

THE CHROMOSOME NUMBER OF *EOMECON* *CHIONANTHA*

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Examination of acetocarmine squashes of pollen mother cells of a stock of *Eomecon chionantha* Hance in cultivation at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, showed that the gametic chromosome number of this species is $n=9$ (fig. 1). This is an unusual basic number for the Papaveraceae and has only previously been reported in this family for *Sanguinaria canadensis* L. ($n=9$, Ernst, W. R. 1962. The genera of Papaveraceae and Fumariaceae in the South Eastern United States *J. Arnold Arbor.* 43: 315—343).

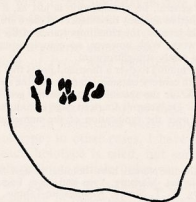


FIG. 1. *Eomecon chionantha*, pollen mother cell, 1st meiotic metaphase, nine bivalents. $\times 1850$.

Both *Eomecon* and *Sanguinaria* are monotypic genera, the former from Eastern China and the latter from Eastern North America. The two genera show strong similarities in various morphological characters, including those of the pollen, and it is interesting that the resemblance extends to chromosome number also.

A voucher specimen (No. C5131) of the plant from which the chromosome count was made has been lodged in the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.