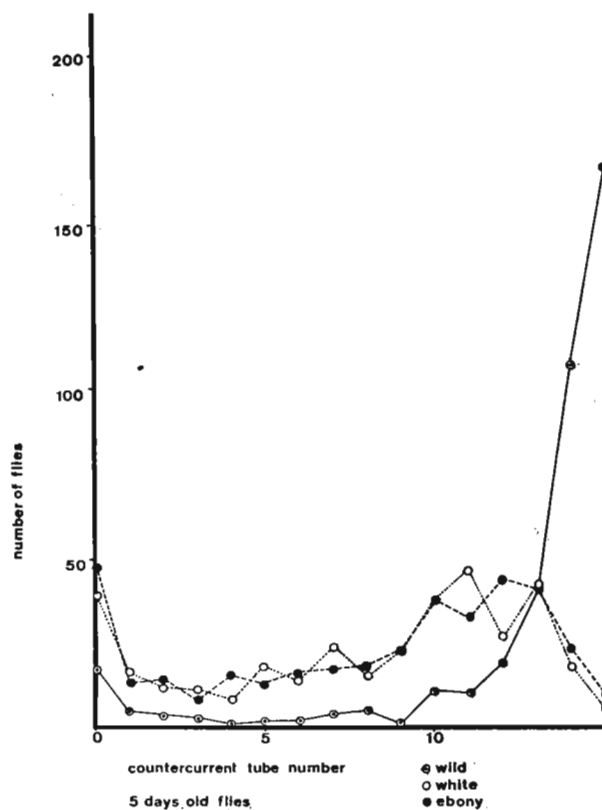
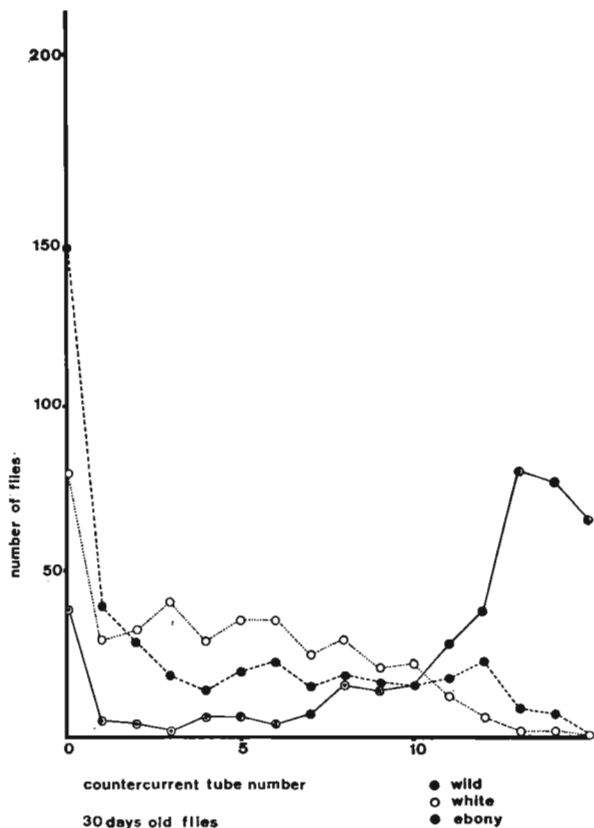


Elens, A. and J.M. Wattiaux. Facultés Universitaires N.D. de la Paix, Namur, Belgium. Age and phototactic reactions in *D. melanogaster*.

The "countercurrent distribution" method has been suggested by S. Benzer (1967) to fractionate populations of *Drosophila* flies according to their phototactic response. The preliminary results here reported concern wild (Canton S), ebony, and white strains of *D. melanogaster*,

tested according to Benzer.

The flies were grown on cornmeal medium at 25°C and 70% R.H. (10 hrs light per day). Testing was done at 25°C and 70% R.H., in a dark room. The test tubes and light source were



as in Benzer's experiments. Approximately 60 flies of each of the three strains, and of same sex and age, were tested together.

The data here presented result from 4 repetitions (the data concerning both sexes being cumulated).

As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 the differences between strains are much more marked for the older flies than for the younger ones.

Of course, such behavioural differences can be founded not especially on phototactic but on locomotor characteristics. Other tests are on hand concerning the influence of ageing on the locomotor activity (for flies in a group as well as for isolated individuals) of the same strains.

Reference: Benzer, S., 1967 Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 58: 1112-1119.

Cetl, I. J.E. Purkyně University, Brno, Czechoslovakia. The relation between genotypes in a viability test.

Using the Cy/L strain, relative viability of individuals homozygous for 30 independent second chromosomes isolated per 10 from three different natural populations (H, B and M) originating from Moravia was tested by crosses of Cy/+ females with L/+ males. In all 30 chromosome subpopulations studied, the frequencies