

# genetics and me

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 09 Jan 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/whorl/1534>

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maa32 — 09 Jan 2002, 05:33

And, in case my vast knowledge of genetics surprised any of you, I really do have an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Notre Dame ... Unfortunately, I got tired of lab work and no longer do anything related to science. A bottleneck effect occurs when a population is stuck in a small area and there is no new genetic material that comes in, increasing the frequency of some mutations since recessives eventually meet. The post-flood Urth would have experienced just such a limiting of available creatures and land mass, leaving only a little room for variation in the creatures. In a small population like that, mutations can occur at a highly accelerated rate, possibly evolving into a species that can no longer breed with the original in a comparatively small number of generations. Interestingly enough, when you hybridize two plants, you often get a doubling of chromosomes (but not always a doubling of expression, of course) A genome that contains three or more full copies of the haploid chromosome number are polyploid. As a general rule polyploids can be tolerated in plants, but are rarely found in animals. One reason is that the sex balance is important in animals and variation from the diploid number results in sterility. Those few animals, such as brine shrimp, that avoid the hazards of polyploidy, utilize parthenogenesis, the development of the an individual from an egg without fertilization, to initiate embryo development. In light of this, let's go back and examine in chapter 17 (or was it 19?) in Return to the Whorl in which the mating habits of the inhumu are discussed at such great length as if they were important. Maybe they are. I think Gene knows all this stuff. He is the master. The life of Blue has been mutated from plants, and the genetics of plants account for the doubling of limbs. Alleluia. I have done it.