THE OCCURRENCE OF A TETRAPLOID AND TWO TRIPLOID APPLE SEEDLINGS IN PROGENIES OF DIPLOID PARENTS

IT is usually assumed that triploids originate spontaneously with a relatively low frequency in diploid material. The relatively high proportion of triploid apples found among the leading varieties of the world would seem to indicate that certain desirable characteristics in apple varieties may be associated with triploidy itself or that triploids arise spontaneously, presumably through the functioning of unreduced gametes, with a much higher frequency in apples than hitherto has been suspected.

To test the frequency of occurrence of triploids from diploid parents a beginning was made by determining the chromosome numbers of 278 apple seedlings from crosses made during the course of the breeding program at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. The crosses were made on March 27, 1942, on potted trees in the greenhouse. The seed was stratified and the seedlings started in the greenhouse in the spring of 1943. Just before they were moved into the nursery, in late May, root tips were taken from each seedling for chromosome number determinations. These determinations were made during the winter of 1943–44.

In a population of 146 seedlings from the cross, Delicious × Bedford, 2 triploids were found. In the nursery these made an average growth during the season of 1943. In a population of 94 seedlings from a cross of Macoun × Jonathan, a tetraploid seedling was found. This seedling has disappeared from the nursery either through accident or failure to become established.

If the true frequency of spontaneous occurrence of triploids and tetraploids in apples approaches the frequency here observed in a population of only 278 seedlings, it would seem to be a relatively easy matter to obtain these forms. A larger number of observations are of course necessary before a reliable value for the frequency of occurrence can be established.

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THE CORRECT GENERIC NAME FOR THE SAND FLY

WRITERS of text-books on parasitology and medical entomology have for the past fifty years insisted upon using the wrong generic name for the Psychodid fly which is the vector of Leishmania, *Bartonella bacilliformis* and pappataci fever.

The generic name used in text-books is *Phlebotomus;* whereas, the correct name is *Flebotomus.* Rondani in 1840 (*Mem. Prima Serv. Dipt. Ital.,* p. 12) erected this genus on a species from southern Italy. Why the spelling has changed from *Fle* to *Phle* is not known; unless it was to make it easier to pronounce, as *Phlebotomus* and *Flebotomus* are homonyms.

This mistake should be rectified and the correct name *Flebotomus* should be used. There is no reason to continue with this mistake in our medical and parasitology literature. Careless mistakes of this type are responsible for the over-abundance of synonymy in our taxonomic literature. Furthermore, it is time medical men and entomologists got together and used the same name, *Flebotomus.*

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THE LONGEVITY OF THE EMINENT

IN a recent article in SCIENCE,[1] Lehman expresses doubt as to the validity of the curvilinear relationship which I had found between mean age at death and the degree of eminence attained by American physicians.[2] He failed, however, to suggest any reason why this should be considered illogical or of doubtful significance. Certainly the medical and biological sciences abound with this type of relationship. There would seem to be no basis for their non-acceptance except for purposes of mathematical correlation.

Lehman also claims that my conclusions were one-sided, with undue emphasis on the late death-age of the most noted physicians and neglect of a similar late age for those receiving least death-column space. It is true that the final paragraph of my article dealt mainly with the advantages to society of a late death-age for its most renowned members, but isn't such emphasis justified?

Lehman has presented no published statistics in this field, but he does state that his unpublished data show no consistent difference in death-age between the great and near-great in various fields of endeavor. However, like Rendich,[3] he failed to divide his material in any one class into more than two groups—the great and the near-great. With only the two observational categories, it is obvious that his data could not bring out even the strongest curvilinear relationships which might be present.

Until some one presents valid evidence to the contrary, acceptance should be given to my findings of late mean death ages for the most eminent and least eminent physicians and a significantly earlier age at death for those of only moderate fame.

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[1] SCIENCE, 98: 270, September 24, 1943.
[2] SCIENCE, 96: 380, 1942.
[3] *Jour. Am. Med. Asn.,* 119: 1041, 1942.