

26th. February, 1930.

Dr R.K. Nabours,  
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Cold Spring Harbor,  
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Dear Dr Nabours,

I was very glad to learn from your letter of February 11th., that there is a prospect, though still rather far ahead, of your being able to determine the frequencies of the orthopterous dominants in the wild. I believe your material will be the best of all, that is the most decisive, although something of the kind may yet be done with Lebistes and Helix.

The X-ray results should be most valuable in determining one point in particular, namely if you obtain the ordinary recessive mutants and recessive lethals, and if so whether they also show the same intense linkage as the dominant group. In view of the suggestion of translocated sections of chromatin, it is just possible, and it is a possibility which ought to be settled one way or the other, that the presence of the dominant gene (or gene complex) is itself responsible for the close linkage, and that the mutants analogous to those of

Drosophila, if tested alone would show <sup>more</sup> ~~a new~~ free <sup>re-</sup> combination. I cannot, however, yet think this very probable, for the case seems clearest to me on the view that close linkage is one of the essential conditions governing the evaluation of the present types.

You do not mention whether you contemplate further work on the question of viability; I can of course only hope that you will undertake it, if you feel as I do, that it, in conjunction with counts in the wild, will be decisive in clearing up a most enigmatical and fascinating situation, and so will throw a real flood of light on the evolutionary process in general.

Yours sincerely,