

5th December 1928.

1-100.

Dr S.C. Harland,
Cotton Res. Station,
Trinidad.

Dear Dr Harland,

I have received your letter and one from Hutchinson to-day. One point evidently needs explanation. After hearing about Crinkled Dwarf from Hutchinson, as I was thinking of a further note on the evolution of dominance, I sent a draft letter to Hutchinson asking for his approval, and suggesting that if he felt the least doubt, he should send it out to you before I sent it in to the American Naturalist. He replied at once in effect that the facts were right, and that you could have no objection to my mentioning your work. Your remark that you hope I will wait before writing anything, comes to me as a complete surprise, as I had thought that you knew I was mentioning your work as bearing strongly upon my views respecting dominance. I suppose Hutchinson forgot to inform you of what I was doing, but I much regret that you should have been left under any misapprehension. My note was published in the American Naturalist before your letter of November 19th was written; I enclose a copy, and sincerely hope that you will not think I have taken an undue liberty with your work, or given an inaccurate representation of it.

Is Peruvian the proper term for the species of which

Sea Island is a variety, or is the "Peruvian group" a kind of sub-genus of New World cotton species? Whatever its taxonomic rank I gather that within your experience Crinkled Dwarf mutants have appeared only in this group, and these appear as ordinary recessives. You only mention one cross out of this group, namely with Upland, in which the dominance is disturbed. Hutchinson told me there were at least two, but perhaps he was thinking of Tomentosum, for which you tell me F_2 is not yet available. I am sorry that I should have said two, if there is really only one, as it makes it seem that I was making out the evidence to be stronger than it really was. Perhaps you can throw light on what gave Hutchinson this impression.

The great point as you say is to get Crinkled Dwarf on to a nearly pure Upland background, and if it has not been done to confirm the Upland result with at least one other species. Linkage after all will only affect one chromosome, and the bulk of the modifiers are probably elsewhere, and not necessarily closely linked together. It should therefore be possible by breeding back clearly Crinkled heterozygotes to Upland for four or five generations to see its effect pretty well, and to compare the heterozygotes with homozygotes reconstructed from them. This will be of the very greatest interest, but of course it will take time.

I should not be surprised to find one homozygote often more modifiable than the other, especially that mutant types should be modifiable; but one important

point on which evidence seems at present lacking is
whether the heterozygote is more modifiable than either
homozygote in any cases.

I should be delighted to see you in the spring, and
to receive any offprints of your work you may have to spare.

Yours sincerely,