

The Pigeon Genetics Newsletter, News, Views & Comments.
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"SMOKING GUN"

This month we revisit an old topic with NEW evidence!

Many of you may recall the study done at the **University of Arlington Texas** that suggested the allelism between the well known genetic factors Dirty , and smoky. We were to assume that in fact these were the same genetic traits that had been assigned the symbols (V) and (sy) years ago.

I for one immediately had reservations about the likelihood that this report was correct , and upon study by my colleague **Mr. Jith Peter** here at the Pigeon Genetics Newsletter N,V,& C., flaws in their report were observed. Further peer review by **Mr. Quido Valent** revealed another significant flaw and thus we put out a call for information from YOU the breeders to see if we could confirm the "Smoking Gun" of proof against on this allelism finding.

YOU DID NOT DISAPPOINT !

Here is a youngster in nest feather presented to our Facebook Group : "Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons" . The owner Breeder is **Porumbei Colourati** .



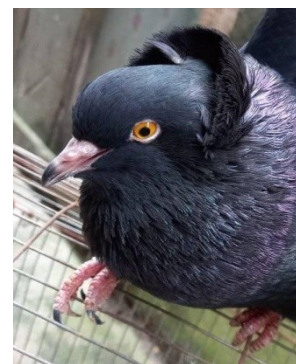
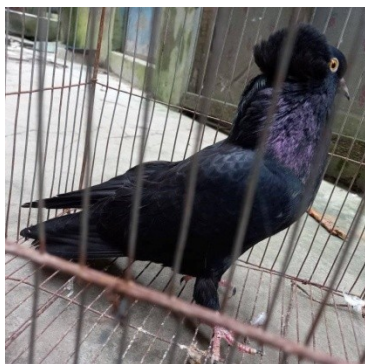
This youngster clearly demonstrates that it is homo Dirty factor (V) with its black scale tarsus and toes. It also has a very black beak but still expressing some light flesh just below the beak cere or wattle. The overall feathering colour is very dark. However it is also expressing smoky factor (sy) which must be pure (two doses) , one from each parent , in order to express. Normally this trait would leave just a horn tip (dark end), to the beak., but due to the homo Dirty factor the beak is dark and will grow darker after the bird matures. The bar pattern appears smudged as is common with smoky as well. We cannot see the rump and back in either photo which would show no lighter albesence, however in the next photo below , we see that the tail shows no albescent strips . This tells us that BOTH TRAITS are present on this bird and IF they were alleles , that would not be possible!

Someone may try to argue that at least one of the two traits tested by the University Professors was a different mutation. We know that it has been suggested in the past that there may be two types of the Dirty factor, two different gene mutations that basically appear the same by doing much the same to feather colour. That would mean that a very different pair of mutations are alleles other than (V) and (sy). Nothing more has been reported on this topic following its release for peer review .



The second photo also shows that the bird has a bronze trait which has nothing to do with this particular study.

We have saved a number of photos to share with you and to make some interesting comparisons that we think you will enjoy.



This bird is spread blue /BLACK and expresses a horn tip indicating that he might also be smoky (sy). Note the deep rich black glossy colour of all feathers and feather sheen. Photo by **Shohag Pigeon Loft**.



This is a nice photo of two Dirty factor Blue Bars that are showing no visible albesence in the tail or back. The birds are owned by **Saeed Kasanzai**.

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Hello Bob,

Many years ago, perhaps 30+, I pondered whether there could be a sex-linked bronze. Some of my breeding tests sort of pointed in that direction so I mentioned this to Dr. Gerald Dooley for his response. He seemed to think that I could be correct but neither of us had any data to confirm it. Dooley mentioned something that has stuck in my mind every since. He thought that the term "velvet" as it refers to a "bronze shield blue check racing homer" came from England and later in the United Stated the term "velvet" was applied to a Blue Check Homer, whether or not is displayed any bronzing in its shield. Further he thought that a pigeon fancier friend of his had what might be a "sex-linked bronze" in his birds. But nothing further was learned.

In addition to being a pigeon fancier I am also a bird watcher and read about a "Velvet Scoter" (sometimes called a velvet duck). Actually it is a White-winged Scoter but also called a "Velvet Scoter", probably because it has a rusty or reddish chocolate coloration, especially in females. The males are mostly all black. The word velvet has more than one meaning, e.g., a material/cloth, a reddish color or a growth found on deer antlers in the spring - which is actually a growth hormone. I'm wondering if any of your readers around the world can add anything to the "Velvet Racing Homer" label and whether or not they might have some data as to whether or not it is sex-linked in pigeons.

**Bob Mangile**

Pittsburg, Kansas USA.

Hello Robert , Thanks for this , I will add it to the next Newsletter... I have not heard anything along these lines . The only references to a bronze that I see , are by ESFT breeders and they call all Saturated T-Pattern birds "Kites" . These have always been 'Velvets' to me , but not due to any bronze but rather to the soft nearly solid black colour shields . You make some interesting correlations between the other species of birds and the terms used where a bronzing is involved. Hein Van Grouw may be able to offer some insights . Let's see what arises from this. The sex-linkage should be easy to establish . ~ Bob.

After writing the above to Robert , I remembered that **Gene Hochlan** and **Gary Young**, each had written an article for several earlier Issues pertaining to their belief that there is indeed a recessive bronze trait. This gene is thought to, express in ash-Reds but disappears when put into blue/Black series. It is found in Jacobins , Lahores , and Indian Fantails in particular.

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Ralph Smith wrote :

I enjoyed this article. { article pertaining to smoky and Dirty last Issue } Lots of info more people need to read. Here are some pics of some of my project birds. Trying to produce recessive opal in more patterns, we have them in bar in fantails. I have a fantail that is black faded carrying brown and recessive opal. I bought a recessive opal check homer hen to put on him. This newsletter made me think of them about the dull or poor colored blacks. Here are some pics of what I raised from that pairing. The young dull colored black bird goes along with this newsletter you just put out. This bird started out as a very dull incomplete black but molted out to a completely different looking pigeon. It's more blue looking now with a light tail bar. These are pics of what the bird looks like. These birds are out of a faded black cockbird that is split for brown and also recessive opal.. The hen is a recessive opal blue check. The other young bird in this pic appears to be a Brown faded recessive opal.. The faded in this black cockbird is on the Brown side. I thought that the young poor colored black was a recessive opal spread, but now

I'm not sure. The first two pics are them as young and the next ones are of the poor colored black grown.

Would like to get your thoughts on these pics thank you.

Below : This is what the poor colored black looks like now. Not sure if this one is faded also



Hi **Ralph** , I may have lost track of which birds are which ., but the last two photos { shown first here } appear to be a recessive opal blue checker. The very dark youngster in the first two photos (shown next here }, I cannot see well and cannot make any comment on the colouration. Faded is a dominant allele at the "Stipper" locus and it is often very insignificant in its expression so I cannot see it in any here . Looking at about a 50% chance. Also 50% for spread , 50% for recessive opals , and 25% chance of brown in females only. Hard to say from these photos if modifiers such as Dirty and smoky are present. If you don't mind , I will post your email in this next Newsletter to see if anyone comments. Thanks for sharing , hope you will keep me updated . ~ Bob.

An interesting combination of the classical Grizzle trait and the Stipper trait , you can see how the grizzling effect still can be seen , but of course only expressing on the feathers that had not been depigmented by the (St) Stipple gene. Both genes cause partial de-pigmentation of base colour but , for the most part in different ways. Some pure white feathers caused by the (G) gene do usually appear on the head and neck.



Photo provided by **Octavian Sarfolean** on Our "Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons " Facebook Group.

Ember is an allelic mutation at the Sox10 locus where recessive red mutated. Ember young are born to generally appear as recessive reds but undergo a reversion to base colour that is incomplete so that the flights in particular and a portion of the patterns usually remain rich red, thus the name, as they appear as burning embers.

2 het ember het rec red check youngsters



Breeder owner - **Voiajori Colorati** of Romania, Post shared by **Octavian Saroflean** on "Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons" on Facebook.

Hein Van Grouw has a couple of papers on the net on colour in Bird species that you may enjoy.

<https://bioone.org/journals/bulletin-of-the-british-ornithologists-club/volume-141/issue-3/bboc.v141i3.2021.a5/Whats-in-a-name-Nomenclature-for-colour-aberrations-in-birds/10.25226/bboc.v141i3.2021.a5.full?fbclid=IwAR1beKBz2aZNbXUm6MW7OPI7sxQXm4>

And : Unusual phaeomelanised plumage: a review of similar cases in different species.

Dear friends and colleagues,

Please find attached a paper I thought you may be interested in. The subject is hardly investigated yet, but hopefully in the coming years we may discover a bit more.

Thanks to them who provided photos.

Feel free to forward it to others if required. All the best. Hein

{ I was unable to add the latter paper , but will forward it to anyone who requests it . } ~ Bob.

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Anhracite faded cock ( may by spread also ) Post by **Grzegorz Szpryngiel** in our "Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons" Facebook Group.



You may recall that we talked a few Issues ago about the loss of pigment expression to the point that we end up with basically a white phenotype. This is one such example. The bird is suspected to be a spread blue series ( Black). Then effected by the (St) allele "Faded" factor ., and the mutation Anthracite. The latter is somewhat more rare and has been tested to show that it is a Dominant autosomal gene with symbol (An). Anthracite or Anthrazit has a bleaching effect on all three base pigments , a bit similar to Indigo but not an allele of Indigo. It is sometimes noted that there may be a few feathers or groups of feathers randomly not affected by the bleaching.

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A young Blue spread Platinum Male , Post by **Octavian Sarofolean** in our Facebook Group " Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons. This is another example of a trait that de-pigments , but in a slightly different manner. There is an overall reduction of pigmentation in all feathers more like we see in the dilution gene and the milky gene, as opposed to one or more genes that whiten by de-pigmentation.



This is the gene mutation called "Platinum" , symbol (pl) - **Axel Sell** - for a recessive autosomal gene.

Andrew KLine posted in Strictly Colour Genetics for Pigeons - " Ideas on Colour? Thrown from my Andalusian breeding program. Not like my usual Dilute Andalusians "



My comment : Rubella comes to mind also , it could be any number of expressions, but all we know is that Andrew has been breeding Indigo and spread blue/Black and getting this from time to time. The recessive nature suggests a carried gene by one parent (the cock) if he is getting them in hens only as **Adam** points out.



Touhoua Yang wrote : Without knowing much or seeing the parents, the tail reminds me of recessive opal.

Adam Archer Pigeons wrote : Without knowing any other details , I'd say it looks like a recessive opal spread hen.

Andrew Kline wrote in answer to **Kenneth John Hibbert** regarding the parents : Black and Andalusian (Indigo black.) crossed together for the last 7 years in a separate section with no other colours.

That is about it for the Month of November 2021 , hope it touched upon some topic that you are particularly interested in at this time and that it proved helpful in some way!

Next Issue is of course the December Issue heralding the end of 2021 and hopefully the tragic Hell that so many are enduring the world over. People have been forced to end their breeding programs in Pigeons as shortages in field crops have made Pigeon grain extremely expensive and scarce in some Countries. Many people have been without their usual jobs as well. Others have lost their lives when they should have been just beginning to enjoy life.

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