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## **The Wisconsin genotype: a news letter to former students. No. 24 December 1938**

University of Wisconsin. Dept. of Genetics  
[Madison, Wisconsin]: [University of Wisconsin, College of Agriculture, Dept. of Genetics], December 1938

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THE WISCONSIN GENOTYPE

A News Letter to Former Students

Number 24 December, 1938

Department of Genetics

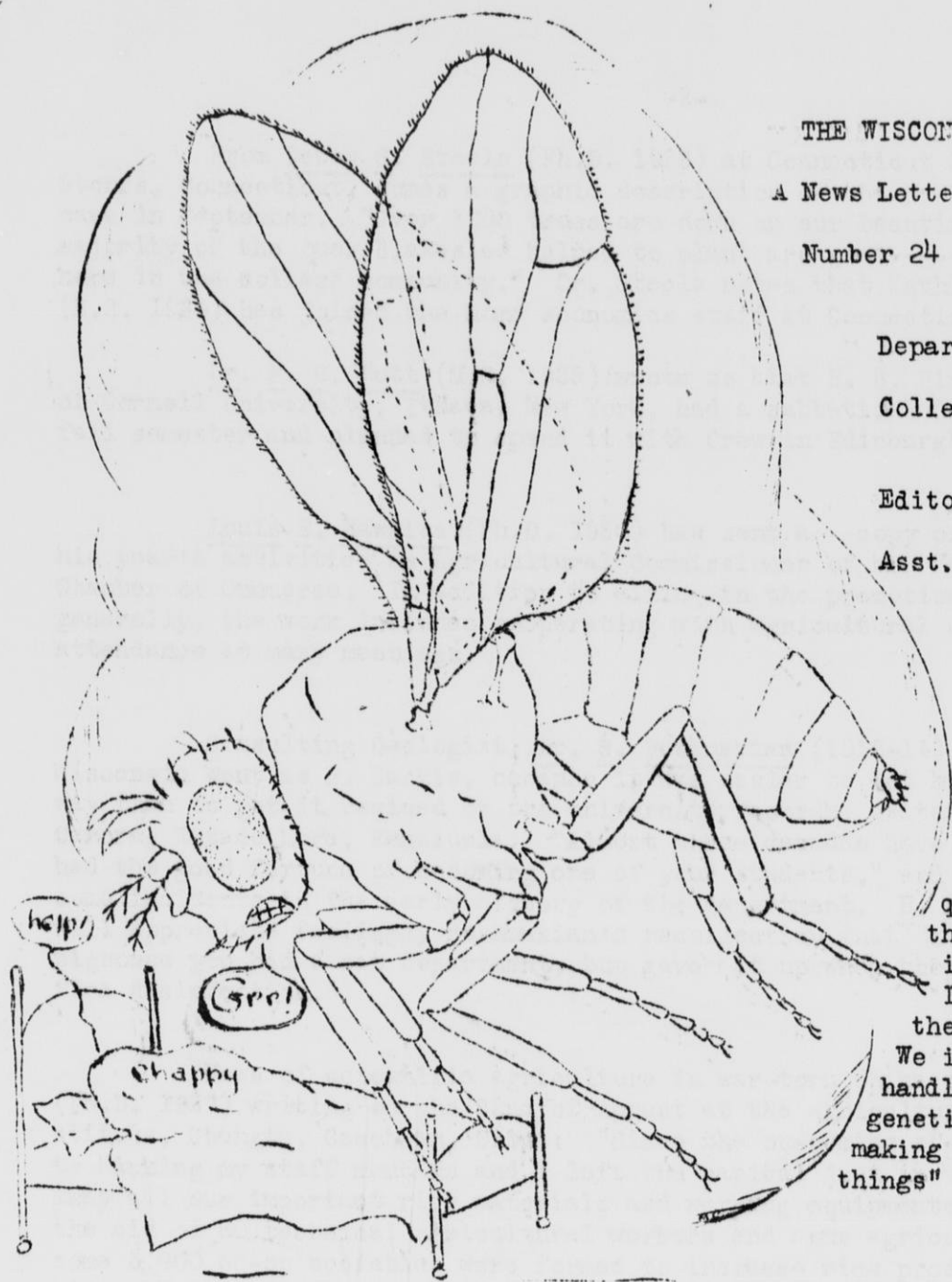
College of Agriculture

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GENETICS I

Last year the elementary genetics course was re-modeled as an undergraduate subject with laboratory required. Due to this, the number of students is so large that Dr. Irwin is lecturing in the Agronomy Building. We imagine that trying to handle eighty students in genetics "fly lab" is making Dr. Chapman "see things" in his sleep.



LETTERS

During the year, Dr. Cole has received many interesting letters from former members of the Linkage Group. The editors greatly appreciate such letters for they make good copy for THE GENOTYPE. Please help us again by writing whenever you have some little item which might be of interest to our readers.

As Dr. Cole finds it impossible to keep in personal touch with all past members of the Linkage Group he asks that we extend his heartiest greeting to one and all.

From Dewey G. Steele (Ph.D. 1926) at Connecticut State College, Storrs, Connecticut, comes a graphic description of the New England hurricane in September. "Over 1200 trees are down on our beautiful campus. The majority of the ones Blakeslee helped to plant are gone-----no loss of life here in the college community." Dr. Steele notes that Kathleen Dietrich (B.S. 1924) has joined the home economics staff at Connecticut State College.

Dr. F. B. Hutt (M.S. 1925) wrote us that R. B. Hinman (Ph.D. 1926) of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, had a sabbatical leave for the fall semester and planned to spend it with Crew in Edinburgh.

Louis E. Hawkins (Ph.D. 1930) has sent a copy of the report of his year's activities as Agricultural Commissioner of the Kansas City, Mo., Chamber of Commerce. In addition to aiding in the promotion of agriculture generally, the work includes cooperating with agricultural organizations and attendance at many meetings.

Consulting Geologist, Dr. S. Boshnakian (1912-14), who, while at Wisconsin went as B. Sarkis, because it was easier to let his name stand that way than to get it revised on the university records, writes to Dr. Cole from Carora, Estado Lora, Venezuela: "Almost three decades have rolled by since I had the good fortune of becoming one of your students," and goes on to recall some incidents in the early history of the department. H. L. Ibsen (Ph.D. 1916) will appreciate feelingly Boshnakian's recollection that "somewhere near the piggery you had a cat department, but gave it up when they all died through flea disinfection."

News of scientific agriculture in war-torn China comes from Lien Chao (Ph.D. 1927) writing on the 22nd of August at the Agricultural Improvement Institute, Chengtu, Czechwan, China: "Since the on-coming of the Japanese force to Nanking my staff members and I left the capital just in time for getting away all our important rice materials and working equipments. "At Hunan with the aid of 50 technical agricultural workers and some agricultural students, some 3,000 co-op societies were formed to increase rice production. Similar rice programs have been set up at Kwangsi and Czechwan. Chao concludes optimistically: "The new institute may serve as a forerunner for the national revival in agriculture after the Japanese are driven out."

Dr. Brink is spending his semester of research leave at the Biological Division of the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena. He sends reports of progress in his incompatibilities study in alfalfa.

P. H. Senn (Ph.D. 1931) has been elected the first president of the new chapter of Sigma Xi recently installed at the University of Florida.

#### SEMINAR

During the current semester, the seminary is reviewing and discussing the historical development of modern genetics. Under the direction of Dr. Cole,

whose first-hand contact with these questions is of interest to the graduate students, the topic seems to be a valuable one.

For the past six months the graduate students in the department have been meeting once a week as a group without professorial guidance. We have named our new meetings "The Translocation". Subjects of talks range from chemical theories concerning the nature of the gene to a report on William Beebe's new book, Zaca Venture. The credit for organizing The Translocation goes to Ben Smith and Ray Owen.

#### PERSONALITIES

Dr. Cole returned from five weeks' vacation in New Mexico to tell us of conditions on the sheep range. At Fayetteville, Arkansas, he met two former students, W. R. Horlacker (Ph.D. 1929) and Isabel Bunten Watts (Bot. Ph.D. 1930). Dr. Horlacker is head of the Animal Husbandry Department and has charge of bacteriology and dairy manufactures--quite enough to keep one man busy. Incidentally, he recalled that the name of THE GENOTYPE was his suggestion. At present, Mrs. Watts is "at home" in her scenically located house. Her husband is pathologist in the Horticulture Department.

Robert H. Andrew (B.A. 1938) is majoring in genetics. He is assisting in Agronomy with the sweet corn breeding and testing program which was initiated in 1937.

W. Tom Atkinson (B.S.A. Univ. Sydney, 1934) is spending a year here on a research fellowship. He is interested in alfalfa.

C. R. Burham (Ph.D. 1929) has transferred from the University of West Virginia to the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University Farm, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Russell W. Cumley (Ph.D. Univ. Texas, 1938) is replacing John Dick as assistant to Dr. Irwin on immunogenetic studies of pigeons, doves, and domestic fowl. At Texas, he worked on species differences in some fifteen species of *Drosophila*, using precipitin and complementary fixation methods.

Peter G. Hogg (M.S.A. Univ. Sask. 1937) is assisting Dr. H. L. Ahlgren on the sudan grass problem in Agronomy and is minoring in Genetics.

W. H. Hollander (Ph.D. 1937) is with us again after a tour of Universities and pigeon farms of the East and South. He is helping Dr. Cole get the pigeon-dove-hybrid records ready for publication.

Wesley Keller (M.S. Utah State), grass breeding agent at Logan, Utah, has returned to finish some work on seed setting in alfalfa.

John S. McFarlane (B.S. Montana State College 1938) is assistant to Dr. G. H. Rieman in the potato improvement work.

W. H. McGibbon (B.S.A. McGill 1932) of Moore's Mills, New Brunswick, is working with Dr. Irwin as graduate student. In New Brunswick, Mac did extension work for the Poultry Division of the Department of Agriculture.

John W. Porter (B.S.A. Wis. 1938) is an assistant in the corn improvement project in Genetics. He is working on the inheritance of the carotin content of inbred lines and hybrids in cooperation with Agricultural Chemistry.

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Dr. and Mrs. Pennebaker (Ph.D. 1938) announced the arrival of Judith M. Pennebaker on July 17.

Ten-and-a-half pound Niel Graham Smith, born on July 30, is the pride and joy of Dr. and Mrs. W. K. Smith.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Deakin (Ph.D. 1931) send word of the birth of a son in November.

Meetings

Mr. Nalbandov, Mr. Bell and Drs. Chapman, Casida, and Dickerson represented the department at the meetings of the American Society of Animal Production in Chicago, November 25-27. Dr. Casida introduced a symposium on the endocrine system. The work of A. B. Chapman, L. E. Casida and A. Côté on sex ratios in fetal calves was reported on by Dr. Chapman.

On November 29, Drs. Irwin and Ferguson attended the 19th Annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases of North America. Dr. Ferguson spoke on the blood picture of normal cows and Dr. Irwin spoke on observations on the titre of bactericidens in cattle serum for *Brucella abortus*.

September 15-17, the Wisconsin Experiment Station was host to the Corn Conference, an official organization of all federal and state corn improvement workers. Approximately 80 members were in attendance, from practically all states where corn improvement work is in progress.

On the first day, Dr. N. P. Neal, leader of the Wisconsin program outlined the work in progress in this state and in the afternoon conducted a tour of inspection of all the breeding and trial plots on the station farm. In the evening, assistant director, Noble Clark, delivered a splendid address and discussed the general philosophy behind the Wisconsin program. Copies of this address are available if any of our readers desire it. The remaining sessions were devoted to discussions of several important phases connected with hybrid corn breeding and the problems arising out of its distribution and certification.

The corn improvement project is cooperative, involving the Departments of Agronomy, Genetics and Plant Pathology. This project has just taken on four new assistants. They are R. H. Andrew (Wis.) on sweet corn and J. B. Washko (N.J.) on silage properties in Agronomy; J. W. Porter (Wis.) on carotin content assigned to Genetics; and E. C. Stevenson (Md.) on stalk and ear rots in Plant Pathology.

Papers

Dept. No.

- 225 W. K. Smith and R. A. Brink Relation of bitterness to the toxic principle in sweet clover. Jour. Agr. Res. 57:2
- 228 D. C. Cooper The embryology of Pisum sativum Bot. Gaz. 100, 1938
- 229 W. L. Henning Prenatal and postnatal sex ratio in sheep Jour. Agr. Res.
- 230 F. N. Bell and M. R. Irwin Studies on the variation of the blood cells of cattle in health and during Brucella infection. (In press)
- 231 M. R. Irwin and L. C. Ferguson Increase of bactericidins in the serum of cattle following recovery from infection with Brucella abortus. Proc. Soc. Expt. Biol. and Med. 38:1938
- 232 R. A. Brink Winter killing in alfalfa Jour. Agr. Res. (In press)
- 233 M. R. Irwin and F. N. Bell The interrelationships of the blood cells of cattle in health and during Brucella infection (In press)
- 234 R. A. Brink and D. C. Cooper Partial self-incompatibility in Medicago sativa Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 1938
- 235 A. B. Chapman, L. E. Casida and A. Côté Sex ratios of fetal calves (In press)
- 236 L. J. Cole and W. F. Hollander The inheritance of silky plumage in the domestic pigeon (In preparation)
- 237 D. C. Cooper Artificial induction of polyploidy in alfalfa (In press--Am Jour. Bot.)
- 238 D. C. Cooper Embryo sac development in Erythronium albidum (In press--Bot. Gaz.)
- 239 L. E. Casida The endocrine system--Hormones elaborated, their nature, interrelations, and general mode of action
- 240 Louise Wipf Chromosome numbers in root nodules and root tips of certain Leguminosae (In press Bot. Gaz.)

Degrees

Dr. J. R. Shuman finished his thesis, "A chromosomal inter-change in maize giving both chain and ring configurations and low sterility", and his finals at the end of the Summer School session. He is at present assisting Dr. Chapman in some statistical work.

Dr. A. Gordon was here from the Alabama Polytechnical Institute, Auburn, for a few weeks this fall to finish his thesis on immunogenetic studies of ducks and duck hybrids and to take his Ph.D. finals.

Miss Louise Wipf took her Ph.D. finals this fall. She is now working in Dr. Cooper's lab as research assistant in Botany and Genetics.

Ray Owen finished his masters last spring. His thesis was on hybrid sterility in birds.

Prelims

Three graduate students minoring in the Genetics Department have taken their preliminary examinations this semester.

C. D. Harrington (Oct. 14) is working on the resistance of canning and garden varieties of pea to aphid feeding.

J. W. Boyes (Oct. 17) prepared a minor thesis paper on seed setting in alfalfa in relation to crossing and selfing and pollen distribution.

T. D. Bell (Oct. 24) is working on the effect of hormones in sheep.

EXTRA!

B. W. Smith came through his Ph.D. prelim with flying colors just as we go to press.