

- Gregor Johann Mendel (Austrian), 1865
 - Set the framework for genetics
 - Conducted methodical, quantitative analyses using large sample sizes
 - Because of Mendel's work, the fundamental principles of heredity were revealed



Gregor Johann Mendel (1822–1884). (Courtesy of Professor William Bateson, London.)

Portrait of Gregor Johann Mendel - Garrison Wellcome Collection. wellcomecollection.org/works/tc5xq5ad (CC BY 4.0)







- Physical characteristics are expressed through genes carried on chromosomes.
- Each pair of homologous chromosomes has the same linear order of genes.
- The two genetic copies may or may not encode the same version of a characteristic.
- Gene variants at the same relative locations on homologous chromosomes are called **alleles**.







Phenotypes and Genotypes

- Two alleles for a given gene in a diploid organism are expressed and interact to produce physical characteristics.
- The **observable traits** expressed by an organism are referred to as its **phenotype**.
- The underlying genetic makeup, consisting of both physically visible and non-expressed alleles, is called its genotype.

- If the two alleles are the **same** the organism is said to be **homozygous** for the trait.
- If the two alleles are **different** the organism is said to be **heterozygous** for the trait.



Credit: VectorMine (Adobe Stock





- Several conventions exist for referring to genes and alleles:
 - A letter is used to represent the trait.
 - Uppercase for dominant.
 - Lowercase for recessive.
 - The letter is usually italicized.

Example:

V for violet flowers *v* for white flowers

VV - violetVv - violetvv - white

Punnett Squares

• Reginald Punnett (British)

• Developed a chart that allows you to easily determine the expected percentage of different genotypes in the offspring of two parents. (Punnett Square)



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Example

- Use a Punnett square to predict the offspring in a cross between a dwarf pea plant (homozygous recessive) and a tall pea plant (heterozygous).
 - What is the phenotypic ratio of the offspring?







Sex-Linked Traits

- Genes located on the sex chromosomes are called sex-linked genes.
 - The traits are thus called sex-linked traits.
- Most sex-linked genes are on the X chromosome.
 - These genes (and associated traits) are often called X-linked.













Human Sex-linked Disorders

- Because human males need to inherit only one recessive X allele to be affected, X-linked disorders are disproportionately observed in males.
- When females inherit one recessive X-linked mutant allele and one dominant X-linked wild-type allele, they are carriers of the trait and are typically unaffected.





· Hemophilia

• Hemophilia is a rare disorder in which your blood doesn't clot normally because it lacks sufficient blood-clotting proteins (clotting factors).





- Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)
 - Affects the muscles, leading to muscle wasting that gets worse over time
 - Arises from mutations of the DMD gene located on the X chromosome
 - Becker muscular dystrophy, a milder form of muscular dystrophy, is also caused by DNA variants in the DMD gene.



This photomicrograph revealed histopathologic changes found in a skeletal muscle tissue harvested from the gastrocnemius muscle, of a patient with a fatal case of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). This cross section of the muscle, shows extensive replacement of muscle fibers, by adipose, or fat cells.

Image: CDC/ Dr. Edwin P. Ewing Jr. (Public Domain)









- Pedigrees use a standardized set of symbols:
 - Squares represent males.
 - Circles represent females.
 - If the sex of the person is unknown a diamond is used. 🛇
 - Someone with the phenotype in question is represented by a filled-in symbol.
 - Heterozygotes (carriers) are indicated by a dot inside a symbol or a half-filled symbol.
 - Generations are indicated by Roman numerals (I,II,III).



The filled symbols represent the affected individuals. You may assume that the affected allele is rare and therefore individuals marrying into the family do not have it.

- 1-5 using the letter "A".
- 2. If individuals 2 and 3 were to have another son, what are the chances that he will be affected? 50%