P1-P2 Sperm Competition Assay

Number of trials:

• 20 in each direction (→ and reciprocal) = 40 total per assay.

Flies used:

- Dark virgin females
- Virgin males from the two variants (XO and XY, or 2 separate genotypes based on what the test is for)
- All flies are aged to **8 days old** (day of eclosion = day 0)

Timeline

Day 7

- Put each male (XO and XY) individually into its own vial.
- This allows the male scent/pheromones to condition the vial for 24 hours.

Day 8 – First mating (P1)

- 1. Add an 8-day-old dark virgin female into the P1 male's vial.
- 2. Let them mate for 24 hours.
- 3. After 24 hrs, remove and discard the male.
- 4. Leave the female alone in the same vial for **24 hours** (rest).

Day 9 - P2 setup

- 5. Transfer the female into the P2 male's vial.
- 6. Allow mating for **24 hours**.
- 7. After 24 hrs, remove the female and place her into her **own malt food vial** that is:
 - Lightly scored
 - Has added yeast

Days 10-16 - Egg laying

- 8. Leave the female in this vial for **7 days** to lay eggs.
- 9. After 7 days, remove the female.
- 10. Add a cotton roll to the vial to give larvae to pupate.

Scoring offspring

Once offspring start eclosing, count every 3–4 days.

- Eye color tells you paternity:
 - $\circ \quad \text{Red eyes} \rightarrow \text{father was XY}$
 - $\circ \quad \text{Sepia/dark eyes} \rightarrow \text{father was XO}$
- You record for each female:

Table Template

Female #	# dark males	# dark females	# red males	# red females
1				
2				
3				
40				