



Pa = paramutagenic determiners

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2. Correction of a published statement concerning a supposed new class of paramutable R alleles of Andean origin.

It was reported in an article entitled "Geographic distribution of paramutable and paramutagenic R alleles in maize" recently published (Genetics 61:677-695) by W. J. Van Der Walt and the writer that certain R alleles of Andean origin undergo a reduction in pigmenting potential on passage through heterozygotes with standard R^r . It was concluded at the time that these Andean alleles represented a previously unrecognized class of paramutable R factors.

Later tests have not confirmed this claim. The mistake is probably attributable to two circumstances: (1) the Andean R alleles in question appear to be subject to significant variation in expression from season to season, in contrast to standard R^r and (2) the testcrosses of the controls (homozygous Andean $R R$ and Andean $R/r \sigma\sigma$) and of the heterozygotes of Andean R with standard R^r on which the published report was based were made in different years.

Adequately controlled testcrosses with three of the Andean R alleles in question were made in 1969. The results clearly showed no effect of heterozygosity for standard R^r for either one or two generations on level of Andean R action.

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