

May 2, 1952

Dr. Charlotte A. Colwell  
Research Bacteriology  
Eldg. 54 Room 16  
Veterans Administration Hospital  
Hines, Illinois

Dear Dr. Colwell:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in sending me your "E. coli II". I have again repeated, several times, treatments with 2-methyl 1,4 naphthoquinone on a single colony isolate passed through several transfers in synthetic medium.

I regret to report that I have still been unable to detect any small colony variants as described in your 1946 paper.

Incidentally, this strain did turn out to be crossable, by the criteria of the enclosed reprint. This will be very advantageous for any further genetic analysis.

I can well understand that you may be preoccupied with other problems at the present time. If, however, you could find occasion to repeat this experiment yourself, I should be most grateful to hear the result. It is not unlikely that some subtle variation in method or material is responsible for the discrepancy. I should not wish to undertake a complete rectification without the assurance that the experiment is reproducible with currently available cultures and reagents. It would also be helpful to have a culture of the dwarf colony form, so as to be certain that it would be recognized.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics