

Drosophila melanogaster



Drosophila melanogaster, a little insect about 3mm long, it has been used as a **model organism** for research for almost a century.

The use of drosophila is a powerful tool also in teaching the Life Sciences. In fact it allows the observation of **sexual dimorphism**, of mutants and of the **life cycle**. Moreover it permits the realization of crosses aimed to demonstration of sexual linked characters and crosses aimed to establish if a **mutation** is conferred by a dominant or a recessive gene.

Advantages of its use

Drosophila melanogaster is a powerful tool also in teaching for:

- Facility and low cost of growing in school laboratory in small tube
- Short **vital cycle** and large progeny making it possible to study numerous generations in an scholastic year
- Availability of several mutants
- It has only four pairs of **chromosomes**: three pairs of autosomes, and one pair of sex chromosome.
- Very long history in biological research

Instruments and materials required

1. *Drosophila melanogaster* wt
 1. **Mutants** of *Drosophila melanogaster*
 2. Stereomicroscope
 3. Ether
 4. Etherizer
 5. Test-tube where they live
6. nutritional substrate

