

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

August 12, 1948

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

I am sorry that I cannot yet send you a reprint of my article on "Cytoplasmic Inheritance" since I have not got any copies yet myself. I suppose that the publisher is delaying sending out the reprints in order to avoid a depressing effect on the sale of the book.

I am glad to know that my article has led you to consider Harder's work. It was the main purpose of my article to call attention to some of these papers which have considerable bearing on the problem of cytoplasmic inheritance and which are more or less unknown in this country partly because they are so long and awkward to read.

I am aware that I have taken too extreme a stand on the question of the relation between Dauer modifications and cytoplasmic inheritance. The reason for this is that I feel that most students are inclined to lean too much to the other side. Most of ~~us~~ feel that Dauer modifications and cytoplasmic inheritance are fundamentally the same phenomenon. There is no reason for assuming this except for the old razor of Occam which cuts off everything excessive for the sake of simplification. The only way to decide this question is to observe the interaction of Dauer modifications and cytoplasmic factor. It could easily be done by observing both in the same organism. This has not been done but it seems to me that *Paramecium* should be a good organism for this purpose. At the present time I have the feeling that there exists not a single case in which there is any doubt as to whether cytoplasmic inheritance or Dauer modification is involved. It seems to me therefore heuristically more valuable to delimit the two phenomena from each other as far as possible but I want to make clear that I feel that this is largely a matter of taste.

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I would appreciate it if you would send me reprints of your papers and if you would put me down on your reprint list.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Caspari

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