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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY
DIVISION OF CANCER BIOLOGY

March 26, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I have recently become interested in the "petite" of *E. coli* B that Weed has induced with copper some time ago (*J. Bact.* 67, 27, 1956). At first I could not duplicate Weed's results, in spite of the fact that I followed the instructions given in his paper exactly. In the meantime I found, however, that by raising the copper concentration from 5 to 15×10^{-6} M I get ca. 80% littles, and I am trying higher concentrations at the moment in order to get 100%. The littles I get are

At any rate, I had been looking for Weed's present address all over, without success. Dr. Weed must have heard about it, because yesterday he wrote to me from Bangor, Maine. He suggested that I get in touch with you, as you had a graduate student and a fellow continue his work. Did any publications come out of this? If so, I would appreciate it very much if you would let me have them. Also, if you have any unpublished material or information you could let me have I would be most grateful to you. Did you do any work on the enzymatic basis of this mutant? Do you have any hypotheses as to the mechanism of the mutation?

Thanks a lot for your help!

Sincerely,

Herbert Hirsch

1. Mrs. Alice Benvenuti played with it - you might communicate directly with her, c/o Lister Institute, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW12
2. No enzymatic. Probably just selection but experiments were inconclusive. The mutant is about 100%.
3. See also Claver and Rowley 1955 - *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 13: 461-473.

JH