

October 6, 1942

My dear Dunn,

You may recall some years ago sending me some specimens of your B^d stock, partially interbred, I think, with Bagg's albinos.

Since our evacuation here we have been taking this mutation rather seriously, and it really has proved extremely valuable.

After outcrossing, a very little selection was enough to produce

(a) a plus line with tails only 10 or 15 mm short of normal, and distinguishable from normal externally only by small irregularities and dislocations towards the tip, and

(b) a minus line with tails averaging just about $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{an inch}, the standard age for measurement being 28 days.

Whereas the plus line goes from strength to strength, the minus line, which is not much shorter than the albino material you sent, has not yielded to the rather mild selection applied during the last year. There seems to be quite appreciable counter¹selection due to associated causes of inviability.

I have found these experiments so instructive that I should like very much to try out a similar programme on one or more of the other semi-dominant tail mutants which you have collected, such as I think stub is. My assistant, Mrs Holt, has a brother,

p.t.o.

Major North, now in the United States, who would, I am sure, be glad to help amid the natural and artificial entanglements which doubtless surround, at the moment, the problem of getting a nucleus stock across. However, I am sure you will be good enough to confer with him, and ascertain if the matter is negotiable. His address is

Major J.P.North, M.B.E., R.Signals,
c/o British Army Staff,
1801 K Street,
Washington, D.C.

With the best of luck,

Yours sincerely,