

DEPARTMENT OF
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

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My dear Fisher,

It is a long time since I have heard of you. I so much hope that you are in good health again. The Oxford term is now over, and at last I am really able to get some writing done. My book is getting on all right, but slowly compared to what I had hoped! A little later on I am going to ask you to do me the favour of reading through a few sections, if you can possibly spare the time. It would be invaluable for me.

I have been reading S.C. Harland's note on New and Old World cotton-crosses in the present number of Nature (Vol. 129, pp. 398-9) with interest. No doubt you have seen it. As I believe you are in touch with his work you may have known the points before.

I am surprised, however, that he does not draw attention to the interesting dominance modification which occurs in his F₁ plants. The facts are there but he does not stress them, which I should have thought worth while - considering how slow some people seem to be in

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taking up these ideas. As I read it, a single gene R, widely spread in Asiatic cottons, has multiple effects, controlling (1) flower-colour (making it red), (2) a spot on the petals (intensifying it), (3) leaf-colour (red). On crossing with the American ~~one~~ (yellow flowers, indistinct spot, and green leaves), one effect (1) behaves as nearly recessive and another (3) as nearly dominant - the third being intermediate. This, added to the many other facts, might be digested by those who still think there is anything in the nature of a gene itself which makes it dominant or recessive.

(Of course we do not yet know that the full red flower is developed even by the homozygotes (RR) in a partially American gene-complex - but that would not affect the moral of the tale!)

Yours sincerely,

E. B. Ford