

in which the data are supplied by the person in charge of the class. In this mode, the program is essentially a means of generating individual problems. Each student is given a different set of genetical data, and asked to infer the parental cross, calculate map distances, etc. The program supplies a list of the correct answers to be used for marking.

Copies of the program are available on request. However, it should be emphasized that a certain commitment may be required to get the program set up. First, the program is too long to be easily typed up from listing or sent on cards, so that it has to be sent on tape, which needs to be interpreted. Secondly, although the program is written in standard FORTRAN, it may be necessary to write a small supplementary program to enable students to submit crosses in the most efficient manner, particularly if a terminal rather than a card punch is being used. Some permanent file space is also needed. Each of these steps requires some computer experience or the assistance of a programmer.

Wright, C.P. Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. A method for transferring etherized flies into a container of active flies.

In working with fruit flies, it is sometimes necessary to transfer etherized flies into a container of flies which are awake and active. It is usually best to make such a transfer without etherizing or disturbing the active flies in the container. One method which is

useful in this situation involves the use of a Pasteur pipette. An etherized fly can be gently brushed or sucked head-first into the small end of a Pasteur pipette. The Pasteur pipette containing the etherized fly can then be carefully inserted along the side of the stopper or cover of the container of active flies. This can be done in such a way that the active flies in the container do not escape and are not disturbed. After the end of the Pasteur pipette which contains the etherized fly has entered the chamber of the fly container, gentle air pressure can be applied with the pipette bulb or by mouth. The etherized fly will be forced out of the pipette into the fly container. The etherized fly should be deposited on a dry surface such as the side of the container and allowed to remain on the dry surface until it wakes up and becomes active.

I have found this to be a useful technique in the situation of introductory genetics labs where beginning genetics students sometimes have difficulty in handling flies. If students try to etherize all the active flies in a container in order to introduce a few etherized flies of another genotype, sometimes all the flies will be killed as a result of accidental over-etherization. This can cause problems, especially in the situation where the active flies are virgin females which might be difficult to replace if they are killed. The use of this method of transfer decreases the amount of ether to which the flies are exposed, and thus increases their chance for survival.

Dog Chemical in Man's World

A recent item in the New Scientist pointed out methyl p-hydroxybenzoate as a chemical that makes bitches attractive to dogs. The human world must appear pretty seductive to dogs as this chemical is currently used as a preservative in foods, drink and cosmetics (Merck Index 9, p. 796)!. The lists of ingredients on many shampoos and handcreams show that they contain this chemical under its alternative name of methylparaben. Geneticists and other Drosophila lovers could expect strange happenings should a dog ever enter their labs, for the standard preservative added to Drosophila fly-food is Nipagin. This is yet another alias for methyl p-hydroxybenzoate.