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NEWS

METHOD DEVELOPED TO INFLUENCE GENES

Academician Sergei Gershenzon and his colleagues at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine, have discovered a regularity important for the selection of agricultural animals and plants.

It is known that physical or chemical impacts can evoke in a live organism a change in genetic information (mutation). This leads to accidental, unpredictable changes in the cell's genetic apparatus which, in most cases, are harmful to the organism. Sergei Gershenzon and his colleagues have developed a method of selective influence on separate genes to obtain the present change in the organism's

properties. It has also been established that as different from all known mutagens, DNA, separated from biological objects (mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants and viruses), and influencing other organisms, evokes in them a strictly definite set of mutations. Research has shown that not only natural DNA but also their synthetic analogues have the same property. (*Soviet Features*, Science and Technology, Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P.B. No. 241, 25, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001.)
