

## Reply: A Note on the Roman and Tryon Selected Lines of Rats

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### Article:

We would like to make several brief comments on Professor Broadhurst's letter.

The sentence from Wahlsten's chapter in the Anisman and Bignami volume which Professor Broadhurst is contesting was based on Anisman's personal experiences in 1970-1972, when he failed to obtain selected lines of rats following two attempts. On the other hand, both of us have been impressed by the rapid response of Dr. DeFries and the staff of the Institute for Behavioral Genetics to requests for special mouse strains or lines.

It should be obvious from the contested sentence that no imputation of "reluctance" to assist other researchers on the part of Professor Broadhurst was intended. The point of the sentence was to warn the uninitiated that these selected rat lines cannot generally be procured the way that commercial stocks such as Holtzman and Sprague-Dawley can be.

We note that the RHA and RLA lines are officially listed in the *International Index of Laboratory Animals*, 3rd ed. (1975), published by the Medical Research Council, Laboratory Animals Centre, of the United Kingdom. They are available under category 2, "surplus animals may be available," from Dr. K. Paul Satinder, Department of Psychology, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. They are listed under category 3, "a breeding nucleus may be supplied," by Professor Broadhurst.

We are pleased to learn that the Roman lines are readily available from Professor Broadhurst, and we appreciate his timely warning that the Maudsley lines are now extremely difficult to procure. We wish him success in restoring the vitality and availability of the Maudsley lines.

As for the suggestion concerning the nomenclature of the Tryon lines, we are in agreement with the TMB and TMD designations, with the following stipulation. Some authors treat these lines as if they differed in "intelligence," but numerous experiments have shown that their differences are highly task specific and provide no evidence of general learning ability. TMB thus should be understood to mean "Tryon-maze bright," not "Tryon maze-bright." The Tryon selected lines differed substantially on the 17-unit maze which was used for the original selective breeding, but the line difference was greatly reduced or even reversed on other learning tasks (Wahlsten, 1972, 1978).

### REFERENCES

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