

March 1, 1954

Dear Doctor Rogers:

I am sorry to have to write that the cultures of E. coli serotypes 055 and 0111 that I had requested last December have never arrived. I did not wish to trouble you sooner as you pointed out that it would be advisable for you to defer shipment until after Christmas, but a sufficient interval has now elapsed to give me some concern.

As I reread your letter of December 21, it occurs to me that you may have been waiting for further word from me, and that I might be responsible for the delay myself in not having interpreted your letter in this light before. Howbeit, I should perhaps take this opportunity to clarify my request.

For an extension of genetic studies, Dr. Bernstein and I would like to use as representative as possible a set of these serotypes. The distinctive phage types might help to insure this, but we would be equally interested in any variety of cultures from distinct sources or that subsumed a minimum of overlapping on any criterion. Dr. Bernstein had suggested that you might have the full series of lysotypes as well as additional fresh isolates, whereupon I wrote to you earlier. I would be grateful to you for any extensive group of E. coli 055 and 0111 that you might be able to furnish.

Thank you for your offer of the additional types, which I will certainly keep in mind. For the present, however, it might be best if we confined our studies to the types named. If we have an opportunity to extend our studies still further, I hope to be able to turn to you for your proffered assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics