



Black fs//fs



Dom. opal fs//fs



Dom opal Qualmond



Rec. red undergrizzle

PIGEON GENETICS NEWSLETTER

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A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man; which he proposes to pay off with your money. G. Gordon Liddy

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free! P.J. O'Rourke

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have. Thomas Jefferson

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not. Thomas Jefferson

JIM THACKER WRITES: 27june'09

I have a recessive yellow pepper-head Swing Pouter cock mated to a black pouter hen. The baby appears to be a pepper-head but I have never seen a black pepper-head. Do they exist? And , I know with the recessive red & yellow pepper-heads that the excessive white shown in nest feathers tends to moult out, leaving mostly just the speckled head and very little white on the body. Will this happen with the black? Isn't pepper-head caused by undergrizzle?



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EDITOR:

Jim, your recessive yellow pepper-head Swing Pouter is grizzle (G) [and spread] producing the pepper-head and undergrizzle (Ug) producing the basal whitening (grizzling) of the body feathers and flights.

Are there black pepper-heads? Yes, but your young black bird is not a pepper-head. It is grizzle and undergrizzle combined to produce a black grizzle. It will probably darken some but I feel sure that it will not darken enough to be a pepper-head.

MARIO FENECH REPLIES:

Pepper head is a gene and breeds true but if you have any one of the numerous pied genes and grizzle genes mixed with it then of course you will see more white after moults. When you see a few hundred pure pepper head birds of different varieties benched under one roof you will see it is a true gene. I have pepper heads in my Marcheneros and Valencians.

EDITOR:

Just because you have hundreds of birds that are similar in coloration does not mean that the trait is either recessive or dominant. Pepper-head is a trait produced by the grizzle (G) gene on a spread bird. You can also breed pepper-heads out of black whitesides which is a version of grizzle.

MARIO RESPONDS:

I have to disagree with you but that does not mean I am correct or wrong either. I have been to many shows and many, many breeders lofts in Germany, Austria and the Chec [Czech] Republic and Slovakia. When you go to pigeon shows with anything from 20,000 to 45,000 pigeons and have 4 days to study them and see rows of pepper heads in spread, Blue bars, Brown bar, T-checkers, recessive yellow and red and ash reds, I don't believe it's Classical grizzle or undergrizzle. The Black Pepper heads are yes spread and as black as the ace of spades and no end tail feathers showing blue wild, Blue, Silver, Recessive red and Yellow and browns are also good colour with no other white body. Look at the number of Blue, Ash red, Brown Bar, checker birds with white on back at rump. I have Black Brunners what are called Tiger Grizzle and that white flecking in the head and wings have not increased over the past 5 years. I believe it is Head mottle and wing mottle. Add any of the many recessive pied genes and or any one of a number of Grizzle genes and we end up with splashes great or little white. Yes, there are many various grizzles and the higher percentage have various recessive pied genes and other grizzle genes especially Undergrizzle is a good one to cause confusion.

That's what I see through my breeding and inspection of many many fancy pigeon lofts in Europe.

EDITOR:

Mario, what you say is [mostly] true. I was pointing out that just because you see them lined up in shows, that does not mean anything genetically. It is just a show phenomenon. You have to breed and test them before you know what is driving the phenotype.

JIM DEMRO EMAILS

You can also get pepper head from saddle cross to colored birds. And also body marks on colored birds. Without grizzle. It is a curse on body marks..

I have a friend that is into body mark Fantails and he claims that body marks and saddles are closely related. I have found that I can make a really well marked saddle without body mark in them. I don't see any genetic relationship between the two.

EDITOR:

It is possible to get pepper-head in any color when spread is present. That, of course, rules out blue bar, brown bar, t-checks, or any color that is not spread. All true pepper-heads are grizzle (G).

STAN STAVECKIS EMAILS 5aug'09

I enjoy the newsletter for its wealth of information and humor. When you have an opportunity, would you be kind enough to walk me through the steps needed to introduce the "golden" color into pied marked Pigmy Pouters? A friend of mine in Canada has provided me with 2 cock birds carrying "gold". I believe it involves pale and recessive red, but that's as far as my understanding goes. Would the pied markings interfere? Also, since I would like to introduce it into Pigmy Pouters, would mating to ash yellow or ash red return me to square one? Any help you may lend would be greatly appreciated.

EDITORS REPLY:

Stan, the gold coloration is a sex-linked factor. You state that you have been provided with two cock birds carrying gold. Thus they must be full color. Are these Pygmy Pouters? Pied markings will not interfere with the gold. You did not say what color the birds you received are. Pale affects all colors but is best seen on bronze and recessive red birds. Since pale and ash red are on the same chromosome, it matters what color the birds you received are. If the pale is with blue ground, it will inherit with the blue and ash reds will not show it. Since the 2 cocks are carrying pale, then the only young to show the trait will be half the hen, no males. This is where the answer to the question of the birds (Pigmy Pouters or not) enters into the picture.

In order to transfer the pale, one must see the pale in the hens, which when mated back to the cock carriers of pale should give you some pale cocks as well as hens.

If the two cock birds are on blue base, then mating them to ash red or yellow will indeed put you back at square one since you would have to get a crossover to get it attached to the ash base.

If I can be of more help in your endeavor or if I was not clear above, please contact me.

[I realized as I typed this that I strayed away from talking gold to talking about pale. Of course, gold is pale but is only gold if it is with recessive red. This adds another dimension to the equation in that only recessive red young can be gold. Unless the hens used with the original mating were recessive red or carrying recessive red, none of the pale hens would be gold. Thus another generation must be added to get the gold coloration back. Once a gold hen is produced, she can be mated back to a cock carrying

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gold and you are on your way. Always be cognizant that the necessary ingredients of gold is pale and recessive red.}

LINK MARTIN EMAILS:9aug'09

Just sharing some fun I am having with almonds. I mated two almonds together that I raised last year that had large color spots on one wing. This is one of their young from this year. It has a much larger kite color spot than either parent. The other wing has a smaller shoulder kite spot.



[Thanks Martin, nice mosaic. And good info.]

WIL VAN EIJDEN SENDS:

Just interesting info found on the web.

http://www.auspigeonco.com.au/Articles?genetic_frontier.html

DINA MERGEANI ADDS:

I think that "Syrian Tarbesh" is another name for Abu abse.

<http://www.beepworld.de/members34/arabisch>

<http://www.complete-encyclopedia.nl/Dieren/Vogels/duiven/Abu-abse%20Wamduiven/>

WIL:

Thanks for the links. The crest and shiny black seems the same but still Crest only appearing after the first molt makes it separate from cr? [Yes.] I have never seen green eyes? How does it react when crossed?? Interesting to me.

DINA: Here in Romania, there are pigeons with green eyes but they are very rare.

EDITOR: Yes, crest and the Abu abse 'face crest' are distinct traits. We have pigeons with green eyes in the U.S. and they are also fairly rare.

WIL; edited & paraphrased

I find the subject of pied markings very interesting. I would like very much to read the opinion and experience of others in the group [geneticsforpigeons]. Especially on Dina's hypothesis on the heredity of pied.

FRANK (T.O.M) emailed:13aug'09 edited

[Editor: I had stated that if you mate a Saxon WhiteTail (which are Ts bronze T-pat = Fireback) to an indigo, some of the young will be entirely bronze. Ts bronze is not suppressed by spread.]

Paul, would you please clarify your last sentence.... If Saxon bronze is the same as found on Modenas, and the Ts1 bronze in Modenas is suppressed by Spread (S) factor, wouldn't this hold to be the same case with the Saxon? In the case of Andalusian Modenas, bronze Ts1 pattern is also suppressed. The only time I have seen the bronze pattern appear in the wing shields of Black Modenas is when Argent Toy Stencil genetic backgrounds are in the breeding program of these marked Modenas. My black Argent breeding program had produced quite a few of these bronze marked Modenas. I believe that Ts1 is suppressed via the Spread factor, but Ts2 or ts3 doesn't follow this same path of reasoning. Otherwise, I would never be able to create black, brown (or recessive red family) Argents.

EDITOR:

While I agree with the difficulty of breeding bronze marked blacks from bronze marked birds; I have done it and you answered you own question. Homozygous Ts complex birds are Argents. Mating these to spread birds does produce bronze marked spread birds. Even here the effect is not always bronze markings. Mating homozygous Ts complex Starlings (which have the white bars or checks to a non starling does not always produce bronze markings. We do not know why that is either.

Saxon Whitetails and South German Whitetails look alike in color. The Saxons are smooth headed and muffed while the S. German are crested and clean legged. Both are very dark with bronze shields. Both are very iridescent. Beautiful birds.

JERRY SINDELAR EMAILS:18aug'09

Hello friends, some pics from the National at SAFPA in Neispruit 2009. #551 is a Botterneck Tumbler, #640 SA toys. Both are natural South African breeds.



#551



#640



#640

EDITOR:

Thanks, Jerry, for sharing this. The Botterneck Tumbler appears to be a light blue (almost silver) baldhead with tiger grizzle. Nice looking breed. Wonder if it is TB baldhead or Bh baldhead? The South African Toy is an exact replica of Cauchois, a utility breed, if not the same thing. Very nice.

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JERRY STERNADEL EMAILS:

Here are some updated picture of the bird I posted earlier that I think is a Mosaic. Dad is a blue check, mom an ash yellow bar. The bird is ash red and may be pale, but the blue is intense. He has a brother that shows some blue feathers on the rump and back but nothing like this.



EDITOR:

Thanks Jerry. One crazy mixed up bird. Definitely a mosaic which must have originated early in the development of the embryo.

EDITOR:

There was a spate of emails in and around the 21 of August'09 about Ts bronze, Toy stencil complex, and frill stencil. I know I discussed this in an earlier newsletter but feel some new ideas may be amongst the info. I intend to make this as brief as possible and therefore will edit out a lot of some of the emails to stay on topic.

BILL PETERSON: 21aug'09 4:45pm

Toy stencil bronze has been on my mind lately and here are some thoughts. There still seems to be a certain amount of mystery pertaining to toy stencil, how it works and how it breaks down genetically.

What if Ts2 were het rec opal and homo Ts1? What if it were homo rec opal and het Ts1? What would we see? There would be 8 possible genotypes (correct me if I am wrong).

I have also considered the possibility that Ts1 and Ts2 are just two different bronzes that combine to give white bars and checks. Ts1 seems widely accepted as the same as Modena bronze. If we add a third factor to make white bars, the numbers go up dramatically and Paul's figure of 64 genotypes (sounds reasonable), may well be correct. At first, I wondered if Ts3 could be rec. opal, dom. opal, or a number of other bronzing factors. I wouldn't rule this out either.

I come back to just having two bronzes or the possibility of opal being one of the factors, o was known to be present in many German toys. I'm just not sure how we pick it out among a group of white bars or spangles without doing what Paul did, breaking them down. Most of us don't have the tenacity to work this out.

When two bronzes combine, many things happen, one of them is that white begins to appear. Many look to have undergrizzle or even other forms of grizzle that come out of nowhere. Point is, two of them can make white. Probably not just any two bronzes but at least some of them.

Paul, do not be offended by this, this just comes from my rambling mind. I question nearly everything, things that Doc [Hollander] said, things that just about anyone says. Can't help it and this keeps me awake at night. Would you or anyone consider any of this to be even the remote possibility?

JERRY STERNADEL EMAILS:

Just a couple things to keep in mind: 1) Getting white markings in the pattern areas can be done using Od with Ts. 2) Getting a proper show bird, ie white markings in the pattern areas only usually requires Ts only. 3) Od usually lightens the whole bird or at least other areas of the bird besides the pattern area.

This was Bob Pettit's and my argument against Od Argents. By definition Argents were to have only their pattern areas affected. If the whole bird is affected, then it is the [dominant] opal. How can one tell if all the proper Ts genes are present?

But for your purpose of making white pattern areas, Od will help most of the time.

RALPH SMITH REPLIES::21aug'09

Bill, here are pics of the Ts I'm working with. I have spent years putting many colors into my Fantails. [Dom.] opal has not been found in the crosses that I have been working with. Nor have I found any recessive opal.

I have tried many types of bronzes and never got white bars or checks. Brander bronze, buff, archangel, and toy stencil (Ts1,Ts2, ts3). When you mix these, no white [is found] in the bars and checks.



EDITOR:

Bill, first Ts1 and Ts2 do not combine to make white. I tried all the combinations of bronzes.. Did I say 64 genotypes? Can't remember. Just as two pair of genes can

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produce 16 combinations and 4 phenotypes, three pair of genes produce 64 gene combinations and 8 phenotypes when figuring complete dominance. In this case the Ts1 is complete dominant, Ts2 has shown to be a partial dominant (at least in the presence of Ts1) and ts3 a recessive. This complicates things when figuring the number of genotypes and phenotypes. To find the answer we must multiply $9:3:3:1 \times 1:2:1$ which would give us 12 phenotypes in a $18:9:9:6:6:3:3:3:3:2:1:1$ ratio. Of course, the number of phenotypes could be less than this number because of other issues such as look-alikes, homozygous lethals, etc. In a straight tri-hybrid of 3 dominants the ratio would of course be $27:9:9:9:3:3:3:1$ ratio with 8 phenotypes.

Recessive opal is found mainly in Racing Homers and Altenburg Trumpeters not in German Toys. Dominant opal, not recessive opal, is found commonly in German Toys. This is one of the problems with writings in literature. Many people that mean dominant opal refer to it as opal. It is my belief that the early pigeon fanciers really did not differentiate between the Dom opal and Ts since they both can produce white bars separately or together. Ts just does it better but is a complex and thus harder to work with.

In the years of working with the Ts complex, I tried everything I could think of to see some indication of the recessive that with the bronzes produces the white. Some do have some effect on Toy stencil but none produced white C areas except dominant opal. But then dominant opal usually lightens the whole body.

The big exception is that when the bird is homo Ts complex and dominant opal. In this case the squab feathers out dominant opal and molts to Ts white AND the non C areas resume full color (or so close to it that it is not evident). Sooty areas also usually print white with the Ts complex.

Bill, why should this offend me? I, too, question everything and in the early days tried everything and checked out the conclusions of others. It is surprising how many times you can find that according to your results, they were wrong. Then you question and double check.

I remember back in the 50's I was breeding Canaries and read an article about the inheritance of orange and yellow. The article said yellow was recessive to orange. The strange thing was that I bred oranges from yellows and yellows from oranges. I discovered that one 'yellow' which I called citron was dominant to orange. But that is another story.

I'm always glad when someone takes the time to check things out. It just strengthens the science. That is the reason for the scientific method.

RT email: excerpts

I recall that Al Somerside said, "I think it is sooty that prevents the Ts marbling in their hackles..."

JERRY STERNADEL REPLIES:22aug'09

Actually sooty (extreme) adds to the Ts expression. Notice a lot of Ts creeps up the backs of the necks and even into some of the hackles of extreme sooty birds. There are not pattern areas at either location. You can even get sooty bars with pseudo checks that express very clear Ts in the pseudo checks.

EDITOR:

Ts complex expresses everywhere sooty feathers express. Have checked the effect of sooty over the years and find it is one of the strange ones. Not only does it usually not express until the first molt; it appears to affect to some degree all of the feathers beyond the head and upper neck. It is mainly seen on the wing shield but the Ts complex unmasks it on the rest of the bird to some degree. And sooty expresses more after each molt.

Sooty is very variable in expression over the wing shield and can produce, as stated earlier, everything from a very lightly marked blue bar to a very heavily marked velvet. The series of sooty is more variable than the checker series. Both sooty and checker can occur on the same bird producing a phenotype that is one or two degrees darker. Thus a sooty bar may look like a check, a sooty light check may look like a check or dark check, etc.

JAMES EMAILS:22aug'09 excerpts

That is a very nice color in Fantails! I'm sure I'm not the only one to appreciate how hard of a project a Ts Fan is. Is Ts,fs in the future? How have you been moving it? Forward for type, then back to white for color?

RALPH SMITH RESPONDS:

I'm glad you like my work. I wish they were 5 years further along. It's just going to take some more time but they are getting there. I mate color to quality then take the young and mate back to color and repeat the process till I get up to having color and quality together. Since you asked: Here are a few pics of the fs//fs, Ts//Ts projects.



EDITOR:[fs//fs in front, fs//+ in rear]



[atypical fs//fs black expression]

More expressions of Fantails on first page of this issue.

Thomas Jefferson:

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.

NO FREE MAN SHALL EVER BE DEBARRED FROM THE USE OF ARMS.

LAYNE GARDNER EMAILS:23aug'09 excerpts

Toy stencil does appear to have three separate genes (at least) in its make-up. One of the difficulties in pinning things down is that many of us document our observations when introducing Ts into another breed. However, often this second breed is not a blue bar free of other factors/modifiers that may enhance/detract from the expression of Ts.

JOE POWERS EMAILS:25aug'09

Layne and all, sorry to be slow in replying to this but I have stopped all emails from the various groups due to lack of time.

Some time ago, I got a Roller from a fellow who had crossed them with his Swallows to make white barred Rollers. I got this cock to start a Toy Stencil project in my Self Komorners – due to [how] very clean white the bars were. While he was Ts, he was also Od. I segregated the [Dom] opal from that Ts project and started a separate family for just the dominant opal line. I have gotten rid of these but if you make it to Des Moines, breeders showing there have Od in their line of Self Komorners from me. Any that you see are Od from this Roller with the Swallow background.

I've heard from a number of guys over the years that Swallows have Od as the whitening agent (3rd Ts gene). So it was not a surprise to me when I saw this happening.

EDITOR:

I have reiterated for years that most if not all the Toy Breeds (Ts) may also contain Od as part of their make up. I have personally bred Od from Toy stencil breeds including Swallows, Suabians, Oriental Frills, and some Ts Rollers bred out of crosses to Oriental Frills. Also I have documented that Dom opal is extremely variable in expression.

While this is true, I have also stated that research has proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Od is not part of the Ts complex. And yes, there are genes like Od that enhance or detract from the partial or full expression of the Toy Stencil complex. I have also documented that when combining Ts complex, frill stencil, and extreme sooty along with t-pattern and spread, that the coloration of the laced Oriental Frill breed is attained.

JUST A FEW OXYMORONS:

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand, on a watch, called the second hand.
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?
7. Why does 'fat chance' and 'slim chance' mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
10. Why are the bleachers called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
11. Why is it called "after dark" when it is really 'after light'?
12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?