

pollen mother cell found by Björkman in his material supports this conclusion.

The F_1 hybrids have from 0-7 trivalents per pollen mother cell, with an average of 4.58 for the three plants investigated. This average figure compares favourably with that obtained by Myers⁶ for autotriploid *Lolium perenne*. It is concluded, then, that the three genoms present in the hybrids are highly homologous.

Björkman has suggested that var. *arida* and var. *fascicularis* have similar origins. However, from the present study we may go even further and suggest that *A. canina* var. *arida* is the autotetraploid form of *A. canina* var. *fascicularis*. Morphology is not in disagreement with this suggestion.

Further work on the cytology of *Agrostis* is being continued, and the genus is being studied from the points of view of taxonomy, ecology and breeding by W. Ellis Davies and A. Lazenby, Welsh Plant Breeding Station, and A. D. Bradshaw, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

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¹ Philipson, W. R., *J. Linn. Soc. Lond. Bot.*, **51**, 73 (1937).

² Sokolovskaya, A. P., *J. Bot. de l'URSS*, **22**, 478 (1937); *Cytologia*, **8**, 452 (1938).

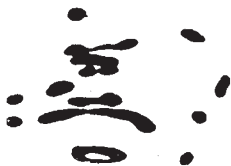
³ Wulff, H. D., *Ber. d. deut. Bot. Ges.*, **55**, 262 (1937).

⁴ Björkman, S. O., *Hereditas*, **37**, 465 (1951).

⁵ Myers, W. M., *J. Hered.*, **35**, 17 (1944).

Origin of *Poa annua* L.

It has been suggested by Nannfeldt¹ that *Poa annua* L. is an allotetraploid ($2n = 28$) the diploid parents of which are *P. infirma* H. B. K. (*P. exilis* (Thom.) Murb.) and *P. supina* Schrad. ($2n = 14$). This hypothesis seems highly probable on morphological grounds, though Nannfeldt did not succeed in crossing the diploids by open pollinations.



Meiosis in *Poa annua* × *infirma*, showing 7 bivalents and 7 univalents. Aceto-carmin squash. Drawing traced from two photographs taken at different levels. × 1,500

In 1950 an attempt was made to pollinate *P. annua* with pollen from *P. infirma*. About sixty florets were emasculated on two plants of *P. annua* and the remaining spikelets removed. The plants were covered and pollinated daily for a fortnight with pollen of *P. infirma*. Four seeds resulted, one of which germinated and produced a hybrid which is intermediate in character between the parents and completely sterile, the anthers failing to dehisce. This plant has $2n = 21$, as is to be expected, and at meiosis always shows 7 bivalents and 7 univalents (see diagram). The chromosome set of *P. infirma* must therefore be homologous with one of the *P. annua* sets, conditions which could only occur if *P. infirma* were, in fact, one of the parents of the allotetraploid. The apparently perfect pairing of the bivalents in the hybrid strongly suggests that *P. annua* is a plant of comparatively recent origin. Attempts are being made to complete the proof of Nannfeldt's hypothesis.

My thanks are due to Mr. M. Borrill for assistance with the difficult work of hybridizing. A full account of the work will be published in *Watsonia*.

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¹ Nannfeldt, J. A., *Botaniska Notiser*, 238 (1937).

Polychætes New to British Waters

In a survey of the sub-littoral fauna of the Firth of Clyde carried out in 1949 and 1950, a large number of Polychæta were found which had not previously been recorded from the area. Of these, ten species appear to be new to Britain, although all but two are known from neighbouring continental waters and are likely to occur off the south and west coasts of Britain. The new records are:

Aphroditidæ:	<i>Leanira yhleni</i> Malmgren
	<i>Leanira tetragona</i> Oersted
Phyllodocidæ:	<i>Phyllodoce mucosa</i> Oersted
	<i>Eulalia fuscescens</i> St. Joseph
Glyceridæ:	<i>Goniada norvegica</i> Oersted
Cirratulidæ:	<i>Tharyx multibranchiis</i> (Grube)
Capitellidæ:	<i>Dasybranchus caducus</i> Grube
Ampharetidæ:	<i>Amage adspersa</i> (Grube)
	<i>Amage galliasi</i> Marion

Good descriptions of these are given by Fauvel¹. The two species of *Amage* have not hitherto been recorded outside the Mediterranean, and indeed the genus is new to Britain. In addition, two species have been found which do not accord with any known description and have therefore been described². They are *Spiochætopterus* sp. (Chætopteridæ) and *Amage scotica* (Ampharetidæ).

A full account of the new records for the Clyde Sea Area and descriptions of the new species is being published elsewhere.

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¹ Fauvel, P., "Polychætes errantes" (*Faune de France*, **5**) (1923); "Polychætes sédentaires" (*Faune de France*, **16**) (1927).

² Clark, R. B. (in the press).

Chairs of Chemistry in Great Britain

In the book, "An Eighteenth Century Lectureship in Chemistry", published in 1950, the statement is made that the regius chair of chemistry founded in the University of Glasgow in 1818 is "the earliest Chair of chemistry, *tout simple*, in the country"; and the statement is also quoted in the review of the book in *Nature* of December 8, 1951. This statement must not be allowed to pass unchallenged. As I have pointed out in "The Teaching of Chemistry in the Universities of Aberdeen" (1935), a chair of chemistry was founded in Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, in 1793, the first occupant of the chair being a Dr. George French. This chair, therefore, must take rank as the earliest chair of chemistry in Great Britain.

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