

December 8, 1953

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Dear Lu:

We have your letter of November 30. I am sorry W2299 proved to be not entirely satisfactory for your needs. I hope that we do have other material that will do better.

Esther is now sending you a culture of W2117. This is a prototrophic lactose negative lambda sensitive stock. Unfortunately, all of the lactose negative mutants that we have in association with lambda sensitivity are likely to be somewhat mutable. With elementary precautions, however, this should not prove to offer serious difficulties, especially if the inocula are taken from colonies that have been passed through at least one isolation on a non-lactose medium and subsequently kept on a non-lactose medium prior to your final platings. In any event, the mutational papillae should not develop prior to 48 hours incubation. You will no doubt have other markers to differentiate this tester strain from the one which you are endeavoring to cure.

We have not been doing any work at all with strain 122 and therefore can not furnish mutants of it.

May I inquire why W2299 is not satisfactory for your purposes. Perhaps you will get a better scoring of the maltose character by using an FMB medium with 1.5% rather than/usual 1% maltose.  
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Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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