

May 24, 1956

Dr. H. ~~Stang~~
Stahelin
Hygienisches Institut
Universität, Basle
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Dear Dr. Stahelin:

Your papers on gymnoplasts have just come to my attention through a recent review by Weibull. I am very sorry not to have seen them before, and would be greatly obliged to you for a reprint, as the work bears directly on my own recent studies with *E. coli*.

I was also interested to note your technique for the observation of small volumes of culture, but from my own experience I would recommend deFonbrune's "oil chamber" as most satisfactory for just such studies—have you tried this with *B. anthracis*? (Cf. *Jour. Bact.* 68:258, 1954, for a simplified version of his method). Possibly your organism is less suitable for this method than *E. coli*, but it should be worth trying/

Your remarks on the fusion of gymnoplasts were especially exciting, and I wonder if you have pursued this research any further. I would be particularly concerned as to the possibility that the gymnoplasts are capable of developing again into typical bacterial forms. (This may be taken up in your 1953 paper, but I do not have access to this at present).

I will, of course, be happy to reciprocate your courtesies.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics