INHERITANCE IN A HEPATIC

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While the predominant generation of Sphaerocarpos is simpler, because haploid, than the diploid organisms chiefly studied by geneticists, the phenomena of inheritance in this genus need not be expected, and do not appear, to be simpler in any other sense. The genus is probably the present climax of as long an evolutionary development as is the pea or the banana-fly. Sexual differentiation, so far as concerns gametes and the organs in which they are borne, is at approximately the highest point reached by any plant. Dioecism and sexual dimorphism are fixed and constant. The chromosome complex is comparable with that of any "higher" organism. Allosomes, in differentiation and in the correlation between their distribution and the appearance of sexual characters, resemble those of many Metazoa. The frequency of mutation is comparable with that elsewhere observed. In the longest series of experiments yet summarized,