

Mendel's Law of Inheritance

Introduction -

Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-1884) was appropriately called "father of Genetics" with his experiment he explained that characters are inherited. He was a monk at Brunn (Austria).

Mendel began his experiment on pea plant (*Pisum sativum*) in 1854 & published his result in *Nature* of Brunn in 1865. He formulated a law called Mendel's law. Although Mendel published his result in 1865 but it was not recognised in 1900 when the Mendel experiment was rediscovered by three scientists Hugo De Vries, Carl Correns & Tschermak of three different countries.

Why Mendel Selected Pea Plant for his experiment

Mendel selected pea plant for his experiment due to following characters.

- i) Well defined characters
- ii) Bisexual & annual flowers.
- iii) Predominantly self fertilization.
- iv) Easy to cross two plants
- v) Can grow in short span of time.

Characters considered by Mendel -

Mendel selected 7 pairs of contrasting characters for his experiment.

- 1 Length of plant - i) Tall & dwarf of plant
- 2 Colour of flower - ii) Plant having white & coloured flowers
- 3 Position of flower - iii) Plant having axillary & terminal flower
- 4 Colour of Pods - iv) Plant having green & yellow Pods
- 5 Shape of Pods - v) Plant having round & wrinkled Pods
- 6 Shape of Seed - vi) Plant having round & wrinkled Pods
- 7 Colour of cotyledons - vii) Plant having yellow & green cotyledon.

These contrasting characters are called Allel.
The plants having these contrasting characters are known as Allelomorph.

Mendel confined his attention to a single character at a time. When the behaviour of single pairs of contrasting characters were studied, then he confined his attention on two pairs of contrasting characters.

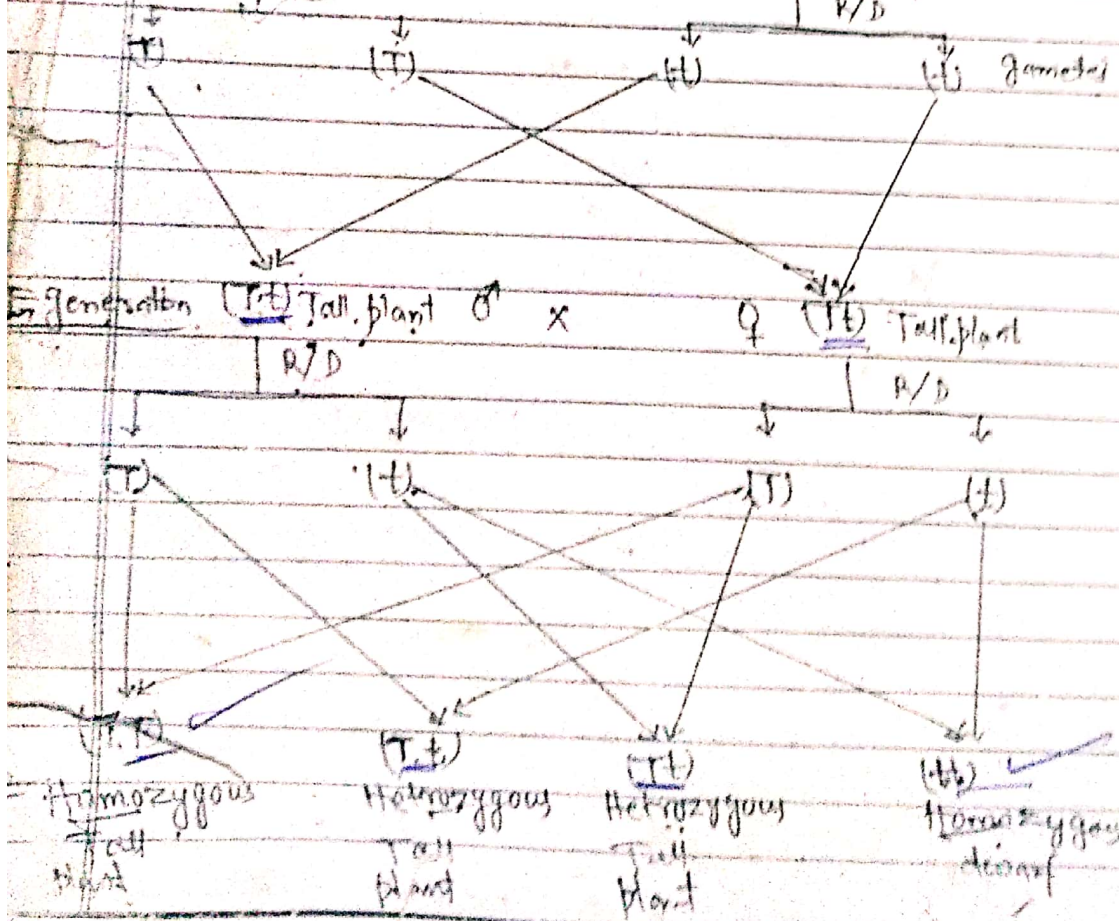
On the basis of single pair & two pairs of contrasting characters, Mendel formulated

- (A) Monohybrid cross -
- (B) Dihybrid cross -

(A) Monohybrid cross -

A cross between single pair of contrasting character of two different plant is known as Monohybrid cross.

Tall plant (TT) × dwarf plant (tt)
P/D



not with either
cross

if cross is not

Mendel's forms

One character
F₁-generation
does not appear
known as -

F₁-generation

test of mon

Tall plant with red flowers
(TT RR)

Dwarf plant with white flowers
(tt rr)

hybridization

F₁ generation

gametes

Charles's Board:

Q	B	TR	T _n	AR	r
TR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR
T _n	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR
AR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR
r	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR	TRR

112 12 111 111 111
11 11 11

1. Tall plant with red flowers (TT RR, TT RR, TT RR) = 3
2. Tall plant with white flowers (TT rr, TT rr) = 2
3. Dwarf plant with red flowers (tt RR, tt RR) = 2
4. Dwarf plant with white flowers (tt rr) = 1

Phenotypic ratio = 3 : 2 : 2 : 1

Genotypic ratio = 3 : 1 : 2 : 1 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1

Genotypic ratio = 1 : 2 : 1 : 2 : 1 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1

A tall plant with red flower is represented by $(TT RR)$ & a dwarf plant with white flower is represented by $(tt rr)$. The tall plant with red flower produces (TR) (TR) gametes & dwarf plant with white flower produces (tr) (tr) gametes after meiosis. After the cross (TR) & (tr) then in F_1 -gen. tall plant with red flower $(Tt Rr)$ is produced. When the product of F_1 -generation $(Tt Rr)$ male plant is crossed with similar plant $(Tt Rr)$ female plant through checker's board. Then in F_2 -generation 16 plants of four different combinations are produced. The phenotypic & Genotypic ratio is given above.

On the basis of dihybrid cross Mendel formulated a law known as Law of independent assortment.

Law of independent assortment:-

The law states that characters are not mixed together rather they give rise to new combination.

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Test cross of dihybrid ratio:-

The product of F_1 -generation $(Tt Rr)$ is crossed with recessive parent $(tt rr)$ is known as test cross of dihybrid ratio.

		$tt rr$
		\downarrow
F_1 -Gen $(Tt Rr)$	$\begin{matrix} \text{♂} \\ \text{♀} \end{matrix}$	tr
$\rightarrow TR$	$Tt Rr$	Tall plant with red flower
$\rightarrow Tt$	$Tt rr$	Tall plant white flower
$\rightarrow tR$	$tt Rr$	dwarf plant with red flower
$\rightarrow tr$	$tt rr$	dwarf plant white flower

Phenotypic ratio -

1:1:1:1

1:1:1:1

Genotypic ratio -

1:1:1:1

1:1:1:1

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Date _____
Page _____

Phenotypic & genotypic ratio = 1:2:1

- i) A plant with red flowers is represented by ~~(RR)~~ symbol (RR) & other plant is represented by white. Other plant with white flower is represented by (rr).
- ii) Both the plant produce gametes (R) (R) & (r) (r).
- iii) Both the gametes (R)(r) were crossed then in F₁-generation pink flower (Rr) is produced.
- iv) F₁-plant have no red or white flowers.
- v) Pink flower are produced due to interaction of two allele of red & white flowers.
- vi) The effect is caused by incomplete dominance of allele for red colour. Second allele of white colour over the allele of red colour.
- vii) When the F₁-generation plant (Rr) & (Rr) produce ^{gametes} ~~males~~ (R), (r) & (R), (r).
- viii) When these gametes are crossed then in F₂-generation one red flower (RR), two pink flower (Rr) & one white flower (rr) are produced then the phenotypic & genotypic ratio is same, which is given above.

2. Co-dominance :-

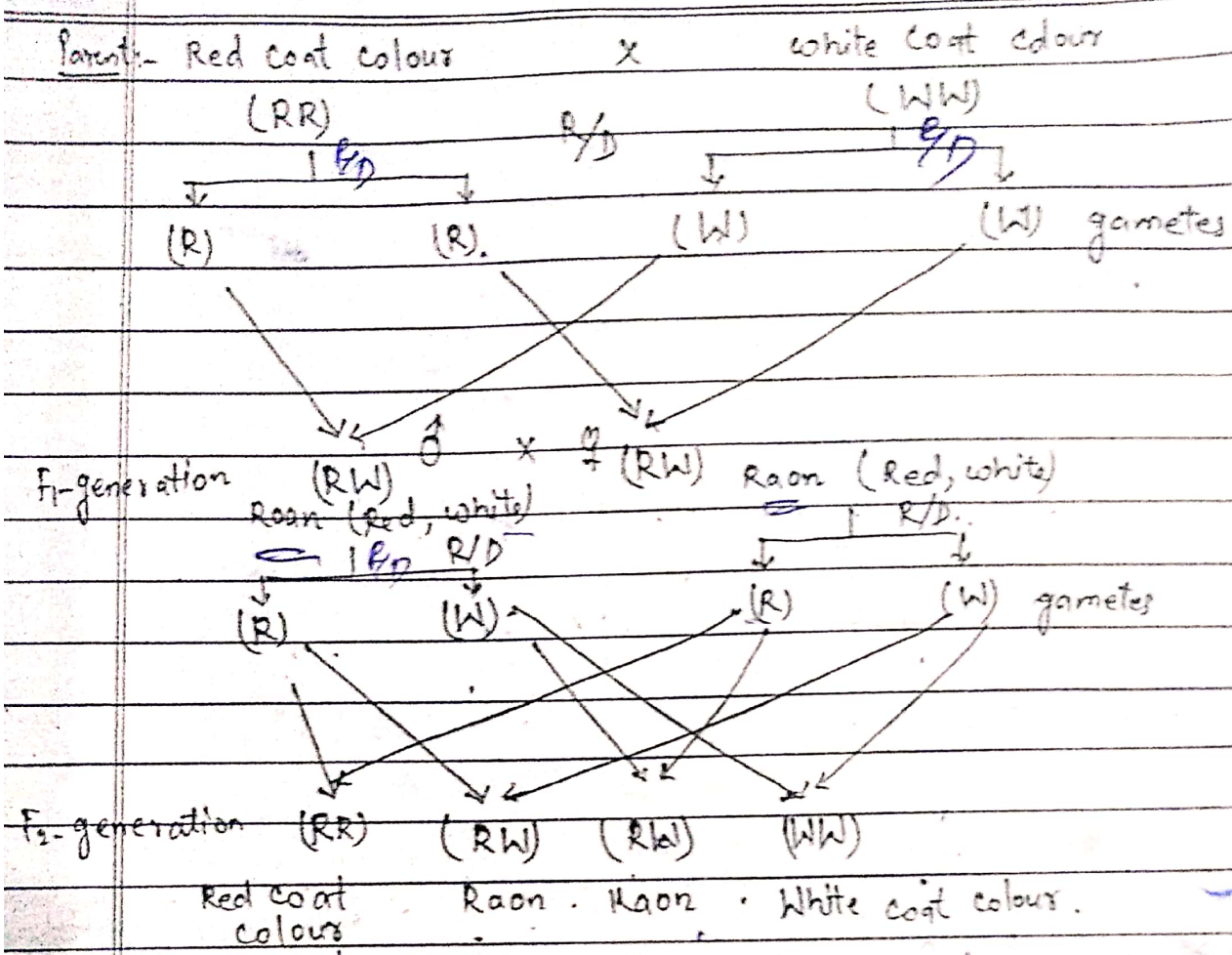
When the two genes of allelomorphous pairs expressed themselves equally in F₁-generation is called co-dominance. & the allele of a pair which are able to express themselves independently but present together is called co-dominant allele. e.g. co-dominance of coat-colour in cattle.

7

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Date _____

Page _____



- i) A red coat colour of cattle is represented by (RR) & white coat colour cattle is represented by (WW) symbol.
- ii) Both coat colour cattle (RR) , (WW) produce (R) , (R) & (W) , (W) gametes.
- iii) If these gametes (R) , (R) & (W) , (W) are crossed with each other then in F_1 -generation (RW) , (RW) raon cattle is produced.
- iv) If the product of F_1 -generation Raon ~~colour~~ (RW) is selfing after meiosis then in F_2 -generation one red coat colour (RR) , two Raon (RW) & one white coat colour (WW) cattle are produced.

The allied genes ~~develop~~ ~~is~~ expressed their character side by side & the phenotypic & genotypic ratio is given above.