

THE STORY OF A PAPER

or
"Equivalent Values"

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This project was supported by a grant -

Actually, the grant had been awarded to study lipogenesis in the squirrel. The fact that this paper deals with hemoglobin in the dolphin is only incidental.

Present address -

They kicked me out, in the meantime, but I'll show them.

A bibliographical survey of the subject revealed how little is still known -

One of us leafed for three solid days through seven issues of Current Contents and couldn't find a thing.

Conflicting reports from various countries -

- as long as they are in English.

Different tasks were assigned to the members of our team -

I killed the rats and Sue took the weight of the organs.

8 healthy volunteers served as controls -

Seven of them were fractures from Orthopedics, who sincerely believed that all those injections made part of their treatment. The eighth was a flunking sophomore who had better cooperate.

The animals were fed ad libitum and had access to water at all times -

Well, almost.

The animal's growth was closely followed -

For Pete's sake, get back our scale from Anatomy and weigh those animals. We haven't seen them for months!

...by a personal modification of Howard and Johnson's method -

In the original method, the readings are taken every five minutes, but we found that it makes little difference if you stretch the intervals to 15 minutes.

All the glassware was rinsed in triple distilled water -

Well, almost.

60% of the observations in the experimental group -

3 rats out of 5.

The reproducibility of our data -

A standard deviation 3 times as large as the mean is not bad, isn't it?

A second series of experiments essentially confirmed our previous results -

This time, the standard deviation was only twice the mean.

The highly significant difference -

P was actually 0.20, but so what? Nobody is perfect.

(personal communication)

At the last Federation Meeting, I met Bill on the Boardwalk. Imagine! We discovered that we are working on the same problem. He doesn't understand it either.

More data are needed to derive conclusions -

The computer man said that 5 rats is ridiculous.

Work is presently in progress -

The grant expires in two months. We had better think of something else, and quick.

(manuscript in preparation)

We have already written a terrific title.

(unpublished observations)

Remember, Ann, that stack of blood flow records? Last time I saw them, when we moved in 1957, they were in that red basket in the basement.

(in press)

Sometime next year.

(to be published)

That paper has already been rejected by 3 other journals, but we keep trying.

The suggestions and constructive criticism of Professor Loveless

are deeply appreciated.

The old man tried to get his name in the paper, but we licked him, this time.

We are grateful for the statistical assistance -

Dr. Pi Cosine of the Biometrics Dept. requested that his name be removed from the manuscript.

Our thanks to Miss Lin-ti Chang Ming Wong (Sue), Mrs. Marika Dolores Obrowsky Jimenez-Gutierrez and Mr. Brutus Clay for their skillfull technical assistance.

If Sue could only speak some English! Luckily, Dolores got pregnant and had to quit. In his 3 months with us, Brutus broke 13 beakers, 7 funnels, 32 pipettes and the hemoglobinometer. He was a nice boy, though.

68. Kühn, G. et al. Fütterung und Respirationversuche mit voll-jährigen Ochsen. Landw. Versuchstationen. 44: 257-581, 1894. See also Krogh, A. Die Mikrogasanalyse und ihre Anwendungen. Abderhaldens Handbuch der biologischen Arbeitsmethoden, Abt. IV, Teil 10; 179-212, 1926, and Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol. et Sc. Nat. Marseille, MCXLIII (14); 2248-2317, 1911-12.

He must be kidding.

It is the opinion of the referees -

One wanted the whole thing changed. The other thought it was great.

The Editors suggest some minor changes in the manuscript -

Try to rewrite the first 3 pages of the introduction, the discussion and the conclusions. Then, we will see.

There is a minimal delay in the publication of a paper that is acceptable as to scientific content -

17 months.

Sorry, our supply of reprints is exhausted.

Gee, it makes you feel so good! Actually, of 25 copies ordered, 10 had to go to the Public Health, 4 to the Department, 7 to friends. Better keep the rest as a souvenir.