

- PGA* The Pisum Genetics Association (PGA) is a non-profit, unincorporated organization established to foster genetic study of the pea, to facilitate the exchange of information and to ensure preservation of valuable genetic stocks. **Pisum Genetics** (formerly The Pisum Newsletter = PNL) is the principal means of meeting these aims.
- "Pisum Genetics"* Published annually in one issue, **Pisum Genetics** contains reports of research findings and other information relating to genetic variation in *Pisum*. The PGA currently has 160 members from 28 countries.
- Membership* Membership of the PGA is open to all interested persons and organizations. Dues are \$15 U.S. or \$20 Australian per annum. Cheques for an equivalent sum are acceptable in any other major currency, e.g. Danish kronar, English pounds, French francs or Japanese yen. Please do not send Money Orders. Dues are used to help defray the costs of publishing and mailing **Pisum Genetics**. Members are encouraged to pay dues for two or more years to simplify bookkeeping and to reduce losses through bank charges which are Aust \$2.50 per cheque regardless of the size of the cheque. Please make cheques payable to **Pisum Genetics Association** and send to Prof I.C. Murfet, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-55, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia. **Pisum Genetics** will be sent on receipt of dues.
- Payment of dues*
- Editor* The Editor, Prof I.C. Murfet, may be contacted at the above address by phone 61 3 62262605, fax 61 3 62262698 or e-mail (Ian.Murfet@plant.utas.edu.au).
- Manuscripts* Please submit manuscripts double-spaced. Figures should be ready to print and of good quality. Tables should be set out in accordance with established format. References should be listed in alphabetical then chronological order and full details supplied for papers in monographs, e.g. give details of editors, publisher and city, page numbers and list all authors; Smith et al. is not sufficient. Research papers should be organised concisely in the format of a short introduction outlining the background to and aim of the study, a materials and methods section with essential details and references to techniques, a results section and a discussion section interpreting the results and integrating findings with those of other workers. Section headings are not obligatory. Conclusions should be justified, where applicable, by appropriate statistical analysis. Length should generally be kept within the range of 1-4 journal pages but longer papers will be considered on their merits. Research papers and reviews are subjected to peer review and revision if necessary. Research papers should contain original work not currently submitted to any other journal. Review articles are obtained by invitation. However, the Editor would welcome enquiries or suggestions regarding possible review topics. Papers will not be rejected because the English is not fluent. However, the intended meaning must be clear, the scientific content sound and appropriate, the conclusions justified and the organisation logical. Abstracts may be submitted of work to be published elsewhere or conference papers. Issues of interest to members may be discussed in the forum section or raised as letters to the editor.

*Electronic mail
and WWW*

Contributors are encouraged to send in correspondence by e-mail with articles as attachments. We use a Eudora e-mail system, Mac computers and Microsoft Word 5 or 6 for processing. To retain format, attachments from PCs should be uuencoded. Photographs can be sent by JPEG. These methods have proved useful for regions where mail and fax delivery have proved uncertain. Perhaps in the not too distant future **Pisum Genetics** can be placed on the Internet. Already the Institute of Cytology and Genetics at Novosibirsk, a major centre for pea research, has three internet sites of interest to pea researchers: a home site (<http://pisum.bionet.nsc.ru>), a pea linkage map (<http://pisum.bionet.nsc.ru/peamap/index.htm>) and papers submitted to Pisum Genetics from Novosibirsk (<http://pisum.bionet.nsc.ru/PG/index.htm>). The latter site provides an opportunity to preview a number of articles from Novosibirsk which could not be processed in time for Volume 28.

*Novosibirsk
sites*

Gene Symbols

Mr Mike Ambrose (John Innes Centre, Norwich NR4 7UH, UK; phone 44 1603 452571, fax 44 1603 456844, e-mail mike.ambrose@bbsrc.ac.uk) continues as Co-ordinator of Gene Symbols. If you are proposing a new gene symbol please check with Mike that the symbol is free and appropriate. In most cases not more than three letters are necessary to symbolise a locus. Again if you are proposing a new gene please make a reasonable effort to check for allelism with established genes of similar type. (Reports where allelism tests have not been done risk rejection). This saves the literature being cluttered with confusing synonyms. PGA rules for gene symbols are under review. The current rules are given in Pisum Newsletter 9 Supplement: 61 -64 (1977). In due course, please send type lines for new genes and relevant reprints to Mike Ambrose as the John Innes Centre has now taken on responsibility in regard to the maintenance and supply of pea type lines and representative lines. A *JI Pisum Genetic Stocks* catalogue is now available from Mike. Members are reminded that the USA national *Pisum* collection and the G.A. Marx *Pisum Genetics Stocks Collection* have been transferred from Geneva, NY to Pullman, WA and enquiries concerning this material should be addressed to Dr R.M. Hannan, USDA-ARS, Western Regional Plant Introduction Station, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164.

*Pea Genetic
Stocks Centres*

Linkage map

The Linkage Map Co-ordinator is Dr Norman F. Weeden (Dept. of Hort. Sci., Cornell Univ./ NYSAES, Geneva, NY 14456, USA; phone 1 315 787 2245, fax 1 315 787 2320, e-mail nfwl@nysaes.cornell.edu). The most recent map update provided by the Linkage Committee appears in this issue (*Pisum Genetics* 28:1-4). While the foundations of genetics were laid by work on the pea, it is a matter of concern to all of us that we still do not have a stable pea linkage map. Nor do we know for certain all the linkage group/chromosome relationships. The pea is an important model species not only for genetics but also for work on the physiological, biochemical and molecular control of plant development. All members are strongly encouraged to help fill in the gaps in our knowledge and to send

send relevant results to Norm Weeden as soon as possible. Adherence to the proposed Mapping Guidelines (Pisum Genetics 25:13-14) will improve the rigour of the work and hopefully avoid some of the pitfalls of the past. The following planned or proposed meetings are of interest:

*Meetings in
1997 and
1998*

- International Food Legume Research Conference III at Adelaide, Australia, 22-26 Sep 1997. Contact: Sapro Marketing, PO Box 8253, Hindley St, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia; e-mail (allsapro@camtech.net.au).

- NPIA meeting at Annapolis, Maryland, 3-4 Nov 1997. Contact: Ted Lund, Brotherton Seed Co., PO Box 1136, Moses Lake, WA 98837, USA; fax 1 (509) 765 1817.

- The All-Russia Res. Inst, for Agricultural Microbiology at St. Petersburg is seeking to organise a workshop entitled "*Pisum sativum* L. - a tool for studying plant-microbe interactions". To support this initiative contact Dr A. Y. Borisov, ARRIAM, Podbelsky Shosse 3, St Petersburg-Pushkin 8, 189620, Russia; e-mail (biotec@riam.spb.su).

- The 3rd European Conference on Grain Legumes will be held at Valladolid, Spain on 14-19 Nov 1998. Contact: AEP 1998 Conference, 12 avenue George V, 75008 Paris, France; fax 31 1 47 23 58 72.

Retirements

In July 1997, Ian Murfet will retire from his post as Professor in Plant Science at the University of Tasmania, Hobart, after 37 years on faculty. After entering the University of Tasmania in 1953, he was soon convinced by the enlightened advocacy of Newton Barber FRS, then Professor of Botany, that an understanding of the control of plant development could best be achieved by a genetic approach and that peas were an excellent model species for that purpose. His work on pea commenced in 1956 with a project involving application of gibberellic acid to dwarf genotypes. His association with the PGA dates from 1974 following a fascinating visit with Stig Blixt at the wonderful world of Weibullsholm and a year working at Geneva, NY, with PGA founder and pea advocate extraordinaire, Jerry Marx. Retirement from teaching will allow more time for research, writing and PGA matters, and hopefully a chance for a little more free time than recent years have permitted.

Thanks

Thanks to all members (and non-members) who assisted with the refereeing and in other ways helped with the work of the PGA. Special thanks to Norm Weeden (Map Co-ordinator/Associate Editor); Mike Ambrose (Gene Symbols Co-ordinator); Oleg Kosterin, Alexey Borisov and Serge Rozov for their help with PGA matters in Russia; Shona Batge, Mary Connors and Gaye Johnson for Stirling work on correspondence and preparation of Volume 28; and Kit Williams for his cheerful, patient and skillful resolution of computing problems. Thanks also to Norm Weeden who has taken over the role of sending out back issues (Volumes 4, 6 and 11 are now out of print) from Geneva, NY. Lastly, thanks to the crew in the Printing Section for their prompt and efficient printing and binding of **Pisum Genetics**.

Financial Report

Financial Report for the period Oct 1 1995 to Sep 30 1996. This period includes the production and mailing of Pisum Genetics Volume 27. All sums are in Australian dollars except funds in Geneva, NY, which are in US dollars. Our balance of funds increased by \$1046.32. Printing and mailing costs were kept down by the below average size of Volume 27. We are now in a sound position to cover the costs of mailing to some deserving members who have difficulty paying, to cover future issues to members who have paid well in advance, and to cover the cost of a large issue above the 250 gram mailing threshold. It already seems likely that Volume 29 will be larger than Volumes 27 or 28.

Hobart balance brought forward (AUD)	5996.14
Income	
Subscriptions	1708.27
Bank interest	142.26
Total income	1850.53
Expenditure	
Printing	625.40
Postage	177.40
Govt duties	1.41
Total expenditure	804.21
Hobart balance as at September 30 1996.	
Commonwealth Bank a/c 767102.5002314	2027.76
Commonwealth Bank a/c 7104 5001 6807	5000.00
Cash on hand	14.70
Total	7042.46

Geneva, NY balance (USD)

Sav. Bank Finger Lakes a/c 01-11030029	240.08
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I.C. Murfet
for the Co-ordinating Committee:

S. Blixt	F. Muehlbauer	W.K. Swiecicki
E. Gritton	I. Murfet	N. Weeden
C. Hedley	J. Reid	
L.Monti	B. Sharma	