

E. B. Ford, F.R.S.,  
*University Reader in Genetics*  
*and Director of the Genetics Laboratory.*

GENETICS LABORATORY  
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD  
TELEPHONE 55278  
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Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,  
44 Storey's Way,  
Cambridge.

My dear Ron,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter. I am really delighted that you approve the sixth edition of Mendelism and Evolution and, particularly, that you think it has been worthwhile taking a bit of time and space to state clearly our views on the evolutionary advantages of the subdivision of a population into small isolated units.

Yes, I too have followed with the greatest surprise and amusement the controversy in regard to the number of human chromosomes. Indeed, I have always felt, except for a few giants like Darlington himself, that cytology has been in the hands of very pedestrian people, and I suspect a good many incompetent ones. It is also noteworthy how little information we have on the details of animal cytology at all. When students are taught mitosis and meiosis, the details involved are derived almost entirely from plants and have scarcely even been checked in animals. I notice with interest what you say about such wild polyploids as Lythrum salicaria and Lotus corniculatus. I wonder, however, whether these wild species are a fair comment on the effects of multiplying the chromosome sets. Do you not think it likely that, when such multiplication first occurs, there is a good deal of reduced fertility owing to abnormalities in pairing, and that fertility is fully restored, and pairing regularized, as a result of selection in nature?

How very kind of you to have sent me a copy of the paper you are giving at Stockholm. I will go through it over the weekend, and return it at the beginning of next week with a fuller letter than this, if I may.

Ever yours,

