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1. The PCR process is covered by U.S. patents 4,683,195 and 4,683,202 owned by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. Use of the process may require a license.
2. U.S. patent 5,273,718. European patent applied for.

arose as a sectorial mutation in a male offspring from a cross between a PT ♀ and an irradiated 3H1 (C3H × 101 F1 hybrid) ♂ and therefore the mutation is spontaneous in origin, and not radiation-induced[7]. The finding that the PT RFLVs only are present at *Mnk* in hemizygous mutant Mo^{dp} embryos confirms this conclusion. The PT RFLV pattern is also associated with the *Mnk* locus in at least four other mottled mutants, Mo^{blo}, Mo^{br}, Mo^{vbr} and Mo^{12H} (ref. 6). In mice as in humans, it is important to confirm that genomic changes associated with mutant phenotypes are not due to conservative DNA variants and to include DNA from a range of mouse strains, including the strain of origin where known, as experimental controls.

Nevertheless, it remains likely that *Mo* is the homologue of MNK and the findings that Mo^{dp} males do not produce *Mnk* transcripts, and that Mo^{blo} males produce two larger size *Mnk* transcripts in addition to the normal one, lends considerable support to this hypothesis[2,3]. There is no evidence however, for gross genomic alterations at *Mnk* which are responsible for the mutant phenotype[2,6].

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Levinson *et al.* reply — We have performed Southern blot analysis of DNA from the Mo^{dp} mutant and the PT strain, kindly provided by Drs Reed and Boyd, and find an identical pattern, thereby supporting their conclusions. Our misinterpretation stemmed from our difficulty in determining the exact strain of origin of the Mo^{dp} mutant. While the original description of Mo^{dp} (ref. 7) does refer back to irradiation experiments[10,11] there is no mention of the PT strain *per se* in any of these papers. Furthermore, according to Festing[12], the PT strain was not described until 1969. We believe that the fundamental conclusions of our study are valid on the basis of the mRNA expression studies. We are continuing to investigate the molecular defect in Mo^{dp} as well as those in the other mottled alleles.

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