

Rushmere Cottage,
Frensham, Surrey.

14th May, 1946

Dear Fisher,

I had a letter a couple of days ago from Dr. Quick of Swansea. He tells me he has come across a new colony of sinistral Limnaea. He, I gather, took some and has got some broods from them. The Leeds stock has been completely lost, as you know, and the population I understand no longer exists in that pond. There is a certain amount of useful further work to be done on this problem, which I personally cannot now undertake. One of the points worth investigating is whether this Swansea population will give the same mixed broods as were derived from the Leeds stock. It is fairly clear that in certain sinistral populations the inheritance is quite a straight forward maternal inheritance and it is possible that this condition also occurs in L. peregra. I do not know whether you have anybody who would like to take some of Quick's material and start a strain, or at least keep a strain going until somebody can work on it.

There is the possibility that we might try to use some of Quick's sinistrals to recolonize a part of Frensham Great Pond, which was drained for four years during the war, and has now been refilled.

I have also just had a letter from a Dr. Alexander Comfort, who tells me he has found a very interesting colony of Helix aspersa in which bandless and poorly banded forms appear to predominate. Huxley told me the other day that he had been talking to you about the aspersa problem. I did do some rather scrappy experiments on poorly banded forms (band formula 10005), and of course Oldham published some work I think on the albino forms. Comfort wants to know whether I should like any of this aspersa material for breeding. Again it is quite impossible for me, living as I am at the present, to undertake any breeding work of this type.

with the
complication
of mixed broods

They are not difficult to rear and if you or one of your people would like to take a pair or more of this Sussex strain I will ask Comfort to send them to you.

Hugh Watson, who lives at Cambridge, let me have some dwarf forms of aspersa which I gather he got from a Cambridge colony. This dwarfness was clearly of a genetic character. His strain showed the usual complex markings, and if it is still obtainable might be useful to anybody who was prepared to do a little breeding with the Sussex material.

Yours ever,

Erin Dixon

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