

## Synaptonemal complexes in Neurospora

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## **Abstract**

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asci. Prior to isolation of asci, the perithecia from a cross between wild type strain 74A and lysine-requiring asco strain 374020 (FGSC#405) were fixed for 6 hours in 6.5% glutaraldehyde dissolved in 0.067 M phosphate buffer at pH 7.0. After washing in buffer, post-fixation in 2%  $\text{OsO}_4$  in buffer was carried out. Crosses were executed according to Barry (1966 *Neurospora Newsl.* 10: 12), 300 mg/l lysine being added to the crossing medium.

Unlike in *Neottiella*, the chromatin of the pachytene bivalents of *N. crassa* is poorly contrasted and difficult to distinguish from the nucleoplasm in electron micrographs. However, the components of the synaptonemal complex are distinctly contrasted. The synaptonemal complex is absent from nuclei which, according to ascus size, should be at early diplotene (Barry 1969 *Chromosoma* 26: 119).

The synaptonemal complex in *N. crassa* consists of two banded lateral components (ca. 400 Å in diameter) which are held about 1200 Å apart by a central region containing the ca. 200 Å thick central component. The lateral components seem to contain alternating thick and thin bands with a center to center spacing of about 170 Å. Thus they are similar to *Neottiella* and other ascomycetes (Westergaard and von Wettstein 1970 *Rev. Cytol. et Biol. vég.* 33: 1). Occasional local thickenings of the central component into electron dense nodes ca. 1000 Å x 500 Å in section are characteristic for the synaptonemal complex of *N. crassa*. These nodes partly fill the space of the central region and are larger than the electron dense granules described by Schrantz (*loc. cit.*) in the central components of *Pustularia cupularis* and *Galactinia plebia*. ■ ■ ■ Institute of Genetics, University of Copenhagen, Øster Farimagsgade 2A, DK-1353, Copenhagen K., Denmark

Synaptonemal complexes have been identified in nuclei of *N. crassa* at pachytene, using the technique developed with *Neottiella* by Westergaard and von Wettstein (1970 *Compt. Rend. Trav. Lab. Carlsberg* 37: 195) for isolating; embedding and sectioning single