

3. Pink pollen

Pollen which definitely was not yellow, which looked pinkish brown in bulk, and which could be chocolate (see Tavcar, News Letter 24, 1950) was observed in 1954 in many descendents of ear S1524 (2) described in section No. 2 above. Pollination of the ancestors of this material had been in the hands of technicians for the past few years and the pollen color was not detected until the summer of 1954 when I once again pollinated these lines. Of the several descendent lines of S1524 (2) in the field when the first plant with pink pollen was discovered, pink pollen was found to be present in some plants of two lines. The original find was made in one of the inverted embryo lines. Another line, free of inverted embryos, but saved because it was A B pl r^{ch} also included some plants with pink pollen.

Several plants in both lines had finished shedding pollen by the time the original find was made. Apparently, however, the pollen color is associated with purple anther color for it was found only in A B Pl or A b Pl plants. In this respect it is similar to Tavcar's chocolate pollen (C0) gene.

The actual amount of pigment in each pollen grain is very slight for examination by transmitted light revealed none. Also very little pigment was noticeable in reflected light at high magnification. Apparently bulk amounts are needed for detection of the color.

The pollen seemed fertile and was used in both selfs and in crosses. F₁ plants and selfs are now growing in the greenhouse.

R. I. Brawn