

NOTES AND NEWS

Nomenclature

C. B. Bridges On naming alleles. It is suggested that as new alleles arise they be named with the numerical sequence system (L, L^2, L^4) or the more precise dating system (w^{314}) in which the locus name is an integral part of the mutant name. It is proposed that the few alleles which at present have special names (eosin, sooty) be brought into line with the above system by prefixing the locus name to the allele name (white-eosin, ebony-sooty, vestigial-Depillato). This alteration will make the names correspond to the symbols (w^e, e^s, vg^D) and will maintain the same order in lists of names as in lists of symbols. The hyphen may be used to connect the two halves of the name since the fraction bar / has supplanted the hyphen in denoting the two chromosomes of a pair. The abbreviated forms w-eosin, e-sooty and vg-Depillate could be used as equivalent to the full names.

H. J. Muller Inversions. As the number of inversions is outrunning the alphabet, and arbitrary letters newly assigned to them are both hard to remember and confusable with the symbols for gene mutations, we find it preferable to stick to the admittedly imperfect method of representing inversions by means of the "mutational" changes that accompany them, or, when these were not evident, by the arbitrary lettering originally given, with the reservation that more care should be taken to give simple designations to those hereafter arising. In designating combinations having the left part of one inverted chromosome and the right part of another, we have found it convenient simply to add the capital letters L and R, for left and right, to the symbols for the inversions, so that, for example, sc^{LR} represents a crossover chromosome having the left part of the scute⁴ chromosome, including its left point of rearrangement (breakage and reattachment) and the right part of the scute⁸ chromosome, including its right point of rearrangement, together with any genes that may perforce be included, which latter it may or may not be desirable to represent, as the occasion demands. Where there is danger of confusion between the loci themselves, which are designated by the symbols, and the chromosome arrangement in question, a dot is placed next to the symbol or, preferably, below it, to show that it is the point of rearrangement together with what goes therewith, that is being referred to. Thus, in the case given, sc^{LR} happens to include the scute-8 gene itself (which could be represented in addition, when desirable), whereas sc^{RL} would not include the scute-8 gene itself, and would, where accuracy was required, be represented with a dot under it.

H. J. Muller Attached X's. For the symbolization of attached X-chromosomes, we prefer to make a line (where possible, a downwardly curved line) above the symbols of the contained genes, rather than below them, since we often use the latter mark to denote heterozygosis, and if one of the chromosomes is normal it is not always convenient