

April 9, 1946+

Dr+ L.J. Wickerham,

NRRL; Peoria Ill.

Dear Sir:

Excuse me for writing you twice on the same subject, but in the process of moving here from Columbia, your last letter to me was packed away in a place not now accessible. I am working here now with E+L.Tatum on the genetics of some microorganisms, and we have definitely decided to take a crack at studying mutations (if we can induce them) in your *Schizosaccharomyces versatilis* (W+D) of which you already sent me culture some time ago.

The only important point which I cannot quite recall is the simplest medium (synthetic) on which they will grow, if there is any. I hope you will correct me if I am wrong in the assumption that the *Schizosacch.* are haploid in the vegetative phase (like *Neurospora*) and conjugate just before sporulation, and that the ascospores are presumed haploid. I do not mean to demand critical evidence (which we hope to find) but is that the assumed picture? Also presumably the organism is homothallic and single spore cultures can sporulate? Trust that we shall keep you informed of any important developments. If you know of any heterothallic yeasts with a life cycle like *Neurospora*, we should of course be very grateful to hear about it. I suppose that question has been put to you before.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg.