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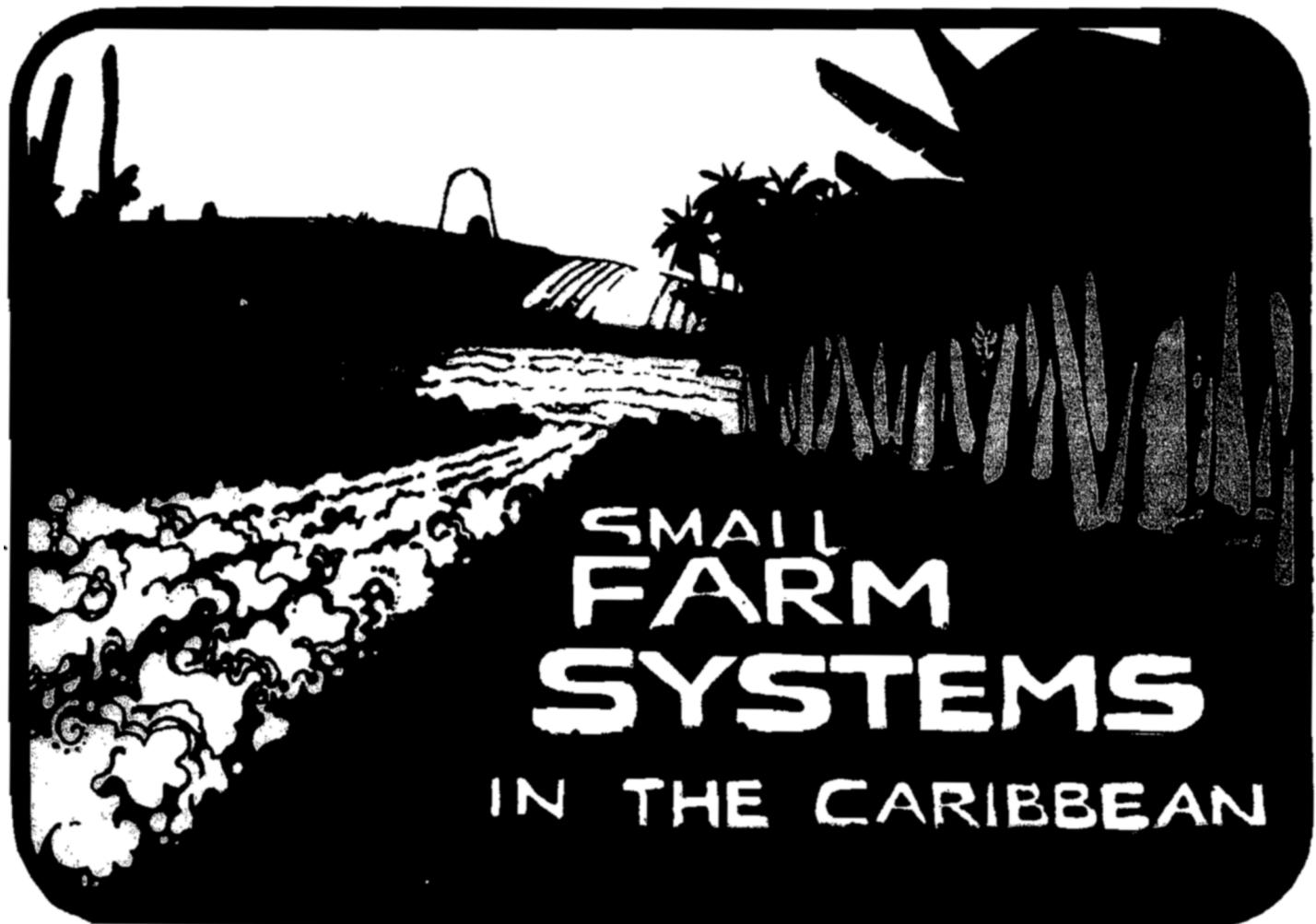
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# Some Complements to Prakken's Theory for Pigmentation of Dry *Phaseolus Vulgaris* Beans

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Prakken's theory for seed colorations in dry *Phaseolus Vulgaris* beans is summarised. Some modifications are proposed in order to explain anomalies which appear in crosses between West Indian lines:

1. the possibility of new C alleles;
2. the existence among Haitian beans of a type of mottling which is not induced by C alleles;

3. the existence of a third allele, *rki* at the *rk* locus, besides *RK* and *rk*; and
4. the strong linkage between bright red, uniform or striped pod coloration, and the *Crst* gene.

Two practical applications are quoted as examples.

Very often it is not easy to make people accept new cultivars of food crops with shapes, sizes or colorations different from the traditional ones. In the West Indies, preferences are different in various islands for dry *Phaseolus vulgaris* beans. In the Dominican Republic people ask for large red mottled beans. The same type is asked for in Haiti, but with the influence of Cuban culture, black medium sized beans are also accepted. In Jamaica, people like red striped pink beans, and in the French West Indies, uniform red, large beans are preferred.

People who try to breed bean varieties for yield, adaptation to poor soils and disease resistance are therefore concerned by the coloration of their progenies, if they want their new cultivars to be accepted by consumers.

## The Principal Genes Involved in Dry Bean Colorations, following Prakken's Theory

Not taking into account minor genes for dull or shiny beans, or for a yellow eye around the hilum, the principal genes involved in bean coloration according to Prakken (1979) are:

1. "P" which allows coloration (all the *pp* beans are white, whatever their other genes);
2. C, which allows full expression of the colors (the *cc* beans have pale colors); and
3. B (braun) G (geld), V (violet), inducing brown, yellow and purple pigments. The reunion of P, C, B, G, and V induces the dark coloration of black beans. These genes can explain the coloration of white, yellow, brown, buff, purple or black, uniformly colored beans. Striations and mottling, and also the special status of red beans remain to be explained.

Mottling may be induced by the heterozygous condition *CC*. This kind of mottling cannot be preserved in pure lines. It can also be induced by the stable *Cm* allele of C in pure inbred lines. But, in the same way as *Cc* heterozygotes, *CmCm* plants produce a minority (1 to 5%) of dark colored beans, the progeny of which is not different from that of mottled seeds.

This situation is still more conspicuous in striped beans, which possess the *Crst* allele of C and also produce a minority of dark beans.

The red coloration, which can appear only in lines homozygous for the recessive genes *b*, *g* and *v*, may be induced by a dominant gene R strongly linked with C. Such beans may be uniform red (*CR*), mottled red (*CRm*) or red striped (*CRst*). *F1* hybrids between *CR* and *CRst* produce red mottled beans, an unstable situation like for *Cc*.

Red coloration can be also induced by a recessive gene *rk*, which characterizes the "Dark Red Kidney."

## Modifications or Complements to Prakken's Theory Necessary to Explain the Behaviour of Some Crosses Between West Indian Beans.

*There are probably more alleles at the C locus than supposed by Prakken*

When uniform colored black or red seeded indeterminate varieties of Haitian or South American origin ("Nicanor 2.4" from Haiti or "Maluquinho" from Brazil) are crossed with striped beans like "Miss Kelly" (Jamaica) or "Kenscoff I" (Haiti) *F1* plants do not produce mottled seeds, but rather dark ones (black or red) on which the naked eye can scarcely distinguish small light spots, like stars on a dark sky.

We can therefore suppose that these uniform black or red varieties possess a "stronger" C allele than the common "C" of the other varieties.

Among Haitian beans, we can also find pure lines in which this coloration is stable. For example, in "Azael 178 A," obtained from the Haitian breeder Ariel Azael, another allele probably exists at the C locus.

## *Some mottlings cannot be explained by the Cc or CmCm genotypes*

Among Haitian lines there are some ("Nicanor 6.1," "Salagnac 120," "Kenscoff G") which are red or purple mottled, with large, dark, somewhat curved, irregular mottlings on a punctuated clear background. A minority of the beans produced by these lines are not darker, like for *Cc* or *CmCm* genotypes, but lighter, with only the small punctuations. When crossed with *Crst* striated lines, they give *F1* plants producing mottled beans. The *F2* plants show a very complicated segregation with not only the parental types, but also pale uniform colored beans, and others which show mottle and stripes together. This segregation has not been fully elucidated. It remains that there may be a kind of mottling which cannot be explained by the alleles of the C locus.

## *There are probably three alleles at the rk locus*

Some West Indian lines, such as "Miss Kelly" (Jamaica) and "Kenscoff I" (Haiti) are striped on a pink background. This pink background behaves as recessive in crosses with *CRm* or *CRst* varieties with white or cream background (supposed to be *Rk*). In crosses with varieties which have had a coloration of the "Dark

"Kidney" type (rk) the pink coloration behaves as dominant. We must therefore suppose that there are three alleles at the rk locus, with the following relations of dominance:

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Rk	rki	rk
(cream or white background)	(pink background, i for "intermediate")	(red background)

But there is a curious complication: the lines which combine CRst and rk have dark purple stripes (which appear black) on a red background. For this darkening of stripes, rk appears, on the contrary, as dominant against rki. In crosses between "Red Caricosse" (a line with "Red Kidney" coloration, obtained by G. Anais and C. Vincent), and gR (a red striped pink, like "Kenscoff I" or "Miss Kelly"), we obtain a 6 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 1 segregation in F<sub>2</sub> plants. Six of them produce black striated pinks; three, red striated pinks; three, black striated reds; three, uniform pinks; and one produces uniform reds. But this situation is actually caused by the strong linkage in "Dark Red Kidney" between the recessive rk and a dominant "stripe darkener" gene. We have obtained in later generations a very low percentage of recombinants (less than 1%) which are dark red striped on a red background.

#### **Interactions between Seed and Pod Colorations**

Pod colorations in *Phaseolus vulgaris* beans could deserve the attention of a second Prakken! From a cross between two European varieties, "Or du Rhin" (wax colored pods) × "Epicerie du Saulx" (bright red colored pods, with chlorophyll at early stage), we have obtained dark purple pods in F<sub>1</sub> plants, and a very complex segregation in the following generation, with wax, green, red, purple, but also red wax and purple wax pods.

The curious observation we have made in several crosses is that there is a tight linkage, (or perhaps a pleiotropy) between the Crst gene for striped seeds, and the bright red coloration of the pods, either uniform or by stripes. For example, from a cross of "Scabiola Rossa" (red striped pods) × "Dark Red Kidney" (green and later yellow pods), G. Anais and C. Vincent (INRA - Guadeloupe) have obtained either uniform color, or black striped red seeded lines. The black striped seeded lines have brightly red striped pods; on the contrary, the uniform color seeded lines have only faint stripes on their pods.

#### **CONCLUSION**

As practical examples of the theoretical considerations exposed above, we can quote the following:

1. The reunion in new inbred lines of the CRm and the rki genes, which produce red mottled seeds with a pink background, a very pleasant coloration. We have obtained by backcrosses the introduction of this new coloration into superior Haitian lines:
  - a. "Kenscoff I" (extra early, powdery mildew tolerant, red striped on a pink background).
  - b. "Salagnac 86" (medium-early, powdery mildew and rust tolerant, light red mottled on white background). The coloration of these lines was not dark red enough for Haitian consumers; their new versions with the Crm-rki combination will be better accepted.
2. The obtaining, for the French West Indies, of lines with beautiful red striped or uniform red pods, which enclose bright red seeds, very attractive for sale on the market for fresh shelled beans. The seeds may be black striped red (the black stripes disappear at cooking) or, still better, dark red striped red.

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#### **References**

1. Prakken, R. 1979. Seed coat color in *Phaseolus Vulgaris*, attempt to a general synthesis. Annual Report Bean Improvement Cooperative 1979. pp. 74-78.