

RH Davis ✓

JUL 29 1988

Auld long ago.

It's fun browsing on ideas I've not read in 10 years. Thank you for your letter & enclosures. I also enjoyed your chapter in the Fungi. I don't see many people still working on the fascinating issues of the coenocyte.

adaptations

The recessions I was speculating about were not $lev^- \rightarrow lev^+$, but what Beadle called "petes" - they petered out.* Your remarks on suppressor behavior in heterozygous adds to the conviction that this is what the "petes" were. Beadle was quite surprised that we found an authentic reversion, in the lev case. I am also guessing that some suppressors may be lethal in homozygous - they should be if there's systematic exeric replacement.

*One of the early pet did that.

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on heterozygous

Your spe-1 sounds like it might be a mobile genetic element. When it's transposed out of the spe site you'd see a "reversion", there and a coincident mutation at its new site. I don't know if mobilization of transposons is an authenticated reaction to UV (but I'd not be surprised if it's part of SOS).

I doubt if anyone's addressed whether a transposon could hop from 1 nucleus to another in a heterozygous. Nor whether anyone's looked at the cytology of hybrid reaction to UV. In Et. coli (a remote analogy to be sure) there's a bizarre "condensation" of the nuclear units.

Specific question: what is the bibl. reference to your spe note? May I cite it?

Sincerely

Joshua Lederberg

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