

February 7th, 1936

Dear Professor East,

Many thanks for your courteous letter. I am very glad to see that you have not entirely abandoned the theory that mid-length of style in Lythrum may be carried by one or other of two duplicate lethal factors in the material you obtained from Mrs Barlow, since I had thought you had put forward in 1937 good prima facie evidence for this view. I had not realised that, in 1932, you were postulating a third factor capable of producing the mid style phenotype. this being non-lethal, to explain the case of apparent homozygote which you had ^{sure} recently obtained. I hope it may be possible later to gain sufficient support to carry out a series of experiments capable of verifying, by tests independent of those previously used, whether there are lethals in the case, and whether there is more than one factor at work.

With respect to your statement of my views, I am a little disappointed that you still do not recognise that in 1928 I was putting forward a somewhat drastic

recension of current opinion and, naturally, commenced by a statement of the evidence on which current views were held. The sentence you quote referred to the possibility that some might be inclined to reject the Prosophila evidence as abnormal or exceptional, and I point^{ed}/out that similar facts of the kind I was about to discuss had been found in a wide range of other organisms. It would be, as I think you recognise, impossible to introduce into the first sentence of a paper the final conclusions arrived at, with all the reservations and distinctions which the paper exists to develop. One does not, however, have to read far into that particular paper to find that I had, as I thought, strong reason to distinguish between the persistent harmful mutation occurring with considerable mutation rates and other possible mutations which have much lower rates, which are scarcely represented in the genetic evidence.

I have been invited to the Harvard Tercentenary conference and celebrations, and much look forward to attending them, and to discussing with you and others at Harvard many points of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,