

22 March 1933.

Dr. O. Tedin,  
Svalöf,  
Sweden.

Dear Tedin:

I quite think that statistics of the third degree will be found sensitive to factors causing changes in the mean and variance. Indeed it is obvious that they must be very sensitive to heterogeneity of material, a circumstance which has always made me sceptical of the value of what used to be a common academic exercise, namely, the fitting of skew curves. It is not the fact of being invariant or insensitive to such disturbances but the fact of being affected by some features of importance in the genetic situation which makes, to my mind their study worth pursuing.

No, I am not writing anything further on the subject in the immediate future and probably shall not, until fresh data is obtained deliberately designed for this problem; of which perhaps, maize or cotton will be the first. In fact I think empirical exploration of the possibility of this type of research is the next important step to be taken.

In the case of your cultures, I think it will be difficult to say without experimenting with the same material in subsequent years whether the differences you find in the skewness of purely environmental variation is due to any genetical quality of the lines tested or to simple luck in the experimental area. Without such corroboration therefore I should not know what conclusions to draw from the data examined.

Yours sincerely,