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LOW FREQUENCY OCCURRENCE OF THE WHITE LAC VARIANT IN NATURAL POPULATION
OF *KERRIA LACCA* (KERR)

The white lac variant was first recorded in a F_4 progeny from a cross of two distinct races of the common Indian lac insect *Kerria lacca* (Kerr)¹. Two of the eight wild stocks of *K. lacca* maintained at this Institute have shown the occurrence of the white lac insect in frequencies ranging between 0.0005 and 0.001. Since deleterious recessive mutations are maintained at low frequencies in natural populations due to the combined action of mutation and selection, the white lac insect may also prove to be a recessive

mutant with a selective disadvantage in its natural environment, which could reduce its utility as an insect of commerce and also as a marker gene in these insects.

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1. Chauhan, N. S. and Teotia, T. P. S., *Indian J. agric. Sci.*, 1973, 43 (12), 1086.