

# Traits determined by a single gene

## Ch1.1, Ch2.1-2.3

Blending theory (hypothesis) : traits of parents get mixed like fluid in the offspring, resulting into new traits that resembles parents.



Prediction: If blended like fluid, parent's traits are lost in the offspring and cannot be recovered!

# Mendel's method

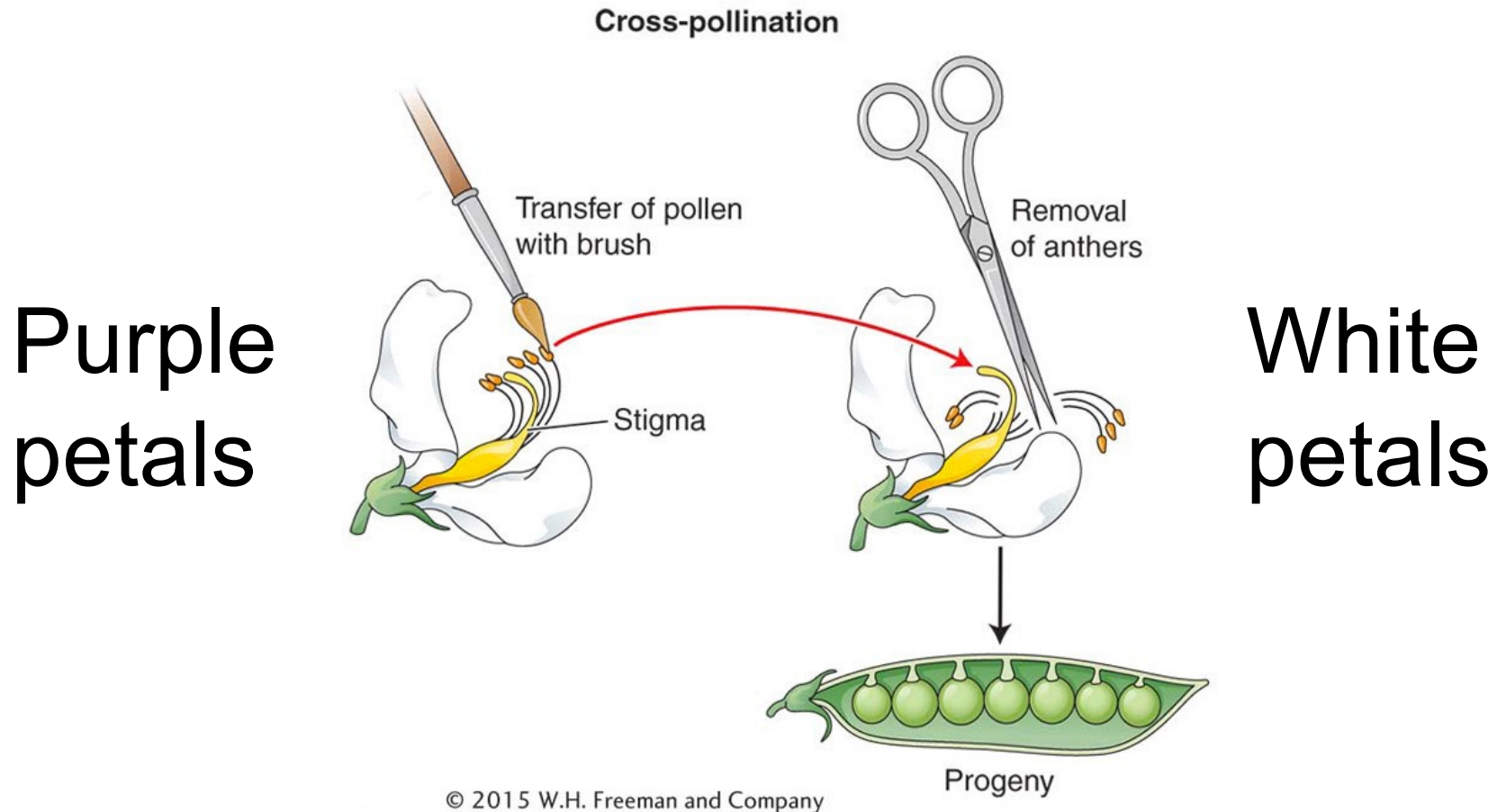
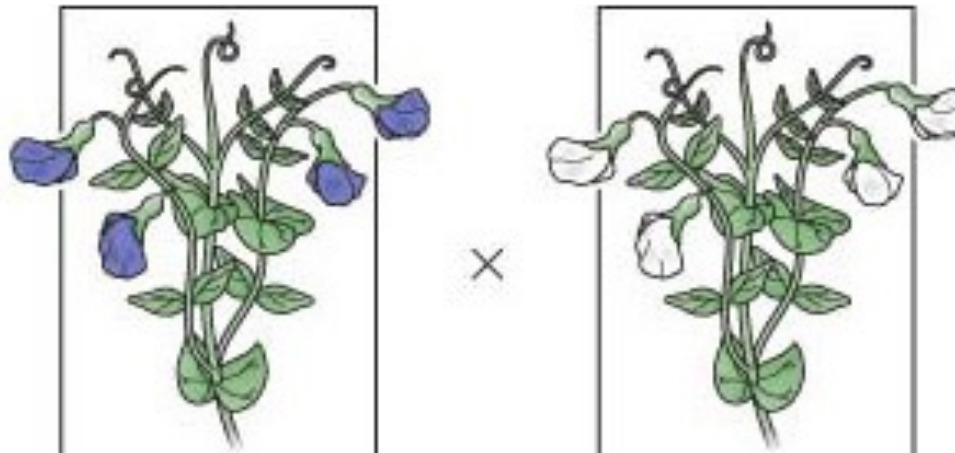


Figure 2-3

Mendel was able to control the crosses between different purebred pea plants.

# Mendel's result #1



100% of F1



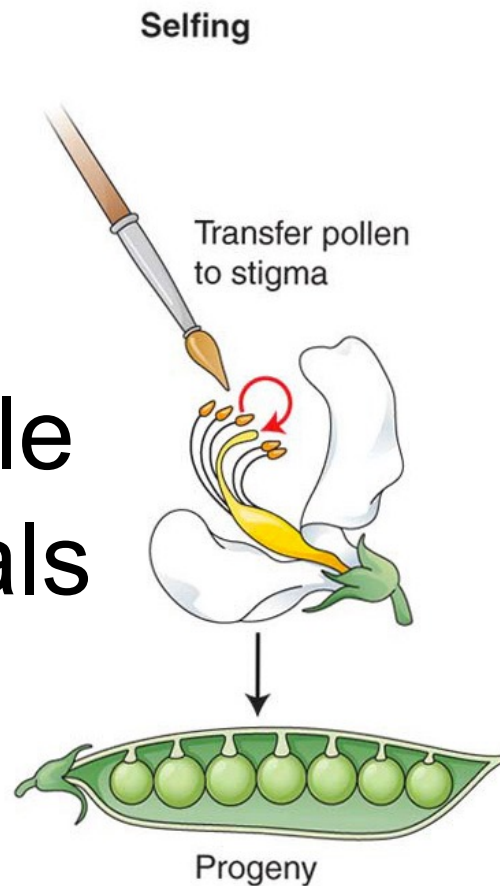
Maybe they don't  
blend.....

How can you test this?

Figure 1-3

# Mendel's experiment #2

F1: Purple  
Petals



What is your prediction if  
“Blending theory” is correct?

Figure 2-3

Self-cross of F1 (monohybrid cross)

# Mendel's result #2



Figure 1-3

The result argues against the “blending theory”

Presence of white flowers means recovery of the parental traits, indicating that they don't get lost.

This also suggests that the “element” responsible for the flower color (trait/phenotype) works **like particles, not like fluid**, not only maintained from one generation to the next but can be separated

# Mendel did similar experiments with seven different traits

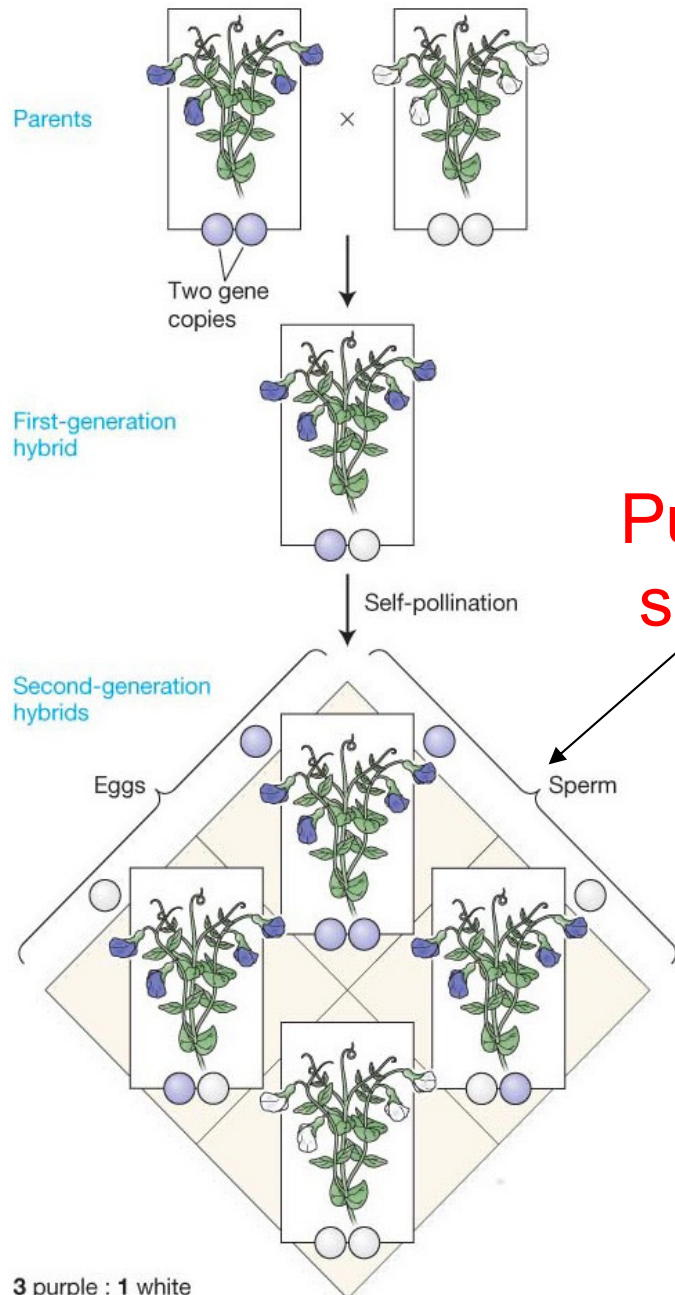
**TABLE 2-1 Results of All Mendel's Crosses in Which Parents Differed in One Character**

Parental phenotypes	F <sub>1</sub>	F <sub>2</sub>	F <sub>2</sub> ratio
1. round × wrinkled seeds	All round	5474 round; 1850 wrinkled	2.96:1
2. yellow × green seeds	All yellow	6022 yellow; 2001 green	3.01:1
3. purple × white petals	All purple	705 purple; 224 white	3.15:1
4. inflated × pinched pods	All inflated	882 inflated; 299 pinched	2.95:1
5. green × yellow pods	All green	428 green; 152 yellow	2.82:1
6. axial × terminal flowers	All axial	651 axial; 207 terminal	3.14:1
7. long × short stems	All long	787 long; 277 short	2.84:1

1. There is a **dominant** trait that hides the **recessive** trait
2. The “element” producing traits are transmitted to the next generation in a predictable pattern



# Mendel's model (hypothesis) 1866



There are two copies of the “**element**” (associated with a trait/phenotype) that are inherited from the parents, but only one of the two is visible (**dominant/recessive**).

Only **one** of the two is transmitted to the next generation.

In the monohybrid cross, each of the two parental elements has an equal chance of transmitted to the next generation. However, because 3 out of the 4 possible element combinations in the offspring contain at least one **dominant trait**, the cross results in the 3:1 ratio of dominant and recessive traits.

Figure 1-3

# The reason why Mendel's experiments worked

Traits affected by only one gene. Many traits (people's height) are affected by multiple genes

Pure genetic background and ability to cross- or self- pollinate (ability to control cross/mating).

Ability to obtain a large number of progeny

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Why is the ability to obtain a large number of progeny important?



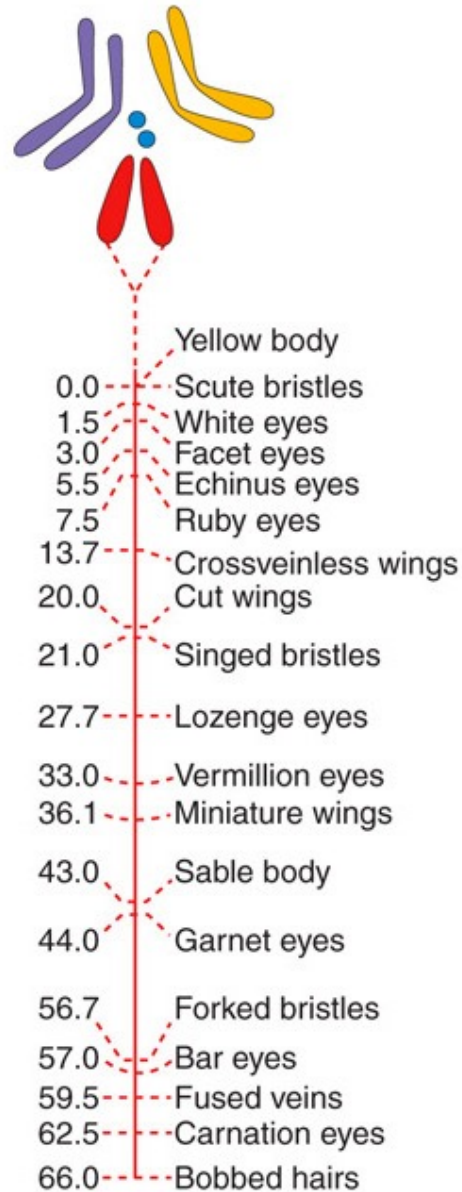
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**Why is the ability to obtain a large number of progeny important?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# The “element” is the gene



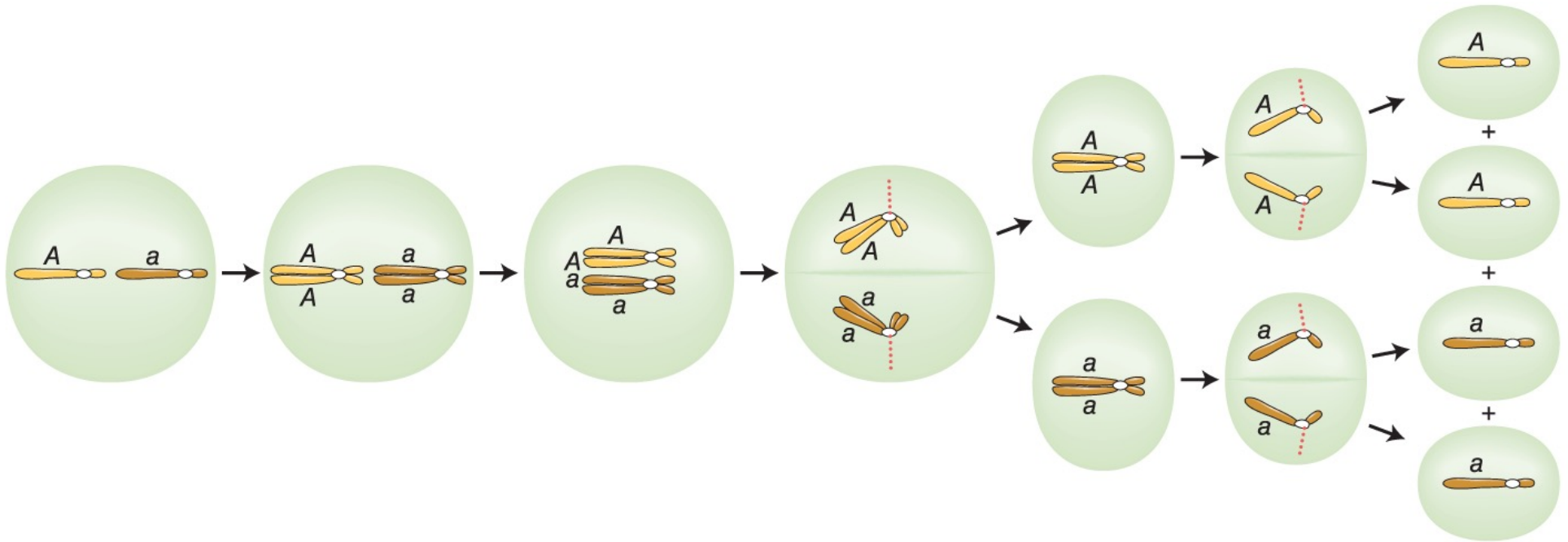
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**Traits determined by a  
single gene**

# Meiosis in the GERM CELL is the cellular/molecular base of Mendel's law

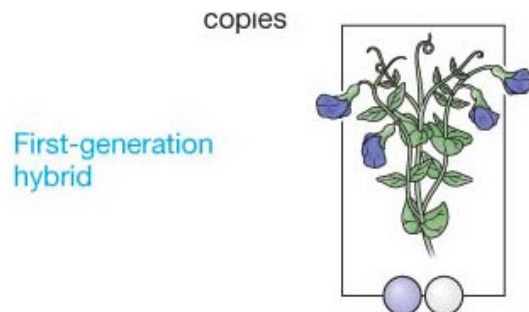


Griffiths et al., *Introduction to Genetic Analysis*, 12e, © 2020 W. H. Freeman and Company

During meiosis, a  $A/a$  cell produces 4 gametes, 2 X A & 2 X a. Therefore, meiosis produces the same ratio of A to a, giving an equal chance of transmitting between A or a.

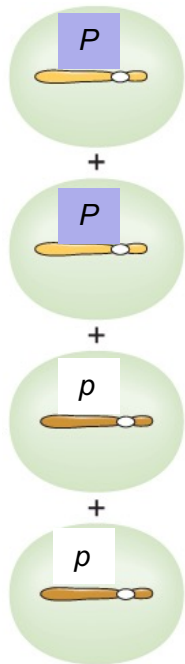
Figure 2-9

# Monohybrid cross

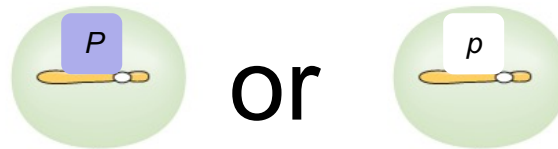


Monohybrid:  
Heterozygote of a gene

Meiosis

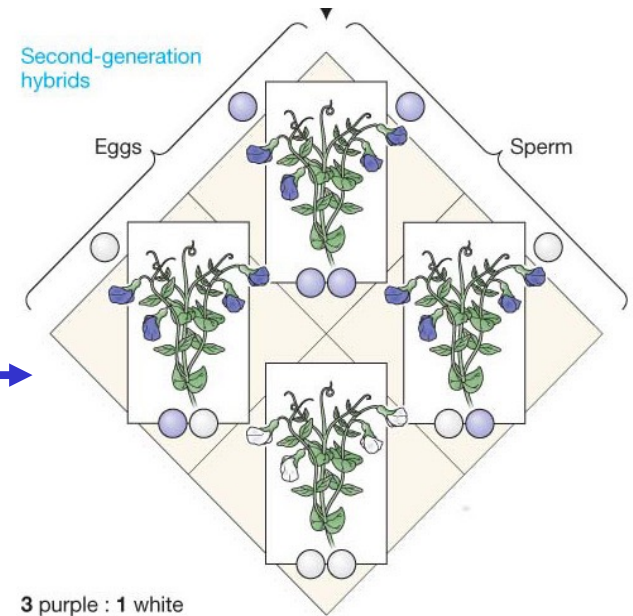


During self pollination,  
only 1 of the 4 gametes is  
transmitted to the next  
generation



or

Phenotypically  
3 purple  
1 white



Testcross: the cross of an individual to a fully recessive individual

Testcross is very useful for determining the genotype a testee.

#1. Purple



#2. Purple



Cross with #1 will give 100% purple

Cross with #2 will give 50% purple & 50% white

# Ch2.1 & 2.3: definition and terminology

Loss of function vs. Recessive

Gene vs. allele

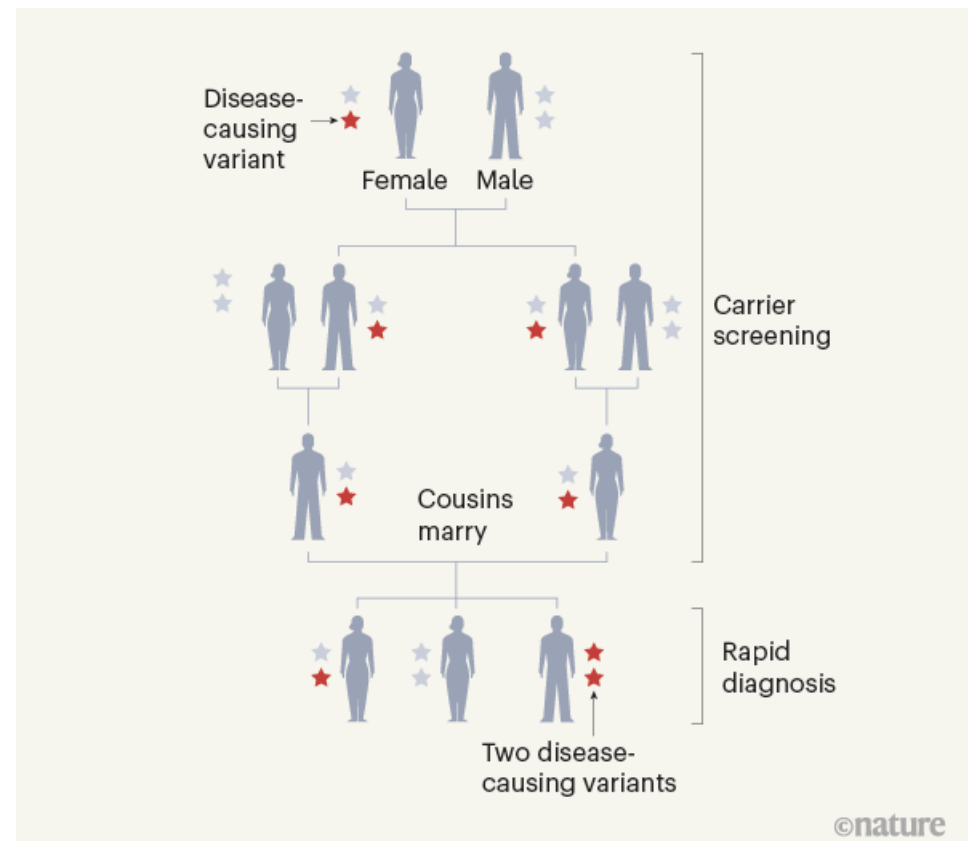
-dominant allele

-recessive allele



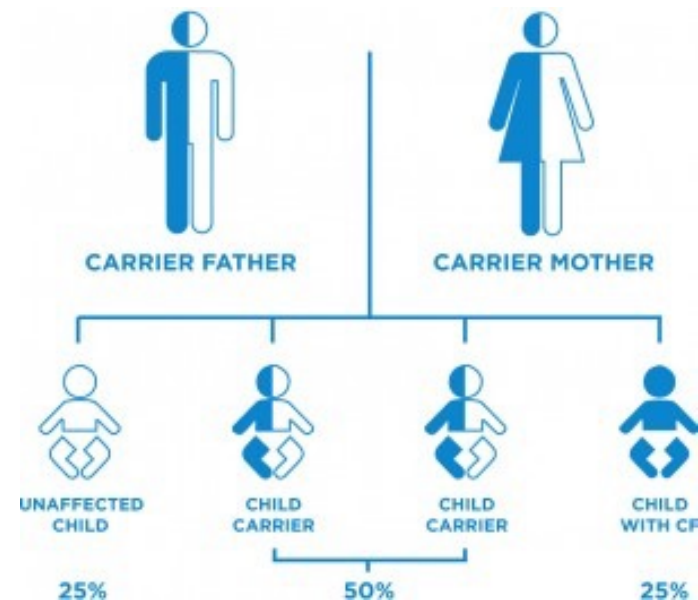
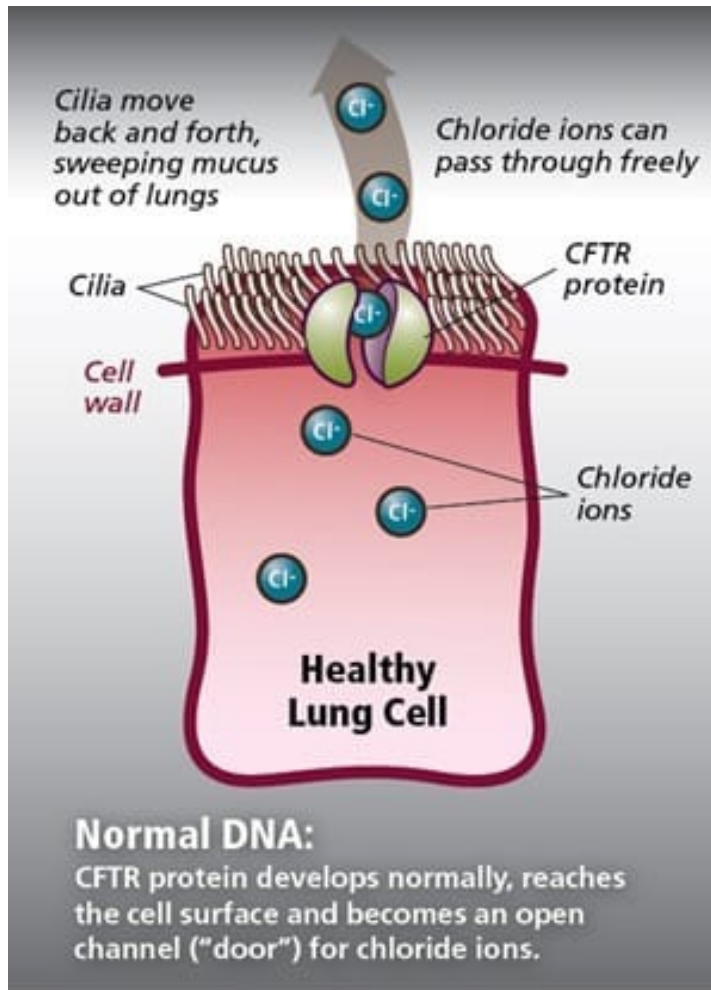
Loss of function mutations (molecular term) are often recessive (phenotype) because a single wild-type copy of the gene can often provide necessary functions for the organism. Most genes (wild-type) are haplosufficient

Genetic disorders  
and cousin marriage



# Cystic Fibrosis as a Mendelian Disorder

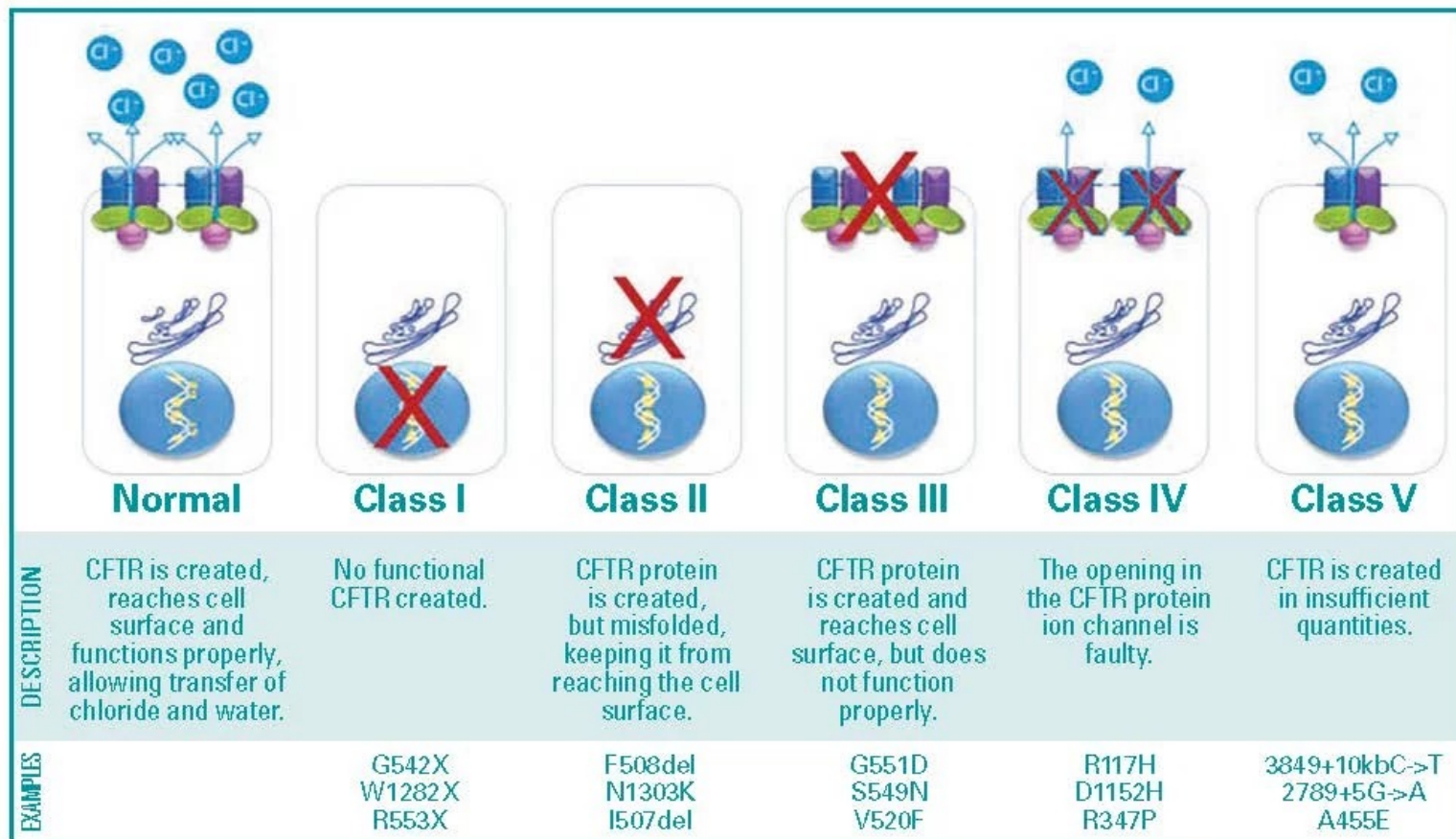
- Cystic fibrosis affects the cells that produce mucus, sweat and digestive juices such as the lung.
- Prevalence in Canada is around 1/3600, around 1/30 is a carrier.
- Caused by mutation in the Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Receptor (CFTR gene)
- Gene identified by researchers at Hospital for Sick Children - Toronto



Two carrier parents have 1 in 4 chances of having a child with CF because CF is a haplosufficient gene.

# Alleles of a single gene

**FIGURE 1 CFTR MUTATIONS**



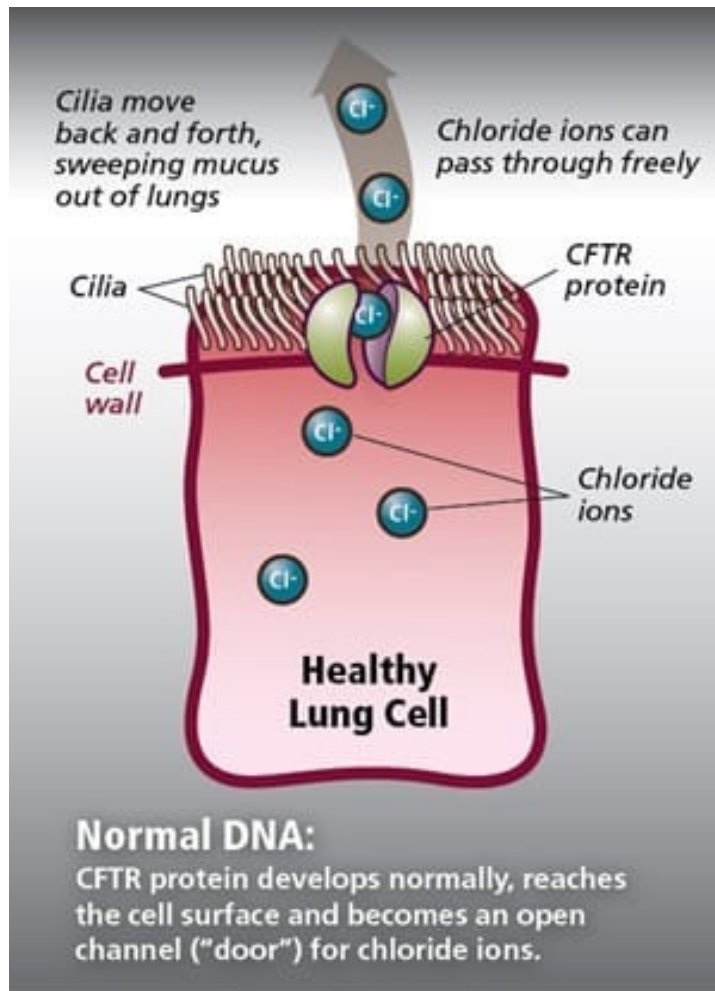
SOURCE OF DATA: Cystic fibrosis patients under care at CF Foundation-accredited care centers in the United States, who consented to have their data entered.

Adapted from: CFTR Modulator Therapies; <http://www.cff.org/Life-With-CF/Treatments-and-Therapies/Medications/CFTR-Modulator-Therapies/#section2>.

Abbreviations: CF, cystic fibrosis; CFTR, cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Patient Registry, 2017 Annual Data Report; Bethesda, Maryland. ©2018 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Used with permission.

# Why is the prevalence of CF in Canada around 1/3600 when 1/30 people is a carrier?



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