

EFFECT OF GAMMA IRRADIATION ON THE AFFINITIES  
OF *LOLIUM PERENNE* AND *FESTUCA PRATENSIS*

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Attempts to increase the crossability of *Lolium perenne* and *Festuca pratensis* by irradiating the gametes with gamma rays from a Co<sup>60</sup> source gave some unexpected results, which, however, have been consistent for two consecutive years.

Using *Lolium perenne* as female and crossing with pollen from irradiated *Festuca pratensis*, the percentages of seedset and germination were determined in relation to irradiation dose.

The results showed that up to about 500 r there was a decrease in seedset and germination. This was followed by a sharp rise to about 1500 r with a gradual decrease towards 3000 r.

The possible significance of these results will be discussed.

## EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE CONCERNING "AFFINITY"

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In 1953 Dr Donald Michie and the writer presented the concept of, and observations supporting, a new phenomenon involving non-random assortment of independent markers, found in the House Mouse; this concept was termed "affinity" (*Nature*, 171, 26). An association of a chromosome III marker with three chromosome V markers, reported by the writer at that time, has been thoroughly investigated in order to test whether it can be explained on the hypothesis of "affinity." The results are significant and are given with a tentative map of linkage group V the position of the point in V responsible for the association. The possibility that this is the centromere is briefly discussed.

## NOTICE OF CONGRESS

## FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HUMAN GENETICS

This congress will be held in Copenhagen, 1st to 6th August 1956.

Provisional programme and information are sent on request.  
Address: The Secretariat of the Congress, University Institute for Human Genetics, 14, Tagensvej, Copenhagen, N., Denmark.

## PROFESSOR ØJVIND WINGE

Professor Winge's 70th birthday is due on May 19th, 1956. At the same time he completes his long service to the Carlsberg Laboratory. Geneticists all over the world will wish to offer their tribute of congratulations on this occasion to one whom we have admired for the immense versatility and fruitfulness of his successive researches. To no other living man do we owe the elucidation of so many unforeseen novelties, from his early work on polyploidy, sex chromosomes and sex-linkage, to his later pregnant researches in the *Saccharomycetes*. Each topic to which he has given his mind has turned out to be of importance for the development of our science.

C. D. D., R. A. F.