

NOMENCLATURE

Barratt, R. W. Further notes on nomenclature: Suppressors.

In *Neurospora* Newsletter 8: 23-24 the genetic nomenclature for stock lists and stocks in FGSC was summarized. It was noted that certain ambiguities in nomenclature still existed, which should be resolved at an appropriate future date. One of these was a uniform terminology for suppressor mutations. Since then suppressors and supersuppressors have come into significant use in *Neurospora* and are probably going to increase in importance.

For suppressors it is suggested that *Neurospora* workers adopt the terminology currently employed for *Drosophila* (Lindsey, D. L. and E. H. Grell 1967 Carnegie Inst. Washington Publ 627). The nomenclature thus becomes su for suppressor followed by the symbols of the locus being suppressed enclosed in parentheses, as su(me-2). If more than one suppressor locus with similar specificity is found, numbers can be appended to the locus symbol as usual, as su(me-2)-1 and su(me-2)-2. If the suppressor is allele-specific rather than locus-specific, the allele designation should be included as a superscript within the parentheses, as su(tryp-3^{td201}).

For supersuppressors, those exhibiting suppression of certain alleles at more than one locus, the term ssu should be used, beginning with ssu-1. Recurrent alleles of ssu-1 would necessitate an additional allele designation, as with any other locus. The knowledge of mechanism of suppression is generally lacking upon the first recovery of a suppressor. Originally a suppressor might be su(am17), or su(tryp-3^{td201}). At a later time, when it becomes established as a supersuppressor, the locus should be renamed ssu, assigning the next unoccupied number in the ssu series. The renaming should await the establishment of locus position, especially in relation to other supersuppressors; evidence for allele specificity and locus non-specificity; and preferably, a test of dominance. If it later becomes rigorously established that the supersuppressor is a nonsense suppressor, or a missense suppressor, it could be changed to sun, or sum, respectively.

This proposed nomenclature has been circulated to R. Davis, T. Seale, A. Lacy, D. Perkins, M. Case and their suggestions included. - - - Department of Biological Sciences, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755.