

References given to Prof HSC

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Prof. H. Sharat Chandra
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Indian Academy of Sciences
C.V. Raman Avenue
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re: MS by I. Walker

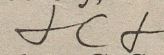
Dear Prof. Chandra,

I recommend that you reject the comment by Dr. Walker, for it is not only poorly written and illogical in spots, it is too obviously a work of advocacy for a particular hypothesis. I took the trouble of checking some of the key citations - Dobzhansky & Wright (1941), Dubinin (1946), and Szankasi et al. (1988). I was unable to see where Walker got his figures from Dobzhansky. Dubinin presents data that better support Walker's repair hypothesis, but then Dubinin immediately offers a plausible alternative explanation - nonequilibrium populations with strong seasonal effects - that is ignored by Walker.

Walker does not make clear why recombination is necessary for the sort of repair that he has in mind. Only diploidy at some stage of the life cycle is logically necessary.

I think it is important that minority views be represented and debated, but it is only reasonable to hold the authors of such views to the same standards used for the majority views: clear logic, good writing, and careful scholarship. This contribution fails on all three counts. By the way, the problem with the writing is not that the author's native language is German - the problem is with the logical development of the ideas.

Sincerely,


Stephen C. Stearns