

8 February 1933.

Professor R. Ruggles Gates, F.R.S.,
King's College,
Strand, W.C. 2.

Dear Ruggles Gates:

I have been puzzling for some time about the common distinction in plants, between those species which are habitually, or predominantly cross fertilised, and those which usually or very frequently set selfed seed. I wonder if you could put me in touch with any botanical work in which this distinction is drawn among the members of a number of different genera. It has occurred to me on a priori grounds that tetraploidy might well have something to do with it, so I want to list a few genera in which the facts are known, distinguishing species which have twice as many chromosomes as their congeners (or some other multiple) as well as their habits as to crossing or selfing. Perhaps you can give me or refer me to the facts for a few genera on which work has been done.

Yours sincerely,