

June 27, 1953

Dear Dr. Belser:

I would not recommend streptothricin-resistance. Many of the mutants show a variable cross-resistance to streptomycin, and there is not a clear single-step development of resistance. However, it might be usable in *Serratia*— in any case you could not immediately extrapolate the expectations from *E. coli*. You may be able to get some from Woodruff at Merck. Its non-availability through commercial channels is another disadvantage too. I wish I could recommend another resistance marker that would be as good as streptomycin, but I do not know of any. For an unselected marker, however, "furadroxyl" (see Szybalski) might serve; so might Co^{++} , or H_2O_2 . (Have you seen Cavalli's paper in Bull. W.H.O. 6: 185-206 1952?)

I have been hoping that I might hear from Dr. Treffers or yourself about the mutability modifier from 58-278. I have not so far.

For your *Serratia* problem, why do you not use additional auxotroph markers? Historically, these served very well for K-12 (v. Nature, 158: 558, Oct. 19, 1946).

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg