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PRINCIPLES OF INHERITANCE AND VARIATION

Genetics is the study of principles and mechanism of heredity and variation. Gregor Johann Mendel is known as 'father of Genetics'.

- Inheritance is the process by which characters are passed from one parent to progeny. It is the basis of heredity.
- Variation is the degree to which progeny differ from their parents. Variation may be in terms of morphology, physiology, and behavioristic traits of individual belonging to same species.
- Variation occurs due to recombination of genes, crossing over, mutation and effect of environment.

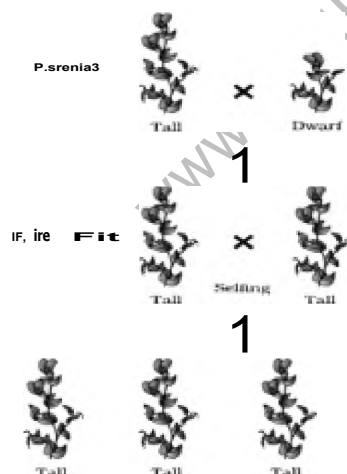
Mendel's Law of Inheritance

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Mendel selected 7 contrasting characters of garden pea for his hybridization experiments.

Parental traits	Dominant traits	Recessive traits
Plant height	Tall	dwarf
Flower/seed position	Terminal	Axillary
Seed/pod colour	Green	Yellow
Seed shape	Round	Wrinkled
Seed colour	Yellow	Green
Flower colour	Violet	White
Pod shape	Inflated	Constricted

Inheritance of one gene (Monohybrid cross)



Mendel called the 'factors' that pass through gametes from one generation to the next generation. Now a day it is called as genes (unit of inheritance).

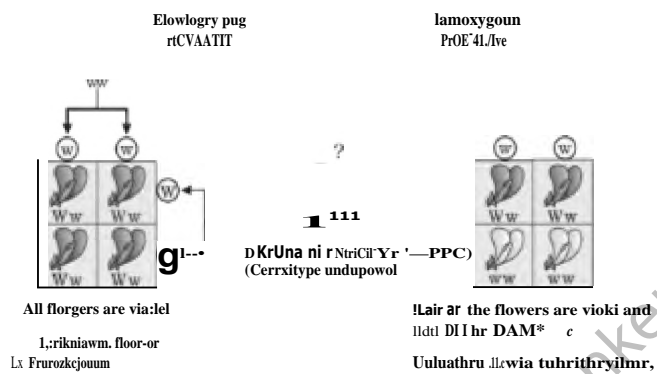
- Genes that code for a pair of contrasting traits are known as Alleles.

Alphabetical symbols are used to represent each gene, capital letter T for gene expressed in F1 generation and small letter (t) for other gene.

Mendel also proposed that in true breeding tall and dwarf variety pair of genes for height is homozygous (TT or tt). TT, Tt or tt are called genotype and tall and dwarf are called phenotype.

- The hybrids which contain alleles which express contrasting traits are called heterozygous (Tt).
- The monohybrid ratio of F2 hybrid (3:1 phenotypic) and (1:1 genotypic).

Test cross is the cross between an individual with dominant trait and a recessive organism in order to know whether the dominant trait is homozygous or heterozygous.



Principle or Law of Inheritance

Based on observations of monohybrid cross.. Mendel proposed two laws of inheritance-

Law of dominance states that —

C.characters are controlled by discrete units called factors

Factors always occur in pair.

In a dissimilar pair of factors, one member of the pair dominates the other.

Law of Segregation- alleles do not blend and both the characters are recovered during gametes formation as in F₂ generation. During gamete formation traits segregate (separate) from each other and pass to different gametes. Homozygous produce similar kinds of gametes but heterozygous produce two different kinds of gametes with different

Incompletedominance

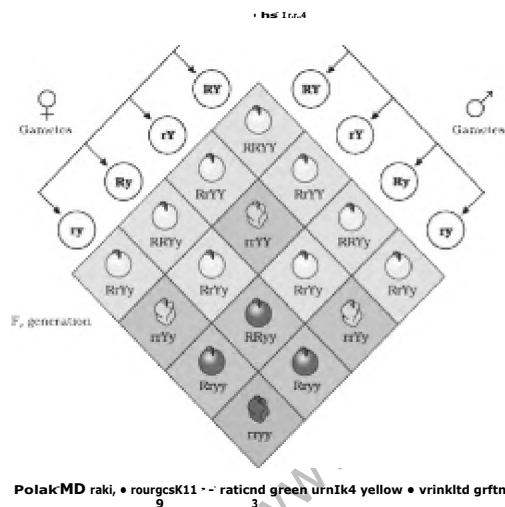
- It is a post Mendelian discovery. Incomplete dominance is the phenomenon of neither of the two alleles being dominant so that expression in the hybrid is a fine mixture or intermediate between the expressions of two alleles.
- In snapdragon (*Mirabilis jalapa*), there are two types of pure breeding plants, red flowered and white flowered. On crossing the two, F₁ plants possess pink flowers. On selfing them, F₂ generation has 1 red & 2 pink & 1 white. The pink flower is due to incomplete dominance.

Co_diorninanEe

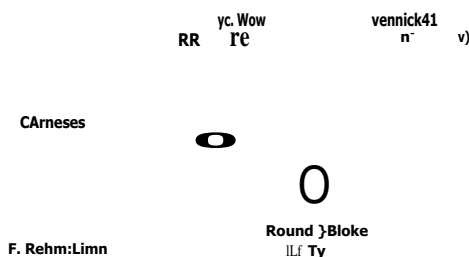
- It is the phenomenon of two **co-dominant** alleles having a **neither dominant nor recessive** relationship and both expressing themselves in the organism.
- **Human beings' ABC blood grouping** are controlled by gene **I**. The gene has three alleles i.e. **I^A, I^B & I^O**. Any person contains any two of three genes. **I^A & I^B** are dominant over **I^O**.

They are multiple forms of a mendelian factor or gene which occur on the same gene locus distributed in different organisms in the gene pool with an organism carrying only two alleles and a gamete only one allele.

Inheritance of Two genes II Dihybrid Cross)



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A cross made to study simultaneous inheritance of two pairs of mendelian factors of genes.

Law of independent Assortment – when two pairs of traits are combined in a hybrid, segregation of one pair of character is independent of other pair of characters. In Dihybrid cross two new combinations, round and yellow and wrinkled and green are formed due to independent assortment of four traits, round, wrinkled, yellow and green.

Chromosomal Theory of Inheritance

- Chromosome as well as gene both occurs in pair. The two alleles of a gene pair are located on homologous chromosomes.
- a **Sutton and Boveri** argued that the pairing and separation of a pair of chromosomes would lead to segregation of a pair of factors (gene) they carried.
- Sutton united the knowledge of chromosomal segregation with Mendelian principles and called it the chromosomal theory of inheritance.

Linkage and Recombination

4. When two genes in a Dihybrid cross were situated on same chromosome, the proportion of parental gene combination was much higher than the non-parental type. Morgan attributed this due to the physical association or the linkage of the two genes and coined the term linkage to describe the physical association of genes on same chromosome.
4. The generation of non-parental gene combination during Dihybrid cross is called recombination. When genes are located on same chromosome, they are tightly linked and show less recombination.

Sex Determination

- Later it was found that the ovum that receives the sperm with X body becomes female and those not become males, so this X body was called as sex chromosome and other chromosomes are called autosomes.
- In humans and other organisms XY type of sex determination is seen but in some insects like Drosophila, XO type of sex determination is present.
- In both types of sex determination, male produce two different types of gametes either with or without X chromosome or some with X chromosome and some with Y chromosomes, Such types of sex determination are called male heterogamety.
- > In birds, two different types of gametes are produced by females in terms of sex chromosomes; this type of sex determination is called female heterogamety.

Mutation is a phenomenon which results in alteration of DNA sequence and consequently results in the change in the genotype and phenotype of an organism. The mutations that arise due to change in single base pair of DNA are called point mutations.

Genetic Disorder

The analysis of traits in several generations of a family is called the pedigree analysis. The inheritance of a particular trait is represented in family tree over several generations. It is used to trace the inheritance of particular trait, abnormality and disease.

Genetic Disorders Includes-

- a. **Hemophilia** - sex linked recessive disease in which, in an infected individual a minor cut leads to non-stop bleeding. Heterozygous female carrier can transmit the disease to their son.
- b. **Sickle cell anemia** - an autosomal linked recessive trait in which mutant hemoglobin molecules

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undergo polymerization under low oxygen tension causing change in shape of the RBC from biconcave to sickle like structure.

- C. **Phenylketonuria** - inborn error of metabolism inherited as autosomal recessive trait. The affected individual lacks an enzyme that converts the amino acid phenylalanine to tyrosine that results into mental retardation.

Chromosomal Disorders-Failure of segregation of chromatids during cell division results in loss or gain of chromosome called aneuploidy. The failure of cytokinesis leads to two sets of chromosome called polyploidy,

- Down's Syndrome** - is due to presence of additional copy of the chromosome number 21. The affected individual is short statured with small rounded head, furrowed tongue and partially open mouth. Mental development is retarded.
- Klinefelter's Syndrome** - due to presence of an additional copy of X-chromosome (XYY). Such persons have overall masculine development. They are sterile.
- Turner's Syndrome** - caused due to the absence of one of the X-chromosomes in females. Such females are sterile as ovaries are rudimentary. They lack secondary sexual characters.