LETTERS

DATA BEING QUESTIONED

I am questioning some facts on data presented in "Two Genes that Induce Brachytic Dwarfism in Peach" by Paul E. Hansche [*HortScience* 23(3):604-606].

I was intensively involved in the dwarf almond, peach, and nectarine breeding program with Paul E. Hansche, until my transfer (at my request) in Jan. 1986. The above article was published 2 years after my departure from the project. I noted discrepancies between Hansche's presented data and my copy of the records. My former assistant and successor looked into this matter and found the same discrepancies as I did. I requested clarification and verification of data in a letter dated 18 Sept. 1988. This and other efforts were made in vain.

I prepared the following information with deep concern about the integrity of the data in the article noted. I prepared this letter without prejudice, presenting the facts as I remembered and as I found them in my copy of the records.

Hansche presented his supporting data in two tables. I here present my associate's and my findings, and the conclusion for each progeny presented in the following two tables taken from the article in question.

From Table 1, Segregation of the postulated recessive gene *dw* in peach trees, the following data were presented:

Test crosses	According to records		Hansche's data as reported
	Total seeds	Planted tall(bk 9) : dwf(bk 8)	
Tall F ₁ x dwf			
519,99-107			
x 2,40-148	62	18:4	68:56
524,103-5			
x 2,40-148	0	0	19:23
522,103-59			
x 4,40-33	0	0	31:37
504,28-1			
x 4,4-38	0	0	73:65

The tall seedlings from test crosses were neither saved nor counted before 1984. Hereafter, during Hansche's absence, the tall, *Dw/dw*, seedlings also were field-planted.

From Table 2, Observed and expected segregation for three plant forms..., the following data were presented:

Parents	
Tall (x)	
Red Cal (x)	
Kearney (x)	
Fire Red (x)	
dwf (x)	
7 (x)	
8 (x)	
16 (x)	

These items were not selfed by us, and I found no evidence to support the existence of these progenies.

Parents	According to records		Hansche's data as reported
	Total seeds	Planted dwf(bk 8)	
dbl dwf (x)			
4,8-191 (x)	57	43	0:1:2
5,18-21 (x)	0	0	0:5:29
6,18-181 (x)	0	0	0:3:16
5,9-1 (x)	0	0	0:1:9

I am bringing this matter to the attention of other peach breeders in the hope of forestalling difficulties if they had relied on the authenticity of the data that I am questioning.

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Author's response:

All of the data contained in my original article are authentic and correct.

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Parents	
Tall x dwf	
0,1-11 x 4,18-7	
0,2-3 x 4,20-190	
0,2-4 x 4,18-193	

We found no evidence to support the existence of these progenies.

Parents	
Tall F ₁ (selfs)	
519,99-5 (x)	
518,87-18 (x)	
99,2-11 (x)	
99,2-13 (x)	
504,23-4 (x)	

All five items listed above were selfed one or more times. Spot checks on segregation supported a 3 tall : 1 dwarf segregation ratio. In general, however, the tall and dwarf plants were not counted; only dwarf seedlings were field-planted. Data, as reported by Hansche, were not collected by us.

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