

DOSAGE COMPENSATION

- ✓ The term was coined by Muller, 1932.
- ✓ This phenomenon is originally discovered in Drosophila.

Explanation:

✓ In most organism females have two x ch. and males have only one. So, there is the potential for expressing twice as much gene products for all x linked genes.

✓ The compensatory mechanism by which the effective dosage of two sexes is made equal is called dosage compensation.

● Dosage compensation in Drosophila : ⇒

- i> Female Drosophila have 2 copies of x linked genes, where in male has only one copy.
- ii> Thus RNA production by single x linked genes of males equals RNA production of two x linked genes of female.
- iii> This creates a genetic dosage problem in x linked male & female.
- iv> In x0 cell the x ch. is hyperactive.
- v> These dosage compensation is made by genes are called male specific lethal loci (msl)

● conclusion : \Rightarrow

Here dosage compensation is made by hyperactivity of one x ch. in male, i.e. transcriptional level of genes on the male's x ch. increased two fold to match gene expression of x linked gene in female.

■ Dosage compensation in mammals : \Rightarrow

- i) If both of female x ch. are activated then proteins coded by genes on the x ch. might be twice in females as compared to that of males.
- ii) So, one x ch. in female is silenced (dosage compensation) and seen as Barr body.
- iii) Human males with single x ch. are constitutionally hemizygous. But females are functionally hemizygous by inactivating one of the parental x ch.
- iv) The inactivation of x ch. occurs randomly in somatic cell at a point in early embryonic development. Once inactivation occurs all progeny cells have the same inactivation x ch.

v) In homogametic xx female individual one x ch. get condensed and inactivated. such chromatin material is called facultative heterochromatin. It is called Barr body.

✓ male is sex chromatin negative

✓ Female is sex chromatin positive.

vi) The female with two x ch. regulates the enzyme activity will be the same level of male with only one x chromosome.

Conclusion ⇒

In mammals dosage compensation occurs through x chromosome inactivation while in Drosophila sp. it occurs by hyperactivation of one x ch. in males.