

# The **Pigeon Genetics** Newsletter

## **News , Views , & Comments**

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Finishing up 2016 Topics from You .

We thought we could finish up 2016 by taking a look at some of your questions related to projects that you are working on .

FIRSTLY : Dean Williams is introducing (frill stencil ) into his Argent Modenas . Those who have worked with this gene will soon tell you that it is a tricky matter with many pitfalls . While considered a recessive trait ., it has been labelled by some who have worked extensively with it , like Dr. Lester Paul Gibson , as not just a simple recessive , and it is extremely variable in its expression . It affects mainly the smooth spread areas which are seen primarily on the tips of the flights and the Tail Band . Frill Stencil usually is found in partnership with Toy Stencil . In the case of the Argent Modena ., you want to have the white markings ONLY on the shield itself. We have been talking with a number of people who are working with it and who have differing opinions as to just what is going on. The usual desired version of this trait is in combination with SPREAD factor either on a Solid black or a Pied factor black in Gazzi Design. The result desired is a laced bird somewhat like we see on a Silver Sebright Bantam.



This is the bird he plans to put on a Blue Argent.

Consensus is that the black laced requires a number of genes all working in unison . Full Ts complex plus pure frill stencil , Blue based homozygous T-Pattern masked by Homozygous Spread plus Homozygous Dirty and Sooty. However Sooty in particular will allow the stencil factor (s) to express on the thigh feathers and eventually over the entire bird with selection, and you do not want a laced tail in the Argent. Blue/Black Argents seem to be easier to get correct by using the full Ts complex ., however recessive red Argents present a challenge .

We have no experience with these efforts so rely on your input. We believe that again in the case of a recessive red, that perhaps it should mask ash- red T-pattern and not blue/black base. Below is the first Red he produced that had the red carry out into the tail nicely .



Bob, Jerry just sent me this photo. If ,ts1,2,& 3 need to be homozygous, to express white pattern, and homozygous ts1, is dark bronze, what would this breed be missing to make the pattern lighter ? Also the tail doesn't look black. Thanks, Dean

Photos supplied by Dean Williams . Ts1 .....Full Complex Ts.....Dilute Ts1 ?



**Firstly Ts1 , Ts2 , and ts3 are the genes that are said to form the Full Complex Toy Stencil. They can be and / or do become white in various combinations according to the findings of Dr. Lester .P. Gibson. I assume that you were referring to the first picture above here which appears to be a dilute blue/black (Dun) with sulphur Ts1 bars.) photo by Mikela DiVito Queensland FB Group.**

Bob , I just bought some black gazzi strassers. pencilled info all over the place. how can rec white be an allele of pc ? if they are gazzi ?

Wondering now how to transfer pc to modenas. Was going to use schietti, but maybe gazzi would be best. Can't wrap my head around using rec white. (Zwh)

Any advice ? Dean,

So , he would like to introduce the "pencil" gene into his Gazzi Modenas using Pencilled Strassers , but heard that the two Gazzi Designs are not compatible . Has anyone any thoughts on this ? The pencil gene usually is not a clean laced shield and may express some patches of colour that break up the laced shield as well. I see it as a counterproductive effort. Photos Mick basset.

Pencilled

Dominant Opal (+ Ts ?)

Toy Stencil Spread blue.



Again from Dean : I've been looking at strassers on internet, some pencilled, some ts, excellent recessive reds & yellows, some opal bars, the toy stencil t-lace were light blue on head ?, even though all other colors were very dark on head. All strassers were gazzis. I was wondering why, if toy stencil is in strassers, they don't have bronze wing birds (ts1), also ? What am i missing ?

I'm looking to put pencilled into modenas. I've read that strasser gazzi, doesn't work well with modena gazzi. Not that gazzi is my goal, schietti are best for transferring modena type, for my stud. But i will get some gazzi from f1 matings, or a backcross. Wonder if it would be strasser gazzi or half modena gazzi. Not meaning that they're a different gazzi factor, just different modifiers, i guess ? Dean,



Photo supplied by Dean Williams .

As far as Ts1 bronze , I suspect that you would not see it in the Strassers due to breeders keeping them pure for the full complex instead of crossing to non-stencil birds frequently. Again , I have not taken note of that so cannot say for certain. I will put some of this together for a Newsletter Issue early in the new year to see if there is anyone with experiences that they will share !

There are numerous opinions regarding the relationship among the traits. Recessive white & Gazzi are alleles. Pencilled is a separate modifier and is not an allele . Pencil Photos by Mick Basset.



When breeding Oriental Frills in a spread factor Laced bird or the Pattern wing Blue series , some breeders have told me that they have their best results in maintaining the standard markings , by only combining "like" traits . The instant they attempt any other mating / cross ., they lose everything and are back to square one . I think this is testament of the fact that so many MODIFIERS play roles and they may be recessive and it is easy to lose track of them.

Bronze. The only bronze that you may see should be Ts1 or Ts2 of the Toy Stencil Complex. Frill Stencil does not ever express as a bronze nor allow any hidden bronze residue to express. If you are also using a Dominant Opal to whiten pattern coarse spread areas then you may be plagued with residual bronze and of course the potential for lethal syndrome in some offspring.



Here we can see the "V" edging of a non-Sooty bird expressing Ts that has not fully turned white and may not .



Above is a typical arrow head effect of a Sooty gene whereby the center most portion is darkened out to the tip. Toy stencil and frill stencil are working together to lighten the darkest areas.



above three photos Mick Basset.

**Above is a beautiful recessive red that is not Dominant Opal or the entire bird would be lightened to appear somewhat dark yellow , this bird is a Full complex Toy Stencil .**

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**Topic of Brown:** A couple of Issues ago I commented that a photo may not be brown spread due to the fact that the bird had richly coloured red-orange eyes. Lynn Kraal wrote to say that she is very certain that the bird is Brown series and that a number of her brown birds do have red-orange eyes as opposed to the false pearl. I know I read an explanation once that stated that this was not possible , and it explained exactly why not. I have searched for that without any luck , perhaps someone out there has knowledge of that article that they could share. However with all due respect to Lynn I am certain she is correct , the issue remains, why the contradiction ? Is it possible that when the mutation for the brown expression took place on several occasions, proven in DNA testing by the U of U , that we actually DO have different brown mutations actively affecting our breeding stock ? One that can only have false pearl eyes , and perhaps another that can have any colour eyes ., or is it as Lynn expects , the result of having introduced many colours and modifiers into her stock over the years? We must consider that there is a constant renewal as we breed . Dominant traits are not carried , so are eliminated them whenever we bring two recessives together to allow that recessive gene to express. This is also true of Modifiers that darken or lighten. So we have a conundrum . Who would like to solve it !?

**Photo by Lynn Kraal.**

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**The Gorgeous Soft tones of "Saffron" on a True female Lal-Band Pigeon ! Photo by Jith Peter.**



### **The Lal-Band Ghagra !**

**It is already History since we published the paper on the Genome of Lal-Band Ghagra last May. However there have been a small pocket of dissenters who , while they had nothing concrete to offer either before or since our work , keep striking out against what we have done . No one seems to know why they persist in trying to diminish the importance and correctness of our testing and reporting of the Lal Band-Ghagra genome ! We would certainly like to have everyone show an interest and willingness to work together on such projects for the good of the Hobby!**

**Jith and I saw a need to acquire several Lal Band hens and a Ghagra cock that expressed the true genetic trait perfectly , which needed to be tested. It took a while and some money , but we were able to get what we wanted , and we spent two years of careful breeding . A year before we began any of this , Jith pronounced on facebook that he believed that the genetic trait was a sex-linked Dominant, but once we started we realized it was a partial Dominant sex-linked gene. This was ignored on facebook and now there are those who are making claims that "they " were the first to crack the puzzle.**

The genome we tested involved the unique sex-linked dimorphic trait whereby the Pure cocks tend to somewhat resemble an ash-red while the hens are always a soft blue expression . Both have the saffron coloured pattern on their wings .

There seems to be a common practice by some , of trying to attain credit through association by talking about a topic long enough so that people will associate their name with the trait instead of the person or persons who actually did the ground work.

In the case of the Lal-Band Ghagra birds , we have been made aware of claims that the stock we used may have been somehow of "inferior quality ". That is utter nonsense ! However a number of the birds that have been presented as good examples by these dissenters , are expressing the effects of modifiers that have nothing to do with the trait we needed to identify and name. Regardless of any modifiers that may also be present in some specimens , the Saffron Gene tests as a Partial Dominant sex-linked trait and that is the only trait to be considered in these tests and this report.

The bottom line is that the work was done ., the proof shown in the published paper and the protocols for such work followed to the letter ! There are other genes also that may be involved with our study in the future as we incorporated Ash., Spread blue ., dilution ., Sooty ., a trait similar to undergrizzle ., smoky, etc. Most all of these are known traits that simply needed to be studied in conjunction with the SAFFRON trait ., and have NO bearing on the inheritance of this trait itself.

We offer this summary of thoughts for those of you watching from the sidelines , who may be wondering what all the fuss is about in some Facebook Groups and Timelines!

We appreciate the efforts of Andreas Boisits who has since published a report on our work in Austria and Germany. We also appreciate support from Axel Sell who covered our work in his website and Facebook Group! ~ Jith Peter & Bob Rodgers.

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### "STANDARD TERMINOLOGY !"

The age old topic of who is correct when it comes to the use of terminology. Fanciers in every Country attempt to name in their own language what they see in any given phenotype, and these often get translated to mean many different things . We even struggle to describe what we see within the context of any one given language. However ; over time and now with the use of the internet , such isolations have become an international community whereby we can begin to normalize terminology usage so as to once and for all make it much easier for those learning for the first time. Why is there a need to standardize ?? Just take one term as an example : we have the term "Pattern" . It is used to mean as many as three totally different things at the very least . The correct use is to describe the "C" areas of the birds Wing Pattern , the variation of colour hues on the shield in particular . This may involve the entire bird phenotypically , but we can easily identify the variations on the shield area.



However we also use the term , IN MY VIEW INCORRECTLY, to describe "markings"of colour combined with areas of pure white , which should be referred to as "Design" .

Then we use the term Pattern when describing any contrasting compilation of patches of colour such as we may see in Mosaics . This condition should be referred to as "arrangement" of colours .

That is just one such confusing misuse of a term. Others include : Self , to describe anything except a patterned bird that has no white . A self cannot be a SOLID ( whole coloured) bird or a "PURE " white bird that has no colour visible as a result of being pure for some other specific trait.

Other terms we see used interchangeably are Saddle marked v/s shield marked , or a Lavender blue spread milky V/S a Spread ash red., The list goes on .

Just since I came on Facebook four years ago , I have noted that most people have gradually begun to make much better use of standard terms as opposed to hanging on to old ways that they half learned albeit incorrectly in their various communities and villages over the years . The Global Standardization will surely facilitate the fact that we now not only move birds from Country to Country ., but we also have International Judges working around the world at major shows so that show-pen classifications need to be correctly labeled . It is all part of taking the Hobby forward.

Because of people using terms incorrectly , the bird below could be referred to as a " Patterned , patterned Pattern" ! It is a Blue series Patterned bird ,in this case both Checker and barred pattern , It is a Mosaic ( colour arrangement) , and it is a Pied (non -self ) irregular Design. Photo Shoibal Sabbir from the facebook wall post of Arvind Arro (India) owner Manhu's Loft ..



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Lemon :

Tim Kvidera wrote regarding the manner in which I labeled a photo of his that I used in the last Issue . That was my error as I forgot that he had given his a specific name "Ivory Butterscotch wing". The following was edited out of his email :

Bob , you are overly restrictive in narrowing the term lemon to only blue barred (Wild type) mutated birds. Barkel used the term lemon to cover all phases of blue/black when affected, whether they were barred, checks, T checks or spread. Lemon birds shipped from the Barkel Breeding Station were both bars and checks. Tim . **( I have read accounts where it stated that the term Lemon applied to the blue bar only, which seemed strange .) ~ Bob.**

Referring to my Archangel as an ecru is also a misnomer. The last I heard from Gibson, et al, their ecru was not an allele to dilute. The Barkel lemon Homer that I used to create the ivory butterscotchwing Archangel has been shown to be an allele of dilute. Tim. **( It is my understanding that it was shown to be a sex-linked recessive , but NOT proven to be an allele of dilution with testing for the crossover ratio still underway.) ~ Bob R.**

I removed that photo from the December 2016 Issue and replaced it with one I had on file from the Australian National Pigeon Assoc. Inc . Facebook Group . ~ Bob R.

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Letter from Tom de Munnik to Wm Halesma and Bob R.

Hallo Wim.

Now that the breeding season is over I have written a summary of where I am at for further discussions with club members. The 2015 season being more of a study and experimental beginning to produce Canadian show tippler white sides.

It is the basic body color in both red and black that is so troublesome with the birds I have here. The under grizzle used to lighten up the bronze tipplers here and in the US is carried on further in my reds as they were bred out of bronze .Furthermore my black mottles all carry red to improve type and head power.

I can't believe the bronze breeders would not have stayed with the rec. red factor to achieve their goals rather than going to under grizzle to lighten them up further.. I personally prefer the deep chestnut color in the bronzes from the rec. red influence, but that's just me.

I produced only one rec. red self hen that is a nice spread red with no sign of grizzle anywhere . However I was unable to produce a single black self without mottling or without a few white pin feathers in the face or head. I understand the pin feathers in the head to be the result of classical grizzle.

I don't believe I can progress further until I can produce a black self , masking all grizzle factors except maybe tiger grizzle .

Could you please have a look at the attached write up and I would not be offended if your opinions differ from mine . I would welcome and appreciate a response from both of you . Regards & Thanks Tom .

Both Tom's letter and my reply have been edited for this Issue.

My reply: **Hi Tom ., nice to see what you are trying to do . This is a subject that very few have any definite answers to , as I understand . There are as you say two different genomes at work .. One for Black whitesides ( a type of Tiger grizzle I believe ) ., and another for producing recessive red and yellow whitesides , that no one has a handle on but a few have found some approaches that seem to work maintaining whitesides once they have them. Undergrizzle usually reverts to a base colour with age starting out as mainly a very light to whitish base. I cannot imagine it being of any use in the program of either trait. The enabler that we hear about is the illusive trait that has not been pinned down. If the Red birds show white in the nest ., then I think we can safely say you are on the wrong track. I have material on this that I will have to research , and if I find anything that appears to be what may be of help , I will send it along. The print Grizzle is also not fully studied , but may be a combo of Classical (G) plus undergrizzle . If Bronze is involved , it is usually Kite and produces the phenotype (Tortoiseshell) I have heard people say that the bronze whitens , but I fail to see how that is so . There seems to be an idea that a specific bronze may have to be present in order for the white to express in the shields of Blacks? Pied is sometimes a part of Torts ., and Some Torts may be Tiger grizzle genetically , but they take on a different appearance again. If spread factor is involved , then pepper heads are more likely as it resists the effects of both (G) , and (Tg) , but Spread seems to be essential in both whiteside genomes , and I think (G) & (Tg) as we know them are not typically involved here. There are other ideas we will explore later on.**

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Photos by Mick Basset.

Hetero Tiger grizzle .



Unimproved whiteside



Photos Mick Basset



Black Whitesides Blue Coast Pigeons .

**("The proof is in the Doing !")** Lets hear from YOU about what you are doing .

That is it from here in the Loft until February when we will begin our Issues on "PIED" factor.

**All the Best in the NEW YEAR !**