

Dr. Wolfram Heumann
Botanisches Institut
der Techn.Hochschule

Braunschweig, 19.I.58
Humboldtstr.1

Professor Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison/Wis.-USA

Dear Joshua!

Looking in my letter-case I see ashamed I have written the last letter to you 4 months ago. First Barbara and I thank very much to Esther and you for the beautiful paper with Australian flowers and animals. We got this pretty gift exactly at Xmas.

In the first 2 months this year I made mainly botanical routinework for the Institute. In the past two months I have repeat the experiments with B₆ and some others with another starforming bacterium Agrobacterium stellulatum. With B₆ I get about the same recombination results as in the last months in Madison. But these experiments show only we have recombination, there are too few markers to say anything to say about the sexual mode and to connect the morphological findings with the genetical experiments. A very significant result I get with Agrobacterium stellulatum: in crosses R Sm^r x S Sm^s (rough streptomycine resistant x smooth streptomycine sensitive) I get about 1% S Sm^r colonies. But in cross R Sm^s x S Sm^r I never found any R Sm^r cells.

Working with algae for the Institute I have examined many contaminating bacterial strains and 30% of these are starformers. Now I have isolated these strains. Some show the starforming cycle in a very impressive manner. With this material I hope I have a solid base for further genetical and morphological work.

In the next week begins the summer semester, end may I have to direct a botanical excursion to Corsica. Coming back I have to performe my habilitation. With all these other works the research work would grow very slowly, but I hope it will grow, and I can report to you in Stockholm some new results and we can prepare a publication.

I get confirmed my membership to the congress in Stockholm and I am very happy to meet Esther and you there. I travel to Stockholm with my car (Volkswagen) and I and the car are at your disposal. In Bruxelles is this year the big world-exhibition, and perhaps do you like to go there. Then you have a good occasion to say for some days in Brunswick, I can show you my lab and some of my experiments, and we can discuss all problems extensively.

Barbara would be very happy to see Esther and you again, and Irene too.

I am sincerely yours,

Wolfram Kind regards to your whole staff!