

Genetics Department
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

March 9, 1954

Dr. Germaine Cohen-Bazire
Service of Microbial Physiology
Pasteur Institute
28 Rue Dr. Roux
Paris 15
FRANCE

Dear Dr. Cohen-Bazire:

Within the past few days I have enjoyed a visit from Jacques Monod, and we have discussed in some detail the work that you have done with the constitutive mutants of E. coli. In particular we have agreed that certain aspects of this work might profit from a collaborative examination.

One feature of the report that you have published in the Annales of the Pasteur Institute has been extremely puzzling to us, namely the recombination type that you describe as being Lac- constitutive. We have not ourselves encountered such a type in the course of crossing or mutation studies. It is, of course, entirely possible that this is a matter of the limited numbers that have been examined. It would, however, be considerable reassurance to us if we could examine by our own techniques the culture such as you have described in your paper. Would it be possible for you to send to us for this examination two such cultures, as follows: 1) the recombinant described as having been obtained by crossing Lac- by constitutive in E. coli K-12, and the similar type that you describe as having issued from a mutation experiment. I am sending duplicates of this letter to Paris and to Berkeley in hopes of one of them reaching a proper destination for the fulfillment of this request.

Jacques, if this letter reaches you, no further comment would be necessary. We had done a few additional experiments by way of isolating lactose-negative mutants from our constitutive stock, but none of these have proved to be the Lac- constitutive combination.

I would be grateful for a reprint of the paper referred to, which we do not seem to have received a copy before, though I would not insist upon this.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

JL/mg