

Hemimerus vosseleri Rehn and Rehn. No fleas, ticks or lice were found. The infestation with *H. vosseleri* varied from 4 to 13 per rat, and included nymphal and adult specimens. In all, 46 specimens of this strange earwig were obtained.

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Seed-coat Structure of Yellow Chinese Rape

SAMPLES have been obtained of seed described as Chinese rape, imported into Europe for oil extraction. The seeds in these commercial samples are either yellow or vinaceous in colour, and the different coloured seeds are to be found in varying proportions. Plants grown from both types of seed corresponded with descriptions of *Brassica campestris chinoleifera* Viehoveer¹. It has not been possible to locate type specimens of the plant in Great Britain.

Comparatively few yellow kinds of cruciferous oil seeds are used commercially², and therefore a knowledge of the testa structure of this Chinese seed might well be useful in the analysis of seed samples and oil-cakes.

Fig. 1 is a drawing of a cross-section of the testa. The structure corresponds to that of the rapeseeds rather than the mustards². Consequently, the only other yellow cruciferous oil seed with which one might confuse the Chinese seed is *Brassica campestris* L. var. *Sarson* Prain.

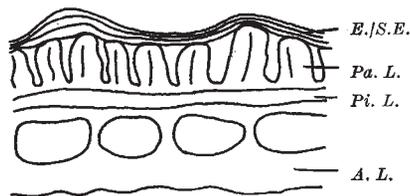


Fig. 1. Drawing of cross-section of testa of yellow Chinese rape ($\times 400$). *E./S.E.*, disorganized epidermis and subepidermis; *Pa. L.*, palisade layer; *Pi. L.*, pigment layer; and *A. L.*, aleurone layer.

The testa structure of both species has been compared; but it is extremely difficult to distinguish between the two species on this anatomical feature, although slight inequalities in height of the palisade cells of the Chinese seed present a faint reticulation in surface view. Reticulations are not normally shown by *Brassica campestris* L. var. *Sarson* Prain.

This difficulty of distinguishing between the two species need not present any great problem during the analysis of oil-cakes, because, compared with the mustards, both seeds are usually regarded as fairly mild for feeding purposes.

It is intended to publish the details of this investigation elsewhere. I am indebted to the Incorporated Oil Seed Association and Salamon and Seaber (consulting analytical chemists) for the supply of material and also the Central Research Fund of the University

of London for the loan of certain apparatus used in this work.

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¹ Viehoveer, A., Clavenger, F., and Ewing, C. O., *J. Agric. Res.*, **20**, 117 (1920).

² Winton, A. L., "The Microscopy of Vegetable Foods" (New York, 1916).

Nomenclature of Cell Strains

At the International Tissue Culture meeting, held in Glasgow during August 26-27, the subject of the nomenclature of cell-strains used in tissue culture was considered. After general discussion, a committee was appointed and recommendations were made. It was suggested that authors should give the following information when first mentioning a cell strain in the course of a publication. (1) Whether the tissue of origin was normal or neoplastic, and, if neoplastic, whether benign or malignant. (2) Whether the tissue was adult or embryonic. (3) Animal species of origin. (4) Organ of origin. (5) The cell-type (if known). (6) The designation of the strain. (7) Whether the strain has been cloned, and, if so, the clone number. (8) The reference to the original article in which the strain was described.

It was further suggested that the designation of the strain should consist of a series of not more than four letters indicating the laboratory of origin, followed by a series of numbers indicating the strain, for example, *NCL* 123. Thus, a strain might be described: normal adult rat heart fibroblast, strain *XYZ* 111, clone 29 (Lobachevsky, Z. (1922), *J. Metaphys. Cytol.*, **99**, 77). Afterwards, in the same communication it would suffice to refer to the strain by its strain designation.

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Histological and Chemical Changes in the Rat Pituitary Neural Lobe following Treatment with Neurohypophysial Substances

No agreement exists as to the effect of administration of exogenous posterior pituitary principles on neurohypophysial structures. Some authors¹ describe no changes in neurosecretory phenomena, others² think the dosage important, whereas increase in neurosecretion has been reported by me³. One of the difficulties in evaluating and comparing alterations in material stained with chrome-alum hæmatoxylin is the lack of adequate histological assaying methods. When the amount of chrome-alum hæmatoxylin-positive material has not increased considerably following hormone treatment, it is difficult to be reasonably certain of the effect. In addition, not all such material necessarily represents posterior pituitary hormone or 'true' neurosecretory material^{3,4}.

For these reasons, in the present series of experiments an attempt was made to correlate the histological alterations of the neurohypophysis with changes in chemical composition of the infundibular process, assuming the latter to be a storage place for posterior pituitary principles.