

December 17, 1951

Dr. E. A. Steinhaus  
Professor of Insect Pathology  
Agriculture Hall  
University of California  
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Dr. Steinhaus:

One of the review journals has commissioned me to write a speculative article on the relationships of intracellular symbiosis and cellular heredity. My own special interests are in microbial genetics, but it would be impossible to ignore the evidence from insect-microsymbiote complexes.

The scope of this section will have to be limited to what I can regurgitate from second-hand assimilation. As you may well imagine, the fourth and fifth chapters of your book on Insect Microbiology have been indispensable, and we owe you a debt of gratitude for a clear resuscitation of a forgotten subject.

I am writing to ask your help in my effort to find the more recent literature on this subject. I should be most obliged to you if you could bring to my attention any papers that postdate the bibliography in your book that would help in filling in the gap. The subjects that would be of particular relevance are: hereditary transmission of symbiotes; disinfection, replacement and substitution, and their bearing on symbiote-function; culture of symbiotes as free-living organisms.

I should not trouble you for this except for the importance of the topic, and my own inability to locate new work in a field unfamiliar to me. The indexes to Biological Abstracts are so far out of date now as to make them quite unhelpful for the recent work.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics