

June 16, 1969

Dr. R. K. Mortimer  
Radiation Laboratory  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Dear Bob:

You were away in Europe when I tried to call you, so I thought I'd speed things up by a brief letter.

I have no intention of dabbling again in yeast genetics in any proper sense, but I would like to include a yeast system in some tests for chemical mutagenesis and allied phenomena. For use in just that way, I would appreciate it very much if you can send me a diploid strain, heterozygous for the pink adenine marker that would be advantageous for quantitative studies for response to radiation, in this case, of course, induced segregation. I don't know whether you recall that I had had a somewhat similar experience with diploid *E. coli* quite some years ago (see the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium for 1951). We are looking at these diploids too, but they are spontaneously unstable to a somewhat annoying degree, and for that reason may not be as sensitive indicators of low-level effects.

I haven't followed the story of DNA repair in yeast particularly closely. But if there should happen to be some repair-defective mutants that could be coupled with the adenine heterozygote, I would be particularly grateful to have the appropriate stock, together with the non-defective control. I take it for granted that the induced segregation is some side effect of repair of DNA lesions.

Please give me a call if any part of my request is obscure or unreasonable.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

See 'MMG, Spring 1969'

MORTIMER, R.K.