

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
SEATTLE 5
Washington, U.S.A.
March 25, 1962

Dear Sir Ronald A. Fisher:

I was very pleased to receive the four reprints. I had no idea that you were in Australia! I'm glad you had the spare copies of your papers with you.

I would like to tell you how much your book (genetical theory of natural selection) has stimulated me. I find it hard to believe that this book was written over thirty years ago. Every time I reread a section, I find more there than before. You certainly have a deep understanding of natural selection and how it can and does operate. Your two pages on the sex ratio are especially outstanding.

If you still have copies of your 1941 paper on average excess and average effect of a gene substitution (Annals of Eugenics, 11; 53-63) and your 1953 "Population Genetics" (Proc. Royal Society B., 141: 510-523); Would you please send copies? They would be very useful to me. Thank you very much.

I would be very interested to hear your views as to the operation of selection "at the population level" as suggested by some recent authors such as M. J. Dunbar's 1960 paper, The Evolution of Stability in Marine Environments. Natural Selection at the level of the Ecosystem. American Naturalist vol. 94: 129-136. If you can spare a moment to dash off your opinion as to the efficacy of this sort of selection, it would be greatly appreciated. I have noticed that some mathematical geneticists also employ the concept of interpopulational selection (e.g. Kalmus and Smith, 1960, Nature, 186: 1004. and Edwards, 1960, Nature, 188: 960-961.).

Please forgive my typing. I have no secretary and the academic pressures do not allow me much extra time!

Very Sincerely,

Eric R. Pianka

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Dept. of Zoology