

DEPARTMENT OF
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

Friday.

July 23
1941

My dear Fisher,

I thank you so much for your delightful letter which has been an immense pleasure and interest to me. Your analysis of the results so far obtained is extremely illuminating. I need hardly tell you too what an encouragement it is to hear that you are satisfied with the data which it has been possible to obtain this year: nothing could give me more solid personal pleasure than that.

I have now got some additional information: for I have been twice to the colony since I wrote to you last, on Wednesday 23rd and yesterday (24th). Both days were brilliantly sunny and I collected in the afternoon, so the marked specimens had good opportunities of dispersal. In fact I caught marked insects far from the releasing point.

I put a summary of the results, as far as the proportion of varieties is concerned, over the page. I also add the total for 1941, including these 2 extra days

	<u>dominula</u>	<u>medionigra</u>	<u>bimaculata</u>	<u>Total.</u>
23.VII.41.	45	4	-	49
24.VII.41.	45	9	-	54
Total for 1941.	370	54	2	426

and one additional belated pupa from my own larvae (which have now produced dominula 69, medionigra 8).
 On the 23rd I obtained 4 marked specimens, and on the 24th I got 5 marked insects: which of course are omitted in the above table. So the gene-frequency for the medionigra gene now stands at 6.8% .

Yes, the result of Burkenton's larvae is most curious. In my own larvae collecting, I was concerned to obtain widely scattered larvae. Although he says he got his 'at random' I cannot be sure how far that was carried out: in the sense that he may have taken a number which he found feeding together on one plant. Females certainly lay a lot of eggs on a single plant, and the larvae will not scatter much. It looks as if he had got a number in this way from a chance medionigra x medionigra pairing.

I give the results of marking and releasing on the 23rd and 24th by extending your table diagram (on attached sheet). Of the 53 caught on the 23rd, 4 were not released. One typical escaped, one was a curious aberration I wished to examine, and 2 were mediosipes brought back for reserve eggs. Similarly, 4 were not released of the 59 caught on the 24th. Of the marked specimens taken on the latter date, 1 was a mediosipes (marked on the 20th).

When at Cothill I thought I would score some Comfrey plants. Most of them had ceased flowering. However, I got a few in bloom. It was less easy than I thought, as there appeared to be an intermediate condition, which at a casual glance in the past, I had not realized. There are the white and purple, and an intermediate form: in which there is pigment, often of a pink shade, along the flower-tube where the petals have fused to form a tube, while the petal between is

White. There seemed no doubt between white and colored (except perhaps in old plants in which the flowers were withering, which I did not use), but I was sometimes in doubt over intermediates compared with purple. The result was:-

<u>White</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Purple</u>	<u>Total</u>
32	12	8	52

I must try again next year when the flowers are coming out. It may be easier then. It would also be worth comparing this with another locality (e.g. a river bank).

I wrote to Mather suggesting that the Oxford meeting of the Genetical Society begin at 12 noon. It should, I think, be related to trains from London, and the earliest which anyone is likely to catch (Paddington depart; 9:45) arrives at 11:25. This would just give nice time for a 12 o'clock meeting, if punctual. There could be

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papers in the morning and demonstrations in the afternoon. Do you think this reasonable?

I leave for Cornwall very early on Monday morning, all well. My address will be:-

Pedra Myin,
Coverack,
Helston.
Cornwall.

I go to Cambridge on the 5th, for the award of the Higher Certificate on the 6th, returning to Oxford either on the evening of the 6th or on the 7th:

I look forward ~~to~~ much to seeing you all on the week-end of the 9th, if I may come then.

With best wishes to Ruth,

Ever yours,

Henry

15 ^c	16 ^c	17 ^c	18 ^c	19 ^c	20 ^c	21 ^c	22 ^c	23 ^c	24 ^c
4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
0	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	0	0
0	5	2	-	-	-	1	2	0	0
46	0	-	-	-	-	0	65	0	0
66	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	0	0
0	-	2	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
53	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$$\frac{2928}{4} \quad 732$$

$$\frac{3036}{2} \quad 1518$$

$$\frac{2891}{2} \quad 1445.5$$

$$\frac{8855}{8} \quad 1107.25$$

~~6482~~
$$\frac{11760}{10} \quad 1176$$

$$\frac{12432}{4} \quad 3108$$

$$\frac{24192}{14} \quad 1728.85$$

$$\frac{11760}{5} \quad 3920$$

732 1518

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2 ₀	-	-	-	-
61 ⁽²⁾	0	-	3 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
0	0	5 ⁽²⁾	2	-	-	1	2 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	55
46 ⁽²⁾	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49 ⁽²⁾	0
0	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1 ₀	-	-	-	-	-	65	0	0
53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-	-
59 ⁽²⁾	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-
0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-
0	0	-	-	-	-	-	57 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-
35 ⁽²⁾	48 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Captured

Released

24224343640891

2225 1157

1446

176

416
3108

3902