

May 6th 1958.

My dear Ron,

A further point in regard to the marks, release, recapture triangles. In our original dominula paper, Heredity (1947): 1, 143-74, we have insects caught and insects released at the two ends, respectively, of the rows descending in opposite directions from a given date.

In our joint Maniola paper, Heredity (1949): 3, 67-84, we have respectively insects caught but marks released.

In both cases, the recaptures within the body of the table must in fact be marks not insects. That is to say, an insect liberated first on (5.5) the 16th and recaptured on the 20th and 23rd will, in the recaptures, be entered once under 20th (as caught on the 16th) and twice on the 23rd (as caught on the 16th and 20th).

Now we have more usually followed the plan of showing in the triangles insects released,

as in the 1947 paper, rather than marks released as in the 1949 one, and adjusted the calculation accordingly. For instance, in the later dominula work, published by Philip Sheppard, Heredity (1951): 5, 349-78. The fact that, at Cyril Darlington's urgent request, the "triangles" were here turned round and slightly modified to make the rows vertical and horizontal, instead of diagonal, for ease of type-setting, is in this matter not-relevant.

Since marks released has been the more commonly used device, and is indeed basic for the non-biologist to follow, would you agree to replacing marks released by marks released (and adjusting the terminal numbers accordingly) in the triangle selected for display in the British Museum from our Heredity (1949) paper (on p. 75)?

Yours,

Henry

E. B. FORD, F.R.S.,
University Reader in Genetics
and *Director of the Genetics Laboratory.*

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TELEPHONE 55278

Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,
44 Storey's Way,
Cambridge.

6th May, 1958.

My dear Ron,

It is a wonderful thing to receive such a letter as that which I had from you today. I shall keep it and treasure it always. I want you to know that your splendid encouragement for more than thirty five years has been the greatest thing in my scientific career. I owe an immense debt to you.

I must say I had not realized that the B.B.C. want half an hour's worth, nor that we are being started off by that curious person D.M.S. Watson. I once crossed the Atlantic with him and got on quite well personally, though I have a suspicion I might not do on a longer acquaintance. Naturally, scientifically, our views are poles apart. I can hardly think that the B.B.C. could be quite so stupid as to give their listeners our four contributions of half an hour on the same night. On the other hand, it is quite possible, for there is no limit to human foolishness. I am today writing to them to find out about this. Perhaps you have done the same, but in any event I will let you know what they say.

Yours affectionately,



P.S. A second letter is enclosed.

E. B. FORD, F.R.S.,
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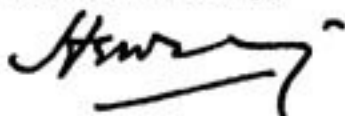
Having dictated already a letter to you, another point has arisen, and I am enclosing this letter separately in the same envelope.

Gavin de Beer, I think very properly, would like a permanent exhibit of the technique of marking, release and recapture as applied to butterflies and moths. As always on these occasions, there seems to be a rush, and he would like something by the opening date of the Darwin Exhibition on June 11th. All he wants is (1) triangles; (2) marked specimens, I think two would be appropriate, one showing the markings as just made, the other a specimen withdrawn from a population after it has been flying some days; (3) a brief explanation. This latter will not be easy to draft, since it has to be suitable for the general public, and I will send you for your approval, if I may, a copy of what I am suggesting.

If you agree, I think it will be best to use one of our Maniola triangles. That from Heredity, 1949, 3, 67-84, being the upper one on page 75, in the joint paper by yourself, Dowdeswell and myself.

It is true that a great deal more work on marking, release and recapture has been done on other species than on Maniola. However, my point in choosing Maniola is this. That the melanins which give its colour are extremely resistant when exposed to light, but the pigments in most of the other species used, especially dominula, fade after a few months' exposure even to defused daylight, so that such species would be extremely unsuitable for a permanent exhibit, which is what is wanted. May I have your approval to go ahead with the reproduction of a triangle ~~in a~~ joint paper? I am writing to Kenneth Mather to ask for his permission as present Editor of Heredity.

Yours affectionately,



P.S. A second letter is enclosed.