

STATENS SERUMINSTITUT

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Nr.

Oct. 26, 1955

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Replying to your letter of Oct. 12 to Dr. F. Ørskov, I can say that the case of alternating mutation I referred to in my last article (p. 579, line 1 from below - p. 580, line 2 from above) was incorrectly given as alternating fermentations. In reality it is an alternation between a) fermentation of xylose + inhibited growth on dulcitol and b) no fermentation of xylose + non-inhibited growth on dulcitol.

If you desire it, I can send you the variety (mentioned in Acta Path. vol. 21, p. 216) "XyAr⁺(Rh)" that ferments xylose and arabinose and grows without inhibition on rhamnose medium (The two last-mentioned characters are, however, irrelevant for the present question). On dulcitol plates with bromthymolblue this strain grows in small, blue colonies, but mutates to a non-inhibited blue form. On inoculation of the latter on xylose plate, it grows in blue colonies, but mutates to a yellow variety, and on inoculation of this culture on dulcitol plate, it grows anew in small colonies. It seems to be possible to continue this cycle indefinitely. (*I have just re-tested the strain*)

Yours sincerely

Martin Kristensen