

February 1, 1939

Dear Bartlett,

Thanks for your letter. I am surprised that you think there is an error in Fairfield Smith's paper, as he sets forth the steps of the proof in detail, as well as the hypothetical premises upon which it is based. I am afraid I can say little further until you indicate at what point you depart from his line of argument.

I should note, however, that his aim is not to make anything have a maximum correlation with the true value of the variety, but to make the true value of the variety increase to the greatest possible extent in response to selection of the discriminant function. It may be that this is the reason for your arriving at values discrepant from his.

I am afraid I am equally in the dark as to your difficulty on the significance of the difference between an observed and a hypothetical discriminant function. However, perhaps you will send me your note when it comes out.

Yours sincerely,