

JOHN INNES HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTION

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Telephone LIberTy 3645

4th June 1943.

Dear Professor,

The A.S.W. have written to me taking a very conciliatory line over the Gorer business. They say it was a mistake and so on. So no further action is necessary at present.

I will attend the meeting on 21st June if I can, (and somewhat reluctantly) and in any case will write to Crew about it a few days beforehand.

I was thinking about your Primulas while coming to work this morning, especially about the strange shortage of thrums in the populations containing homostyle. Could this be due to a selective disadvantage of thrums as females, on account of the "plug" of anthers in the corolla mouth. This might easily make pollination with appropriate pollen more difficult and chancy in a thrum, though it could have no such effect in pin or long homostyle. This effect would not lead to any departure from 1:1 expectation in a population where there were no homostyles, for all matings there must give the same 1:1 segregation; but in a population where homostyles occur, other matings do not of course give this segregation, and hence a depression of the fertility of thrums on the female side would quite likely lead to a shortage of thrums. (Of course any means of depressing the female fertility of thrum would do, but the anther "plug" seems to be an extremely likely cause as it could easily wipe off pin pollen from the insect's proboscis as this was pushed through on its way to the stigma. And I believe you did have some evidence that anthers and stigma combined even cut down the air circulation to a serious extent in homostyles)

Yours sincerely,

*H. S. Gentry*