

Carisbrooke  
Porthallow,  
St. Keverne,  
Heddon. Cornwall.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1946

My dear Ron,

What a marvellous analysis of the dominula data you have made. I think this is a wonderful piece of work on your part. You have taken these observations and, entirely by your own logic, extracted from them something of the highest importance in Evolutionary Theory. For of course the needs of the moment are constantly shifting, and just now it is one of the chief needs to take this theory of "drift" and show that there is or is not something in it. You and I have always felt profoundly sceptical of this "Sewall Wright effect", but I am sure we are very much in a minority. Many people have professed on it because it seems to give an easy explanation of certain important evolutionary situations. This growing acceptance is one of the considerable dangers in biological thought today, and I do feel so happy that my observations on dominula have provided data which you have used to such wonderful effect. I am full of admiration, my dear Ron, as you will know I have often been in the past, at what you have done.

It does seem so valuable that a population level which all must admit is less than the evidence

indicates (1,000 breeding visits in each year) is yet large enough to give such clear significance. There can be no doubt at all that this is a considerable under-estimate of the numbers, and that gives great force to your argument.

I am keeping the sheets you sent me, and should like to do so <sup>permanently</sup> if you have a copy. I would of course return them should you need them.

I have lately had rather a bad time of it. A severe attack of influenza followed by a relapse when I was much worse than before. As I only just missed pneumonia, I was told I must spend several weeks in the South-west if I was to be fit enough for next term. Now I am nearly all right again, though still fairly tired, and am returning for the Oxford term on the 26<sup>th</sup> (next Friday).

It is most good of you to invite me to Cambridge. Unfortunately I have classes in the morning and afternoons of the Wednesdays throughout the term, so that the 8<sup>th</sup> (when Malet is with you would not be possible for me). Hardy is ill, and we shall have to share out his work for at least half, probably the whole, of the term. I wonder if I might come to you for the night of the 6<sup>th</sup>, arriving as early as time allows on the Monday, and leaving late on the Tuesday? Alternatively for that of the 14<sup>th</sup>. I do so much want to talk over dominants: also Goldschmidt's silly article (50 pages long) on mimicry, in which he adversely criticises

you and me - S. Lewin.  
Many people talk of it, and perhaps it meets an answer.  
I do look forward to seeing you.  
Yours truly,  
Henry.