

PEIPING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE

PEIPING, CHINA

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

Peking, April 23, 1941

Professor R.A. Fisher
The Galton Laboratory
Harpenden, Hertfordshire
England

Dear Dr Fisher,

About a week ago I received your letter dated January 22 and I am delighted to hear that up to that time no harm had been done to you or your family. I am happy to say that a month ago Mrs Fortuyn returned to Peking. Under the present conditions she prefers to be with me instead of with our children who are all three in Holland where they can continue a reasonably normal life.

I sincerely hope that you will have a chance to go to the United States for a visit this summer.

In regard to your remarks about *Microtus* I may say that as far as I know *Microtus mandarinus faecus*, Allen (American Museum Novitates, No. 137, 1924) is the only mouse of that genus that lives around Peking. I do not recall to have ever seen it. For the collection of a few specimens you might obtain the assistance of Dr T.H. Shaw, a Chinese taxonomist who is still connected with the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peking. However I note that there are many species of *Microtus* in South-West China and in that case it might be easier to get specimens by applying to Dr J. Linsley Cressitt, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. If a *Microtus* species is living on the island of Hong Kong there is a much better chance to collect specimens from there than from blockaded China.

In connection with your studies of tail length in mice, may I draw your attention again to my article on 'A remarkable cross in *Mus musculus*', *Genetica*, 16, 1934, where it is shown that differences in temperature due to the season and to the size of the litter in which the mice are living for the first few weeks affect the tail length?

I think that I may now say definitely that in a cross, followed by several back crosses, between only two individuals of one strain of mice with a "homozygous", "recessive" strain of mice I find such deviations from what would be expected on the basis of Mendelian inheritance that there must be more leading principles. Just what they are is still obscure but if necessary I shall be satisfied with the mere proof of their existence.

With very best wishes to all of you and kind regards
sincerely yours

A.B. Dronklever Fortuyn

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