obtained by colchicine treatment of shoot-tip grafting *in vitro* (Aleza *et al.*[, 2009](#page-12-16)), whereas tetraploid 'Mexican' lime was identified by flow cytometry in seedlings of diploid 'Mexican' lime. Molecular marker analysis proved that it was a doubled diploid (Aleza *et al.*[, 2011\)](#page-12-2). The ploidy level was verified by flow cytometry, as described in Aleza *et al.* [\(2010\)](#page-12-17). Eighty-five tetraploid hybrids were obtained.

#### *Pollen viability*

Pollen viability was estimated using aceto-carmine colorimetric tests [\(Stanley and Linskens, 1974](#page-14-18)). Pollen viability was scored according to the staining level. Pollen with a bold red colour is viable and that which is colourless is unviable. The pollen viability rate was determined as the ratio of the number of viable grains to the total grain number.

#### *Meiotic chromosome preparation*

Fifty-one pollen mother cells (PMCs) of different anthers were observed and analysed for this work. Cytogenetic protocols that have been described for meiotic chromosome pairing for the *Musa* genus ([Shepherd, 1999\)](#page-14-19) were used. Flower buds, with diameters <5 mm, were collected from the IVIA-490 tetraploid 'Mexican' lime accession of the Citrus Germplasm Bank of pathogen-free plants [\(Navarro](#page-13-14) *et al.*, 2002). For each bud, two opposite anthers were desiccated, coloured by aceto-carmine and observed. The buds with the two anthers in the first metaphase stage were conserved for further analysis. They were fixed in a mixture of absolute ethanol:chloroform:acetic acid (6:3:1) for 24 h. Later they were transferred to 70 % alcohol for storage. The next steps of the protocol were done directly on the slides. The anthers were dissected and stained in a drop of 1 % carmine in 45 % acetic acid. A cover glass was placed on top, and the slides were warmed to well short of boiling point. The anthers were lightly pressed under the cover glass. Finally the cover glass edges were sealed with nail varnish to avoid drying out of the smear.

## *Genotyping of progeny using SSR and SNP markers*

Genomic DNA of the hybrids and their parents was isolated using the Plant DNAeasy kit from Qiagen Inc. (Valencia, CA, USA), according to the manufacturer's protocol. For SSRs, PCR amplifications were performed using a Thermocycle rep gradient S (Eppendorf<sup>®</sup>) in 10  $\mu$ L final volume containing 0.8 U of Taq DNA polymerase (Fermentas<sup>®</sup>), 2 ng  $\mu L^{-1}$  citrus DNA, 0.2 mm wellRED (Sigma®) dye-labelled forward primer, 0.2 mm non dye-labelled reverse primer, 0.2 mm of each dNTP,  $10\times$  PCR buffer and 1.5 mm MgCl<sub>2</sub>. The PCR protocol was as follows: denaturation at 94  $\degree$ C for 5 min followed by 40 repeats of 30 s at 94 °C, 1 min at 50 or 55 °C, 45 s at 72 °C and a final 4 min elongation step at 72 °C. Capillary electrophoresis was carried out using a CEQ™ 8000 Genetic Analysis System (Beckman Coulter Inc.). PCR products were initially denatured at 90 °C for 2 min, injected at 2 kV for 30 s and subsequently separated at 6 kV for 35 min. Alleles were sized, based on a DNA size standard (400 bp). GenomeLab™ GeXP v.10.0 genetic analysis software was used for data collection. Allele dosage was calculated using the MAC-PR (microsatellite DNA allele counting-peak ratio) method [\(Esselink](#page-12-18) *et al.*, 2004), vali-dated in citrus by [Cuenca](#page-12-7) *et al.* (2011).

Progeny were also genotyped with SNP markers using KASPar technology. The KASPar™ Genotyping System is a competitive, allele-specific dual Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based assay for SNP genotyping. Primers were directly designed by LGC Genomics based on the SNP locus flanking sequence. Detailed explanation of the specific conditions and reagents used the in KASPar technique can be found in [Cuppen \(2007\).](#page-12-19) Identification of allele dosages in heterozygous tetraploid hybrids was carried out on the basis of relative allele signals, as described by [Cuenca](#page-12-20) *et al.* (2013).

# *Control of the hybrid origin of tetraploid plants and inference of the diploid gamete genotype*

The hybrid origin was confirmed using two SSRs (mCr-CIR07F11 and MEST001) with total differentiation between the parents  $(A_1A_2 \times A_3A_4)$ .

To study the genetic structure of the diploid gametes produced from the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime, the male and female parents and 85 hybrids were genotyped using a total of 35 molecular markers (27 SSRs and eight SNPs) that were heterozygous for 'Mexican' lime and displayed polymorphism between 'Mexican' lime and 'Clemenules' clementine ([Table 1](#page-3-0)). These markers were described by Kijas *et al.* [\(1997\),](#page-13-15) [Ahmad](#page-12-21) *et al.* (2003), Luro *et al.* [\(2008\),](#page-13-16) [Froelicher](#page-13-17) *et al.* [\(2008\)](#page-13-17), [Ollitrault](#page-13-18) *et al.* (2010), [Cuenca](#page-12-7) *et al.* (2011), [Garcia-](#page-13-19)Lor *et al.* [\(2013](#page-13-19)*b*), [Ollitrault](#page-13-20) *et al.* (2012*a, b*) and [Curk](#page-12-22) *et al.* [\(2015\)](#page-12-22). They are distributed across all linkage groups (LGs) of the clementine genetic map [\(Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*b*), with a minimum of three molecular markers in LG07 and a maximum of five in LG06 and LG09. Distances of the markers to the centromere were estimated from the clementine genetic map ([Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*b*) and the estimated centromere genetic location [\(Aleza](#page-12-8) *et al.*, 2015). When the markers were not on the clementine genetic map, their genetic positions were inferred from their physical position and local correlations between the

Locus	GenBank accesion	LG	Genetic position (cM)	Distance to centromere	$Alleles*$		Bibliographic reference	
					Clementine	'Mexican' lime <sup>†</sup>		
1P199494	Ciclev10010680m.g	1	1.00	59.66	$C-C$	$T-C$	Curk et al. (2015)	
<b>CIBE5720</b>	ET082224	1	58.45	2.21	325-337	320-308	Ollitrault et al. (2010)	
MEST001	DY262452	1	70.61	9.95	$170 - 174$	186-190	Luro et al. (2008)	
JK-taa15	none	$\mathbf{1}$	119.73	59.07	188-192	$164 - 168$	Kijas et al. (1997)	
mCrCIR02D09	FR677569	$\overline{c}$	11.37	45.50	$230 - 238$	$233 - 248$	Cuenca et al. (2011)	
2P25198777	Ciclev10015267m.g	$\overline{c}$	67.6	10.73	$A - A$	$G-A$	Curk et al. (2015)	
JK-TAA41	None	$\overline{c}$	131.86	74.99	$147 - 154$	$132 - 170$	Kijas et al. (1997)	
mCrCIR04F12	FR692369	3	29.66	60.93	$261 - 263$	$263 - 259$	Ollitrault et al. (2012)	
<b>CIBE1644</b>	ET097780	3	70.23	20.36	346-364	350-368	Ollitrault et al. (2010)	
JI-TC01	CK934237	3	109.68	19.09	333-347	349-335	(Ollitrault <i>et al.</i> , $2012b$ )	
MEST131	DY276912	3	179.4	88.81	$141 - 147$	$141 - 124$	Garcia-Lor et al. (2012a)	
MEST070	DY268779	$\overline{4}$	4.25	11.89	218-220	224-193	Unpul. res.	
CID6458	ET086604	$\overline{4}$	15.88	0.259	385-397	397-388	Ollitrault et al. (2012a)	
mCrCIR07D06	FR677581	$\overline{4}$	16.33	0.19	$165 - 188$	$172 - 167$	Cuenca et al. $(2011)$	
mCrCIR03G05	FR677578	$\overline{4}$	75.06	58.92	$226 - 228$	219-215	Cuenca et al. $(2011)$	
mCrCIR07G11	AM489751	5	20.2	2.92	$202 - 210$	$208 - 145$	Froelicher et al. (2008)	
cms30	None	5	36.84	13.72	$152 - 156$	$150 - 154$	Ahmad et al. (2003)	
mCrCIR01F08a	AM489737	5	54	30.88	118-118	$131 - 128$	Froelicher et al. (2008)	
mCrCIR04H12	FR692371	6	$\theta$	6.4	$160 - 160$	166-178	Ollitrault et al. (2012)	
6P7496245	Ciclev10013603m.g	6	6.3	0.1	$C-C$	$G-C$	Curk et al. (2015)	
<b>MEST488</b>	DY297637	6	68.48	62.08	$126 - 130$	$120 - 128$	Garcia-Lor et al. (2012a)	
<b>PSY-C461</b>	AB037975	6	69.72	63.32	$A - A$	$T-A$	Ollitrault et al. (2012b)	
AOC-C593	DY293375	6	89.88	83.48	$T-T$	$A-T$	Ollitrault et al. (2012b)	
MEST107	DY274062	$\overline{7}$	8.899	87.531	$175 - 183$	175-181	Garcia-Lor et al. (2012a)	
$DXS-C545$	Ciclev10024949m.g	$\overline{7}$	40	56.43	$G-G$	$C-G$	Garcia-Lor et al. (2013b)	
mCrCIR03B07	FR677573	7	83.39	13.04	$263 - 265$	$273 - 277$	Cuenca et al. $(2011)$	
mCrCIR01F04a	AM489736	8	5.92	48.29	186-202	$202 - 171$	Froelicher et al. (2008)	
CiBE0214	ET088913	8	40.41	13.8	313-324	316-307	Ollitrault et al. (2010)	
8P18684429	Ciclev10028449m.g	8	55	0.79	$C-C$	$T-C$	Curk et al. (2015)	
mCrCIR02A09	FR677568	8	98.63	44.42	$160 - 163$	$163 - 178$	Cuenca et al. $(2011)$	
Ci02B07	AJ567403	9	$\theta$	52.16	$163 - 165$	$165 - 154$	Froelicher et al. (2008)	
mCrCIR07F11	FR677567	9	49.57	2.59	$152 - 160$	168-158	Kamiri et al. (2011)	
JI-TCT01	CV704385	9	52.8	0.64	$148 - 154$	$145 - 148$	Unpubl. res	
Ci08C05	AJ567415	9	55.14	2.98	154-175	135-152	Froelicher et al. (2008)	
9P31143176	Ciclev10006644m.g	9	88	35.84	$A - A$	$A-G$	Curk et al. (2015)	

<span id="page-3-0"></span>Table 1*. Molecular markers used to study the genetic structure of diploid gametes produced from tetraploid 'Mexican' lime, with their GenBank accession number, genetic position, noted alleles and bibliographical reference*

\*The numbers indicate the size of alleles in nucleotides for SSR markers, and letters correspond to SNP marker alleles.

† The first allele is the one inherited from *C. medica* and the second one from *C. micrantha*.

physical and genetic maps. Marker 6P7496245 was the closest to a centromere (0.10 cM from the LG06 centromere), while marker MEST131 was the furthest (88.74 cM from the LG03 centromere). Overall, 18 markers were considered as centromeric markers (15 SSRs and three SNPs), and the rest were either telomeric or intermediate markers. For 'Mexican' lime, the alleles inherited from *C. medica* and *C. micrantha* ancestors are respectively in the first and second positions in [Table 1.](#page-3-0)

For markers with total allelic differentiation between parents  $(A_1A_1A_2A_2 \times A_3A_3A_4A_4$  and  $A_1A_1A_1A_1 \times A_2A_2A_3A_3$ , the genotypes of the diploid gametes from 'Mexican' lime were inferred directly from the presence/absence of the specific alleles of the Mexican lime in the hybrid. When the male and female genitor shared one allele  $(A_1A_1A_1A_1 \times A_1A_1A_2A_2$  and  $A_1A_1A_2A_2$  $\times$  A<sub>2</sub>A<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub>A<sub>3</sub>), the diploid male gamete structure was inferred from the estimated allele dosage in the tetraploid hybrid. For markers with an  $A_1A_1A_1A_2A_2A_2$  configuration,  $A_1A_1$ ,  $A_1A_2$  and  $A_2A_2$  male gametes were inferred from  $A_1A_1A_1A_1$ ,  $A_1A_1A_2$  and  $A_1A_2A_2$  hybrid genotypes, respectively. For markers with an  $A_1A_1A_2A_2 \times A_2A_2A_3A_3$  allelic configuration,

the nine potential combinations of the two parental diploid gametes produced nine tetraploid hybrid genotypes totally differentiated by allele dosages:  $A_1A_1A_2A_2$ ,  $A_1A_1A_2A_3$ ,  $A_1A_1A_3A_3$ ,  $A_1A_2A_2A_2$ ,  $A_1A_2A_2A_3$ ,  $A_1A_2A_3A_3$ ,  $A_2A_2A_2A_2$ ,  $A_2A_2A_2A_3$  and  $A_2A_3A_3$ . The male diploid gametes inferred from these tetraploid hybrid genotypes were, respectively,  $A_2A_2$ ,  $A_2A_3$ ,  $A_3A_3$ ,  $A_2A_2$ ,  $A_2A_3$ ,  $A_3A_3A_2A_2$ ,  $A_2A_3$  and  $A_3A_3$ .

# *Statistical analysis of preferential pairing*

Stift *et al.* [\(2008\)](#page-14-12) proposed a segregation model to interpret the inheritance model in allotetraploid citrus. [Aleza](#page-12-12) *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12) simplified it for the doubled diploid, considering that the expected gamete frequencies depend only on the 'tetrasomic' parameter  $(\tau)$  corresponding to the proportion of gametes formed by random meiotic chromosome associations (random bivalent or tetravalent pairing), while taking values from zero (full disomic) to one (full tetrasomic).  $\tau$  was estimated by a maximum likelihood approach, as proposed by Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12),

from the analysis of the closest marker to the centromere for each chromosome. Having a *τ* value estimated for each chromosome, the preferential pairing (PP) was calculated as  $1 - \tau$ . Parental heterozygosity restitution (PHR) was calculated for each marker as the percentage of inferred heterozygous diploid gametes.

# *Genetic mapping*

With the aim of studying the interspecific recombination (*C. medica*/*C. micrantha*) at the tetraploid level, we anchored LGs inferred from 'Mexican' lime diploid gametes on the reference clementine genome sequence ([https://phytozome.](https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html) [jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html](https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html)) and compared it with genetic maps of clementine at the diploid and tetraploid levels, also anchored in the reference sequence. The diploid clementine genetic map ([Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*b*) was used as the reference map for the *Citrus* genome reference sequence assembly (Wu *et al.*[, 2014\)](#page-14-20). For the tetraploid clementine map, we used the 57 molecular marker segregation analysis published by Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12). For tetraploid 'Mexican' lime, 34 out of the 35 markers analysed for this study were used. Indeed, SNP marker 8P18684429 showed no segregation, with 100 % heterozygosity. Each tetraploid progeny was analysed with Tetraploid Map Software [\(Hackett](#page-13-23) *et al.*, 2007) using the default parameters to establish the different map distances in centiMorgans. Then, the genetic and physical maps were drawn using the MapChart program ([Voorrips, 2002\)](#page-14-21).

## RESULTS

#### *Pollen viability and cytogenetic analysis*

A total of 1179 pollen grains were monitored and 64 % pollen viability was recorded ([Fig. 1\)](#page-4-0). For the cytogenetic observations, two-thirds of the chromosomes were implicated in biva-lent pairing (Fig. 2A, [B](#page-5-0); Table 2). The majority of the other chromosomes were involved in tetravalent pairing. Both closed and chain tetravalents were distinguishable. We found that 25.05 and 6.32 %, respectively, of the chromosomes were in chain tetravalent and closed tetravalent configurations [\(Fig. 2C,](#page-5-0)

[D\)](#page-5-0). The average number of bivalent and tetravalent configurations per PMC was 11.71 and 2.82, respectively, while that of monovalent and trivalent configurations per PMC was very low (mean 0.41 and 0.29, respectively, per PMC).

The analysis of configurations at the individual PMC level (Supplementary Data Fig. S1) revealed at least eight bivalents and two tetravalents per PMC. Twelve bivalents per PMC was the most frequent situation (19 PMCs), with a maximum of 14 bivalents observed in 13 PMCs. Up to four tetravalents per PMC were found in 14 PMCs. Fifteen PMCs had at least one monovalent and one trivalent.

Configurations with one trivalent and one monovalent may be interpreted as a broken tetravalent or incomplete tetravalent in which one chromosome is disjoined as monovalent by the absence of chiasmata on its two arms ([Sybanga, 1975;](#page-14-22) [Jeredi](#page-13-11) *et al.*[, 2012\)](#page-13-11). Under this hypothesis, three configurations were predominant: 12 bivalents/three tetravalents (18 PMCs; 35 %), 14 bivalents/two tetravalents (13 PMCs; 25 %) and ten bivalents/four tetravalents (13 PMCs; 25 %).

# *Molecular marker analysis*

Eighty-five plants were obtained from the tetraploid clementine × tetraploid 'Mexican' lime hybridization. Flow cytometry analysis demonstrated that all were tetraploids. They were analysed with two SSR markers without a common allele between the two parents, i.e. mCrCIR07F11 and MEST001, to study their genetic origin. For each marker, at least one specific allele of 'Mexican' lime was observed in all plants. Moreover, in many plants, the two specific alleles of 'Mexican' lime were observed in combination with clementine alleles (Fig. 3). The Cl $4x \times$ ML4*x* hybrid origin of all analysed plants was thus confirmed.

These 85 hybrids were analysed with 35 co-dominant markers. The genotypes of the 'Mexican' lime diploid gamete were inferred along with their phylogenomic structure [*C. micrantha* or *C. medica* homozygosity or interspecific heterozygosity (Supplementary Data Table S1)]. On average, for all loci, 90.2 % PHR was observed [\(Table 3](#page-6-1); Table S1) and it ranged from 82.7 % for LG05 to 95.6  $%$  for LG08 (Table 3). At the individual marker level [\(Fig. 4A;](#page-7-0) Supplementary Data Table S1), PHR



<span id="page-4-0"></span>Fig. 1. Pollen grains of tetraploid 'Mexican' lime stained with aceto-carmine. Bold red colour indicates viable and colourless (blue) non-viable.



Fig. 2. Chromosome pairing configuration. (A) Pollen mother cells (PMCs) of tetraploid 'Mexican' lime. (B) Schematic interpretation of (A) one univalent (blue) + 12 bivalents (black) + one trivalent (green) + two tetravalents (red). (C) Open tetravalent (arrow). (D–F) Closed (ring) tetravalents (arrows).

ranged from 74.1 to 100 % for mCrCIR04F12 (LG03) and 8P18684429 (LG08) markers, respectively.

A slight decrease in PHR was observed in most LGs from centromeric to telomeric markers. For instance, for LG01, the PHR values were 92.9 and 94.1 % for the two centromeric SSR markers CIBE5720 and MEST001,

<span id="page-5-0"></span>respectively, and they decreased to 85.9 and 88.2 % for the telomeric markers 1P199494 and JK-TAA15, respectively. This reduction could be associated with DR in the case of tetravalent associations.

At the individual gamete level, PHR displayed a unimodal distribution and ranged from 0.66 to 1; six gametes were fully

<span id="page-5-1"></span>



*n*, number of association structures; % IC, percentage of involved chromosomes; C/PMC, average number of configurations per PMC.



<span id="page-6-0"></span>Fig. 3. Illustration of SSR and SNP genotyping for 'Clemenules' clementine × 'Mexican' lime tetraploid hybrids and their parents. (A) Electropherogram of a tetraploid hybrid recovered from hybridization between tetraploid 'Clemenules 'clementine and tetraploid 'Mexican' lime, and its parents with mCrCIR07F11 SSR marker. nt, nucleotides. Top, tetraploid 'Mexican' lime; middle, tetraploid clementine; bottom, tetraploid hybrid. (B) Plot of C and T allele signals of the 1P199494 SNP marker representing tetraploid hybrids from the same hybridization. Letters indicate the allelic configuration for each genotype. Blue and purple dots, CCCC tetraploid hybrids and clementine, respectively; black dots, CCCT tetraploid hybrids; orange and red dots, CCTT tetraploid hybrids and tetraploid 'Mexican' lime, respectively; green dot, TT diploid control; grey dot, water control.

heterozygous and 58.8 % of the diploid gametes displayed a PHR >90 % ([Fig. 4B;](#page-7-0) Supplementary Data Table S1).

On average, for all loci and gametes, the percentages of *C. micrantha* and *C. medica* homozygosity were 4.7 and 5.1 %, respectively. A more accurate analysis of the data at the gamete level ([Table 3](#page-6-1); Supplementary Data Table S1) revealed that the majority (77.8 %) of individual LGs of the different hybrids were fully heterozygous. Conversely, only nine (1.2 %) and six (0.8 %) fully homozygous LGs for *C. micrantha* and *C. medica*, respectively, were observed. A total of 20.26% of the individual LGs displayed a mixed structure with homozygosity and heterozygosity, and all nine citrus LGs were affected. Homozygous and mixed LGs testified for pairing of *C. micrantha* and *C. medica* chromosomes, and mixed LGs indicated interspecific recombination. The number of LGs with homozygosity for both markers flanking the centromere was low (5.23 %) and varied between chromosomes, ranging from 12.9 % in LG05 to <0.01 % for LG03, LG07 and LG08.

#### *Estimation of preferential association frequency*

The values of  $\tau$  and PP were estimated from the likelihood models ([Table 4](#page-8-0)) for each LG. Disomic inheritance with high preferential pairing values was observed for LG07 and LG08  $(PP = 0.965)$  and for LG02 (PP = 0.86). A PP trend was found for LG01, LG03, LG04, LG06 and LG09 (0.68 < PP < 0.79). For LG05, the intermediate model fitted better than the disomic or tetrasomic models ( $PP = 0.50$ ).

#### *Genetic mapping and recombination rate analysis*

The genetic maps were established on the basis of the SSR and SNP marker segregations and then compared using the physical positions as common reference ([Fig. 5\)](#page-9-0). The average recombination rates per megabase were estimated for each LG and each population considering the extreme marker positions on the genetic and physical maps ([Table 5](#page-10-0)).

	<b>PHR</b>	FH	Fmed	Fmic	Mixed
LG1	90.3	76.5	2.4		20.0
LG2	95.3	90.6	0.0	0.0	9.4
LG3	85.0	57.6	1.2	0.0	41.2
LG4	89.7	77.6	1.2	1.2	20.0
LG5	82.7	72.9	2.4	4.7	20.0
LG6	88.0	80.0	0.0	3.5	16.5
LG7	92.9	82.4	0.0	0.0	17.6
LG8	95.6	82.4	0.0	0.0	17.6
LG9	92.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
Total	90.2	77.8	0.8	1.2	20.3

<span id="page-6-1"></span>Table 3*. Interspecific structures of 'Mexican' lime diploid gametes for the nine LGs*

PHR, parental heterozygosity restitution; FH, percentage of fully heterozygous gametes for the LG; Fmed, percentage of fully *C. medica* homozygous gametes for the LG; Fmic, percentage of fully *C. micrantha* homozygous gametes for the LG; Mixed, percentage of gametes with mixed heterozygosity and homozygosity for the LG.



<span id="page-7-0"></span>FIG. 4. Distribution of PHR values among markers (A) and diploid gametes (B) obtained from tetraploid 'Mexican' lime.

For the diploid clementine genetic and physical maps, the considered positions were those published by [Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.* [\(2012](#page-13-8)*b*) and Wu *et al.* [\(2014\),](#page-14-20) respectively. These maps were compared with the two tetraploid genetic maps. For the genetic maps, only markers common to the tetraploid clementine map were selected. For the physical map, we retained the previous markers plus those of the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime map.

For the tetraploid clementine map, the positions of 57 molecular markers of tetraploid clementine published previously by Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12) were inferred. The map size was 864 cM. Compared with the clementine genetic map, synteny was complete and the marker order preserved, except for very close telomeric markers in LG02 and LG06. The genetic distances of the two clementine maps were very similar, with average rates of  $3.29$  and  $3.41$  cM Mb<sup>-1</sup> for the diploid and tetraploid clementines and limited variation among LGs.

For the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime map, the 34 segregating molecular markers of the present study (the 8P18684429 marker was heterozygous for the 85 analysed hybrids) were mapped. The map spanned only 272 cM. The majority of the markers maintained the same order as on the clementine physical map, although three inversions were observed on LG02, LG04 and LG06. The distances between markers were considerably lower than on the diploid and tetraploid clementine maps. Indeed, the average rate of recombination of the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime was 1.21 cM Mb<sup>-1</sup>, close to 3-fold lower than that observed for the tetraploid clementine.

# DISCUSSION

*Meiotic behavior of the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime revealed by cytogenetics*

Asynapsis, dependent on low temperature, has been described in diploid 'Mexican' lime ([Iwamasa and Iwasaki, 1963](#page-13-24)). No evidence of asynapsis was observed in the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime. Indeed, the very low rate of monovalents observed during microsporogenesis indicated that such an abnormality in meiosis was not induced in the tetraploid lime cultivated in Spain. The asynaptic behaviour was recorded at temperatures <10 °C ([Iwamasa and Iwasaki, 1963](#page-13-24)), while our sampling was done at  $>16$  °C.

A common approach to distinguish autotetraploids from allotetraploids is to assess the tetravalent formation frequency. In genuine autotetraploids, about two-thirds of the chromosomes are usually involved in tetravalent configurations [\(Morrison and](#page-13-25) [Rajhathy, 1960](#page-13-25)). However, this should be considered with caution since genetic systems involving diploidization or preferential pairing could exist.

The predominance of bivalents  $(65 \%)$  in the meiosis of tetraploid 'Mexican' lime was consistent with observations in several allotetraploid somatic hybrids, including *C. deliciosa* + *C. limon* [\(Kamiri](#page-13-22) *et al.*, 2011), *C. sinensis* + *C. limon* ([Del](#page-12-23)  [Bosco](#page-12-23) *et al.*, 1999; Chen *et al.*[, 2004](#page-12-24)) and Tangelo (*C. reticulata* × *C. paradisi*) + *C. grandis* (Xie *et al.*[, 2015\)](#page-14-23). These studies, as in our work, also revealed tetravalent formation and a low percentage of monovalents and trivalents. Multivalent frequency in tetraploids is usually related to the pairing affinity ([Jeredi](#page-13-11) *et al.*, [2012\)](#page-13-11). The chromosome length and centromere position may also influence the multivalent frequency ([McCollum, 1958](#page-13-26)). Homeologous pairing can also be under genetic control in some species ([Jenczewski](#page-13-27) *et al.*, 2003; [Griffiths](#page-13-28) *et al.*, 2006; Qi *[et al.](#page-13-29)*, [2007;](#page-13-29) [Cifuentes](#page-12-25) *et al.*, 2010).

Structural variations strongly affect chromosome pairing. A large heterozygous inversion resulting in partial gametophyte sterility was described in diploid 'Mexican' lime ([Iwamasa,](#page-13-30)  [1966;](#page-13-30) [Iwamasa and Nito, 1988\)](#page-13-31). In Valencia (Spain), the pollen viability of diploid 'Mexican' lime was estimated to be <10 % (Pons *et al.*[, 2011](#page-13-32)). Interestingly, we observed 64 % pollen viability for the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime, i.e. higher than the rates (31–41 %) reported by Aleza *et al.* [\(2012\)](#page-12-26) and [Del Bosco](#page-12-23) *et al.* (1999) for different doubled-diploid and somatic hybrids. When interspecific diploid hybrid sterility is due to improper chromosome pairing, the generation of allotetraploids by chromosome doubling results in a homologue for each chromosome to pair with during meiosis and can allow for the development of fertile gametes ([Zadoo](#page-14-24)  *et al.*[, 1975](#page-14-24); [Lu and Bridgen, 1997;](#page-13-33) [Van Tuyl and De Jeu, 1997](#page-14-25); [Contreras](#page-12-27) *et al.*, 2007).

We observed that 6.3 % of the chromosomes were involved in closed tetravalents. Moreover, more than one closed tetravalent was observed in some PMCs. In diploid species, the observation of closed tetravalents is considered as evidence of the presence of heterozygous reciprocal translocation ([Sybenga, 1975](#page-14-22)). Reciprocal translocation is defined as the interchange of part of a chromosome with part of another ([Sybenga, 1995](#page-14-16)), resulting in meiotic configuration alterations. The affected chromosomes may form a ring or a chain tetravalent structure [\(Sybenga,](#page-14-22) [1975,](#page-14-22) [2012\)](#page-14-13). In citrus, reciprocal translocation was described

LG	Locus	DC	Mic/Mic	Med/Mic	Med/Med		<b>PP</b>
	Cibe5720	2.21		79		0.210	0.790
	2P25198777	10.73		81		0.140	0.860
	JI-TC01	19.09		78		0.245	0.755
4	mCrCIR07D06	0.19		79		0.210	0.790
	mCrCIR07G11	2.93				0.495	0.505
6	6P7496245	0.10		76		0.320	0.680
	mCrCIR03B07	13.04		84		0.035	0.965
8	CiBE0214	13.80		84		0.035	0.965
9	JI-TCT01	0.64		78		0.245	0.755

<span id="page-8-0"></span>Table 4*. Estimation of* τ *and PP from centromeric loci of the nine LGs of tetraploid 'Mexican' lime*

LG, linkage group; DC, distance to the centromere [from reference genetic map data [\(Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.* 2012*b*) and location of centromere [\(Aleza](#page-12-8) *et al.* 2015)]; Med/Med, Med/Mic and Mic/Mic, number of individuals with such allelic configuration; *τ*, tetrasomic rate; PP, preferential pairing.

in diploid 'Valencia' and 'Lue Gin Gong' sweet oranges (*C. sinensis*), in which tetravalents were frequently observed [\(Iwamasa and Iwasaki, 1963\)](#page-13-24). [Del Bosco](#page-12-23) *et al.* (1999) studied meiosis of an allotetraploid somatic hybrid between 'Valencia' sweet orange and 'Femminello' lemon, and revealed that reciprocal translocation still existed in the somatic hybrid. Closed tetravalents were not observed in the previous cytogenetic study of diploid 'Mexican' lime, while inversion was described [\(Iwamasa and Nito, 1988;](#page-13-31) [Iwamasa, 1966\)](#page-13-30). The presence of a double inversion affecting the two arms of the same chromosome should be in line with our observations for the doubled diploid and the previous data for the diploid 'Mexican' lime [\(Fig. 6](#page-10-1)). This double inversion pattern may result from chromosome structural variation between *C. medica* and *C. micrantha*, i.e. the two parental species of 'Mexican' lime [\(Nicolosi](#page-13-7) *et al*, [2000](#page-13-7); [Carvalho](#page-12-11) *et al.*, 2005; Curk *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3).

# *Doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime has intermediary inheritance with a preferential disomic trend*

[Froelicher](#page-13-34) *et al.* (2000) were the first to analyse the inheritance of molecular markers in a tetraploid Aurantioideae, i.e. *Clausena excavata*. They concluded that strict disomic inheritance occurred.

Our study reveals preferential disomic inheritance for the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime, with an average PHR value of 90 %. This value is higher than those observed by [Kamiri](#page-13-22) *et al.* [\(2011\),](#page-13-22) who reported PHR values ranging from 54 to 79 % for a *C. deliciosa* + *C. limon* tetraploid somatic hybrid. Xie *et al.* [\(2015\)](#page-14-23) reported 76.2 % PHR for a somatic hybrid between Tangelo and a pummelo, while it was 65 % for a doubled-diploid clementine [\(Aleza](#page-12-12) *et al.*, 2016). In direct relation to PHR, the preferential pairing rate was high for most LGs for the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime. Disomic inheritance with high preferential pairing values was observed for LG02, LG07 and LG08. Preferential pairing trends were found for five LGs (LG01, LG03, LG04, LG06 and LG09). For LG05, the intermediate models fitted better than the disomic or tetrasomic model (PP =  $0.50$ ). Lower values were estimated by [Kamiri](#page-13-22) *et al.* [\(2011\)](#page-13-22) and Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12). For instance, [Aleza](#page-12-12) *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12) concluded that non-preferential pairing ( $PP = 0$ ) was observed for five LGs in DD clementine.

Most interspecific diploid hybrids within the *Citrus* genus, except 'Mexican' lime, display high fertility ([Ollitrault and](#page-13-8) [Navarro, 2012\)](#page-13-8). It indicates good pairing affinity and therefore limited chromosome variations between species. Tetraploid genotypes offer a choice of chromosome partners, which is not available at the diploid level. Therefore, doubled-diploid meiosis may reveal chromosomal variations between ancestral species not identified at the diploid level. The different meiotic behaviours observed by [Kamiri](#page-13-22) *et al.* (2011), Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12) and in our study could be due to the phylogenomic structure of the different genotypes. Regarding the *C. reticulata* + *C. limon* hybrid studied by [Kamiri](#page-13-22) *et al.* (2011), the phylogenomic structure is highly complex as *C. limon* results from (*C. maxima × C. reticulata*) × *C. medica* natural hybridization (Curk *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3). Therefore this somatic hybrid harbours two-ancestor heterozygosity (*C. reticulata/C. reticulata/C. reticulata/C. medica*) or three-ancestor heterozygosity (*C. reticulata/C. reticulata/C. maxima/C. medica*) at each locus. The doubled-diploid clementine studied by Aleza *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-12) had a simpler structure with a predominant *C. reticulata* genomic constitution, with some genomic segments showing *C. reticulata/C. reticulata/C. maxima/C. maxima* heterozygosity. *Citrus aurantiifolia* is a hybrid of two distant species  $(C.$  micrantha  $\times C.$  medica), so each locus displays *C. micrantha/C. micrantha/C. medica/C. medica* heterozygosity. Molecular studies [\(García](#page-13-9) *et al.*, 2013*a*; Curk *et al.*[, 2014,](#page-12-28) [2015](#page-12-22); [Carbonell-Caballero](#page-12-29) *et al.*, 2015) have shown that *C. medica* is the cultivated citrus ancestor most distant from the three other ancestral taxa. Both sequence divergence and structural variations between *C. medica* and *C. micrantha* probably drive the preferential pairing and intermediary preferential disomic inheritance observed for the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime. As stated by [Stebbins \(1950\),](#page-14-26) the extent of differentiation may vary between the different sets of chromosomes and could explain the difference in PP rates between the chromosomes. Interestingly, in the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime, none of the nine chromosomes displayed tetrasomic inheritance, suggesting that pairing is more affected by overall differentiation rather than discrete and local large structural variations, such as the inversion described in diploid 'Mexican' lime.

# *Interspecific recombination occurs in each LG but is markedly lower compared with the recombination rates in doubled-diploid clementine*

Despite the disomic trend, mixed heterozygous/homozygous structures were observed for the nine citrus LGs, revealing interspecific recombination between *C. medica* and



<span id="page-9-0"></span> $\sigma$ 



<span id="page-10-0"></span>Table 5*. Average recombination rates per LG (cM Mb–1) for diploid and tetraploid clementine and tetraploid 'Mexican' lime*

	$2x$ Clementine		$4x$ Clementine $4x$ 'Mexican' lime
LG1	3.53	2.99	0.82
LG2	3.97	4.65	0.31
LG3	2.79	3.46	1.88
LG4	3.37	3.53	1.28
LG5	2.64	2.42	1.68
LG6	3.51	3.78	1.07
LG7	5.49	3.49	2.12
LG8	4.12	3.40	1.16
LG9	2.63	3.30	0.94
Total	3.29	3.41	1.21

LG, linkage group.



<span id="page-10-1"></span>Fig. 6. Interpretation for reconciliation of microsporogenesis observations in diploid and doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime: double inversion can produce a closed tetravalent during doubled-diploid meiosis.

*C. micrantha*, the parents of the 'Mexican' lime [\(Nicolosi](#page-13-7) *et al.*, [2000](#page-13-7); Curk *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3) for the nine citrus chromosomes. For LG05, 12.9 % of the gametes displayed homozygosity on both sides of the centromere, suggesting higher homology between *C. micrantha* and *C. medica* for the corresponding chromosome than for the others (5.3 % in average). This was confirmed by the intermediate preferential pairing findings for chromosome 5, while the other chromosomes displayed intermediate inheritances with a disomic trend or disomic inheritance. Interspecific recombination was observed in distal areas for most chromosomes. It appeared, however, to be very limited for LG08, with only 2.4 % of identified interspecific recombined gametes in one of the two chromosome arms.

Genetic mapping revealed effective recombination rates (1.2 cM Mb–1) that were markedly lower compared with diploid  $(3.3 \text{ cM} \text{ Mb}^{-1})$  and tetraploid clementine  $(3.4 \text{ cM} \text{ Mb}^{-1})$ . This was, at least partly, a direct consequence of the medium to high preferential pairing that prevented interspecific chiasmata and thus interspecific recombination. Sequence divergence between *C. medica* and *C. micrantha* might also decrease the recombination frequency when interspecific pairing is effective. Interspecificity is well known to decrease recombination rates ([Manrique-Carpintero](#page-13-35) *et al.*, 2016). The impact of structural heterozygosity on the recombination frequency is variable, as discussed by Parker *et al.* [\(1982\)](#page-13-36). It is, however, well established that sequence divergence at the interspecific level has an inhibitory effect on sexual recombination ([Chambers](#page-12-30) *et al.*, [1996](#page-12-30); [Liharska](#page-13-37) *et al.*, 1996; [Chetelat](#page-12-31) *et al.*, 2000; [Opperman](#page-13-38) *et al.*[, 2004](#page-13-38); Li *et al.*[, 2006](#page-13-39)). In citrus, variations in recombination rates were observed between clementine and sweet orange ([Ollitrault](#page-13-8) *et al.*, 2012*b*). The authors proposed that this may be related to the higher *C. reticulata/C. maxima* heterozygosity in sweet orange than in clementine. Genetic mapping of diploid 'Mexican' lime would cast light on a potential limitation of sexual recombination due to interspecific genome divergence.

Synteny was observed in diploid clementine, doubled-diploid clementine and 'Mexican' lime. Collinearity was high between diploid and tetraploid clementine maps, while the alignment of the genetic maps of tetraploid 'Mexican' lime with diploid clementine revealed three inversions in LG02, LG04 and LG06. However, the low number of observed recombinations and markers analysed questions the reliability of these observations (a few genotyping errors can lead to erroneous ordering). Saturated mapping of larger populations would be necessary to be able to associate the inversion concluded from the cytogenetic studies [\(Iwamasa, 1970](#page-13-40)) and the inverted LGs.

*Diploid gamete structures of doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime are compatible with the origin of triploid* C. aurantiifolia *and*  C. latifolia *limes*

'Persian', 'Tahiti' and 'Bears' are different lime varieties classified as *C. latifolia*, and representing the same ideotype, producing large seedless lime fruits. It is believed that they are a group of clones derived from the same ancestral hybrid. 'Tahiti' lime was introduced into the Mediterranean region through Iran (where it is called 'Persian' lime), while it reached California from Tahiti between 1850 and 1880 and was introduced in Florida by 1883. The genetic origin of 'Tahiti' lime was unclear until a recent publication of [Curk](#page-12-3) *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3). Previous cytoplasmic studies showed that 'Tahiti' lime shared the same cytoplasm as *C. limon* and *C. aurantium* ([Bayer](#page-12-32) *et al.*, 2009; [Froelicher](#page-13-41) *et al.*, 2011). [Reece and Childs](#page-14-27) [\(1962\)](#page-14-27) proposed, on the basis of morphological trait segregation studies in 'Tahiti' lime seedlings, that this variety may result from lime by citron or lemon hybridization, but they did not recognize the triploid status of 'Tahiti' lime. Another ideotype of triploid lime producing large seedy lime fruits, represented by several cultivars (such as 'Tanepao', 'Coppenrhad', 'Ambilobe' and 'Mothasseb' limes and 'Madagascar' lemon)

is cultivated to a lesser extent. Curk *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3) demonstrated that these varieties, classified as *C. aurantiifolia*, are genetically very close and probably derive from the same ancestral hybrid by mutation or epigenetic variations. They share the same cytoplasm as 'Mexican' lime (Curk *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3). On the basis of cytoplasmic and nuclear molecular data, [Curk](#page-12-3) *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3) proposed that the two main types of triploid limes, i.e. 'Tahiti' lime and 'Tanepao' lime, were interspecific hybrids involving a diploid gamete of *C. aurantiifolia* combined with a haploid ovule of *C. limon* and a haploid pollen of *C. medica*, respectively. Moreover, their data suggest that the PHRs of the concerned diploid gamete were 88 and 95 %, respectively. Curk *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3) hypothesized that these diploid gametes could have originated from a natural doubled diploid of 'Mexican' lime similar to the 'Giant Key' lime selected in a seedling of diploid 'Key' lime (a 'Mexican' lime clone), or could be unreduced gametes from a diploid 'Mexican' limelike variety. The average PHR value (90.2 %) and range (between 65.7 and 100 %) observed in the present study for doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime are compatible with those estimated by Curk *et al.* [\(2016\)](#page-12-3) for 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' types. Conversely, SDR, which is described as the main mechanism of unreduced mega-gametophyte production in citrus ([Luro](#page-13-42)  *et al.*[, 2004](#page-13-42); [Cuenca](#page-12-7) *et al.*, 2011, [2015;](#page-12-8) Aleza *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-12), results in lower PHR values (40 % on average) ([Peloquin,](#page-13-43)  [1983](#page-13-43); [Hutten](#page-13-44) *et al.*, 1994; [Carputo](#page-12-33) *et al.*, 2003). Therefore, SDR 2*n* gametes are not compatible with the interspecific genetic structure of 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' limes. FDR, identified as the predominant mechanism for diploid pollen formation in a clementine × sweet orange hybrid ([Rouiss](#page-14-6) *et al.*, 2017*a*), and secondary mechanisms in lemon 2*n* gamete ovule production [\(Rouiss](#page-14-7) *et al.*, 2017*b*), should produce diploid gametes with high PHR (80 % on average; [Peloquin, 1983;](#page-13-43) [Hutten](#page-13-44)  *et al.*[, 1994;](#page-13-44) [Carputo](#page-12-33) *et al.*, 2003), particularly if combined with asynapsis. Indeed, FDR associated with strict asynapsis for all chromosomes would result in 100 % PHR. Studies on the mechanisms and structure of unreduced gametes of diploid 'Mexican' lime would be necessary to conclude definitively on the origin of *C. latifolia* and *C. aurantiifolia* triploid limes. However, the interploid hybridization hypothesis is consistent with the actual molecular data on these two types of triploid limes, the natural occurrence of tetraploid 'Mexican' limes and our present results on the phylogenetic diploid gamete structure produced by doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime.

## *Implications for 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' lime-like breeding*

As discussed earlier, doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime can produce diploid gametes with a genetic structure similar to those that led to the 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' lime types. This offers the possibility of developing a reconstruction breeding strategy for these limes using a doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime-like parent, selected for interesting variations (disease resistance, improved phenology, primary and secondary metabolite contents, etc.). These parents should be mutational variants of 'Mexican' lime but also genotypes of similar interspecific origin such as *C. macrophylla*, *C. excelsa* or *C. aurata* ([Curk](#page-12-3)  *et al.*[, 2016](#page-12-3)) or recent hybrids. Similarly, for the lemon-like parent, they should be natural mutants of the 'Mediterranean

lemon' but also genotypes derived from a similar *C. aurantium × C. medica* hybridization such as *C. limeta* (Curk *et al.*[, 2016\)](#page-12-3) or recent hybrids.

Chromosome doubling in diploid 'Mexican' lime restored good pollen viability, so this could be used in extensive breeding programmes to produce 'Tahiti' and 'Tanepao' lime-like hybrids. This could be much more efficient than searching for triploid hybrids resulting from unreduced gametes of 'Mexican' limes. Indeed, the partial apomixis of parents, which markedly limits hybrid recovery, combined with the relatively low frequency of 2*n* gametes described in citrus ([Esen and Soost,](#page-12-4)  [1971;](#page-12-4) [Geraci](#page-13-45) *et al.*, 1977; [Cuenca](#page-12-5) *et al.*, 2015), could be a real impediment for efficient triploid lime breeding from unreduced gametes. The successful use of unreduced gametes for triploid mandarin breeding was based on the selection of non-apomictic female parents ([Ollitrault](#page-13-4) *et al.*, 2008; [Aleza](#page-12-17) *et al.*, 2010).

The predominant intermediate segregation with a disomic inheritance pattern observed for the different LGs of doubleddiploid 'Mexican' lime results in highly heterozygous gametes. Indeed, about 90 % of 'Mexican' lime heterozygosity would be transmitted to triploid progenies via diploid gametes. This should avoid inbreeding depression in triploid hybrids that can occur when using doubled-diploid parents with tetrasomic inheritance ([Gallais, 2003](#page-13-46)). The low diversity between diploid gametes produced by such meiotic mechanisms is also favourable for reconstructing phylogenomic structures similar to the two triploid lime ideotypes, thus optimizing the probability of selecting new varieties phenotypically close to the ideotypes. The development and application of diagnostic molecular markers of the four ancestral taxa of cultivated citrus [\(Curk](#page-12-22) *et al.*[, 2015](#page-12-22)) will help improve the efficiency of such reconstruction breeding strategies.

On the other hand, the limited effective interspecific recombination associated with predominant disomic inheritance, as illustrated by the decrease in the genetic length of the different genetic LGs for tetraploid 'Mexican' lime as compared with diploid and tetraploid clementine maps, should impact the breeding efficiency due to an increased linkage drag. This would require developing large progeny if needed to separate a given locus of genetic importance from another linked undesired locus. However, although limited, interspecific recombination has been observed for each chromosome, thus enhancing the possibilities for lime breeding considering the high pollen viability of doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime and thus the capacity for generating large triploid progenies.

#### *Conclusion*

Disomic segregation was found to predominate in doubleddiploid 'Mexican' lime. Preferential pairing varied between chromosomes. Disomic inheritance with high PP values was observed for three LGs (LG02, LG07 and LG08), while intermediate segregation with a PP trend was found for five LGs (LG01, LG03, LG04, LG06 and LG09), and intermediate segregation for LG05. However, interspecific (*C. medica/C. micrantha)* chromosome pairing and recombination was revealed for each LG in the molecular marker study. The disomic pattern limits effective interspecific recombination and the diversity of the diploid gamete population. The interspecific

phylogenetic structures of the produced diploid gametes with high *C. medica/C. micrantha* heterozygosity were compatible with those that generate triploid *C. latifolia* and *C. aurantiifolia* varieties that may therefore result from interploid hybridization. The restored pollen fertility of the doubled-diploid 'Mexican' lime compared with the diploid and the genetic structures of the diploid gametes, consistent with the origin of *C. aurantiifolia* and *C. latifolia* triploid limes, paves the way for efficient reconstruction breeding programmes based on interploid hybridization for triploid lime diversification.

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available at <https://academic.oup.com/aob> and consist of the following. Figure S1: individual meiotic configuration of the 51 observed PMCs for the tetraploid 'Mexican' lime. Table S1: phylogenomic structure of 'Mexican' lime diploid gametes for the nine LGs.

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