FIGURE 22.15. The proportions of odd and even chromosome numbers can be used to estimate the incidence of polyploidy. A doubling of the genome must give an even chromosome number, whereas other kinds of chromosomal change will cause random shifts between even and odd numbers. This figure shows the distribution of haploid chromosome numbers in ferns. (Fourteen species with more than 200 chromosomes in the haploid genome are omitted [e.g., Fig. 22.14].) Overall, there are 1092 even numbers and 637 odd numbers, which leads to the estimate given in the text.


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