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Gentlemen:

As you know, I have been interested in mating type region of the Warcup strain of N. tetrasperma, T220-7, of which I had the A mating type only (received very many years ago from Dennis Novak, a student of Adrian Srb). On some molecular grounds, as well as on the basis of their marginal fertility with 85A and 85a, I wonder if the Warcup strain might not be a separate species or subspecies. I was eager to get the other mating type, which I had resolved from Novak's self-fertile strain, but which had died in the ensuing years. Fortunately, Mary Basl had 14 silica gels, mostly put away many years ago by a student named Violet Topper (= VT in the strains listed below). Mary very generously sent them to me, and 8 of them were still alive, including one that was a mating type and one A/a. Mary says that they are all un-mutated isolates from the original self-fertile strain from Borneo. One interesting feature she recalls is that meiotic spindle(s?) may be oriented across the ascus instead of longitudinally. I thought you also might find them interesting. I seem to have become the bridge between that work and any future work that may be done with these strains. Therefore I wanted to be sure that the flame does not flicker out because of me! Under separate cover I am sending you the eight strains from Mary Basl and the surviving one from Dennis Novak. Note that the a strain (here called α) grows very poorly on minimal unless it is dosed with yeast extract (1%), as do two of the A strains, γ and θ .

With best wishes, sincerely, Bob Metzenberg

Bob Phone 608-262-1507

cc. Mary Basl, Craig Wilson, Don Natvig to whom I'll happily send strains on request.