October 23, 1952

Dear Es:

I was very glad to hear a word from you. The cultures you asked for are enclosed. You may be interested in some of their history.

W-1310 should be identical with Y-109, having come from sister lyophil tubes. I happened to have W-1310 on an open slant, but can provide the other if this misbehaves. Y-117 is an auxotroph mutant of Y-109. Y-109 is a culture that was represented by Boivin to be the "C2" of his transformation experiments (Cold Spr. Harb. Symposium, 1947), and was brought over by him in person. Tatum and W were interested to look for transformation of biochemical mutant markers, but nothing ever came of it. Later we concluded that the strain had gone completely rough (along with the sister strain, C1), Since Boivin's death, we have not been able to locate the smooth parent cultures, and his colleagues have, in fact , demanded them of us. As it turns out, we have worked out a transducing system in Salmonella— it should be out in next month's J. Bact.

In addition to these, I am also sending K-12 and B strains, in case you should be interested to play with them. A variety of auxotrophic mutants should be available, including arginineless. We have some ourselves, and know where to look for more. Replica-plating technique, superimposed on the penicillin method makes mutant hunting an easy pastime.

Now that I can't just walk across the street for a friendly call, I would especially appreciate the favor of a regular exchange of publications. If this can include the Texas Publications from your lab,so much the better.

With best regards

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. That "RNA" mutant of Pseudomonas turned out to be satisfied with pyrimidine + citrulline; another wants B_{12} or methionine.

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