

Wednesday.

(?13) July 1944 FD

My dear Ron,

Many thanks for your letter, I am so glad you can come on the 24th. He was waiting for me when I returned late this evening from Cot-hill so I cannot do anything about accommodation tonight. I will try my best (and hope for the Michie) tomorrow; but I am getting the most gloomy accounts from people who say that owing to the rush from London (consequent upon flying bombs) every available room in Oxford is booked up weeks ahead. But now I know the date I will find out all about it immediately. I do so hope it will be all right. Can you bicycle that far? There is no hope of petrol now. I will try to borrow a bicycle for you.

I got back on Monday after dealing with my cousin's estate. Yesterday I worked all day to prevent the practical material sent by post (for over 100 papers) going bad on my hands.

Today I have been to Cot-hill. The species is well out, so that it must be fully as early

as usual. All the specimens I caught were very fresh however, so it probably came out at the end of last week. Judging by today's experience it is much commoner than for the last two years; as common as in 1941 (or more so). I obtained the following Cussons result:-

<u>dominula</u>	heterozygote	<u>timacula</u>	Total.
42	2	1	45

You will see that, on these small numbers, the gene appears to be considerably less frequent than in recent years. Yet I got a homozygote: I have not seen one since 1941.

The smaller proportion of the trait may be just luck, or it may really be rarer this year. Of course there is a third possibility (to which one would attach no weight without good evidence). The heterozygotes at one end of their range almost overlap the normals. (Perhaps they far really do so, but it cannot be many as the proportions are correct in segregating families). Suffering with the high proportion of the gene in nature, there has been a heavy degree of selection in

favour of the less extreme heterozygotes, it is just-possible that a larger proportion are ^{now} being passed on as dominants. One would then expect to obtain fewer apparent heterozygotes relative to homozygotes. But I cannot really believe that things would go so quickly as to give such an effect; yet one can never be absolutely sure of such a thing.

You have all the data, I know. But it may be put away so I enclose a statement of the proportions up to date for easy reference.

I do hope I can find a decent room for you all night. Excuse this hurried letter, but I am working 14 hours a day.

Yours truly,
C. Haring